

ANNUAL **REPORT** 2020-2021



Institute *for*
Social Democracy

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Institute for Social Democracy

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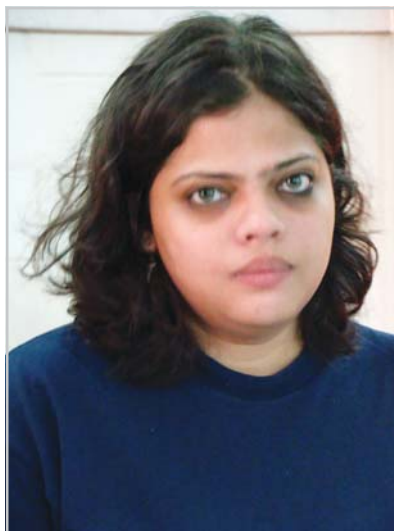
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MESSAGE *from the* DESK



FROM the beginning of March 2020 news of Corona virus spread had starting coming up. As days passed several cases started getting reported in India and in many other parts of South Asia as well. Covid - 19 pandemic became a reality in no time. Governments imposed most stringent nationwide lockdown in the hope of controlling the pandemic to spread further. With no time for people to prepare and reach to their native villages, cities or towns there was panic all over. The situation was of utter chaos as the migrant population that survives on the daily wages had no way to sustain themselves in the cities without work. All kinds of transport were stopped and the world witnessed a huge number of people forced to cover hundreds of kilometers of distance to their native places on foot and on cycle. This was the biggest migration within our country since the time of partition of India in 1947. The pain, the suffering, the hunger and thirst, the scorching heat, the apathy of those in power, the humiliation and denial of dignity in life and in death; India saw the worst that could happen to its people.

In times like these humanity comes to the rescue. People from all walks of life helped in every possible way. People supplied food, water to those who were on their way to their native places. Many people supported numerous families dependent on daily wages through dry ration and other means. Many organizations came forward to provide relief in form of food, medicines to the poor and needy. It is this spirit of humanity that restores the faith of people. For many months to come the civil society came together tirelessly to reach out those in need. ISD was no exception. In the changed context of Covid -19 situation the priority was to provide people with food and medicines. ISD with help of its volunteers, network partners and staff engaged in the relief work in different parts of India. In our limited capacity we could reach out to approximately 1,666 families in Allahabad, Jaunpur, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Jammu, Kashmir and Delhi combined.

This is a new experience for ISD and it has helped in building rapport and strong bond with the communities we have been engaging with. When there is so much of suffering, anxiety, helplessness among people, when there is no food, no work and no ray of hope for the future, it was and remains our duty to make all possible efforts in making the lives of people better with dignity and respect. Apart from providing relief in form of dry ration, ISD engaged with children, youth and women through its work on and approach of Composite Heritage. Art workshops were one such medium to engage the youth and bring down their anxiety. Capacity building of women and youth helped them to take leadership; awareness generation was another way of spreading right information about various social issues.

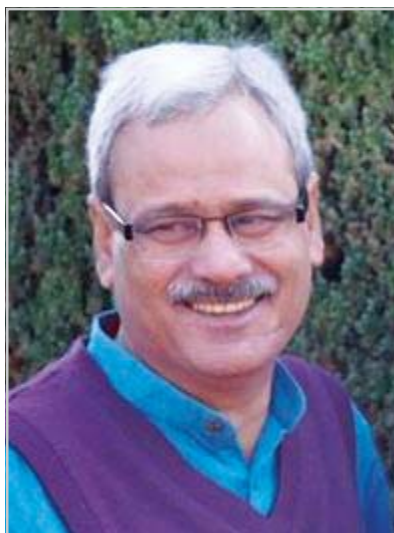
The crisis and trauma of Covid-19 is far from over and its effects of the lives and livelihood of people are surfacing gradually. ISD's pledge to continue its relief work has become stronger as Peacebuilding is a holistic approach. When there is no food, no job, no school, no medicine, no treatment....there is no Peace. While ISD cannot provide everything to everyone, it can and has widened its scope of work and community engagement.

We thank all our donors who have supported us in various ways to make the ongoing work possible.



INSTITUTE *for*

SOCIAL DEMOCRACY



Institute for Social Democracy came into existence in the backdrop of unprecedented violent conflict that South Asia has witnessed over several decades. Now they have become a routine affair. Thousands of women, men and children fell victim to this madness. ISD was established by late Dr. Khurshid Anwar and its work on Composite Heritage was his brainchild. ISD has chosen Composite Heritage as a tool for conflict transformation and violence prevention as no other organisation has yet taken it up. Composite Heritage is chosen as a tool, because of the fact that irrespective of the caste, religion and gender every individual relates to it. It belongs to masses, not an individual. The initial objective of ISD was to provide a common platform for groups and individuals committed to secularism and democracy, to explore and affirm Composite Heritage as a basis for peace and democracy. With this objective in mind, we initiated our intervention through the perspective building and capacity building on the context of conflict and bringing Composite Heritage as a tool to restore Peace, Harmony and Democracy. Through our interventions, we learnt that there is almost total lack of peace movements in the context of sectarian violent and non-violent conflict such as communal, caste, ethnic, linguistic and regional conflicts. In sub-continent, there is a movement for peace when it comes to war and nuclear race issues. There is also a strong and significant feminist movement but when it comes to conflicts mentioned above, our efforts become only reactive. We assume that there is peace because there is no visible conflict. We remain until and unless we are confronted with violent conflicts. Once the violent conflict is invisible, we again assume that there is peace. The biggest lesson that we learnt through these years is that the absence of violent conflict does not mean peace. We also learnt that there are always sources of tension present in the society and they become visible as and when the forces behind the sources become proactive. On the contrary, we also realize that in a given society there are always "Local Capacities for Peace" present. Though we always require them to remain on the surface and help to keep peace and harmony intact we hardly become proactive. During our journey we have evolved not just as an organisation but also the concept of Composite Heritage has evolved and new dimensions are added to it.

VISION and MISSION



VISION

To build a social structure based on peace, harmony and democratic values while accepting social and cultural diversity and establishing dialogue with mutual respect.

