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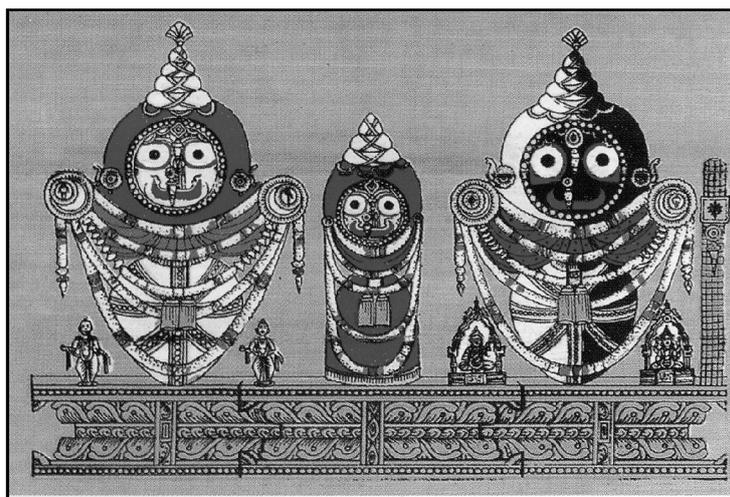
The Cult of Lord Jagannath

Centuries of myths, legends and history have all blended into a grand composite culture centred round Jagannath, the Lord of the Universe, one of the most revered and ancient of the deities of the Hindu's pantheon. The earliest references of Lord Jagannath are found in the Puranas and ancient literature, though details of his origin and evolution are still shrouded in mystery. Legendary sources suggest that Jagannath

was originally worshipped by the tribals, the Sabaras. The most important evidence of this belief is the existence of a class of Sevakas called the Daitas who are considered to be of tribal lineage and who still play a major role in the various services to Lord Jagannatha in the temple.

In course of time, the cult of Jagannath took an Aryanised form. Various major faiths like

Shaivism, Shaktism, Vaishnavism, Jainism and Buddhism were assimilated into the concept of Jagannath as an all-pervasive and all-inclusive philosophy, symbolizing unity in diversity.



Some scholars think that the three main images of Jagannatha, Balabhadra and Subhadra represent the Jaina Trinity of Samyak Jnana, Samyak Charitra and Samyak Drusti. Many others say that the three images represent

the Buddhist triad of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. It is widely believed that the soul of Jagannath most secretly ensconced within the image of Lord Jagannath is no other than the Tooth Relic of Lord Goutam Buddha. The philosophy of Tantra, which in course of time became an integral part of Buddhism, too has significantly influenced the rites and rituals of the Jagannatha temple.

The philosophy of Lord Jagannath thus defies all definitions and is yet comprehensive enough to perceive unity among beliefs of all sects and castes.

NAVA KALEVAR

As a man discarding worn out clothes takes other new ones, so also the embodied soul, casting off worn out bodies enters into others, which are new. In the light of this truth from the Bhagavat Geeta, Nava Kalevar can be interpreted as a ceremony for entering into new bodies, when Lord Jagannatha, Balabhadra, Subhadra and Sudarshan cast off their old bodies and take new ones, it is called Nava Kalevar.

The year, which has two months of ASHADHA, is regarded auspicious for Nava Kalevar ceremony. It usually occurs in 8 to 19 years. The new bodies of the deities are made out of the newly cut Neem trees. It is said that Brahmadaru was first visible in the year having two months of Ashadha. The Previous Navakalevars were in 1733, 1744, 1752, 1771, 1790, 1809, 1828, 1836, 1855, 1874, 1893, 1912, 1931, 1950, 1969, 1977 and 1996.

PURI

Puri, the abode of Lord Jagannath, is one of India's four Dharmas, the holiest of the holy places. Situated on the shore of the Bay of Bengal, about 59 kilometers from Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Orissa, for centuries Puri has been

an important centre of Hindu worship and is counted among the best holiday resorts of the country.

The Puranas and other ancient Sanskrit texts refer to the holy city as Nilachala, Nilagiri, Niladri Purusottam Kshetra, Srikshetra and Sankha Kshetra.

In Puri, not only is the temple holy, but the whole of its surroundings is treated as grand and splendid. The sea is Mahodadhi (The great ocean). The main road of the city is Bada Danda (The grand Road). The offering to the Lord Jagannath is Mahaprasad (The holy food) and the cremation ground is Swargadwara (Gateway to Heaven).

At the centre of the Puri town is the temple of Lord Jagannath and all around it are a number of streets, Sahis, spread out somewhat in the shape of a fan with Bada Danda as its handle : Harachandi Sahi on the West, Bali Sahi on the South. Dolamandap Sahi and Chudanga Sahi on the North and so on. Besides the main temple Puri has a large number of smaller temples—dedicated mostly to Siva, Kali and Hanuman and numerous religious institutions and *Mathas*.

Puri has a salubrious climate and attracts tourists from all over the world round the year and particularly during the summer. It has one of the finest beaches of the world and is the home of numerous artisans and craftsmen who produce rare exquisite handicrafts of a large variety.

GOOD GOVERNANCE



NREGA - OREGS
2007-08
Name of Work - CONST OF ROAD FROM
BANDAMANA TO MUNDASAH
EST. COST. Rs. 4.50,000/-
SKILLED - 125 nos Rs 0.4144
SEMI SKILLED - 146 nos Rs 0.1488
UNSKILLED - 4194 nos 2.93580
MATERIAL - Rs. 1.17817
CONTINGENCY - Rs. 0.12283
EXECUTING AGENCY - GRAM PANCHAYAT, NENDA

Activities and Achievements of Panchayati Raj Department for the year 2010-11 (upto January, 2011)

PANCHAYATI RAJ DEPARTMENT

The history of the Panchayati Raj Department (in its various incarnations) is as old as the history of Orissa. However, in its present form it came into existence in 1994. It is considered as a very important Department not only for the quantum of fund it handles but also for the fact that its activities have a direct bearing on rural development and poverty alleviation. It is also the nodal department through which endeavour is made for grass-root democracy and decentralization of power through 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions which have become fulcrums of all activities.

Panchayati Raj in Orissa

Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1948 was the first legislation, prescribing Constitutional power to Gram Panchayats in Orissa. Provisions of the Act are to be extended to different areas of the state from time to time and can be withdrawn where necessary, as circumstances might warrant. In the year 1950-51, 500 GPs were set up in different areas of the State. It was assumed that successful functioning of Panchayats at selected cases would serve as examples to the surrounding villages, which might be prompted to demand establishment of Gram Panchayats. This experiment however did not succeed because in many villages people were misled by the propaganda that in the panchayat areas people had to pay some additional taxes and fees to the panchayats without getting appreciable amenities in lieu thereof. Government therefore adopted a scheme of establishing Panchayats covering an entire district or a sub-division w.e.f. 1952-53. The provision of withdrawal of Panchayats from certain areas was detected in the Orissa Grama Panchayats (2nd Amendment) Act, 1957. After 73rd Amendment the Panchayat laws were amended according to the provisions of 73rd Constitutional Amendment.



The Panchayati Raj Department has been entrusted to implementing various Poverty Alleviation Programmes in the State. The Poverty Alleviation Programmes mainly cater to the needs of rural families living below the poverty line. These Poverty Alleviation Programmes can be grouped under the following four broad categories:-

1. Self Employment Programme

Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) :-

It aims at bringing the assisted poor families (Swarozgaries) above the poverty line by providing them income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Govt. subsidy. This scheme focuses on social mobilization of rural poor in forming Self Help Groups, their capacity building, skill up-gradation, training assistance, credit linkage, infrastructure development and marketing support to sustain economic activities of the assisted poor (Swarozgaries) with a view to providing incremental income. Families Below Poverty Line (BPL) in rural areas constitute the target group of SGSY. The programme provides for coverage



of at least 50% SC/ST, 40% women, 15% Minority and 3% disabled person. Although emphasis is laid on Self Help Groups, financial assistance is provided both to the Groups as well as Individual Swarozgaries.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme. The funds sharing between Government of India and State Government is in the ratio of 3 : 1.

Upto January, 2011 in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.9250.04 lakh has been utilized against the total available funds of Rs.13595.09 lakh. Assistance to 80370 number of Swarozgaries has been provided against the target of 1,43,200.

As compared to this Rs.9386.46 lakh was utilized out of total available fund of Rs.11563.55 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10. 72769 number of Swarozgaries were assisted against the target of 1,24,522.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011(provisional) in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.2932.08 lakh has been utilized against the total available fund of Rs.4398.08 lakh. Assistance to 23104 number of Swarozgaries has been provided against the target of 41200.

2. Wage Employment Programme

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS):-

The basic objectives of this scheme is to enhance livelihood security of the rural poor in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. This work guarantee can also serve other objectives like generating productive assets, protecting the environment, empowering rural women, reducing rural-urban migration and fostering social equity among other.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Programme with the following funding pattern between the Centre and the State. While the Central Govt. will bear the entire cost of wages of unskilled manual workers and 75% of material cost and wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers, the State Govt. will bear 25% of material cost and wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers. In case of failure to provide employment within the stipulated period, i.e. within 15 days from the date of application, unemployment allowance has to be paid to the concerned job seekers and the same is to be borne by the State Govt.



Upto the end of 2007-08, 24 districts were covered under this scheme. During the financial year i.e. 2008-09, six more districts have been added w.e.f. 01.04.08 and the SGRY scheme which was being implemented in these districts, namely Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Khurda, Nayagarh and Puri have been merged with MGNREGS. At present all the 30 districts are being covered under MGNREGS.

Upto January, 2011 in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.91612.15 lakh has been utilized against total available fund of Rs.126438.94 lakh. The utilization of fund is 72%. 665.10 lakh persondays have been generated.

As compared to this, an amount of Rs.49034.89 lakh was utilized in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10 out of available fund of Rs.65525.38 lakh. The utilization of fund was 75%. 311.25 lakh persondays were generated.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011 (provisional) in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.32348.72 lakh has been utilized against total available fund of Rs.44048.35 lakh. The utilization of fund is 73%. 239.36 lakh persondays have been generated.

3. Rural Housing Programme

i) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) :-

The scheme provides coverage of at least 60% SC/ST/BPL rural households and 40% from other categories. Priority is given to freed bonded labourers, fire victims, families of defence personnel and paramilitary force killed in action and physically handicapped persons. The beneficiaries are selected by Gram Sabha/ Palli Sabha from among rural families living below poverty line. Grant-in-aid is provided to the beneficiaries under the scheme and houses are constructed by themselves. The unit cost has been enhanced to Rs.45000/- w.e.f. 01.04.2010 for construction of IAY house.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme with funding pattern of 75:25 between Centre and State.

Upto January, 2011, in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.46588.87 lakh has been utilised out of available fund of Rs.70594.92 lakh. The utilization of fund is 66%. 98405 number

of houses have been completed out of target of 3,01,640 houses which include spillover target of 1,35,146 number of houses.

As compared to this, a sum of Rs.37422.88 lakh was utilized out of total available fund of Rs.65935.03 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10. The utilization fund was 57%. 59287 number of houses were completed against the target of 2,86,282.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011 (provisional), in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.8793.91 lakh has been utilised out of available fund of Rs.14319.66 lakh. The utilization of fund is 61%. 21040 number of houses have been completed out of target of 48287 houses which include spillover target of 15390 number of houses.

(ii) IAY (Naxal)

Govt. of India sanctioned 28236 number of special IAY houses in 5 Naxal affected districts namely Deogarh, Gajapati, Malkanagiri, Rayagada and Sambalpur.

Upto January, 2011 in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount Rs.1745.64 lakh has been utilised out of total available fund of Rs.2351.54 lakh. The utilization of fund is 74%. 5936 nos. of houses have been completed out of spill over target of 9,662 houses. The percentage of achievement is 61%.

As compared to this, a sum of Rs.3373.72 lakh was utilized out of total available fund of Rs.4485.47 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10. The utilization fund was 75%. 6534 number of houses were completed against the target of 27,279.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011 (provisional) in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.1210.85 lakh has been utilised out of total available fund of Rs.1631.92 lakh. The utilization of fund is 74%. 4156 nos. of houses have been completed out of spill over target of 5919 houses. The percentage of achievement is 70%.

(iii) Mo Kudia

The State Government have introduced a new scheme 'MO Kudia' under State Plan from the year 2008-09. The main objectives of the scheme is to provide a house to left out beneficiary of the permanent wait list prepared according to 1997 BPL list, whose names are not found in the BPL Survey 2002.

The entire fund is provided by the State Government.

Upto January, 2011, in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.5360.20 lakh has been utilised out of available fund of Rs.12292.81 lakh. The utilization of fund is 44%. 14376 number of houses have been completed out of 40,677 including spill over target of 27,344.

As compared to this an amount of Rs.4466.21 lakh was utilized out of total available fund of Rs.14859.26 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10. The utilization fund was 30%. 7283 nos. of houses were completed against the target of 45,497.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011(provisional) in the current financial year 2010-11, an amount of Rs.1582.47 lakh has been utilised out of available fund of Rs.3688.87 lakh. The utilization of fund is 43%. 3727 number of houses have been completed out of 14226 including spill over target of 11014.

4. Infrastructure Development

(i) Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana(GGY) :-

It provides additional developmental assistance to targeted 11 districts of the State which are not covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The principal objective is to provide rural infrastructure primarily Bijli, Sadak & Pani to every revenue village in the identified districts.

It is a State plan scheme launched in 2006-07 and the entire fund is provided by the State Government.

Expenditure to the tune of Rs.10016.89 lakh has been incurred upto January, 2011 in the current financial year 2010-11 against the available fund of Rs.25130.38 lakh which constitutes 40%. 5517 number of works have been completed out of 9100 number of works taken up.

As compared to this a sum of Rs.2361.93 lakh was utilized out of total available fund of Rs.10484.47 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10 which constituted 23%. 1658 nos. of works were completed.

(ii) Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF):-

Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The fund will provide financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into 19 identified districts.

It is a Central Plan scheme being implemented from 2006-07 till completion of 11th Five Year Plan i.e. 2011-12. The entire fund is borne by Govt. of India.

Upto January, 2011 in the current financial year 2010-11, 7766 number of projects have been completed with expenditure of Rs.23369.24 lakh out of available fund of Rs.41868.01 lakh. The utilization fund is 56%.

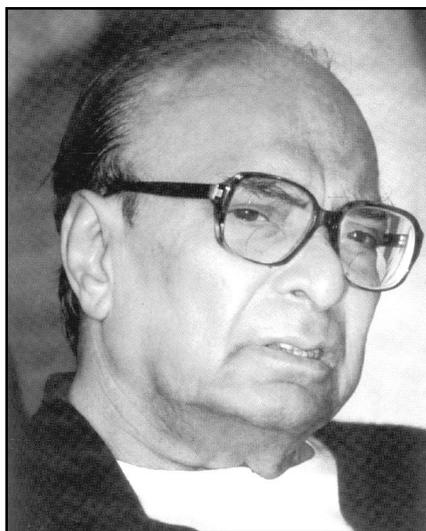
As compared to this, an amount of Rs.24825.05 lakh was utilized out of available funds of Rs.43993.59 lakh in the corresponding period of the previous year 2009-10. 8104 number of projects were completed.

In scheduled areas, upto January, 2011(provisional) in the current financial year 2010-11, 2434 number of projects have been completed with expenditure of Rs.9096.15 lakh out of available fund of Rs.15997.89 lakh. The utilization fund is 57%.

A Tribute to Legendary Biju who Transformed Orissa into a Modern State

Siddhartha Dash

“In my dream of the 21st century for the state, I would have young men and women who put the interest of the state before them. They will have pride in themselves, confidence in themselves. They will not be at anybody’s mercy, except for their own selves. By their brain, intelligence and capacity, they will recapture the history of Kalinga.” These are the famous words of legendary Biju Patnaik who visualized an industrialized Orissa that would surge ahead with its pool of young men and women. An adroit pilot, a freedom fighter venerated in India as well as Indonesia, an industrialist and a natural mass leader, all coalesced into one to make him one of the country’s most maverick figures. Biju Patnaik was a great visionary and statesman. He was a true leader of the masses. His courage, dynamism, magnanimity and dedication to the development of Orissa will continue to inspire the younger generation. While leaders like Madhusudan Das realized the dream of Orissa as a separate state, political veterans, like Biju Patnaik, sustained this dream by placing Orissa on an equal footing with other developed states.



Born to Ashalata Devi and Laxminarayan Patnaik on March 5, 1916 in the ancient city of Cuttack, he had his early schooling in Mission Primary School and Mission (Christ Collegiate) School. In 1927 he joined Ravenshaw Collegiate School and passed matriculation in 1932 with a first division and got admitted to intermediate science class in the Ravenshaw College. Biju discontinued his B.Sc. to undergo training as a pilot at the Aeronautic Training Institute of India and Delhi Flying Club. During college days he actively participated in sports and captained the University Football and Hockey teams. While still at college, he travelled all the way from Cuttack to Peshawar on a bicycle which was considered quite an adventure in those days, especially for a young chap from the backwaters.

Biju was a distinguished pilot and he was the head of the Air Transport Command during the Second World War. He was Lord Wavell’s personal pilot. He undertook many risky operations across the Himalayas. That was the time when the freedom struggle was at its peak

and the atmosphere was perhaps tailor-made for Biju to prove his mettle. He undertook several secret flying missions carrying Indian leaders to undisclosed destinations. For example, sometimes he would fly underground Congress leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Aruna Asaf Ali and Manubhai Shah and sometimes he would drop pamphlets supporting the cause of Azad Hind Fauj. He was arrested for this and jailed for two years.

When Kashmir was invaded, Raja Hari Singh signed the instrument of accession with India. The invading army was only 20 kilometres away. Jawaharlal Nehru summoned the then Chief of Army and Air Force. But all of them expressed their inability to land in Srinagar. Nehru then asked, "Is Kashmir lost for us then?" A young man said, "No, I will land". He landed and Kashmir is in India today. That was Biju Patnaik, the man of indomitable courage.

Biju Patnaik also endeared himself to the freedom loving people of Indonesia, then under Dutch rule, by rescuing Sjahrir and his compatriots; he flew with his wife Gyan Devi to Indonesian Capital and returned with Sultan Sjahrir, the then Prime Minister of Indonesia with successfully dodging the Dutch forces there. Patnaik did this on Nehru's orders and this act earned him a citizen status in that country and the highest national award of Indonesia. Biju's one man mission convinced a grateful Suharto not to sell submarines to Pakistan during the 1965 Indo-Pak War. Biju organized the Kalinga Bali Jatra to commemorate the ancient maritime ties between Orissa and East Indies. Biju was closely associated with the Nepalese democratic movement during 1953. In 1974, when it was learnt in Delhi that the life of Sk. Mujibur Rehman, President of Bangladesh was in danger, Biju Patnaik rushed with his aircraft and reached

Dhaka to rescue Mujibur, but as ill luck would have it, by that time Mujibur had already been assassinated. Biju fought for the freedom of his nation, fought for the freedom of humanity during the Second World War and for the freedom from colonialism, as in the case of Indonesia, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Chinese aggression on India on October 20, 1962 unfolded another opportunity to Biju. He planned military strategies in tandem with Generals and Marshals. Biju Patnaik was given an independent room in the Ministry of Defence so that his advice could be available at the nick of the moment. He was later sent to the United States to prevail upon President Kennedy to come to India's aid.

Under Biju Patnaik's stewardship in 1961, Congress secured a majority in the Assembly for the first time winning 82 seats. Though Patnaik was in saddle for a very short time for two years and four months, he laid the foundation for Orissa's industrial development. Special mention could be made of Paradeep Port, MIG Factory at Sunabeda, Ferro Silicon Complex at Theruvali, Hydro Electric Power Project, Balimela, Thermal Power Station, Talcher, Engineering College, Rourkela, Engineering College and Medical College at Burla, Express Highway linking Daitari with Paradeep, Sainik School, Regional College of Education, Bhubaneswar, Regional Research Laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology and others. Dr. Ayodhya Nath Khosla and Biju were the architects of a ten year plan known as 'Decade of Destiny' plan.

Biju Patnaik broke away from the Congress revolting against Indira Gandhi and formed his own outfit, the Utkal Congress in

1971. He became the father figure of opposition to the Congress and was one of the founders of the Janata Party in 1977 and the Janata Dal in 1988. From 1971 to 1997, all the elections in the state were fought between Biju Patnaik and the Congress. He won 16 elections to Parliament and the assembly, lost seven, including five in one go in 1971.

During the second phase of his Chief Ministership i.e., from 5.3.1990 to 15.3.1995, his thought squarely lay on the upliftment of women, tribal development, participation of NRIs in furthering the state economy. He increased the number of districts from 13 to 30. He also fixed the minimum labour charges at Rs.25/-. He took a revolutionary step to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system. A second steel plant in the state remained one of his unfulfilled dreams. Biju was also a Union Cabinet Minister for Steel and Mines in late 70s. During emergency he was one of many leaders arrested and jailed by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Being a champion of science and technology, Biju founded the Kalinga Foundation for popularization of science and instituted the Kalinga Prize. The prize is being given away by UNESCO every year for promotion of scientific knowledge. The stories of his adventurous life still inspire the youth of Orissa, the first Oriya to lay the foundation of large industrial units like Orissa Textile Mills and Kalinga Tubes.

Modern Orissa cannot be thought of without Biju Patnaik. No leader worth his salt even measured upto his knees. He fought for the dignity and prosperity of Oriyas and became immortal as Biju Babu. The Biju Patnaik International Airport renamed by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 17.04.1998, the Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI) and the Biju Patnaik University of Technology are some of the modern monuments which recall the spirit of Biju Babu. The Biju Phenomenon continues unabated when a regional outfit was constituted under the banner – Biju Janata Dal.

This legendary man of Orissa passed away of cardio-respiratory failure in New Delhi on April 17, 1997. It was a dark day for Orissa and India. With his departure, an era has ended in Orissa politics. Politics will never be the same again without him. He was a leader in the true sense of the term and always led from the front. His contributions, especially to the development of Orissa, were enormous. Biju Babu, the man may no longer be with us, but his spirit will be there in the hearts of Odia nation for ages to come.

Siddhartha Dash lives at N-4/205, I.R.C. Village, Bhubaneswar - 751015.

Biju Patnaik : His Place in Indian History

Dr. Sudhakar Panda

Some leaders in history are born and destined to enjoy more fame far beyond the reputation of their contemporaries. Shri Biju Patnaik was one such rare personality. Everyone in Odisha remembers him with love and admiration. Few writings can capture the commanding presence and political influence of this great man on Odiya minds over the past half a century. And no assessment can do justice to his courage and remarkable valour, his overflowing love for his people and his commitments to his beloved state Odisha. Widely known for his adventurous spirit, he was assigned the great challenging task of rescuing late Sukarno of Indonesia from a dangerous situation that threatened his life. It would always be remembered as a rare moment in history and as an outstanding achievement in the life of Shri Patnaik when he pulled up all his courage to save the late President Sukarno of Indonesia at great risk to his own life. He, in fact, gave a brilliant account of his fighting spirit and achieved international fame.



He lived a life with malice towards none and unbound love and good will to one and all including his political competitors and adversaries. Born in a rich and aristocratic family in the year 1916 at Cuttack, he left the comfortable life of an industrialist and saw a bigger role for himself in state and national politics that would satisfy his passion for serving the people of the country and of his state. His entry into politics with his focus on Odisha's economic development to give its people a life of dignity free from poverty and deprivation, and a voice and an identity to them in national politics stirred up a hornets' nest in a state that was viewed as a calm and quiet state for a long time by the Indian people and authorities. A veteran politician, he fought against any injustice to the state. His politics reflected his passionate will to win and command the situation and imbue in the people a sense of faith and courage to assert their rights and cry out against any injustice to the state. He was one of

the few political personalities in India who could convey his powerful feelings to any political personality or any authority in power. He had the courage to stand up and protest against any injustice to the people and was always prepared to suffer for his convictions. He played an important role in crystallizing political alignments in the Centre in the late seventies for the formation of the national government and held a responsible post in the cabinet. He was always ahead of his time in his thinking and ready to help other political parties to forge constructive relationships. To build a richer and stronger Odisha, he was always ready to forgive the dissidents and build new partnerships with others. And this made him distinctly different from other politicians of his time. This may help us to understand the gripping influence he had on so many politicians in the state and in the country. Notwithstanding the ups and downs in political life, he remained the ever green and charismatic leader of his people.

He began his political career as a Congressman under the inspiring leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and enjoyed his love and confidence and was widely regarded as the potential Defence Minister of India in 1962 after the Chinese aggression of India. His massive popularity in the state, his closeness to Pandit Nehru and his statesman like qualities increased his national credibility and he was also considered as one of the likely successors to Pandit Nehru.

He served the state as its Chief Minister in 1961-63 and during that period he developed his strategy to revamp the rural economy of Odisha with his emphasis on small and cottage industries. He had a greater vision for the state to see it industrially developed and vibrating. Rourkela Engineering College(REC), now the National Institute of Technology(NIT) came up.

Paradip port was set up and the state highway to link the port with the mining areas of the state was also built. His effort was to build up strong infrastructure for the future prosperity of the state. Fed up with the inner politics of the Congress party, he moved out of the party. He fought and lost elections but was never shaken and always looked to the future with optimism. It was Odisha's good fortune that he became state's Chief Minister again in 1990. It was a great and decisive political victory for the people of the state.

He was a great man who could understand the anguish, helplessness and cruelties that women suffered in the Indian society. His greatest gift to the nation was the legislative act to reserve 33% of seats for women not only in the Panchayati Raj Institutions but also in all government jobs. No other political act could have such powerful impact on the Indian polity and society as this thoughtful act of Shri Patnaik. This opened up social, economic and political opportunities in a scale that would go a long way in empowering women. Not only that. He fought against official apathy and indifference to ensure justice to the poor and needy and did everything he could do for the development of men and women belonging to disadvantaged social groups.

It is worth recapitulating the history of this magnetic personality. Biju Patnaik was a big man with a great mind and the country is yet to appreciate his thoughts and contributions that has shaped the thinking of generations here in the state and in the nation.

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Biju Babu and His Vision on Panchayati Raj

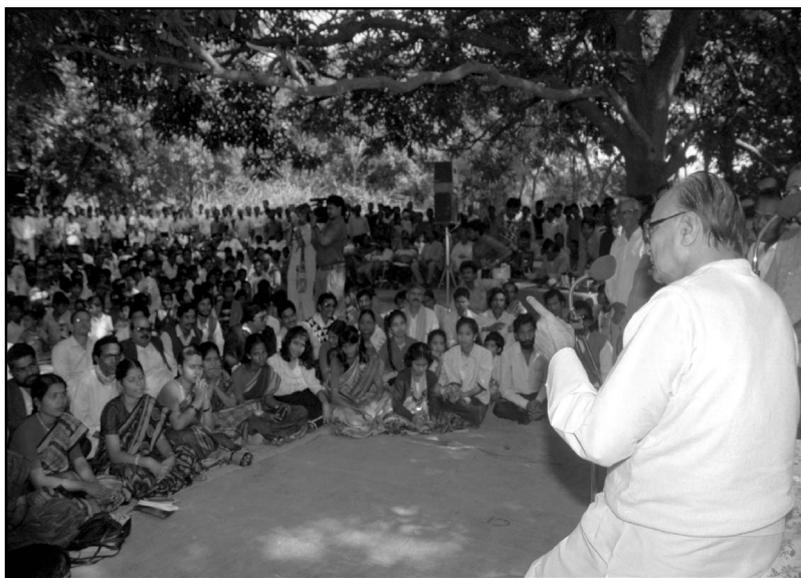
Rajendra Sahoo

5th March is an important day in the history of Indian politics. Biju Patnaik the great leader and visionary who dominated Indian political scene for last four decades of 20th Century was born on 5th March 1916 at Cuttack in the family of a Munsif. Laxmi Narayan Patnaik, his father was one of the leaders of Orissa Renaissance and a pioneer of the separate Orissa movement of the early thirties. Biju's mother Ashalata Devi, came from a family whose sons had sacrificed their precious lives in the struggle for independence.

