# UGC SPONSORED WORKSHOP
# ON
# "INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS"

Organized by
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
BASANTI DEVI COLLEGE
KOLKATA 700029

**20TH & 21ST JANUARY 2016**

UGC SPONSORED STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON
*"INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND HUMAN RIGHTS"*
ORGANISED BY DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, BASANTI DEVI COLLEGE
20TH AND 21ST JANUARY, 2016

## PROGRAMME

**20th January 2016**

10.30 AM: Registration at
ROOM NO. 307 (3rd floor)
11 - 11.30 AM : Inaugural Session
Welcome Address by Principal, Dr. Indrila Guha
Keynote Address by Convenor, Dr. Sraboni Jha

**Name of Speakers**

11.30 AM: Usha Ganguly and Group
1 PM - 1.45 PM: LUNCH
2 PM: Dr. Sujato Bhadro
2.40 PM: Dr. Debi Chatterjee
3 PM: A short Film

**21st January 2016**

**Name of Speakers**

11.30 AM: Dr. Barun Chakrobarty
12.20: Dr. Sanat Naskar
1 PM -1.45 PM: LUNCH
2 PM: Dr. Debashis Bhattacharjee
3 PM: Dance Drama "Kafan"
Directed by Dr. Ganesh Datta and
presented by the Students
of Basanti Devi College.

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

At the United Nations, the government of India consistently denied existence or applicability of the concept of "indigenous peoples" to India. India had consistently opposed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations though it voted in favour at the General Assembly on 13 September 2007.India is signatory to the ILO Convention No. 107 concerning the Protection and Integration of Indigenous and Other Tribal and Semi-Tribal Populations in Independent Countries and it has legal responsibilities for its implementation. Nonetheless the concept of indigenous peoples has often been questioned in India.The Supreme Court in its latest judgement on 5 January 2011unequivocally asserted that Scheduled Tribes are indigenous peoples of India and the apex court further went on to describe the history of oppression from the days of Mahabharata.. At the outset the Supreme Court stated "This appeal furnishes a typical instance of how many of our people in India have been treating the tribal people (Scheduled Tribes or Adivasis), who are probably the descendants of the original inhabitants of India, but now constitute only about 8% of our total population. One of the popular tribe in India, Bhils, are probably the descendants of some of the original inhabitants of India living in various parts of the country particularly southern Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh etc. They are mostly tribal people and have managed to preserve many of their tribal customs despite many oppressions and atrocities from other communities. Thus the generally accepted view now is that the original inhabitants of India were not the Dravidians but the pre-Dravidians Munda aborigines whose descendants presently live in parts of Chotanagpur (Jharkhand), Chattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, etc., the Todas of the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu, the tribals in the Andaman Islands, the Adivasis in various parts of India (especially in the forests and hills) e.g. Gonds, Santhals, Bhils, etc. It is for this reason that there is such tremendous diversity in India. There are a large number of religions, castes, languages, ethnic groups, cultures etc. in our country, which is due to the fact that India is a country of immigrants. Since India is a country of great diversity, it is absolutely essential if we wish to keep our country united to have tolerance and equal respect for all communities and sects.Thus it is the Constitution of India which is keeping us together despite all our tremendous diversity, because the Constitution gives equal respect to all communities, sects, lingual and ethnic groups, etc. in the country. The Constitution guarantees to all citizens freedom of speech (Article 19), freedom of religion (Article 25), equality (Articles 14 to 17), liberty (Article 21), etc.34. However, giving formal equality to all groups or communities in India would not result ingenuine equality. The historically disadvantaged groups must be given special protection and help so that they can be uplifted from their poverty and low social status. It is for this reason that special provisions have been made in our Constitution in Articles 15(4), 15(5), 16(4), 16(4A), 46, etc. for the upliftment of these groups. Among these disadvantaged groups, the most disadvantaged and marginalized in India are the Adivasis (STs).Hence, it is the duty of all people who love our country to see that no harm is done to the Scheduled Tribes and that they are given all help to bring them up in their economic and social status, since they have been victimized for thousands of years by terrible oppression and atrocities.

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*You are cordially invited to the UGC-sponsored Workshop on 'INDIGENIOUS AND HUMAN RIGHTS', organised by the Department of Political Science, Basanti Devi College to be held on 20th and 21st January, 2016 at 10AM at Basanti Devi College, Kolkata.*

*Please find enclosed the Workshop programme.*

*We look forward to your participation.*

*Dr. Ruma Ghosh Dastider*
*Head, Pol. Science*

*Dr. Sraboni Jha*
*Convenor*

*Dr. Indrila Guha*
*Principal*
*Basanti Devi College*

Registration Fees
Students NA
Teachers and Research Scholars: Rs.100/
No.of Students: Ten from each participant college

Contact:
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