MISSION

- To identify, understand and collect, different forms of Composite Heritage at community level, through research and dialogues.
- Mainstreaming of the concept of Composite Heritage through different mediums for the sake of democratic values.
- To encourage the youth, like-minded groups and different peace networks at South Asia Level, for contributing on peace and harmony by enhancing their knowledge and social analysis.

BELIEF

ISD believes in establishing a dialogue with different social groups and connects with them with full respect towards their social and cultural aspirations and without doubting their intentions. ISD dreams of building secular and democratic society based on human development and dignity of human rights.

ISD - ITS ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE and AREA of WORK



ISD is a trust and has its own organisational structure. Its central unit, which outlays and decides the outline of its programmes is based at Delhi, which also happens to be its main office. Programmes and interventions of ISD are spread across at many levels. With the support of its Delhi and field staff ISD has adopted the structure of adhocracy, in which different cells are created and the anchors of each cell works accordingly.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE and AREA of WORK : ADHOCRACY



AREA of WORK



ISD directly and indirectly is engaged in enriching and enhancing the concept of Composite Heritage, democracy and peace building in India as well as other South Asian Countries with support of its network partner, likeminded people, comrades and South Asia partners through publication and workshop medium.

Directly

ISD works at Kullu and Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, Allahabad and Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, Mukteshwar and Nainital in Uttarakhand, Kaithal in Haryana, Jamshedpur in Jharkhand, Bandipora, Pulwama, Srinagar, Tral and Samba in Jammu & Kashmir.

Indirectly

Through Publications

Through publications- ISD has reached out to Andaman, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu - Kashmir, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Indirectly

Through Workshops

ISD has shared its concept of Composite Heritage with diverse groups in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu - Kashmir, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, North-East, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

At South Asian Level:

ISD is involved in promoting and enhancing the concept of Composite Heritage in South Asian countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan through the collaboration with its like-minded groups, by organizing workshops and publications. In addition, it is a part of Local Capacities for Peace network. Through this network, ISD has been constantly working for establishing peace in South Asia.

Note:

All activities of Composite Heritage at Jammu and Kashmir are supported and funded by the Misereor.

EXPLORING NEW IDEAS and ADAPTING NEW STRATEGIES



ENGAGING TRAINERS and COMRADES of ISD THROUGH RESEARCH ACTIVITY

ISD this year started its research work on local Composite Heritage of India. In this activity, ISD's Research Cell developed a plan and procedure and conducted various meetings on it. The purpose of this initiative was not only about doing research, but also to engage its trainees and comrades through activity so that a bridge can be build among them.

ISD initially invited the proposal from the trainers and comrades on local Composite Heritage and after that, a small meeting of the research team was held to discuss the proposal and idea submitted by the researcher. After submission of detailed proposals and other technical formalities ISD team started its research on different field areas. Till now ISD has completed its research in Himachal Pradesh and Assam, The process of research in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh is still going on.

Following are the topics that we have covered under our research initiatives.

- JUARI – A local Tradition of Himachal Pradesh that Connects People and Community
- MANIKUT UTSAV – A Composite Heritage of Assam

BUILDING YOUTH and WOMEN GROUPS and CAPACITATING THEM AS PEACE AGENTS FOR FUTURE INTERVENTION

To mainstream and strengthen the concept of Composite Heritage and development of youths and women, ISD works with different groups in its field area. While conducting various activities, ISD realized that youths are like a bridge between generations, if we need to reach out to the community at a larger level, we need to take them along. Keeping all these in mind, ISD has developed few youth groups in its field area who have taken part in ISD's activities and helped in mainstreaming the concept of Composite Heritage. Similarly, few women groups have also been developed for the empowerment of women and girls in respective field.

ISD conducts various workshops and training for the capacity building of women and youth of the field area. Such as Composite Heritage workshop, gender training, Do No Harm -LCP, Conflict Transformation Tools training, meetings on various social issues, etc. These activities help in building their understanding on issues and rights for their self-development. At present youth and women groups in different field areas have become peace agents of ISD, who help their village in conflict resolution and other activities and build awareness on social issues.



Youth groups in Allahabad and Jaunpur participate and help in organising Composite Heritage workshops. They help small children of their *Basti* and village in their studies and organise sports and games for them.

In Jaunpur, few youth groups are engaged in developing a list of differentially-abled, single women and widows of their villages so that ISD could reach out to them for help.

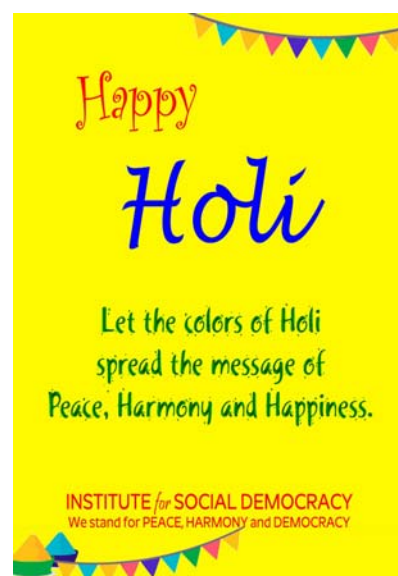
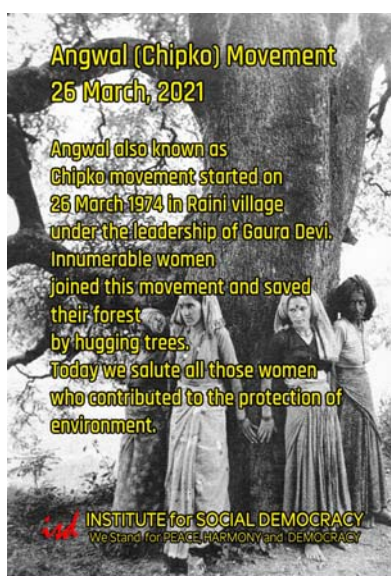
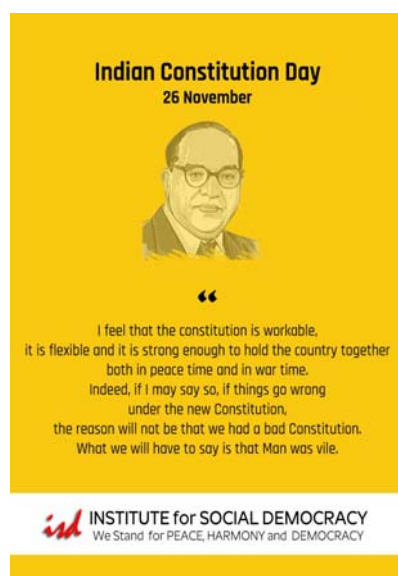
Youth groups in Allahabad and Jharkhand along with workshops and other activities perform street theater on social issues for building awareness among community people against negative Composite Heritage, such as Witch-Hunting practice. These youth groups give training of art and craft to other children and youth of *Basti* and village. In Allahabad, youths are providing training in Bamboo art Craft and in Jharkhand, they are teaching Sohrai painting.

