

A Festival:

'Divya Prakriti Parva: The Divine and Feminine'

In 2019, following the tradition of celebrating the International Women's Day, a festival titled "Divya Prakriti: The Divine Nature" was organized from 6th to 8th March, 2019 by Nari Samvaad Prakalp (NSP). The festival was held on the theme of "feminine in preservation and conservation of ecology and environment". Thematic lectures, academics sessions, workshops, puppet shows, exhibition and cultural performances were organized during the festival.

The three days long festival was inaugurated by Chief Guest Padmashri Smt. Phool basan Yadav, an eminent social reformer from Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh.

First day of the parva was dedicated to Ba and Bapu, and their life together, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. An academic symposium titled '*Gandhi Prakriti aur Nari*'; a puppet show 'on the life of *Mahatma Gandhi*'; soulful choreography titled '*Peed Parayi Jane Re*', based on the life and struggle of Ba and Bapu, were organized on the day.

Other academic sessions of festival included '*Anubhav-Kathan*'; '*Yatra Kathan*'; '*Bhava Kathan*. Two symposia based on the broader theme "*Divine Prakriti*" and titled '*Divya Jal: Women and Ecology*' and '*Divya Ksetra: Women and Ecology*' were also the main highlights of the festival, in which the subject-scholars deliberated upon the themes and how '*Prakriti*' (Nature) is associated with Feminine in Indian culture and ethos. Workshops such as '*Nutrition for Healthy Living*'; and '*Divya Sangeet*' were also held along with the puppet show based on Ramayana. A photo exhibition on '*Warli Art*' from IGNCA- Archives was also showcased. Choreography titled '*Chitrangada*'; a graceful Assamese Sattriya based on the theme of the festival '*Women and Preservation of Ecology*', based on Srimanta Sankaradeva's poetry, were also organized during the evenings of the event.