## THE HEART OF THE 4 ELEMENTS



Photos by Cable Hoover/Independent

**Above,** attendees and presenters kick off the afternoon session with tai chi exercises during the Miss Navajo Council elemental talks and dialogues forum at the Navajo Department of Education in Window Rock, Arizona, Monday. **Below,** Deon Ben introduces presenters during the Miss Navajo Council elemental talks and dialogues forum.

## Forum focuses on Earth, fire, air, water

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WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Soon after Shebana Coelho met Sunny Dooley in Gallup about 10 years ago, the writer and director from India was awarded a Fulbright grant to Mongolia to experience and record sounds of nomadic communities.

As Coelho traveled through the vast country and met sheep herding

communities, horsemen and nomadic families, she discovered numerous similarities between the Navajo and the people of Mongolia.

She found communities living in gers, circular structures similar to the traditional Navajo hogan. They were sheepherders who placed tremendous value on their horses.

Coelho remembered her new friend on the Navajo Nation and what she had

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