

Report of Netarhat Field Firing Range Protest

Date: 23rd March 2025

Venue: Netarhat, Jharkhand

Participants: Students and three professors from St. Xavier's College, Simdega

Introduction

On 22nd March 2025, a group of students and faculty members from the college departed for Netarhat to participate in the protest against the proposed Field Firing Range. The movement aimed to protect tribal rights over water, forest, and land.

Key Activities

Departure: Left Simdega at 9:30 AM; breakfast stop at Banari.

Arrival at Netarhat: Warm welcome with the traditional slogan "Johar"; visited the program site and Sunset Point.

Protest Participation: Inspiring speeches on tribal resistance, projector-based historical presentation, and strong involvement of women.

Cultural Program: Folk songs, dances, and group discussions.

Activities on 23rd March: Visit to Sunrise Point, street plays and dances by villagers, slogan chanting by Ranchi and Simdega units.

Procession & Return: Some missed the march due to bad weather; visit to Birsa Munda Park (Gumla); returned to Simdega by 6:30 PM.





Experience & Conclusion

During the feedback session at college, students shared that the journey was educational, inspiring, and socially relevant. The protest emphasized tribal unity and the importance of peaceful resistance.

In conclusion, the Netarhat protest highlighted that organized communities can effectively defend their natural resources and cultural heritage.

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