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National Song

Vande Mataram !

Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja shitalam,

Shasyashyamalam, Mataram !

Shubhrajyotsna pulakitayaminim,

Phullakusumita drumadala shobhinim,

Suhasinim sumadhura bhashinim,

Sukhadam varadam, Mataram !

The song, Vande Mataram, composed in Sanskrit by Bankimchandra Chatterji, was a source of inspiration to the people in their struggle for freedom. It has an equal status with Jana-gana-mana. The first political occasion when it was sung was the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress.

National Anthem

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he,

Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.

Punjab-Sindhu-Gujarat-Maratha,

Dravida-Utkala-Banga,

Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga Uchchala-Jaladhi-taranga.

Tava shubha name jage, Tava shubha asisa mage,

Gahe tava jaya gatha,

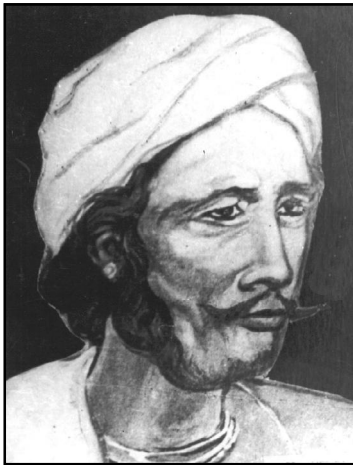
Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.

Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he, Jaya jaya jaya, jaya he!

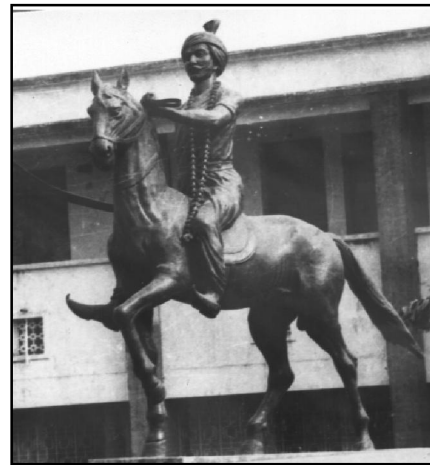
The playing time of the full version of the National Anthem is approximately 52 seconds. A short version consisting of first and last lines of the stanza (playing time approximately 20 seconds) is also played on certain occasions.

The song, Jana-gana-mana, composed originally in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore, was adopted in its Hindi version by the Constituent Assembly as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950. It was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Calcutta Session of the Indian National Congress. The complete song consists of five stanzas.

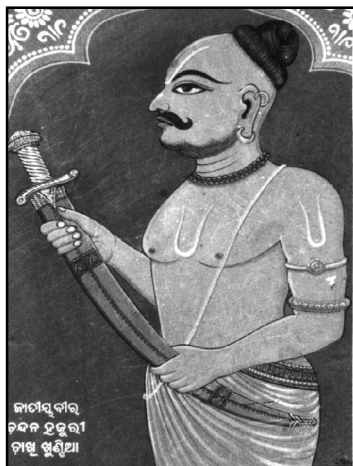
WE REMEMBER THEM



Veer Surendra Sai



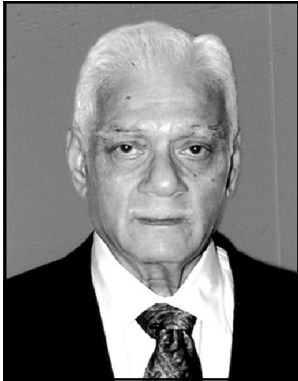
Buxi Jagabandhu



Chakhi Khuntia



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



Message of
SHRI M.C. BHANDARE,
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF
ORISSA ON THE OCCASION OF
REPUBLIC DAY-2011

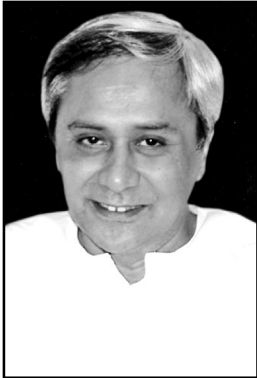
Dear Sisters & Brothers,

I offer my warm greetings and good wishes to all of you on this auspicious occasion of Republic Day.

2. On this historic day in 1950, we the people of India, gave ourselves a Constitution proclaiming India as “A Sovereign Democratic Republic.” Today, as we commemorate this occasion, let us recall the valour and sacrifice of our Freedom Fighters, who liberated our country from colonial rule and facilitated freedom. We fondly remember the architects and founding fathers of our Republic, who contributed world's best written Constitution which has preserved individual liberty and ensured social justice. Today, India is the largest democracy in the world.
3. Orissa is a State of great potential. Nature has generously endowed it with its bounties in the shape of mineral deposits, forests, rivers and a long coastline of 482 kms. The scenic beauty of Orissa is divine. The Government is implementing various welfare schemes for all-round inclusive development of the State and its people. The State has been making consistent efforts, through appropriate policy initiatives to tackle the problem of poverty and backwardness along with strengthening the democratic institutions at the grassroot level, so that people themselves can play a more significant role in managing their individual affairs and planning their own development.
4. In order to achieve faster growth, the State Government has taken several initiatives such as Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana, Pani Panchayat, Farm Ponds scheme for the welfare of farmers, Biju KBK Yojana and Biju Kandhamal-Gajapati Yojana for socio-economic development of the common man and to ensure development in backward regions, decentralising power through three-tier Panchayati Raj system and establishing Self Help Groups through Mission Shakti which is considered to be a major step forward in the empowerment of the women of the State. For the poorer section of the society, the State Government is now implementing ‘Mo Kudia’ Yojana, Madhu Babu Pension Yojana, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana, rice at rupees 2 per kg scheme and Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana. Apart from this, the State Government is committed to the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of the society.

5. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. A lot of workforce are engaged in agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture and animal husbandry. My Government is committed to development of agriculture and increase of food production. A number of policies and programmes have been put in place to improve the financial status of the farmer, so that he gets remunerative price. The Government has set up a Farmer Commission to go into the problems of the farming community and support remedial measures.
6. Rapid industrialisation of the State has been our main objective. With the efforts of the State Government, Companies of national and international repute are all set to invest in Steel, Aluminium, Power and other sectors. Many new industrial units have gone into production. Relentless efforts by the State Government in this regard will definitely induce great positive changes in the economy of our State. Industrialization will not be at the cost of environment. It will simultaneously be combined with and follow human resource development particularly in tribal areas.
7. Education is the most important input for any kind of development. To promote the education system of the State, Government has taken various measures to provide free text books, free uniforms to girls, Mid-day meal for primary students etc. To encourage our tribal girls for education, the Government has established girls' hostels in several tribal areas. Recently Government have decided to distribute free bicycles to all the girl students of Class-X studying in Government and Government aided high schools. The boy students of the scheduled areas will also be covered under the scheme.
8. In a bid to effect transparency and accountability in the system of governance, the State Government has efficiently and effectively implemented the Right to Information Act, 2005. This was possible because of the IT intervention of the State Government in the implementation front. It is a matter of satisfaction that 'Loka Soochana', the RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism put up by the Information and Public Relations Department of the State Government has earned the best e-gov web2.0 Award as the most user-friendly website in the country.
9. Moreover, tremendous efforts have been made during the last 10 years to carry Orissa forward on the path of growth and progress. Orissa is forging ahead with new strength, vigour and speed. But much more still remains to be achieved. I am confident that the people of Orissa shall continue to work with same spirit and dedication to transform Orissa into the most advanced State in India. They will make every endeavour to remove the ugly blots of illiteracy and poverty from the beautiful face of Orissa.
10. On this occasion, let us redeem our pledge to achieve this cardinal objective.

Jai Hind.



Message of
SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK,
HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER
ON THE OCCASION OF
REPUBLIC DAY - 2011

My dear brothers and sisters,

My good wishes and warm greetings to all of you on the auspicious occasion of Republic Day 2011.

Today is the auspicious Republic Day. It is a day of glory and happiness for all of us.

I offer my deep tributes to the great leaders and freedom fighters of India like Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Netajee Subhash Chandra Bose, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Ballavbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Bira Surendra Sai, Saheed Lakshman Nayak, Nabakrushna Choudhury, Gopabandhu Choudhury, Maa Rama Devi, Malati Choudhury, Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab and Biju Patnaik.

My deep respect and tributes to the martyrs of India who laid down their lives in the struggle for peace and security of India.

The Indian Constitution came into force from 1950. Constitution of India was drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. I pay deep respect to him and the other members of the Constituent Assembly.

Our Constitution is an ideal Constitution in the whole world. Justice and Equality are the main essence of this Constitution. Safeguarding the Rights of all the citizens is emphasised and given utmost importance here. It is our sacred duty to uphold the dignity of our Constitution.

India after Independence has laid utmost importance to the development of the country in all spheres.

Our State Orissa has also succeeded in creating a new era in the field of progress beginning from agriculture to industry, from village to cities and from Koraput to Cuttack. We are concerned about the development and progress for people of all categories and endeavouring in our efforts to develop every region in all fields.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of our people. We cannot think of progress of the State without agricultural development and development of our farmers. Special attention is being paid towards development of farm and farmers. We have always given priority to solve the problems of our farmers. The sole aim of our agricultural development programme is to increase agricultural capacity and qualitative production along with safeguarding the interests of our farmers. Our farmer brothers are facing great loss due to natural hazards. Farmers of many areas of our state have been affected severely due to the drought conditions and unseasonal rains in December. Government has announced special package for these affected farmers. I have instructed the District Collectors to distribute compensation to farmers from 1st week of February.

From this current Rabi season, we declare Panchayat as the unit of crop insurance for the welfare of our farmers. We are providing agricultural loans with a minimum interest. We have tapped horticulture, fisheries and dairy programmes to facilitate the income benefit of our farmers. More income-oriented opportunities can be generated in these fields. Our rural development will definitely be ensured.

Irrigation is the most important input for agricultural development. Water is a major requirement for agriculture. We have undertaken a number of programmes for widening the area of irrigation. We are paying utmost importance to the minor irrigation projects alongwith the mega and medium irrigation projects in our state. We target to provide water to 2 lakh hectare land through mega lift irrigation project within the next 3 years. Likewise, the construction work of 2000 check dams in different rivers for irrigation purpose which is likely to be completed by June is being accelerated.

Development of agriculture along with industries is essential for rapid progress of the State. Our agricultural economy needs to be of multi-dimension as it is repeatedly falling prey to natural calamities. I have always emphasised on value

addition to natural resources. By this, large scale industries will be interested to come to the State and this will widen the economical programme. More revenue and employment opportunities will be generated.

For the development of the Industrial Sector, Government has signed MoU in the fields of steel, aluminium, energy and cement. Production in many of these factories has already begun. Today in our state steel production has reached 15 million tonne.

Orissa is striving to become the steel hub of the country in the coming days . Special steps have been ensured for the development of the mega industries alongwith the development of ancilliary industrial sectors. This will help in generating more employment opportunities in the State.

Development of Basic Infrastructure is important for economical growth, so we consider this to be our prime focus. There is development from village roads to State Highways and National Highways. Concrete roads in rural areas have facilitated the path of progress in the State. Likewise, we have planned exclusively for the development of ports in our State. Mega Ports are going to be set up in the State very soon.

Orissa is repeatedly experiencing natural disasters. Today climate change and global warming have become major concerns across the globe. Keeping this in view, the State Government has planned remedial measures against climate change.

Special attention has been given for protection of the lives and livelihood of the coastal belt people ensuring thereby the protection of the environment. Orissa is the pioneering state in implementing this initiative.

I have always emphasized on all-round development of the State. Our objective is to include the general public in developmental benefits. Today State has witnessed a tangible progress in economy. State revenue has provided us ample opportunities for implementation of welfare schemes. The State Govt. is providing rice at Rs.2/- per kg. to the poor people from its own resource. Madhubabu Pension scheme and 'Mo Kudia' scheme have created confidence in the minds of our people. For development of women education we have decided to provide free bi-cycle to all the girl students reading in class-X. Similarly all the ST & SC boy students, reading in class-X in scheduled areas will be provided with bicycles free of cost. We have also decided to provide school uniforms to all the students in the

scheduled areas. We aim at providing electricity to all the villages of the State by 2012. Steps have already been taken to provide safe drinking water through pipe water supply system in the rural areas.

We are implementing various schemes for the development of our tribal brothers and sisters residing in our state. A series of programmes have been taken up for the spread of education among the ST students including the protection of their rights. Our efforts will continue to include them in the mainstream of progress.

Youth community has always spread the message of change. Hence the potentials of youth can be channelised in the development of the country by precisely developing the human resources. We are endeavouring to make them employable through proper education and training.

The role of women is important in accelerating the pace of progress. Thus their participation in various welfare programmes for economic empowerment of women through Mission Shakti programme has ushered in a new era in the field of progress.

Our target is to include all the ST/SC and poor women of the state in SHG programme within the next 5 years.

Orissa is a peace loving State. But the left-wing extremists have caused internal disturbances in different regions of our State for the last few years. I request them to abjure violence and come back to the mainstream of the society. Nobody should underestimate the power of India where 100 crore people reside spreading the message of Non-Violence all over the world. We have successfully confronted the extremism and we will come out victorious against it in the coming days. Our struggle for peace and progress will be fructified with your active co-operation.

Jai Hind.



Message of

SHRI PRAFULLA SAMAL,

**HON'BLE MINISTER, PANCHAYATI RAJ,
INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF
REPUBLIC DAY - 2011**

I extend my warm greetings and good wishes to the brothers and sisters of Orissa on the auspicious occasion of the Republic Day.

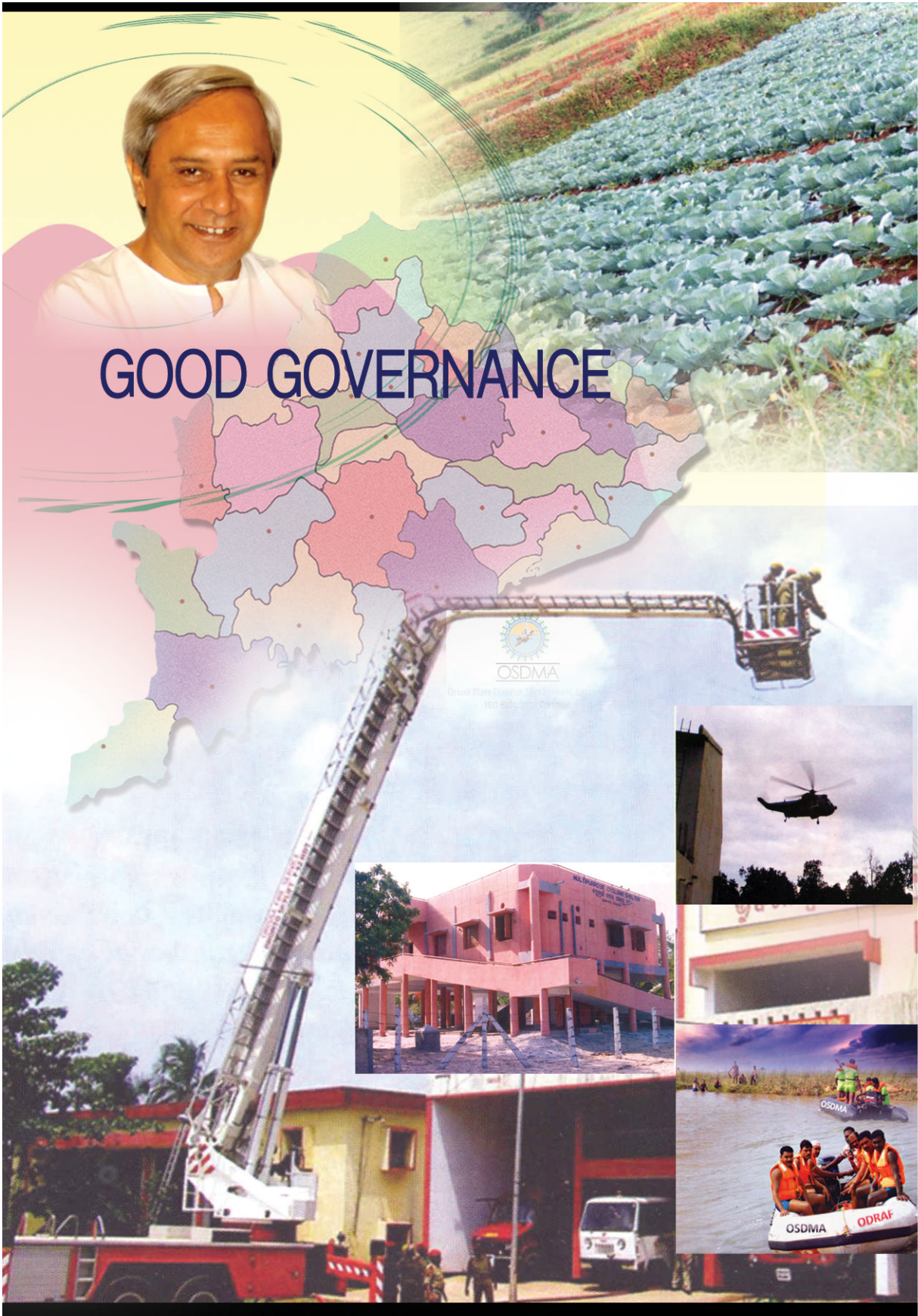
26th January is a memorable day for every Indian. On this day in 1950, the Constitution of India came into being and India gained the status of largest democratic country in the world. On this sacred day we remember those immortal patriots, freedom fighters and martyrs for whose sacrifice we attained the long cherished freedom. Today, it is our prime duty to remember the founding fathers of our Constitution and those great sons of Mother India who have made us aware of our Fundamental Duties and Rights.

The main feature of our Constitution reverberates Political Freedom, Social Justice, democratic values, respect towards human rights, secularism and respect for all.

After independence, our State Orissa has registered progress in different development sectors. Though, the success we have achieved is undoubtedly praiseworthy, still then, we have miles to go and this calls for combined efforts.

On this significant moment, I call upon all my brothers and sisters of Orissa to repose great faith in the lofty ideals of democracy and rededicate themselves with great zeal for the cause of the country and Nation for making Orissa a peaceful, prosperous and progressive State.

Jai Hind.



GOOD GOVERNANCE



OSDMA
Sarawak State Disaster Management Agency
ISO 9001:2015 Certified



ACHIEVEMENTS OF REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Achievements of Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) During 2009 and 2010.

The super cyclone of 1999 marked a paradigm shift in our approach to disaster management. Emphasis was laid on Planning, Preparedness and Prevention along with Relief, Restoration and Rehabilitation. Several preventive and preparedness measures have been taken by the Government of Orissa for the mitigation of effects of natural as well as man-made disasters. Creation of Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority (OSDMA), later known as Orissa State Disaster Management Authority was a step in that direction.

Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) since its inception has set an objective for itself to create a disaster resilient Orissa through construction of disaster resistant infrastructure, setting up of disaster management organizations at grassroot level and building the capacity of vulnerable communities.

A. DISASTER RESISTANT INFRASTRUCTURE

Multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters

1. 97 Multi purpose cyclone shelters have been constructed by OSDMA within 10 km of the coastline in six coastal districts by 2005. 38 more have been taken up under Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, out of which 19 were completed by 2008, 11 have been completed during 2009 and 2010, the balance 8 are nearing completion.

2. Apart from cyclone shelters, construction of 50 flood shelters in nine flood affected districts of Orissa was taken up in 2009 by Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) out of Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The flood shelters taken up in different districts are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of District	Number
1.	Ganjam	5
2.	Puri	7
3.	Jagatsinghpur	5
4.	Kendrapara	6
5.	Bhadrak	5
6.	Balasore	6
7.	Cuttack	6
8.	Khurda	5
9.	Jajpur	5

10 numbers of Flood Shelters (5 in Balasore, 4 in Bhadrak and one in Khurda) have been completed.

Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) Buildings

3. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has decided to set up Doppler Radar stations at 4 places in Orissa namely Paradeep, Gopalpur, Sambalpur and Balasore for effective tracking of cyclones and other weather related issues. Construction of building work at Paradeep has been taken up by IMD. OSDMA was assigned with the task of construction of the buildings at Gopalpur, Balasore and Sambalpur. Selection of sites has been done and preliminary works like soil exploration, development of design etc. have been completed at Balasore and Gopalpur. Tendering work of these two sites is in progress. Site for Sambalpur has been selected and will be handed over to OSDMA shortly.

Setting up Automated Weather Stations (AWS):

4. Automated Weather Stations (AWS) are being set up in different parts of the state in collaboration with ISRO to generate digital data on different weather parameters for better flood and drought forecasting. For equitable distribution of the AWS across the state, the state has been divided into 25 km x 25 km grids on the GIS platform and the stations have been located at the centre of the grids as far as practicable ISRO has agreed to set up 220 AWS in Orissa, out of which 120 has been set up so far. The system has not been functional.

5. New ODRAF Units

Apart from five existing units of Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) at Cuttack, Balasore, Jharsuguda, Chhatrapur and Koraput, Government of Orissa decided to set up five more ODRAF Units at Paradeep, Baripada, Bolangir, Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Construction work of ODRAF buildings in above new sites is in progress. 25 personnel for each new unit have been identified from Orissa Special Armed Police (OSAP) Battalion and Armed Police Reserve (APR) of Districts. 10 Personnel from each unit have been imparted training in Flood Rescue Boat Operation and familiarization of ODRAF equipment.

Six layer of Communication including Satellite Phones:

6. Apart from telephone, fax and mobile phones, a dedicated civil VHF network has been set up at 414 locations covering all Districts and Block headquarters, some Tahasils, GPs and other locations. Earlier Satellite phones were provided to 17 Districts, now OSDMA has provided Satellite phones to all 30 districts in 2009. Similarly, in 2009, 21 HAM stations have been set up in vulnerable locations. Volunteers from different districts have been trained in operation of HAM radio.

B. CREATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

Cyclone Shelter Management and Maintenance Committees (CSMMC):

7. Shelters have been handed over to Cyclone Shelter Management and Maintenance Committees (CSMMC) constituted at the village level. Training has been imparted on shelter management to the CSMMC members. Training on First Aid and Search & Rescue technique has been given to shelter

based Disaster Management Teams (50 volunteers per shelter). Basic search and rescue equipment of 32 types have been provided to all Cyclone Shelters.

Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF)

8. 10 Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF-) units set up at Jharsuguda, Koraput, Cuttack, Chatrapur, Balasore, Bhubaneswar, Paradip, Baripada, Bolangir and Rourkela. Each ODRAF unit has been provided with 91 types sophisticated equipment required for disaster management including road clearing equipment, branch cutter, tree pruner, concrete cutter, RCC cutter, boat, inflatable tower light, generator, forklift, hydraulic rescue kit, collapse structure search & rescue (CSSR) kit and medical first responder (MFR) kit, ambulance, manikin, high discharge submersible pump, flexi tent, flexi water tank, mountaineering equipment, commando search light, diving equipment set, breathing apparatus with gas mask and chemical cartridge, etc.

Fire Service units

9. 100 Fire Service units have been strengthened with 24 types of modern search and rescue equipment including inflatable rubber boats with OBM and tower lights. One Brunto Sky lift with Hydraulic platform, the first of its kind in Orissa has been supplied to Bhubaneswar Fire Station for fire fighting in high rise buildings.

10. Civil Defence Units in the State have been strengthened and training equipment have been provided.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at State and District level

11. Required communication and other equipment have been provided to Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at State and District level. Equipment like inflatable tower light, branch cutter, etc. have been provided to District & Sub-divisional EOCs. Toll free numbers 1077 and 1070 installed in District Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) and State EOC respectively.

Disaster Management Teams (DMT) and Response drills

12 Village Gram Panchayat and Block level Disaster Management Teams have been constituted in vulnerable villages of 16 Districts including the coastal districts under UNDP-assisted Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme. Village DM plans have also been prepared and updated through the DMTs. Mock drills are organized on 19th of June every year. During 2010, three Response Drills involving Cyclone Shelter Management Committee (CSMMCs), Village Disaster Management Committee, Community members, PRI Members and NGO functionaries/Volunteers, Search and rescue volunteers and First Aid Volunteers, were conducted in all the cyclone shelters on 19th June, 21st May and 16th October 2010 as a preparedness measure for the ensuing cyclone developed in Bay of Bengal. The preparedness and response activities were initiated from 14th October at the shelter level.

ISO 9001:2008 Certification for OSDMA

13. UKAS Quality Management and DET NORSKE VERITAS (DNV) has certified that Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has been found to conform to the Quality Management

System Standard of ISO 9001:2008 concerning all activities regarding provision of services related to handling of emergency operations, restoration and reconstruction works and programmes necessitated by any natural disaster in the State of Orissa. This certificate was issued on 11th February 2010. Earlier the certification was for ISO 9001 : 2000 w.e.f. 30.12.2008.

C. CAPACITY BUILDING

Continuous updating of the capacities

14. Continuous updating of the capacities of the community and other stakeholders has been the priority of OSDMA throughout. The best and the latest equipment on disaster management have been supplied to ODRAF, Fire Stations, and Cyclone Shelters. Under UNDP assisted Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programme, Village Disaster Management Plans have been prepared in more than 23 thousand villages in 16 districts of the State. A modified Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme under UNDP assistance is being implemented from the current year in Ganjam, Kendrapara and Bolangir Districts and three urban areas namely Bhubaneswar, Angul and Talcher on a pilot basis.

Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

15. OSDMA has just initiated Intensive implementation of Government of India and UNDP assisted Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme. The programme strives to strengthen the institutional structures to undertake disaster risk reduction activities at various levels and develop preparedness for recovery. The programme basically consists of two separate projects- (A) Disaster Risk Reduction Project implemented by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the districts of Balangir, Ganjam and Kendrapada, and (B) Urban Risk Reduction Project implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), GoI in the urban areas of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, Angul Municipality and Talcher Municipality.

D. RESPONSE ACTIVITIES DURING THE PERIOD

Train accident on 13.02.09

The Howrah-Chennai Coromondal Express train was derailed and met with a severe accident at Jajpur Road Railway station on 13.02.2009. Immediately the ODRAF unit of Cuttack was pressed into service for search and rescue operations. The badly affected coaches were cut open with the help of Hydraulic rescue tools and 3 dead bodies were recovered which were inside.

Rajkanika Tornado on 31st March 2009

A tornado with wind speed of about 250 km/ph, thunderstorms and rainfall hit Rajakanika Block of Kendrapara district on 31st March 2009. 15 human lives were lost and several persons were injured. The ODRAF unit of Cuttack was rushed to the spot along with the emergency equipment. The operation was carried out throughout the night and three major arterial roads were cleared by the day break. The injured persons were evacuated and shifted to different hospitals.

Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue :

A dilapidated building (Bachelor Barrack) was collapsed in Bhubaneswar on 17.12.09. The ODRAF team of Cuttack was mobilized to the spot CSSR operations for saving trapped persons under the collapsed structure. Intensive search and rescue operations were carried out even after sunset using Inflatable Tower Lights. Not to leave anything to chance in saving the human life, rescue dog 'Salty' from the dog squad, Bhubaneswar was utilized for canine search operation. Fortunately, no person was found to be trapped under the debris.

Flash flood 2010 :

Flash floods triggered by torrential rain submerged many villages in three districts of Kalahandi, Gajapati and Nabarangapur. The Hati river in Kalahandi, Bhaskar river in Nabarangapur and Vansadhara in Gajapati district overflowed and water entered into the villages. About 100 children were trapped in a school building in a village marooned by flood waters in Nabarangapur District. 35 ODRAF personnel from Koraput and one team from the newly created ODRAF unit of Bolangir rushed to the affected villages and saved the lives of the children and marooned people.

Air Rescue operation in Malkangiri District on 6th October 2010

Unaware of the imminent danger, four persons of Udayagiri village of Kartanpalli gram panchayat under Mathili Block of Malkangiri District went out in the early morning of 5th October 2010 for fishing in River Kolab. In a short while, there was sudden rise of the water level due to flash flood in the river. Finding no other way, they ran to a tiny islet in the river for shelter and got stranded as it was not possible for them to come back due to the strong current of water.

The helicopter from the Naval Base, Visakhapatnam took off at 4.50 AM, reached the spot around 6.05 A.M. on 6th October 2010. Despite inclement weather, Sri Somanath Pujari, aged about 35 years, Sri Laki Pujari, 32 years, Sri Jinu Bhumia, 35 years and Sri Budra Naik, 36 years of village Udayagiri were rescued successfully by the pilots of Indian Navy and the rescued persons were taken to Malkangiri District Headquarters hospital for medical check up.

PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

1. National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) will be implemented in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh under Government of India and the World Bank assistance. The project cost for Orissa under Component- B is Rs.576.12 cr. The area of coverage is Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Ganjam Districts. The project has following four components -

Component – A - On last mile connectivity i.e. setting up of early warning dissemination system based on GSM/CDMA mobile technology for coastal communities within 0-5 kms of the sea shore (100% grant by Government of India) Nodal agency- NDMA.

Component-B - On Structural measures like construction of Cyclone Shelters, Approach Roads and Saline Embankments @75:25 share between Centre and State. Project cost for Orissa under this component is Rs.576.12 crore. Nodal Agency- OSDMA.

Component-C- On Capacity building activities- Nodal agency - NIDM- NDMA - 100% Grant by GoI

Component-D- Project Implementation and Monitoring Cost-100% grant by GoI.

Phasing Programme

SI. No.	Components	Total	Phase I (1st 18 months)	Phase-II & III
1.	Construction of multi purpose cyclone shelters	(150 cyclone shelters + 6 godowns) 164.60 cr.	81 cyclone shelters in 72 packages	69 cyclone shelters + 6 godowns in 44 packages
2.	Shelter connectivity	143 approach roads 246.52 cr.	67 cyclone shelters in 31 packages	76 approach roads in 30 packages
3.	Raising and strengthening of saline Embankment	156.98 km. 165.00 cr.		156.98 km in 23 packages
	Total	576.12		
4.	PIU cost & quality monitoring	Rs.16.75 cr. component D		

Rural Development Department for Cyclone Shelters and Roads and Water Resources Department for Saline Embankments will execute the Projects.

The World Bank (International Development Association (IDA) has agreed to credit 255 million US\$ to the Government of India for implementation of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) after project appraisal by the World Bank mission. The pre-technical and technical discussions with officers from Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India, NDMA and the participating States and negotiation with the World Bank is complete. As per negotiation, eligible expenditure after 01.01.2010 will be charged to the project under Retroactive financing. As per the Procurement Plan agreed between NDMA and OSDMA, the bid invitation notice for 1st lot of phase-I projects (for 25 Shelters in 16 packages and 44 roads in 17 packages) has been published by the Chief Engineer, RW-II.

The next step is the signing of the Agreements with International Development Association (IDA - World Bank). The Financing Agreement will be signed between the Government of India and IDA. The project agreement will be signed between the State of Orissa and IDA.

No funds have been placed for implementation purposes. Preparatory works like Environmental and social screening of the year-II projects through independent agencies is in progress. The project will be implemented in full phase after signing.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP):

14 cyclone shelters will be constructed in two coastal stretches i.e from Gopalpur to Chilika and Paradeep to Dhamara under the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project. Forest and Environment Department, Government of Orissa is the nodal Agency for the project. OSDMA will execute 14 cyclone shelters at a cost of Rs. 13.89 crore including cost of capacity building.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY STATE GOVERNMENT YEAR-2009

1st Event: Tornado in Kendrapada

A severe tornado accompanied with wind speed of about 250 km/ph, thunderstorm, rainfall and hailstorm affected Rajakanika block of Kendrapara District of Orissa in the late afternoon of 31st March 2009 causing massive damage to life and property. 16 precious human lives were lost in the span of a mere half an hour of nature's fury. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has assessed the phenomenon as one of the six worst tornadoes to have hit the country ever.

Response

- The Ministry of Home affairs was intimated about the occurrence on the same day.
- The officials of Special Relief Commissioner and Orissa State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) were deployed to Rajkanika.
- The ODRAF unit stationed at Cuttack equipped with inflatable tower lights, cutters and other tools meant for search and rescue was mobilized and pressed into service.
- The roads were cleared up by cutting thousands of uprooted trees in the same night itself by Orissa Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) unit with inflatable tower lights and tree cutters.
- By morning of 1st April, 2009, all arterial roads of affected villages were cleared up and restored for normal traffic.
- The injured persons were, in the same night, shifted to different hospitals of Kendrapara District and severely injured persons were shifted to SCB Medical College, Cuttack for treatment.
- Adequate polythene sheets were kept stock well in advance in the District as buffer-stock.
- Tents were mobilized from the State level and pitched there for use as temporary shelter.
- Realizing the severity of the disaster and vulnerability, emergent relief for 15 days was provided.

Damages

Tornado caused extensive damage to private and public properties in Rajkanika Block. 16 persons died and 10000 people in 12 villages were affected. 369 hectares of agriculture areas was affected. 15 persons had grievous injuries. 603 livestock were perished. 1425 houses were damaged.

Funds Released

- Funds to the tune of Rs.134.61 lakh was provided to District Administration for pure relief measures.
- Rs.1.00 crore has been released to RD Department for restoration of damaged public infrastructure.

2nd Event : Flood and Heavy Rain

The State was affected by Floods in July 2009 due to heavy precipitation. Under the effect of deep depression over Bay of Bengal, the State received 77.3% more rainfall during July than the long term average rainfall of the month. Most of these precipitations were limited to first three weeks of the month. Such excessive rainfall caused flash floods in most of the Districts. Similarly, during August and September 2009, excessive rainfall resulted in flood situation in some Districts. 17 out of 30 Districts namely Balasore, Bhadrak, Bolangir, Cuttack, Ganjam, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Kendrapada, Keonjhar, Khordha, Koraput, Nayagarh, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Subarnapur, and Sundargarh were affected by floods and heavy-rain.

Damages

Floods and heavy-rain in 2009 caused extensive damage to private and public properties. 59 persons died and 6.61 lakh people in 2711 villages of 687 Gram Panchayats under 67 Blocks and 108 wards of 13 Urban Local Bodies were affected by floods. 2399.04 hectares of agriculture areas were sand cast. 13,547 houses were damaged due to floods and heavy-rain during 2009.

Damage to Public Utilities

Damage to public utilities due to impact of flash flood was enormous. There was again extensive damage to rural roads, river embankments, bridges and other public infrastructures. The total loss to public utilities comes to Rs.483.02 crore.

Response

- ODRAF teams with power boats and emergency equipments were deployed in Nayagarh and Balasore Districts for search and rescue operation.
- 62,200 people were evacuated.
- 98 boats were deployed for relief and rescue operation.
- Emergent relief was sanctioned for a period of 7 days and 15 days for the marooned people of the flood affected areas of Nayagarh and Ganjam Districts respectively. 77 free kitchen centres were opened.
- Emergent relief in shape of rice (1707.15 qtl.), Chuda (772.70 qtl.) and Gud (103.55 qtl.) was distributed among the people in the flood affected villages. Candles, matchboxes, kerosene and other essential commodities were also distributed among the affected population.
- 48 MT of concentrated cattle feed was despatched through OMFED and distributed to the affected animals in the marooned areas.

- Ex-gratia assistance @ Rs.1.00 lakh has been released to the NOK of the deceased persons who died due to floods.
- All financial assistance out of CRF for pure relief i.e. House Building Assistance, Sand cast assistance, etc. have been provided to the flood victims through account payee Cheque.

Flood Notification

As per Paragraph-79 of Orissa Relief Code, the State Government have notified 2711 villages covered under 687 G.Ps. of 67 Blocks and 108 wards of 13 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in 15 Districts of the State as affected by Floods during 2009. (Notification No.29312/ R&DM Dt 27.07 2010).

Visit of Central Team (For flood 2009)

Similarly, another Inter-Ministerial Central Team led by Shri S. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary (PP), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India visited the flood affected areas of the State from 14th January to 16th January 2010.

Assistance Received from NCCF

NIL

3RD Event: Drought 2009

Due to erratic behaviour of monsoon manifested in irregular and scanty rainfall, the State experienced severe drought during the year 2009. During June, rainfall in the State was deficient by 60.6%. During July 2009, there was excess rainfall by 77.3%. There was 93 percent of excess rainfall up to 21st of July, whereas from 22nd July onwards, the rainfall was deficient by about 63%. In August 2009, rainfall was deficient by about 20.3%. The State cumulatively received 24.5% less rainfall than the normal.

Declaration of Drought

As per Paragraph 29 of Orissa Relief Code, declaration of drought in respect of a particular area is made by the Government taking into consideration the crop assessment report submitted by the Collector together with the views of Revenue Divisional Commissioners and Special Relief Commissioner.

Crop loss for Autumn Paddy

On the basis of reports received from Collectors, on 21st November, 2009, the State Government declared 3264 villages under 70 Blocks and 41 Wards under 9 ULBs of 15 Districts namely Angul, Bargarh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur, Sundargarh as drought affected having sustained crop loss of 50% and above for Autumn Paddy during the year 2009.

Crop loss of Winter Paddy.

Similarly, the State Government declared 2030 villages under 54 Blocks and 7 Wards under 3 ULBs of 12 Districts namely Bolangir, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri,

Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh as drought affected having sustained crop loss of 50% and above for Winter Paddy during the year 2009 on the basis of crop cutting reports.

Cumulatively, 5294 villages and 48 Wards in 18 Districts were affected due to drought during 2009.

Districts affected by Drought : Angul, Baragarh, Bolangir, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Ganjam, Jharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Nuapada, Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh.

Drought Relief Measures

- In response to the serious drought situation, the State Government undertook different relief measures which include distribution of input subsidy, ensuring supply line of food, provision of drinking water, provision of immediate irrigation facilities and distribution of fodder in cattle camps.
- An amount of Rs.50.00 crore out of CRF was released to Agriculture Department to provide agriculture input subsidy to the affected farmers who have sustained crop loss of 50% and above. An amount of 3.23 crore was released for supply of drinking water.
- With a view to recouping the loss in Kharif, a comprehensive Rabi Programme was mounted. The food grain production target in Rabi was fixed at 17.51 MT (9.42 lakh MT of rice, 10.44 MT of cereals, 7.07 MT of pulses). Besides, production of oilseeds was also programmed for 6 MT. Subsidized seeds were provided to farmers of drought affected Districts for Rabi Season.
- Drinking water was supplied through tankers to water scarcity pockets. Cross bundh /dredging of river bed was done to collect required quantity of water. Steps were taken for repair of the defunct tube wells promptly and extension of Riser Pipes was taken up wherever required. New Hand Pump Tube Wells were installed in water scarcity pockets. 1463 defunct tube wells / sanitary wells and 300 rural water supply projects were repaired.
- Mobile veterinary clinics, animal health camps and de-worming camps in order to safeguard the livestock health were conducted in the affected areas.

Submission of Memorandum

The State Government submitted Memorandum on Natural Calamities 2009 to Ministry of Home Affairs, as well as to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on 19.12.2009 seeking Central Assistance of Rs.2257.032 crore, which includes Central Assistance for Floods and Drought of 2009.

Visit of Central Team (For Drought 2009)

The Inter-Ministerial Central Team led by Shri Atanu Purkayastha, Joint Secretary (Drought Management), Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture & Co-operation, Government of India visited the drought affected areas of the State from 6th January to 8th January 2010.

Assistance Received from NCCF

Nil.

YEAR-2010

FLASH FLOODS

All the Southern and western districts had received heavy to very heavy rainfall due to formation of a low pressure area over Bay of Bengal on 4th August '10. Torrential heavy rain has been experienced in most parts of Western Orissa on 4th to 6th August 2010. The catchments of rivers of Southern and Western Orissa received heavy rainfall during these days. As a result, flash floods came in rivers Hati, Bhasker, Saberi, Kolab, Indravati and Vansadhara. Some parts of Koraput, Kalahandi and Nawarangpur Districts were affected by flash floods. On 06.08.10 heavy rainfall was experienced in the upper catchments of river Hati and Tel. As a result water level raised in river Tel. About 35 villages of one Block i.e. Kantamal of Boudh District was affected by flood due to back water of river Tel. Also in July from 24th to 27th July, heavy rainfall was experienced in Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri Districts. As a result flash flood occurred in river Vansadhara. Six Districts namely Nawarangpur, Koraput, Kalahandi, Boudh, Rayagada and Malkangiri were affected due to flash floods and heavy rain.

Due to flood/heavy rain in 29 Blocks, 119 GPs, 426 Villages, 0.89 lakh Population and 0.29 lakh livestock of the State was affected. 10 persons lost their lives due to flood/heavy rain. 5402 houses were damaged. About 3670.37 hectares of crop area was sand cast. Extensive damage to Rural Roads, PWD Roads and river embankments occurred in Nawarangpur, Koraput and Kalahandi Districts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ODRAF teams with power boats and emergency equipments were deployed in Nawarangpur, Koraput and Kalahandi Districts for search and rescue operation.
- Fire brigades with emergency equipments were also deployed for rescue operation.
- 992 persons were rescued and shifted to safer places.
- On requisition of the State Government, 3 persons of Malkangiri who were stranded in river Saberi during flash flood were air rescued by INS, Visakhapatnam.
- 26 free kitchen centres were opened and 24871 persons were provided with cooked foods during flood.
- Emergent relief was sanctioned for a period of 3 to 30 days for the affected people of the flood affected areas of Nawarangpur, Koraput and Kalahandi districts.
- 3747.19 qtl. of rice, 236.40 qtl. of Chuda (flattened rice), 22.65 qtl. of Guda (Jaggery) and 271.62 qtl. Dal have been distributed to the affected people.
- Dry food, candle, match box, kerosene and other materials have also been distributed.
- 84 MT of concentrated cattle feed were provided to Nawarangpur (44 MT), Koraput (20MT) and Kalahandi (20 MT) and distributed to the affected cattle.
- 3495 pieces Polythene have been provided for temporary shelter of the affected people.

- 31 Medical team consisting doctors and paramedical staff have been deployed in the flood affected areas. Halogen Tablets and ORS packets have been provided to flood victims.
- Water pouches have been provided to marooned people. Wells and Tube wells have been disinfected. 13 veterinary teams have been deployed for cattle care. 1580 cattle have been treated.
- District Administrations distributed House Building Assistance, Sand cast assistance, Ex-gratia assistance, Assistance for clothing and utensils, Animal Husbandry assistance through A/C Payee Cheques to beneficiaries.

Funds Released

a) Pure relief measures

Purpose (Assistance)	Funds Released (Rs in Lakh)
Food Assistance	38.00
House Building Assistance	295.79
Sand cast assistance	220.13
Ex-Gratia	11.00
Assistance for clothing & utensils	46.52
Assistance for death of livestock	8.00
Supply of Cattle feed	13.88

b) Repair /Restoration of Infrastructures

An amount of Rs.27.76 crore was sanctioned and released to the Departments mentioned below towards immediate repair/restoration of damaged infrastructures.

Department	Funds Released (Rs in crore)
RD	8.30
W.R	11.85
Works	7.61
Total	27.76

The State Govt. had tackled the flood situation effectively.

Drought

During Monsoon 2010, the State experienced average deficient rainfall of 31.2 percent in June, 14.7 percent in July, 21.0 percent in August and 2.4 percent in September, 2010 from the long term average rainfall. The cumulative average rainfall of the State from June to September 2010 accounts for deficit of 17.3 percent. Deficient rainfall in the State has encountered a severe drought situation.

The Government of Orissa in Revenue and Disaster Management Department Notification No IVF(Crop)-70/2010-41951/R&DM, dated the 12th October 2010 has declared 10,336 villages of 90 Blocks and 104 Wards of 14 Urban Local Bodies in 15 Districts as drought affected having sustained crop loss of 50% and above during Kharif 2010.

The State Govt. have declared a drought package to assist the farmers in the drought hit areas which is under implementation by the concerned Departments and the Collectors.

Package

1. Agriculture input subsidy will be provided to the small and marginal farmers who have sustained crop loss of 50% and above @ Rs.2000 per hectare of land in rainfed /non-irrigated areas and Rs.4000 per hectare of land in areas under assured irrigation. Agriculture input subsidy will also be provided to farmers other than small and marginal farmers at the same rates subject to a ceiling of one hectare per farmer. In case of successive calamities, the subsidy shall be provided to farmer other than small and marginal farmers up to two hectares per farmer.
2. Under Jananidhi Scheme 50,000 Private Lift Irrigation Points will be installed by June 2011.
3. 50% subsidy subject to ceiling of Rs.15,000 will be provided to farmers for procuring plastic / PVC / HDPE pipes for carrying water for irrigation.
4. Defunct Lift Irrigation Points will be revived to make them operational in the drought affected areas. Working Lift Irrigation points will be made operational throughout the State. Rs.10.50 crore has already been sanctioned for the purpose. Further funds shall be provided as per requirement.
5. On payment of 50% of arrear electricity dues, power reconnection will be provided to Lift Irrigation Points within three days. Secretary, Energy Department and Secretary, Water Resources Department will review the progress of revival of Lift Irrigation Points every week.
6. The renovation of Minor Irrigation Projects, check dams, and other works relating to the Department of Water Resources will be started immediately.
7. 2000 check dams will be constructed by June 2011. Priority will be given to drought affected areas.
8. 50% subsidy will be provided on purchase of pumpsets up to 7.5 HP.
9. 75% subsidy will be provided for installing paddle operated / low lift pumps for irrigation.
10. Construction of temporary sand bundhs across flowing nullahs, streams and rivers to divert water for irrigation has already started and funds have already been sanctioned in favour of the Collectors. More funds will be made available depending on progress of work.
11. Diesel subsidy will be given as per demand under the Government of India guidelines / norms in drought affected areas.
12. Pre-Rabi and Rabi seeds such as Groundnut, Mung, Biri, Mustard and Sunflower will be made available at subsidised rates.

13. Kharif short term loans will be re-phased in drought affected areas.
14. Loan for Rabi will be available at the rate of 3% in drought affected areas.
15. Wage employment programmes and farm ponds under “Mo Pokhari” scheme will be started in every village in individual lands of small and marginal farmers. Wage employment will be provided to job seekers up to 200 days on demand. These works has been started from 1st October 2010.
16. Food assistance @ 1 kg per adult and 500 gram per child shall be provided to people in dire need of immediate sustenance up to 60 days, as assessed by the Collectors.
17. Rs.15 crore has been provided to Rural Development Department and Rs.11.50 crore to Housing and Urban Development Department for provision of safe drinking water in water scarcity areas during summer. Adequate tankers will be deployed to provide drinking water.
18. Farmers in the drought declared villages, where crop loss is 50% or more will be allowed 50% remission on compulsory basic water rate.
19. School fees and school examination fees in Government schools in drought affected areas shall be waived.
20. 50% remission in respect of cess on land revenue will be given to farmers where the crop loss is 50% or more. Collection of the remaining amount will be deferred to the next financial year without levying any interest.

Funds sanctioned

Item	Department / Collector	Amount
Agriculture input Subsidy	Agriculture Department	Rs.20 crore
Revival of LI Points	WoDR	Rs.10.50 crore
Construction of Cross Bundh for diverting water to save standing crops.	Collectors (4 districts)	Rs.2.46 crore Other districts have been authorized to incur expenditure for construction of cross Bundhs.
Drinking water	RD Department - H & UD Department	Rs.14.50 crore Rs.11.50 crore

Submission of Memorandum

The State Government submitted a preliminary Memorandum on drought 2010 to Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on 12.10.2010 seeking Central Assistance of Rs.1516.74 crore out of NCCF. The detailed memorandum is under preparation.

General

1. Heat wave has been affecting the State every year in which several lives are lost in spite of adequate preventive and preparedness measures taken by the Government. The Government

of India is yet to declare it as a calamity so as the victims to be eligible for assistance under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) / State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

2. Similarly, more lives are lost due to lightning every year compared to any other calamity. But the Government of India have not yet recognized it as a calamity for assistance under the CRF / SDRF in spite of repeated requests by the State Government.

3. National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP)

(a) In order to survey/re-survey the revenue land in the country National Land Records Modernisation Programme (NLRMP) has been introduced by Government of India since 2008-09. Under NLRMP Survey/Re-survey and Updation of Survey and Settlement in our State is being taken up with 50:50 sharing basis between Government of India and the State Government with Hi-tech methods. A programme has been chalked out to complete this Hi-tech survey /settlement in the State within a period of 5 years from 2008-09 to 2015-16. In the 1st Phase, 4 districts namely Ganjam, Keonjhar, Cuttack and Khurda are selected to be covered up under this Programme. Programme has already been started in these districts. In the 2nd Phase, 3 more districts like Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Bhadrak has been taken up. The whole process will be completed by 2015-16.

An amount of Rs.1613.606 lakhs has been released towards implementation of 1st phase Programme of NLRMP. For the 2nd phase, an amount of Rs.458.025 lakhs has already been released out of the total estimate cost of Rs.2778.606 lakhs. Steps are being taken to release the balance fund.

- (b) Hi-tech cadastral resurvey of two villages of Pitambarpur Sasan and Bije Padmanavpur of Digapahandi Block under Ganjam district as a pilot project has been completed.
- (c) Scanning of cadastral maps of whole state has been completed and its digitization and validation is in progress.

4. Creation of Revenue villages:

As regards declaration of hamlets into revenue villages, it may be mentioned that, Board of Revenue, Orissa; Director, Land Records and Surveys, Orissa as well as all Collectors have been instructed suitably to take immediate steps to dispose of all pending proposals on conversion of eligible hamlets into revenue villages and also to identify other eligible hamlets for consideration.

However, due to ongoing Census Operations, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India has banned changes of existing boundaries of the administrative units like Municipality, Revenue Villages, Tahasils etc. from 1st January, 2010 to 31st March, 2011. After lifting of the ban, expeditious steps will be taken to declare all eligible hamlets as Revenue Villages.

5. Settlement Operation :

Out of the total 51551 revenue villages in the State, 48719 villages were brought under 1st round Survey & Settlement Operation since 1962. Final publication ROR has been done in respect of 48585 villages leaving a balance of 134 villages. Out of these 134 villages, 103 villages are above Draft Publication and Objecting Hearing (DP & OH) State and 31 villages are at the Kistwar-Khanapuri stage. Expeditious steps are being taken to complete the operation in these 134 villages.

In the 2nd round, 12359 villages have been notified for Revision Survey and Settlement Operation. Work has been completed in respect of 8746 villages. Of the remaining 3613 villages, 1593 are above DP & OH stage and 2020 are below DP & OH.

For expeditious completion of Settlement Operation in the state, a high level meeting was held on 10.8.2010 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & D.M. In the said meeting, it was decided to continue Settlement Operation in above 1593 villages which are above DP & OH stage. Besides, Settlement & Survey operation will continue in other villages of Kandhamal District which are below DP & OH Stage. The rest 2012 villages which are below DP & OH stage will be de-notified.

