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# Address of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik on the Completion of Two Years of the 4th term of State Government

Two years ago, today we took a historic decision by approving the manifesto of the party which contained our pre-poll promises made to the people of Odisha for adoption as the priority agenda of governance.

I am happy to share that during the last two years we have been able to effectively address some of the key assurances made to our people.

Our approach has always been inclusive covering all sections of the society and I am sure that we are decisively moving towards the fulfillment of our promises. As always, our Government has been focusing to address the basic needs of our farmers, women, youth and the disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society.

I have been reviewing the performance of the departments regularly. Let me complement you all on the following major achievements:

- Successful organization of Nabakalebar.
- Conversion of 10 Lakh Kutcha houses into Pucca houses creating a benchmark at the national level for other States to follow.
- A record achievement of 120 lakh tons food grain production leading to the Krishi Karman Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> time.
- Establishment of 100 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas on the pattern of Kendriya Vidyalayas.
- Implementation of the National Food Security Act to provide food security to 79.59 lakh families of our State.
- Introduction of Aahar in more than 100 locations in the State providing food security for the needy people in urban areas.
- Holistic health care coverage with the provision of free medicines under the Niramaya Scheme and establishment of 6 new Government Medical Colleges in the State.

**Our Odia is one of the finest classical languages of India. My Government is committed to promote our Odia language and the rich cultural heritage of Odisha.**

- Launching of ANWESHA to provide quality education to SC/ST students is a landmark initiative.
- Starting construction of the 650 Kms Rs.3600 crore Biju Expressway to provide state of art connectivity in Western Odisha.
- Opening of 3 new Government Universities.
- Commissioning of Mega Lift Irrigation Projects in the drought prone KBK areas. This initiative of ours will revolutionize agriculture in the traditionally drought prone areas of our State.
- Setting up of the Petro Chemical Complex in Paradip and commissioning of the Kalinga Nagar Project are major landmarks in our Industrial scenario.
- Odisha has been ranked very high by Independent agencies in “Ease of Doing Business”. Our IPR 2015 will propel our industrial growth in spite of global slowdown.
- Our focus is value addition, skill development and job creation leading to growth with equity. We have also set up the Odisha Skill Development Authority to provide global standards in skill development and job creation.
- Odisha leads the country in the settlement of land under the Forest Rights Act.
- Almost 20 lakh women have benefitted under our “Mamata” Scheme.
- All these have been achieved in spite of repeated natural calamities and drop in Central funds.

I know there are many more achievements. Looking forward to hearing from you during our review meetings, the schedule for which is already circulated.

Even though touring has improved, there is still scope for improvement in surprise visits and taking prompt action. Technology has not been leveraged enough to redress peoples’ grievances. Social media awareness and usage must improve in every sphere of governance. We have achieved 80% paperless offices with digital files. In the next 3 months we must try to reach almost 100%. As regards transparency in governance there is still scope for system improvement and I am sure you will take this aspect of governance very seriously. There are many good practices happening in the country and abroad. You should be open to such initiatives and take steps to implement them in our State.

Our Odia is one of the finest classical languages of India. Its roots are ancient and the language continues to be vibrant to suit the requirement of modern times. My Government is committed to promote our Odia language and the rich cultural heritage of Odisha. Recently I had taken a comprehensive review on this.

On this important day let me propose the following for our Council of Ministers to resolve and carry forward.

1. Odisha Official Languages Rules are in advanced stage of formulation for better implementation of Odia language in transaction of official business. The Odisha Official Languages Act, 1954 is being suitably amended for the purpose. I am hopeful that by 15<sup>th</sup> of August this shall be implemented.

2. “University of Odia Language and Literature” will be established with an objective of teaching and research in Odia Language and Literature at Post Graduate, Doctoral and Post Doctoral levels.
3. “Odia Virtual Academy” which has been announced in this year’s Budget will soon be a reality. As a first step, a five member Advisory Committee has been formed. Through this academy rich literary corpus of Odia language will be digitized and made available through its web-portal. The process of identifying Odia books for digitization is already on. The priceless masterpieces of Odia literature will be preserved for time immemorial. Generations to come in any part of the world will have access to these great literary works.
4. The faculty position in Odia in the Universities and colleges in the State will be filled up on priority.
5. In North Odisha University and Fakir Mohan University, schools of languages are being established and posts of Odia Professors and other faculty members have been created through a Government Notification.
6. The Government has instituted a scholarship, namely, “Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati Scholarship for Odia Language” with a cash award of Rs.20,000/- for students securing more than 90% in Odia at +2 and +3 level.
7. Creation of Odia Chair in different reputed Universities outside Odisha like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University etc. is being pursued. For Odia Chair in JNU, the budgetary provision has already been made.
8. The following language and literature related publication and research programmes will be accomplished by Odisha Sahitya Academy within this financial year for which Rupees one crore has been provided in the current budget. Progress will be closely reviewed.
  - (i) Sources of Odia Language
  - (ii) Epigraphy & Archaeology
  - (iii) Multi-dimensional Lexicography
  - (iv) Editing & Compilation of ancient books & manuscripts
  - (v) Linguistics & Grammar
  - (vi) Translation
  - (vii) Documentation & Digitisation
  - (viii) Tribal Language in Odisha & Standard Odia Language
  - (ix) Collection of Folk Literature
  - (x) Research work on Odia language

9. Odia Bhasa Pratisthan proposes to come out with a new edition of Odia Administrative Glossary. For this purpose an expert team has been constituted. Further, the Bhasa Pratisthan has already started the work on Publication of Odia Dialects, History of Odia Language, Publication of ancient manuscripts etc.

The heart and soul of Odisha is Mahaprabhu Jagannath, Odia language and literature. My Government is totally committed for promotion and protection of our rich cultural heritage.

In every sphere, we are making a difference to the lives of our people setting National and Global standards. In fact we have all witnessed the dark days of 1999 when the Super Cyclone ravaged Bhubaneswar beyond recognition. In the last 15 years, Bhubaneswar has transformed so much that we are proud to have been selected as the No.1 Smart City in the country. This is the transformation for which people have placed their trust in us – transformation in our villages and cities – in agriculture – transformation amongst women, tribal community, youth – all leading to an empowered Odisha.

We have been repeatedly blessed by the people of our State. In a democracy elections are the ultimate test of the faith of people. I earnestly urge all of you to work fearlessly in the interest of our people.

In our scheme of things, people of Odisha are the ultimate and I will support you in every decision taken in the interest of our people.

As you know, we don't believe in sloganeering but in actual work.

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## *Editor's Note*



Odisha under the leadership of our popular Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has the unique experience of a remarkable political stability and a robust governance system since the last 16 years. It has made inclusive growth and stupendous progress in all socio-economic indicators. It is also our fortune that Odisha is a peaceful State providing the most ideal environment for investment. Now, it is emerging as a manufacturing hub on the east coast of India. The State witnessed a robust economic growth of over 8 per cent in 2014-15 and is poised to grow at 12 % by 2020. The government's efforts in expanding the industrial base and promoting value addition are triggering enhanced industrial growth.

Recently, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha met Hon'ble Prime Minister and discussed the prevailing drought situation in Odisha. Over 29,000 villages under 233 Blocks covering 27 districts out of 30 districts of Odisha have been severely affected by the drought of 2015-16. 40 % of the State's population have been affected in varying degrees. The State Government has promptly responded to the situation and has taken a number of steps to assist the affected people especially the farmers. These include measures aimed at enhancing irrigation potential by undertaking minor irrigation projects, rain-water harvesting structures, deep bore wells in hard rock areas, reviving defunct irrigation projects and augmenting rural and urban water supply in the areas facing water scarcity. Agriculture input subsidy has already been provided to 9 lakh affected farmers and the process is continuing to cover the balance affected farmers. Odisha has invested substantial funds out of its own resources by providing additional 50 days of wage employment under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and additional 30% wages over and above the approved MGNREGS rate for Odisha.

