



Directorate of Culture & Archaeology
Government of Chhattisgarh

News letter

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Raipur, (C.G.)

Forth Coming issue of Kosala-III



LATE PT. LOCHAN PRASAD PANDEY

Pt. Lochan Prasad Pandey was born on 4th January 1886 in a reputed family in the village of Balpur, near Chandrapur, District Janjngiri-Champa, Chhattisgarh. His father Pt. Chintamani Pandey was a man of noble character with immense faith in religion and his mother Devahuti Devi was a woman of pious and religious temperament. He completed his primary education at his home village at Balpur. In the year 1902 he passed his middle school examination from Sambalpur high school, as a private student and got 1st position in the whole of the district. Thereafter, he passed his Entrance Examination from Calcutta University in 1905 as a private student. For further education he was sent to Kashi and got himself admitted to Central Hindu College. At an early age he got married to Loori Bai, the daughter of Pt. Kriparam Chaudhary of the village Pendarava.

LITERATURE

Pt. Lochan Prasad Pandey was one of the foremost Hindi literateurs of C.P and Berar. He made his first appearance on the literary horizon of the nation with the publication of his articles and poems in *SARASVATI* and *HINDI MASTER* in the year 1904. In 1905 he contributed a long article entitled *Hindi Nagari Lipi*, in *Sri Vyankatesvara Samachara* weekly published from Bombay. *DO MITRA* was his first novel which was printed by Lakshmi Narayan Press, Muradabad in 1907.

He was thickly associated with Dr K.P. Jayaswal from 1910 till his death. When Dr. Jayaswal started the publication of a Hindi

periodical under the title *Pataliputra*, he took his friend Pandey as a regular contributor for the same. He was regular writer to another periodical named *Devanagara* being edited and published by Justice Sharada Charana Mitra, who had been his friend. He was the pioneer in introducing and establishing the Sonnet writing in Hindi. He is recognized as the pioneer of *Svachhandata Vada* in Hindi poetry. Multidimensional features of rural people and their culture, great luster of nature, unaccountable cultural heritage of India, curses of the British Rule, and need of Nationalism, political awakening of the nation, Social Reforms had been some of the Major subjects of his creative writing in Hindi. More than forty books are credited to his name.

There are a few who have been bestowed with the rare gift of tongues. He has written poems in Sanskrit, Oriya, Bengali and English, besides Hindi. Chhattisgarhi was his mother tongue. He has enriched the literature of Chhattisgarhi Language and has brought an authentic documentation of her grammar which is recognized as the best of its class.

INDOLOGY

Pt. Lochan Prasad Pandey was closely associated with Rai Bahadur Dr. Hiralal and Dr. K.P. Jayaswal. He worked for Hindi as an acceptable language for the nation and Nagari as a commonly practicable script for all the languages. Palaeographic study of early form of Brahma, its development through different historical phases

and the gradual evolution into Proto-Nagari to Nagari had been a subject of his interest who Inspired by Dr.Hiralal and Dr.Jayaswal Pt.Lochan Prasad carved a place in the field as an able palaeographer, epigraphist, and numismatist. Knowing his circumstantial limitations he turned to regional study of Chhattisgarh including Sambalpur District of Orissa which was known as Kosala or Dakshina Kosala in ancient period. Chhattisgarh was that time generally known as a dark area, hence could not gain any place with specific reference in early historical works available in the hands of general readers. Very little of its history had been documented in absolutely brief form by Alexander Cunningham and his co-worker Beglar in the respective volumes of the Archaeological Survey reports of India,the works of the last quarter of 19th century. These volumes were rather rare and beyond the reach of the common readers and interested people