In Jaunpur, Allahabad and Himachal Pradesh women groups are engaged in small occupations, they have developed Self Help Groups and help each other both socially and economically.

In Haryana, youth groups have developed a mobile library through which they reach out to the other children of the villages and help them in accessing reading material.

CONNECTING WITH PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, SHARING ONLINE WISHES WITH THEM ON SPECIAL EVENTS, CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS THROUGH QUOTES AND MESSAGES

ISD this year became active on various social media platforms; it has tried to reach out to the people, community, stakeholders, like-minded people, etc through Facebook, Telegram, and Whatsapp. ISD shared social and cultural messages on various occasions.



ZOOMING with STAFF and COMMUNITY PEOPLE

ISD through Zoom meetings conducted various staff meetings, webinars and workshops.

WEBINAR

Dharm Parivartan :
SACH aur MYTHAK




Speaker
Dr. Ram Punyani
Writer and Social Activist

Date and Time
July 15, 10:00 am - 01.30 pm

Those interested pls. msg. at: **9711168315**
Surender Rawat
for **Zoom Meeting ID** and **Password**

INSTITUTE for SOCIAL DEMOCRACY
We stand for PEACE, HARMONY and DEMOCRACY

WEBINAR



Remembering KHURSHID

**Adivasi Samaaj ke Badalte Halat :
Kuch Vichar Kuch Sawaal**
Speaker : **Prof. Indra Munshi**
(Renowned Sociologist)

23 November, 05:30-07:30 pm

Zoom Meeting ID : 885 7669 1896
Passcode : 355000


♦

Adivasi Asmita aur Sarna Code
Speaker : **Meghnath Bhattacharya**
(Documentary Film Maker and Social Activist)

Adivasi Asmita aur Lok Nritya
(Performance of Folk Culture by Adivasi Community)

24 November, 02:30-04:45 pm

Zoom Meeting ID : 832 9196 1946
Passcode : 659341

 **INSTITUTE for SOCIAL DEMOCRACY**
We stand for PEACE, HARMONY and DEMOCRACY

THEMES UNDER COMPOSITE HERITAGE AND LOCAL CAPACITIES FOR PEACE



EDUCATION

Popular or alternative education on different issues through various medium given to communities in different field areas helps in reducing negative aspects of society that impacts them. It enhances their skills and provides better opportunities; it helps them in building connection with each other. Education on culture and tradition unites communities, especially youths.

AWARENESS BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Awareness building on various social issues and Covid-19 has been done with the help of popular material and theater workshops. To build an understanding of Composite Heritage various programmes have been conducted. With awareness and understanding communities have learned about their rights and culture, now they are able to protect and preserve them.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF YOUTH LEADERS AND WOMEN

Capacity building programmes and workshops have been conducted in different field areas for the self-development of youths and women, so that they took initiatives in their village, *Basti* and areas and become leaders.

REVIVAL OF FORMS OF COMPOSITE HERITAGE

With the help of activities and events like sports and games, communities are working towards the revival of Composite Heritage. There are a number of traditional forms of Composite Heritage in field areas, which are in the process of revival. Like local traditional games, traditional dishes, folk art etc.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender Mainstreaming through workshops and training with communities and especially with youths has developed an understanding among them. Issues such as gender discrimination, domestic violence, eve teasing, third gender, trafficking, Witch-Hunting practice have been dealt through these activities. LCP and Do-No- Harm guidelines with gender policy have been used to capacitate the community people. Participation of women in meeting was ensured, SHG groups were formed and conventions were organised to curb the negative Composite Heritage that affects different genders in society.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

With the concept of organic farming, communities in different field areas are working towards the revival of traditional organic methods of farming, communities with the initiatives like "Juari Pratha", making of organic compost; kitchen garden etc has helped in environmental protection and at the same time moving forwards towards sustainable development.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Last year when Covid-19 outbreak affected various countries including India and threw them into an unprecedented massive health and humanitarian crisis, the situation in India became chaotic. The first case of Covid-19 in India was registered in Kerala on January 30, 2020. At that time neither anyone had the right information related to Covid-19 nor were they aware of the intensity of its spread. When virus was spreading the awareness regarding the pandemic was nowhere to be found, in admits of this a nationwide curfew was called by the government within four hours of time span. Soon the repercussion of this hasty lockdown started appearing and things became chaotic in the country. The working class, especially migrants from all over the country, started leaving the cities for their village. The poorest, marginalized, and daily wage workers who earn on a daily basis were helpless against this global pandemic. They were disproportionately disadvantaged as the crisis continued.

Not just hunger and poverty the country also faced conflict based on caste, class, and religion; people started doubting each other and the family and community values started reducing. This led to a new conflict in society.

Looking at the situation, Institute for Social Democracy in Association with other civil society organizations and like-minded people commenced joint efforts to support people in need. ISD took the initiative to build awareness among the people for reducing conflict and establishing peace.

OUR REACH

Our response to the pandemic was in two ways humanitarian and health. The members of our organisation with the help of other civil society organizations and individuals anchored the effort for this emergency response.

In some places, ISD also became part of the larger network for the cause.

We reached the different villages and slums of Allahabad, Jaunpur, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and New Delhi.

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION AND AWARENESS BUILDING



NEW DELHI

ISD in Delhi started its relief work in slum areas where help couldn't be reached. ISD (Delhi), in collaboration with the program coordinator of Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Center, identified Yamuna Bank Slum for relief distribution. The team following the LCP tool and DNH guidelines conducted a two-day survey of the slum area so that families who are in need could be identified and ISD could provide them relief material as per their need.

