Odisha Review—————January - 2012

## **UNESCO** Kalinga Prize

The popularization of Science is one of UNESCO's oldest programmes. It falls under the supervision of the Division of Science Policy and Sustainable Development. The primary objective of UNESCO's popularization programme is to increase public understanding of science.

For the time being, UNESCO has 8 prizes in science.

- The UNESCO Science Prize, for an outstanding contribution to the technological development of a developing country or region.
- 2. The L'Oreal UNESCO Prize for women in Science.
- 3. The Carlos J. Finlay Prize for Microbiology.
- 4. The Javed Husain Prize for Young Scientists.
- 5. The Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental preservation,
- The Great Man-Made River International Prize for Water Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas,
- 7. The UNESCO / Institute Pasteur Medal for an outstanding contribution to the

development of scientific knowledge that has a beneficial impact on human health.

## 8. The Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science.

The Kalinga Prize for the popularization of Science is an award given by UNESCO for exceptional skill in presenting scientific ideas to lay people. It was created in 1951, following a donation from Biju Patnaik, Founder President of the Kalinga Foundation Trust in India.

The recipient of this annual award must have demonstrated-during a brilliant career as writer, editor, lecturer, film producer, radio/television programme director or presenter-talent in interpreting science and technology for the public. The recipient should have striven to emphasize the international importance of science and technology and the contribution they make to improving public welfare, enriching the cultural heritage of nations, and solving problems facing humanity. Many past prize winners have been scientists, while others have been trained in journalism or have been educators or writers.

Each member state is entitled to nominate a single candidate, through its National Commission for UNESCO, on the January - 2012 — Odisha Review

recommendation of the national associations for the advancement of science or other science associations, or national associations of science writers or science journalists. Applications from individuals are not accepted.

The laureate is selected by the Director-General of UNESCO upon the recommendation of a four-member jury designated by him. Three members of the jury from different countries of the world are designated on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and the fourth on the recommendation of the Kalinga Foundation Trust.

The Kalinga Prize is awarded during the Celebration of the World Science Day (2003, 2005, etc.) and in New Delhi, India, in even years. Under the terms of the Prize, the recipient receives ten thousands pounds (10,000 GBP) sterling and a UNESCO Albert Einstein Silver Medal. The recipient is also awarded the Ruchi Ram Sahni Chair, introduced by the Government of India in 2001 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Kalinga Prize. As holder of the Ruchi Ram Sahni Chair,

the winner travels to India for a period of two to four weeks as the guest of the Government of India. The Chair also comprises a token honorarium of US\$ 2,000. In the years when the award ceremony took place during the celebration of the World Science Day, the recipient travels to the city where the science day is being celebrated (2003 in Budapest) as the guest of UNESCO. In the years when it is awarded in New Delhi, the recipient is invited, as the guest of the Kalinga Foundation Trust, to undertake a brief lecture tour in India. For this reason, it is preferable that the recipient be proficient in English.

Each National Commission for UNESCO proposes a candidate only on the recommendation of the national associations for the advancement of science or other science associations, or national associations of science writers or scientific journalists.

The Kalinga Prize for the popularization of Science is administered by the Science Analysis and Policies Division of UNESCO.



Odia Artists at work