

# ODISHA REVIEW

VOL. LXXII NO.9

APRIL - 2016

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The *Odisha Review* aims at disseminating knowledge and information concerning Odisha's socio-economic development, art and culture. Views, records, statistics and information published in the *Odisha Review* are not necessarily those of the Government of Odisha.

**Published by Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar - 751001 and Printed at Odisha Government Press, Cuttack - 753010.**

For subscription and trade inquiry, please contact : **Manager, Publications, Information & Public Relations Department, Loksampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar - 751001.**

**Rs.5/- Five Rupees / Copy**

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# MAKERS OF MODERN ODISHA



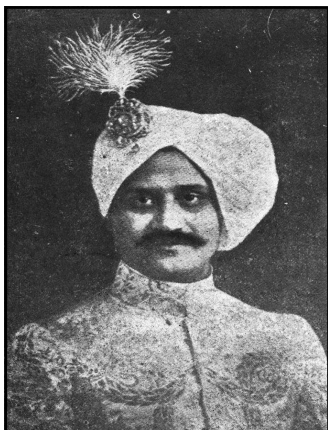
Utkala Gourav Madhusudan Das



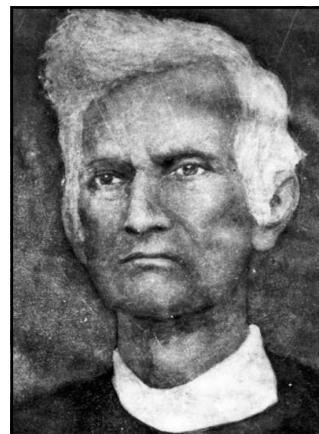
Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Das



Maharaja K.C.Gajapati Dev

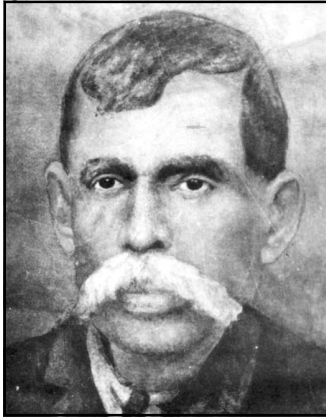


Maharaja S.C.Bhanj Deo

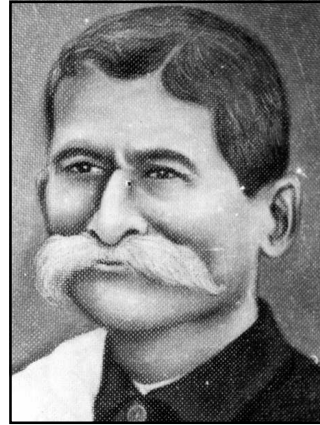


Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati

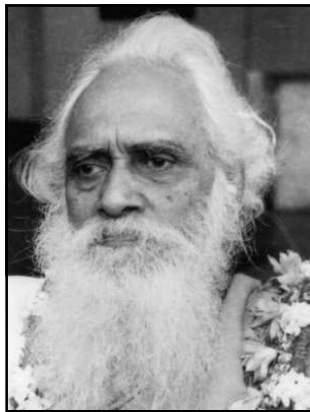
# MAKERS OF MODERN ODISHA



Kabibara Radhanath Ray



Swabhavakabi Gangadhar Meher



Pandit Neelakantha Das



Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab



Biju Patnaik

# BANDE UTKALA JANANI

Kantakabi Laxmikanta Mohapatra

BANDE UTKALA JANANI  
CHARU HASAMAYI CHARU BHASAMAYI  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ବନ୍ଦେ ଉତ୍କଳ ଜନନୀ  
ଚାରୁହାସମୟୀ ଚାରୁ ଭାଷମୟୀ,  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ।

PUTA-PAYODHI-BIDHAUTA-SHARIRA  
TALA-TAMALA-SUSOBHITA-TIRA  
SHUBHRA TATINIKULA-SHIKARA-SHAMIRA  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ପୂତ-ପୟୋଧି-ବିଧୌତ-ଶରୀରା,  
ତାଳତମାଳ-ସୁଶୋଭିତ-ତୀରା,  
ଶୁଭ୍ରତଟିନୀକୁଳ-ଶୀକର-ସମୀରା  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

GHANA BANABHUMI RAJITA ANGE  
NILA BHUDHARAMALA SAJE TARANGE  
KALA KALA MUKHARITA CHARU BIHANGE  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ଘନ ବନଭୂମି ରାଜିତ ଅଙ୍ଗେ,  
ନୀଳ ଭୂଧରମାଳା ସାଜେ ତରଙ୍ଗେ,  
କଳ କଳ ମୁଖରିତ ଚାରୁ ବିହଙ୍ଗେ  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

SUNDARASHALI-SUSOBHITA-KSHETRA  
GYANA BIGYANA-PRADARSHITA-NETRA  
JOGI RUSHIGANA - UTAJA-PAVITRA  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ସୁନ୍ଦରଶାଳି-ସୁଶୋଭିତ-କ୍ଷେତ୍ରା,  
ଜ୍ଞାନବିଜ୍ଞାନ-ପ୍ରଦର୍ଶିତ-ନେତ୍ରା,  
ଯୋଗୀରଶିଗଣ-ଉତ୍କଳ-ପବିତ୍ରା  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

SUNDARA MANDIRAMANDITA-DESHA  
CHARU KALABALI-SHOBHITA-BESHA  
PUNYA TIRTHACHAYA-PURNA PRADESHA  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ସୁନ୍ଦର ମନ୍ଦିର ମଣ୍ଡିତ-ଦେଶା,  
ଚାରୁକଳାବଳି-ଶୋଭିତ-ବେଶା,  
ପୁଣ୍ୟ ତୀର୍ଥଚୟା-ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ-ପ୍ରଦେଶା  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

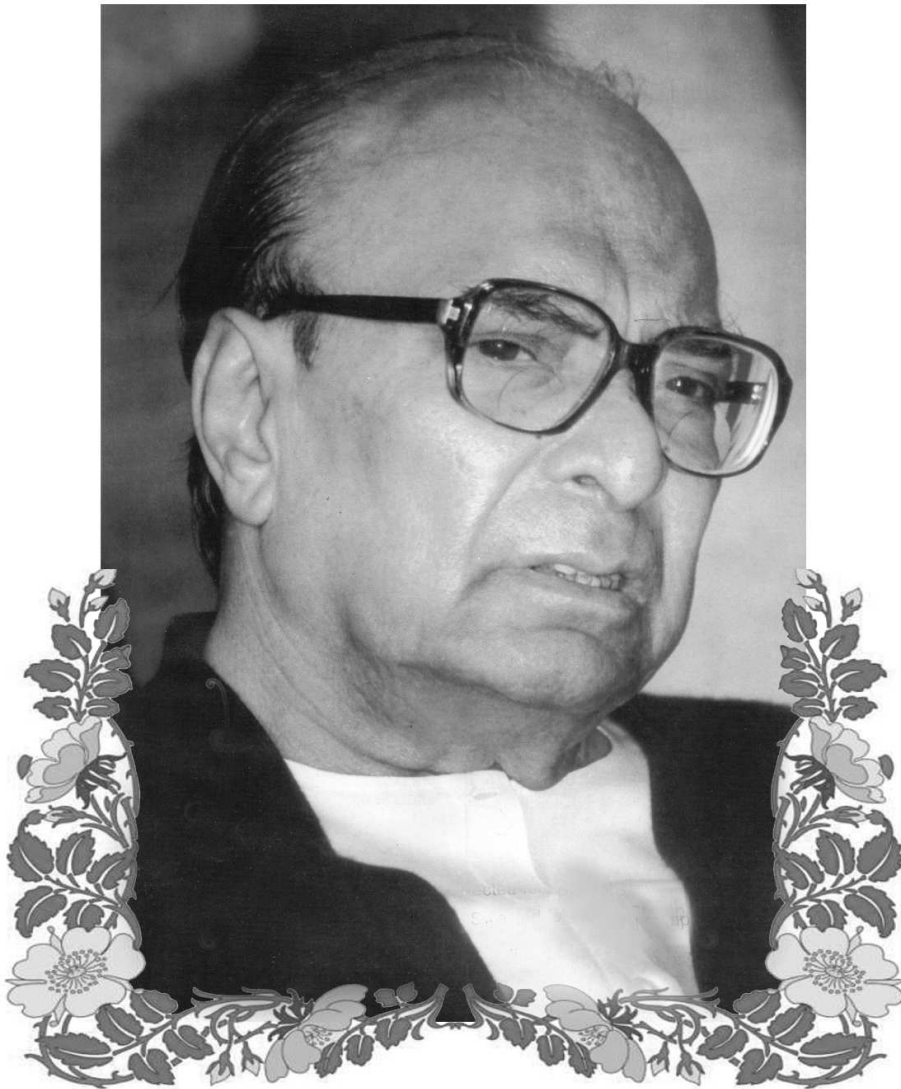
UTKALA SURABARA-DARPITA-GEHA  
ARIKULA-SHONITA-CHARCHITA-DEHA  
VISWA BHUMANDALA-KRUTAVAR-SNEHA  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

ଉତ୍କଳ ସୁରବର-ଦର୍ପିତ-ଗେହା,  
ଅରିକୁଳ-ଶୋଣିତ-ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚିତ-ଦେହା,  
ବିଶ୍ୱଭୂମଣ୍ଡଳ-କୃତବର-ସ୍ନେହା  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

KABIKULAMAULI SUNANDANA-BANDYA  
BHUBANA BIGHOSHITA-KIRTI ANINDYA  
DHANYE, PUNYE, CHIRA SHARANYE  
JANANI, JANANI, JANANI !

କବିକୁଳମୌଳି ସୁନନ୍ଦନ-ବନ୍ଦ୍ୟା,  
ଭୂବନବିଘୋଷିତ-କୀର୍ତ୍ତିଅନିନ୍ଦ୍ୟା,  
ଧନ୍ୟେ, ପୁଣ୍ୟେ, ଚିରଶରଣ୍ୟେ  
ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ, ଜନନୀ ॥

***Our Sincere Obeisance....***



***Legendary leader and visionary Biju Patnaik***  
***(5th March 1916 - 17th April 1997)***



*Message of*

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

**Shri Narendra Modi**

On the occasion of Odisha Day - 2016



It is a matter of great pleasure that the state of Odisha is celebrating "Odisha Day" on 1st April, 2016. This land is known for its history, mythology and spiritual strength. A lot which India is proud of, has roots in Odisha. In its journey of 80 years, after coming into existence on 1st April 1936, the state has seen all-round development and progress. Particularly in the recent years, it has taken lead in various sectors. Thus, Odisha today is a rare combination of tradition and modernity.

I wish the people of Odisha a great future with all-round happiness, peace and prosperity.

New Delhi

29 March, 2016



(Narendra Modi)



*Message of*  
Hon'ble Governor of Odisha  
**Dr. S. C. Jamir**

**On the Occasion of Odisha Day - 2016**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On the 80<sup>th</sup> year of formation of Odisha as a separate State, Let me convey my warm greetings to all of you on the occasion of Odisha Day 2016. On this historic day, the long awaited dream for a separate Odisha province came true. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1936, a separate 'Odisha' came into existence because of the relentless struggle and selfless sacrifices rendered by the eminent sons and daughters of our soil. Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deb, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanjdeo, Byasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, Swabhabkabi Gangadhar Meher, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das and several other notable personalities of Odisha incessantly fought for this historic achievement.

A separate statehood for Odisha was not sudden, but the culmination of years of dedicated efforts of our freedom fighters, social reformers, litterateurs and visionaries. On this memorable day, Let us pay our humble tributes to the great daughters and sons of this soil and fondly remember their invaluable contribution in giving us this unique identity of being the first State formed on linguistic basis in the whole of India. The ceaseless efforts of Utkal Sammilani in uniting the Odia speaking tracts and in glorifying the 2500 year old ancient language will forever be cherished by us.

The present geographical name 'Odisha' has its origins in the ancient historic kingdoms of Kalinga, Utkal, South Koshala and Odra which were big and powerful territorial



units during those times. The sublime integration of our exotic and heroic past with our present endeavours of development and empowerment imperatives distinctly differentiates us from the others.

Odisha possesses magnificent heritage and an exquisite cultural tradition that speak of our maritime activities with far-off countries, our spiritual and ethical journey through the times, and an unparalleled heritage synthesizing harmony and stimulating creativity. Our enchanting fairs, festivals and celebrations, our folk and tribal traditions, our classical Odissi dance and music, intricate appliqué works, our filigree handicrafts, ornate handiworks, paintings and *patta chitras*, skillfully designed exquisite textile and handloom fabrics all speak volumes about the unique, and unparalleled land, that is Odisha.

Odisha at eighty is celebrating the birth centenary year of the legendary leader Biju Patnaik, the architect of modern Odisha in a befitting way from 5<sup>th</sup> March, the birth day of this great Nationalist Leader and Statesman. A year long eventful celebrations are scheduled at the State, National and International level to commemorate this great occasion. A logo for the centenary celebrations, a commemorative coin, special postage stamp and a special calendar have been released to mark Biju Babu's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. On 5<sup>th</sup> of March the celebrations began with dedicating hundreds of projects to the people of Odisha that will empower them in the areas of post-harvest processing, access to safe drinking water, land rights and disaster resilience. Development of the State and empowering its people were befitting tributes to this great visionary. Contributions of Biju Patnaik in the field of science & technology and its promotion in the international sphere are unparalleled. Biju Babu was an epitome of dedication, selfless service and sacrifice. He was a pioneer in matters of devolution of power to the grass root level.

Improving agriculture, irrigation, vital connectivity, electricity, drinking water, health services and quality education to the people of Odisha and empowering them in all their attempts at betterment of human living conditions have all along been in the priority of the State's agenda. The State Government has therefore taken up pioneering steps in this direction for holistic cross-sectoral growth of Odisha. The State is fast making a transition from a historic high to an economic high.

Our globe is now totally technology driven. Odisha has fully perceived the imperatives of assimilating such technology platforms that positively impact our living conditions and is

eager to use technology in addressing social and economic issues, in each and every aspect of our life. Odisha has thus become a very important information technology, education and business hub in the recent times.

It has also become a leading State of new opportunities in attracting investment and in the ease of doing business. Along with the robust New Industrial Policy Resolution brought out during 2015, the State Government has unveiled the new Odisha Industrial Development Plan-2025 to attract investment to the tune of Rs.2.25 Lakh Crore and to generate 10 Lakh job opportunities by the year 2025. The Industrial reforms in Odisha such as launching of mobile apps, online monitoring system and Land bank have been lauded across the globe. In the recently concluded Make in India campaign in Mumbai, Odisha has been able to attract investment of more than rupees seventy thousand crores, a significant portion of this being in the non-mineral sector.

More than 1.60 lakh micro, small and medium enterprises have been established in Odisha with an investment of more than Rs.7900 Crore which have been instrumental in providing employment opportunities to more than 8.5 Lakh youths. The State has already facilitated establishment of 32,938 units with parallel employment opportunities for more than a lakh youths.

Odisha had a record food grain production of 120 lakh MTs and for attaining a high agricultural productivity, the State has been awarded with the prestigious Krishi Karman Award four times during the last five years. The State has leveraged the power of information technology to streamline paddy procurement and direct transfer of funds to the farmers' accounts. The Capital city of Bhubaneswar has been adjudged as the number one smart city of the country. The State Government is making consistent efforts to convert all the Kutcha houses of the rural poor into Pucca dwelling houses by 2019.

In the absence of Central Sector Schemes implemented earlier, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana has been extended to all the thirty districts of the State with an enhanced allocation of rupees one thousand crores to address the rural infrastructure needs such as Sadak, Bijli and Pani in the villages across all the districts of Odisha. Odisha has undertaken major initiatives for upholding the dignity of women, bringing parity in their status and equality both in the households as well as in the official spheres and empowering them politically. The

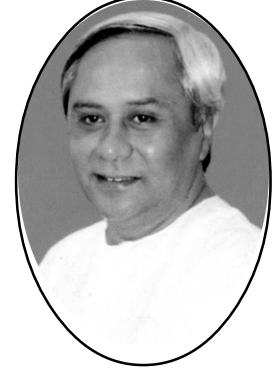
State Government has also taken up a number of pro-active measures for all-round development of the ST, SC, Minorities and Backward Class communities.

The State Government has succeeded in increasing the forest cover in Odisha. This has been possible only by the active participation of people living in the forests who have been well supported for their livelihoods through initiatives like “Ama Jungle Yojana”.

The State Government is committed to protect and promote the unique cultural legacy of Odisha and to promote Odia language, literature and culture. The State Government has also taken a host of measures for the promotion of Odia language and literature including establishment of a Virtual Odia University. Odisha at eighty is high on the path of steady progress, development and empowerment of its people. The State has an ambitious vision of an all round prosperity and inclusive growth of Odisha on attaining 100 years at 2036, and for this Odisha is partnering experts, exponents and visionaries for preparing the Vision 2036 planned growth agenda.

Let us today, on this auspicious occasion, take a pledge to uphold the dignity of our motherland, pay respect to our mother tongue and rededicate ourselves for the service of our fellowmen, our motherland and enrich its culture and heritage by our selfless deeds.

***Bande Utkal Janani***



*Message of*  
**Shri Naveen Patnaik**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha  
On the Occasion of Celebration of  
80<sup>th</sup> Odisha Day

On the auspicious occasion of Odisha Day, I convey my best wishes to all of you.

Formation of separate Odisha province is a significant event of Indian history. This paved the way for formation of linguistic States in the country. The people of Odisha will ever remember the contributions made by Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Parala Maharaja Krushnachandra Gajapati Narayan Dev, Gangadhar Meher and Fakir Mohan Senapati in formation of a separate State of Odisha. On this occasion, I pay my sincere obeisance to the illustrious sons who brought glory to our motherland.

From different perspectives, it has been a happening and eventful year for Odisha. Recently, the Navakalevar of Lord Sri Jagannath, the pride of Odia race, has been celebrated with majesty and grandeur. I pray for the blessings of Lord Sri Jagannath for all-round development of my State and its people.

This year, we are celebrating the completion of 80 years of the formation of separate Odisha province. The people of Odisha, as a whole, have been successful in many ways during the last 80 years from 1936 to 2016 despite having confronted many harsh situations during this phase. Our country became independent from the clutches of Britishers in 1947. Subsequently, all the princely states merged with India. In this move, Odisha took the lead. The country marched ahead with new system of governance, new Constitution, new schemes and policies. Odisha has also successfully embarked on the path of progress.

Today, Odia language has been accorded the status of classical language. Odia writers through their writings have enriched the Indian literature. Our sports persons have brought laurels for the country. Odias with their extra-ordinary talents are performing to the best of their abilities and making the nation proud. Our dance, music and folk art have earned wide acclaim for us within the country and abroad as well.

In the current year, we are also celebrating the birth centenary of legendary leader Biju Patnaik. His struggle for the supremacy of the Odia people, Odia pride and dignity is a great source of inspiration for all of us.

In agricultural sector, the hard labour rendered by our farming community has made us proud and Odisha has got the Krishi Karman Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> time during the last 5 years. There has been a substantial growth in investment in industrialization. This has facilitated in creating new opportunities for employment. Infrastructural development has brought us fresh opportunities as well. Natural disasters have always been a part and parcel of Odisha. Our expertise in the field of combating natural calamities has been acknowledged internationally. The State Government's social welfare initiatives have now become model for others. The rate of poverty in our State has reduced substantially. The literacy rate has gone up. The Odia race which had at one point of time won over the territories between the Ganges and the Godavari is, today, marching ahead with full of self-confidence. We will celebrate hundred years' of formation of separate Utkal province in 2036. With an objective of placing Odisha at the forefront of all developmental activities, we are preparing a Vision Document Odisha @ 100 from this year. A completely developed and empowered Odisha by 2036 would be the greatest tribute towards the illustrious sons and daughters of Odisha. Let us, join hands by imbining the spirit of empowering Odisha and strive hard to take it to new heights of glory and development.

*Vande Utkal Janani.*



*Message of*  
**Shri Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak**  
Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare  
and Information & Public Relations  
on the Occasion of Odisha Day - 2016



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On the auspicious occasion of celebration of 'Odisha Divas', I convey my best wishes to all of you.

This day of 1<sup>st</sup> April has added a glorified chapter to the history of Odisha. That chapter has reflected struggle, patriotism and extraordinary sacrifice for the soil and its people. The movement that was carried on by our forefathers to have a compact territory on the basis of language and to establish specific Odia identity was realised and the dream of formation of a separate State became a reality on this day. Among the revered personalities were Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Dev, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo, Raja Harihar Mardaraj, Vyasakavi Fakir Mohan Senapati, Swabhab Kabi Gangadhar Meher, Kabibar Radhanath Roy, Karmabir Gourishankar, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Pandit Gadabarisha Mishra, Acharya Harihar and many others. The Statehood earned is the result of their dedication, hard work and unparalleled love for the motherland. Today when we stand as proud Odias, strengthened by their immense contribution, the life and works of all these great sons will continue to remain as the source of invaluable inspiration for every Odia. I pay my respectful homage to all these noble souls on this great occasion.

Odisha has a dignified history. Odias were brave warriors, hard working and very cultured. The geographical limit of Odisha extended from the Ganges to the Godavari and Odias were famous for art and architecture. Odia traders had excelled in maritime trade and traditions. Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha has tremendous influence over all the religious trends worldwide. The lush greenery and forest, the rivers and mountains, temples, tourism potential, abundant natural resources and vast coastlines have fascinated one and all.

Odisha's Contributions to Indian economic and socio-cultural mainstream have been greatly acknowledged. Odissi songs, dance, handlooms and filigree works have mesmerized everybody.

With the passing of about eight decades since formation of Odisha as a separate Province, we have achieved a lot in various sectors. Odia identity has grown stronger. Fame and achievements of Odias have earned applause and accolades in international quarters. Our efficient and sensible human resources have been appreciated everywhere. Odisha's cultural potential has gained global admiration and recognition. Our journey towards development remains uninterrupted. The growth rate of our State goes high gradually as compared to national average. Continuous flow of progress is being realised in the fields of Agriculture, Irrigation, Industries, Education, Information Technology, Health Services, Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Women Empowerment, Child Development, Forest and Environment, Connectivity, Commerce and Transport, Energy, Employment, Tourism & Culture and Human Resources Development etc. Administrative transparency has been given priority. People from every walk of society have benefited through a number of welfare measures and effective initiatives only due to responsive governance. Odisha marches ahead towards a new horizon of progress.

‘Odisha Divas’ brings for us an opportunity of introspection. The very purpose of this celebration is to renew our commitment for extending all possible co-operation to build an enriched future with inclusive growth.

I appeal to all of you to reaffirm our pledge with sincere endeavours to build Odisha as a developed and prosperous State.

*Vande Utkal Janani.*

## Octave on Lord Jagannath

*Shree Shankaracharya  
Trans.: Ramakanta Rout*

Scarcely ever Thy music echoed  
   in the forest of Kalandi bank  
 Thou art the bee, who sucks honey from  
   the lotus-faced milkmaids  
 Rama, Sambhu, Brahma, Ganesh and  
   Kama worship Thy feet  
 Oh Lord Jagannath !  
   please enshrine in my vision.



Thou hold flute in hands, peacock  
   feathers adore Thy head  
 Thy waist wrapped in yellow clothes and  
   Thy eyes lash tricks of love  
 Thou ever stay at Brindaban and  
   manifest the eternal Lila  
 Oh Jagannath ! the Lord of Lords,  
   enshrine Thyself in my vision.

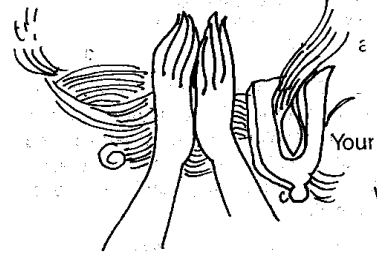
Thou dwell in Thy palace, the Blue Mountain  
   in the unrest ocean with  
 Lord Balabhadra, the mighty and  
   Subhadra in the midst  
 All dieties are engaged in  
   Thy service all along  
 Oh Jagannath ! the great,  
   please enshrine in my vision.



Thou art the Ocean of mercy  
   moistured clouds fricker  
 The sweet sound Ram uttered  
   by Lotus-faced Rama  
 Thou art worshipped by Surendra,  
   hymns recite Thy glories  
 Oh Jagannath ! Lord of my life,  
   enshrine in my vision.



Thou march along riding on Thy chariot  
 in a procession of royal army  
 Thou art kind on hearing hymns of  
 prayers to the whole world  
 Thou art the ocean of mercy and dearest  
 to the Marine princess  
 Oh Jagannath ! Lord of my life  
 please enshrine into my vision.



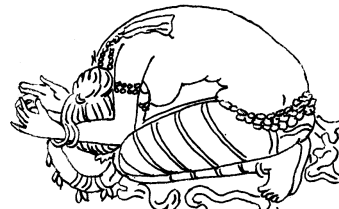
Oh dweller of the *Blue Mountain* ! the lotus-  
 eyed *Supreme Brahma* !  
 Thou set Thy feet on hoods of Anant,  
 the king of snakes  
 Oh *Rasanand* ! Thou derive immense delight and  
 ecstasy in embracing Radha  
 Oh Jagannath ! Lord of my life  
 please enshrine in my vision.

I implore thee neither for an  
 empire nor gold or emerald  
 My desires not for what others aspire,  
 the paragon of Beauty  
 I long to listen to Thy immortal tales,  
 the sacred song of Eternity  
 Oh Jagannath ! Lord of my life  
 please enshrine in my vision.



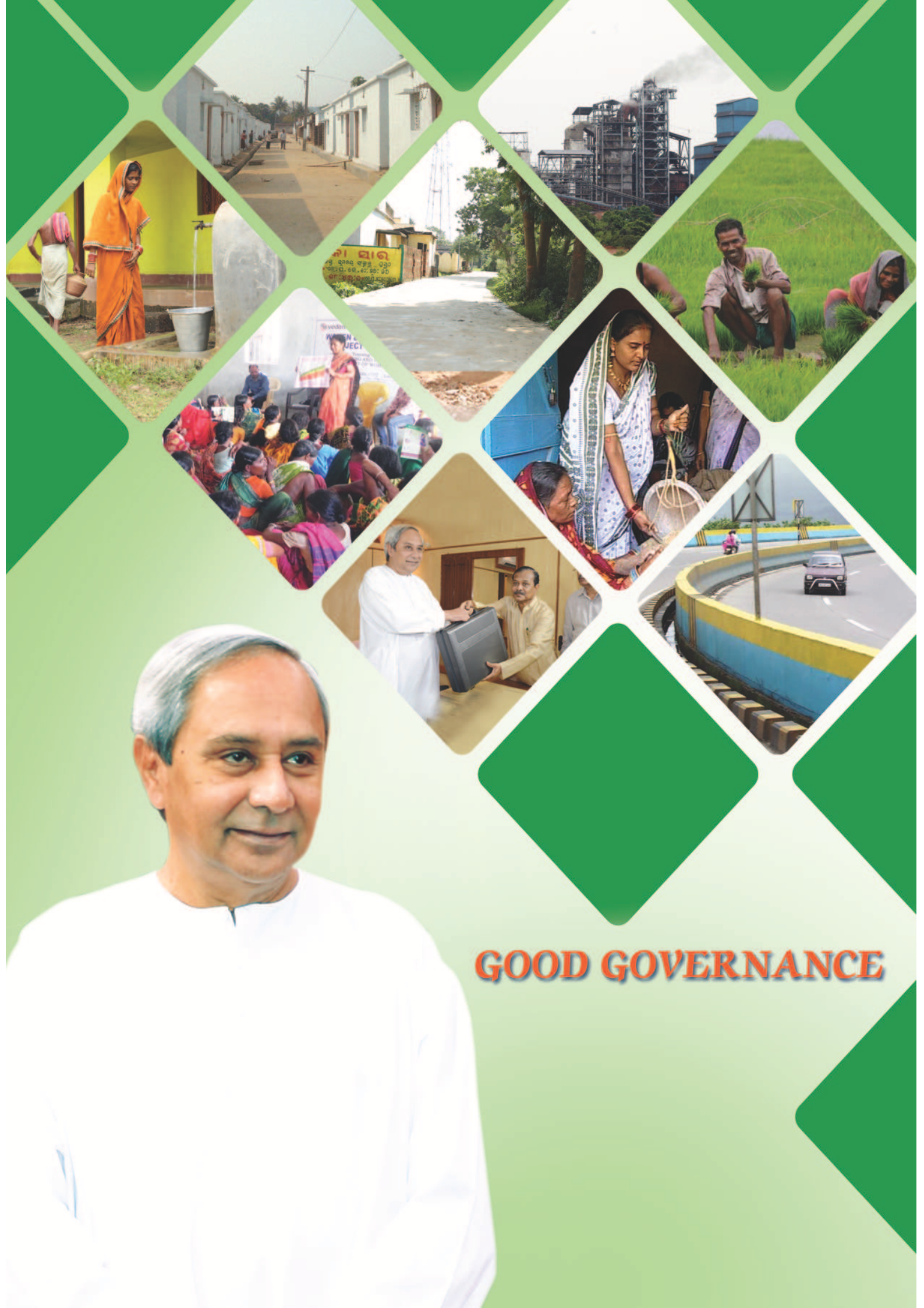
Oh God of gods ! please root out  
 instantly evils of the world  
 Oh king of *Yadavas* ! please remove  
 immense sins growing around  
 Oh protector of poors ! please press  
 Thy firm and ensured feet  
 Oh Jagannath ! Lord of my life  
 please enshrine in my vision.

He, who reads ever Thy holy hymns  
 in pure heart and soul  
 Is elevated and proceeds, removing all  
 sins to the bliss of paradise.



(Translated from the Original Sanskrit verse the *Jagannathastakam* of Shree Shankaracharya)

Ramakanta Rout lives at Shishira Sadan, Plot No. 1175/3203, Laxmi Sagar, Upar Sahi, Bhubaneswar-751006.



**GOOD GOVERNANCE**

## People's Budget 2016-17 : Transforming Dreams to Reality

*Dr. Lenin Mohanty*

**The Government of Odisha under the leadership of our popular Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik is making relentless efforts for the inclusive development of the people of the State. So much so that, it has extended the scope of ongoing State's schemes to the whole of Odisha in view of closure of important schemes by the Central Government. The Policies and Programmes undertaken by the Government make it more and more popular and the happiness index of the people of the State also rises with the pro-people initiatives leading to the achievement of following milestones.**

- Socio-economic empowerment of more than 7 million women of the State.
- Providing opportunities to the youths through the promotion of IT driven growth.
- Promoting health care and public health through enhanced efforts.
- The State has won Krishi Karman Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in a row. In honouring the farmer's hard work, the State Government has taken a ground-breaking step of providing health insurance of Rs.1 lakh to 5 members of every farmer's family including the farmer under Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana to safeguard them from health hazards.
- Odisha Government is committed to provide affordable, accessible and equitable health care services to its people located even in far-flung areas. To achieve this objective, sincere endeavour has been made to improve infrastructural development of the health facilities across the State.
- Paving the way for financial inclusion of the population in the tribal and inaccessible areas.
- Providing inclusive educational opportunities to ST and SC children.
- Providing food security to the needy.
- Successful organization of this millennium's first Nava Kalevar festival.



- Odisha has registered positive growth in manufacturing and services sectors at a point when there is economic slowdown globally.
- Extending the scope of ongoing State's scheme to the whole of Odisha in view of closure of important schemes by the Central Government.
- Our Capital City Bhubaneswar has been selected as the number one city in the country to be developed as Smart City.
- Peaceful industrialization along with enormous industrial growth.
- Enhancing the irrigation potential of the State through mega Lift-irrigation points and deep bore-wells.
- Converting one million thatched houses of rural Odisha into Pucca houses.
- Providing vital road connectivity.
- Reduction of poverty cutting across different regions and segments of the society.
- Provision of 9 lakh Pucca houses to the rural poor under the Shelter Security Mission and have a target to convert about 2.5 million Kutcha houses to Pucca houses in the rural areas of the State by 2019.
- From super cyclone to Phailin there has been a total change in State's preparedness in handling disasters.
- Endeavour to make Odisha the most preferred investment destination not only in the country but across the globe. The Mumbai Investors' Meet has facilitated at least Rs. 70,000 crore investment to Odisha.
- Odisha has been a pioneer State in the country to bring up a dedicated MSME development policy in 2009.
- State Government has been pursuing a Policy of value addition and in the process providing opportunities for increased employment besides generating revenue for undertaking welfare programmes for the people.
- 49 MoUs have been signed with different promoter companies for establishment of Steel Plants with a production target of 77.16 MT involving an investment of over Rs. 213,969.40 crore. Already 33 Steel Plants, one Pellet Plant have commenced their partial production with an investment of over Rs. 1,30,000 crore. Besides this, total 32 iron-ore based industries are coming up through non-MoU route.
- Government of Odisha has made spectacular achievements in terms of access, equity, expansion and quality in education and has become a hub of higher education.
- The Government of Odisha has given priority for quality technical education and skill development of the youths.
- The State Government has undertaken effective measures to promote the rich cultural heritage of the State and steps have been taken to make Odisha the most preferred tourist destination and place it prominently in national and international tourist map.

**Odisha of My Dreams :**

"In my dream of the 21st century for the State, I would have young men and women who put the interest of the State before them. They will have pride in themselves, confidence in themselves. They will not be at anybody's mercy, except their own selves.

Odisha can be lifted by collective will. We are the descendants of great ancestors. Look at my beautiful hills, beautiful rivers, beautiful sea, rich forests which are gifts of God, given to our people. I would like my men and women, young people of my State, in the coming years to take all these gifts that God has given and produced the greatest machines that produce wealth for all and provide employment and productive work to all.

In my dream of Odisha no cultivator would go with his field dry. Every drop of water that percolates through our soil is recovered. In my dream of Odisha of tomorrow, I will not like to hear a whisper about oppression to women. I dream of a day when women would play equal role with men. They will exercise with men equal power and enjoy the same privilege. This should be my dream of tomorrow the 21st century. In that time no child of my State will go hungry without food or suffer from malnutrition. And all over my land, there will be no illiteracy or ignorance.

For my farmers, I would like to dream that never and never his crop shall perish for want of water. Each drop of water will be conserved and used. Natural calamity, the scourge of Odisha, would be a thing of the past. All the rivers would be tamed, all the water storages reconstructed so that parched lands get that water when needed.

I will like to see that every citizen of my State has a decent roof over his head, every family gets drinking water and all-weather protection. They must have all-weather roads and bridges, schools properly manned with able teachers and hospitals with adequate number of excellent doctors. It has to be ensured that every nook and corner of my State has proper health care, proper schooling, proper road system and communication systems like telephones, like electronics - all that the modern science has given, the average villagers must have.

In conclusion, I would like to say what Max Muller said long time back, "If I have to look over the whole world to find out the country that nature has bestowed its best, I would point to India". Together we can strive to make our State such that the whole world would say Odisha is our dreamland."

## People's Budget 2016-17 : Transforming Dreams to reality

**Participatory Budget Initiative is the beginning of the formulation of State Budget 2016-17. It is a budget consultation process wherein, the citizens of the State got the opportunity to give their views during preparation of the State budget.** The engagement of the citizens in the process of formulation of State Budget is one of the most important tenets of good governance. Through this initiative, the People of Odisha have put forth their views and suggestions for spending public money as well as for resources to finance the Budgetary Outlays. **Besides, various interest groups such as farmers, civil society representatives, representatives of the trade & industries, experts etc. participated in Pre-Budget Consultation meeting invited by the Honourable Minister of Finance. Valuable inputs and suggestions from the People of our State have formed the foundation of this year's budget.** Therefore, the State Budget 2016-17 is "**People's Budget.**" Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, the Finance Minister had presented the People's Budget of Odisha for the fiscal year 2016-17 on March 18, 2016.



The State Budget 2016-17 reaffirms government's commitment to **improve the lives of the people and welfare of the poor and vulnerable, even as the resources are under pressure.** It is also a response to the societal aspirations and a development oriented budget as outlay in Developmental Services Sector relative to Non Developmental Services Sector are budgeted to increase to 2.69 times in FY 2016-17 compared to 2.61 times in 2016-17.

**State budget 2016-17 is a Farmer Centric and inclusive Budget. The outlay for the Agriculture Budget is about 14.02% of the total outlay to usher higher growth in Agriculture and allied Sector. The Budget clearly outlines to raise the per capita farm income by raising the productivity of Agriculture Sector and to generate more non-farm employment to the existing employed pool in the farm sector.**

**The State Budget accords priority on Quality Education, Affordable Health Care Facility and Social Security are core priorities as the outlay for the social sector is proposed at Rs.33,823.10 crore.** This represents an increase of 16.10 per cent over previous year. It also reaffirms the Government Commitment for Welfare of ST, SC and Minorities as allocation is 19.59 per cent more compared to previous year.

**Ensuring Social Security and empowerment of Women, Children and Persons with Disability is envisaged in the Budget with Creation of "Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD Department)." Proposed outlay of Rs.4693.55 crore has also been earmarked.**

The Budget has acknowledged the importance of **Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Development as a mean to provide basic services at the grass root level**. The allocation has increased by 19.86% as compared to previous year.

**To trigger for Higher Economic Growth, the outlay in Infrastructure Sector has gone up by more than 20 per cent. The push to higher capital formation in Infrastructure Sector will be driven by Development of Rural Infrastructure, Development of Public Works, Development of Urban Infrastructure and Sanitation, creation of more railway infrastructure through Special Purpose Vehicle, Provision of Electricity for All and by creation of Investment friendly Economic Environment. To further ensure inclusive growth, more outlay for Promotion of Heritage, Culture and Tourism, Skill Development and Employment Generation and policies for convergence are outlined in the Budget.**

**The estimated Gross State Domestic Product of Odisha at current prices for 2016-17 is Rs.3,83,228 crore, showing a growth of 15.32% over the advance estimate of GSDP in 2015-16.** Total expenditure for 2016-17 at Rs.94,052.65 crore, is estimated to increase by 11.32% increase over FY 2015-16 (BE). Total receipts (excluding borrowings) for 2016-17 are estimated to be 10.13% higher than revised estimates for 2015-16, at Rs.78,126.72 crore. Revenue surplus for the next financial year is targeted at Rs 3,683.34 crore, or 0.96% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Fiscal deficit (excluding borrowing on account of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana) is targeted at Rs.13,336.22 crore (3.48% of GSDP). The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2005 is amended to increase the fiscal deficit ceiling to 3.5% of GSDP (earlier 3%).

**Being financed by both Revenue Surplus and higher Fiscal Deficit, the Capital Outlay as percentage of GSDP is estimated at 4.37% in FY 2016-17 as compared to 4.35% in FY 2015-16(BE).** Fiscal deficit (including borrowing on account of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is targeted at Rs.14,532.39 crore (3.79% of GSDP). Primary deficit is targeted at Rs.9,882.39 crore (2.58% of GSDP). Interest Payment to Revenue Receipt (IPRR) and Debt Stock to GSDP ratio are targeted at 5.95% and 16.96% respectively in FY 2016-17. Total Revenue Receipt and Total Expenditure to GSDP ratio are targeted at 20.39% and 24.54% % respectively in FY 2016-17. The Primary Deficit to Fiscal Deficit ratio has improved from 48.70% in FY 2014-15 to 74.10% in FY 2016-17, indicating a declining trend in interest payment from the borrowing. The State Budget 2016-17 is FRBM Compliant.

### **Unprecedented Thrust on Odia Language**

**Odia language has also got unprecedented funding thrust in 2016-17 State Budget. Special focus has been put on ways to conserve and promote the Odia language. Proposal for setting up of Odia Virtual Academy and Odia Chairs at various universities including one Adikavi Sarala Das Chair at JNU has been mooted for promoting our language. A recurring grant of Rs.44 lakh per year for next three years will be provided for the Odia Chair. The Odia Virtual Academy set up to provide easy and seamless access to the rich literary backbase of Odia language, which has now been declared a classical language. Odia Bhasha Pratisthan**

**will publish "History of Odia Language" and "Chalanti Odia Sabdakosha" in 2016-17. A budgetary allocation of Rs.1 cr. has been made for this purpose. A sum of Rs.3 cr. has been earmarked for the revival of 1200 Bhagabat Tungies. Special focus has been given to Kalamandal project, a unique one aiming at providing a platform to showcase the rich performing art traditions of the country.**

A new scheme with an outlay of Rs.70 Cr. is provided under the Odisha Craft Skill Development and Rural Employment "**Utkarsh**" project. This apart, a provision of Rs.217.82 Cr. is made for Handloom and Handicraft Development.

More focus has been given on agriculture and allied sectors with an increase of 20.89 per cent in the present budgetary provisions. As the suggestions given by the people and stakeholders have been factored in the process of budget making, Hon'ble Chief Minister has rightly termed it as Peoples Budget.

**However, in spite of all-round development, now more thrust has been put on substantial enhancement of irrigation potential of the State as agriculture is the prime means of livelihood for more than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Odisha's population. Attempts have been made to improve livelihood opportunities, generate huge opportunities for self-employment, creating public infrastructure in energy sector, connectivity, social infrastructure, health care and education. The State Government's thrust for the overall growth of our State has always been inclusive and holistic. The thrust put on the growth of Odia language in the 2016-17 Budget has been unprecedented. I would like to thank Hon'ble Chief Minister and everybody associated in the formulation of the "People's Budget" and for giving unprecedented thrust on Odia language. In the year of Birth Centenary of Legendary leader Biju Patnaik, let a spirit of voluntarism to enrich Odia language be the guiding motto for all of us.**

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Dr. Lenin Mohanty, Editor, Odisha Review, Information & Public Relations Department, Bhubaneswar.



