



THE 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OLCHIKI PARSI MAHA HAS BEEN CELEBRATED BY THE SANTALS OF MALKANGIRI DISTRICT IN THE PREMISES OF MARANGBURU ADIVASI CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, MV-2. ON 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2003, SANTALS' LANGUAGE WAS ACCORDED CONSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATION IN INDIA. TO REMEMBER THIS EPOCH AND REMARKABLE EVENT THE PARSIMAHA IS BEING CELEBRATED BY THE SANTALS OF JHARKHAND, CHHATISGARH, MADYA PRADESH, WEST BENGAL, ASSAM AND ORISSA. AT THE OUTSET FLORAL TRIBUTE WAS GIVEN TO THE STATUE OF PANDIT RAGHUNATH MURMU THE FOUNDER OF SANTALI ALPHABET "OLCHIKI". THE ADVISOR SRI THAKURDAS HANSDAH, THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF N.A.C, MALKANGIRI AND PRESIDENT OF THE MACA SRI LAXMIRAM HANSDAH GAVE THEIR VALUABLE SPEECH DURING THE CELEBRATION.

THE SANTAL COMMUNITY IN THIS DISTRICT IS ONE OF THE TRIBES OUT OF 62 TRIBES LIVING IN ORISSA STATE. IN MALKANGIRI, THESE SANTALS HAD COME ALONG WITH THE BENGALIES FROM BANGLADESH THE THEN EAST-PAKINSTAN IN 1961-62. THEY GOT REFUGEE STATUS BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND SETTLED UNDER THE DANDAKARINYA PROJECT. THEY ARE RESIDING IN FIVE VILLAGES NAMELY, MV-2 (MADHAPUR), MV-3 (THAKURPALLY), MV-4 (SHYAM NAGAR), MV-5 (JAGATPALLI) AND MV-6 (RAMGUDA). APART FROM THESE VILLAGES THERE ARE ALSO SANTAL PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING IN VARIOUS SECTORS AND OFFICES OF MALKANGIRI DISTRICT. THESE SANTALS ARE MOSTLY FROM MAYURBHANJ AND KEONJHAR DISTRICT OF ORISSA AND ALSO FROM NEIGHBOURING STATE CHHATISGARH. THEY STILL PRESERVE THEIR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND CUSTOM WHICH ARE APPRECIABLE AND REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT THOUGH LIVING IN THE MAOIST AFFECTED DISTRICT LIKE MALKANGIRI.

THERE ARE 12 TYPES OF TRIBES LIVING IN THIS MALKANGIRI DISTRICT WHICH ARE BONDA, DIDAYI, KOYA, PARAJA GODABA, BHUMIYA, BANJHARI, DURUWA, SANTAL, KONDHA, MATIYA AND MADOWA. THE LIFE HISTORY, SOCIO-ECONOMIC & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS ARE VARIED IN CHARACTER FROM ONE ANOTHER.

*By- Thakurdas Hansdah, Marangburu Adivasi Cultural Association, Advisor.*