

APPL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Edition 1

Dear Readers,

Greetings from APPL Foundation!

We are back with the third edition of our newsletter. We sow seeds through our initiatives with the aspiration of yielding success in future. We bring to you such stories of achievements which are also the milestones in journey of community development. Hope you enjoy going through the collage of news that we bring to you.

Happy reading!



SIRISH: A Festival of Tea rolling through the prelims!

Sirish the annual celebration of tea tribe culture conducted by APPL Foundation was flagged off in January at Damdim. Throughout February and March preliminaries were conducted at Chubwa in the district of Dibrugarh, Teok in the district of Jorhat, Hathikuli in the district of Golaghat, Hattigor in the district of Udalguri and Nahorani in the district of Sonitpur. The winning team of every preliminary round competed at the grand final event at Nahorani.

WINNERS OF PRELIMINARIES

At Damdim: Santhali dancers of Batabari Tea Estate

At Chubwa: Jhumoor dancers of Dhelaghaat Tea Estate

At Teok: Jhumoor dancers of Nangrijaan Tea Estate

At Hathikuli: Jhumoor dancers of Methoni Tea Estate

At Hattigor: Jhumoor dancers of Majuli Tea Estate and Odiya dancers of Pujhali Tea Estate

At Nahorani: Odiya dancers of Monabari Tea Estate

The grand final celebration of SIRISH 2019!

The grand event of Sirish finals this year was celebrated at Nahorani Tea Estate near the town of Rangapara in Sonitpur district of Assam. The occasion was graced by the presence of Shri Pallab Lochan Das, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment and Tea Tribe, Government of Assam and Shri MGVK Bhanu Former Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and Ex- Chairman Tea Board. Mr. Jagjeet Singh Kandal, Managing Director, Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd. (APPL), Mr. Deepak Atal, Vice-Chairman APPL Foundation and Mr. Dhiraj Kakati, Managing Trustee, APPL Foundation were also present on the occasion.





Cultural and Literature Icon Award



Winners of dance competition



Runners up of dance competition

We thank our sponsor, partners, associates and well-wishers who have made the 5th edition of SIRISH Festival a grand success!

IMPACT OF SIRISH

A platform for talent display for over 1200 artists

80 teams of dancers practicing over 15 dance forms participated in the festival

People of tea tribe community across Dooars in West Bengal and Dibrugarh, Sonitpur, Jorhat, Golaghat and Udalguri districts of Assam participated in the festival

Over 15000 enthusiastic community people joined in as audience

Two new dance forms namely Praja and Sohrai emerged from the Festival

16 groups and 50 individuals participating in sport activities



And the award at Sirish goes to.....

As every year Shri Sib Charan Das and Shri Bipin Chandra Mahato were conferred the Cultural and Literature Icon Awards respectively. They were presented with citation and award money of One Lakh Rupee each.

The finals of the dance competition were a rhythmic display of talent by the 7 finalists. Various dance forms as Jhumoor, Santhali, Odiya etc. After a tough fight Monabari Tea Estate were declared as the winner with team from Batabari and Majuli Tea Estates as the 1st and 2nd runners up. Each team was awarded with citations and cash prize.

Celebrations at SIRISH!

A sports programme was organized where men and women participated in sporting events of kabaddi, pole climbing and tug of war.

It was not only as celebration of tea tribe culture but a platform to uphold the culture of Assam. Various dance forms as Nepali, Bihu was also presented. In order to campaign for abolition of consumption of illicit liquor a drama was enacted by the youth of the gardens. A charming performance by the children of Nahorani made the event memorable.

**To know more about SIRISH log on to:
<https://applfoundation.in/en/sirish-2019>**



The Fungal Free Frocks (3F) Project starts!

It is seen that the Tea Garden workers, especially women suffer a kind of fungal infection which is particularly seen on their waist line. Infections occur more frequently in the summer or in warm, wet climates. The infections from women workers are sometimes transmitted to other family members including children. APPL Foundation, in partnership with Amalgamated Plantations Pvt. Ltd, has rolled out the 3F Project in 3 Tea Estates of Assam- Borjan (Golaghat), Chubwa (Dibrugarh) and Nahortoli (Dibrugarh). The proposed project, which is the first of its kind in India, has two parts- preventive (to prevent fungal infections from happening) and curative (medical intervention to treat the infection once it has developed). The preventive activities will focus on creating awareness on disease, provision of detergent/soap, and frocks/petticoats. The treatment will involve provision of free ointment and oral medication. The total number of beneficiaries is over 3400, spread across 2 districts. The project aspires to create a cured and health women tea worker, and a model character for the sector.

Our Campaign on Women's Day!

Yes it's not just one day that we need to think about women and their wellbeing. In order to usher in positive change in the lives of women APPL Foundation throughout the month of March campaigned on menstrual hygiene.

On ground campaigns were carried out to generate awareness and encourage hygienic practices. Close discussions with young girls and women were conducted at 4 tea gardens at Dooars in collaboration with VJS Foundation.

To generate awareness on menstrual hygiene among the women and girls attending Sirish Festival, APPL Foundation in collaboration with VJS Foundation had set up a kiosk. Health volunteers talked about menstrual hygiene and importance of using sanitary napkins with women and girls visiting the stall. Quality low cost sanitary napkins available for procurement at the stalls. The stall was visited by dignitaries attending the festival encouraging the initiative in strengthening and empowering women.

To reach the larger community in general, a week long online campaign was carried out at social media platforms. The campaign encouraged women to choose a hygienic and healthy life for them through use of sanitary napkins.



On the way to become Solar Mama's!

Two women from Hathikuli Tea Estate are on their way to Barefoot College at Tilonia in Rajasthan. The women will undergo rigorous training to emerge as solar installation experts, who will return back to their community and train women to make solar equipment's. We wish them all the best in their endeavour!





To know more about APPL Foundation keep connected
 Website: <https://applfoundation.in/>
 E-mail: applfoundation@amalgamated.in



