

VK-AICYAM
(FY 24-25 Update)

Vimarsha:

- 2024-04-02: 'Anekantavada' by Mahendra Singh (Attendance: 23)
- 2024-12-09: Janajati Netrutwa Sammilani (Attendance: 8 persons representing 6 janjatis)

Janajati Sampark:

Janajati Sampark was held during the months of November 24, December 24 and January 25

- Amlipani and Meghapal of Sambalpur District
- Muniguda and Kalyansinghpur of Rayagada District
- Dabugaon of Nabarangpur District
- Deobandh of Keonjhar District

Foundation Day Celebration (Additional References in Annexure I and II):

- 2025-01-11: Yoga Shastra Seminar on the theme "Astanga Yoga for Enhanced Social Wellbeing" (Attendance: 38 (Yoga teachers/scholars/practitioners))
 - Papers presented: 20
- 2025-01-11-to-12: Two-day workshop among Janajati Communities on the theme "Harmony with the nature in living of Janajati Communities".
 - 1st Session: Sub theme: 'Ethnic Medicine & Sustainable life' (Attendance: 8 Communities discussed about ethnic medicines practiced in their own Communities.)
 - 2nd Session: Sub theme: 'Significance of Folklore and Folksong in Janajati Living' (The workshop was attended by 131 participants from 15 communities.)
- **AICYAM SAMMAN 2025:** AICYAM SAMMAN was awarded to Sri Hari Pangri of Kuikandha Community for his outstanding work on ethnic medicines
- Publication of VK-AICYAM Souvenir 2025

Activities in states other than Odisha:

- 2025-03-11: VK-AICYAM Secretary (Laxminarayan Panigrahi), VK-AICYAM Telugu Region Project Head (C.V. Sadashiv Rao), and Telugu Pranta and Odisha Pranta Sangathak (Ravi Naidu) attended a 'Village Elders' Conference of Yanadi Janajati Communities held at Narravada situated in Dattallur mandal of Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh.
 - A total of 15 village Elders from 5 Yanadi Colonies and a total of 140 persons of two Mandalas attended the conference.

Annexure I: Yoga Workshop: Jan 11th 2025, VK-AICYAM

Topic: Ashtanga Yoga for Enhanced Social Wellbeing

Chief Guest: DR. KRUPA SINDHU MISHRA

Participants: 36

Paper Presented: 20

The workshop commenced with the recitation of three Omkars and the Shanti Patha, fostering a spiritual and positive mind space.

Shri Vasudev Chhatoi, Convenor of VK-AICYAM, warmly welcomed all 36 participants and expressed his gratitude for their support. He emphasized the importance of collective effort to advance the organization's vision, inspired by Swami Vivekananda's philosophy of "Man Making and Nation Building."

The event saw the presentation of an impressive 122 scholarly papers, showcasing diverse perspectives and innovative ideas. The active participation and engagement of attendees created a collaborative atmosphere, highlighting the workshop's success in fostering intellectual exchange and strengthening organizational goals.

Highlights of Shri Basudev Chhatoi's Address

Introduction to Vivekananda Kendra and its Objectives

Shri Chhatoi Bhai introduced Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, emphasizing its mission of "Man Making and Nation Building." He outlined the organization's contributions across various sectors of society, including:

- **Education:** Enhancing access to quality education.
- **Health:** Promoting well-being through traditional practices.
- **Youth and Women Empowerment:** Engaging and empowering marginalized groups.
- **Childcare:** Initiatives focused on child welfare.
- **Rural Development:** Supporting holistic development in rural areas.
- **Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources:** Maintaining traditions and ecological balance.

Introduction to VK-AICYAM, Bhubaneswar Branch

As a vital center for Odisha, the Vivekananda Kendra Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management (VK-AICYAM) focuses on the following goals:

- Preserving the rich cultural heritage of the people, which is at risk of being forgotten.
- Promoting holistic development through yoga, encompassing spiritual, physical, and mental dimensions.
- Exploring management principles derived from Indian Vedic scriptures and integrating them with contemporary management practices.

- Bridging the knowledge of the East and the West to create a harmonious and effective framework for today's needs.

Jagannath Culture and Research

Shri Chhatoi Bhai elaborated on the significance of Jagannath culture, emphasizing its historical and spiritual impact.