Steps are being taken accordingly to complete the operation on priority basis.

6. Consolidation of Holdings :

The consolidation programmes in the state was first taken up in the year 1974. Out of 51,551 revenue villages of the State, 10,039 villages have been brought under Consolidation Programme. Consolidation operation has been completed in all respect in 7356 villages. The Land Records have been updated U/s 13(4) of the Act in respect of 608 villages. Being found unsuitable, 801 villages have been excluded from the purview of Consolidation operation U/s 5(1) of the OCH & PFL Act, 1972. As per orders of Revisional Courts, consolidation work has been started afresh in 118 villages. Now, 1377 villages are in various stages of consolidation operation.

Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & Disaster Management has recently taken up a high level meeting on 06.09.2010 to discuss various issues relating to Consolidation of Holdings operation in the State. Following decisions were taken :

- a) 232 villages, which don't have land records after survey, and settlement Act came into force and are presently under consolidation operation for the first time are allowed to continue irrespective of the stage, so that land records are prepared and made available for such villages U/s 13(4) of the Act. No further action will be taken beyond section 13(4).
- b) 332 villages where the progress is at / above 9(1) publication are allowed to continue for final publication under section 13(4) of the Act. No further work under consolidation will be taken up after the stage under section 13(4).
- c) 813 villages where no substantive progress has been made are to be de-notified.

7. Land Pass Book :

The State Government have decided to issue land pass books to all the individual land holding families of the state w.e.f. 26.01.2006. The Programme is now being implemented successfully all over the state.

Each Tahasil of the state has been taken as a unit for the purpose. Land pass book can be used as an authentic document for (i) Caste Certificate, (ii) SEBC Certificate for educational purpose,

(iii) Legal heir Certificate for limited purpose, (iv) Income Certificate, (v) Residential certificate, and (vi) Farmer's Identity Card.

By the end of September, 2010 a total no of 25,01,490 land pass books have been distributed in the State. Monthly review is being undertaken regularly to expedite the matter.

8. Disposal of Mutation Cases:

In order to dispose of all pending mutation cases within a stipulated time, a five year prospective plan has been chalked out by the Revenue & Disaster Management Department (2009-10 to 2013-14). Collectors have been instructed to take steps accordingly to dispose of the cases.

Institution and Disposal of Mutation cases during last two years.

Year	Cases pending at the beginning of the year	Cases instituted during the year	Total cases for disposal	Cases disposed of during the year	Balance
2009	1,85,357	2,89,486	5,20,370	3,27,979	1,92,391
2010	1,92,391	2,90,286	4,82,677	2,73,592	2,09,085

9. Revision of Mutation Manual :

Action has been initiated for revision of Mutation Manual to remove the procedural bottlenecks in the correction of ROR of Land holders and reduce the time taken for disposal of mutation cases.

10. Under Section 8-A of OLR Act, 1960 for conversion of Agricultural land for the purpose other than Agriculture

Under section 8-A target of Rs.40 Crores had been fixed towards collection of premium for conversion of agricultural land for the purpose other than agriculture during the year 2009-10. In the said year Rs.47,79,12,198/- was collected as premium which is 119% of the annual target for the year. During the year 2010-11, a sum of Rs.54 Crores has been fixed as target for collection of premium towards conversion of agricultural land for the purpose other than agriculture. As per the information available, up to the end of first quarter i.e. July, 2010 a sum of Rs.15,25,79,529/- has been collected as premium.

Relentless efforts and initiative are undertaken at this level for amendment of section 8-A of OLR Act, 1960 as a revenue earning measure for enhancement of the collection of premium for conversion of agricultural land for the purpose other than agriculture and it is under active consideration of the Government.

11. Land Distribution under the scheme Vasundhara

a) House sites to Homestead less families

Homestead land up to 4 decimal land is being distributed to the homestead less persons for house sites purpose since the year 1974-75. The following beneficiaries have been provided land for homestead purposes.

Year	ST beneficiaries		SC beneficiaries		Other beneficiaries		Total	
	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area
March, 2009 to March, 2010	9026	354.8	3591	144.631	4209	172.85	16828	672.281
April, 2010 to August, 2010	1131	59.447	620	25.397	543	24.035	2294	108.879

b) Waste land for Agriculture Purpose

Government land up to one standard acre is being allotted free of cost to the landless people since 1974-75. The following beneficiaries have been provided agricultural land for agriculture purposes.

Year	ST beneficiaries		SC beneficiaries		Other beneficiaries		Total	
	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area	No.	Area
March, 2009 to March, 2010	860	741.391	331	323.428	493	451.311	1684	1516.130
April, 2010 to August, 2010	219	347.052	134	153.535	206	196.951	559	697.538

c) Regulation 2 of 1956

The Government of Orissa have made necessary amendments to the Regulation-12 of 1956 which came in to force with effect from 4.9.2002. As per the amended provisions of the said Regulation, transfer/alienation of land belonging to ST persons not belonging to Scheduled Tribe has been completely banned. But it is felt necessary to give more facilities to Scheduled Tribes, some more amendments are to be taken up for which the proposal for amendments to Regulation-2 of 1956 had been moved to the Her Excellency, President of India. Hon'ble President of India has been pleased to withhold her Assent from the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Properties (STs) Amendment Regulation, 2009 under Sub-Paragraph-4 of Paragraph-5 of the Fifth Schedule of Constitution of India.

Subsequently, His Excellency, the Governor of Orissa desires to know if any such regulation has been formulated by any other States having Scheduled Areas.

The Secretaries of Revenue as well as SC/ST Development Departments of States having scheduled areas like Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Gujarat were requested to furnish the copy of relevant regulations pertaining to their States to this department to take necessary steps for further modification of the Regulation.

The achievement under Regulation 2 of 1956 is as follows :

No. of cases booked		Disposal of Cases	
No.	Area	No.	Area
5308	6619.393	2279	2004.18

d) MO JAMI MO DIHA

Verification and delivery of possession in respect of Government land allotted to beneficiaries is being made through “MO JAMI MO DIHA” Programme pertaining to Section.-22 & 23 of OLR Act. The achievement is indicated as follows.

e) Ceiling Surplus land allotted to beneficiaries.

7459 nos. of ST persons, 5873 nos. of SC and 5123 nos. of other poor people have been allotted land 5513.473 acres, 5442.036 acres and 4140.742 acres respectively.

Homestead land allotted to beneficiaries.

31757 nos. of ST persons, 19966 nos. of SC and 22218 nos. of other poor people have been allotted land 1092.076 acres, 7186.386 acres and 803.406 acres respectively.

Agricultural land allotted to landless beneficiaries.

7888 nos. of ST persons, 6242 nos. of SC and 7441 nos. of other poor people have been allotted land 8610.328 acres, 6499.643 acres and 7179.479 acres respectively.

12. Settlement of Gramakantha Paramboke, Abadi, Khasmahal and Nazul lands

Gramakantha Paramboke, Abadi, Khasmahal and Nazul lands have been included in the definition of Government land under clause (b) of section 2 of Orissa Government Land Settlement Act, 1962 as amended in 1991 by Orissa Act 1 of 1991.

Lands recorded as Gramakantha Paramboke in the undivided Ganjam and Koraput Districts, Khasmahal lands recorded in the towns of Angul, Talcher, Cuttack, Chandabali, Puri etc. and Abadi (Basti) plots in Western Orissa could not be settled with Raiyati status in favour of the occupants after lapse of about 18 years because of various reasons. The occupants of such land had no transferable right.

To overcome such difficulties, the Orissa Government Land Settlement Act, 1962 was amended by OGLS (Amendment) Act, 2009 notified on 11.9.2009, which has come into force retrospectively w.e.f. 26th February, 2009.

Subsequently, Orissa Government Land Settlement (Amendment) Rules, 2010 have been published on 17th February, 2010.

Under these Rules, all persons lawfully occupying Gramakantha Paramboke, Abadi (Basti) lands as well as Khasmahal and Nazul lands for homestead purposes will be allowed settlement of such lands on permanent basis with heritable and transferable rights. This facility is available to persons who are occupying such lands prior to 26th February, 2006.

Eleven districts viz., Balasore, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh and Subarnapur (11 districts) have no such land.

Time for submitting applications has been extended up to 16th February, 2011.

The information regarding availability of Gramakantha Paramboke, Abadi, Khasmahal and Nazul land in the State and till date disposal of applications with settlement of area is indicated as follows:

Category of land	Area Covered (in Acre)	No. of Families residing	No. of applications received		No. of applications allowed settlement	
			No.	Area (in Acre)	No.	Area (in Acre)
Gramakantha Paramboke	19712.82	487916	330783	8933.78	108986	2580.868
Abadi	9719.104	194287	49127	1629.95	317	8.23
Khasamahhal	1241.968	7809	6945	518.555	3650	307.854
Nazul	1053.013	6452	2548	301.666	50	3.421
Total	31726.905	696464	389403	11384	113003	2900.373

13. Provision of funds for conferment of Land Rights

Provision of funds amounting to Rs.50,000,00/- (Rupees fifty lakh only) has been made in the budget during the financial year 2010-11 for taking up activities like publicity through print and electronic media, collection of applications and distribution of Pattas, printing of forms, publicity material and other stationery related to conferment of land rights in respect of Gramkantha Paramboke, Abadi, Khasmahal and Nazul lands as provided in OGLS (Amendment) Rules, 2010.

This Department has already sanctioned Rs.12,000,00/- (Rupees Twelve lakh only) out of the said amount for such purpose vide sanction order No.31669 dated 7.8.2010.

14. Provision of funds for protection of Government land.

Government have taken vigorous steps for protection of Government land including Gochar land. During the last financial year this Department had sanctioned Rs.4,71,80,000 (Rupees four crore seventy one lakh and eighty thousand only) towards protection of Government land.

During the financial year 2010-11, provision of funds amounting to Rs.5,20,00,000/- (Rupees Five crore and twenty lakh only) has been made in the budget for protection of Government land. Out of the said amount this Department has already sanctioned Rs.1,58,00,000/- (Rupees one crore and fifty eight lakh only) for such purpose.

15. Amendment to Orissa Irrigation Rules, 1961.

Government have brought amendment to the Orissa Irrigation Rules, 1961 regulating drawal of water from any water source for industrial, commercial and other establishment purposes and the rate of license fee has been enhanced in each case. The Orissa Irrigation (Amendment) Rules, 2010 have been made vide Notification No.40666 dated 1.10.2010 of Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

16. E-Registration

E-registration in the state, which has been implemented under the Project “e-dharani” w.e.f. 4th January, 2010 to ensure transparency in the registration process, as it carries photographs of vendor and vendee along with their thumb impressions and signatures, and also aimed to provide a hassle-free registration process to the general public. The project is implemented in all the 30 districts and has been well accepted by the general public. Out of 177 registration offices only 174 registration offices have become operational except in Davidol of Jagatsinghpur and Chitrakonda and Mottu of Malkangiri district. A total amount of Rs.24.676 crore has already been released to IGR from 2007-08 to 2010-11 for smooth operation of e-registration process (Enclosure attached). In the E-registration process the encumbrance certificates are given to the applicants immediately.

Revenue Collection (e-dharani Project Report):

More than 3 Lakhs documents has been registered from e-Registration Application from 4th January 2010 to 31st Oct 2010 where Rs.77.05 Crore collected from Registration Fee and Rs.284.80 Crore collected from Stamp Duty charges.

Month	Registered Documents	Registration Fee (in Crore)	Stamp Fee (in Crore)	User Fee (in Crore)
January	13315	2.60	6.81	0.27
February	27370	6.78	15.75	0.58

March	34671	6.27	124.02	0.76
April	36870	7.78	16.30	0.82
May	41538	8.36	18.45	0.91
June	42920	9.10	19.90	0.90
July	41720	9.89	24.24	0.88
August	31712	8.89	20.11	0.69
September	29460	9.48	23.04	0.63
October	27218	7.89	16.19	0.59
Total	326794	77.05	284.80	7.04

17. Census-2011

The first phase of census operation for the state has been completed which includes house listing operation and the modalities of National Population Registrar. The second phase population census operation is in full swing to ensure census operation a full success. Out of Rs.73.38 crores, an amount of 42.53 crores (57.96 %) has already been sanctioned for Honorarium and Training allowance to the Enumerators and Supervisors for house listing work and contingent expenditure both for house listing and NPR in favour of the concerned Collector-cum-Principal Census Officer for payment out of the provision made in the Annual Budget for the year 2010-11 as per following details.

Items	Amount (Rupees in lakhs)
Honorarium to the Enumerator and Supervisors for house listing	Rs.18,84.674
Training Allowance to the Enumerator and Supervisors for house listing	Rs.471.185
Contingent expenditure for house - listing work	Rs.45.364
Contingent expenditure for NPR	Rs.18.706
Honorarium for clerical Staff	Rs.344.000
Honorarium to the Enumerator and Supervisors for NPR	Rs.1258.095
Training Allowance to the Enumerator and Supervisors for NPR	Rs.231.107
Total	Rs. 4253.14

18. NPR for Coastal Security

The 1st phase of NPR work in 473 villages in 6 coastal districts (Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsingpur, Ganjam and Puri) from July 2009 to January, 2010. All relevant information from the villagers have been collected and photography along with finger biometrics have been gathered from these villages. Local Registrar of Usual Residents (LRUR) and Local Registrar of Non Usual Residents

(LRNUR) are already printed and under the process for display in respective villages for inviting objections.

19. Work undertaken by the Directorate of Resettlement & Rehabilitation

- Consent award rules have been finalised by the Government. This will facilitate and expedite the acquisition of private land through negotiation for development projects. This is a significant achievement as land acquisition is the most critical factor for timely execution of development projects.
- The Government in the Revenue & DM Department is implementing 'Project Punarbas', a software application for Land Acquisition automation and monitoring and evaluation of R & R operations in the state. There are three major components of this system Land Acquisition automation, monitoring and evaluation of R & R operations and Grievance Redressal. The software has been finalized and will be rolled out at the State level shortly.
- Empanelment of organizations for conducting Socio Economic Survey and other surveys has been undertaken. The empanelled list of organizations will be given specific and exhaustive training on conducting the surveys. This will streamline the process and help developing baseline data of industries projects.
- Two documentaries on Resettlement & Rehabilitation have been prepared. One of the documentaries deals with the genesis and development of the Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 It is titled - 'Where Shall I Go.' The other documentary deals with the best practices on Resettlement & Rehabilitation in the State of Orissa. This is titled - 'Pragatira Nutan Sakala'. The documentary on best practices has been telecast in Doordarshan. It will shortly be telecast in GRAMSAT as well.
- A TV show on R&R was organized by Doordarshan. Director, R&R and Ex-officio Additional Secretary to Govt. R & D.M Deptt.; Dr. A.B. Ota, Director, SCSTRTI and Sudhir Patnaik were the participants. They addressed various issues and concerns related to R & R and deliberated on various steps to be undertaken for effective R&R operations.
- Two phone-in programmes have been organized through All India Radio (AIR). Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & DM Dept., Director, R&R and Ex-officio Additional Secretary to Govt., R&DM Deptt., Joint Secretary to Govt., R&DM Deptt. Dr A.B. Ota, Director, SCSTRTI participated in the radio phone - in programmes. They directly interacted with the displaced and affected communities and addressed their various queries relating to land acquisition, Displacement and Resettlement & Rehabilitation.
- Village Development Advisory Committees (VDACs) are being formed in various project districts VDACs will be formed at the district level to resolve various issues and concerns related to R & R. It will act as a forum available at local level for addressing various concerns and issues related to R & R. It has representatives from Government Project Authorities, Displaced/ affected communities, local village representatives, etc.
- Around 20 capacity building training programmes on R & R have been organized at the State Divisional and District levels.

- i. Two training programmes have been organized at the State level in collaboration with SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar. Government officials from divisional and district levels dealing with Land Acquisition and R & R were a part of the training programme. Resource persons specializing in the field of R & R imparted training to the participants.
 - ii. At the divisional level, specific training programme related to Grievance Redressal Mechanism' under the chairmanship of RDCs have been held.
 - iii. At the district levels, two training programmes each have been organized in the project districts. One training programme was designed specifically for Government officials and the other was for community volunteers.
- Two exposure visits - within the state have been organized at the District level. Government officials dealing with Land Acquisition and R&R from Lower Suktel Irrigation Project (Bolangir) visited Chelligada Irrigation project, Ganjam and other projects at Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Jajpur to observe and study the best practices in R&R. Another team from Vedanta Alumina Ltd., Jharsuguda also visited the Kalinganagar Industrial Complex, Jajpur.
 - Second issue of the newsletter 'Punarbasa' was printed both in English and Oriya and was widely distributed at the National, State, Divisional and District levels. Third issue of the newsletter 'Punarbasa' is being finalized. It will be printed both in English and Oriya and will be widely distributed.
 - Work has been assigned to SCSTRTI, Bhubaneswar to translate the Orissa Resettlement & Rehabilitation Policy, 2006 into 10 tribal languages. After the translation it will be widely distributed in the districts.
 - Field-visits and Review meetings have been undertaken by Director, R&R to monitor LA and R&R work of various industries. The projects/districts covered include Lower Suktel Irrigation Project, Bolangir; Ordinance Factory, Bolangir; Vedanta Alumina Ltd., Jharsuguda; Aditya Aluminium Ltd., Sambalpur; TATA Steel Ltd., Kalinganagar; Jindal Stainless Ltd., Kalinganagar, etc. Visits were made to the colonies and direct interactions were held with the displaced/affected communities, project authorities, district administration and other stakeholders. Follow-up action is being undertaken to comply with the various observations made.
 - A website for the Directorate of R&R has been hosted in the R&DM website. It is being updated and steps are being taken to get NIC approval for hosting the site independently.
 - A database of industries with their displacement and R&R updates has been prepared. This is updated on a regular basis. It helps in monitoring work related to R&R operations and following-up with the industries / projects.

Indian Democracy at Crossroads

Prof. Surya Narayan Misra

India is the largest functioning democracy in the world. It got freedom during the most sensitive period of world history. Two global wars were fought to make the world safe for democracy. In fact, the second global war accelerated the process of freedom from bondage. Though the armed clash was over yet tension was mounting up due to new ideological rivalry between East and West led by the then Soviet Union and the United States of America. The newly founded United Nations grew amidst the cold war between these two groups. Both political and economic crises were mounting up. The colonial powers were getting stiff resistance from the nationalist struggle. At this juncture, India achieved her independence and adopted a new Constitution which envisaged a parliamentary form of democracy with a federal structure. The Constitution makers were influenced and encouraged by the ideals of the freedom struggle and the wisdom based messages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This led to the birth of the largest Constitution of the world which provided elaborate principles of constitutional democracy and both civil, political and socio-economic rights through the chapters on Fundamental Rights and the directive principles of state policy. The new Constitution became effective on 26 January, 1950. The original

concept of Sovereign Democratic Republic was modified into Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic in 1977 by the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act. The Republic has entered into the Seventh decade. Since 1952 periodic elections have been held and at present the Fifteenth Lok Sabha is functioning since May, 2009.

Structurally, the country has grown from 10 states to 28 states with seven Union Territories. The population has grown from 36 crores to 1.2 billion approximately. It has become the sixth largest economy in the world and is rated as a fast growing industrial country. The literacy rate has grown. In order to provide a smooth Constitutional Democracy, the supreme document has been amended more than 110 times. India is a nuclear power and has joined the elite club of space technology acquired countries. Planning in India is a serious exercise. Yet, the country's track record to fight against poverty, illiteracy and corruption are shockingly below the level of expectation. The largest democracy in the world has moved in the direction of instability and a 'crisis of governability' within a period of six decades. The erosion in political order, gradual decline in value system and a deepening social and economic crises have brought the Indian Political System to a crossroads where the people, the real makers

of history, are required to take decision about the future course amidst uncertainty. It is the greatest paradox of the Indian system that in an apparent phase of 'electoral democracy' or of Galbraith's 'functional anarchy' people have reposed their full faith in the democratic process. This is by far the greatest achievement since independence. Indian people have maintained the democratic system. But the other point in the paradox reflects that while democratic institutions have struck deep roots, the process of democratisation of values and faith is lacking. As a result, particularistic perspectives and aggressive pursuit of self-interests very often clash with community interest.

India is a plural society. It is a sub-continent. It has seven cultural zones, fifty eight sub-cultural zones. All the eight prominent religions of the world have their followers here. Hinduism, the largest faith in India is a concept and it is not religion in the sense Islam/Christianity is. The language scenario is most complex. Twenty-two languages are recognised in the VIII Schedule as languages of the Union. But the number of languages spoken are very large. Language changes in India every thirty miles. Caste as an ancient institution has many presentations. Both the Backward Class Commissions have found the staggering number unhelpful for smooth public policy intervention to remove distortions and disabilities. Thus, appreciation of diversity and attitude of fellow-feeling can be the best course of action in this country having civilisational roots and cultural heritage of its own.

Democracy is the co-winner with Human Rights as the gift of the 20th century. Since India is the largest democracy and the representative democracy is the modern day version both democracy and party system need further analysis in the Indian context. Democracy gets strong roots where its plantation proceeds from social to

economic and then to political. In India, instead of social democracy taking strong roots ahead of economic and political democracy, the political democracy arrived earlier. This delayed the other two variants to have safe germination and growth. As long as equality and social justice are not visibly present only voting rights can not change the profile of a society which was under alien control for centuries.

Eversince the Greek civilisation, the general understanding was that democracy is the government in which people rule over themselves. It is also a government in which everybody has a share. According to constitutional expert Dicey, democracy is a form of government in which the governing body is a comparatively large fraction of the entire nation. Similarly Gettell observed that democracy is that form of government in which the mass of the population possesses the right to share in the exercise of sovereign power. These being the noble features of a democratic system and the countries which boast of being democracies are divided into many incarnations out of which India, though the longest, have one such.

Hearnshaw, in his book "Democracy of the Crossways" said a democratic state, in short, is simply one in which the community as a whole possesses sovereign authority, maintains ultimate control over affairs and determines what sort of governmental machinery shall be set up because democracy as a form of state is not merely a mode of government, but is merely a mode of appointing, controlling and dismissing government. From this statement, it is thus evident that in a democratic state people have the right to give a shape to the government, to appoint it, and to dismiss it. A new government replaces the old one in an election. People also express their will on important matters through the mass media.

The communists provided a new dimension to the democratic thinking and action. They denied the need of democratic government, but emphasised the necessity of a democratic state. A democratic state to them is only a socialist state in which there should be the dictatorship of the proletariat. They dislike the western system of democracy with its economic and social inequalities where domination is of the capitalist class. But the communist state is not a democratic state where there is only one party and where there is no freedom to form other parties. The dictatorship of the proletariat ultimately becomes the dictatorship of the communist party and the power of the state is exercised only by a few leaders of the party.

Hence, democracy which accords public opinion its rightful place and submits to peoples choice through election is supposed to be the best, provided social equality and economic protection through political process are made available.

But, unfortunately the state of the health of democracies in the world today is not bright. Similar is the case of India. The United States is the most affluent democracy and India is the largest democracy. Nepal happens to be the youngest among the democracies. In a survey conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi it was found that though there is strong faith and approval for democracy in South Asia yet the profile of democracy in these countries speak otherwise. There are multiple meaning of democracy in this region. The survey identified six - freedom, justice - welfare, popular rule, elections and parties, peace-security and rule of law features to know the meaning of democracy. Freedom was ahead of justice as the meaning. The others who follow in descending order were popular rule, election and parties, peace-security and rule of law. As

against the above South Asian viewpoint, the Indian opinion was Justice-welfare, popular vote, election and parties, freedom, peace-security and rule of law in descending order.

The survey further indicated that the various constitutional designs that embody the South Asian idea of democracy reflect slippage between the promise and the design of democracy. Even as the founding documents have mostly provided for equal citizenship, equal and enforceable rights and a free and accountable system of political competition to elect sovereign governments, notwithstanding occasional lapses and serious lacunae, the aspiration of the well-being inducing democracy, constraints of socio-economic structures and a new regional and global context have produced tensions, creative as well as disruptive, leading to continual demand for redesign and occasions for constitutional subversion. The gathered opinion said - (i) Constitutional designs do not fully embody the promises of democracy (ii) Equal citizenship rights are available, but cannot be enjoyed in full measure, (iii) constitutional provisions for accountability and autonomy have suffered erosion, (iv) centralisation is the norm, despite federal and decentralising provisions, (v) the system of open party political competition faces hurdles in real life, (vi) government organs are largely immune to public scrutiny and accountability and (vii) mismatch between meaning and design is a source of disruptive and creative tensions.

The above viewpoints of the South Asian people, more prominently by the Indians, speak loudly about the state of health of democracy. The high hopes of the people are not held in high esteem. When they see progress and development in the neighbourhood which are not democracies, their heart burn and they start

questioning about their rights and privileges for which they do not get any satisfactory response.

Democratic institutions play vital role in the indoctrination process. They accord meaningful and operational shape to constitutional design and also both mediate the practice of democracy and connect the evolving democratic order to the people. The above study of CSDS revealed many things. In South Asia though the democratic institutions enjoy formal sanction, this by itself has failed to ensure that they have come to develop roots in society. One implication is that representative institutions have not only suffered from an erosion of autonomy but enjoy a low level of popular trust, often having to yield significant decision making spaces to non-representative institutions. Paradoxically, the study found that most often when these institutions have successfully guarded and asserted their autonomy, they have tended to become less accountable to the people and are seen as reflecting elite interests. The low and differential level of people's trust in institutions is a constant reminder of the gap between the promise and working of democracy in our society. Though the study was meant for South Asia, India occupied a major and visible space in the study and its findings.

