

## CHAPTER XVIII

### PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND THE UNION LEGISLATURES

The Kalahandi district along with the Balangir district was constituted into one double-member Parliamentary constituency in the first General Elections of 1952. In the second General Elections held in 1957 the district had one double-member Parliamentary Constituency called Kalahandi. But the district became one single-member Parliamentary Constituency from the General Elections of 1962 and continued as such in the elections of 1967 and 1971.

As regards the State Legislature, the district had one single-member constituency and three double-member constituencies in the first General Elections held in 1952. During the second General Elections held in 1957 there were four double-member constituencies in the district. At the time of Mid-term Elections of 1961, the district had eight single-member constituencies. The number of single-member constituencies remained the same for the elections held in 1967, 1971 and 1974. Thus, at present the district has eight representatives in the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) and one in the Lok Sabha (House of the People). The details of the present territorial extent of the Parliament and Assembly Constituencies are given below :—

#### Delimitaion of the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies\*

Sl No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies
<b>A. PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY</b>		
1	Kalahandi ..	Comprising Khariar, Dharamgarh (S. C.), Koksara, Junagarh, Bhawanipatna (S. C.), Narla (S. T.) and Kesinga Assembly Constituencies.
<b>B. ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>		
1	Nawapara** ..	Jonk and Nawapara police stations and Komna police station (excluding Komna, Pendrawan, Rajana, Kanabera, Sunabeda, part Bhaisadani and part Karlakot Grama Panchayats) in Nawapara subdivision.
2	Khariar ..	Komna, Pendrawan, Rajana, Kanabera, Sunabeda, part Bhaisadani and part Karlakot Grama Panchayats in Komna police station, Khariar police station and Nagalbad I, Nilji, part Litisarji, Gandabahali and part Karangamal Grama Panchayats in Sinapalli police station in Nawapara subdivision.

\* The *Orissa Gazette*, Extraordinary No.1781, Cuttack, Monday, December 31, 1973

\*\* The Nawapara Assembly Constituency is included in the Balangir Parliamentary Constituency.

Sl. No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituency
3	Dharamgarh (S. C.)	Sinapalli police station (excluding Nagalbad I, Nilji, part Litisargi, part Karangamal and Gandabahali Grama Panchayats) in Nawapara subdivision and Dharamgarh and Kegaon police stations in Dharamgarh subdivision.
4	Koksara	Koksara police station and Uchhala, Badapujhariguda, Bhairipali, Badkarlakot, Jayapatna, Mangalpur and Dhansuli Grama Panchayats in Jayapatna police station in Dharamgarh subdivision and Ghutrukhal, Jubrajpur, Mahulpatna and Badachhatrang Grama Panchayats in Thuamul-Rampur police station in Bhawanipatna subdivision.
5	Junagarh	Junagarh police station (excluding part Brundabahal, Daspur, Chichia, Atigaon, Bhairiguda, Farang, Rangaspali, Nandol and Meriabandhali Grama Panchayats) and Jayapatna police station (excluding Uchhala, Badapujhariguda, Bhairipali, Badkarlakot, Jayapatna, Mangalpur and Dhansuli Grama Panchayats) in Dharamgarh subdivision and Gopalpur, Thuamul-Rampur and Dumerpadar Grama Panchayats in Thuamul-Rampur police station in Bhawanipatna subdivision.
6	Bhawanipatna (S. C.)	Part Brundabahal, Daspur, Chichia, Atigaon, Bhairiguda, Farang, Rangaspali, Meriabandhali and Nandol Grama Panchayats in Junagarh police station in Dharamgarh subdivision and Kegaon police station and Bhawanipatna police station (excluding part Jugsaipatna, Sagada, Duarsuni, Risgaon, part Lanjee, part Badabatua, Pastikudi and part Gaigaon Grama Panchayats) in Bhawanipatna subdivision.
7	Narla (S.T.)	Narla and Lanjigarh police stations, Golkuleswar Grama Panchayats in Kesinga police station and Urladani and Barabandha Grama Panchayats in Madanpur-Rampur police station and Thuamul-Rampur police station (excluding Ghutrukhal, Jubrajpur, Mahulpatna, Badachhatrang, Gopalpur, Thuamul-Rampur and Dumerpadar Grama Panchayats) and part Jugsaipatna, Sagada, Duarsuni, Risgaon, part Lanjee, part Badabatua, Pastikudi and part Gaigaon Grama Panchayats in Bhawanipatna police station in Bhawanipatna subdivision.
8	Kesinga	Kesinga police station (excluding Golkuleswar Grama Panchayat) and Madanpur-Rampur police station excluding Urladani and Barabandha Grama Panchayats in Bhawanipatna subdivision.

POLITICAL  
PARTIES AND  
ORGANISA-  
TIONS

The Indian National Congress\*, the Socialist Party, the Praja Socialist Party, the Bharatiya Janasangh, the Ganatantra Parishad,\*\* the Utkal Congress, the Bharatiya Lokadal, the Janata Party and the Jana Congress have been the main political parties in Kalahandi district. These parties have or had their local organisations here and operated through them. A study of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1967, 1971, 1974 and 1977 reveals the relative hold of the various political parties in the district.