He was exceptionally lucky to be born in a family of ideologies and patriotism. Even his birth place had something to contribute to the unfolding of a personality - fearless and unyielding in spirit.

He had his primary and secondary education in Cuttack's Mission School. Christian missionaries were the initiators of modern education in Cuttack before the British Government had arrived on the scene. The Mission school was one of the best schools at that time and it attracted students from different

corners of the city. While studying in the Mission School Biju, then a young boy, came in contact with O.J. Millman, the Headmaster. Despite being a brown Sahib, he had all the qualities of an Indian



teacher-loving and god-like. Millman must have had a lot of influence on Biju.

In 1932 he cleared the entrance examination from the Patna University and came out with a glittering successes. Ravenshaw Collage, the great seat of learning of Orissa, was an institution he was looking for, naturally.

In Ravenshaw College he was not only a good student but a goodish sportsman too. Having done his degree Biju was to enroll for a course in science in the same college. But fate pulled him a different direction. He was to become a pilot and later on a politician. Biju was a mass leader not the leader of a few. This was the position his people gave him in his early public life. Before Biju had become a leader he was an industrialist. Industries didn't provide him the wherewithal; politics did, naturally.

When Biju started his life he was not a nondescript youth. As a young man he set himself on a voyage of self-discovery. That discovery was some thing which took him on a different path — politics. A political leader as he was, Biju himself might not have imagined that this “last resort of scoundrels” would take him to such amazing heights. Once in it, he became the leader, inevitably.

He became the Chief Minister of Orissa in 1961, a feat that he repeated only in 1990. With his arrival a new era was added to Orissa's politics. It has always been like that. Biju, the leader, having upstaged Mahatab fought the mid-term poll for the State Assembly in 1961. He had two trusted lieutenants with him—Nilamani Routray who became V.P. Singh's Environment Minister and Biren Mitra who succeeded him as Chief Minister later. That election saw Biju winning a comfortable majority. Months before, he had convinced the central leaders that the Orissa Congress would romp home an absolute majority. Prime Minister Nehru who had a tremendous faith in Biju was impressed with the results.

Thanks to the voters disgust towards factionalism of the leaders, Biju could win 82 seats out of the 140 seats Congress contested. That was the election which revived the features of the

Indian National Congress. Enchanting slogans did the magic. Earlier it had caused extreme distress to people to see the stagnation that had set in every conceivable field of life. Biju's vigour and zeal had caught the excitement of people. They saw something bold happening to Orissa and its political leadership. But Biju's stay in power was cut short when he was 'Kamrajed' in 1963. He was now enjoined upon to devote more time for Congress's organizational work. This self-renunciation of power kept him out of the precincts of power for quite long. Yet the charisma of the leader had not diminished.

After Biju resigned as Chief Minister his trusted friend Biren Mitra succeeded him. Biju got himself appointed Chairman of the Planning Board, a position that was conceived equal to the post of Chief Minister. But Mitra too was dispossessed after a few months. He was succeeded by a politician from Koraput, Sadashiv Tripathy.

Biju had tremendous zeal to dream. His was an era when nobody had dreamt of an industry in the private sector, much less establishing one. He dreamt and succeeded. Biju always stood apart as a man of courage and industrial adventure in Orissa, half a century ago. With a life time's dream of setting up a modern port fructified, Biju spent rest of his time establishing many other institutions, system and factories which were conspicuous by their absence in Orissa. The feverish pitch of industrial activity was pronouncedly seen during the brief tenure of Biju's Government in the early sixties. People would remember these adventures with adequate recognition, even today. A MIG factory in Sunabeda, Thermal Power Plant in Talcher, Express Highway connecting mines with ports, Balimela hydro-electric project and a few other industrial establishments came up. Primary,

scientific and higher education got a phillip just as many brilliant schemes were launched for the betterment of the people.

For the first time since independence rural industrialization was sought to be implemented along with Panchayati Raj. His Penchant for an responsive administration to the people's liking saw true reflection when he injected a dynamism to the administration. All these saw Orissa gradually uneneveloping from sluggishness, sloth and despondence. When Biju Patnaik took over the rein of administration in sixties, he strived passionately for vitalizing the Panchyati Raj System, which according to him is the basis of Indian democracy. He described each Sarpanch as Chief Minister of his Panchayat. His policy had been to progressively delegate more and more functions and to fully assist the three-tier system of administration to develop into effective popular institutions for implementation of various developmental works, schemes and programmes. On November 20, 1916, Biju had given a historic speech in Orissa Legislative Assembly on Panchayati Raj which was highly applauded by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. In his monumental speech he said... " This is a movement of building up leaders of men from the lowest rung of our society and it is not going to be easy. It is almost a people's movement, we are only trying to give some hope, some other direction or some authorities. But the movement can only succeed if we give that authority to the people right from bottom of our social ladder who can exercise effective leadership. It is a big question and we have in this house got to think with a far greater sympathy and prospective looking at distant future and planning from now how you want the future to be built." Works started with feverish zeal and renewed vigour to restore Panchayat Raj in Orissa under dynamic leadership of Biju Patnaik. He made sincere efforts

to vitalize Panchayati Raj. The implementation of the community development programme was fully entrusted to the Panchayat Samitis in 210 Blocks. The management of Primary schools including Sevashrams of the Tribal and Rural Welfare Department was transferred to Panchayat Samitis. Other programmes entrusted to the Samitis include grain Golas, local development works, rural communications and drinking water supply. Even under loan scheme like "pisciculture" and "other remunerative schemes" of the Gram Panchayat Department, the Parishads and Samitis had been associated for distributions of funds allotted under these schemes. First and second prizes of Rs.50,000 and Rs.25,000 respectively were awarded by the Government to 34 Gram Panchayats every year and the prize money was meant to be utilized as the share in the Industrial Co-operative for starting Panchayat Industries. Shares had been given to the three-tier Panchayati Raj Administration for maintenance of their administration.

One of the most novel experiments introduced by Mr. Biju Patnaik was the concept of Panchayat industry in 1962 for Rural Industrialization. The State Government initially started 48 training-cum-production centres which were being maintained under block programmes and converted them into Panchayat industries; these industries include tile units and small crystal sugar units. It was related to the scheme known as Gram Panchayat Prize Competition, which was introduced by the State Government in 1962. But unfortunately, after his exit, his vision on Panchayati Raj was not emulated by successors.

Biju in his second spell as Chief Minister of Orissa was more determined and exhibited sheer self confidence and unremitting zeal to streamline Panchayati Raj. Recalling his abortive bid for rejuvenating Panchayati Raj in sixties, he

once said “32 years back, when I was the Chief Minister of the State, I got incredible support from the public. At that time I tried to assimilate every people of a village into democratic ideals. For this numerous steps had been taken and various new laws were passed. Unfortunately the political storms of the sixties could not be able to accomplish this noble mission. So when I am ruminating about the past I feel hapless and realized a lot has remained to be done.”

In fact under his leadership Orissa became the first state to streamline the Panchayati Raj and Local-self Government Institutions to make democracy participatory and not the aristocracy of a few nitpicking intellectual. For him “Let the people rule themselves, let them chalk out plans/schemes for the improvement of their respective areas and let them execute their plans” was the hallmarks of Panchayati Raj administration. According to Biju Babu the goals of Panchayati Raj cannot be fructified unless there is proper devolution of financial powers to Panchayats. His government made concerted efforts for appointment to a special finance commission to look after the domain of devolution of financial powers.

Biju was most emphatic about the participation of women in the Panchayati Raj System. He announced that for the first time in the history of independent India, women will be given 33% reservation in three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions. And true to his word, he saw to it that the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act of 1991 and the Gram Panchayat Samiti Amendment Act of 1992 were passed by the Orissa Assembly that provided for 33% of reservation for women including SC and ST women. So for the first time, more than 28 thousand women were elected to various Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads. It was further provided that

one third of Zilla Parishads would have exclusively women Chairperson. In the case of Panchayats, one of the Samities and the Gram Panchayats, one of the office-bearers, i.e. Chairperson or Vice Chairperson must be woman. Biju also emphasized that all the elected representatives of the PRIs should receive adequate political and administrative training. It must be pointed out that Biju Patnaik’s policies on reservation for women were followed by many other State Governments in India that culminated in the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts to the Constitution of India, which provided for similar provisions for Rural and Urban Local Bodies respectively. Under his leadership, the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964 and the Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 were amended in 1991, 1992, and 1993. The Orissa Zilla Parishad Act was also enacted in 1991 to constitute Zilla Parishad at the district level. This Act was extensively amended to bring it in conformity with the provision of the Constitution Amendment Act, 1992. It also adds to the credit of Mr. Biju Patnaik that after lapse of eight years, it conducted elections to Gram Panchayat in the year 1962 for 5264 Gram Panchayats in the State. Some salient features of Gram Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishad deserve mention as these were the outcome of the amendment made during Biju’s Chief Ministership. In case of Gram Panchayat three notable points are: (a) ‘The post of Naib Sarapanch is reserved for the women members, if the Sarapanch is a male’. (b) ‘One third of the total wards are reserved for women candidates including S.C and S.T. candidates.’ (c) ‘Gram Panchayats have been vested with the power of supervision of women and child welfare programme, social forestry, rural housing, small scale industries and public distribution system to other in addition normal functions.’ As regards Panchayat Samities the following features deserve mention.

a) One third of the total seats are reserved for women members including women members of S.C and S.T category.

b) Provision has been made to reserve the office of the Vice-Chairman for women in case the Chairman is male, the Zilla Parishad ceased to exist in the State with effect from 1968. The State Government enacted the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 in order to transfer the power of planning control and supervision of developmental activities to Zilla Parishad at the district level. Obviously, credit is due to Biju Patnaik for reviving Zilla Parishads and entrusting them with power in district level. After the enforcement of the Constitution Amendment Act, 1992, it became necessary to amend the Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991. The following important necessary changes were made:-

a) Reservation of seats for S.T. and S.C. members has to be done on the basis of their ratio to the total population of the districts.

b) One third of the seats are to be reserved for women if the President is not a woman.'

c) The post of Vice-President should be reserved for women, if the President is not a woman.

The State law has provided that no person having more than two children will be eligible to contest in the election to Zilla Parishad. Similarly

person having more than one spouse have been disqualified from contesting the election. The Government headed by Biju Patnaik also set up quite a few Commissions of finance for the Panchayati Raj institution in order to offer methods and mechanisms for resources funding thus unleashing some genuine purpose to the decentralization of power. The Orissa under Biju Patnaik made meteoric progress in the field of Panchayati Raj, whose contribution was prodigious. When his Government held elections after a lapse of eight years, it shows Biju's commitment to restore status and dignity for this valuable units of self-government at the grass root level. Biju's inspiration, no doubt rejuvenated the Panchayati Raj and Local Self Government institutions to function as meaningful units of self-government by entrusting them with power and authority in the process of development.

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Biju Patnaik : Architect and Builder of Modern Odisha

Dr. Dasarathi Bhuyan

Biju Patnaik was a towering and multi-dimensional personality no less than a colossus in every sense of the term. This legendary leader and idol of the masses had almost a hectic and uninterrupted political career serving his state and the country in different capacities. The uncrowned hero of Kalinga, maker of new Odisha and formidable personality of Odisha politics, Biju Patnaik, was born on March 5, 1916 at Cuttack, Odisha. Indeed he was luckily to be born in a patriotic family. Lakshminarayan Patnaik, father of Biju was a natural inhabitant of village Nuagaon in between Bhanjanager and Belluguntha of Ghumushar area in Ganjam. Ghumushar has been a most important nerve centre of Odishan literature and culture. Village Nuagaon that is situated a few miles below the Kalinga hill is the undying testimony of Kalinga region. Ghumushar is known outside for its unique contribution to the Oriya literature. The tribes of Ghumushar had given a tough fight to the Britishers for a long time during 1766 to 1880. In short, the history of Ghumushar is the endless story of rare glory, greatness, glitter, glamour, patriotism and rebellions all through the pages of history.

Laxminarayan Patnaik came to Cuttack and settled in Tulashipur area in a house known as Anand Bhawan. Very soon Laxminarayan associated with the leaders of Odishan renaissance and became a pioneer of the

formation of the Odisha movement. His wife Ashalata Devi, came from a Bengali family who had sacrificed their lives in the struggle for freedom. Brothers of Ashalata Devi-Bijayasri, Deva Prasad and Anand Prasad were the revolutionary youths who along with Surya Sen were responsible for the Chittagong Armoury Raid of 1930.

Biju inherited the undaunted spirit of his patriotic father and mother. Biju Patnaik's life had, indeed, been one of challenges and adventures. These traits in his character led him to many spectacular achievements. Biju Patnaik was described by Julian Huxley in his memories as "a remarkable Indian whose adventures will surely fill a book," and by Nehru as a man of "energy and certain ability". He became an ace-pilot. During World War II he did not join the Indian Air Force which attracted many young Indians but became a dare devil transport pilot when the British commandeered all commercial planes into a sort of Air command. As he flew these military transport missions, he undertook cloak and dagger ventures to help Indian revolutionaries such as Jayaprakash Narayan, Arun Asaf Ali, Achyut Patwardhan, Manu Bhai Shah and others fighting against the British rule.

During those war days he met a Kashmir girl, Gyan, in Delhi where they played tennis. They

had earlier once met in her sister's place. Very soon they got married in 1939. When the Dutch were at the throat of the Indonesian Republic, Biju Patnaik flew secret missions into the Indonesian Republic and at the instance of Nehru brought Sjahariar, the Prime Minister and Mohammed Hatta, the Vice President of Indonesia.

In the summer of 1947 Biju flew to Jogjakarta on his helping mission. When Biju was ready with his Dakota plane, his wife Gyan was ready too. She went with him to invigorate his spirit who had left behind her a few months old baby.

To reach Jogjakarta Biju had to fly over Jakarta, the capital of the province of Batavia, which was under Dutch control and he was well aware that the Dutch might try to shoot down his Dakota plane. The next day, on his enroute to Jakarta, he was surrounded by Dutch planes. But Biju flew the Dakota to such heights that, the Dutch pilots could not match their aerobatics and finally the Dutch pilots moved away from the Dakota. As luck would have it, Biju and Gyan returned safely after completing their mission.

Apparently, Biju was far ahead of his time and society and also most of his party colleagues in thought and ideas. Much before he became the Chief Minister of Odisha, he had a thorough knowledge about science, economics, politics, geography and history. The new Odisha is the confluence of ancient Kalinga, Utkala, Odra and Kosala. Biju knew very well where the Kalinga was? The Vizag copper grant of 1126 AD depicts that Chodaganga Dev conquered Odisha and assumed the sovereign title of "Lord of Sakala Utkala". He established his capital at Jajatinagar and later on shifted to Abhinava Varanasi Katak (Modern Cuttack) in 1212 - 1213 AD. Bhanjanagar, the birth place of Biju's father was

located in the Kalinga region. The shift of their parents from Kalinga to Utkal or Odra had a great emotional impression on his body and mind. No body taught him to feel proud of being as Kalingan. It came naturally and the general ambiance of his father encouraged that proud. He found Kalinga most interesting in him. The Kalinga Empire became a reality for him. He established his own Airlines christened as Kalinga Airlines. He also established Kalinga Tubes, Kalinga Refrigerators Corporation, Kalinga Iron Works, published Kalinga Oriya daily, founded Kalinga Trust, and introduced Kalinga Prize. When Biju set up the Kalinga group of Industries in the late 40's that were the hallmark of his entrepreneurial mind and the perception of a new Odisha. As an ardent industrialist people called him the "Birla of Odisha". But he lost his mundane life and precious wealth in politics. Had not in politics he could have maintained the status of a TATA, BIRLA or AMBANI. That was the reason he never groomed his children to play politics. He could not see politics as the posterity of his family but literature. His daughter Gita scripted many novels such as 'Karma Cola', 'Raj', 'River Sutra' and 'Snakes and Ladders'. Naveen Patnaik is also a versatile genius in literature. The influence of his patriotic father, the environment and atmosphere of his cosmopolitan family has tremendous impact on his mind. His books reflect his deep interest in Indian cultural history and tradition. 'A second paradise' dealt with Indian culture, 'A Desert Kingdom' with Indian history and 'The Garden of life' with India's environment and traditional knowledge. All these three books were published not just in India but also widely acclaimed in the USA and Britain.

Biju Patnaik's Reign : An Era of Development

The 1961 mid-term poll raised the possibility of an end to political instability, as the

Congress Party under the dynamic leadership of Biju Patnaik emerged victorious with a stable majority. The election result was a surprise to many. For the first time in the electoral history of the State, the Congress Party under the leadership of Biju Patnaik secured absolute majority by capturing 82 seats in a House of 140 polling nearly 44 per cent of the total votes. Biju Patnaik who flushed with his magnificent victory in the 1961 election was awarded with the Chief Ministership of the State but appeared to think too much of himself. He gave an impression that he was all-powerful to do anything he likes. He made many promises of bringing about industrialization in the State. However, due to his strong initiative, the construction of Paradeep Port and Sunabeda MIG factory was started. During his tenure as Chief Minister, the Lok Sabha elections were held in 1962. That was a big opportunity for Biju Patnaik to demonstrate his leadership before the party High Command. In the election, the Congress could win 14 seats and a massive 55.5 per cent of votes. The Ganatantra Parishad whose vote share was 29 per cent in the last Lok Sabha election suffered badly with only 17.4 per cent votes. Thus, the massive victory for the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha election during the Biju Patnaik's tenure as Chief Minister clearly demonstrated his full control over the party and the confidence he enjoyed from the people of the State despite factionalism in the party and opposition of the Mahatab group after he became the Chief Minister.

In Odisha, Biju Patnaik embarked on this path of industrialization and development almost with a reckless abandon. In fact, his first spell of chiefministership in the 1960's was an era of industrialization and development. Ambitious and enterprising as he was from his boyhood, Biju Patnaik always cherished a dream to industrialize Odisha and turn himself into a top-flight industrialist by setting up large industries in his state

without any help from capitalists like the Birlas, Dalmias or Tatas and show to the people in Odisha that it was possible for them to take up big enterprises on their own. After becoming a member of the State Legislative Assembly Biju showed restlessness to develop industries for him. And with Mahatab at the helm of affairs in the state Biju had no difficulty in obtaining state patronage. Mahatab tried to give him all legitimate help from government side. With such help Biju set up Orissa Textile Mills and also Kalinga Airlines. Soon he set up other industries like Kalinga Tubes, Kalinga Iron Works, and Kalinga Refrigerator Corporation and in fact became monarch of an industrial empire in Odisha.

All his earnings and income derived from his business activities were invested in Odisha for the purpose of setting up industries and development of scientific and technical education in Odisha. In 1947 he founded a Public Charitable Trust called the Kalinga Foundation Trust which established the chair of Geology in the Utkal University, the international Kalinga prize for popularization of science.

It is obvious that in the late forties both Mahatab and Biju Patnaik came close to each other for their mutual interest. By 1950 Biju had practically become the principal financial prop of the party and Mahatab always encouraged him to remain as an industrialist without cherishing any political ambition.

The spirit of adventure that had once prompted Biju Patnaik in his young days to move to the cockpit of an airplane from the less thrilling job of a ground engineer again goaded him to grasp the wheel of the administration in his own hands and steer the state through a rather uncharted course to a bright future of his dreams. Biju employed all his organizing ability for winning the mid-term poll in 1961. In the hustings Biju

raised high hopes in the minds of the people with promises that under his rule milk and honey would flow in the lanes and by- lanes of the poor state. He used to urge the people to draw inspiration from his life- how he became a man of crores within a few years from a very humble beginning. In June 1961, Biju took over as the Chief Minister. Once at the helm of affairs, Biju tried to see that his ideas and dreams of making Odisha a modern industrial state came true. His greatest obsession was the sickening backwardness of Odisha. Naturally, he concentrated all his efforts in finding ways and means to make up the Lee way. With his great pull with the Prime Minister Nehru, Biju not only accelerated the process of development but was able to locate a number of prestigious projects in the state, e.g.- the Paradip Port, Sunabedha MIG factory, Talcher Thermal Power Plant, Balimela Hydel Project, the Express Highway and many more. The concept of Panchayat industries to boost the rural economy was given a trial. A system of competition amongst the Panchayats and Panchayat Samities was introduced. The winning Panchayats were to get small scale industries as a prize up to the value of Rs. 1 lakh each and winning Panchayat Samities were to get medium scale industries up to the value of Rs. 1 crore each. By this method in geometrical progression, the entire state would have been industrialized within a span of 20/25 years. The scheme not only received the approval and active support of the Planning Commission and the Government of India but also inspired several State Governments to take up similar projects.

These apart, Biju Patnaik was fortunate in having a Governor who was equally energetic. He was Ayodhya Nath Khosla, an eminent engineer who gave all help and encouragement to Biju Patnaik to give shape to his ideas. Khosla himself drafted a ten-year plan for the integrated development of the river basins of Odisha. The

plan covering the period from 1963-1973 was called the Odisha's decade of destiny. This was a modern industrialist's approach to a conservative bureaucracy. Truly, the state had embarked on a new adventure under his stewardship. Everything was going tempo. But it was rather strange that a man like him, who had the noble ideas of building the state's economy round the peasantry, was oblivious of a very fundamental aspect in his zeal for setting up a major port at Paradeep and to connect it by an Express Highway to facilitate iron ore movement by road. Both the costly projects proved to be a heavy burden on the state Exchequer and resulted in a lop- sided growth of the state since not much resources were left for the development of agriculture and irrigation, two most vital sectors for a poor state like Odisha, where 80% of people lived on agriculture. Moreover, by taking up the Paradeep Port Project he threw on the public exchequer a liability of about Rs. 16 crores - the amount spent on the project. The project became sort of a white elephant and Biju Patnaik had to face hostile criticism from his political opponents. The port was eventually taken over by the Government of India but the dispute over the reimbursement of the cost persisted and continued to be a bone of contention between the Centre and the State.

Due to implementation of the Kamraj Plan he had to resign from his office at the instance of the Congress High Command for organizational work of the party on a full-time basis. Thus, Biju Patnaik's resignation ended the hope of political stability. Even with an absolute majority behind it, the Congress could not provide political stability in the State and the Party had three Chief Ministers in six years. After Biju Patnaik's resignation Biren Mitra formed the next Congress Government on October 2, 1963. Biju Patnaik was made the chairperson of the State Planning Board to look after planning and development of the State, the post that he held until January 29,

1965. Soon after Mitra assumed office, the Mahatab group triggered the student movement and took active role in ousting the Biju-Biren Ministry. The Assembly was stormed by the students' mob and it was hurriedly adjourned. The Chief Minister was in tenterhooks. With in a few days, disturbances broke out all over the state causing students' agitation of a serious nature. Hurt emotionally and prompted by a desire to get rid of the administrative burden, Biren Mitra took unilateral decision to resign without consulting the Party. To revive the Congress image, the succession to Biren Mitra fell on to the head of Sadasiva Tripathy. Biju Patnaik regarded as the "Super Chief Minister" and still his sway was over the organisation. He had the final say in the matter and his choice fell on Sadasiva Tripathy, Revenue, Forest, and Excise Minister in Mitra's Cabinet. After the resignation of Sadasiv Tripathy's Ministry in 1965, Mahatab walked out of the Congress with his seven trusted lieutenants and formed Jana Congress with Pabitra Mohan Pradhan as the President to "oust Congress from power." The General Election in 1967 came off at the peak of anti-Congress wave in the country. The Congress for the first time suffered setback in so many States in its electoral history. Among the prominent Congress leaders who suffered defeat were Biju Patnaik, Nilamani Routray, and Satya Priya Mohanty along with many other ministers. The Jana Congress's electoral adjustment with the Swatantra Party was in a strong bid 'to end the misrule of corrupt Congress leaders' paid good dividends. A coalition Ministry therefore, was formed taking the members of the Swatantra and the Jana Congress Parties. Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo of the Swatantra party became the Chief Minister and Pabitra Mohan Pradhan of the Jana Congress became the Deputy Chief Minister.

New alignments started taking shape during presidential election of August 1969 in

the Odisha Congress which was also divided over the presidential poll. The followers of Biju Patnaik voted for the official Congress candidate Sanjiva Reddy while others exercised their "conscience vote" in favour of V.V.Giri who was regarded as Indira Gandhi's man. By that time, Biju Patnaik fell from the grace of the Prime Minister because of his pro-Sanjiva Reddy stand. As Biju Patnaik was defeated in the Assembly poll, he sought election to the Rajya Sabha. The Party recommended his name to the Central Parliamentary Board which rejected it and selected Narayan Patra as the Party's candidate though his name was not sent by the P.C.C. The followers of Patnaik revolted and set up T.Sanganna as their candidate. The outcome was a setback for the Congress(R) as both the official nominees' Patra and rebel candidate Sanganna were defeated. Ultimately, the High Command accused Patnaik and suspended him on May 24, 1970 along with a few of his followers. Biju Patnaik, therefore, left Congress and formed his state-based party "Utkal Congress". After the birth of the Utkal Congress, a new spate of developments took place in Odisha. Mahtab was waiting for such a situation. With Patnaik in it, he disliked Congress, when he was out, and he tried his best to enter into it.

Biju Patnaik in the Opposition Bench

Biju Patnaik's contribution to India's democracy was the role he played tenaciously and repeatedly in Odisha and at national level for forming opposition unity through times of factional politics. The Indira wave virtually had no impact in the General Election of 1971 to the Odisha Legislative Assembly. The Swatantra Party secured 36 seats and the Utkal Congress of Biju Patnaik 32 seats, which after September bye-election became 36 seats. The Jharkhand, the P.S.P., and the C.P.I. secured four seats each. The CPI (M) begged two and Independents secured four seats.

Soon after the election the attempt for a Coalition Government of Congress and Utkal Congress could not succeed. A coalition government was formed and Biswanath Das assumed the charge of office on 3rd April 1971 in Odisha. The government headed by Biswanath Das depended on the Swatantra Party, the Jharakhand Party and the Utkal Congress. Despite his stay outside the formal power structure, Biju Patnaik was the unquestioned master of his Utkal Congress Party and coalition government.

The Coalition Ministry came to the edge of fall down because of disagreement among the partners. By hook or by crook, the coalitions continued till June 1972. In the same time, the Utkal Congress Legislative Party under the leadership of Biju Patnaik, (this had 34 members) decided to rejoin the Congress Party. But the Congress Party admitted only 28 members of the Utkal Congress Party and the rest six members including Biju Patnaik remained in the opposition as Independent members. The Congress party, thereafter, formed Ministry with Smt. Nandini Satpathy as Chief Minister.

Thus, the Utkal Congress was again revived in November 1972 and an 18 member legislative party including the "left out" seven Biju Patnaik as the leader. In February 1973, a combined front styled as the Pragati Legislative Party with the members of the Swatantra Party, six members of the erstwhile Utkal Congress Party and the members of the Independent Congress group was formed. The Pragati Party elected Biju Patnaik as its leader and he became as the leader of the opposition. On 1st March 1973 when the Assembly was in session, the political situation took a sudden turn. 25 members of the Congress Party including two Cabinet Ministers defected from the Congress and joined the Pragati Legislative Party. The Satpathy Ministry resigned

immediately after that and the State came under President's rule on 3rd March 1973.