## The Architects of Modern Odisha

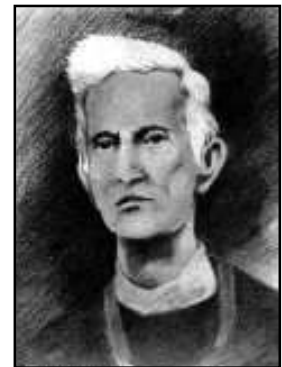
### FAKIR MOHAN SENAPATI

Fakir Mohan Senapati was born on January 14, 1843, at Mallikashpur in Balasore. His father was Laxman Charan Senapati and mother Tulsi Devi.

He played a leading role in establishing the distinct identity of Odia language and literature. He is regarded as the father of Odia nationalism and the modern Odia literature. He dedicated his life for the progress of Odia language in the later 19th and early 20th century. The story of Fakirmohan is indeed the story of the “Renaissance” of Odia literature. Besides he was a social reformer and educator who used his pen to criticize and correct the aberrations prevalent in the society. He is called the father of Odia fiction.

He is aptly called as Thomas Hardy of Odisha. The four novels of Fakir Mohan, written between 1897 and 1915, reflect the socio-cultural conditions of Odisha during the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. While the three novels, *Chhamana Atha Guntha*, *Mamun* and *Prayaschita* explore the realities of social life in its multiple dimensions, *Lachhma* is a historical romance dealing with the anarchical conditions of Odisha in the wake of Maratha invasions

during the eighteenth century. He has written quite a few memorable short stories, such as ‘*Rebati*’, ‘*Patent Medicine*’ and ‘*Randipua Ananta*’. Fakir Mohan is also the writer of the first autobiography in Odia, ‘*Atma Jeevan Charita*’.



Fakir Mohan’s first original poem ‘*Utkala Bhramanam*’ (Tours of Odisha) appeared in 1892. It is not really a travel book but rather an unusual and humorous survey of the contemporary personalities prominent in the then public life of Odisha. His other original poems published are *Puspamala* (The Garland), *Upahar* (Gift), *Puja Phula* (Flowers of Worship), *Prarthana* (Prayer) and *Dhuli* (Dust-grains). Fakir Mohan Senapati translated single-handedly the whole of the ‘*Ramayana*’ and the ‘*Mahabharat*’. For having translated both the ‘*Ramayan*’ and the ‘*Mahabharat*’ single-handed and his wide versatility in the word of letters, he is popularly known as ‘*Vyasakabi*’ in Odisha. He was also conferred the title ‘*Saraswati*’ by the king of Bamra, the then feudal state. A great lover and a creator of new era in Odia literature he was the founder of an organization called

‘Utkala Bhasa Unnati Bidhani Sabha’, which was started in 1867 to create a new awareness among the people of Odisha and to propagate Odia language. Sad demise June 14, 1918.

### UTKAL GOURAB MADHUSUDAN DAS

Madhusudan Das was born on 1848, April 28 at Satyabhamapur of Cuttack District. His father was Choudhuri Raghunath Das and Mother-Parvati Devi.

Madhusudan Das was the first Odia to fetch the degree of M.A.B.L., from Calcutta University. He was popularly known as Madhu Barrister, respectfully regarded and addressed as “Utkal Gourav”. He was deeply moved and shocked to see the discrimination, made against the Odias by administrative authority. He was convinced that the miserable plight of the Odias was only due to the apathetic and indifferent attitude of authorities towards the interest of the Odia people. The Odias could not stand united only because of their vivisection and annexation with three different provinces. So, he took a solid stand for the unification of the scattered Odias by organising and mobilising strong public opinion among the Odias and pressurised the British rulers for the unification of the scattered Odia-speaking tracts for the socio-economic and cultural growth of the Odias at large.

Madhusudan organised Utkal Union Conference to form the channel for discussion and negotiations with the authorities to solve the problems and open avenues for a new era of unification and integration and played a piloting role in engineering the plans and programmes, pioneering the aims and objectives and championing the cause of the Odia movement. “Utkal Sammilani” came into existence in the year 1903 with the extinction of “Utkal Sabha”, it spearheaded the movement of the unification of Odia-speaking units under one administration with

right earnestness, disciplined plans and programmes.



Due to the ability and inspiration of Mr. Das, people of all categories and sections conglomerated under

one political banner. It inspired people with a surging up feeling of oneness of culture, tradition and language and a rare sense of nationality. This impact thundered the sky of Odisha. It went up to such an extent that “freedom movement” and the Odia movement got inter-linked under the stable leadership of Mr. Das and Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das. Sometimes the two movements were lacking harmony on the issue of priority. This situation impelled people to join hands with Mr. Das in the forum of Odia movement, then the Congress. Utkal Sammilani or the Utkal Union Conference maintained its separate identity from the Congress.

As a legislator, Madhusudan Das acclaimed a commendable height of wide appreciation and position. It was mostly due to his sharp wit and inspiring speech of effective magnitude. He was selected as the Minister of local self-Government of Bihar-Odisha.

He was a leader of versatile performance and could arrest appreciation and love of the people and the Government during the tenure of his ministry. In spite of his popularity, he resigned in 1923 on a matter of principle. It speaks of his integrity.

His journalistic approach was reflected in his weekly paper ‘The Odia’ started in 1917. It was his intense desire to highlight the interest of Odias, criticising the Government’s policy through

this channel of weekly paper. He was very genuine and emphatic in his voice and action.

He was a national pioneer and a staunch patron of Odishan development. He breathed his last on the 4th February 1934. He was a bonafide benefactor, a nationalist in true sense, acquiring the first Master Degree and first B.L. Degree as the first Odia. He was the first Odia to be the member of Legislative Council, the first Odia to sail abroad, to visit England twice and to have the membership of Central Legislative Assembly as the first Odia and the first Indian Minister.

### GANGADHAR MEHER

Gangadhar Meher was born on August 9, 1862 on the day of Sravana Purnima at Barapalli, Sambalpur in a weaver family. He was educated up to 5th class.



Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh has high esteem for Gangadhar Meher and in his History of Odia literature he has opined "All told, Gangadhar Meher is one of the rarest personalities and poets in the whole range of Odia Literature". His poetic creation includes 'PRANAYA-BALLARI', 'KICHAKA BADHA', 'INDUMATI,' 'UTKAL LAXMI', 'AYODHYADRUSYA', 'KABITAKALLOLA', 'ARGHYA THALI', 'AHALYA STABA', 'MAHIMABHARATIBHABANA', 'KUMARA JANMOTSAV', 'BHAKTI UPAHAR', 'PADMINI', 'KABITA MALA & KRUSHAKA SANGITA'. His prose creation includes 'ATMA JEEVANI', 'SHRI NRUPARAJ SINGH', 'PURANA KABI FAKIR MOHAN', 'SWARGIYAKASHINATH PANDA', 'EHAKI

PRUTHIBIRA SABDA?', 'SIKSHIT, ASIKHSIT & SIKSHABHIMANINI'.

The popularity of his literary creation is due to narration of the beauty of the nature just like Kabibara Radhanath Ray. It is unique. Gangadhar is widely known as poet of nature, can be compared with poet Shelly, Byron and Keats. He was the messenger of Upendra Bhanja's style and ideals. His popularity is not accidental. There are many reasons behind this. Just like Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja, his poetries are replete with high ornamental words, unique composition style, using in befitting cases, simile and metaphor and appropriate words. His poetries are sonorous of rhythm of words and languages. He is rated as a great poet in Indian Literature. His poetries can be divided into lyrics, devotional, patriotic, reformative, ethical, agricultural and narration of nature. He left for his heavenly abode on April 4, 1924.

### SRIRAM CHANDRA BHANJA DEO

Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo was born on 17th December 1871 in a royal family of princely state of Mayurbhanj.

Sriram Chandra ascended the throne on 15th August 1892. He worked for the all-round development of Mayurbhanj state and implemented various benevolent measures for the welfare of the people. Pandit Utkalmani Gopabandhu became the friend, philosopher and guide of this ruler. Sriram Chandra brought about significant changes in the spheres of language, health and administration. A narrow gauge railway



was commissioned between Rupsa - Baripada during his reign. He constructed two major reservoirs at Haldiha and Haladia with an expenditure of Rs.6 lakh from royal treasury. Similarly in the educational sector he raised the number of primary schools from 44 to 400 in his royal jurisdiction.

Although he was the king of Mayurbhanj, he had great love for the entire Odisha. Under the able leadership of Madhusudan he gave momentum to the cause of making Odisha a separate Province. In 1903 Sriram Chandra presided over the 1st session of Utkal Sammilani. Afterwards owing to the concerted efforts of this Sammilani the dream of Odisha for becoming a separate State came to reality on 1st April 1936. This illustrious son of Odisha passed away on 22nd February 1912.

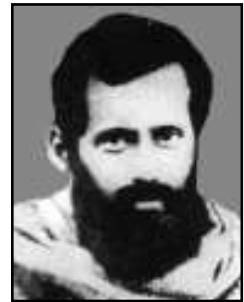
### **UTKALAMANI PANDIT GOPABANDHU DAS**

Gopabandhu Das was born on 9th October 1877.

The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has aptly written, "The second half of the 19th century gave birth to outstanding men and women in various parts of the country. The brilliance, social reforms, education, law and literature are astonishing. Shri Gopabandhu Das was one such nation builder".

The age long hopes, yearning and prayers of the people of Odisha were fulfilled with the advent of Utkalamani Gopabandhu. He was the builder of modern Odisha and was the source of inspiration and ideals for her people. He dedicated himself completely for the country to that extent that he had to lose his only son in his bid to redress the suffering of others. He wanted a society - free

from poverty and ignorance where man could live with self- respect and would be able to develop his own consciousness. He vowed and worked throughout his life to achieve the objective.



Recognising the noble standings of Gopabandhu, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on 28.6.1924, the veteran scientist and patriot of Bengal assigned the title of Utkalamani, (Jewel of Utkal) to his name. In 1909 he had started Satyavadi (M.E. National) school with Pandit Nilakantha Das and others in which Pandit Godavarish and Acharya Harihar also joined little later. The school soon became popular, for its qualitative and character building values. Along with Madhusudan Das he continued his struggle to arouse the people of Odisha to press their demands for the separate Odisha province through Utkal Union Conference. He gave it a new image by his practical works to keep up the cultural, literary and linguistic affinity and independent identity of Odias then living in Bihar, Bengal and other Provinces. At Bahadaguda of Dhalbhum he also started an Odia M.E. School. Then in order to spread the Odia language and literature he started weekly 'Samaja' on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1919.

His immortal words still inspire the younger generation.

"Let my body mingle with the dust of this Land,  
And let my countrymen walk along my back.  
Let all the holes in the road of freedom be filled  
with my blood and bone,  
And let my life be sacrificed when my people  
awake into freedom."

He was a poet par excellence. The idea of nationalism and love for Lord Jagannath and

Puri has been emotionally described in his poem.

“ The Indian-lotus blooms in the world- pond  
And the Holy Nilachal is like pollens in one lotus,  
And whenever I am in India I am always in my room,  
In my eyes the Indian stone is a holy stone,  
And every place is as beloved as my Puri,  
And all water is as holy as the water of fine holy rivers,  
And every holy place is my Nilachal”.

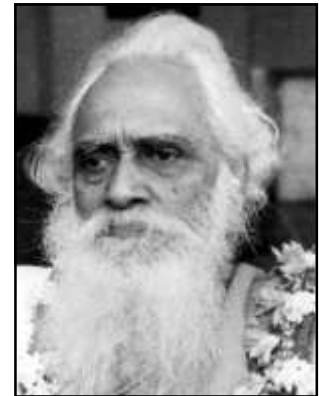
*Bandira Atmakatha* and *Abakasha Chinta* are his unique creations. He was versatile, genius, a freedom fighter, maker of modern Odisha, saviour of Odia language, a social worker, and ideal teacher, philanthropist, journalist, poet, philosopher and a preacher of Jagannath cult. Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das passed away on 17th June 1928.

### PANDIT NILAKANTHA DAS

In the early part of the twentieth century, those highly qualified youths who wanted to bring renaissance in the field of education and culture on Odishan soil, Pandit Nilakantha Das is one of them. The others were Pandit Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Acharya Harihar Das, Pandit Godabarisha Mishra and Pandit Krupasindhu Mishra. These five comrades are popularly known as “PANCHAKSA OF SATYABADI ERA”. At the prime of their youth these five comrades had taken a vow not to enter into Government Service and serve the country and ensure its prosperity.

This illustrious son of Odisha was born on 5th August, 1884 in the family of Ananda Das at Sri Ramachandrapur village in the district of Puri. He had his early education at the village school. In 1899 he was admitted to Puri Zilla School. In 1909 he passed his B.A. and had been to Calcutta to continue his M.A. and B.L. studies. In 1911 after returning from Calcutta Pandit Nilakantha joined as a teacher in

Satyabadi School. He then continued as a Headmaster of the school for a large period. Later he joined as a Professor in Odia and Philosophy but relinquished his service in order to join non-co-



operation movement. He was elected as a working member of Utkala Pradesh Congress Committee and also a member to All India Congress Committee. He edited a newspaper titled ‘Seba’ from Sambalpur. After staying nine months at Sambalpur he returned to Sri Ramachandrapur. He was arrested in 1922 for anti-British activities and put to Hajaribag Jail for six months. In consultation with Pandit Gopabandhu Das he decided to contest for General Assembly. In 1923 he was elected as a member of Central Assembly. He participated in Simla Conference in 1926. In 1928, after the death of Pandit Gopabandhu he took up the leadership of Congress in Odisha. As per Lahore Congress decision he resigned from Central Assembly and joined ‘Salt-Satyagraha’ movement and was imprisoned for 6 months. He started untouchable movement and served for the depressed class. For the second time he was also elected as a member to Central Assembly. In 1933 he edited a monthly Odia Journal titled ‘Naba Bharat’. In 1934 after the death of Madhusudan the entire burden fell on his head and the first phase of Mahatma Gandhi’s tour to Odisha was arranged by him.

In 1936, Odisha became a separate province, Pandit Nilakantha joined as the President, P.C.C. For his able leadership, out of 60 seats, the congress got 36 seats.

Under his chairmanship for the spread of higher education in Odisha, he decided to establish an university for which a committee was constituted and later on as per recommendation of the committee, Utkal University was established. In 1951 he was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly from 'Swadhin Jana Sangha' a new party. In 1955 as per request of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru he joined Congress. In the said year he was appointed as Pro-Chancellor of Utkal University. He was re-elected in 1957. He remained as Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly from 1957 May to 1961 July.

Death laid its icy finger on him on 6th November 1967. With his death, Odisha lost a patriot, freedom fighter, able legislator, reformer and a poet and one of the architects of modern Odisha.

### **MAHARAJA SHRI KRUSHNA CHANDRA GAJAPATI NARAYAN DEO**

Maharaja Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deo of Paralakhemundi, the son of Late Goura Chandra Gajapati Narayan Deo was born on 26th April 1892, educated in Madras, assumed rulership in 1913, an enlightened and benevolent ruler; a patron of education and culture, organised the annual session of the Utkal Union Conference at Paralakhemundi in 1914. In 1916, he was nominated by the Government to hold the post of Honorary Commissioner of the Land-Force of the Defence of India, laid a light railway through his Estate connecting Naupada with



Paralakhemundi; set up a big library in his palace for research scholars, an important member of the justice party of Madras, member of the Royal Agricultural Commission in 1927, member of the Madras Legislative Council, represented the case of Odisha at the Round Table Conference, London, 1930-31, deposed before the joint Parliamentary Committee for the union of Paralakhemundi with Odisha in 1934, placed the printed Memorandum before the authorities and strongly advocated for inclusion of the Odia portions of Paralakhemundi in Odisha and Odisha for a separate province; formed the non-Congress Ministry in Odisha in 1937, the Government conferred on him the title of Maharaja in 1936 in recognition of his honour and merit. In 1941 November the Maharaja was invited to form the Ministry and assumed the Chief Ministership. Member of the Constituent Assembly of India 1947-50, life member of the Royal Society of Arts and Royal Asiatic Society, London; Life Member of Utkal University, Utkal University conferred on him the degree of LL. D. This worthy illustrious son of Odisha passed away on 25th May 1974.

### **DR. HAREKRUSHNA MAHTAB**

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was the son of Krushna Charan Das and Tohapha Debi. He was born on 21st November 1899 at Agarpada in undivided Balasore district. After matriculation from Bhadrak High School, he joined Ravenshaw College, Cuttack for his higher studies, which were left incomplete as he was irresistibly drawn to the National Liberation Movement in 1921. Thereafter his life was a saga of struggle and dedication to the cause of country's freedom. He started weekly Prajatantra in 1923 at Balasore. First imprisonment on charge of sedition in the year 1922. He was the member of Bihar and Odisha Council in 1924. He joined Salt Movement and imprisoned in 1930. He



participated in Harijan Movement in 1934 and opened his ancestral temple to Harijans for the first time in Odisha. He was the President of State People's Enquiry Committee in 1938 and recommended cancellation of Sananda of Rulers and merger of Ex-State with Odisha Province. He participated in Non-Co-operation Movement and courted imprisonment in 1941 and "Quit India Movement" in 1942. Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was the Chief Minister of Odisha from 1946 to 1950, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry from 1950–52, Secretary General, Congress Party in Parliament 1952, Governor of Bombay from 1955-56, resigned from Governorship in 1956 and again became the Chief Minister of Odisha from 1956 to 1960. Dr. Mahtab has been rightly recognised as the architect of modern Odisha for his pivotal role in the merger and integration of former princely States, founding the State's Capital at Bhubaneswar and the sanction and construction of the multi-purpose Hirakud Dam Project.

He was elected to Lok Sabha in 1962. He was also elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1967, 1971 and 1974.

He was the founder of the Prajatantra Prachar Samiti which till today publishes Daily 'Prajatantra' and 'Jhankar' a monthly journal. He was Chief Editor of the publications since inception. He was the President of Odisha Sahitya Academy and Sangit Natak Academy for a couple of terms. He was also permanent member of the Utkal University Senate. He was a distinguished historian and writer in English and Odia. He was conferred Honorary Degree of Doctor by Andhra University, Degree of Doctor

of Literature by Utkal University and Doctor of Laws by Sagar University.

True to his multifaceted personality, Dr. Mahtab earned distinction as an accomplished writer "History of Odisha", "Beginning of the End". Apart from this, he had authored several novels, plays and poems which are acclaimed for their literary value. The compilation of his popular column "Gaon Mazlis" published in Daily Prajatantra received the Central Sahitya Academy Award in 1983.

Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was a political leader par excellence. He towered over the time and events to lead the people of the State through years of transition during independence and thereafter. This illustrious son of this soil passed away on 2nd January, 1987.

### **RAJA BAHADUR RAMACHANDRA MARDARAJ DEO**

The significant contribution of many a great leaders during 1920s and 30s resulted in the formation of a separate Odisha Province. Raja Bahadur Ramachandra Mardaraj Deo of Khallikote was one of them. He was born to Raja Harihar Mardaraj and Rani Kanak Manjari Devi on 13th January 1900. In the days to come, he was destined to shape the future of Odisha.



As a child, he was nicknamed Eric. He was brought up under the guidance of Governess Mrs. F. Harvey Dunn. He lost his father Raja Harihar Mardaraj Deo on 20th July 1909. Then he was sent to Madras for schooling at Newington. He studied at Christian College upto

the age of his eligibility to take charge of his own estate. He came to the throne of Khallikote on 14th January 1921.

As first step in his pioneering efforts towards the formation of Odisha Province, he impressed upon the Philip-Duff Committee set up in 1924 in favour of this cause. Mr. C.L. Philip and Mr. A.C. Duff came to Rambha, stayed in the palace of Raja Sahib as his guests from 17th to 21st December 1924. A well attended public meeting was organised at Khallikotegarh and the impressed Committee gave a report in favour of the amalgamation.

However, the O'donnel Commission which was constituted later on gave a very discouraging report. But, Ramachandra Mardaraj debated against it in Madras Legislative Council. Inaugurating a special meeting of Utkal Union Conference on 21st August 1932, he emphasised on the merger of Odia tracts as per Philip-Duff Committee recommendations.

Raja Sahib attended the 3rd Round Table Conference in London where he forcefully made arguments for the cause. To augment his approach, he hosted the famous 'Odisha Banquet' on 12th January 1933 and there he impressed upon Sri Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India and finally managed to get the approval of Sir Samuel in favour of a separate Odisha Province.

As per the deliberations of 3rd Round Table Conference, a Joint Parliamentary Committee was constituted to look into this matter. Finally, the Government of India Act, 1935 was adopted and the clause 289 of this Act provided for the formation of a Separate Odisha Province.

Raja Ramachandra Mardaraj Deo was a dynamic leader with full creative energy. His

wide administrative and political experience and competence was a source of strength and inspiration for people who worked with him. He dedicated his life completely for the people of Odisha and worked for their welfare. The great Raja Sahib breathed his last on 23rd January 1963.

### **BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK**

Bijayananda Patnaik popularly known as Biju Patnaik—Born on 5th March, 1916—Son of Late Laxminarayan Patnaik—Education : B. Sc. standard; Married : Shrimati Gyan Patnaik, two sons and one daughter ; Prior occupation : Business; Hobbies : Aeronautics and Industry; Travel Abroad : U. K., U. S. A., U. S. S. R., Paris, Indonesia and several other countries; Political activities. Since boyhood fond of adventurous life; During student life set out on cycle from Cuttack to Peshawar; joined Indian National Airways and became its ace pilot, During “Quit India” Movement collaborated with underground leaders; Imprisoned for thirty months; At the risk of his life he brought the Indonesian Premier Mr. Sultan Sjahrir to New Delhi by plane at the time of Indonesian Freedom Struggle. First Indian plane was landed by him in Kashmir in 1947, when Pakistan attacked India; on returning to Odisha took interest in Industries and established many; President, U.P.C.C. for one term; Member, A.I.C.C., In 1961 Mid-term election under his leadership brought unprecedented absolute majority for Congress Party; Became Chief Minister 1961–63 and resigned under “Kamraj” Plan; Kalinga Airways is one of his creations.





Donor of 1,000 pound prize to UNESCO as Science Award; Elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1952, 1957, 1961 from Jagannathprasad, Surada (Ganjam) and Choudwar (Cuttack) respectively; again elected in 1971 and 1974 from Rajnagar (Cuttack); Chairman, Planning Board, Government of Odisha from 1971 to 1972 June. Took active part and rendered valuable service to the people of Rajnagar area in particular who suffered from the havoc caused by the cyclone in October, 1971. Elected to Parliament in 1977 and Cabinet Minister of the Central Ministry 1977 to 1979. Elected to Lok Sabha from Kendrapara Constituency in 1980. Again Shri Patnaik was elected to Lok Sabha from Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency in 1984 Lok Sabha election. He was also elected from Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency to Odisha Legislative Assembly in 1985 General Election. He resigned from Kendrapara Parliamentary Constituency and

became the Opposition Leader in Odisha Legislative Assembly. Again he was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly in 10th Odisha Legislative Assembly Election from Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency. In 1990 under his dynamic leadership the Janata Dal secured more than three fourth majority of the Odisha Legislative Assembly which is quite unprecedented. He was unanimously elected as the Leader of the Janata Dal in Odisha Legislative Assembly and on his birth day he was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Odisha on 5th March, 1990. Again he was elected from Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency in March, 1995 and became Leader of Opposition. Later he contested for Lok Sabha Election held in June, 1996 from Aska and Cuttack Constituency. He was elected from both the Constituencies. He resigned from O. L. A. and joined as Parliament Member from Aska Lok Sabha Constituency. This veteran leader passed away on 17th April, 1997.

## Biju : A Dynamic Personality

*Sarat Kumar Kar*

Biju Patnaik, though a house-hold name in Odisha yet there was a time, when he was rather lesser known to Odisha and Odias but better known to the British Indian Rulers. As a dare-devil ace pilot of the British empire, he was being trusted the most from among the natives. Paradoxically, he was equally trusted and better known to the under-ground freedom-fighters like Netaji Subhash, Jayaprakash, Lohia and Aruna as their most daring patron of under-ground activities.

At last the cat was out of the bag when his art of camouflaging was detected and he was detained along with the top freedom fighters. Not as a political prisoner but as a most dangerous traitor of the British Empire, he was chained hand and foot like an Andaman (Kala Pani) detainee. He was forced to drink urine when he asked for water in jail. One can't imagine such misery and plight of a person who was enjoying his life with choicest drink, dance, mirth and laughter as one of the ace pilots of the British empire.

The decision of British to free India, at last, ended his jail life which otherwise would have ended his life like that of any other national martyr.

He came back to Odisha on the advice of national leaders specially of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to strengthen the Indian National Congress

in Odisha. He helped the then Odisha Congress leaders like Shri Biswanath Das, Dr. H. K. Mahtab and Nabakrushna Choudhury in building the state of Odisha. In every important steps of Odisha Government, he had a major role to play, including establishment of the first industry in Odisha like O.T.M. Even great projects like the Hirakud Dam and Rourkela Steel Plant were granted to Odisha by Mr. Nehru due to his persuasive initiative and drive.

During the dawn of freedom he was entrusted with many epoch-making secret parlours and consultations by the then Prime Minister Mr. Nehru including Azad Kashmir aggression and the Nepal insurgency by the democrats. He was entrusted with the most adventurous task of rescuing a few important national leaders of Indonesia from the clutches of the Dutch and bring them to New Delhi for participation in an international conference. This won him the most prestigious title of honour "BHUMI PUTRA" of Indonesia.

During the Indo-Chinese war, though he was the Chief Minister of Odisha, he virtually acted as the adviser of Prime Minister Nehru in response to his invitations, in all important matters relating to defence. He was sent to the U.S.A. as the Prime Minister's special envoy to discuss with

the American military authority regarding the situation arising after the Sino-Indian war. Thus he was enjoying the utmost confidence of the first Prime Minister of India, in matters of administrative, diplomatic and defence strategies though he was not a member of his cabinet. He was elected as the most popular leader of Odisha, and as its Chief Minister was entrusted with the task of building a new Odisha. In addition to that he was helping and advising the most powerful Prime Minister as and when needed by him. This evoked the jealousy of many national and state leaders and politicians. He was the victim of a series of political anger from many quarters. But nevertheless his strength, stamina and will power as a Statesman helped him to withstand everything and created fear and respect for him among many leaders.

He was tall and physically well built as a sportsman and since his young days was bestowed by nature with a strong will power and sportsman's spirit. This in politics made him taller than any compelling counterparts and adversaries in dealing with the issues and affairs of the State and Nation. But he is the tallest among Indian politicians probably with three exceptions (i.e. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Netaji Subhash). The combination of Mr. M.K Gandhi, Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, can be termed as a three-in-one combination.

He liked Mahatma Gandhi, who was a humanitarian, benevolent and a broad visionary with a mission to raise the poor, the neglected, the women communities, the untouchables and the unprivileged minority.

He was daring, adventurous and ardent fighter for India's freedom with legendary skill like that of Netaji Subhash and even risked his life and career for that purpose.

He was an able administrator, advisor and a man full of vision to build the nation with a statesman-like zeal and ability like that of Nehru. In fact, he was extremely close to him and co-shared his ideas in building a modern India. Nehru had immense confidence in him for which he sent his daughter Indira and Biju together to execute some of his exclusive ideas concerning party and government into action. This enviable position and relation with Nehru cost him very dearly after Nehru's death.

So he had the requisite quality and charisma of Nehru which made him widely known in India and lovable in Odisha in spite of hostility and adverse propaganda against him by different parties having their self interests.

I have described the many unknown facts and legendary achievements of his career in many public meetings and have replied to the adverse comments of his adversaries and their prejudices propaganda. But, precisely, in conclusion I have no hesitation to record that in his personality he combined the noble quality of Gandhi, the daring adventure of Subhash and the vision and statesmanship of Nehru. He is thus a colourful personality, a unity of three-in-one. Such a gem of India, Biju Patnaik, who had been honoured by the Indonesian Government for his role in the Indonesian freedom struggle and honoured by the Russians for his services in the Second World War against the Nazis, has been conveniently forgotten by Indians.

I therefore have made a humble endeavour through this article, to resuscitate this august name 'Biju Patnaik' to make the world aware of his dynamic and towering personality once again on his Birth Centenary.

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Sarat Kumar Kar, Saheednagar, Bhubaneswar.

## Evolution of Odia Language, Its Struggle for Existence and Excellence

*Dr. Subrat Kumar Prusty*

When we discuss about the origin and evolution of Odia Language, automatically it comes to our mind that it is an Aryan Language; it is not only in the case Odia but about all Indian Languages except 4 Languages of the Southern India (Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam) and the Tribal languages of our Country. (The aforesaid 4 languages of the South are also known as the Dravidian Language which is of non Aryan category). Here we should remember that Aryans were not the original inhabitants of India. As we know they came to India from central Asia and other places. Even one of their branches went to Europe and settled there in the region of present Germany. Aryan Language is not the original language of people of India. Long before coming of Aryan to India, people of India had their own language. This has been well established that the Indus script and language of Harappa civilization is the original language of our country. Eminent Historian like K. P. Jayswal has found a link between the scripts Harappan language and Odia language (*The Indian antiquary Vol. LXII, 1933, vide page 58-60*). Thus it has long been proved that Odia is an original ancient language of India which originated long before coming of Aryans. It is a matter of regret that this aspect about Indian language has not received due attention of the scholars of Research.

Apart from the four Dravidian languages of the southern India, there are many original works in the colloquial language of the people of northern region. These ancient literary works also include treatise on grammar (Valuable Book on Fundamentals of grammar). In these ancient works there is no mention about any *Aryan* language. Rather there is mention regarding use of *Bibhasa* or *Prakruta*. The *Natya Sastra* of *Bharata Muni* is written during the period between 200 BCE and 200 CE. By this time Aryan invasion of India had already taken place and *Sanskrit* language had been elevated to the status of official court language. That is why *Bharata Muni* wrote his *Natya Shastra* in *Sanskrit* in which he has clearly referred to a number of *Bibhasas*. Similarly the language of *Prakruta* has been referred to in the writings of earlier and medieval periods. Very naturally, here comes a question to our mind that if in our ancient writing there is no mention regarding *Aryan* and non-*Aryan* classifications of languages, then from where, when and why did the very concept come into the picture??

In this regard we can cite an example. After subjugation of our land by the British, they resorted to *Divide and Rule* policy to hide their foreign identity. By introducing *English* as the official and academic language, they divided the

people into 2 categories i.e. *English-literates* and *English-illiterates*. The British used the *English-literates* as the ruling class against the common people as the ruled ones. The *English* language introduced in 1835 had become so deep rooted that even more than 200 years later, we feel like it's almost impossible for us to survive without this language. Similarly foreign historians who wrote the history of India, identified a section of Indian population as *Dravidians* and the rest as *Aryans*. And hence they also succeeded in dividing the Indian languages into two categories viz. *Dravidian languages* and *Indo-Aryan languages*. But, it is us who have been paying a lot due to such kind of deliberate categorization as has led us to accept a pseudo-theory depicting Odia language (as well as Odia script) as mixed products of both the above said categories. That's why our ethnic identity, as a whole, has become helpless enough to reside on a divided backdrop.

And we, the learned people, are making no significant efforts to remove such divisions. However, I am sure that *Odia*, as a language, is having a genuine novelty. The *Odia* speaking population have been living in one single region along with the *Adibasis*. Both the populations have mutual impact and influence upon each other. The cultures, traditions, methods of worship, etc. of this region are intermingled. So is the case of both Odia language and the language of the *Adibasis* or tribals. There is much similarity between both of them. This aspect is further strengthened by similarities found in the method of writing of Odia language and the language of the tribals. The pictography, numbering 5775 so far discovered from different places of Odisha like the caves of Gudahandi in Kalahandi district, Jogimath caves in Nuapada and BikramKhol caves in Jharsugada district show remarkable similarities with Odia scripts. The pictography in Gudahandi cave dating back to 20,000 B.C. has depicted the thinking of human beings and their

attitude towards different kinds of animals. Also, the pictographic writings with quadrangles in two lines indicate the existence of an indigenous civilization. The matter of regret is that nobody has found any interest in these discoveries, neither the scholars nor the administration. As a result, the people of the world as well as Kalahandi fail to know about this. The pictography of Jogimath dating back to 10,000 B.C. has the special feature of having the scene of a human being along with animals. On the basis of Ashokan Bramhi script, scholars have tried to read this cave inscription as *Gaitha* corresponding to current Odia word *Gotha*, meaning a herd of animals. The writing, of Jogimath is the oldest form of Odia script writing. There are numerous paintings with primitive writings in Bikram Khol cave in the Jharsugada district which have not been deciphered so far. Eminent historian Kasi Prasad Jayaswal has stated that there is a like between the Harappan script and this script of Bikram Khol. Thus he has decided the date of Bikram Khol Inscription to 1500 B.C.

Script is a vital medium for the origin and growth of a language. Majority of the Painting pictography and rock inscriptions of our country have been found from Odisha. But inspite of such a large number of discoveries, sufficient research has not yet been carried out to trace back the origin of the Odia script and language. Therefore there has been error in the impression of the scholar regarding Odia language. From the time of Ashoka till date, Odia language had its developments through different stages. During this prolonged period, there have been changes in the script writing techniques as well as in the use of the language. This can be sufficiently inferred from the archived documents (Palm leaf manuscripts etc.) of Odisha.

According to **G.A. Grierson** – “*In the case of living rational beings, this noun of multitude*

*is the word Mâne, Which is said to mean literally 'men'. In the other nouns it is usually some word meaning 'all'. In the verb, as is also the case of Bengali, the singular of the first and second persons are only used by the uneducated, or when respect is not intended. XXXX. Each letter in each word is clearly sounded, and it has been well described as 'comprehensive and poetical, with a pleasant sounding and musical intonation, and by no means difficult to acquire and master.'*

*Oriya is remarkably free from dialectic variations. The well known saying which is true all over the north of India, that **the language change every ten kos does not hold in Orissa**. In what is known as the Mughalbundi, which consists of Cuttack, Puri and the southern half of Balasore, the language is one and the same." [Linguistic Survey of India, Vol-V, P-368-369] (Annexure -XVI).*

The following observations by **L.S.S O' Malley**, who knew not only all these languages but also Sanskrit, both classical and Vedic, may be of interest to the readers. According to O Malley- "*The Oriya Verbal system is at once simple and complete. It has a long array of tenses, but the whole is so logically arranged, and built on so regular a model, that its principles are easily impressed upon the memory. It is particularly noticeable for the very complete set of verbal nouns, present, past and future. When an Oriya wishes to express the idea embodied in what in Latin would be called the initiative, he simply takes the appropriate verbal noun and declines it in the case which the meaning necessarily requires. As every infinitive must be some oblique case of a verbal noun, it flows that Oriya grammar does not know the so called infinitive mode at all. In this respect Oriya is in an older stage of grammatical development*

*than even classical Sanskrit, and, among Indo-Aryan Languages, can only be compared with the ancient Sanskrit spoken in the Vedic times.xx." [L.S.S O' Malley, Bihar and Orissa District Gazetteers, (Cuttack), Second Edition by E.R.J.R. Cousins,(I.C.S.), 1933. p-47-50].*

Odia language is a rare example of the fact that how a language struggles to survive and maintain its original identity. After the period of *Kharabela*, Odisha or the then *Kalinga Empire*, gradually disintegrated. The influence and impact of Sanskrit language fell upon the age old Odia language during the golden age of the *Guptas*. This dominating impact of Sanskrit increased to a greater extent thereafter.

This continued till the *Ganga* rule when Odia language received the royal and administrative patronage. Odia language achieved popularity. The *Ganga* kings made Odia their official language. After them, the *Gajapati* rulers continued the process of patronizing Odia language and literature. Odia became wide spread to cover the entire Kalinga Empire and continued influencing the neighboring territories including the South-East Asian peninsula and islands as well as the landlocked Central Asia and other parts of the globe as earlier. Odia was empowered to exhibit her special position nationwide. During this stage, although Odisha was occupied by Muslims and Marathas, their languages viz. Persian and Marathi could not harm Odia language in any manner. During the Muslims and Marathi rule, official work was being done in Odia and other languages. However after British occupation of Odisha, use of Odia in offices was restricted by the British and the British rule put a check on the popularity, rise and spread of Odia. The British tactfully divided Odia educated society and also became successful in barring the Odia from

access to their property, wealth, market and of course, their language . The Odia and Odisha suffered from the *Na-anka Durbhikas* even twice. And the British took the revenge of their decades-long bitter relationship with the people of the land (the Odia) due to the high resistance shown to the former by the later.

The Odia, in that difficult time, tried their best to save their identity and conscience. During that time, in the few schools in Odisha the British Government tried to create conflict among the teachers and the students. They insisted introducing English in the schools. And English educated Odias took it as a blessing for them. The very next attempt of the British government was to create a conflict between the two age-old brothers i.e. the Odia and the Bengali. The British caused disputes and the consequent bitter relationship between the two neighbours has not yet been forgotten even today. In this respect I would like to say that the struggle of Odia language has started long since from the days of the Guptas, not from the days of the British.

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 is a memorable day for Odia nationality. On this day, the Government of India recognized *Odia* as a Classical Language having originality and glorious cultural heritage. Unlike 1<sup>st</sup> April 1936, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 has rejuvenated the Odia nationality with this declaration. After 78 years since Odisha became a separate province, this day has made every Odia proud of their mother tongue.

For our information, in 1937, a current of opposition had started from Madras presidency against the language of Hindi which had assimilated 42 language s within itself. This opposition resulted in strengthening the colonial language English. Simultaneously it also helped Tamil language to get the Classical Status and avenues became opened for the development of

the original language s. Since 1947, the central government has been spending lavishly for the development of Sanskrit and Hindi. But now the issuance of *Classical Status* to different language s has opened the way to other language s of getting similar attention. At present, besides the four Dravidian classical language s, Odia, with a classical status, has also become eligible to get central assistance for its development and research. Like the six classical language s, now other mainstream language s viz. Bengali, Assamese and Marathi should also be given Classical Status. Extensive research should be undertaken in all mainstream language s. Only research can do away with the false notion regarding the origin and coexistence of different language s. After Odia being declared a Classical Language , there seems to be a better scope for such research activity. Use of Odia by the people would, no doubt, protect the very language from being extinct. And development of this language would definitely lead to its prosperity. Sanskrit language of the Gupta Age and Odia language of the Sarala Age are the best examples which have brought glory and prosperity to the nation. The good wishes, co-operation of the neighbouring people would further enhance the scope of a wholesome development. At last, in this era of globalization of language s, for the learned people who consciously or unconsciously are neglecting their respective mother tongues, I would like to remind them all of a stanza from a poem of Byasakabi Fakir Mohan:

***'Bhasa hi Jeevanishakti Jatimanankar  
Jeun Jati Bhasahin Se Jati Barbar.'***

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## Speech of Dr. S. C. Jamir, Hon'ble Governor of Odisha on the Birth Centenary Celebration of Former Chief Minister and Legendary Leader late Biju Patnaik at Jayadev Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on 05.03.2016

It is a unique opportunity for me to participate in the birth centenary celebration of an illustrious son of Odisha, late Biju Patnaik. Today I join the people of the State in paying homage to the legendary leader in this state level function.

To merely exist and be around is never what is significant in life. It is what one contributes to the building and development of the world, how one helps to change the world for the better and what difference one has made to the lives of others that ultimately count and that determine the significance of the life. Whether in the life of an individual, an organisation or an institution the significance of life is measured by what one leaves behind as a legacy, no matter how small or big, how well known or little known. Life of Biju Babu as a freedom fighter, a patriot, a nationalist, a leader and a statesman of national and international repute is a shining example. He was a man whose every deed speaks of his leadership, vision and courage. He holds a very special place in the hearts of the people of the State. He had the unique distinction of being honoured with the highest civilian award of a foreign country. The State today proudly remembers this illustrious son of Odisha.

Remembering late Biju Patnaik through lens of Time makes me elated as I am driven down the memory lane to the Sixties when I came across a charismatic and dynamic leader from Odisha in the office of the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Biju Babu was by then known as a fearless nationalist who displayed remarkable courage be it during Quit India Movement or in his daredevil Indonesian expedition. His splendid vision of an industrialized Odisha endeared him to Pandit Nehru and this proved to be a great blessing for Odisha's progress and development. It is said- the first impression lasts long and the same thing happened with me on Biju Babu. Since I was young then I was overwhelmed by his passion and commitment for the national cause.

It may be said that Biju Babu's personality epitomized a number of sterling qualities like extraordinary imagination, dauntless courage, and tenacity of purpose. His fierce patriotism and strong determination for the welfare of the common people are the folklore of this land. He indeed belonged to the privileged few who left their footprints on the sands of time.

Biju Babu's life journey began as a student from Ravenshaw Collegiate School and then Ravenshaw College at Cuttack where he was profoundly influenced by Mahatma Gandhiji's call to free



India from the British rule. He was imprisoned for two years when he cultivated his association with the underground movement led by Jayaprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia. Since then he was identified as a pulsating and dynamic leader in the political circle of Odisha. His role in the freedom movement is unforgettable and well remains as an example for the next generation and for all the times to come.

Reckless adventure is a remarkable trait in him as he in his childhood days once broke the police cordon to touch an aeroplane and as a student in Ravenshaw College he undertook an adventurous journey by bicycle from Cuttack to Peshawar, a distance of 4500 miles. Besides a football player he was also a good swimmer who could swim across the river Mahanadi in spate. This spirit of adventure made him a daredevil pilot and among his many heroic acts the one when he displayed exemplary skill and courage by bringing revolutionary leaders from Indonesia in face of stiff opposition from the Dutch is best remembered. He was rightly honoured with 'Bhoomi Putra' (Son of the Soil) award, Indonesia's highest civilian award.

From the very beginning of his childhood, he loved to recall the glorious days when the empire of Kalinga spread from Ganga to Godavari and was known as a maritime power in trade and business that established commercial link with South East Asian countries. The name of Kalinga was very dear to him and he pledged to revive the glorious days and safeguard its prestige in all respects.