First General  
Elections of  
1952

After two hundred years of foreign rule India achieved her Independence on the 15th August 1947 and the new Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. Under the provisions of Articles 325 and 326 of the constitution every adult Indian citizen is entitled to take part in the election. The people of Orissa have exercised their franchise in the past eight elections, both for the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha, since our Constitution came into force. In Orissa the first General Elections were held from the 3rd to the 25th January 1952.

Vidhan  
Sabha  
(Legislative  
Assembly)

The district was divided into four constituencies for the first General Elections to the Vidhan Sabha. Of these Jayapatna-Kasipur was a single-member constituency and other three, namely, Bhawanipatna, Junagarh and Nawapara were double-member constituencies. The Jayapatna-Kasipur constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. In the Nawapara and Bhawanipatna double-member constituencies one seat was general and the other was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. In the Junagarh double-member constituency one seat was general and the other was reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

In the General Elections of 1952, besides Independent candidates, four political parties, viz., the Congress, the Socialist Party, the Forward Block (Ruiker Group) and the Ganatantra Parishad contested the election. Of these, the Congress, the Socialist Party and the Forward Block (Ruiker Group) had nationwide platforms. The Ganatantra Parishad was confined to the State only.

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\* The position of the Indian National Congress has changed since 1971 due to split in the Congress and the formation of two rival Congress parties popularly known as the Congress (Ruling) and Congress (Organisational).

\*\* The Ganatantra Parishad merged with the Swatantra, an all India party, in 1967. The Swatantra, and the Utkal Congress, a State party, have now merged with the Bharatiya Lokadal.

The number of candidates set up, the number of seats won and the number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties in the district were as follows :

Name of political parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Congress ..	7	3	81,664
Socialist Party ..	1	..	4,144
Forward Block (Ruiker group) ..	1	..	2,779
Ganatantra Parishad ..	5	4	192,422
Independents ..	5	..	17,789
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>298,798</b>

Out of 298,798 valid votes polled more than 60 per cent went in favour of the Ganatantra Parishad, indicating the strong hold of the Ganatantra Parishad in the district.

The following table gives further details of the General Elections held in the district in 1952.\*

Name of Constituencies	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total No. of votes	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 6 to Col. 5	Successful party
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Bhawanipatna	2	4	135,159	270,318	96,351	35.64	Ganatantra Parishad and Ganatantra Parishad
Jayapatna-Kashipur	1	2	51,918	51,918	19,363	37.29	Congress
Junagarh	2	5	122,879	245,758	124,805	50.78	Ganatantra Parishad and Ganatantra Parishad
Nawapara	.. 2	8	97,602	195,204	59,279	30.36	Congress and Congress
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>407,558</b>	<b>542,717</b>	<b>299,798</b>	<b>55.24</b>	<b>..</b>

\* Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52, Volume II, (Statistical), pp. 412-413.

Lok Sabha

In the first General Elections, 1952, Kalahandi district along with Balangir district was constituted into one double-member Parliamentary Constituency. The political parties which contested for those two seats were the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad. Both the parties set up two candidates each.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by the political parties for the Lok Sabha was as follows:—

Name of political parties (1)	Total number of votes polled (2)
Congress ..	167,364
Ganatantra Parishad ..	386,494

In the contest, the Ganatantra Parishad candidates won the election. One candidate won by securing 198,378 votes and the other by 188,116 votes.

The total number of electors in the Parliamentary Constituency during the first General Elections was 790,404 and the total number of votes was 1,580,808. In the election total number of valid votes polled was 553,858. The percentage of voting for the Parliamentary seats was 35.03.

Second  
General  
Elections of  
1957

The second General Elections was held between the period from the 24th February to the 14th March 1957.

Vidhan Sabha  
(Legislative  
Assembly)

For the purpose of this election the district was divided into four constituencies, namely, Bhawanipatna, Kasipur, Dharamgarh and Nawapara. All these were double-member constituencies. In each double-member constituency one seat was general and the other was reserved. In Kasipur Constituency the reserved seat was for the Scheduled Castes and in other constituencies the reserved seats were for the Scheduled Tribes candidates.

In 1957 General Elections, three political parties contested the elections besides the Independent candidates. The parties were the Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and the Ganatantra Parishad.

The number of members set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by the political parties in the district were as follows:—

Name of political parties (1)	No. of candidates set up (2)	No. of seats won (3)	No. of valid votes polled (4)
Congress ..	8	2	77,823
Praja Socialist Party ..	2	..	6,949
Ganatantra Parishad ..	8	6	172,612
Independents ..	8	..	26,618
Total ..	26	8	284,002

The figures of valid votes polled show the popularity of the Ganatantra Parishad in the district.

The following table gives further details of the General Elections held in the district in 1957.\*

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total No. of votes	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 6 to Col. 5	Successful Party
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Bhawanipatna ..	2	4	102,012	204,024	77,705	38.08	Ganatantra Parishad and Ganatantra Parishad
Kasipur ..	2	6	107,034	214,068	70,530	32.94	Ditto
Dharamgarh ..	2	9	86,990	173,980	71,955	41.35	Ditto
Nawapara ..	2	7	98,557	197,114	63,812	32.37	Congress and Congress
Total ..	8	26	3,94,593	7,81,186	2,84,002	35.98	

The strength of the electorate in the district for the elections was 394,593 and the total number of valid votes polled was 284,002. The percentage of votes polled in the district was 35.98. and the percentage was considerably less than the previous elections.