Government of Odisha was seeking a Central assistance of Rs.2345 crore. The Government of India has approved only Rs.815 crore and released Rs.600 crore towards agricultural input subsidy. However, Odisha has not received any Central assistance for critical interventions necessary for drought mitigation such as conversion of crop loans, minor irrigation projects, provision of fodder, food assistance and drinking water. In another incident, Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed grave concern before Hon'ble Prime Minister regarding the slow pace of work being undertaken by ASI for the structural safety of Shree Jagannath Temple in general and Jagamohan in particular. He urged to undertake repair and maintenance work on a war-footing basis maintaining higher standards.

The importance of Judiciary in a democratic society can hardly be exaggerated. It administers justice, protects the rights of the citizens and acts as an interpreter and the guardian of the Constitution. The centennial celebration of the Orissa High Court was held recently. 100 years back in May 1916 when the Circuit Court of Patna High Court for Odisha held its first sitting at Cuttack, history was made. Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das was there to express hope that this would lead to establishment of separate High Court for Odisha one day. We all are

happy that his dreams have been fulfilled. The State Government is continuously providing adequate infrastructural support to this institution.

Odisha like the rest of the country has a young workforce. As our country is moving towards a globalised knowledge economy, we are bound to meet the rising aspirations of our youth. One of the ways in which that can be achieved is 'skill development' in specialized areas which is required by the market. Government of Odisha has accorded higher priority for the skill development of the youth of our State. Recently, the Odisha Skill Development Authority has been set up under the chairmanship of well known IT entrepreneur Shri Subroto Bagchi. A full-fledged campus of Skill Development Institute, Bhubaneswar is being planned to cater to skill development needs of Odisha and other States. Our Government is keen to promote the "Skilled in Odisha" brand so that a person who is trained in our State will be among the best in the world.

The Smart Police Awards for best policing practices in India have been instituted by Federation of Commerce and Industries. The Odisha Police has got 2 awards, one for the recognition of various steps taken by the Commissionerate Police in twin cities for the security of the senior citizens and another for enhancing security of women in the year 2014-15.

Besides this, our State has also achieved a number of other milestones from successful management of Naba Kalebar, holistic health care coverage with provision of free medicines under the Niramaya Scheme and establishment of 6 Medical Colleges in the State till 20 lakh women having benefited under the Mamata Scheme. Social Media awareness and usage has improved in every sphere of governance. We have achieved 80 % paper-less Offices with digital files.

We are privileged that Odia is one of the finest classical languages of India. Hon'ble Chief Minister is committed to promote Odia language and the rich cultural heritage of Odisha. Ever since the formation of separate Odisha State, probably this is the phase when maximum effort is being put to look into the fact that the language with ancient root continues to be vibrant to suit to the requirements of modern times. Odisha Official Language Rules are in advanced stage of formulation for better implementation of Odia language in transaction of official business. The Odisha Official Language Act 1954 is being suitably amended for this purpose. By 15<sup>th</sup> of August this is expected to be implanted. With an objective of teaching and research in Odia language at Post Graduate and Doctoral level, "University of Odia language and Literature" is going to be established. Odia Virtual Academy has now become a reality. The priceless masterpieces of Odia literature will be preserved for time immemorial. Odia Chair has been created in reputed Universities outside Odisha like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University and Banaras Hindu University. An Expert Team has been constituted by Odisha Bhasa Pratisthan for publishing a new edition of 'Odisha Administrative Glossary'.

It is fact that Odisha has undergone a massive transformation in the last 16 years. In every sphere the Government of Odisha under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has made a difference to the lives of common man setting national and global standards.

Reduction of poverty cutting across different regions and segments of society has been the hallmark of our State's growth which is inclusive, holistic and accelerative. The story of inclusive growth, all-round development and empowerment goes on ...



Editor, Odisha Review

## Shree Mandira Jagamohana : Architecture and Conservation

*Susanta Kumar Dash  
Dr. Bhaskar Mishra*

The majestic temple of Lord Shree Jagannatha at Purusottama Kshetra, Puri represents a unique Kalingan marvel of art and sculpture. The style of construction of temples in Odisha is usually divided into three categories such as *Rekha*, *Pidha* and *Khakhara*. *Odishan* texts of temple architecture such as *Bhuvana Pradeep*, *Shilpa Sarani*, *Shilpa Prakash* and other unpublished palm leaf manuscripts have well defined all architectural aspects of temples. In accordance with the said method Shree Jagannatha Temple has been constructed in *Pancha Ratha* (five chariots/*pagas*/segments) *Rekha* order. *Rekha* is the name given to a type of temple with curvilinear spire. As the temple consists of two flanking *pagas* as *Anuraha*, two corners as *Konaka* and one *Rahapaga* (middle one) the architects have opined that the temple has been built in *pancharatha* style. According to the *madalapanji*, the temple chronicle, Jagannatha Temple was built more than 800 years back and



is known as *Shrivatsa Khandasala* or *Shrivatsa Ballabha Prasada/Palace*. The text *Bhuvana Pradeep* makes a reference to 36 types of *prasadas* (palaces). Out of the said 36 types *Prasadas* (palaces) *Srivatsa Ballava* or *Shrivatsa Khandasala* is considered to be very dear to Lord Vishnu.

The speciality in the style of construction of Kalingan temple is that one stone is kept over other and these are joined with each other with an iron dowelling. Different sculptural decorations have been engraved on the said stones. The height of Shree Jagannatha Temple from the level of Grand Road is 214 ft 8 inches. The temple of Lord Jagannatha, an

architectural marvel is divided into four parts viz (a) *Vimana/Garbha Griha* or Sanctum Sanctorum, (b) *Jagamohana* or *Mukhasala* or *audience hall*, (c) *Nata Mandapa* or hall meant for dance and music and (d) the *Bhogamandapa* or refractory hall. On the basis of stone

inscriptions and other historical documents, historians have opined that the construction of existing temple started during the reign of King Ananta Burman Chodaganga Dev. But the temple could not be completed during his life time. Subsequently the construction of the main temple (Sanctum Sanctorum) and Jagamohana was completed during the reign of Ananga Bhima-III and the four deities were installed on the bejewelled platform (*Ratnasimhasana*). During the reign of Purusottamdev and Prataprudradev, *Natamandapa* and *Bhogamandapa* were constructed. In Shree Mandira and in different *mandapas* and pillars Khandolite stones (*Baulamala*) have been used.

Jagamohana is an integral part of Shree Mandira. Jagamohana is a big hall facing the sanctum sanctorum or *garbhagriha*. This stands on four huge stone pillars. It has two doors namely *Beherana* and *Jaya-Bijay* on the south and east side respectively. From the style of construction of Jagamohana it is seen that its *bada* is *pancharatha* in plan and it consists of five usual elements. The *Pabhaga* (foot) portion of Jagamohana is divided into five parts. The lower *jangha* (*shin*) has *khakhara-mundis* (miniature temple of *Khakhara* order) similarly the upper *jangha* depicts *pidha mundi* (miniature temple of *pidha* order). The *thana* (niches) of the *mundis* have been sealed. Additional projections of pillars are found on both sides of the *mundi*. The recess between the two *pagas* in lower *jangha* are occupied by *Vidala* (figure of lion over elephant). The upper *jangha* contains erotic figures of couples in different posture. The roof of Jagamohana is of *pancharath* style.