Yoga: A Gift from Hinduism

- Yoga, in its broader sense, means "to connect" and "to expand" – ultimately aiming to unify oneself with the highest being.
- He quoted, *"Each self is potentially divine,"* to stress the Hindu belief in the divinity within every individual.

Contrasting Views on Divinity

Shri Chhatoi Bhai highlighted the Hindu perspective of divinity:

- Hinduism teaches that God resides within each of us.
- He noted, *"It is through personal evolution and realization that we reach the ultimate divine state within ourselves."*

Address by Shri Lakshmi Bhai, Secretary of VK-AICYAM

Shri Lakshmi Bhai began his address by emphasizing the importance of maintaining the continuous flow of knowledge. He articulated the philosophy of "giving what we have and accepting what we receive," stating that this openness is essential for the smooth exchange of ideas and knowledge. Rigidity, he highlighted, disrupts this natural flow.

Reflections on Modern Yoga Practices

In a thought-provoking segment, Shri Lakshmi Bhai shed light on how yoga has been extended and interpreted in ways that deviate from its original purpose. He observed:

- Today, yoga has often been commercialized and tailored for superficial goals such as "yoga for stomach pain," "yoga for headaches," or "yoga for personal accomplishments."
- A significant concern is that when searching for yoga on the internet, most prominent websites are foreign-based, promoting yoga for body shape or self-satisfying needs.

He expressed his concern that such interpretations undermine the fundamental principles of yoga, which are rooted in spiritual growth and harmony.

The Philosophy and History of Yoga

Shri Lakshmi Bhai emphasized that yoga is far deeper than physical exercises. He remarked:

- While postures and asanas are integral parts of yoga, their true purpose is not the weight loss or physical attraction.

- Yoga predates the Vedas, with early documentation by Patanjali, followed by contributions from Adi Shankaracharya, Swami Vivekananda, and contemporary teachers like Baba Ramdev.
- At its core, yoga is a systematic psychological method to achieve harmony between spirituality and the gross body. It helps individuals live and experience the body in its truest sense.

Discipline Through Yam and Niyam

Before discussing **Yam** and **Niyam**, Shri Lakshmi Bhai underlined the need for discipline (*anushasan*) in life. He noted:

- Yoga should not be treated as a business model focused on physical appearance.
- True yoga is reflected in one's behavior, which can inspire those around them. Purifying the heart and mind is the foundation of yoga.
- Yoga is not just a practice but a way of life, meant to be lived 24/7, 365 days a year, embodying the principle of **oneness**.

He compared this philosophy to the Christian teaching of "Love thy neighbor," but emphasized that yoga explains *why*: "The neighbor and I are no different." Disturbances arise when larger concepts like oneness are applied to smaller, selfish goals.

Yoga as the Conclusive Nectar of Indian Culture

Shri Lakshmi Bhai concluded by highlighting the philosophical essence of yoga:

- Yoga should be taught not just as physical asanas but with their philosophical underpinnings. For instance, asanas are meaningful only when the mind detaches from the body to connect with higher states of bliss.
- The soul of Vivekananda Kendra is yoga. While the practice of yoga is important, its philosophy gives it depth and preserves its essence.

Purpose of the Seminar

Shri Lakshmi Bhai underscored the purpose of the seminar:

- To preserve and promote the philosophy of yoga at individual, family, and societal levels.
- To encourage scholars and practitioners to convey the deeper meanings of yoga practices to ensure a lasting impact

Chief Guest's Speech by Dr. Krupa Sindhu Mishra

Societal Development through Free Thinking

Dr. Krupa Sindhu Mishra began his address by emphasizing the importance of **free thinking** and **awareness**. He stated that societal development is only possible when individuals cultivate a mindset that seeks truth through observation and implementation.

- **Yoga is not just theoretical knowledge**, but a way of life. It is understood and realized only by those who practice it.

- Just as regular polishing prevents iron from rusting, maintaining the body through consistent practices like yoga ensures overall well-being *“Without building our bodies, we cannot build a nation.”*

The Role of Chakras in Life

Dr. Mishra explained the concept of **chakras**, the energy centers in the body, highlighting their role in maintaining harmony.