In 1957, there was one double-member Parliamentary Constituency in Kalahandi district in which one seat was reserved for a member of the Scheduled Tribes. Two political parties, viz., the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad, and non-party or Independent candidates contested the elections. In all, there were five candidates including Independents. The number of votes polled was as follows:—

Lok Sabha

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
(1)	(2)
Congress ..	128,910
Ganatantra Parishad ..	326,601
Independents ..	16,441

\* Report on the Second General Elections in India, 1957, Vol. II (Statistical) pp. 874-875,

In the contest, the Ganatantra Parishad won both the seats by securing 326,601 votes. The general candidate got 174,920 votes whereas the Scheduled Tribes candidate captured 151,681 votes.

The number of electors for the elections was 7,32,328 and the total number of votes was 14,64,656. Total number of valid votes polled in the elections was 4,71,952. The percentage of voting for the Parliamentary seats was 32.22.

Mid-term  
Elections of  
1961

The second General Elections were over by the end of March, 1957. The third General Elections, in normal course, would have been held in February-March, 1962. But in consequence of the promulgation of the President's rule the State Legislative Assembly was dissolved with effect from the 25th February 1961 and Mid-term Elections was held from the 2nd to the 8th June 1961.

In 1957 General Elections, Bhawanipatna, Kasipur, Dharamgarh and Nawapara were double-member constituencies but in the elections of 1961 the double-member Constituencies were abolished and the concerned constituencies were bifurcated. Thus in the Mid-term Elections the number of Assembly Constituencies in the district was increased from four to eight, each constituency returning one candidate. Out of the eight constituencies, Madanpur-Rampur, Kasipur, Junagarh and Khariar were declared as general seats. Bhawanipatna and Nawapara were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. The remaining two, i.e., Koksara and Dharamgarh became Scheduled Castes' Constituencies. The political parties which participated in the Mid-term Elections were the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad. Non-party or Independent candidates also contested in the elections.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for the Vidhan Sabha were as follows:—

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Congress	8	1	21,843
Ganatantra Parishad	7	6	74,329
Independents	7	1	10,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>122,815</b>

The Ganatantra Parishad continued to be the major political party although it did not have the same amount of success as in the General Elections of 1957.

The following table gives further details of the Mid-term Elections held in 1961.

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 4	Party won
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Ma d a n p u r - Rampur	1	4	50,190	19,889	39.63	17,941	35.70	Ganatantra Parishad
Bhawanipatna ..	1	2	59,463	17,275	29.05	15,472	26.01	Ditto
Kasipur ..	1	2	40,555	11,856	29.23	10,460	25.50	Ditto
Koksara ..	1	3	71,099	24,425	34.35	21,226	29.81	Ditto
Junagarh ..	1	4	42,785	17,500	40.90	14,976	35.00	Ditto
Dharamgarh ..	1	2	47,142	18,702	39.67	15,756	33.42	Ditto
Khariar ..	1	3	53,770	18,120	30.44	16,367	30.43	Congress
Nawapara ..	1	2	50,121	12,104	21.18	10,617	21.19	Independent
Total ..	8	22	415,125	139,871	33.69	122,815	29.58	

The strength of the electorate was 4,15,125 of whom 1,39,871 voters exercised their franchise. The voting was less than the 1957 elections.

The district had one single-member Parliamentary constituency in the Lok Sabha Elections of 1962. The seat was meant for general candidates. Two political parties contested the elections. The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by the political parties was as follows :

Lok Sabha  
Elections  
of 1962

Name of the parties	Total number of votes polled
(1)	(2)
Congress	25,141
Ganatantra Parishad	65,974



The Parliamentary seat was retained by the Ganatantra Parishad. The party captured 65,974 votes, i.e., 72.41 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Parliamentary constituency.

The total number of electors was 3,73,402 and the total number of valid votes polled was 91,115 which was 24.40 per cent of the total number of the electorate. The percentage of voting was much lower than the 1952 and 1957 elections.

General  
Elections of  
1967

In the General Elections of 1967, the poll was completed in one day, i.e., on the 21st February, 1967.

Vidhan  
Sabha  
(Legislative  
Assembly)

For the purpose of the General Elections held in 1967, Kalahandi district was divided into eight Assembly constituencies, i.e., Nawapara, Khariar, Dharamgarh, Koksara, Junagarh, Bhawanipatna, Narla, and Kesinga. Of these, Nawapara and Narla were reserved constituencies for the Scheduled Tribes. Dharamgarh and Bhawanipatna were reserved for the Scheduled Caste candidates. The remaining four were general constituencies.

In the General Elections of 1967, as many as four political parties contested the elections besides the five Independent candidates. The parties were the Congress, the Swatantra, the Praja Socialist Party and the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties in the district were as follows :

Name of parties	No. of candidate set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Congress ..	8	2	50,081
Swatantra ..	8	6	111,527
Praja Socialist Party ..	1	..	1,082
Jana Sangha ..	3	..	2,478
Independents ..	5	..	12,029
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>177,197</b>

In all, 25 candidates contested for eight Assembly seats. In the contest, the Swatantra Party captured six seats and two seats went in favour of the Congress Party. Out of 1,77,197 valid votes polled the Swatantra Party secured 1,11,527 votes indicating a considerable hold of this party in the district.