The *Anurahapaga* of the Jagamohana has been projected a little more than the *Konaka*. However, the *Rahapaga* has been projected a little more than that of *Anurahapaga*. The *Gandi*

(trunk) of Jagamohana is divided into two *potalas* or tiers. Seven and six *pidhas* are found in the lower and in the upper *potalas* respectively. The Jagamohana or audience hall is a *pidha* temple i.e. a structure with pyramidal roof. The *pidhas* or horizontal platforms recede in size as they go upwards. The division of *page* in the *Gandi* of Jagamohana is clearly noticeable. There are four *pidhas* with spires on the *Rahapaga* and above them a violent lion in stone is fixed. In the middle of the two *potalas* (stone tiers) various sculptural motifs are noticed. On the upper portion of the *potalas* we find *pidha-mundis*, small pillars and some beautiful stone maids which highlight the decorative programme. The eastern part of the main temple is joined with the western side of Jagamohana at *Rahapaga*. The height and width of the entrance gate to sanctum sanctorum is 14 feet 4 inches and 8 feet 10 inches respectively. There is a gate/entrance on the south side of *Jaya-Vijay*. The height and width of the said gate known as *Kalahatadwar* is 13 feet 8 inches and 6 feet 6 inches respectively. The gate on the north is closed now with a small *pidha* temple called *Bhandaragriha*. The floor area of Jagamohana is 41 feet 20 inches x 41 feet 20 inches. At its centre there are four pillars at about 50 feet height. These four pillars caused a square having length and width of 18 feet each.

The *Mastaka* portion of Jagamohana consists of the usual elements of *Beki* (Neck), *Amalabeki*, *Amalaka* (an Indian fruit of the same name a little flattened), *Kalasha*, *Ayudha*. This is otherwise known as *Ayudha chakra* (Weapon: chakra). The height of Jagamohana is 120 ft. It is a square size structure having both 80 ft. breadth and length. The door frames of *Jaya-Vijaya* gate (14 feet x 7 feet) are ornately decorated with different kinds of floral designs. Seven numbers of magnificent sculptures find place on both side of the *Jaya-Vijaya* gate. The gate is made up of

black chlorite. On both sides of the gate some stones inscriptions pertaining to the period of Kapilendra Dev, Purusottam Dev and Prataprudra Dev have been fixed. Stones having Navagraha figures adorn the upper architraves of *Jaya-Vijaya* door.

In the recent past several cracks have been spotted in some pillars and beams of Jagamohana. It has sparked widespread resentment among devotees and servitors of the shrine. The entire State of Odisha expressed its concern over the poor up keep and deteriorating condition of the 12<sup>th</sup> century shrine.

Since 1975 the conservation of Shree Jagannatha Temple, subsidiary temples and two massive concentric walls have been handed over to Archeological Survey of India (ASI). Subsequently an agreement was signed between the Managing Committee of Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration (SJTA) and ASI on 22.8.1979 under the provision of Section 5 of Ancient Monument Preservation Act. It is worth mentioning that 16 ancient monuments were identified in the entire country for conservation by ASI. Shree Jagannatha Temple is one among them. Since then ASI has been looking after conservation and repair work of Shree Mandir. In 1972 a huge crack was developed at the adjoining place of the main temple and Jagamohana (*Viman* & Jagamohana). Besides some banyan trees had also grown on the said adjoining place causing cracks on the temple. As a result of which rain water seeped profusely inside the temple. In order to repair the temple with the help of modern technology, the Managing Committee of SJTA made correspondences with ASI. A group of experts headed by DG, ASI visited Shree Jagannatha Temple in order to conduct an on the spot inquiry. Necessary repair and renovation work was effectively taken up by

ASI. Since 1979 till date ASI has been taking up conservation and repair work of Shree Jagannatha Temple, the two walls, subsidiary temples, lions gate and different *gumutas* (anterooms).

In the year 2015 a joint inspection comprising expert committee members of SJTA and ASI was conducted on Jagamohana from which it was learnt that four stone beams resting on the main pillar of Jagamohana are in a dilapidated condition. Cracks were noticed in the water container made of stone kept near the pillars on the north side of Jagamohana and also in the stone beams over *Bhandargriha* (storehouse). As stated by the members of the expert committee, the entire load of Jagamohana rests on the eight stone beams and are transmitted to the four pillars. There are eight numbers of iron beams placed below these stone beams to absorb the load. The iron beams have also started rusting. It is worth mentioning that 800 years ago, the four deities were installed on the bejewelled platform inside the sanctum sanctorum after completion of the construction of Jagamohana. According to noted historian Dr. Satya Narayan Rajguru, the Jagamohana was constructed by Sri Ananga Bhimadev-III of Ganga dynasty. After 250-350 years of completion of Jagamohana was covered with lime plaster.

The conservation and repair of Jagamohana has become imminent as major cracks have been developed in the stone beams and stone joints of Jagamohana. In order to protect the 12<sup>th</sup> century shrine, emergency meetings were held among the Managing Committee of Shree Jagannatha Temple, Chhatisanijoga and the expert committee. The Managing Committee of SJTA informed ASI to take up immediate repair of Jagamohana. In order to facilitate repair some changes were made in the daily rituals of the deities. It has been learnt

that the rituals of Mahaprabhu from 11.30 AM to 6 PM were rescheduled in order to facilitate the engineers and skilled workforce of ASI for undertaking repair and deplastering the Jagamohana. Initially the ASI took steps for deplastering of the vulnerable portions of the stone beams. In the meantime the expert committee of ASI, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha, Gajapati Maharaja Shree Dibyasingh Dev, Chairman of the Temple Managing Committee, Standing Committee of Odisha Legislative Assembly have also inspected the Jagamohana. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha has requested Sri Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture of Govt. of India to expedite the conservation work on war footing. Besides Dr. Arun Menan, Asst. Professor, Civil Engineering, IIT, Chennai along with Senior Engineers of ASI have inspected the condition of Jagamohana on 25.2.2016. A report to this effect has been submitted to ASI on 12.3.2016. The Standing Committee of Odisha State Legislative Assembly has assessed the repair and conservation work of Jagamohana on 14.3.2016. ASI has also submitted relevant information to the Standing Committee in this regard.

It has been stated by ASI that appropriate steps have been taken to engage two reputed institutes of the country for conducting repair and conservation work of Jagamohana. In the meantime, a meeting under the chairmanship of Prof. A.P. Gupta, former Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT, Kharagpur has been held. It has been decided in the said meeting that the conservation and repair work of Jagamohana will be taken up at the earliest. In the meantime a committee headed by Sri N.K. Sinha, Secretary, Culture, Govt. of India has also inspected Jagamohana on 20.5.2016. A high level meeting under the chairmanship of Sri Aditya Prasad Padhi, Chief Secretary, Odisha was held in the

State Secretariat in the afternoon on 20.5.2016. In the said meeting Sri N.K. Sinha, Union Secretary, Culture, Sri Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Chief Administrator, SJTA, Sri Manoranjan Panigrahi, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Culture, Govt. of Odisha, Sri B.P. Routray, Principal Secretary, Law, Govt. of Odisha, Sri Rakesh Tiwari, Director General of ASI, Civil Engineering experts from IIT Khargapur, IIT Bhubaneswar, IIT Chennai, NIT Rourkela and senior officers & experts were present. It was decided that in the first phase the crack stone pockets will be repaired. However, the conservation and repair works of Jagamohana will be completed soon. In the recent past Jagamohana issue has been on focus for its deteriorating condition. The structural damage of Jagamohana was the most sought after topic in the State as well as Country.

Shree Jagannatha Temple at Puri in Odisha is internationally projected as the historic monument of the East, the white pagoda of the British mariners in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>C. The temple is verily Shrivatsa Khandasala, the most dear abode of Lord Shree Jagannatha which is annually visited by multitude of pilgrims, devotees and visitors all over the world. The alarming message of structural deterioration of the present monument has sparked off serious concern among the world community and it has thrown open a challenge to modern technology for its restoration, construction and finally signaling a reassurance of its stability. Government is out and out serious about the timely completion of the restoration work of this historic edifice.

