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ORISSA REVIEW

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Hon'ble Governor of Orissa Shri G. Ramanujam administers National Integration pledge to the officers and staff members in the Abhisek Hall of Raj Bhavan on 19.11.1996.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik discussing the unusual drought situation in the State with the high power Central team at his Secretariat Chamber on 20.11.1996.

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BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF DR. RADHANATH RATH IN NEW DELHI

A function was organised to mark the 101st Birth Day of country's senior most Editor and veteran freedom fighter Dr. Radhanath Rath, the Editor of Oriya daily 'Samaj' in New-Delhi on 6.12.96. Speaking on the occasion, chief guest, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, M.P. lauded the role of Dr. Rath in shaping up Oriya language, culture and development through his paper for years together. Shri Panigrahi also demanded the Indian Institute of Mass Communication at Dhenkanal be named after Dr. Radhanath Rath for his dedication to Journalism.

Presiding over the function, Sri Pritiman Sarkar, Principal Resident Commissioner, spoke on the dedicated work of Dr. Rath and wished him health and long life.

Among others, senior journalists, educationists and Govt. of India officers also attended the meeting and demanded one of the Institutes/Roads in Delhi be named after Dr. Rath in his honour.

This function was a part of the celebration organised by the I & P.R. Department, Govt. of Orissa to mark the closure of the year-long Birth Centenary Celebration of Dr. Rath. At the end, Shri Tapan Kumar Das, Information Officer, proposed a vote of thanks.

GOVERNOR'S VISIT TO PADMAPUR

His Excellency, the Governor of Orissa, Shri G. Ramanujam paid a visit to the drought affected areas of Padmapur in the district of Bargarh on 28th of November, 1996. During his visit the Governor went round the drought affected areas near Padmapur and interacted with the people at Dhumabhat. He also had discussion with the officials and non-officials at Padmapur about the drought situation as a whole. Initiating the discussion the Collector of Bargarh district, Smt. Anu Gurg presented a clear picture of the situation and action being initiated to mitigate the cause of the drought affected people of the areas of the district. Other departmental officers of the district apprised the Governor of the measures being undertaken to solve the problems, caused by the prevailing drought. Special Secretary, Revenue, in his speech, called upon the district officials to work together for the betterment of the affected people and improve their standard of living by utilising the funds properly. Among others Special Relief Commissioner and R.D.C., Southern Division were present at the time of discussion.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Shri J. B. Patnaik
Chief Minister, Orissa



Mr. Chairman, Dr. Venugopalchari, Hon'ble Union Minister, Power and distinguished participants,

I am very happy to be here in the Conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. I thank the Chairman, Sanjeeb Goenka for giving me the opportunity of addressing this conference on a topic of great relevance to the present time.

Infrastructure is the basic need for development in all sectors. Power and telecommunications are the vital areas where development is most needed to sustain over-all growth. As you all know, South Asia is one of the fastest growing markets for energy in the world. The on-going process of economic development in the region has resulted in an unprecedented demand for power. Most countries in South Asia have planned for substantial growth in power sector. India has a major share in this massive investment in South Asia for power generation, transmission and distribution. In this sector, an investment of Rs. 4 lakh crore in the coming five years is envisaged in India.

Since bulk of this investment has to come from private sector, there is need to encourage private investment / participation in infrastructure projects. In suitable cases joint ventures for infrastructure development will have to be encouraged.

Orissa is the ideal location for thermal power projects. Large coal reserves in Talcher and IB valley coal fields of Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. and abundant water in Hirakud and Rengali reservoirs in close proximity of coal mines make these locations perhaps the best sites for pit-head power plants in the country. Unlike many other States in the country, Orissa is at present surplus in power and with careful planning already undertaken, it will remain so ever with rapid industrialisation

during the coming decades. Already proposals from established Indian industrial houses and multi-nationals for generating over 10000 MW of thermal are being processed and implementation of most of these projects would start from 1997. Additional 1000 MW of hydel power generation would take place during the coming five years. Many of the existing large industries and new ones are setting up captive and co-generation power plants. To attract flow of investment to the power sector the new policy contemplates provision of land and water at industrial rates to power plants and electricity duty exemption for captive power plants. Power plants generating power from non-conventional sources are entitled to all incentives applicable to industries.

Orissa is the pioneer in restructuring and reforming the power sector. Appreciating the need to structurally reorganise power generation, transmission and distribution with a view to achieving improvement in the management and ensuring a fair deal to the customers in regard to tariff and quality of service, the Orissa Electricity Reform Act, 1995 has been enacted. In the changed scenario the existing power generation, transmission and distribution functions under the Orissa State Electricity Board have been split into separate units and corporatised. In the State sector the responsibility of power generation rests with the Orissa Power Generation Corporation (for thermal power) and the Orissa Hydro Power Corporation (for hydel power). The transmission and distribution functions are being discharged by the Grid Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (GRIDCO) with a clear mandate to separate the distribution function in next three or four years. As independent regulatory authority known as the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission has been constituted to take over the regulatory functions including aiding and advising the State Government on policy matters. The

Commission is acting as the body which issues land, enforces licences, balances the interest of the State, the consumers, the entities involved in power generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity and the investors in the electricity industry.

The Commission shall also determine the annual tariff structure for various categories of consumers, taking into consideration their viewpoints as may be expressed in the Commission's Advisory Committee.

Power Sector is in urgent need of modernisation and upgradation. This needs huge capital investment. Private participation in generation, transmission and distribution would be welcome and transparency in selecting private parties through open competitive bidding would be ensured. The attempts made by Orissa so far to reform and restructure the power sector have been commended by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Overseas Development Administration (U.K.) and the State has been held out as a model for other States to follow. The policy of negotiating fair and equitable power purchase agreements with the Independent Power Producers and industries owning captive power plants (supplying surplus power to the State Grid) will continue. Co-generation of power would be encouraged.

Special attention would be paid to promote power generation from non-conventional sources. Such activity will get all incentives and facilities as an industry and complete exemption of electricity duty would be available to such projects. The Orissa Hydro Power Corporation and Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency would promote mini-hydel projects and other renewable energy projects respectively in private sector and joint ventures.

Generation of power at pit-head and its transmission to the load points is environment-friendly than transport of coal for generation of power at such places. There is, therefore, an imperative need to strengthen the national grid which I have repeatedly emphasised in different fora. Government of India and Planning Commission have appreciated the urgency for taking action in this area and due importance is going to be accorded to strengthen the power transmission system in the ensuing plan.

Orissa is going to be the power house of the country because of the abundance of the power-grade coal and water which are the two essential requirements for generation of thermal power. For additional generation large quantities of coal will be needed. The rapidly increasing activity of coal mining will have its environmental impact. The environmental issues of coal mining are mainly :-

- i) Land degradation.
- ii) Resettlement and Rehabilitation problem.
- iii) Deforestation and loss of biodiversity.
- iv) Drying out of underground aquifers and ground water.
- v) Acid drainage water.
- vi) Air and noise pollution.

Development in the power sector which is essential for overall developments and provide a better quality of life for the people brings in its trail environmental problems which should be tackled effectively. The following general preventive and remedial measures can address to the environmental problems to a great extent.

i) In addition to the compensatory afforestation under the Forest Conservation Act, green belt should be developed around the mines.

ii) Reclamation of mined out areas should be done with fly ash and overburden and proper landscaping.

iii) Drains and holding ponds should be constructed around overburden dumps to avoid water pollution by leachates.

iv) Carriage of coal to be done in closed vehicles.

v) Proper rehabilitation and compensation packages should be implemented for oustees taking into consideration their socio-economic need.

Fiends, I have shared some of my thoughts on the subject with you. I hope your deliberations here will bring in suggestions for a very satisfactory environment plan in Power Sector.

Thank you all for your attention.

Jai Hind

Speech delivered at the South Asia Power Conference organised by Confederation of Indian Industries at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Calcutta on 22.11.1996.

A LEGEND, NOT A PERSON

Durga Madhab Misra

The history of the Samaj is the life-history of Sri Rath. Right from the day number one, he was an active participant in its publication and also circulation. Even now, he goes through the Samaj meticulously daily and finds out its deficiencies and does not forget to reprimand the sub-editor (s) concerned although with advanced age, he is not capable enough to make amends for the slips committed. Everyone in Orissa knows that Sri Rath is not able to closely edit this premier newspaper of Orissa but very lovingly pardons him as he is not considered any more a person but an institution, who has given his life blood to uphold the tradition set-forth before him by his Guru Pandit Gopabandhu Das. He is taken as a God because it is the saying of the scriptures that whoever has seen one thousand full moons, is no more a human being but a God who should be worshipped. So, whoever has the good fortune of living in this world for 83 years and four months or more, he is credited to have seen 1000 full moons. Whatever, he says, is taken as the word of God Himself.

This great man belonged to a poor Brahmin family of a native state of Orissa known as Athagarh, whose supremo was a king. His father Jagannath Rath who was an orthodox and high class Brahmin, was a resident of Bira Harekrushnapur Sasān of Puri district. On the request of the-then king of Athagarh to the king of Puri to send a few Brahmin families to Athagarh as Athagarh did not have many orthodox Brahmins, adept in the Vedas, Upanishads and other sacred Scriptures, Jagannath Rath, father of Radhanath Rath migrated to Athgarh.

In spite of the invitation to these Brahmins by the king himself, none of these Brahmins was properly looked after. They were not rich enough to suitably bring up their children. No doubt, some landed property was given to them by the king. But, the yield was not enough to feed, clothe and educate the children. So the education of Radhanath had to start in a village School. In fact, it was no School. After this education was over in 2 years Radhanath went to Barabati Jubilee Minor School,

Balasore. This was possible because the maternal uncle of Radhanath who was a teacher in Balasore agreed to take charge of his education. He passed from this School with flying colours. It is said that in the annual prize giving ceremony he bagged as many as fortyseven prizes. He got Govt. scholarship and went to Cuttack and was admitted to Ravenshaw Collegiate School, the premier High School of Orissa. Poverty goaded him from here. He had to take up a few private tuitions and with the meagre earnings from this, he managed to complete his School education. He was almost going to drop the final Matriculation Examination, as he could not manage to procure the examination fee of Rs. 15/-. But fate intervened. The money was found from a large-hearted person. He passed Matriculation Examination in the First Division. He intended to be a Doctor and was selected to read Medicine. But, now it was not possible to overcome the financial barrier any more. He got into intermediate class, but had to drop also for the same reason. He closed his study and had to search for a job to maintain the family.

The first job he took was to manage a press at Sambalpur. He was the printer as well as the proof-reader of this press. He, however, got an opportunity and switched over to Police Office Sambalpur as a clerk but continued his association with the Press. He now had two sources of income and managed to send some money to his father.

Attention of Mr. Butterfield, the Superintendent of Police, Sambalpur was attracted to this young man who wrote and typed impeccable English. But fate was again against him. The First Great War started. Mr. Butterfield had to join the War. Before leaving for the assignment, he introduced Radhanath to his intimate friend Mr. F. K. Maekenes, Officer-in-Charge next to Mr. J. E. Scott, Divisional Forest Officer, Chaibasa, Singhbhum, Bihar. Radhanath left Sambalpur and joined as a clerk under Mackenes. He immediately became an apple of the eye of Mr. Mackenes and even attracted the attention of Mr. Garret, the-then

Deputy Commissioner, Chaibasa for his Public Welfare activities during his spare hours. In the Forest Office, his salary was a princely amount of Rs. 75/- per month! He had to send almost the entire salary to his father for the education of his three younger brothers as well as for household expenses. He was cooking his own food and managing somehow to keep his body and soul together. However, he got used to hardships and this was only an extension of the same life so that his brothers do not face the same problem as he had to face.