The following table gives further information concerning the General Elections held in 1967.\*

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 4	Party won
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Nawapara ..	1	2	60,832	22,567	37.09	20,335	33.42	Congress
Khariar ..	1	3	60,766	24,320	40.02	21,524	35.42	Ditto
Dharamgarh ..	1	3	58,791	26,876	45.71	23,471	39.92	Swatantra Party
Koksara ..	1	3	60,836	27,729	45.57	24,352	40.02	Ditto
Junagarh ..	1	3	64,000	23,356	45.85	26,196	40.93	Ditto
Bhawanipatna ..	1	3	56,168	25,502	45.40	22,817	40.62	Ditto
Narla ..	1	3	54,220	19,666	36.27	17,414	32.09	Ditto
Kesinga ..	1	5	58,603	23,763	48.54	21,068	35.95	Ditto
Total ..	8	25	4,74,216	1,99,779	42.12	1,77,197	37.36	

The total strength of the electorate was 4,74,216 of whom 1,77,197 voters exercised their franchise, the percentage of voting being 37.36 appreciably higher than the previous two elections.

In the General Elections of 1967 there was one Parliamentary constituency in Kalahandi district, i.e., Kalahandi Parliamentary constituency. The constituency was for general candidates. The parties which contested for the seat were the Congress and the Swatantra. Lok Sabha

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by the parties was as follows :

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
(1)	(2)
Congress ..	49,657
Swatantra ..	1,08,336

\* One-day poll in Orissa, 1967

In the contest, the Swatantra party won the election by capturing 108,336 votes, i.e., 61.91 per cent of the total valid votes polled in Kalahandi Parliamentary constituency.

The number of electors for the election was 415,613 and the number of valid votes polled was 157,993 which works out to be 38.01 per cent of the total electorate of the Constituency. This percentage shows a definite improvement over the corresponding percentage relating to 1962 Lok Sabha election.

Mid-term  
Elections of  
1971

For the second time, the State of Orissa faced Mid-term Elections on the 5th March, 1971. The Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha elections were held on that day.

Like the General Elections of 1967, the district was divided into eight Assembly constituencies which included Nawapara, Narla, Dharamgarh, Bhawanipatna, Khariar, Koksara, Junagarh and Kesinga. Of these, the last four were general seats.

In 1971 five political parties contested the elections with non-party or Independent candidates. The political parties which participated in the elections were the Indian National Congress, the Indian National Congress (Organisation), the Swatantra Party, the Praja Socialist Party and the Utkal Congress.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties in the district were as follows :

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Indian National Congress ..	7	..	24,791
Indian National Congress (Organisation)	2	1	17,674
Swatantra Party ..	8	7	87,480
Praja Socialist Party ..	5	..	8,750
Utkal Congress ..	7	..	17,374
Independents ..	15	..	19,329
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>175,398</b>

In all, 44 candidates contested for the eight Assembly seats. In the multicornered contest the Swatantra Party achieved a major triumph by capturing seven seats and one seat went in favour of Congress (Organisation). The growing number of contesting candidates and political parties will be evident from the above statistics.

The following table gives a detailed account in respect of the Mid-term Elections held in 1971.

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 4	Party won
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Nawapara	1	7	67,305	23,934	35.56	21,944	32.60	Swatantra Party
Khariar	1	4	64,352	29,316	45.55	26,723	41.52	Congress(O)
Dharamgarh	1	6	59,471	23,024	38.72	21,066	35.42	Swatantra Party
Koksara	1	5	63,826	24,815	38.88	22,329	34.98	Ditto
Junagarh	1	7	67,383	27,960	41.49	25,395	37.68	Ditto
Bhawanipatna	1	4	57,882	23,337	40.31	21,249	36.71	Ditto
Narla	1	4	56,533	16,688	29.52	15,335	27.12	Ditto
Kesinga	1	7	65,997	23,094	34.99	21,357	32.36	Ditto
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5,02,749</b>	<b>1,92,168</b>	<b>38.22</b>	<b>1,75,398</b>	<b>34.88</b>	

The strength of voters was 5,02,749 of whom 1,75,398 or 34.88 per cent of the voters went to the polls. This time the voting was less than the 1967 General Elections.

In 1971, there was one single-member Parliamentary Constituency in the district. This Parliamentary constituency was for the general candidates.

Lok Sabha

In this elections four political parties, viz., the Indian National Congress, the Praja Socialist Party, the Swatantra Party and the Utkal Congress entered the field and contested the election.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties for Parliamentary seat was as follows :

Name of Parties (1)	Total number of votes polled (2)
Indian National Congress ..	23,224
Utkal Congress ..	15,520
Swatantra Party ..	89,098
Praja Socialist Party ..	14,324
Independents (two candidates) ..	14,478

In the multi-cornered contest, Swatantra Party won the election by securing 89,098 votes or 56.87 per cent of the total valid votes polled in Kalahandi Parliamentary Constituency. The total electorate in the constituency was 4,36,752. The total number of valid votes polled was 1,56,644. The percentage of voting for the parliamentary seat was 38.71.