- He identified **18 chakras** in total, spanning from head to toe, and noted that many of them remain inactive due to modern sedentary lifestyles.
- The importance of activating these chakras, especially during **Brahma Muhurta** (the early morning hours), was emphasized.

Activity, Breath, and Mental Strength

He stressed the significance of **activity and breath control** for overall vitality:

1. **Activity:** Physical movement keeps the body and mind active.
2. **Breath:** Concentration on breath through practices like **pranayama** enables individuals to experience ultimate joy and inner calm.
3. **Mental Strength:** Mental resilience is achieved when one believes in their ability to overcome challenges. *“The mind, originally a king, becomes a slave to desires without discipline. Only through sadhana can we reclaim its strength.”*

The Root of Sadness and the Path to Happiness

Dr. Mishra reflected on why people experience sadness:

- **Inner Guilt and Negativity:** He explained that negativity stems from within and is unnecessary. A happy person radiates positivity, influencing those around them.
- **Happiness through Discipline:** He noted that the mind values punctuality and thrives when aligned with time. *“Activity + concentration = right fruitful results, lead to true happiness.”*

The Science and Philosophy of Yoga

He highlighted the need to understand the **science behind yoga practices**, explaining that theoretical knowledge complements practical application.

- Realization is essential for true understanding.
- **Negativity does not exist:** Instead of fighting negativity, one must realize its lack of substance.

The Impact of Materialism: A Monkey Trap Analogy

To explain the grip of materialism, Dr. Mishra shared a vivid analogy:

- A hunter traps a monkey by placing bananas in a hole with a small opening. The monkey, unwilling to let go of the bananas, gets caught.
- Similarly, humans are trapped by materialistic desires, unable to let go of unnecessary attachments. *“True freedom comes from releasing these attachments.”*

The Concept of Universal Unity in Yoga

Dr. Mishra emphasized the essence of yoga:

- Yoga fosters the feeling of oneness and universal connection, where every organism is seen as part of oneself.
- This philosophy aligns with the ancient Hindu concept of "**greatest happiness for the greatest number**", discovered through self-realization and deep meditation, long before modern scientific methods. *"Yoga is not just a practice but a profound realization of interconnectedness."*

A Call to Action for Scholars

In conclusion, Dr. Mishra urged scholars to:

1. **Seek Truth:** Explore and study truth from personal perspectives.
2. **Simplify Teachings:** Present profound concepts in ways that common people can easily grasp.
3. **Be Positive Influences:** Like a magnet that transforms iron into magnets, a realized individual can inspire societal change.
4. **Preserve the Philosophy of Yoga:** Understand its deeper meaning and convey it to others with clarity and sincerity.

Key Takeaways

- Yoga is a practical and philosophical tool for personal and societal development.
- The activation of chakras and control over breath leads to physical and mental strength.
- Materialistic desires must be overcome to experience true happiness and freedom.
- Scholars have a responsibility to research, realize, and share the essence of yoga for the betterment of society.



Paper Presentations by the Scholars:

Akshaya Kumar Swain:

- Discussed the integration of Ashtanga Yoga into daily life for holistic health.
- Emphasized the importance of Pranayama for mental clarity and stress relief.
- Highlighted how practicing Yama and Niyama promotes self-discipline and ethical living.

Bhaskar Chandra Patnaik:

- Focused on how Ashtanga Yoga fosters emotional intelligence and inner peace.
- Explained the psychological benefits of meditation and mindfulness.
- Discussed how yoga helps in achieving harmony within the community.

Arjana Pradhan Mandari:

- Covered the eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga with examples of Yama and Niyama practices.
- Highlighted the significance of Saucha (cleanliness) and contentment (Santosh) for personal growth.

Manasi Mallaick:

- Highlighted that the limbs of yoga are interconnected and not sequential.
- Explained how Yama fosters oneness and ethical interaction with society.
- Discussed the importance of not accumulating unnecessary resources and practicing self-control.

Mandakini Nayale:

- Detailed the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits of Ashtanga Yoga.
- Explained how each of the eight limbs contributes to holistic health.
- Highlighted the role of meditation in achieving inner peace and self-awareness.

Rashmi Ranjan Pradhan, Gaganendu Dash, and Ashok Kumar Singhdeo:

- Emphasized the importance of group yoga practices to build community harmony.
- Discussed how yoga fosters social wellness and cultural exchange.