That was the time, when Pandit Gopabandhu Das was very active in the Orissa- Bihar border areas like Singhbhum, Seraikala Chakradharpur, Kharasuan etc. The population of these areas consisted mainly of Oriyas. He set up innumerable Schools in the area with Oriya as medium of instruction. His activities were highly appreciated by the Deputy Commissioner, Chaibasa Mr. Garret, who casually one day mentioned to Gopabandhu about a young man from Athgarh who wrote, spoke and typed faultless English and was working as clerk under Mr. Mackenes in the Forest Office. Gopabandhu was greatly influenced and sent for Radhanath Baboo. In the first meeting between these two stalwarts, as ordained by fate, Gopabandhu was so impressed with Radhanath that he asked him to resign and come to Satyabadi, where Gopabandhu had started a School inside CHHURIANA WOODS. He told Radhanath Baboo also "Come to Satyabadi with me. I have also a press there. We shall start a newspaper. You will help me there."

As if hypnotised, Radhanath forgot that he was responsible to maintain a big family. He had been married by that time also. He went and the Samaj was published as a Weekly on 4th October 1919. As the paper became popular, it was not possible to cater to the needs of the increasing number of readers. It was running in a room of the village inn at Satyabadi which was quite crowded. So, the Press shifted to Puri. Radhanath Babu (popularly known as Babuji) followed the press, wherever it was shifted. At Puri, he managed to get a room for himself and his wife Savitri Devi joined him for sometime there. She was not only an excellent cook, but none could compete with her hospitality. Pandit Gopabandhu and many more guests were being entertained by her daily.

Thereafter, the press was shifted to Nimichouri, Cuttack and functioned in a rented house of Sri Sunil Palit, a renowned administrator of those days.

In the meantime, the Samaj spread the non-co-operation movement through its pages and incurred the wrath of Government. The Samaj also brought to limelight various news, of oppressive measures of Govt. and the local feudal chief of Kanika. Gopabandhu was arrested. In his absence, it was Babuji, who steered the Samaj clear of these troubled times. In fact, about two years after the death of Pandit Gopabandhu, the Samaj could be converted to a daily newspaper on 6th April, 1930 due to the indomitable courage of Radhanath Rath.

It is a long story how one man namely Babuji bore the brunt of keeping the press running with outdated, wornout and old machines. If the press is no good, the paper cannot be printed in time. He had to acquire a good press. But where is the money? It was Utkalmani's wish that the price of the Samaj should not be so high that the common man cannot buy the paper. The Samaj was more for the welfare of the public than for making money as a commercial venture by fleecing the readers. So, Radhanath located a good press at Calcutta offered for sale in auction by the Eastern Railways, Calcutta. The price quoted was Rs. 3,000/-. He borrowed the amount from Cuttack Bank by a hand note jointly executed by Pandit Akuli Misra, Proprietor Cuttack Trading Company, Cuttack his intimate friend and himself. Purusottam Das Tandan then president of the Peoples' Society admonished Radhanath Babu for incurring the loan and ordered that Radhanath Babu himself only (not the Society) will be squarely responsible for repayment of loan. Poor Babuji! For no self-interest whatsoever, he took a bold step. The only alternative was to stop the publication of the Samaj as the machines had become defunct. A person who was taking only half-a-rupee (or eight annas as per previous terminology of the legal tender) for his house-hold expenses daily how can he get Rs. 3,000/-? Pandit Akuli Mishra however came to his rescue. He consulted Babuji and said that all the text books published by the Cuttack Trading Company will be printed in the Satyabadi Press and the printing charges to be paid by him to Stayabadi Press will

be daily deposited in the Bank towards repayment of loan with interest. He got over this hurdle only because of his devotion to truth, justice, self-less service to the people of Orissa.

when the publication of the Samaj was stopped by a Govt. order during freedom movement, the press employees were put to great financial hardship. Finding no alternative, he had to mortgage his wife's ornaments and distribute the dues to the employees in part payment of their salary. His wife, in line with the old tradition, gladly took out the ornaments from her person and handed them over to him.

Poverty followed him at every stage of his life. With such precarious pecuniary condition, he could not pay the fees of his three younger brothers and they were compelled to discontinue their study. The youngest brother Sivaram suffered from depression due to this abject poverty and committed suicide in the machine room. In spite of such stupendous grief, Babuji did not lose courage and went on and even now is going on publishing the Samaj due to sheer love and respect of his Gurudev Pandit Gopabandhu, and the Oriya nation.

In 1946, Radhanath Rath became the full-fledged editor of the Samaj. Till then, he was merely Assistant Editor. Great personalities like Pandit Nilakantha Das, Pandit Godavaris Misra, Acharya Harihar and Pandit Lingaraj Mishra etc. were editing the Samaj.

Apart from the meticulous management of the Samaj Press and Office, of his own right, he was also a freedom fighter. Several times he courted jail for his anti-establishment activities. During such tenures inside the jail he wrote his jail memories and also translated the "Das Capital" of Karl Marx. He also wrote *Mahabharat*, *Shaivya*, a drama, biographies of Mahatma Gandhi, Frontier Gandhi and Pandit Gopabandhu Das etc.

After independence Sri Rath was elected to the Provincial Assembly and joined the Govt. as a Minister (Finance & Education) in 1952 and continued till 1961. He took active part in the merger of Oriya-speaking areas of Bihar in Orissa and ably prepared a memorandum. He also pleaded for it before the States Reorganisation Commission as well as U.N.Dhebar sub-committee etc. But our own leaders bent down under the pressure of Bihar.

Regarding the Machhkund Hydro-electricity project at Duduma, there was a mean conspiracy to take this area out of Orissa and merge it with Madras Presidency (now Andhra Pradesh). Due to the able exposition of facts at a session of Utkal Sammilani at jeypore, presided over by Radhanath Baboo, this conspiracy was not successful. But, however, although the Machhkund Project remained in Orissa, it is supplying electricity to both the States.

He was responsible for the Rourkela Steel Plant in Orissa in the teeth of another mean conspiracy by Madhya Pradesh Govt. to get it shifted to their State.

Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar owes its origin to his efforts as Minister, Development. He visited Rudrapur (Himachal Pradesh) where a University of this nature had already been established with the co-operation of Land Grant University of U.S.A. After this visit he thought that since Orissa is mostly dependant on agriculture, a University of this nature " will help in application of Applied Science in Agriculture and Allied Sciences on the fields, forests, pastures and water resources etc. " After several rounds of discussions with the American Universities, Central Govt. and State Govt., the Scheme was approved and it was established in 1962. However, the Cabinet in Orissa collapsed in 1961 all on a sudden. Simultaneously, Sri U.N. Dhebar Congress President passed an order that those Congress members who were in active politics continuously for 10 years, should leave active politics. In response to this fiat, he did not contest from his own constituency Athgarh and returned to the Samaj Office. However, Sri Pabitra Mohan Pradhan succeeded him and fulfilled his dream in setting up Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology in 1962.

Another contribution of Radhanath Babu was setting up of the first zoo in Orissa at Nandan Kanan near Bhubaneswar alongwith a botanical garden after sometime. It is now a lovely spot for tourists from all over the world.

Following the foot-prints of Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, he has been taking the leadership in providing relief to the distressed people affected by heavy floods, drought and fire. Where none will

dare to go to the distressed people braving the floods, Radhanath was always there first of all before anyone could dream of reaching those places. In spite of his ill-health and disease, he must go to the people by hook or by crook taking relief materials.

He introduced an interesting column in the Sunday Samaj under the caption "JHITIPITI KAHE" or "Thus spake the Lizard". It contains hard facts, misdeeds, corruption and mal-administration in beautiful language, clothed in a network of satires, proverbs, ridicules and humour peculiar to Orissa particularly in villages. Those remain imprinted in the memory of the readers and during mutual discussions, people quote them at the appropriate time always ending with "Thus Spake the Lizard."

He is a great orator. He is adept in Sanskrit. Almost the whole Gita is in his lips. I had the proud privilege of attending a meeting in Soochana Bhawan, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of celebration of his centenary year 1995 December. He recited, without anyone asking him to do so. The whole of Chapter II (what is the language of a *sthitaprajna*) and Chapters XII and XV extempore. This was not in the agenda. But people were so spellbound by his clear and faultless pronunciation, they forgot the purpose of coming to this meeting. There was no resentment. The Chief Minister, Cabinet Ministers and intellectuals were all pinned down to their chairs and listening avidly to the chanting of the most sacred scripture of the Hindus in particular and the universe in general. Is there a better way of celebrating the birth day ?

In his personal life, he is said to be a DURVASA (a sage who gets angry at the slightest provocation and curses). But unlike Durvasa, he never cursed anyone. He is a quick-tempered person. His anger is short-lived. I had the privilege of working as the sub-editor of the Samaj for some time. During this brief period, I have come across many incidents of his anger. But one still sticks to mind. One day, when I reached the office, the news-editor, Sri Udayanath Sarangi, the photographer Sri Uma Babu and most of the sub-editors had gone to his chamber. The problem was the publication of a photograph in previous day's Samaj. Babuji was insisting that he never approved the publication

of that unfortunate photograph. He went on asking everyone, as to how the photograph was printed. Everybody kept mum. They pleaded that they did not know. But the news editor firmly stated that this was approved for publication by Babuji. The news editor was a very respectable person. Ordinarily the matter should have ended there. But he insisted that he should see all the photographs printed in the issue of the previous day including the impugned photograph. It took quite sometime to remove the photographs from the Block making section. He was fretting and fuming. His face, his ears and nose-tip had become as red as a beetroot. Eventually, the photograph came and all of them bore the signature of Babuji in token of his having approved of their printing. But, Lo and behold, the offensive photograph did not bear his signature. Babuji was right ! I was struck dumb how this gentleman having so much to do and from whose hand daily hundreds, nay thousands of news items, including photographs are passing remembered a single photograph. I was quite young then. I had just passed M.A. and was waiting for some regular employment. By that impressionable age, I just could not resist bowing down my head on his feet and taking his blessing. But, the story did not end there. His personal peon came after a while and informed us one by one, that Babuji was waiting for all of us to have a "slight" breakfast in his chamber. We found a different Babuji when we reached there. He was laughing profusely and making jokes with one and all. Instead of being cursed, we got a sumptuous banquet at his place. We did not need our usual lunch on that day. And that is even now the Babuji. After the death of his most respected wife-Mausi (Aunt) of everybody - he has no doubt been quite pulled down. But he is still firm in his decision and invariably he is right.

Such a centenarian, who is a leading journalist, a leading intellectual, a PADMA BHUSAN, a statesman of no mean repute, a true Gandhite is crossing the 100th year of his life in this planet earth. May God grant him many more years of longevity. His mere presence will inspire the new generation.

We pay our humble homage to him on this auspicious day.

"CHANDRALOK"

Plot No. D-9, B.J.B. Nagar, Bhubaneswar-14.



Hon'ble Governor of Orissa Shri G. Ramanujam inaugurates the International Disability Day organised by Women and Child Development Deptt., Government of Orissa at Soochana Bhavan on 3.12.1996.



Hon'ble Governor of Orissa, Shri G. Ramanujam discussing with the Officials of drought affected Baragarh District at Padmapur on 28.11.1996



Director, Israel Development Study Centre, Mr. Michael Goreli discussing with Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik at his Secretariat Chamber on 23.11.1996. Shri B. K. Patnaik, Commissioner - cum-Secretary, Agriculture is present.



Mr. Giorgio Guglielmino, Consul General of Italy is calling on Chief Minister Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik in his Secretariat Chamber on 26.11.1996.



Hon'ble Governor of Orissa Shri G. Ramanujam addressing the 35th Annual Convocation of Utkal University on 26.11.1996 at Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar.



Deputy Chief Minister Shri B. K. Biswal inaugurating the Potable Water Supply Project at Ersama on 17.11.1996. Shri Harihar Swain, Minister, Works is present.



Hon'ble Governor of Orissa, Shri G. Ramanujam interacts with the drought affected people of Dhumabhata, Padmapur in the district of Bargarh on 28.11.1996.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik discussing the drought situation with Collector, Nuapara and other district level officers at Nuapara on 13.11.1996

LONG LIVE RADHANATH BABU...

