

Echoes of the Earth: How Odisha's Saura Tribe is Painting a Brighter Future

Bhubaneswar: For generations, members of the Saura tribe in Odisha have documented their rich legacy on the mud walls of their homes. Using simple materials such as rice paste, natural pigments and bamboo brushes, they painted intricate constellations of stick-like figure scenes of harvest, hunting, childbirth and ritual. These were more than mere decorations; they functioned as a vivid dialogue with their ancestors, spirits and denizens of the natural world. It was within this scenario that Project Adikala, launched in 2018 by Vedanta Aluminium, took shape. The company's vision was deliberate and respectful: revival would only work if it happened within the community, by the community, and on their terms. The centre provided materials, infrastructure and access. Within months, Rajo was contributing to live commercial projects. Her income rose to nearly ₹20,000 a month.