Elections to the 147-member state Assembly were held on February 22 and February 24, 1974 in a favourable climate for the Congress. The Congress fought the election in alliance with the CPI. Therefore the fight was virtually restricted to the Congress and the Pragati combine of Utkal Congress, Swatantra Party and Samjukta Socialist Party. The emergence of the Pragati Party before 1974 elections was a significant development in the direction of bipolarization of the party system in the State. Biju Patnaik's idea of an all-India alternative was in fact realized in 1974 with the formation of Bharatiya Lok Dal.

In the years 1974 and 1975 India faced a political turmoil of enormous proportions. Around this time the issue of corruption became the biggest issue. Jaya Prakash Narayan's anticorruption movement was gradually taking unshakable roots by which time the Allahabad High Court judgment came. Raj Narayan's election petition in the Allahabad High Court made all the difference. Raj Narayan challenged Indira's victory on the ground that she committed electoral malpractice. Mrs. Indira Gandhi's electoral victory was soon giving place to Raj Narayan's court victory. With the judgment in hand the opposition gave her two options; either to quite or face countrywide agitation. Indira Gandhi was not so weak leader to abdicate power by such provocations. A disillusioned Indira Gandhi became captive of circumstances of her own making. There was no alternative, except turning to the Constitution and Proclaiming National Emergency.

On June, 25th 1975, President Fakiruddin Ali Ahmed signed a proclamation declaring a state of emergency in India on the ground of internal disturbances. Again on July 1st,

1975, the President signed another ordinance amending the maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) whereby the government could detain anyone it likes without assigning the grounds. The tenure of Lok Sabha was extended for one year. Many opposition leaders were put behind bars. At this Biju Patnaik and other leaders went to Jagjivan Ram with a suggestion that if he could come out from the Congress immediately they would support him. Biju Patnaik and Chandrasekhar spoke for the Janata Party. Nandini Satapathy and K.R. Ganesh spoke for CPI only after they had finally checked up with their erstwhile comrades. Jagajivan Ram called his supporters to reach Delhi. When many arrived Ram said that he was leaving the Congress and he was going to announce this in the Congress Election Committee. On January 29th Ram finally decided to come out of the Party.

But on January 17, 1977 Indira Gandhi announced the dissolution of the Lok Sabha and holding fresh elections to the House in March 1977. After Indira Gandhi declared the election dates all the opposition parties met in Delhi instantly. The Jana Sangha, Bharatiya Lok Dal, Congress (O), the Socialist Party, the Congress for Democracy and Bharatiya Lok Dal merged together and named as the Janata Party.

In Odisha, the Janata Party under the leadership of Biju Patnaik fought the elections in alliance with Congress for Democracy (C.F.D.) and the CPI (M). It bagged 16 (Janata 14, C.F.D. 1, CPI (M) 1) of the 21 parliamentary seats. Congress Party got only 4. In the Elections to the Odisha Legislative Assembly the Janata Party led by Biju Patnaik swept the polls while the Congress was completely routed. Out of 147 seats the Janata Party got 110 seats, Congress 26, CPI and CPI (M) one each and Independents nine. This was for the first time in the history of Odisha that a party under Biju won the election.

The most remarkable feature of poll outcome was re-emergence of Biju Patnaik as the undisputed leader of Odisha. With a landslide victory of 110 seats a Ministry was formed with Nilamani Routray, a close lieutenant of Biju Patnaik, as the Chief Minister on 26 June, 1977.

Biju Patnaik's Last Chance to fulfill his Dreams

Following the election debacle of the Congress (I) in the Parliamentary elections of November 1989 at the national level in general and State level in particular. Janaki Ballav Patnaik, who frustrated the efforts of all his political rivals to remove him from the seat, owned the moral responsibility for the failure of the party in elections and as such resigned from the position on 1st December, 1989. Mr. Hemananda Biswal, a former critic, political rival of Janaki Ballav Patnaik and former Minister of Janaki Ballav Patnaik's Cabinet became the leader of the Congress Legislative Party and he took over as Odisha's Chief Minister on 5th December, 1989.

The Janata Dal led combine under the leadership of Biju Patnaik won a five-sixth majority, cornering 130 of the 147 seats with the Janata Dal alone getting 123. The Congress (I) secured only 10 seats. Biju Patnaik had played the pivotal role in the formation of National Front Government at the Centre and his contact with the Prime Minister V.P. Singh developed his image in Odisha. Biju Patnaik's appeal to the people to give him a chance at the fag end of the political career to build up Odisha of his dream had magic impact on the people. Waving of loans of small farmers' up to 10,000/- also attracted the mass. The Boffors deal of Rajiv Gandhi also had an impact on the people.

With a triumphant majority, Biju Patnaik returned as the Chief Minister of Odisha after a long gap of 27 years. His comeback was

acclaimed all over the State as the emergence of an era of industrialization. The people of Odisha also nurtured a hope of getting something from Biju Patnaik at the fag end of his life. Before the election, Biju Patanaik was too in the asking of a 'last chance' to serve the people. Biju Patnaik had cherished a dream of establishing a Second Steel Plant and empowering the women. During the Chief Ministership of Biju Patnaik, the process of liberalization, privatization and globalisation, which was started by the Centre assistance, was streamlined. More and more private investors were attracted to invest in Odisha's market. He tried his best to establish a second steel plant in Odisha and selected Daitari as the proper place for the Second Steel Plant.

When Biju became the Union Steel Minister during 1977, he tried to set up a shore based steel plant at Paradeep. But things couldn't move ahead because Moraraji Desai's government fell half way through its tenure. Biju's plan suffered a setback. When Biju Patnaik again came to power in 1990 he was overconvinced that Odisha needs another Steel Plant and it was time to give solid shape to the concept, which had failed to take off. Biju always wanted to set up the plant in Paradeep because of the exportability of the product. A South Korean Company Pohang Iron and Steel co. (POSCO) was asked to study the feasibility of a port-based Steel Plant. The team of experts, however, showed unwillingness to Paradeep. Paradeep had another disadvantages attached to it. The Dredging Corporation of India in a report had said that to develop Paradeep for a Steel Plant would take 15 years of time and an amount of 250 crores would be needed as development costs. Finally, Biju gave in and Daitari was selected to be the right place for the second steel plant. The next step he took was a joint sector company called Kalinga Steel Limited to replace Janaki Ballav Patnaik's Nilanchal Ispat Nigam. The

Kalinga Steel became the joint venture of the Government run concern IPICOL and Jindal Strips Limited was to set up the plant at Daitari. Before Jindals came the South Korean firm POSCO, had tried but backed out on the question of the place where the plant should come up. Although the investment of Jindals for a mega-project was totally beyond their corporate capability, they invested 70 crores in another project and finally they withdrew. After the oust of the Jindals, Biju Patnaik invited the Tata's to come and set-up the Steel Plant. To entrap the Tatas Biju offered many facilities. As all his efforts had gone into frivolous, he arrived in London in November 1991 to fructify his dreams. He persuaded Swaraj Paul, Chairman of the CAPARO group. Biju saw high hopes in Swaraj Paul. But his dream of 3 million tonne steel project received a severe jolt when the Germany unification came about in 1990. Without the help of congress Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, it was difficult to get foreign financial assistance directly for the Kalinga Steel Project.

When he invited the South Korean Steel making firm POHANG Company to become a major partner along with the Jindal Strips, the Central Steel Minister accused him of violating the protocol by approaching a foreign company at his own. In the meanwhile the Narasimha Rao government at centre implemented the new Indian economic policy. These were governed by the principles of liberalization, privatization. Freedom to the entrepreneurs to establish any industry or trade or business venture was encouraged. State control, licenses, and permits system were also discouraged. For Biju Patnaik this was a golden opportunity. Again he successfully motivated Swaraj Paul to shoulder the responsibility of the Kalinga Steel. On 10th may, 1992 the Bhoomi Puja was held at Jakhapura near Daitari with the presence of Swaraj Paul, Biju Patnaik and the British High Commissioner in India. Meanwhile

the Union Cabinet cleared the establishment of a giant steel plant in Odisha. Swaraj Paul was ready with the investment of money. But something happened in the midst, when Swraj Paul wanted to clarify that he was only an investor and not the principal promoter of the project as envisaged. He also said that the CAPARO group is also an equity investor and not leader as far as debt equity was concerned. Unless debt equity could be done at 3 is to 1 there was no way of proceeding with the Project. When this information reached Biju's secretariat every thing seemed to be unsettling for him. Finally, Swaraj Paul washed his hands off in the project. Three years of protracted negotiations, years of wavering and gallons of hopes all were dashed to the ground. A dream of Biju Patnaik became unfulfilled. However during the second term of Chief Ministership from March 5, 1990 to March 15, 1995 Panchayati Raj movement gained momentum under his dynamic leadership. He took a revolutionary step to reserve 33 per cent of seats for women in the three-tier of the Panchayati Raj system. As a mark of his profound love for Panchayati Raj institution the people of Odisha observe his Birth Day (March 5) as Panchayati Raj Divas.

The "son of the soil" breathed his last on 17th April 1997 at the age of eighty-one. The whole country was stunned and messages condoling his death and eulogizing his contributions started pouring in from far and near.

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Is Social Transformation and Economic Prosperity Possible Through PRIs ?

Baidhar Biswal

Panchayati Raj Institutions are the local self government at the grass root level. Participation of the people is a key element in the process of good governance. The philosophy of power to the people at the grassroots level, is the emanation from people's participation through economic development to meet their aspirants and improving their quality of life through better service delivery. Aristotle, the noted Greek Philosopher trained that participation in the affairs of the State for a citizen was essential to development and fulfillment of human personality. In his view, the best State is the one whose this was broad participation with no class dominating over others. He had established clearcut relation between participation and development leading to good life.

In the 21st century we all talk of a democratic set up of administration because it provides ample scope for people's participation hastening up economic prosperity and ensuring social justice to the marginalized and deprived. The present governance structure in India is known for its professionalization in ensuring laws, evoking schemes / programmes, making plans and projects but does not have the capacity to translate the same into action and produce the expected outcomes. It is formed that people centric activities are missing in the process of development in almost all levels of implementation.

The State with its bureaucratic system claims ownership of development which reduces the citizens to beneficiaries without involvement. To reverse this paragon of development and governance from supply driven and government centric to demand driven and people- centric, role of PRIs are most suited which this provides the framework for ascertaining the needs and aspirants of the people of the local level through PRI representatives available in 3 tiers of local governance structure along with effective functioning of Palli / Gram Sabhas. It has been acknowledged by all sections that sitting at national / State capitals the people's representatives can not fulfill the aspirants of the local people and solve their attend out problems very few times properly expressed in any formal/ informal form. By empowering the PRIs and its elected representatives the overarching influence of bureaucracy can be curbed to a great extent. Besides when governance is established at the grassroots the procedure and practices of community come to foreplay vis-a-vis the governance structure and legal provisions. This will also free the Indian polity from middlemen who have mediated in the system as a result the voices of the people are seldom heard, if heard are not taken into consideration. The voiceless people are brought to the election platform as voters through mediation by local mediators belonging to dominant castes and communities.

Judging in the above backdrop, the 73rd constitutional Amendment has provided the institutional mechanism for creating an enabling environment for people's participation through Panchayats / Gram Sabhas and shaping the felt needs of the people through PRIs and to a great extent, implementing the schemes programmes for economic development and social justice.

- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment, if properly carried out in letter and spirit, has enough potential to alter the nature of governance and power relations amongst the unequal. It has tremendous scope to solve the problem of exclusion. Having realized the full implication of the Amendment, those who are in power influential have devised new ways of sponsoring wives / daughters in Local Body electors the landlord is sponsoring his farm labourer for election for the seat reserved for Dalits.
- Even after 18 years of the Amendment became operative confusion has been created deliberately on devolution of powers to PRIs. Some States argue that neither PRI being a State subject they are at liberty to devolve powers by taking their own time by interpreting the provisions of the Amendment as not mandatory nor any time frame has been prescribed there under. Even some States have not framed conformity legislations in time with the spirit of the amendment, even different Departments of Central Government have not Amended their Acts/Rules in conformity with PESA Act, which is as certainly arm of the 73rd Amendment for scheduled areas. Govt. either State or Central, people's representatives should remember that the 73rd Amendment is the outcome of the failure of the State Govt's to make the Panchayats institutions of self-governance. Judging in this

perspective State Govts do not devolve powers to PRIs by not taking them into trust on the plea – PRIs indulge in rampant corruption, they do not have required staff and infrastructure, even efficiency to cope up with the extra load of devolution. The basic reason at the root of such reluctance is the hesitation of people's representatives to part with their power / authority which they exercise through Block/ District Administration by influencing the Govt. machinery. This sort of nexus also results in corruption and impartiality and neutrality of bureaucracy is shattered and worst of all the people never set their needs and aspirants fulfilled.

- Local Self-Governing Bodies form an integral part of a democratic society. They are designed to play an effective role in the evolution of people's participation from the lowest level, gives scope and opportunity for expressing themselves in administration, solving economic and social problems as per community interests thus paving for integration of the community and its welfare.
- The term 'development' consists some complicated process/stages like people's participation, planning at the grassroots, transparency and accountability of the implementing agencies, desired outcomes ensuring quality which can be integrated holistically for all-round development and economic prosperity. Hence to make PRIs work realistically a man's movement should start from the grassroots for socio-economic transformation to instill a mindset amongst all ...of society i.e. planning administrators, people's representatives, NGOs, social activists to realize the potential of the new dispensation.

- It is now widely debated that whatever could not be done by 73rd Constitutional Amendment has been done by MGNREG. The Act has not only transferred, the rural scenario, it has changed the face of PRIs participants for the two tiers at the lowest level. The Act has stepped the abilities of the GP in terms of finance as an implementing agency has brought about grassroots planning, supervision in implementation, social audit grievance redressed to a great excellent. It is clear-cut case of people's participation at its best even through the implementation of the scheme is still grappled with many deficiencies. The Central/State Govt. should come forward with schemes which will strength the PRI infrastructure including personal, step up its financial activity and enhance people's participation. Besides, some incentive schemes are to be introduced by Central Government which will allow the State Government for development of power to PRIs in tune with 73rd Amendment.
- Despite all drawbacks the Panchayats have started transforming the living conditions of the rural poor by its functioning. By now more than 30 lakh PRI representatives are in position in India who mainly come from middle classes SC/ST/OBC categories and are thread of them are women. In Kerala due to well functioning of PRIs endowed with developed powers rural development has been phenomenal and it has contributed a lot for basing poverty in the State. In W.B. PRIs have taken deep roots and it was instrumental in successfully carrying out land reforms by involving itself in operation Burgadar. In southern state like Karnataka, Tamilnadu, and Andhra Pradesh PRIs also function up to satisfactory level even in spite deficiencies. In a country like India rural development and banishment of poverty is only possible when PRIs are fully empowered with powers and they work effectively without hostile.
- Presently the PRIs are ridden with rampant corruption for which both representatives and officials are responsible. Some of the procedure/process of PRIs are obsolete and need urgent streamlining. Corruption scenario can be tackle by setting state/district level ombudsmen and tracking down exemplary anti-corruption cases. The efficiency of PRI representatives and officials, RD functionaries can be raised by constant capacity building efforts. Infrastructure of PRI can be strengthen by developing a computerized scientific database, more trained and skilled manpower like JEs, Accountants. Overall the Palli / Gram Sabha should also be empowered to encourage people's participation in decentralized planning, supervision in implementation, social audit grievance redressal. In India the media is not championing the cause of PRIs as it does for Central/ State Govts. Wherever in India, committed leader with vision and capability is emerging, decentralized governance has worked wonders. Therefore our people's representatives and bureaucrats should shed the ruler culture of Britishraj and accept PRI representative's role as complementary to them. They should not work as development brokers and think for aspirations of the people. Enlightened citizens can set up the mindset of officials and people's representatives and bring about a transformation, RTI Act, 2005 should be treated as a tool in their hands to toe the administration to their line. Then only Gram Swaraj as thought by Gandhiji will be reality.

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Towards Empowered People and Enlightened PRIs.

Dr. Bhagbanprakash

Two Acts, passed in Parliament and considered to be epoch making and historic, are

- (i) The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India and
- (ii) The Right to Information Act.

If their impact has not been as impressive as these were supposed to be, it is because of their indifferent implementation. The 73rd Amendment had potentially all the ingredients of Gram Swaraj of Gandhiji's Dream in which a resurgent self-reliant, self-respecting village manages its own affairs and emerges as a proud symbol of grassroot democracy with a permanent institutional structure and a participatory decision making process, giving people a voice and a choice.

Bapu was a rural romantic pleading for a rural renaissance and had thought everything would fall into place once the Indian Constitution formalized and granted full autonomy to the Panchayati Raj institutions at various levels. On the other hand Dr. Ambedkar who was a key player in framing the Indian Constitution had serious reservations by caste hierarchies about the efficacy of social justice in rural India framing. The 73rd Amendment in a way was a fulfillment of Bapu's dreams. Further, when half of the world is still suffering from authoritarian, dictatorial and military rules, it is definitely gratifying to see Indian village Panchayats holding regular elections to choose their representatives and leaders. Seeing

women dalits and tribal occupying in large number, seats of power in Panchayats further reinforces one's faith in democracy. This is definite creating, albeit slowly an enabling environment for people and communities kept at a distance for centuries from the decision making process in rural India.

Yet there are many miles to go. The main challenge is how to marry the Constitutional provisions with the common practices, how to reconcile modern expensive election culture with the traditional relationship values, how to transfer power relation among divergent social collectives, how to remove the entrenched inequality in rural economy and the inbuilt discrimination in social beliefs and practices, how to bring together the conventional community leaders and the elected Panchayat representatives, how to promote rational scientific temper in caste ridden social milieu diseases with social evils, discrimination and disparities, how to facilitate a peaceful and comprehensive community renewal, how to develop Gram Sabha as rural Parliament or a miniature State Assembly wherein people freely participate and influence the process, how to ensure better value for every rupee spent on a development programme in the Panchayats and finally how to make each Panchayat a planning unit and administrative unit, and information dissemination centre, resource centre for all the villages affiliated to it and a centre working for productive, hunger-free, illiteracy-free healthy village clusters and polycentric village institutions.

It is now a well known fact that despite a lot of investments in social services and rural development, the human development indicators for Odisha are not picking up. Fifty seven percent of the State's population is living malnourished. Infant and maternal mortality rates are worse than the national average and far away from the MDG Goals. In half of the Hospitals and Primary Health Centers, there are no doctors and most of the deliveries take place outside the health centers. Predictably India's rank in the Human Development Index 2009 is 134 out of 182 countries. In terms of Gender Development Index, India ranks 114 out of 155 countries. The progress in health remains uneven across the regions.

Some of the major reasons for this, as reported by the Comptroller and Auditor General, lack of decentralized bottom up planning, non – utilization of grants and shortage, of service providers at different levels. There are many gaping holes in Odisha's development story and Zig- Zag journey – a State with rich fertile soil, abundance of rains and out of 11 agro-climatic zones. The State is still reluctant to decentralize its power to the Panchayats in fact, the 73rd Amendment was the response to the failure of many State Governments to convert Panchayats as autonomous institutions of self governance. Realizing this problem more than two-third members of the National Parliament had approved the Amendment and more than 50 percent of the State Govts' including Odisha ratified and accepted this new dispensation. Even after this also the Govt. of India had to exert pressure on the State Govt's to hold elections for the Panchayats.

The impetus for the Constitutional Amendment came from a number of National level Committees and Expert groups headed by Balwant Rai Mehta, Ashok Mehta, V.P.Naik, G.V.R.Rao, & L.N. Singhvi. More or less they are agreed to Gandhiji's view of a “**village based**

political formation fostered by a Stateless, classless society” – virtually thousands of village republics, what followed were half – hearted attempts for almost more than four decades. Panchayats are now emerging as builders of a new civil society.

When PRIs and civil society work together, they will be a powerful force. Odisha has a large number of civil society organizations and society oriented youth groups spread all over the State. Their numbers more than twenty thousand excluding NYKS and NSS volunteers who regularly visit villages and slums as a part of their community service assignment. These organizations and their human resource could be successfully used by PRIs at the grassroot level to improve the quality of a number of flagship schemes and programmes of the government languishing for want of active people's participation. Often Panchayat leaders themselves are not aware of the importance of such schemes and their potential in changing the socio-economic scenario of the village and the human development indicators of such areas.

For instance, after the Right to Education Bill now passed in Parliament, Panchayats would ensure 100 per cent enrolment of children into the schools. School drop-out rate also needs to be prevented. **Sarba Siksha Abhijan** also needs to reach out to the marginalized and disadvantaged section of the society in a more comprehensive way. The successful implementation of National Rural Health Mission also requires lots of volunteers to motivate the villagers to avail and access the services offered by NRHM, ASHA and Anganwadi workers have been struggling to mediate the benefits of such programme to the rural masses and their hands need to be strengthened by civil society organizations having a rural presence.

The **Palli Sabhas** and **Gram Sabhas** in the Panchayat also used to be activated stakeholders used to be trained and empowered

to assert their views and articulate their needs in such forums. Many of the Panchayats in Odisha do not know or lack the requisite skills for preparing microplans. Many of them also do not have the knowledge and data base for planning the development programmes. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act – NREGA – Programme is floundering at many places as people / beneficiaries are not aware about its various provisions. Similar is the case and fate of **Gram Sadak Yojana**, **Madhu Babu Pension Scheme** and **Mo Kudia** schemes. CSOs, youth clubs and organizations of youth volunteers can play very crucial role in making people actively aware of such schemes and preventing their misuse. Training Panchayat headers in Panchayat governance is another area where they can play a supportive role. They can collect information about various schemes and disseminate these in Panchayat forums and Gram Sabhas making people aware of the needs of a small family, the practice of social evils like dowry, untouchability and exploitation are arms that would always require friendly external intervention from volunteers groups.

In the Budget 2010-11 speech; the Finance Minister has said that the main challenge before the country is how to efficiently implement the plans & programmes. He has announced to make 3,50,000 crore budget provision to provide agricultural loan to the farmers at a very reasonable rate of interest i.e. 5 percent. This would boost further the Self-Help-Group (SHG) movement in the country & in the State of Odisha which has more than 1,50,000 SHGs operating mostly in villages. He has also announced support to 60,000 villages for cultivating pulses and oil seeds. The Panchayats in the State must plan well in advance to avail the support package for their farmers. Similarly by 2012, all areas with more than 2000 population will have banking facilities and a hefty sum of 66000 crore has been budgeted for rural development in Panchayats. This is 12 times more than the annual budget for urban areas.

About 60,000 villages now will come under banking network. In addition to ten thousand crore has been allocated for 2010-11 for **Indira Awas Yojana** for the weaker section in villages. Similarly beneficiaries of the NREGA would now come under a National Health Insurance Scheme.

All these initiatives would require a resource centre in each Panchayat for their effective implementation. Each Panchayat is to have software and net connection in order to link them with the national network. Similarly each Panchayat would also require a social watch unit to monitor proper implementation of various plans and keep an eye on leakage and seepage of resources and prevent its siphoning by unscrupulous middlemen in collaboration with petty corrupt officials. Palli Sabhas and Gram Sabhas can be oriented to work as village vigilance bodies. They also need to be trained in sustainable management of the natural and common property sources of the village. Voluntary organizations in collaboration with PRIs can help in areas of birth and marriage registration in villages; prevent underage matrimony, assisted delivery nutrition and sanitation education, watershed management, soil health and productivity. Each Panchayat has the potential to develop as a business hub for young rural entrepreneurs which eventually would halt and reverse migration to urban locations for livelihood.

Rural development movement in India was initiated in 1945 with Zamindari Abolition Act and the 73rd Amendment was its logical conclusion that recognized the importance of an agrarian economy and an agrarian society. How they service in the neo-liberal economy in an increasingly globalised world is the challenge of today.

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Gender Equality in Halls of Power

Abhay Dwivedi

‘Panchayati Raj has to develop a whole system of governance that includes both men and women at the grassroots level. My colleagues, on both sides, are aware that unless 50 per cent of the nation’s authority vests with women and 50 per cent of the elected representatives are women, this country can never make or register any progress. Of that, I am sure. And I know this from recent experience in my State. Orissa was the first State to implement 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in Municipalities and Panchayats, in 1992. At that time the Centre was still only discussing this provision. The Constitutional Amendment passed by Parliament two years later had the same provision. My only regret is that we had 33 per cent reservation for women in Orissa. We should have made it 50 per cent.’ - **Biju Pattanaik**

This dream of Biju Pattanaik, one of the tallest figures in Indian Politics, turns to reality by the recent Cabinet decision of our State in February 2011, to increase the women’s representation in three-tier Panchayati Raj institutions upto 50%. It is a positive step furthering the cause of women’s presence in decision making process in grassroot level. Most likely, it will be implemented from next Panchayat elections scheduled to be held early next year 2012.

Biju Pattanaik was a visionary, a statesman of heighest calibre. He wanted decentralisation of power with equal importance on women empowerment. The above address by Biju Pattanaik in National Panchayati Raj Conference is truly reflected in United Nations declaration in 1995 - "while women represent 50 percent of the world adult population and a third of the official labour force, they perform nearly two-third of all working hours, receive a tenth of world income and own less than one percent of world property. So women must be reasonably represented in decision making process. Therefore, reservation for women is not a bounty but only an honest recognition of their contribution to social development.”

BPFA, FWCW, BEIJING 1995

In 1990, the women representation in national legislatures of the world was less than 10%. The United Nation’s Economic and Social Council endorsed the implementation of measures to reach a target of 30% by 1995. But quantitative target remained elusive. At the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW, Beijing 1995), there was global consensus around women’s advancement in the public sphere through the institutionalisation of national machineries for women, as well as, the affirmation of the gender quota in policy and decision-making spaces. In

Beijing, 189 countries pledged to promote the equality of women in decision-making and in strengthening national machineries for enabling women's co-equal governance with men. Section G on "women and power and decision-making" of the Beijing Platform for Action [BPFA] supports the advancement of women's participation in public leadership and governance. Central to this commitment is the goal of achieving gender balance in political representation and decision-making. In response, a significant number of women's groups and individuals took up the challenge more strongly addressing male domination in politics. Still, nearly 15 years later, women occupy only 18% of parliamentary seats around the world, and at the current rate of progress it has been estimated that gender parity in parliaments will not be achieved until the turn of the twenty-second century. More countries are therefore deciding to implement a "fast track route" to tackling structural discrimination and increasing female participation. During the last 15 years, nearly 50 countries have introduced quota systems (fast track route) for women, which guarantee a minimum representation of women in their highest decision making bodies.

In 2010, percentage of women representatives in Parliaments of the world :

Nordic countries - 41.4%

Americas - 21.8%

Europe (excluding Nordic countries) - 19.1%

Asia - 17.4%

Sub-Saharan Africa - 17.2%

Pacific - 13.4%

Arab states - 9.6%

The Nordic countries make up a region in Northern Europe and the North Atlantic which consists of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway

and Sweden (all of which use a Nordic Cross flag) and their associated territories which include the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Svalbard and Åland. Scandinavia is sometimes used as a synonym for the Nordic countries.

WHY FAST TRACK -

Fast track route involves setting aside a quota in form of percentage or number for women in electoral process. This is a measure to increase the representation because they are historically excluded from decision making process. In this category, broadly speaking, there are two methods involved : Legal Quota and Party Quota. Legal quota is mandated in a country's Constitution or by law, usually in the electoral law. This regulates the proceedings of all political parties in a country and prescribes sanctions in case of non-compliance. Voluntary party quotas are voluntarily decided by one or more political parties in a country. In such cases some political parties may have quotas, while other parties reject them. Gender quotas have been introduced in quite a number of countries around the world, countries of various political and socio-economical backgrounds. The idea of introducing quotas has usually travelled between countries in the same region. In Latin American, for example, Argentina was the forerunner with its introduction of legal candidate quotas in 1991. Since then this type of quotas has spread all over the Latin-American region. In Africa, South Africa has inspired other countries in the region to adopt voluntary party quotas, while Uganda has led concerning reserved seats. In South Asia gender quotas at the local level have been introduced in recent years in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, even if these three countries do not openly refer to experience made by their neighbours. As of 2006, around 40 countries have introduced gender quotas in elections to national parliaments, either by means of Constitutional Amendment or by changing the

electoral laws (legal quotas). In more than 50 countries major political parties have voluntarily set out quota provisions in their own status (party quotas).