Association of Rai Bahadur Dr. Hiralal with settlement and Gazetter sections had actually brought good fortune to the people in knowing their glorious past and to get themselves acquainted with their great cultural heritage that their predecessors had left for them. Some of these still exist in our present day traditions,customs,manners and rituals.The gazetteers of different districts brought to light the history of different areas through the ages.Here Pt.Lochan Prasad Pandey and Mr Y.N.Seel came to his support and they engaged some of their co-workers in this job. The result of which is still recognized to be of a great value. These works have been given independent identity with different names such as Ashtaraja, Amboja, Raipur Rashmi,Durga Darpana, Bilaspur Vaibhava, Mandala Mayukha,Jabalpur Jyoti,Damoh Deepaka and so on. Pt. Lochan Prasad Pandey,Dr.Hiralal and Shri Seel all of them rendered their full services and all sorts of help to these publications. With the emergence of these books a team of intellectuals came forward and formed a society to bring out the unknown phases of history to light. It was named Madhya-Pradesiya Itihasa Parisad,which in the beginning had been a sister organization of Madhya-Pradesiya Hindi Sahitya Parisad,but soon it was given an independent shape.

At the age of thirty,Pt. Lochan Prasad Pandey started learning palaeography under the inspiration of R.B Dr. Hiralal.His wide reading and thorough knowledge of sanskrit gave him authoritativeness in studying ancient

epigraphs.Deciperrment of ancient coins,leaving aside early Punch-Marked series, had been no problem for him after reaching this stage. Durning his study he was also focused on the traditional belief, folklore and traditions. He was the first man who collected and published maximum number of folk tales and folklores of Chhattisgarh region viz.,*Tales of Chhattisgarh*.

In the field of Epigraphic studies his first notices and publications of Gunji rock inscription,Semarsal Lithic record,Kirari wooden Pillar inscription,Turturiya-Nanheri stone inscription,Arang Fragmentary records and the Vishnu image inscription from Mallar haven widely accepted by the band of scholars as early records so far found from Dakshin Kosala area and all are of great historical values. He colleted a number of Copper Plates and discovered stone inscriptions lying in various deserted sits of historical and archaeological importance. He published either independently or jointly with some other scholar,such as Dr.V.V.Mirashai and Dr. D.C. Sircar,he sent copies of stone inscriptions for decipherment and study to the reputed scholars who have specifically mentioned his name while publishing the same. Among such findings which he had given to such scholars for study purposes, engraved or painted scripts in Pre-Brahmi characters from Vikram Khol and Ulapgarh rock shelters are of great antiquarian values. He was a renowned collector of ancient coins from the various places of Chhattisgarh.Amidst his valuable and rare collections, the coin of Apilaka,Prasanna Maṭra,gold,silver and copper coins issued by different Kalchuri rulers of Ratanpur and a gold coin of Ananta Choda Gang of Orissa have been accepted as a greater historical values. He was associated various organizations, institutions and professional bodies For his scholarly contributions in these fields,he was honoured by various organizations. He was honoured with Kavya-Vinoda by the rolling Chief of Bamada state of Orissa, Gold Medal by Devanagara Pracharini Sabha(Varanasi),Silver Medal by Bharata Dharma Maha Mandala Kashi ,Sahitya Vachaspati by Akhila Bharatvarshiya Hindia Sahitya Sammelan etc.Pt.Lochan Prasad Pandey was not only a scholar or a poet but a great patriot. He also took active part in the work of Social reforms, Community Development Programmes and on various cultural platforms.

(SOURCE: KOSALA KAUMAUDI)

JULY

SAFAR MUKTAKASH

On the 4th July a drama *Lambha Marg Duri Ghar* performed at Rangmandir, Raipur. In SAFAR MUKTAKASH Series 30th, a play *YAM KA CHHATA* and Pandwani Gayan performed at Rangmandir, Raipur which organized by Directorate of Culture and Archaeology on 10th July. This play is performed by the artists of Durg in which a message is given about the false promises of the



politicians and the voice against the misuse of the nuclear power. This play directed by Rajendra Kapur and the injured soldier role is



played by Sasimohan Singh. The Pandwani Gayan performed by Parsuram Chandrakar of

Jay Maa Durga Pandwani Party of Jata Bemetara of Durg.

