

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
सत्यमेव जयते

Literature Camp for Writers from Tribal Communities of the State

2025 February 17 - 24

KIRTADS TRANING BLOCK

TRAINING WING KIRTADS

Eight-Day Literature Camp for Tribal Writers of the State

DAY ONE

Literature Camp for writers from tribal communities of the State was held from 17 to 24 February 2025 in KIRTADS campus. Sixteen participants attended the camp, who are at different levels of writing career. This includes poets who write in their mother tongue using Malayalam script, script writer, folk song writer, and writers in Kannada.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural ceremony of the Camp was held in the Training Hall in the Training building of the campus. The Camp was inaugurated at 10.00 AM on the seventeenth of February 2025 by Sri. O.S.Unnikrishnan, Honourable Chairman, Kerala Folklore Academy in the Lecture Hall of the Training Block of the Campus. The session was chaired by Sri Aneesh, Administrative Officer, KIRTADS.



Inaugural adress by Sri. O.S. Unnikrishnan

In his inaugural address, the Chairman, Kerala Folklore Academy highlighted the role of KIRTADS in identifying the emerging writers from tribal communities of the State, as writing and forms of cultural expressions are markers of human development and civilisation.

Prominent literary figure from the commnity and, Member, Kerala Sahithya Academy Sri Sukumaran Chaligadda delivered the key note address on the occasion. He made references to his role as a participant in the sahithya camp organised by the department years ago. The key note address had references to the subject of his writing, often experiences from his life as a member of the Scheduled Tribe community. Deputy Director (Development Studies) i/c felicitated on th occasion. Lecturer Smt. Deepa S delivered vote of thanks on the occasion. The inaugural session concluded at 11.45 AM.



Keynote adress by Sri. Sukumaran Chaligadda



Sri Shibu Muthat

DAY TWO

Following the inaugural session, a session to improve the skills of team building, presentation, stage performance was held. The session began at 2.00 PM and the participants were trained to enhance their skills at individual levels and as members of the team. The session was concluded at 5.30 PM.

On the second day of the Camp, the first session was on the Writings on Indigenous Populations and Writings by the Indigenous Populations of the world. Dr. M Dasan, former Dean, School of English and Comparative Literature, Central University of Kerala was the resource person. He presented the nature of literature on indigenous populations in countries like the US, Canada and Australia. Along with the experiences from other countries, he discussed the nature of literature, performance, text of folk and art forms of the State. The discussion was centred around the idea of distortion of identities in cultural expressions. The deliberations ended with discussions on questions raised by the participants.

In the afternoon, the participants were given an opportunities for visiting the KIRTADS library. The later hours of the camp was



Dr. M Dasan



intended to allow the participants to have exposure to the library. The participants were divided into four groups and they were asked to lend a book from the library and to prepare a precise of the content. All the groups presented their work and all the other groups made comments and remarks on the presentation. The session continued up to 8.15 PM







DAY THREE

Content and context of women writings of tribal origin

On the third day of the Camp, the forenoon session was on writings on women with focus on tribal literature in Malayalam. The session was led by Smt. Dhanya Vengacheri. The first session discussed the writings on women in Malayalam literature followed by presentation of her own poems in the second session.



Smt. Dhany Vengacheri

The session discussed the features of literature by tribal authors, in general, and the relationship between the life and culture and the writings by tribal authors (in Malayalam) in particular. The session was concluded with interaction by the participants.

The afternoon session of the day was on "writings as a means for social change", held by Dr.Lijisha AT. The session introduced important works by marginalised communities of India that helped the communities to speak for social justice and equity. The session introduced literary works having tribal or dalit backgrounds, published in major Indian languages. The session also introduced few cinemas in major Indian languages which spoke of social identity and society.





Dr. Lijisha AT

In the next session, the participants (in groups) were asked to visit the KRTADS library and to collect literary works of their choice and to make a presentation based on their reading of the texts. Remarks and comments were made by all other teams when each team performed. The session was concluded by 8.25 PM.



DAY FOUR

Poetry and Adivasi Lieterature in India

On the fourth day of the On the fourth day of the Camp, Dr. MB Manoj, Assistant Professor, Department of Malayalam and Kerala Studies-University of Calicut led the first two sessions in the forenoon. The session was on poetry in adivasi literature of India. With the examples from poems from several Indian languages, the session thrown light on the content of tribal literature in India. The session also discussed the world view in tribal literature. The session also discussed the nature of literature in general and biography and poetry in particular.

