

A saying from my people—the Mundas—who live in the hills and forests of Chotanagpur region in eastern India. It reminds us that every step, every word, is filled with dance and song. And through dance and song, we pass on knowledge.

In the akhra, we don't just hear stories, we live them. Through dance, we connect with the wisdom held in song and bring it into the present moment. This is how knowledge flows in our community—through

But today, our akhras are disappearing—erased by land loss, migration, and development. With them, we risk losing an entire knowledge system, a way of life, a way of being.

In the Mundari language, dance is susun, and song is durang.

*sen gi susun,
kajigi
durang*

After a long day of work in the fields or forest, everyone gathers. Mothers carry their babies on their backs as they dance, teaching the next generation without

So I invite you to meet me in this akhra—a reimagined space where communal and embodied knowledge lives on through digital tools. This digital akhra attempts to offer a space to return, reconnect, and re-attune to an Indigenous way of knowing.

Song (durang) holds knowledge. It tells us about the earth, the seasons and the people. It is a living library passed down through generations—not written on paper, but carried in our voices. Dance (susun) is how we read and feel this knowledge. And the akhra—the open space at the center of our villages—is

Our songs and dances mark the cycle of the seasons—planting, harvest, rain, and sun. They hold the answers to questions about how to live in balance with nature and each other. They help us understand sorrow and find healing.