R. P. Sbastry

Padmabhusan, Dr. Radhanath Rath is so great a personality and so varied are his activities in different spheres of our society and the State, it is not an easy task to depict his profile quite faithfully by measuring him with an ordinary measuring rod with which we measure ourselves. Dr. Rath is a man who has grown so higher and loftier during the long span of one hundred years of his social life that any attempt to describe him becomes an arduous task.



This man of many splendoured genius made his presence felt very much in various walks of life. A political philosopher, a devoted social worker, a journalist, an Editor, a political leader of high moral stature, a Parliamentarian and lastly as an able Minister he had made his marks in the history of Orissa.

I have the privilege of knowing him as an honest journalist with absolutely clean habits. He is a teetotaler and a social worker with a big heart filled with compassion and kindness. After the partition of India lakhs of refugees from East Pakistan came to India and thousands of them came to Orissa. The refugees were provided shelter at Amarda Road, Choudwar, Tulasipur and at Mehendipur of Cuttack city. Finally, most of them were resettled at Dandakaranya in Koraput.

Radhanath Babu was No. 2 Minister in the Nabakrushna Chowdhury's Ministry from 19th October, 1952 to 1956, October 19th and worked day and night. Prior to that he was the Editor of Samaj as assistant to Pandit Lingaraj Mishra who has joined the interim Ministry of Nabakrushna Chowdhury as the Education Minister. As the Editor of Samaj, he did his many best to make the paper more influential and powerful.

Born in December, 1897 in Athagarh, then a feudal Princely State, he came to Cuttack for his education in Ravenshaw Collegiate and passed the Entrance Examination in 1917. Thereafter he took up a small job in the Forest Department. He worked there for a short period. In 1921 Pandit Gopabandhu Das merged the Utkal Sammelani in Congress at its Chakradharpur Session in the absence of Utkal Gourab Madhusudan who did not attend that Session sensing the mood of the delegates to the Session who had lined up against him for dissolving the Utkal Sammelani and merging it in Congress.

The Indian National Congress thus took birth in Orissa in that year under the fostering

care of Pt. Gopabandhu Das. For his participation in the various constructive works and activities of the Congress and carrying the message of the freedom movement to the masses, Pt. Das was arrested and sent to prison in May 1922. By that time he had already started the Weekly "Samaj" from Satyavadi Press which then located at Sakhigopal. Later it was shifted to Puri and from Puri it was shifted to Cuttack in July, 1927. It appears that Radhanath Babu came to him either this year or in early 1928. On 17.6.1928, Pt. Gopabandhu shortly before his death made "Will" for the management of "Samaj" and his properties by a Committee consisting of Babu Jagabandhu Singh, Babu Banamali Das, Babu Harihara Das, Pt. Nilakantha Das and Pt. Lingaraj Mishra who was a full-fledged member of Lok Sevak Mandal. Pt. Gopabandhu in his will in paragraph 8 expressly said these persons will be executors of the "Will". In Paragraph 6 of the "Will" Pt. Das said, "I had a desire to take Radhanath Rath as my Assistant through the Lok Sevak Mandal etc. Therefore, it appears that Pt. Gopabandhu could not fulfill his last wishes for appointing Radhanath Babu as his assistant during his life time as he died on the same day of execution of the "Will". Whether the "Will" was registered or not is yet to be known. However, three years after the death of Pt. Gopabandhu Das, "Samaj" was made a daily paper in 1931 under the editorship of Pandit Nilakantha Das. Thereafter Pandit Lingaraj Mishra became the Editor. He continued as its Editor till the formation of Interim Ministry by Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab in 1946-47.

After Mahtab's appointment as the Commerce and Industry Ministry of India by Nehru in 1950, N.K. Chowdhury who had earlier resigned from the Mahtab Government was called back to take over the Chief Ministership of the State. Pt. Mishra became the Education Minister and continued till the first general election which was held in 1952. In 1952 elections, he lost and Radhanath Babu who returned to the Assembly

was included in the Ministry of Mr. Chowdhury as the Education and Finance Minister and he also continued as a Minister under Mahtab from 1956.

After the 1957 general elections he also continued as a Minister in the Congress Ministry headed by Mahtab. In 1959 a coalition Ministry headed by Mahtab was formed with the leadership of the then Ganatantra Parishad, the Maharaja of Patna Mr. R. N. Singh Deo. Radhanath Babu also remained as a Minister in the coalition Government. However, in 1960, Mr. Biju Patnaik caused a downfall of the Mahtab-Maharaja Ministry due to his personal differences with Mahtab and Maharaja. After a brief spell of President's rule, a midterm election to the State Assembly was held in 1961 and Biju Patnaik and his men had won a decisive poll victory. Mr. Biju Patnaik formed the Government and Radhanath Babu stayed away from power politics. He gracefully returned to the profession of journalism. Thereafter he did never seek any holiday from the Editorship of "Samaj" and for the last 37 years till now he remains devoted to journalism even as a centurion. From 1961 he has been continuing his fight against political and administrative corruptions through his paper as and when such fight became necessary.

Today, on his 100th birthday, people of various sections of the public and political leaders cutting across the party lines have felicitated him and it is a big day for the journalists of the State to draw inspirations from his ideals and examples of service through journalism.

May God grant him many more years in the service of the nation with fine health and sound mind.

Editor, Orissa Times

CENTENARIAN PADMABHUSAN RADHANATH RATH : An Idealistic Multi-faceted personality

Prof. Hari Hara Das

Padmbhusan Radhanath Rath is a versatile genius who has carved out a niche for himself in the literary, cultural and socio-political history of Orissa, nay, the whole country by his deep and vast personal experience about the miseries, troubles and turmoils of the people of Orissa for a complete century, his politics of suffering, service and sacrifice during the movement for India's liberation, his erudition, invincible courage, unbounded patriotism, sterling character and highly idealistic value-oriented leadership. Although born in this mundane materialistic world, through a process of prolonged spiritual "Sadhana" with deep devotion to the cause of the people in general and the poor and the downtrodden in particular, he succeeded in renouncing the worldly desires and ambitions and practised the pristine philosophy of esoterism and ascetic abnegation as a means for the purification of the soul and for seeking divine blessings for the millions of his countrymen who were leading a life of acute poverty and abysmal deprivation. As his whole life has been an unparalleled saga of service and sacrifice for the people, his name galvanizes the students and the youth with a rare sense of inspiration and creates a feeling of awe in the minds of the corrupt, depraved and self-seeking politicians.

Lord Jagannath at whose feet he has dedicated himself his whole life and noble deeds, has been immensely bountiful in endowing Dr. Rath, affectionately called by his admirers and followers as 'Babuji', with a long life with rich and varied experiences and achievements. It is not possible to do justice within the short span of this article to his multifaceted kaleidoscopic personality, his deep and indelible impacts on journalism, literature moral life, aesthetic behaviour and the socio-political sphere in Orissa as well as his achievements in the various spheres of life, I have only made an humble attempt to focus the attention on some aspects of his life and personality not with any sense of biographical



chronology but with a deep feeling of devotion and highest regards for this noble and remarkably successful man of this century.

Early Life and Education

Radhanath's ancestors belonged to a small but beautiful village called Biraharekrushnapur Sasan, situated on the banks of a small rivulet, Kanchi—a branch of river Bhargabi, nearly three miles away from the historic city of Puri. His father Pandit Jagannath Rath was a devout Sanskrit scholar and his mother Kamala Debi was an extremely pious and religious lady and was a dedicated devotee of Lord Jagannath. Later on Radhanath's father Pandit Jagannath Rath shifted to Athagada—a Garjat, on the invitation of King Biswanath Dev Verma, who honoured him with the title of Vidyaratna. Pandit Jagannath Rath was settled in Athagada with

munificent assistance and royal patronage and Radhanath was born there on December 6, 1896 in village Radhanathpur Sasan. He was probably christened as Radhanath by the Raja of Athagada in the name of his birth place.

It is rightly said that the morning shows the day. Radhanath was very active in his student days and even at this early stage of his life there was ample evidence of his photographic memory power and his brilliance. He was a truth-seeker and a truth-speaker from his early childhood and never compromised with his self-esteem. Radhanath developed keen interest in Sanskrit in his early childhood under the guidance and patronage of his father. This has stood him in goodstead till to-day. He had his school education at Balasore where he stayed with his maternal uncle, who was a Sanskrit teacher in the Barabati Jubilee Minor School. For his High School education he had to shift to Cuttack where he joined the Collegiate School. This was a renowned school and was known for its high academic standards and discipline.

Historical Coincidence : Meeting with Subhas Bose

It is a significant fact of history and was a rare coincidence that Subhas Chandra Bose, who later played a pioneering role in the freedom struggle of India was also a student of the same school and was only one year senior to Radhanath. Subhas Bose greatly influenced the young mind of Radhanath by his independent thinking, undaunted spirit and his indomitable personality. During his student days Radhanath was also receiving financial assistance of Rs. 2/- per month from Janakinath Bose—father of Subhas Chandra Bose. Despite severe financial difficulties and other problems, he passed the Matriculation examination with first class. Guided by the desire of serving the sick and diseased people, Radhanath wanted to become a doctor. But he could not pursue medical examination due to financial problems. He took admission in the college in F.A., but was forced to put an end to his college education as he was required to manage his family by undertaking some job.

After working for a short period in a printing press owned by Dharanidhar Misra at Sambalpur, he got a job in Singhbhum in the Forest Department on the basis of the recommendation of Mr. Butterfield who was a top-ranking police officer at Sambalpur and who came to know the extraordinary talents of Radhanath, during the time when he was working as a policeman. At Singhbhum he joined as a clerk in the Forest Department with a measly salary of Rs. 75/- per month. As the eldest son he had to undertake the responsibility of educating his five younger brothers and to send money for the maintenance of the family. It was extremely difficult to manage all these things with this paltry amount, but he discharged his duties with courage and sincerity.

The Impact of Gopabandhu on the personality of Radhanath

There was a total metamorphosis in the personality of Radhanath after his meeting with Pandit Gopabandhu Das—the leading light of Orissa who had dedicated himself for the uplift of the poor and downtrodden. Whenever Gopabandhu visited Bihar, he spent sometime in Singhbhum to know about the welfare of the Oriyas staying there and usually he visited the house of Pandit Kasinath Mohapatra. Radhanath, Harihar Mohapatra and many other Oriya leaders met Gopabandhu in the residence of Shri Mahapatra. In the very first meeting Gopabandhu was immensely pleased with the sincerity and amiable personality of Radhanath and invited him to come to Satyabadi to assist him in publishing a newspaper. Radhanath had readily agreed not knowing the consequences. He was the only earning member of the family and the acceptance of the offer would have meant total financial insecurity. But he was immensely impressed by Gopabandhu's life of service and sacrifice. Gopabandhu had totally dedicated himself for the service of the people, for the cause of socio-religious reformation, spread of education, eradication of poverty, untouchability and superstition and providing service and succor to the people who were suffering at the time of flood, famine, drought and epidemics, without bothering

either for his family, his health or the future prospects. The inspiring ideal of Gopabandhu was sufficient to persuade him to take the decision to quit his service in the Forest Department and join as a teacher in the Satyabadi School in 1919. Although Radhanath had met Gopabandhu for the first time in 1913, the real interaction between the two leaders started from 6th September, 1919. This was a historic and remarkable meeting between them which was destined to chart the future course of action for Radhanath. There has been a significant reference to this meeting in the diary of Gopabandhu Das of the even date wherein it has been recorded as follows :

"Dined with jail Doctor of puri and met Radhanath Rath. Radhanath is a nice, youngman, active, honest, energetic, straight-forward and patriotic. He is now a clerk in the Forest Department, but has decided to come to Satyabadi".

