

THE 2007 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2007 conference was hosted jointly by UNIVERSITY OF HYDERABAD, Department of History and SWECHA, a voluntary organisation instituted and working for localisation of Free Software in Telugu (www.swecha.org). FREE SOFTWARE FOUNDATION (FSF), INDIA, the India chapter of the premier international voluntary organisation spearheading the free software movement and ensuring software freedom through General Public Licence regime supported it.

A galaxy of eminent personalities participated. Ministers, Govt Departmental officers, Public Sector representatives etc were among them. The event drew appreciation for its organising and the content as well. A gist of alternatives were discussed in the domain of free software in demanding areas like *e-governance, school education, technical education, higher education and research avenues, geo-spatial data analysis and free software business models*. There were sessions which went beyond the software domain. These included *free knowledge and open access, localisation, media and activist interaction*. Social and legal issues related to FOSS were subject to elaborate discussions particularly related to the *use of IT in social domains and software patents*.

850 delegates attended. **9 states** were represented. Students of engineering colleges were the largest set of participants. The programme was appreciated by all and was prompted to be conducted every year. Hence, this second event.