In the high performing Nordic countries, no constitutional clause or law demands a high representation of women; rather, women's groups have exerted sustained pressure on the major political parties to voluntarily ensure increases in the number and calibre of female candidates being fielded through party lists. However, this was not introduced until women were already present in the Parliament, and already holding between 20 and 30% of the seats. Elsewhere, there have been numerous problems with implementation and enforcement of party quotas. In France, for example, many political parties have preferred to

pay fines rather than put their women candidates up for election. In October 2003, Rwanda came closer than any other country to achieving parity between men and women in a national legislature, with reservation of seats securing 48.8% women in the Lower House and 34.6% in the Upper House. Neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Afghanistan have laws that currently give women a higher representation than India in their national parliaments.

Here is the list of countries with highest and nil number of women representation in the Lower House of the Parliament. The highest number has been possible due to the legal quotas enforced in those countries. Very interestingly, the top thirty of the list does not include the so called advanced countries.

WORLD REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN LOWER HOUSE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2010

Rank	Country	Lower House			
		Elections	Seats	Women	% W
1	Rwanda	9 -2008	80	45	56.3%
2	Sweden	9 -2006	349	162	46.4%
3	South Africa	4- 2009	400	178	44.5%
4	Cuba	1- 2008	614	265	43.2%
5	Iceland	4 -2009	63	27	42.9%
6	Netherlands	11- 2006	150	63	42.0%
7	Finland	3 -2007	200	80	40.0%
8	Norway	9- 2009	169	67	39.6%
9	Mozambique	10 -2009	250	98	39.2%
11	Denmark	11 -2007	179	68	38.0%
13	Spain	3- 2008	350	128	36.6%
14	Andorra	4- 2009	28	10	35.7%

15	New Zealand	11- 2008	122	41	33.6%
16	Nepal	4 -2008	594	197	33.2%
17	Germany	9- 2009	622	204	32.8%
18	The F.Y.R.	6- 2008	120	39	32.5%
19	Ecuador	4 -2009	124	40	32.3%
20	Belarus	9 -2008	110	35	31.8%
21	Uganda	2 -2006	324	102	31.5%
22	Burundi	7- 2005	118	37	31.4%
23	Tanzania	12 -2005	323	99	30.7%
47	U. A.E.	12- 2006	40	9	22.5%
48	Pakistan	2- 2008	342	76	22.2%
51	United Kingdom	5 -2010	650	143	22.0%
61	France	6- 2007	577	109	18.9%
62	Bangladesh	12 -2008	345	64	18.6%
69	USA	11- 2008	435	73	16.8%
90	Japan	8- 2009	480	54	11.3%
92	India	4 -2009	545	59	10.8%
118	Sri Lanka	4- 2010	225	12	5.3%
128	Egypt	11-2005	454	8	1.8%
131	Saudi Arabia	2 -2009	150	0	0.0%
131	Solomon Islands	4 -2006	50	0	0.0%
131	Tuvalu	8- 2006	15	0	0.0%
131	Colombia	3 -2010	166	0	0%
131	Dominican Republic	5 -2010	183	0	0%
131	Ethiopia	5 -2010	547	0	0%
131	Mauritius	5- 2010	70	0	0%
131	Philippines	5 -2010	287	0	0%
131	Sudan	4- 2010	450	0	0%
131	Suriname	5- 2010	51	0	0%
131	Tajikistan	2 -2010	63	0	0%

WOMEN STILL SECOND RATE CITIZENS:

From the list above, it is evident that the bottom thirteen countries have no women representation in the Lower House. And strange enough, there are still countries, where women's suffrage is denied or conditioned. In Lebanon, proof of elementary education is required for women but not for men, while voting is compulsory for men, it is optional for women. Women's suffrage is denied in Saudi Arabia. The first local elections ever held in the country occurred in 2005. Women were not given the right to vote or to stand for election, although suffrage was slated to possibly be granted by 2009, but these elections have been postponed for the time being. In United Arab Emirates limited suffrage (for both men and women), but it will be fully expanded by a yet-to-be announced election in 2011. Similarly in Vatican City, the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church is elected only by the College of Cardinals, who are currently a small selected group of men. Cardinals aged 80 and older no longer have the right to vote, thus there is no suffrage for women nor most men either.

After Women's Reservation Bill has crossed the first hurdle. India is all set to join a league of around 40 countries, including Pakistan and

Bangladesh, which have quota for women in Parliaments. But certain factors are still forestalling the bill in the name of religion and quota within quota. Just few years ago when women were given 33% and in some states even 50% representation in Panchayats, Zilla Parishad and Municipal elections. A Muslim woman from Deoband filed her nomination for Municipal board election. A fatwa was issued by muftis of Deoband that it is haram for Muslim women to fight elections and campaign among men. However, the Muslim woman showed determination and refused to withdraw her nomination. The muftis then relaxed and asked her to wear hijab for campaigning among men. The woman again refused to bow down to wishes of muftis and campaigned and even won the election. Even now some muftis have opinion that women should sit at home and perform her domestic chores rather than enter into public arena. In this backdrop Women's Reservation Bill is the only hope of fair representation for fare sex.

Abhay Dwivedi lives at Salandi Nagar, Bhadrak-756100.

50% Reservation of Women in Panchayats : A Step towards Gender Equity

Dr. I. Jaya Bharati

“The State Government will soon take steps to reserve 50% positions for women in Panchayati Raj institutions from 2012 elections as their role in these Bodies is significant,” Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik told a public meeting on the occasion of the 94th birth anniversary of his father legendary Mr. Biju Patnaik.

This statement of Hon’ble Chief Minister was largely applauded by the PRI members across the state and a new dream brewed among the women community. Panchayat leaders make a difference and that bringing women into politics may help in improving their welfare. Reduced fertility may be achieved by increasing women’s bargaining power in the family and society at large. And an effective democracy with adequate women’s representation may be more effective by achieving it than regulation that takes away from women what the 73rd Amendment guarantees them.

Even Star Plus, the favourite national channel in India, celebrates the family with the woman at its core. It dedicates its success to every woman in this country who is slowly but progressively bringing about the *Nayi Soch* (meaning new thinking) in her life, in the lives of her family members and society at large. But

in reality can we think the same about women in rural areas ?

Woman brings us into the world and strives relentlessly to keep our world together. She touches our life in various avatars; as a daughter she brings joy and laughter, as a wife she offers support and companionship, as a mother she instills beliefs and values. Her entire existence is dedicated to the well being of her loved ones and in fulfilling her family’s needs.

From equal status with men in ancient times through the low points of the medieval period, to the promotion of equal rights by many reformers, the history of women in India has been eventful. The Indian woman’s position in the society further deteriorated during the medieval period when Sati among some communities, child marriages and a ban on widow remarriages became part of social life among some communities in India. In modern India, women have adorned high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition, etc.

The status of women in India has been undergoing a sea-change. Supported by Constitutional guarantees to ensure dignity and equal opportunities, their active participation in all walks of life including education, politics, sport

etc., has been growing. Taking note of women's role in the nation-building activities, the Government had declared 2001 as the year of *Women's Empowerment* by adopting a National Policy to offer "Swashakti" to women. Several laws have also been adopted to empower women socially, economically, legally and politically.

The principle of gender equality is enshrined in the Indian Constitution in its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles of State Policy. The Constitution not only guarantees equality to women, but also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. Since the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78), India has been making a marked shift in its approach to women's issues from welfare to development while keeping the empowerment of women as the central issue in determining their status in the society. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution in 1993 have provided for reservation of seats in the Local Bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision-making at the local levels. India has also ratified various international conventions and human rights instruments committing to secure equal rights of women. Key among them is the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993.

Considering the role of rural India, the country's backbone, the Government had taken several measures to strengthen Panchayati Raj system with the active participation of women. This gave a boost to increase the number of

women being elected to the 3 tier system, an indication to suggest their political empowerment.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment have created space for women in political participation and decision making at the grass root level by providing that 1/3 rd of the seats are reserved in all over the country. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 says- "It provides reservations for women in PRIs set up in two ways; for the office of the members and for that of the chairpersons". As per the clause (2) and (3) of Article 243(d), not less than one third of the seats meant for direct election of members at each tier of the Panchayats are to be reserved for the women. Although the percentages of women in various levels of political activity have risen considerably, women are still under-represented in governance and decision making positions.

Before 73rd Constitutional Amendment came into force Government of Orissa had adopted some of the important provisions such as reservation for women, SC, STs in its existing Panchayat Raj Acts. Subsequently, Orissa Panchayati Raj Acts were further amended for full conformity with the Constitutional Amendment. Elections to Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis in Orissa were held before 73rd Amendment came into force. Accordingly Orissa became the first State to introduce one third reservation for women in Panchayats. The State conducted elections for Panchayat Raj Institutions in 1997 and implemented 33% reservation of seats for women in PRIs at a time when the centre was still only deliberating on this issue. But politically it is too early to assess their impact on governance.

Studies on village Panchayat in Orissa found that women entered into politics due to mandatory provision of reservation. Most of the

women are from non-political background and entered into politics due to persuasion by their family members or pressure from the village community. It is often seen that husbands and extended family members influence the women representatives in taking decisions. In most cases the women representatives are ignored and they are invariably influenced by family members. But while continuing in their positions women who reluctantly entered into politics showed great maturity in outlook, enthusiasm, increasing political consciousness and increasing perception of their role and responsibility.

The tradition bound Oriya society still maintains a restricted social conduct for social and political transformation, gender equity and an enabling environment for the women of Orissa to realize their full potential and contribute their might to the development of the State. Though gender equity in political arena is overshadowed by illiteracy, superstitions and orthodox mindset, cultural and social barriers which in fact compound the problems of women. Yet hope still lies in reservation of women as gaining political power is a prerequisite for overcoming societal injustices.

When women succeed in overcoming heavy odds to achieve good results in panchayats

and also face vested interests with courage, it has an exemplary impact on a large number of other women. They also want to come forward to participate more actively in village affairs and contribute to the welfare of the community. The more active role of women in village often contributes to the welfare of the entire community and several important areas which were neglected earlier now get prioritised. Thus it is in the interests of not just women but the entire village community to encourage the further empowerment of women in village affairs. The 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions is an important part of this empowerment of women. To further strengthen the effort of elected women representatives, the government should provide greater security to women from the anger of powerful vested interests who try to harm and harass them in various ways. Moreover Government and Voluntary organisations together should jointly make an attempt in building the capacity of the elected women representatives.

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Eminent Educationist Shri Srikant Panda as Chief Guest is distributing the prizes to the winner students at Indian Association Hall, Bow Bazar, Kolkata on the occasion of observance of Republic Day Celebration 2011 organised by Information & Public Relations Department, Kolkata Unit, Government of Orissa.

PESA – Conformity and Operational Issues : A Case Study of Orissa

Saroj Kumar Dash

Local Government is not a new phenomenon in India. The system prevailing in the Vedic period was based on the principle of decentralization and mass participation in decision making. Sabha and Samiti were the popular institutions through which the masses had a direct say in village affairs and had direct control over “Gramini”. The village was a self dependent unit. It generated its own resources, had its own functionaries and its own functional domain. The principle of subsidiarity was followed; the State performed only those functions which the village could not perform itself. This system persisted in the ancient period under the Mauryas, Guptas and Harsabarddhan. In the early medieval period, drastic changes were made in village polity. Shershah Suri divided the Revenue Administration and Police Administration between Patwari and Muqaddam. Mughals introduced Zagirdari system which evolved the practice of middle man in Revenue Collection between Peasantry and the State. By the introduction of Zagirdari system, Mughal created new centers of power at the local level and this weakened the solidarity of Panchayat system and Village Community. This also affected the Village economy and lead to loss of financial autonomy of the Village Panchayats. Despite the emergence of new Institutions like Zagirdari, Panchayats system continued to be quite vibrant and living during Mughal era. But with the Britishers in India and their changed Revenue system, the self



sufficient village reduced to the position of dependent unit. Indigenous system of local government was replaced by the Centralized system resulting in failure on the part of Britishers to understand the role of culture and ecology and more so, over indigenous socio-economic system of Indian villages. British India ignored the principle of decentralization, accountability, people’s participation and tried to establish a local government system based on the centralization. The British Government lacked the will to empower the Indian People. Hence, they tried to follow the principle of delegation rather than devolution and decentralization. Gandhi, the ardent supporter of Rama Rajya and Gram Swaraj, had full faith on the Village and Panchayat system of ancient India. In Independent India, he visualized a federal system based on the Village as a Unit of Governance. He held the view that if

the Village perishes India will perish too. He strongly advocated that village sufficiency would lead to the decentralization of the Political power.

However, the Panchayat system was inducted in the Constitution in the Article 40 by the Special Constituent Assembly. It is specially mentioned that Balwantraji Mehta Committee suggested 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions to fulfill the goals of Rural Development and democratization of the Society. Many Committees namely – Ashok Mehta, GVK Rao, LM Singhvi have contributed to the growth and functionality of Panchayati Raj system in India. The 64th Amendment Bill and at last 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of Indian Constitution provided the Constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and they became 3-tier of the Government.

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment did not become operative to the whole of Indian Territory. According to the 73rd Amendment, the Scheduled Areas were excluded from the provisions of the Act. As per the Article 243M(4)(2), the Parliament may by law extend the provisions of Panchayat to the Scheduled Areas, subject to exceptions and modifications as may be specified in such law. It was done so to avoid conflict between the traditional institutions and statutory Panchayat. Considering the growing of discontentment among the tribals across the tribal community, the Union Government constituted a Committee headed by Sri Dilip Singh Bhuria in June, 1994 who submitted its report in January, 1994 recommending the adoption of 3-tier system in the 5th Schedule Areas. So a Bill was passed in the Parliament on 24th December, 1995 giving rise to new Act namely Provision of Panchayats (Extended to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), 1996 (Act No. 40). The rationale behind the Act is to bring at par the tribal population to the general population of Rural Community. The Act ensures that tribal people

will be empowered to manage their affairs according to their own culture within the purview of the Act.

PESA in Orissa

The provision of (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 came into force on the 24th December, 1996. Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, Orissa Panchayat Samiti Act, 1959 and Orissa Zilla Parishad Act, 1991 have adopted the provisions of the PESA Act. It covers 7 districts i.e. Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Koraput, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Nowrangpur and Kandhamal in full and Keonjhar, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Balasore, Sambalpur and Ganjam in part spread over 1966 Gram Panchayats in 118 Blocks in full and 3 Blocks in part. Accordingly 24734 Wards out of 87542 Wards, 1966 office of Sarpanch out of 6234, 1965 office of Panchayat Samiti Member out of 6233 and 256 Members of Zilla Parishad out of 854 come under the Schedule Area. Elections to these offices were conducted as per the provisions of the PESA Act.

It seems that the State of Orissa had complied, though not fully, with the provisions of the Central PESA Act while modifying its PRI Acts. Mandatory provision in the Central Act ensuring tribal communities: control over natural resources, granting licenses for minor minerals and their exploitation and acquisition of land by government for development projects which proposed to be enforced through Gram Sabhas have not been complied with. Currently the Panchayat Rules of Orissa Government confirms the reservation of seats for STs in scheduled area on the proportion of their population. All the posts of Chairpersons of the PRIs at all levels are reserved for STs.

The SC and ST Development Department has made suitable amendments in its existing acts / rules and regulations within the parameter of PESA Act. The Orissa Scheduled

Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Regulation of 1956 has been amended by Regulation of 2002 (Regulation I of 2002), which has come into effect from 4.9.2002. The Orissa Scheduled Areas Money-Lenders' Regulations, 1967 (Regulation and of 1968) is in operation since 15th November 1968 with a view to regulating and monitoring money lending activities in the scheduled areas of the State.

Further different relevant departments have devolved some powers to PRIs and they have suitably brought amendments to the existing rules. Let us appreciate the deliverables of PESA in Orissa in little details.

Minor Forest Produce: Panchayati Raj Deptt. Resolution No. 8131 dt. 26.5.2000 has given the necessary powers to Gram Sabhas based on the Forest & Env. Deptt. Resolution No. 5503 dt. 31.03.2000. The Orissa Government (Minor Forest Admn. Rules, 2002) has come into force w.e.f. 15.11.2002. Ownership and Management of 68 MFPs has been entrusted to GPs / Gram Sabhas.

Enforcement of Prohibition & Sale of Intoxicant: Revenue & Excise Department vide their Letter No. 22977/R dt. 22.04.1999 by amending the Bihar & Orissa Excise Act 1915 provides that no such license of exclusive privilege shall be granted except with the prior approval of the concerned Gram Panchayat with the concurrence of the Gram Sasan the G.P. is to give permission within 30 days.

Money Lending: The SC & ST Development Department has already taken up for amendment of the "Orissa (Scheduled Areas) Moneylenders' Regulation, 1967" to empower the GP for control over money lending & issue of license in Scheduled Areas. They have also provided that if any Panchayat gives any false information then the Sarapanch or the concerned officials shall be

punishable under the provisions of law. It is under the consideration of Law Department.

Management of Minor Irrigation Water Bodies: It is vested with ZP.

Minor Minerals: The Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act of 1957 (67 of 1957) has been amended on 31.08.04 wherein no perspective license or manning / quarry lease or its renewal or auction of source shall be granted without recommendation of the concerned GP.

Transfer of Tribal Land: The Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Properties (by STs) Regulation 1956 has been amended by Regulation 1 of 2002, which has come into effect from 4.9.2002.

Control of Village Markets: Although Panchyati Raj Department has amended its Act transferring the power to Gram Panchayat but the matter is subjudice.

PESA Act – Few Challenges

The passing of the conformity Acts by the respective States is not only a pre-requisite but rather the States have to formulate the rules and regulations to give effect to that.

It is a matter of truism that the implementation of PESA in Country and especially in Orissa has not resulted in any speciality or in specific result in terms of ideals and objectives engaged in the Act. It is a fact that State laws have been amended more as routine than the real application of the spirit of the Act.

The detailed analysis of PESA in Orissa is limited to meager cosmetic change in the Panchayat Act without much devolution of powers to the Panchayats in Scheduled Areas or to the tribals to live through life in their way with their traditional dignity.

Implementation of the law has been severely hampered by the reluctance of most State

Governments to make laws and rules that conform to the spirit of the law. What is perceived as weak-kneed political will has led to bureaucratic creativity in minimalistic interpretations of the law. Bureaucratic subversion of the letter and spirit of the law has been most visible in interpretation of that provision of PESA by which Panchayats at appropriate levels and the Grama Sabhas have been vested with the ownership of minor forest produce (MFP).

The State Governments have argued that the power of Gram Sabhas can extend only to forest located within the revenue boundaries of a village. This one provision, if accepted, would nullify the law, because reserved forest in most States is not located within a revenue boundary of a village. The spirit of the law is clearly to extend ownership to the Gram Sabha of MFP from forests located in vicinity of the village of traditional access.

Another flaw is in the interpretation of the concept of "ownership" of MFP by Gram Sabha. The common view is that ownership does not provide Gram Sabha the right to take any decisions related to stewardship, management or sustainable harvesting of MFPs. Contrary to a whole body of empirical evidence from the national and international experience of JFM and community control of forests, it is claimed that the exercise of "ownership" of MFPs by Gram Sabhas in this sense would inevitably lead to a destruction of forest. Therefore, "ownership" as provided for in PESA, is reinterpreted to mean the right to net revenues from MFP, after retaining administrative expenses of the Forest Department.

These interpretations have almost killed the concept of ownership and control of local resources by the Gram Sabha. The real danger thus is that the far-reaching changes introduced in the law will remain a pipe dream unless they are translated into action and sustained by a

process of awareness and capacity building among the tribal communities.

As regards to other challenges, we come across the issue of ownership over the natural resources. It is a fact that the size of the operational holding in the tribal land is eroding due to the State led acquisition and marketization process. The sale of tribal lands to the non-tribals in the Scheduled areas is prohibited. But the transfer continues to take place and have become more perceptible in the posed liberalization period. The PESA provisions are intended to intrinsically protect the resources of the tribal communities and empower them to act against the forcible acquisition. But today, the acquisition of individual's and community's resources for industry in violation of these provisions is leading to conflicts in several PESA areas. This is creating conflicts leading to loss of livelihood and resource and more so over the way of life. As regards to the acquiring the mineral resources for industries, the stakes are similarly loaded against the functioning of PESA Act. If Samata Judgment (Supreme Court, 1997) could have been honored by both Union and State Governments, a model of sustainable mining which was respectful of the tribal community living in mineral rich areas would have avoided many of the current conflicts witnessed on the ground.

The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) was a result of the polity responding to protected struggles by tribal communities and movements to assert rights over the forest land they were traditionally dependent on. The Act turned the Government colonial policy on its head which it established the rights of the State over the Forest over traditional rights of the community. Further by recognizing the validity of Gram Sabha to give effect to these rights, this Act has great synergy with PESA provisions.

However, continuing bureaucratic control, resistant attitude of Forest Department officials to give ownership to the communities and inadequate efforts on awareness have led to slow implementation of the Act. It is evident from this that there is still poor recognition of various rights favouring the tribals clearly violating the letter and spirit of PESA as well as FRA.

Further, effort to undermine the legitimacy of tribals for the land reclamation and forest rights or against the takeover of resources or displacement still persists. In other words, tribal community's effort for self determination and self governance are to be respected. Though PESA guaranteed in letter and spirit, but at the ground level, there is inadequate attempt for democratic dialogue to resolve the conflict. There is adequate acknowledgement that across the PESA areas, people increasingly wanted more democratic spaces that allow them the life with dignity. But the current alienation is a manifestation of misgovernance and a lasting solution also lie in an honest implementation of PESA and putting people aspirations at the centre of public policies in schedule five areas.

Of late, it has been admitted among all of us that if PESA has been honestly implemented, then it would have been a different to left wing to extremism and militarization in PESA areas. The effective control over the natural resources and management of minor forest produces in true spirit of PESA would have the answer to economic development of PESA areas. The agrarian crisis and distress migrations could have been better arrested through effective market economy as envisaged under PESA. The migration as resulted from forced economic development renders impossible participation in Village Decision Making and is to the severe detriment of the inclusive and participatory governance envisaged by PESA. Further the grievance redressal

mechanism prevailing in the development administration in the tribal areas should be re-looked in the perspective of implementation of PESA. There should be a national inquest, looking into all complaints from schedule five areas, currently pending with the offices of the Governors and the National Commissions.

Panchayati Raj Institution reminds us of a central truth: *Power is not something people give away. It has to be negotiated, and sometimes wrested from the powerful. Democratic politics is, in a reality the inter play of vested interests and PRI's great achievement has to mandate a vested, and mutual interest, between tribals and institutions of governance at scheduled areas. The notion of collective rights or commons is to be re-asserted and voice and choice be given to the masses in scheduled areas by restoring and actualizing PESA.*

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Gram Panchayat in Orissa

Rabindra Kumar Behuria

Gram Panchayats are at the bottom of the three-tier organisation of Panchayati Raj. Gram Panchayats for a village or group of villages were established earlier. The Gram Panchayat in Orissa constitutes the basis of rural local government. 86.6% of people in Orissa live in rural areas. The Gram Panchayat was started in Orissa as per the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1948. According to the recommendations of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, the Grama Panchayats in Orissa were re-designed and Orissa Grama Panchayat Act was passed in 1964. However, the Janata Government in 1991 brought a sea change in the working of Panchayati Raj in Orissa. The 73rd Amendment Act 1992 of the Indian Constitution is very remarkable. This Act empowers the State Legislature to make laws for the organisation of village panchayats. Article 243-G of the Indian Constitution states that, the Legislature of a state by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-Government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein with respect to the preparations of plans and implementation of schemes for economic development and social

justice and other matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

Composition of Grama Panchayats :

The State Election Commission is authorised under the Act to fix the number of members of a Panchayat. The number varies between 11 and 25, and their nature is five years. Officers of the Panchayat are Sarapanch and Naib-Sarapanch. All the members of the Panchayat are directly elected by the people. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment made drastic changes in the Panchayati Raj. Part-IX of Constitution envisages a three-tier system of Panchayats, namely (a) Grama Panchayat at the village level (b) Panchayat Samiti at the block level, which stands between the village and district panchayats in states where the population is above 20 lakh and (c) Zilla Parishad at the district level.

All the seats in a Grama Panchayat shall be filled by persons chosen by direct election. The electorate has been named the Grama Sabha consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls, relating to a village comprised within the area of a Panchayat. In this way participatory democracy is introduced at the grassroots. The chairperson of each Panchayat is to be elected according to the law passed by a State and such state law shall also provide for the representation

of a chairperson of village and intermediate panchayats in the district Panchayat as well as members of the Union Parliament and State Legislature in the Panchayats above the village level.

Article 243 D provides that seats are to be reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The reservation shall be in proportion to their population. Out of the seats so reserved not less than 1/3rd of the seats are to be reserved for women belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. Not less than 1/3rd of the total number of seats to be filled by direct elections in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women.

A State may by law make provision for similar reservation of the offices of chairpersons in the panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels.

Every Panchayat shall continue for five years from the date of its first meeting. But it may be dissolved earlier in accordance with the procedure prescribed by state law. Elections must take place before the expiry of its term. In case it is dissolved earlier, then the elections must take place within six months of its dissolution. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution (i.e. before the expiry of the full period of 5 years) shall continue only for the remaining period. But if the remaining period is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold elections.

Article 243 F provides that all persons are qualified to be elected as a member of a Panchayat. The only difference is that a person who has attained the minimum age of 21 years will be eligible to be a member (in case of state legislature the prescribed age is 25 years). If a question arises as to whether a member has become subject to any disqualification, the question shall be decided by such authority as the State Legislature may provide by law.

Functions :

The main objective of the Grama Panchayat is to ensure rural development. Section 44 and 45 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act specify the functions and power of Grama Panchayat. The functions of the Grama Panchayat have been divided in to two, like obligatory or compulsory and optional or discretionary.

(i) Compulsory :

- It constructs, repairs, maintains and improves the public roads.
- It constructs, maintains and cleanses public roads and other important public places.
- It constructs, maintains and cleanses drains and public latrines, urinals etc.
- Construction, cleaning and lighting of public streets.
- Provision of medical relief, sanitations and prevention of diseases.
- Registration of birth and death.
- Construction and maintenance of common grounds, public wells, tanks etc.
- Preparation of the census reports of human being and animals and registration of animal sold.
- Regulation of Melas, fairs and festivals.
- Provision of primary education.
- Maintenance of village police.
- Implementation of schemes for agricultural extension.
- Minor Forest Produce.
- Taking steps for small scale industries, food processing industries.
- Taking measures for rural housing.
- Undertakes poverty alleviation, women and child welfare programmes.

- Taking steps for social welfare including welfare of the handicapped and mentally retarded persons and public distribution system.

(ii) Optional :

- Promotion of co-operative farming.
- Establishment of cow-sheds and dairy farms.
- Relief from famine and other calamity.
- Improved breedings and medical treatment of cattle, construct of slaughter house.
- Planting trees by the sides of the public streets.
- Agricultural development and social conservation.
- Establishment of maternity and child welfare centres.
- Organisation of cottage industries.
- Establishment and maintenance of libraries, reading rooms.
- Collecting statistics of the unemployed.
- Prevention of gambling and implementation of the programme of prohibition, etc.

