



Merrh-ma ~ Samanvaya



What is in the name?

To name this report, we travelled back 130 million years. The story goes that once upon a time, Australia and India were land-locked. Recent, geological evidences have also been able to prove that the two countries were once part of the ancient super-continent- **Gondwana**. Interestingly, Gondwana- means "*forest of the Gonds*" in **Sanskrit** (ancient Indian language) that is forest of the Dravidian people in central India.

Therefore, while naming this report the two key objectives were- a) to rekindle our 'Gondwana' connection and b) to pay respect to the traditional owners of the land. Thus, the name- '**Merrh-ma ~ Samanvaya**' emerged.

'**Merrh-ma**', means '**to add together**' in **Wagiman**. It points to the fact that Indian community have been adding together or contributing to the overall (socioeconomic-cultural and more) development of Australia. **Wagiman** is a severely endangered Australian Aboriginal language spoken in the Northern Territory. On the other hand, '**Samanvaya**' is a **Sanskrit** word for '**harmony**' or 'to join together in order to methodically engage in a common pursuit'.

The design of the report uses 'dot painting' form. The origin of **Aboriginal 'dot' painting** can be traced to the state of Northern Territory in Australia. Interestingly, dots are prominent characteristics of ancient '**Madhubani**' paintings forms of India as well. Hence, through this design we wish to say, '**we add-together with harmony**'!



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