

TRADITION | CULTURE | FLAVOUR | BUSINESS | NEWS

The Local

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A U N I Q U E P E R S P E C T I V E O F T H E N I L G I R I S



and Victor

UPASI week:

An insider perspective



The nation's pride:
History of the MRC



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M Srinagesh, the first colonel of the Madras Regiment, who held office for more than a decade, from 01 April 1949 to 31 March 1961.

The Madras Regiment hosts Biennial Battalion Conference

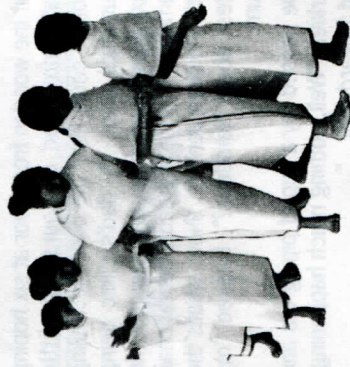
The Centre from 23 to 26 September 2007. The Conference provides an opportunity for the Commanding Officers and Senior Officers of the Regiment to see for themselves the improvement in training, administration, welfare and infrastructure and to give their valuable suggestions for further improvements. This Conference is the only opportunity for the Commanding Officers of all battalions to interact with each other, as they otherwise command their respective units in far-flung areas. Senior retired officers also attend the Conference and give their suggestions on various welfare and training measures. The concern and enthusiasm displayed by the Commanding Officers and the senior serving and retired officers of the Regiment in fostering the spirit of Regimentation and improving overall standards of the Regiment in various activities, are quite enviable during the Biennial Battalion Commanders Conference. Before the commencement of the Conference, there will be a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial, Wellington. - **Issued by the Public Relations Office of the Regiment.**

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World Indigenous People's Day



Selvi N Keystone Foundation

In 1994, the United Nations decided that the International Day of the World's

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Indigenous People would be observed and celebrated on August 9 every year. The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

Keystone has been working on conservation, livelihood and indigenous culture for the past 13 years, in the Nilgiris. Since last year, we decided to celebrate this special day. In our work over the years, we have seen that our own interest in our adivasi culture has been diminishing and many of the present generation of youngsters have no idea what their forefathers have believed and followed. This day provides an opportunity for members of different indigenous communities to meet and

discuss varied issues, such as ways to revive and make our culture relevant in today's context, responsibilities of community leaders and individuals, food & nutrition and many such other concerns. This has been the second year of such a celebration and the response has been much better than last year.

An important milestone in our effort to revive our culture has been the launch of an indigenous newspaper for the different communities. Named the Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi, it attempts to disseminate news on issues that concern us, and also, various developmental efforts that bring us a measure of hope and strength. It attempts to link the groups among whom news is shared, and one becomes an

integral part of the community. However, many issues remain that need to be addressed, not only with regard to us as adivasis, but also as a community of mountain people of the Nilgiris. Decision-making towards developmental activities such as education, health care and rights of access over ancestral domain are some of the paths that need to be travelled. However, there is a constant need to remind ourselves that each one of us needs to continue building on our rich traditions and cultures, as the diversity in all this brings a strength and uniqueness to this place that we all call home - the Nilgieries.

The writer is a member of the Kurumba community. She publishes a newspaper called Nilgiri Seemai Sudhi.