For this, he had understood that industrialization holds the key and took a number of initiatives to bring Odisha on the industrial map of India. His several steps hardly left any field untouched and many of these today like MIG factory at Sunabeda, Thermal Plant at Talcher, Express Highway connecting iron ore deposits of Sukinda with Paradeep stand witness to his dynamism and foresight. Paradeep port which was the brainchild of Biju babu today is the pride of Odisha and the gateway to the State's prosperity. Biju Babu always stressed importance on developing infrastructure to take advantage of the situation. He encouraged and promoted entrepreneurship among the Odias in a big way and told them to be the example to others. He not only concentrated on industrialization but also on education as he was successful in setting up of a number of educational institutions in the State like Regional Engineering College at Rourkela, Regional College of Education and Sainik School at Bhubaneswar. He wanted the youth to harness the power of science and technology to the advantage of Odisha and India. Instituting the prestigious Kalinga Prize for popularization of Science and Technology among the people and entrusting the responsibility to the UNESCO is one of his great endeavour at the international level.

Biju Babu will be fondly remembered for his numerous steps taken in the field of women empowerment, for his sincere efforts to streamline and rejuvenate the Panchayati Raj and local Self Government institutions like taking revolutionary step for reservation of 33 percent of seats for women including S.C. and S.T. women in the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. The ideal of raising the nation through village uplift was realized passionately by Biju Babu through the institution of the Panchayati Raj. Today the State celebrates Panchayati Raj Divas on his birth anniversary as a mark of his profound love for Panchayati Raj institution and renews its commitment to realize his dream.

Biju Babu always said that women's participation in public affairs, economic activity and in the social sphere is important for healthy and sustainable growth and must be encouraged. The youth of the State must imbibe the values of patriotism, adventure and commitment from Biju Babu and strive for excellence and progress so that they can be rightful beneficiaries of Biju Babu's legacy. They must use the available opportunities to equip them with education and skills that will enable them to take forward the process for economic and social emancipation.

Biju Babu was endowed with a remarkable gift of foresight. A visionary to the core, he possessed a lofty passion for the motherland. Perhaps the best example of his passion is found in his words that he used to inspire people and battle defeatism. His indomitable courage and zeal for innovation always kept him focused. One of Biju Babu's chief attributes as a leader was his capability of inspiring people, regardless of seemingly ominous circumstances. The source of this inspiration was his own character. He perpetually demonstrated enthusiasm, determination, courage and optimism.

I sincerely believe that there should be every effort to make the new generation of citizens know the contribution of great leaders to the processes of nation building. This is necessary, not just as a record of historical fact, but to inspire our future generations. Every citizen must know what sacrifices were made by the leaders of the country to achieve Independence. Every child must know what great men and women did to lay the foundation of India they live. Every citizen must know how our Republic was built, brick by brick, to create this magnificent edifice of a new, resurgent India. In that glorious history, Biju Babu's name will always be taken with great honour and respect.

The people of Odisha are inheritors of the great legacy left behind by Biju Babu. They must feel empowered by this legacy. I would like to urge upon the people of Odisha to follow and adhere to this great leader's dreams, ideas and vision in right earnest and strive hard in creating a vibrant, prosperous and developed Odisha of Biju Babu's dream and vision. I salute the memory of Biju Babu.

*Jai Hind.*

## Linguistic Movement of Odisha : A Brief Survey of Historiography

*Snigdha Acharya*

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the medium of instruction in education was enforced in the schools of Odisha as Bengali, and Bengali language was one and only medium to be used in the Odia schools mainly in 1868 and 1870 AD. The agitation started against the effort of introducing Bengali language in place of Odia as medium of teaching in school played an important role to uprise a new spirit of the movement in the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The scholarship was started about the movement in 1916 by Fakirmohan Senapati. In his autobiography "*Atmajivana Charita*"<sup>1</sup>, he has mentioned how the Odia movement was started. Some Odia intellectuals as well as Odia-loving English well-wishers of the then time also started writings on Odia language in the form of books, newspapers and articles. Besides it, *Karmavira Gourishankar Ray*, the colleague of fakirmohan senapati, and some other rajas of Odisha tried hard for the survival of odia language by all possible means. The efforts were also made in "Satyabadi" a literary journal published by the "Satyabadi Group of Thinkers" entitled "A Chapters of Old Fakirmohan's Autobiography" (*Bruddha Fakiramohananka Atmajivnara Eka Adhaya*)<sup>2</sup>. In this easy he elaborately discussed the origin and development of the odia linguistic movement. He and some other Odia people were opposed to the Kantichandra's

book, which had stated against the Odia language. For the self identity a group of Odias voiced against Bengali language to be used as a medium of instruction in Odisha. They started agitation against them and passed memorandum for the colonial ruler and administrators. The search of Odia self-identity also merged in the language movement, after the great famine occurred. In this chapter he clearly mentioned about the scarcity of Odia books for the education in Odisha then. He also described how piteous was the situation of Odisha when so called *Sanskrit Pandits* were unable to read and write the Odia and the *Chahalli* system of education, a medium of the teaching in every village in Odisha. He discussed every angles of the movement and how it became an issue for the self identity of every Odias. He addressed every issue except the nationalistic approach for the struggle and the movement. Besides it, he also discussed the necessity of Odia language for the Odia people. Fakirmohan Senapati was a pioneer scholar in the linguistic movement of Odisha. Further Senapati discussed some personal problems of his latter part of his life. But he praised the King of Bamanda, Basudev Sudhal Dev, in this chapter because he was awarded the "*Saraswati Fakirmohan*" for his outstanding contribution to the Odia literature, language, culture and the Odia language protection movement.

In 1925 another outstanding work by Mrutyunjay Rath entitled "*Karma Jogi Gourishankara Ray*"<sup>3</sup> a biography of Ray; detailed description of the development of the linguistic movement is found especially in the seventh chapter entitled "*Utkal Bhassara Swataraksha*". In this chapter Rath virtually discussed how the movement against Bengali domination was started as a medium of language in the schools and offices in Odisha at the time of later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The outstanding contribution of Ray to this Odia movement was remarkable. This movement created due to the establishment of press, introduction of the Odia books for school children, spread an enthusiastic idea about language among the Odia speaking people, and thus made the involvement of the Odia language in every Odias. He published numerous books in Odia in the form of prose and poetry for the re-establishment of nationalistic approach, and thus made huge contribution to the Odia linguistic movement during the period. Gourishankar mainly contributed to this movement by preparing a huge number of Odia text books for the elementary and university level as there was deficiency of these books then. He established a printing press at Cuttack in 1866 for publishing these Odia books. The establishment of the press is not only meant for publishing the Odia books but also giving a new light to the development of Odia magazines, journals, newspapers, prose's and poetries, and elementary books for the school children in the print format in Odisha during this period of the movement, which has been discussed in the biography of Ray. The development in printing press primarily served three purposes, that is, printing of journals, preparation of text books and printing of books towards the development of literature. Gourishankar also started a weekly, entitled *Utkal Dipika* (1866)<sup>4</sup>, from Cuttack, which he continued to edit till his death, but which survived even after him till 1936,

the longest period for any journal established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The immediate provocation for *Dipika* was of course the famine of 1866, but it provided much needed leadership to the social, cultural and intellectual life of contemporary Odisha. A similar effort was made by Fakirmohana at Balasore, who started a monthly journal entitled *Bodhadhyaini O Baleswar Sambad Bahika* (1869), which subsequently became a weekly from 1872. Both the journals were no doubt spurred by the printing presses which Gourishankar and Fakirmohana had already started, but they became the rallying points for new, forthright ideas at two most important urban centres of Odisha. They also became the starting points for other new journals to emerge, particularly under the support and patronage of feudatory kings and rich *Zamindars*. Due to the effort of Ray the journals played important role in the movement. It provided a strong background to the contemporary socio-cultural ferment, as well as a strong defense for Odia language and literature.

Natabar Samantray (1918-2000), a substantial critic and whose critical discussions related to early writers of modern Odia literature viz., Radhanatha, Fakirmohan, Gangadhara, Nandakishor etc. as well as to ancient authors such as Upendra Bhanja, Avimanyu etc. published in the fifties and early sixties. As a result it created a stir in critical studies in Odisha. His most important work *Odisha Sahityara Itihasa*<sup>5</sup>, 1803-1920 (*History of Odia Literature*, 1803-1920, in 1964) was a pioneering work based on extensive research; a mines of information by itself not only highlighted the context and achievement of authors of early the modern Odia literature, but also remained as a potential source for subsequent critics to work upon. Samantray, it may be pointed out, established the norms of study for early important authors of the modern period

for many years to come. In his monumental work he mainly highlighted the history of Odia literature during 1803-1920. Here he described in the chapter fifth of this work the Odia linguistic movement. In this chapter he added some new significant and rare data of this movement collected from contemporary Odia, Bengali, and English newspapers, the speeches in writing format published by Asiatic Society of Bengal and some valuable statement about the formation of newly states on the basis of language. The language should be main identity of a nation he was first to mention in his work. He discussed the importance of Odia language, its origin and development through the ages. He also discussed the main issues behind the movement like economic interest. The linguistic movement started by him played a vital role for the formation of language based state. He addressed many more angles of the movement and sometimes supported the views of Rajendralal Mitra. However he did not pay any attention to the nationalistic approach to the movement. Because he mainly highlighted the period from 1803 to 1920 when nationalistic movement started in Odisha due to the intervention M.K Gandhi in national politics and his follower started new campaign in every movement and every incident was discussed happened with colour of nationalistic approach. He did not concentrate on his work from the nationalistic point of view.

With the appearance of "Utkal University History of Odisha" Vol.VI<sup>6</sup>, under the Utkal University Project published in 1964 edited by Prabhat Mukherjee, a new movement started taking momentum in Odisha. He did his job well by throwing light on unknown and forgotten Odia nationalists, who became martyrs in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The book covered the political history of Odisha in 19<sup>th</sup> century which focused on British conquest and administration, the Paik Rebellion

of 1817 and the famine of 1866, Surendra Sai of Sambalpur and Raja Arjun Singh of Porahat in Singbhum, the growth of education and political consciousness, and the language agitation. He mentioned here how the Odias had been in existence as a distinct society with a separate culture and identity of their own. In the Indian Constitution, regional languages have been given due recognition. Linguistic provinces have been given political identity and autonomy. Each region can develop its culture and language befitting to the glories of history. In this work he dedicated few pages for this movement in pages between 426-432. He elaborately discussed the struggle and movement in the two regions of Odisha-Cuttack by Gourishankar Ray and Balasore by Fakirmohan Senapati and Madhusudan Das, which were nearer to the non-Odia state where the seeds were ripped against the Odisha and Odia Language. How the agitation happened in this location was discussed in this volume. But in his work Mukherjee did not address main issues behind it. Further he did not address issue behind like nationalistic approaches and the way of thinking on nationalistic spirit for the movement.

In 1970 the great novelist and literary person Surendra Mohanty wrote a book on Madhusudan Das entitled "*Satabdira Surya: A Biography of Madhusudan Das*"<sup>7</sup>. In this noble work Mohanty discussed mainly previous information mentioned in the Fakirmohan's *Atmcharit* and Gourishankar's *Biography*. In the fourth chapter he covered the struggled life of Das and linguistic movement in few lines, and the conversation between Senapati and Das. The role of first Odia high educated participated in this movement, when he was appointed as a third teacher in Balasore School against the Kantichandra's statement was prominent when the medium of instruction was Bengali. Initially he participated with Senapati, Bichhandcharan

Patnaik, and Bichitrananda same time at Balasore. He after returning from Calcutta in 1880, himself joined in Cuttack Bar Association and started legal practices. In 1882 he created Utkal Sabha which became a strong and well organized forum of the Odias to ventilate their feeling and grievances. Utkal Sammilani, a premier organization to promote the movement under the guidance of Das finally achieved the goal with the spirit of nationalism. Here Mohanty mentioned how the first educated man generated the nationalism in the mind of Odias and to achieve their ultimate objective.

Jaykrushna Samal originally received his Ph.D. degree for the work on “*Odisha under the British Crown*”<sup>8</sup> in 1977. He discussed the movement in few pages (pp. 297-303) of his work. He tried to re-locate the issues of the movement and described how this movement came through the Odia intellectuals to a successful achievement. But he did not discuss the main theme of the movement and highlight how the nationalism played a vital role in the scenario of the linguistic movement. Samal in his work published some authentic data collected from the archival materials, but in some places few data collected from other side seems to be doubtful. And finally he failed himself to prove the main factors like nationalism, spirit for the formation of the linguistic based state.

In the late of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, specially, from 1986 to 1992 a series of articles were published in the reputed journal “*Jhankara*” by Gaganendranath Dash of Odisha, which were edited by historian and politician Harekrushna Mahtab. He wrote only three essays which were published later in a book form in 1993 with the title “*Odia Bhasha Suraksha Andolana*”<sup>9</sup>. These three essays pointed mostly the main issues following the movement and its historicity. Besides it developed mainly the self interest of both the

groups in the economic interest, and criticised Natbar Samantaray’s work basically for his friendly attitudes towards Rajendralal Mitra. The financial interests of both the groups in selling school text books in the region of Odisha were also mentioned in the work of Dash. Because the purpose of the business of the Bengali elementary books in the state of Odisha was an effort to totally remove the Utkal or Odia language from the state. There was a discussion in the first essay of the G.N. Dash “*Odia Bhasha Suraksha Andolana: Eka Simhabolokon*” appeared in the *Jhankar* in November and December issues of 1986<sup>10</sup>. In these essays he discussed same issues like agitation against the plan of non-Odia’s and a group of Odia’s demand that the teaching medium should be regional language. Basically he mentioned the work of previous scholars and criticized Natabara Samantray’s work for his friendly attitude to Rajendralal Mitra and other Bengali intellectuals. He mainly focused on the matters which are documented and published in Utkal Dipika newspaper, and the pioneer works for the restoration of Odia language in Odisha. In the second essay he clearly discussed the statements of John Beams and R.L. Mitra, the supporter and oppose to the existence of the Odia language respectively and how Mitra failed to give accurate information to prove his statement in a meeting held at Calcutta Asiatic Society in 1870, in Calcutta. In this essay “*Odia Bhasa Andolona: Eka Drustipata*” he also discussed the incidents such as views of Mitra and other English men as to the existence of Odia language about the newspapers that supported the views of Mitra and Bhattachary; and those are published from Calcutta like “*Indian Mirror*” edited by Keshaba Chander Sen and “*Rahashy-Sandarva*” edited by Mitra for the campaign for the spread of Bengali language in Odisha. In his third essay “*Odia Bhasha Suraksha Andolona: Purnasimhabolokona*” mainly based on the

controversial statement against the pioneer scholars like Samantaray, he himself defined his views to be right. Sometime he claimed that he was the new theorist for the movement, but he finally failed to touch the movement itself in three essays. He did not even pay attention to the issues like nationalistic approach of the movement.

His another remarkable work was “*Odia Bhasa Andolona*”<sup>11</sup>, in which he mentioned that the Odia linguistic movement was a part of national history and it was a cultural revolution of Odia nation. This book also discussed the importance, origin and development of the movement. This movement was a gigantic chapter of the “History of Odia Nation”. He further discussed that the cross cultural impact and influence of others could not demise the culture of Odia and rather it became a strong pillar in the all Indian scenario. Mohanty further remarked the beginning of the movement like “*Tini Antia Kakudi Badi*” (three share cucumber land) in Odisha which was virtually separate from Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Madras Presidency before 1936. The collection of every tax was shared by them and nothing was given to Odisha. The great famine in 1866 demolished the Odia nation which was known as “*Naanka Druviksha*”. After 1866, Britishers considered Odisha as a poor land, and as a result our neighbour started planning to share the every part from Odisha between them and Odisha. They also tried to demise the one nation and one language which had a glorious past. These were the basic factors for the beginning of the movement from 1866 to 1870, January 4<sup>th</sup> for the language and Odia people. He further remarked here the importance of the “*Utkal Dipika*” one weekly which once raised voice against the Bengali language as a medium of education. In his work he discussed the importance of mother tongue and how its necessary statement was supported by national

scholar cum political thinker like M.K. Gandhi, Gopabandhu Das, Gangadhara Meher, and Madhusudan Das. He also mentioned the origin and development of the Odia script; how these scripts were different from neighbour states from religious and cultural point of view. He further discussed the Odia linguistic movement, its role and how it took to “*Odia Ekta Swantra Bhasha Naya*”, the success of the linguistic movement, John Beams and his contribution to the movement, coming of renaissance in Odisha and how far it was useful to Odisha. He for the first time discussed the issues like Sambalpur tract, its movement for Odia language, and development of Odia newspaper like “*Sambalpur Hiteisini*”<sup>12</sup>. He also revealed the formation of linguistic state and its approval in the Indian Constitution. He discussed many angels of the movement but he did not reveal the issues behind the nationalistic thinker towards the movement. He discussed the significant role of the Utkal Sammilani for the linguistic movement, the role of Satyabadi Scholar cum Political thinkers and the nationalistic approaches for the movement. Besides it, he documented the main features of the movement and talked about some historicity behind the cause but not properly. He failed to clarify the movement and approach of nationalistic way of thinking.

Mohanty also followed the footstep of the previous scholarship but his statement some time is not acceptable. He did a good work by translating the work of Kantichandra’s original book; the statements are reprinted from Utkal Dipika in this book. Some information were bearing the authenticity but somewhere he failed to prove his book on the nationalistic point of view and the growth of movement how to make it success in the rhythm of nationalistic spirit.

It is this historical situation in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when S. C. Patra<sup>13</sup> started his research on the amalgamation of the Odia-

speaking tracts and the formation of the province of Odisha, which he rightly called a “hitherto neglected” subject. This work appeared in 1979 entitled “*Formation of the Province of Orissa: The Success of the First Linguistic Movement in India*”. He discussed some significant achievements and newly discovered information in this voluminous work. He devoted three comprehensive Chapters on the “Areas inhabited by Odia-speaking people outside Odisha” especially in Bengal, Madras, Chota Nagpur and the Central Provinces. In each of these chapters he analyzed the “Linguistic affinity”, the “Linguistic affinity as known from Census Reports”, and the “social, cultural and ethnological affinity” of each of these “excluded areas” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His contributions to the second subsections are very instructive. They showed how under the influence of non-Odia census officers the “official” number of Odia-speaking people declined in various areas from census to census. This happened particularly in those southern tracts which were under the influence of the Telugu officers. The results of Patra’s work are therefore, important contribution to the discussion on the influence of the census reports on various levels of Indian society such as castes, languages, etc. On the basis of the evidences S.C. Patra continues his work with a separate chapter on the “Growth of Socio-political Consciousness in Odisha”. Here he emphasized the influence of education which played a double role in the development of an Odia consciousness. On the one side, modern education provided the intellectual means for the emergence of a new elite in Odisha which later on was to take up the leadership of the Odia movement, on the other side, however, it was the field of education where both the dominance of non-Odia (especially Bengalis) and the neglect of Odisha by the Bengal-centered British administration of Odisha were most obvious. The disadvantage of being a

modern educated Odia was felt most deeply during the competitions for government posts, where usually Bengalis and Telugus had a much better chance due to their mother tongue being an “official” language in the respective presidencies. It was mainly this issue of unobtainable Government post which created in Odisha “sentiments of hatred, defiance and hostility”. In three further chapters he deals separately with the three other major factors which deeply influenced the further development of the Odia movement like the “Development of Communication”, “Growth of Printing Press and Journalism”, and the “Growth of Associations”.

The growing discontent of the Odias took a different shape after terrible “*Naanka*” famine in 1866 which revealed the backwardness of Odisha and its lack of communications with the surrounding provinces. The feeling of negligence was aggravated during the following years when Bengali officers and scholars endeavored to fight the backwardness of Odisha by substituting the Odia language by Bengali. When in the Ganjam district, in Sambalpur and in the Chota Nagpur areas a substitution of Odia by Telugu and Hindi was tried, respectively, the Odia Movement for the first time culminated in an organized language agitation. Patra’s comprehensive study on “The Formation of the Province of Odisha” has to be regarded as a major contribution to the history of the transformation of colonial British India to independent India, because “the demand for linguistic states, which became so conspicuous in India after independence, had had its genesis in the movement of the Odia-speaking people for a separate province on the basis of language during the latter half of the British rule”.

Nivedita Mohanty’s<sup>14</sup> voluminous work “*Oriya Nationalism: Quest for a United Orissa 1866-1956*” has traced the evolution of the Odia movement in this thesis with great care and has



provided a detailed account of the reflection of the movement in the various tracts of Odia. The Odia newspapers which served as source material for this thesis are themselves harbingers of the awakening of Odia and thus deserve the attention which has been given to them in this pioneering work. The intensive study of the borderline areas between the core of Odia and the neighbouring provinces is of particular importance and should stimulate research in other regions. Bilingual tracts in which different regional traditions produce conflicts as well as a variety of interesting contacts are to be found in many parts of India. Their problems have rarely found the sympathetic and yet dispassionate attention which Mohanty has devoted to Ganjam, Sambalpur, Midnapur and Singhbhum. Further she opined on the colonial administrator and their activities for the movement co-operation with Indian National Congress. Therefore, eventually the British rulers made their decision so as to confirm the apprehensions of the Congress leaders thus holding the balance between Muslim and Hindu interests. For the Odia leaders this crucial period was one of trial and tribulation as they were isolated from the mainstream of Congress politics, but wished to continue to serve the national movement. Regional support of national leadership was an important feature of the Indian freedom movement. Gandhi had recognized this by redrafting the Constitution of the Indian National Congress so as to accommodate the aspirations of various regions. Odia had also been given its place in this constitution, and it had valiantly supported Gandhi in his national campaigns. The current of the Odia movement thus merged with the main-stream of nationalism and this fusion proved to be stronger than temporary isolation and alienation. Those leaders of the Odia movement who looked to the British for a response to their claims were replaced by younger ones who were attached to the Congress although the British creation of a

separate province of Odia in 1936 seemed to justify the attitude of the older leadership. Here, N. Mohanty concluded in her views that this movement only succeeds for the political mileage of Odia leader, influence of Gandhi and Indian National Congress, but this argue has not highlighted the origin, development and the nationalistic approaches for formation of linguistic states.

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# Madhubabu - The Great Personality

*Dinakrishna Joshi*

Madhusudan Das was born on 28th April 1848 just twenty years after the birth of Leo Tolstoy. He was a modern thinker of India and champion of Liberty and profounder of Legal Aid. Madhusudan Das played vital role as legislature, as a social worker, political reformer as well as a lawyer. His life history is the history of half century of Odisha. Born at the remote village of Satyabhamapur in the district of Cuttack Madhusudan lived a full epoch-making eventful life. After his long cherished dreams being fulfilled on attaining eighty sixth year of age, he left his mortal body on 4th February 1934. His works can be summarized as follows :



## **1. Role in Co-operative movement**

He organised the first multifaceted cooperative enterprise of the country 'The Cuttack Cooperative Store' as early as 1898, after completion of his highly rewarding memorable journey to European countries. The Cuttack Co-operative Store came into existence on 11th June, 1898 with Madhusudan Das as the honorary secretary and Jankinath Bose, the father

of Netajee Subhas Chandra Bose as the treasurer.

During the first phase of his continental tour, on reaching London in the month of May 1897, Madhusudan was deeply struck by the amazing manners and highly evocative ways in which the giant cooperative enterprises and stores were running, by closely pursuing the cardinal and benign principles enunciated by the Rochdale pioneers. He was thrilled with inquisitiveness which had overpowered him. He soon visited Manchester, the headquarter of the Central Wholesale Co-operative Store and was taken away by surprise, observing the

proficient and dextrous ways of running the store with great deal of ingenuity and alacrity and at the same time holding the price line, thus bringing the lasting improvements to the toiling masses. In fact, the Central Cooperative Wholesale Store with its wide ranging diverse activities, embracing the remote corners of the earth was practically laying down the comprehensive conceptual basis for "Co-operative Commonwealth". With an eye for unerring details, Madhusudan studied with an

enterprising zeal about the intricacies and subtleties of running the co-operative endeavours. After the highly exciting and enlivening tour he reached his home town Cuttack, the then capital of the state of Odisha, during the last part of the year 1897. In fact during the entire sojourn of the continental tour, he was taken over by a spirit of wanderlust and at the same time was overpowered by an indomitable urge of spearheading and shaping the economy of Odisha on co-operative lines. The idea of cooperative commonwealth had its mooring in his visualisation. With a view to translate his innovative contemplations into a concrete reality, from the month of February, 1898 onwards, he invited in every weekend to his residence people from every walk of life. On these occasions he kept the audience enthralled and spellbound by narrating the enviable and heart rendering accounts of highly specialized and sophisticated co-operative enterprises functioning in the European countries. During these highly communicative deliberations, he visualised the organisation of a National Agricultural Co-operative Bank for Odisha, thus bringing agricultural pursuits, indigenous rural industries and highly remunerative diversified plantation farming under its preview wherein cooperative would remain as the main structural pattern.

## **2. Odisha Artware :**

In fact as the torch bearer in the Swadeshi movement in the country, Madhusudan had established a chain of indigenous industries under the banner of "Odisha Art Wares" from the year 1898-99 onwards and launched a determined and well organised campaign for committed use of country made goods.

## **3. Utkal Tannery :**

Ultimately, as the vanguard and the path finder for the rehabilitation of the forlorn and

dejected Dalitas in the economic front, Madhusudan started from the year 1905 the export-oriented giant venture of "Utkal Tannery" in close association with subjugated untouchables. The Tannery was practically running on Co-operative lines in which shares being held by the Dalit workers with the allotment of specific seats to them in the management of undertaking. During the First World War, Utkal Tannery despatched consignments of shoes, which were worn by the British militia.

Mahatma Gandhi was overwhelmed on visiting the Utkal Tannery on 19.08.1925. He was spellbound and deeply moved in observing, how with a parental care of infallible affection Madhusudan was treating Dalita workers with filial bond of deep attachment tied among them. Paying glowing tributes to Madhusudan Das, Mahatma Gandhi said "Madhusudan Das had opened my eyes to the great crime against a part of humanity. He sought to make reparation by opening what might be called an educational tannery". Mahatma Gandhi while addressing the momentous National Educational Conference on 20.10.1937 at Segoan stated that "the late Madhusudan Das was a lawyer but he was convinced that without the uses of our hands and legs, our brain would be atrophied and even it worked, it would be a home of satan. Tolstoy has taught the same lesson through many of his tales."

## **4. Utkal Sammilani :**

The representatives of the Odia-speaking tracts of Madras and the Central Provinces of Bengal met in a conference at Cuttack on 30th and 31st December 1903. It was the historic gathering of 'Utkal Sammilani' which met amidst unprecedented enthusiasm and spearheaded the Odia Movement till the formation of a separate Province on 1st April, 1936. The first Conference was presided by Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo,

the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, and was attended by a number of feudatory chiefs. Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo, the Raja of Kanika was the Chairman of the Reception Committee and Madhusudan Das was the Secretary and in fact, the moving spirit behind such an organisation. The Conference discussed many socio-cultural and political problems of the Odia-speaking people, and adopted resolutions on all important matters pertaining to them (Utkal Dipika, 2nd January 1904). Of course, the primary purpose of the conference was to build an organisation to fight for the amalgamation of the Odia-speaking tracts. In this regard, the first resolution of the conference welcomed the proposal of the Government of India outlined in the famous Risley Circular regarding territorial adjustment. The socio-political awakening of the people of Odisha was quite evident from such a Conference held at Cuttack. The Odia movement, which thus begun in 1903, was the first and pioneering attempt in India to create a province on the linguistic basis. The people made sustained efforts for long thirty years for acceptance of their demands by the alien rulers. Under the leadership of Utkalgaurav Madhusudan Das, the Utkal Sammilani (Utkal Union Conference), continued to meet year after year in different places of Odisha and ultimately succeeded in making Odisha a separate province.

After his return from Calcutta as an M.A., B.L., he associated himself with Utkal Sabha of Cuttack, an association which was formed in the year 1882, to carry on movement for the introduction of elective local self government, as envisaged by the Viceroy Lord Ripon. In December, 1886 he attended the second session of Indian National Congress held in Calcutta, as one of the representatives of Utkal Sabha.

The basic objective of Utkal Union Conference was the merger of Odia speaking

tracts. In this conference, the Odias were defined as a separate nation in the following words: 'Those who have become permanent inhabitants of Odisha, i.e., those who have made Utkal their home are to be treated as Odias even if they belong to different nationalities. We give the name 'Odia to those who have migrated to Odisha long before, adopted and acknowledged Odisha as their motherland and consider it a national duty to promote the welfare of Odias'. While defining Odias, Madhusudan observed : "Odia nation means those who call themselves the children of Utkal feel proud of the past glory of Odisha and yearn for its glory in future". He further observed - "Those who are born in the land of Utkal, and wish their bodies to take rest in the lap of mother Utkal after death, whether they are Bengalis or Musalmans or Brahmins or Karanas or Punjabis, are the children of Utkal". Those who spoke Odia as their mother tongue whether they lived in Odisha or outside Odisha, and those who had adopted Odisha as their motherland coming from outside Odisha were treated as Odias. No distinction of nationality, religion or caste was recognised in the forum of Utkal Union Conference. Madhusudan observed:

"The conference has been set up for the union of Odias and awakening of national consciousness among all Odias. It has not been set up for the welfare of any community. In this conference such matters will be discussed by which the welfare of all Odias can be promoted".

Madhusudan wrote a number of articles on industrialization and economic regeneration such as "Industrial Development", "Industrial Awakening", "War is Business and Business is War", and "Freedom from Industrial Captivity" which were published in his English mouthpiece 'The Odia'.

Madhusudan was the pioneer of industrialization and economic nationalism in Odisha. In 1897 he founded Odisha Art Ware Works, and in 1905 he established Utkal Tannery. He viewed development of indigenous industries as the key to economic regeneration and real self-rule. He observed : "We have expressed our desire for Home Rule, but we do not realize to what extent we depend on other nations. It should be understood that a country which supplies raw materials to other countries for production of industrial goods is industrially very backward. We cover our bodies with clothes, produced in other countries. The luxuries and necessities which we need everyday are supplied by other countries. Still, we want self rule. What is the meaning and purpose of this self rule ? Madhusudan promptly responded to the Swadeshi agitation of Bengal in 1905. He addressed the Swadeshi meeting, held at Cuttack on 20 August 1905 under the chairmanship of Janakinath Bose. While asking the people to use Swadeshi goods he cited two examples, one of General Togo of Japan who used shoes, made only in Japan, and the other was of an Englishman buying English shoes at a higher cost instead of buying German shoes. He addressed Swadeshi meetings in other places asking people to boycott foreign goods, specially Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt.

The struggle for the formation of the province of Odisha continued nearly for 70 years

without respite. The battle was fought with great deal of sagacity and fortitude against the fierce and biting opposition by the representatives of the neighbouring provinces. The creation of the province of Odisha as the first linguistic province in the entire country aroused igniting aspirations and enduring sentiments among the other linguistic groups of people. And his dreams fulfilled on 1st April 1936 proudly announced as 'Swatantra Utkal Pradesh'.

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## Fakir Mohan Senapati : Renaissance in Odia Literature

*Geetashree Priyambada*

“When there is the bustle of progress everywhere, will Utkal be still in slumber?” This line from Fakir Mohan’s first original poem *Utkal Bhraman* (Tours of Odisha) not only epitomises his literary overview but also depicts his flare for Odia nationalism. Fakir Mohan Senapati, regarded as the father of modern Odia literature, dedicated his entire life for the progress of Odia language. He also played a leading role in establishing the distinct identity of Odia language and literature. So the story of Fakir Mohan is indeed the story of the “renaissance” in Odia literature.

Fakir Mohan lived and wrote during the darkest period of Odishan history. Odias then had no state of their own and lived scattered in three neighbouring states i.e. Bengal, Central Provinces and Madras. Odias had little opportunity to develop their literature and culture. On the other hand, there was the onslaught on Odia language from the neighbouring states like Bengal and the Telugu of Vizagpatnam Agency. British bureaucrats of the Central Provinces tried to hurt the feelings of the Odias which resulted in historic language agitation in the respective areas. Though all the three agitations were aimed at unification of Odia speaking regions, the root cause of each agitation was different from each other. This “*Desha Mishran Andolan*” or the movement to bring all the Odia speaking areas under one

political administration took place during Fakir Mohan’s time. It was felt that if Odia language was to survive, then it was important to enrich the modern Odia literature along with text books. In this backdrop Fakir Mohan began his literary career as a writer of text books. His writing of text books was prompted by his zeal of opposing the move to abolish Odia from schools of Odisha. That is why, Odia nationalism was a dominant theme in Odia literature during late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Fakir Mohan is considered as the greatest prose writer in Odia literature. But it is amazing to note that he hardly wrote any prose until he retired from administrative service. He translated Ramayan, Mahabharat and some of the Upanishads from the original Sanskrit for which he is popularly known as *Vyasa Kavi*. He wrote poetry too, but the themes of his written were not considered conventionally fit material for prose. He used colloquial, spoken and rugged language of the common man which no written in Odia had done for centuries. Fakir Mohan wrote four novels, two volumes of short-stories and one autobiography. Besides that, he mastered the art of writing short stories for which he is also termed as *Katha Samrat* (Emperor of Short stories) in Odia literature.

Fakir Mohan was not the founder of Odia novel. His rise as an Odia novelist was spontaneous. Before Fakir Mohan, the novels 'Padmamali' of Umesh Chandra, a Bibasini of Ramshankar were published. But Fakir Mohan's genius and artistic success gave novel a new foundation and dignity in Odia literature, for that if not from historical point of view. He is respected as the father of Odia novel. In Odia literature he is respected as a successful novelist.

Fakir Mohan wrote four novels, namely Chhaman Athaguntha, Mamu, Lachhama, and Prayaschitta. All these novels were written in the last phase of Fakir Mohan's life. Besides these Fakir Mohan in a letter to Biswanath Kar, mentioned about the writing of a long story "Bisamanji" on the request of Nandakishore, he wrote to change the same story into a novel.

The publication of Chhaman Athaguntha was a memorable event in the history of novels. Before Fakir Mohan, perhaps no such cruel picture of exploitation and plunder was published in a heart-touching manner in any Indian Language and literature. When novel was published periodically in 'Utkal Sahitya' it made much fuss in the reader's society. The period of writing of 'Chhaman Athaguntha' was from October 1897 to 1899 and the event of its description was from 1801 to 1840. In this novel he has started a discussion on the relation between the capitalist and downtrodden class before 1900. But Bankim Chandra, Sarat Chandra of Bengali literature and Prem Chand of Hindi literature started their efforts after 1900. So Fakir Mohan could be regarded as epoch-making writer among all bringing a change to Indian folklore literature.

The novel 'Mamu' is the best creation of Fakir Mohan. The identity which he had given at the outset of 'Chhaman Athaguntha' was full-fledged in 'Mamu'. In this novel, he set to describe

the disintegration of a traditional culture and society by keeping contact with the West.

The last novel of Fakir Mohan was 'Prayaschita'. He describes how the tradition-bound society was destroyed with the contact of western civilization. He was not a man belonging to the age of 'Lachhama' or 'Chhaman Athaguntha', but he belonged to the contemporary age of 'Mamu' and 'Prayaschita'. That is why it is said that Fakir Mohan has depicted a partial picture of his family life in the novel 'Prayaschita'.

*Lachhama* is a story of the Maratha invasion of Odisha which depicts the suffering and the heroic resistance of an Odia country girl in the face of invasion. "*Chha Mana Atha Guntha*" is a vivid account of the exploitation of poor village folk by *Zamindars*. Mamu, again is a story of exploitation of village folk by petty government officials and clerks. "Prayaschita" portrays the predicament of a semi-educated youth who persistently defies the old order of things with an over enthusiasm for new western values.

Fakir Mohan was a master craftsman in modern prose literature. For creation of prose in Odia literature his life was the only suitable source. In the last part of 19<sup>th</sup> century there was the necessity of genuine Odisha to create pure prose literature. During the last thirty years of the past century the unbecoming campaign of non-Odia language that continued against Odia language, only continued against Odia language, only a pure Odia was needed to obstruct its way. He was the only symbol of this necessity. Fakir Mohan wrote: "At that time the English and Parsi educated Babus of the country felt it to be humiliation to touch the Odia books or speak Odia correctly. The society also did not accept prose literature. The people were incapable of reading prose. They were reading the parables like songs

in high time. But when read as song if there was so rhyming they threw away the books. In this situation, Fakir Mohan first took step for the writing of biography and history. Before him some prose books were published, but the language employed was imitative in nature.

Fakir Mohan's prose literature has been divided into two phase. The first phase started from the writing of 'Rajputrara Itihas' till the period 1870. During this period he wrote 'Bharatavarsara Itihas' and translated the biography written by Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar. The second phase lasted from 1897 to 1918. During this period he wrote stories, novels, essays and autobiography. But from 1870 to 1897 when in service he wrote poems and translated Puranas.

Some of the stories of Fakir Mohan indicate the history of Odisha. The disturbances of the monks and the police constables are described in the story Mauna muani. He gives the real picture of overseas trade of Odisha and the ruin of shipping trade in Kamala Prasad Gorap and Kalika Prasad Gorap. The ruin of salt industry of Balasore is hinted in Balasori Pangaluna and Punarmushikabhava. Fakir Mohan wrote in his autobiography, "In my childhood there was a great shipping trade at Balasore. Five to six hundred ships were sailing in the sea.

Twelve-four-score of ships were engaged in the transportation of salt. He has made the government control responsible for the ruin of salt industry. By the invasion of the Portugal pirates how the overseas trade of Odisha declined is portrayed in his stories.

The autobiography of Fakir Mohan is a political, economic, social and cultural history of Odisha from the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century to first 18 years of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The condition of Odisha from the British occupation of Odisha in 1803 to the end of the First World war in 1918 is manifested in his autobiography. All historical events like the ancient educational policy, contemporary agitation of the neighbours and save the language agitation by the Odias, the famine of 1866, establishment of the printing press, introduction of Odia text books, publication of Odia journals and scripts, the gradual developments of the socio-political and cultural aspects of Odisha, the blind rule of tributary rules, popular rising etc are narrated in it.

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## Utkalmani Gopabandhu : A Nation Builder Par Excellence

*Balabhadra Ghadai*

Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das the chief motivating spirit of the congress movement in Odisha and shaping its destiny, is regarded as a great nation builder of modern Odisha whose life was a dedication to uplift the lot of the toiling and suffering folk of the land.

As a student in Calcutta, Gopabandhu witnessed the Swadeshi movement and Partition of Bengal in 1905. His acquaintance with Sashibhusan Ray Choudhury and Khudiram and the revolutionary activities in Bengal made him a patriot and statesman. He founded the Satyavadi Vanavidyalaya on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 1909 at Sakhigopal in the district of Puri which became a unique centre of education, culture, literature, social service and nationalist activities. Erudite scholars and leaders like Pandit Nilakantha Das, Pandit Godavarish Mishra, Acharya Harihar Das and Pandit Krupa Sindhu Mishra were close associates and followers of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das who taught the pupils on



character building, self-reliance and patriotism. The school followed a course of study suited to the rural Indian condition and the National Movement. With the entry of Gopabandhu into the National Movement, Satyavadi School was transformed into a National School. However, the role of the school for fostering idealism, patriotism and nationalism among the students was certainly commendable.

Gopabandhu founded 'The Samaj' which started on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1919 with himself as its editor. It was printed at Satyabadi Press, Sakhigopal and published every week on Saturday. He wrote on the problems of health, primary education, co-operative movement, social condition, agriculture, rural industries and allied matters of the rural people. The Samaj was subsequently published from Puri in 1926 and finally from Cuttack. It became a daily newspaper from 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1930 following the Dandi March of Gandhiji. The Samaj played an important role in spreading national consciousness among the people of Odisha.

Gopabandhu's association with the Utkal Union Conference (Utkal Sammilani) was quite intimate. Right from the day of its formation in 1903 he attended the first session at Paralakhemundi as a student leader. The amalgamation of Odia speaking tracks was the dream of Gopabandhu. He presided over a meeting of the Utkal Union Conference at Cuttack in 1919. In his address he exhorted the Odias, "If the aim of the Utkal Union Conference was enlightened humanism it should not remain separate from the National Congress". Giving a clarion call to the Odias arousing their consciousness as a great inheritor of the heritage of that land he said :

"Not parochialism but humanism was the goal of the Odia nationalism. It consists of universal love and fullness of life.... Equality, fraternity and liberty are its watchwords. Odisha does not suffer from pettiness. Her river is called the Mahanadi (the great river), her sea is Mahodadhi (the great sea), her hill is Mahendra (the great Mountain), her Lord is Jagannath (the Lord of Universe) and her cremation ground is Swargadwar (the gate of heaven). The Odia visualizes greatness all around."

His address was so appealing that the Utkala Dipika wrote on it, "Gopabandhu's address was a masterpiece such as never delivered any time before, even though the conference met 14 times year after year. His address contained matters which were not only suggestive, but open to practical development".

Gopabandhu was the chief animating force in making Congress activities popular in Odisha. After attending the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in 1916, he completely plunged into the congress organization

and made an all-out endeavour to give a new life to it in Odisha. He also attended the special session of the National Congress held at Calcutta in September, 1920. He highly appreciated the programme of Non-co-operation Movement of Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress session met on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1920 and before his Journey for Calcutta he formed District Congress Committee at Puri on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 1920 with himself as its President. He was one of the 27 delegates from Odisha who attended the Nagpur Session of Indian National Congress in December, 1920 in which Non-co-operation Movement was sponsored by the nationalist leaders throughout the country.

The Non-cooperation Movement started in Odisha by the first week of January, 1921 aroused great enthusiasm mainly on account of Gopabandhu's sincere efforts. Hundreds of students left the schools and colleges. The youths like Harekrushna Mahtab, Nabakrushna Choudhury, Nityananda Kanungo, Jadumani Mangaraj, Nilakantha Das and Laxminarayan Mishra came forward to join the movement and spread the message of the Congress.