Democracy respects diversity. If the design of the democracy provides spaces for the recognition, inclusion and accommodation of spatial and social diversity, the working of democracy has led to differential achievements of this possibility. The CSDS study found that the dominance of the idea of a homogenous nation-state places limits on the imaginative and political possibilities available for negotiation of democracy with diversity. Despite this the countries in the region have been more successful in the accommodation of spatial diversity. Negotiating social diversities has, however, proved more

difficult in the face of the rise of majoritarianism. Political parties are essential ingredients of a democratic order. Without them the representative character of the order becomes inconceivable. The CSDS study also drew conclusion that political parties play a central role in democratic contestation in South Asia. They are the principal vehicles of mass mobilisation. They are most salient site of political attachment and participation. Surprisingly, political parties who play crucial role in democracies, do not have internal democracy. They spread the culture of politics instead of playing politics of culture. Criminalisation of politics and politicisation of criminals have spoiled the party democracy. In India the number of political parties in operation are alarmingly high. In 2009 election 369 political parties contested in the election. In total they fielded 8070 candidates. 333 parties could not secure any seat. Out of the rest 36 parties, 19 could only get 3 or less number of seats. If this is the level of party participation in Indian democratic election, how can people's choice be ascertained.

In this context, it is not out of the place to refer to the evolution of parties and party system in India. Of the 50 parties that are now recognised as National and State parties, 44 have been founded after Independence. A study done on political parties by K.C.Suri (2004) observed that the plural and federal character of our polity has been asserting itself in the party domain. Suri is of the opinion that party system in India may be viewed broadly as consisting of four phases- Congress consolidation and dominance (1952-67), consolidation of opposition parties and emergence of multiparty system (1967-89) period of flux (1989-98) period of coalition era (1998 till date). Parties all over the world, are known for drawing their support largely from specific social classes. In India, the multi-structured society with different regions at different stages of

development, continuous redefining of social relations, the presence of religious minorities in substantial numbers, identities based on caste, the large number of Dalits and the different settings in which the Adivasis live make the picture of party competition and system formation more complex.

During the past six decades, the parties in India have responded to the upsurge of aspirations of people by shaping a welfare state and a participative democracy. Merger and split among political parties being more visible in India have been mainly- due to aspirations of upcoming elites and leadership issues. But in this process the parties which were using money and muscle power to win elections have given safe accommodation to such characters to enter into the deliberative chambers. This trend is on the rise and the democratic process is vitiated when persons with crime record enter into the decision making forums and policy formulation bodies.

In India political parties are criticised for their role. One major complaint against parties is that parties have resorted to populist policies and programmes. Some accuse the parties of indulging in competitive populism.

The world today look at the way Indian democratic order is shaping itself in the third millennium. As one of the best electoral democracies, India is respected outside. But the inner story speaks otherwise. Failure of democracy in India can have a spread effect. Hence, the institutions that are essential to

strengthen the democracy must look inward and reorder themselves in the larger interest of the people at the global level.

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Basic Objectives and Values of the Indian Constitution

Dr. Anil Kumar Mohapatra

The celebration of the diamond jubilee of our Republic and the Constitution last year gives us a satisfying remembrance of the challenge once offered by Lord Birkenhead, the then Secretary of State for India, way back in 1927, who was sceptical about the capacity of the Indians in producing an enduring Constitution to which there would be a fair measure of general approval. Further, we are the largest democracy in the world today, much beyond the perception of the West that a Constitutional government for such a populous, poor and plural society like India would be a mismatch. On both the counts, credit goes to the founding fathers of our Constitution who were both pragmatic and visionary in their approach and attitude while embarking on, what Granville Austin says, ‘perhaps the greatest political venture since that originated in Philadelphia in 1787’¹. In this context, Pandit Nehru’s statement during a debate in the Constituent Assembly (CA) on 8 November 1948 sounds very appropriate to be quoted here. He said, “The Constitution is after all some kind of legal body given to the ways of Government and the life of the people. A Constitution if it is out of touch with the people’s life, aims and aspirations, becomes rather empty: if it falls behind those aims, it drags the people down. It should be something ahead to keep people’s eyes and minds made up

to a certain high mark... Remember this that while we want this Constitution to be as solid and as permanent a structure as we can make it, ... there should be a certain flexibility. If you make anything rigid and permanent, you stop a nation’s growth, the growth of a living, vital, organic people.”² Accordingly, our Constitution was drafted keeping in mind the expectations of the freedom loving Indians of that time leaving enough scope for its dynamism to cater to the needs of future generations as well. In other words, our Constitution instead of being solely ‘the resultant of a parallelogram of forces which operate at the time of its adoption’³ was ‘projected for the unknown future’⁴.

Our leaders had long cherished aspirations and dreams during the arduous course of freedom struggle. To realize them, they were thus passionate about making a fresh start in the form and system of our government substantially different from that of our colonial rulers. Therefore, the arrival of political freedom gave impetus to the drafting of our Constitution. The ‘Constituent Assembly of India’*, which was first set up by the Cabinet Mission plan in 1946; and later restructured following a split in accordance with the Mountbatten Declaration of 3 June 1947, became a sovereign body to frame the Constitution of India. In the process, our Constitution emerged

from that great hall of the CA. As a result, 26 November 1949 and 26 January 1950 became two most important events in Indian history in connection with the Constitution of India. The former marks the day of adoption of the draft Constitution and the latter, stands for the date on which the Constitution of India came into force and thereby, making India a truly sovereign country and a republic as well.

Our Constitution is not just a mere set of fundamental laws that form the basis of governance of our country but it embodies and reflects certain basic values, philosophy and objectives that were held very dear to our founding fathers. These values do find expression in various articles and provisions of our Constitution and mostly, the Preamble to our Constitution embodies ‘the fundamental values and the philosophy on which the Constitution is based’⁵.

The preamble provides a key to unlock and explore the spirit of our Constitution. Without it, a proper appreciation of the objectives and values that find place in our Constitution seems a remote possibility. Therefore, it is essential to turn to the various expressions contained in the Preamble for a better understanding and interpretation of the Indian Constitution. Recognising its importance, the Preamble was amended in 1976 by the 42nd Constitution Amendment Act. According to an eminent Constitutional expert Subhash C. Kashyap, ‘the text of the Preamble stands for the fundamental Constitutional values in which the founding fathers believed, which they wanted to foster among the people of the Republic and which, they hoped, would guide all those who, from generation to generation, were called upon to work’⁶. The values expressed in the Preamble are sovereignty, socialism, secularism, democracy, republican

character, justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, human dignity and the unity and integrity of the Nation. In addition to them, our Constitution promotes respect for diversity and minority rights, accommodates regional and political assertions through federalism and fosters international peace and cooperation.

Before going to discuss the values that our Constitution upholds, and the objectives it has set to achieve, it is of relevance to discuss their correlation. ‘Value’ in a layman’s understanding is that which is very essential or ‘worth having’ for its existence as an entity. In that sense, there are some core values and secondary values of each state. ‘Security of one’s territory’ is definitely a basic or mainstay value of every state; whereas ‘promotion of cultural relations with other states’ could be a lesser value. Objective means what we want to have or we wish to achieve. Here the same values could be the objectives. Thus, objectives and values appear similar since there is a very thin line of difference between the two. For example, social justice or a just society could be both an objective and a value. An objective, usually, is guided by a value. In other words, the objectives set, are directly or indirectly linked with or are drawn from values. There is an integral relationship between them. However, value deals with ‘what’ of the same thing whereas the objective is concerned with the ‘how’ of that. It means that translation of values is the concern of objectives. Sometimes a value may not be an immediate objective but that still exists. Promotion of international peace may belong to that category. And finally, one finds a correlation between and among all the values; no value stands alone and so also the objectives. Each contributes to the other. Let’s now discuss some of basic values and objectives that provide basis and direction to governmental policy decisions.

(i) Sovereignty:

By declaring us as a sovereign entity, Preamble emphasizes complete political freedom.

It implies that our state is internally powerful and externally free. She is free to determine for herself without any external interference. There is none within her to challenge her authority. Only this attribute of sovereignty has made her a member in the comity of nations. Without sovereignty she has no essence. If a state can not freely determine what it wants and how to achieve it, it loses the rationale to exist. Further, sovereignty gives the state the dignity of existence. It would not receive respect from within as well from outside if it does not possess the sovereign status. This suggests that sovereignty is one of the most important values of a state. Therefore, the government is duty bound to defend its sovereignty by preventing any kind of threat to it coming from any entity and direction.

Though our Constitution does not specify where the sovereign authority lies but by mentioning the source of our Constitution as 'We the people of India' it announces to the world that the ultimate sovereignty rests with the people of India as a whole. Political sovereignty is the hinge of our polity. Accordingly, it is implied that the Constitutional authorities and organs of government derive their power only from the people. Therefore, our political system should ensure the support and approval of people to it. Article-51A(c), on the other hand, says that it shall be the duty of every citizen to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.

(ii) Socialism:

The word 'socialist' was added to the Preamble by the 42nd amendment act of 1976 however, several articles of our Constitution were already there giving credence to the ideal. The

fathers of our Constitution had a wider vision of social transformation. Despite all social, economic and political inequality present and inherent in Indian traditional society, our Constitution started a crusade against that order. The Constitution has deliberately imposed on us the ideal of socialist pattern of society – a kind of Indian model of socialism to suit to our needs and temperament. It stands to end all forms of exploitation in all spheres of our existence. Our Constitution directs the state to ensure a planned and coordinated social advance in all fields while preventing concentration of wealth and power in few hands. Our Constitution supports land reforms, promotes the well-being of working class and advocates for social control of all important natural resources and means of production for the wellbeing of all sections. To ensure a basic minimum to all has been the crux of many of our public policies today. Government of India has adopted mixed economy, introduced five year plans and has framed many such laws to achieve the value of socialism in a democratic set up. To achieve the objective of socialism Part-IV of our Constitution has outlined the principles to be followed.

(iii) Secularism:

India is a home to almost all major religions in the world. To keep the followers of all these religions together secularism has been found to be a convenient formula. The ideal of secularism in Indian context implies that our country is not guided by any religion or any religious considerations. However, our polity is not against religions. It allows all its citizens to profess, preach and practice any religion of their liking. Articles from 25 to 28 ensure freedom of religion to all its citizens. Constitution strictly prohibits any discrimination on the ground of religion. All minority communities are granted the right to conserve their distinctive culture and the

right to administer their educational institutions. The Supreme Court in *S.R Bommai v. Union of India* held that secularism was an integral part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Secularism thus is a value in the sense that it supports our plural society. It aims at promoting cohesion among different communities living in India. Despite the Constitutional provisions and safeguards it is unfortunate that we still remain insufficiently secular. That has resulted in communal riots. Therefore, to achieve true secularism has remained a challenging objective.

(iv) Democracy:

India is a democracy. We have adopted parliamentary democracy to ensure a responsible and stable government. As a form of government it derives its authority from the will of the people. The people elect the rulers of the country and the latter remain accountable to the people. The people of India elect their governments at all levels (Union, State and local) by a system of universal adult franchise; popularly known as 'One man one vote'. Elections are held periodically to ensure the approval of the people to the governments at different levels. All the citizens without any discrimination on the basis of caste, creed, colour, sex, religion or education are allowed freedom of speech, thought and expression and also association. Democracy contributes to stability in the society and it secures peaceful change of rulers. It allows dissent and encourages tolerance. It rules by persuasion, not by coercion. It stands for a constitutional government, rule of law, inalienable rights of citizens, independence of judiciary, free and fair elections and freedom of press etc. Therefore, to develop a democratic political culture has been an important objective.

(v) Republic:

As opposed to a monarchy, our Constitution prefers to remain a republic. The

office of the head of the state is elective. This idea strengthens and substantiates democracy that every citizen of India (barring some who are constitutionally disqualified) after attaining a particular age is equally eligible to become the head of the state if he is elected as such. Political equality is its chief message. Any sort of hereditary rule is thus regarded as a disvalue in India.

(vi) Justice:

Justice is called a total value. The fathers of our Constitution knew that political freedom would not automatically solve the socio-economic problems which have been deep rooted. Therefore, they stressed that the positive constructive aspect of political freedom has to be instrumental in the creation of a new social order, based on the doctrine of socio-economic justice. The message of socio-economic justice mentioned in the preamble to our Constitution has been translated into several articles enshrined in part-III and part- IV of the Constitution. A number of practical measures have been taken over the years to create more favourable social conditions for the millions of downtrodden. These include several developmental policies to provide safeguard to minorities, backward, depressed and tribal people. Our constitution abolishes untouchability; prohibits exploitation of the women, children and the weak and advocates for reservation to raise the standard of the people oppressed over ages. Whenever our government undertakes any developmental project it always adds a human face to it. Therefore, this ideal of a just and egalitarian society remains as one of the foremost objectives.

(vii) Liberty:

The blessings of freedom have been preserved and ensured to our citizens through a set of Fundamental Rights. It was well understood by the fathers of our Constitution that the ideal of

democracy was unattainable without the presence of certain minimal rights which are essential for a free and civilized existence. Therefore, the Preamble mentions these essential individual rights such as freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship which are assured to every member of the community against all the authorities of States by Part-III of the Constitution. There are however less number of success stories. Unless all dissenting voice is heard and tolerated and their problems are addressed liberty will be a distant dream.

(viii) Equality:

Every citizen of India is entitled to equality before law and equal protection of law. As a human being everybody has a dignified self. To ensure its full enjoyment inequality in all forms present in our social structure has been prohibited. Our Constitution assures equality of status and opportunity to every citizen for the development of the best in him. Political equality though given in terms of vote but it is not found in all spheres of politics and power. 'Equality before law' in order to be effective requires some economic and education base or grounding. Equality substantiates democracy and justice. It is therefore held as an important value.

(ix) Fraternity:

Fraternity stands for the spirit of common brotherhood. In the absence of that, a plural society like India stands divided. Therefore, to give meaning to all the ideals like justice, liberty and equality our Constitution gives ample stress on fraternity. Democracy has been given the responsibility to generate this spirit of brotherhood amongst all sections of people. This has been a foremost objective to achieve in a country composed of so many races, religions, languages and cultures. Article-51A(e) therefore, declares it as a duty of every citizen of India to promote

harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities. Article 51A(f) further asks each citizen to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture. However, Justice D.D. Basu believes that, "Fraternity will be achieved not only by abolishing untouchability amongst the different sects of the same community, but by abolishing all communal or sectional or even local or provincial anti-social feelings which stand in the way of unity of India."⁷

(x) Dignity of the individual:

Fraternity and dignity of the individuals have a close link. Fraternity is only achievable when the dignity of the individual will be secured and promoted. Therefore, the founding fathers of our Constitution attached supreme importance to it. Our Constitution therefore directs the state through the Directives enshrined in the Part-IV of our Constitution to ensure the development of the quality of life to all sections of people. Our Constitution acknowledges that all citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood (Art.-39 a) and just and humane conditions of work (Art.-42). Article-17 has abolished the practice of untouchability by declaring it as a punishable offence. Our Constitution too directs the state to take steps to put an end to exploitation and poverty.

(xi) Unity and integrity of the Nation:

To maintain the independence of the country intact and enduring, unity and integrity of the nation is very essential. Therefore, the stress has been given on the ideal of fraternity which would foster unity amongst the inhabitants. Without a spirit of brotherhood amongst the people the ideals of unity and integration of people and nation seem unattainable. Our Constitution expects from all the citizens of India to uphold

and protect the unity and integrity of India as a matter of duty.

(xii) International peace and a just international order:

Indian Constitution directs the state to make endeavour to promote international peace and security; maintain just and honourable relations between nations; and foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised people with one another; and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration. Thus India too cherishes the ideal of universal brotherhood beyond our national border. These provisions enshrined in Article 51 of the Indian Constitution have been a beacon light that provides a ray of hope for saving the world from the impending nuclear and environmental catastrophe. To fulfil these objectives India had provided leadership during the heydays of colonialism and also during Cold War. In a changed world scenario characterized by globalization, proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction, climate change and international terrorism, India has been making a constant bid for a permanent seat in the Security Council of the United Nations to provide direction to these world issues.

(xiii) Fundamental Duties:

Our Constitution too prescribes some duties to be performed by the citizens. All these duties though not enforceable in nature but reflect some basic values too. It highlights the values like patriotism, nationalism, humanism, environmentalism, discipline, harmonious living, feminism, scientific temper and inquiry and individual and collective excellence. Article 51A provides a long list of these duties to be observed by all the citizens.

The above account shows how our Constitution is a value loaded document. One may

wonder then about its performance and achievements. In that context, the celebration of the 61st Republic day has been both an inspiring and introspective event. As a positive law, our Constitution has endeavoured to bring about social and political change in our society. At the instance of our Constitution several socio-economic provisions enshrined in the Part-IV in the nature of 'Directive Principles' have been converted into fundamental rights and Constitutional rights. For example, Article 45 has been transformed into a fundamental right in shape of Article 21-A which directs the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the age of six to fourteen years; and similarly, Local Self Government in rural and urban areas have been made regular and uniform throughout the country. In case of the former it is done keeping in mind that education is key to social development and the latter, has been an attempt to revitalize local self governments especially at the village level. In a similar vein several social welfare measures have been taken by the successive governments to raise the standard of living of the people in the lower rungs of the society. The scheme like MGNREGA has been devised to provide employment to all the persons below poverty line at least for 100 days a year. Several measures of land reforms have been introduced and zamindari system has been abolished at the instance of the Constitution. The judiciary, led by the Supreme Court too has played a pro-active role in defending the causes of poor and downtrodden through PILs. Federalism has been carried forward in a way that has led to the devolution of power to the states while not making the Centre impotent. To make our Constitution adaptable to the changing needs and circumstances it has been amended ninety-four times so far. On the whole, despite a plethora of welfare programmes launched by successive

governments and the fine scheme of the Constitutional edifice, our polity faces unprecedented challenges like glaring disparity between haves and have-nots as projected in the increasing number of people Below Poverty Line, regional imbalances, rising of militancy having indigenous roots as well as being sponsored from abroad, ideologies not believing in liberal democracies, ethnic conflicts, and challenges from primordial forces like caste and community etc. Democracy too has been plagued by rampant corruption, heinous crimes involved in politics, intra-party conflicts, and perpetual paralysis of parliamentary sessions and people's increasing apathy in participation in developmental programmes and electoral exercises. Even, at times people are hinting at the need for the review of our Constitution and switching over to presidential model. Therefore, sufficient introspection is required from all quarters viz., government to individual via political parties and civil society to make our democracy a vibrant and effective one. Constitution is not failing but we are failing the Constitution. Granville Austin has very appropriately said, "Constitutions do not 'work', they are inert, dependent upon being 'worked' by citizens and elected and appointed leaders." To conclude, what we need to develop is the right type of political culture for sustaining the Constitution which is not just the result of the labour of few months and years as put by the members of the Constituent Assembly but the result of struggle and toil of millions of people in the national movement spanning over nearly a century almost.

On the basis of the Cabinet Mission Plan elections to the CA were held in July and August, 1946. Though these elections were held in three communal divisions i.e. Muslims, Sikhs and General but Orissa Province was an exception to all other Governors' Provinces that it was confined to 'General' category only. The nine members representing Orissa in the

original CA that had its session on 9 December 1946 were: 1. Hon'ble Sri Hare-Krushna Mahtab, 2. Mrs. Malati Chowdhury, 3. Sri Biswanath Das, 4. Sri Bodhram Dube, M.L.A., 5. Sri Lakshminarayan Sahu, M.L.A., 6. Mr. B. Das, 7. Sri Nandakishore Das, 8. Sri Raj Krushna Bose, M.L.A., and 9. Sri Santanu Kumar Das, M.L.A. However, in November 1949 the nine members representing Orissa Province were 1. Hon'ble Sri Hare-Krushna Mahtab, 2. Sri K.C. Gajapati Narayan Deo, 3. Sri Biswanath Das, 4. Sri Lokanath Misra, 5. Sri Lakshminarayan Sahu, M.L.A., 6. Mr. B. Das., 7. Sri Nandakishore Das. 8. Sri Raj Krushna Bose, M.L.A., and 9. Sri Santanu Kumar Das, M.L.A. (Source: Rao, B. Shiva (ed.)(1968), "The Framing of India's Constitution", New Delhi : Indian Institute of Public Administration, pp.93-104.)

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Twentysixth January - Oath and Challenge

Dr. Atul Chandra Pradhan

On 26th January 1950 the Constitution of Independent India came into force and she became a sovereign democratic republic. But 26 January had got the honour and dignity of a national day much earlier. On that day, in 1930, as per the resolution of the annual session of the Indian National Congress, held at Lahore in December, 1929, all over the country people took a pledge for attaining Purna Swaraj or Complete Independence. Part of the pledge is as follows :

"We believe that it is the inalienable right of the Indian people or of any other people to have freedom and to enjoy the fruits of their toil and have the necessities of life so that they may have full opportunities of growth. We believe also that if any government deprives a people of rights and oppresses them, the people have a further right to alter it or abolish it. The British government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe therefore that India must sever the British connection and attain Purna Swaraj or Complete Independence." During our freedom struggle Indian National Congress and other Indian political parties had put forth their right for framing a Constitution for the country. From 1934-35 onwards Congress repeatedly demanded the formation of a Constituent Assembly for India. In July-August 1946 the Constituent Assembly of India was formed by means of indirect election. In spite of Muslim League's boycott of the Constituent Assembly, it started functioning from

9 December 1946. On 11 December Rajendra Prasad was elected as its chairman, and on 13 December Jawaharlal Nehru placed the objectives resolution before the Constituent Assembly. On 22 July 1947 the tri-colour flag with Ashoka *Chakra* was adopted by the Assembly as the national flag of India. While the Constituent Assembly was at work in India, the British Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act. Transfer of power from the British into Indian hands took place on 15 August 1947. On 14 August, at mid night, Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister reiterated the resolve of the nation to rebuild itself in the following words : "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge not wholly or in full manner but very substantially. At the stroke of mid-night hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to freedom and life. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance. It is fitting that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity."

In the meantime with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the chairman a committee of experts prepared a draft Constitution, embodying such provisions as universal adult suffrage, fundamental rights, religious freedom and secularism, parliamentary system of government, federalism with a strong

centre, independent and impartial judiciary etc. After 2473 amendments in the draft the Constitution with 395 Articles and 8 Schedules was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly. The objectives of the Constitution were enshrined in its Preamble in the following words :

Justice - social, economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship. Equality of status and opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the nation.

As soon as the Constitution came into force, the hiatus between the constitutional ideals and political reality increasingly came to light. Though democracy has survived in the face of tremendous odds, yet it can not be said to be functioning as it should. Western theorists hold that Indian democratic experiments are merely 'formal' arrangements lacking in 'real substance' of democracy. There may be multiplicity of reasons which would explain the failure of democracy in India. The principal reason seems to be lack of democratic values or norms. As B.R. Ambedkar says -

"Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment. It has to be cultivated. We must realize that our people have yet to learn it. Democracy in India is only a top-dressing on an Indian soil which is essentially undemocratic."

Because of illiteracy, poverty and economic inequality the people have failed to imbibe democratic values and participate in the democratic process. In certain provinces like West Bengal, Andhra, Chhatishgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa certain sections of youth have been drawn into the Maoist movement. Whether the Maoist movement is simply a problem of law and order or a manifestation of poverty, inequality and exploitation needs to be properly examined. The maker of the Constitution B.R. Ambedkar had forewarned that without socio-economic justice and equality political democracy would not work - He said :

"On January 26, 1950 we will have equality in politics and inequality in social and economic life. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy."

What is the basic cause of poverty and economic inequality in this country ? Lethargy or exploitation or corruption in bureaucracy ? Or the magnitude of the problem of poverty in a country like India with its exploding population is simply baffling for any government or human agency. In the Constituent Assembly Nehru said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity. The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and sufferings, so long our work will not be over."

Has our intelligentsia been able to develop this spirit of selfless service.

The precarious situation caused by malfunctioning of democracy has been further aggravated by such factors as regional imbalance, rise of regional parties, formation of coalitions, lack of loyalty to the nation, and politicisation of caste and religion. The presence of secessionist forces and tendencies in Kashmir, Punjab, Tamilnadu and north east has posed grave threats to the unity and integrity of nation. Eruption of violence communal or otherwise in which foreign involvement is suspected has always been lurking. The unholy alliance between Pakistan and China against India is a serious challenge to the external security of India. Under these circumstances years ahead will be years of struggle and sufferings. As citizens of this great country we should take firm resolve to face such challenges on 26 January.

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Constitutional Provisions and Amendments on Fundamental Duties, Right to Education Act and on Secularism

Tarakanta Mohanty

The preamble to the Constitution of India, which has been amended by the 42nd amendment of the constitution came into force on the 18th December, 1976. In the Preamble to the constitution. For the words, “Sovereign Democratic Republic, the words Sovereign Democratic Socialist Secular Democratic Republic” shall be substituted; and for the words, unity of the Nation; the words unity and integrity of the Nation shall be substituted. So the preamble as amended by the 42nd Amendment runs as follows- “We the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Democratic Secular Socialist Republic and to Secure to all its citizens, Justice Social Economic and Political, Liberty of thoughts, expression belief, faith and worship, equality of status and opportunity and promote among them all fraternity security, the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation. In our constituent Assembly this twenty-sixth day of November 1949 do hereby Adopt, Enact and Give Ourselves This Constitution.