By this above recording in his diary at Chainbasa on 6th September 1919, Gopabandhu has not only drawn a vivid picture of the personality of Radhanath, but also has given vent to his deep feelings of love and appreciation for the latter. Gopabandhu had also cast his magic spell on Radhanath. He was so much impressed by Pandit Gopabandhu Das, that he immediately applied for leave and proceeded by train to join the Satyabadi Bana Bidyalaya as a teacher. This esteemed school had been started by Pandit Gopabandhu Das in the year 1911 in order to instill the spirit of patriotism, nationalism, truthfulness, honesty and uprightness in the students. Needless to say that it was not possible to inculcate these qualities in the students in the Government-managed schools. Radhanath became a devoted teacher in this school and earned a name for himself for his simple life and his erudition.

Radhanath and 'The Samaj'

Though he was working as a teacher in the Satyabadi School with maximum devotion and commitment, there was a natural flair for journalism in Radhanath, which has now been established beyond any doubt. On 4th October 1919, Samaj was published from Sakhigopal as a weekly paper. It was

the only paper which articulated the unarticulated voice and feelings of the millions of poor and downtrodden people in Orissa. Gopabandhu had the unique quality of assessing the intrinsic quality of a person and it was not difficult for him to know the latent journalistic qualities of Radhanath. He therefore, entrusted him with the responsibility of managing the publication of Samaj. Till the end of his life Gopabandhu was the editor of Samaj and Pandit Krupasindhu Misra was the sub-editor. But as Gopabandhu was deeply engrossed in the Congress movement and social-service activities, it was not possible for him to give personal attention to the editing of Samaj. This work was managed with greatest efficiency, sincerity, courage and conviction by Radhanath. Apart from Gopabandhu Das and Krupasindhu Misra, eminent persons like Pandit Nilakantha Das and Acharya Harihar who were looking after the publication of Samaj, were greatly impressed with the devoted work and commitment of Radhanath for the paper.

The publication of Samaj was shifted from Sakhigopal to Puri in 1925. Here also Radhanath took all responsibility for managing its publication. By now the paper had become immensely popular and there was great demand for it. The Samaj Press was shifted from Puri to Cuttack in 1927 and Radhanath had to come to Cuttack to look after the publication of Samaj. In those days Cuttack was the cultural and political nerve-centre of Orissa and gradually it became the main centre of activity for Radhanath. Gopabandhu passed away from this mundane world to his heavenly abode on 17th June 1928. Before his death, he had made a Will and gifted the Satyabadi Press and Samaj to Lok Sevak Mandal, which was to function as a trust. After the unfortunate and sad demise of Gopabandhu Das, Samaj faced its worst days as it invited the wrath of the Government for vociferously championing the cause of the poor and downtrodden people and protesting against the inefficiency, injustice and dishonesty of the bureaucracy. But people like Radhanath, who were committed to the ideas and ideologies of Gopabandhu Das, were determined to continue the publication of the brain-child' of their Guru and mentor against heaviest odds. As a result of their determination, devotion and dedication the popularity of Samaj was enhanced beyond

imagination and in the year 1930 on 6th April, it was converted into a daily from a weekly paper. After Gopabandhu, Pandit Nilakantha Das became the editor of Samaj and Radhanath continued as its manager and publisher. Eminent leaders like Pandit Godabarish Misra and Gopabandhu Choudhury were also editors of Samaj for sometime, but subsequently for different reasons these people were alienated from Samaj and the Satyabadi Press. Despite the change of editors, Radhanath continued to function as the manager and publisher of Samaj without any interruption.

In the year 1942, Pandit Lingaraj Misra was appointed as the editor of Samaj on permanent basis. The Quit India Movement of 1942 was a crucial step taken by Mahatma Gandhi. He gave the slogan of 'do or die' and wanted that the British should quit India with bags and baggage. This political strategy of Gandhiji marked a radical departure from his earlier stand as in his uncompromising attitude towards the British, he was more akin to the avowed stand of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and other radical elements in the Congress and other political organisations. There was direct confrontation between the Congress and the British Government. The Government followed highly repressive methods with a view to suppressing the movement and hundreds of congress leaders were imprisoned. The pace of the freedom movement was accelerated despite the suppressive measures taken by the Government. As the Samaj functioned as the official mouthpiece of the Congress in Orissa and extended all support to the freedom movement, it invited the wrath of the government. Vindictive steps were taken against its editor, manager and publisher. Radhanath, as the publisher and manager-in-chief of Samaj had to incur the displeasure of the Government. On September 6, 1942 he was arrested under the provisions of the Indian Security Act and sent to the Berhampur Jail, where he spent his life as a prisoner till 11th November, 1944. During this period Udayanath Sarangi and Rama Chandra Das functioned temporarily as editors of Samaj.

After the end of the Second World War, the arrested Congress leaders in the whole country were gradually released from imprisonment. In 1946 many leaders of Orissa who were undergoing various terms of imprisonment were released. The

country was preparing for independence which ultimately came on August 14, 1947. It was a red-letter day in the history of India as it marked the dawn of a new era of development. The whole country was galvanised with a new spirit and there was a frenzied euphoria with sky-soaring hopes and expectation. It is another story that these hopes and expectations were belied by the political parties and leaders who became the most opportunist self-seekers, power-mongers and power-seekers who engaged themselves in the dirty game of politics for money and power and pelf. Ever since his journalistic debut, Radhanath has fought like a crusader against the evils of political corruption, favouritism, nepotism and shrewd methods applied by the bureaucracy and the party-in-power for the exploitation and oppression of the poor and downtrodden people.

In the post-independence period in 1948 a Government was formed in Orissa under the leadership of Harekrushna Mahtab. Pandit Lingaraj Misra, the – then editor of Samaj joined the Mahatab Ministry as the Minister of Education and Health. This provided an opportunity to Radhanath to function as a temporary editor of Samaj, though his name was not there on the body of the paper as editor. Nevertheless, he did everything for Samaj and made every sacrifice that was necessary to see this 'brain-child' of Gopabandhu Das, earn the name, fame and reputation of a national paper with huge circulation, popularity and assets. It is due to his astute leadership, commitment, sacrifices, undaunted spirit and unprecedented tenacity in fighting against all kinds of social and political evil and exploitation of the people, the Samaj to-day, has become the symbol of objective and investigative journalism. It has been able to establish an intellectual aristocracy and cultural renaissance, unprecedented in the social history of any other Indian State. So much so that in Orissa Samaj became synonymous with newspapers of all kinds and denominations. Opinions may vary regarding the political contributions of Radhanath, but there is no second opinion regarding his unparalleled contributions to Oriya journalism in general and the flourishing prosperity of Samaj in

particular. As a result of the dedicated and self-less contributions of this great son of Orissa, one of the greatest, after Pandit Goapbandhu Das, the Samaj has been able to set ethical and idealist standards in the socio-cultural, political and literary life of Orissa.

Membership of Lok Sevak Mandal

Due to the hostile attitude of the Government towards Samaj and the probable future uncertainty about its continued publication, Pandit Gopabandhu Das handed over the management and publication of Samaj to Lok Sevak Mandal by means of a 'will', which was to function as a permanent trust for the management of Samaj and the Satyabadi Press. The Lok Sevak Mandal was authorised to spend the money received from the sale proceeds of Samaj for the educational, moral and socio-political development of the people of Orissa. The will which was dictated by Gopabandhu Das before his death was recorded by Pandit Lingaraj Misra in the presence of Radhanath Rath.

Gopabandhu had reposed his confidence in Radhanath all through his life and was convinced that Samaj and the Satyabadi Press would be safe in his hand, when he would no longer be there to look after its affairs. He had therefore, expressed the desire that Radhanath should become a Life Member of the Lok Sevak Mandal. With due deference to the wishes of his 'Guru' he became an associate member of the Lok Sevak Mandal in 1936 and was accepted as its Life Member in 1942. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Mandal for several years and has held several responsible posts. He became the President of the Lok Sevak Mandal in 1981 and continued in this august office till 1991 – a remarkable period of ten years, and performed his duties with dignity and honour.

Inspired by Gandhiji's Life and Deeds

Mahatma Gandhi first visited Orissa on 23rd March, 1921. At that time Radhanath was at Satyabadi. Pandit Gopabandhu Das was the P.C.C. President and he had come to Cuttack to receive Gandhiji. After addressing public meetings at Cuttack and Bhadrak, on 26th March, at about 6 a.m. in the morning, Gandhiji reached Satyabadi accompanied by Kasturba and Pandit Gopabandhu Das. Pandit Nilakantha, Pandit Krupasindhu,

Acharya Harihar and other teachers of the Satyabadi Bana Bidyalaya alongwith thousands of local people and students extended a warm, cordial and hearty welcome to Gandhiji, Kasturba and other leaders. Radhanath got the golden opportunity of serving Gandhiji and Kasturba as a volunteer and had the unique privilege of listening to Gandhiji's address to the people and his advice to the teachers and students of the Satyabadi School. Gandhiji's speech was so moving that tears spontaneously came and eyes were moistened. Gandhiji was immensely pleased to see the Satyabadi School, its educational curriculum and extra curricular activities. As usual Gandhiji was able to cast his magic spell on one and all, but the impact of his personality and his inspiring speeches, was remarkable as far as Radhanath was concerned. He accepted Gandhi and Gopabandhu as the most endearing ideal of his life and followed their advice and teachings steadfastly all through his life. The life of service and sacrifice was made the 'mantra' and he was never attracted towards power for the sake of power. He, therefore, relinquished his political career despite his great popularity and amazing influence.

Role of Radhanath in the Prajamandal Movement

In 1803 when the British occupied Orissa, there were large number of Princely States known as 'Garjats'. In most of these States the rulers had let loose a reign of terror and the people were oppressed and exploited. During the Mughal and Maratha rule over Orissa, the administration by and large did not try to interfere in the internal affairs of the Garjats and hence the rulers of the Princely States enjoyed maximum freedom to oppress and exploit the people, if they could keep the Central authority happy by means of gifts and donations.

The rule of the British over Orissa also did not solve the problems of the oppressed people in the Garjats. The British were also happy only in collecting tax and revenue from these states and as long as a Garjat State cleared the revenue demands, the Government did not bother about its internal administration. This resulted in discontent and peasants movements were started in most of the Garjats.

Radhanath took keen interest in the peasants movements and championed their cause with all vehemence at his disposal. In 1931, the Garjat Peasants Conference was constituted with Radhanath Rath and Balukeswar Acharya as its members. Bhubanananda Das was the President of this organisation and there were some associate members. Radhanath had played a leading role in organising the Praja Mandal Movement in Athagada. He had extensively toured in different parts of the—then Garjat State of Dhenkanal and collected information regarding torture and inhuman brutality perpetrated against the poor and innocent people. By articulating the feelings of the common people through the columns of Samaj he succeeded both in providing inspiration and courage to the people and attracting the attention of the whole country to the heinous deeds of the rulers of the Garjats. He was also made the victim of police atrocity for organizing and highlighting the Prajamandal Movement. He rendered yeoman service as the President of the Athagada Prajamandal Movement. Radhanath's contribution to the people's movement for the merger of the Garjats with the Orissa province cannot be ignored. The merger was materialised on 1st January, 1948 and it gave greatest happiness to Radhanath.

Contributions as a Political Leader

Radhanath had earned a name for himself due to his active participation in the Prajamandal Movement and this helped him in getting elected to the Orissa Assembly in 1952. He took part in active politics from 1952 to 1961 and held different responsible posts in the Government. He never hankered after high office and was committed to the politics of service and sacrifice. In his political life he followed the footsteps of Pandit Gopabandhu Das and Mahatma Gandhi. He was known for his honesty and integrity and transparency in all his deeds and behaviour. He was invited to adorn the office of the Chief Minister twice—once in 1965 and for the second time in 1971. But he declined the office with utmost humility and suggested the names of Sadasiva Tripathy and Biswanath Das respectively on the two above mentioned occasions.