LOKRANG ATTRACTION

Lokgit, dance, Bharthari Gyan at Rang Mandir, Raipur on 11th July. Under this programme Rekha Devi Jalkshtri and Bharat Bhusan with is team performed their Lokgit and dance.

NEWS LETTER RELEASE

For the first time the Directorate of Culture and Archaeology published the News Letter. The main objective of this News Letter is to spread the Chhattisgarh culture and Archaeology throughout the country and abroad. Few months before the Directorate has



undertaken some unique steps to uplift the Chhattisgarhi culture i.e. the *Safar Muktakash*, *Nacha Gammat*, *Voice Culture* etc. So in this new letter this unique programmes and the latest excavations, researches, publications and the various national seminars are placed.

This News Letter is published in english language and both print and electronic form. It is a non-priced publication. It is a quarterly published news letter. This news letter is

released on 15th July on the auditorium of the Directorate. All the staffs of the department are also present.

SAFAR MUKTAKASH:

In the Safar Muktakash series, 31st National Level drama *Peshawar se Lahore Tak* and Lokgeet Gayan organized at Rangmandir, Raipur on 24th July. This play is directed by Rupesh Pawar and performed by the artists of Maharashtra. Besides Punam Virat of Rajnandgaon performed the Lokgeet programme.

PAWAS PRASANG:

A three days (25th to 27th July) cultural programme on classical raag Pawas Prasang



organized at Rang Mandir. The artists from Orissa, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are participated in it. For this programme three methods are applied i.e. singing, dancing and music. First day classical

singer Jyoti Fagre Ayar from Mumbai, Niraja Bodhankar for dance and Sitar artist Sudhir Pandit of Raipur performed their talents. The commissioner, Culture and Archaeology Rajeev Srivastava inaugurated this



programme.



In the second day the artists performed their classical dance on theme of gods and goddess, The programme started with the *Dhrupad* singer Afzal Hussen of

Aurangabad. Smita Nagdene of Bhopal performed *Mallhar raag* with tabla artist Ramendra Solanki. Purnima Rout and Lucky Mohanty with their ten classical dancers

performed Odissi dance based on Puranic tradition and story of Jagannath. Besides she performed the plays of *Draupadi ki chir haran*, *Hiranyakasyap ki Anta* and *Sita Vivah* which are based on the story of Jayadev, the



writer of *Gitagovind*. At the last day (27th July) Dhanjay Joshi of Nanded of Maharashtra performed *Miyan ki Mallhar*. Then Manna Yadav of Solahapur performed *Dhup raag*. At the last Ashavari Patankar of Pune performed Kathak dance.

VIP VISIT

On the 28th July the Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh and Culture minister Brijmohan Agrawal and the members of Chhattisgarh



Vidhansabha visited the Mukhtangan. They observed the progressive work of Mukhtangan.



NAZAQUAT-E-RAFI

A grand musical programme *NAZAQUAT-E-RAFI* on remembrance of Mohammad Rafi organized at Rangmandir,



Raipur on 31st July. In the first round 120 singers are participated for audition and at last



31 participants are selected. The chief guest of this programme was Shri Brijmohan Agrawal, the Culture and Tourism minister. The commissioner Culture Rajeev Shrivastava also present in this programme.

RETIREMENT

The Deputy Director Soberan Singh Yadav retired during the period of under report. The Directorate of Culture and Archaeology wishes him a good health and best wishes in their future endeavours.

