

*Report of
The Third Conference
For Tribes & Tribal (Scheduled) Areas*

Jagdalpur
Bastar District (Madhya Pradesh)
13th, 14th & 15th March, 1955

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This is the Report of the Third Tribal Welfare Conference held at Jagdalpur, Bastar District (Madhya Pradesh) on 13th, 14th and 15th March, 1955, under the auspices of Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, and was presided over by Shri Raja Naresh Chandra Singh, Minister for Tribal Welfare, Madhya Pradesh. The Welcome Address was given by Shri Ravi Shankar Shukla, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh. At the time of the Conference, an exhibition depicting tribal art and handicrafts was organised. It was inaugurated by Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramya, Governor of Madhya Pradesh. As usual, the Conference divided itself into three sections: (1) Social Institutions' Section, presided over by Acharya Shri Kaka Saheb Kalelkar, (2) Anthropological Section, presided over by Dr. P.C. Biswas, Head of the Department of Anthropology, Delhi University, (3) Tribal Representatives' Section, presided over by Shri Rupaji Bhavjibhai Parmar, M.P. On account of the unavoidable absence of Shri Kaka Saheb Kalelkar and Dr. P.C. Biswas, the two sections over which they had to preside, were conducted and presided over by Shri L.M. Shrikant, Commissioner for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes and Dr. N. Dutt-Majumdar, Director of Anthropology, Government of India, respectively. It may be further noted that two of the above mentioned Presidents, Shri Raja Naresh Chandra Singh and Shri Rupaji Bhavjibhai Parmar themselves belong to the tribal communities. There is no doubt that the Conference which was attended by nearly 50,000 persons on the opening day, most of whom were tribals belonging to the Muria and the Maria tribes of Bastar, evoked enthusiasm and gave a fillip to tribal welfare work in Madhya Pradesh.

As many as 47 papers,— a much larger number than those contributed at the previous Conferences,— were submitted for being read at the Conference. Some of the writers could not be present. In printing the report, we have divided the papers under five different heads according to the nature of the subjects dealt with namely, (1) Social Service and Training of Tribal Welfare Workers, (2) Economic Welfare, (3) Land & Agriculture, (4) Health and Hygiene among the Tribals, (5) Anthropology and Tribal Welfare. We have devoted one section to the addresses delivered by the Presidents of the Conference and the Chairmen of the Sections. We hope that this arrangement will facilitate easy reference.

It is however a matter of regret that for want of proper facilities, it has not been possible for us to publish the discussions, verbatim, as was done in the previous reports.

We take this opportunity of thanking all our co-workers and friends and the Madhya Pradesh Government who have been kind enough by giving their unstinted help to make the Conference a success.

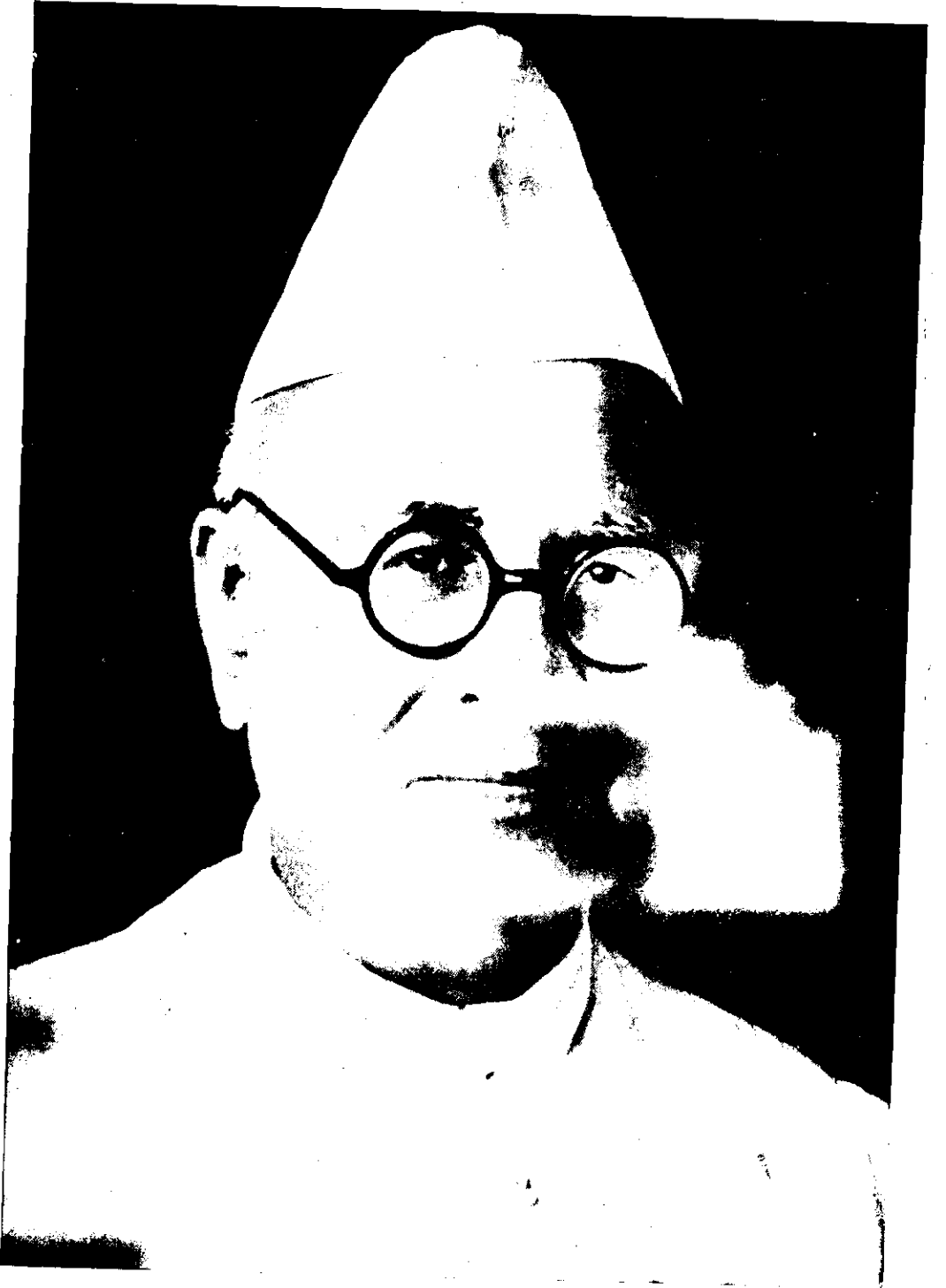
We also express our grateful thanks to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Ravi Shankar Shukla, Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitarammaya and the Presidents of the Conference and of the various sections who have by their presence and guidance given a valuable lead to the social workers and others interested in tribal welfare.

March 4, 1955.

I am glad to know that the Tribal Welfare Conference is being held this year at Jagdalpur in Madhya Pradesh under the auspices of the Adimjati Sevak Sangh. Bastar, Surguja and Jashpur in Madhya Pradesh have a large population of tribals and it is therefore a happy idea to hold a Conference at Jagdalpur. I hope the Conference will make constructive suggestions for accelerating the pace of progress of these socially and economically backward people, so as to enable the State Government to take effective measures to protect them from social injustice and exploitation. I wish the Conference every success.



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