

# The Adivasi Way Of Life At Stake

A lot of effort is on in India and the world to identify the values that form the lifeforce of the tribals and to snuff them out

Photo: Illustration: Chaitanya Rukumpur

All this is sought to be destroyed and what better way to do it than by weaponising their own human frailties, their fear and insecurity, their existential worries, their fear of being uprooted, and their anxieties about losing their language and culture? Their sisters and brothers are presented to them as the biggest enemies. It could be poor Hindus, Muslims, Dalits, or affluent sections of their own tribal society or tribals following different religions. A society that thrives on collectivism, mutual cooperation, love, and collective dance and music, then starts to participate in the slaughter of the marginalised societies around it. It starts raping its own women. Starts annihilating its own life values. The aggressors in this internecine warfare also get their own homes and people destroyed in the process. Thus, the marginalised are goaded to self-destruction.

People living in the upper echelons of society may have trouble breathing, the commoners may die of suffocation. They need to come down a bit, to where the common folk live and want to share a lot. They want to share their love, concerns, joys and despairs. All of us can live a meaningful life here on earth by co-creating, mutual cooperation and consonance. In this way, we can live our days together, and die in dignity.

—Translated by ***Kaushika Draavid*** and ***Iqbal Abhimanyu***

*Jacinta Kerketta is a young Oraon Adivasi poet, writer and freelance journalist from Jharkhand*

*(Views expressed are personal)*