Power, Functions and Duties of Sarpanch :

Section 19 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act deals with power, duties and functions of Grama Panchayat. The followings are the functions of Sarpanch. All the executive powers of the Grama Panchayat are vested in him.

- He convenes and presides over the meetings of the Gram Panchayat.
- He is responsible for the proper maintenance of the record and proceedings of the meeting.
- He is responsible for all securities, properties, asset, records and documents

of the grama sasan. He has control over it.

- He prepares all required statements and reports.
- He exercises supervision and control over the acts, rules and proceedings of the officers and employees of the Grama Panchayat.
- If the Sarpanch feels that any decision of the Grama Panchayat is subversive of place and order in the area, he has to refer the matter to the concerned Sub-Collector.

Sources of Revenue of the Grama Panchayats :

As per section 93 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, for every Grama Panchayat, there shall be a fund known as 'Grama Fund'. Grama Fund is placed to the Grama Panchayat. All money received from the government and income of the Grama Panchayat shall be deposited in the Grama Fund. The Grama Fund shall be deposited in any Nationalised Savings Bank or nearest Post Office or Treasury. Followings are the sources of revenue of the Grama Panchayat. It raises money through taxes, fees and Government taxes.

- Collection of taxes in the rural areas like water tax, lighting tax, toll tax, tax on profession.
- Fees on private markets, cart sheds.
- Fees on animals sold in a public market controlled by a Grama Panchayat.
- Fees for regulating the movement of cattle for the protection of crops.
- Fees for use of any building, shops, stalls, and stands in the market.
- Rent from contractor's occupying (temporarily) open grounds or any

building maintained by the Grama Panchayat.

- Any other tax, fee as may be decided by the Grama Panchayat subject to the approval of the State Government.

According to Article 243H, a State may by law authorise a Panchayat to levy, collect and appropriate taxes, duties, toll etc. The law may lay down the procedure to be followed as well as the limits of these taxes. It can also assign a Panchayat various taxes, duties etc. collected by the State Government. Grants-in-aid can be given to the Panchayats from the consolidated fund of the State. As per 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 inserted in the Article 243-I of the Constitution, the Governor has to constitute a Finance Commission to review the financial position and to make recommendations for maintaining sound financial position of Grama Panchayat.

Conclusion :

The Grama Panchayat functions under the control and supervision of the Orissa Government. On behalf of the Government the Collector or any officer authorised by the Collector has the power to inspect, supervise and control over the Grama Panchayat. Besides the MLA of the area, Chairman of the Panchayat Samiti and President of the Zilla Parishad have the power to inspect their respective Grama Panchayats. As per section 112 of the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, the Collector has the power to depute any officer related with developmental work within the district to attend any meeting to advise and assist the Grama Panchayat.

Moreover, the establishment of Grama Panchayat at the bottom is a praise-worthy step to facilitate decentralisation of power. The democratic decentralisation took its shape for better administration and developmental perspectives for quick rural development and cooperation of local people. State government does not possess adequate wisdom of local affairs and problems. In this sense, it constitutes a significant contribution to the theory and practice of nation-building activities in the developing areas.

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Women Self Help Groups in Orissa : Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Amrita M Patel

Introduction

The concept of Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) was adopted by many agencies including the Government in the State with programmes such as TEWA, ICDS, DWCRA which operated through women collectives/groups. Banks and schemes such as Rashtriya Mahila Kosh gave financial assistance to women's groups. However since 2001 the Government of Orissa has embarked on a campaign named Mission Shakti to integrate all WSHGs in the State. It aims to provide uniform guidelines, training of personnel, training materials, disseminate best practices. Mission Shakti also aims on strengthening all WSHGs by giving them capacity building support, credit linkage and by federating them.

WSHGs are usually informal groups whose members i.e. the women have a common perception of the need and importance towards collective action. These groups promote savings among themselves and use the pooled resources to meet the urgent needs. They rotate this common pooled resource within the members with a very small rate of interest. The number of members in a WSHG normally ranges from 10 to 20.

The next step is that the bank is approached for a term loan to take up some income generating activities by the group. In this,



they are to be helped by Government and Non-Governmental organizations with detailed study of feasibility of the proposed activities as well as modern training in appropriate skills.

Thus self-help evolves through different phases - savings, internal lending, productive activities at subsistence level, credit linkage, surplus production, engagement with the markets whether through a supportive or an exploitative market chain and finally to an enhanced of empowerment beyond the realm of the economic into the social and perhaps the political. In the initial stage of the WSHG movement, these stages were assumed to be necessarily sequential in nature.

History of Self Help Group¹

1974 : SEWA owned by women of petty trade groups was established on cooperative principle in Gujrat.

1986 – 87 : first official interest in informal group lending – NABARD supported and funded an action research project on Savings and Credit Management of SHGs of Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency.

1988 – 89 : NABARD undertook a survey of 43 NGOs spread over 11 States to study the functioning of the SHGs and the possibilities of collaboration.

1991 : RBI issued a circular advising the Commercial Banks, later the Regional Rural Banks and the Cooperatives to extend credit to the SHGs under the pilot NABARD project of 500 SHGs.

In Orissa, PREM (A NGO based in Berhampur) promoted 829 groups, mobilised Rs.1.9 million of thrift and disbursed credit of Rs.1.9 million.

1994 : RBI Working Group review the functioning of the NGOs and SHGs and gave suggestions.

1996 : RBI revised the guidelines and advised that the Banks lending to the SHGs should be considered as an additional segment under priority sector advances and integrate with main steam credit operation. NABARD took up promoting WSHGs in full swing in Orissa.

1996 : onwards – SHG become a regular component of the Indian financial system.

Field Study

A field study was undertaken to assess the expected outcomes of the campaign for WSHGs and arrive at the lessons. The aim was three-fold: one, to examine how the long chain of steps involved in taking benefits from the highest level of the State Government to the lowest i.e poor women in rural Orissa, was working out in practice. The other was to assess how far participating in this programme would actually be

empowering for women. Thirdly and most importantly the aim of the study was to look into the partnership of the various stakeholders involved in the campaign.

The study was conducted in 2 districts of Orissa - Khurda and Kandhamal. WSHG was taken as the study unit. In Kandhamal, two blocks were selected these being Daringibadi and G.Udaygiri and five in Khurda i.e. Khurda, Begunia, Bhubaneswar, Chilika and Baliana. As the unit of study is the WSHG, a total of 15 WSHGs have been taken. 6 WSHGs are in the 2 blocks of Kandhamal district, while in Khurda district, 9 WHGs have been spread over the 5 blocks under study.

Findings

WSHGs with Good Practices

- Are aware about methods of product differentiation and exhibition.
- Know about when to switch to best alternatives.
- Have developed own marketing system.
- Cash Flow maintenance and Record Maintenance is good and strong. Banking support is developed and available.
- Women are crossing gender barriers to enter into what was men's zone such as construction of roads, handling building construction machinery etc.
- New WSHGs have emerged on account of the demonstration effect.
- WSHGs have been the training ground for adolescents girls so that when they get married, they will be able to start WSHGs in the new village (the village where they will go after getting married) and manage them well.
- The groups have linked rural economy to urban and so migration is controlled.

- Increase in turnover has resulted in upscaling.
- There has been an improvement in life style of the women members and have created assets in form of land, buildings, furniture etc.
- WSHGs have saving deposits in the form of corpus funds for future expansion or emergency use in case of economic decline.
- Many women are members of the Village Forest Protection Committees and take part in other Government Programmes. They all know about Government programmes and MPLAD funds.
- The WSHGs have developed strong links with local governance structures.
- Group dynamics is developed.
- They sanction interest free emergency loans to members when needed.
- They solve local conflicts.
- WSHGs have been able to create change in patriarchal structures and build zones of social change.

Weak SHGs

- Best practice not visible.
- No group dynamics noticed.
- One member of family leaving leads to others (Though the reverse is also true).
- Social evils such as liquor consumption exist and impact them adversely.
- Sustainability of some groups not possible due to lack of understanding, distrust and suspicion due to caste/ class differences among the various segments of population.
- Too much male interference.
- Do not know the basics of WSHG, so don't utilize the money.

- Cannot read bank balance statements as it is in English.
- Default in payment because of low economic success.
- Slow process of capital formation which keeps the groups below the poverty line for a longer time.
- Remote village and illiterate members with little or no awareness of their rights.

CSO- Government Partnership to strengthen the WSHGs – suggestions from the field study

- Training in scientific bases of looking after animals & insurance of animals.
- Compensation for damaged goods and other losses to be built in the loans.
- Marginalized women's groups who have been excluded to be included. The disabled, single, especially widows and in Adivasi areas unmarried women who are in large numbers and old age women can be a source of experience.
- Select Groups/ Leaders with potential to grow, train further, send on exchange trips to learn.
- When a WSHG is graded and found not in the growth trajectory, a partnership with a CSO/ NGO is needed so that the WSHG can be strengthened.
- When women continue to use thumb impression, provide extra literacy support.
- Oversee that group activities do not suppress individual entrepreneurship which is important for creating and maintaining dynamic WSHGs.
- Develop broader leadership as a group – dependency on a few members is unstable.

- Strengthen ICDS linkage and efficiency so they can partner WSHGs effectively.
- Early government withdrawal will result in majority of the groups closing down.

Recommendations

- Groups should be informed about its various benefits and structure, working procedure.
- Emphasis should be on sustainability of WSHGs rather than in forming groups achieving or reaching the target. Qualitative assessment should be made.
- The Banks should give their time, technical know-how and resources. They cannot focus only on avoiding risks. Bankers should not only do their work to achieve the prescribed target set by NABARD.
- WSHG members should be provided with adequate vocational/income generating training for the sustainability of the WSHGs and to achieve the most important goal of the campaign. Regular monitoring of the income-generating activities and follow up training should be provided to the groups on modern technology.
- Saving habits be encouraged rather than only credit linkage of the WSHGs.
- It is crucially important that the activities that the beneficiaries are encouraged to undertake are more productive and remunerative than what they have traditionally been doing.
- The economic activities must be selected after careful feasibility report based on market studies and local resources.
- WSHGs producing artistic products with aesthetic value should be given scope to attend exhibitions to promote their products among the urban population.
- The aim should be that women's quality of life after joining the WSHGs significantly improves and they are not overburdened with poorly remunerated extra government programme work.
- For empowerment of women it is essential that the attitudes and perception of the stakeholders be radically changed. Women must be seen not just as reproducers and home makers and supplementary earners but as productive members of the economy and society.
- The stakeholders should create an enabling environment to enhance self-confidence and autonomy of women before the formation of WSHG so that it can boost their morale.
- It is important to orient and sensitise the elected representatives, policy planners, administrators, members of the judiciary, police, bankers etc towards gender issues.
- The institutional capacity of concerned Government Departments should be strengthened.
- Gender perspectives in policies, planning, implementation and monitoring in selected sectors is needed including gender budgeting.
- The sheer expansion in the number of WSHGs necessitates that decentralization takes place. It is necessary that intermediate levels are created and supported to carry out such a task. Such levels can be at the Govt. level - each district could have a trained and designated officer to look at the WSHG activities.
- Convergence of the WSHGs and elected PRI members in the village level has to be worked out for mutually benefiting situation.

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Classicism of Odia Language

Dr. G.K. Srichandan

Man expresses his feelings and emotions through sentences of any language-spoken or written. Thus, human beings use many words in sentences of language which have come to us by oral use for hundreds of thousand years. Words are evolved and use for expression of man's inner feelings. We borrow such words from other languages also to supplement our own mother tongue.

The vocabulary of a language depends on the richness or treasure of words accumulated and stored in that language by passage of time from the time immemorial. Odia is the mother language of the majority of the people of Odisha at present and also in the past. The present Odisha is the political entity with distinct boundary. But outside Odisha there exists Odia speaking tracts which was the result or resultant of the conquests made by the Ganga Vansi and Surya Vansi Gajapati emperors of Odisha expanding their empire from Ganga to Godavari or even beyond Krishna and Cauvery particularly during the time of Gajapati Kapileswar (Kapilendra) Deva, the founder of Surya dynasty in Utkal.

The geographical situation of Udra Bhukanda or Udra Desha, now Odisha is such that it has been surrounded by other language speaking areas or provinces/states. Such other

neighbouring languages are Hindi, Bengali, Telgu, Tamil etc. In addition to this 62 denominations (communities) of tribals live within the State of Odisha. Their spoken languages or dialects had have impact on Odia language for her evolution and enrichment.

Except Surya dynasty rulers all other preceding dynasty rulers have come from outside and brought with them soldiers and officers speaking their native language and after settling in Udra Desha had embraced the then prevailing Odia language. That had impact on development of the vocabulary of Odia language.

In 1568 Odisha empire lost her sovereignty and independence on sudden and sad demise of the last independent and sovereign Hindu king-emperor Gajapati Mukunda Deva in Gohiri Tikira battle field. Odisha was thereafter ruled in succession by Afghans, Moghuls, Marathas and lastly by the British till the 15th August 1947 when India along with Odisha got independence from the foreign rule.

These foreign rulers enforced their language as the official (court) language in administration of Odisha. Odisha was segmented and such segments/ parts were annexed with the neighbouring presidencies and provinces for

convenience and administration from the foreign rulers' point of view. All these political changes had have tremendous impact on the structural advancement and making of Odia language till to day. Eight distinct areas and their regional attributes, so far the vocabulary of Odia language is concerned are to be taken into consideration while estimating its evolution, progressive development, assimilation and abundance. These are 1) Southern, 2) Western, 3) Northern, 4) Eastern, 5) Central, 6) Peripheral, 7) Outlying tracts and 8) the areas under habitation by different tribal communities.

The words used and in vogue in the dialects or sub languages of all these areas have come over to the mainstream of Odia language to build the edifice of the vocabulary of the mother tongue of Odia people proper.

In very ancient time, this land known as Kalinga, Utkal and parts of South Koshal (Dakshin Koshala) was non-Aryan in character so far the 'ways of life' of the original inhabitants of this extensive and vast land mass was concerned. Boudhyana, the then 'Law Giver' called the people of Anga, Banga, Kalinga, Pundra, Sumha etc. as 'Samkeerna yonayah' i.e. 'low bred'. Up to the time Boudhayana the people of this land of which the Odia speaking tracts now constitute was not Aryanised / Sanskritised.

Since Sanskrit including the Vedic language had little impact and influence on the 'spoken language' of the people inhabiting this land, the two rival kingdom of Magadha and Kalinga were non-Aryan and non-Brahminical for many centuries as a result of which Jainism and Buddhism flourished in these two kingdoms. Gautam Buddha got enlightenment and preached his new philosophy in Magadha. Later this new

"Ant-Vedic religion" having rebellious attitude towards 'Vedic-Karmakandas' spread into Kalinga. After 'Kalingan War' Asoka, the great emperor of Magadha embraced Buddhism and made all out efforts for spread of this 'new faith' even to lands beyond the boundaries of the present India subcontinent.

History is silent whether Buddha came to Kalinga (Odishan region) to preach his new faith. But Mahavir the 24th Teerthankar of Jainism in 6th century BC came to Kalinga to preach his faith since his father being a king was a personal friend of the then king of Kalinga and it was favourable and conducive for Mahavira to launch his mission in this ancient non-Aryan land. He preached his faith in 'Pali-Prakrita' language from the top of Kumar-Kumari hillocks (now known as Khandagiri-Udayagiri hills).

When Asoka conquered Kalinga (261 BC) he promulgated royal commandments (decrees) in 'Magadhi-Prakrita' language. Rock edicts got erected by him at Dhauli and Jaugada (Samapa) near the present Purushottampur, Ganjam district are glaring illustrations of this.

Later Aryan infiltration/migration along with Sanskrit language took place which influenced the non-Sanskrit dialect/language of the people of the ancient land of Odisha. Sanskrit words were assimilated into the vocabulary of the then prevalent language which was a digested admixture of Pali (Kalinga Pali) and Magadhi Prakrita.

Mahameghabahana Aira Kharavela (40 BC), the emperor of Kalinga was a Jaina in faith and his Hati Gumpha inscription is in 'Kalinga Pali' language using 'Brahmi script'. We find many words in this famous language of Pali used in Hati Gumpha inscription which are Sanskrit words or

derived from Sanskrit and also prevalent in Odia language.

Bharata Muni composed 'Natya Shashtram' which belongs to second century AD (some scholars place 'Natya shashtram' composed in 2nd century BC.) In Natya Shastram there is reference of 'Udra Bibhasha' which was then the mother tongue of the majority of the people of 'Udra Bhukhanda' (Udra Desha/ Udra Land). Gradually what happened the Kalinga Palli of Hatigumpha inscription and Magadhi Prakrita of Asokan edicts amalgamated with locally spoken dialect (if any and possibility is on affirmative side) to emerge as 'Udra Bibhasha' most probably. No literature in Udra Bibhasha is forthcoming and available at present except a few lines/ sentences available in Prakrita Vyakarana (grammar) namely 'Prakrita Sarvaswa' of Markendeya Dasa.

Udra Bibhasha most possibly after undergoing evolution and transformation has lost its entity to submerge like river 'Phalgu' in the sands of a dialect nearer or equivalent to 'Boudha Gana and Doha' which flourished in 7th-8th century AD in this 'Udra Bhukhanda'. The language of the Boudha Gana O Doha is a corrupt 'Apabhramsha' (Sandhya) which is the prime shape and expression of Odia language as per the opinion of historians and research scholars.

When Hiuen Tsang, the famous Chinese pilgrim visited Utkal (Utkal) he found here a spoken language in use which was quite distinct from the languages prevalent then in other parts of Indian subcontinent he came across during his entourage. By that time, Odia language had crystallized into a distinct and separate language which gave birth to the great epic 'Mahabharat' in Odia language in the blessed hands of 'Adikavi' Sarala Das who also composed to his credit "Chandi Purana" and "Bilanka Ramayan". These

trinity-poetics are literary glossary of vocabulary of Odia language in the 15th Century AD.

Below illustrated some Odia words derived from different sources of having similarity with other languages :

Vedic	Odia
Toka/Tok	Tokka
Nanaa/Nanee	Nanaa/Nanee
Bikal	Bikal
Bishaya	Bishaya
Kharavela Hatigumpha Inscription	Odia
Ghar	Ghar(House)
Lekha	Lekha
Gopura	Gopura

Corrupt Form :

Pachhima (Paschima in Sanskrit) -Pachhima

Pathama (Pradhama in Sanskrit) – Pathama

Yoboraja (corrupt form of Yubaraj in Sanskrit)

Raja (King), Siri from 'Shree'

Dutiya (Dwiteeya in Sanskrit)

Tutia – corrupt form of 'Tritiya' in Sanskrit

Terasa (Terasa – Terashaha – Thirteen hundred)

Naba (Na'a)

'Hathee' of Hatigumpha inscription has turned 'Haatee' in Odia. Bata, Danda, Kothaghar, Paata, Daha (pond or tank full of water) etc. are

common in both Kharavelan language and modern Odia language.

This is an attempt to illustrate how words from Vedic, Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit have merged into Odia language in course of time which is as old as minimum four thousand years.

Of course, nearly 80% of Odia words have been derived from Sanskrit as scholars claim. Nevertheless, Odia is rightly and correctly developed as the bosom younger sister of Sanskrit language. Odia has attained the 'Classical State' along with Sanskrit and some other modern Indian languages in terms of ancientry and affluence of vocabulary with a grand distinct grammar emerged on scientific basis. Odia Vyakarana (Odia grammar) composed by Pandit Neelakantha was published as back as 1933 while he was a teacher in Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya established by Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das in 1909 AD.

Our forefathers were skilled and adept maritime traders. To repeat it is pertinent that they built up enormous Odia empire with overseas colonies in Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Cambodia (Kamboj), Laos, Burma-now Myarmyer etc carrying Kalingan (Odishan) culture, architecture, sculpture, epics, purans, religious faith, language etc. to such colonies. They had maritime link with western part of the world. So in addition to that of English, words of Greek, Latin, Arabian, Urdu, Turkese, French, Persian, Portuguese etc are found in original or corrupt form in Odia vocabulary through 'give and take' process for centuries. Till that is going on.

Words from languages of neighbouring States is Ahamia (Assamese), Agria (migrated from Agra), Urdu, Chhatisgadee, Tamil, Telgu, Bengali, Jharkhand (Seraikala-Kharasuan), Hindi

have been taken into Odia language in original or corrupt form.

Words from tribal dialects and languages have entered into Odia and are in use vocabulary i.e. Kui, Kuvi, Kudami, Oram, Koya, Gond, Juang, Desia, Bhadri, Bhuina, Munda, Mundari, Shabar, Saura, Santali, Halvi, Ho, etc.

Inside regional sub-languages have also contributed words to Odia vocabulary i.e. Baleswaria, Keojharia, Kotapad Boli, Nayagadia, Phulbani Odia, Sambalpur, Ganjami, Katak, Puria etc. If illustrations are given from each category it would be a full-fledged and full length dictionary. Hence, restrained to limit the discussion.

Special attributes and ancientry of Odia vocabulary:

Linguistic experts opine that 'pratyayas' like ni, 'Anti' 'Nitu', are in use in Greek, Latin, Vedic language from thousand and thousand years ago. Such Pratyayasa are also in Odia language. For example- Galani - has gone, Karanti- do or is? are doing, Khaanti- eat or is/are doing, Khaanti – eat or is/are eating, Gaanti-sing or is/are singing; Karantu-Please do, Khaantu-Please eat etc. So all these indicate the ancientry of Odia language.

In Odia only, like other two M.I.Ls i.e. Gujurati and Marathi we have 'la' to differentiate pronunciations of word with 'la'. In Sanskrit, Hindi and all other regional languages there is one 'La'. For example: 'mula' - wage 'mula' - foot or root of a tree or basic, origin, original, fundamental etc.

Similarly 'Maane' which is used in 'plural number in Odia language is not repeated not in any other Indian language. For example : 1. 'manushya' - in singular means 'Man',

'manushyamane' - in plural means 'Men'.
2. 'Pandaba' - singular number. 'Pandabamane' - in plural number
3. 'Naari' - woman in singular number, 'Narimane' means women in plural number.

Furthermore, in Odia we use 'Ja' and 'ya' according to pronunciation of words. But in Sanskrit, Hindi etc. only 'ya' is used. For example: (Jama) for 'yama' in Hindi and Sanskrit. Niyam for Niyam in Hindi and Sanskrit. These specialities in Odia vocabulary gives special and rare distinction to Odia language. It adds to the elasticity of word-crafts of Odia as a modern Indian language which is not found in other languages.

From all angles of discussion and consideration, Odia as a modern Indian language and the official language of Odisha State carving a deserving and rightful place in the 8th Schedule of our Constitution profoundly deserves to be declared as a 'Classical Language' which the Government of India should most rationally and favourably do in its right and proper perspective with due objectivity to bestow natural justice on the people of Odisha without further lapse of time.

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Interaction of the Development Commissioner, Sri R.N Senapati with the Bamboo Weavers present at weekly Haat of Malanandapur Gram Panchayat, Jajpur.

Man-Wild Animal Conflict in Orissa

Harsha Bardhan Udgata

INTRODUCTION

Every now and then we get to see news about human-wild animal conflict resulting in human beings being attacked by wild animals or wild animals being attacked/ killed by human beings. Some generalisation of the conflict are elephants killing/injuring human beings, damaging houses and crops vis-a-vis elephants being hunted by poachers or killed by electrocution and poisoning. Wild pigs are killed near crop fields either by gun shot or arrow or by meat hidden bombs as also attacks on human beings caused by bear, crocodile and elephant. Such news, often captioned as “breaking news” tend to send a wrong message and people safely conclude that number of elephants has increased in forests, for which they are entering into habitations including Bhubaneswar. A case that made headlines in the very recent past is about one leopard being brutally and mercilessly beaten to death (in captivity that is, because its escape routes were plugged) by hundreds of villagers of Gandarpur village near Bhubaneswar. Many Olive Ridley sea turtles meet almost the same fate as they get killed by fishing trawlers in Bay of Bengal during November to March. The fact that such conflicts have increased in the recent years, calls for understanding the human-wild animal conflict with all its complexities and take a very sensible,

scientific and compassionate approach to resolve the conflict. At the same time it must be borne in mind that there is no one line solution to this problem nor any shortcut to resolve the issue. All possible aspects of this conflict are discussed in the following paragraphs with the objective of sensitising the common man on the subject, enabling him to draw his own opinion on the matter and not getting carried away by flashy headlines of the news channels for the greater cause of happy human-wild animal co-existence on planet earth.

THE CONFLICT FACT FILE

To begin with, let us look at some facts. It is learnt from a report of Orissa Wildlife Organisation that during last 6 years (2004-05 to 2009-10) there was a total of 352 cases of human death, 132 cases of human injury, 3863 cases of house damage and 21768 acres of crop damage due to elephant depredation, and 75 human death cases and 671 human injury cases due to other animals like bear, crocodile, wild pig, wolf and gaur. On the contrary, 331 elephant death cases have been reported during the same period, which include 55 deaths due to poaching for ivory, 96 cases due to accidents (mostly electrocution), 49 natural deaths, 82 due to diseases and 49 for unknown reason. The remnant elephant

population in Orissa is only 1886 as counted during 2010. Armed with such statistics, one would be tempted to conclude that fateful day is not very far when there will be only human beings on this planet and wild animals will only be in pictures.

WILD LIFE HABITAT

As we all know, forest provides food, water and shelter, the basic needs, to the wild animals. As a habit, elephants move long distances (about 250-300 kms) in search of food, water and mate. In earlier days forests were contiguous and elephant herds used to move from one place to another on fixed paths within forested tracts, which stayed in their memory and seniors used to guide juniors from generation to generation. The exploding human and domestic livestock population have resulted in competition with the wild animals for same natural resources. Forest density as well as forest cover have been gradually declining due to illicit timber felling, encroachments for habitation and cultivation, fire, grazing and finally unscientific harvesting of Non Timber Forest Products. Large chunks of forest land have been diverted for mining, establishment of industries, roads, railways, hydroelectric projects, irrigation projects and their canal systems. Linear projects like roads, canals and railways also act as mechanical barriers in the movement of wild animals from one place to another. Besides, movement paths and corridors (linkage between two habitats) are fragmented due to aforesaid reasons for which elephants fail to negotiate through their traditional way land up in newer areas. For instance, elephant populations of Chandaka-Damapada sanctuary and Kapilash RF (proposed sanctuary) are separated and isolated due to heavy vehicular movement on NH-42 (now-55) and frequent train movement from Bhubaneswar towards Sambalpur and New Delhi side in between two habitats. It has been

observed that a group of elephant of Chandaka-Damapada sanctuary instead of going to Kapilash (northward direction), have moved southwards to new areas like Khurdha, Chilika and Chhatrapur subdivision of Ganjam district. Elephant movement in the State is now reported in 28 out of 30 districts (except Kendrapada and Jagatsingpur districts), earlier which was confined within 16 districts not very long ago.

THE CONFLICT ECONOMICS

The widening irrigation facilities have prompted farmers to change cropping pattern hitherto adopted primarily for higher returns. Farmers grow sugarcane, banana in their lands alongside paddy as double crop in a year. As a result of promotion of horticulture, people also plant jack fruit, mango, and coconut in their orchards, which are immensely relished by elephants. It is also a matter of surprise that half of the wild elephant population in Orissa are living outside sanctuaries/protected areas due to the adverse habitat factors as explained in the foregoing para and thus it has become a cause of concern for Foresters and public alike.