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Susanta Kumar Dash, Chief General Manager (P&A), IDCO and Dr. Bhaskar Mishra, OSD (JTA), Law Deptt., Govt. of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

## Shree Jagannath and Gitagovinda

*Dr. B.L.Malla*

*Dr. J. Sahoo*

Sri Jayadeva was the famous composer of Shree Gita Govinda. His lucid composition of Gita Govinda became world famous during his life time especially because of its introduction in the rituals of Jagannath Culture. Its romantic as well as religious fervour ignited the devotional thought of priests, peasants and Royal personalities alike. The construction of Jagannath temple at Puri by Choda Ganga Deva in 12th Century A.D. ushered in a new era in the religious history of Odisha. With the decree of the Ganga emperors Gita Govinda was sung everyday in the temple as a result of which it became popular in every household in Odisha and India as well.

Gita Govinda describes the love sports of Radha and Krishna in a beautiful manner. The charming and simple language of the text attracted one and all from every quarter. The depiction of Avatar conception in the composition of Jayadeva

deserves special mention. Similarly, the description of Radha Madhav Cult which was in vogue in Prachi region is very interesting in the poetic articulation of Jayadeva. For the first time we find reference to Radha as a cult icon in his poetic creation.



Vaishnavism received new impetus because of the impact of Jayadeva's Gita Govinda from 12th Century A.D.

Many new ideas and ideation entered into the fold of Jagannath Consciousness after the emergence of great poet Jayadeva. His work also popularized Jagannath worship in every nook and corner of Odisha. It is glorious that the great poet Jayadeva was born in the sacred soil of Prachi Valley region.

The popular Jagannath Cult is a mysterious religious system. Scholars from different parts of the country and abroad have attempted to solve the mystery of origin and evolution of Jagannath cult and have stumbled confusedly at the platform of religious eclecticism

of Jagannatha Triad. Jagannath allows all and admits all, yet He is aloof from all. It is also said that He is all of It and none of it. He is like a mirror where all can see their reflection but cannot touch. He adorned His Ratnasimhasan admitting flexibility, adaptability, integrity and magnanimity of all dynamics of Hinduism. For this, the Jainas, Buddhas, Vaishnavas, Saivas, Saktas, the tribal aboriginals, prelates and potentates surrender at His feet seeking eternal salvation. The earliest reference to Jagannath-Daru worship is found in the Vedic literature. In the Mahabharata there is mention about a Vedi near the eastern Kalingan sea. Scholars have identified this spot with the present day Jagannath temple complex of Puri. Indrabhuti the king of Sambala in his famous work Gyanasiddhi speaks to Jagannath as Buddha in the 8th century A.D.

Sankaracharya in course of his religious conquest of India in 8th/9th century A.D. visited Puri and worshipped Jagannath. The Anargharaghava Natakam of Murari Misra (9th century A.D.) refers to Purusottama. There is mention about a 'devayatana' that existed at Puri in Prabodha Chandra-dayo Natakam of Kruna Misra (11th century A.D). The Saradadevi temple inscriptions of Mahihar in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh describes Purusottama as the Lord of Utkala in 10th century A.D. In the Baramdeo temple epigraph of 1088 A.D. and Nagpur inscription of 12th century A.D., there is reference to Purusottama Kshetra that existed in Odisha. In ancient Hindi literature like Bisaldev Raso (12th century A.D.). Prithvirayo Raso of the same century Jagannath is described as the deity of Odisha.

Thus there is ample evidence of Jagannath at Puri since remote antiquity. The glory and

greatness of Jagannath and Puridham find mention in the Puranas like Matsya, Brahma, Narada, Padma, Kapilasamhita, Niladrimahodaya and the Utkal Kanda of the Skanda Purana. In all such Puranas, He has been described as the famous deity of Odra or Utkala. In the tantric works like Kalika Purana, Rudrayamala Tantra, Brahmamayamala Tantra and Tantrayamala, etc. of 10th century A.D. Jagannath is mentioned conspicuously.

The foreign scholars like Stevens, Wilson and Fergusson etc have traced His origin in Buddhism. Rajendralal Mitra has opined that during pre-Christian century only Buddhism was in vogue in Odisha. Chinese traveller like Yuan Chwang has narrated that Mahayana Buddhism was the religion of Utkala in 7th century A.D.. This school of scholars believe that original Jagannath temple complex was a Buddhist establishment. Very recently a Chunar sand stone pillar has been traced out below the fossilized Garuda pillar of Natamandira while repairing it by ASI. This further strengthened the Buddhist origin of Jagannath. From the funeral pyre of Buddha at Kusinagar a tooth relic was known to have been brought by Therakhema to Puri of Odisha. For this for centuries Puri was called Dantapuri. It is believed that it is still there as Brahmadhata, in the wooden statues of Jagannath which is mysteriously shifted to the new idols at the time of Navakalevara. Alexander Cunningham has stated that "the three shapeless figures of Jagananth and His brother and sister are simple copies of the symbolical figures of the Buddhist triad i.e. Buddha, Dharma and Sangha of which the 2nd is always represented as a female. The Buddhist origin of the Jagannath figure is proved beyond all doubt by their adoption as the

representative of the Brahmanical *avatar* of Buddha in the annual almanacs of Mathura and Benaras.” Dr. H. K. Mahtab has also referred to a similar stone of Asokan polis with the symbol of Buddha, Sangha and Dhama discovered and sent to Calcutta University sometime back for preservation in Asutosh Museum. According to him “the Savaras of Odisha were converted to Buddhism during the time of Asoka and worshipped the Triratna symbol in a Buddhist *stupa* at Puri. Later on in the 7th/8th century A.D., when Buddha was considered as an *avatar* of Vishnu, Jagannath was also considered to be an *avatara* of Vishnu. Gradually Buddhism lost itself in Vaisnavism.”

Another school of scholar like Nilakantha Das believed in Jaina association of Jagannath cult. so far its origin is concerned. He has tried to identify Nilamadhava with Kalinga Jina referred to in the Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela which was known to have been taken by Nanda ruler as war trophy in 4th century B.C. The said Jaina symbol came to be known as Nila i.e. void or black. The image of Jagannath, that is why represents black colour or void. Subhadra is being identified with the Dharmachakra of Jainas and Kavalya so closely connected with Jagannath, has in fact Jaina origin. Kedar Mahapatra and Binayak Misra also subscribe to this school of thought. For this they have attempted to identify the legendary Indradyumna with emperor Kharavela who brought back the Kalinga Jina in 1st century B.C. which was taken away by Mahapadma Nanda in 4th century B.C. to Pataliputra.

Jagannath is also adorned as Darudevata of Vedic and Bhagavatism. According to P. Mukherjee in about 5th century A.D. during the

Gupta rule, Sankarsana and Vasudeva came to be worshipped as Balarama and Jagannath. The Brihat Samhita of Varahmihira of 6th century A.D. associated Ekanamsa with Subhadra. In Harivamsa, She is described as the daughter of Nandaraja and also as the common sister of Jagannath and Balabhadra. Under the influence of the Bhagavatism, She came to be worshipped as Subhadra as their common Sakti being the sister, a phenomenon unknown to Indian tradition. Thus the cult of Shakti entered into the fold of Jagannath worship in a zigzag manner baffling the beholders and philosophers alike.

Another strange aspect of the Cult is the Sabar connection in the origin and worship of Jagannath tradition. Jagannath Das in the Musaliparva of Mahabharata has written in the 15th century A.D. and said that after the Mahabharata war Pandavas left for heaven through Himalaya. The Yadava Vamsa of Krishna got destroyed by Krishna Himself through the deluge of intoxication and homicide of the clan.