On the invitation of Gopabandhu, Gandhiji accompanied by his wife Kasturba and the youngest son Devdas reached Cuttack by train on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1921 in the morning. That was the festive day of Dola Purnima and Holi. From the Cuttack railway station he was taken to the Swaraj Ashram in a procession of thousands of people in which there were 72 *kirttan* parties. In the evening Gandhiji addressed a huge meeting held in the sandy-bed of the river Kathajodi in Cuttack which remains as an important landmark in the freedom movement of Odisha. By way of introducing Gandhiji to the people of Odisha Gopabandhu told the audience :

“The Mahatma is now present before you. . . . . All the great religious preachers of India have set foot on the sacred soil of Odisha. Greatmen from Buddha upto Kabir, Ramanuja, Shankar, Nanak, Chaitanya and others who have lived in India have their symbols in Odisha. About three hundred years ago, on this very day of Holi, Chaitanya Dev had preached the doctrine of love on those sands. Today 300 years after, on that very day another greatman is here to preach the doctrine of political love . . . . . There is no place for diplomacy in the politics of the Mahatma . . . . . Odisha is famous for her catholicity. People of different religions, castes and communities live in peace in this province. There is no difference of castes in Puri. On this auspicious occasion of Mahatmaji’s arrival in Odisha, I appeal to you to imbibe the message of Gandhi in full recollection of the ancient glories and catholicity of the Odia people”.

From Cuttack Gandhiji went to Bhadrak on 25 March, 1921 by train. After this he visited the Satyavadi grove school on 26 March accompanied by Gopabandhu. Gandhiji addressed a huge gathering in the school premises at 2 P.M. and spent a day there. Being profoundly influenced by Gandhiji, Gopabandhu organized “Tilak Swaraj Fund” to be spent for the running of National Schools, Panchayat Systems, Khadi and such other constructive works. About Rs.22,000 were collected for this noble fund by enrolling 39,000 members. Under the able leadership of Gopabandhu the Congress members raised the funds up to Rs.40,000 and 16,000 spinning wheels were introduced in the province. Students like Nityananda Kanungo, Harekrushna Mahtab, Naba Krushna Choudhury discontinued their study and joined the Congress. Without any fear or care to police arrest, Gopabandhu visited different places to preach the ideas of non-

cooperation, non-violence and attainment of independence from the alien Government.

The A.I.C.C. of Bombay session 1921 was attended by persons like Gopabandhu, Harekrushna Mahtab, Jagabandhu Singh and Godavarish Mishra. It was resolved to emphasize on several programmes of the movement like boycotting foreign goods, the Prince of Wales and using of Charakha. On 30 November, 1921, a new Provincial Congress committee was reconstituted with Gopabandhu as its President. It was due to Gopabandhu’s tireless efforts that 127 delegates from Odisha attended the Ahmedabad session of the I.N.C. held in December, 1921. After this session the Congress workers in Odisha adopted the strategies of the Civil Disobedience Movement. But the Chourichoura incident of February 5, 1922 compelled Gandhiji to withdraw from the movement. As a result the agitational activities of the Non-co-operation Movement virtually ended in Odisha as in the rest of the country. Gopabandhu was arrested for publishing a news item titled ‘serious indeed if true’ in his weekly The Samaj, dated 13 August 1921 criticising the Police oppression upon a woman in the Begunia police station of the Puri district. Finally he was honourably acquitted by the Magistrate Sures Chandra Bose (elder brother of Subash Chandra Bose) and released.

Gopabandhu took up the cause of the oppressed tenants of the Kanika Zamindary. On 14 May, 1922 a meeting of U.P.C.C held at Balasore passed a resolution demanding inquiry into the atrocities of the Kanika tenants. Soon thereafter Gopabandhu was sentenced to two years imprisonment. He was released from jail on 26 June, 1924. While in Hazaribagh Jail from 1922-1924, he wrote a heart touching novel called “Bandira Atmakatha” (The Biography of a

Prisoner) expressing his love for people of Odisha. There he has written "Let my body mingle with the dust of this land, And let my contrymen walk along my back; Let all the holes in the road of freedom be filled with my blood and bone, And Let my life be sacrificed when my people awake into freedom." At this stage, in the first session of the All Odisha Provincial Conference held in Cuttack under the presidentship of Prafulla Chandra Ray, the veteran scientist and nationalist of Bengal conferred upon Gopabandhu the title of Utkalmani (Jewel of Utkal) on 28<sup>th</sup> June, 1924. After release from jail Gopabandhu devoted himself to the execution of constructive programmes. He joined the 'Servants of the People Society', founded by Lala Lajpat Rai. The same year he was also elected as the vice-president of this organization. He also opened a branch of the Servants of the People Society at Cuttack and affiliated to it his weekly journal 'The Samaj.'

On 12 April 1928 Gopabandhu left for Lahore to attend Annual Session of Servants of

the People Society. On return from this meeting, he was attacked by Typhoid. He recovered after twenty five days. On 3 June, 1928 he went to Calcutta to look into the problems of the Odia labourers. After return from Calcutta he had an attack of Fever. On 17<sup>th</sup> June 1928 he breathed his last. His untimely death was mourned by Gandhiji who wrote under the captions "A Noble Soul is gone". Pandit Gopabandhu Das was one of the noblest sons of Odisha-the land of sorrows and tears. Gopabandhu Das had given his all to Odisha. Let that noble spirit guide the workers of Odisha, let his death result in a larger dedication to service, together effort, greater self-effacement and greater unity among the scattered workers who are too few for our national requirement.

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## Biju Patnaik and UNESCO-Kalinga Prize

*Prof. Surya Narayan Misra*

Kalinga Prize, otherwise known as UNESCO - Kalinga Prize was instituted in 1951 by UNESCO. It was the product of seminal contribution of one of the proud sons of India, late Bijayananda Patnaik (popularly called Biju Patnaik). Shri Patnaik also founded the Kalinga Foundation Trust. The Kalinga Award was an innovative attempt by Shri Patnaik during the early days of the formation of the United Nations. Though British India was one of the founding members of the world body, the idea about the organisation and its specialised agencies was not properly disseminated. Further, the then Odisha was not one of the advanced states of the Indian Union. Late Biju Patnaik, though was associated with adventure and forward looking nationalist struggle, yet he was not the leading figure of the state administration. He was emerging slowly as an industrialist but with a strong passion for development of his motherland. He was greatly influenced by the personality and achievement of Samrat Kharavela of Chedi dynasty who extended the boundary of the state / his empire beyond imagination. Those were the days when Kalinga was a great empire and it had the historic impact upon Samrat Ashok of Kalinga War fame of 261 B.C. to transform him from Chandashok to Dharmashok. Late Biju Patnaik remembered the great days of our glorious past and attempted

to make Kalinga a household name. So was the institution of Kalinga Prize whose sixtieth foundation year celebrated during 99th session of the Indian Science Congress inside the campus of KIIT University which symbolises the name Kalinga and the dedicated services of its founder.

The Kalinga Prize was first given in the year 1952 and the recipient was Louis de Broglie of France. The recipient of this annual award must have demonstrated during his/her illustrious career as writer, editor, lecturer, film producer, radio / TV programme director - talent in interpreting science and technology for the public. Further, the recipient should have striven to emphasise the international importance of Science and Technology and the contribution they make for the improvement of public welfare, enrichment of the cultural heritage of nations and finding solutions to the problems faced by human civilisation.

The Kalinga Prize is regarded as a prestigious international recognition for outstanding Science popularisation work. The Director General of UNESCO selects the prize winner out of nominations received from member - states on the recommendation of a four member international jury.

The annual prize known as UNESCO - Kalinga Prize is funded by the Kalinga Foundation Trust, the Government of Odisha and the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of India. The award consists of a prize money of £14,000 sterling which covers the monetary value of the prize, certificate, UNESCO Albert Einstein Silver Medal and the cost of administration of the prize.

The prize winner is offered Kalinga Chair by the Department of Science & Technology of the Government of India to tour four week period to interact with Scientists and Science communicators. The awardee is provided with appropriate facilities to familiarise him/her with Indian life and culture including Indian research, educational institutions, industrial development and economic progress. The Kalinga Chair also comprises of a certificate and cash award of US \$ 5000. He is also invited to visit Indian Universities and attend the meeting of scientific societies. The prize is awarded during the celebration of the World Science Day at New Delhi. Since 2011 to mark the 50th year of the award the Government of India has instituted the Ruchi Ram Sahni Chair which goes to the Kalinga prize winner.

Among the award winners since 1952 seven Kalinga awardees were Nobel Prize winners also. Sri Jagjit Singh was the first Indian to receive Kalinga Prize in 1963. In 1973 and 1975 no one got this prestigious prize. The other Indian Kalinga Prize winners are Narender K. Sehgal (1991), Jayant V. Narlikar (1996), Dorairanjan Balasubramaniam (1997) and Yash Pal (2009). Due to change of UNESCO rules there were no award from 2006 to 2008. According to a UNESCO circular in 2010 the UNESCO-Kalinga Prize has been awarded to 65 persons from 22 countries. The United

Kingdom has shared the credit 10 times followed by USA 9 times. India secured the prize four times. In South Asia besides India, Pakistan has got twice and Bangladesh once. Out of 65 laureates seven were Nobel Prize winners. Men have shown better role in popularisation of Science. They have taken this prize 60 times as against 5 times won by women.

Because of the laudable role of late Biju Patnaik, Kalinga (now Odisha) has claimed a visible space in the international prize scene as a donor country. The award initially was known as Kalinga Prize. But under new rules it is now called UNESCO - Kalinga Prize.

In 2001, during the Golden Jubilee year of this prestigious award another great moment appeared for Odisha / Kalinga. On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Kalinga Prize the International Astronomical Union through its Commission of Minor Planet Nomenclature had decided to name minor planet (Asteroid) No. 26214 as Kalinga. This asteroid was discovered in 1997 by the Czech astronomer Dr. Petr Pravel from the Ondrejov Observatory of the Czechoslovakia Academy of Sciences. Kalinga the asteroid is at a distance of 2946 Astronomical Units (AU) from the earth. An AU is equivalent to 149,597,871 Kilometres.

For all these, Odias will remain ever grateful to its pride product late Biju Patnaik. He was a statesman among politicians and a politician among the Statesmen.

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# Formation of Separate Province of Odisha : A Dynamic Leadership of Rajendra Narayan Bhanjadeo of Kanika

*Manoj Kumar Sahoo*

Right from the establishment of *Utkal Samillani* (Utkal Union Conference) in 1903 to the formation of Odisha<sup>1</sup> as a separate province many nationalist leaders, kings and zamindars were fighting both against British colonial government and Indian leaders for the amalgamation of Odia-speaking tracts into a separate province of Odisha. Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo, the King of Kanika,<sup>2</sup> was one among them. He had dedicated his life, like Madhusudan Das and Gopabandhu Das, for the all-round development of Odisha. He was born in a royal family of *Aul*, in the erstwhile sub-division of Kendrapara on 24 March 1881 and was adopted to Kanika royal family in 1896. After completing his schooling career from Ravenshaw Collegiate School, he went to Ravenshaw College for graduation. Then he sailed to London for law degree. He ascended to the throne of Kanika in 1902. At once, he was a veteran leader, a true patriot, a nationalist, a first line leader of Odia Movement, a benevolent ruler, a philanthropist, co-founder of Utkal Union Conference and a good friend and disciple of Madhusudan Das. He died in 1948.<sup>3</sup> He had played a very significant role for the formation of separate province of Odisha. So, this paper attempts to explore his pioneering contribution for the formation of Odisha as a separate province in the year 1936.

The present state Odisha was scattered into different parts of India before independence. There was no clear-cut geographical boundary of Odisha, except her name in pen and paper. Further, for the administrative and revenue convenience the British colonial Government placed Odisha under different presidencies. Some of the people also tried to destroy her language; stating that 'Odia is not a language but purely a dialect'. It became a great headache of Madhusudan Das, a great patriot of Odisha. He tried to merge different parts of Odia-speaking tracts into a separate province. In order to achieve the well-thought out purpose, he tried to fulfill his grievances through the Indian National Congress and became an active member of Congress. He had also given different memorandums to Indian National Congress. But the Congress was busy for the national issues; avoiding the regional ones. So, due to the contradictory policy with the leaders of Indian National Congress, Madhusudan Das withdrew from the Congress in 1902.<sup>4</sup> Sharing the same view with other leaders like Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo, Madhusudan Das decided to form a regional association to work for the cause of Odisha, outside from National Congress. At the instance of Madhusudan Das, a meeting was convened at the Kanika courtyard on 25 October 1903.<sup>5</sup> In this meeting, it was decided to form *Utkal Sammilani* (Utkal Union

Conference) in December 1903. The first aim of the Utkal Union Conference was to campaign for the unification of the States of Odisha. Along with Madhusudan Das, Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo, the King of Kanika too became an important member as well as the co-founder of Utkal Union Conference. And he was fully associated till the formation of separate State Orissa in spite of some ups and downs inside the Conference. It has been said that, the Utkal Union Conference was the brain child of Madhusudan Das and was nurtured in the lap of the Kanika chief Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo.<sup>6</sup> He also provided fund for the management of Utkal Union Conference and for Odia Movement.<sup>7</sup> It can be said that 'without his active participation and contribution the Odia movement for separate province could not have been materialized.'<sup>7</sup>

From the very inception of Utkal Union Conference, Madhusudan Das wanted to decentralize the power and work of the Utkal Union Conference into four of his honest persons. Among them Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo was the close associate of Madhusudan Das. It can be said that, the king of Kanika had good relationship with British Government. So, it may be presumed that, Madhusudan Das might be aware that without the support of British Government, it will be a daydream to make Odisha as a separate province. That's why he encouraged Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo to keep good relationship with British Government.<sup>8</sup> The first session of Utkal Union Conference was held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1903. In that session, he was one of the members of the standing committee, and the president of managing committee. He delivered emotional inaugural speech to the gathering, for the purpose of injecting Odia patriotism into people's mind. Besides that, he donated five hundred rupees in the first session of the Utkal Union Conference. The Odia

speaking people of Berhampur and Vishakhapatnam were suffering from linguistic minority and also exploited by the Government of Madras Presidency. So, at the instance of Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo, the fourth session of the Utkal Union Conference was held on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1906 at Berhampur and he was made to preside over the meeting. In his presidential address he had emphasized the problems of Odisha like agriculture, trade and commerce, industry, education, women education, and so on. In addition, the resolution was also passed to spread the very idea of Utkal Union Conference at the grass roots level at his instance. After the session was over, he sailed to England taking the grievances of the people of Ganjam.<sup>9</sup>

The new province of Bihar and Odisha came into existence on 1 April 1912. In order to run the province a Legislative Council of Bihar and Odisha was constituted that comprised 21 members (both elected and nominated). Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo was elected to the council from the landlords' constituency of Odisha.<sup>10</sup> The people of Odisha were not satisfied with the tag of Odisha in Bihar in 1912, their dissatisfaction took a concrete shape in December 1916 when the twelfth annual session of the Utkal Union Conference at Balasore formed a committee of seven members 'with a view to collecting materials and carrying on continuous executive work of the Odia-speaking tracts throughout the years'. The Committee consisted of Madhusudan Das, Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo, Harihar Panda, Brajasundar Das, Gopabandhu Das, Sudam Charan Naik and Raja of Seregarh (Ganjam). The Committee prepared an address with a memorandum of arguments, and a statement and a map of the Odia tracts.<sup>11</sup> The Committee presented them before the E.S. Montague, the Secretary of State for



India, and Lord Chelmsford, the Governor General at Calcutta on 11 December 1917. Besides that, Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo and Madhusudan Das paid a private visit to the E.S. Montague, Secretary of State for the same in December 1911. Raja Rajendra Narayan Bhanj Deo narrated the problems of Odia in different regions of India and justified the formation of a separate state before the Secretary of State.<sup>12</sup>

In last couple of years in the second decades of twentieth century, rift started between moderate nationalist of first generation and the so called 'Satyabadi Group' of second generation of the members of the Utkal Union Conference. So, towards the end of 1918 Madhusudan Das announced his retirement from Utkal Union Conference, soon after Braja Sundar Das, the closest follower of M.S. Das and the secretary of the Utkal Union Conference also resigned. Madhubabu attributed the Utkal Union Conference to utter physical exhaustion.<sup>13</sup> In that situation; all the responsibility of Utkal Union Conference was taken by Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo till the next session. In 1919, the Utkal Union Conference session was held at Puri which was presided over by Chandrasekhar Behera. In that session a provision was made to meet the Viceroy of India regarding the cause of Odias and the responsibility was given to Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo.<sup>14</sup>

A special session of the Utkal Union Conference was summoned at Cuttack on 22-23 September 1918; Madhusudan Das presided over the conference. On 22 September two resolutions regarding Odisha and her future constitution were passed like Odia-speaking tracts under one administration and to constitute a sub-province for Odisha. The question of constituting a sub province for Odisha on the lines

indicated in the Montford Report was persuaded both in the Legislative Council. Madhusudan Das raised the question in the Bihar- Odisha Legislative Council in 1919 and the Raja of Kanika [Rajendra Narayana Bhanjadeo] interpolated the Government of India in the Imperial Legislative Council on the subject in 1919. Sachidananda Sinha brought the resolution on the matter in the Legislative Council of India on 20 February 1920. The resolution wanted that a mixed committee of non-officials and officials should be appointed 'to formulate a scheme for the amalgamation of the Odia-speaking tracts at present administered or controlled by the Governments of Madras, Bengal and Central Provinces with the existing Odisha division of the provinces of Bihar and Odisha. On 20 February 1920, Rajendra Narayana Bhanjadeo strongly supported the motion. He pointed out that it was a question which concerned the very vital needs and aspirations of about eleven millions of people. Unless the problem was satisfactorily solved, the people would remain dissatisfied. The Government of India promised an enquiry into the matter. The government constituted a committee of enquiry known as Philip-Duff enquiry committee came to Ganjam for investigating the amalgamation of this Odia-speaking area to Odisha and later accepted it. Again he was elected to the new council of Bihar and Odisha, from Zamindars' constituency in December 1920.<sup>15</sup>

The Congress and Utkal Union Conference relationship, which was far from cordial anyway, became still bitter when in 1927; the Government announced the formation of a statutory commission under John Simon to evaluate the working of Montague- Chelmsford Act of 1919, which was opposed by Congress. That was opposed only because none of the Indian members was present during the inquiry. As per the decision of the National Congress,

the members of the Congress party in Odisha boycotted the Commission. But the moderate members of the erstwhile Utkal Union Conference found some opportunity with the commission, along with the members, two members like Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo and Laxmidhar Mohanty (both from Kendrapara) felt that the commission along was vested with the power to give suggestions for the creation of a separate province.<sup>16</sup> It has been said that, the king of Kanika appointed twenty railway coolies by paying Rs.100; assigning duty to them that to hold placards written on these 'Odisha welcome's Simon Commission' in front of the Patna railway station on the arrival of Simon Commission by the train. This attitude of Odia leaders impressed Simon profoundly and he appointed a sub-committee under C.R. Atlee to investigate the problems of the Odia-speaking people and to recommend measures to redress their grievances. The Committee, however, never came to Odisha, instead, it took evidence from Odia members of the Bihar Odisha Legislative Assembly that included Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo and Laxmidhar Mohanty. As a member of the Bihar-Odisha Legislative Council, Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo played a crucial role; convincing Governor of Council to send Krushna Chandra Narayan Gajapati, the king of Parlakhemundi, as a the sole Odia representative to the first Round Table Conference in London in 1930.<sup>17</sup>

The foremost obstacle for the formation of Odisha was finance, because three important committees had reported the financial loss of the British Government and deficit budget for the maintenance of State. The registrar of Ministry of Finance reported that 'if Ganjam will merge with Odisha Division, the then Government would lose eleven lakh and thirty five thousand annually'. O' Donnel committee stated that the formation of Odisha will make deficit of budget 35 lakhs for

first year and 40 lakhs after 15 years. Hubback Committee report proposed deficit of budget 53 lakhs in the first year and it will increase to 55 lakhs after 15 years.<sup>18</sup> The report of those three committees had demoralized thousands of Odias and their hope for the future of the formation of separate province. Under these circumstances, Rajendra Narayana Bhanjadeo, as finance member of Bihar-Odisha Legislative Council,<sup>19</sup> challenged the Committee's report and presented a separate budget for Odisha, for the year 1933-34 in the Council. This budget showed surplus budget of 9 lakhs 34 thousands out of the expenditure of the same year of Odisha revenue for the maintenance of separate State. So the Government was agreed in his budget estimation and made a proposal for the separate province of Odisha.<sup>20</sup>

The Government of India Act, 1935 provided a way for the formation of separate province Odisha. In the meantime, the British authority had published the draft orders in council regarding the constitution of the province of Odisha. His Majesty issued the order on 3 March 1936 which entitled 'the Government of India (Constitution of Odisha) Order, 1936. Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo along with the members of Odisha attended the Legislative Council of Bihar and Odisha for the last time on 28 March 1936. On that day the Council gave them a touching farewell. The new province of Odisha was inaugurated on 1 April 1936 with Sir John Austin Hubback as its first Governor.<sup>21</sup>

The province of Odisha, during the period from 1 April 1936 till the formation of the Government in 1937, was ruled by the Governor and his Advisory Council of seventeen members. In that Council, Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo was an important member and the Chief Advisor to Governor. In 1937 he was elected to Odisha

Legislative Assembly from the United Party. He was also elected to Assembly for second time in 1946.<sup>22</sup>

Thus Rajendra Narayana Bhanja Deo had imperishable contribution to the making of modern Odisha. He was a man of versatile genius. He was also a true patriot. He came to Odisha's politics at the need of the hour, when Odisha was on the verge of losing its political identity at the national level. His pioneering contribution to Odisha will be a big chapter in the annals of the history of Odisha.

### References :

1. The name has been changed from Orissa to 'Odisha' and language Odia to 'Odia' by the 113<sup>th</sup> Constitutional amendment acts of 1 November 2011.
2. Kanika was a permanently settled estate situated in the undivided district of Cuttack.
3. P. K. Roy, *Kendrapara Zilla Itihasa* (Bhubaneswar: Swastika, 2010), p 113.
4. N. Mohanty, *Odia Nationalism: Quest for a United Odisha, 1866- 1956* (Jagatsinghpur: Praffula Pathagar, 2005), pp.
5. *Utkal Dipika* 31 October 1903
6. N. Mohanty, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 97
7. Debendra Kumar Dash, ed. *Utkal Sammilani (1903-1936) Vol.1.* (Rourkela: Pragati Utkal Sangha, 2005), p.90
8. P. K. Roy, *Op. Cit.*, p 113.
9. Debendra Kumar Dash, ed. *Op. Cit.*, pp 220 -228
10. *Utkal Dipika*, 28 December, 1912
11. K. M Patra, *Odisha State Legislature and Freedom Struggle 1912-47*, (New Delhi: People's Publication, 1979), pp. 28-31
12. *Utkal Dipika*, 15 December 1917
13. N. Mohanty, *Op. Cit.*, p.107
14. Debendra Kumar Dash, ed. *Op. Cit.*, pp. 543-44
15. K. M Patra, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 30-31
16. N. Mohanty, *Op. Cit.*, 175
17. P. K. Roy, *Op. Cit.*, p. 115
18. *Utkal Dipika*, 5 January 1929, P. K. Roy, *Op. Cit.*, p.116 also N. Mohanty, *Op. Cit.*, pp.176-178
19. *Utkal Dipika*, 25 March 1933 also see K. M. Patra, *Op.Cit.*, pp. 84-85
20. P.K. Mishra, *The Political History of Odisha(1900-1936)* (New Delhi: Oriental Publisher & Distributors, 1879), p.229
21. K. M. Patra, *Op. Cit.*, p. 93
22. *Ibid.*, pp. 94-95

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## World Sparrow Day

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The house sparrow and its subspecies are worldwide in their distribution, except in the Polar Regions. Sparrows have had a symbiotic relationship with humans for the past 10,000 years. Poets have sung of their trust and love for each other in all languages. But strangely, over the past 50-60 years, sparrows have been sadly deserting human company in urban areas, preferring suburban areas and the countryside, and only making brief visits to nearby human habitats. So bewildering and absolute was their alienation that in 2002, sparrows were included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the U.K. and since 2010, March 20 has been adopted as World Sparrow Day. In 2012, Delhi adopted the house sparrow as its State bird.

### Reasons for Decline

Sparrows, though tiny, are very sensitive and strongly immune birds and their sudden disappearance as sentinels or as ecological

indicators is a warning to humans about impending environmental hazards. Several speculations have been put forward to account for sparrows deserting our cities, but they all boil down to the simple fact that the rapid changes in the lifestyles of humans in urban areas are increasingly incompatible with the conservative lifestyles of sparrows.



Non-availability of tiny insects as food due to the loss of vegetation around our modern buildings, the excessive use of mosquito repellents indoors and insecticides outdoors, our concrete architectures with no nesting sites for

sparrows, and air-conditioning which leaves no entry or exit points for feeding sparrow nestlings are some of the reasons for the dislocation of sparrows. Further, increasing noise from automobiles and their gaseous pollutants in our cities may be deterrents. Above all, the recent increase in electromagnetic radiations from cell phone towers outdoors and the explosive use of diverse wireless devices indoors have also chased away the birds. It could be the synergistic effect

of all these environmental pollutants that has compelled sparrows to fly away from their long-trusted human companions.

### **Other Bird Species**

The house sparrow in reality is but only one among the several other species of birds and biodiversity that have been declining in numbers for the past 60 years. The disappearance of sparrows — as they are closest to humans — is however the most obvious. Sparrows, in fact, started disappearing from cities even before the advent of the cell phone radiations. Rachel Carson in her multi-award winning book, *Silent Spring*, published in 1962, warned the whole civilised world in a visionary way that insecticides were being used indiscriminately by illiterates from 1939 onwards and were tending to be “biocides” — killing not insects alone, but all life, even human lives, directly or indirectly. Unless all these “elixirs of death” as Carson calls them, are under check, sparrows, or for that matter any other species, cannot be prevented from reducing in numbers or becoming extinct.

Sparrows may not become extinct, but being resilient, they may migrate to safer zones, feed at public granaries, market places, ports and rail stations, nest at nearby sites and adapt to stabilise their population. As the famous evolutionist Charles Darwin said, “It is not the strongest nor the most intelligent that will survive but those that can adapt to changes.” Sparrows are so adaptive that “not one of them shall fall to the ground.” On the contrary, Edward O. Wilson, the Harvard visionary of biodiversity, is afraid that having annihilated the entire biodiversity on earth, humans, left alone like the child of divorced parents, may suffer a severe emotional shock of loneliness and enter what he calls the “Ereozoic Era” or the Age of Loneliness.

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## Biju Patnaik : In The Eyes of National Leaders

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Biju Patnaik was a towering and multi-dimensional personality no less than a colossus in every sense of the term. For a person who neither worked with him nor saw him from close quarters, it is virtually a herculean task to grasp his total personality. The author who belongs to this category having only a little bit of bookish knowledge can only salute this great and proud son of Utkal Janani (Mother Utkal) whose contributions were not only multi-dimensional but even transcended the periphery of Odisha and India extending to the international domain. A pilot-cum-dare-devil nationalist, he was closely associated with stalwarts like Jai Prakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and others. He extended his all-out support to them during the Quit India Movement (1942) carrying in his aircraft those nationalist leaders to their destination. He also distributed handbills of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and that is why he was Court-martialled and was sentenced to three year imprisonment.

Apart from contributing his mite in India's struggle for freedom he as an international activist

for freedom was closely associated with the Indonesian freedom struggle unconcerned of all the life-risk it entailed. His expanded love for democracy and freedom also found expression in his association with Nepalese democratic movement since 1953.



Every inch an ardent patriot and fearless nationalist, he served mother India and safeguarded its national interest both in Kashmir and during the Chinese aggression (1962) or when called upon to do so.

In the post-independence period, he emerged as a high-profile and successful industrialist rolling in riches and affluence.

However, destiny ordained it otherwise. He was not cut out to be only an industrialist getting engrossed in business and industry in the private domain of life. His other-regarding self virtually propelled him to enter into the public domain which in course of time catapulted him to blazing lights of prominence and popular acclaim.

The legendary leader and idol of the masses had also a hectic and uninterrupted

political career serving his state and country in turns working in different capacities. He was a distinguished and talented member of Odisha Legislative Assembly, an outstanding leader of opposition, a remarkable Chief Minister of Odisha in 1960s and 1990s and an efficient parliamentarian and effective central minister. His contribution to India's democracy was the role he played tenaciously and repeatedly in Odisha and at the national level for forming opposition unity through times of factional politics.

Apart from the afore-said prelude many more things have been written about Biju's personality and achievements. His fearlessness dare devilry and his dashing spirit in the provincial national and international sphere and of course his role and position in Odisha Politics and national politics have also been dealt with in detail.

But what was Biju Patnaik in national lense—in the eyes of national leaders with whom he worked and interacted in national politics? How much did they know about Biju and his achievements? What in their view was his stature in national politics? The present article entitled "Biju Patnaik: In the eyes of national leaders" is an attempt to provide some answer to those questions.

Biju Patnaik passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1997 at New Delhi at the age of 81 after a brief illness. The obituary references on the floor of the Parliament by national leaders at the time bring out vividly the multi-faceted personality of the man and his stature and achievements.

#### **P.A. Sangma, the then Speaker of Lok Sabha**

P.A. Sangma, the then speaker of the Lok Sabha in his obituary reference extensively reflected upon his life and work and his contribution to the Indian polity.

During his formative years Biju came under the impact of Mahatma Gandhi and the great nationalist sons of Odisha, Gopabandhu Das and Madhusudan Das.

Eventhough a pilot during British Raj Biju Babu was a nationalist at heart. In fact, he joined the Quit India Movement of 1942 when "Do or Die" became the revolutionary slogan with Gandhiji's exhortation "we shall free India or die in the attempt". He worked under ground with leaders like Jaya Prakash Narayan and Aruna Asaf Ali and gave them hidden air lifts from one place of India to others in his transport plane.

While referring to this phase of Biju's life he said: "He joined the freedom struggle and actively participated in the Quit India Movement in close association with Aruna Asaf Ali and others and their underground activities against the British. He underwent imprisonment from 1943 to 1946 in the Red Fort, New Delhi, Ferozepur, Lahore and Cuttack."

Due to this association with the Quit India movement and his imprisonment Biju Patnaik came in direct contact with Nehru and became one of his trusted friends.

Jawahar Lal Nehru who had now developed immense faith in Biju's courage and adventure as a nationalist pilot wanted to use his services in Indonesia's fight for Independence in 1946-47 for which he had his full sympathy. Hence, at the instance of Nehru, Biju Babu at the risk of his life flew clandestine missions in to Indonesia and brought Sjahrir and later Mohammad Hatta for personal conference with Indian Prime Minister Nehru. Biju Babu's death defying and dare-devil act of adventure in rescuing the entrapped top-rung patriots of Indonesia was referred by Sangma. In his own

words. “He dared the Dutch and with the support of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru threw his lot, at considerable personal risk, with the freedom fighters of Indonesia in their struggle for independence”. He was also associated with the Nepalese democratic movement as well.

During the Chinese aggression of 1962, Nehru invited Biju Babu to render advice at the time of this national tragedy. Independent India’s military history will record his name as the only civilian whom Nehru consulted on every conceivable matter of warfare and matters concerning the external security of India. It may be noted that as the civilian adviser to Prime Minister Nehru, he was given a separate chamber in the external affairs Ministry.

Over and above, Biju Babu was given a diplomatic assignment as a special envoy of Prime Minister Nehru to impress upon President John F. Kennedy to come to the aid of India. The precious role that Biju Babu played in securing the support of the Kennedy administration was recognized by B.M. Kaul, the Chief of the General staff, in the book “Untold Story”. He unhesitatingly recognized his unfailing and successful role as a diplomat when he said that Biju Babu’s American mission was very much in keeping with the personality of an unfailing leader.

At the height of the Indo-Chinese war when Tezpur, headquarters of the 62<sup>nd</sup> infantry brigade was abandoned, Biju Babu accompanied Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Assam Chief Minister B.P. Chaliha to discuss the modalities of Indian operation there.

It is said that braving the danger, he made a marauding effort there in the interest of his Motherland. It led B.M. Kaul to rightly remark that Biju Patnaik loved his country more than his personal security.

P.A. Sangma referring to those services rendered by Biju Babu during this period said: “The services he rendered to the nation at the call of Panditji in the area of diplomacy at the time of Chinese aggression in 1962 are part of our history”. That Biju Babu was ever prepared to guard India’s national interest was also evident during Indo-Pak war when Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan secured the support of Indonesia against India. It is said that being requested by the then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, he went to Indonesia with his wife and successfully prevailed upon Sukarno, President of Indonesia not to help Pakistan against India reminding him of what he did for his country during the Indonesian war of independence.

He also rightly acknowledged one of the great contributions of Biju Patnaik to the country’s democracy. His great contribution to Indian democracy was “the role he played tenaciously and repeatedly in Odisha and at the national level for forming opposition unity through times of factional politics. Indeed he proved that the delight of political life is as well in opposition”. To Biju opposition has to survive if democracy is to survive in this country.

In November 1990 when the National Front government was almost tottering for want of a majority in the Lok Sabha, he put all his efforts to avoid a split in the Janata Dal’.

In 1989, the Janata Dal was born. Years ago in 1975, the internal emergency heralded the birth of the Janata Party with four constituents Congress (opposition), Bharatiya Lok Dal, Jana Sangh and Socialist Party merging together to offer a broad platform of non-congress political parties.

On both these occasions, Biju Patnaik was the person everyone was looking for with



opposition unity remaining on top of the agenda, 'Lunch Politics' was in. By now Biju Babu had carved a niche for himself as 'one who hosts lunches and talks only of opposition politics'.

'For Biju Patnaik opposition unity is not the second thing. It is first'.

In a country of sub-continental size and diversity, national unity is of vital and over-riding importance. The breakup of the Soviet Union in 1990s was before him and in order to avoid such a situation in case of India's federal polity, Biju Babu was for a new technique of political management. He emphasized on equitable regional development and development of underdeveloped states. He rightly realized that disparity in the matter of development may be a cause of discontent and tension among different states and may weaken our integral nationhood.

P.A. Sangma was enamored of this statesman like approach of Biju Babu for the cause of national unity and integral nationhood through federalism. In his own words: 'Like Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Madison, the framers of the American constitution, Biju Patnaik believed that national unity should be preserved through federalism. For him federalism was an economic doctrine, not a political slogan. He even called for a united states of India in which the financial resources would equitably flow to the states consistent with their exploitable natural resources'.

In his obituary evaluation P.A. Sangma also expounded the socialist dimension of Biju Babu's personality. 'He was a socialist at heart and Acharya Narendra Dev, Jaya Prakash Narayan and Mino Masani were his role models. As he said further: "One with Prime Minister Chowdhary Charan Singh he believed that the backbone of the country was a strong peasantry and wanted modernization of agriculture. At the

same time the natural entrepreneur and founder of Kalinga Airlines and Odisha Textile Mills as he was, he wanted agrarian feudalism to be dismantled and industrial revolution to take place. In the sixties, when he was Chief Minister of Orissa for the first time along with Governor Ayodhyanath Khosla, he launched a 'Decade of Destiny' and ushered in an era of industrialization in the state. Later in 1990s again when he was Chief Minister of Orissa industrialization continued to be his obsession and in keeping with the dynamic world and national economic scenario, wanted the public sector enterprises to gain strength through exposure to market forces'.

Over and above, Sangma stressed upon Biju Babu's contribution to women empowerment, his advocacy of economy in expenditure as a steady style of Governance and his focus on modernization of society through dissemination of science.

Biju Patnaik's second spell as Chief Minister in 1990s will be remembered by posterity for different steps he took for the development and empowerment of women. 'Before any other state had come up with a policy on women it is Biju Babu who showed the path towards the empowerment of women by reserving one third seats for them in Panchayati Raj institutions'. Even the policy of keeping apart one third of staff strength for women was extended to Government jobs. In all the classes barring class-I and class-II, women were to be given their representation.

This bold and outstanding step towards empowerment of women was referred to by Sangma. 'A true believer in the empowerment of women he practiced it by establishing one third reservations for women not merely in local bodies but in Govt. jobs.'

Popularization of science was accorded top priority by Biju Babu who played the role of

a promoter of science. Like Nehru he had immense faith in and commitment to science. As a dedicated promoter of science Biju Babu instituted in 1960s the prestigious Kalinga Award for the dissemination and popularization of science.

The Kalinga Foundation and prize set up by him said Sangma “is an everlasting testimony of his ideal of modernization of society through dissemination of science.

Moreover, strongly believing in a lean and lively bureaucracy, he fearlessly advocated economy in expenditure as a steady style of governance rather than as an off-on formula of austerity to be applied during times of financial strain.

Mr. Sangma does not also forget to mention how Biju Babu was nostalgic and ecstatic about the Odia maritime tradition and how Paradip was in no small measure due to the bold initiative of the man. With his heart in Odisha and mind in New Delhi, he shared his public life between the state and centre.

He was a member of the sixth, seventh and eighth Lok Sabha representing Kendrapara Parliamentary constituency during 1977-79, 1980-84 and 1984-85. He was the Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Coal during 1977-80. He had been a member of Rajya Sabha in 1971. He had also been a member of Odisha Legislative Assembly for seven terms and was the Chief Minister of the State during 1961-63 and 1990-95. During 1996-97, he was the chairman of the Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament.

### **Former Prime Minister I.K. Gujral**

Former Prime Minister I.K. Gujral with a heavy heart paid his respectful homage to Late

Biju Patnaik who passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1997 at New Delhi.

He had a very high opinion of Biju Babu as amply evident from his words on the floor of the Parliament. “He was a patriot to the core, a great son of India a towering personality, the warrior of freedom struggle who strode the country like a colossus for over five decades”.

Honourable Prime Minister underlined Biju Babu’s sprit of youth and dynamism which continued undiminished till his death. Biju Patnaik died as he had lived, a man ever young. Jawaharlal Nehru called him India’s buccaneer’. For his versatility and dare devilry of his own kind, Biju Dada became a living legend in his young life.

Biju Patnaik was loved by the young and old alike and was admired by all. He was an esteemed leader, a guide, philosopher and a friend to countless number of men in public life.

‘In his death’ I have suffered a personal loss’. The country has lost a great son, the messiah of the people. He was a prominent and dynamic industrialist. He was formerly head of the air command during the war years 1940-42. He was closely associated with the building of the fortunes of the country and shared the vicissitudes with stalwarts like Jai Prakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Monohar Lohia and others. He underwent imprisonment during 1943-46.

Gujral also referred to the services rendered by Biju Babu in Kashmir. As he said: “He fully utilized his flying skills. He landed the first platoon of the troops in Srinagar which engaged the Pakistani radars in 1948”.

He was an international activist who was associated also with the Indonesian freedom movement for which he was honoured by the

Indonesian Government with the title of 'Bhumi Putra' or 'The Son of the Soil'. Regarding Biju Babu's association in the Indonesian freedom struggle it has been aptly said: 'His Indonesian expedition shows that he was a patriot of a different kind, an international patriot. His patriotism was not confined to the borders of a country, it was confined to the border of humanity.

He was also closely associated with the Nepalese democratic movement since 1953. For flying across to the embattled Soviet troops during the Second World War, a grateful Russia conferred honour upon Biju Patanaik for the services to the country in 1945.

### **Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then leader of the opposition in his homage to Late Biju Patnaik brought out important dimensions of his personality.

Reflecting upon the irreparable loss to the nation with the sad demise of Biju Patnaik he said: "..... If a post falls vacant it is filled but the loss suffered by the nation because of the sad demise of Biju Patnaik, will probably never be compensated ..... he had a towering personality and was a magnanimous person. He liked playing with fire and flying high in the sky, yet he was a responsible person. He had a jovial nature and it was his habit to call a spade a spade ..... yet he never allowed anything between to take root in his mind.

Shri Vajpayee had a deep sense of regret, that he did not have the opportunity of being in his company when he was in Rohtak Jail during emergency. 'Those who were with him in prison relate how he bore all the hardships in prison stoically and as a good companion helped the other inmates to pass the crucial time.'

A prison is such a place where the true personality of a person comes to the fore and his real nature comes out. Shri Pilu Modi was also in the same prison as Biju Babu. Both were from rich families and were used to high standard of life, but when they were imprisoned, they did not air any grievances or make any complaints. Probably this was the result of the qualities he had developed as a pilot during the freedom struggle.

He was the store keeper in the prison. All the provisions received in jail were entrusted to the custody of Shri Biju Patnaik so as to ensure fair and suitable distribution. He never gave any one any cause for complaint.

At the end Shri Vajpayee said: 'with the sad demise of Shri Biju Patnaik an important link with the past has been severed. It is no exaggeration when I say that virtually an era has come to an end.'

### **Shri Sharad Pawar**

Shri Sarad Pawar also paid his homage to Late Biju Patnaik. With the passing away of Shri Biju Patnaik, India, he said 'has lost a unique person, a freedom fighter, an efficient administrator, a skilled aviator, a known industrialist and a magnanimous person.'

He led a courageous life right from his school days. When he was in school, he went to attend a public meeting of Mahatma Gandhi being held in Cuttack. Police stopped him at a certain point and even beat him up but still then he tried to get as close as he could.'

He could not complete his college education and joined the Royal Air Force. He was very much interested in the profession. Flying

aircraft and facing the risks involved was a part of his nature. He had taken on this responsibility during the regime of Britishers but the spirit of attaining freedom for the country always remained alive in his heart. He further said 'the house might be aware that even while serving the royal air force, he made use of the aircraft to carry the nationalist leaders to their destination. He also distributed the handbills of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and that is why he was court martialled and sentenced to three years imprisonment. At that time he met Panditji and thereafter he remained a confidant of Panditji uptill his last days.

Concluding his speech he said: ' He used the sit very close to us in this house. He spoke out his mind freely. As a Chairman of the Standing Committee on finance he did a very commendable job ----- He was ever vigilant to uphold the honour of Members of Parliament. He is no more. We have lost an able and wise parliamentarian, freedom fighter, aviator, industrialist and great son of India. He is not amidst us but he will always be remembered.

