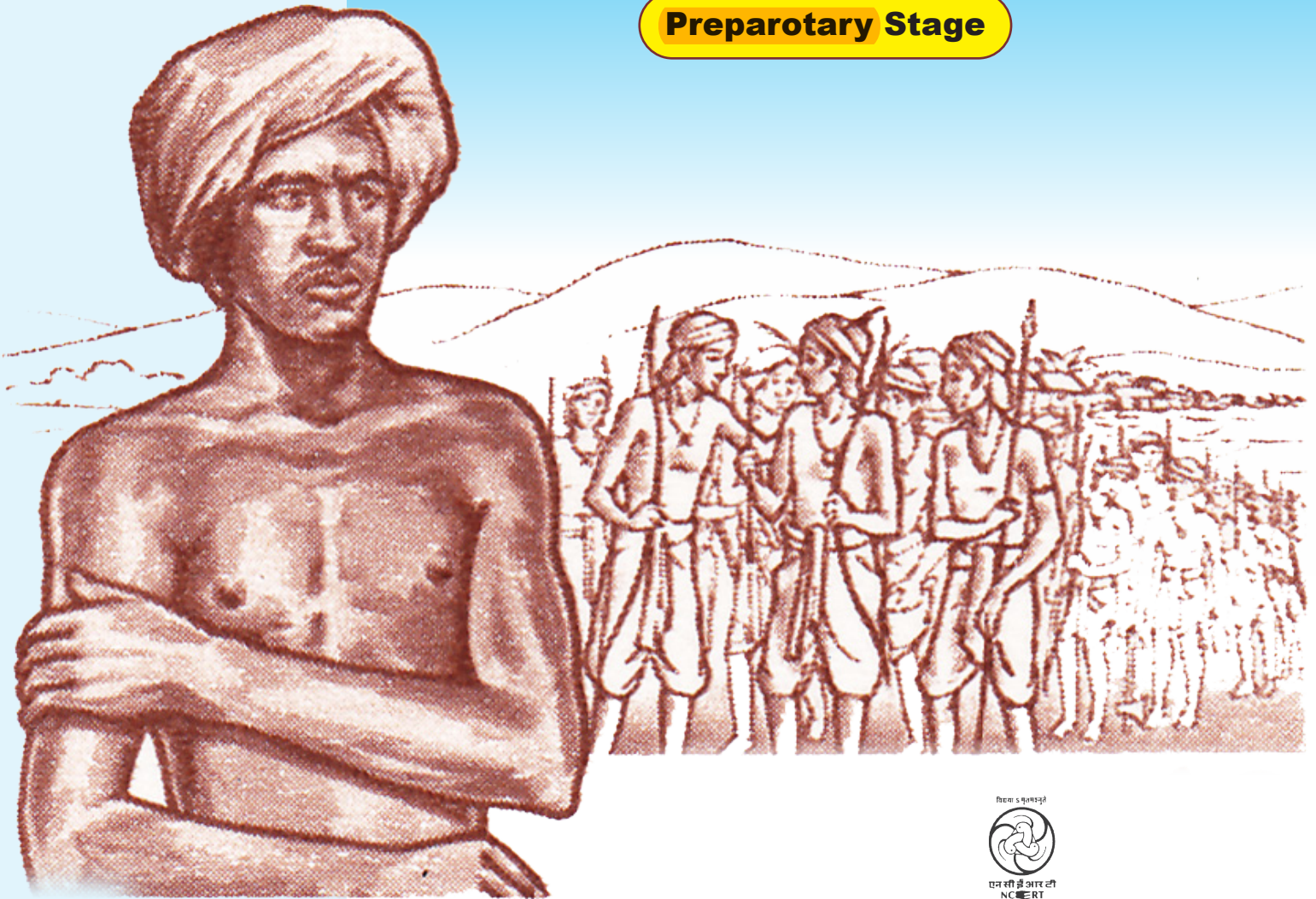


Valour of Dharti Aaba:

Tale of Birsa Munda

Preparatory Stage



© Wikimedia Commons: Birsa Munda 1988 stamp of India



राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Valour of Dharti Aaba: Tale of Birsa Munda



“We know that even before the 1857 freedom struggle, there was a tribal youth in our country who had given a tough fight to the Britisher. At the age of 20-22, he had given a tough fight to the Britisher, whom we worship today as ‘Bhagwan Birsa Munda’. The 150th birth anniversary of Lord Birsa Munda is coming, may it be a source of inspiration for all of us. Who can be a bigger inspiration than Bhagwan Birsa Munda for the passion that even a small person has for the society and country! Come, let us celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, let the level of sensitivity and compassion increase amongst us, let us develop a sense of affection towards society, let us take along with us every member of society, the poor, the Dalits, the backwards, the tribals, everyone; we have to move ahead with this resolution.”

– **Shri Narendra Modi**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



OVERVIEW:

Tribes are an important part of Indian society
They contribute in protecting our nature.
Today we will know about the Munda tribe and their great leader Birsa Munda.



OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the module are to:

- » Encourage understanding about tribal people.
- » Promote knowledge of the life and works of Birsa Munda
- » Create awareness about his role in protecting his community.
- » Express creatively about the life and contribution of Birsa Munda
- » Discuss the importance of tribal revolts as part of local history



INTRODUCTION:

Sai is a student of class V. While watching TV, she saw a news that Government of India is celebrating 15 November as Jan Jatiya Gaurav Diwas in the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters. 15 November is birth anniversary of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**. Sai became very curious and started asking questions to her mother that who was Birsa Munda? Why is he called "**Bhagwan (God)**". What is tribal? What rule did he fight against and why?



