

THE RAIL TRAVELLER'S MAGAZINE
रेल यात्रियों की पत्रिका

रेल बंधु

RAILBANDHU

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**EXPLORE DAK BUNGALOWS
WITH THE RAILWAYS**

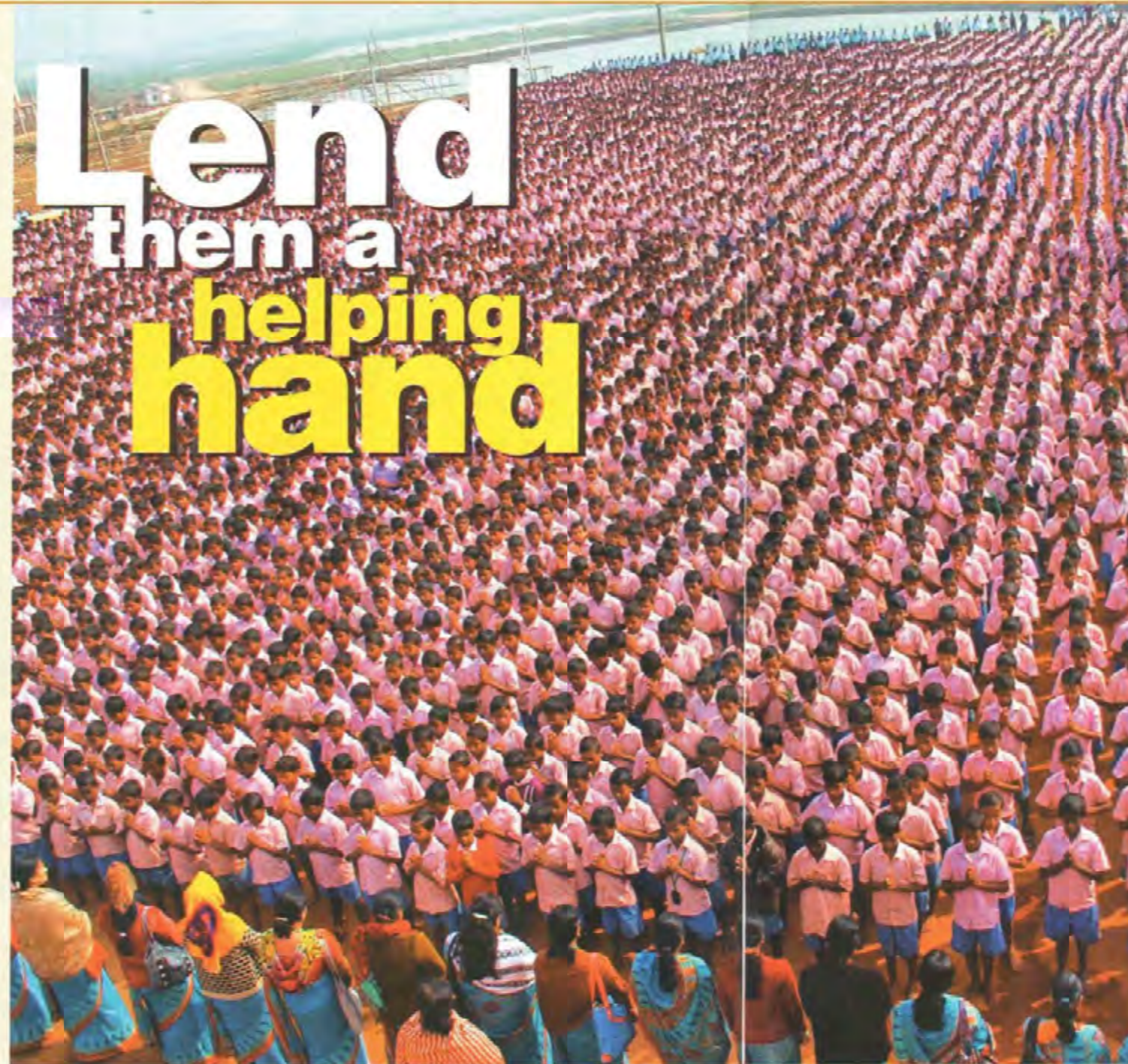
THIS MAGAZINE IS FOR ON-BOARD READING. KINDLY DO NOT TAKE AWAY.
यह पत्रिका सिर्फ ट्रेन में पढ़ने के लिए है। कृपया साथ न ले जाएं।





PROF ACHYUTA SAMANTA'S Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) is a unique model of a free residential, educational institute that gives a decent life through comprehensive and complete education to 25,000 tribal children

The task of integrating the tribal into the mainstream society has been extremely complex. It is because they live in small groups in the hinterlands and have their own language and culture. The aborigine community has also fallen victim to exploitations of vested interests of the society and hence perceive fear and oppression from them. They suffer from poverty, deprivation and alienation along with lack of appropriate life skills that has made



them shy away from people belonging to the mainstream civilisation.