### **Somnath Chatterjee, Ex-Speaker of Lok Sabha**

Shri Somnath Chatterjee, a veteran Parliamentarian and ex-Speaker of Lok Sabha had a very high opinion of Biju Patnaik as a leader. As he said 'I deeply mourn the passing away of one of our tallest leaders, tallest in all sense of the term. Today the Indian political life is poorer as a stalwart and great son of India has passed away and is no longer with us. As he further said "His commitment to parliamentary democracy, his commitment to the development and progress of the country through industrialization, his concern for the development of the states and his belief in true federalism gave us not only food for thought but also plan for action.

Biju Babu's two speeches one at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the eastern zonal council held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1991 at Bhubaneswar and the other one at the meeting of the National Development Council on Dec 23, 1991 expound his views on federalism and development in India. It breathes out in bolder relief his outlook and vision on the management of our federal polity and bring him out as a far sighted thinker and statesman. They give us not only food for thought but also plan for action so said Chatterjee.

Explaining Biju Babu's concept of federalism Shri Chatterjee said: "Sir, I know and he said that he believed that unless the states become strong, India can never be a strong nation and that is why when he fought for Orissa's development, it was not by any reason of narrow consideration but to make India stronger as a whole. He realized that true federalism will result in strengthening India's unity in diversity and that will hasten the pace of progress of our nation as a whole.

As regards his contribution to Odisha, Shri Chatterjee rightly said: "Indeed, he was the maker of modern Odisha and the architect of industrialization in Odisha. He was himself a successful industrialist and brought Odisha to the map of industrial India.

As he continued further "He was a very successful Minister. I had the privilege of seeing him as a Minister of Steel and Mines in the Central Cabinet. He was a very very successful Chief Minister and a very effective member of Parliament. He inspired the younger generation of his time. A freedom fighter and nationalist to the core, his life was an example of how commitment to certain principles and dedication towards the nation's development can be the guiding force of our people.

Concluding his address he said: “We have lost not only a colourful leader, colourful personality but also a good guide, a good friend ————— probably a void created by his passing away will not be filled up soon”

### **SARDAR SURJEET SINGH BARNALA**

Sardar Surjeet Singh Barnala, Ex-Minister mentioned briefly the remarkable services to the nation rendered by late Biju Patnaik. He served the Royal Indian Air Force where he was court martialled and imprisoned in Red Fort. During the freedom struggle he brought some freedom fighters from Indonesia by his plane bravely. As a Minister of Steel and Mines during the Janata Dal regime he was an influential member of the Cabinet. He was considered a person who did not indulge irrelevant and useless discussions and used to stress his points in apt and appropriate manner. The then Prime Minister Moraji Desai used to pay great attention to his words.

He wanted to develop Orissa in the field of agriculture. He proposed that 400 to 500 persons should be brought from Punjab so that new techniques could be taught for agricultural development of Orissa.

There was another side of his relationship with Punjab. He had been married to a girl from Punjab. He was a cheerful person and the country will remember him for a long time for his contribution and services to the nation.

### **Shri Chitta Basu**

Shri Chitta Basu, an eminent leader of Forward Bloc paid tributes to the memory of Shri Biju Patnaik who was a great patriot, a great fighter for independence and had a model of life based on suffering and sacrifice.

Biju Babu was imprisoned on several occasions but Shri Basu specifically referred to his imprisonment in the Red Fort. This imprisonment at the Red Fort was because of the fact that he was disseminating information in this country of the armed campaign of the Indian National Army under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. As it were, he was dropping leaflets and other propaganda materials to the people of India in order to educate them about the armed struggle Netaji was conducting beyond the borders of our country to achieve India's freedom.

He represented an era of value - based politics and with his passing away it appears that era has ended.

He was an able administrator both as a central minister and also as Chief Minister of Orissa. His was a household name in Orissa. If one ever went to any village of Odisha and mentioned his name to any person, young and old, they would say with pride that Biju Patnaik was son of Orissa.

### **Shri Chandra Sekhar**

Shri Chandra Sekhar Ex-Prime Minister paid his tributes to the memory of Biju Patnaik sharing some of his interesting reminiscences with a personal touch.

He said that the sad demise of Biju Patnaikji has created a vacuum in Indian politics. His competence, bravery, spirit of sacrifice, patriotism and his vision of a new India will be a source of inspiration to the people and leaders of the country.

Giving a personal touch with of course due admiration Shri Chandra Sekhar said: “I was

closely associated with him during emergency” His capability to encourage people and his sense of attachment to people was worth-emulating. He was senior to me in terms of age but he always treated me like his colleague and equal. During the last twenty years whenever we met he called me “Bolo Ballia” and I used to reply to it by saying ‘Kaho Odia’.

When Biju Babu was admitted to hospital for illness Shri Chandra Sekhar visited him. The doctor requested him to persuade Biju Babu to stay in the hospital as he was not ready to do so. After persuasion of 20 minutes he became ready to stay in hospital of course on one condition that he would come tomorrow positively to the hospital.

Next day his condition severely deteriorated and subsequently after two days he breathed his last when Chandra Sekharji last visited him.

The unimaginable popularity of Biju Babu and the spontaneous love of the people towards him was evident when his dead body was taken to Puri for last rites. Shri Chandra Sekharji said: ‘I remember the scene of Puri. Atalji and Dev Gowdaji were also with me. It seemed that the whole of Orissa had gathered on the seashore to pay their last homage to their beloved leader. A large number of political leaders were also present there. I cannot describe Biju Babu’s courage and enthusiasm. Atalji and other leaders mentioned his contribution to the progress of the country. He actively took part in revolutionary movement of 1942 ; democratic movement of Nepal and Indonesian straggle for Independence. He was associated with Lohiaji ,Arunaji, Jay Prakashji and Narendra Devji.

### **Shri George Fernandes**

Shri George Fernandes Ex-Central Minister who had the opportunity of enjoying Biju Babu’s company for 31 years was a great admirer of Biju Patnaik. In fact his patriotism and love of the country deeply impressed him. He along with many others constantly pestered on Biju Babu to write down his experiences of Freedom Struggle for posterity. As he said on the floor of Parliament : ‘we used to say him one thing time and again, that he should write down his experiences which he got during the freedom struggle and other struggles for it is very necessary to let the people of this country know about the contribution he made in our freedom struggle. This was more necessary in view of the fact that many people for many years have launched a well-planned move to defame Bijuji. It was of course a different thing that Biju Babu never bothered about such things as his was a great soul. But his critics never threw any light on his dynamic life and the contributions he made for the freedom of this country but also for the independence of some of our neighbouring countries.

Shri Farnandes said further : ‘I do not know if Bijuji had written some thing about his life or not. But we repeatedly requested his daughter to get his conversation tape recorded whenever he spoke about the country so that the coming generation of the country may know that such a great patriotic soul had taken birth in this country.

Biju’s house was the centre of the movement of the underground people. Dr Lohia, Jay Prakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali and several other leaders used to launch their struggle from the house of Bijuji. Whenever they faced problems for journey to any part of the country, they sought his help and Biju Babu used to carry these people

to their respective destinations. Moreover Biju Babu used to disseminate information on the movement of the Indian National Army of Netaji to the country.

He was not merely a pilot but also the chief of the Transport command of the Royal Air Force of southern Asia and in that capacity he was drawing his salary. In Burma, not once but on several occasions his plane was shot down by the Britishers bullet. On several occasions it was declared that Biju Babu has been killed in the war. But as he had to escape, he escaped from the jaws of death. He escaped not only from the bullets of the Britishers but also from the death sentence he was awarded. He also made significant contribution for 1942 Movement.

Biju Babu was deeply concerned about the disparity in development with regard to different states under the Indian federal system. He often raised his voice to the injustice being done to certain states in the matter of development and the resultant countrywide imbalance.

### **Conclusion**

A perusal of the obituary references of national leaders of eminence like Prime Minister, ex- Prime Ministers, Speaker and ex-Speakers and Leader of the Ppposition and many other important national leaders show that our national leaders not only knew tit bits of legendary Biju's multi-faceted personality and multi-dimensional achievements but held him in high esteem in the national level. He had such stature and such national importance that even Prime Minister V.P. Singh at the dead of the night in 1992 came down the Orissa Bhawan to meet him and discuss matters of national importance. Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral very rightly assessed the stature and personality of Biju Babu when he said he was

a patriot to the core, a great son of India, a towering personality, the warrior of freedom struggle who bestrode the country like a colossus for over five decades. That apart, Biju Babu's personality and achievements were not only confined to Odisha and India but extended to the international sphere as could be evident from his role in Indonesian struggle for independence and democratic movement of Nepal.

After Biju Babu's death, there has been a demand that Biju Babu should be conferred Bharat Ratna. It is an unfortunate irony that it has not been conferred so far by the central authorities notwithstanding his personality, stature and achievements as a patriot and nationalist who protected our national interest all through his life apart from his role in nation-building and contribution to India's democratic and federal structure.

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## Utkal Divas

*Er. Raghunath Patra*

Long struggle offered Crown of success,  
On 1st April 1936, got Odisha Pradesh.  
Due to sacrifice of Gajapati K.C. Dev,  
Madhusudan Das, Gopabandhu Das & others.

Gajapati donated wealth and opulence  
Sincere struggle made Madhusudan popular  
During flood and famine Gopabandhu Das  
rendered services to distressed, door to door.

Sadheikala, Kharasuan Odia speaking tracts  
could not remain in Odisha, imparted grief  
Every year we memorize pioneer souls  
Pay regards with heart-felt brief.

Archives of Konark, Bhubaneswar, Srimandir  
Jaga Akhada, Paika's battle tricks,  
Odia Merchants franchise of voyage  
depict greatness of our ancestors.

Odisha is opulent in natural riches.  
We are not sordid in national charter.  
In literature, Science, Arts, Culture high.  
We should gain back previous glamour.

Even poverty has been waved away  
still then exist in nook and corner  
No doubt, we advance day by day  
at par with or more than our beloved neighbour.

Institutes are to be erected many.  
For that state requires sufficient fund  
We want network of communication  
connecting all remote places around.

Centre should have a first-rate look  
to uplift condition of our beloved State  
to march ahead on a path of progress,  
All will remain with hearts content.

I hail you, Oh Utkal Janani !  
for your riches in natural resources  
mines, forest, river and marine wealth  
Art and culture of uniqueness.

For your celestial grace, Oh mother !  
Lord Jagannath resides in Srimandir  
Lord Bhubaneswar in Lingaraj Temple  
Divine Heads reside everywhere.

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Er. Raghunath Patra, Brindaban Dham, Lokanath Road,  
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## Environment Degradation - Polluters to Pay

*Prof. Hrudaya Ballav Das*

**[The Supreme Court has evolved the doctrine that polluters to pay while deciding environment related cases which is a path-breaking step to check onslaught and degradation on environment and to have a eco-friendly, clean atmosphere].**

To save mankind and succeeding generation environment has to be protected from degradation at any cost. It is the primary responsibility of the state as well as every citizen to preserve the environment and eco-system to ensure for a pollution free air, water and the surface of the earth as mandated under Article-48(A) and Article-51(A-G) of the Constitution. It is also the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment like forests, lakes, rivers, wild life and to have compassion for living creatures. There has been legislations on the subject as Environment Protection Act-1986, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) – Act 1981, The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Forest Conservation Act, 1980, The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 and The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991, etc. Environment Protection Act has provided in unequivocal terms for the protection and improvement of environment. In this regard decisions were taken at the United Nations Conference on the improvement of the

Human Environment at Stockholm in June, 1972 where India participated and took appropriate steps for the prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property. The Air Act and Water Act have provided for the prevention, control and abatement of air and water pollution and establishment of Pollution Control Boards. They are empowered to carry out the functions vested under the law to control and check Air, Water and Land surface Pollution.

This planet is enveloped by life supporting layers like “Biosphere” – without which living organisms cannot exist. The imperative of safeguarding the Biosphere was recognized by the United States when it enacted the National Environmental Policy Act, 1969 which acknowledges the international obligation of the United States to “promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man”. Despite the rapid advance made in improving environmental conditions in Western countries resulting in better civic amenities, control of diseases and better living conditions, it was soon realized that destruction of eco-system, a consequence of indiscriminate exploitation of the resources of the planet carries with it the possibilities of world disaster. The reason is that this planet is no longer a store-house of resources

for indiscriminate exploitation and so the world community now looks upon the planet “as an ultimately unified system of living species and interactive, regenerative bio-geochemical processes that may supply man’s needs as long as he observes the system’s rules”. Legislative enactments concerning environmental pollution are the direct consequence of U.N. Conference. Under environmental laws due to plunder of forest wealth, utter lack of social responsibility on the part of industrial units in causing air and water pollution, this had reached alarming proportions thus warranting immediate remedial action. The seriousness of the problem could be discerned by one example. The 1952 National Forest Policy lays down that 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Indian plains should remain covered with natural forests and 2/3<sup>rd</sup> with mountains. In less than 40 years, the forest coverage has been reduced to less than 10%.

The objectives of the Water Act-1974 is to ensure that domestic and industrial effluents are not allowed to be discharged into the water course without adequate treatment plants as otherwise, the discharges would render water unsuitable for drinking and irrigation purposes and also for supporting fish life. The functions of the Central Pollution Control Board, apart from being advisory in nature, also comprehend performance of the functions entrusted to the State Board if the State Board fails to comply with any directions issued by the Central Government. The Central Pollution Board collects, compiles and publishes technical and statistical data relating to water pollution and the measures devised for its effective prevention and control. The functions of the State Board include inspection of sewage of effluents, laying down specifications for setting up plants for treatment of effluents and also prescribing standards of treatment of sewage to be discharged into any particular stream and the tolerance limits of pollution permissible in the water

of the stream. The law prohibits for the use of a stream or well for disposal of polluting matter and Section - 25 speaks of restrictions on individual outlets and individual discharges. In order to perform their functions, the Central and State Boards are empowered to issue directions to any persons or authority for remedial action. Violation of the provisions of the laws provide for severe punishment. Besides individuals, Companies also are liable for offences under the Act, Section – 49 which deals with cognizance of offences, in a large measure, gives monopoly to the Board to lodge complaints with the criminal courts. If a private person has to institute the proceedings, he must give notice of not less than 60 days to the Board expressing his intention to make a complaint. Enhanced punishments are prescribed in respect of second and subsequent offences. The jurisdiction of the civil courts is barred under Section 58 of the Act, to entertain any suit in respect of the proceeding taken under the Act and no injunction can be granted against any authority for any action taken in pursuance of any power conferred under the Act. However this ouster of jurisdiction of the courts will not prevent a Civil Court from entertaining a suit to restrain persons from polluting the water (*SRINIVASA DISTILLERIES vs. TYAGARAJAN A.I.R. 1986 A.P. 328*). The Boards are empowered to issue directions to any person or authority for closure or regulation of offending establishment or stoppage or regulation of supply of services such as water and electricity. The State Government is empowered – in consultation with the State Board – to declare pollution control areas. Likewise, this power also extends to issuing instruction to any authority under the Motor Vehicles Act for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the prescribed standards for emission of air pollutions from automobiles.

Environmental law in our country is still in its infancy. It is a matter of great satisfaction for environmentalists that several path-breaking judgments are handed down by the Supreme Court employing new interpretative techniques to meet the new situations posed by environmental pollution. This was made possible to a large extent because of public interest litigation becoming a part of our jurisprudence. In lime stone quarries case, reported in A.I.R. 1985 S.C. 652, certain lime stone quarries were directed to be closed by the Supreme Court on permanent basis as there was evidence to show that the existence of the same was hazardous to the health of the workers. The court observed "... it is a price that has to be paid for protecting and safeguarding the rights of the people to live in a healthy environment with minimal disturbance to ecological balance and without avoidable hazard to them and their cattle, homes and agricultural land and undue affection of air, water and environment.

In the case of – RURAL LITIGATION AND ENTITLEMENT KENDRA, DEHRADUN vs. STATE OF U.P. reported in A.I.R. 1987 S.C. 359, it was observed by the Supreme Court that the Government had the option to choose between protection of environment and developmental activities for generating wealth. The Court cautioned "tapping of resources has to be done with requisite attention and care so that ecology and environment may not be affected in any serious way." In Ganga Tanneries case, reported in A.I.R. 1988 S.C. 1037, it was found that a large number of tanneries were letting out effluents into the 'Ganga'. So the Supreme Court directed the setting up of primary treatment plants by the tanneries in order to prevent environmental degradation at Kanpur. The financial capacity of the tanneries was considered to be an irrelevant factor. In Ratlam Municipality vs. Vadrichand case (A.I.R. 1980-1622) a starting

point of the enviro-journey, exposed the municipal council for its grave neglect in its sanitary obligations. Supreme Court came down heavily on the inactive municipality and opined that decency and dignity are non-negotiable facets of human rights and are a first charge on local self-governing bodies and the municipal government cannot be allowed to make 'a statutory mockery' as decided by apex court in the case of M.C. Mehta vs Union of India (A.I.R 1987 S.C.965). The court issued serious warning to the habitual unresponsive municipal authorities to either 'act' or 'face the penalty of law' as 'the wages of violation is punishment, corporate and personal'.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy of Union Carbide Corporation of USA causing heavy toll of human lives and making thousands of people physically handicapped and maimed are still fresh in human mind in recent years. Similarly the Oleum Gas leak at Delhi from a unit M/s. Sriram Foods and Fertilizer Industries also created havoc due to gas leak in which many people were affected and one advocate died due to toxic gas. The Union Carbide Corporation Gas leak was like the nuclear holocaust causing heavy casualties of human life and destruction of property after Second World War. Therefore the environment has to be preserved at all cost and protected from degradation. In this regard the Supreme Court, on the wavelength of the case of Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India A.I.R. 1978 S.C. 597, treating article 21 as the residuary fundamental right clause, evolved the fundamental right to live in a clean environment. In the very first case, concerning mining environment, the apex court interpreted article 21 to include the right 'to live in healthy environment with minimum disturbance of ecological balance. It is worthwhile to mention that to check Air Pollution in the National Capital Delhi, CNG gas in automobiles was substituted sometimes back by the order Supreme Court

who were emitting toxic. It is desirable to mention that the marble structure and beauty of Tajmahal was substantially affected due to the toxic gas emitted by the polluting industries around Tajmahal in Agra and the Supreme Court directed for closure of such industries for the beautification of Taj.

Therefore it is the duty of the State and Central Pollution Control Board to protect the environment and maintain ecological balance and ensure clean water and air and to file prosecution against defaulting person, organization and industry for contravention of environment protection laws. It is gratifying to note that the Supreme Court in Rural Entitlement Kendra, Dehradun case popularly known as “Doon Valley” case has passed judgment for protection of natural settings, natural spring and water course and the mountains, flora and fauna of Mussorie Valley and directed for stoppage of cutting of lime-stones by the contractors from the Valley. It may be noted that recently there has been global warming in a big way which affects the life and safety of people across the globe. This is due to massive deforestation, population explosion, vast urbanization and rapid industrialization which need to be taken care of by developed and developing countries. We get news that in the snow clad Mt. Everest snow is melting due to global warming and even in Antarctica snow is melting in a big way causing apprehension and threat to the human life and safety. Reportedly Penguins are dying in large number in that region and there is blockage of pathway of the Penguins into the sea in search of their food as there is appearance of huge snow-clad Mountains in the sea. The serious onslaught on the eco-systems, forest growth, and wild-life are all creation of man. Unless these are stopped it will lead to further environmental degradation and life of the human being and animal kingdom in future will suffer a serious setback. The

examples are recent devastating earthquake in Nepal and adjoining areas and massive flood at Kedarnath-Badrinath. Besides significantly volume of carbon-dioxide and toxic gas is constantly increasing in atmospheric level which has posed hazards to human life. Due to increase of green house gas in atmosphere there is warming up the sea level and surface. Therefore there must be balance between climate action plan and development.

It is worthwhile to mention that only ‘Swatcha Bharat Yojana’ of present Government at the Centre initiated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is not adequate to protect the environment as huge Air Pollution in India is now the biggest threat to human life. In this backdrop reportedly India has overtaken China’s air pollution levels in 2015 and the average particulate matter exposure was higher for the first time in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a Greenpeace analysis of NASA satellite data has shown. For the first time this century, the average particulate matter exposure was higher for Indian citizens than that of Chinese people. China’s strong measures to curb pollution have contributed to the biggest year-on-year air quality improvement on record while on contrast, India’s pollution levels continued a decade long increase to reach the highest level on record.

Therefore there should be National Policy for clean air like U.S.A. National Environment Policy Act-1969. To check Air Pollution, Pollution Control Boards needs to be activated. They should rise to the occasion and take stern measures so as to prosecute the polluting individuals, industries, companies and organizations. Increase of population of two lakh of people every day is also a major threat to food security, to have clean air, water and clean environment. Waste materials have to be recycled,

to be converted into electrical energy by establishing mega plants for the purpose. In the above premises, the Supreme Court directed the constitution of a committee to examine the problem of vehicular pollution in the City of Delhi and to examine the methods for solution of the problem. The Delhi Administration was directed to submit to the court, a complete list of prosecutions launched against the owners of the vehicles for causing air pollution by breaching the various requirements of the law.

Environmental offences are crimes against the society. Rapacious industrialists, forest contractors and timber smugglers are to a large extent responsible for environmental pollution and they do so fully conscious of the consequences of their crimes. Pollution caused by motor vehicles also constitutes a culpable act although not deliberate, and deserves to be punished. Pollution Control Boards play a pivotal role in protecting the environment. However enlightened individuals and organizations dedicated to safeguarding environmental purity must act with missionary zeal to achieve the desired objective. Development and environmental protection do not represent conflicting values and this irrefragable truth must be given widest possible publicity. To tackle the problem in an effective manner, it is imperative to set up special courts unimpeded by procedural

hurdles to try offences relating to environmental pollution.

It is absolutely necessary to create massive awareness amongst people on current environmental issues and their solutions for which the participation of NGO and proactive role of media and legal services authorities are necessary. It is a welcome step that the Ministry of Environment and Forests is increasingly extending support to NGO activity and routing many of its own programme through them. Environmental Ministry has been organizing "National Environmental Awareness Campaigns" every year in order to spread the messages of environmental conservation across the society. The Supreme Court had constituted green bench for disposal of Environment Pollution related cases. Now there is also National Green Tribunal with its sittings in different part of country to solve the problems regarding environment degradation and to take care of the immerging situations. It is heartening to note the Supreme Court has successfully handled an area of complex, complicated and fast growing and changing techno-sciences and multi-disciplines. The judicial activism has resulted in many innovations and has given important raw material for building up a comprehensive Indian environmental jurisprudence.

## Role of Venketeshwar Deo on Odia Movement

*Dr. Chittaranjan Mishra*

Odisha disintegrated after 1568, with the death of last independent ruler Mukunda Dev in Gohiri Tikir War. The Bhois in Khurda, the Bhanjas in Ghumsur and Mayurbhanja and the Chauhans in Sambalpur rose into prominence. The attempts of the Mughals, the Maratha and the French failed to consolidate their position for a longer period in Odisha. But very cunningly and diplomatically the Britishers became successful to establish their control and political influence over Odisha by suppressing the Mughals, Maratha and French power. East India Company conquered Odisha in a phased manner, first the southern part, then the coastal region and finally the Sambalpur and the adjoining tracts. For their administrative convenience they integrated Southern Odisha with Madras Presidency in 1766, the coastal Odisha with Bengal Presidency in 1803 and the Western Odisha with Central Provinces in 1849. Both official and non-official attempts were made to introduce Bengali in Balasore District, Telugu in Ganjam and Koraput Districts and Hindi in Sambalpur District. This territorial dismemberment of Odisha injuriously affected the linguistic, cultural and economic interests of Odias. As a result, Odia language and culture was in a grave danger. Observing this pathetic condition of Odisha, Raja of Manjusa remarked in the Tenth session of Utkal Union Conference held at

Paralakhemundi on 26-27 December 1914 that "Can you say that I am alive if you cut off my head and keep it at Ranchi, throw my trunk into the Bay of Bengal and keep up my legs in the Madras Hospital ? This is the condition of our Utkal Mother who is lying dead being disfigured and separated from her body." In the year 1902 Ganjam Odias sent a memorandum to Lord Curzon in which they spoke of themselves as "a limb separated from the body".

In course of time the enlightened and progressive minded Odias were greatly alarmed at the increasing socio-political, economic and cultural backwardness of Odisha and prepared themselves to face the challenge for protection of Odia language and amalgamation of Odia speaking tracts. This led to the growth of Odia Nationalism and Nationalist Movement in Odisha, which has been divided into two phases from British conquest of Odisha to the Birth of Utkal Sammilani (1803 to 1903) and from the Birth of Utkal Union Conference to Birth of Separate Odisha State 1903 to 1936. The pioneer of the first phase of the Odia Nationalist Movement was Katinga Raja Venketeshwar Deo.

'Katingia was a small Zamindari of Kandhamal District which is presently situated in Daringbadi Panchayat of Baliguda Sub-Division.

King Harihara Singh died heirlessly in 1851. Widow queen Padmavati Devi handed over the Zamindari to his younger brother Venketeshwar Deo in the year 1864 just two years before her death (i.e. in 1866). Venketeshwar Deo was the younger brother of Chikiti Raja Pitambar Rajendra Deo and son of Nilambar Deo. He was a benevolent, and an Odia language lover king. He shouldered the responsibility of Katingia Zamindari in a critical and crucial period. Odisha witnessed a disastrous natural calamity i.e. famine of 1866. Its severity was so terrible that about a third of the population died. This ghastly nature of the famine displayed serious defects in British Administration and lamentable neglect of the vital problem of the development of Odisha.

To save Odisha from this grave danger and to awaken the Odia race a number of other Associations were also founded in different parts of Odisha, such as “Utkal Bhasa Vidhayini Sabha”-1866, “Cuttack Debating Club”-1869”, “Cuttack Young Men’s Association”-1869, “Odia Hitabadini Sabha”-1868 etc.

When efforts were made for imposition of Telugu Language instead of Odia as official language, on the people of south Odisha, the people, kings and landlords of Khallikote, Dharakot, Sorada, Jalantar, Manjusha, Surangi, Tikali, Parala, Katinga and Godapur resisted against it. Katinga Raja Sri Venketesh Deo with the help of William Mohanty, Balaram Moharana and Daniel Mohanty formed an organization named “Ganjam Hitabadini Sabha” in the year 1868 to protect Odia language, culture and society in an organized way. Raja Sri Venketeshwar Deo was the President and William Mohanty was the Secretary of the organization.

The 1<sup>st</sup> session of “Ganjam Hitabadini Sabha” was met on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1870 A.D.

at Rasulkonda (present Bhanjanagar) of Ganjam District. Janardan Das of Kanakuturu, Sub-Registrar Narasingh Das of Purusottampur and Dinabandhu Mohanty of Rasulkonda took a leading role to make it grand success.

This gathering created a feeling of intense love for Odia language and make Odias conscious about the dismemberment problem of Odisha.

This conference was a grand success one with the presence of the Rayat Heads of Hadagada Mutha (Tikabali), Chakapad Khondam, Athar Mutha and Bara Mutha Heads. The kings of Karada, Ranaba, Gadapur of Kandhamal District, the kings of Palur, Huma, Ganja, Mahuri, Surangi, Jarada, Purbakhanda, Khallikote, Athagada, Ghumsur, Sorada, Khemundi, Chikiti, Jalantar, Manjusha, Paralakhemundi etc. also attended this conference. As a result “Odia Hitabadini Sabha” got its birth in the year 1872, with the leadership of Venketeshwar Deo. He acted as the Secretary of this Association and sent a memorandum to the Court of the Queen of England by Kalipada Bandopadhyaya, who had been to England to submit financial statement of Madras Presidency in 1873.

The gist of the memorandum was published in the “Utkal Dipika” on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1873, as follows:

1. Ganjam people may kindly be allowed to correspond their grievances in Odia script.
2. All records should be made in Odia.
3. Odia language should be the medium of education in all schools.
4. And, the students should allow to appear their examination in Odia script.

But to his misfortune he became the eyesore of the British Govt. British Govt. became vigilant on Venketeshwar Deo. At last on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1874, Rupa Singh with the help of local Kandha leader Parsuram Kanhar joined hands with British Agent Mr. Forbes and got a decree for the estate. Venketeshwar Deo was dethroned by the British authority and Raghunath Singh the illegitimate son of Rupa Singh was placed on the throne.

After loss of Zamindari, he became depressed, poverty stricken and ill. He was permitted to reside in Peda Khemundi (Bada Khemundi) region. Finally he was received a Sananda on payment of annual Nazarana of Rs.50/-. At last he passed away from this world

in 1883 before the birth of Utkal Sammilani. The footprints he left on the soil of Odisha on the way of Odia movement will remain forever in the memory of Odias.

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## Banamali Das - A Revolutionary in the Princely State of Nilgiri

*Dr. Surendra Kumar Biswal*

Banamali Das was a hero of heroes who fought valiantly against the royal dynasty and led successfully the Prajamandal movement in Nilgiri state. He was the most illustrious as well as the most influential figure, the history of Nilgiri has ever produced. He was the conquerer of conquerors, the liberator of Nilgiri, the soldier of God whose words have been blessed by the people and sanctified by the Lord. He was a staunch supporter of communism and had a deep faith in proletarian Creed. He was an idol of revolutionary ideas.

He belonged to a higher middle class Karan family. His father Harihar Das was a lawyer and his mother Chintamani Devi was a pious and religious lady familiar with the religious texts like the Ramayan and the Mahabharat. He was born in Kadamsahi of native Nilgiri town of the Balasore District in 29<sup>th</sup> August 1918.<sup>(1)</sup> Unfortunately he lost his father at the age of four. But his mother was the source of inspiration for him. She very much influenced him to liberal and patriotic. He passed matriculation examination from the Balasore Zilla School in the year 1938.<sup>(2)</sup>

As a student of Balasore Zilla school he was very much influenced by Gopal Kumar Kanungo, a socialist teacher of the school. Under his personal guidance and care, he was introduced

to Bhagabati Charan Panigrahi, the Communist leader of Cuttack. He was enrolled in the “Voluntary Corps”<sup>(3)</sup> founded by Bhagabati Charan Panigrahi and became a communist leader of the communist party. From this period he dedicated his life for the upliftment of the downtrodden mass of the society.<sup>(4)</sup>

Taking arms against the king, unmarried Pranabandhu Agasti of Pratapada united all the people and founded an organization named “YUVAK SAKHA SAMITI” in 1931. In 1938 YUVAK SAKHA SAMITI first voiced against it and then Prajamandal was formulated.

Nilgiri, the Garjat Sub-Division of Balasore district marked a milestone in the Praja Mandal movement in Odisha. The King Mardaraj Harichandan established absolute monarchy in this kingdom. He ruled according to his own whims. He did not care to understand the real condition of the people. Because of the indifference the king did not pay proper attention to the miseries of the people. Oppressive rule,<sup>(5)</sup> exploitation of the poor people, the tyranny of the small officers of the Raja became the order of the day.<sup>(6)</sup> The king delivered that oppressive methods were the only way to keep the subjects quiet. He did not pay any heed to the needs of the people. So the subjects suffered from untold

poverty, starvation, miserable existence and extreme back in wilderness. <sup>(7)</sup>

It is difficult to notice the type of taxes collected by the king. Besides land revenue, the ruler could impose any type of illegal taxes on the people. Even the landless labourers were not spared. Tax collectors collected taxes on sale of forest fruits, on salt, tobacco, coconut, betel and various other things. <sup>(8)</sup>

The most hated system “Bethi and Begari” was in vogue. People had to give free labour for the works of the king. They were severely punished if they failed to labour hard. Half of the entire income was spent for the maintenance of his family. The king considered the state income as his personal property. It is surprising that the British Govt. remained blind towards the suffering of the Garjat people. But time came when the discontent of the people forced them to rebel. <sup>(9)</sup>

The Prajamandal movement of Nilgiri in 1938 is a most significant in the history of Odisha. This Prajamandal was organized in 1938 by the endeavour of Dr. H.K. Muhtab and Sarangadhar Das. The most significant personalities of this Prajamandal were Banamali Das, Kailash Chandra Mohanty, Hadibandhu Raj, Krushna Chandra Dhag, Pranabandhu Agasti, Gokulananda Nayak and Mohan Bose. Mr Kailash Chandra Mohanty presided the Prajamandal and Mr. Banamali Das was the Secretary of Prajamandal. <sup>(10)</sup>

In order to introduce reforms in the administration they started agitation against the despotic rule of the king, Mardaraj Harichandan in 1938. The flame of the revolution crossed the boundary line of Nilgiri and spread to Athagarh, Tigiria, Ranpur, Daspalla, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj. <sup>(11)</sup>

Eleventh July 1938, the day of Car festival is memorable in the history of Nilgiri. In this

auspicious day both the President and the Secretary of Prajamandal inspired and infuriated the people addressing against the inhuman rule of the king. The firing words of Banamali Das mentally prepared the people to start the movement.

The movement began and they demanded to promulgate new agricultural policy and to establish a benevolent rule. It was totally a nonviolent movement. But to foil the movement a counter organization was established by the prince Rajkishore Chandra Mardaraj Harichandan. This movement was Praja welfare movement. The king in order to strengthen his position tried to be friend of the Adivasis or tribal people. He even directed Adivasis to fight against the non Adivasi with bows, arrows and spears and to burn and destroy their houses. By such actions the king believed he could terrorize the Prajas and compel them to seek his protection. He could then impose his will on them as he had been doing. But matters turned out contrary to his expectation. The people could see through the king's game and regrouped again to revolt against him. <sup>(12)</sup>

One hundred twenty people were arrested by the order of the king. Out of them fifty people were fined fifty rupees each and rest seventy people were imprisoned. The king sought the police assistance from Govt. of Orissa when Banamali Das started Satyagraha taking five thousand people at Machhuapatna. <sup>(13)</sup> This was a rare opportunity for the then Prime Minister H.K. Mahtab who had been to Delhi promptly and sought permission of the Home Minister Sardar Patel for the merger of Nilgiri with Orissa. The permission was granted immediately. On his return from Delhi on 14<sup>th</sup> November Nilgiri was merged with Orissa. <sup>(14)</sup>

During post-independence era, Banamali Das mobilized the masses against the rich and

Haves in the society. In 1957 Banamali Das came against to the picture of Nilgiri. He arranged all Odisha Peasant Conference at Nilgiri from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> April in 1957 which was inaugurated by Bankim Chandra Chatterji, the President of All India Peasants Association. <sup>(15)</sup> It was presided by Banamali Das. The peasant conference demanded sealing law against lands of the rich, Zamindars and the kings. This peasant conference demanded that the Government should enclose the five thousand acres of land of Salvata chhak of Balangir king, Mahisi Gotha and coast stretch of cultivated land Kalarapala of Nilgiri king. Thousands and thousands acres land of the king of Dhenkanal and these lands distributed among the landless peasants. This conference grew the popularity of Banamali Das from the grass-root level. He paved the way for entry in to the Odisha Legislative Assembly. In 1964 the All India Communist party which was founded in September 1924 at the initiative of Satyavhka of Uttarpradesh was divided in to two fictions on the basis of difference relating to ideological and strategic stand of Communist in India. Jyoti Basu of Bengal, Sundaraya of Andhrapradesh and Nambudipad of Keral declared CPIM in 1964 at Tabali in Andhra Pradesh. Banamali Das was the first comrade from Odisha attended the Tabali conference and was influenced by the ideology of these persons. Returning to Odisha he formed a CPIM party and arranged a meeting at Sahadevkhunta of Balasore in 1964. It was presided by Promod Dasgupta, the state secretary of West Bengal. The prominent figures like Laxman Pattanaik of Khurda, Jagannath Mishra of Paralakhemundi, Shivaji Pattanaik of Khurda attended the meeting. Banamali Das became the first CPIM Secretary in Odisha. <sup>(16)</sup>

In 1967 he was the first CPIM MLA in Orissa Legislative Assembly. In 1971 he was again elected when Orissa was governed by two Chief Ministers named Biswanath Das from 3<sup>rd</sup>. April,

1971 to 14<sup>th</sup> June 1972 and Nandini Satapathy from 14<sup>th</sup> June 1972 to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1973. In 1974 he was elected to Orissa Legislative Assembly for the last time under CPIM banner when Odisha was governed by the Chief Minister Nandini Satapathy. During the time of Satapathy land reform was strictly promulgated. Banamali Das took part in the discussions like social reforms, dowry Act, and the remuneration to the old and the disabled. <sup>(17)</sup>

There were frequent flood at Rajnagar, Marshaghai, Paradip and Chandbali. Banamali Das along with party members visited those areas and distributed relief from village to village. He raised a question in the Orissa Legislative Assembly for the permanent solution of the flood. <sup>(18)</sup>

In 1973 there was terrible famine in Nilgiri sub-division. It became acute. In 1974 due to the lack of rainfall, cultivation became standstill. The misery of the people knew no bounds and the echo of the great famine was heard at Nilgiri sub-division. Banamali Das drew the attention of the Govt. of Orissa in Legislative Assembly and demanded the test relief. The Govt. did not pay any heed. Banamali along with the active party members started movements in front of the Blocks. At last Rabindra Mohan Senapati, the then collector of the Balasore provided relief to the famine stricken families. He demanded work instead of food in Odisha Legislative Assembly. <sup>(19)</sup>

Banamali Das was a reputed writer and wrote a number of books both Odia and English. The unpublished books are 'Peace against war', "Prosperity against poverty" and "Against communalism for Fraternity" in English. His unpublished auto-biography "Bud-Bud ra Kahani" and his published poem "Godhulilagana bear the literary talents and wisdom of Banamali Das. <sup>(20)</sup>

He was also the editor of the 'Samyabadi' from 1969 to 1982 published from the Party Office, Cuttack. He was a paragraph writer of the Newspaper "The Dharitri". His favourite Newspaper was "The Samaj". Banamali Das was not a pessimistic. He believed the Radha Krishna religion and went to Radha Krishna temple everyday, situated near the royal palace of Nilgiri. Towards the fag end of his life he was influenced by Manoj Das who was the firm believer of Srma Aurobindo. Sometimes topics on the Aurobinda were discussed in his own resident. He had been joining Aurobinda Pathachakra of Nilgiri since 1992.

Banamali Das occupied a unique place among the leaders of modern Odisha. He was a great freedom fighter, revolutionary and an astute communist leader. An ardent believer in communist ideology, he was the champion of poor and downtrodden throughout his life. In him we find the organizing ability of the great communist leader Mao-Tse-Tung and the courage and fearlessness of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

As a leader of the 'Prajamandal' movement in Nilgiri state, he was instrumental in galvanising the illiterate and half fed masses into own action against the tyrannical rule of the Raja, protected by the mighty British. As a result of his valiant efforts, Nilgiri had the distinction of being the first princely state to be merged into Indian union in 1947. He also played an active role in Post-Independence electoral politics. He exercised tremendous influence over the people of his area. This was proved by the fact that he was thrice elected from the Nilgiri constituency in 1967, 1971 and 1974.

His fearless struggle, revolutionary spirit, indomitable will power, love for human being will

remain a constant source of inspiration for the coming generations.

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# Cultural Life of the Tribals of the Koraput Region

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If one thinks of cultural history of primitive tribes one must turn towards south Odisha, the hub of tribals. So this Koraput region, the domain of tribals has become centre of study and research.

Although the tribal population in Odisha has around 25%, their contribution in the development process of the state is outstanding. Their tradition and culture is broad and uncommon. And the cultural history of tribals of this undivided Koraput has special importance all over India. The tribal population consists of 53.74% in the undivided Koraput (now divided into 4 districts Koraput, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, and Malkangiri) as per 2001 census. The anthropologist study gives an account that there are 62 types of tribes in Odisha. They all live in the above districts although their number is so small. As far as the population of a tribe is concerned the Bhumia, Bhatra, Gond, Koya, Paraja, Kondh constitute above one lakh each. While other 26 tribes population is around one thousand.

The Bonda and Didayi are considered as rare tribes because of their greatness and typicality of culture. Their domain and sphere of activity is confined to the dense forest of Eastern Ghats and on the mountainous river. This aboriginal tribe is divided into three communities viz, Munda (Austro-Asiatic), Dravidian and Indo-Asian.

Literarily the definition of their culture is so broad that we appreciate and accept every aspect of their life style which is associated with culture.

In 1863 this region was under direct administration of British. The Government of India Act of 1919 declared the entire area of Koraput district as Scheduled Area and the major tribes inhabiting the district have been declared as scheduled tribes.

Normally the primitive tribes express the cultural identity through their custom, tradition, festivals, dress and ornaments. Every tribe has a certain place of origin and its spreading. They have their own oral and written language for interaction of each other. The matrimonial alliance of a tribe is arranged by its own community as they oppose inter community marriage. Each tribe has its own social bond, administration, tradition and judicial system. All these play a key role in maintaining law, youth dormitory, worship and enchanting, economic policy, collection of food, hunting, shifting agriculture and handicraft and so on for their lively subsistence.

## **Important features of tribal socio-cultural life :-**

1. They live in relative isolation usually in hills and forests in interior area.

2. Their social identity is defined and redefined from time to time.
3. They constitute simple societies which are socio-culturally homogenous.
4. They have their written and oral language or dialect for communication.
5. They have their rich cultural tradition and heritage although their social organization is simple.