The Afternoon session of the fourth day was led by Sri Madhu Narayanan, (Research Assistant – Anthropology KIRTADS). The session was about the process of documentation and archiving of knowledge of communities like the Scheduled Tribes. The session discussed in detail the intangible heritage of communities which are also repositories of knowledge that conventional methods of archiving and documentation fail to record.

The participants were asked group into teams and to make a presentation based on their reading of the texts. Remarks and comments were made by all other teams when each team performed. The session was concluded by 8.25 PM.



Dr. MB Manoj



A Documentary was also screened to emphasise the understanding of documentation and archiving that do not capture the intangible heritage around the knowlege and practices relating to the technology of traditional occupations. The Documentary portrayed the life, technology and occupations of traditional basket weaving community of the State.



Sri Madhu Narayanan



In the next session, the participants were allowed to present their own works either in groups or individually. The participants made use of this opportunity to write a script for a short-film on the life of a trans gender. Different areas of the script was discussed by the participants together and groups were formed based on their interests.

Exposure visit to Kerala Sahithya Academy and to hold an interaction with a prominent writer. Award wining author Sri. TD Ramakrishnan attended the session and allowed an interaction with the participants for nearly two hours. The writer highlighted the potential of writings by people from tribal backgrounds, as the life and culture, world view are not exposed to the outside world to any significant extent. Therefore, the content for creativity/fiction having tribal cultural backgrounds are to be made use of. The session had a interactive session with the Author. The exposure visit also let the participants of the camp to visit the library of the Academy.

DAY SIX

Meet the Author : Author of "Valli"



Sri Siju C Meena

The sixth day of the Camp had a session "Meet the Author" in which Sri. Siju C Meena was the guest of honour. His work "Valli" was one of the important works, a poem from the edited volume is included in the syllabus of University of Calicut. The participants were asked to interact with the author in the session. The session continued till 12 PM, and the session was paused for attending the programme attended by the honourable minister for Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The honourable minister attended the gathering, and two participants of the Camp were allowed to perform and present their works on the occasion. Sri Vijayan who is a singer and song writer, presented his song which was featured in a Kannada movie. Smt. Raji Raghavan presented her poem on the occasion.



The next session of the day was intended to introduce the tools (for writing/word processing) available on android tools. This session was a hands on training session led by Smt. Devka K, Computer Operator-KIRTADS. The session introduced in detail, the lay out and page setting in cloud based word processor of Google. Unicode Latin and non Latin scripts were used in the exercise. A passage was given to the participants and they were asked to prepare a document and finally exporting the same to pdf format. Export, sharing under the File menu were alo introduced besides List, bullets and Indents functions. The participants were grouped into teams comprising three to four members. They were requested to prepare the feedback on the Camp using the same application.





Smt Devika



DAY SEVEN

Novels in Malayalam Tribal literature

The seventh day of the Camp began with the session by Ms. Jaincy John. The session was on history of Malayalam tribal writings with focus on Novels. The session also discussed the issues of representation in literature and society. The faculty discussed in detail, the origin and evolution of tribal writings in Malayalam and the question of tribal identities in Malayalam literature. The session also had presentation that discussed the works of participants of the camp.



Ms Jaincy James



Sri Praful S

The next session of the day was a hands on introductory lessons on Script writing. Sri Praful S led the session. Participants were grouped into four. A fictional incident was narrated and it was developed into "scene". Initial lessons were given regarding the aspects to be kept in mind while developing the the incident into scene. Later the teams were given time to develop the story further and to present the script. Each team presented the script that they wrote as part of the exercise given. The session was concluded by 5.30 PM.



The next session of the day was intended to give the participant to introduce the other participant in the team. The sessions helped to introduce the achievements and talents of each participant, through an interview. This session helped the participants to prepare themselves for the interview similar to the ones held in platforms like literature festivals. The sessions continued till 8.15 PM.

DAY EIGHT

The eighth day of the Camp had two sessions on Intellectual Property Rights with special reference to tribal culture and art forms. Dr. Anson, Assistant Professor, CUSAT discussed the scope and relevance of the IPR. The session discussed in detail, the evolution of IPR and its legal dimensions. The session discussed the scope of application of various provisions of IPR.



The afternoon session of the day discussed the importance of literature in the present day context. The session discussed the need to engage with writing and similar forms of expressions by tribal populations.



The final session of the Camp was about the way forward, with reference to literature by members of tribal communities. Certificate of participation was distributed to the participants in the valedictory session. The session was concluded at 5 PM.

KERALA INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (KIRTADS)

KIRTADS
Chevayur
Kozhikode
Kerala-673017
www.kirtads.kerala.gov.in