THE MODUS OPERANDI

Elephants visit paddy fields preferably in winter when paddy is ready for harvest; thereafter they raid the threshing yard when it is stacked. In summer elephant visit court yards if mango, jack fruit or banana are available for them. Elephants damage houses in search of rice, salt, gur, mahua brew and country liquor if they are kept inside. Bear attacks are noticed during summer when people go near mahua tree for collection of mahua flower in early morning or near jack fruit tree in night as bear is fond of mahua flower and jack fruit. Snake bites are seen during rainy days / flood period when rain water gushes into the burrows of snakes. Leopards may come to village vicinity

if carcasses of cattle or dog are thrown in the open without proper disposal. Sometimes leopards enter village limits for lifting of dogs and goats during night.

THE CONFLICT AVOIDANCE THEORY

People have been living with wild animals from time immemorial. Though man-animal conflict is emerging seriously it is possible for the man to coexist with wild animals provided a little attention is given to know the habits, behaviour, active time and basic requirements of wild animals coming to our vicinity. We should have compassion, mercy and love for them if at all we desire to conserve them. When a child cries, the mother calms him down and quiets him by uttering the names of wild animals and insects like tiger, lion, bear, snake, spider and lizards etc. The negative impact of such callous reprimands in the young minds stays on and further manifests as fear and hatred.

Best way of avoiding a conflict is to keep distance from the wild animals and to allow them space that they require and deserve. They must be safely driven to forested tracts without teasing or causing any injury to them. Using barriers around villages can also act in restricting entry of wild animals. Barriers may include deep trenches, solar power fencing and high stone walls. A change in cropping pattern like adopting non-lure crops like chilli, ginger, potato, turmeric, oil seed, jute, papaya or even floriculture is very helpful to minimise depredation. Besides, preventive measures are to be taken to store paddy etc either underground or inside cement concrete bins. People must be careful during evening and early morning hours because elephants do crop raid during this time. One should not panic if a leopard enters into a village area since there is no record in Orissa on leopard or any tiger killing human being. When any wild animal enters into a village

area, people should inform the nearest forest station and keep patience till its rescue is completed by trained staff of the Forest Department. Large congregation out of curiosity and to take photographs etc often acts as deterrent in the safe exit of wild animals. So local Police should take care to disperse crowd while rescue operation is going, otherwise accidents are inevitable. It is often experienced that the animal finds its own way out when the crowd is dispersed and animal is left alone till night except in cases where an animal falls into a well/enters into a house/ gets injured. In such cases the experts in forest department tranquilize the animal and subsequently capture for relocation/treatment.

THE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In a bid to reduce man-elephant conflict, the Orissa Government have identified 14 elephant corridors in the state for safe movement of the animals which frequently come out of their habitation in search of food and water. The corridors would provide better habitats for the pachyderms with adequate water bodies, food facility, shelter and safe passage. Corridors would also ensure genetic exchange between elephant herds for maintenance of healthy elephant population, even if in smaller herds. The proposed corridors would spread over 870.61 sq km and will be 420.8 km long having corridor width from 0.08 to 4.6 km. It would include three inter-state corridors with West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The 14 places which have been identified as elephant corridors are :-

1. Badampahar (Mayurbhanj)-
Dhobadhobani Corridor: (Mayurbhanj district)
2. Badampahar-Karida Corridor:
(Mayurbhanj district)

3. West Bengal-Deuli-Suliapada passage: (Mayurbhanj, Balasore districts and West Bengal)
4. Similipal-Hadgada-Kuladiha corridor: (Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Balasore districts)
5. Telkoi-Pallahara corridor: (Keonjhar, Angul district)
6. Karo (Keonjhar)-Karampada(Saranda of Jharkhand) corridor: (Keonjhar district and Jharkhand)
7. Maulabhanja-Jiridamali- Anantpur corridor: (Dhenkanal district)
8. Kanheijena-Anantpur corridor: (Angul, Dhenkanal district)
9. Buguda-Central RF (Nayagarh) corridor: (Nayagarh district)
10. Nuagaon-Baruni corridor: (Angul district)
11. Tala-Kholagarh corridor: (Sambalpur district)
12. Barpahar-Tarabha-Kantamal corridor: (Sonepur, Boudh district)
13. Kotagarh-Chandrapur corridor: (Kandhamal district)
14. Karlapat-Urladani corridor: (Kalahandi and Rayagada district)

Besides, biotic interference over the wild animal habitat should be reduced followed by habitat improvement interventions to help in situ supply of their basic needs so that wild animals will not come out of their home (forest).

THE LEGAL ASPECTS FOR HUMAN BEINGS:

Many people do not know that Govt. have recently amended the provision for payment of compassionate amount to the victims and their

family members if they sustain any injury or damage by wild animals like elephant, tiger, leopard, wild boar, crocodile, wolf and bear. Rupees Two lakh is paid to the family members if a person is killed by above wild animals. Rs.75,000 is paid to the victim sustaining permanent injury and Rs.5,000 along with the entire treatment cost is paid to the person having temporary injury. Compassionate amount is also given for cattle kill as Rs.5,000 and Rs.1000 for calf killed by above wild animals. Compassionate amount is paid to the victim whose house is damaged by elephant as Rs.10,000 for fully damaged house and Rs. 2,000 for partially damaged house. Compassionate amount for crop loss is also paid @ Rs.5,000 per acre of field crop and @ Rs.10,000 per acre of cash crop. The Divisional Forest Officer has the power to sanction the amount and disburse after obtaining required enquiry reports and certificates from concerned authorities. Usually the process takes one year time to make payment after the incident has occurred because the requisite fund comes from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India on requisition through the Chief Wildlife Warden. In order to subside public outrage in the event of wild animal attacks on human beings, property, a proposal for creating a corpus fund at the disposal of the DFO for making instant part payment to victims on prima facie enquiry, is under active consideration of the govt.

THE LEGAL ASPECTS FOR WILD ANIMALS:

The law of our country for protection of wildlife is enabling provisions for conservation and protection of wild animals. Hunting of wild animals is prohibited under section 9 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. As per definition, '*hunting*' with its grammatical variations and cognate

expressions includes killing or poisoning of any wild animal or captive animal and every attempt to do so; capturing, coursing, snaring, trapping, driving or baiting of any wild animal or captive animal and every attempts to do so; injuring or destroying or taking any part of the body of any such animal or, in case of wild birds or reptiles, damaging the eggs of such birds or reptiles, or disturbing the eggs or nests of such birds or reptiles. Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or any rule made there under is liable to be punished with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years and also with fine which shall not be less than ten thousand rupees if the offence relates to any animal specified in Schedule-I or Part-II of Schedule-II (eg- tiger, leopard, bear, elephant, crocodile, sea turtle, black buck, mouse deer, giant squirrel, flying squirrel, fox, jackal, civet, wolf, mongoose, peacock, hill myna, and snakes like cobra, king cobra, python, rat snake, russel's viper etc.). Offence like hunting of any wild animal in a 'Tiger Reserve' is punishable on first conviction with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but may extend to seven years, and also with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but may extend to two lakh rupees as under section 51 of the Act. Even attempts and abetments to contravene any of the provision of this Act shall be deemed to have contravened the provision under section 52.

CONCLUSION:

After all the wild animals and plants have the same right like human beings to live on the earth and enjoy the natural resources. They all have certain roles to play for our ecosystem, which we may not know. We must respect their right to live. We cannot allow the situation of man-animal conflict to reach a stage wherein all wild animals are wiped out because it will spell an ecological catastrophe. Proper education on wildlife conservation to the people, especially to the children, lawyers, and legislatures on the subject is key to find a solution. Besides, our developmental programmes must be thoroughly tuned to protect animal rights. Prior to allowing forest diversion proposals, an Environment Impact Assessment must be done in which wildlife aspect should be examined carefully by an organisation having expertise on wildlife management and impose stipulations to ease out the problems that would arise due to execution of that project. And finally, if we all believe that the man-animal conflict can be resolved; it shall be resolved, albeit with involvement of all.

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Rural Development : Women By-passed

Dr. Nandita Barik

The prosperity and growth of a nation depends on the status and development of its women as they, not only constitute nearly half of its population, but also influence the growth of the remaining half (Lata, 1990)¹. Women along with man, from time immemorial, have formed an integral part of the social structure throughout the world. In Indian Society, too, she has played and continues to play an important role. Variations in the status of woman, according to the cultural milieu, family structure, caste, class and proprietary rights etc have been taking place from time to time.

From the beginning, women have been unrecognized and unacknowledged contributors to the sharing of the duties and responsibilities of maintaining the daily life of their families on equal terms with their menfolk. Besides looking after all the household work including the health care and education of children and family management as well, they also participate in several economic activities. This is more relevant in case of rural women who as equal partners contribute to agriculture, animal husbandry and allied process of production. The many activities women perform are not included in the national statistics. According to the *International Labour Organization* "women represent 50 percentage of the population, make up 30 percentage of the labour force, perform 60 percentage of all the working hours, receive 10 percentage of the world's income and own even less than one percent of the world property".

Existing empirical literature by Jain and Chand (1982)² shows that women of poor households put in long hours of work, often much longer than that of men, domestic work, of course, included. If women were paid for the domestic work and child care, their wages would account for half of the National Income (Rao, 1986)³.

Malathy (1988)⁴ estimated money value of household services done by women was approximately Rs. 7600 per annum, almost 42 percent of the family income. He also reported that value of household services constituted about 47 percent of National Domestic Product (NDP). The quantification of these multiple roles and productive inputs in terms of work hours contributed or equivalent income generated was neither attempted nor recorded.

The work of women both within and outside the home seems to be worthy of investigation by the social scientists of today. Such influences as the women's movement and recognition of the substantial contribution of the household work to the quality of living has generated interest in the economic evaluation of women's work. Rajmal Dev Das (1983)⁵ reported that rural women in our country share abundant responsibilities and perform a wide spectrum of duties in running the household and the family (like child care, collection of fodder and fuel, cooking, washing and sewing), as well as attending to farm activities, dairy, animal husbandry and extending a helping hand in rural artisanship and handicrafts. U.N. report of International Conference on women's decade,

1985 also reported that besides familial roles, women participate in a number of economic activities. World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural development (1979) held in Rome, Italy recognized the vital role of women in the socio-economic life in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities as a pre-requisite for successful rural development planning and programme implementation. It further recommended that rural development based on growth with equity will require full integration of women including equitable access to land, water, inputs, services and equal opportunities to develop and employ their skills.

Literally, the status and role of women is said equally important as that of men but the reality is quite adverse. Despite constitutional guarantee of equality and several other protective status women are looked as “inferior” to men (Singhal, 1995)⁶. There are several indicators of the fact that Indian women continue to be discriminated against. The sex ratio is skewed against them; maternal mortality is the second highest in the world; more than 40 percent of women are illiterate; and crimes against women are on the rise.

Women are excluded from certain crucial economic or political activities and their roles as wives and mothers are associated with fewer powers and prerogatives than those of men virtually in all the societies of the world. In the current social climate early marriage, preceded by a cheerless childhood, a gruelling exercise of dowry, adjustment to a strange family at the husband’s home, anxiety about giving birth to male children, the curbs on freedom of eating, sleeping, talking and moving, the manipulation of males and a pathetic old age and unprotected widowhood are the prospects facing the majority of RURAL WOMEN. Among the poorer sections of the rural community, women are frequently expected to shoulder the responsibility of the survival of their families. On account of the high actualization and erratic availability of work, women are engaged in a multiplicity of activities. Their employment status varies from unpaid family work to wage labour outside the home, contract work, independent work

and rendering services in exchange for goods and services. The need to combine productive work with her reproductive role and family responsibilities results in the choice of a woman’s work and she prefers easily available and feasible work which is used as an excuse to pay low wages to women. And almost in all cases (except to a large extent in the organised sector which accounts for a very small percentage of women) rural women do not get equal wages for equal work, nor do the conditions of work offered to them are taken into account.

In any country development is not possible unless women participate in the development process. The various development programmes which do not take into account the aspirations and participation of women seem to be ineffective in achieving their objectives. If development has by passed some poor nations and some poor pockets within a nation, women have been utterly by passed in particular, treating their needs and aspirations as non-contributory factors of development and welfare.

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The Incredible Cultural Heritage of Gadaba Tribe of Koraput District

Dr. Soubhagya Ranjan Padhi

Tribal Society is an enigma to the world of culture and heritage. In the broad sphere of Indian society, the tribal communities represent an important social category of Indian social structure. They are considered as the original inhabitants of India, who carry forward a legacy of rich and distinct cultural traits for many decades. Tribal society displays a fascinating profile of ethnic diversity. The tribals belong to different racial stocks, speak language of different families and show considerable variations in basic economy. The variation in physical and biological environment of their habitat is equally amazing. This bewildering variety in race, language, habitat and economy is fully reflected in their culture, which like a mosaic evokes the admiration of social scientists to study the dynamics of their society.

As per the Constitution (Orissa) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) 1976, Orissa is one of the Scheduled Areas. Orissa occupies a unique position in the ethnographic map of India for having the largest variety of tribal communities. It is believed that the very name Orissa is derived from “Ordes”, a predominant tribe. Being one of the fascinating ethnographic states of the country, it has been the homeland of as many as sixty two different tribal communities and all have been enumerated at 2001 Census. As per 2001 Census, the Scheduled Tribe (ST)

population in the State of Orissa is 81,45,081. This constitutes 22.13 percent of the total population of the State and 9.7 percent of the total tribal population of the country. The state holds 3rd and 11th rank among the States/UTs in terms of ST population and the proportion of ST population to total population of the State respectively. Although the tribals are found in all the districts of the state, yet more than half of their total strength is found in three undivided districts of Koraput, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj.

Gadaba Tribe:

Orissa has a great variety of tribal population. The Constitution (Orissa) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes order (Amendment) 1976 enlisted 62 tribal communities and Gadaba tribal community is one of the prominent tribes among them. The Gadaba is one of the colourful tribes of Orissa, classified as speakers of Mundari of Kolarian language. They are seen in adjoining mountainous tracts of Andhra, Orissa, Chhatisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. In Orissa, they are distributed mostly in eight different districts, Viz Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Khordha, Sundergarh, and Nayagarh. However, Koraput has the highest Gadaba population in the district. They inhabit 3000ft. plateau of Koraput region and are mostly found

in the southernmost part of the state in the district of Koraput. In Koraput district they are found in large concentration in Blocks of Lamtaput, Semiliguda, Potangi, Nandapur and Baipariguda.

Origin of Gadaba Tribe:

No precise theory is in existence to prove the origin of Gadaba community. But however the Gadabas are considered as one of the early settlers of our country and trace their origin to the time of Ramayan. It is believed that their ancestors emigrated from the banks of river Godavari and settled in Nandapur, the former capital of the king of Jaypore of present Koraput district in Orissa. It is also said that the Gadabas migrated from the Godavari valley to settle eventually in Gadabapada, a village in Lamataput Block of Koraput, wherefrom they again migrated to different places of the district in search of land. Another migration theory is also currently suggesting that the Gadabas, who once belonged to the Munda group of tribals, were originally inhabitants of the Bindhya hills. The name "Gadaba" seems to have been derived from the word "Gada", name of a brook in the region. Later, on dislocation of tribal population, the Gadabas might have migrated to Visakhapatnam region, and then to Koraput. According to Mitchell, the word Gadaba signifies a person who carries loads on his shoulders. The Gadabas were also employed as palanquin bearers in the hills. Thurston and Rangachari say that the Gadabas are the primitive tribe of agriculturists, coolies and hunters. They are also employed as palanquin bearers in the hills of the former rulers of Jeypore and thus known as "Bhoie Gadaba".

Language:

Broadly, there are two main types of Gadabas. One is "Bodo Gadaba" or "Bada

Gadaba" and the other is "Sana Gadabas. They are found mainly in the Blocks of Lamataput, Semiliguda, Potangi, and Nandapur in Koraput district. They have a dialect of their own called "Gutab" or "Gutob", although they also use the local Oriya language as well. The Bada Gadabas still speak the tribe's original Gutab language of the Munda language family whereas the Sana and Ollar/Ollar Gadabas converse in what they call the Ollar tongue of the Dravidian language family. Most Gadabas can also speak Desia, the Koraput tribal version of Oriya as well as Telugu. So, mostly Gadabas are trilingual or bilingual.

Classification of Gadaba Tribe:

Scholars also classify this tribe into five sub-divisions, such as the Bodo Gadaba, the Sano Gadaba, the Parenga Gadaba, the Ollar Gadaba and Kapu Gadaba. Among the sub groups, the Bodo Gadaba group is held superior to all other groups. Thurston and Rangachari (1909) divided the tribe into five sectors viz. (i) Bodo or Gutob (ii) Parenga (iii) Olar (iv) Kathithiri or Kaththara and (v) Kapu. According to them, the last sections, which were found by them to be settled in the plains, originally belong to Bodo (Gutob) sections. Ramdas (1931) also reported a number of classes of Gadaba. The names of the four classes given by him tally with those mentioned by Thurston and Rangachari, but he has specially omitted Kathithiri (Kathathara) from his list, perhaps because, by then, they no longer associated themselves with the Gadaba. Furer-Haimendorf (1943) too has divided Godaba into three distinct groups. He has excluded the Kathakari (Kathathara) and Kapu, and also the Parenga from being counted as Gadaba. He has instead, included the Dedeng Gadaba of the hills surrounding Salur (Andhra Pradesh) among them. In the similar manner Bell (1945) who wrote the first edition of Koraput district Gazetteer noted

three sub-divisions of the Gadaba in the district of Koraput, viz. the Bodo, Sana and Ollar. The Ollar Gadaba was described by him to be a small community, who spoke a Dravidian language, but to all out word appearances they were similar to other Mundari speaking Gadaba. Rao (1965) states about a different type of Gadaba viz. the Khattri (Non-Dravidian speaking) Gadaba who live near Bobbili of Andhra Pradesh adjacent to Koraput district of Orissa. Thusu and Jha (1972) have added another group called Gurram Gadaba in the category of Gadaba community. Majumdar connects the Gadaba with Munda family. He observes that the Gadaba “of Jeypore, Orissa are the only representative of the Munda speaking people” and they are “now a small occupational group of palanquin bearer, living east of Jagdalpur of Chhatisgarh state and whose cultural life may be distinguished from rest of the tribal stock”. He further goes on to write that the Gadabas belong to the Austro-Asiatic linguistic family (Somasunderam: 1949). Though the division of Gadaba varies from person to person, on the basis of language they can be clearly divided into two groups: the Ollar Gadaba from the first group being the Dravidian speaking people and the rest from the Mundari speaking group.

Population and Distribution:

According to 2001 census the total population of Gadaba tribe in India is 116,323. However Orissa has the highest Gadaba population in the country. The Gadaba population of Orissa constitutes 62.74% of the total Gadaba population of the country. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh (31.2), Chhattishgarh (5.43%) and Madhya Pradesh (0.81%).

Eventhough Gadaba tribe inhabits only in four states, it has many precious cultural traits and incredible heritage. Orissa has the highest number

of Gadaba tribe. They inhabit in most of districts of Orissa. The following table depicts the demographic distribution of Gadaba community in various districts of Orissa. The total population of Gadaba in Orissa which was 67,138 during 1991 census went up to 72,982 during 2001 census establishing a growth rate of 8.70 percent over the decade. As per the census 2001, Koraput district has the highest concentration of Gadaba population. Out of the total population of Gadabas in the state, Koraput has 58,559, which constitutes 80.23 percent of the total Gadaba population of the State. It is followed by the Malkanagiri district (14.60%) and Nabarangapur district (03.44%). Other districts of Orissa have either very less or no Gadaba population.

Sex Ratio:

The overall sex ratio of ST in Orissa is 1003. It shows the preponderance of females and is higher than the national average (978) for S.T. The sex ratio among Gadabas in Orissa as per 2001 census is 1011. The sex ratio among the STs of Orissa, in the age group of 0-6 years (979) is slightly higher than that of all STs at the national level (973). However the child sex ratio of Gadaba tribe of Orissa (0-6 years age) is 972, which is slightly less than the national average.

Literacy Rate:

The overall tribal literacy rate in Orissa has increased from 22.3 percent in 1991 to 37.4 percent in 2001. Despite this improvement, it is considerably below the national average (47.1 percent). Male tribal literacy has increased from 34.4 percent to 51.5 percent while female tribal literacy has gone up from 10.2 percent in 1991 to 23.4 percent during 1991-2001. Nevertheless the literacy among the Gadaba tribe is very low, being 3.3 percent during 1971 and 6.5 percent

during 1981; it has gone up to 21.21 percent in 2001 census. There is wide gender disparity found among the Gadabas in terms of literacy rate. While male literacy is 33.01 percent, the female literacy is only 9.64 percent.

Appearance, dress and ornaments:

The art of wearing cloth, decorating their bodies and hairs is one of the remarkable cultural traits of Gadabas. Both men and women tie their long hairs with linseed oil and decorate it with forestry flowers and different ornaments. Gadabas use very scanty cloths. The men folk use a small piece of loin cloth called 'Lenguti' with a flap which hangs down in front. They also use napkin (Gamacha or Lungi). The women use to wear long strip of cloth commonly known as "Kerang" (prepared from Kerang fibre) tied round the waist and second piece of cloth is worn across the breast. But however due to the impact of modernization, now a days Gadabas have started using the normal cloth of general people.

The Gadaba women are fond of wearing a number of ornaments generally made out of brass or aluminium. Traditional peasant jewellery fascinates the Gadaba women for its eloquent design. Even the poorest Gadaba women also wear ornaments. Gadaba males prefer to wear rings in their finger, bracelets in the wrists and ear-rings (guna). Women use different types of hair pins and wear ear rings, nose rings and finger rings made with coins. They use bangles which are made of brass. Some of the commonly used ornaments of Gadaba community are Hair clip (Khosa Dang), Big silver neck rings (Khagla), Nose ring (Dandi), Black Necklace (Taitul), Red Necklace (Bandara), Long Necklace made with Ghunguru (Bid/Gagara) etc.

Food:

Gadabas generally eat thrice a day. They don't take any breakfast. Around 9 a.m./10a.m. they eat boiled rice, curry and a glass of gruel (Pej) made up of ragi flour. The 'Pej' is the most favourite food of all Gadabas. It is a staple food made up of ragi, locally called as Mandia i.e. Elcusine corroconna flour or some other millets. After that they go to agricultural field for cultivation. At about 3 to 4 p.m. they return to their home and again take few glasses of Mandia Pej and then at 8p.m. in the evening they have boiled rice with different varieties of pulses, currying chutney of tamarind, mango, and other roots. During festival occasion they take non-vegetable food like fish, chicken and mutton. They regularly take liquor. Drinking of liquor (pendam) is considered sacred.

Dance and Music:

Gadabas are fond of dance and music. In spite of their grave poverty they try to retain their rich and unique heritage of dance and music which form an integral part of day to day life. These performances give expression to their inner feelings, joys, affection, passion and their appreciation of beauty in nature. They are known for their Dhemsa dance – which is performed by women wearing their famous Kerang Sarees. The main folk play musical instruments while women dance. Their musical instruments consist of big drums, Tal Mudibaja, Madal, Flutes, Tamak and Mahuri. They compose their own songs befitting different occasions and sing these songs while dancing. Sometimes they form a ring by joining hands all round and with a long hop spring towards the centre and then hop back to the full extent of their arms, while they at the same time keep circling round and round. At other times, the women dance singly or in pairs, their hands

resting on each other's wrists. In every festival, Gadabas love to dance. During festivals the women and cheery maidens wear Kerang saree reaching half way to the knee, great rings on their neck, rings on their fingers, brass bell on their toes, heavy brass bangles on hand and various necklaces in their neck and perform Dhems a dance with music, while dancing they sing but usually when they are exhausted after dancing a lot they wish to sing. They sing melodious songs either in Gutob or Ollar language. These songs and dances bring integration among them in the field, forest and village.

Religion, Belief, rituals and festivals:

The amazing conglomeration of traditions, beliefs, sorrows, taboos and philosophies that together constitute the religion of Gadaba tribe has descended from antiquity and has been preserved unimpaired to the present day. Every fact of their life covering round the year activities is intimately connected with religion. The festivals, ceremonies at home and in the Gadaba village are a regular event followed from generation. The important festivals are Gutor Parab, Bandapana Parab, Dasahara Parab, Pusha Parab, and Chaita Parab. Gadabas celebrate these festivals, with care, sincerity, devotion and fear. Before 14/15 days of celebration of festivals, Gadabas under the leadership and guidance of headman (Naik), Priest (Pujari) and Astrologer (Dissari) decide the date of the festival so that all community members can make the necessary arrangements. They try to satisfy the mystical power in order to restore and increase the well-being of their village. In whole it can be said that they have the rituals related to land, man and God. They also performed rituals to liberate evil spirit (Dumas) of ancestor and seek their blessing and co-operation.

Gadabas celebrate many agricultural rituals which are calendared according to different agriculture operations and different crops and fruits available to them. The various operation of seeds, ceremonial germination of seeds of the village, ploughing, seed sowing, protection from diseases, harvesting, thrashing and new crop eating ceremonies, new fruit eating are important. Life destroying situations due to the activities of evil spirit (Duma) are tackled by Gadabas through various rituals. They also believe that due to man's malevolence will, through varieties of terms of witchcraft and sorcery with evil intent some people cause harm to others. They also believe in "Palata Bagha" phenomena where Gadabas think that some evil people due to their witchcraft can turn to tigers and kill and eat people and then change to original human form. To overcome this kind of evil sorcery they perform many rituals and animal sacrifices.

Gadabas believe in many Gods and Goddesses. The chief among them is called Thakurani. They have their clan gods who are worshipped in different occasions. The place of the Thakurani is called Hundi. She is represented by slabs of stone and worshipped by Dishari.

Marriage and Family:

Human existence is deeply rooted in the institutions like family and marriage and in one way or other inseparably associated particularly with traditionally secluded tribal communities. In other words, these institutions in a traditional society are highly stable. Among Gadabas marriage is always viewed as a sacred institution. Marriage is very expensive in Gadaba society. The concept of "Bride Price" (Jala Dabu) prevails in their community. They prefer to marry their maternal uncle's daughter. At the time of marriage the groom has to pay certain amount of wealth to the bride's family. The amount of bride price is

fixed by the head of bride's family and the groom pays it as a customary rule. They follow exogamous form of marriage and are not allowed to marry within the same clan (Gotra). They follow various forms of marriage like marriage by negotiation (Ludiringnaie), marriage by capture (Ann Ringnaie), Marriage by service (Samandhi Denka Ludki Nangien) etc. Gadabas have nuclear family setup. After marriage a married Gadaba son is separated from his parents and inhabits in a separate nuclear family. Even the land property is also divided among the brothers after their separation. Their family is an egalitarian family, where the women enjoy high social status and also participate in every decision making process.

Village:

Gadabas are permanent settlers who live in a specific village for life long. Communal life with a strong solidarity is one of the most important salient features of Gadaba culture. Gadabas establish their village in the lap of nature always surrounded by green patches and stretches long on a hill side. One can find many jackfruit, mango trees, tamarind trees, banyan trees etc. in there village. Usually Gadabas make platforms in their villages with large slabs of stone in a rough circle under a banyan trees. This is called as Sadar by Gadabas. It is dedicated to Mother Earth or the Village Mother, which is a female deity and an important agent of fecundity. One of the stone is specially considered as sacred to her. Even though it has a sacred character and ceremonial importance, it is used as a club where villages seat and gossip. In this place the village headman (Nayak) settles the problems of villagers, passes his judgment for any conflicting situation and plans the programmes for the village festivals. Agriculture is the prime livelihood option for many Gadabas. So every Gadaba village is always surrounded by cultivated lands. They always like to settle nearby a river or perennial stream (Jhola). They

give a particular name to their village to show respect to their important clan or a sacred element.

