3rd Girimitra Convention: August 1, 2004

Chakram Hikers of Mulund, Mumbai, were the organisers of the third Girimitra Convention. Chakram had started on some new initiatives that year, so the theme of the meet was 'Trekking: New Pathways'.

Harish Kapadia of Himalayan Club presided over the convention. Actor Milind Gunaji, who anchored the popular TV show `Bhat-kanti', was the special guest.

Mr. Kapadia appreciated the presence of large number of trekkers at the meet. His presentation on Siachen Glacier expedition was well-received.

There were several programmes, but two symposiums were noteworthy:

Consumer Forums and Trekking Groups: A participant died during a trekking camp, and the organisers had to pay compensation. In the light of this unfortunate incident, advocate Shirish Deshpande (of Grahak Panchayat) and doctor M S Kamat spoke about how trekking groups could fall in the ambit of consumer courts. Ravi Paranjape moderated the discussion.

Trekking: A vocation (?): Trekking as a vocation was a new territory for most trekkers. Hence this discussion. Vasant Limaye, Sunil Joshi and Vinita Muni were the speakers. Samir Karve moderated the session, which discussed how a hobby can be turned into a vocation.

The convention also saw two new initiatives.

Mountaineering Audio-Visual Show Competition: Most trekkers and mountaineers pursue photography, some also put together slide shows. The idea was to encourage it further through a competition. Twenty-five entries came, three were awarded. Avadhoot Paralkar and Vasant Limaye were the judges.

Treeking groups which had come up with new programmes made presentations.

A photography exhibition was also held.

It was recognised that though every year there would be an organising group, the convention was a joint enterprise of all the trekking groups, backed by Maharashtra Seva Sangh.

Bibhas Amonkar designed a logo for the convention, which has now become its identity.

Members of various groups made the convention a success under the leadership of Hrishikesh Yadav.