**News from the state:**

The All India Tribal Writers conference was held in Bhubaneswar during 17-20 June 2008 organized by the Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) New Delhi in collaboration with SC/ST Research Training Institute of Orissa, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, and Tribal Writers Forum, New Delhi.

Dr Kalyan Kumar Chakravorty, the member Secretary of IGNCA, Dr Mouly Kaushal of Janapada Sampada unit, IGNCA, Dr Ramdayal Munda, Ex Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University, Dr Rajesh Sachdeva and Dr Kikeri Narayan of CIIL and Ramanika Gupta, Coordinator of All Indian Tribal Writers Forum were the key persons in the conference.

Sixty tribal writers from forty languages attended this conference. Tribal writers from north east, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujrat, Orissa, West Bengal and north east were present while there was little representation from south Indian tribal writers.

The tribal writers from the communities present were AAo, Bodo, Bonda Bhunjia, Ho, Jenukuruba, Kamar, karbbi, Mirashi, Kokborok, Kudukh, Khasi, Mao, Mundari, Marlatti, Mijo, Santali, Saura etc.

The inauguration function was held on June 17th 2008. His Highness Governor of Orissa Sri Muralidhar Chandra kant Bhandare inaugurated the function. Debi Prasanna Pattanayak, ExDirector of CIIL, Mysore and presently Senior Consultant of IGNCA conducted the meeting in which Dr KK Chakravaorty, Dr AB Ota, Mrs Ramanika Gupta, Dr Ram Dayal Munda delivered their thoughts in the inauguration meeting. Honble GOverner expressed his happiness on organizing such a writers conference where the tribal writers had raised their voices through their poetry and discourse.
In the inaugural session a book entitled “Oral Epics of Kalahandi” written by Dr Mahendra K Mishra was inaugurated by the Honble Governor of Orissa. After that, The Koya dance from Malkangiri was exhibited in front of the Governor and he enjoyed the dance and discussed with them beyond his programme scheduled.
From 18-20 June the conference was held in the conference hall of SC/ST Research Institute, Bhubaneswar. Every day about 20 writers recited their poems and stories and it was discussed. The language of expression was tribal with translation in English and Hindi for bridging the language gap of the writers.

There was an exhibition of tribal musical instruments of Orissa.

Sri Giridhara Gomanga, Ex Chief Minister of Orissa and present Member of Parliament made a lively performance through his organisation “Hidden Talent” - a team of tribal musicians.

The four day conference was a major breakthrough in the history of tribal writers of India, that for the first time the tribal writers spell out their voices irrespective of their different languages and cultures. But they felt the commonality in their thought. The most important aspect of the conference was that they not only spelled out their voices, but they also created a solidarity group within themselves which was the objective of the conference. They knew each other through their voices. The conference was a successful for its naturality of the expression where nature and human, language and expression, music and song were combined together. The diversities of language and culture gave a flavour of “many in one” and “one in many” of Indian culture.

Report
Mahendra Kumar Mishra