Sasmita Parida:

- Focused on yoga's role in mental health improvement and stress management.
- Highlighted how breathing exercises (Pranayama) promote mental clarity and emotional stability.

Pranati Swain:

- Covered the benefits of Asana (physical postures) in improving flexibility and strength.

- Emphasized how meditation fosters self-awareness and inner peace.

Ishara Patro:

- Focused on the role of yoga in spiritual growth and self-realization.
- Discussed how regular yoga practice builds mental and emotional resilience

Manaswini Nayak:

- Explained how yoga integrates physical, mental, and spiritual practices for holistic health.
- Emphasized the importance of maintaining balance and discipline in life through regular yoga practice.

Manjula Mohapatra:

- Discussed the *Eight Limbs of Ashtanga Yoga* and their application for holistic well-being.
- Focused on the role of Ashtanga Yoga in enhancing social connections, emotional intelligence, and stress reduction.
- Highlighted the influence of yoga in fostering a sense of community and promoting social wellness through mindfulness, volunteerism, and cultural exchange.
- Explored the psychological benefits, including stress relief and mood enhancement, of Ashtanga Yoga.

Subhalaxmi Behera:

- Discussed how regular yoga practice helps manage anxiety and improves emotional regulation, leading to better social behavior and connections.
- Focused on the integration of yoga into education to boost creativity, academic performance, and problem-solving skills.

Mrunmayee Devi:

- Covered the importance of *community building* through group yoga practice (e.g., Mysore style) and shared experiences.
- Discussed the role of yoga in promoting self-discipline, personal growth, and social cohesion.
- Focused on the physiological and mental health benefits of yoga, including the reduction of cortisol levels and enhanced serotonin and dopamine activity, contributing to improved social interactions.

Sashinekha Behera:

- Detailed the eight limbs of Ashtanga Yoga with an emphasis on Yama (ethical discipline) and Niyama (self-discipline).

- Highlighted the importance of Shaucha (cleanliness) in both external (body, environment) and internal (mind, emotions) practices.
- Explained how Pranayama supports internal purification, fostering mental clarity, emotional well-being, and spiritual growth.

Nibedita Tripathy:

- Discussed the second limb of Ashtanga Yoga, focusing on **Shaucha (purity)** for internal and external cleanliness, **Santosha (contentment)** to find happiness in the present, and **Tapa (penance)** for purification and self-discipline of body, speech, and mind.
- Highlighted **Swadhyaya (self-study)** as regular introspection and study of scriptures to enhance wisdom and **Ishvarapranidhana (surrender to God)** for reducing ego and fostering teamwork by dedicating actions to the divine.
- Emphasized that consistent practice purifies the mind, develops discernment, leads to self-realization, and nurtures societal harmony, promoting individual growth and collective well-being.

B Budhendu Nanda:

- Explained the eightfold path of Ashtanga Yoga, emphasizing its holistic well-being. Highlighted each limb's practical application, from ethical disciplines (Yama) and personal observances (Niyama) to meditation (Dhyana) and ultimate union (Samadhi).
- Shared inspiring stories to illustrate the relevance of Ashtanga Yoga in everyday life, such as resolving conflicts peacefully through **Ahimsa**, overcoming self-doubt with **Tapas and Svadhyaya**, and managing stress with **Pranayama and Dhyana**.
- Stressed the transformative power of yoga principles in fostering mindfulness, balance, and harmony within individuals, leading to collective societal well-being.

Simarani Chhalsingh:

- Yoga is more than physical postures; it is a holistic practice that integrates the body, mind, and intellect with the self, fostering harmony between individuals, families, societies, nations, and the entire creation. It promotes personal and societal well-being as interconnected facets of a peaceful and prosperous world.
- Yama focuses on ethical interactions with others, with **Ahimsa (non-violence)** being the foundation. Practicing Ahimsa in thought, word, and deed nurtures social harmony and reduces selfishness and enmity. Implementing **Yama-Niyama** consistently channels physical, mental, and emotional energy toward strengthening moral values across society.



Concluding Remarks:

Life is a constant learning process. Every moment presents us with an opportunity to grow. A society is not built overnight. It is shaped by the actions of individuals. Even the slightest positive change in a single person has the power to ripple outward and impact the entire community.