By-Elections  
of 1971

In the Mid-term Elections of 1971 the candidate of the Swatantra Party was declared elected to the Assembly from the Koksara Assembly Constituency. Later on the candidate resigned his Koksara Assembly seat. As a result of his resignation the Assembly seat fell vacant. In order to fill up the seat By-Election was held on September 22, 1971.

In this election candidates belonging to the Indian National Congress, the Swatantra Party and the non-Party or Independent candidates took part. In a triangular contest the Swatantra Party won the election by capturing 16,958 votes, i.e., 61.77 per cent of the total valid votes polled in this constituency. By winning the election the Swatantra Party retained the Koksara Assembly seat. The nearest rival was Congress party candidate who was defeated by a margin of 9,211 votes.

The strength of the electorate was 69,798. The number of persons who voted at the By-Election was 29,503 which was 42.27 per cent of the total number of votes in the constituency.

Sixth General Elections  
of 1974  
Vidhan  
Sabha

The Sixth General Elections to the State Legislature was held on the 22nd, 24th and 26th of February, 1974. In this elections the district was divided into eight single-member Assembly constituencies which included Bhawanipatna and Dharamgarh constituencies for the Scheduled Castes, and Narla Constituency for the Scheduled Tribes. The other constituencies were for general candidates.

Seven political parties and non-party or Independent candidates took part in the elections of 1974. The political parties which participated were the Indian National Congress, the Indian National Congress (Organisation), the Swatantra Party, the Bharatiya Jana Sangha, the Socialist Party of India, the Utkal Congress and the Jana Congress. Except the last two, all other political parties had their affiliations with the All-India bodies.

The number of members set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties were as follows:

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Indian National Congress ..	8	1	73,503
Indian National Congress (Organisation).	2	Nil	1,623
Swatantra Party ..	7	6	1,12,447
Utkal Congress ..	1	1	18,262
Jana Congress ..	1	Nil	3,258
Socialist Party of India ..	1	Nil	1,473
Bharatiya Jana Sangha ..	1	Nil	851
Independents ..	17	Nil	25,733
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,37,150</b>

In all, 38 candidates contested for eight Assembly seats. In the contest, the Swatantra Party captured six seats. One seat went to the Indian National Congress and the other to the Utkal Congress. Out of 2,37,150 valid votes polled in the district the Swatantra party secured 1,12,447 or 47.39 per cent of the total valid votes indicating a considerable hold of this party in the district.

The following table gives further information concerning the Sixth General Elections held in 1974.\*

Name of Constituencies	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 4	Party won
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Nawapara ..	1	7	72,062	33,034	45·84	29,598	41·07	Congress
Khariar ..	1	5	72,673	34,793	47·88	31,476	43·31	Utkal Congress Swatantra
Dharamgarh	1	5	75,517	34,323	45·45	30,264	40·07	Ditto
Koksara ..	1	5	75,456	33,596	44·53	30,303	40·15	Ditto
Junagarh ..	1	3	74,918	35,097	46·85	32,145	42·91	Ditto
Bhawanipatna	1	3	78,191	33,630	43·01	30,296	38·74	Ditto
Narla ..	1	3	65,137	22,085	33·91	20,065	30·80	Ditto
Kesinga ..	1	6	76,316	35,712	46·79	33,003	43·24	Ditto
Total ..	8	37	5,90,270	2,62,270	44·43	2,37,150	40·17	..

A comparatively larger number of electors exercised their franchise in these elections as compared to the previous ones. Of the total electorate of 5,90,270 about 40·17 per cent exercised their franchise in the Assembly constituencies.

Seventh  
General  
Elections,  
1977

The Sixth General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held in February, 1974. Normally, the seventh General Elections would have been held in 1979. But after the Lok Sabha Elections of March, 1977 the situation took a different turn. The will of the people on a massive scale was expressed against the prevailing regime. The Assembly was dissolved by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution of India with effect from the 30th April, 1977. The Election Commissioner of India decided to hold poll of the Assembly Constituencies of the State of Orissa in one day, i.e., on the 10th June, 1977. Accordingly, all preparatory arrangements were made to hold elections in Kalahandi district on the date mentioned earlier.

Vidhan  
Sabha

Like the 1974 elections, the name, number, reserved and general constituencies remained the same in this election as well. The Indian National Congress, the Janata party and the non-party or Independent candidates took part in the election.

\* Report on the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, U. P. and Pandichery, Statistical, Election Commission of India, 1974.

The number of members set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties were as follows:

Name of parties (1)	No. of candidates set up (2)	No. of seats won (3)	No. of valid votes polled (4)
Indian National Congress ..	8	5	87,520
Janata Party ..	8	2	30,207
Independents ..	19	1	71,254
	35	5	1,88,981

Altogether 35 candidates contested for eight Assembly seats in which the Indian National Congress captured five seats, two went in favour of the Janata party, and one went to the Independent candidate. In the election, the Indian National Congress secured 46.31 per cent of the total valid votes polled. This shows the popularity of the party for the first time in Kalahandi district.