Housing Pattern:

The houses are found in close-knit community set-up. These are usually not scattered over a large area. Rather concentrated in a single place. Usually a Gadaba house consists of two or more huts one for the parents and other for the married sons. They also construct a shed for domestic animal outside their residence. Each house follows a homogeneous pattern. The walls are made of mud or stone with a number of wooden pillars supporting the roof, which is thatched with forest grass or paddy straws. Recently they are constructing their roof with tiles. Typically most of the houses do not have windows. In certain villages they have loosely layered stone walls for boundary. When a boy marries he settles in a new house. Newly married couple stays in new house constructed close to the house of other family members.

Communal life and World View:

Gadabas love their surroundings – the village, forest, hills, streams, trees, flowers, there dances and songs. Gadabas are too much attached to their village people and other kith and kin. In the communal life of Gadabas, almost every aspect of life is shared. They never feel lonely, rootless and helpless in their community. They believe in present life and never bother for future. They know that needs, sorrows and sufferings are part and parcel of life. So they prefer to enjoy their present life with great pleasure and happiness without having the anxiety for future.

Recent changes in Gadaba Culture:

All living cultures change. Neither isolation nor simplicity of technology produce complete stagnation and even in the most conservative

culture, change does take place. Human groups change slowly or rapidly under the pressure of internal and / or external forces. As a result different tribal societies at present moment are also going through the critical state of transition. The way our country is passing through the period of transition in its roller-coaster ride towards modernization, the tribals of Koraput in general and the Gadabas of Koraput in particular are slowly but surely becoming aware of and assimilating some of the modern values while continuing their traditions and conventions. Changes in Gadaba culture are clearly visible in their language, dress pattern, use of ornaments, food, health, education, religion, ritual and entertainment aspects. The new generation of Gadabas are forgetting either their Gutob or Ollar language and using Oriya language. Only the elder people of their community are able to speak the original Gadaba language. In some areas the children can't even understand their own language. Previously the Gadaba women were wearing Kerang Sarees. But in recent days one can hardly find a Gadaba woman wearing the traditional Kerang Sarees. Many customary festivals and rituals in Gadaba society is decaying day by day. The well-known Gadaba festival 'Gotar' is almost stopped either because of their severe poverty or strict enactment of government to end animal sacrifice. Modern forces are actively moulding their lives.

To conclude we can say that the whole Gadaba society at present moment is going through the critical stage of transformation. Various modernizing forces have brought rapid transformation in their whole socio-cultural milieu. Cultural intermixture is on increase and this is sure to effect a perceptible change in the life style of Gadabas. Changes brought through modern and scientific attitudes are healthy sign for their development, but at the same time attention should

be paid to preserve their traditional systems which have immense value. The art and culture of Gadabas should be given new orientation and respectability in the overall scheme of cultural development.

The best traits of both the tradition and modernity should be synthesized for their sustainable development.

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**Address of His Excellency
Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare,
the Governor of Orissa to
the Orissa Legislative Assembly
on February 14, 2011**

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to the 6th Session of this 14th Orissa Legislative Assembly. I convey my heartiest greetings to all of you and to the people of Orissa.

2. This August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, former Vice-President of India, Late Kanduri Charan Mallick, Sidheswar Panigrahi, Ramakrushna Gouda, Kishore Chandra Singh Deo, Dhansai Randhari, Kapila Charan Sethy, Chittaranjan Mishra, Jadumani Pradhan, all former Members of this August House who have made significant contribution to the development of the State. This House has also expressed its condolence on the sad demise of Late Bidyadhar Barik, Ex-Sub Inspector, C.R.P.F, Late Ranjan Kumar Sahoo, Ex- Head Constable, C.R.P.F, Late Hrushikesh Mallick, Jugeswar Nayak, D. K. Samant, Panuram Nayak, Tusar Baral, R.C. Hembram, Pankaj Mohanty, Sudam Chandra Das, Gobinda Pradhan, all Ex-Constables, C.R.P.F, Late Sanjeet Kumar Tirkey, B.Ramachandra, all Ex- Constables, Orissa Police, Late Dipaksen Bhoi, Balaram Pradhan, Hemant Kumar Nayak, Bijendranath Rout, Jakatram Kudai, Ashok Kumar Behera, Umakant Nayak, Subrat Kumar Samal, Sanjay Kumar Pradhan, Partha Ranjan Behera, Hikim Hembram, Chandrakanta Pradhan, Bibhisian Sahoo, all Ex-Commandos, Special Operation Group, Sadananda Sualsingh, Dinabandhu Mantri, Lalit Hantala, all Ex-Gramarakhis, Orissa Police, who have rendered exemplary and selfless service and laid down their lives for the cause of the Nation. I request Hon'ble members to join me in paying tribute to Late Niladri Nayak, Raghunath Ray, Pruthunath Kisku, Brundaban Behera, Dr. Rabindra Mohan Das all former Members of this House and Late Pramod ch. Naik, Ex Rifle man of 12 Assam Rifles who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

3. My Government has been striving to achieve sustainable and inclusive higher economic growth, accelerated overall development, reduction of regional, social and gender disparities and a faster rate of poverty reduction. The State's 11th Five Year Plan for the period from 2007 to 2012 envisages an average annual growth rate of 9% with a projected outlay of ₹32,225 crore. During the 1st three years of the 11th Plan, an annual average growth rate of 8.73% has been achieved. Sustained efforts have been made by my Government to allocate higher order of resources for planned development of the State. An increase of about 36% has been envisaged in the Plan size for the year 2011-12 over the current year. An outlay of ₹15,000 crore has been proposed by the State Government for the Annual Plan of 2011-12.

The State Government has launched the Biju KBK Plan for the KBK districts with annual allocation of ₹120 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan with a view to take up schemes focusing on providing Bijli, Sadak and Pani to the people of this region.

With a view to accelerating the development process and expediting poverty reduction in Kandhamal and Gajapati districts, my Government has launched a Special Area Development Initiative called: "Biju Kandhamal 'O' Gajapati Yojana (BKGY)" under the State Plan effective from the year 2009-10. During 2010-11, ₹18 crore and ₹10.50 crore have been sanctioned respectively in favour of Kandhamal and Gajapati districts under this plan.

4. Fiscal reforms undertaken by my Government, which included expenditure rationalization and revenue generation measures, has resulted in a major turnaround of the State's finances. I am happy to mention that the State's finances are now sound enough to provide adequate resource support to various developmental activities of the State. Perceptible improvement in the fiscal condition of the State during the last few years has created opportunities for higher Capital and Plan investment. Our dependence on borrowing has consequently declined.

Capital outlay which was only ₹1038.06 crore in 2005-06 has increased to ₹3647.88 crore in 2009-10. As percentage of GSDP, this has increased from 1.32% in 2005-06 to 2.42% in 2009-10. This substantial increase in Capital Outlay has been possible because of generation of surpluses on Revenue account and full utilization of the borrowed fund for Capital asset creation. No diversion of borrowed funds for revenue expenditure since 2005-06 is an indication of prudent fiscal management in past few years. Similarly, the annual plan size of the State has increased from ₹3500.00 crore in 2006-07 to ₹11,000.00 crore in 2010-11.

The State Government a few years ago was unable to provide State Share of CSP due to fiscal crisis, as a result of which the State could not leverage Central Assistance for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. But, improved fiscal situation has made it possible to fully provide the State Share of CSP for which it is now possible to access Central Assistance for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes at a much higher scale.

My Government has made substantial strides in the Management of Public Debt. We have been able to reduce the net debt stock from 55.92% of GSDP in 2001-02 to 25.00% of GSDP in 2009-10 thereby achieved the desired level recommended by the 13th Finance Commission. The ratio of interest to Revenue Receipts which should be within the prudential level of 15% has already been achieved by 2007-08 being 14.43%. This ratio stands at 11.52% in 2009-10. Through buy back / prepayment of high cost loans and debt swap, it has been possible to reduce the debt stock and interest burden. Improvement in fiscal performance has enabled the State Government to get debt relief of ₹381.90 crore per annum continuously since 2005-06. With improvement in fiscal situation, the State Government has not resorted to Open Market Borrowing during 2006-07 to 2009-10, as a result of which the State Government has been able to achieve debt sustainability parameters recommended by successive Finance Commissions.

With improved fiscal stability, now the focus of my Government is efficiency and quality of public spending. Now, the emphasis is on outcome and efficiency of expenditure rather than simply making budget provision. My Government has taken a number of institutional reform measures to improve efficiency, transparency and productivity in public spending:

Outcome Budget has been introduced for Works, Rural Development, Water Resources, Panchayati Raj, and Women & Child Development Departments for the financial year 2010-11.

Cash Management System has been introduced in ten Departments of the Government for ensuring timely spending of the budgeted outlays.

Formulation of Annual Maintenance Plans has been put in place for ensuring effective and productive utilization of the budgeted provision for Operation & Maintenance of capital assets.

In order to facilitate growth in trade and business in the State, the Commercial Taxes Organisation has launched Payment of taxes and filing of returns through the electronic mode. Facility has also been provided to the prospective dealers to apply for registration electronically. More such business friendly electronic services are proposed to be rolled out in near future for enhancing efficiency and transparency of our tax administration.

With the improvement in overall State finances, my Government is now implementing many welfare schemes like Biju KBK Yojana, Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana, Biju Gramjyoti Yojana, Biju Saharanchal Bidyut Yojana, providing Rice @ ₹2/- per kg., Construction of Check Dam & bore well scheme in Water deficit Areas and Madhubabu Pension Yojana. These schemes are of immense benefit to the poorer sections of the society and will meet the critical developmental needs of the State.

5. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of the State's economy. About 70% of population of the State is dependent on agriculture. My Government has been giving utmost priority to development of agriculture sector through a number of measures.

As seed is one of the major inputs for boosting productivity of the crop, Govt. has taken adequate steps to increase Seed Replacement Rate of various crops. The Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) for paddy, which was 6.35% by end of 10th Plan period has now gone up to 19.07% at the end of 2009-10 and we plan to achieve SRR 24% by end of 11th Plan period. During 2010-11, 43,348 ha. of land have been brought under Seed Production Programme. All out efforts are being made to make availability of quality seeds at door steps of farmers through setting up of Seed Processing Plants in each district. Besides, six mobile Seed Processing Plants have been procured to expedite the processing of seeds. In spite of erratic climatic condition, this year the fertilizer consumption has gone up to 64.78 kg/ha. Programme has been initiated to increase fertiliser consumption to 83 kg/hect. during 2011-12.

As the state has ample scope to boost horticultural crops, a number of schemes have been taken up and are in operation to exploit the potential of the State in horticultural development. During 2010-11, about 38,418 hect. of land have been brought under different fruit crops with provision of subsidy of ₹4064 lakh. It has been targeted to cover 40,000 hect. under fruit crop plantation in 2011-12. Due importance is also given to commercial cultivation of flowers. Adequate planting materials of important horticulture crops like Mango, Cashew-nut and etc. are being produced in the state to make the state self sufficient in producing quality planting materials. During 2010-11 about 74 lakh planting materials have been produced in the state. It has been targeted to produce about 80 lakh such grafts through departmental farms and private nurseries.

Watershed Development is one of the priority areas of the State. A large number of Micro Watersheds Projects are under implementation under various Schemes namely, DPAP, IWDP, RKVY, WORLP, IWMP, NWDPR and RLTP for KBK districts. During the current year, till December, 2010, 1.20 lakh hectares of land have been treated through Watershed Development Programmes with an expenditure of ₹117.93 crore. 24407 Water Bodies, 61658 small soil and watershed conservation structures and 51118 hectares of plantation have been created under Watershed Development Programmes in the State.

With a view to improving the educational status of the agriculture and allied sector, a new College of Forestry at Bhubaneswar with five PG departments and new Agro-polytechnic institutes at Deogarh and Boudh have been started during the current year. Govt. proposes to set up Agro-polytechnics in different agro-climatic zones of the state in a phased manner.

Irrigation is the most critical input for agriculture. Private Lift Irrigation Points (PLIP) under Jananidhi Scheme are being promoted by providing 50% subsidy. During 2010-11, till Dec'2010, 16,785 PLIPs have been set up creating additional irrigation potential of 34,000 hect. A new scheme for installation of deep bore wells in hard rock areas of the state has been launched during current financial year. 4000 deep bore wells will be installed during the current year. Due emphasis has also be given on judicious utilization of water for crop production through promotion of micro irrigation systems like drip and sprinkler irrigation.

6. For accelerating the irrigation potential of the state, My Government has formulated a Five Year Perspective Plan in 2009-10 with an objective to bring an additional 9% of cultivable land that is 5.61 lakh hectares under irrigation coverage by 2014. Construction activities in major and medium irrigation projects have been scaled up and it has been targeted to complete all ongoing spillover of 10th Plan projects by 2014. System improvement work of selected major and medium irrigation projects have been taken up under ADB funding. Besides, 1761 minor irrigation tanks & water bodies to revive 88000 hectares have been sanctioned under RR&R scheme of Government of India. Other schemes such as BKVY are also under implementation to augment irrigation potential of the State.

An ambitious scheme for construction of 6000 Deep Borewells to provide irrigation to small and marginal farmers in blocks having less than 35% irrigation coverage has been launched during 2010-11. These 6000 borewells are targeted to be completed by the end of current financial year. Similarly, a novel scheme of Construction of Check Dams to conserve water at the end of monsoon for drinking water, ground water recharge and incidental irrigation has also been launched during 2010-11. 1000 Check Dams are targeted to be completed by end of year 2010-11. Besides, Government is now planning to take up mega-lift irrigation projects during 2011-12 to provide irrigation facilities to the up-land areas.

Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) activities have been scaled up, with a focus on the participatory process at all levels of development in water resources. By end of November, 2010, 13.47 lakh hectares of irrigated command has been handed over to 18628 Pani Panchayats for operation & maintenance.

7. The Cooperative Credit Structure plays a significant role in the dispensation of credit for agricultural activities and rural development through its short-term structures with their vast network, wide coverage and outreach extending to the remotest rural areas.

An amount of ₹1811.08 Crore has been disbursed as crop loan by the District Central Cooperative Banks during Kharif 2010 Season. It is programmed to disburse ₹1400 crore as crop loan during Rabi, 2010-11.

To avoid distress sale of Paddy, my Government has taken efforts to streamline the procurement during Kharif Season 2010-11. The Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) in the State are engaged as agents of Orissa State Civil Supply Corporation to purchase paddy directly from farmers. During the Kharif Season 2010-11, PACS have procured 605145 MT of paddy by 15.01.2011.

The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is being implemented in the State with effect from Rabi 1999-2000 to provide Crop Insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crops due to natural calamities. The Scheme provides Crop Insurance coverage to both loanee and non-loanee farmers. The Gram Panchayat is the unit area for Crop Cutting Experiments (CCEs) to assess crop losses from Rabi 2010-11 Crop Season.

Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) is being implemented in 5 selected districts namely, Balasore, Bargarh, Bhadrak, Sonepur and Kalahandi of the State from Rabi 2010-11, for Paddy Crop on Pilot basis at Gram Panchayat Level.

The Cooperative Banks have issued more than 39 lakh Kisan Credit Cards to the farmer members of PACS so far.

Integrated Cooperative Development Project (ICDP) will be implemented in Angul & Dhenkanal districts for taking up comprehensive development of LAMPs such as infrastructure, capacity building of the members, strengthening the working capacity base etc. The Project Period of this scheme is 5 years with a total project cost of ₹1332.00 lakh for Angul & ₹1261.94 lakh for Dhenkanal district.

8. My Government has implemented various afforestation Programmes like National Afforestation Programme, Mangrove Action Plan, RLTP in KBK Districts, Economic Plantation, Plantation under Bamboo Mission, Industrial Plantation as well as Compensatory Afforestation.

My Government has set up seven Medicinal Plants Conservation Areas comprising 4400 hectares to improve the conservation status of 41 such plant species which have become rare or endangered in our forests. 465 hectares have been covered by plantation of the species like Ashok and 361 hectares by plantation of Dasmoola species, which have high medicinal value. A "Medicinal Plants Knowledge Centre" has been set up at Patrapada near Bhubaneswar to provide information on medicinal plants to the research fellows.

Extensive protection measures have been put in place for safety of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles in and around the nesting sites at Rushikulya, Gahirmatha and Devi River Mouth. Regular patrolling has been ensured with involvement of Coast Guards and local people. To reduce man-animal conflict in the State, it has been decided by the State Government to implement an Elephant Management Plan with a financial outlay of ₹53.60 crore for a period of five years. To provide protection to our coasts and for conservation and development of mangrove eco system, 340 ha. Mangrove plantation has been targeted during 2010-11. Similarly, there is also a programme for 225 ha mangrove plantation for the year 2011-12.

The State Government has also created an Environment Management Fund for combating pollution. Efforts are on for developing green belt around the industrial areas of Talcher and Jharsuguda.

Eco tourism initiatives have been taken up in the State. Eco-Tourism camps have been set up for the benefit of serious nature lovers at Anjar in Keonjhar district, Siddhamula in Nayagarh district. A beginning has been made in the Similipal National Park, Satkosia and Chilika. The infrastructure in Similipal, Bhitarkanika, Sunabeda and Kuldiha sanctuary have been improved to promote eco-tourism. The work has been extended to Hadagarh, Chandaka and Balukhand sanctuary. The Chilika Lake – A Ramsar Site – has drawn the attention of the international community as a success story of the wetland management.

Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for protection and conservation of two coastal stretches namely – Gopalpur to Chilika and Paradeep to Dhamara of Orissa is being implemented with a financial outlay of ₹227.64 crore with the assistance of World Bank. This scheme aims at overall development of coastal area including mitigation of coastal erosion, conservation and improvement of archaeological and cultural assets and ensuring livelihood of the coastal community.

9. For constructing captive nursery at reservoir sites for quality Fish Production, a project at a cost of ₹342 lakh has been started with the help of National Fisheries Development Board. 175 lakh of Fingerlings have been stocked in 26 nos. of Reservoirs of the State benefiting 50,000 fishermen of Fishermen Societies.

Marine fisherman population have also been covered under different welfare schemes like Savings-cum-Relief, Group Accident Insurance Scheme and Motorisation of traditional crafts etc.

A record number of 15700 tanks are under execution at the rate of 50 per Block under MGNREGS across the State to promote pisciculture.

A novel programme under the banner of “KALYANI” has been launched by Government in 14 districts for cattle development and small animals development with the assistance of BAIF, Pune. Livestock development activities like Artificial Insemination, Fodder cultivation, vaccination through private AI workers etc., would be taken up at a project of ₹52.5 crore spreading over 5 years.

10. My Government has identified interventions in the areas of imparting quality education as one of the most crucial components in social capital development in the tribal areas. Keeping this in view, a number of measures have been taken to ensure that the tribal children get access to quality school education.

To reduce the dropout rate of ST Girls and Boys from Schools, concerted efforts have been initiated by Government by up-scaling residential accommodation in schools for these children. 1328 hostels shall be operationalised in the academic year 2011-12 and this would provide about 132800 ST Girls and Boys with an opportunity to pursue and complete school education. Additional 1000 number of 100 seated hostels i.e. 700 for Girls and 300 for Boys will be constructed in 2011-12. In addition to these, ten numbers of 100-seated hostels in KBK districts are under construction at an estimated cost of ₹4.90 Crore.

The Government has decided to open Urban Hostel Complexes for tribal Boys and Girls in the Urban Centres of Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Rourkela. About 1600 bright tribal children from different districts will be admitted to pursue studies in various good Public & Govt Schools and avail quality coaching facilities at these locations to prepare for admission in the premier Engineering and Medical Institutions in the country. This would go a long way in producing a large number of doctors, engineers & other professionals from ST communities.

The State has established itself as the number one State in the country in conferring individual titles under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Till now 2,51,039 Scheduled Tribes have got titles over an area of 3,75,425 acres. About 90% of the Particularly Vulnerable tribal groups have been granted land under this Act. My Government is taking steps to develop the land and extend benefits under different on-going schemes to ensure creation of sustained livelihood opportunities for these ST households. This would go a long way in bringing them out of the poverty cycle.

11.36 lakh SC & ST students including 3.63 lakh hostellers have been provided with Pre-matric scholarship / stipends. The scholarship amount has been enhanced from ₹500 to ₹600 in case of boys & ₹530 to ₹630 in case of girls from 2011-12 onwards. Post-matric scholarship has been provided to 1,39,209 students during 2010-11. 70368 ST families have been benefited under SCA to TSP in 2009-10 and 1275 infrastructure projects have been completed. In 2010-11, ₹99.90 Crore have been provided to benefit 1,01,500 ST families.

11. My Government has formulated, and is implementing a number of plans and programmes for holistic development of Women and Children of the State.

The Flagship Programme, “The Integrated Child Development Services Programme” is being implemented in 60,918 Anganwadi Centres in the State covering 48,78,683 beneficiaries. The programme aims to cater to the nutrition requirements and other health, immunization and early education needs of the most vulnerable groups of population namely children under six years of age, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls, through providing a package of services in an integrated manner.

Under the ICDS Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition is being provided to children and to expectant & nursing mothers for a period of 300 days a year in order to supplement the daily nutritional intake.

In order to improve nutritional outcomes, my Government has initiated a Nutrition Operation Plan to address the nutrition condition of particularly those from most vulnerable sections of the society where malnourishment is highest. The Nutrition Operation Plan aims at targeting the most vulnerable by focusing interventions in 15 high burdened Districts of the State.

My Government has accorded high priority to help women achieve economic independence by enabling them to have independent employment and income. The Scheme “Mission Shakti” has been implemented aiming at promotion of Women’s Self-Help Groups and help in their capacity-building to take up income-generating and remunerative economic activities, by providing them with the necessary technical support, market linkages and credit linkages, where necessary. Till date, my Government has achieved formation of 4,46,615 Self Help Groups with 53,59,380 members having a saving of ₹ 288.93 crore.

12. All-round economic development of all sections of the society on the lines of self-help, empowerment & social justice through people's participation have been the focus of my Government. Keeping these in view, my Government has devolved powers and responsibilities upon the 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as mandated in the 73rd Amendment of the constitution towards Self-Governance.

Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) have been implemented in the matter of strengthening Palli Sabhas, Gram Sabhas & reservations for Scheduled Tribes in the PRI structure.

The flag-ship programmes of the Government such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) & Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme (BRGF) are implemented with full vigour. In order to maintain transparency & to ensure prompt in wage payment, Government has signed MOU with a number of nationalized banks and funds are transferred to the beneficiaries through Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). To deal with MGNREGS, 11 Ombudsmen have been appointed, out of which 10 have joined in their respective districts and they have been assigned work for the entire 30 districts. 19 State Level Monitors (SLMs) have been engaged to monitor proper implementation of MGNREGS work and to investigate the allegation.

19 Districts of the state are covered under the Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme. And the rest 11 districts are covered under the State funded Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana (GGY) scheme. The objective is to provide rural infrastructure primarily Bijli, Sadak and Pani to every village.

Further, to supplement the Centrally Sponsored Indira Awas Yojana, my Government has launched an innovative scheme called "MO KUDIA" under State Plan for providing pucca houses to the needy people of the State.

My Government has mobilized 48,006 rural households into 4066 new SHGs covering about 75% poor and extremely poor households. Efforts are being made to include all the identified left-out households into SHGs. Federations of SHGs are being promoted at cluster level including 5 to 15 SHGs. So far 1507 Cluster Level Forums (CLFs) are formed with the membership of 11836 SHGs that include both newly formed and earlier existing SHGs. This constitutes about 57% of the total SHGs of 20875.

13. My Government has accorded highest priority to generating employment and has accordingly formulated "State Employment Policy-2005." The Orissa State Employment Mission Society (OSEMS) is imparting Self Employment and Skill Up-gradation Trainings in various trades to unemployed persons to improve their employability. A Job Mela was organized in Baripada in 2010, in which 28 Companies and 68,000 candidates participated. Job offers were issued to 8,447 participants. Self & Associated Wage Employment for more than 2,66,760 unemployed youth has been generated during 2010-11 with financial assistance provided by various Banks in the State. Besides, 1.94 lakh persons have been covered under various Self Employment Programmes (SEPs) implemented by a number of Departments.

My Government is emphasising on pre-recruitment coaching programmes, vocational guidance, career counseling and rendering logistics support to Army and Central para Military Organisations in conducting recruitment rallies in various parts of the State to facilitate induction of Oriya youth in Armed forces and Para Military forces.

14. Providing Food security to the poor & vulnerable sections of the society through an efficient public distribution system has been the focus of my Government. A total of 12,53,534 poorest of the poor beneficiaries covered under Antodaya Anna Yojana are being supplied with 35 Kg. of rice per month @ ₹2.00 per Kg. per family. The BPL families of the State and APL families in KBK district are being given 25 Kg. of rice at ₹2.00 per Kg. Under Annapurna Scheme, 64,800 senior citizens who, though eligible, but not covered under Old Age Pension Scheme are being provided with 10 Kgs. of rice per beneficiary per month free of cost. About 314953 boarders up to +3 level of S.C. & S.T. hostels in the State are being provided with rice @ 15 Kg. per head @ ₹2.00 per Kg. Besides monthly quota of 175.575 MT of rice is provided to 11,705 Nos. of inmates of orphanages, destitute homes & other Welfare Institutions of the State @ 15 Kg. per head per month @ ₹6.30 per Kg. and the scheme of “₹2.00 per Kg. rice” has been extended to the communal violence affected families of Kandhamal District.

As a measure of women empowerment, WSHGs are being given priority for issue of Retailership / Sub-wholesalership licenses for distribution of PDS goods. Women Self Help Groups, Primary Co-operative Societies and Pani Panchayats have been associated with paddy procurement operations to eliminate middle men & unscrupulous traders exploiting small & marginal farmers. In order to provide safeguard against starvation during natural calamities and lean seasons to the families under distress, 40 quintals of rice is kept with each Village Grain Bank to enable the families to borrow food grains at the time of need. 500 such Village Grain Banks are functioning in 30 Districts of the State and each Grain Bank covers about 30-40 BPL/AAY families.

In order to modernize the PDS and procurement operation system, Rayagada District has been covered with Bio-metric Based Ration Card System on pilot basis and it has resulted in an efficient delivery mechanism. It is planned to cover the entire State through Bio-metric Data Based Ration Cards soon after data is available from National Population Register.

15. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 guarantees the right of every child in the age group of 6-14 years to Free and Compulsory Elementary Education and has come into force w.e.f. 01.04.2010. It mandates the provisions of inclusive, non discriminatory and child centered elementary education for every child. My Government has notified the Orissa Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Rules, 2010 for effective implementation of the Act in the State. Orissa is the 2nd State in the country to notify the State Rules.

Similarly, Orissa is the 1st State in the country to institute School Students' Helpline with Toll free telephone number for redressal of problems of school students. In order to strengthen the school monitoring system and enhance effectiveness of the functioning of the school system, a supervision and monitoring package called “Samikshya” has been devised. Government has engaged district nodal officers in all 30 districts to track & check the problem of teacher absenteeism.

Drop out rate at elementary level has been reduced from 52.41% in the year 2002-03 to 5.51% in the year 2009-10. Govt. has decided to provide two sets of free uniform to all girls, SC, ST, BPL children studying in Government schools in Class- I to VIII. In order to meet deficiency of teachers, 1496 nos. of teachers on contractual basis have been engaged in different High Schools during 2010-11 and steps have been taken up to fill up 24,000 vacancies of Elementary level teachers in the state. The rate of LP merit scholarship & merit-cum-poverty scholarship has been substantially enhanced from ₹10 to ₹50 and ₹20 to ₹50 respectively alongwith enhancement

of beneficiaries from 1000 to 2500 in the State in each case. Similarly, the UP merit scholarship & merit-cum-poverty scholarship has been increased from ₹20 to ₹100 and ₹40 to ₹100 respectively alongwith enhancement of beneficiaries from 2000 to 2500 and 1000 to 2500 respectively.