The survey was conducted with the help of a local school teacher - Mr. Rajesh Kumar - founder of "Under the Bridge Free School". With his help, 113 needy families were identified. This included women, gardeners, agricultural laborers, construction workers, daily wage laborers, rickshaw drivers, rag pickers, etc. Apart from this, differentially abled and widowed women were also included in this list.

After the survey, ISD team distributed the relief material following all physical distance rules and regulations. In this relief material, the ration (flour, rice, two types of pulses, mustard oil, salt and garam masala) was distributed to the identified family.

Along with ration distribution, ISD also published pamphlets and booklets for awareness building among the society. Booklet and pamphlet that not only talked about the Covid related information but shared values and Composite Heritage as well so that people will feel united.

ALLAHABAD

The situation in Uttar Pradesh was worsening day by day due to Covid-19. People were facing all kinds of problems. If we talk about the social situation, ISD observed that differences had come among the people throughout the society. No one was willing to talk to anyone, because people feared that they might catch Corona from each other. Talking about the economic conditions, ISD observed that the economic condition of the people in Allahabad started weakening due to the job loss and closing of other work. People were starving due to the unavailability of any private and government help.



After learning about the situation of the different villages and slum areas of Allahabad, a group called Allahabad Help Group was formed by intellectuals, social activists and civil society organisations. ISD became part of this group and started providing help to the people who were suffering due to Covid-19

Our team helped in various places during Covid -19 which were as follows- 1. Gaughat 2. Koilha 3. Bilaspuri Basti 4. Gahela 5. Gujarati Dharamshala 6. Kidgaz, 7. Rambagh, 8. Karelabagh, 9. Lal Colony, 10. Bhig nagar Naini, 11. Magtana Basti, 12. Mahra ka Purva, 13. Leprosi Misan Basti, 14. Haddi godam 15. Petrol tanki and Pani Tanki Basti 16. Chungi Takiya 17. Karanmeel Dharkar Basti 18. Naini Sahaji Mandi, 19. Sadipapur mod Basti, 20. Laparosi Chauraha.

The team contacted key people and prepared a list of needy people. They did the packaging and transported it for distribution to various community people. Efforts were made to reduce discrimination between Hindus and Muslims through meetings. To reduce stress and tension meetings with the youth were held. Discussion on maintaining safe distance and precautions of corona



held with different community people.

JAUNPUR

ISD in association with Azad Shiksha Kendra identified the poor and needy families of the region through surveys and provided them ration kits. The team reached and identified 123 Villages of 9 blocks of Jaunpur district. Block-Shahganj, Kuthan, Maharajganj, Kranja Klan, Badlapur, Baksha Nagar, Machli Shahar, Nagar Kheta Sarai Nagar Palika Jaunpur etc

The team visited 84 villages in the area, discussed this pandemic with the people, and made them aware of the situation. They distributed the relief material and other essentials like a mask, soap, sanitizer, and sanitary pads to the community people. Nearly 5500 masks and soaps were distributed to people in 9 blocks of this district, and 4000 pamphlets related to Corona were also given to the people. We also discussed the seriousness of this pandemic and various preventive measures to avoid it.

Team provided ration kits to various community people specifically to single women (widows), visually impaired, differentially abled daily wagers, homeless people, elderly people, and those who had no avenues to earn their living in these hard times.

Team observed that a large number of migrant labourers coming back to their homes did not have water and food in the hot weather. They provided refreshment and water to more than 8000 migrants and 500 rupees were given to 45 migrants to reach their homes.



The team provided ration kits to 50 widows and single women for 3 months in the area and 1000 rupees financial assistance to 20 such families in the area, in which the person was facing serious health issues.

HARYANA

Following the nationwide lockdown announcement by the Prime Minister in the last week of March most of the people in the Kaithal district of Haryana started panicking because of the pandemic. Suddenly there was an atmosphere of fear in the whole region, despite that, total lockdown in the village area was impossible. People were busy in their agriculture activities and especially elderly people were unstoppable. As per the traditional practice of Haryana they were chitchatting, playing cards, and were having common *Hookah* in public places throughout the day. Looking at the circumstances our ISD team started building awareness regarding the pandemic. Our team invited dignitaries from the surrounding villages and told the villagers about the importance of masks, washing hands repeatedly with soap, and physical distance from each other. Related posters of such messages were also prepared and pasted at public places in the village.



In April, the district administration appealed to the citizens that in coming days, blood and plasma will be needed. Looking at the need, the youths of the village organized a blood camp and donated blood in it.

With the help of some volunteers, our team distributed the sanitizers and masks. Apart from this, the team collected the grains from the village and distributed them to the needy people and the families of migrant kiln workers.

JHARKHAND

Jharkhand is one of the biggest Adivasi states, Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Hazaribagh, and Dhanbad are the major cities of Jharkhand. These are the cities, which were mostly affected by the Covid 19. Until March there was not even a single case of Covid in Jharkhand, the first case arrived in Ranchi in June-July and by the end of August, the cases were at peak.



Given the Covid conditions, Jharkhand and Central government with special relaxation imposed the lockdown in the state. Due to the lockdown, closure of the shop and factories, the labour class got affected in large numbers. However, the government provided them with food grains but that was not enough. In such a situation, unemployed and economically weak people lost their lives and many suicide incidents were recorded in the area.

Due to lockdown, Job loss, and unemployment hundreds of families of various *Basti* became dependent on the langar during the lockdown. Keeping this in view, youth groups of ISD distributed cooked food in *Basti's*. The ISD team after conducting a meeting with Jain Samaj distributed food from 24th March-7th June 2020 in Sarjom Hatu, Baba Tilka Manjhi *Basti*, Nirmal Nagar, Siddhu Kanhu *Basti* 2 and 3.

In Govindpur, Gitti machine there was no help and no langar was being organised by the administration and NGO's. The people of the area were suffering from hunger; they were not able to collect food. Hence, on behalf of Institute for Social Democracy Jamshedpur Jharkhand distributed the dry ration in *Basti*. Before distribution, youth group members conducted a survey and developed a list of needy people who do not have ration cards. After the survey, the ration was distributed among 430 families of *Basti*, which included Rice, Potato, Pulses, Salt, and Mustard Oil.