He discharged his ministerial responsibilities with great efficiency and distinction and was admired by his colleagues for his amazing memory power and brazen outspokenness. His role in the

establishment of the Steel Plant at Rourkela with German help has become a part of history. Madhya Pradesh was one of the contenders for the Steel Plant and there was demand made by influential elements to get the Central government's decision changed. A Cabinet Sub-Committee was established under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for taking a final decision in the matter after hearing the arguments from both the sides. Chief Minister Nabakrushna Choudhury instead of himself going to argue Orissa's case deputed Radhanath to appear before the Cabinet Sub-Committee. The decision was taken by the Chief Minister not because Radhanath was holding the Development portfolio, but because of his masterly ability to convince people on vital subjects and issues with irrefutable arguments. Ultimately the Prime Minister and the Cabinet Sub-Committee became convinced about the priority of Orissa's needs and the Steel Plant was established at Rourkela.

His superb qualities of financial management and knowledge of economic planning was recognized by Nabakrushna Choudhury who was Chief Minister in 1952 and who also held the Finance portfolio. He authorised Radhanath, Minister of the State in charge of Finance to prepare and lay the budget on the floor of the Assembly.

Radhanath was aware of the dire necessity of observing economy in governmental expenditure and determining the priority of work while making budgetary allocation. He had aptly observed : "I however, venture to suggest that in certain departments we are determined to effect economy and thereby reduce expenditure and with the money so saved, we can go ahead with the new schemes or incur expenditure in respect of essential needs for which we had not adequately provided in the Original Budget." He gave top priority to eradication of poverty and the spread of education among the village community. He was of the opinion that education was the best instrument of development and it was highly essential for laying the foundations of a true and meaningful democracy. In his own words, "After centuries of foreign domination our country has been bled white and the bulk of the population have become semi-starved... The policy of education would be so moulded that it properly serves the village community, since the large majority of our people live in villages".

Radhanath gave utmost priority to agriculture and considered it the nucleus of all developments in the State as India was basically an agricultural country. In 1959 when he was Minister for Development and held the portfolios of agriculture, animal husbandry, forest, fishery and co-operation, he played a pioneering role for the establishment of an Agricultural University in Orissa. At that time an Agricultural University had already been established at Rudrapur in Uttar Pradesh at the foothills of the Himalayas in cooperation with the Land Grant University of United States of America. After seeing the university and its remarkable achievements Radhanath was deeply impressed. He has made the following observation :

"Uttar Pradesh was really very backward so far as adoption of modern agricultural technology was concerned. We then realised that Orissa, which was poorer than Uttar Pradesh and was described by Mahatma Gandhi as the 'epitome of India's poverty', should have such a rural university in order that education could be truly oriented by practical measures of introducing applied science of agriculture and allied sciences on the Fields, Forests, Pastures and Water Sources etc."

However, there was some uncertainty regarding the establishment of the university in Orissa despite all necessary steps being taken by Radhanath Rath due to the dissolution of the Ministry headed by Dr. Harekrushna Mahatab in 1961. The Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology was established in 1962 when Pabitra Mohan Pradhan was Minister in charge of Agriculture in the Biju Patnayak Ministry and Radhanath was made the pro-Chancellor, in recognition of his contributions towards the establishment of the University.

With a temporary break, Radhanath staged a come back to active politics again in the year 1967, when he was elected to the Orissa Assembly as an independent candidate from his own Athagada Constituency with overwhelming support of the voters. Due to his dynamic leadership and the respect commanded by him from all sections of people and political leaders, he was able to get many developmental projects implemented in his constituency.

Concluding observations

Radhanath epitomises the conscience of the people of Orissa. Though his heart overflows with the milk of human kindness, at times he has been extremely harsh in lashing out against corruption, injustice, malpractice, favouritism and nepotism. He has been able to create powerful currents of public opinion, which have been iconoclastic in destroying the image of parties and their leaders and heralding their political doom. The police, bureaucracy, ministers, the breeders and promoters of corruption either in the sphere of education, public health, engineering or civil supply are mortally afraid of the strength of his facile pen articulated through 'Jhitipiti Kahe' (the Lizzard speaks) and editorial columns of Samaj. He was an ardent fighter of the Oriya Movement and held pivotal positions in the Utkal Sammilani, whose work still remains incomplete as many Oriya-speaking tracts are outside Orissa. As a true disciple of Pandit Gopabandhu Das, he had made ardent efforts to wipe out the tears from the face of Oriyas whenever they are stricken by starvation, deprivation, flood, famine, drought, hailstorm or hurricane. This great centenarian has been bestowing his fostering care on the people of Orissa with magnanimous munificence like a mesiah and has been fighting incessantly for its development and prosperity.

Radhanath, the great centenarian leader is no longer a person but has been metamorphosed into an institution. Individuals may come and go as they are mortal, but institutions defy death as by setting the standards for permanent values and principles, they become immortal. One is amazed and aghast at the youthful spirit, memory power and tenacity even at this age, when he addresses public meetings and takes active part in mitigating the sorrows and the miseries of the people of Orissa. He strongly believes in the adage : "History never forgives the defaulters; nor condones indolence". He has conquered the hearts of crores of Oriyas and carved out a niche for himself in the history of Orissa, nay, the whole country for his honesty, integrity, encyclopaedic knowledge, his courage of conviction and the invincible strength of mind.

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CONTRIBUTION OF MAHATAB TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN BALASORE

Dr. K.K.Bal

Dr. H. K. Mahatab is rightly named as Utkal Keshari whose contribution to the development of Orissa is an unforgotten chapter in the history of modern Orissa. As a freedom fighter a few people of Orissa living or dead can be compared with him. Born in 1899 AD in Agarapada in Bonth P.S. of District Balasore Mahatab was attracted towards the growing freedom struggle of the country during his matriculation days. This article deals with some of his achievements towards the freedom struggle in Balasore.

Balasore's contribution to Swadeshi Movement was a noteworthy feature in the history of the revolutionary movement of India. Jatin Nath Mukherjee popularly known as 'Bagha Jatin' was the commander-in-chief of Indian revolutionaries. He went into history at Balasore on account of the police investigation in connection with the political dacoities. No doubt, he was killed in Chasalehand near Kaptipada but his romantic escape proves beyond doubt that the Oriyas had been always active to help the revolutionaries at the Balasore forefront.

H.K. Mahatab left Ravenshaw College in response to the clarion call of Mahatmaji. Mahatab including others of Orissa attended the Nagpur Session of Congress which passed the resolution of Non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Also in that session decision was taken to form Provincial Pradesh Committee on linguistic basis. Till then Mahatab led the congress movement not only in Orissa but also in Balasore organisation of the congress work in Balasore. Strictly speaking at that time none in Balasore was really Congress

minded. On the eve of the Jalianwallabag week Mahatab with Karunakar Panigrahi and Krushna Prasad Mohapatra arranged a meeting on 6th April 1921. *Hartal* was observed in the Balasore Zilla School on that day. A number of students including Nilambar Das and Biswanath Hota came away and joined Congress Swaraj Mandir and a district congress committee was formed with Bipin Behary Das as President and H.K. Mahatab as Secretary. These members carried on picketing in liquor shops, stopping sale of foreign cloth, enrolment of congress members and collection of Tilak swaraj fund and spinning.

Mahatab made whirlwind tours in every nook and corner of the district to preach nonviolent non-cooperation. In the mean time the entire district was divided into some zones like Basta, Baliapal, Bhogorai, Bhadrak and Balasore. Seeking this unbelievable enthusiasm Gandhiji visited Bhadrak in March 1921. Mahatab took keen interest in organising the Balasore District Congress Sammilani at Jaleswar on 23rd May 1924 and at Basta later. Mahatab became the Chairman of the Balasore District Board. As the Chairman, he took interest to make use of khadi compulsory by the primary school teacher and spinning by the students.

Mahatab published 'Prajatantra' in 1924 which became a daily during the Civil Disobedience Movement. The press ceased its publication as it was muzzled by the Government. The Civil Disobedience Movement at Inchuri, Srijang and in the neighbouring village was a noteworthy feature of the freedom struggle of our state.

Mahatab took keen interest in Harijan Movement. On 7th June Gandhi and his party moved to Bhadrak and put up in Mahatab's new house. He was happy to know that Mahatab and his wife Subhadra were engaged in *Khadi* work and they were spending their resources among the poor for popularising the cottage industries. Mahatab organised the Gandhi Karma Mandir in his village.

August movement saw the greatest sacrifices of the people of Balasore. In 1940 Mahatab was arrested at Remuna for violating the law. He was sent to the Ahmednagar fort. Several incidents occurred in the district of Balasore during Quit India Movement. Police had to fire at many

places killing 35 persons in Basudebpur (Iram), 5 in Khaira, 3 in Turigaria and 8 in Dhamnagar. Iram firing may be called the 'Jalianwalla tragedy of Orissa'.

All these events in the District of Balasore are some known facts of history. But the man who had lighted the earlier torch in the congress movement in this district was H.K. Mahatab. Contribution of the people of Balasore to the Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement are inestimable. These are certainly the results of the whole hearted efforts of Mahatab and other leaders of the states.

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF SRI G. RAMANUJAM AT THE 35TH CONVOCATION OF UTKAL UNIVERSITY

The Government of Orissa and Chancellor, Utkal University, Shri G. Ramanujam inaugurated the 35th Convocation of the Utkal University at Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar on 26.11.96. Conferring the Doctorial Degrees (Honoris Causa) to **Smt. Annapurna Moharana, Sri Nityananda Mohapatra, Padmabhusan Kelu Charan Mohapatra and Sri Sarat Chandra Mishra** for their valuable contributions in manifold ways, the Governor said that the younger generation would draw inspiration from their exemplary life, work and achievements. The Chancellor also awarded Doctorial Degrees, Gold Medals, Prizes and Degrees in absentia and awarded Degrees other than Doctorates and signed in the record of Degree.

In his speech the Chancellor, Utkal University indicated that despite resource constraints several new Post-Graduate courses have been introduced. Some centres of interdisciplinary study and research have been established and initiatives have been taken in regard to women's studies and developments and also in regard to applied biotechnology in the wider interest of the National development. In keeping with the National Policy on Education that has been pursued for a decade, vocationalisation of education must continue to be our objective, said Orissa Governor and hopefully stated that the establishment of the proposed University of North Orissa in the near future will lighten the burden of Utkal University and will enable the University to go more qualitative.

Governor called upon to think about the vast number of our young men and women, who are unable to afford for an expensive higher education programme, which are being promoted within the country by American, Australian and British Universities and opined that all possible means should be taken to make higher education available to our youth irrespective of their economic and social status. A delicate balance has to be struck by judicious educational policy makers in order to foster a system of higher education, which integrates traditional values with new intellectual developments of our time, the Governor-Chancellor stated.

The Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University Prof. G.K. Das also presented a report on this occasion and highlighted the various achievements made by the Utkal University and hoped that this University should become the pride of the globe one day in the unfolding era of globalisation.

SOILS OF SAMBALPUR DISTRICT

(Based on undivided Sambalpur District)

Antaryami Mishra & B. P. Mohapatra

Sambalpur district, situated in the Western most part of Orissa State, is located within the latitude of 20° 43' N to 20° 11' N and longitude of 82° 39' E to 85° 15' E. Extending over an area of 17,57,000 ha, it is the second largest district in the state occupying 11.25 percent of the State's area. The district has been divided into 7 sub-divisions, namely Sambalpur, Rairakhol, Deogarh, Kuchinda, Jharsuguda, Bargarh and Padampur. The district has 29 Blocks which greatly vary in their physiography, soil, climate and vegetation.

Physiography :

Two primary rivers namely Mahanadi and Brahmani pass through the district. The former running in north-south direction passes through middle part of the district bisecting the same. The eastern part mostly comprises forest and the western part has mostly plains. There is a distinct undulating plateau on the north. The catchments of Mahanadi and Brahmani have a number of sub-catchments comprising the valleys of important secondary rivers such as Ib, Jira and Ong.