The Krishna *avatara lila* of Dvapara Yuga was thus to be concluded. Lord Krishna, to leave the mundane world was swinging in the forest. A Savara, thinking him to be a deer shoot an arrow at Krishna. When the Savara came to know of this he cried and prayed God to excuse him. Consoling him the Lord said that this incident was preordained to put an end to His *avatar* of Dvaparajuga. He further directed him to burn His body and to immerse the ashes in the ocean. The Savara could not completely burn His body. As per heavenly direction, he threw it in the ocean. It floated and in course of time came to Mahodadhi i.e. Puri sea beach. The then king of Puri Indradyumna dreamt of this and as per the divine direction brought It to the

palace to make the wooden statues of Balabhadra, Subhadra and Jagannath.

A story goes that no carpenter could handle the wooden log. Ultimately an old carpenter came and assured the king that he can make the statues under one condition that he would not be disturbed for fourteen days and he would do his job inside the temple by locking the door. The king agreed to the terms and conditions. But hearing no sound of the carpenter from outside, the Queen insisted the king to break open the door before the completion of 14 days and to his surprise the king found the deities half made and the old carpenter vanished. He prayed God Who advised him to worship Him in that form which we find today. Many such other stories in different versions are found about the Savara connection of the Jagannath culture.

The Daitapatis now claim their origin to this Sabar tribe.

Thus the synthetic and syncretic cult of Jagannath is the embodiment of several cults of diverse religious philosophies that existed in India in different periods of her long cultural history. In the historic process of assimilation, it has embraced strange contradictions and varied traditions of various religious orders and has emerged as a universal heritage of world eminence.

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Dr. B.L.Malla and Dr. J. Sahoo, Odisha State Museum, Bhubaneswar.



# GOOD GOVERNANCE



## **A Journey of Development and Inclusive Growth**

Odisha- thy name sounds synonymous with rich cultural heritage, woven by a colourful thread of different religion, language, custom, culture yet each blending to form a perfect amalgamation. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik, Odisha while retaining its pristine glory has become a vibrant and boisterous modern state on a journey in the present millennium to make its presence felt in the world.

2015-16 has been a year of success not only because of the endeavour by the State Government to make Odisha the most preferred destination in the country but also because of the excellent management of Nabakalebar, the ceremonial replacement of the old idols of Lord Jagannath, His siblings Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and of Chakraraj Sudarshan. The other remarkable sphere in which history was made was the commitment of Hon'ble Chief Minister to promote Odia language and rich cultural heritage of Odisha. The people of the State are happy because the Odisha Official Language Rules are in advanced stage of formulation for better implementation of Odia language in the transaction of official business. The Odisha Official Languages Act 1954 is being suitably amended to be implemented by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2016.

Transparency and simplicity being the main thrust, the State Government has also been pursuing a policy of value addition and inclusive growth. Enumerated below are a list of successful activities undertaken by our State Government for the empowerment and entitlements of children, women, Persons with Disabilities, tribal communities and senior citizens as well.

### **Successful Management of Millennium's First Navakalebar**

The 2015 Ratha Yatra in Puri was a spectacular, vibrant and mega event. The three deities of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra along with Lord Sudarshan assumed new bodies and souls during the unique ritual of Nabakalebara. The Nabakalebara of 2015 marked the occurrence of first such event in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, after a gap of 19 long years since 1996 when it had last taken place. And managing the successful completion of this exceptional ceremony was certainly not an easy task.

Maintaining a delicate balance between fulfilling centuries-old tradition, aspirations of millions of devotees and organizing the mega event with contemporary management, administration and supervisory skills

was unquestionably a herculean task. Thus, for the Odisha Government to accomplish the twin responsibilities, of combining successful completion of elaborate and exacting Nabakalebara rituals and making multiple and diverse arrangements required in a congregation of millions of devotees, was the major challenge.

Much had changed since the preceding Nabakalebara in 1996. To begin with, the last Nabakalebara had left no definitive roadmap for future administrators to follow. Besides, public interest in the event was then limited to faithful pilgrims and religious leaders. The attention on the event and its coverage was confined largely to the local region. People's expectations and aspirations from the government and the administration were not as many. The socio-cultural milieu since then has changed considerably with the rise in information sources and proliferation of media. In the age of 24x7 live coverage of news and events, interest, awareness and attention on Nabakalebara was immense.

Significantly, while the day-to-day activities of the Shri Jagannath Temple is managed by the servitors and the temple administration, the state government and the administration has been historically associated with all major functions and festivals of the temple. The people of Odisha have always had a natural and intrinsic expectation from the administration to be a part of its functioning which the government has fulfilled over the centuries. Over the years, the role of government has been crucial in addressing and managing many issues related to the Jagannath Temple.

The preparation for this Nabakalebara was elaborate, exacting and difficult. The planning followed decades and centuries of tradition, as much of the rituals that used to be done 300 years ago are still very much in place. Maintaining the traditional rituals in this new world is a tough task, but not impossible. It was the responsibility of the government and the administration to accomplish it with absolute diligence, clarity and equanimity.

Nabakalebara 2015 was a massive effort requiring the synchronization of multiple agencies working towards a common goal. The State Home Department was the nodal agency for coordinating the efforts of all the departments and agencies. The smooth conduct of the event is a testimony to the excellent coordination and synergy achieved by the Odisha government.

The overall preparation for this event around Puri and all over Odisha started way back with the first coordination meeting held by the State Government in the year 2010. The agenda of the meeting focused on assessment of requirements, identification of resources, land for the mega event and preparing a time bound, work plan for the same. All the major government departments and agencies participated in the preparatory and coordination meeting.

The subsequent meetings chaired by the Chief Minister and senior most government officials reviewed the status of the comprehensive and elaborate arrangements for the momentous occasion which expected to witness a congregation of over five million pilgrims and tourists in Puri. All concerned departments were mobilized to monitor the progress of the work pertaining to their departments. They were instructed to check the progress of massive infrastructure works being undertaken and to set quarterly milestones for the executive agencies.

The meticulous preparations which had commenced almost two years before the event were closely monitored and all bottlenecks removed well in time. The periodic meetings chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister were effective in clearing all roadblocks and facilitated inter agency coordination.

Roads leading to Puri from all directions had to be properly developed and widened, bridges and flyovers constructed, drinking water supply, drainage and sewerage system to be geared up, electrical distribution sub-stations had to be upgraded and the distribution network improved and healthcare facilities in Puri town had to be enhanced. In addition, other infrastructure facilities like bus and railway stations, railway networks had to be developed to accommodate the huge tourist and pilgrim movement during the festival. Renovation work of the main Jagannath Temple, other important temples in the adjoining areas and holy tanks had to be completed much before the commencement of the event. Deplastering work was undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and renovation of holy tanks called *puskarinis* taken up. As the event drew nearer, other critical aspects like security, accommodation, pilgrim management, crowd control, information dissemination assumed equal importance.

To ensure smooth conduct of Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival, the Odisha Government set up the Nabakalebara Infrastructure Supervision Committee (NISC) headed by legislators with senior government level officials and representatives of key departments as members of the committee.

The Government under the stewardship of the Honourable Chief Minister worked in close tandem with the Puri district administration and the Shri Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) to plan, execute and supervise the various aspects of the Nabakalebara. While the overall direction was provided by the state level senior government officials, the implementation was closely monitored by the various departments and the district administration. The SJTA headed by a senior government officer attended to all matters related to the temple servitors associated with the ceremony and to the intricate and elaborate rituals to be followed in the time span of nearly five months.