A person who practices something regularly develops an aura of power and serenity. Their mere presence becomes transformative in their field of work. This is why regularity and discipline in yoga and life are so important.

Ashtanga Yoga is made of **parts**, not **steps**. Steps are sequential, requiring one to be completed before the next. But parts must function together in harmony, like the body, mind, and soul working as one cohesive unit.

Some people make the best use of their 24 hours, and that is how they achieve greatness. By following the principles of Ashtanga Yoga, life becomes more balanced, productive, and meaningful. This is why we emphasize "24 hours of yoga a day." It is not just about physical practices; it is about integrating the principles of yoga into every aspect of life.

A fit body enables us to accomplish more, which, in turn, contributes to the betterment of society. When individuals thrive, the entire community prospers.

Let us take inspiration from the teachings of yoga and dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to personal growth, harmony, and societal progress. Together, through discipline and commitment, we can inspire change and create a world full of positivity, peace, and progress.

Annexure II: Living of Janjati Communities in Harmony with Nature

Organized by: VK-Academy for Indian Culture, Yoga, and Management, Bhubaneswar

Date: 11 and 12 January 2025

Community	Participants	Community	Participants	Community	Participants
Bathudi	05	Ho	06	Paraja	06
Bhatara	04	Kondha	07	Sabara	54
Bhuyan	05	Kuda	05	Santal	04
Binjhal	03	Mali	01	Saunti	07
Gond	07	Munda	03	KISS Scholars	15

Introduction

The two-day workshop, held to commemorate the 5th Foundation Day of VK-AICYAM and Swami Vivekananda Jayanti (National Youth Day), brought together scholars, tribal leaders, researchers, and practitioners to explore and celebrate the harmonious coexistence of Janajati communities with nature. This event highlighted the significance of tribal traditions, ethnic medicines, folklore, and sustainable practices as invaluable assets to India's cultural and ecological heritage. The workshop witnessed the active participation of **132 individuals**, representing various Janajati communities across different districts, including 15 scholars from KISS University specializing in (XXXX) from various districts of Odisha such as KEONJHAR, GANJAM, GAJAPATI, SAMBALPUR, RAIGADA, NAVRANGPUR, and MAYURBHAI.

The program began with the recitation of Omkar chants, a Shanti Path by Priyanka, Janajati community prayer by Suman Karji Bhai from the Sabar community (Gajapati). Shri Vasudev Chhatoi introduced the dignitaries, followed by an outline of the workshop's structure by Shri Santosh Mohanty.

Speech by the Chief Guest Dr. Bal Krishna Panda

- Discussed the deep respect Janajati communities have for nature, treating elements like air, water, and fire as sacred.
- Emphasized sustainable living practices originating from tribal wisdom, such as taking only what is needed and avoiding overexploitation. Highlighted historical references such as Biswabasu's worship of Lord Jagannath, contributions of tribal healers, and warriors from the Ramayana.

Cultural program was coordinated by Prahallad Bhai, the evening featured bhajans and performances by various Janajati communities, showcasing traditional songs, dances, and

instruments. Notable performances included the Korma community's vibrant dance and songs representing festivals like Rakhi Purnima. Stories of fading tribal languages and traditions added a poignant touch.

Session on Ethnic Medicine and Sustainable Life

Prof. Nirmal Chandra Das opened the discussion and highlighted

- The critical role of youth in preserving culture and traditions.
- The vast practical knowledge of Janajati communities in areas like medicine and sustainability, despite their lack of formal education.
- The need for an emotional connection with forests and emphasized how modern forest management could benefit from fostering such bonds.

Shri Hari Pangi was the keynote speaker of the session and he presented his work on bridging the gap between traditional practices and modern challenges, providing a pathway toward sustainable living. He was also awarded with the **AICYAM Sanman 2025** for his consistent dedication and contribution to the field of promoting traditional medicines towards wellness and healing.

Shri Archit Mandal highlighted the health benefits of Sachina tree skin, Ashoka tree for women's health, and Jamun skin for diabetes.

Srimati Jhunu Bada Rahit shared treatments for tuberculosis, jaundice, infertility, and negativity using natural elements like Bel tree skin and Brahma Haldi.

Shri Ratnakar Nayak emphasized the use of Bhui Amla for strengthening bones in livestock.