The district is marked into seven natural physiographic divisions as follows :

1. South-eastern undulating forest
2. North-eastern undulating forest
3. Central eastern mountainous forest
4. North-eastern Barapahar forest
5. Northern Jharsuguda plateau
6. Eastern Kuchinda plain
7. North-western Ambhabona Plain
8. Southern Bargarh Plain
9. Western Ong Valley.

Soils :

Physiography in this district has greatly influenced the formation of the soil. Climate of the district is characterised by dry hot summer, monsoon rains and cold winter. May is the hottest month and December the coldest. August is the rainiest month

with an average rainfall of 387.12mm. Forests cover 32 percent of the total area of the district and are mainly of dry deciduous.

Most part of the district is based on Archaen rocks, such as gneisses, granites, mica schists and quartzites. The elevation of the district varies from less than 500' to as high as 2000'. In Gandhamardan Range running along the northern boundary of Padampur and Paikmal blocks the hill range rises to 2000-3000' and reaches its highest point of 3,234' in the peak of Nrushinghanath, one of the picturesque places in the district.

The topography is mostly undulating comprising ridges and valleys. At the ridge crest are the upland and at the upper slopes the bunded and unbunded lands are locally called as *Att* and *Mal* respectively which together constitute the high land. The valley bottom lands which constitute the low lands are called *bahal* and the lower valley side lands constituting the medium lands are called as *Berna*.

The climate, vegetation and other biotic factors, parent rock types and topography indicating the different land types have considerably influenced genesis of the soils and consequently great variation in soils in different parts of the district is observed. These belong to the four orders according to the recent system of 'Soil Taxonomy', such as Alfisols, Entisols, Inceptisols and Vertisols. However as per the earlier system of classification these can be marked into the following great groups.

1. Red and Yellow, 2. Black, 3. Red and Black, 4. Laterite and Lateritic, 5. Alluvial.

1. Red and Yellow Soils :

These soils are mostly found in Rairakhol, Naktideul, Fomal, Barkot, Tileibani, Jamankira, Jujumura, Maneswar, Dhankauda and a part of Kuchinda Block. However the degree of association of the red and yellow soils varies in these Blocks. The extent of red soil is more in all the three blocks of

Deogarh sub-division namely Tileibani, Reamal and Barkote which could be chiefly attributed to more of steeper slope present in these Blocks. The red colour of the soil is imparted due to well drained condition to favour oxidised state of ferric iron. In the other blocks mentioned above the extent of such steeper slope being less and gentler slopes being more greater extent of yellow soils are observed. These are well developed soils formed mainly over gneisses, schists and quartzites and are usually distributed with ferruginous concretions. High variations are observed in nutrient status of these soils. The available phosphorous and potassium content range from very low to medium and organic matter and nitrogen contents are very low to high. The soils are slightly acid to neutral (pH 5.6 to 6.8) and are occasionally strongly acidic (pH 4.8 to 5.5).

2. Black Soils :

Besides red and yellow soils black soils are found in limited areas of Maneswar, Jujumura and Reamal blocks. These soils are formed from dolorite and basic granulite parent material. These soils are dark brown to black in colour and very high in their clay contents. The soils are very sticky and plastic when wet and very hard when dry. Generally composed of montmorillonitic clay these soils are high in cation exchange capacity (CEC) and also have high water holding capacity exhibiting the property of very strong swelling when wet and severe shrinkage when dry resulting in deep wide cracks under natural conditions. Land having these soils shows 'gilgai microrelief'. The soils are usually low to very low in nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium and are slightly acidic to strongly alkaline. (pH. 6.2 to 8.9).

3. Red and Black Soils :

Red and yellow soils in association with black soils are found in Pikamal, Jharbandh, Padampur and Gaisilet blocks located in the Ong valley. Occurrence of black soil could be attributed to limestone parent material in these areas and such materials transported by Ong river and its tributaries. As the two groups of soils vary at very close distances, these are therefore grouped together as mixed red and black soils.

4. Laterite and Lateritic Soils :

Lateritic soils occur extensively in the blocks of Laikera, Kuchinda, Bamara, Jamankira, Ambhabona,

Bhatli, Bargarh, Bheden, Barpali, Bijelpur, Sohela and Attabira. This is chiefly attributed to comparatively flat and uplands favouring greater illuviation of iron and manganese and excessive leaching of bases. This is also reflected in high soil acidity in the blocks having these soils. Besides such soils are also found in north eastern part of Dhankauda Block and northern Jharsuguda plateau wherever such flat uplands occur. The parent rock of Ambhabona and Jharbandh blocks are *shales* and sand stones. High level lateritic cappings are also observed in Gandhamardan hills due to bauxite. Around the periphery of Hirakud reservoir low level ground laterites are observed which could be attributed to comparatively high water table. Such occurrence of laterite outcrop is thus observed in Kilasama and Lapanga areas of Dhankauda and Rengali blocks respectively. The laterite and lateritic soils are very low in cation exchange capacity (CEC), very high in phosphate fixing capacity and low in nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and calcium. Most of the soils are strongly to slightly acid (p.H. 5.1 to 6.5).

5. Alluvial Soils :

Alluvial soils are observed in limited areas of the district mostly occurring in levees of Mahanadi and Brahmani and their major tributaries such as Ib, Jira, Jhaun and Malti. Besides localised areas along the stream terraces also have stratified alluvial material deposited along the stream banks. Such soils are observed more in Bargarh plain because of the low gradient and frequent floods due to shallow depths of streams.

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SITE SELECTION AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CAPITAL OF ORISSA AT BHUBANESWAR

Dr. Hemanta Kumar Mohapatra.

Even before Orissa became a separate province, the question of a new capital for it was examined in 1933 by the Orissa Administrative Committee under the chairmanship of John Austin Hubback. While investigating the possible administrative problems in case Orissa became a separate province, the Committee reported that Cuttack should be the capital of the proposed province and sites of Chauliaganj and Tulasipur were selected for the purpose. ¹ Strong reservations were expressed against this proposal. There was a general opinion that due to its geographical position Cuttack was not suitable for the purpose. There was little scope for its expansion in future. The proposal was not accepted by the Government and the Jones Committee visited the areas adjacent to the Barunei hill* and Rangeilunda.** After investigation and analysis the Jones Committee found Rangeilunda suitable for the purpose. ² It was suggested in the report that "a modern and well laid out" capital could be constructed at Rangeilunda and the place was best suitable from scientific and other point of view. ³ The publication of the Jones Committee Report was followed by vigorous agitation in Cuttack. The Advisory Council also turned down the report and the proposals in 1936 ⁴. In 1937 another committee called "Dain Committee" recommended that Cuttack-Chaudwar should be the capital of Orissa. It was on 30 September, 1937 that a hot debate in the Orissa Legislative Assembly was afoot. It was also decided that the capital should be located at Cuttack-Chaudwar. ⁵

The question again had to be reviewed because of the new proposals of the Government of India with regard to the construction of the national highways and bridging the rivers,

Mahanadi, Kathajori and Kuakhai coming on the route of the national highway between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar. In 1944-45 it was decided by the then Planning Department and the Planning Advisory Board that the area between old Bhubaneswar and Mancheswar should be the capital of the province. ⁶

Thus when the Second Congress Ministry came to office in the month of April, 1946 there were three sites before them for the establishment of the capital. Those were Rangeilunda, Cuttack-Chaudwar and Bhubaneswar. Other sites such as Khurda and Barang did not figure any more. However, the Prime Minister of Orissa, Harekrushna Mahtab made up his mind in favour of Bhubaneswar even before the formation of his ministry. After coming to power he defended Bhubaneswar as the most suitable site for the purpose of the capital. In the floor of the assembly his defence was based on the following observations. The first point of defence was communication. The bridges over the rivers Kathajori and Kuakhai would be finished by about 1948 and the work was on progress on priority basis by the Government of India. In that case Cuttack would be connected with Bhubaneswar much earlier than Chaudwar. ⁷

Economy was yet another plus point. The buildings constructed during the World War II by the Americans for an aerodrome and residential facilities could be used for the purpose of offices and quarters. Besides Bhubaneswar was a "Khasmahal" area and acquisition of land would be possible without causing any hardship to the common people. Plenty of waste and uncultivated

lands were available to the Government at a nominal cost and the Government could start construction over such land. The laterite stone available there could be used as building materials.⁸

Bhubaneswar was situated on an altitude of 45 metres above the sea level. It had a bracing climate with a maximum and minimum temperature of 31.0° and 16.0°c during winter and 38.0°c and 27.0°c during summer.⁹ The average rainfall in a year was 152.4 centimetres. The period from October to April was considered to be the best season of the place. It enjoyed the healthy climate of the forest country, the cooling sea breeze coming across the verdant delta area which was agriculturally rich.¹⁰ "Bhubaneswar had the best climate in the province",¹¹ claimed Mahtab. The rich heritage and continuous tradition of Bhubaneswar for approximately two thousand and one hundred years from the time of Asoka attracted the Prime Minister of Orissa.¹²

It was on 30 September, 1946 moving the resolution "that the capital of the province be located at Bhubaneswar and steps be taken to construct the buildings at the capital as early as possible", Mahtab gave an exhaustive speech illustrating the history and past glories of Bhubaneswar.¹³ He stressed on the "magnificent instructions" of the great Kalinga Edict of Asoka which would always be a guide and source of inspiration for the Governments ruling from the place.¹⁴

Besides the glorious history and continuous tradition this site of the new capital had the advantage of lying on the border between the fertile delta and hilly forest areas of Orissa. It enjoyed also the natural advantage with regard to drainage. The ground sloped from west to east and was divided into two parts intersected by the railway line. The western part was highland with laterite soil clad with forest and the eastern part was low with alluvial soil suitable for agriculture.

The site of Bhubaneswar as the new capital of Orissa got the approval of all the members present

in the assembly and each member was convinced of its advantages over all other sites under discussion. So the motion was adopted unanimously the same day on 30 September, 1946.¹⁵ For the speedy implementation of the proposal a sum of rupees fifty thousands was provided in the budget of 1946-47.¹⁶ But in fact the construction of the new capital could not be taken up without a minimum fund of rupees two crores.¹⁷ The Finance Department of the Government of India was moved for the purpose. The Prime Minister of Orissa met Liyakat Ali, in charge of finance portfolio of the Federal Government and money was sanctioned for the building of the new capital as "grant-in-aid". Bhubaneswar was the only new capital, then in India which received grant-in-aid from the Government of India.¹⁸

The plan of the capital city was designed by a German architect named Otto H. Koeningsberger.¹⁹ The chief engineer of Orissa was also actively engaged to assist the planner and implement the plan. The architect and the chief engineer had thought of this future city in terms not of a few palatial buildings but a happy community. The capital was planned to help the people who would live, work and play there.²⁰

On 13 April, 1948 the foundation of the capital town of Bhubaneswar was laid by the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. An autograph message of Nehru was kept under the foundation of Mahatma Gandhi memorial site * at Bhubaneswar.²¹ This was followed by certain construction works to facilitate the shifting of the capital from Cuttack to Bhubaneswar.