### **Major Achievements of Information & Public Relations Department**

- During Nabakalebar-2015, massive awareness campaign organized through print, electronic, visual display like hoardings, photo exhibition, folk, web and social media.
- Participated in IITF-2014, New Delhi and bagged 2nd Best Prize.
- State Tableau for the Republic Day Parade-2015 at New Delhi displayed after a gap of 3 years.
- Special celebrations on Biju Pattnaik Birth Centenary and completion of 80 years of Odisha observed.
- Logos to mark the celebration of Biju Pattnaik Birth Centenary and completion of 80 Years of Odisha released.
- Government of Odisha's monthly magazines Utkal Prasanga and Odisha Review disseminating knowledge and information concerning Odisha's socio-economic development, art, culture, Government plans and policies being published regularly.

- Odisha Reference Annual-2014 containing information on Odisha and relating to Government plans, policies and current events brought out.
- 15553 Classified, 942 Land Acquisition and 755 Display Advertisements released online during last two years.
- Online, e-Payment and SMS gateway system facility for RTI Applications and Appeals put in place.
- “Ama Katha Odisha Katha” and “Bikashara Naba Diganta” highlighting Government achievements and programmes aired through Door Darshan.
- News capsules of important events, Tele documentaries on various activities of the Government prepared and their telecast through different Electronic Media channels ensured.
- During the last 2 years, 2208 programmes in the Regional News Bulletins of DDK out of which 118 programmes telecast in National Bulletin (State Scan).
- Implementation of OSWAS, e-Advertisement, e-Magazine, e-News delivery, e-Despatch, e-Diary, Internet Broadband facility, Laptop and Dongle already taken up.
- Health Insurance Policy for the Working Journalists already notified.

## **Significant Achievements of Women and Child Development Department**

### **1.(a) ICDS (General) Scheme**

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) was launched in the year 1975 seeking to provide an integrated package of services in a convergent manner for the holistic development of children and pregnant women. Now, the State has achieved universalization of the ICDS Programme by way of coverage at all the 318 ICDS projects and 20 Urban Projects in different urban areas in the State through 61090 Anganwadi Centres and 10216 Mini Anganwadi Centres. The scheme is Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the funding pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and State respectively under the General Scheme.

During 2015-16 provision of Rs.84487.32 lakh was made under the Scheme out of which funds to the tune of Rs.65493.48 lakh has been released. Although Central Assistance amounting to Rs.27011.12 lakh was available Central Share to the tune of Rs.32330.59 lakh has been released in anticipation of receipt of Central Assistance for payment of honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers for the last quarter 2015-16.

### **(b) Construction / Upgradation of AWC Buildings**

During 2015-16 an amount of Rs.18369.00 lakh has been released to all districts for construction of 4082 AWC buildings @ Rs.4.5 lakh per building. As construction of each AWC building costs Rs.5.00 lakh, the rest Rs.50,000/- per AWC building will be met out of MGNREGS as all the AWCs are to be constructed in convergence with MGNREGS.

Besides, Rs.36,27,80,000/- has been released for completion of construction of 1502 nos. of incomplete AWC buildings.

Similarly, funds to the tune of Rs.1950.00 lakh has been released to districts under State Plan (CSS ICDS Scheme) for up-gradation of 1950 AWC buildings @ Rs.1.00 lakh per AWC which includes construction of kitchens in the old AWC buildings where there is no provision of kitchens and repair / maintenance of AWC buildings.

Besides, funds amounting to Rs.401.51 lakh under Non-Plan has been released for repair and maintenance of AWC buildings including construction of kitchens in old AWCs constructed prior to 2010-11.

### **(c) Supply of Uniforms to Pre-School Children**

Uniforms has been provided to 1718807 Pre-School children @ Rs.100/- per Uniform and an amount of Rs.17,18,80,700/- has been released for the purpose during 2015-16.

### **(d) Implementation of ECCE**

The State has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen the implementation of ECCE.

- (i) 4 hours of AWC activity including 3 hours of play and activity based non-formal education for 3 — 6 years old implemented.
- (ii) Revised Pre-school curriculum, 'Nua Arunima' rolled out in the State.
- (iii) PSE Kit @ Rs.3000/- for transaction of revised curriculum and workbooks for children provided to all AWCs.
- (iv) Quarterly assessment of Pre-school children done to assess learning outcomes.
- (v) Monthly fixed ECCE day observed at AWCs.
- (vi) Mother Tongue based ECCE Curriculum in 10 tribal languages implemented in the State.

### **(e) IGMSY/MAMATA**

**IGMSY:-** IGMSY scheme has been implemented with revised sharing pattern @ 60:40 between Gol and State is being implemented in two districts of the State namely Baragarh and Sundargarh. It is a maternity benefit scheme and all pregnant women and lactating mothers except Govt./PSU employees and their wives are covered.

During the Financial Year 2015-16, a sum of Rs.22,85.61 lakh has been spent under the scheme to cover 41,699 number of beneficiaries.

**(f) MAMATA:** This scheme is a state specific scheme of maternity benefit being provided to all pregnant women and lactating mothers except Govt./PSU employees and their wives of 28 districts of the state except Baragarh and Sundargarh.

During the Financial Year 2015-16, a sum of Rs. 259,28.88 lakh has been spent under the scheme to cover 5,02,915 number of beneficiaries.

### **(g) Supplementary Nutrition Programme**

Supplementary Nutrition Programme under Integrated Child Development Services is a Centrally Sponsored scheme with cost sharing ratio of 50:50 between GoI and State Govt. Government of Odisha has universalized the Programme. Under the Programme, Morning Snacks and Hot Cooked Meal are provided to 3-6 years old children at AWC. Wheat based THR (Chhatua) is provided to 6 months to 3 years normal and malnourished children, 3-6 years severely malnourished children and pregnant women and lactating mothers for 25 days a month.

During the year 2015-16, a total of 45,16,677 numbers of beneficiaries are covered under the scheme and a sum of Rs.758,59.69 lakhs was spent for the programme.

## **2. Women Welfare**

- (a) Operationalisation of One Stop centre at Capital Hospital, Bhubaneswar as a one point contact providing integrated range of services to women affected by violence.
- (b) Inauguration and operationalisation of Mission Shakti Bhawan to facilitate training and production activities of women and WSHGs with a cost of 12.66 crore.
- (c) Intensive campaign under the scheme Beti Bachao Beti Padhao through IEC activities at district and State level. State Level convergence meeting between various departments held in the month of February 2016 with the District authorities like, Collector, DCPO, Nayagarh.
- (d) In implementation of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act fund of Rs.32,13,000/- for massive awareness campaign through wall painting placed with all 30 districts with special focus on districts being low child sex ratio and high incidence of domestic violence. Convergence meeting of the judicial officers with all the stakeholders under PWDV Act conducted with State Legal Services Authority.
- (e) 30 local complaints committee constituted in all the 30 districts under Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act 2013 and the state level training of all the LCC members conducted. District level training of Internal Complaint committee are going on.
- (f) Gender sensitization training of about 1500 College and University Students, special training on gender law to the college and university teachers and lady employees of Secretariat have been conducted.
- (g) Online system for providing license to all protective and rehabilitative homes u/s 21 of ITP Act. 1956 initiated and under this 56 no. of protective and rehabilitative homes already issued with license online so far.
- (h) Training of police personnel through Biju Pattanaik State Police Academy on Gender laws conducted.
- (i) Inter state convergence workshop on Anti-trafficking matter conducted by Odisha State Commission for Women.