To make good quality secondary education available, accessible and affordable to all young students in the age group of 14-16 years, Govt. has introduced Rastriya Madhyamika Sikshya Abhiyan in the state. 1087 new High schools have been opened in Gram Panchayats which had no High schools. To check drop out rate and for improvement of girls education, all girls students of class-X of Govt. and Govt. aided schools will be provided with free bicycles. Similarly, boys students of Class-X of Govt. & Govt. Aided schools in tribal sub-plan areas will be provided with free bicycles. Govt. has decided to start the "Pathani Samanta Scholarship" under the Rural Mathematics Talent Search and Nurture Programme to benefit students studying in Class-VI to XII from all the blocks of the State. The "Saakshar Bharat" scheme has been implemented in the State for promoting female literacy. Three districts viz. Bolangir, Kalahandi & Sundargarh have been identified for the implementation of the programme in the First Phase.

16. With a view to making our State a hub of educational eminence, institutes of National repute like IIT, IIIT, NISER, National Law University in the State have been established and AIIMS is being set up.

During the year 2010-11, my Government has extended e-admission system to 109 Junior Colleges making it to a total of 169 Junior Colleges so far and also the system is introduced in 53 Degree Colleges. During the Academic Session 2011-12, it has been decided to extend this e-Admission process to all + 2 Colleges.

My Government has taken all possible measures to encourage establishment of Universities in Private Sector. Sri Sri University, ICFAI University and Centurion University of Technology and Management have been established. The Government has also agreed in principle to establish the Xavier University of Management and MAA Anand Mayee University. Besides, there are 12 more proposals for establishment of Universities in Private Sector, which are under consideration of the State Government.

To make higher education affordable for poor & meritorious students various scholarships are being awarded for pursuing higher studies including Technical and Professional courses. The State Government, has now enhanced the rates of Junior Merit Scholarship, Senior Merit Scholarship & P.G. Merit Scholarship substantially (which had not been enhanced for a few decades) from ₹40/-, ₹50/- & ₹60/- per month respectively to ₹300/-, ₹500/- & ₹1000/- per month respectively. The number of Junior Merit Scholarship for the +2 students has been increased from 2130 to 5000. The number of Senior Merit Scholarship for the +3 students has been increased from 600 to 1000 and the number of Post-graduate Merit Scholarship has been increased from 262 to 500 students so as to benefit more meritorious & poor students.

My Government is providing Technical Scholarship @ ₹10,000/- per annum to 10,000 number of students for pursuing the courses in MBBS, BDS, Engineering, Agriculture Science, Integrated Law, Integrated MBA, MCA, B.Pharma, B.SC (Nursing), BAMS & BHMS.

17. Our Sports Persons have achieved laurels in National & International field of Sports and Games. Nine Sports persons of Orissa participated in the XIXth Common Wealth Game

,2010 and among them K. Ravi Kumar-won-gold medal in Weight lifting, Probodh Tirkey got Silver in Men's Hockey and Srabani Nanda got Bronze Medal in Athletics. Similarly, in the 16th Asian Games held at Guang Zhou, China, Sri Prabodh Tirkey, Miss Pramila Prava Minz and Miss Pratima Puhan have made us proud by winning Bronze Medal in their respective fields.

During 2011-12, construction of ongoing projects, important works like completion of sports Academy, creation of Sports Infrastructure, establishment of new Sports Hostels, Extension of PYKKA scheme and supply of Sports equipments to Blocks shall be taken up on priority basis. Besides, the Tribal Sports Complex of State scheme and Urban Sports infrastructure, a Govt. of India sponsored scheme, are to be taken up during 2011-12.

18. My Government has been making constant and concerted efforts to formulate and implement schemes to ensure adequate health care services to the people of the State in line with the National Health Policy.

As vacancy of Doctors is a major problem, my Government has taken all out efforts to recruit more number of doctors to fill the vacant positions. 719 Medical Officers (408, during 2009-10 and 311 during 2010-11) have been recruited through Orissa Public Service Commission and posted to different medical institutions of the State. 155 number of "ad hoc" doctors have been posted by relaxing the recruitment procedure in addition to the contractual doctors being appointed by the districts. In order to attract doctors to work in inaccessible areas, KBK allowance has been provided. Remuneration for contractual doctors has been increased and promotional avenues created. To address the problem of stagnation & career progression, as many as 1195 Medical Officers have been given promotion to higher rank in one year.

Under medical education, 87 post graduate seats have been increased in the three Government Medical Colleges of the State so that there can be more number of Specialists. Mental Health Institution at SCB Medical College has been selected to be upgraded to a Centre of Excellence, with four Departments. Two super specialization courses leading to Doctorate in Medicine in the discipline of Gastroenterology and MCH in Urosurgery have been opened. An Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences has been set up at SCB Medical College, Cuttack with state-of-the-art facilities including Cath. Lab facilities. To augment capacity of Acharya Harihar Regional Cancer Centre at Cuttack, Government has increased bed strength by 70 and commensurate teaching staff have been sanctioned. To get more nursing staff in remote districts, steps have been taken for opening two teaching centres at Boudh and Sonapur and one centre at Nowrangpur.

National Rural Health Mission, a flagship programme of the country, has been implemented in the State. 19.59 lakh mothers have benefited under Janani Surakhya Yojana (JSY) in the period from 2006-2010. 421 ambulances have deployed across the state for providing 2nd referral transport services. Besides, 286 "Janani Express" are engaged for promoting referral transport services specially to pregnant mothers to arrest maternal mortality. My Government has taken a lot of initiative to provide quality health care to people in outlying and inaccessible areas. KBK and KBK+ districts have been given priority. 214 Mobile Health Units (MHUs) have been operationalised and catering to the need of inaccessible areas. MHU – Arogya+, a new initiative in PPP mode is in place for naxal affected areas. 22 PHC(N) of 13 districts are being managed by NGOs. 40,526 (ASHAs) are in place. Around 45,000 village health and sanitation committees have been constituted in the State.

With a view to providing round the clock health care, 261 hospitals have been upgraded as 24X7 facilities. 62 facilities have been upgraded and operationalised as First Referral Units. Fourteen Special New Born Care Units & 234 New Born Care Corners have been established in various hospitals.

To address the issue of shortage of anesthetists 58 MBBS Doctors have been trained on Life saving Anesthetic skills (LSAS) and 27 MBBS Doctors trained on Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC). All 1675 tribal residential Schools have been covered under intensive school health programs through round the year interventions. Extensive School Health Programme has been introduced in 60,000 Schools to benefit 58 lakh students. 1273 AYUSH doctors, 17 Medical Officers, 760 Staff Nurses, 869 Addl. ANMs, 123 LTs have been appointed under NRHM to address the man power shortage in the hospitals in the rural areas.

19. Rural connectivity plays a very important role in the socio-economic development of rural areas. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) 17,529.60 KM of all-weather roads have been constructed till December, 2010 to provide connectivity to 5,992 unconnected habitations. Further it has been targeted to complete 4327 KM rural roads to connect 932 habitations during 2010-11. 245 bridges and 1354.920 KM roads have been constructed with NABARD assistance under RIDF till the end of December, 2010 and during 2010-11, target has been fixed to construct 45 bridges and 151.650 KM roads under this scheme.

With a view to enhancing the quality of life in rural areas, my Govt. is taking all out efforts in providing safe drinking water and better sanitary facilities. In total, 2,91,599 Spot Sources (Tube wells & Sanitary wells) and 6,272 Piped Water Supply Projects have been installed till 31.12.2010. For the year 2010-11, it is targeted to install 13,924 Spot Sources (Tube wells & Sanitary wells) and 1,708 Pipe Water Supply Projects. Additional 12,500 Spot Sources (Tube wells & Sanitary wells) and 1200 Pipe Water Supply Projects would be executed during the financial year 2011-12.

To provide safe & reliable drinking water to the families living in interior & isolated locations, schemes are being drawn up to provide Spot Sources (Tube wells & Sanitary wells) for each 10-20 families living in such isolation / smaller hamlets. Priority is being accorded to provide drinking water through Pipe Water Supply Projects to habitations having 500 or more population within Schedule Areas and 1000 or more population outside the Schedule Areas. Priority would also be accorded to the habitations having less population, if the village community agrees to bear 10 percent of the project cost supported by a written agreement to take the complete responsibility of managing the project along with a firm commitment to ensure construction of sanitary latrines for each household in the village.

Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is being carried out in all the district of the State for improvement of rural sanitation. The total project cost is ₹1313.20 crore for this purpose. The objective of the programme is to provide sanitation facilities in all rural households as well as all Govt. schools and Anganwadi Centres for the welfare of young children. 33,20,426 individual household latrines (IHLs), 66,274 School toilets and 20,436 Anganwadi toilets have been completed under this programme till 31.12.2010. So far 155 GPs of the State have been awarded with Nirmal Gram Puraskar at National level. Further, 81 more GPs are going to be awarded very soon.

20. My Government has taken up a number of road and bridge projects in the State with a view to providing connectivity in backward regions for overall development of the State and to strengthen the infrastructural facilities to boost the rapidly progressing economic growth.

Under Economic Importance Scheme, 9 road projects at a cost of ₹333.69 crore have been taken up out of which 7 projects have already been completed and the balance 2 projects will be completed during the year 2010-11. An alternative road network from Keonjhar to Jajpur industrial hub and to Paradeep Port to cater to the growing needs of mining and industrial activities is also under construction at an estimated cost of ₹302 crore.

Under Inter State Connectivity Scheme, 7 projects have been taken up out of which 5 projects have already been completed and balance 2 projects are expected to be completed by March, 2011.

Under Central Road Fund, 19 bridges and 125 no. of roads have been completed and the construction of 6 bridges and 38 roads are in progress.

In order to provide round ribbon connectivity to Paradeep Port, improvement work of Cuttack Paradeep Road with a length of 82 km. with 10 mtr. wide at an estimated cost of ₹224.80 crore is in progress.

979.70 km. of State Road under Vijayawada-Ranchi Corridor which largely runs through Left wing Extremism affected tribal areas, are under implementation and targeted to be completed by 2015. On implementation of this project, a through connection will be available from Vijayawada to Ranchi with accessibility to vulnerable areas which will open new prospects of development.

Under World Bank assisted Orissa State Roads Project 461 km. of State road network is programmed to be improved to double lane standard with an investment of ₹1431.19 crore over a period of five years. Construction work of 204 km. of roads covering Berhampur-Taptapani Road, Bhawanipatna-Khariar Road, Chandbali-Bhadrak-Anandapur Road has been taken up.

For development of road connectivity in the Left Wing Extremism affected districts of the State, project proposals were submitted for improvement of 490 km. of State roads and sanction of Government of India has been received for 205 km. of roads. Construction work is under progress in Gajapati & Sambapur. Special attention is given to construct new roads & improve the existing roads in the LWE areas so that the benefit of development will reach the people living in the far flung areas & spread of Extremism is curbed.

21. The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR), 2007 envisages a robust policy framework for industrial promotion and investment facilities including creation of an enabling environment. As a result, a large number of investment proposals are being received in the State for setting up of mineral based industries such as Steel, Power, Cement, Alumina and Aluminium.

So far 89 companies in different sectors have signed MoUs which inter alia covers Steel (50), Aluminium (3), Power (30), Cement (3), Auto Component (1), Oil refinery (1) and Titanium dioxide (1) plant with an investment of ₹4,61,236.00 crore.

Petroleum, Chemical & Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) with an investment of ₹2,77,734 crore within an area of 284.15 sq.km. is going to be established at Paradeep covering the districts of Kendrapara (Marshaghai & Mohakalpara Blocks) and Jagatsinghpur (Kujang & Ersama Blocks).

Steps are being taken for establishment of Aluminium Park at Angul, Steel Park at Kalinganagar, Biotech Park at Andharua, Food Park & Apparel Park at Khurda and Infovalley project at Gouda Kashipur, Khurda. World Trade Organization (WTO) Cell has been constituted in IPICOL to create awareness and build capacity of Industrial Entrepreneurs and others concerned.

22 nos. of the new Polytechnics are in the process of establishment with financial assistance from Government of India with total cost of ₹270.60 crore alongwith establishment of Advanced Plastic Processing Technology Centre (APPTC) at Balasore, a satellite unit of CIPET, Bhubaneswar.

My Government has set up an ambitious target of opening an ITC/ITI in all the 314 Blocks of the State. 45 new Industrial Training Centres have been established in the private sector by the Industrial houses in the uncovered blocks taking the total coverage to 216 Blocks.

26 State PSUs / Industries have also signed MoU to set up ITC at 28 Blocks to provide skill training & boost employment ability in those areas.

My Government is keen to ensure providing employment to the people of the state more particularly to the local population which should be one of the main benefits of Industrialization. Accordingly, a policy has been made to provide for 90% employment in the unskilled & semi-skilled categories, 60% in the skilled categories & 30% in the supervisory & managerial level in the upcoming Industries.

A Bio-tech Pharma IT Park called Konark Knowledge Park is being developed in Bhubaneswar under Public Private Partnership mode.

Energy Plantation & Bio-Diesel production project has been taken up with joint collaboration of Government of India and State Government to produce Bio-fuel.

22. My Government is implementing e- Governance Projects in a mission mode. The 'e-District' initiative is being implemented to support the " District Administration" to enable content development of Government to Citizen (G2C) services, which would optimally leverage and utilize the three infrastructure pillars, i.e. the State Wide Areas Network (SWAN) for connectivity, State Data Centre (SDC) for secured & safe data storage, and Common Service Centres (CSCs) as the primary front-ends for service delivery to deliver services to the citizens at their doorstep. Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts of Orissa have been identified for Pilot Implementation of 'e-District' Project, which will be launched by March-2011.

Orissa Secretariat Workflow Automation System (OSWAS) has been initiated to automate all the functions and working procedures of Secretariat and provide an effective method of storing, maintaining and retrieving the huge volumes of data with necessary process re-engineering.

e-Municipality is being developed as an integrated system for delivery of municipal services to the citizens at anytime, anywhere basis with efficiency and effectiveness, which is likely to be completed by March, 2011.

An Integrated Grievance Redressal System – “Sanjog Help Line” is functioning in the state to offer the citizens an improved access to information on government schemes and services and also to facilitate the process for redressal of grievances on the same. The project also aims to enhance transparency in government functioning and offer scope for improved service delivery by capturing and tracking of grievances on 24X7 Call Centre basis pertaining to several departments such as Rural Development, Food Supplies & Consumer Welfare, Labour & Employment, ST & SC Development, Higher Education, Panchayati Raj, School & Mass Education, etc.

23. My Government has undertaken various Public Enterprises reform programmes like Human Resource restructuring and Financial restructuring for better management of the state owned enterprises. Government has introduced a Corporate Governance Manual, as a policy to Institute a system of good Governance Practices in the state public sector undertakings to enhance transparency and accountability in their activities. Steps have been taken for categorization of state PSUs in line with central PSUs to delegate autonomy and more flexibility to State PSUs. Similarly, to continue the Public Enterprise Reform programmes, necessary restructuring proposals of selected state PSUs and apex Co-Operative societies are being undertaken. Process is under way for empanelment of independent Directors in the Board of State PSUs for efficient management as a follow up to the implementation of the Corporate Governance Manual. Steps are being taken for listing of viable State public sector undertakings in the Stock exchanges. Further, to strengthen the top management of PSU's, Public Enterprises Selection Board has selected professionals from the public and private sector.

24. Orissa Modernizing Government Initiative (OMGI) is a major initiative undertaken by the Government with the objective of ensuring better public services. In order to achieve administrative efficiency, the Government is carrying out different administrative reform measures such as Human Resources Management System (HRMS), Anti corruption Action Plan, Office Automation, Reforms in performance, e-Abhijoga System, District Modernization Plan through OMGI.

My Government has started the State Grievance Redressal & Monitoring System, “e-Abhijoga”, for speedy and transparent redressal of grievances of the public by leveraging information technology. e-Abhijoga is based on Web technology, which primarily aims at submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere, any time basis. The system is now working in the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell and would eventually be available with other Government Offices which would standardize the grievance redressal process in the State.

25. My Government is committed to meet the challenge of increasing demand for better civic amenities and infrastructure facilities in the urban area.

Orissa Water Supply & Sewerage Board has successfully completed different Pollution Abatement Schemes in the river Baitarani at Chandabali, river Brahmani at Dharmasala and in the river Mahanadi and Kathajori at Cuttack.

Bhubaneswar and Puri have been selected by the Government of India under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The City Development plans for both cities have been approved. Under the urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) component under JNNURM, Government of India have approved 7 nos. of projects with a total project cost of ₹83177.65 lakh i.e. Integrated Sewerage Project, Bindusagar Lake conservation project, Puri Water Supply Project, City Bus Service for Bhubaneswar & Puri, Storm Water Drainage Projects for Bhubaneswar and Puri and also different Slum Development Projects.

To make the city slum free, my Government is implementing Rajiv Awas Yojana in the Municipal areas like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Berhampur, Rourkela, Sambalpur and Puri under 1st phase from this year onwards.

Under Revised Long Term Action Plan (RLTAP), Total 20 nos. of schemes have been approved for an estimated cost of ₹15563.85 lakh. Out of which 7 nos. of schemes have been completed (Augmentation of water Supply to Bolangir, Titilagarh, Nawarangpur, Jeypur, Khariar Road, Koraput and Rayagada) and 8 nos. of Schemes i.e. Augmentation of Water Supply to Bhawanipatna (Phase-I & II), Kesinga, Binika, Khariar NAC, Sunabeda, Kotpad and Jeypur (Phase-II) are in different stages of execution. There is budget provision of ₹1300.02 lakh during the current Financial Year 2010-11, which includes 5 nos. of new schemes namely Augmentation of Water Supply to Bolangir, Junagarh, Nawarangpur, Tarava and Malkangiri.

An Integrated Water Supply Project for Cuttack and Choudwar with JICA loan assistance has been initiated at a tentative cost of ₹324 crore.

City Bus services has been introduced under JNNURM in Bhubaneswar. 60 buses in six no. of routes are in operation in Bhubaneswar city.

26. Orissa is the first State in the country to undertake Power Sector reforms including Privatisation of Distribution Systems. Presently 4 private companies namely CESU, WESCO, NESCO & SOUTHCO in the distribution sector, 2 companies namely OHPC & OPGC in the generation sector, in Transmission sector and GRIDCO in Trading & Bulk Power Supply are functioning in the State.

Rapid progress made by our State in the last 10 years in the fields of industry, agriculture, communication, transport and other sectors has resulted in increased consumption of energy for developmental and socio-economic activities. This has posed various energy related challenges in the state. Recognising that efficient energy utilisation can significantly contribute towards reduction of the supply and demand gap and for climate change mitigation, Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency measures are given importance in the State Policy. Various steps have already been initiated at the State level for improving energy efficiency. Our pioneering effort in framing the Energy Conservation Building Code matching local requirement has been acclaimed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency of the Govt. of India.

In order to prevent & check theft of Electricity, 16 nos. of Special Police Stations in the State have been set up. Five Special Courts have also been set up to conduct trial of offences under the Act. The Aggregate Technical & Commercial loss has been substantially reduced from 60.31% in the year 2001-02 to 37.24% in the year 2009-10.

Two major programmes namely Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and Biju Gram Jyoti Yojana have been launched in the State for providing access to electricity to the people living in the rural areas. The State Government have launched a programme namely Biju Saharanchala Vidyutikaran Yojana to provide access to electricity to the people living in un-electrified urban areas. The BPL families living in such un-electrified urban areas will also be provided with power supply on Kutir Jyoti pattern. The programme also envisages system improvement. The allocation for electrification of such un-electrified areas will be to the tune of ₹1 crore for each Municipal Corporation, ₹50 lakh for each Municipality and ₹30 lakh for each NAC. This will go a long way in providing one of the basic amenities of life to the people living in the un-electrified urban areas.

With a view to providing system improvement, to establish reliable distribution system, to reduce Aggregate Technical & Commercial loss to a sustainable level & to improve quality of power supply to the consumers of the State, my Government has approved financial support to the distribution companies in the form of long term financial assistance through GRIDCO to substantially meet the CAPEX requirement of the distribution companies. An amount of ₹2,400 crore will be spent under this Scheme over a period of four years from 2010-11 to 2013-14, out of which Govt. of Orissa will provide ₹1,200 crore and the companies will invest ₹1,200 crore.

27. Orissa has rich reserves of high-grade iron ore, coal, bauxite, chromite and manganese, etc. The State Government is pursuing a policy of value addition of minerals like iron ore, bauxite and chromite etc., for industrialization in the State and generation of more employment and revenue.

Royalty from minerals is the second highest source of State's own revenue. This sector earned revenue of ₹2,020.70 crore during last year i.e., 2009-2010. By end of December, 2010 of the current fiscal year, a sum of ₹2281.87 crore has already been collected on account of efficient mineral administration. The mining revenue is likely to touch ₹3000 crore by the end of the fiscal year.

While the assessment of royalty on non-coal minerals has changed from the tonnage regime to ad-valorem regime with effect from 13.8.2009, the upward revision of royalty on coal is long over due, the Govt. of India is yet to revise it inspite of repeated requests from the State Government.

My Government has introduced a number of measures to streamline mineral administration and curb illegal mining such as Setting up a State Level Empowered Committee, Empowerment and Authorization to State Police in Mining Districts, Use of secured transit passes, Application of IT in mineral administration, Constitution of Inter State Committee with Jharkhand and Regulation of ore dumping at & despatch from railways sidings.

The State Government is concerned for the development of the mines impacted area and has accordingly decided in principle to constitute a Special Development Fund which will be utilized for bringing development in such area. A high level committee has already been constituted to prepare a scheme for the purpose. It is proposed to utilize 5% of the mining revenue collected from an area for the development of the impacted area through the above fund.

28. Considering the potential of Orissa, my Govt. has identified Tourism as one of the focused areas of development. 320 places have so far been identified as Tourist Centers. Steps have been taken to make Orissa a most preferred Tourist destination and place it prominently on the National & International Tourist map.

By the end of 3rd year of 11th Plan period 22 projects have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹119.54 crore, out of which 7 projects are under Destination Development, 10 projects under Circuit Development, 1 project under Mega Tourism Circuit and 4 projects under Rural Tourism Project scheme. Among the above projects, 8 have already been completed in all respects.

With a view to preserving our cultural heritage, preservation of 100 old Monuments and Buddhist sites of our State will be taken up at a cost of ₹65 crore. Action is being taken to set up one tribal museum shortly at Ghatagaon in the tribal district of Keonjhar.

29. My Government is going to enact the Orissa Maritime Board Act to control, manage and administer all the minor ports. Development of minor ports will give rise to many port based industries and attract investment in large scale. So far, concession Agreements have already been signed with the Developers for development of Dhamra Port, Gopalpur Port, Subarnarekha Mouth Port and Astaranga Port.

30. In road transport sector, the e-Payment System i.e e-DISHA Project has been introduced in the State. In this system services like application for driving license, payments of Fees & Taxes can be available online from homes & cybercafés. Orissa is the first state in the country to extend these facilities to the people of the state.

31. "NABA KALEBAR" festival of Lord Jagannath is going to be held during the year 2015 for which huge gathering of more than 50 lakh pilgrims is expected from all over the world. Advance preparatory actions have already been initiated to ensure that the festival is conducted in a befitting manner.

Steps are being taken for establishment of two Additional District Judge Courts, one Additional District & Session Judge-cum-Special Judge (Vigilance) Court and five number of Courts of Civil Judge in the State and more Gram Nyayalayas and Family Courts.

32. My Government has provided advanced training and qualitative raw materials to the weavers which has resulted in increase in the production of Handloom Fabrics of excellence to cope with present market demand. Government has taken various measures for socio economic development of weavers and has provided financial assistance to procure raw materials and loom accessories. Besides, the Govt. has also formed 31 handloom clusters and 75 project groups under Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme and earnestly working for employment generation and wage enhancement of the handloom weavers. Further additional funds of ₹7.00 crore has been provided for establishment of one Raw Material Bank for reliable & qualitative supply of raw materials to the weavers of the State during the current financial year 2010-11. An International Trade Fair has been proposed to be organized during the month of October, 2011 to give a boost to the production & export of fabrics & finished handloom & hand crafted products from the State. With the help of internationally reputed designers steps have been taken for production and sale of niche handloom products in the overseas market.

33. The State experienced multiple natural calamities like Heat-Wave, Flood, Drought and Unseasonal Cyclonic Rain etc. during the year 2010. The drought situation arising out of scanty and erratic rainfall from June to September, the flash floods in last July and August and the unseasonal cyclonic rain from 6th to 14th December were the most concerning for the state. Considering the alarming situation arising out of drought, the State Government declared 10991 villages under 1636 G.Ps and 104 Wards under 14 ULBs as drought affected. To manage the situation, the State Government, apart from seeking Central Assistance, has announced a comprehensive package and ₹81.73 crore has been released in favour of the concerned districts for disbursement to the affected people. Similarly, to manage the flood situation, the State Government released an amount of ₹619.33 lakh out of State Disaster Response Fund for initiating relief measures in the flood affected areas. Besides, ₹27.76 crore was also released for restoration of the damaged infrastructure. The unseasonal cyclonic rain from 6th to 14th December caused heavy crop loss (both Paddy and Non-paddy) in 23 districts of the State. The State Government, apart from referring the situation to the Central Government, announced a Special Package of ₹900.00 crore out of which a sum of ₹105.00 crore has already been released in favour of the concerned districts for disbursement as agriculture input subsidy among the affected farmers. Thus, prompt and timely action initiated by the State Government has saved the State from a very disappointing situation.

In order to make acquisition process simpler, transparent and expeditious, a number of measures like (a) Revision of Land Acquisition Manual-1976 and (b) Consent Award Rules, 2010 for declaration of award with consent of land losers on the amount of compensation have been notified.

In order to strengthen the revenue administration, as many as 220 new R.I. Circles have been opened in 10 districts of the State during the year 2010. Similarly, digitization of settlement maps and hi-tech survey on pilot basis has been taken up in the State. All the registration offices have been computerized and the e-Registration programme, started in January, 2010, is running successfully.

34. Left Wing Extremism has been a major cause of concern in our State for the past several years. To effectively deal with this menace, my Government has constituted a State level Unified Command headed by the Chief Secretary to monitor the anti-Naxalite operations. Inter-state joint task force has been set up with neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. Joint and coordinated anti-Naxal operations have been conducted in inter-state border areas.

Due to effective deployment of forces and sustained police action, Naxal violence in Orissa has dropped significantly during the year, 2010. Compared to 469 incidents involving 275 deaths in Chhatisgarh and 386 incidents involving 110 deaths in Jharkhand during the year, 130 incidents involving 87 deaths have been reported in the State.

Anti-Naxalite operations have been intensified in the affected areas. Security Forces have arrested as many as 214 hard core Maoists. Huge quantity of modern weapons and explosives have been recovered from the militants.

My Government has continued to emphasize the need for augmentation and modernization of police force in Orissa. In the past four years, my Government has created more than 15,000 posts in the State and has taken effective steps for recruitment of Constables,

armed Constables, Sub-Inspectors and Special Police Officers against the said vacancy. Steps have been taken to reintroduce direct recruitment to the OPS Cadre after a long gap of 28 years. Besides, my Government has taken steps to appoint 5600 Special Police Officers from among tribal youths.

The Fire Services Organization has now been made the First Responder for all types of calamities in addition to its earlier role of containing fire hazard. Therefore, the Fire Services Organization is being re-designated as Orissa Fire and Emergency Service. During the year 2010, 18 new Fire Stations have been sanctioned thereby bringing the total sanctioned Fire Station to 215. So far, out of the same, 177 Fire Stations have been made operational. The remaining 38 Fire Stations shall be made functional during the year 2011.

I have taken this opportunity of outlining the policies and programmes of my Government in important areas of activity, and it will continue to implement all the programmes and fulfill the promises it has made for the welfare of the people of Orissa.

I now leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

Jai Hind