But the shifting was not smooth. In fact Bhubaneswar was not developed properly to provide residential accommodations to all the employees. Besides there were not sufficient facilities for market, communication, education, health and water supply. Most of the officials were natives of Cuttack and hence they were resisting the shifting tooth and nail. But the Government was determined to shift the capital and on 8 June, 1949 after a brief ceremony in the collectorate of Cuttack, the officials

of the Public Works Department led by the concerned Minister, Ranjeet Singh Bariha, left for Bhubaneswar. ²²The Chief Minister of Orissa also accompanied them. At Bhubaneswar the Chief Minister hoisted the National Flag near the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Pillar the same day at 4 P.M. ²³

The new capital at Bhubaneswar has its real beginning with the holding of the meeting of the Assembly for the first time with the members from the merged States on 10 October, 1949. ²⁴ Then the strength of the Assembly had gone from 60 to 91. On that remarkable and memorable day the Chief Minister of Orissa made an exhaustive speech welcoming the members to the new capital at Bhubaneswar. He said, "we are meeting today almost exactly three years after the resolution of Bhubaneswar was passed in 1946. We are meeting at the new capital and the assembly today consists of more members on account of the amalgamation of the States with the province. The two historic incidents have been combined in today's function and that is the cause of great excitement for me as I am sure it must be for all members present here and for the whole of the province." ²⁵

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20. Ibid.
21. The Hindustan Standard, 14 April, 1948.
22. The Naveen, 14 June, 1949, p.6.
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MODERN ESI HOSPITAL INAUGURATED AT BHUBANESWAR

A 50-bedded ESI hospital at the cost of Rs. 3.68 crores was inaugurated at Bhubaneswar on 19th Nov. last by Shri Durga Shankar Patnaik, Minister for Labour and Employment, Govt. of Orissa.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Durga Shankar Patnaik stated, "the Bhubaneswar ESI Hospital is one of the best hospitals in the State which will have all the facilities in due course of time." He said, "the State Government will take urgent steps regarding purchase of equipment and deployment of doctors and para-medical staff for the hospital."

Dr. Laxmidhar Mishra, Union Labour Secretary who was present on the occasion said that due to increase in the prices of equipment and drugs the ceiling limit on medical expenditure would be enhanced to Rs. 500/- per insured person from the existing Rs. 410/-

Orissa Regional Director, ESI Corporation, Mr. C. Sethi and Dr. S. Das, State Director of ESI also addressed the gathering and described the amenities available in this new hospital.

The hospital has two fully airconditioned major O.Ts. and one minor O.T. and has been constructed in an area of 4.85 acres. The hospital will have 11 specialists to cater to the needs of ESI beneficiaries.

STEPS TO INTENSIFY LONG TERM PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN KBK AREAS

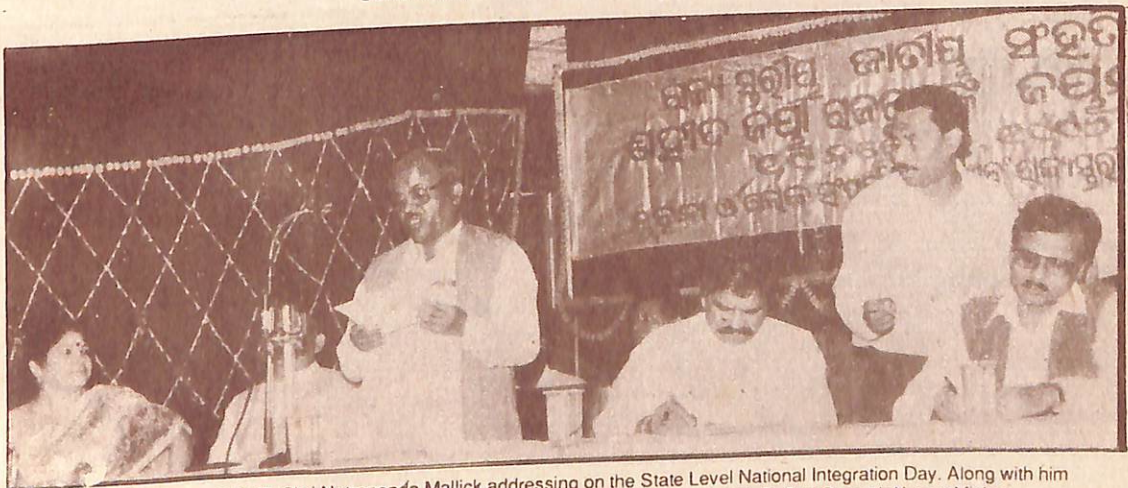
The Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) for drought relief in Orissa is to be intensified. At a meeting to review the relief measures for the drought-affected people of Orissa, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda directed the Central Ministries to intensify their efforts for the implementation of the Long Term Action Plan for the drought prone KBK districts.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik inaugurating the historic Bali Yatra festival at Cuttack on 25.11.1996.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik releasing the reprint of the book "The Oriya Movement" authored by Martyr Niranjan Pattanaik during the centenary celebration on 25.11.1996.



Minister of State, I. & P. R. Shri Netrananda Mallick addressing on the State Level National Integration Day. Along with him are present Minister of State for Excise Shri S. K. Routray and Director, I. & P. R. Shri Santosh Kumar Mishra.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik presenting a filigree memento to President O. E. V. F, Japan during his tour to Orissa on 25.11.1996. Deputy Chief Minister Shri B. K. Biswal is present.



Minister for Health Shri Jagannath Rout addressing a seminar on World Aids Day held at Hotel Swosti on 1.12.1996.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik addressing the audience at Soochana Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Saheed Laxman Naik on 22.11.1996.



Director, I. & P. R. Shri S. K. Mishra inaugurating a special function organised by the Orissa Press & Media Society at Prachi Hotel, Bhubaneswar on 4.12.1996.



The State level Birsa Munda Jayanti being celebrated at Soochana Bhavan, Bhubaneswar by I. & P. R. Department on 15.11.1996.



Shri R. K. Bhujabal, I.A.S., Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa flags off the State level Pulse Polio rally at P. M. G. square, Bhubaneswar on 28.11.1996.

SIMAROUBA GLAUCA— A PROMISING OIL YIELDING TREE FOR WASTE LAND RECLAMATION

KEDARESWAR PRADHAN

INTRODUCTION

The tremendous pace of population growth has already out-stripped the agriculture productivity. The increase in agriculture production is considerably reduced due to land degradation of various types. Degradation and soil erosion is more severe in waste lands as they are lying fallow and in most cases, without any vegetative cover. Besides, tremendous pressure of man and animal on waste land for fuel and fodder, accelerate the erosion process. Maximum erosion takes place from such land causing siltation of reservoirs, choking of drainage channels causing floods, sand casting of fertile land and burying of standing crops in the villages, damage to habitation, railways, highways, canals, bridges, telephone lines and navigation channels destroying habitats of fish etc.

The man to land ratio is fast shrinking due to high rate of population growth. As such the additional requirement of land to meet the extra requirement of food, fodder and fuel etc. will have to be met by developing and better management of waste lands.

It is estimated that, about 11.5 lakh hectares of land covering 7.42% of the total land surface of Orissa are in the waste land category and approximately 7 lakh hectares of such land is available for development.

While taking biological measure to reclaim and rehabilitate the waste land in drier zone, attempts are envisaged to put suitable economic species such as Cashew, Coffee, Sisal, Sabai (Bhabar grass) and Bamboo which would yield high return besides arresting soil erosion.

Simarouba is apparently a new species for this purpose, but its performance appears to be remarkable.

ORIGIN

Simarouba glauca D.C.(Simaroubaceae), a native of El Salvador in the Central America known as the Aceituno tree, has been introduced to India in early sixties and subsequently to Orissa State in 1962-63 for trial plantation by the State Soil Conservation Department.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

The seed fat of Simarouba is edible and finds use as Cocoa butter substitute after fractionation in its native area i.e., El Salvador, Costarica and South Florida etc. Scientists at R.R.L (C.S.I.R.), Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar report that, Simarouba kernels contain 60.3% oil. The cake contains about 50% protein, but is not fit for feed purpose because of toxicity. Considering its high fat content in the kernels and the moderate iodine value (52.6) and high content of Oleic (52.1%) and stearic (30.4%) acids, they opine that the fat has good potential for use as edible fat or blending with Vanaspati or use as a Cocoa butter substitute or as an extender after suitable fractionation and recommend its large scale cultivation in forests and other non agricultural areas.

In addition to its high oil content, Simarouba is economically important in its native place for its wood, which is finely grained and moderately hard and furnishes excellent fuel. Semi-sweet pulp of the fruit is eaten. The oil cake is used as a fertilizer in plantation crops like Tea, Coffee and Rubber etc. Deep green, smooth and dense foliage on its rounded crown offers an ornamental value and suitable for inclusion in parks, gardens and avenue plantations.

PERFORMANCE IN WASTE LAND

It has naturalised to this new habitat since its introduction and is growing luxuriantly well in varied soils and climatic conditions of the State. By now, about 1500 hectares of Simarouba glauca plantations have been raised in the eroded waste

land, bald hills and similar other hostile situations (Table-1).

In addition to its adaptability to a wide variety of soil types and climatic conditions, the other desirable attributes of the plant are, drought hardiness, non-browsing by cattle and goats, quick recovery from shock caused due to fire hazard, hailstorm and any other mechanical injury due to biotic interference and resistance to insect-pest and pathogens infestation. It is an ever green tree with profuse deep green glossy foliage on its rounded crown and has the habit of growing sprawling branches from almost the ground level which affords to protect the soil against beating and thawing action of rain water and hence a good soil conserving tree species. The above characteristics of the plant, have made it easy, economic and less cumbersome to establish in the field and it is soon gaining importance for large scale cultivation in various plantation programmes both for soil conservation and afforestation in the State in degraded waste lands. It has also proved successful in clothing mine spoils areas and as such, checking the environmental degradation due to mining activities.

It is observed that, air layered plants of simarouba may prove better than seedling plants under severely eroded waste land condition as under such condition, soil depth is shallow with poor nutrient content. Shallow soils hardly provide scope for long tape rooted seedling plants than shallow and fibrous rooted air layers. Besides, air-layer plants provides quick ground cover than the seedling plants. In such conditions, closure spacing between layered plants in shallow ditches and staggered contour planting in sloppy lands may be good from soil conservation point of view.

YIELD AND PROPAGATION

The simarouba tree comes to fruiting in about 5-6 years of age and yields up to 50-60 years. An adult plant yields about 30-50 Kgs. of seeds and 200 plants are accommodated per hectare for its commercial cultivation. The matured ripe fruits are harvested in April-May and depulped for seed purpose. The seeds have low viability and hence they should be sown in the nursery soon after extraction. It is easily propagated by seeds, stump and vegetative methods like cutting, air layering and grafting. Attempts on its micro-propagation through tissue culture show encouraging results.

FUTURE PROSPECT

India has about 175 million hectares of degraded land and many of its States enjoy the sub-humid climate like that of Orissa. As such, there is a great scope for its expansion of area in such lands. In the meantime some State Forest Departments like Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu have taken up its trial plantation by procuring seeds from Orissa.

By turn of this century, Orissa alone will be producing about 4-5 thousand tonnes of simarouba seeds and still more area is expected to be covered under this crop. Now the National Oil-seeds & Vegetable Oil Development Board is interested in its area expansion. Quite a sizeable quantity of simarouba seeds will be produced in the Country by end of this century. As such, its commercial (industrial) utilisation warrants immediate attention.

It has high oil content compared to other forest species like Mahua, Karanj, Neem and Kusum etc. (Table-II) and has short gestation period. Like Mahua it yields a thick pale yellow oil and solidifies at room temperature. It assumes the same colour of Mahua oil on fortification and carries mild pungency. Since it has resemblance to Mahua oil, it is expected to have the scope for various industrial utility like Mahua oil in making Vanaspati, soap, Glycerine and Margarine, Lubricants and base materials for ointments and cosmetics, besides being used for culinary purposes.

It is understood that some section of people of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Nuapara districts mostly tribals, have started extracting oil from simarouba by local Ghans and oil mills and are using it as cooking medium. A kilo of simarouba oil sells at about Rs. 20/- in those areas. Definitely it is a good sign of acceptability of simarouba by the people. Yet it has not been recognised as an edible oil nor has find place in any industrial uses like those of the forest species. Even it is not known to many. Detail study in this direction is essential.

Its immense potentiality as an oil yielding tree and excellent performance as a soil conserving species in reclaiming waste land need be tapped for its large scale expansion and commercial exploitation. Adequate and immediate steps should be taken in this direction.