- (j) Operationalisation of 4 nos. Kiosks, at Bhubaneswar, Puri, Berhampur and Rourkela through financial support to IGP Railways for detection and reporting of Trafficking.
- (k) IEC activities undertaken
- Video spots on 1. Beti Bachao 2. Beti padhao
  - Audio spots on Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act 2013
  - Hand Book on 1. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Odia & English) 2. Status report on Domestic Violence
  - Brochures on 1. Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace 2. One Stop Centre.
  - Poster on One Stop Centre

### **3. CHILD WELFARE**

ICPS is a centrally sponsored scheme with a goal to protect children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, personhood and childhood. It is about ensuring that no child falls out of the social security and support system and to bring those children back to safety net, who are in need of care and protection. Protection is a right of every child. It also aims to work for the children who are found in difficult circumstances socially, economically and geo-politically. The cardinal principles are “protection of child rights” and “best interest of the child”.

Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPS) and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) are the executing agencies in the State and as well as Districts for implementation of ICPS.

#### **A. Institutional Services:**

1. 399 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) have been registered. 161 nos CCIs, which did not maintain Standards of care, have been closed down. 89 registered CCIs are provided with Grant-In-Aid.
2. 13 Open Shelters are functioning in this state.
3. 13 SAAs are working in the state.
4. Five Observation Homes and Special Homes (02 at Berhampur (girls and boys), 01 at Rourkela, 01 at Angul and 01 at Mayurbhanj) are functional in the State.

#### **B. Non-Institutional Services:**

1. Family based Non-institutional care through sponsorship and adoption programmes. 198 children have been placed under in- country adoption and 40 children have been placed under inter-country adoption in the year 2015.
2. 85 no. of adoptable children staying in CCIs have been linked with nearby SAA. Out of this 32 children have been placed in adoption.
3. 1255 children have been provided with sponsorship support.

4. 98 children have been identified for After Care Support. Steps are being taken to link them with vocational training institutes.

### **C. Statutory Bodies :**

1. Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSCPCR)
2. Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in all 30 districts
3. Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) in all 30 districts

### **D. Implementing Bodies:**

1. Odisha State Child Protection Society (OSCPS)
2. Odisha State Council for Child Welfare (OSCCW)
3. District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) in all 30 districts.
4. State Juvenile Police Units (SJPU) in all 30 districts.

### **Training and Advocacy**

1. 76 batches training have been conducted at state level for DCPO, CWCs, JJBs, SJPOs, SAA, and Open Shelter etc.
2. 1212 batches training have been conducted at district level for various stakeholders.
3. To raise public awareness various visual, audio visual print and IEC material on adoption, child sexual abuse, child labour etc have been developed and disseminated.

### **Community Level interventions**

1. 5,711 PLCPs & 314 BLCPs have been formed.
2. 35,736 PLCPs members have been imparted with training.

### **Rescue and Repatriation of Children**

1. As per protocol on rescue and repatriation issued by the W&CD Department rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation of children is undertaken by OSCPS and DCPU in close co-ordination with Police, and District Labour Officer.
2. 163 children have been rescued from (Coimbatore, Chikbalpur, Bangalore, Bilaspur, Raipur, Ernakulum, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai) and restored to their families. Similarly, 335 children have been rescued from within the state with proper rehabilitation and follow-up.
3. DCPUs are ensuring their schooling and sponsorship supports as per their requirement.
4. 87 children were rescued under Operation Muskan and 142 children were rescued during Operation Smile with close co-ordination with Home Department.

## **Industrial Development : A key to Odisha's Economic Prospect**

In its endeavour to make Odisha the most preferred investment destination not only in the country but across the globe, the Industries Department of the State has taken up a number of path breaking initiatives. Some of these are listed below:

1. The new Industrial Policy 2015 along with the operational guidelines have been finalized and were launched on 3rd September, 2015 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Policy is aimed at promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth by attracting investments in a systematic manner.
2. The Department has developed an Odisha Industrial Development Plan 2025 identifying 5 focus sectors for investments in the State. The Plan aims at creating 10 lakh new jobs through investments worth Rs.2.5 lakh crore in the State.
3. With the implementation of a slew of reforms, the State has been recognized as an 'Aspiring Leader' in terms of implementation of reforms in the ranking by the World Bank and Government of India, much ahead of a number of other industrially progressive States.
4. The Department has set up State Level Facilitation Cell (SLFC), a one-stop facility to provide timely approvals, at IPICOL to provide handholding support to both prospective and existing investors. The SLFC has cleared more than Rs.20,000 crore of investments in the past 6 months of operations and redressed grievance of more than 55 industrial units.
5. The Odisha Industrial Facilitation Rules have been amended which shorten timelines stipulated for various approvals and clearances concerning industrial units.
6. A GIS based Industrial Land Use and Infrastructure Information System titled Government of Odisha's Portal for industrial Land and Services (Go-iPlus) has been set up to facilitate location selection decision making process for prospective investors.
7. A new brand for investment promotion in the State has been launched with brand new Logo and a New Vision and Mission statement.
8. A new website for investment promotion and facilitation has been launched. ([www.investodisha.org](http://www.investodisha.org)). The Department has also launched a unique Mobile Application to facilitate the investors.
9. Leveraging technology, the Industries Department has further strengthened the Doing Business framework in the State by launching several unique services such as:
  - i. e-BIZ: Online clearances and approvals for 15 services concerning all Departments.
  - ii. Central Inspection Framework: Computerized risk based assessment of industrial units for inspections and randomized allocation of inspectors.
  - iii. Automated Post-Land Allotment Application (APAA): Quick resolution of change requests by industrial units.
  - iv. e-Office at IPICOL: Timely delivery of services to investors and various stakeholders.

10. The Department has made significant progress in the process of setting up of various Investment Regions and sector-specific clusters Industrial Clusters as per the details below:
  - i. Completion of master plan for NIMZ, Kalinganagar.
  - ii. Award and commencement of master planning for PCPIR Paradeep and Dhamra PRIDE.
  - iii. Identification of Anchor tenants for sea food park and Plastics Park.
  - iv. In-principle approval for Electronics Manufacturing cluster from Government of India .
11. The Department has signed an MoU with TiE Silicon Valley to promote start up and budding entrepreneurs in the State. TiE Silicon Valley will support in setting up world class incubators in the State and assist in creation of plug and play infrastructure for start-ups.
12. The Department has organized Regional Workshops across various districts in the State to apprise investors and entrepreneurs about the new Industrial Policy, framework for doing business and technological interventions implemented in the State.

### **Achievements of Works Department**

- After five tender-failures Works Department has been able to finalise the tender for Gurupria Bridge in the interior region of Malkangiri district under EPC mode of contract at a cost of Rs187.25crores and work is under full swing.
- Besides Gurupria, five major bridges namely: H.L.Bridge over river IB in the District of Jharsuguda, H.L. Bridge over river Mahanadi at Mahulpali in Baragarh and Jharsuguda District, H.L.Bridge over river Mahanadi at Nelson Mandela Chowk(Kacheri Chowk to Chaurpur) road, H.L.bridge over river Kushabhadra on Balakati -Balianta road and HL Bridge over Chetei Nallah at 26th Km on Jaleswar-Batagram-Chandaneswar road have been taken up and works are in full swing. In the 11th Five-Year Plan(2007-12), a record number of 64 Major bridges were completed and 3354kms of roads were improved. In the 12th Five year plan already in last three years, 62 major bridges have been completed and 3000kms of roads have been improved.
- Govt. envisaged in 2014-15 to convert all State Highways to double lane standard under State Highway Development Project scheme. Under this, work has already been taken up in a length of 1729km with a project cost of Rs.2936 crores. Widening in 512km road has been completed and rest are under progress. By 2017-18 all State Highways will be made double lane.
- Biju Expressway from Rourkela to Jagdalpur has been planned in 2015-16. The proposed road will start at Chandili (border village of Odisha in Koraput district) and will touch commercial centres such as Boriguma, Ambpani, Goadbhanja, Dharmgarh, Sinapalli, Bhella, Nuapada, Paikamal, Padmapur, Sohella, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and will end at Rourkela. The length of the proposed expressway will be 650.64 km. The total project has been estimated to cost Rs.3630crores and target year of completion is 2020. As a part of the project 4 laning of Rourkela to Sambalpur has already been started through Public Private Partnership mode and

more than 40% progress has been achieved. The work is likely to be completed on scheduled time. 60km of road between Sohela to Nuapada has already been started during this year.