#### Other cultural features:-

1. **Traditional Village Council** – The village council is considered to be the cultural centre of tribal village. The head of the village council is the head of the village. He is normally selected as per seniority and talent. Almost all the tribe calls the head as **NAIKO**. Assistance is chosen to help the head is called as **CHALLAN**. The duty of convening a meeting is rested on the shoulder of **BARIKA**. The priest of the village is regarded as **DEHURI**. The head of Koya village is **WARDE**, the Paraja's the **MUDULI**, the Sauras the **GOMANGO** and so on. The religious head of Kondh community is the **JANI** who is assisted by **BIS-MAJHI** during the time of meeting.
2. **Youth dormitories**:- The Youth dormitories (Dhangda, Dhangdi Basa) play a major role for keeping the tribal culture and tradition afloat. And most of the tribe have such institution for unmarried youths. The boys and the girls spend nights their in separate room in the dormitories. This dormitory has another importance particularly choosing of life partner by the youth.
3. **Position of women**:- It is very interesting to note the role of women in the socio-economic and cultural spheres of the Kondh community. For the management and development of family, the role of women was very important. Family was the smallest unit in the Kondh social organization. Life of a Kondh family was most peaceful and without conflict and tension. Wife and Husband helped each other in such a manner as the custom of their society dictated. It was a social custom on the part of the husband and wife not to address each other with name. Women did not speak the name of her husband and younger brother because if she was widowed, she might have to marry one of them. Women were allowed complete freedom before marriage. The women played a vital role for the management of the family. In every manner the Kondh women were considered as an important asset to the family. They not only help the male-folk socially but also economically. The women were not fond of gossip. They were busy as bees all round the year. They had no Purdah system. Most agricultural activities were done by women. Women were capable to purchase the daily necessities of life from the market. They were expert spinners. The Kondhs performed various festivals in a peculiar way and in every festival women enjoyed equal status with men.
4. **Ceremony of tribals**:- ceremonies are inseparable part of the way of life of tribals. There are two types of ceremony so far as observation at family level and community level is concerned. The family level ceremonies mainly include newly born babies, marriage and death. The naming ceremony of the newly born baby is observed which is taken place on 21<sup>st</sup> day after birth. There is also provision of prayer and worship to the forefather for blessing.

The ceremony also includes the drawing of “Muruja and Jhoti” in *tantric* design. Similarly during the time of death rites there is also the rule of drawing *tantric* design and offering of non steam rice, wine, cocks, etc for pleasing the spirits of the dead. These ceremonies are conducted in presence and guidance of Jani, Sisa and Gurumai.

5. **Worship of nature:-** All tribes are the worshipper of nature as they felt the presence of divinity in nature. Indeed, this is important from religious ground. They give more emphasis on three elements of nature. They worship the soil as mother earth, sun as religious god and water as the life giver. The aim and objectives of religious objects are as follows (a) Prayer for blessing (b) System of improved bread earning (c) Worshipping and remembering of forefathers (d) Welfare of the world (e) Recreation (f) Environment protection and (g) Integration among communities. The religious practices go on in tribal culture all over the year.
6. **Song, festivals and dance :-** Other aspects that associate with tribal culture are folk song, folk dance, fairs and festivals which can not be ignored. They prefer to perform song and dance in group rather than pairs or single. They play traditional tribal musical instruments such as drum, horn, tamak, dungdunga etc. The expression of the parts of the body like eye, head, waist and hand attract others and especially at the time of dance which is parallel to the tune of musical instruments. Usually these types of song and dance are organized at the time of fairs and festivals. The main festivals include Chaiti Parab, Pus Parab, Ghanta Parab, Sim(bean) Parab, Aam (Mango)

Parab, Bhairabi Jatra, Nuakhai, Dhan-Nua, Dially, Mandai and marriage ceremony. They put on their traditional dresses and ornaments well on these occasions so as to sing and dance in groups. The Pus Parab and Chaiti Parab of almost all tribe of Koraput region is recognized as main festivals and Dhemsas, the popular dance is regarded as the best in the country.

- A) **Chaiti Parab:-** The whole month of Chaitra (March-April) is celebrated as a holiday by the tribals of this region. The month is spent in feasting, night long dancing and singing and in expeditions into the forests together. Men and boys go into forest for hunting.
- B) **Pus Parab :-** Pus Parab is observed in the month of Pausha (December – January ) in which men, women and children participate. After the rituals and sacrifices are made a heap of wood is lit and people sing and dance encircling the fire. The Bonda, Koya, Paraja, Didayi, Bhatra, Matia etc. observe this festival with much pomp and pleasure.
- C) **Ghanta Parab :-** Ghanta Parab is observed for three days in the month of Baisakha (April). Ghanta means pot. Each such pot with four cakes, was offered to Thakurani Penu along with a sacrificial animal by the vow-taker who suffered from Small pox and Cholera.
- D) **Am-Nuakhai:-** Am Nuakhai held among the tribals in the month of March. On this festival they take the first mango of the year after worshipping their village gods and goddesses. It is not a group festival but individual.
- E) **Amus:-** It is held in the month of July. Each family member worships cow on the same day. They go to their paddy field with milk,

Dhup, Kendu leaf for worship. In this occasion each member takes wine and goat, pig, cocks are sacrificed.

- F) Dhan-Nua :-** This is also Nuakhai. A feast will be arranged in all families on which new rice is first eaten. At first they give the new rice of the year to their gods.
- G) Dially:-** The tribals observed the Dially festival in the month of February. The milkman of their concerned master distribute goat meats to their masters. In the evening milkmen collect paddy and new clothes as their presentation. The young villagers show their skill of fighting with sword and club. This is known as Gardhan.
- H) Mandai:-** Mandai is a festival like exhibition. It functions in the month of February. All the village gods are invited to this function. Coloured clothes covering on a long bamboo stick are known as the Lathi. Each villager holds this stick and attends the Mandai with drums.

**Dance (Dhemsas):-** A popular dance form like Dhemsas which is normally performed in every village of Koraput is really fascinating. This is such a group dance which consists both men and women of all ages. They perform the group dance knitting fingers of one another and with the tunes of the instruments. Although all tribes perform the Dhemsas only the Koya's style and expression is eye-catching. The Koya male put on the horns of the bison during the dance. The beautiful song, dance, musical instruments associated with these performances by the tribals and their colourful costumes and ornaments are the greatest attractions for the viewers.

**7. Food and drink:-** For food tribes depend mainly on agriculture. Mango, tamarind, jack-fruit and other fruits are largely collected. In the day

time they take a liquid food made from Ragi and a few quantity of rice. Bamboo shoots are very popular which is known as "Basta" in their language. The Saoras in their early morning and sunset, go to the palm-tree for their wine. They also make chutneys of various kinds. For food the Bondas depend mainly on agriculture. They prefer for meat. Rats and mice were considered delicious. The Kondhs did not eat snakes, lizards. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian curries were generally prepared by boiling and adding only chilies and salt. But gradually they learnt the use of mustard oil and Mahul oil to make their curries. The favourite drink of the people is prepared from Mahua flower.

**8. Method of treatment:-** Among the most primitive tribe of Odisha, there is the belief that disease is caused by hostile spirits, the ghosts of the dead or due to the violation of some taboo. They have their own doctors. In the realm of netting the tribals are still living in the age of magic with its practitioner. By their magical performances they also cure various kinds of disease like stomach trouble, fever etc. Before proper treatment the tribal doctor or "Disan" called upon to attend a patient for diagnosis. For the diagnosis, what is known as "Chaula Khoja" any male relative of the patient brings a handful of rice which the patient is made to touch. Indigenous methods of treatment of the diseases among the tribal can be divided into two categories namely 1. Magical cure and 2. Medicinal cure. In case of epidemics like small pox, cholera or cattle disease they believe that it is caused by the evil influence of the Duma (Ghost). The family has to celebrate a worship to village goddess (Thakurani).

**9. Education:-** Education is one of the aspects of tribals development. Now they realize the importance of education. The government through the department of Tribal and Rural Welfare have been trying its best for the



educational development of the tribals. Ashram Schools, Sevashram and Training centres have opened by the government for educating the tribal people. Stipends are granted to tribal students for higher education.

**10. Art and crafts:-** The artistic skill of the tribal people is not only manifested in their dance and music but also in their dress and ornaments, wall paintings, wood carving and toy making etc. The Saura paintings are intimately related to religious beliefs and drawn in order to appease demigods and spirits. But through art and craft their self image and aesthetic sensibility are visualized.

#### **Conclusion:**

The tribal culture is so much liberal and simple. A deep observation, study and analysis regarding tribal culture will clarify our understanding. On account of these above reasons the tribals of these parts are considered as simple, truthful and freedom – oriented. Although modernization and the process of globalization has already entered into the hills of Koraput region changing their life style; yet their costumes, tradition associated with cultural history will remain evergreen in the world.

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## Gramdan and Vinoba's Pad-yatra in Odisha: Recounting a Phase of Bhoodan Movement

*Dr. Sarat Parida*

Gramdan, a novel concept that evolved as an offshoot of Bhoodan programme created great excitement and curiosity in Indian society for quite some years especially in the mid-fifties of the last century. The Bhoodan movement originally conceived and launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave with the objective of providing land to the landless poor in course of its progress added many novel features in its activities. The programme started with an appeal for gifts of portions of land. But after a decent beginning, Vinoba pleaded for one-sixth share in holdings and subsequently it unfolded a new programme called Gramdan which in fact, urged for surrendering property rights in land in favour of the village community. This idealized programme in frame of reference envisaged a disciplined, harmonious, and co-operative village life; all facilitating the bolstering of village unity and ushering in a more egalitarian socio-economic order in the society.

The Gramdan concept in the real sense embodied the idea of Gram Raj as conceived by the 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi. In fact, it visualized the village community as constituting a big family. Thus, individual possession of land, labour and wealth are contrary to the interest of a cohesive and co-operative life. Hence, the entire land in the village would be pooled and to be held in trust by the village

community. Common land ownership and co-operative decision making its main features would usher in village unity. Moreover, the experiment over time would form the basis or pave the way for the establishment of a self-sufficient village republic. In short, Gramdan idea intended to bring about changes in individual thought, to make them work for the progress of village community rather being self-centered in social outlook.

The Gramdan idea took birth accidentally during Vinoba's Bhoodan campaign in Uttar Pradesh, when the entire population of village Mangroth donated their lands to Bhoodan on 24 May, 1952. Vinoba returned the lands asking them to share the lands of the village equitably. This idea of community-sharing of lands in place of individual ownership inspired in Vinoba a campaign for Gramdan. But it was only during and after Vinoba's foot-march through Odisha in 1955 that Gramdan caught the attention of the nation and became a forceful campaign. The first Gramdan in Odisha was obtained in Manpur in Cuttack district on 30 January, 1953 but the programme received great stimulus in the district of Koraput. In fact, by 26 January, 1955, the day when Vinoba commenced his first *pad-yatra* (foot-march) in Odisha, 26 villages were offered to Gramdan in the district of Koraput. The Gramdan work became all the rage in the district

during his tour and by the time Vinoba left Odisha on 1 October, 1955, Koraput contributed 605 Gramdan villages out of the total 812 made in the entire state. After the departure of Vinoba, the programme also continued to make accelerated progress in the state and by 15 December 1956, 1575 Gramdans were made in the state with Koraput district contributing 1226 alone. The district of Koraput was followed by Balasore with 185 Gramdans to its credit. The districts of Mayurbhanj and Ganjam followed Balasore in the list with their contributions being 62 and 54 respectively. Thus, following Vinoba's first tour to the state the programme received wide acceptance in the state though its progress in terms of Gramdan donations varied from district to district.

The Gramdan campaign got impetus in the state after Nabakrushna Choudhury, an acclaimed political figure resigning from chiefministership joined the Bhoodan movement in 1956. Ironically, the campaign got a jolt when Gopabandhu Choudhury, one of the pioneers of the programme in Odisha passed away on 29 April, 1958. However, the demise of Gopabandhu Choudhury which had dampened the spirit of the campaigners lived for a short period. It was soon energized by Acharya Harihar Das, another dedicated worker who undertook an extensive *pad-yatra* starting from Balasore on 15 August, 1958. The *pad-yatra* which covered a distance of 3000 miles in all the 13 districts of Odisha, and finally culminated on 31 June, 1960 was indeed a great effort to reinvigorate the Gramdan drive and to propagate the use of Khadi. However, by the end of 1960, 1946 villages were gifted to Gramdan work in Odisha out of the total 4500 Gramdans made in the entire country.

By the end of 1950s, when the tempo of land-gift programme had slackened to a

considerable extent and the appeal for gifts of land had lost its earlier charm, Vinoba came out with the idea of simplifying the Gramdan concept in order to make it more acceptable to the people. Hence, in place of one-sixth part of the cultivable land of the holders which he demanded earlier, he asked the landholders to contribute only one-twentieth of their cultivable land. However, its success was encouraging and it led to the birth of the new Gramdan idea, later styled as Sulabh Gramdan.

Vinoba began his second *pad-yatra* in Odisha on 13 August, 1963 from Sirsa in Mayurbhanj district. It continued for long 4 months and finally ended on 12 December, 1963. This *pad-yatra* covering 8 districts of the state in essence gave popularity to the programme in Western Odisha. The Zilla Parishads of the 8 districts also passed resolution extending support to the Sulabh Gramdan programme. Following Vinoba's departure from Odisha, Rama Devi toured the district of Koraput from 20 February-1 March, 1964 and attended as many as six Gramdan conferences in the district. In the Gramdan conference held at Dabugaon in the Nabarangapur sub-division a resolution was adopted to obtain all the villages under the police stations of Dabugaon, Kodinga, Jharigaon and Umerkote in Gramdan by the end of 1969. Vinoba's tour as well as the tour of Rama Devi in Koraput not only lifted the morale of the Bhoodan workers but also proved productive for the programme. This is surmised from the fact that out of the total 11,065 Gramdans made in the entire country by November, 1965, Odisha made a handsome contribution of 2807 Gramdans and thus occupied the second place in the country in that respect.

Vinoba's third tour to the state was scheduled to start from Mayurbhanj on 21 December, 1965 and it was programmed to continue till 16 January,

1966. But the tour of Vinoba was postponed at the last moment owing to his illness. However, to give encouragement to the workers of the movement in the state, Jayaprakash Narayan visited Odisha in the first week of February 1966. His visit gave impetus to the Bhoodan workers in the state to work with refreshing zeal and determination. Gramdans collected amidst of stormy campaigns called Toophan Gramdans actually started in 1965 and this programme made notable progress in 90 blocks out of the total 310 blocks in the state as assessed in the wake of Jayaprakash Narayan's visit to the state. Most of the villages in the blocks of Kharada, Rashagovindapur of Mayurbhanj district, Bhograi, Baliapala and Raibania of Balasore, Dabugaon, Jharigaon, Potangi, Padua, Nandapur, Gandapur and Narayanpatana of Koraput district had been gifted to the movement. The Gramdan concept further broadened and gave currency to the idea of Prakhanda Dan (donation of a block in Gramdan), Zilladan (donation of a district in Gramdan) and Pradesh Dan (donation of a province in Gramdan). However the movement in spite of making discernible headway in Bihar and Odisha had failed to actualize the dream of Vinoba, who wanted to see the villages of India reconstituted on Gramdan lines by the birth centenary day of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October, 1969.

To provide legal support to the land-gift movement, the Government of Odisha passed the Orissa Bhoodan and Gramdan Act, 1970. The Act provided that if 51 per cent of residents of a village would donate lands amounting to at least 51 per cent of the total lands of the village that village would be declared as a Gramdan village. One-twentieth part of the total land of the village would be distributed among the landless persons and the rest part would remain with the actual donors with the right of cultivation. The Act came into effect from 25 December, 1972.

Gramdan programme which had the potential of ushering in an egalitarian society, after going strong for over a decade ran out of steam especially in the period following the vigorous enforcement of the ceiling provisions of the land reform laws during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74). Nevertheless, by the end of March 1976, 10, 611 villages had been gifted to Gramdan in Odisha out of the total 50,000 villages in the state. In fact, the programme received encouraging response in the tribal areas of the state though the response in terms of land-gift obtained showed variation from area to area in the state. However, Vinoba's *pad-yatra* in the state greatly helped in disseminating the objectives of the programme in the remotest areas of the state. It is a fact, that in terms of goal visualized, targets set, lands obtained and distributed, the Gramdan programme have not been a clinching experience. But certainly it has shown an alternative way of metamorphosing the village, reshaping the village structure; a programme had it been pursued zealously for a few more years could have changed the face of Indian villages today.

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# Right to Health, Constitutional Safeguards and Role of Judiciary

*Dr. Soumitra Kumar Chatterjee*

## INTRODUCTION

Health is wealth. “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control and motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance.”<sup>1</sup> Throughout the world health care has now been a matter of great concern. The United Nations has adopted various resolutions to safeguard the interest of patients. The World Health Organisation has also played a pivotal role in guiding health policy development and ensuring and attaining the highest standards of health care to all the people around the globe.

Right to health is an age-old phenomenon. It may be traced back in the common law principles under the ‘Law of Torts’. Right to health care and protection has also been recognized in India since early times. As a founder member of the United Nations, it has ratified various International Conventions promising to secure health care rights of individuals in society. In this regard a number of committees have been set up by the government at different times to look into

the aspect of public health, and several recommendations have been made by these committees to improve the health care system in India.

So far as the Indian Constitution is concerned, nowhere the term ‘health’ or ‘right to health’ has been defined in it. Through Judicial interpretations it has been observed that ‘right to life’ also includes ‘right to health’ and thus it is a fundamental right. This article is a humble attempt to focus on the constitutional provisions regarding ‘right to health’ and to analyse various judicial decisions relating to health care.

## PROVISIONS UNDER PART-III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The Constitution of India not only provides for the health care of the people but also directs the state to take necessary measures to improve the condition of health of the people. Though the provisions enshrined under this part have no direct link with the healthcare, however from various judicial interpretations it has been established that the intention of the legislature were there to cover the health as a right of the citizens.

Article 14 speaks about equality before law where the State shall not deny to any person

equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.

Article 15 contains provisions for a particular application of the general principle of 'equality of treatment' embodied in Article 14. It prohibits discrimination against citizens on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them. Further no citizen shall also be subjected to any disability, liability, restriction or condition with regard to access to shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainments; or the use of wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads and places of public resort maintained wholly or partly out of State funds or dedicated to the use of the general public. Even nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children for their betterment of life.

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution ensures protection of life and personal liberty of the individual, where no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Article 23 prohibits traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.

Article 24 also prohibits the employment of children below the age of fourteen years in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous employment.

### **PROVISIONS UNDER PART-IV OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Apart from the above fundamental rights, the Constitution of India provides for the following directive principles to be followed by the state regarding health care of the citizens.

Article 38 in this regard provides that, "the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting, as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice-- — social, economic and political, shall inform all the institution of the national life". Thus this is an imposition of liability on state that the State will secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people including public health because without public health welfare of people is practically meaningless.

Article 39 further speaks that "the State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing –

- (e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength;
- (f) that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment."

Article 41 deals with right to work, education and public assistance in certain cases and thus imposed duty on the State to public assistance basically for those who are old, sick and disable. This Article specifically says that "the state shall within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provisions for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want". Their implications in relation to health are obvious.

Article 42 provides for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief and gives

the power to the State for making provisions in this regard, which implies that this Article is intended to protect the health of infants and mothers by providing maternity benefit.

Article 47 imposes duty on the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health. It categorically provides that “the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.”

Article 48A ensures that State shall endeavour to protect and impose the pollution free environment for good health.

#### **PROVISIONS UNDER PART - IV-A**

Article 51 A (g) under Part IV – A of the Constitution says that “it shall be the duties of every individual to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.”

#### **ROLE OF JUDICIARY**

Several human rights instruments, throughout the globe, have recognized ‘right to health’ as a basic human right. In India, though ‘right to health’ is not recognized as a fundamental right expressly, the judiciary by its expounded role has recognized it as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution as an adjunct to the ‘right to life’. The responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill the ‘right to health’ lies not only with the medical profession but also with public functionaries such as administrators and judges.<sup>2</sup>

Some of the important pronouncements on this issue are given hereunder.

The Supreme Court, while interpreting Article 21 of the Constitution ruled that the expression ‘life’ does not connote mere animal existence or continued drudgery through life but includes, *inter alia*, the opportunities to eliminate sickness and physical disability. In *Francis Coralie Mullin v. Union Territory of Delhi*,<sup>3</sup> it was held that, right to life guaranteed in Article 21 of the Constitution in its true meaning includes the basic right to food, clothing and shelter.

The Apex Court, in *Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity v. State of West Bengal*,<sup>4</sup> while widening the scope of Article 21 and the government’s responsibility to provide medical aid to every person in the country, held that in a welfare state, the primary duty of the government is to secure the welfare of the people. Providing adequate medical facilities for the people is an obligation undertaken by the government in a welfare state. The government discharges this obligation by providing medical care to the persons seeking to avail of those facilities.

In *Unnikrishnan, J.P. v. State of Andhra Pradesh*,<sup>5</sup> it was held that the maintenance and improvement of public health is the duty of the State to fulfill its constitutional obligations cast on it under Article 21 of the Constitution.

In *Consumer Education and Research Centre v. Union of India*,<sup>6</sup> the Supreme Court explicitly held that the right to health and medical care is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution and this right to health and medical care, to protect health and vigour are some of the integral factors of a meaningful right to life.

In *Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. Union of India*<sup>7</sup> the Apex Court addressed the types of

conditions necessary for enjoyment of health and said that right to live with human dignity also involves right to 'protection of health'. No State, neither the central government nor any state government, has the right to take any action which will deprive a person the enjoyment of this basic essential.

In *Virender Gaur v. State of Haryana*,<sup>8</sup> the Supreme Court held that environmental, ecological, air and water pollution, etc., should be regarded as amounting to violation of right to health guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution.

In *Vincent v. Union of India*,<sup>9</sup> it was held that a healthy body is the very foundation for all human activities. In a welfare state, therefore, it is the obligation of the state to ensure the creation and the sustaining of conditions congenial to good health.

The Apex Court, in its landmark judgment in *Pt. Parmanand Katara v. Union of India*,<sup>10</sup> ruled that every doctor whether at a government hospital or otherwise has the professional obligation to extend his service with due expertise for protecting life, whether the patient be an innocent person or be a criminal liable to punishment under the law. No law or state action can intervene to avoid/delay, the discharge of the paramount obligation cast upon members of the medical profession.

In *CESC Ltd. v. Subash Chandra Bose*,<sup>11</sup> the Supreme Court relied on international instruments and concluded that right to health is a fundamental right. It went further and observed that health is not merely absence of sickness: "The term health implies more than an absence of sickness. Medical care and health facilities not only protect against sickness but also ensure stable manpower for economic development. Facilities

of health and medical care generate devotion and dedication to give the workers' best, physically as well as mentally, in productivity. It enables the worker to enjoy the fruit of his labour, to keep him physically fit and mentally alert for leading a successful economic, social and cultural life. The medical facilities are, therefore, part of social security and like gilt edged security, it would yield immediate return in the increased production or at any rate reduce absenteeism on grounds of sickness, etc. Health is thus a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

In *Mahendra Pratap Singh v. State of Orissa*,<sup>12</sup> the Court had held "in a country like ours, it may not be possible to have sophisticated hospitals but definitely villagers within their limitations can aspire to have a Primary Health Centre. The government is required to assist people, get treatment and lead a healthy life. Thereby, there is an implication that the enforcing of the right to life is a duty of the state and that this duty covers the providing of right to primary health care."

For Protection of health of workers and humane conditions of work the Supreme Court in *Occupational Health and Safety Association v. Union of India and others*,<sup>13</sup> held that when workers are engaged in hazardous and risky jobs/occupations, the responsibility and duty on the state becomes double fold.

## CONCLUSION

From the foregoing discussion, it is evident that right to life also includes right to health and therefore the state and its instruments, are duty bound to provide health care facilities and services to all its citizens without any discrimination. The Constitution also stipulates certain duties for the



citizens towards contributing to the promotion of health in the country. But till date it has not been given due recognition for which public interest litigations have been filed frequently on health issues involving fundamental right to health, rights of workers to occupational health and safety, right to clean environment, right to adequate drugs, medical negligence, right against medical malpractice, right to emergency health care, public health care etc. It is high time, let us be united and do the needful to achieve this goal and to live healthy.

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# Role of R.N. Singh Deo as a Chief Minister : A Study of Coalition Government, 1967-71

*Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarangi*

## **ABSTRACT:**

(In the recent few years, India the largest democracy of the world, has gained the experience of formation of coalition government in the states as well as in the centre. However, it has been consistently observed that the Indian National Congress and the regional parties failed to muster enough support in order to form a stable government owing to the failure of the major national parties in the states lacking in political stability in the inception of 1950. During the first three quarters of this century coalitional politics in Odisha bears the records of several events of kaleidoscopic changes and is marked with the activities of various leading personalities whose roles require further analytical study for a proper assessment. The present paper seeks to focus on the role of Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo who was the Chief Minister in the Swatantra-Jana Congress Coalition Government in 1967-71)

**Keywords:** Descendant, Factionalism, Hung-Assembly, Multi-balanced coalition, Portfolios, Manifesto.

## **Introduction:**

Coalitional politics is not a new phenomenon for the citizens of parliamentary democracy like India. Its practices are very often found in different successive governments in independent India. As Hon'ble P.A. Sangma, the former speaker of Lok Sabha, very aptly remarked that, politics in India is changing, whether for good or bad. He further stated that, "Normally, in a Parliament, we have a single party Government with multi-party opposition. But this time it is just the reverse. We have a multi-party Government with a single party opposition".<sup>1</sup> Wherever no political party wins majority in the elections to the lower or popular house of legislature, a number of political parties join hands to form a coalition government with a common

minimum programmes for the purposes of running the government. Thus, coalition is a direct descendant of the exigencies of a multi-party system in a democratic set up.

The state of Odisha was one of the earliest to experiment with coalitional government, having formed in 1959 a coalition of the two largest parties in the Assembly the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad. After the Second General Elections in 1957 the Congress Party had formed a government of its own under the steward leadership of H.K. Mahtab as the Chief Minister with the support of the Communist and the Jharkhand Parties. As the problem arose between the Congress and the Communist party, the state entered into the coalition government between the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad on 12<sup>th</sup>

May, 1959. The government remained in power for 21 months and finally dissolved on 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1961 owing to factionalism within the Congress.<sup>2</sup>

The second coalition government was installed in the state after the Fourth General Elections in 1967 with the Swatantra—Jana Congress party which was formed by Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo, the Swatantra Party leader, as Chief Minister. Due to the dramatic political development in the relations between the Congress Party of Odisha and the Jana Congress it led to the withdrawal of the Jana Congress from the Ministry in January, 1971.<sup>3</sup> Thus, the Swatantra-Jana Congress government collapsed. After the Assembly Elections in 1971, once again Odisha witnessed a hung assembly and a multi-balanced coalition was shared by the Utkal Congress, Swatantra and the Jharkhand parties under the leadership of Biswanath Das, a veteran Congress leader who returned from political retirement. But the ministry dissolved barely after 14 months, with the defection of some Swatantra members and the merger of the Utkal Congress with the Congress (I)<sup>4</sup>. The last coalition was the BJD-BJP Government that served for a long period. The Biju Janata Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party coalition government took oath on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2000 and completed its first term in 2004. For the second time the coalition returned to power in 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 and ended on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 just before the General Elections of 2009.<sup>5</sup>

Thus, Odisha had a long experience of coalition politics and it has been observed that the political culture of Odisha is political uncertainty and coalitional politics in different period of times, except for 1951, 1961, 1967, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and 2009. Odisha has been ruled by coalition ever since first general elections, but there are only four formally structured coalition governments so far.

Late Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo, the last Maharaja and the Ruling Chief of Patna State (Bolangir) of Odisha, was one of the towering personalities in Odisha for many years preceding our independence and since then, he dominated the state politics for many years and made rich contribution to the socio-economic, cultural and political fields not only in Odisha but also in the entire country as well. Mr. Singh Deo was born to Raja Aditya Pratap Singh, the ruler of the princely state of Sareikela and Rani Padmini Kumari Devi. He was adopted by the Maharaja Prithwiraj Singh Deo of Patna State.<sup>6</sup> He studied in Mayo College in Ajmer and the St. Columbia's College in Hazaribagh. He became the Maharaja of Patna State in 1924 and assumed full powers in 1933. He was the first man in India to sign instrument of merger by which the princely state Patna was merged with the Union of India in 1948.<sup>7</sup> He was the president of the Ganatantra Parishad, a political party formed by him in 1950 and continued as the president till 1962. This Party merged with the Swatantra Party in 1962 and again Mr. Singh Deo was unanimously elected as the president of the Orissa Unit of this newly formed party.<sup>8</sup>

In 1951, Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was elected to the first Lok Sabha from Kalahandi-Bolangir constituency as a candidate from the Ganatantra Parishad. In 1957, he was elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Titilagarh constituency and became the Leader of the Opposition in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. After the fall of the minority Congress Government, the Ganatantra Parishad formed a coalition government with the Congress on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1959 under the leadership of Dr. H.K. Mahtab. Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo became the minister of Finance, Industries and Law in this government. The coalition government collapsed on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 1961 and President Rule was

enforced. In the mid-term poll of 1961, he was re-elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Kantabanji constituency and became the Leader of the Opposition Party once again. In 1967, he was re-elected to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from Bolangir Assembly Constituency and became the Chief Minister of Odisha on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1967 and continued this office till 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1971. During this period, he led a coalition government formed by the Swatantra Party and the Orissa Jana Congress of Hare Krishna Mahtab. Mr. Singh Deo also served as a cabinet minister having the portfolios of Political Service (excluding River Valley Development), Industries, Home, Public Relations and Tourism during the multi-balanced coalition government headed by Biswanath Das from 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1971 to 9<sup>th</sup> June, 1972. Thus, Mr. Singh Deo, had a long outstanding political career in both Parliamentary and Assembly politics.<sup>9</sup>

The Fourth Assembly Elections (1967) was fought against the backdrop of several political crises beginning with a CBI probe against alleged corrupt practices by which the Congress Party was totally demoralised and Mr. Mitra had to resign from the Chief Ministership by the order of the High Command of the Party and he was succeeded by Sadasiva Tripathy a veteran freedom fighter of Koraput. By that time the Congress had a very poor image inside the state. Corruption, price rise and the state government's total failure in tackling the drought situation had embittered the sentiment of the people about the worth of the congress leaders in the state. Meanwhile, Dr. Hare Krishna Mahtab left the Congress party along with some dissident congress leaders including Pabitra Mohan Pradhan, Banamali Pattnaik and Surendra Pattnaik and formed a new regional political party named, "Jana Congress" on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1966. In the subsequent Assembly Elections, the Jana Congress and the Swatantra Party (formerly

Ganatantra Parishad) signed an agreement on the basis of a 21-point programme for forming a coalition Government in Odisha. They combined on the basis of a common minimum programme to defeat the Congress in the 1967 elections to the Odisha Assembly.<sup>10</sup> Mr. Singh Deo and Dr. Mahtab the Leaders of both the parties released the 21-point common minimum programmes in a press statement and announced the following manifesto:

1. Establishment of a clean and good government;
2. Ruthless elimination of corruption, favouritism and nepotism, at all levels and setting up of commission for enquiry into charges of corruption by ministers;
3. Setting up an institution of the ombudsman for eradication of corruption;
4. Increasing efficiency, uprightness of administrative delays;
5. Establishment of rule and law;
6. Change of outlook of the police for public service and increasing their efficiency, and sense of discipline;
7. Freeing the administration from political pressure and ensuring impartiality and fair deal to the employees;
8. Equal justice and fair dealing for all;
9. Utmost economy in expenditure and strict avoidance of all wasteful expenditure;
10. Elimination of unnecessary controls, permits, licences and quotas through a non-political independent statutory board;
11. Establishment, expansion and completion of existing Universities;
12. Abolition of land revenue, reduction of tax burden and elimination of harassment in the collection of state due;

13. Elimination of restrictive procedures and creation of proper condition and freedom for expansion of business and industry and creation of increasing employment;
14. Introduction of Odia as state language in all spheres of administration;
15. Special attention for development of S.C. and S.T. and other backward classes and under-developed or backward areas;
16. Abolition of multifarious Panchayat taxes and entrusting Panchayats with resources of non-tax revenue and effecting real decentralization as envisaged in the directive principles of state policy of the constitution;
17. Liberating primary education from control of Panchayat Samitis;
18. Expansion of both technical and general education through the state with special attention to backward areas;
19. Re-orientation of development plans on a practical basis with emphasis on development of agriculture, provision of basic necessities for the people and provision of the infrastructure for economic development;
20. Changing of monopoly system in Kendu leaves trade; and
21. Appointment of a Finance Commission for enquiry and report on all aspects of the Odisha famine of 1966.<sup>11</sup>

Mr. Singh Deo and Dr. Mahtab the leaders of the alliance applied all sorts of tacit plans and programme to win the voters in their favour. After the results were declared all were astounded to find that the Swatantra Party had obtained 49 seats and 26 seats were won by its partner Jana Congress. The Congress remained in opposition with 31 seats in the House. Its leader Biju Pattnaik was defeated in the election from

Patkura Assembly Constituency by a Praja Socialist Party Candidate. J.B. Pattnaik was also defeated from Dharmasala Constituency as a Jana Congress candidate and lost to a Praja Socialist Party candidate. The prominent Congress leader Nilamani Routray was also defeated in the election.

#### **RESULT OF THE 1967 GENERAL ELECTIONS TO ODISHA ASSEMBLY**

Name of the Parties	Seats secured	Valid Votes
Congress	31	30.62%
Swatantra	49	22.58%
Jana Congress	26	13.47%
Praja Socialist Party	21	11.20%
Communist Party	07	6.26%
C.P.M.	01	1.22%
Jana Sangha	Nil	0.54%
S.S.P.	02	1.52%
Others	08	12.59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source:* Home (Election) Department, Government of Odisha-Election Results of 1967.

The Swatantra-Jana Congress alliance got the absolute majority of 75 seats and formed a coalition ministry with Swatantra leader Mr. R.N. Singh Deo as the Chief Minister of Odisha and Jana Congress leader Pabitra Mohan Pradhan as the Deputy Chief Minister. It was noteworthy that the victory of P.S.P. was overwhelming having 21 seats in the House. The C.P.M., S.S.P., and Bharatiya Jana Sangha entered electoral battle in Odisha for the first time and failed to take advantage of the anti-Congress wave in the state.<sup>12</sup>

The coalition government worked hard to implement the twenty one point programmes

as assured in their election manifesto. These programmes included matters like, abolition of land revenue, appointment of Lokpal and Lokayukta in line with the recommendation made by the Administrative Reforms Commission appointed by the Government of India, and such other matters including appointment of an Inquiry Commission to probe the alleged corruption of ministers holding office on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1961 to March, 1967. Most of the commitments made in the programmes were implemented. But nothing except the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry caused a serious problem to the coalition.

The coalition government instituted a commission of enquiry under Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired judge of Delhi High Court to probe into the allegations against three former Chief Ministers and 14 ministers and deputy ministers who held office during 1961-67. All these ministers were charged with scandals of corruption and moral turpitude. The commission submitted on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 1969 after two years exonerating the accused of all charges except administrative improprieties.

Singh Deo's Government had also appointed J.R. Mudholkar, a retired judge of the Supreme Court to probe certain allegations and charges levelled by Sadasiva Tripathy the Leader of the Opposition against Dr. H.K. Mahtab, Nabakrishna Choudhury, Santanu Kumar Das and R.N. Singh Deo. After investigation the Mudholkar commission exonerated all except Dr. Mahtab against whom three charges were justified :

During this period, there was a dramatic change in the political scenario in the Odisha Congress party. Mr. Biju Pattnaik along with his followers resigned enmass from the Congress Party due to differences of opinion with the High Command of the Party on the issue of selection of candidate to Rajya Sabha and formed a new

party named, "Utkal Congress". At the same time, Dr. Mahtab who was waiting for an opportunity to join the Congress party got a chance to join the party with his followers and withdrew his support from R.N. Singh Deo's Government. Thus, Swatantra-Jana Congress Government which was the first non-Congress coalition government in Odisha collapsed in January, 1971.<sup>13</sup>

During his four and half year coalition ministry, R.N. Singh Deo could provide a stable government. He always maintained cordial relations with his coalition partners. All the important decisions were taken unanimously in consultation with the coalition leaders. For nearly three years there was a cohesive unity in the coalition having no inside and outside threat. The government tried its best to implement the 21-point (pre-election) programmes. It discouraged political interference in the administration. Singh Deo also never fulfilled the undue request of Dr. Mahatab and never allowed his interference in the government as a result of which he had to pay a heavy price for it. The government always maintained its transparency and integrity in all spheres of activities; even Mudholkar Committee was instituted to probe the alleged allegations against the then Chief Minister Sri R.N. Singh Deo and his ministers. This bears the evidence of his integrity, transparency and commitment to an immaculate administration and desire for good governance. He never resorted to horse trading to save his government from the possible threat. He always paid respect to Coalition-Dharma and never made any false statement against any of his coalition partner. This shows his firm commitment to value based and ideological politics. For the first time in the political history of Odisha, Singh Deo's government was dissolved without losing any Vote of Confidence in the floor of the house. The government lost only for the selfish interest of some highly politically ambitious persons.

During his tenure as the chief minister R.N. Singh Deo has undertaken a number of welfare measures such as prohibition, administrative and streamlining procedures and reforming the supply system for the benefit of the public. In order to curb corruption from the administration he was in favour of introduction of Lokpal in the state. Due to his pioneering effort Odisha became the first state in the country to abolish land revenue for encouragement of the farmers. His government also initiated model steps in respect of water supply, water cess, relief and rehabilitation work during flood and drought. Several measures were adopted to strengthen the financial status of Odisha. He ensured law and order in the state and boldly suppressed the student agitation at Cuttack in 1968 and streamlined an effective police administration in the state. His government further brought about reforms and modification in the industrial policy of the state for development of small scale and large scale industries in Odisha.<sup>14</sup>

R. N. Singh Deo was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, in respect of eradication of untouchability, giving Harijans the right to enter into temples and opening the avenues for the downtrodden to the right of expression.<sup>15</sup> He was a firm believer in coalition politics and visualised the role of regional party in the socio-economic development of a province. He confidently and rightly asserted that coalition politics had a future in India and that its success would depend on the spirit of understanding and compromise among the coalition partners. It was his firm belief that regional party would be able to form a coalition government at the centre with a common minimum programme which the central government and provincial governments are experimenting today. R.N. Singh Deo will ever remain immortal in the memory of the people of Odisha for his significant

contribution to the state during his Chief Ministership.

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## Formation of Modern Odisha and Contribution of British King-Emperor

*Dr. Janmejay Choudhury*

With the national spirit growing rapidly, the Congress as well as other parties felt disappointed with the working of the Government of India Act of 1919. Within a few years of its working it proved itself rather unworkable. The country was more conscious than ever before. Demands for self-government were coming from most quarters. The British Government therefore felt the necessity of a fresh assessment of the Indian demands. Accordingly, in November 1927, the Viceroy announced that a Parliamentary Commission of 7 members, headed by Sir John Simon, would visit India shortly. The Indian Statutory Commission was constituted by seven British members of the parliament including Sir John Simon, the Chairman. The primary purpose of the Government of India Act, 1919 was to determine the future course of constitutional development. It was declared that a Commission of all white men could not be a proper body to enquire if India was fit for Swaraj or self-government. That no Indian was taken into that Commission proved that the British Cabinet had no confidence in Indian. Moreover, a Commission consisting of all Englishmen was bound to voice only the views of the Government. The Congress, therefore, decided to boycott the Simon Commission.

A great national unrest soon overtook the country. When the Simon Commission landed in Bombay in February 1928, it was received with black-flag demonstration and *hartal*. Protest meetings were held all over the country simultaneously and wherever the Simon Commission went, it faced hostile processions with the slogan: "Simon go back". Police resorted to lathi-charge and repression. But, everywhere, the people demonstrated their hostility towards the Commission. At the behest of the Indian National Congress, the members of the Congress Party in Odisha boycotted the Simon Commission. But not so the moderate members of the erstwhile Utkal Union Conference who saw in the Commission a golden opportunity to get their demands fulfilled. Brajasunder Das, Rajendra Narayan Bhanjadeo, Laxmidhar Mohanty, Brajananda Das and Bhikari Charan Pattanaik felt that Simon Commission alone was vested with the constitutional power to give a separate province to the Odia-speaking people. Therefore, notwithstanding criticism from the Congress members they welcomed the Commission at Patna Railway Station, drawing the attention of Simon to the just demand of Odisha. This gesture of the Odia-leaders impressed Simon profoundly, and a sub-Committee under C. R. Attle was appointed to investigate the problems of the Odia-



speaking people and recommended measures to redress their grievances.

The Sub-Committee consisted of major C. R. Attle as the Chairman, Dr. Suhrawardy of the Central Legislature, Rajendra Narayan Bhanjdeo and Laxmidhar Mohanty of the Bihar and Odisha Legislative Council as members. They recommended the creation of a separate Odisha Province which includes the Odisha Division, Angul, Khariar and the Agency of either Singhbhum area or the Vizagpatanam agency tract. The Sub-Committee felt that the Feudatory State should be associated with proposed province. The above report of the Sub-Committee made Simon's job easier. He suggested necessity of setting up a Boundary Commission with a neutral Chairman to demarcate the boundary of the proposed Odisha Province. Two problems still loomed large as impediments against the creation of the Odisha province. The shape and size of the proposed province remained uncertain. Secondly, the problem of financial liability appeared quite formidable. Rajendra Naraya Bhanj Deo, who was then the Financial Member in the Government of Bihar and Odisha played a significant role in reducing the formidability of the financial question. Brajasunder Das, his associate and a leading disciple of Madhusudan Das assured the Simon Commission to meet the challenge of deficit likely to be faced by the New Province.