ISD also works with folk-artists, during lockdown, the status of folk artists also deteriorated. On 7th May 2020, ration distribution was held among the artists of Shukla village.



HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal is a hilly state with more than 6.5 million people living in harmony and the state has never seen any kind of communal violence. The economic condition of the state is very good as per capita income is considered. The main occupation of people here is agriculture, but for the last 2 decades, few areas have declared as industrial areas, where industrial activities are going on. Tourism and Hydropower electricity are the other two sectors for income of the state.

In present days, agriculture is not seen as a profitable business by the young generation, so many young people are going to industrial hubs, tourism destinations, and big cities for jobs. Few migrant laborers from other states and courtiers like Nepal are fulfilling the demand for labour work in horticulture and construction work.

Covid-19 that had a very bad impact on various regions of Himachal Pradesh, different sectors like education and other public services became weak and had a negative blow, only agriculture sector saw some positive development during this pandemic.

ISD and team have not done any direct relief distribution in the Himachal area, because it was not required, but we did awareness building regarding precaution and prevention measures of the pandemic. We told people to wear masks, wash their hands and keep a physical distance. After the unlock process we moved to few villages to analyse the impact of the pandemic. We interacted with various groups of society from women to children and elders, from farmers to small businessperson and youth who had come back from other states after leaving their work. We all shared experiences of lockdown and its impact.

After discussion, the team came to know that people have faced many hardships during the lockdown, especially women and children in the area because children were confined to their houses and women had to take extra care of their family members.

In ISD's working area and other parts of the state, we notice that agriculture activities became good due to lockdown. People from other parts came back to their villages and started looking after their farmland and started developing them. Another positive impact was people started thinking about their traditional agriculture for survival. ISD team also gave ideas to the youth and

farmers who came back to their villages to revive their traditional agriculture, which is the Composite Heritage of the region.

JAMMU

In Jammu, COVID-19 caused a lot of harm to the people and community of the village especially the laborers and migrants of Chhattisgarh who were stuck in the area due to lockdown, after Jammu declared a red zone. These labourers were dependent on the daily wages and due to the closure of construction; they were not able to find work and food. Looking at the circumstances, the ISD team in Jammu decided to distribute the ration among such poorest labourers. These include brick kiln and migrant workers, the team focused on the labourers who does not have access to PDS ration.



On 12 May 2020 distribution was held at the Trikuta, Gandhi Nagar Jammu with the help of local authorities (Jammu Municipal Corporation). The beneficiaries were informed before the distribution through mobile phones, we informed the people who had phones and asked them to disseminate the information on distribution items (quantity and type), dates, venue, and time. The dry ration included rice, flour, pulses, salt, some spices such as Haldi and chili powder, edible oil, sugar, tea, etc. These items were distributed among the labourers at the coordination point given by the local municipal cooperation. Facilitator maintained all the protocols and physical distancing norms of Covid -19.

KASHMIR

The condition of people in Kashmir affected with COVID-19 was worse and at risk. They were economically shattered and their life changed due to this sudden and unprecedented attack of Pandemic. The situation was of concern across India but for Kashmir, the situation was far worse because here the lockdown was ordered from August 5th 2019 which left socio-economical setup in very bad shape. Lockdown has had a severe impact on all but especially on poor families that mainly comprise of daily wage earners like-casual laborers, agricultural laborers, bus drivers, conductors, rickshaw pullers, taxi drivers, roadside small vegetable and fruit vendors to name a few. During the lockdown, ISD took the initiative and distributed the relief material that was mostly done in already intervening areas so that people don't feel alone in times, when they need us the most.

Following were the areas covered for relief work: Mallapora, Malikpora and Goripora villages in zone Trigam of district Bandipora North Kashmir. Dewar, Batagund, Shairabad, Gamraz, and Sharifabad villages of Tral South Kashmir. Different Mohallas of Madwan village District Bandipora North Kashmir.

In this area, we distributed the dry ration to the families who are very poor and in bad condition.

MANIPUR

People of Manipur also suffered a lot due to COVID 19. Earlier people were relaxed and free and there was no seriousness in the matter but when government imposed a nationwide lockdown then the situation became a little chaotic and people got scared. In addition, the state became a red zone due



to the return of migrants.

New Life Foundation in Manipur after knowing the situation conducted the situational analysis of the area, after that, it organised a meeting with the head of the ISD in Delhi and requested support from them. The ISD team after discussion approved the support of ration and medicine in the Manipur region. It helped in making payments of different end-users of grocery and medico shopkeepers/stores to distributing foodstuff and health sanitizers.

New Life Foundation – Manipur in association with ISD started their support services and street awareness campaign from 8th and continued it till 12th August 2020 with the consent of district administration following the lockdown protocols/SOP of COVID- 19.

During that time all the activities or interventions were done with the consent of the Deputy Commissioner – Bishnupur District, Govt of Manipur. They distributed foodstuff and health hygiene items to 50 people of two vulnerable groups-HIV+ people and widows. Team also distributed snacks, facemasks, gloves, hypochlorite solutions, PPEs to 60 duty bearers of police, doctors, nurses, and community police. The team distributed different ration items like rice, dal, salt, sugar, potato, milk powder, tea, mustard oil, mineral water, noodles, and fruits.



PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES - A BRIEF REPORT



MENTAL HEALING WITH LEARNING

After analysing impact of Covid -19, ISD observed that, people in the community are suffering due to various problems one of which was mental stress. Given this ISD conducted different workshops such as sports and games workshops, creative art workshops, and theater workshops through which we tried building awareness regarding Covid-19, Composite Heritage, and helped the community in healing. These workshops included physical exercise, games, drawing and painting, and performance of the play by children and youth.

- In Allahabad, Jaunpur, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu, Kashmir and Uttarakhand ISD conducted small meetings with youth, women, community people, and stakeholders to discuss and understand the aftermath and situation of Covid-19 of their respective areas and the coping strategies of the pandemic.
- Theater workshops were being organised with the youth groups and children in Allahabad, Jharkhand and Haryana. In these workshops, children and youth learned the basic concepts of theater, practiced theme-based theatrical plays, and performed it on various occasions.