Who was
Birsa Munda?
Why is he called
"Bhagwan (God)?"



He was a great tribal freedom fighter and religious leader. Because of his contributions for the Munda tribe, he is remember as Bhagwan (God). He also has been given one title of Dharti Aaba- Father of Earth.



She further asked

Mother started explaining that Birsa Munda was born on 15 Nov 1875 to a Munda tribe family in the *Chotanagpur* region. He was a great tribal freedom fighter and religious leader. During his 28 years life span, his legacy remains strong, Birsa started a movement called "*Ulgulan*" or "The Great Tumult".

Sai – Mother, why did he revolt?

Mother – These tribals were living peacefully in forest with nature. But penetration of British rule (Foreign rule of the British), in these tribal areas created a lot of trouble to the tribal community. The Britishers introduced a new type of revenue system called the Zamindari system in *Chotanagpur* region (presently in Jharkhand) destroying tribal *Khuntkatti* agrarian system, where whole tribal community used to do farming together and shared community ownership of land. British rule brought outsiders like - Zamindar, money lenders, contractors in this area. All of them exploited the tribals.

What is tribal?

What rule did he fight against and why?



Tribals are a group of indigenous people who share a common culture, language, history, or beliefs, and often live in a specific area.

Tribals love to live with forest and protect their habitat



ACTIVITIES:

- ⇒ Field visit may be planned to Birsa Munda Museum in Ranchi.
- ⇒ A role play may be organised on the life of “Bhagwan Birsa Munda” and his supporters.
- ⇒ Folk Song or Folk poetry may be collected and explained to children.
- ⇒ Children may be encouraged to wear different tribla costumes in their Annual Day.
- ⇒ Show the tribe’s cultural practices food and festivals on map of India.

The feeling of resentment against the British rule and these outsiders grew stronger in the minds of the tribals. Birsa Munda gathered the tribals and rebelled against the British rule. He raised a slogan-*Abua raj setar jana, Maharani Raj tunda jana*, which means let the kingdom of the British Queen be ended and our kingdom be established. All his people supported him even the non-tribes, Who were exploited by Britisher, Zamindars and money

Do you know?



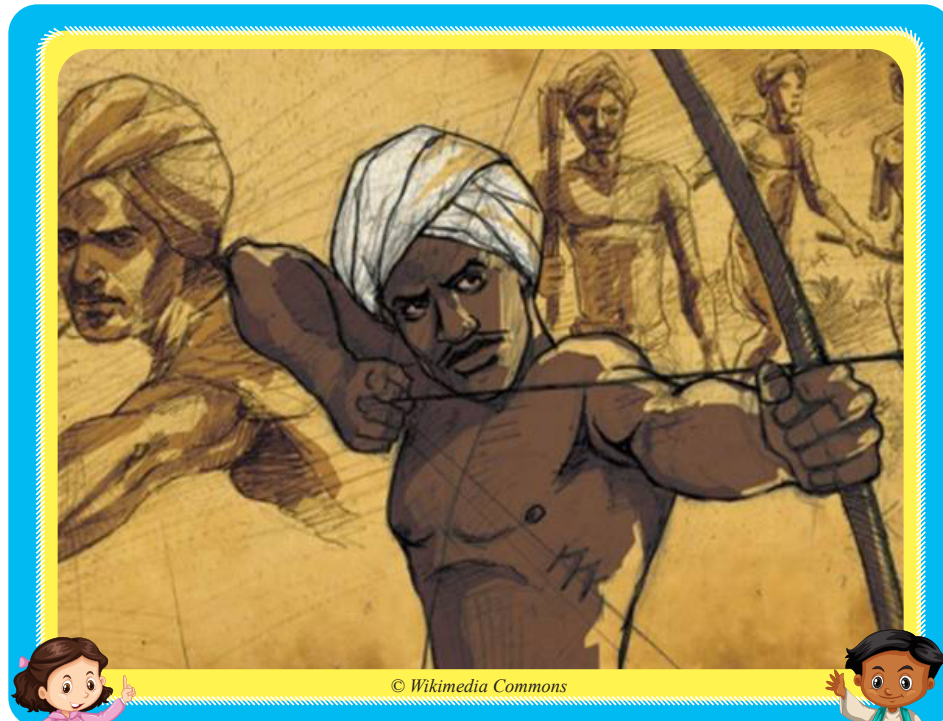
The Mundas addressed the outsider as
DIKU



leaders, also joined him. The *Ulgulan* (Great Tumult) has been started. The tribals and villagers fought bravely with their traditional weapons. But he was caught and sent to prison where he died later due to illness.

Birsa Munda is still respected as a God because of his work for the tribals. To honour his valour, Govt. of India decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas in 2021, dedicated to the memory of brave tribal freedom fighters so that coming generations could know about their sacrifices for the country. The declaration acknowledges the glorious history and cultural heritage of tribal communities. Pan-India celebrations took place on 15 November, 2023. As you watched on TV, the Jan Jatiya Gaurav Divas celebrations were led by our honorable President of India.

Sai- yes Mother, we have seen that our President has been given a traditional welcome by tribal leaders wearing colorful dresses playing tribal, music instruments. I enjoyed watching the celebration Mother and knew about the great leader Birsa Munda. Thankyou Mother.



Mann Ki Baat

In the monthly radio program ‘Mann Ki Baat’, Birsa Munda’s contributions to the country was acknowledge. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that ‘Bhagwan Birsa Munda’ fought to protect nature, forests and land. He is also known as ‘Dharti Aaba’. Do you know what it means? It means ‘Father of the Earth’.



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