Soberan Singh Yadav (Deputy Director)

Soberan Singh Yadav was appointed as Registering Officer in Madhya



Pradesh(1975)and posted in Raipur and Gwalior. Then he was promoted as Archaeologist in 1986 and posted in Sagar. He



was subsequently appointed as Curator of Raipur Museum in 1994, which was subsequently promoted as Deputy Director in 2003. He was participated in the excavation works at Mathura, Purana Quila, Guptaeswar (Prehistoric site), Kakrehata in Jabalpur, Dipadih (Sarguja) and he undertook conservation work at Orchha palace (M.P), Mandwa Mahal (Kabirdham dist.), Dhondrepal, Garhdhanora (Bastar). He organized various national seminars on numismatic, rock art and art and architecture. He published three books and many research papers on archaeology and included as the Associate Editor in Kosala. He has participated in many national and international seminars. He undertook various river valley explorations and excavations including Megalithic site Lillar. His pioneer work is excavation at Pachrahi. He retired on 31st July 2010.

AUGUST

A organization *Nari ka Sambal* and Department of Culture, Government of Chhattisgarh jointly organized the traditional Hareli festival at Science College ground. Gedi dance and Coconut throwing (rural sports) competition marked the traditional celebrations Hareli festival on 12th August. Scores of people including boys and girls clad in traditional outfits participated in the Gedi race and Coconut throwing competition. In this programme Agriculture minister Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Sports minister Lata Usendi and Commissioner Culture and Archaeology, Rajeev Shrivastava addressed to the mass.

RANG-DE-BASANTI

This programme jointly organized by the Culture department, government of Chhattisgarh and Haj Commit, Raipur at Sahid Smarak Bhavan, Raipur on 14th August. In this programme the competition in painting, Rangeli, debate, singing, dance etc are performed. In the final selected candidates are given prizes by the Culture minister Brijmohan Agrawal.

SAFAR MUKTAKASH

In Safar Muktakash series 32nd Drama play *Holi and Lokgeet Gayan* performed at Rangmandir, Raipur on 14th August. The play *Holi* is directed by Ajay Patle of Rayagarh. The story is based upon the college student's life, their thinking and feelings.

SALAM-E-VATAN

On the auspicious occasion of Independence Day, the Culture Department organized a patriotic programme *Salam-e-Vatan*

at Medical College Auditorium. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Dr Raman Singh himself was present here. Besides, Assembly Speaker Dharamlal Kaushik, Culture Minister Brijmohan Agrawal and Mayore Kiranmoyee Nayak were also present.

Singer Rohan Kapoor from Mumbai performed his patriotic songs. Then another troupe of famous artist Khuman Sao performed as Chhattisgarh Darshan in which the troupe members presented songs based on rural life followed with various folk dances like *Karma, dadariya, Naacha* and *Sua dance*. Rohan Kapoor and his group of members mesmerized the audience by singing his father Mahendra Kapoor's famous patriotic songs, most notably "*Hai Preet Jahan Ki Reet Sada*". Chief Minister presented shawl and felicitated the artists for their entertaining presentations. The Commissioner Rajeev Shrivastava invited the VIP guests.

NAGMA-E-MUKESH

The Culture department organized a programme named NAGMA-E-MUKESH in the memory of legendary singer Mukesh in his





34th death anniversary. For this programme 145 candidates are given their audition but lastly 33 candidates are selected. This programme is organized at Rangmandir, Raipur.

SAFAR MUKTAKASH

In SAFAR MUKTAKASH series 33rd



Drama play *TOBA TAKE SINGH* and LokGeet Gayan was organized at Rangmandir, Raipur on 28th August. In this programme Commissioner Rajeev Shrivastava, Additional S.P Sasimohan Sing and other Culture loving people were present.

PARANGAT MAHOTSAVA

The culture department organized

PARANGAT MAHOTSAVA from 29th-30th August at Rangmandir, Raipur. The first day attraction was Gayan of Indore, Kathak dance of Bhopal and Violin Vadan of Raipur. This programme was jointly organized with Central South Cultural Zone, Nagpur.



On the second day Ajay Kumar from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh performed his





Kuchipudi dance, Dilip Kumar from Kolakotta performed Classical song and Avad sing Thakur of Khairagarh performed Tabla Vadan.