- Art workshops were conducted in Allahabad, Jaunpur, Jharkhand, Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh in which youth learned about various art forms, this workshop not only helped them in learning but in dealing with mental stress as well.
- ISD, to build awareness of Covid-19 and Composite Heritage and to reduce tension and conflict from the society conducted workshops in Jaunpur, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand with youth, women, and farmers.
- Covid -19 had a major impact on women due to which they suffered a lot; ISD in view of this conducted a meeting in Kashmir with women on mental health and peace.
- ISD in various meetings discussed that there are lots of traditional games that are disappearing from society, ISD realized that organising sports and games is a good way to preserve these traditional games and at the same time this helps children in reducing their stress. Given this Jaunpur, Allahabad, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and Haryana conducted various sports meets with children and youth groups on different occasions. They played games like Gilli Danda, Kho-Kho, Kil Kit Kata, Bagh Bakri, Balloon Race, Skipping, Rassa Kassi, Spoon Race, Ghar -Ghar, etc.
- Rangoli making and Art competition was organised with the children of Dhillon in Jammu to build an understanding of Composite Heritage concept and develop connection among children.

EXPLORING NEW FIELD AREAS

During the journey of mainstreaming of Composite Heritage, especially Covid-19 relief distribution ISD met with the people in different field areas and discussed their situation. After meeting and discussion community people got influenced with the work of ISD and they insisted that ISD should help the community and women and initiate Composite Heritage work in their area.

- In Allahabad, ISD initiated its Composite Heritage work in Munna Masjid Mohalla and conducted meeting and Composite Heritage workshops with the women. The team discussed different themes of Composite Heritage and gender issues and helped them in building an understating of the same. Apart from this, ISD has also expanded its work in Bhadoi with the help of theatrical workshops with children and youth.
- In Jaunpur ISD has developed its field in Jamalpur, Khajurahat, Joodaipur, and Kadnapur village and

started working with youth, women, and community. Initially, ISD conducted introductory meeting with the people of the village and gave them information about the organisation and its work. After sometime ISD organised issues-based meetings and Composite Heritage workshops with youth and women. This helped the community in learning new things and building an understanding of issues.

- In Kashmir ISD has extended its Composite Heritage work in Tral district of South Kashmir. ISD conducted relief distribution work along with different meetings and workshops with children, youth and women of Saimoh, Bathnoor Laribal, Diwar and Shairabad of Tral .
- This year ISD has also developed its filed area in Samilpur and Dhollian village of Jammu; Initial meetings were conducted with the key people of the village to discuss about organisation and its work. After few meetings, ISD developed the profile of village and later with the consent of community people and authorities, ISD started mainstreaming of Composite Heritage work in the area.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

ISD believes that for discovering new dimensions in existing work, to strengthen society and taking forward the work of Composite Heritage, capacity building of staff, youth, women and community is very important. Hence, ISD every year conducts issue-based capacity building workshops.

- Leadership Development programme was conducted with the youth group of Madwan and Trigam, ISD in this meeting through the concept of Composite Heritage helped in providing platform and opportunity to youth of Kashmir so that they can channelize their energies in positive direction and develop constructive mindset.



- To understand the discrimination against the third gender in society ISD in Himachal Pradesh conducted a meeting on Gender / Do No Harm -LCP, Conflict Transformation tool with Panchayat leader women and community for their capacity building and to develop an understating of the issue.
- After Covid-19 situation ISD realized that due to long break and change in staff composition, there is a need for capacity building workshop for the staff of ISD, therefore in view of this ISD organised a Theater in Education workshop and learned about a new tool for its future activities.
- ISD conducted an online meeting on capacity building and gender sensitivity with the youth of Bathnoor and Saimoh village in Tral of south Kashmir. The aim of this activity was to mobilise the youth towards recognizing gender equality.

EXPOSURE VISITS

To build an understanding of youth on Composite Heritage and providing them an understanding of different culture, ISD organises different exposure and learning visits in its field area.

- In Allahabad and Jaunpur youth visited Company Bagh for exposure visit where they learned about freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad. Youth visited a museum and saw Chandrashekhar Azad's gun with which he shot himself. They saw many historical sculptures, which were brought from different places in ancient times.
- ISD organised an exposure visit of Kashmiri youth to Jammu so that youth can understand the culture and tradition of their neighbouring state and can learn about their Composite Heritage.
- Similarly, youths of Jharkhand visited Jaunpur for exposure visit and exchange their experiences with each other. They participated in a workshop, village meetings and learned about organic farming.



KNOWING SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ISSUES

To develop an understanding of the community on social issues and Composite Heritage, ISD conducted different issue-based workshops with children, youth, women, and community in different field area. These workshops included learning and understanding of the issues like gender discrimination, caste discrimination, media, and politics of the country.

- ISD organised meeting in Allahabad and Jaunpur with youths to discuss gender issues and told them about the situation of women in India. Team discussed how women face discrimination and challenges in the society and how they should fight against all odd. Discussion on domestic violence, eve-teasing and child marriage was also held with the youth.
- Similarly, a meeting to discuss Farmers Movement was also held with women, youth, and farmers of Allahabad Jaunpur, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. In this meeting, team discussed the movement and agriculture laws implemented by the government.
- To mark the importance of women farmers in agricultural activities and movement a function of Ragni was conducted in Haryana to discuss the women issues. It was attended by the women of Titram and other neighbouring villages in large number.
- A discussion on various media news and its impact on youth groups were also held in different meetings where youth discussed that how media now a days is not providing information on important social issues of the country rather they are focused on Bollywood buzz and other unworthy news items. The data provided by media is not reliable. Youth in these meetings promised that they will not believe fake and social media news without verifying it.
- A seminar and meetings were held on Witch-Hunting practice in Jharkhand with local administrative, Ojhas, stakeholders, and women victims of Witch-Hunting, In this meeting all the participants shared their experiences and views on the issues and discussed the way for the eradication of the practice.