TABLE - I
Performance of Simarouba in varied soil and climatic conditions :

Sl. No.	Un-divided district in relation to land physiography and topography.	Predominant Soil type.	Area under the crop (Ha.)	Climatic parameters		Normal rainfall in m.m (Rainy days.)	Climate.
				Mean annual temperature (°C)	Minimum (Winter)		
1.	2.	3.	4	5	6.	7.	8
A) THE NORTHERN PLATEAU (Undulating to gently rolling topography).							
1.	Mayurbhanj	Red loam light textured.	122.8	36.6	11.1.	1648.2 82.9	Hot and moist sub-humid.
2.	Keonjhar	Red loam light textured.	260.8	36.6	11.1	1534.5 (78.8)	-do-
3.	Sundergarh	Red yellow soils, light textured.	124.00	38	15	1647.6 (78.2)	-do-
B) CENTRAL TABLE LAND (Flat with undulating and folded topography):							
4.	Dhenkanal	Light textured lateritic medium textured red loam soil and mixed red & black soils.	3.00	38.7	14	1421.1 (72.8)	Hot and dry Sub-humid.
5.	Bolangir	Light to medium textured, Red soils & heavy textured Calcareous soils.	-	40	12.4	1443.5 (67.0)	Hot and moist Sub-humid.
6.	Sambalpur	-do-	-	40	12.4	1527.0 (70.3)	-do-
C) EASTERN GHAT (Consists of Hill range of Kalahandi, Koraput & Phulbani and covers about 36% of total Geographical area of the State) :							
7.	Kalahandi	Black heavy and red light soils mixed red & black soils, medium to heavy textured.	-	37.8.	11.9	1378.2 (65.4)	Hot and moist Sub-humid.
8.	Koraput	Mostly red soil, with low organic matter content	18.00	34.1	7.5	1521.6 (81.7)	Warm & humid.
9.	Phulbani	Brown forest soils, sandy loam, loamy and clay, medium textured.	200.00	37	10.4	1597.1 (77.4)	Hot and moist Sub-humid.
D) COASTAL PLAINS (Deltas formed by the Rivers Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitarani and Subarnarekha):							
10.	Cuttack	loam, clay loam, Coastal alluvium Narrow strips of saline inundated area	2.36	39	11.5	1501.3 (71.7)	Hot and humid.
11.	Puri	-do-	127.12	39	11.5	1449.1 (69.7)	-do-
12.	Ganjam	-do-	-	39	11.5	1229.6 (65.4)	-do-
13.	Balasore	Alluvial soil, narrow strips of sedimentary sandy loam to clay textured.	-	36	14.8	1568.4 (73.2)	Moist sub-humid

- Source :**
- i) *Land Physiography-Evaluation of Soil Erosion Status in Orissa* by Dr. K.L.Pujari & S.C. Behera, Bhubaneswar, Directorate of Soil Conservation, Orissa, (1993-94) P.3-4.
 - ii) *Agricultural Statistics of Orissa* (1991), Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Orissa. P. 93-94
 - iii) *Orissa Agriculture Statistics* (1990-91), Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Orissa, Bhubaneswar. P.5-6
 - iv) Information not available.

TABLE - II

Oil yield of *Simarouba glauca* compared to that of some important (non-edible oil yielding) Forest trees

Sl. No.	Name of the oil yielding trees.	Cestation period. (Year.)	Average seed yield/ tree (Kg)	Whether the oil solidites in cold weather.	Oil content in Kernel.	Industrial uses of oil.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Sal (<i>Shorea robusta</i>)	10-12	20-30	Solidifies to a buttery	12.5-20%	Confectionary, Soap (Laundry toilet) Vanaspati..
2.	Mahua (<i>Madhuca indica</i>)	8-10	75-100	-do-	35%	Soap (Laundry, toilet) Candle, Vanaspati, Soap for treat of Wool and Jute, Grease and Confectionary.
3.	Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>)	10-15	30-50	-do-	20-25%	Soap (Laundry, toilet, soft, medicated) Massage oil, skin ointments, epoxy compounds.
4.	Karanj (<i>Pongamia Pinnata</i>)	4-7	9-90	Semi-hard.	27%	Phenyle, greases, Lubricant, leather tanning, skin ointments, massage oil, epoxy compounds and Soap (Laundry)
5.	Kusum (<i>Schleichera Oleosa</i>)	10-15	18-37	Semi-solid	32-35%	Hair oil, Soap (Laundry, toilet)
6.	<i>Simarouba glauca</i> .	5-6	20-50	Solidifies to a buttery consistency.	60%	-



A. *Simarouba* flowering twig, B. Flower, C. Seed, D. Kernel with shell.

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ORISSA REVIEW-AN INDEX TO PERIODICAL ARTICLES, 1996

Kshirod Prasad Mohanty

Indexing has long been one of the most important aids to librarians for search and retrieval of information. It is a guide to locate reference to an item in text of document or in a collection of documents. The word "Index" itself comes from the latin word which means "to say" or "to say into".

According to Webster's *Third New International Dictionary*, Unabridged, 1973 "Index-noun- A usual alphabetical list that includes all or nearly all items (as topics, names of people and places) considered of special pertinence and fully or partially covered or merely mentioned in a print or written work that gives with each item the place (as by page number) where it may be found in the work..."

An index can tell a user quickly where an item is to be found, and where it is filed. It can provide substantial information on its own, or it can direct the user to a library file, a bound volume, a roll of microfilm, a micropicture, or a computer file of information.

Whatever may be form of indexing, here I have taken only one of them : **Subject**. Hope, it will save the time of the readers or searchers of information and spare them of a ponderous search of the entire text to locate information which they need. Index to periodical articles published in **Orissa Review** in the year 1996 from the month of January to December may be cited below as specimen.

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GOVERNOR INAUGURATED THE BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF JATIYA KAVI BIRA KISHORE

Hon'ble Governor of Orissa Shri G.Ramanujam inaugurated the Birth Centenary Celebration of Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore on 23.11.96 organised jointly by I & P.R.Department, Govt. of Orissa and Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore Smruti Sansad at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar.

While releasing the poetical works of Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore, the Governor said, "Bira Kishore was a revolutionary poet. By his poems and songs he had inspired the people to join the freedom struggle and fight for India's Independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. His contribution to the freedom struggle can never be forgotten". Governor opined, "Bira Kishore's writings are characterised by an abiding faith in humanism and secularism". He hopefully stated that the spirit of sacrifice, independent thinking and subordination of individual ambition for a National cause are the qualities that need to be continuously nurtured among the present and future generations of our country.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri J.B.Patnaik in his address said that Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore was a poet of great repute. His contribution to popularise our mother tongue and education will always be remembered. His sacrifice for the sake of Country's freedom will always be a source of inspiration to one and all, particularly to our younger generation.

The President of Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore Smruti Sansad and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Basanta Kumar Biswal delivered the presidential address. Shri Narayan Birabar Samanta, another associate and close friend of Jatiya Kavi Bira Kishore also addressed the gathering. Shri Dola Govinda Pradhan, Secretary, Smruti Sansad and Shri Niranjana Patnaik, Hon'ble Minister for Industries presented welcome address and vote of thanks, respectively.

STATE LEVEL RALLY ON PULSE POLIO IMMUNISATION AT BHUBANESWAR

A State Level rally on pulse polio immunisation was held at Bhubaneswar at 8-30 AM on 28.11.96. The rally was organised jointly by the State Department of Health and Family Welfare and Rotary International represented by the District Governor Sri D.N. Padhi.

About 1600 students of local schools and the Bhubaneswar Sports Hostel, in their respective uniforms, marched through the town of Bhubaneswar in a colourful procession after being flagged off by Sri R.K. Bhujabal, IAS Chief Secretary, Orissa to the tune of the state Police Band. High officials of the Govt. Sri M.M.Mohanty, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School and Mass Education Deptt., Ms. Meena Gupta, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Health and F.W.Department, Sri D.N.Padhi, IAS, Rotary Governor and Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Sports and Youth Services Department and Sri B.K. Patnaik, I.A.S, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, I & P.R.Department were present besides other senior officers. Members of the Rotary Clubs of Bhubaneswar and Bhubaneswar North and Inner Wheel Clubs distributed food packets to the children.

This year the pulse polio immunisation is to be taken up on December 7, 1996 and January 18, 1997 for all the children in the age group of 0 to 5 years. As the medicine is not harmful for the children, it is suggested by the doctors, that all the children even if they have taken the medicine during this year or in the earlier years will have to be given this medicine again for the benefit of the total population of the children. It is expected that about 46 lakhs children would be covered in the State of Orissa this year.

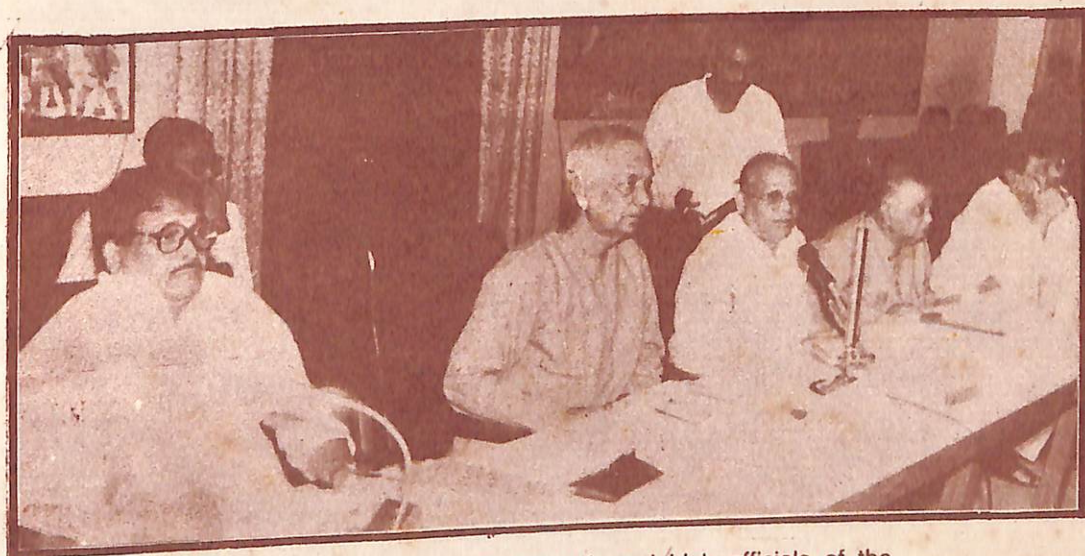
RESERVE BANK SPORTS MEET INAUGURATED

His Excellency, the Governor of Orissa, Shri G.Ramanujam inaugurated the XIVth All India Reserve Bank Sports Meet '96 on 29.11.96 at C.R.P.F. Stadium, Bhubaneswar. The Sports meet was organised under the aegis of Reserve Bank of India Staff Recreation Club, Bhubaneswar in which 20 teams from all over India took part.

Shri K.V. Chakravarti, President of Reserve Bank of India Staff Recreation Club, Bhubaneswar and Shri S.K.Sahoo, Vice President of the Club presented welcome address and vote of thanks respectively. Shri L.K.Hembram, Organising Secretary of the Club presented report on this occasion.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri H. D. Deve Gowda announcing an interim assistance of Rs. 50 cr. for mitigating the drought situation in the State at Bhalupada in Balangir district on 14.11.1996 in the presence of Shri J. B. Patnaik, Chief Minister of Orissa.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik and high officials of the State are discussing the recent drought situation with the Union Agriculture Minister Shri Chaturanan Mishra at the Secretariat on 24.11.1996.



Chief Minister Shri J. B. Patnaik inaugurating the 'Paika Akhada' at the P. M. G. square, Bhubaneswar on the occasion of the birthday of Dr. H. K. Mahatab on 21.11.1996. Hon'ble Speaker Shri Chintamani Dyansamantara is present.



Shri Bhupinder Singh, Minister, Culture inaugurating the Konark Dance Festival '96.

