

MES ASMABI COLLEGE
 GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF MES ASMABI COLLEGE
 AND CELEBRATING 150TH YEAR OF MAHATMA

**NATIONAL
 CONFERENCE ON
 DEMOCRACY, LAND AND
 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT RIGHTS
 OF ADIVASIS AND CHALLENGES
 OF STRENGTHENING
 ADIVASI GRAMA SABHAS
 IN KERALA**

DECEMBER 18th & 19th
 @ MES
 ASMABI
 COLLEGE
 KODUNGALLUR

**5TH COMMUNITY
 FOREST
 RESOURCE
 (CFR)
 KERALA
 CONFERENCE
 2019**
 IPR in FRA

FREE ENROLLMENT FOR 30 ADIVASI STUDENTS/GRAMASABHA MEMBERS
 IN THE CERTIFICATE COURSE "CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND
 INDIGENOUS RIGHTS (FOREST RIGHTS ACT 2006, BIODIVERSITY ACT 2002)"

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY
 RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
 DEBATE CLUB, MES ASMABI COLLEGE
 WESTERN GHATS HORNBILL FOUNDATION

IPR IN THE FOREST RIGHTS ACT

ABSTRACT

A National Conference on
 Democracy, Land and Resource
 management Rights of Adivasis
18th and 19th December 2019

Dr. Amitha Bachan K.H.

National Conference on Democracy, Land and Resource management Rights of Adivasis and Challenges of strengthening Adivasi Grama Sabha in Kerala – 18th and 19th December 2019

A National Conference on Democracy, Land, and Resource Management Rights of Adivasis was conducted from December 18–19, 2019 by the Western Ghats Hornbill Foundation in collaboration with MES Asmabi College. The programme envisaged to bring out the challenges faced by the Adivasi Grama Sabha in Kerala for their empowerment and also to meet their rights to land and resource management. The conference aimed to provide a platform for Adivasis to voice their concerns and demands while also fostering dialogue between government officials, experts, and community leaders. Additionally, it sought to identify potential solutions and strategies for ensuring the effective implementation of Adivasi rights in Kerala.



The IPR provision in the Forest Rights Act

The Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA, 2006) provides an inclusive tool to recognise the intellectual property rights of Adivasis and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD). The session was structured as a discussion, in which Adv. Jessin Irena, Dr. Amitha Bachan, and Dr. Amruth,

KFRI, pointed out Section 3(1)k of the FRA 2006, which provides right recognition on access to biodiversity and common right for intellectual property rights. This provision allows Adivasis and OTFDs to have legal recognition and protection for their traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices related to biodiversity. It ensures that they have the right to control, access, use, and protect their intellectual property rights within their traditional forest territories.



Focal group discussion at the evening on the IPT Provisions and its potential

More than 50 Adivasis from different communities, such as Kadar, Kattunaika, Kurumba, Paniya Cholanaika, etc., participated in the programme. The programme aimed to promote cultural exchange and foster unity among the diverse Adivasi communities. Through various activities and discussions, participants had the opportunity to share their unique traditions, languages, and knowledge with one another. The session was chaired by C.R. Bijoy, and the papers were presented by Adv. Jessin Irena and Adv. Preetha. The session was highly interactive, allowing participants to engage in meaningful conversations and gain a deeper understanding of each other's cultures. The presentations by Adv. Jessin Irena and Adv. Preetha highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating the rich heritage of Adivasi

communities. Additionally, the programme also emphasised the need for collective action to address common challenges faced by these communities, such as land rights and socio-economic empowerment. The 30 Adivasi students who participated had the opportunity to enrol in the certificate course offered based on conservation, sustainability, and indigenous rights, which will equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to advocate for their communities' rights and preserve their cultural heritage. The course will also provide them with a platform to network and collaborate with other like-minded individuals and organisations working towards the same goals.

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