Shri Sukhdev Bhadra discussed cures for jaundice, psychiatric issues, malaria, and elephantiasis using herbs like Patal Garud skin and Dhada Koi roots.

Shri Sarathi Bhuia provided remedies for TB, typhoid, diabetes, and malaria, emphasizing Arjun tree skin, raw turmeric, and neem for immunity and longevity.

Shri Babuji explained the Jalangia Puja ritual for protection and shared practical remedies like native garlic for daily health and blackening hair naturally.

Shri Sanyasi Bhadra recommended Indrawati fruit boiled in water as an effective ear remedy.

Shri Pitambar Nayak offered solutions for jaundice, infections, diabetes, and tongue pain with medicinal plants like Bedi-bedi leaves and Saro tree root.

Shri Jay Binjhal suggested Bhui Amla and Mutri roots to manage sickling and improve health naturally.

Insights from the Session:

- Forests are not merely resources but integral to the identity and survival of Janajati communities.
- Medicinal plants have a sacred status, and traditional knowledge is often unwritten but passed through generations.
- The session concluded with a Q&A where tribal practitioners shared knowledge, fostering mutual learning.

Session on Significance of Folklore and Folksongs in Janajati Living with Nature in Harmony

Prof. Nirmal Chandra Das explained the importance of Lok Geet (folk songs) and Lok Katha (folk tales) in recording cultural history and rituals. These oral traditions are vital in conveying responsibilities, roles, and societal norms through songs and dance.

Shri Dambaru Mandala delivered the keynote and emphasized these prime points:

- The deep connection between Janajati communities and nature, highlighting how their way of life is inherently sustainable and in harmony with the environment. He stressed that forests are the foundation of tribal existence, providing medicine, food, and livelihood, and asserted that without forests, their survival is at risk.
- He warned against the loss of tribal culture due to external influences, stating that modernization should not come at the cost of indigenous wisdom. Every tree, element, and natural resource carries energy, and this energy must be recognized, cultivated, and preserved for both tribal welfare and national development.
- Drawing from historical references, he cited the Ramayana, explaining how Lakshman's life was saved by medicinal herbs, proving that tribal knowledge holds solutions beyond modern allopathy. He urged greater recognition and promotion of tribal wisdom, calling for more workshops, discussions, and initiatives to safeguard and integrate this knowledge into India's development.
- He expressed gratitude to Vivekananda Kendra for acknowledging the practical knowledge of Janajati communities and encouraged everyone to discover and utilize their inner potential for the betterment of society and the nation.

Shri Krupa Sindhu (from Keonjhar) sang marriage proposal songs, showcasing the customs of his community.

Shri Balram Baibaitha (from Keonjhar) narrated the Podu community's Ragada Chass ritual, emphasizing ancestor worship before the agricultural season.

Shri Narshingh Mandal (from Ganjam) performed a song connecting cultivation with the Mauli tree, an auspicious symbol.

Shri Banamali and Mukund Jani (from Nabarangpur) depicted the festival of Maa Pushpuni, highlighting unity and collective responsibility.

Shri Bhakti Hari Murmu (from Mayurbhanj) described rituals surrounding childbirth using Arjun tree leaves and symbolic offerings.

Shri Mohan Pangi (from Koraput) sang traditional marriage songs, emphasizing hospitality and celebration.

Shri Narhari Nayak (from Bathuri community, Ghatgaon) performed a song dedicated to Badam Devata, worshipped across 18 temples in his community.

The Chief Guest Shri Susant Naik emphasized the rich cultural practices of Janajati communities, from songs and dances to medicinal knowledge. He warned that neglecting tribal culture would lead to stagnation and loss of identity and advocated for preserving these traditions through active participation and education of the youth. He highlighted the contributions of Janajati communities to global superfoods like millets and Kundaro, underlining their advanced knowledge.

The session chair Shri Kishore Swain reflected on his rural upbringing, where sustainability was a natural way of life, resonating with Hari Pangi Ji's presentation on tribal wisdom and culture. He appreciated the role of VK-AICYAM and individuals like Hari Pangi in preserving and promoting tribal heritage, enabling mutual learning between tribes and modern society. He emphasized that the workshop highlighted practical, nature-driven solutions by indigenous communities, which hold invaluable lessons for everyone.