Fundamental Duties –

By the 42nd Amendment Bill which came into force on the 18th December, 1976, 10 fundamental duties were first added for the first time in the constitution. These duties were as follows-

- (1) To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions the National Flag and the National Anthem.
- (2) To cherish and follow the noble ideas which inspired our National struggle and Freedom.
- (3) To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
- (4) To defend the country and render the national service when call upon to do so.
- (5) To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood among all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional and sectional diversities, to renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
- (6) To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- (7) To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life and to have compassion for living creatures.
- (8) To develop Scientific temper, humanism and spirit of enquiry and reform.
- (9) To safe guard public properties and reform.

- (10) To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individuals and collective activity so that the Nation constantly rises to the higher level of endeavour and achievement.

Right to Education – 2010

The fundamental rights granted to the people of Indian Constitution are- (1) Right to Equality, (2) Right to Freedom, (3) Freedom of Religion, (4) Cultural and Educational Rights, (5) Rights against Exploitation, (6) Right to Property, (7) Right to constitutional Remedies.

In 2010 April, universal Free and compulsory Education, has received the validity and stated as 8th Fundamental Rights and through out the country children under the age group of 6 to 14 will hence forward receive free and compulsory education. India is considered as the 135th country imparting free and compulsory education within the age group of six to fourteen.

Right to Education Bill

It is worthwhile to mention that in the year 2002 to bring amendment for the 86th time to constitution in the year 2002 a Bill was passed in the House. This Bill was enacted in the year 2009 and later on 1st April 2010 it was being executed across the length and breadth of the country.

The proposed enabling legislation, first mooted by the Kothari commission in 19th and passionately argued for by former Education Minister M.C. Chagla later, before the cabinet six years after the 86th Constitutional amendment made free and compulsory education on fundamental right. Earlier it was a part of the Directive Principle of State Policy.

If this Act is successfully implemented almost 92 lakhs of children who are not attending schools will be directly benefited. All Children irrespective of caste, religion and sex as well as

those children who are backward in the social sector can be able to read.

The main feature of the right to Education is Sarva Sikhya Abhijana.

Orissa Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rule 2010

By 27th September, 2010, the State Govt. finalized the Orissa Right to Free and compulsory Education Rule, 2010.

The Rule has codified the responsibilities of teachers, education officials and local authorities.

As per the notification issued by the school and mass education department, the state govt. has planned to launch a massive awareness programme.

A budget of Rs.13,671 crore has been estimated for the implementation of the Act. Out of this, 55 percent will be borne by the centre and 35 percent will be borne by the state govt.

Awareness programme on right to education, explaining roles and responsibilities to different stake holders has begun on November, 2010. There has to be a great deal of cooperation among the various departments concerned such as Women and Child Departments, Health and Family Welfare Department, Rural Development Department, Panchayatiraj Department and Labour and Employment Departments.

As per the notification, the state has requested the centre to relax the prescribed minimum qualification of teachers. Teacher will be required to acquire a minimum prescribed qualification within five years Act. The teachers will be required to maintenance containing record for every child.

In a bid to implement the Right to Education (RTE) Act in letter and spirit to ensure

free primary education to all children above six years, the state govt. has decided for uniform distribution to all teachers in all schools.

The Act stipulates that the student to teacher ratio should be 30:1 in primary and 35:1 in upper primary schools. The process of transfer of teachers will be concluded by June 15.

The state govt. has decided to form committees in all district headed by collector to conduct a survey of existing strength of teachers on different schools. As per the vacancy positions teachers and Sikhya Sahayaks (para teachers) will be transferred to low staffed schools.

According to the State Government, the State Government requires about 30,000 more schools, additional infrastructure and teacher requirement for implementation of the RTE implementation.

The State will require over Rs.16,000 crore to implement the Act for imparting free Primary Education to the children. The department (School and Mass Education) will make efforts to motivate Children, working on the roadside eateries, railway stations, bus stands and other places to enroll in schools.

Practicability of the Implementation of RTE Act

The Education Act runs into hurdles was opined in a state level convention on Children's Right to Education. The Secretary AOTF was of

the opinion that the educational scenario in Orissa was in a dangerous state. The AOTF is of the opinion that "The State Government has always tried to hideout the actual number of school dropouts." Among others, one of the biggest reason for the high dropout rate in Orissa remains the non-availability of schools." The economic survey report says that there are about 50,063 primary schools (class I to V) in Orissa.

However, the number of Upper Primary School's (Class V to VII) and high schools (VII to X) are 19,067 and 7,800 respectively. The fifth education survey report says that 23 lakh students are pushed out of school every year for the non-availability of schools and this gap has to be breached if the state intends to implement the RTE effectively.

The State Government has instructed all authorities that "No fee, uniform, transfer certificate, enrolment or birth certificates are required during the current academic year. It has provided everything to ensure a child friendly classroom. The state needed a proper complaint redressal system to implement the Act in its true spirit. Article 17(i) of RTE Act, no child would be subjected to physical punishment.

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Indian Constituent Assembly : An Evaluation

Rabindra Kumar Behuria

The first historical session of Indian Constituent Assembly held its meeting on 9th December, 1946 under the chairmanship of Dr. Sachidananda Sinha. On 11th December, it elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its permanent president. The membership of the Constituent Assembly included all eminent Indian leaders. Though the Constituent Assembly consisted of 296 members, the first historical session was attended by only 210 members. Amongst the 210 members who attended the first historical session of the Constituent Assembly, there were 155 high caste Hindus, 30 Schedule Caste representatives, 5 Tribals, 5 Sikhs, 5 Indian Christians, 3 Anglo Indians, 3 Parsis and 4 Muslim members. Though the Constituent Assembly had 80 Muslim members out of total 296 members, their attendance was very poor as because the Muslim league had called upon the Muslim members to boycott the first historical session of Constituent Assembly.

The election results, particularly the big majority secured by the Congress, unnerved the Muslim league. It passed two resolutions. By the first, it withdrew support from the cabinet Mission Plan and by the second it resolved the resort to direct action for achieving Pakistan. It decided to boycott the Constituent Assembly. It celebrated 16th August, 1946 as the Direct Action Day.

At the time of its establishment, the Constituent Assembly was not a sovereign body. It stood organised on the basis of the Cabinet Mission Plan. Its powers were derived from the sovereign authority of British Parliament. Some Indian leaders held the view that the Constituent Assembly was not a sovereign body. However Sardar Patel and Pandit Nehru believed that it was a sovereign body. The Assembly resolved this issue by adopting : "The Assembly should not be dissolved except by a resolution assented to by at least 2/3rd of the whole number of members of the Assembly. Once constituted it could not be dissolved even by Britain." When on 15th August, 1947, India became Independent, the Constituent Assembly became a fully sovereign body and remained so till the inauguration of the Constitution of India. During this period, it acted in a dual capacity : first as the Constituent Assembly engaged in the making of the Indian Constitution, and secondly as the Parliament of India, it remained involved in legislating for the whole of India.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the objectives Resolution on 13th December, 1946. After a full discussion and debate, the Constituent Assembly passed the objectives Resolution on 22nd January, 1947. It clearly laid down the ideological foundations and values of the Indian

Constitution and it guided the work of the Constituent Assembly.

The objectives Resolution passed and adopted by the Constituent Assembly read as under :

1. "The Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for the future governance a Constitution."

2. Wherein that territories that now comprise British India, the territories that now form the Indian states as well as such other territories as are willing to be constituted in to the Independent Sovereign India, shall be a union of them all; and

3. Wherein the said territories, whether with their present boundaries or with such others as may be determined by the Constituent Assembly and thereafter according to the law of the Constitution shall possess and retain the status of autonomous units, together with residuary powers, and exercise all powers and functions of the government and administration, save and except such powers and functions as are vested in or assigned to the Union, or as are inherent or implied in the Union, on resulting therefrom; and

4. Wherein all power and authority of the Sovereign Independent India, its constituent parts and organs of government, be derived from the people; and

5. Wherein shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India, justice, economic and political; equality of status, and of opportunity before the law, freedom of thought, expression belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action subject to law and public morality; and

6. Wherein adequate safeguards, shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal

areas, and depressed and other backward classes; and

7. Where by shall be maintained the integrity of the territory, the republic and its sovereign rights sea and air according to justice and the law of civilised nations; and

8. The ancient land attains its rightful and honoured place in the world and makes its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind."

The objectives Resolution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 January, 1947. It provided the ideological framework which was to guide the process of framing of Constitution of India.

The Preamble of the Constitution embodies all the ideals which were listed in the objectives Resolution. The objective Resolution was designed to declare the resolve to make India a sovereign, Independent, Republic and to secure all its citizens, fundamental rights, justice, secularism and welfare state as well as to preserve the unity and integrity of the nation. It declared the resolve to make India a democratic Union with an equal level of self government in all constituent parts. It affirmed that all power and authority of the Government is derived from the people. It affirmed the resolve to frame a Constitution which should secure for India a due place in the country of Nations.

On 15th August, 1947, India became independent. A day before, on 14th August, Pakistan was partitioned out of India. The Constituent Assembly of India then got a sovereign status and started undertaking the task of formulating the Constitution of India with a new zeal and enthusiasm. For conducting its work in a systematic and efficient manner, the Constituent Assembly constituted several committees which

were to report on the subjects assigned to them. Some of these committees were committees on procedural matters while others were committees on substantive matters. The reports of these committees provided the bricks and mortar for the formulation of the Constitution of India.

In the making of the Constitution, a very valuable role was played by the Drafting Committee. The Committee was constituted on 29th August, 1947 with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as its chairman. The members of this committee included its versatile chairman Dr. Ambedkar, as such legal luminaries as B.L.Mitter, N. Gopalswami Ayyanagar, Alladi Krishnaswami Ayyar, K.M. Munshi, Saiyid Mohd Saadulla, N. Madhab Rao and D.P. Khaitan. After the death of Mr. D.P. Khaitan, T.T. Krishnamachari was made its member. Dr. B.N. Rau worked as the Chief Constitutional Advisor attached to this Committee.

The Drafting Committee submitted its report (draft) to the Constituent Assembly on 21st February, 1948 and the Constituent Assembly held debates on it. On the basis of these discussions, a new draft was prepared by the Drafting Committee and submitted to the Assembly on 4th November, 1948. From 14th November, 1949 to 26th November, 1949 the final debate was held on the draft. On 26th November, 1949, the Constitution was finally adopted and enacted when the Constitution was signed by the president of the Constituent Assembly. In the words of Granville Austin "the adoption of the Constitution of India was the greatest political venture since the Philadelphia convention."

Some of the provisions came into operation immediately while as a whole the Constitution was inaugurated on 26th January, 1950. It is significant to mention that this day was

observed as the Independence Day every year as long as the British Rule in India. Later, in order to perpetuate the memory of the great pledge of the "Purna Swaraj Day" 26th January 1950 was chosen to be the day of the commencement of our Constitution and was declared as Republic with Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its first President.

This is in brief, an account of the making of Indian Constitution by the Constituent Assembly. It took the Constituent Assembly 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to accomplish the task of making the Constitution. In all it held 11 plenary sessions and discussions were held for 114 days. Rs.6,396,273 were spent in this exercise. Constitution of India is indeed the highest and most valuable contribution of the Constituent Assembly to the Indian Political System.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad observed, "I desire to congratulate the Assembly on accomplishing a task of such tremendous magnitude. It is not my purpose to appraise the value of the work that the Assembly has done or the merits and demerits of the Constitution which it has framed, I am content to leave that to others and posterity."

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From Satya to Sadbhavana

Rekha Mohanty

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly referred to as 'Mahatma', was a sincere worker, co-ordinator, organiser; confident, dedicated and determined person. He symbolised actions; detached but purposeful, complete and resolute. Gandhiji was an idea and purpose; the idea of pursuit and purpose behind the pursuit. Gandhiji was a concept; a temporary concept that changed into an eternal deathless concept during his lifetime. Gandhiji was the mouth, the mouthpiece and the sound; the vibrating and echoing sound of millions of people, and spoke through millions of mouths. Gandhiji was both a Karma Yogi and Bhava Yogi; one that was able to transform each idea into action. Gandhi was an inspiration, an impetus, one that inspired a multitude in a moment.

Though, he was a traveller, he became a path. Gandhiji was a weapon; a sharp double-edged; automatic and effective; rare and powerful; but non-violent weapon. A weapon that illumined the truth and wiped out falsehood and impurities. He was a soul who praised, enhanced and utilised the qualities of others; he added qualities and increased the value of existing qualities. Gandhiji usually remained quiet, kept others quiet and pacified. He loved and liked peace. Non-violence was his strength and non-cooperation was his favourite, simple or difficult path. Gandhiji was a substitute to the desires and wishes of all others, but there was no substitute to Gandhi. There is no substitute to Gandhiji even now.

IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

02.10.1869	Birth in Porbandar; a part of Kathiabada state; in a Vaishya family; Grand father was a Deewan. Parents : Karamchand Gandhi and Putali Bai and impact of Shrivana and Harishchandra.
May, 1883	Married to Kasturba when a student in a High School. They had four sons Hari Lal born in 1888; Mani Lal born in 1892; Ramdas born in 1897; Devdas born in 1900.
4.9.1888	Went to Southempton at the age of 18 to become a Barrister.
10.6.1891	Returned to India after passing the Law Exam. Got the sad news of demise of his mother; started Law practice in Mumbai.

April, 1893	Went to Africa in the invitation of Abdullah and Co., Durban. After a week went to Pretoria.
November, 1896	Went to Natal and returned back to Durban along with wife and children.
1901	Returned back to India, met Gokhale, travelled throughout India.
1908	Went to Africa.
1893-1914	Civil Rights Movement in South Africa.
January, 1915	Returned to India, established Ashram. Begins his struggle for Indian Independence. Met Gopal Krishna Gokhale; joined and addressed Indian National Congress.
February, 1916	Went to Benares Hindu University.
15 April, 1917	Visit to Champaran, started Kisan Movement, established basic schools.
April, 1918	Gandhi supported the empire during the World War-I and agreed to help recruit Indians for the War. Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha and Kisan Andolan.
13 April, 1919	Jaliwanwalla Bagh, Gandhi kept fast for three days, announced that 52,000 died and 3,600 were injured.
December, 1921	Reorganised Congress, Swaraj was declared to be the goal.
February, 1922	Chauri Chaura, Gandhi observed fast.
31.12.1929	Demand for 'Purna Swarajya'.
12.3.1930	Dandi Yatra (21 Miles); Salt Satyagraha, Namak Andolan came to an end when he prepared salt at Dandi. India's Independence Day celebrated in Lahore.
6.4.1930	Prepared salt
November, 1930	First Round Table Conference
5.3.1931	Gandhi-Irwin Pact
29.08.1931	Went to participate in 2nd Round Table Conference.
1936	Lucknow Session of the Congress
9.8.1942	Quit India Movement, Arrested
10.2.1943	Fasting in Aga Khan Palace Prison
February, 1944	Death of Kasturba Gandhi
12.8.1946	Nehru invited to form an Indian Government; Jinnah announced Direct Action Day.
6 October, 1946	Opposed the Partition of India to create Pakistan, in the Harijan.

"They can cut me to pieces but they can't make me subscribe to something which I considered to be wrong."

May, 1947	Called to Delhi
15.8.1947	Partition and Freedom
30.1.1948	Killed by Nathu Ram Godse in Birla Bhawan

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS OF GANDHISM

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Truth (Satya) | 4. Simple Living (Sadagi) |
| 2. Non-violence (Ahimsa) | 5. Control (Sanyam) |
| 3. Overall Progress in 7 'Ss' : | 6. Equality (Rama-Rajya) |
| (i) Swasthya (health) | 7. Traditional Profession (Vanshanugatya Uddyam) |
| (ii) Sampati (wealth) | 8. Physical Labour (Sharirika Shram) |
| (iii) Sahitya (literature and study) | 9. Decentralisation (Vikendrikaran) |
| (iv) Savyata (civilisation) | 10. Local Self Government (Gram Panchayat) and |
| (v) Samskriti (culture) | 11. Cottage Industry (Kutir Udyog) |
| (vi) Sadbudhi (Higher intellect) and | |
| (vii) Sadbhavana (compassion) | |

IMPRISONMENTS OF MAHATMA GANDHI

In South Africa

Sl.No.	Date of Arrest	Date of Release	Place
1.	10.01.1908	30.01.1908	Johannesburg
2.	07.10.1908	25.10.1908	Volkstrust
3.	26.10.1908	05.11.1908	Johannesburg
4.	06.11.1908	12.12.1908	Volkstrust
5.	25.02.1909	02.03.1909	Volkstrust
6.	03.03.1909	24.05.1909	Pretoria
7.	06.11.1913	07.11.1913	Charlestown
8.	09.11.1913	12.11.1913	Dundee
9.	12.11.1913	17.11.1913	Volkstrust
10.	18.11.1913	17.12.1913	Bloemfontein

In India

1.	09.04.1919	11.04.1919	Railway Carriage
2.	13.03.1922	20.03.1922	Sabarmati Jail
3.	21.03.1922	11.01.1924	Yervada Jail
4.	12.01.1924	05.02.1924	Yervada Jail
5.	05.05.1930	26.01.1931	Yervada Jail
6.	04.01.1932	08.05.1933	Yervada Jail
7.	01.08.1933	Released for shifting	Sabarmati Jail
8.	02.08.1933	04.08.1933	Yervada Jail
9.	04.08.1933	23.08.1933	Yervada Jail
10.	09.08.1942	06.05.1944	Aga Khan Palace Prison, Poone

FASTS OBSERVED BY MAHATMA GANDHI

Sl. No.	Date of Arrest	Date of Release	Place
1.	01.06.1915	Ahmedabad	Falsehood among Ashram Boys
2.	11.09.1915	Ahmedabad	Against objection to a Harijan
3.	12.09.1915	Ahmedabad	Smoking by an Ashramvasi
4.	12 - 15.06.1916	Ahmedabad	Manila had sent to Harilal
5.	15 - 17.03.1918	Ahmedabad	For the wages of mill-hands
6.	06.04.1919	Mumbai	Started 1st Satyagraha with a fast. Observed fast on 6th April of every year.
7.	13.04.1919	Ahmedabad	Jalianwalla Bagh Massacre. Observed fast on this day every year.
8.	13 - 15.04.1919	Ahmedabad	Riots at Mumbai, Ahmedabad etc.
9.	19 - 21.11.1921	Mumbai	Disturbances in Mumbai caused by the visit of Prince of Wales.
10.	28.11.21, Monday	Ahmedabad	Disturbances in Mumbai. Kept fast from that day, on every Monday, all his life.
11.	12 - 16.02.1922	Bardoli	Massacre at Chauri Chaura
12.	17.30.09.1924	Delhi	For Hindu-Muslim Unity
13.	01 - 07.10.1924	Delhi	For Hindu-Muslim Unity
14.	24 - 30.11.1925	Ahmedabad	Misdeed by boys and girls of the Ashram.

15.	22 - 24.06.1928	Ahmedabad	Some immoral act by an Ashramvasi.
16.	20 - 25.09.1932	Yervada Jail	Against some decision by the Prime Minister of Britain.
17.	03.12.1932	Yervada	To protest against the Government's decision.
18.	08 - 28.05.1933	Parnakuti, Poone	For self-purification
19.	16 - 22.05.1933	Yervada Jail	In protest against the government.
20.	07 - 13.08.1934	Wardha	For injury to Pandit Lalnath
21.	03 - 06.03.1939	Rajkot	Against the Rajkot Ruler
22.	12 - 13.11.1940	Sevagram	Theft by an Ashramvasi
23.	25 - 27.04.1941	Sevagram	Riots in Mumbai and Ahmedabad
24.	29.06.1941	Sevagram	For communal harmony
25.	10.02.1943 to 02.03.1943	Aga Khan Palace Prison	The Government had blamed Congress for disturbances.
26.	20 - 23.10.1946	Delhi	For errors in a letter
27.	15.08.1947	Kolkata	Because of freedom and partition
28.	01 - 03.09.1947	Kolkata	On own birthday
29.	13 - 17.01.1948	Delhi	Against communal riots.

Though, Gandhiji was lean and thin, he was neither unhealthy nor weak. He proved himself to be the most powerful person of his time with his unseen strength, ungauged energy and indomitable spirit. Let's not imitate Gandhiji but try to imbibe his qualities of determination, dedication, non-violence, tolerance, insistence, compassion, cooperation, truthfulness, fearlessness and guidance by example. To me he was all practice, hardly a theory. Therefore, there is no need to preach or praise but practice Gandhism.

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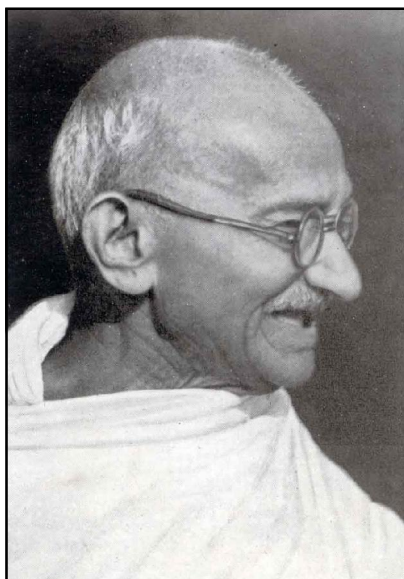
Gandhi's Padayatra in Orissa and Upliftment of Harijans

Dr. Janmejaya Choudhury

In September 1931, Mahatma Gandhi had attended the Second Round Table Conference held in London. In the Conference he spoke eloquently in favour of granting 'dominion status'.

But the session was soon deadlocked on the minorities issue. The main purpose of his visit – Indian freedom- was pushed to the background. Gandhi reached Bombay on 28 December 1931 and the Congress Working Committee with no option but to make token revival of Civil Disobedience Movement.¹ In response to the call of Gandhiji and the Congress Working Committee, the Civil Disobedience Movement was resumed vigorously in Orissa.²

When the movement was continuing with a downward tempo, there came a mischievous proposal, Macdoland's Communal Award of August 1932 for the creation of separate electorates for the untouchables. Gandhiji began a fast unto death on this issue of separate electorate' on 20th September, and was able to secure an agreement between caste Hindu and untouchable leader (Poona Pact) by which the



Award was modified. In the meanwhile Gandhi was turning the country's attention to the Harijan cause and this 'new emphasis' also made adverse effect on the Civil Disobedience Movement. Even

the token revival of Civil Disobedience (Individual Satyagraha) since July 1933 without any attractive programme failed to pick up momentum.³ Congress of Orissa in August 1932, made all out effort to recover the Congress office from the control of the Government and they were successful in reoccupying Swaraj Ashram at Cuttack and Nari Ashram at Baleshwar. The effort of Mahatma to start no-tax campaign through Krushak Sangh could not be fruitful. But under his stewardship Khadar

and spinning centres were organized at different places of Orissa and the Congress activities centered round Gandhian constructive programme till Gandhiji's advent in Orissa for his Harijan Upliftment campaign.

At the end of Civil Disobedience movement, the Harijan movement had started in right earnest in the country. It had a special

significance for Orissa as Gandhiji began his first famous Padayatra to fulfill the mission in the province. One of the major tasks to which Gandhiji was devoted heart and soul was the removal of untouchability - upliftment of the so called Harijans, the children of God. Special attention was given to the problem from the time of Communal Award of the British Prime Minister. On this issue, Gandhi undertook fast unto death on 9th September 1932 in the jail and created sensation throughout the country. Many Indian leaders rushed to Pune and finally arrived at a settlement of the communal problem. That was known as the Poona Pact and the British Government also accepted its terms. Gandhiji broke his fast, but decided to pursue the programmes of uplifting the Harijans in right earnest.⁴ He started an All India Anti-Untouchability League in September 1932 and the weekly 'Harijan' in January 1933. The week following the end of his 'fast unto death' was celebrated throughout India as Untouchability Abolition Week. On 8 May 1933 Gandhiji began a twenty one day fast for 'September Purification' on Harijan cause. Sabarmati Ashram was handed over to Harijan Sevak Sangha. In order to promote the Harijan cause Gandhiji covered 12,500 miles in his all- India tour between November 1933 and August 1934. But radical nationalists were not happy as Gandhiji shifted his attention from the main issue like anti imperialist struggle to Harijan work. So also orthodox Hindus within the Congress did not like his utmost concern for the Harijans. However, Gandhiji's programme of Harijan upliftment while consolidating the socio-political solidarity created a vast base for popular response to the future nationalist cause. His involvement with the cause of the untouchables whom he called Harijans was rooted in deep humanitarianism, planted in him from the very childhood. Gandhiji confessed, "My mother said;

you must not touch this boy, he is an untouchable. Why not ? I questioned back, and from that day my revolt began.⁵ His fight against untouchability was a fight against the impure in humanity.'