The following table presents a vivid picture of the seventh General Elections, 1977. \*

Name of Constituencies (1)	No. of seats (2)	No. of persons contested (3)	No. of electors (4)	Total votes polled (5)	Percentage of Col. 5 to Col. 4 (6)	Total valid votes polled (7)	Percentage of Col. 7 to Col. 4 (8)	Party won (9)
Nawapara ..	1	3	76,648	32,062	41.83	30,822	40.21	Janata
Khariar ..	1	3	76,193	29,607	38.86	28,520	37.43	
Dharamgarh	1	4	79,240	26,777	33.79	25,735	32.48	Independent
Koksara ..	1	7	78,293	33,700	43.04	32,027	40.91	
Junagarh ..	1	5	78,328	35,042	44.74	33,576	42.87	Indian National Congress
Bhawanipatna	1	3	83,002	26,213	31.58	25,137	30.28	
Narla ..	1	4	68,728	18,941	27.56	18,236	26.53	
Kesinga ..	1	6	78,398	36,361	46.38	35,135	44.82	Janata
Total ..	8	35	6,18,830	2,38,703	38.57	1,88,981	30.53	

The strength of voters was 6,18,830 in the district of which 1,88,981 or 30.53 per cent voters exercised their franchise in the Assembly Elections. This percentage is less than that of the Assembly Elections, 1974.

\* Report on the Seventh General Elections to State Assembly 1977—Government of Orissa, 1978 pp. 147—167.



Lok Sabha

In 1977† there was one single member Parliamentary constituency in Kalahandi district. The seat for this election was for general candidates. In all, two candidates contested the election of which one belonged to the Bharatiya Lok Dal and other an Independent candidate.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different political parties was as follows:

Name of parties (1)	Total number of votes polled (2)
Bharatiya Lok Dal ..	64,555
Independent ..	1,17,816

In the contest, the Independent candidate won the election by a margin of 53,261 votes. The total electorate in the constituency was 542,033 and the total number of votes polled was 1,93,163. The percentage of votes polled for the Parliamentary seat was 35.64.

There were 334 polling stations in the district during the second General Elections held in 1957. The number of polling stations was increased in subsequent elections with a view to afford more facilities to the voters to cast their votes.

The following table indicates the number of polling stations located in each of the Assembly constituencies in the district for the election of 1952, 1957, 1961, 1967, 1971 and 1974.

Name of Assembly Constituencies (1)	Number of Polling Stations					
	1952* General Elections (2)	1957* General Elections (3)	1961* Mid-term Elections (4)	1967** General Elections (5)	1971** Mid-term Elections (6)	1974** General Elections (7)
Nawapara ..	N. A.	84	56	54	83	83
Khariar ..	..	..	64	56	79	84
Dharamgarh ..	..	73	49	53	69	94
Koksara ..	..	..	71	55	75	91
Junagarh ..	..	..	45	57	84	90
Bhawanipatna ..	..	86	63	50	66	96
Narla ..	..	..	..	49	70	79
Kasipur ..	..	..	..	54	78	93
Madanpur-Rampur ..	..	..	52	..	..	..
Kesinga ..	..	91	43	..	..	..
Jayapatna-Kasipur ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Polling Stations.	..	334	443	428	604	710

†Report on the Sixth General Elections to Lok Sabha, 1977—Government of Orissa, 1978, pp. 78—82.

\* District Elections Office, Kalahandi

\*\* Home (Elections) Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar  
N. A. —Not available

Polling Stations

No daily newspaper is being published from Kalahandi district. The well-known Cuttack and Bhubaneswar dailies in Oriya like the *Samaja*, the *Prajatantra*, the *Matrubhumi*, the *Dharitri* and the *Swarajya* are in circulation in the district. The other Oriya dailies like the *Kosala* from Sambalpur and the *Yugabartta* from Balangir are also read by the people. Of the English newspapers circulating in this district, the *Statesman*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Hindusthan Standard* of Calcutta, and the *News of the World* of Cuttack are popular among the English knowing readers. Among the papers in Hindi the *Nav Bharat Times*, the *Biswanitra* and the *Sunmarg* published outside the State are widely read by the Hindi speaking people. The well-known Bengali, Urdu and South Indian Language daily papers are also seen in this district. Besides daily newspapers, a good number of periodicals published outside the State in different languages are in circulation in the district and influence public opinion.

The periodicals published in the district are very few in number. Their circulation is also mainly within the district. The *Biplabi*, a weekly in Oriya, started publication from Kesinga on December 12, 1974. It mainly published articles on news and views. The publication was continuing up to June 10, 1976. For promoting literary activity among the young writers an Oriya fortnightly called the *Pancha Pakhura* is published from Bhawanipatna since 1st January, 1977. One monthly magazine called the *Dabanal* started publication from Bhawanipatna in 1957, but it could not survive for long. The *Sagar*, a literary magazine in Oriya, made its debut in 1965 from Bhawanipatna. It ceased publication in 1969. Another Oriya monthly, the *Arya Bhumi*, is published since January, 1975, under the auspices of the Gurukul Ashram, Amsena, Khariar Road. It publishes articles mostly on religion and social reforms. The *Girijhara*, a literary and cultural quarterly, made its appearance in 1972 from the district headquarters and is continuing. It has a circulation of about 1,000 copies. Another literary quarterly entitled the *Kalpalok* first appeared in 1972 from Junagarh. It stopped publication after its fourth issue. An Oriya quarterly, named *Sabuj*, is being published from Bhawanipatna since April, 1977. The periodical claims to have a circulation of 300 copies in the district. The *Kalyani*, another cultural and literary quarterly in Oriya, is being published from Khariar. This periodical is coming out regularly from March 1977 and is popular in the district.