The British Government convened a Round Table Conference in November 1930 to discuss with the Indian leaders the issue of constitutional reforms. On behalf of the Odia-speaking people Sri Krishna Chandra Gajapati, the Raja of the Paralakhemundi went to attend the conference in London. He made an impressive speech and presented a memorandum in favour of creating the separate Odisha Province. He appealed to the Government to reward the Odia-

speaking people for their ungrudging loyalty and protect their ancient glorious culture through a district political set-up. To overcome the financial hurdle, he assured the British Government that the rich mineral and forest wealth of Odisha would be properly exploited. Taking a favourable attitude to the long outstanding problem of the Odias, the Government appointed Sir Samuel O'Donnell, as the Chairman of the Boundary Commission to demarcate the boundaries of the proposed Odisha Province. Other two members of the Commission were H. M. Mehta (member, Council of States from Bombay) and Tarun Ram Phookun, (member, Central Legislative Assembly from Assam). The Raja of Paralakhemundi, co-opted members to represent the Odia, Bihari and Telegu interests respectively. B. C. Mukherjee I.C.S. functioned as Secretary of the Commission and represented the Bengali interests. These co-opted members were authorized to take part in the proceedings but had no authority to sign the final report.

Apropos to the terms of reference, the Boundary Commissions were to report: (1) what should be the boundary line, (2) what would be the administrative, financial and other consequences of such a province and (3) what would be the administrative, financial and other consequences in the adjoining territories of British India. The appointment of the Commission evoked great public interest and enthusiasm in Odisha. It provoked resentment in Midnapore and Naybasan areas of Bengal as these were likely to be affected by the formation of the new province. The Odia leaders made a concerted move to represent their case united before the Commission. They forgot their political and other differences to constitute several committees to raise funds, mobilize public opinion, organize meetings and propaganda in areas like Midnapore, Singhbhum, Phuljhar, Vizagpatam, etc.

The student community also came forward to join hands with elderly leaders and moved from village to town, door to door, in generating unprecedented awakening for the Odia cause. There were occasions when senior Odia officers like Nilamoni Senapati gave vent to their feelings publicly advocating serious work for the proposed province. Other Odia leaders, like Lingaraj Panigrahi, Harihar Mishra, Chandra Sekhar Behera, Bodharam Dubey, Ram Naraya Mishra, Bichitrananda Das, Bhubanananda Das, Achyutananda Purohit, Laxminaraya Sahu, Niranjana Patanaik also rendered commendable service in numerous ways.

The Commission recorded evidence of 410 witnesses and visited Jamsedpur, Chaibasa, Sambalpur, Raipur, Midnapore, Gopalpur, Waltair, Kakinada and Cuttack. In determining the boundaries they examined several factors; economic interest and the administrative convenience. They also examined the 1913 census statistics in detail and came to the conclusion that the proposed Odisha Province should include Odisha Division, Angul, Padampur and Khariar (of the Central Provinces), the greater part of the Ganjam district and Vizagpatanam agency Tracts. The new province would have an area of 33,000 Sq. miles with a population of 8,277,000. Paralakhemundi posed a knotty problem, the Raja and the population statistics pulling in opposite directions. As an Odia king Krishna Chandra Gajapati wanted his estate to be merged with Odisha. But the census figures of 1931 showed that the Telegus formed a majority in the estate. Sir Samuel O'Donnell, therefore, suggested that Paralakhemundi should not be integrated with the new province. Mehta and Phookun differing from the views of the Chairman recommended the transfer of Paralakhemundi to Odisha. When the contents of the Boundary Commissions report were revealed to the public

in the form of a white paper on 18 March 1933 there was a sharp public reaction in Odisha. They felt greatly injured at the non-inclusion of Midnapore, Singhbhum, Phuljhar and Paralakhemundi and Jeypore. It was apprehended that the proposed province would be truncated Odisha which would not be self-sufficient economically. A section of Odia leaders wanted to reject the offer. They humiliated at the Commission's suggestion that as a measure of economy the new province should neither have a High Court nor a University. A protest meeting was held at Cuttack on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1933. The Raja of Jeypore was unhappy over the decision of the Government to leave his estate with Madras. In Jeypore and Paralakhemundi large public meetings were held protecting against the white paper proposals.

The Rajas of Paralakhemundi and Khallikote, Lingaraj Panigrahi, Bhubanananda Das and Shyamsundar Gantayat proceeded to London to persuade the Home Government to reconsider the boundary issue. They met Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India and forcefully argued their case. The Joint Committee of the Parliament also allowed them to present their case. The Joint Select Committee under the Chairmanship of Lord Linlithgow after a careful examination of the case recommended to the Government that the new province of Odisha would be formed with areas like the Odisha Division, Angul, Padampur and Khariar, Odia-majority area of the Ganjam district, Berhampur town, Jeypore estate, about 30% of Paralakhemundi estate including Paralakhemundi town and the Maliahas of Paralakhemundi and Jalantra. The total area of the new province of Odisha was now raised from 21,545 to 32,695 Sq miles. Thus, Joint Parliamentary Committee gave the final shape to the new province which emerged as one of the eleven units of British India

by the Act of 1935. The Committee emphatically stated that the question of financial deficit must be made good by federal subvention. Thus all hurdles for the creation of a separate Odisha province were allowed.

It was the desire of the Government of India to provide Odisha with a trained and experienced administrator, who would organize the basic framework of the Provincial administration, constitute essential departments specifying the duties and responsibilities of various officers. Lord Sifton, the Governor of Bihar and Odisha, suggested that the governor of the proposed province be appointed promptly as Special Officer for the above purpose. In addition the Government of India appointed an Administrative Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir John Hubback to inquire into the Administrative problems incidental to the creation of Odisha as a separate province. Hubback's appointment as Governor of the province was also shortly announced. The Odisha Administrative Committee, also called the Hubback Committee had eight members viz., Madhusudan Das, Laxmidhar Mahanti, B.N.Das, Dhira Narendra, N.R.Naidu, W.O.Newsam, Nilamoni Senapati, Lokanath Mishra and Gour Chandra Deb with V.Ramaswamy as the Secretary. It had to consider and recommend measures on numerous issues; the location of the headquarters and the district, territorial changes and their headquarters, and whether the new province should have its High Court and University; etc. The report of the Administrative Committee was published on 20 December 1933 recommending Cuttack to be the provincial headquarters and Puri as Summer Capital. There should be a High Court, but no university. The Committee made some territorial arrangements for areas transferred from Madras and the Central Provinces. A new district for Koraput and two

new subdivisions at Nawapara and Gunpur were created with their respective boundaries demarcated. Angul was split up into two divisions to be administered by the Collectors of Ganjam and Cuttack respectively. After a period of brisk activities to transfer necessary man power, records and documents and make budgetary provisions for the new province every thing was set for the happy augury. The Order-in-Council regarding the formation of the Province of Odisha was released both in England and in India on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1936. The British Parliament's Constitution of the Odisha Order, 1936 got the approval of the King on 3 March 1936 which was entitled as "The Government of India (Constitution of Odisha) Order, 1936." The members from Odisha attended the Legislative Council of Bihar and Odisha for the last time on 28 March 1936 and they were given a touching farewell by the members of Bihar. It was announced that the new province would come into being on 1 April 1936 with Sir John Austin Hubback as the first Governor. Sir Hubback was administered the oath of office by Sir Courtney Terel the Chief Justice of Bihar and Odisha High Court at a gala inaugural function organized at the Ravenshaw College Heritage Hall at Cuttack. The King Emperor and the Viceroy's messages of goodwill were read out to the people. Odisha became a new province. The long cherished dream of the Odia-speaking people at last became a reality. The new Province of Odisha was inaugurated on 1 April 1936 with Sir John Austin Hubback as its first Governor. Thus began the last phase of her history under the British regime.

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## Third India - Africa Forum Summit 2015

*Dr. Bishnupriya Padhi*

### **Introduction**

The India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) 2015 was a celebration of the close partnership between India and Africa. The summit since its inception has always been an acknowledgement of our shared history as well as our future prospects. Apart from our struggle against colonialism and apartheid, we have emerged to jointly accept the challenges of a globalizing world. Though we combat with common threats like international terrorism, scourge of poverty, disease, illiteracy and hunger, the challenge of climate change and collectively promote the socio-economic advancement of all our people; yet, we believe that India and Africa traverse the same path, share the same values and cherish the same dreams.

A vibrant India and a resurgent Africa have a vision of a close partnership. A partnership that is anchored in the principles of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit. This vision takes us beyond our strong bilateral relationships, our close ties with regional economic communities and aims to develop a new paradigm of cooperation which takes into account Africa's own aspirations for pan- African institutions and development programmes.<sup>1</sup>

Post – independence India's Africa policy was shaped by Nehruvian thought and revolved around two points struggle against colonialism and people of Indian origin in Africa. India continued its strong political ties with African nations in the first three decades after independence. It was only in the 1970s and 80s that economic diplomacy started becoming a serious tool of engagement. But India lost some momentum in building a stronger partnership with African countries since the 1980s and 1990s. This institutional neglect has cost India both economically and strategically.

Though the relations between India and African countries have generally been good over the years, it was only in the first decade of the 21st century that they gained significant momentum. The push came from India's expanding post – liberalization private sector and the pull was the "African Renaissance" project – championed by the then South African President Thabo Mbeki. However, harping on historical ties alone won't suffice. India genuinely needs to view African as a land of growth opportunities. Africa today is looking for genuine growth partners. India must help deliver a new Indo-African synergy that can speak effectively for this developing bloc at international forums. The idea of the India – Africa summit was first mooted to arrest this slide and reboot the relationship.<sup>2</sup>

## The Forum

India engages Africa at three levels : bilateral, regional with groupings such as ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), and Pan- African through the IAFS. The IAFS is the official platform for the African – Indian relations. It was held during 4-8 April, 2008 in New Delhi. It was the first such meeting between the heads of state and government of India and 14 countries of Africa chosen by the African Union. This summit saw a limited number of African leaders in attendance because of the African Union’s insistence on limiting participation to 15 countries as per the ‘Banjul Formula’ (The African Union would be represented by 15 leaders chosen from the five founders of the New Africa Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)– South Africa, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt and Senegal, eight RECS or Regional Economic Coordinators, the current and incoming AU chairperson and the AU Commission Chair). Hence Libya and Egypt’s heads of state did not attend then. In this summit, India had highlighted its offer of duty free market access to the Least Developed Countries (LDCS), 33 of which were from Africa.<sup>3</sup>

The 2nd summit was held at the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, with India and 15 African countries participating. The leaders discussed significant aspects of the India – Africa partnership with the objective of enhancing and widening its ambit for mutual benefit.

3rd India – Africa Forum Summit. This summit was held on a grand scale in Delhi between October 26 to 30, 2015. The fact that 51 of the 54 African Countries were represented at the summit, along with 41 heads of state, was unprecedented for India. In this respect, the 2015 summit marks a new beginning as previously the participation of African leaders in the summit

process was done on the basis of the Banjul formula. The decision to do away with the Banjul formula and invite all the African leaders sent a powerful message across the two sides. Trade, poverty alleviation and security cooperation were the major focuses for the summit.

A total of around 1000 delegates, including heads of state and government, ministers, officials and business leaders descended on Delhi for the summit. The king of Morocco, 40 heads of state and the influential African Union also participated in the event. This was the biggest diplomatic event to be hosted by India in the last three decades and is seen as its effort to consolidate the historical ties with the African continent, endowed with large reserves of minerals and hydrocarbons.<sup>4</sup>

African Heads of State and Government gathered at the IAFS-III on 29 October 2015, witnessed a blend of rich cultural diversity of Africa and India during the opening ceremony that took place at the Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex in New Delhi, where dance groups from both sides in their colourful traditional regalia, showcased the beauty of a fruitful partnership between Africa and India.

Jointly organised by the African Union (AU) and the Government of India, the Summit was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Robert Mugabe, Chairperson of the AU who is also the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, in the presence of African Union Commission (AUC), who presented a keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the third IAFS. The AUC Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Erastus Mwencha alongside some AU commissioners and High Officials also attended the event.<sup>5</sup>

**Logo of the Forum** depicted Lion with one half of an African lion and another half of an Indian lion. Slogan was : Proud, Courageous,

Bold and on the Prowl, ready to take on the future and seize every opportunity’.

**Agenda was :** (1) Health, education, agriculture, training, etc. as broad themes. (2) Its approach was 'non-prescriptive' and 'non-exploitative’.

Theme was : Partners in Progress : Towards a dynamic and transformative development agenda.

Subjects raised by 12 African leaders :

- Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari – Increase training of military officers and to fight against ‘Boko Haram’.
- Niger President Issoufou Mahamadeu – Security and terrorism.
- Lesotho Prime Minister Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili – Defence cooperation.
- Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe – Cooperation in the fight against terror.
- Ghana President John Dramani Mahama - Maritime security and cyber security.
- Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh – Anti – Piracy operations, cooperation in maritime security, cyber security and defence cooperation.
- Chad President Idriss Deby Itno – Security and counter terrorism cooperation.
- South African President Jacob Zuma – Steps to fight terrorism.
- Mozambique Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho De Rosario – Defence and Security Cooperation with India.
- Gabon President Ali Bongo Ondimba – Terrorism and transnational crimes.
- Participation was at three levels. The first was at the Government level followed by the

Foreign Ministers at the Second and Senior Government Officials at the third. On 26th October senior officials of the 54 African nations met with senior officials of the Indian Government. On 27th, the Foreign Ministers took the meetings to the next level and on 28th, the heads of African states met the Indian President. On 29th the summit commenced opening up another new chapter in India’s relations with the African continent.<sup>6</sup>

Highlights of Prime Minister Modi’s address to the leaders of 54 African nations on the opening day of the Indo-African summit :

- Fabric of this world is richer because of the 54 Sovereign flags of Africa.
- Today, the dreams of one – third of humanity have come together under one roof.
- Today the heartbeat of 1.25 billion Indians and 1.25 billion Africans are in rhythm.
- We are the world’s oldest civilisation.
- We are each a vibrant mosaic of language, religion and culture.
- Once united by geography, we are now linked by the Indian Ocean.
- The currents of the mighty ocean have nurtured the Kinship for centuries.
- Two third of India and Africa are under the age of 35. And, if the future belongs to the youth, then this century is ours to shape and build.
- We have lived in the long shadow of colonialism and we have fought for our liberty and dignity.
- We have struggled for opportunity and also for justice.
- We have formed partnership of prosperity among ourselves.

- We have stood together under blue helmets to keep peace and fought together against hunger and disease.
- There is something precious that unites our youth.
- Africa like the rest of the developing world has its challenges. It has its own concerns of security and stability, especially from terrorism and extremism. African leadership and people rise to challenges.
- Africa and India are two bright spots of hope and opportunity in the global economy.
- India is honoured to be a development partner of Africa.
- India and Africa must speak in one voice for reforms of the UN. including its Security Council.
- India is now a major source of business investments in Africa.
- 34 African countries enjoy duty – free access to Indian markets.
- Nearly 25,000 young Africans have been trained and educated in India. They are the 25,000 new links between us.
- We will raise the level of our support for your vision of a prosperous, integrated and united Africa.
- We will help connect Africa from Cairo to Capetown from Marrakesh to Mombasa.
- Help develop infrastructure, power, irrigation, set up IT parks.
- Development of human capital in every walk of life will be at the heart of our partnership.
- Will open our doors more, we will continue to build institutions in Africa.
- Technology will be a strong foundation of our partnership.
- We will also collaborate to develop Indian and African treasures of traditional knowledge and medicines.
- We will work to reduce digital divide within Africa and between Africa and rest of the world.
- We will also deepen India – Africa partnership on clean energy, sustainable habitats, public transport and climate resilient agriculture.
- It will help develop Africa’s agricultural infrastructure. Agriculture in Africa can support global food security.
- Will expand and extend pan- Africa e-network, conceived by former President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, which links African countries to India.
- Will work to reduce digital divide within Africa and with rest of the world.
- For me, blue economy is a part of a large blue revolution to reclaim blue skies as we venture to clean development.
- When the sun sets, tens of millions of home in India and Africa go dark. We want to light up lives.
- We wish to deepen our cooperation in maritime security and hydrography and counter terrorism and extremism.
- We are the inheritors of Nature’s precious gifts, and our lives remain most connected to Mother Earth. I invite you to join the alliance of Solar – rich countries that I have proposed to launch in Paris.
- Our goal is to make solar energy an integral part of our lives and reaching to most unconnected villages.
- We pledge to walk together with our steps in rhythm and our voices in harmony. This is

not a new journey, nor a new beginning. But its a new promise of a great future for an ancient relationship.

Some African Heads of State were given the opportunity to address the delegates, the like of whom were President Kenyatta, President Buhari and President Zuma.<sup>7</sup>

Nigeria's President Buhari reiterated the commitment of his administration in tackling corruption, recovering stolen funds, and defeating Boko Haram. He said that if the current positive trend in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria is maintained, the country will succeed in permanently turning the tide against the Boko Haram insurgents very soon. President Buhari also assured the delegates that Nigeria's economy would be fixed, with increased job creation and better infrastructure, especially in the areas of power and transportation.

President Uhuru Kenyatta pushed for a shift in the Indo- African trade. He said for trade with India to deepen, Africa must move towards developing its manufacturing base. This will see Kenya and other African countries focus on value addition instead of the export of raw materials.

Regarding the health sector, President Kenyatta asked for the cooperation of Indian Pharmaceutical companies to set up more drug manufacturing plants in all areas of interest, especially in oncology and cardiology, in order to strengthen the capacity of the health systems in Africa. He said lands would be provided for medical investors willing to develop medical facilities in Kenya. This will help reduce travel costs for Kenyans who patronise Indian hospitals for treatments. Kenyatta also called for a global cooperation in the fight against terrorism saying that it cannot be tackled by one region alone.

South Africa's President Zuma called for a deeper engagement between India and Africa, saying the India – Africa partnership is a vital tool

in the development of both partners. Zuma also called for further partnership in dealing with issues of marginalised youths and women in Africa. Zuma in his speech, said Africa was particularly keen on benefitting from India's wealth of experience in vocational training in small scale industries and entrepreneurial development.

#### **DECLARATION OF THE IAFS, 2015<sup>8</sup>**

1. We, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation representing the continent of Africa, the African Union (AU) and its Institutions, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, met in New Delhi, India on 29 October 2015 for the 3rd India – Africa Forum Summit, under the theme : 'Partners in Progress : Towards a Dynamic and Transformative Development Agenda';

2. We recall the Declarations adopted during our First Summit in New Delhi (8-9 April 2008) and our Second Summit held in Addis Ababa (24-25 May 2011) and the Frame work of Enhanced Cooperation and the associated plan agreed upon thereafter as providing a concrete foundation for the consolidation of our strategic partnership;

3. We note that Indians and Africans together comprise, nearly one-third of humanity today. However, they continue to be excluded from appropriate representation in the institutions of global governance that were designed for an era since long past. This summit takes place in the 70th anniversary year of the United Nations. It is also the first since the 50 years of establishment of the OAU/AU as a symbol of pan – Africanism and African Renaissance and the adoption of the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration and shortly following the landmark adoption of the Agenda 2063 by the African Union. This is also the first since the landmark 50th Anniversary of the Group of 77 last year. We demand urgent collective action to put in



place more democratic global governance structures that will assist in more equitable and just international security and development frameworks.

4. We also note that 2015 has been a landmark year as we, along with other partners, have defined a set of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the broader 2030 Agenda for 'Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly, with a special emphasis on Financing for Development, on which the 3rd International Conference was hosted in Addis Ababa. The International community will gather in Paris in November 2015, to conclude an ambitious agreement to combat climate change. This will be closely followed by the 10th Ministerial Meeting of the WTO in Nairobi;

5. We look forward to finalizing within the forthcoming global climate change negotiations an ambitious and comprehensive climate change agreement based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility. The challenge of global warming can only be addressed adequately through technological solutions and the financial resources to manage the transition. The developing countries, while undertaking ambitious actions on their own, need to be assisted to mitigate climate change and to adapt and adjust to its impact;

6. We underscore the special concerns and priorities of the African countries relating to economic and development needs and that protection against vulnerabilities require collective action by the international community. The need for a supportive international community. The need for a supportive international economic environment, enhanced investment flows, a supportive multilateral trade regime and a strengthened framework for technology collaborations, has never been greater to foster and sustain economic growth, eradicate poverty

and promote sustainable development. The reform of the international financial system to make it more democratic and more responsive to the needs of the developing countries must be pursued in a sustained manner;

7. We further recognize that the peoples of Africa and India have known each other and traded across the Indian Oceans for millennia. Our shared common experience of a colonial past and the solidarity of our resistance to it have cemented our common yearning for a more just and fair international political and economic order in an increasingly globalized world. Africa and India represent rapidly growing economies with demographic advantages and are building on their longstanding development partnership including through the active participation of the Indian Diaspora across the African continents ;

8. We acknowledge that our partnership is grounded in the core recognition that our people are our fundamental resources and that capable and skilled human resources are the foundations for building prosperity for all;

9. We reiterate our commitment to further enhance Africa – India relations in the political, economic and socio- cultural domains based on the principles of mutuality, complementarity and true sense of solidarity as well as the promotion of people to people interactions;

10. We recognise that cooperation in providing widespread access to quality education through scholarships for students and the reach of tele-education utilizing modern communication technology provides great strength to our peoples and institutions. Equally important is skill development to empower workers and enable the development of various economic sectors. This is another area of our ongoing co-operation through extensive programmes of training, capacity building, setting up of training centres and other institutions;

11. We are committed to promote gender equality and empowerment of women more so since 2015 is designated by the African Union as the year of Women's Empowerment and Development. Harnessing talents and abilities of women will greatly help make poverty eradication irreversible, protect and promote human rights and build more non-violent and environment ornamentally sustainable societies;

12. We confirm our respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states as well as for non interference in their internal affairs;

13. We reaffirm our respect for human rights as well as the principles of equality and mutual benefit;

14. We recognize that the long standing and multifaceted Africa – India Development Partnership is based on equality, friendship and solidarity, represents South – South Cooperation in all its dimensions, which encompass human resource development through scholarships, training, capacity building; financial assistance through grants and soft credit to implement various public goods projects, including for education, healthcare and infrastructure; trade preference; technology collaborations; humanitarian, financial and in-kind assistance in emergency situations; maritime cooperation; deployment of peace keeping troops who also conduct a range of development and humanitarian tasks; collective negotiations in multilateral fear for common causes and concerns among other;

15. We believe that the United Nations should function in a transparent, efficient and effective manner and that the composition of the central organs must reflect contemporary realities in order to work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and tackle the challenges of a world shrunk by the modern forces of globalization facing threats ranging from a vastly transferred security environment to climate change.

16. We reaffirm our strong commitment for a comprehensive Reform of the United Nations system, including its Security Council, to make it more regionally representative, democratic, accountable and effective;

17. We acknowledge that terrorism and violent extremism have emerged as primary threats to nations and our societies and condemn them in all forms and manifestations. The menace of non state actors including armed groups has acquired a new dimension as they expand geographically, acquire resources and new instruments to spread extremist ideology and draw recruits. We call on all countries to ensure that their territories are not used for cross – border terrorist activities. We strongly condemn direct or indirect financial assistance given to terrorist groups or individual members thereof by states or their machinery to pursue such activities;

18. We emphasize our strong obligation to fight drugs and human trafficking and other forms of transnational organized crimes such as hostage taking, piracy and illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and reiterate our resolve and commitment to work together in this regard;

19. We recognize that the growing trade, investment and technology linkages provide a solid foundation to our engagement since our businesses, through such linkages provide a strong dimension to our partnership. In this regard, we welcome the signing of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) in Egypt, by the leaders of 26 African countries belonging to the three Regional Economic Communities Southern African Development Community (SADC), East African Community (EAC) and common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

20. We appreciate the need to further deepen our friendship and enhance our partnership focusing on mere concrete and implementable areas of cooperation that would

impact positively on the lives of the peoples of Africa and India.

21. We agree to cooperate in these fields :<sup>9</sup>

(i) **Economic** : Continue to promote investment exchanges and encourage establishment of direct trade relations through opening of new markets and raising the level of trade relations between the two sides in order to contribute to sustainable growth and economic development.

Stimulate long term capital flows to Africa for investment, especially in infrastructure. Call upon all members of the international community to remove and cease imposing unilaterally motivated economic coercive measures jeopardizing the movement of funds, trade exchanges and socio-economic development.

Call upon the international community to expedite the process of enabling African Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) to benefit from all initiatives aiming at alleviating the burden of debts for HIPC, within the agreed concepts and principles of sustainable development.

Enhance collaboration in the use and development of appropriate technologies as well as in emerging and high technology areas.

Cooperate and coordinate in the field of women empowerment, enhancing women's economic, social and legal status, providing women with job opportunities and better chances to participate in energy sphere and continue joint efforts aimed at eradicating discrimination against women.

(ii) **Trade and Industry** : Work closely together within the framework of the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) which brought together SADC, EAC and COMESA for the expansion of trade and investment linkages and extend the framework to other Regional Economic Communities.

Support the establishment of the continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) aimed at integrating Africa's markets. Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) and its resolve to support the work of the Continental Free Trade Area – Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF) towards concluding the negotiation by 2017.

Fast track the implementation of the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme Offered by India since this would play a significant role in increasing trade between Africa and India;

Work towards creating conducive environment for trade facilitation in accordance with the WTO Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement;

Support establishment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Medium and Small Industries (MSIs) in order to promote employment creation and income generation for people of both sides;

Promote Public Private Partnership (PPP) by encouraging Indian business to set up skills development units in African industrial zones with the aim to train African engineers, technicians, managers and workers as well as other experts in area such as food security and solar energy.

(iii) **Agriculture** : Pursue joint cooperation in the agricultural and food security fields and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) to increase productivity, conserve land and environment and ensure food and nutritional security;

Increase our cooperation in improving farming techniques through appropriate and affordable technology; appropriate use of irrigation, improving crop varieties and other measures;

Promote investment in agribusiness and food processing industries to generate employment and greater revenue.

(iv) **Energy** : Intensify our on going cooperation in developing renewable energy generation including solar, wind, hydro, geo-thermal and bio-mass along with building power transmission systems ;

(v) **Blue/Ocean Economy** : Promote cooperation in the Blue/ Ocean economy, towards the sustainable development of marine resources; place special emphasis on closer collaboration in developing sustainable fisheries, combating illegal and unregulated fishing, managing the marine resources, exploring non-marine resources, conducting hydrograph surveys. Promoting eco-tourism, developing renewable energy, disaster risk education through modern early warning tools, pollution control and other coastal and ocean studies ;

(vi) **Infrastructure** : Intensify ongoing cooperation in training, capacity building, consultancy and project implementation through concessional credit in infrastructure areas, including water supply management, maritime connectivity, road and railway construction and upgrading ;

(vii) **Education and Skills Development** : Provide and facilitate the access and enrollment of African students and academicians to India's premier institutions of higher learning in an effect to boost Africans human resource capacity including in areas such as engineering, medical technology and agriculture ;

Collaborate in capacity building and the use of remote sensing technologies for natural resource mapping, agriculture, water, forest cover, mineral and marine resources, disaster management and disaster risk reduction, including early warning of natural disasters ;

Faster cooperation among scientific and research centers in Africa and India to make use of ICT and modern technologies and geographic information systems ;

Cooperate in making technology and digital networks become effective tools in our fight against poverty, and ensure it benefits the needy, improves delivery of services, catalyzes development and increases citizen participation in governance, promote financial inclusion and improvement through access to banks, credit and social insurance against diseases and accidents ;

Promote joint coordination and cooperation to improve the future of the youth through programs for capacity building and knowledge exchange among youths on the two sides and strengthen their capacities to meet the challenges of globalization and its repercussions ;

Continue to provide the necessary support for the establishment and operationalization of the institutions agreed by the two sides;

(viii) **Health** : Enhance joint cooperation in health and pharmaceutical development, telemedicine and traditional medicine, jointly combat diseases and pandemics and increase efficiency of health institutes through comprehensive training programs and coordination at international level to harness modern scientific technologies for medicine and treatment;

Cooperate in the training of doctors and health care personnel including through telemedicine, medical missions, development and utilization of modern technology, enhanced access to generic medicines, promotion of the use of traditional medicines and regulatory procedures as well as combating the challenges posed by pandemics;

Cooperate in ensuring access to affordable medicines and foster innovation to address public health needs of developing countries by making full use of the flexibilities available under the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

(ix) **Peace and Security** : Continue collaboration in the fields of peace and security

including conflict prevention, resolution, management and peace building through exchange of expertise and training programs; strengthening regional and continental early warning capacities and mechanisms; enhancing the role of women in peace keeping and propagating the culture of peace;

Strengthen our cooperation in enhancing capacity to contribute to peace keeping and peace building efforts including through the recent announcement by India to conduct a new training course at the Centre for UN Peace Keeping (CUNPK) in New Delhi. Strengthen our cooperation for greater involvement of the Troop Contributing Countries in decision – making process;

Promote strengthening of the UN Counter Terrorism mechanisms; call upon all states to ensure strict compliance with the UN Security Council sanctions regime on terrorism; and call on all countries to ensure that their territories are not used for cross border terrorist activities.

Promote peace and support post conflict states to enhance their development priorities;

Enhance cooperation and coordination between Africa and India to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations; confront transnational crime to further support international effects in this regard;

Increase our Cooperation in securing sea-lines of communication, preventing transnational crimes of piracy, trafficking of drugs, arms and humans through surveillance;

(x) **Multilateral Fora** : Demand urgent collective action to put in place a more representative global governance architecture, reflective of the contemporary geo-political realities, that will assist in more equitable and just international security and development frameworks;

India notes the common African position and the aspirations of the African countries to get their rightful place in an expanded UN security council as new permanent members with full rights as contained in the Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration. Africa takes note of India's position and its aspirations to become a permanent member with full rights in an expanded UN Security Council. We emphasize the need for an early implementation of the UNGA Decision 69/560, so as to make a decisive push for achieving concrete outcomes on the United Nations' Security Council reform agenda;

Recall and reaffirm the principles behind the fight against colonialism, xenophobia, apartheid and violation of human rights in which India and Africa fought together;

Intensify coordination of positions at the UN, G-77 and other global political, economic and commercial fora in order to jointly tackle issues of common interest in accordance with the spirit of the Africa – India Partnership;

Urge the developed countries to undertake ambitious mitigation commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and honor their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide financial resources, transfer of technology and capacity building support to developing countries to enable them to effectively address the impacts of climate change :

Enhance cooperation and coordination in finalizing an ambitious and comprehensive climate change agreement during the Cop 21 negotiations to be held in Paris, France;

Welcome that Cop 22 on climate change will be held on African soil in Marrakesh, developing in 2016 and agree to work together to ensure that the concerns of the developing countries are met;

Commit to promote good governance to bring development to our peoples. We will further our cooperation in this regard through efficient use of information and communication technologies. We also look forward to deepening our cooperation and sharing of experiences in establishing fair and transparent electoral processes;

Promote and enhance cultural interactions among people and media exchange programmers as well as interaction between intellectuals in Africa and India, and encourage private sector endeavors in cultural investments to better inform peoples of two sides about the realities of their societies;

(xi) **Monitoring Mechanism :** We, the Heads of State and Government and Heads of Delegation from African Countries and the Prime Minister of the Republic of India agree to adopt the 2015 India Africa framework for Strategic Cooperation and agree on the establishment of a regular formal monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the 2015 India – Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation and its Plan of Action within the agreed timeframe.

### Conclusion :

The India-Africa Forum summit was a feather in the cap of the government and in particular for the Ministry of External Affairs that pulled out all the stops for it. Like a well-managed wedding, the venue was beautifully arranged, the guests were well taken care of, and dignitaries got a taste of Indian cuisine, culture and hospitality.<sup>10</sup> As the last African leader took off from the national capital, curtains came down on one of the biggest international diplomatic events that India has hosted.

The India Africa Forum Summit 2015 was a success, with its apex point being the grant of a \$10 billion loan from India to Africa, within a

five year span. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced a grant assistance of \$600 million to Africa in the same period, including scholarships for 50,000 African students in India in the next 5 years.

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# Address of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Dr. S.C. Jamir to the Odisha Legislative Assembly on 15th March, 2016

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all of you to the Sixth Session of 15th Odisha Legislative Assembly. I extend my heartiest Greetings to all the Hon'ble Members of this August House as well as to the people of Odisha.

1. This August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Ex-President of India and Late Janaki Ballav Patnaik, Ex-Chief Minister of Odisha & Ex-Governor of Assam, Late Habibulla Khan, Kalindi Behera, Sriballav Panigrahi, Ananda Acharya & Kalpataru Das, all Ex-Ministers, Late Kartik Mahapatra, Ex-Minister of State, Late Dayanidhi Kisan, Satyananda Champatiray, Onkar Singh Majhi, Parsuram Panigrahi, Sarat Paikaray, Premalata Mahapatra, Chandrasekhar Pradhan, Rabindra Kumar Das, Raj Kishore Pradhan & Bidhubhusan Praharaj, all Ex-Members of this August House who have made significant contribution to the development of the State. This House has also expressed its condolence on the sad demise of Late Jaga Khilla, Ex-Grama Rakshi, Odisha Police who has rendered exemplary and selfless service and laid down his life for the cause of the Nation. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Maheswar Baug, Ex-Minister of State, Late Gurubaru Majhi & N. Kurma Naikulu, all former Members of this August House, Late Sunil Kumar Behera, Ex-Deputy Commandant, BSF, Late Kishore Ranjan Rawat & Sibasis Panda, all Ex-Constables, BSF who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

2. Let me take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation of the relentless efforts taken by My Government for successfully organizing the first Nabakalebar of the new millennium as a result of which lakhs of devotees all around the globe could peacefully witness the eventful Rath Yatra following the Nabakalebar. Let me also express my deep gratitude to the people of Odisha, who have exhibited great resilience and generosity true to their culture and tradition to the lakhs of devotees visiting Puri during the entire festival from most parts of the country and abroad.

3. The remarkable achievements made by My Government to reduce poverty have thrown up new challenges of a qualitative life keeping in line with the changing times. My Government is closely following these new behavioral trends and constantly improvising and aligning governance measures so as to ensure a better governed society.

4. The year just gone by put our efficiency and effectiveness to test. Being the hottest year and followed by significant moisture stress, a real threat emerged in the shape of a serious drought situation in most parts of the State. I am proud to inform all the Hon'ble Members that My Government proactively responded to the challenges by initiating quick damage controlling measures across different wings of the Government and successfully minimized its cascading effects on the farmers of our State.

5. A package of one thousand crores were immediately announced, collection of land revenue and crop loans were deferred for three years, further crop loans were advanced to farmers without asking for repayment and immediate steps taken to repair and restore defunct irrigation sources to save the standing crops.

6. My Government submitted its final damage report to the Government of India seeking Central Assistance of Rs.2344.99 crores to overcome the drought situation, and pending receipt of any such assistance from the Government of India, released an amount of Rs.519.30 crores to the affected districts towards agriculture input subsidy for disbursement to the affected farmers.

My Government has successfully contained the adverse effects of the drought and protected lives and livelihoods of affected farmers and their families.

7. We are living in an era, which is by and large technology driven. So it is imperative for all of us to assimilate such technologies that have positive impact on our living standards. My Government is very anxious to spread the use of technology, be it in solving social or economic issues. While forging ahead, one of the key principles of My Government will be to maximize use of technology in each and every aspect of our subsistence.

8. Our aim is to achieve a growth rate of 9% during the 12th Plan Period, which My Government wants to set as the 'new normal' and to achieve this, My Government is progressively increasing resource allocations to various State Plan activities. While My Government has approved an outlay of Rs.44,150 crores for 2015-16, we intend to increase the Plan outlay to Rs.45,000 crores during 2016-17.

9. Our commitment for inclusive growth backed by our own increasing resource allocations for the same have made us the fastest growing economy in our country, nearly doubling the per capita income with the highest reduction of poverty in a decade. I can assure you of our unflinching commitment towards the progress of our State.

10. Despite discontinuation of Special Central Assistance to KBK districts, My Government has enhanced its contribution from the State Plan to complete ongoing projects in the region. Of the Rs.250 crores proposed under Biju KBK Plan for 2015-16, Rs.130 crores is provided for State Sector and Rs.120 crores provided for the District Sector.

11. To promote innovation to solve local problems in a costeffective manner, My Government has launched 4 subschemes and instituted awards for each of them. My Government has also established 6 Innovation-cumIncubation centers to encourage innovative thinking to arrive at smart solutions.



12. To bring in innovative planning through the spirit of convergence, My Government has renamed the concerned Department as “Planning and Convergence Department” to encourage convergence among different stakeholders in the planning process.
13. Ever since there has been a change in the National Polity, a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes are either restructured, some stopped and a few new programmes taken up. Such changes at the National Level impacted the quantum of Central Assistance to the States. It has added an element of uncertainty on the level of central funds flowing into the States, thereby rendering the budget making exercise at the state level a tricky one. For, in the absence of clear indications on the quantum of funds to be received by the State, the budget so prepared will be an exercise in futility.
14. Realising this, My Government for the first time has taken a conscious decision to defer placing the budget in the Legislative Assembly until we get a clarity on the quantum of funds to be received from the Central Government, so that the budget is prepared in alignment with the relevant provisions in the schemes & programmes supported by Union Budget.
15. My Government has already weathered through such uncertainties in the quantum of central transfer and pending receipt of the recommendation of Fourteenth Finance Commission but could formulate a pragmatic budget in 2015-16 with increased emphasis on investment in social and economic sectors for creation of physical and human capital. We are certain to carry on with this prudence and come out with a splendid budget for 2016-17.
16. With our emphasis on capital investment in economic and social sectors, My Government has resorted to Open Borrowing after a gap of eight years within the overall limit fixed by Union Government. The entire amount of Rs.3,000 crores thus raised has been fully utilized for capital investment, thus raising the share of capital investment to 3.6% of GSDP.
17. The economic slowdown had its shadow on My Government’s abilities to augment resource mobilization, though we could achieve our budgeted target through better revenue mobilization measures. I am happy to share with you that the State’s own tax revenues increased by 17.43% and non-revenue receipts registered a growth of 10.40%, making the tax/GSDP ratio to climb to 6.38%.
18. Being an agrarian state and nearly 60% of the State population being directly or indirectly dependant on this sector for livelihoods, Agriculture continues to be the most critical sector for Odisha. My Government has always been very sensitive to the developments in this sector and has gone way ahead to support and empower farmers of our State. As recognition to the importance of the sector, My Government has been preparing a separate budget for this sector for the last three years for judicious allocation of resources, better targeting of farmers’ needs and also to enhance productivity.
19. Despite widespread moisture stress experienced across the State, we have surpassed food grain production over last year to touch 120 lakh MTs, for which every one of us here must appreciate the resilience of our farming community. This could be possible only due to the quick response by My Government to the needs of the farmers. And the Krishi Karman Award that the State has bagged for the fourth time in the last 5 years is a recognition of their dedication.

20. To further boost the sector's productivity, My Government is taking effective steps to increase seed replacement ratio which is now as high as 37% and to make available quality seeds to the farmers while protecting indigenous varieties. For better planning inputs, soil health management is being given due importance with establishment of 27 static and 11 mobile laboratories. Application of new technology and use of mechanized tools also form part of our farm productivity improvement programme.

21. As the climatic and soil conditions of our State are very favorable for horticulture produce and give better income to our farmers, My Government is motivating farmers to diversify into these products and reduce post harvest losses. My Government has taken up specific programs for their handling, storage and transport. My Government is providing additional 20% assistance over and above the National Horticulture Mission to encourage entrepreneurs to offer such services in the hinterland.

22. As small and marginal farmers constitute an overwhelming majority of the total farmers, and as there was a need for placing focus on individual farmers to enable and empower them to avail the various benefits under different schemes and programmes of the Government, My Government has recently thought it appropriate to change the name of the Agriculture Department to the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment which will now result in an inclusive approach and sharpen its focus on empowerment of farmers for their overall development through various activities.

23. My State is among the few states in the country, which now has an Agriculture Cabinet to look into the growth of cultivation and find ways to overcome hurdles being faced by farmers, and the first meeting of the Cabinet has already been held on 3rd March this year.

24. Our State has 6.78 lakh hectares of freshwater, 480 kilometres of coast line and 4.18 lakh hectares of brackish water resources for development of fisheries sector. Thus, the Commercial prospects of this sector are very high with high potential to earn precious foreign exchange. To provide better emphasis and fully augment the potential of this sector, My Government has approved the "Odisha Fishery Policy 2015 that aims to double fish production in the next five years. The Policy further aims to create and augment the required infrastructure enhance knowledge and skills of people engaged therein and special focus has been given to increase Brackish Water Shrimp production in the State.

25. Similar Policy frameworks are being proposed for Animal Resource sector to achieve self-sufficiency and becoming a leading State in the Country. For the promotion of Bovine & Poultry development in the State, My Government has formulated the Bovine Breeding Policy 2015 and the Poultry Policy 2015 to achieve self-sufficiency in these sectors.

26. My Government with the intention of providing hygienic and fresh fish in Bhubaneswar is proposing to open 26 more Chilika Fresh Outlets which will very soon be followed by the opening of 100 Chilika fresh and 100 Chicken Fresh units throughout the State.

27. Let me assure all of you that in My State, the Co-operative movement will continue to be a strong pillar of our rural growth. From extending crop loans and loans for allied activities directly and through Kisan Credit Cards and Kisan Credit Gold Cards and protecting them through crop insurance schemes, the Co-operation Department is at the forefront of extending all support to the needy farmers

and other weaker sections of our society. To reduce post-harvest losses and to desist farmers from indulging in distress sale of their produce, My Government has taken up a number of measures including construction of threshing floor, drying yards and Godowns, creation of modern warehousing facilities, a network of cold storage chains and most importantly, creating network of interfaces across the State for efficient delivery of services.

28. To reach the farmers and other people in remote and tribal dominated Blocks of the State, My Government has recently launched the first of its kind facility in the country 'Banks on Wheels' scheme in 20 backward blocks covering 16 districts and My Government would like to ensure that all the 314 blocks of Odisha get the Banks on Wheels which have facilities like ATM, information kiosk and full-fledged branch for providing financial inclusion service to the farmers in the tribal areas of the State.

29. My Government has also come up with a Core Banking Data Management Centre to provide connectivity to all branches of OSCB and District Central Cooperative Banks for core banking services.