Gandhiji's fast unto death aroused great anxiety in the millions in Orissa and they breathed a sigh of relief when his 'fast' ended. His total emphasis was to remove all social disabilities of Harijans. All India Harijan Sevak Sangha was formed with G.D. Birla as its President and A.V.Thakar as Secretary. A branch of Harijan Sevak Sangha was organized at Cuttack under the chairmanship of Balunkeswar Acharya, a renowned Kabiraj of Cuttack. Smt. Rama Devi, Laxmi Narayan Mishra and Satyanarayan Sengupta were chosen as Secretaries. Acharya Harihar Das, H.K.Mahatab, Bichitrananda Das, Radhanath Rath and Gunanidhi Mahanty were its prominent members. All over country the Civil Disobedience Movement gradually petered out, but in Orissa the sparks and flashes of the Movement remained alive due to Gandhiji's first famous Padayatra for Harijan welfare work which helped indirectly to mobilize the lowest and most oppressed sections of the rural society for the cause freedom struggle. When the movement began to fritter away most of the leaders including Gopabandhu Choudhury, Rama Devi and most of the Congress leaders devoted themselves enthusiastically to the cause of the Harijan welfare movement in Orissa. Mukunda Prasad Das and Bhagabat Mahapatra guided the movement in Baleswer and Bhadrak respectively.⁶ Pt. Nilakantha Das and Lokanath Mishra guided the movement in Puri, Nrusingh Guru guided the Sambalpur, Jagannath Das, Fanindra Nath Samal and Narayan Chandra Ghose actively guided the Jajpur. For the promotion of education among the Harijan he promised special aid for Orissa. Many leading Congressmen evinced much interest in Harijan work. In fact, with the gradual

decline of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the province, the Congress volunteers enthusiastically undertook the Harijan work.⁷ On behalf of the Utkal Harijan Sevak Sangh, programmees like allowing the untouchables free access to the temples, public ponds and wells, opening of schools and hostels for their children, and teaching them the simple rules of health and hygiene were undertaken with great zeal. The move of Gopabandhu Choudhury, Satyanarayan Sengupta, Radhanath Rath, Raj Krushna Bose and Atal Bihari Acharya to allow the untouchables entry into the temples of Cuttack city was opposed by Parikhit Dash Sharma, the Secretary of 'Utkal Sanatan Dharma Rakshini Sabha'. Das Sarma asserted that "the removal of untouchability would destroy the Sanatan Dharma."⁸ The move of Nilakantha Das, Lokanath Mishra, Raghunath Mishra for opening the doors of the temple of Lord Jagannath at Puri for the people of all castes was opposed by the Raja of Puri, Mahant of Emar Math, Hariram Goenka and other members of Sanatan Dharma Rakhini Sabha. But in various places of Orissa, gradually more and more temples were thrown open to the Harijans. Subsequently, the caste Hindus employed the Harijans, accepted them and they were encouraged to participate in the public dinners. This process of socialization and interaction made a great impact on both rural and urban life of Orissa. Steps were taken by Rama Devi and Naimavati Devi for the promotion of education among Harijan children. On behalf of Anti-Untouchability Board, Rama Devi and her associates like Mangala Sengupta, Godavaris Das, Sobha Panda, Annapurna Choudhury, Tulasi Mahanty, Manik Devi and Sushila Devi worked with enthusiasm to promote social well-being of the Harijans.⁹

Gandhiji came to Orissa in May 1934 in this connection. On 5 May he reached Jharsuguda.

Then he travelled to Meramundali. In both the places he addressed public meetings and collected funds for Harijan welfare. From Maramundali he went to Puri. The next day he spent as his day of silence and on 8th May he announced his novel programme for removal of untouchability from the masses by undertaking Padayatra in Orissa. Like an ancient sage propagating his message by sacred marches on foot throughout the countryside, Gandhiji was determined to root out the evil from the Hindu society by his sacred mission which began from Puri, one of the most famous religion centres of the Hindus in India. On May 1934, the Padayatra began along the Puri-Cuttack road.¹⁰ His party included Amritlal Thakur, Mir Behn, Sushila Behn, Uma Bajaj (daughter of Jamnalal Bajaj), Padmabati Devi (wife of Jaya Prakash Narayan), Balaji Govindji Desai, Damodar Das, Kaka Kalekar, K. Butow (a German Juornalist), Gopabandhu Choudhury, Rama Devi, H.K. Mahatab, Nilakanth Das, Raj Krushna Bose, Jadumani Mangaraj, Satya Narayan Sengupta, Bichitrananda Das, Binod Kanungo, Surendra Pattanaik, Sahadeb Das, Gajendra Nath Das, Nanda Kishore Das, Karunakar Panigrahi and many other workers joined Gandhiji's Padayatrra. Larger and larger crowd followed Gandhiji as he marched on. This famous march was not only a novel experiment in India, but also it provided a unique experience for Gandhiji himself. He realized that by travelling on foot though distance covered was much less, yet greater amount of work was done by coming into intimate contact with people. He hoped that the Congress workers in different parts of India would undertake similar Padayatra to every home. In fact, Gandhiji could personally realize the problems of Harijans when he visited several Harijan habitats in course of his march from Puri to Cuttack. At some places he used to visit Harijan Habitats advising them to discard intoxicants and

follow simple rules of health and hygiene. While addressing the public meetings, he urged the caste Hindus to treat the Harijans as their brothers and to give up the curse of untouchability, and warned that 'Hinduism will be effaced altogether' if this evil is not resisted. He visited Gopabandhu Seva Sadan (Kadua Ashram), stayed in its Harijan-boarding, addressed the Brahmins of Purushottampur, who were in favour of the removal of untouchables. At Satyabhamapur, Harijans were invited to dine with the team of Padayatris. At Balianta, Gandhiji performed the ceremony of opening the Conga Bihari temple to all Hindus, including Harijans.¹¹

On 16 May Gandhiji went to Patna to attend the A.I.C.C. meeting and again returned to Orissa on 21st May, 1934. On that day he started the second phase of the programme from Bari, and continued his missionary programme till 7 June 1934 when he reached Bhadrak. On the whole he covered 156 miles in coastal Orissa on Foot. For him it was a sort of spiritual experience and he realized the problems in Indian villages by his long 26 days Padayatra in one of the poorest provinces in India. Gandhiji enjoined his followers to carry on his mission in villages where poverty was mythical and untouchability firmly entrenched.

The Harijan movement in Orissa roused the people to a great extent and made them conscious about the social problem of vast magnitude. The Congress leadership also became aware of the village reconstruction programme which, as Gandhiji wanted, must be undertaken in right earnest. The top Congress leaders in Orissa, inspired by Gandhian ideals, devoted themselves whole-heartedly to build some

Congress centres in remote rural areas for pioneering Harijan, Khadi and other village reconstruction programmes. The Padayatra of Gandhiji in Orissa for Harijan welfare had a tremendous impact on national life. Despite the formidable resistance of the Sanatanists, the pilgrimage of Gandhiji gave a momentum to the programmes like village reconstruction, Harijan welfare and Khadi throughout Orissa and heralded a new era of social emancipation.

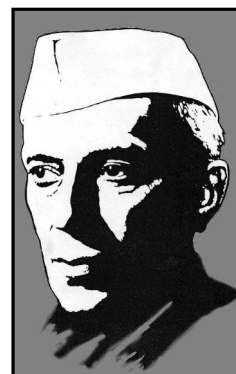
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Nehru and Communalism

Souri Bandhu Kar



Lord Atlee, the Prime Minister of British Government at the time of India's independence, remarked, 'When a nation achieves independence, not infrequently, the years that follow are years of disillusion. The leaders in a struggle of this kind are often better at criticism than constructive thinking. Sometimes they are embittered and filled with old resentments and they seek to root out every vestige of the previous regime. Unaccustomed to administration, on achieving independence they empty out, in trying to get rid of their past, the baby with the bathwater. Rarely is found a man with sufficient breadth of mind and statesmanship to affect a successful transformation, from the old to a new order. India, however, was fortunate in finding in Jawaharlal Nehru a man of exceptional character and wisdom.

How prophetic is this when we look around and find communal holocaust and unscientific temper prevailing in the country. It was his wide vision of world and his sense of history that enabled him to guide the destiny of the newly independent India, during its formative years.

He was the man of the masses and he spoke the language of the people and also the language of science and humanism. Nehru was a crusader against communalism. To Nehru, communalism was just, 'another name for political and social reaction. He regarded communalism

as a scourge dividing the nation and preventing the country's unity. In a foreward to the book 'Dharma Nirapeksh Raj' written by Raghunath Singh, Nehru wrote, 'we talk about a secular state in India. It is perhaps not very easy even to find a good word in Hindi for 'secular'. Some people think that it means something opposed to religion. That obviously is not correct. What it means in that it is a state, which honours all faiths equally and gives them equal opportunities, that, as a state, it does not allow itself to be attached to one faith or religion, which then becomes the state religion.' 'Where the great majority of the people in a state belong to one religion, this fact alone may colour, to some extent, the cultural climate of that state, but nevertheless the state as a state, can remain independent of any particular religion. He was a strong advocate of secularism and scientific temper to our educational system, to our media policies and programmes and to our political culture.

In a speech in the Lok Sabha on 21 December 1955, he said, '...if I may venture to lay down a rule, it is primary responsibility of the majority to satisfy the minority in every matter. The majority, by virtue of it's being a majority, has the strength to have its way: it requires no protection. It is a most undesirable custom to give statutory protection to minorities. It is sometimes for example, to backward classes, but it is not good in the long run. It is the duty and

responsibility of the majority community, whether in the matter of language or religion, to pay particular attention to what the minority wants and to win it over. The majority is strong enough to crush the minority, which might not be protected. Therefore, whenever such a question arises, I am always in favour of the minority.'

'Talking about religion, our's greatly outnumber the others. Nobody is going to push them from that position : they are strong enough. therefore, it is their special responsibility to see that people following the other religions in India feel satisfied that they have full freedom and opportunity. If this principle is applied, most of these troubles and grievances will disappear.' Nehru did not expound secularism by the thinking process, by reading books or understanding history. He experienced it in his long tours all over the country, particularly in the electrifying election tour of 1936, which he described in his postscript to his autobiography and amplified in the *Discovery of India*. He felt exhilarated by the great diversity amidst the unity, which was the force behind the union of India. He delighted in the rich and colorful diversities which made Indian culture composite and many-stranded and not single stranded as the Jansangh and other parties insisted. When Jinnah advocated the two-nation theory, Nehru insisted that there could be many races, many religions, many substations and subcultures within one country. Secularism did not mean negation of religion but the co-existence of all religions, the universality of which is being increasingly accepted. This secular approach is nothing less in essence than the scientific approach. In spite of communal outbreaks, secularism has saved this country and strengthened its integrity.

Nehru has often been described as the only Indian leader with a completely modern scientific mind. This verdict is the result of his

remarkable ability to understand the currents and crosscurrents of the world and constantly to readjust his thinking in the light of the new knowledge. His was the truly inquiring mind of the scientist; at the same time he was a student of history, not in the sense of searching in the past for answers to some of the questions tormenting modern man. He was firmly convinced that man could not discard his past without discarding a vital part of himself; he was equally clear that man could not build the future without discarding all that was undesirable in traditions and ideas from the past and without taking advantage of new ideas and new knowledge.

His writings show that his modern, scientific mind did not shy away from his past. 'The past is ever with us, and all that we are and we have come from the past.' He says, 'we are its products and we live immersed in it. Not to understand it and feel it as something living within us is not to understand the present. To continue it with the present and extend it to the future, to break from it where it cannot be so united, to make of all this the pulsating and vibrating material for thought and action that is life.'

Nehru's emphasis all the time was on the scientific approach to all problems of life, what he called the scientific temper. He had less than two decades in which to do it; and he had to face powerful vested interests engaged, sometimes openly and sometimes surprisingly, in undermining the edifice he was trying to build. Is it not the time again to strengthen secularism and scientific temper, so that the country would march forward which Nehru had visualized ?

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Gopabandhu Das : The National Education Planner of Orissa

Narmada Rath

Pandit Gopabandhu Das was undoubtedly a dominating personality in Orissa in the early part of the 20th century. He was the Bhagirathi of national movement in the Orissa soil and crownless king of Orissa.¹ Not only he was a great leader, patriot, nationalist, journalist, reformer and a humanist but he was also a great national educational planner in our country. During the time of the emergence of Gopabandhu Das, Orissa was a very backward state, in the fields of social, economic, cultural and political. There was no separate political existence in Orissa. Oriya Speaking tracts were lying scattered in different political jurisdiction.

The growing mentality of political and national consciousness among the people of Orissa was very slow. This was because of the fact that most of the people were uneducated, and illiterate because of their extreme poverty. As a result of this, there prevailed numerous irrational and superstitious practices in the society like caste distinctions, untouchability, child marriage etc.



Gopabandhu made all possible efforts to bring about social, political, economic regeneration of Orissa. Therefore he is remembered as a humanist in Orissa history. As a great social worker, he earned much love and respect of all sections of the people of Orissa. He spared no efforts to render his service to the flood affected people of Orissa at their critical time. As an ideal educationalist, he tried for the spread of national education, eradication of untouchability and popularization of widow remarriage etc.

Gopabandhu was a versatile genius and possessed various qualities. He was the founder of the famous Newspaper "The Samaj".² The whole life of Pandit Gopabandhu was dedicated to the cause of suffering people by the British India and flood affected people of Orissa.³ Apart from this his selfless social service and the literary contributions directly or indirectly contributed much for the origin and creation of a separate Orissa province which resulted its creation after the 8 years of

Gopabandhu's death. For his great sacrifices and contributions to the country, he was entitled "Utkalmani" (The jewel of Orissa).

Goapbandhu was sincerely interested in the educational advancement of Orissa. He felt that spread of education is essential for the all round development of Orissa. He was in favour of revival of indigenous system of education for its easy access to all classes of people-rich and poor. To impart education based on an indigenous line, Gopabandhu established Satyabadi Vihar in 1909. There is hardly any doubt that the Satyabadi Vihar made remarkable contribution in the social, cultural and national life of the then Orissa. Gopabandhu's first love was for education and his outlook on this subject was quite different from others. It seems as if he was influenced by the faith and enthusiasm of English utilitarian in the power of education : "if education does not perform everything, there is hardly anything which it does not perform".⁴ He hoped to bring about social transformation through the spread of education but he found fault in the present education system. According to the views of Gopabandhu, "the present education system destroys the Indian values and national individuality".⁵ Gopabandhu wanted a system of education, rooted in the national heritage, that places equal emphasis on the culture of the body, heart and mind, integrates them harmoniously, aims at developing the totality of the individual personality, the education that emancipates the people from the fostering influence of decay and corruption and opens the new vista for a rich and enlightened life, the education that satisfies the innate human impulse to go from darkness to light from ignorance to truth.⁶

Gopabandhu realised that the education was the only medium through which the people of Orissa can be treated as equals with the people

of other provinces.⁷ But he was conscious of the fact that, costly system of education was quite impracticable, in a poor province like Orissa. He was therefore keen on establishing a school on altogether a novel pattern. He had an ardent faith in the ancient Gurukul system. He was very much impressed with the profile of the Deccan Educational Society from his student career. After long consultation with his friends and associates, he devoted his energy for educational experiment at Satyabadi on the model of Deccan Educational Society. He named this experiment as "Universal Education League" and it was built on the "Gurukula" Tradition. Simplicity and austerity were the two major inputs on the students. Great top-ranking intellectuals of the soil who were the close friends of Gopabandhu named Harihara Das, Nilakantha Das, Godavarish Mishra, Krupasindhu Mishra, Basudev Mohapatra, Ananta Mishra etc. associated in this novel venture and formed a universal education league. Gopabandhu believed that when these young men finished their education, and came to join him, it would not be impossible for them to run an institution of his dreams.⁸ The institution was neither local nor sectarian. His basic idea was to impart liberal education to the society. Through this institution he wanted to spread the message of nationalism and moral idealism to train up a generation of practice and selfless young-men who would brave every hardship to free the nation from the oppressive and tyrannical foreign rule. The students received good training in self-discipline, democratic management and life based co-operation.

Gopahandhu founded the "Open air minor school" which later became a High School, near Sakhigopala Temple on the 12th August 1909. There were only 19 students on the roll and he himself was secretary of it. This was the beginning of the great Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya

or the “School in the Grove” which had tremendous impact on the national life of Orissa. The foundation of an ideal open air school known as “Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya” was the first major constructive work of Pandit Gopabandhu Das. As a founder of this School, he was assisted by a band of highly educated and dedicated workers who entirely devoted to work out his plans. All of them joined in this school as teachers giving up the lure of Govt. service. The teachers of this school dedicated their lives to building up their students into an ideal citizens and dispelling social superstitions and prejudices from the surrounding villages, which were mostly inhabited by the conservative Brahmins. They introduced such patterns of education, which was most suitable to Indian Society. He was not in favour of establishing of any English medium school, but his main aim was much higher and it was to create a centre of multi-purpose education which added with different curricular subjects and activities, and the students would be trained in crafts and agriculture with which they would be able to lead an independent life in future. Besides his idea was to train the mind and body of the students by which their personality would be developed. The products of this School were not only patriotic and nationalist workers, they had also provided their excellence in every sphere of life in Orissa in later years. Orissa owes a good deal to Sakhigopal in all aspects of her national life and for this, the period between the rise and fall of the Satyabadi School is considered as the “Satyabadi Age” in Orissa history.⁹

The main aim and objective of this Vidyalaya was to spread idealism, patriotism, nationalism and intellectual awakening among its students in Gurukul Environment. Pandit Gopabandhu had made some untiring efforts for the development of education and society of Orissa. Its basic idea was to impart liberal

education to the community at large. For this Gopabandhu, the founder, soul and life of Satyabadi, used to move about in search of brilliant young men from all over Orissa and made all possible efforts to educate the students, if necessary at the cost of the school. Education in the class room was not the sole aim of this institution. To create a sense of patriotism in the minds of the students and to remind them about the past glories of Orissa, they were given the opportunity to have some excursions and visits to nearby historical places.¹⁰ But these historical excursions were not conducted by rail, car or any other means of transport. They were used to walk the distance on foot. In these visits, there was always an advance guard whose duty was to watch, to pitch the tents and make other necessary arrangements in the place where the party was to spend the night. This type of education was not only pleasant, but also it gave them instruction in important phases of Orissan history.¹¹

The teaching method adopted by Satyabadi School was very interesting. The hostel life of the boys was very free and comfortable as their home. Apart from this, the relationship between the teacher and the student was as close and deep as that like the members of a single family. The headmaster was treated as the headman of the family of teachers and the young teachers and students were treated as like elder brothers and they shared the joys and sorrows of the young persons in their charge united. It was a homely campus where the teachers took active interest in the welfare of the students and also were even anxious to render their help and assistance to them. The teachers used to prepare lesson plans and it was the responsibility of the headmaster to bring about uniformity in the method of instruction to be followed.

They maintained a daily routine of duties which was prepared with some of the harmonious

developments like physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual capabilities of its mates. The regular habits also included early bath, morning and evening prayers, the punctual attendance at the various functions of the day.¹² The Satyabadi School stood against all forms of social evils such as castesim, child marriage, Sati etc. In the hostels of the Satyabadi School the children of all caste Hindus and the untouchables dined together. It created consternation among the orthodox Brahmin Community who looked upon the school as a great challenge to their position in the society.

As there was not availability of a single common room, the Headmaster and others were used to sit in one big hall to have a discussion of the problems of students and the school. The first ten to fifteen minutes were opened for discussion of the courses covered in the previous class, in the beginning of each period. On the other side towards the end of each period, the teachers tried to extract answers from the students on the portions done in that class. In case they had any difficulty in understanding their lessons, the teachers were helping the weaker students. In comparison to the other educational institutions of Orissa and other places of India. the students of Satyabadi School used to sit on the floor with low sloping desks before them. This type of sitting was well suited to the habits in the Indian homes. The educational authorities of Orissa had been convinced of the utility of this sort of seat arrangements and had promulgated them by circulars in their schools.¹³

Literary activities were also encouraged there. Every class in the school used to publish the magazine of their own class in manuscripts. The school magazine was published by the headmaster where both the students and teachers used to contribute their writings through articles. Apart from this, the magazine of class X named

“Bani” was of great importance. Through the publication of the most famous monthly newspapers Gopabandhu first shared his ideas and feelings among the literate and illiterate people of Orissa. There were also “Kabi Sammilanis” or “Poet Corners” organized by the organizers of the school in which both the teachers and students took active participation.

To develop the oratorical abilities among the students of Satyabadi School, Gopabandhu had also organized some debating societies in the school. It was called on every Saturday for a discussion of the different problems. It was obligatory and compulsory on the part of every student to attend the meetings. Occasionally famous personalities and visitors used to visit this school and attended this meeting to address the students.¹⁴ Sometimes, Gopabandhu also used to take part in these meetings as the President or as an ordinary speaker.

Social service activity was also encouraged among the students of Satyabadi School. So wherever and whenever they found a man in distress, they immediately went to that place to help the needy people. During the epidemic seasons, they proceeded towards the village of neighbours for the distribution of medicines among the people and attending them. Besides this during the festive occasions they served the people like volunteers at the pilgrim centres like Puri and Sakhigopal. The students also took part in the service of dying persons, known and unknown to them. In times of flood and famine, the students of Satyabadi School used to collect subscriptions for them. Their vigorous efforts in the relief centers had made them familiar with the realities of life.

Besides the academic education much importance was given to technical training in Satyabadi School in order to enable the youth to

lead an independent life in future. The technical trainings like spinning, weaving, carpentry, agriculture, and cane work were the main subjects of industrial training. Among the above mentioned technical training, spinning was compulsory for all students, and hand weaving for selected big boys. The students were free to choose anyone from the rest of the technical subjects. Seth Jammalal Bajaj kindly contributed 100 Charkhas for using in the Vihar. 25 acres of land had been acquired for training in agriculture. With these distinct features, this institution had originally been started quite free from the direct and indirect control of the Government. It not only was free from administrative control of the Govt. but it also never accepted any grant from any official authority. After a long time it obtained the necessary recognition from the Calcutta University which would have enabled its students to appear at the final examination. During the time of Non-Co- operation Movement in response to the appeal of Gandhiji to spread free National Education, Satyabadi School was converted into a "National School" by Pandit Gopabandhu in 1921. After that the school could function in the earlier manner and the students being inspired by Gopabandhu rushed themselves into the national struggle. The visit of Gandhiji in 1921 to this place gave further impetus to the spirit of the students at Satyabadi School. As a model educational institution, the Satyabadi School became an active centre of Non-Cooperation Movement.

Thus the contributions of Satyabadi School for the growth of all over development in Orissa are very uncommon. The contribution of his man-made machine named "The Satyabadi Bana Vidyalaya" was a great weapon for the national movement.¹⁵ This institution was not only a productive machine of the young men, who were famous everywhere for their deep knowledge, servicing and idealist mentalities but the teachers who worked in this institution were so much

imbued with nationalism, patriotism and social service that they were rightly considered as the makers of modern Orissa.¹⁶

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Stalwarts who made India Proud

Siddhartha Dash

India was the cradle of the first civilization of ancient world. It is a country that has produced a galaxy of great personalities that includes saints and scholars, statesmen, poets, scientists, entrepreneurs and sports persons. They brought glory to their motherland, lit new lamps in areas of darkness, brought new fellowship into being.

Known as “Father of Nation” and “Bapu”, Mahatma Gandhi was a true believer of non-violence. The symbol of peace, truth and non-violence, Gandhiji came with the purpose of securing independence for India. From 1894 to 1914 he lived in South Africa opposing discrimination against Indians. In 1915, returned to India, dominated the Congress Party. He led the Indian National Movement from 1920 till 1947. He launched the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and Quit India Movement (1942). Without weapons or armies, he led India to Independence. He worked for the cause of untouchables and for Hindu-Muslim unity. His main weapons were non-violence, truth, sacrifice and suffering. Gandhi is dead but Gandhism is alive today not only in India but also in the whole world. Gandhiji was the catalyst, if not the initiator, of three major revolutions of the 20th century: the revolutions against colonialism, racism and violence. He is internationally esteemed for his doctrine of non-

violent protest, to achieve political and social progress. Einstein has rightly said that generations to come “will scarcely believe that such a one as this, ever in flesh and blood, walked upon this earth.”

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore is considered as one of the 20th century’s most influential Indian authors. He was a great novelist, playwright, painter, philosopher, educationist, freedom fighter and an actor. On 13th November 1913, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his collection of well known poems Gitanjali. He was the first Asian to get this honour. The British Government honoured him with the title of “Sir”. But a staunch patriot as he was, he returned this title in 1919, in protest against the Jallianawala Bagh tragedy. His concept of education as being related with nature, was carried out in the establishment of the Vishwa Bharati University at Shantiniketan. One of his songs Jana Gana Mana..... was later to become the National Anthem of India. Bangladesh’s national song, other than India’s, is by Tagore. Tagore’s life shows a way to eliminate many problems that ail and assail our villages. At Sriniketan, his attempt was to make the rural people independent and self-reliant. He wanted to set up an institution which would teach the villagers the best methods of agriculture, cattle breeding and the development

of other village crafts like weaving. In 1940 he was conferred the Degree of Doctorate by Oxford University. He was not only an Indian poet but also a poet who was internationally acclaimed.