- ISD in Kashmir organised different workshops to prepare the skits and play on social issues and sensitized children and youth about negative Composite Heritage and importance of peace building.
- Various community people in rural and urban society are full of superstitions and other social evils. In present times also people resort to sorcery and tantra methods to cure diseases or other problems. In villages, many times, the thugs try to demonstrate through their acts that they have divine powers. Mostly children, adolescents, and uneducated women become their victims. To address such things and expose superstitions spread in the society, and develop scientific consciousness in the minds of children and adolescents, a magical show was organised by ISD in Haryana.
- A meeting was conducted with youth group of Madwan Kashmir to build an understanding on role of Composite Heritage as one of the important tool for eliminating social evils like drug abuse from society.
- Now a days, in the name of the festival, the use of contaminated market sweets and huge numbers of fireworks had increased, due to which both our social and natural environment is under threat. Keeping that in view ISD conducted workshop in Haryana and taught children how to make flowerpots, diyas, and masks in this workshop. In continuation of the workshop ISD team members started a campaign with children 'One Plant- One Lamp' on the occasion of *Diwali*. Children started collecting used plastic bottles, old torn clothes, useless pots, cups etc. for this purpose.
- ISD strives to eliminate negative Composite Heritage like Witch-Hunting system, keeping that objective in mind ISD conducted two days "Peace and Harmony Rally- Shanti Sadbhavna Yatra" on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.
- Kashmir is one of the major conflict state of the country, building peace among different communities is one of the major challenge in this area, keeping this view ISD conducted a Communal Harmony workshop in Tral district of Kashmir where both Muslim and Sikh communities lives together, the purpose of the activity was to build understanding of youth and children on their role in promoting communal harmony and work together for the betterment of the society they live in.



INITIATIVES FOR SELF-RELIANCE WITH LEARNING

As we know that due to the usage of plastic and other non-biodegradable harmful materials our natural and traditional art forms are disappearing from society. Given this when ISD observed that youth have the potential to learn traditional art form and can use it as a medium for their earning, ISD decided to conduct workshops and training with youth and women in Allahabad, Jaunpur and Jharkhand. The objective of these workshops was to build awareness among the youth so that they can help society in the revival of Composite Heritages and save them from extinction and through this learning of handicraft small employment could be generated for their self reliance.

- ISD in Allahabad came to know that one of the youth group members in Karela Bagh *Basti* knows how to make Bamboo handicraft items, team realised that it would be great if he could teach the Bamboo Handicraft to the other group members and help them in their learning. In context of this ISD conducted a workshop on Bamboo handicrafts in October 2020 with youths of Karela Bagh *Basti*.
- In Jharkhand team took the initiative of teaching youth groups about the waste material craft. Youth in this workshop learned to make craft items with the help of natural waste material such as pine cones, tree bark, dry flowers, etc.
- Organic farming training and workshops were being organised with women in Jaunpur, in this training women were taught about the process and benefits of organic farming by the agricultural experts. The team discussed with them that how with the help of organic farming and kitchen gardening they can save their earning and help in preserving the traditional seeds and environment.

CELEBRATION OF EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

To understand Composite Heritage and mark the importance of the fair festival and famous personalities, ISD every year celebrates the events and festival so that people and community could remember their forms and Composite heritage and struggle of the personalities. For the purpose, ISD organise meeting, workshops and weekly programmes, and provides understanding and learning.



- In Allahabad, ISD organized **26th January, New Year Celebration, Vivekanand Jayanti, Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti** with the youth of different *Basti* and Village areas. In these programmes youth discusses the life history of these personalities and performed theatrical plays and dance. They also played traditional sports and games on the occasion and learned about the Composite Heritage.
- In Jaunpur meetings on **Jhalkari Bai birth anniversary**, a weekly programme on **Savitri Bai Phule birth anniversary**, discussion on **Rama Bai birth anniversary** was organised in different village areas. Women and youth shared that they have never heard of these personalities and are happy to learn about them. Women in Machli Shehar Jaunpur also

celebrated **Holi Milan** and discussed the importance of the festival.

- **Valmiki Jayanti** was celebrated in Haryana with children and the community; they discussed the historical biography and importance of the person. They also celebrated **Lohri** and **Makar Sankranti** and discussed that how these festivals are associated with agricultural activities and bring joy to people's life.
- In Kashmir ISD team organised a one day meet with children to celebrate the **Children's Day** in Trigam Village of Kashmir. The aim of the celebration was to make them feel special and make them understand about the importance of the occasion.
- **International Women's Day** was celebrated in Allahabad, Himachal Pradesh, Jaunpur, Haryana, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand, ISD conducted meetings, workshops, and sammelan for this celebration and in these programmes team discussed the historical struggle of the women. Team also discussed the present situation of women in society and a way forward for their empowerment and education. Participants celebrated the day with greetings and in some field areas, they sang and danced with joy.
- **Chetru Vith** is an annual program of ISD in Himachal Pradesh; it was introduced in this area to bring harmony, peace with social equality in the region. In Himachal Pradesh, community people and students of Teel village celebrated the Chetru Vith in March. ISD in association with local stakeholders organised the traditional sports competition, music competition and local dish competition, people of the village participated with joy and promised that they would share knowledge related to local Composite Heritages with their families and help in promoting local traditional food, dresses and songs among their communities.



PUBLICATION of POPULAR MATERIAL

In 2020-21 ISD published Samarath, SACH (South Asian Composite Heritage) and four booklets "Corona Kaal mein Santi Sadbhavna aur Manviya Mulya, Bhagat Singh Dastavez- 28 September 1907- 23 March 1931', Hindu aur Musalman – ek Atihasik Vishleshan and Gumnam Swatntrta Senani.

SAMARATH : APRIL-JUNE, 2020

This issue of SAMRATH is about the Covid-19 and its Impact, it has explained how despite of difficulties people have not lost humanity and have helped each other. The issues include different positives stories that had happened in times of Corona. The story of little Mohit is about his kindness, he gave his cooked food packets to disabled old people saying that with the disability it will be difficult for them to stand in a queue. The issue also has a historical account of Savitri Bai Phule and her son Yashwant Phule's life who lost their lives when they were helping patients of plague. There is number of stories through which we can see how farmer, doctors, common human being and celebrities have helped poor and needy people in times of Covid-19 and saved humanity.

SAMARATH : JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2020

This issue of Samarath is not a special edition but is a collection of different articles. In which there are two poems after the editorial, the first poem explains the current situation of the country and the other talks about the importance of the river. Then there is series of articles. The first article explores the factors behind the demolition and destruction of the old culture of coexistence in Ayodhya. There are stories of helplessness of migrant workers returning from villages in search of work, there is an article that gives facts against the assumption of common person that Mahatma Gandhi did not try to save Bhagat Singh. There is a discussion on the woes of a new generation battling with increasing unemployment and despondency; there is a description of Rabindranath's opposition to the partition of Bengal, and his initiatives of uniting Hindus and Muslims through Rakhi.