Their emancipation has occupied our planners and statesmen who have taken many initiatives for their upliftment. This includes the spread of education and introduction of the reservation policy but unfortunately it has not yielded a satisfactory outcome so far. We need to have a system that accommodates the uniqueness of the tribals and inspires them to be part of the mainstream population.

Founded by the visionary social activist and educationist Sri Achyuta Samanta, the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) at Bhubaneswar (Odisha), is an educational institute exclusively dedicated for the aborigines. The institute has carefully considered the distinguishing factors influencing tribal life, culture and mindset, and has been successfully facilitating seamless socio-cultural integration.

Prof Samanta has put in place a

unique mix of pedagogical and extra-curricular initiatives in KISS campus that facilitates free mingling of the tribal children with their counterparts from the mainstream society. The systems in place at both KIIT University and KISS, located side by side, have boosted confidence of the tribal.

Besides curricular and vocational education, KISS has introduced life skills and elite sports from international trainers. The students have not only

THE RIGHT MODEL

- In tune with the founder, Prof Samanta's motto — "half education is more harmful than no education in the present age." But when a child joins KISS, he/she leaves not only with higher education but with a job in-hand, thanks to the well-planned placement support. As said by visitors, this institute has no parallel in any other part of the world.
- Due to the extraordinary vision, passion, dedication and sacrifices of Prof Samanta, the institute has been running without any financial help from any source. It takes support of the stakeholders and management of KIIT Group of Institutions and KIIT University.
- KISS has been instrumental in checking spread of anti-social activities and Naxal insurgency in the hinterland besides changing the course of life of the upcoming generations of the tribal. They help in removing illiteracy, poverty, ignorance thus turning them into tax payers and social assets from being tax consumers and social liabilities.
- The KISS has been widely acknowledged as the most successful model, and, therefore has been receiving calls for its replication. A branch of the institute, KISS-Delhi, has been recently established in the National Capital Region. New branches are soon going to be launched across the world.

displayed excellence in their academic performance but also have shown their merit in international sports, social and cultural events. They work together and participate as equals with their civilised counterparts in various academic, sporting and extracurricular activities which develop recognition for each other's talents.

The tribals get exposure to the international community through various international academic and cultural

exchange programmes. Several dignitaries including statesmen, planners, judges, academicians, corporate heads, ambassadors, journalists, social activists, writers, film actors, sporting personalities, *et al* from across the world are invited to the campus. Their presence instills confidence in the students and helps in dissolving the centuries old heart-block.

RECORD PERFORMANCE

Since its foundation in 1992-93, KISS constantly reviewed its pedagogy and has been successful in achieving zero dropout right from the start. The institute has been acting in *loco parentis* to its pupils and has been ever sensitive to their physical and psychological development. It holds the prestigious Limca Book of Record for being the largest residential tribal school in the world. KISS houses over 20,500 children from 62 tribes, including the 13 primitive tribes who are on the verge of extinction in a single campus.

The institute has been providing free accommodation, food, healthcare, all basic amenities of life and education from Kindergarten (KG) to Post Graduation (PG). The innovative pedagogy of the institute includes vocational education, life-skills training, earn-while-learn facility, and very well-thought-out confidence building activities among the students and parents. The infrastructural facilities, meticulously planned ambiance, the plethora of social activities and discipline regimes, personally supervised by Prof Achyuta Samanta on daily basis, have eminently facilitated the much needed integration with the mainstream population.

While in general schools, the female dropout is more severe as compared to the male, it has been remarkably absent in KISS. Female students constitute about 50 per cent of the total strength. The institute's astutely arranged environment is very sensitive and is conducive to the needs of the female students and brings in confidence and trust which has been the principal factor in this impeccable performance.

The success of KISS model in the socio-cultural integration of the tribal children by bridging the gaps — both materially and intellectually — has been hailed by people across all walks of life.