Jawaharlal Nehru, next to Gandhiji, was the best known leader of India's freedom struggle. As Congress President at the 1929 Lahore session he declared that Complete Independence was the aim of the Congress. Jawaharlal Nehru remained Prime Minister of India from 1947 till his death in 1964. He was the chief architect of Modern India. It must be appreciated that it was Nehru who has played a crucial role in giving democracy and secularism to India. He was a strong believer of democratic socialism. He made all efforts for reconstruction and rapid progress of India through planning and industrialization. He was the founder of the great international principle known as Panchasheela. He was one of the founding fathers of non-alignment movement. Nehru left behind the legacy of an assertive, independent foreign policy. It was based on the principles of anti-imperialism, anti-racialism, non-alignment, Panchasheela, regional cooperation, mutual economic development, faith in the UNO and Commonwealth of Nations. Jawaharlal Nehru played the decisive and overarching role in Indian history in the 20th century.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has generally been called the "Iron Man of India". He was an important Congress leader and like Jawaharlal Nehru a trusted lieutenant of Mahatma Gandhi. He took a leading part in the Bardoli Satyagraha Movement. In 1931 he became the President of Congress. As independent India's first Home and Deputy Prime Minister, Patel brought about the integration of 562 Princely States and redrew the map of India with remarkable speed. Sardar Patel formed the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service and other Central Services to assist

in the process of nation building. Had it not been for Sardar Patel, India would still have been in fragments.

As the unquestioned leader of the depressed classes and the principal architect of the Indian Constitution, the name of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar will always be remembered in Indian history. Deeply anguished by the humiliation and suffering of the 'untouchables', he launched a movement for liberating them from bondage and slavery, and he led it from the front. To him, social democracy precedes political democracy, and freedom from internal slavery is more urgent than freedom from external slavery. He was elected as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. He is rightly regarded as the "Father of India's Constitution". He became the First Law Minister of independent India. Towards the end of his life he embraced Buddhism.

Indira Gandhi was truly the symbol of the soul of India. She was the first and the only female Prime Minister of India (1966-1977, 1980-1984). The Prime Ministership of Indira is credited with great achievements and most noteworthy of these are nationalization of banks, abolition of privy purses, liberation of Bangladesh, 20 point programme for the upliftment of the poor. 1971 was her finest hour: triumph in general election and an astounding feat of diplomatic – military skill by which Bangladesh became liberated. Vajpayee described her as Durga. During her tenure India detonated an underground nuclear device at Pokhran in the deserts of Rajasthan on 18th May 1974. In March 1983, India hosted the seventh summit of the Non-Aligned Movement with Indira Gandhi as its chairperson. The success of the Green Revolution made India self sufficient in food grains and broke its dependence on food imports. She played a great role in the solidarity and unity of India.

J.R.D. Tata was one of the most enterprising Indian entrepreneurs. He was a pioneer aviator and built one of the largest industrial houses of India. When J.R.D. Tata became the Chairman of the Tata Group, it had just 15 companies. Because of his planning the Tata Group grew into 100 companies. Under his guidance, the House of Tata's established the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Tata Memorial Centre for Cancer, Research and Treatment, Mumbai, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and the National Centre for Performing Arts. The Tata Airlines was nationalized in 1953 and split up to form India's chief domestic and international air carriers: Indian Airlines and Air India respectively. Jehangir Tata was recognized as the first citizen of Indian business and today the Tata Group of Companies controlled the largest single aggregations of Indian Industry.

Homi Jehangir Bhabha was the father of India's atomic energy programme. Dr. Bhabha is credited with establishing the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) with the help of eminent industrialist J.R.D. Tata. In 1948, the Atomic Energy Commission was instituted by the Government of India and Dr. Bhabha was appointed its Chairman. He later founded the Atomic Energy Establishment in Trombay. This was named "Bhabha Atomic Research Centre" as a mark of respect for him. Under his expert guidance the nation's first atomic reactor "Apsara" was commissioned in 1956. In 1955, he was elected Chairman of the U.N. sponsored International Conference on the peaceful uses of the atomic energy held in Geneva. In addition to being a famous scientist, Bhabha was also a painter and a classical music and opera enthusiast, besides being an amateur botanist.

M.S. Swaminathan is often referred to as the harbinger of India's green revolution. It was Monkombu Sambisivan Swaminathan who first realised that developing better varieties of seeds was the only solution to make India self sufficient in crops. He accepted a variety of the Mexican wheat to solve the India's crop crisis. He also helped to bring about greater acceptance of modern farming methods. This helped increase India's crop production. Therefore, Swaminathan is often referred to as the harbinger of India's Green Revolution. He has been the recipient of the 1987 World Food Prize considered by many as equivalent to Nobel Prize. A recipient of Magsaysay Award (1971), Volvo Environment Prize (1999), and Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development (2002). In 1999, Time Magazine voted him one of the 20 most influential Asians of the 20th century. He inspired the common Indian farmers to adopt the new and scientific methods of agriculture. As a result of his efforts, country has witnessed dramatic progress in plant conservation and development, and crop production.

Amitabh Bachchan is India's most popular film star ever. He debuted with "Saat Hindustani", his only black and white venture which was released in 1969. Amitabh's first big commercial hit was "Anand" where he featured alongside Rajesh Khanna. It was Prakash Mehra's "Zanzeer", however, which finally catapulted him to fame. After Zanzeer came Amar Akbar Anthony, Deewar, Sholay, Trishul, Muqadar ka Sikandar, Kala Pathar, Shakti, Coolie, Agneepath, Shahenshah, Khuda Gawah and Hum. In the year 2000, after he hosted the TV programme Kaun Banega Crorepati, Star TV catapulted to No. 1 spot, dethroning Zee TV. In a poll survey on BBC, Amitabh Bachchan was named the Star of the Millennium beating top Hollywood legends like Charlie Chaplin, Sir

Laurence Oliver et al. He won the National Film Award for his performance in Black and Paa.

Often referred to as the Little Master or the Master Blaster, Sachin Tendulkar is an Indian cricketer widely recognized as one of the greatest batsmen in the history of cricket. Sir Donald Bradman paid the highest tribute to him when he said that among all the players who played international cricket in the past 50 years, it was Sachin Tendulkar who came closest to his batting style. 14,506 is Tendulkar's current tally in Tests, scored in 175 matches at an average of 56.88. He scored more than 17,000 runs in 442 ODIs. Sachin is the only batsman in the history of

international cricket to have made 96 centuries, in both versions of the game. He is also the first cricketer to receive the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award in 1998. Also named among 25 most powerful global sports figures by American Financial Publication Business Week in October 2008. He is the most sponsored player in world cricket and has a huge following even amongst foreign audience.

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Saina Salonika and Smaraki Mohanty receiving Gold Medal in the Asian Schools Chess Championship from Mr. Ignatius Leong, the FIDE General Secretary and Mr. Upali Gunasekhar on dated 12.12.2010 at Colombo.

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

Dr. Pranab Kumar Ghosh

Ms. Bijoylaxmi Sahoo

“When a knowledgeable old person dies, a whole library disappears.”

-African Proverb

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) is an integral part of the culture and history of a local community. It is evolved through many many years of regular experimentation on the day to day life and available resources surrounded by the community.

It is the unique, traditional, local knowledge existing within and developed around specific condition of men and women indigenous to a particular geographical area.

Definition of ITK

There is no universally accepted definition of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. Many authors have defined it in different ways.

Wang (1980) defined ITK as sum total knowledge and practices which are based on people’s accumulative experiences in dealing with situations and problems in various aspects of life and such practices are special to a particular culture.

According to Farrington and Martin (1991), ITK can be defined as basis for

knowledge, beliefs and customs which are internally consistent and logical to those holding them, but at odd with the objectively deduced findings of formal science, it has comparatively more influence on people than that of modern substitute.

As per IDRC (International Development Research Centre) Report, 1993 – it is a complex concept that reflects on even more complex set of empirical, intellectual, social and spiritual factors that constitute human culture. It refers to the integrated expression of collective values and customs that guide interaction among peoples and between people and nature. Throughout the centuries, societies evolved by learning from experience and transmitting knowledge to younger generations.

The most recent definition given by ‘Gadgil’ – it is a cumulative body of knowledge and beliefs handed down through generations by cultural transmission about the relationship of living beings including humans with one another and their environment. It is unique to a given culture or society.

In a report to the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) Secretariat, the four direction Council of Canada explains that ‘not its antiquity,

but the way it is acquired and used is traditional'. Although the term traditional is ambiguous, it should not to be taken as static and typical but a checking door through which innovations occur.

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge is the actual knowledge of a given population that reflects the experiences based on tradition and includes more recent experiences with modern technologies.

(Haverkort, 1995)

'Traditional Knowledge' refers to tradition – based literacy, artistic or scientific works; performances; inventions; scientific discoveries; designs; marks, names and symbols; undisclosed information; and all other tradition – based innovations and creations resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literacy or artistic fields.

ITK is a community based functional knowledge system, developed, preserved and refined by generations of people through continuous interaction, observation and experimentation with their surrounding environment. It is a dynamic system, ever changing, adopting and adjusting to the local situations and has close links with the culture, civilization and religious practices of the communities.

(Pushpangadan *et al*, 2002)

How Traditional Knowledge (TK) differs from modern knowledge ?

Primarily traditional knowledge differs from modern knowledge in the manner of creation i.e. traditional knowledge is normally empirically validated therefore it is said that Modern Knowledge has been validated in laboratory of brick and mortar whereas traditional knowledge has been validated in the laboratory of life.

Concept of ITK

Normally ITK is the knowledge that people in a given community have developed over time and continue to develop it. It is based on experience, often tested over long period of time, adapted to local culture and environment, dynamic and changing and lay emphasis on minimizing risks rather than maximizing profits.

Significance of ITK

- **Useful for sustenance of the community**

Traditional Knowledge is deep rooted in many countries of the world. This knowledge system is vital for their factor well being and for sustainable development, besides monitoring their cultural liveliness. It is particularly true with respect to the health care systems. World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that 80 percent of the world's population depends on traditional medicine for its primary health care and Traditional Knowledge is indispensable for its survival.

- **Essential for maintenance of the genetic resources for continued survival of the community**

The community have developed the indigenous knowledge system to conserve and utilize the biological diversity of their surrounding. The recognition of the creativity of the traditional communities is essential for the conservation of biodiversity as well as conservation of intellectual diversity.

(Jena, 2007)

Why we document ITK ?

1. Economic, social and political factors are gradually uprooting many such untapped resources from their native habitats resulting in loss and erosion of very rich indigenous knowledge.

2. Rapid pace of acculturation/urbanization has tremendous influence on the lives of indigenous communities.
3. Modernization has resulted into loss of their peculiar culture and heritage.
4. The knowledge survives through word of mouth particularly among the old generation. Documentation of their vital knowledge on different subjects is necessary before the old generation passes away.
5. Documentation has great practical utility in almost every activity of human life such as health, animal health, livestock management, food, agriculture, timber, dye, religious ceremonies, shelter etc.
6. It provides useful clue for planning projects for conservation of biological diversity, sustainable uses of natural resources, indigenous health practices etc.
7. The data is the intellectual property of the informant (individual or community). Benefit sharing should be there when data will be used for raising any benefit.

(Girach, 2007)

Reasons for protecting Traditional Knowledge

There are number of reasons why there is need to protect the Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.

1. To improve the livelihoods of ITK holders and communities

ITK is a valuable asset to indigenous and local communities who depend on ITK for their livelihood as well as to manage and exploit their local ecosystem in sustainable manner. For example, local communities depend on indigenous crop varieties for sustainable agriculture and for selection of superior genotypes from these.

2. To benefit national economy

ITK has been recognized as a valuable input into modern industries such as pharmaceuticals, botanical medicines, cosmetics and toiletries, agriculture and biological pesticides. Most of industries look for the time tested traditional knowledge information for developing novel products having commercial acceptability. Hence, protecting ITK has the potential to improve the economy of many developing countries by greater commercial use of their biological wealth and increasing exports of ITK related products.

3. To conserve the environment

The traditional communities are intelligent and have made agriculture sustainable through their different agricultural practices. They create a balance between the environment and requirement.

4. To prevent biopiracy

Biopiracy refers either to the unauthorized extraction of biological resources and / or associated ITK or to the patenting, without compensation of spurious 'inventions' based on such knowledge or resources.

(Gupta, 2008)

Nature of ITK

1. ITK is dynamic in nature and may include experimentation in the integration of new plant or tree species into existing farming systems or a traditional healer's test of new plant medicines.
2. ITK does not mean that the knowledge is old or non technical in nature, but tradition based – the way in which that knowledge is created, preserved and disseminated.
3. ITK is collective in nature and often considered to be the property of the entire community and not belonging to any single individual within the community.

4. It is transmitted through specific cultural to traditional information exchange mechanism. For example, it is maintained and transmitted orally through elders or specialists (breeders, healers etc.) and often to only a selected few people within a community.

(Singh, 2007)

Special features of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

Some of the features relevant to Indigenous Traditional Knowledge are :

- Locally appropriate and specifically adapted as per the requirement of local conditions.
- Restraint in resources exploitation needed for immediate survival.
- Having diversified production system without overexploitation of a single resource.
- Symbolizes the respect towards nature.
- Flexible for new interventions and integration of green technological advances.
- Inspires the social responsibilities.

(Gairola, 2008)

Different aspects of ITK

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge system consists of an integrated body of knowledge system which tends to focus on different aspects like :

1. **Classification** : Local classification and quantification system of plants, animals, soil, water, air and weather.
2. **Agriculture** : Agricultural farming and crop system, land preparation, crop selection, propagation of plant, sowing, seedling

preparation, plant protection method, harvesting, seed storage and processing.

3. **Human Health** : Nutrition, disease classification system, traditional medicines and herbal remedies in disease treatment, identification of medicinal plants, collection of useful parts or preparation of medicines, storing of medicines.

4. **Animal Care** : Animal breeding and production, traditional fodder and forage species and their specific use, animal disease classification and ethno-veterinary medicines.

5. **Soil Conservation** : Soil conservation practices, use of species for soil conservation and soil fertility, enhancement of practices.

6. **Water** : Traditional water management and water conservation system, traditional techniques for irrigation, use of specific species for water conservation, aquatic resource management.

7. **Agro-forestry** : Management of forest lands and trees, the knowledge and use of forest plants and animals and the inter relationship between trees, crops and soil.

8. **Plants** : As a source of wild food, building material, household tools, minor forest products, fuel wood and medicinal folklore system.

9. **Social networks** : Kinship ties and their effect on power relations, economic strategies and allocation of resources.

10. **World science** : Views of the universe and humanity's place with it, relationship between human and nature, myths, beliefs and customs.

(Prusti, 2002; Girach, 2007)

Sources of ITKs

There are sources of ITK hidden in our village, communities and countryside. The main sources are :

1. Farmers
2. Community leaders
3. Elder persons
4. Folklore, song and poetry
5. Ancient records
6. NGOs
7. Extension agencies
8. Published materials of different languages

(Satapathy *et al*, 2002)

Methods of ITK collection

There are no fixed method for collection of ITK. It depends on type of ITK, situation, people, social system, cultural values and other aspects.

1. Interaction with community leaders or elders
2. Rapid Rural Appraisal
3. Case study
4. Key Informant Method
5. History
6. Interview method
7. Participant observation
8. Brain storming
9. Games
10. Group discussion
11. Field observations
12. Surveys
13. SWOT Analysis

Attempts made to protect ITK

- The Department of Indian Systems of Medicine together with the CSIR has

launched a massive effort to document ITK available in all systems of indigenous medicines in all forms, written and oral and prepare a Digital Library (TKDL).

- Recognition of National *sui generis* system which will protect ITK and derive benefit from there.

- In 1998, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) began a new set of activities designed to explore the Intellectual Property (IP) aspects of the protection of ITK. The main objective of these activities was to identify and explore the IP needs and expectations of the holders of TK in order to promote the contribution of the IP system to their social, cultural and economic development.

- In 4th WTO Ministerial Meeting in Doha, 2001, one of the key issues raised that – there is need of amendments in the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRAIIP) Agreement, so that the members shall require to provide that an application for a patent relating to biological materials or to Traditional Knowledge.

(Gupta, 2008)

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Amartya Sen has said – “Development should be a process of expanding the real freedoms that people enjoy, in other words giving them the opportunities and choices that will enable them to take control of their own lives”. So, it is not a case of talking about people or on their behalf; rather, the role of development policy is to help them articulate and assert their own interests and rights.

The knowledge related to indigenous traditional is depleting day by day because of lack

of awareness about its value and impact, as well as proper documentation. There is an urgent need of effort to document such valuable information for the welfare and betterment of society.

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Members of Orissa Secretariat Data Entry Operators' Association greeting Shri Bijoy Kumar Patnaik, Chief Secretary on New Year's Day at Secretariat on 1.1.2011.

The Socio-Cultural Value of Odia Folkdance : Pala

Dr. Lakshman Kumar Dash

The culture of Utkal (Orissa) is great and spiritually rich. The Almighty Deity Lord Jagannath has adorned this holy land and is being worshipped in the form of wooden image (Daru Bigraha) at Puri-Purusottam region or Shree Kshetra, the religious hub of the Oriyas.¹ The socio-cultural consciousness of the people of Orissa has been tinged with spiritual feelings for their deep love and devotion to Lord Jagannath. At the base of this consciousness lies a perfect blending of religion and ethics which is the epitome of socio-cultural values of the great India. Oriya folk dance Pala is the harbinger of that ethical consciousness - its crusader and carrier. This plays a pivotal role in the field of national integration, religious and cultural synthesis, communal harmony and religious tolerance. The deep socio-cultural impacts of this can be easily perceived and felt after proper analysis.

Various folk dances like 'Chaiti Ghoda Dance', 'Sabara Sabaruni Dance', 'Patara Saura Dance', 'Chhau Dance', 'Sakhi Dance', 'Jhamu fair', 'Dhanu fair', 'Pala', 'Daskathia', 'Kela Keluni Dance' and 'Farce' etc. had greatly influenced the socio-cultural life of art-loving Utkal. Among these, Pala occupies the pivotal position.² It is quite distinctive along the ceaseless flow of Orissa's culture. It has ennobled the social life of Utkal with its quality of amusement, poetic excellence and religious upliftment. It is very important as noted in Folklore of Orissa. "Pala is a popular cultural institution responsible for the popularisation of ancient Oriya literature".³

Even if lot of difference of opinions arise to accept Pala as a popular folk dance yet it has garnered much support in its favour to be considered as a widely acclaimed popular folk art. Pala is directly concerned with the life of common man. Being crowned with the indigenous and special traits of Oriya life, it not only entertains the common man but also inspires him to religious, moral, truthful and spiritual way of life. It is an excellent common art with high intellectual and literary values.⁴

Pala has attained a special position as an indigenous art of Utkal. It possesses two merits - both entertainment and religious upliftment. It has achieved immense popularity for bringing progress to Orissa in fields like religion, culture, literature and social values. It's role in inculcating idealism in human character can never be denied. It is needless to say that Pala, which has so widely influenced the social life of Utkal, is a spiritual and cultural awakening. Before the arrival of printing press in Orissa, it used to help in social, cultural, literary and religious progress. Both the literate and the illiterate were able to achieve the four universal attainments - religion, wealth, desire and salvation (Dharma, Artha, Kama and Mokshya) through Pala. The common man was able to get the spiritual and literary pleasure from Pala easily even without reading the great Hindu epics and mythologies.

Pala is a spiritual institution related to Shree Shree Satyanarayan Puja. It's importance as a successful medium in bringing perfect

blending in between the Oriya tradition and the tradition of the great India.⁵

From the time immemorial of the worship of the Lord Shree Shree Satyanarayan is being observed in this holy land of Utkal. By the study of "Skanda Purana", it is found that the merits of Satyanarayan Puja are vividly presented here. As depicted in the mythologies, Lord Satyanarayan Himself told Narada' about this worship and 'Narada' described it before the saints living in the forest of Naimisa.

It is also observed from historical point of view that, during the reign of the Muslim Rulers, the noble saints of high position both of the Hindu and the Muslim religions tried to bring good harmony between the two religions.

Emperor Akbar preached the virtues of "Din-I-Ilahi". Saint Kabir, even being a devout Muslim, also preached singularity and oneness of both the Hindu and the Muslim Gods. In later period, the Hindu Preacher Shree Chaitanya accepted many muslim disciples and vouchsafed the great and universal qualities of Sanatan or Hindu Religion. Saint Nanak brought a religious harmony by identifying both 'Ram and Rahim' as one. This religious harmony and equilibrium and the revelation of the socio-cultural blending are vividly marked in the folk dance-Pala.

Pala has been originated from the mixed worship of the Hindu Deity - "Satyanarayan" and the Muslim Deity - "Peera". As mentioned by the noted historian Krupasindhu Mishra in his book 'The History of Utkal', the Satyanarayan Puja started in Utkal in the year 1716 during the reign of the Muslim ruler Sujauddin.⁶ In the book "Gradual Progress of Oriya literature" by Pt. Nilakantha Das, Pala originated during the ruler of Hussain Saha of Bengal. Its language was neither Bengali nor Oriya but a unique blending of the both.⁷

Pala has great popularity in both the states of Orissa and Bengal. But, the Pala observed in Orissa is quite different from that observed in

Bengal. According to the researchers, it first originated in Bengal and then spread to Orissa. Kabikarna was the first who wrote sixteen Palas. As collected by the Asiatic Society, the Pala was first enacted in Orissa in 1262 sal on the 26th day of Mina (Pisces), Tuesday, during the reign of Bira Kishore Dev. It was first extracted from the two Palas of Kabikarna-Bidyadhar and Manohar Pala.⁸

Dr. Kunjabihari Das opines that a certain Brahmin of Medinapur first compiled this Pala and most Oriya words were used in its composition. The main aim of Pala, being observed through the worship of Satyanarayan and Satyapeera, is giving spiritual pleasure. So, for the good of the child, there has been the provision of observing sixteen Palas from the day of its christened ceremony till it attains 16 years of age.⁹

This Satyanarayan Puja or Satyapeera Puja is performed only by the Brahmins. This puja is accompanied with song, music and dance. The patriarch of the family along with other members and the neighbours get entertained and spiritually uplifted through this Pala. In certain spheres religious books and mythologies are referred and explained in sweet melodious tone. The chief of the singers is called "Gayaka" and his assistants are called "Palias" or "Co-singers". "It consists of five or six persons. The drummer plays on the 'mridanga', other play on the cymbals, dance and help of chief singer 'Gayak' to sing and explain the meaning to the audience. The depth of knowledge, sharpness of intelligence, oratory and keen memory power are put to a severe test when two well - matched groups challenge each other in a Pala competition. Nothing but unreserved admiration is due to the singers for their inexhaustible energy continue the competition every night stretching over a month. The drummer displays the skill of his fingers and relates humorous stories to please the audience. The dialogue between the singer and one of the attendants breaks the monotony of long speeches and jugglery of words in the song.¹⁰ Along with the

invocation and worship of the five Gods, the mythological discussions give entertainment and spiritual pleasure to the onlookers.

Pala can be started at any time : while it is sung by the singer in a sitting posture surrounding his helpers, it is called "Pothi Pala" and while staged on a decorated altar through a standing posture with song, music, and dance is called "Thia Pala". Similarly, more than one singer singing Pala on a particular stage in different time and turn is called "Badi Pala". The singers of Pala are devoted artists. Through its observation they glorify the nation and at the same time entertain people of all variety beyond caste and creed. They enrich the society and its culture by bringing the legendary facts of the great epics before the public, retaining the qualities of national unity - the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Ramayan, the Mahabharat, the Gita, the Bhagabat, and many mythologies. The common appeal of Pala literature with its social and cultural value is really praiseworthy.

A numerous Pala-singers of this holy land have enriched the society and culture of Utkal through their sacred work of singing Pala. Among them some noted are - Gayak Ratna Harinath, Gayak Samrat Baishnab Charan Pradhan, Gayak Siromani Niranjan Kar, Gayak Sekhar Jagannath Behera, Paramananda Saran, Nari Nath, Ranka Das, Kshetrabasi Das, Niranjan Panda, Agadhu Bhanja, Mani Nath, Duryodhan Panda, Binod Barik, Keshab Kar, Banamali Rath, Krupasindhu Sarangi, Bhabagrahi Sarangi, Damodar Sarangi, Bishwanath Pattajoshi, Markandeswar Bahinipati, Arjuna Das, Dhruva Charan Sarangi, Anirudha Panigrahi, Dharmananda Dixit, Padan Nath, Narayan Mohanty, Dhaneswar Satapathy, Suryamani Behera, Sridhar Debata, Chandrasekhar Dakhinary, Kulamani Satapathy, Krushna Chandra Sahu, Laxmidhar Rout, Kashinath Das, Rajanikanta Prusty, Gayak Sudhakar Nanda Das, Gayak Tilaka Bipra Charan Das etc. They have widened the sphere of Pala in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa through their magical chantings and uplifted the socio-cultural values of Utkal.

Pala carries message of Orissan culture. It is the safeguard of literature. It entertains human mind with religious thought and conscience as well as establishing communal harmony. No doubt everybody admits the important role of Pala in the development of Orissan literature, culture, society and religion. Since long past, the Pala singers with their troupe had tried to keep this art alive by devoting much labour and sacrifice. They brought sensation in human heart exposing them to religion, mythologies, literature and idealism. But, with the flow of time this art is at the verge of extinction. It has lost its popularity for the widespread of electronic media and peoples' attraction towards western way of living. The attraction for T.V., Cinema and theatre has made the present day youth wayward. The scenes of rape, murder, theft and communalism as shown in cinema and theatre instead of the valuable discourses of truth, religion, ethics, and idealism in Pala have corrupted the social life and degraded our culture. In this situation the renovation of the popular art - Pala has been urgently felt.

