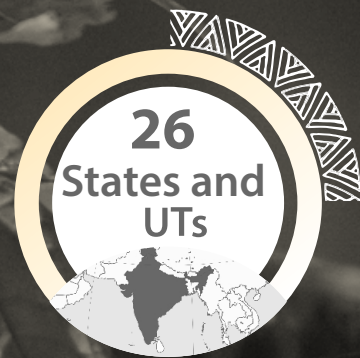




Samvaad — A Tribal Conclave  
Enabled by Tata Steel Foundation

# Tribal Leadership Programme 2023

Embark on a journey with ignited minds.



## A CHANGE WHOSE TIME HAS COME

While we get captivated over sunsets along the horizon edging over the skyscrapers and modern architecture, there are communities living on the farther limits of that horizon, engulfed in deep forests and landscapes. These are our tribal communities who thrive on the strong bond with nature and could be our probable saving grace when the wrath of climate change unleashes upon us. Their connection to the jal, jangal, zameen is beyond our capabilities and there is much to learn from them.

To foster the symbiotic association, certain value systems are required, most of which comes from mutual respect and adoration for each other's journey, traditions, and transitions. The Tribal Leadership Programme (TLP) is on the look-out for individuals who will drive that necessary change and be a role model for their next generations.

## Recognising the leader within

The TLP is a residential workshop for individuals from tribal communities who feel strongly about the challenges facing their peoples, believe in the power of the tribal discourse and have the will to make a difference.

**If you relate to this thought, you belong to TLP.**

## Setting the pace

TLP is organized by Tata Steel Foundation, the CSR implementing arm of Tata Steel Limited, and aims to bring together young individuals from tribal communities, by creating a one-of-its-kind platform to learn, co-learn and share stories of their successes, failures, inspirations while forming impactful connections. The goal is to contribute to building a nation that has a leadership based on ground-up experience.

## What the TLP offers?

**TLP is a year-long engagement which is initiated through a week-long module each year.**

It provides continued access to experts and peer perspectives to leverage Tata Steel Foundation's Samvaad ecosystem (A confluence of tribal communities and their value systems).

In particular, the key takeaways are:

- A space to ascertain inner governance as means to prepare oneself for the external challenges and perseverance.
- A platform to understand and deconstruct relevant and current socio-political issues.
- An interface with experts and potential mentors to enable a rich learning on leadership for social change.
- A perspective on tribal development and identity firmly rooted in grassroots experience and reality.

## Who we are

Tata Steel Foundation has over a hundred years of shared context with tribal communities; it sees a clear strand of kinship and common belief in tribalism. We do not have the next year in mind. We do not even have the next five years in mind. We are looking 15 to 20 years from now, at a bold transformation in the voice of tribalism, and how best we can play our part in it.





## ALUMNI SPEAK



### **Bhagyashree Lekhami, Madia Gond Tribe, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra**

When everyone bowed down to Naxal supremacy, Bhagyashree Manohar Lekhami rose against them as a 21-year-old Sarpanch in Koti village, in Bhamragad Tehsil of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. In the fourth year of her tenure as the Sarpanch of Koti village, Lekhami hopes to make her village a role model for others to adopt. Currently, menstruation and public health are two of her prime focus areas of work.

**“At the Tribal Leadership Programme, I met indigenous leaders from 19 states, learnt about their work, and most importantly, I learnt to become a better leader. I have never experienced something like this before.”**



### **Basmati Birua, Ho Tribe, West Singhum, Jharkhand**

Nestled in the Lamjhari village of Jharkhand, Basmati Birua and a group of young women, determined to make a change, started a school in 2016 – to impart education, focussing mainly on the linguistic skills in Ho, English and Hindi. Basmati and her team of young changemakers used their pocket money to travel to villages to collect data on children who are eligible for school. They then braved all odds to bring more students to ensure everyone in her area and the neighbourhood are well educated and independent.

**“The Tribal Leadership Programme helped me interact with people from all walks of life and that has provided me a lot of insights for betterment of education in our school.”**



### **Thirumurthy, Alu Kurumbas Tribe, Tamil Nadu**

A project manager for Tribal Livelihood Programs at the Nilgiris Adavasi Welfare Association in Kotagiri, Thirumurthy is changing livelihood one small step at a time. Through seven years of research work, Thirumurthy analysed the requirements of his nearby villages. His street classes with children of all age-groups have lent a voice that have echoed through channels of community radio, namely America Tamil Radio. Apart from education and sensitization of youth and communities on pertinent issues, Thirumurthy also works towards sustainable agriculture, beekeeping, handicrafts, and other community-centric initiatives.

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### **Morin Daimary, Bodo Tribe, Assam**

Morin setup Express Corner Café to promote the culinary heritage of his state. The café is more than just a place that serves ethnic organic dishes. It is a safe space where the youth can exchange stories and ideas and work on social projects. It also provides a platform for budding singers, musicians, poets, storytelling workshops, jams and seminars.

**“At the TLP, I felt as if I was reborn. Before I experienced it, I was a different person, a person wearing a mask for the world. I have a stammer, which held me back and prevented me from experiencing so many things. The TLP showed me that there is no shame in being who you truly are.”**



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## Eligibility

Applicants must belong to a tribal community, between 20-35 years of age and have a good knowledge of Hindi or English.

## For further details, do connect with

Ankita Toppo: +91 99559 24136  
Neha Kumari: +91 83407 27806  
Parth Sarthi: +91 83406 77281  
Nruparaj Mahananda: +91 90786 15393

## You may register online at

<https://forms.office.com/r/KVxGBC8hyu>  
OR

Send scanned copy of your application to:  
[t1p@tatasteelfoundation.org](mailto:t1p@tatasteelfoundation.org)

You can also **scan the QR code**  
to access the application form.



**Dates - Last week of June, 2023 or first week of July, 2023**  
**Venue - Will be intimated to selected participants**

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