LOKRANG

On 31st July the LOKRANG programme was organized by the department. In this LOKRANG attraction programme folk songs, dance and comedy shows are performed. The artists of *Punni ke Chanda*, performed beautiful play on traditional Chhattisgrhi 'faire' and festivals. This programme ended with the Dadaria gayan.

CONSERVATION

The conservation work started at the excavated site Pachrahi, dist. Kabirdham. The excavations (2009-10) revealed many structural monuments from area IV and V. The area IV



yielded a big temple complex and many subsidiary shrines of stones. But area V yielded a huge royal complex made up of stone and brick. The outer wall is made up of stone and inner wall is of brick. In the brick walls, the lime mortar used for the conservations. The missing stones are placed with new matched stones in limited numbers.

VISIT

The members of INTACH visited the site Pachrahi. They saw the retrieved antiquities from the excavations and the exposed



structural remains.

SEPTEMBER

EK SHAM MUKESH

A cultural programme *EK SHAM MUKESH* was jointly organized by Culture department and Kiran cultural society on 4th September. In this programme the songs of Mukesh and dance are performed. The chief guest of this programme was Commissioner, Culture and Archaeology Shri Rajeev Shrivastava. The other guests are music director Kalyan Sen, Paramanand Tiwari of Max International Power.

SAFAR MUKTAKASH (34th Series)

In Safar Muktakash series 34th, a drama *Hamirpur Ki Subha* and Pandwani Gayan



performed on 11th September by 7 p.m at



Rangmandir, Raipur. Chhattisgarh Arts and Theatrical Society Drug's presentation makes

the audience to think and brings forth with deep severity the situations arising after committing a crime. The story of simple rural ambience impacts due to sound direction of Balkrishna Aiyar. The original story is written by Rupert Brook named Lithuania in 1915. So this drama *Hamirpur Ki Subha* is an animated example of how greed forces one to commit heinous crime.

LOKRANG ATTRACTIONS

Lokrang a traditional cultural



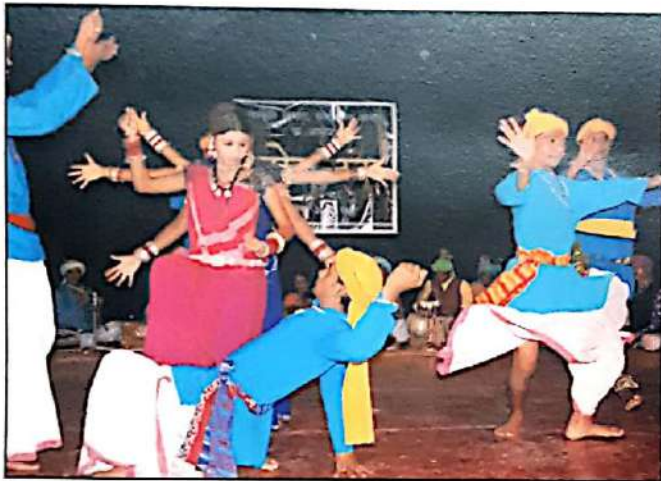
programme was organized by the Culture department on 13th September at Rangmandir,



Raipur. The objective of this programme was to promote the state's folk art forms, which are gradually vanishing away. In this programme Pissi Lal Yadav and his team performed the traditional Lokgeet, Dadariya, Karma dance and Baiga songs. The artists are performed several



events the first of which was titled Mati Mata Re. The theme was based on various problems



mother earth is facing and how it can be made a



better place to live in.

The old collectorate building of Kanker handed over to the Culture and Archaeology Dept. for District Archaeological Museum. This building took over by J.R. Bhagat, Dy. Director, on behalf of the department on 16th September.



VIP



During the month of September the Indian Administrative Officers of Chhattisgarh Cadre visited the MGM museum and the archaeological monuments of Chhattisgarh. The cadre includes Dr Priyanka Shukla, Shushri Kiran Kausal, Samir Visnoi, Avinash Kumar Saran, Saurav Kumar and Saumil Ranjan Chaube (CCS).