Conclusion

The workshop concluded with a collaborative discussion and question answer session, reinforcing the following points:

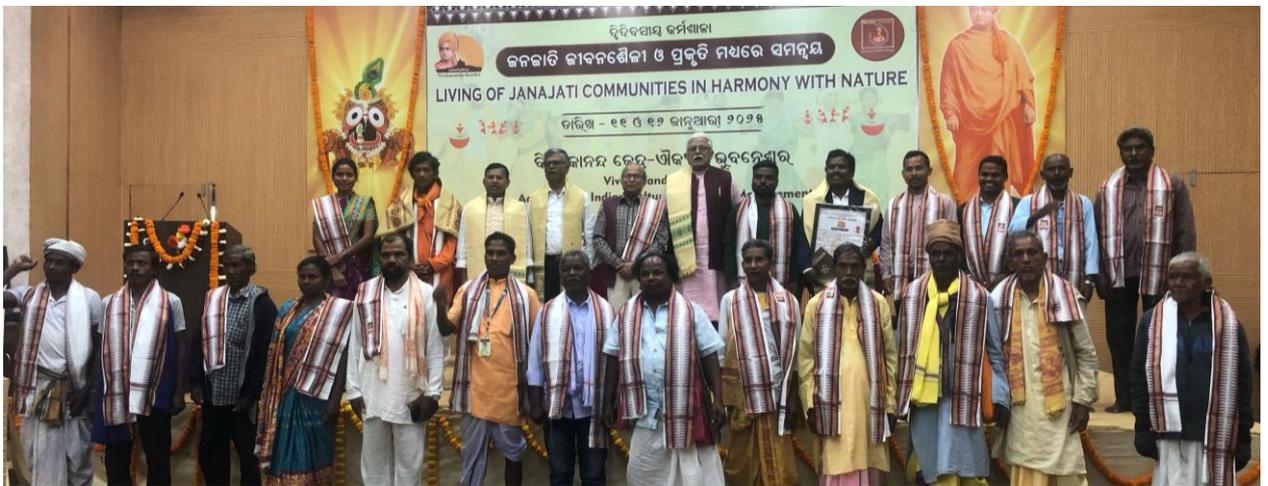
- Tribal traditions, folklore, and medicine are treasures that need preservation and propagation.
- Forests are central to the identity and survival of Janajati communities. Empowering them to manage forests would foster sustainability.
- Folk songs and dances serve as living records of cultural values, roles, and history, essential for societal cohesion.
- The wisdom of Janajati communities, rooted in nature and minimalism, offers solutions to modern challenges like climate change and health crises.

- Institutions like VK-AICYAM play a vital role in bridging the gap between modern society and indigenous knowledge.

From outcome perspective:

- Participants gained deep insights into the cultural and ecological contributions of Janajati communities.
- Scholars and practitioners shared knowledge, fostering mutual respect and collaboration.
- Recommendations were made to include Janajati traditions in academic curricula and promote awareness among the youth.

Felicitation Ceremony – Honoring the Contributors



The **Felicitation Ceremony** honored all scholars, researchers, and participants actively contributed to the success of the workshop. Their participation in discussions, presentations, and knowledge-sharing sessions helped create an enriching environment that strengthened the bridge between indigenous traditions and modern applications.



AICYAM Samman 2025

The **AICYAM Samman 2025** was awarded to **Hari Pangji Ji** for his exceptional dedication to preserving and promoting tribal wisdom, particularly in the fields of traditional medicine, sustainable agriculture, and ecological conservation. The award was presented in the presence of esteemed dignitaries, recognizing his invaluable contributions to the community.

Souvenir Release 2025

The **Souvenir Release of 2025** marked the unveiling of a comprehensive publication documenting all events, research, and discussions conducted by VK-AICYAM throughout 2024. This book/magazine serves as a valuable archive, preserving the legacy of various activities while providing future scholars and practitioners with essential insights into tribal traditions, folk knowledge, and sustainable practices.

The event concluded with a **vote of thanks by Prof. Basudev Chhatoi**, expressing gratitude to all participants, dignitaries, and organizing members. The workshop ended with the **Shanti Mantra**, symbolizing harmony, learning, and the commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous wisdom for a sustainable future.