30. To provide easy access to farmers to debit facility at all banks across the country, the Odisha State Cooperative Bank has become a member of the National Payment Corporation of India and has issued RuPay ATM Debit Cards to the farmers of the State that are accessible at 1.88 lakh ATMs of all the banks across the country.

31. Irrigation and efficient management of irrigation sector tops the list of priorities of My Government. The Department of Water Resources has been mandated to create additional 10 lakh hectares of irrigation by 2019 by completing some of the ongoing Major/Medium/Minor Irrigation Projects, expanding the canal system in some of the reservoir projects, through construction of at least 10,000 Check Dams, one lakh Deep Bore Wells and a large number of Lift Irrigation Projects including Micro River Lift Irrigation Projects and commissioning of at least 175 Mega Lift Irrigation Projects. In order to achieve this, My Government has increased the budgetary allocation for the sector substantially. At this juncture, I am happy to share with you that our progress on this front has been very encouraging so far and we are absolutely sure of achieving the target.

32. My Government has been overwhelmed to see the huge response from farmers for the State funded Deep Borewell energization & Check Dam Construction programme. 94,520 applications have already been received for Borewell energization and 14,859 beneficiaries have already deposited their contributions. Besides, My Government's flagship program of Construction of Mega Lift Irrigation Projects is going on as scheduled and we have commissioned the 1st such project in Kalahandi very recently.

33. I am glad that the overall law and order situation of the State is peaceful. Communal harmony has been maintained and the industrial climate is peaceful. Standard Operating Procedures to deal with Rail and Rasta Rokos have been formulated. There is perceptible improvement in the LWE scenario. The situation is under control in the districts of Jajpur, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Gajapati, Ganjam, Nabarangpur, Deogarh, Sundargarh and Nayagarh and challenging in parts of Malkangiri, Koraput, Keonjhar, Nayagarh, Boudh, Angul, Bolangir, Bargarh and Rayagada districts.

34. The incidents ofLWE violence and death of security personnel and civilians this year have been less in number. Surrender ofLWEs has increased in the State. Our development initiatives coupled with social security measures are making an impact on these areas.

35. In order to strengthen the criminal justice system to achieve high conviction rate, the present system of prosecution is being revisited. The syllabus for recruitment of Prosecutors has been revised to encourage young Advocates. State Level Standing Committee and District Level Standing Committees are functioning to review the acquittal orders for any deficiencies and to fix up accountability. Crime against women and other heinous crimes are particularly focused and strict accountability measures have been developed to carry out special investigation in cases of crime against women. Posts in different ranks have been sanctioned for establishment of 7 Investigating Units for Crime Against Women (IUCAW) in 7 districts.

36. We have mounted an assault on organized crime, tender and transport mafia. Various pro-active measures have been taken like installation of CCTV in Engineering Offices, close liaison of police with Engineering Offices and e-tendering process. Transportation of minerals is a vital economic activity in the State. In order to continue these activities unabated we have promulgated ESMA to prohibit strikes.

37. My Government has always attempted to ensure proper maintenance and preservation of the structural stability of Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri with the assistance of Archaeological Survey of India as well as other bodies having expertise in architecture. My Government has implemented several schemes for the welfare of the Sevayats in the fields of health, housing and education of their children.

38. For quick and speedy disposal of litigations, My Government has given utmost priority to the mechanism of alternative dispute resolution which has received tremendous response from the litigants and reduced the burden on the regular courts to a great extent. My Government proposes to establish twenty-nine Subordinate Courts including ten Special Track Courts for speedy disposal of cases relating to atrocities on women.

39. My Government is going to set up of Legal Assistance Cells named after the great legal luminary Madhu Babu as “Madhu Babu Aaiin Sahayata Kendra” in every Gram Panchayat to provide single window facility for helping the disadvantaged people in getting proper legal advice and solving their legal problems.

40. My Government is in the process of constituting the State Law Commission to review the existing State laws and suggest suitable amendment in such laws as well as repeal some of the existing laws which are no longer relevant.

41. For the welfare of the advocates in the State, my Government has announced enhancement of the annual grant to the Advocates’ Welfare Fund of the State from Rupees one crore to Rupees three crores.

42. Providing affordable housing to people, especially to those belonging to Economically Weaker Sections is a high priority for My Government. My Government has launched ‘Awaas’, the Odisha

Urban Housing Mission with a dedicated Mission Directorate to provide affordable housing along with basic amenities for Economically Weaker Sections in the State. The Mission Directorate has started functioning and we have set a target of constructing 1,50,000 dwelling units in the State under affordable housing/in-situ slum development during the next financial year. For effective implementation of this initiative, My Government has approved the Policy for Housing for All and created a State Housing Fund and CDP Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) for providing land and funding for such projects.

43. Fulfilling the promise I made in my last address to this house, My Government has set up Odisha Urban Livelihoods Mission in 77 Urban local Bodies that are not covered under the Centrally Funded Mission and it aims to skill 10,000 youths for self-employment.

44. Provision of safe drinking water and better sanitation facilities to urban dwellers has been the focus area of My Government. My Government has identified 92 hotspots in 24 ULBs which face acute shortage of safe drinking water during summer and has put in an action plan to provide short term & long term solutions. Efforts are on to replace age old pipelines in 66 ULBs which are prone to leakage & contamination. Encouraged by the successful running of city bus services under PPP mode, My Government will soon launch similar services in Koraput-Jeypore-Sunabeda, Balasore-Bhadrak cluster and Cuttack-Choudwar-AthagarhBanki cluster.

Further, My Government is in the process of ushering in a paradigm shift in Town Planning by making land owners primary stakeholders in urban planning and development. It is a matter of great pride for our State that our capital city Bhubaneswar has been ranked as Number one in the Country in the smart city competition. The German Government has agreed to partner with the State in the smart city development of Bhubaneswar.

45. My Government will set up 314 Adarsh Vidyalays in all the Blocks of the State to provide the opportunity of quality English Medium education to rural students at Block level. Vocational education in schools shall commence in one school of every district as a pilot project. To encourage school drop outs and similar other children who have left school to support their families for livelihoods, My Government has started State Institute of Open Schooling along with study centres in seven districts to enable such children to complete basic education while earning. My Government has introduced Centralized Kitchen Policy under Mid-Day-Meals program to ensure supply of standardised mid-day meals in the most hygienic condition to school students.

46. My Government has provided bicycles to 4,88,632 students, text books to 2,81,59,424 students, school uniform to 49,29,935 students; has disbursed Rs. 12.17 crores towards scholarships to primary and upper primary students, Rs. 7.39 crores at the secondary level and Rs.2.50 crores towards Pathani Samanta Mathematics Talent Scholarship during the current year.

47. Odisha has the potential to emerge as the knowledge hub of our country. My Government has established three new Government universities, has agreed to contribute 40% to the Rashtriya Uchatara Sikshya Abhijan in the 12th and 13th Plan is in the process of establishing 8 new Model Colleges in the

backward areas of the State and created 98 language-cum-Communication laboratories to enhance soft skills of the students.

48. Provision of free laptops to 15,000 +2 pass meritorious students every year under “Biju Yuva Sasaktikaran Yojana” is going apace and along with it My Government has taken up imparting self-defence training to college going girl students across the State. Further, we are overhauling the examination process to bring in more transparency and undertaking syllabus revision to align it with the changing times. During the current year up to January, My Government has disbursed scholarships worth Rs. 22 crores to nearly twenty four thousand students studying at different levels.

49. To popularize science at the grassroots level, My Government has opened a Sub-Regional Science Center in Bargarh district very recently and we have plans to open such centres in other parts of our State. Promotion of alternate energy sources is being pursued vigorously wherein My Government has installed 434 bio-gas plants, supplied 4,763 chullahs to 2,386 schools, commissioned 25 MW Grid Connected Solar Project in Bolangir district and with support from the Central Government, My Government will provide solar power to small irrigation and drinking water supply schemes. It is heartening to inform you that My Government is in the process of establishing 2nd Planetarium in Burla shortly. My Government has also framed the “Odisha State Data Policy-2015” to better organize and use the vast amount of data getting generated for better targeting of different Government programs.

50. My Government has since long realized the benefits that will accrue to our fellow citizens through adoption of IT at all levels of governance and has been working very hard to make Odisha a completely e-governed State. It has been a matter of importance for My Government to leverage our efforts to attract investments into this sector, create world class institutions, and to create a talent pool that will fully support to make Odisha a digitally empowered State and a knowledge economy in the days to come.

51. My Government has brought in telecom wizard Sam Pitroda as its technology adviser for development of telecom, electronics, IT and ITES sectors of the State and to work for Vision 2036, a vision document for holistic development of Odisha in the next 20 years.

52. The rich mix and variety of mineral resources available in Odisha has attracted huge investments into the mineral based industry sector. Converting such investments into working industries for the benefit of our economy as well as generating employment opportunities has been a stiff challenge for My Government. I am happy to inform this August House that My Government in Steel and Mines Department has been able to streamline the working of the mineral sector through issuance of policies, guidelines and directives. Further, to cater to the requirements of the Steel industries that are coming up in Odisha, My Government has decided to set up a dedicated Directorate within the Steel & Mines Department. I am sure the proposed Directorate will play a facilitator role for the industry and pave an impediment free path for their growth.

53. My Government has already framed the Odisha District Mineral Foundation Rules 2015 and has constituted the District Foundations in all the 30 districts of the State, under which dedicated funds

with mandatory contribution from the industry will be collected and used for the development of the mining affected areas. My Government has already issued the Odisha Mineral Exploration Policy for better assessment of mineral resources in the State and for devising ways for optimal utilization of such natural resources.

54. During the Financial Year 2015-16, the Directorate of Geology of My Government has undertaken 11 exploration programmes for minerals like coal, iron ore, manganese, gemstone, graphite, heavy minerals and dimension stone in the districts of Jharsuguda, Angul, Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Puri and Boudh. Investigation for graphite covering an area of 25 sqkm around Panchubai in Rayagada district is in progress.

55. We in our State are steadfast in improving the ease of doing business environment and in emerging as a growing industrial State.

My Government recently brought out the New Industrial Policy Resolution-2015 which has been framed taking into account the expectations voiced by the business and industrial community. With its emphasis on sectors where Odisha enjoys unparalleled comparative advantage, the New Policy aims to take Odisha onto a higher growth orbit. From making available quality infrastructure, creation of land banks for faster allotment of land, the New Policy is determined to remove all possible bottlenecks while creating appropriate and empowered institutions with appropriate delegation of powers and responsibilities.

56. By offering sector specific policies for ICT, Food Processing, MSME Development, Tourism and with specific focus to promote electronic manufacturing and with the development of three large investment regions at Kalinganagar, Paradeep and Dhamara, My State has now become one of the most preferred investment destinations. My State is also developing a good number of sector specific parks to encourage investment in focus sectors.

57. We have entered into a strategic partnership with TiE Silicon Valley and are coming up with an exclusive start-up policy for the State to provide impetus to the start-up ecosystem. In addition, a plug-n-play infrastructure facility of 0.5 million sq. feet for incubators, accelerators and startup ventures has also been set up in our State.

58. With the country's largest Steel Plant of TATA STEEL becoming operational at Kalinganagar, the faith of investors in my State has been reassured, and, complementing this with our investor friendly policy and the ease of doing business framework have now made My State a competitive and attractive "Manufacturing Hub of the East".

59. It gives me immense pleasure to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble members of this August House that during the last investors meet at the 'Make In India' campaign held in Mumbai, My State has been able to attract investments of more than Rs.70,000 crores, with a majority of the investment coming in the non-mineral sectors.

60. MSME sector contributes immensely to the value addition and generate huge employment locally. My Government adopted suitable measures to promote the sector. Creating a new department to facilitate & monitor MSME growth is a bold move taken by My Government.

61. Ours has been a pioneering State in the country to bring up a dedicated MSME Development Policy 2009 which focused on key issues like infrastructure, credit, technology and marketing. My Government has also come up with Odisha Food Processing Policy-2013 and Odisha Export Policy-2014 to promote food processing in a big way and boost export promotion.

62. As of now, more than 1,60,000 MSME units have been established in our State with an investment of more than Rs.7900 crores which have been instrumental in providing employment opportunities to more than 8.5 lakh youths of My State. My Government has already facilitated establishment of 32,938 units with parallel employment opportunities for 1,01,885 youths.

63. My Government has taken up this ambitious goal of creating 1,50,000 MSMEs with an employment potential of 4,00,000 more persons within the next five years. My Government is also attempting to strengthen the Export Promotion & Marketing Directorate, Odisha Small Industries Corporation and Odisha State Financial Corporation to establish an integrated framework which shall augment the growth and sustenance of this sector.

64. The euphoria over actualizing the demographic dividend can be enjoyed only if the youth are motivated and prepared to contribute to the growth agenda. My Government has accorded utmost priority to train and skill such youths so as to ensure that they are employable. My Government has taken up a range of measures to address skill deficit and has ambitious plans for the future as well. My Government has plans to establish seven new Training-the-Trainers centers at strategic locations, 13 New ITIs, 72 Skill Development centres besides augmenting the Apprenticeship training in various industries. Under Chief Minister's Employment Generation Program, My Government aims to upgrade the skill of 150 youths from every Gram Panchayat and ensure their placement. Overall, My Government has set a target to train 9.3 lakh youths across 6,234 Gram Panchayats and 1.7 lakh youths from urban areas in the next four years.

65. While our Country is progressively moving ahead to a free market model, it requires us to have protective institutions and proactive mechanisms in place. The State Owned Enterprises have to play a significant role in this. My Government has been consistently working to make such key enterprises robust and resilient by introducing various performance enhancing measures so that these units are perfectly aligned to the emerging business practices and are capable of adapting to the changing times.

66. I am happy to announce that during the past 5 years under Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikarana Yojana & Biju Saharanchal Vidyutikarana Yojana, My State's energy sector is currently serving more than 54 lakh consumers of the State and supplying power for 24-hours. In the meanwhile it has added around 25 lakh BPL Consumers in its fold, and also has plans to add 42 lakhs more consumers by 31st March 2017 so as to cover all households in the State.

67. To strengthen the distribution infrastructure of My State, construction of 500 more 33/11KV sub-stations under Odisha Distribution System Strengthening Project has been initiated with an investment of Rs. 4200 crores. Out of these 100 sub-stations are going to be commissioned by June 2016 and around 250 sub-stations are at different stages of completion and it is expected to commission all the



500 substations by March 2018. 68. Energy Transmission System of My State has in the meantime, been strengthened by the use of modern technologies and plans to add 12,649 MVA capacity and 5337 circuit kilometre at intra-State level to wheel power from the upcoming generating stations for the State.

69. The thermal generation units like OPGC, OPTCL, UMPP and IPPs are going to add a capacity of 10310 MW by 202122. Similarly, our hydro stations are planning for renovation and expansion of the existing stations at Burla, Balimela, Chipilima and Machhkund by investing 1088 crores by the coming year. My Government proposes to add a capacity of 3.078 GW of renewable energy by 2022. To increase the share of green energy in the energy mix, My Government has set a target of creating 2,378 MW of Solar Power by 2022.

70. As movement through waterways is both economical and environment friendly, My Government has developed plans to have Inter-State waterways while simultaneously working to develop more ports. I am happy to inform the members that recently My Government has commenced work on providing uninterrupted waterway connectivity to Kalinga Nagar Manufacturing Zone from Paradeep and Dhamara Port, and recently restored Gopalpur Port, which was heavily damaged during the Cyclone Phailin.

71. To inculcate better road behavior and to prevent fatalities, My Government has formulated the “Road Safety Policy 2015” to reduce major mishaps by 20% in the next three years. Further, through e-governance measures, the transport Department has been striving to put forward a very user friendly interface in place to assist the multitude of passengers that avail the public transport system each day.

72. I am happy to announce that “Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana” which was started by My Government to provide bus services to remote and inaccessible Gram Panchayats has made good inroads and with 484 BGGY buses plying in 3 different phases of the programme, and, we have been able to connect 349 Gram Panchayats along with Government run stage carriages.

73. My Government, to enhance railway density in the State and provide railway connectivity to the 7 left out districts early, offered to pay 50% of the construction cost along with the required land free of premium for the Khurda- Bolangir rail link Project as a result of which railway connectivity has now been extended up to Nayagarh District and work in the balance portion is going on in full swing. For Jaipur-Malkangiri and Jaipur-Nabarangpur railway projects which shall provide railway connectivity to the tribal and inaccessible districts of the State, My Government has now extended similar concessions for early execution of both the projects. I am happy to intimate this august house that as of now we are the only State in the entire country to have done this. 74. Efficient management of land resources, which is limited by nature, is quite a challenging task. One of My Governments’ key goal is to allot land to homesteadless families and distribute cultivable waste land to landless farmers. I am happy to inform all of you that till the end of December 2015, a total of 1,03,825 families have been identified out of which 24,913 families were given homestead land. To provide stringent punishment to land grabbers and to facilitate underground pipelines, My Government is coming out with two policies i.e. the Odisha Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act, 2015 and the Odisha Pipelines (Acquisition of right of users in Land) Act 2015.

75. Revenue from Excise collection is a significant contributor to the State exchequer. In order to streamline this sector, My Government has passed the Odisha Excise Act, which has been modeled along the model Excise Policy circulated by the Union Government. While the new Act proposes to streamline the Excise administration in the State, it has simultaneously incorporated stringent penal provisions for offenders. Multi-agency co-ordination in enforcement has visibly plugged the revenue leakages and also greatly reduced illicit trade in this segment.

76. I am happy to announce that General Administration Department has done appreciable job in faster release of assistance from Chief Ministers' Relief Fund, extending support under Harischandra Sahayata, and in adding 235 additional public Services to the existing list of services under Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012. By this we have gone a step further to strengthen right based governance in our State.

77. Ease of access to information is slowly revolutionizing the societal foundations which calls for continuously updating one's knowledge and acquire new sets of skills. My Government has instituted "Chief Ministers' Award for Excellence for Innovation in Governance and Public Delivery" as a tool to encourage government functionaries to innovate new methods in public service delivery and has awarded a batch of such officers for their innovative works. Further, My Government has taken up mid-career training to officers in different cadres.

78. As a part of our commitment to provide direct employment opportunities to the youths of our State, I am happy to announce before this August House that My Government has been able to provide government jobs to more than 32,000 youths in its current tenure so far and almost all of the nearly 6000 cases pending under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme has also been finalized within the last one year.

79. To strike a perfect balance between the various factors of economic growth and reduce poverty is a major challenge. My Government has succeeded in increasing the forest cover and according to India State of Forest Report 2015, more than one third of the State's geographic area is covered under forest, which is not a mean achievement when one looks at the pressing necessity to industrialize the State. This could be possible due to active participation of people living in the forests who have been well supported for their livelihoods through initiatives like 'Ama Jungle Yojana', taken up by my Government. My Government is working hard to prevent human-animal conflicts through various innovative ways.

80. My Government is protecting the sacred grooves and other traditional places of worship of the tribes by providing separate grants for their renovation, repair and restoration. This year My Government has enhanced the price of a KL Kerry from 60 paise to 70 paise and is paying a dividend of Rs.62 crores to the pluckers and incentive allowance of Rs. 5 crores to binders out of the KL trade surplus.

81. My Government has taken up a number of pro-active measures for all round development of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and Backward Classes communities.

My Government has sanctioned 2850 hostels for providing boarding facilities to students out of which 2020 have already been completed. These hostels will be made operational from the coming academic session.

82. In order to provide quality education to ST&SC students, My Government has launched a new scheme called 'ANWESHA' during 2015-16 by which over 2700 students have benefited. This scheme provides free quality education to ST&SC students in the best privately managed schools in the State located in urban centers. At least 5000 ST&SC Students will be admitted during 2016-17. My Government would bear the entire costs towards Annual School Fees payable to the schools, with a maximum limit of Rs 25,000 per student. The students will also be provided free books, uniform and free urban hostel facilities.

83. My State had been a front runner in implementation of the Forest Rights Act. The State has provided over 3.50 lakh individual rights and over 5000 community rights so far. The Government is now emphasizing on disposal of Community Forest claims and disposal of appeals for individual Forest Rights.

84. My Government is committed to provide 100% coverage of pension, housing and other social security schemes for welfare of the PVTG households. The Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme (OPELIP) will be implemented by My Government with financial assistance from IFAD for improving the socio economic conditions of the 13 PVTG communities of the State.

85. We have a sizeable Minority population in the State and My Government is committed for their socio-economic welfare and livelihood development. For the students of minority community to have access to higher education, My Government has plans to provide scholarships, hostels and infrastructure in Minority Educational Institutions.

86. The National Food Security Act 2013 has been successfully implemented in My State. It gives me immense satisfaction to inform this August House that 79.59 lakh families are being provided subsidised food across all districts of Odisha. A robust system has been put in place to keep the NFSA database up to date through Ration Card Management Systems in 314 blocks and 60 ULB headquarters. My Government also leveraged the power of IT to streamline paddy procurement and direct transfer of funds to the farmers' accounts. My Government is fully committed to make the entire paddy procurement operations transparent in near future.

87. Odisha is famous for its rich varieties of Handlooms and Handicrafts. Even in this digital age, a significant population of the State pursues this age-old artistry. Earning a livelihood is as important to them as keeping the tradition alive that is otherwise a unique identity for the State. Complementing their innate interests, My Government is extending a range of support services that include extending subsidized financial support, incentivizing technology adoption, upgrading skills and offering social security to the craftsmen and their families. My Government has recently entered into an MoU with Asian Heritage Foundation patronized by Japan Social Fund & World Bank to create an Inclusive Business Model for marginalized tribal communities in Mayurbhanj and Koraput districts to enhance income levels by extending marketing support to their traditional products.

88. Providing affordable health services to the people of Odisha across the State continues to be one of the main drivers of My Government's actions. My Government is in the process of setting up a State Health Assurance Agency soon to bridge gaps in the provision of health services. Other key highlights of My Government's activities in the Health and Family Welfare sector include establishment of five new Medical Colleges, opening of a Post Graduate Institute in Capital Hospital, enhancement of MBBS seats to reach the benchmark of doctors per thousand of people, introduction of place based incentives to doctors to encourage them to serve the population living in inaccessible areas. My Government has recently announced the establishment of a new Government Medical College & Hospital in Keonjhar District and is committed to improve different Human Development Indicators through a host of measures.

My Government is providing 421 types of free medicines including 90 varieties of drugs for treatment of critical diseases at Government Hospitals to patients through "Niramaya", a scheme implemented by the Odisha State Medical Corporation.

89. Disseminating the correct message is very critical and has the unique power to influence perceptions and attitudes. As enhancing the well being and welfare of the common man is the prime responsibility of any Government, it becomes imperative on its part to develop and sustain an effective two way communication strategy conveyed in the most efficient manner. I am happy to say that the Information and Public Relations Department has gone ahead with the mandate in the most professional manner enabling Odisha to bag the prestigious National Award in the best Government Portal category instituted by Government of India.

90. To protect the interests of the wage earners, My Government has raised the minimum wages for 88 scheduled employment as well as minimum piece rate of wages for 15 scheduled employments, during July last year.

91. To properly combat the Child Labour issue and to eventually stop the practice, My Government has prepared the State Action Plan, an integrated approach that seeks to secure universal education under Right to Education Act, 2009, and prohibit, rescue and rehabilitate children in the State.

92. As part of State Action Plan for Safety and Welfare of Inter State Migrant Workmen, steps have been taken for voluntary registration of migrant workers at G.P. level, on a pilot basis, in four migration prone districts of Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada of Odisha which would be helpful in tracking migrant workers in Destination States.

93. The Odisha Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board is extending different benefits to registered construction workers and their families which include assistance for purchase of working tools, safety equipments and bicycle, educational assistance, marriage assistance, maternity benefits assistance, assistance for skill development training, assistance in case of accident and major ailments, death benefits, funeral assistance etc. 13,07,424 Building and Other Construction Workers have so far been registered under the Board as beneficiaries. Rs.920.65 crores has so far been deposited in the Board's funds towards cess out of which Rs. 96.18 crores has been disbursed towards different

benefits to 2.74 lakh beneficiaries during this year. 94. My Government is providing 50,000 houses under “Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana” to the registered construction workers in rural areas with Rs. 1 lakh as housing assistance per beneficiary family. My Government is also proposing to construct rental housing complex in urban areas through the H&UD Department for the migrant building and other construction workers. Further, My Government proposes to start Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana shortly.

95. In Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) beneficiary families enrolled in 30 districts of the State is Rs.44.08 lakh. Till date 4,50,495 of smart card holders have availed benefits to the tune of Rs. 1.54 crores. Under the ESI Scheme full medical care to 3,78,270 Insured Persons and their family members have been provided through a network of five ESI Hospitals and 38 ESI Dispensaries. As on 29.02.2016 the number of Insured Persons under the ESI Scheme is 3,78,270.

96. To facilitate timely delivery of pension to retired Government servants, My Government has fixed timelines for different cadres and has been conducting pre-scrutiny meetings and Pension Adalats across districts to resolve pending issues of pensioners. My Government is equally concerned to redress grievances of people faster and to make it effective, My Government has come out with a Grievance Map of districts that enables the Departments to better identify causes of grievances and enable them to devise redressal mechanisms. Grievance boxes are placed in all district Collectors offices including one at the Secretariat and a toll free number for people to air their problems. Collectors and SPs of the districts are holding joint grievance hearing at different places of the district including Block and Gram Panchayat headquarters to interact with the public and redress their grievance in an effective manner.

97. A vibrant tourism sector is both a revenue generator and a powerful tool to bring our rich heritage and cultural tradition to a wide segment of population. My Government has fully comprehended the hidden potential of this sector and has been interacting meaningfully with people and groups who can contribute to its growth. Besides framing a dedicated policy for holistic development of the Tourism Sector, My Government is actively branding the State by participating in various forums, at national and international levels, using professional agencies and mediums to highlight the key tourism products that the State has.

98. My Government has started a new initiative called “Baristha Nagarika Tirthayatra Yojana” to promote Senior Citizens of all religions to visit places of religious and tourist interest inside and outside the State in coordination with IRCTC. A special cell to monitor the scheme has already been constituted in OTDC for this purpose.

99. Its rich cultural traditions, heritage, historical monuments, archaeological sites, tribal and traditional arts & crafts, handlooms & handicrafts give Odisha a unique identity. To protect and promote such unique cultural legacy, My Government is constantly striving to empower and strengthen a wide variety of institutions responsible to safeguard our history through financial and non-financial support. Our continued commitment to protect our cultural heritage has opened up new insights and helped us to strategize various schemes and programs to assure our artists and artisans that we truly care for their welfare.

100. I am very proud to inform all of you that as a recognition of our uniqueness, Jawaharlal Nehru University has agreed to establish a Chair in the name of “Adikabi Sarala Das Chair of Odia Studies” in Odisha languages, Literature and Cultural studies in the Center of Indian languages. My Government has recently taken a host of measures for promotion of Odia Language and literature including the establishment of a Virtual Odia University.

101. Extending nutritional support to children in their formative years, protecting health of women during pre-natal and postnatal stages, encouraging women to avail organized child birth services by incentivizing through conditional cash transfer systems in shape of the State’s own innovative scheme ‘MAMATA’, and, promotion of women SHGs as a tool for economic empowerment are some of the initiatives of My Government to empower mother and child care.

102. To safeguard interests of children in the State, My Government has operationalized the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Odisha State Child Protection Society. My Government has also framed a dedicated policy for women and girls for facilitating the State to create an enabling environment that promotes equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination, ensure holistic development, empowerment as well as enhance capacities.

103. To better target, channelize and administer various social security measures in a committed manner, My Government has created a new separate administrative department and has named it as the “Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities”. I am happy to announce that My Government at present is providing pension to 40.23 lakh beneficiaries in the category of Old Age, Widows, PWDs and AIDS Victims. During the current year My Government has also included unmarried women above 30 years in the pension scheme.

104. My Government has provided scholarships to 39,357 students with disability during the current year. A Special ITI has been established at Jatni in which students with disability shall be admitted in the coming academic year. 3% reservation to persons with disability in Government and Public Sector jobs is being strictly monitored by My Government through a special cell created for the purpose.

Institutions/Organizations undertaking therapeutic and rehabilitative works for Persons with Intellectual Disability have been identified by My Government and provided with financial assistance to carry out such curative works. The Department with funding from the State Employment Mission is carrying out skill development training to PWDs in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped. 1651 Persons with Disability have been provided with financial assistance in shape of DRI Loans along with CMRF support to pursue livelihood activities by My Government during the current year.

105. Submission of applications and issue of Disability Certificate has been made online and 7.61 lakh Disability Certificates already issued by My Government. By the end of this month, My Government is proposing to distribute 107 laptops to visually impaired students. 106. To improve the intra-state and inter-state connectivity that is vital for economic empowerment of the State and its people, My Government has taken up a number of projects for unfettered movement of people and goods. My

Government is also working towards improving the inner city road networks to decongest major centers by constructing Rail Over-bridges, underpasses and fly-overs. The work on Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor, an important project for movement of goods from the southern districts is on schedule and we intend to complete the portion passing through our State by 2019. In spite of threats from the Left Wing Extremists, My Government has made impressive progress on the 14 projects for improvement of 614.82 kilometres of road length with a cost of Rs.948.56 crores sanctioned by Government of India under Left Wing Extremism Scheme. The long cherished dream of the people of 154 cut-off villages of Malkangiri District is going to be fulfilled with the commissioning of Gurupriya bridge with State's own funding during early part of 2017.

107. Construction work of the Rs.3600 crores worth Biju Expressway, a four laned road of 650.64 kilometers connecting Jagdalpur and Rourkela through western Odisha and KBK districts has started in right earnest and is making sound progress. Besides, under State Highways Development Project, 428 Km. of State Highways have been converted to 2-lane roads.

108. Providing basic services such as drinking water supply to every household, road connectivity and sewerage that will improve the quality of life, especially for the rural poor and disadvantaged is of utmost priority to My Government. The Rural Development Department of My Government is responsible to take necessary measures to deliver this on priority.

109. I am happy to inform this August House that My Government has already installed 4,15,542 tube wells, 12,895 Sanitary wells and 10,160 piped water supply schemes in the rural areas of Odisha. Apart from this additional 17,122 Spot Water Sources, 113 Piped Water Supply Projects and 1,386 Solar Based projects have been completed this year. My Government has plans to invest more than Rs.370 crores to improve drinking water facilities in 472 villages and Rs.123 crores to improve sanitation facilities in more than one lakh households in the above villages in the 8 districts affected by mining operations and this along with provision of pucca houses shall bring perceptible changes in the living conditions of nearly half a lakh families residing in the mining affected areas. To protect rural population from vector borne diseases and to inculcate good Sanitary habits in them, My Government has constructed 7,00,000 toilets.

110. Further, to provide all weather connectivity to habitations up to one hundred population which are not covered under any other road connectivity programme, My Government has started the new "Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana" initiative and during the current year three such roads have been taken up in each constituency with adequate funds provision.

111. Empowerment of people to plan their own growth, development and welfare is the main driving principle of My Government and to ensure this, My Government in Panchayati Raj Department implements inter-linking schemes and programs to realise such outcomes. Under National Rural Livelihoods Mission 40848 Self Help Groups have been linked with formal credit, and 573.74 lakh person days have been generated under the MGNREG Scheme.

112. After the closure of Central Sector Scheme BRGF by the Government of India, My Government has now extended Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana to all the 30 districts of the State so that the pace of

development is maintained in the former BRGF districts. I am happy to inform you that My Government has already laid 546.61 kilometers of concrete roads in the rural areas.

113. My Government had set a target in the year 2014 to convert at least 1 million kutcha houses into pucca houses within 2 years, and, going by the achievements made in this regard under various housing schemes during the period, I can assure the house that My Government is fully confident of achieving this.

114. My Government has also decided to convert all kutcha houses in the mining affected districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Keonjhar, Koraput, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh where nearly 50,000 affected households will be provided with pucca houses under the Biju Pucca Ghar (Mining) Yojana. My Government is keen to ensure that work orders of all the eligible beneficiaries are issued by 5th of March and the houses completed by 15th of August.

115. To provide pucca houses to construction workers living in kutcha houses, My Government has similarly decided to allot another 50,000 houses under a new scheme “Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana” to construction workers registered with the Welfare Board for a minimum period of 3 years. My Government has already launched a Dedicated Interactive Rural Housing Portal to supervise and monitor the progress of such huge number of houses.

116. Starting from 2015-16, all the Gram Panchayats of My State will receive Rs.8850.34 crores and Rs.7389.30 crores from 14th FCA and the 4th State Finance Commission respectively for 5 years to spend on providing basic civic services and maintenance of capital assets in the villages. In the process, each Gram Panchayat is likely to receive huge funds ranging from 25 to 50 lakhs of rupees each year on an average to spend on such works and the same is likely to be substantially enhanced each year. My Government has brought out the Gram Panchayat Development Plan “Ama Gaon Ama Yojana” to plan and implement the execution of projects under FCA. I am very hopeful that now the Gram Panchayats of My State will be financially empowered enough to address the basic needs of the villages in the most effective manner.

117. To promote sports and develop a pool of world class sports persons is an area of priority of My Government. As part of My Government’s initiative to construct mini-stadiums in every block and all Urban Local Bodies, My Government has already completed construction of mini-stadiums in 159 blocks and the remaining shall be completed as per schedule. Additionally, My Government will be constructing Block Level Sports complexes to supplement the Mini-Stadiums. My Government has also launched the Active Citizenship Program to connect youth in their formative years to the roles and responsibilities expected of them when they grow up. My Government is encouraging the youth towards adventure sports like mountaineering and I am happy to state that in association with East Zonal Chapter of Indian Mountaineering, 15 youths from the State will form part of the “Himsikhar” mountaineering expedition to Himalayas post-monsoon-2016.

I am delighted to inform this August House that My State is celebrating the 100th Birth Centenary Year of Late Biju Patnaik, the legendary freedom fighter, statesman, the great nationalist leader and Ex-



Chief Minister of Odisha. In fact, this August House had earlier resolved unanimously to celebrate the birth centenary of this great son of the soil for a whole year in the State, at the national level and internationally in the countries where his heroism, global vision and exemplary bravery made him immortal, and a legend.

On the 5th of March, My State has begun the celebrations by paying befitting tributes to Biju Babu. Hundreds of basic infrastructure projects were dedicated in his honour empowering the people of our State in disaster preparedness, self-sufficiency in drinking water and preventing post harvest loss to farmers. Homestead land pattas were distributed to the homesteadless persons empowering them with land rights, significant announcements were made towards empowerment of the Panchayati Raj institutions. This is what Biju Babu always dreamt of, a developed and empowered Odisha. He is now an idea in continuity, an idea of realising dreams of progress & prosperity, an idea of Odia self-esteem, selfless service and empowerment of our people cutting across all barriers. I am fully convinced that in the coming days of the year that are to come till My State completes a year of such celebration, a multitude of development works and initiatives of empowerment of our people in manifold ways will continue to be dedicated as befitting tributes to this idea of continuity, pursuits of development and empowerment of Odisha.

While My Government has initiated a number of steps to guide our youth to grab emerging opportunities, I seek your co-operation in supporting and supplementing our efforts in suggesting ways to sharpen our targeted interventions. The biggest challenge lies in creating opportunities here locally for our own people. The spread of internet, increased use of social media have certainly raised the expectations and anticipations of our people. Hence we need to re-orient our occupational options accordingly. While a major responsibility lies with the Government to come with innovative solutions for such changing trends, a collective and constructive support and facilitation from all the Hon'ble Members will go a long way in prudently shaping our ways for holistic development and meaningful empowerment of our State for the desired outcomes.

I now leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

*JAI HIND.*

## ODISHA UPDATE

### **THE MINING OPERATIONS OF OMC PUT TO FAST TRACK**

The mining operations of Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) was put to fast track with Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Parsad Padhi taking a review of the progress of its mines in a high level meeting held in the Secretariat Conference Hall wherein MD OMC Shri Girish S.N. presented the updates and outlined the issues for discussion. Reviewing the development of different mines allotted to OMC Chief Secretary advised to focus on the mines with large reserves. Shri Padhi also directed OMC to take appropriate technical expertise and adequate safety measures for underground mining activities. Replying to a media query after the meeting, MD Shri Girish said that OMC was allotted a total of 35 mines out of which 4 gemstone mines were found financially unviable. It was decided in the meeting to surrender these mines to the Ministry. Five projects namely Daitari Iron Ore Mine, Gandhamardan Block-B, Kurmitar Iron Ore Mine, South Kaliapani Chromite Mines and Sukrangi Chromite Mines have already been put to production. The mines like Khandabandh, Bansapani, Koira, Kasira, Bhanjapali, Dubnasekradihi, Rantha and Mahaparbat have been developed to G2 level. Shri Girish further added that in the current year the total mineral production has been 5.6 MT by mid February. Target has been set to produce 6.5 Mt by end of March, 2016. Steps are being taken to enhance the production of OMC to 10 MT in coming financial year.

### **ODISHA NOW AMONG THE TOP PERFORMER STATES IN MGNREGS**

Odisha has now become a top performer State at national level in implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS). This has been discussed in the 4th Governing Body meeting of Odisha MGNREGS Society held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi in Secretariat Conference Hall wherein Secretary Panchayati Raj, Shri Deo Ranjan Kumar Singh presented the updates for discussion. Shri Singh said that in the current financial year (as of 25th Feb) Odisha has come up to 8th Position in utilization of funds under MGNREGS from its 12th position in the year 2014-15. In the process Odisha has gone ahead of the leading States like Karnataka, Kerala and Maharastra during the current year. While complimenting the department and the field level officers for this achievement, Chief Secretary directed them to bring more projects into the fold of convergence with MGNREGS. Various departments were asked to formulate appropriate project proposals and scale up their activities at the ground level. Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Shri R. Balakrishnan, was asked to issue suitable advisories to all departments

in this regard. Available data show that the total utilization of funds under the scheme during the current fiscal up to 25th Feb, 2016 has been to the tune of Rs. 1746 cr. The total utilization during the fiscal year 2014-15 was around Rs. 1059 cr. Secretary Panchayati Raj Shri Singh expressed the hope that the total utilization might touch Rs.2000 cr by end of March, 2016. Around 6 cr mandays have been created up to 25th Feb, 2016 against the total mandays of 5 cr created during 2014-15. The achievement in this indicator has crossed 85%. Around 16.93 lakh households have been provided employment during this period which shows an achievement of 89%. Participation of women and ST & SC people in mandays created has been 95% and 97% respectively. Innovative methods adopted for convergence has helped various departments to implement a number of projects worth of Rs.616.42 cr up to 25th Feb, 2016. The departments like Forest & Environment, Horticulture, Watershed Development, Textile, Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme, Women & Child Development Department, Panchayati Raj have been the leading departments in convergence of their programmes with MGNREGS. The major programmes taken under the convergence include plantation of both the forest & fruit bearing species, creation of water bodies, water conservation structures, land development, raising of poultry sheds, construction of Anagwadi buildings, rural housing etc.

*U.K.Mohapatra, Information Officer*

### **ODISHA TOURISM PARTICIPATED IN 'VIBRANT GUJARAT' AHMEDABAD-BHUBANESWAR AIR CONNECTIVITY URGED**

In a bid to promote Odisha Tourism and attract more tourists from Western part of the country, Shri Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister, Tourism & Culture has urged for Ahmedabad-Bhubaneswar Air connectivity. Shri Panda was addressing 'Vibrant Gujarat', an International level Tourism Mart in Ahmedabad. Shri Panda said that Odisha located in the eastern part of Indian subcontinent, is one of the most gifted states in India from tourism view point. The temples & monuments, lakes & lagoons, forest & wildlife, beaches and riverines, dance and music, handlooms & handicrafts, rich tribal & Buddhist heritage of Odisha attract visitors & tourists. The state capital in Odisha has topped the list of 120 cities in the country to be adopted under the smart city programmes. Tourist arrival to Odisha is growing at a rate of 8%. The Domestic Tourist arrival in 2014 was 108,62,048 with a growth rate of 10.08% as compared to 2013. Similarly, the Foreign Tourist arrival to the state in 2014 was 71426 with a growth rate of 7.13%. As per the Tourism Policy, which have been launched in 2013, High level Committees at different levels have been formed for speedy and single window clearances of tourism related projects on a fast track basis. Shri Panda said that the Buddhist Circuits of Odisha as a niche product is very important for the state and country. To position it internationally, Odisha Tourism is organising International conference on Buddhism each year and inviting Scholars and Tour Operators from abroad. To give a major boost to this sector, Air India has started Direct Air Connectivity from Bhubaneswar to Varanasi for giving an opportunity to the Buddhist tourists to have a glimpse of the rich Buddhist heritage of Odisha. Odisha tourism is organising Road shows within the country in different cities to attract large bulk of domestic tourists to Odisha and this year 10 Road shows have been lined up. The State Tourism has successfully organised the IATO Annual Convention and golden jubilee celebration of FHRAI. 'Vibrant Gujarat' was inaugurated by Smt Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister, Gujarat.

*Surya Mishra, Information Officer*

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT  
ODISHA REVIEW  
FORM-IV  
(See Rule -8 )**

1. Place of publication : Bhubaneswar
2. Periodicity of its publication : Monthly
3. Printer's Name : Shri Gopabandhu Satpathy, IAS for and on behalf of Government of Odisha
- Nationality : Indian
- Address : Director, Printing, Stationery and Publication, Odisha, Madhupatana, Cuttack -753010.
4. Publisher's Name : Shri Sushil Kumar Das, O.A.S.(SAG)  
Director  
Information and Public Relations Department,  
Bhubaneswar-1.
5. Editor's Name : Dr. Lenin Mohanty
- Nationality : Indian
- Address : Editor, *Odisha Review*  
Information and Public Relations Department,  
Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
- Name & Address of Individuals who own newspaper and partners or, shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital. : Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar

I, Shri Sushil Kumar Das, Director, Information & Public Relations Department, Bhubaneswar, do hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
*Signature of Publisher*  
*Director*

*Information & Public Relations Department  
Bhubaneswar*