SAMARATH : OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2020

This issue of SAMRATH is focused on the ongoing farmer protest in India and articles based on some other issues are also included in it. Like always the editorial of the SAMRATH is based on the current situation of India followed by the poem of Dr. Surjit Paatar called "This is fair" dedicated to farmers. In the series of articles, the first article is of Justice Markandeya Katju, titled as "Farmers showed their



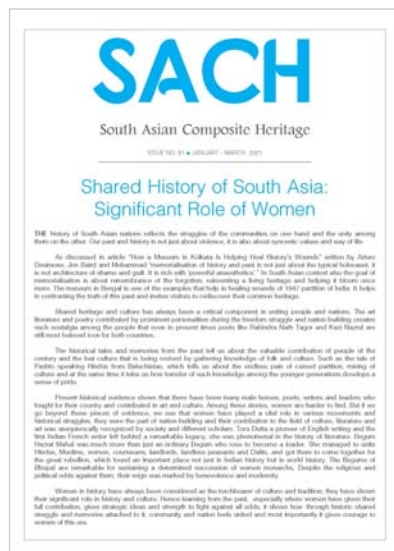
big image and raised great hope.” This article illustrates how this ongoing protest breaks the barriers of caste and communalism in India and sets an example that is of historical importance.

SAMRATH: JANUARY-MARCH, 2021

This Issue of SAMRATH is dedicated To International Women's Day celebrated on 8 March. The cover page of the issue shows the world-famous picture of the Chipko Movement. In which some women are hugging a tree to save it. A folk song that took birth with this movement has also been put up beside the picture. It was a revolutionary song of that time and upon hearing this song all the villagers use to gather for this movement. After this, there is an editorial based on contemporary issues followed by a poem written by poet Nagarjun. The first article of the issue is titled “Why women involved in the protest are being questioned.”

SACH : APRIL-JUNE 2020, ISSUE 58

This issue focuses on the global pandemic called Covid -19 and its positive side in society. It incorporates the efforts made by different people, communities, and institutions against the pandemic. It has a selection of essays through which we can learn that how in different countries of South Asia people and communities came forward to help each other during difficult times. It has shown that how with the implementation of moral values and Composite Heritage society and community has helped in spreading love and peace that among all the negative forces there is always a positive aspect, a ray of hope that connects us and helps us in saving humanity, trust, and brotherhood.



SACH : JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2020, ISSUE 59

The editorial of this issue is based on Aftermath of Covid -19 and the new normal. It says how the Covid pandemic has already landed a blow on the global economy, how it has pushed the countries to the edge of another downturn in modern human history. How South Asian countries have taken a major fall due to the pandemic and moving ahead with the new normal. It explains though epidemic has intensified the life struggles of the community, where women are at greater risk, one cannot say that countries have only faced crises and have not learned from it. Stories suggest that for some people, with the closure of physical space, there has been the opening of spaces of another kind. In different societies such as in universities and institutions, the crises have been accepted as the new normal. Hence, we believe that one cannot ignore the aftermath of this pandemic but can only understand the crisis and learn from it.

SACH : OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2020, ISSUE 60

The editorial of this issue explores the Peace and Democracy of the south Asian countries. It explains how peace has universal values that influence every person in the world. Whole world relates to these values and if one is lacking, the other is endangered. What we know is that peace and democracy doesn't come easily. In a conflict society, such values can be achieved by working hard often painstakingly on laws and institutions. Where strong institutions and systems make a strong nation and laws help in making good citizens, In this issue ISD has tried to incorporate the recent global socio-political and economic events while giving the situational analysis of different South Asian countries, it has shown, how democratic values are in threat and peace of the nation is in danger due to conflicts in the country. It also shows how people still believe in democratic value and fighting for their rights and justice on constitutional lines.

SACH : JANURAY – MARCH , 2021, ISSUE 61

The editorial of SACH shows history of South Asian nations that reflects the struggles of the communities on one hand and the unity among them on the other. It shows that our past and history is not just about violence, it is also about syncretic values and way of life. There are various articles incorporated in the issues that discuss the beauty of the history.

BOOKLET : SERIES – 89

Corona Kaal Mein Shanti Sadbhavna (Peace and Harmony in Times of Corona) - By Babita Negi and Surendra Rawat

This booklet is about peace and harmony in times of corona, it's a pictorial booklet that provides an understanding of the pandemic and helps in building awareness regarding that. It explains emerging terminologies, unity, sensitivity, and circumstance in times of corona.

BOOKLET : SERIES – 90

Bhagat Singh – Dstaavez (Bhagat Singh: Documents)

This booklet is a collection of articles and letters written by Bhagat Singh. In present times, these articles are very much relevant which tells the society, especially youth of the nation that how one has to use their energy for positive transformation. In present time when we ask about Bhagat Singh the youth of the country doesn't know much about him and unfortunately, it's the fault of the elder generation that they failed to teach them about Bhagat Singh, they used him in the calendar and photographs but never conveyed his



revolutionary ideas and principles to the younger generation.

BOOKLET : SERIES – 91

Hindu aur Musalaman - Ek Atihasik Vishleshan (Hindu and Muslim- A Historical Analysis) - By Ram Singh

The booklet presents an immense logical analysis in the context of historical facts. Especially, in light of the Britishers 'Divide and rule policy among "Hindus and Muslims" it shows how Hindus and English Historians have presented facts wrongly. This booklet removes the layers and presents truthful facts.

BOOKLET : SERIES – 92

Gumnam Swatantrta Senani (Anonymous Freedom Fighter) - By Vishambharnaath Pandey and Ratan Lal Bansal.

The booklet as the name suggests is a historical document in itself. This document is based on the life and work of Muslim fighters who played an important role in the freedom struggle of India. These fighters are also big narrators of Hindu-Muslim unity. Such five gems in this booklet are taken from the book "Muslim Patriot" written by Vishambharnaath Pandey and Ratan Lal Bansal.

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