

## Releasing “Hul Sengel”, report on the Potka Movement

*Hul Sengel* or ‘Fire of Revolution’ was ignited in Ranchi on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 as an initiative of Jharkhand Initiative Desk (JID) in collaboration with *Visthapan Virodhi Ekta Manch* and Jharkhand Indigneous People’s Forum to document and record the various people's struggles in the state of Jharkhand. *Hul Sengel* a bi monthly magazine in its first issue made an effort to document the People’s struggle at Potka against Bhushan Steel Plant.

*HUL* comes from the Santal Hul i.e the Santal Revolution of 1855 by Sido and Kanhu Murmu (the two brothers also the headmen of Bhognadih village in Barhait block of Sahibganj district in Jharkhand) who led the Santals against the money lenders and the British. And *SENGEL* means fire in all the Mundari group of languages including Santali.

Representatives from various People’s Movements from the state were there to participate and express their solidarity to this initiative. Activists like Soma Munda, Kumar Chand Mardi, Dayamani Barla, Munni Hansdah

associated with People’s Movement against, NHPC, ArcelorMittal and Bhushan Steel spoke of their struggles and challenges and the importance of proper documentation to keep the struggles alive. Human Rights Activists and writer Gladson Dungdung took the participants through the publication sharing with his personal experience the struggle of the adivasis against industrialization and land grabbing. Social Activist and



Journalist Vasvi Kiro thanked and commended the effort by CNI SBSS to take the initiative of documenting and disseminating information about the People's Struggles.

Dr. Shailendra Awale the Chief Coordinator and Secretary of CNI SBSS was there to encourage the Jharkhand Initiative Desk and his team who are working for the Social reconstruction and political mobilization of the adivasis. Speaking on the occasion he said he was fortunate to be a part of this initiative and share the platform with activists involved in people's struggles. It was a learning experience for him. He concluded the session by congratulating the team and extending the support of CNI SBSS for this new initiative.



The participants promised to document and release the publications taking up various studies related to People's struggle in the area. The publication is in Hindi but the over whelming response from its readers is encouraging the team to translate it to English also.