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The Need for Biodiversity Conservation with Special Reference to Forest Biodiversity of Kalahandi District of Orissa

Manoranjan Pattanayak

Introduction :

Bio means life and diversity means variations. So in general term biodiversity means range of variations among all form of lives whether plants and animals. It is very complex in nature. Till today we do not know how many species of plants and animals exist in this living world. Some Scientists say that it is in between 10 to 80 millions. Out of that only 1.7 millions have been identified and given scientific names. So from this it can be imagined how complex is the biodiversity of the World. Biodiversity can be expressed in terms of genetic and species diversity. The genetic diversity leads to formation of a new species in the process of natural selection through chromosomal mutation in the process of sexual reproduction. The species diversity may be within the species (intra-specific) or in between the species (inter-specific). Lot of variations are observed in any biological ecosystems.

Loss of Biodiversity

Any biological system or ecosystem is dynamic in nature. It is never static. It changes continuously. So at any point of time there may be continuous growth. After sometime the system reaches its peak and then vanishes. It is the law

of the nature. Darwin's theory of evolution of species says one species is lost when it can not cope up with the new surroundings. Another species is created. But this process is very slow and takes millions of years. But due to excessive action of the human being this process is exaggerated now. For example according to a survey from tropical forest 5 plant species are lost in each hour. The species extinction has grown to such an extent that the survival of human being is at risk.

Due to excessive exploitation of the natural resources, loss of biodiversity is taking place at an alarming rate. Some of the major reasons of loss of biodiversity are :

1. Deforestation is the major cause of loss of biodiversity.
2. Shifting cultivation in forest area leads to destruction of forest biodiversity.
3. Increase in livestock population.
4. Destruction of mangrove forest for shrimp cultivation.
5. Diversion of forest land for industry.
6. Loss of evergreen forest area for conversion to tea cultivation.
7. Illicit removal of trees from forests.

Biodiversity Conservation :

The World Conservation strategy gives three basic objectives for natural resources conservation. They are :

- a. Preservation of genetic diversity
- b. Maintenance of essential ecological process
- c. Sustainable use of natural resources

The United Nations Organisation (UNO) conference on environment and development was held at Rio, Brazil in 1992. It emphasized the conservation of rich biodiversity of the world. The biodiversity of plant species maintain the rainfall level. It regulates climate and environment stability. Broadly the biodiversity conservation may be categorized into two types.

1. In-situ Conservation : This method emphasizes that the biodiversity is conserved in its natural state. So that there is healthy competition between the species.

2. Ex-situ Conservation : This method says that the conservation process is done outside the natural habitat of the plant or animal population. Some population of animals or group of plants are maintained in captivity or in cultivation. The establishment of different Botanical Gardens and Zoological Parks are examples of this method. The biggest ex-situ conservation of animals is the Nandankanan Zoological Park at Barang near Bhubaneswar. This method is very cost effective and constant monitoring is necessary for its maintenance some of the major points of biodiversity conservation are :

1. Sustainable use of Biodiversity
2. Conservation of Medicinal Plants

3. Restoration of damage ecosystem
4. Motivation of Local people
5. Utilisation of wasteland for indigenous species
6. Awareness among school children through Eco-club

Forest Biodiversity of Kalahandi district

Let us come to the forest biodiversity of Kalahandi district. The district of Kalahandi occupies the south-west portion of Orissa. It is bounded on the north by Bolangir, south by Nowrangpur and east by Kandhamal district and on west Chhatisgarh state.

Forest are renewable resources covering millions of living organisms of both plants and animals living in perfect harmony with nature. The tropical forest are considered as the most biodiversity rich vegetation of the world. These constitute only 7% of total land surface of the world. The forest of Kalahandi displays a great floristic diversity due to wide variation of topography, altitude, climate and soil. Mostly it belongs to tropical forest, both dry and moist. During Summer season, forest become leafless. The presence of Sal in this district is very remarkable. The natural occurrence of both Sal and teak known as ecotone is special characteristic of this district.

According to Champion and Seth classification of Forest type of India, following forest types are seen. Besides there are numerous subtypes also.

a. Tropical Moist deciduous Forest.

This forest type is seen in M. Rampur, Thuamul Rampur, Narla area. Some plant species are *Xylia xylocarpa*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Adina*

cordifolia, Terminalia tomentosa, Pterocarpus marsupium, Syzygium cumini, Terminalia Arjuna, Terminalia bellerica etc.

b. Southern dry deciduous forest :

This type of forest is seen in Kegaon, Kesinga area. Some plant species are Boswellia serata, Acacia catechu, Cassia fistula, Langerstroemia parvifolia, Anogeissus latifolia, Aegle marmelos Delbergia paniculata etc.

c. Dry bamboo breaks:

It is found in Th. Rampur part of Karlapat Keogaon area. The bamboos are found forming a pure crop in steep and dry hills which were subjected to shifting cultivation in the past. The common species is dendrocalamus strictus.

Conclusion

The Forest of Kalahandi has got South Indian affinity. The rare type of flora and fauna

are unique in its habitat. So proper steps may be taken for safeguard of these unique biodiversity to save it from further degradation.

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His Excellency the Governor Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare handing over the keys of a tractor to a beneficiary at Nayagarh on 10.1.2011.

RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism

(An initiative by Information & Public Relations Department, Govt. of Orissa)

The RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism put up by Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Orissa earned the rare acclaim of winning India e-gov 2.0 Awards 2010 as the most user-friendly website in the whole country.

As an offshoot of good governance initiative, RTI Act, 2005 primarily intends to effect transparency and accountability in the system of governance, thus, containing corruption in the service delivery mechanism. Department of Information & Public Relations is functioning as the Nodal Department for implementation of this Act in the Govt. of Orissa. In order to implement this Act effectively and efficiently, the Nodal Department evolved an appropriate mechanism in the form of 'RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism' (www.rtiorissa.gov.in) to fully comply with all mandatory provisions of the RTI Act, 2005 and track the progress in a single network. This is a web-based centralized database system hosted on web server provided by NIC, Govt. of India. This project became fully operational from 1st October, 2010.

Why was the project started ?

Even though the Nodal Department of Govt. of Orissa issued many orders & instructions to all Govt. Departments to implement RTI, still the Compliance from the Department & authorities

were not up to the mark. It was, thus, leading to a helpless situation for RTI implementation in the State of Orissa and Nodal Department was under tremendous pressure from Orissa Information Commission.

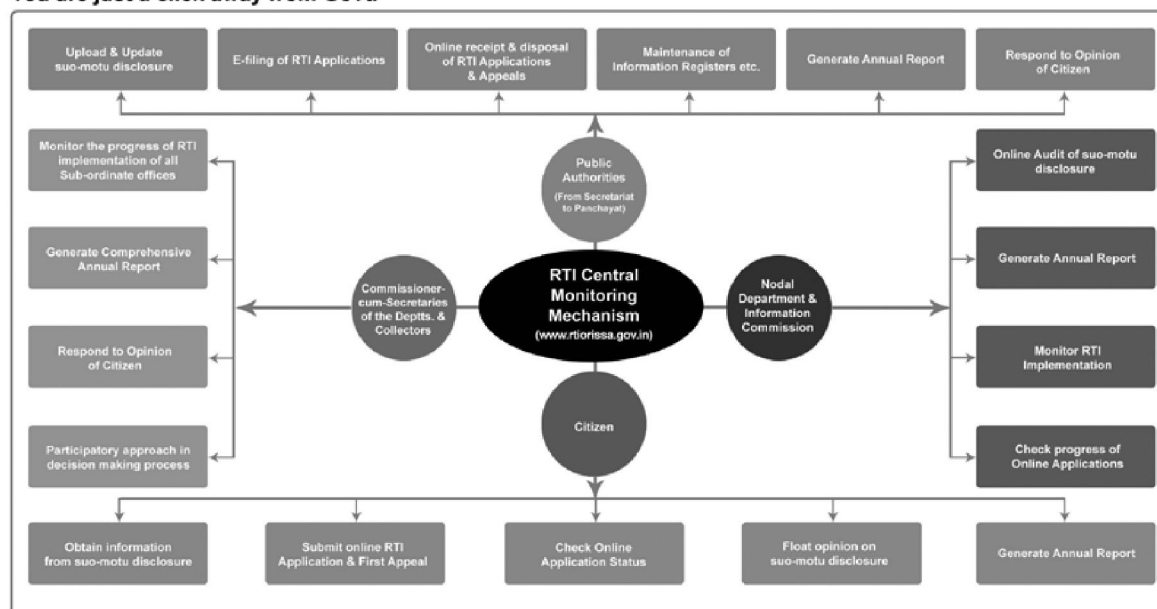
Hon'ble Orissa Information Commission while disposing a complaint case no.1452/2008 also instructed the State Government to put in place a robust monitoring mechanism in respect of mandatory provisions as envisaged in section-4 and 25 of the RTI Act, 2005.

Objective:

This is developed with an objective to provide single point access to all RTI related information catering to Section-4, 6, 7 and Section-25 of RTI Act, 2005 in a uniform manner, which in deed will provide the required information to citizens. The idea is to give a common platform to citizen for accessing all the Public Authorities. Moreover if the citizen is not satisfied on the disclosure, he/she can ask information from any Public Authority under Section-6 of RTI Act 2005. Irrespective of location or Department, Request for Information can be submitted to any of the Public Authority. Citizen will also be able create a date range wise report or annual report of any Public Authority (Office).

RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism (www.rtiorissa.gov.in)

You are just a click away from Govt.



(An initiative by Information & Public Relations Department, Govt. of Orissa)

Target Group & Geographical Reach:

It aims to ensure maximum dissemination and use of information under the act by all target users like; Citizens, Public Authorities, Public Information Officers (PIO), First Appellate Authorities (FAA), APIOs of Govt. of Orissa. Citizens are significant target group of this devised programme as they can file the request and check the status of their applications in a single platform not physically visiting any office for this purpose. Orissa Information Commission is also getting added advantage while disposing complains and appeal cases.

This initiative has been visualized to cover all Public Authorities under Govt. of Orissa. It intends to connect all Gram Panchayats (GP), District level Offices, Heads of Offices, Directorates, Govt. Undertaking Organizations and Departments into a single network. It covers all Public Authorities (Offices) of Govt. of Orissa

situated in the different geographical areas of Orissa.

Salient Features:

The RTI Portal of Govt. of Orissa is highly citizen friendly and an innovation by itself. This is an example of 'How Information technology can be used for Information management and meeting greater need of Governance & citizen.

a. Intervention of IT in Implementing an Act and Rule: This mechanism of RTI implementation is fully complied with the Right to Information Act, 2005 and Orissa Right to Information Rules, 2005 & Orissa Right to Information (Amendment) Rules, 2006. This is an example of How an Act & Rule can be implemented & monitored by using ICT.

b. One Point Information Base of all Public Authorities: The mechanism facilitates an Information seeker to search and obtain information from any Public Authority under



Section-4 of RTI Act, 2005. The citizen need not browse many web URLs to obtain information from Public Authorities. This web-based application is a single gateway to supply maximum information proactively to the public. This is one site, where one can get information of Panchayat Office (GP) to Secretariat (Department).

c. Uniform Presentation of Information through prescribed manual: Among the normal Web portals, presentation of information is not uniform. But in RTI CMM, all the offices are to disclose or present information in a predefined format as by Section-4(1) (b) (c) and (d) of RTI Act, 2005. The manuals prescribed in disclosure of RTI Act, indicates almost everything about a Public Authority from the perspective of a citizen. Here the advantage is Citizen can go to specific manual for specific information, without browsing the entire site. For example; to obtain minimum information on the schemes and programmes implemented by a public authority, a citizen can

directly access the manual-12 with prescribed headlines or manual numbers.

d. Open Public opinion forum ensuring valid and updated data and information leading to a transparent system: While incorporating a value adding feature to this, the system helps a citizen to float feedbacks on each manual of proactive disclosure of a Public Authority, which bridges a communication gap between public information

officers and public, a perfect example of people's Governance or participatory Governance.

e. Online Receipt, Dispose and Transfer of RTI Applications: Here all the Public Information Officers (PIO) will be able to receive online RTI applications from any Information seeker. After due verification the PIO may register the application into Information Register or reject the application with valid reason or transfer the application to other public authority (Offices) within 5 days under Section-6(3) of the Act. The citizen can check his/her application status online by using his/her unique ID number given by the system.

f. Paperless Office: Initially it started a pattern shift; making Public Information Officers (PIO) realize how they can take benefit from technology in receiving requests for information and supply of information having less paperwork. Here PIO need not draft any official letter to communicate the status of a request for information to concerned authority or information

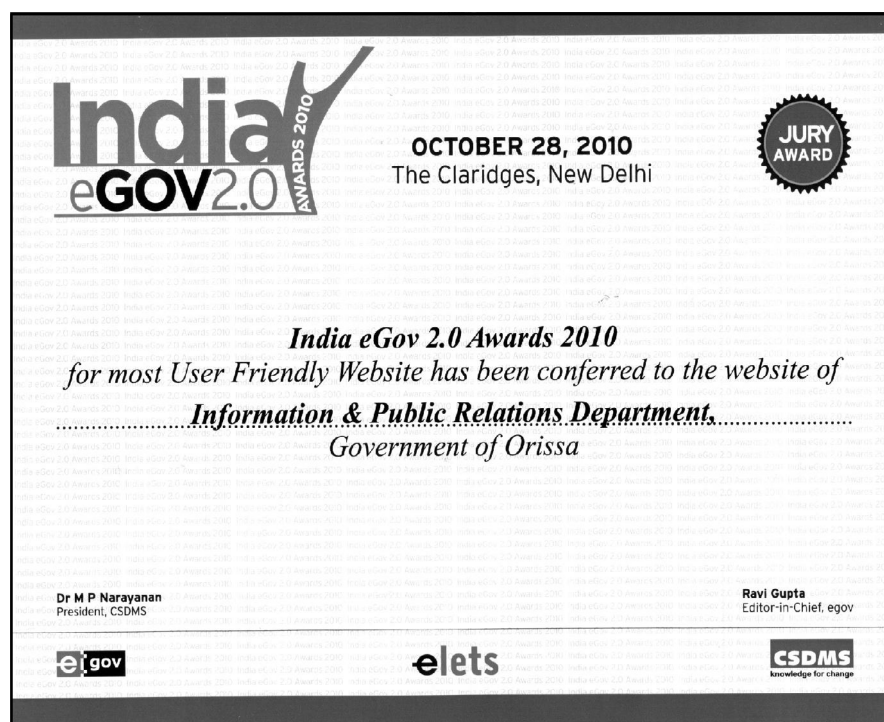
seeker because the system generates the required letter templates for convenience. After necessary changes in templates, it can be forwarded online to concerned authority.

g. *www.rtorissa.gov.in* has developed and complied with the Guidelines for Indian Government Websites (GIGW). The RTI Portal is being constantly upgraded and improved, as well as its security measures, which all lead

up to a better service level being offered, increases its credibility and the end user's satisfaction. The first version of the Portal has been released and we are still working on further enhancements.

Achievements of the Programme (Outcomes):

At present thousands of Public Authorities updating their proactive disclosures and maintaining their information register, cash register, appeal register in their RTI CMM public authority account. Apart from this, they are also generating their annual report from this system and forwarding to the nodal department. Once the system will be implemented fully in all public authorities, it will eliminate the paperwork of RTI implementation. Since its implementation, the system has connected more than 2000 offices into this single network of RTI CMM, out of which all departments, 25 Collectorate offices, 100 Urban



Local Bodies, 80 Tahasils, 100 Blocks and 20 District Information & Public Relations Offices are leading ahead.

Awards & Recognitions:

The RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism has been rewarded as the Best IT Service Provider Award in Service Provider category for notable innovations in implementing the Right to Information Act, 2005 in the state, organized by CII-Bhubaneswar Chapter and Govt. of Orissa on 11th February 2010. This initiative is also highly acclaimed by the World Bank for such IT intervention in RTI implementation.

RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism has registered a mark in South-Asia bagging e-INDIA Citizen Choice Award 2010 from e-INDIA 2010 Awards and Best User Friendly Website from India e-Gov 2.0 Awards 2010 in the field of e-governance and ICT.

Challenges faced while implementing programme/ initiative:

Psychological: Traditional mindset of Govt. employees was a greatest challenge at the initial stage. They had all hangover of British administration. Resistance was severe in the case of Ministerial staff of the State Government. Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities designated under this Act were quite apprehensive. They were not at all adaptable to such changes of intervention of information technology.

Their apprehensions were removed by the demonstration of the complete system. They soon realized that the RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism is a helping tool for them. With this system there is lesser chance of being penalized while dealing with this Act, they finally realized.

Resource: The resource constraint was the major challenge which was faced during the implementation process of RTI CMM in Orissa. These were; insufficient human, financial and infrastructural resources. Due to lack of employees and required infrastructure facility at public office, it was very difficult to make accountable someone to manage the RTI CMM with public authority account. This was somehow managed by engaging their own Data Entry Operators and support team from CSP, Luminous Infoways. Meanwhile, the financial challenge was also overcome by recommending proposed Budgetary Heads by the nodal department to meet the minimum expenditure incurred for this purpose.

Preparing Proactive Disclosure: Another challenge faced during the implementation process of the RTI Portal was to maintain a certain discipline while collecting, preparing and uploading proactive disclosures of public authorities and

publish all information u/s 4 of the Act. This was also overcome by standardizing the proactive disclosure into 17 defined formats.

Technological: The major challenge was how to implement the system and make proactive disclosures update, where no computer and internet connection is available. But thanks to the convergence initiative of the departments or oddly enough it was not a technological barrier as District Informatics Office and District Information and Public Relations Office have computers and internet for implementing district level offices and in sub-division & block level, the block offices having V-sat facilities.

Administrative: While implementing the initiative few administrative challenges like; decision making, formulating norms for discharging of functions etc. put the implementation process stagnant. But after due instructions, orders from nodal department and proper demonstration from Implementation team it was resolved.

Potential of the initiative to be replicated by Orissa:

The RTI Portal of Govt. of Orissa has been designed with all essential components of RTI Act, 2005, as a perfect model for other State Governments. This innovative approach is ready to cater to the mandatory requirements of the RTI Act, 2005, which is the basic responsibility of every State Govt.

This Portal has been deployed with state-of-the-art technology architecture based on widely accepted web standards and can be adopted by any government constituents. From its user friendly technology and minimum cost of charges, it guarantees its replication. While providing a readily available base infrastructure to the government departments/ organisations for publishing their all



Shri Prafulla Samal (Middle) Minister for Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations, Shri S. N. Tripathi, Principal Secretary, I&PR and Panchayati Raj Department and Other dignitaries are present during the Press Conference on 29.10.2010.

public documents and request for information, it facilitates a user (PIO) to update proactive disclosure information or transfer an application to another public authority in less time consuming manner. In view of its tested quality, operative convenience, vast documentation parameters and cost effectiveness, the system is fully guaranteed to be replicated in other State Governments.

A dedicated resource at Department level or HoD level could able to mobilize and monitor its implementation in field level or subordinate offices by using monitoring tool of the system. The system has come out with an ideal base architecture to receive as well as dispose an application and comply the monthly and annual report. Here the Nodal department has developed a guideline and user manual which have been followed by the other public authorities of Govt. of Orissa while using the system. It has become mandatory for all the Public authorities to comply to the format and guideline during the implementation across the State.

Public Information Officers or users are also suggesting various recommendations to

incorporate into the system from time to time. In 2009-10, more than 1500 public authorities published their proactive disclosure into the system and updated their information in regular interval. The features like; CMS for proactive disclosure under section 4 (1) (b) (c) & (d), e-Filing & Annual Report under section 25, e-Request under section 6 and 7 of RTI Act, 2005 etc. creates an example for other state govt. in the front of IT intervention in the implementation of RTI.

Moreover, this IT intervention carries the rarest distinction of being significant initiative in the whole South Asia. As studied and evaluated by the World Bank, the RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism has been adjudged truly impressive. Indeed the Orissan experience is a role model in this field.

Scalability of the Programme:

www.rti.orissa.gov.in provides a single window gateway to access and seek information from 25,000 state public authorities of Govt. of Orissa. The initiative has been taken to replace the paper process of disposing applications and disseminating information to the information seeker by a comprehensive web-based application. Hence, the service is available in all the places with internet connectivity. The online supply information to the applicant or information seeker is offered entirely free of charge.

The Portal has also demonstrated to be an effective medium for the participation of common citizens (People's Governance) in the process of governance since they are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions on each manual of proactive disclosure and important decisions taken by the Government. This feedback is vital for the nodal department as well as Orissa Information Commission to ensure constant evaluation for effecting desired changes

in the design, content and technology features of the Portal. The tremendous popularity of the Portal can be measured from the fact that it receives a large number of feedbacks and hits from all over the globe.

The sustainability of this initiative would gradually complete the exercise of computerization of Govt. records in a systematic manner. Starting from the task of indexing, cataloging and formalizing relevant records this move will certainly bring forth the openness of functioning of public offices committed to the overall development of the society as well as the healthy nation built.

With this the entire public authorities of Govt. of Orissa, approximately 25,000 offices will be connected into a single network. Out of which, 38 departmental public authorities, 30 Districts, 314 Blocks and 316 Tahasils level PIOs are targeted to be the beneficiaries.

Similarly the Public Authority Account has also options for maintaining and updating the various requests for applications received by PIOs / APIOs under section 6 of RTI Act, 2005. The request can be received physically, transferred from other Public authority or can come through internet. By using this account, every Public Authority has the advantage of adhering to prescribed time limits for disposal failing which he/she is liable to be penalized. At the same time the citizen has the satisfaction in obtaining information from the PIOs in due time, thus, posing trust on the Govt. system. This software also generates all the registers as prescribed under the Orissa Right to Information Rules, 2005.

Citizens are significant target group of this devised programme as they can file the request and check the status of their applications in a single platform not physically visiting any office for this

purpose. Orissa Information Commission is also getting added advantage while disposing complains and appeal cases.

Means through which citizens can access the services:

The initiative has been made by the nodal department to provide a comprehensive, accurate, standardized information and one click source of information about RTI related information of Orissa. Since the portal is published on the government domain and NIC server, citizens could access it from anywhere, 24 X 7. Before this, there was no such mechanism or web portal available to access and obtain required information under RTI Act, 2005.

For more convenience, the exact URL of each public authority of the portal has been interlinked at their respective websites and also displayed in front of the Office of the Public Information Officers for public knowledge. The departmental public authorities, Heads of Departments and district level head offices are equipped with PCs and internet access so that designated Public Information Officers and Data Entry Operators can access the system online. However, as the application is web based, it could be accessed through internet with different means:

1. Internet – From Office or Home
2. Internet Cafes
3. RTI Kiosk Center
4. RTI Clinic (*Loka Soochana Kendra*): It will act as facilitation center for dissemination of information at grass root level.
5. Common Service Center (*Jana Seva Kendra*)
6. e-Seva Center.

Justice Through Writ Petition/ Public Interest Litigation

Om Prakash

Any citizen of India whose Fundamental Rights is breached or hampered can move to the Supreme Court and High Court by virtue of article-32 and 226 of Constitution of India respectively for its enforcement and for redressal of the grievances of the persons who cannot move to the Court because of poverty, helplessness, disability or social and economical backwardness. A destitute citizen can also file a writ petition even through a simple letter written on a post card. This derives from the right to be heard as implied by article 32. It was through this mode that the bonded labour in stone quarries, situated in Faridabad district of Haryana got the court's attention. The court treated the letter as a writ petition and appointed a two member commission to make an inquiry to the court on the matter. Again there was a grim issue relating to the social and voluntary agencies engaged in the work of offering Indian children to foreign countries. It was stated in the petition filed by L.K. Pandey Vs. Union of India that such adoption of children makes them uncertain for their shelter and future and also their long dreadful journey from one country to the another country. Justice P.N. Bhagawati played the key role in enunciating the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), he did not insist on the observance of procedural technicalities and even treated ordinary letters from public / individuals as writ petitions. Justice Bhagawati cautioned the Courts to satisfy itself that the individuals bringing such case was not doing so for his personal gains or private profit, or political motivation, these were cautioned to stop misuse of PIL. The Principle of Public Interest Litigation is a sign of great development which will go a long way in creating a sense of responsibility among public authorities

who exercise and misuse enormous power under the Constitution and Law. Such Principle would certainly lower or minimize the abuse of power by some public authorities. About all, PIL has helped the poor and destitute in securing their rights and privileges and punishing those who are involved in various scams and corruption. In the recent years the concept of 'Judicial Activism' gaining popularity and has greatly contributed to the enhancement of power and prestige of the High Court and Supreme Court. The Supreme Court and High Court has respectively issued directions to control pollution, to check the growing menace of child prostitutes, to revive a sick company, to protect the Taj Mahal from the environmental pollution etc. The Jessica Lal, Priyadarshini Mattoo, Aroshi, and Ruchika cases have temporarily re-enforced faith in the Indian Judicial system. There is a new hype about hard talking, re-enforced who would stand by the truth, however harsh it might be. It's a shame we have only 13 Judges per million people. There's mountain of 3 crore pending cases, 2.55 crore in the District and Subordinate courts, 35.6 lakh in High Courts and over 50 thousand in the Supreme Court. With poorly paid and over-worked Judges tossed around by Baboos and Netas, it's no surprise that 25% of vacancies in High Courts remain unfilled. A vibrant democracy needs all its pillars to stand strong. Our judiciary, though still standing, has visible gaps. Its time we plugged these gaps. Today, India is a land of promise, a place where good ideas can only get better. So should our judicial system.

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