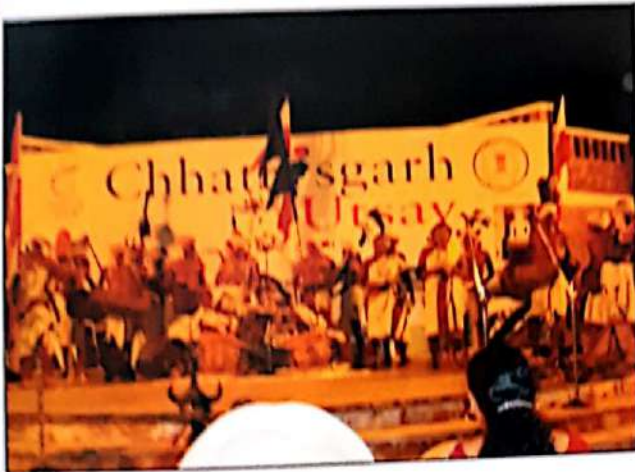
DELHI CELEBRATES

The DELHI CELEBRATES programme was jointly organized by the Tourism





Department, Government of Delhi and the Government of Chhattisgarh at Delhi Haat on 17th September. This programme was inaugurated by Member of the Parliament



Kamla Patle. Then this programme was started with the dance of Bastar Band which is the traditional folk dance of Bastar in Chhattisgarh. There are twenty five artists performed their talents in the direction of Anup



Ranjan Pandey. The audience were highly

impressed to see this traditional dance and music instruments. In this programme the audience also had a taste of Chhattisgarh Bhanjan (Traditional food of Chhattisgarh). There was a stall installed by the Government of Chhattisgarh to give the information about the rich culture and archaeological sites of the state. On behalf of Culture Department, Rahul Kumar Singh, Deputy Director has participated in this Delhi Celebrates programme.

SAFAR MUKTAKASHI

In Safar Muktakashi cultural programme a tragedy social drama *Dina* was performed on



25th September at open air theatre of Directorate of Culture and Archaeology. This



play was written by Mahesweta Devi and directed by Nizam Patel. This play effectively delivered its message about the exploitation of women in male dominated society.



Commissioner, Culture and Archaeology, Rajeev Shrivastava and Sashi Mohan Singh were also present on this occasion. In this occasion a book *Tees Din Tees Rang* was released which is written by Jai Prakash Tripathi.



This programme also had performances from folk singer Amrita Sahu



from Durg and classical dancer Tushar



Josi. While Tushar Josi an expressive dance performance on *Ae Meri Jaan-e-Ghazal*, and



Amrita Sahu enthralled everyone with her energetic Pandwani Gayan with lyrics about tales from the Mahabharat.





SURTA SUBRAT KE

A programme Surta Subrat Ke was jointly organized by the Culture department, Govt. Chhattigarh and Subrat Bose Cultural Foundation at Nehru House of Culture, Sectore-1, Bhilai on 26th September. In this programme renowned film director Anurag Basu was also present. He addressed the people of Bhilai and said that Bhilai can be cultural epicenter of India and 'sabak' Subrat Bose cultural Foundation will try to provide that platform to the budding artists of the state. Saroj Pandey, MP was the chief guest while Rajeev Shrivastav, Commissioner Culture and Archaeology graced the occasion as special guest.

RETIREMENT

Bholaram Sahu, an employee of this department has retired during the period of under report. He was born on 12th September 1948 at Madai, district Durg. He joined in the



service on 7th July 1972 at the Commissionerate, Raipur. He attached in the Rajbhasa section of Directorate of Culture and Archaeology, Government of Chhattisgarh on 4th November 2000. During his service period, he efficiently served his duty. So the Directorate of Culture and Archaeology wishes him a good health and best wishes in their future endeavours.





This News Letter is a non-priced publication of the Directorate of Culture and Archaeology, Government of Chhattisgarh. The readers are requested to write to the editor expressing their views and suggestions about the news letter.

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To,

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