Besides the above newspapers and periodicals most of the educational institutions in the district bring out their own magazines to promote creative thinking among the students and the staff.

VOLUNTARY  
SOCIAL  
SERVICE  
ORGANISA-  
TION

There are a few voluntary social service organisations in Kalahandi district. A brief account of these organisations is given below.

Utkal  
Bandhu  
Anathashram,  
Khariar

The Utkal Bandhu Anathashram was established in 1966 at Khariar with a view to save the lives of helpless children by providing them with proper food, clothing, medical aid and education. It is managed by a Committee consisting of 11 members. The Anathashram gets financial aid from the Social Welfare Advisory Board, Orissa, Bhubaneswar, and collects donations from the public. During the unprecedented drought and famine in the area in 1966, a total number of 21 children, which included 14 boys and 7 girls, were admitted to the Anathashram. The inmates are allowed to leave the orphanage when they are able to earn their livelihood.

Gurukul  
Ashram,  
Amsena

Amsena, a place about two kilometres from Khariar Road, is the seat of Gurukul Ashram. It was established in 1968. It is managed by a committee known as Prachina Bharatiya Bidya Sava Gurukul Ashram Parichalana Samiti.

The Ashram has a Mahavidyalaya which imparts scriptural and vocational training to fifty boys belonging mostly to the Adivasi and other weaker sections of the community from Primary to college standard in Gurukul pattern. The institution runs a *gosala*, a printing press and a publication unit called 'Utkal Sahitya Samsthan'. It publishes a monthly magazine named *Arya Bhumi*, both in Oriya and Hindi languages. Swami Dharmananda Saraswati, a veteran scholar and dedicated social worker from Haryana, is the founder of the Gurukul Ashram. This institution gets grants-in-aid from the Government and donations from the public.

Mahila  
Samiti,  
Khariar  
Road

The Mahila Samiti was established in 1961 to promote economic, social and educational activities among the womenfolk and children. For this purpose it started a Middle English school in 1962 which was taken over by the Government in 1964. It was upgraded to High school standard in 1968. The Mahila Samiti also runs a Balwadi called the Lal Bahadur Sastri Shishumandira where about forty children under five years of age are getting education. The Mahila Samiti conducts classes to train women in tailoring, handicrafts and child care.

This institution meets its expenditure from private donations and Government grants. The members of the Samiti also collect money by selling *papad*, *badi* and *semai* for the welfare of the poor women.

Neela  
Chakra

Neela Chakra is a Socio-Cultural Organisation of the State. It has two branches in the district one at Bhawanipatna and the other at Nawapara. The former started functioning on March 25, 1971 and has a membership of 370.

The later started functioning on October 27, 1972 and has a membership of 210. These branches are being managed by the local members under the guidance of the Central Office located at Cuttack.

The main objectives of this organisation are the promotion and expansion of the "Jagannath culture" in different parts, particularly in the Adivasi and the outlying Oriya tracts ; to look after the social welfare of the State and present the legitimate demands of the public before the Union and the State Governments ; to render all possible help to the poor and suffering people, and to work for a social and cultural renaissance of the people of Orissa. For this purpose these organisations arrange functions in honour of national leaders, poets and writers. The members also work for the economic uplift of the Adivasis and the weaker sections and conduct relief measures at the time of natural calamities.

The expenditure is met by donations received from the general public as well as Government grants.

The District Council for Child Welfare was established in Kalahandi from the first day of April, 1961. It has five centres. These are located at Kesinga, Utkela, Pastikudi, Medinipur and Uditnarayanpur. Each centre is managed by a Gram Sevika and a Dhai. The child welfare centres run (a) Balwadi (b) home craft training for women, (c) domiciliary maternity services (d) general medical aid and periodical activities like recreational programme for children, sanitation drive in child welfare centres, village cultural programme and celebration of festivals, kitchen gardening, inter-village competitions, etc. and also nutrition programme for children.

District  
Council for  
Child  
Welfare

The State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Bhubaneswar, is meeting 75 per cent of the approved budget of these centres.

The Kalahandi District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society which has been constituted under the provisions of the Indian Red Cross Society Act, 1920, is functioning with effect from the date of merger of the ex-State, i. e., 1st January, 1948.

Indian Red  
Cross Society

Prevention of disease, improvement of health, and mitigation of human sufferings caused by flood, famine, cyclone, fire, etc., are the aims and objects of the society.

The District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society is managed by two committees—the General Body and the Executive Committee. All the members of the Indian Red Cross Society who have been duly enrolled on payment of membership fees constitute the General Body. The General Body elects members to the Executive committee which manages the affairs of the district branch.

For financial resources, the District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society mainly depends on :

- (a) Membership subscription,
- (b) Public donations,
- (c) Grants-in-aid received from the State Branch.

Funds raised by the Society are spent for :

- (a) Maternity and Child Welfare Services,
- (b) Management of Blood Banks,
- (c) Promoting the activities of Junior Red Cross,
- (d) Nursing and ambulance association work,
- (e) Relief in natural calamities, and
- (f) Such other cognate objects as approved by the Executive Committee of the District Branch.

The District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society has constructed a Blood Bank building out of its own resources. It also provided relief by opening three feeding centres in drought areas during the year 1974-75. The Society has also donated funds for adult literacy and for the entertainment of T. B. patients of Udit-narayanapur T. B. Hospital. It also collects blood for the Blood Bank and maintains the Blood Bank building.

Bharat  
Scouts  
Guides and

The Kalahandi District Bharat Scouts and Guides was formed in the year 1965-66 at Bhawanipatna. The aims and objects of the association are to inculcate and promote reverence to God and selfless service to motherland and humanity. In 1975-76, there were 200 registered scouts in the district. The Association arranges Scouts Rally and Camp every year. The Scouts and Guides rendered social services by extinguishing fire at the time of house burning, supplying drinking water to people at the time of fairs and festivals, attending to the helpless sick persons at the time of need, and by supplying food and water to the flood and drought affected people. During Gandhi centenary year the Scouts of Raja A. T. High School, Khariar, constructed a well. The District Association is maintained by membership fees, donations, and with the share of the Group registration and individual registration fees which the District Association receives from the institutions having Scout Guide Units.

The District Association is managed by the District Council which is formed by elections in every three years. This District Council elects office bearers of the Association and members to the District Executive Committee to look after the management of the District Association

in consonance with the rules of the Bharat Scouts and Guides and instructions of the Orissa State Bharat Scouts and Guides issued from time to time.

The World Food Programme's (W. F. P.) assistance to Kalahandi district is being provided through the two World Food Programme assisted projects. One is water Resources Development and Rural Road Construction, and the other is Feeding of children in selected districts of Orissa. In Kalahandi district World Food Programme assistance under the first project is being used for the construction of 300 drinking water wells, 56 rural roads (77 km. in length) and 62 minor irrigation works. These works will generate, 8,53,000 man days of employment. The world Food Programme inputs of wheat for the district is 1,706 metric tonnes. The project commenced in early January, 1976, and is expected to be completed by the end of January, 1977. Under the second project 22,500 beneficiaries are receiving World Food Programme ration in Kalahandi district. Each beneficiary gets a ration of 90 grams of wheat, 7.5 grams of milk powder and 7.5 grms. of butter oil. The World Food Programme commodities together with jaggery/molasses provided by the State Government is used for the preparation of *Sukhadi*, which is distributed to the children. This *Sukhadi* distribution in the district commenced in early February, 1976.

World Food Programme

CARITAS is an international organisation. It started feeding of the poor in the month of September, 1975 at Bhawanipatna. More than one hundred poor people were fed for nearly six months with the help of CRS food stuff.

CARITAS

UNICEF assistance to a Special Child Relief Operation which was being conducted in Koraput and Phulbani, was extended to Kalahandi in June 1975, initially for 10,000 beneficiaries in five blocks in Nawapara subdivision.

UNICEF

The beneficiary coverage was increased in August 1975 in the same subdivision to 25,000 while the operation was extended to additional 25,000 beneficiaries in Golamunda, Bhawanipatna and Narla.

Thus, 50,000 beneficiaries (41,129 children between the age-group of 0 to 6; 4,539 pregnant women and 4,332 lactating mothers) benefited from the package service, consisting of supplementary feeding, clothing and drugs provided by UNICEF. During the operation which ended in March 1976, UNICEF supplied 14,000 metric tonnes of Balahar, 395 MT of special weaning Food, 16 MT of K Mix-2 (special food for severe malnutrition cases), 44 MT of refined edible oil, 20,000 blankets, 19,000 *sarees* and 42,000 pieces of children's garments, besides large

quantities of essential life-saving drugs imported from Europe. The supplementary feeding to the target group, as indicated above, was conducted by local government authorities through 448 feeding centres in Kalahandi.

UNICEF maintained two warehouses in the district, one at Khariar and the other at Kesinga, and also supplied feeding manuals and arranged training to the concerned Government staff in the preparation and distribution of food.

The emergency programme was implemented by the State Government with UNICEF assistance. Hence UNICEF officials located in the district were only for the period of emergency operations and they have no regular staff posted in the district.

The UNICEF has been assisting the following projects in the district.

1. PHC 10 and sub-centres attached to them
2. ANP 8 blocks
3. Drilling for drinking water
4. Paediatric Government Hospitals.

#### CARE

In 1965, CARE started functioning in Kalahandi district under the various nutrition feeding programmes. In the district it covered 63,878 beneficiaries in 1971-73, and at present 50,450 beneficiaries are covered under all programmes in Kalahandi district. The number of beneficiaries are adjusted from year to year depending upon the State funding sources as well as the food availability with CARE. Apart from food, CARE has provided 300 sets of cooking utensils for feeding centres in the district. The beneficiaries covered under the programme receive food preparations composed of 80 grms. cereals and 7 grms. of salad oil. The beneficiaries covered are school children of 6 to 11 years of age and pre-school children of 0 to 6 years. The feeding day for school children and pre-school children are 180 days and 240 days per year respectively.