- Development of Urban Local Body roads has been a thrust area for Works Department from 2013-14: Under this scheme out of a target of 400km already 300kms of roads have been improved.
- Development of roads to Puri and inside Puri for Nabakalebara has been a major activity area in last three years. A major achievement has been the ROB at Malatipatapur and the by-pass connecting Malatipatapur to Konark road was completed before the scheduled time period and opened to traffic. Similarly a fly-over at Pipli, High level bridge over Kushabhadra have also been completed before Nabakalebara.
- In the building sector, tenders for 5 new medical colleges have been finalised and works are under full swing.

**Deep Bore Well:** The scheme was launched by State Government during 2010-11. As of 31st December 2015, 32803 Deep Borewells have been energised and handed over to beneficiaries and 8149 more Deep Bore Wells are expected to be completed and handed over to farmers shortly. During current FY as of December 2015, we have received 94520 applications through online from farmers for construction of Deep Borewell and Shallow tube well of which, 4859 beneficiaries have deposited their contribution.

**Check Dam:** The scheme was launched by State Government during 2010-11. As of December 2015, 7481 Check Dams have been completed and irrigation potential of 72418 hectares have been created.

**Extension of Irrigation Facilities:** There is a target to provide irrigation facilities to additional 10 lakh hectares of agricultural land over a period of five years i.e from 2014-15 to 2018-19. As of December 2015, Irrigation facilities have been extended to 2.00 lakh hectares of agriculture land.

**Mega Lift-Irrigation:** Mega Lift Irrigation launched in 2011-12 by State Government with an objective to provide quick irrigation benefit in the upland areas of the state, 175 projects including Upper Indravati Lift canal system to provide irrigation to around 2.41 lakh hectares have been selected under this programme. Out of the above, construction activities have been taken up in 103 projects with command area of 1.53 lakh hectares.

## **Successful Schemes and Plans Implemented by Rural Development Department**

### **1. Biju Setu Yojana (BSY):**

Biju Setu Yojana was launched on 9th October, 2011 for constructing new bridges across missing link nallahs/rivers on R.D. roads and important P.S. roads. Till 2015-16, 863 bridges under BSY were taken up. Out of total 863 bridges taken up, 402 are completed till 2015-16. During 2016-17, it is targeted to take up 153 bridges.

But, the total bridges (including other schemes like RIDF/ PMGSY/ Bailey bridge) completed during the year 2014-15 is 201 and 206 during the year 2015-16.

During 2015-16 there was an allocation of Rs.800.00 Cr. But during 2016-17, it is reduced to 475.00 Crore.

**Issues:** Additional Rs.400.00 Cr. may be provided to complete 150 bridges under BSY and RIDF and take up 153 new bridges under BSY during 2016-17.

## **2. Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY):**

MMSY has been formulated during 2015 to provide all-weather connectivity to un-connected habitations up to population of 100 and above which are not covered under any other scheme. Under this scheme it is targeted to cover 3486 Habitations (10000 Km) with total cost of 6000 crore with a period of 10 years. The number of habitations excludes 4035 left out habitations (10,000 KM), if approved under PMGSY.

During 2015-16, 417 roads (1638 KM) sanctioned to cover 490 habitations. But 413 roads taken up with an Awarded Cost of Rs.848.00 Crore. The budget provision was Rs.195.00 Crore and out of which expenditure of Rs.193.00 crore have been made by completing 136.14 km of roads. During 2016-17, an amount of Rs.375.00 Crore have been allocated. Under this programme, 3 projects from each Assembly Constituency have been identified, but due to inadequate funding, no new projects have been taken up during 2016-17. However, a proposal has been submitted to Finance Department to seek loan assistance from BRICS Bank.

**Issues :** An additional amount of Rs.250.00 crore is required for completion of 417 projects and Rs.150.00 crore for taking up 3 more projects in each Assembly Constituency.

## **3. All rural habitations are to be provided with piped water supply facilities.**

Out of 157158 total habitations, 44095 habitations have been covered through PWS (10418) and Solar PWS(5050). Roadmap has been prepared to cover all remaining habitations by installing 502 Mega PWS projects, out of which 62 have already been taken up for preparation of DPR. The funds for such project will be met from State Plan, NRDWP, World Bank assistance, BRICS, OMBADC and FC grants.

## **4. All Partially Covered Habitations will be fully Covered.**

As on 1.4.2014, total PC habitations were 48766, out of which, as on date, 21055 have been covered leaving a balance of 27711. 15000 will be covered during 2016-17 by sinking TWs out of State Plan, 14th FC and 4th CFC fund. The balance 12711 will be covered during 2017-18.

## **5. Solar Energy Based Piped Water Supply projects in the IAP districts:**

Solar energy based piped water supply projects have been taken up in 18 IAP districts in the State w.e.f. 2013-14. Till 2015-16, 5050 Solar PWS projects have been installed and commissioned. During 2016-17, it is targeted to take 2646 PWS and of the same 246 have been completed.

**Issue :** The cost of the projects were met out of NRDWP and Ministry of New and Renewable Energy on 60:40 basis till 2015-16. From 2016-17, Government of India have stopped funding on the same. Rs.100 crore may be provided in SP.

**6 & 7. Habitations covered with tube wells discharging un-suitable drinking water for human consumption shall be replaced with PWS projects.**

Out of total 5789 quality affected habitation, during 2015-16, 1331 have been provided with potable drinking water. Following Action Plan has been prepared for covering the balance 4458 quality affected habitations:

Contaminated by	Habitations	Year	Remarks
Fluoride	50	2016-17	Through installation of de-fluorination plant
	51	2017-18	Through PWS
Chloride (Saline)	300	2016-17	Through deep TW with saline sealing
	266	2017-18	
Iron	1200	2016-17	Through PWS
	1200	2017-18	
	1384	2018-19	
Nitrate	7	2016-17	Through PWS
Total	4458		

**8. Provision of safe drinking water to all Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations in the State.**

All 543 PVTG habitations have been covered through 417 PWS and 126 spot sources, as those are in inaccessible areas and lack of source.

**9. Within next 5 years sufficient individual household latrines shall be constructed:**

As per baseline survey 2013, the Total Household in the State is 90,20,107. Out of the same, 10,38,127 households are having toilets and 79,81,980 households are without toilet.

Up to 2014-15, the coverage was 1,30,925 and during 2015-16, 1329832 IHHLs have been constructed. The following Action Plan has been prepared to make Odisha defecation free by 2019.

2016-17 — 2623340, 2017-18 - 2729357, 2018-19- 1168525

**Empowering Tribal Communities**

The State Government provides utmost importance to ensure socio-economic development of ST & SC communities in Odisha through various flagship schemes and programmes.

## Educational Development

- In order to provide educational development among ST & SC students, the State Government operates 1670 residential schools having more than 5000 hostels that provide quality education to more than 4 lakh students. Odisha is one State which provides maximum residential facilities to ST & SC students from the State's own resources.
- The State Government provides free boarding and lodging facilities to these ST & SC students residing in the hostels. The students are given scholarships and subsidized rice at Re. 1 per kg.
- Over the last 3 years the State Government had established more than 2000 hostels thereby further enhancing the capacity for residential education among ST&SC students.
- Last year the State Government has launched an ambitious and flagship programme, ANWESHA wherein ST & SC students can avail quality education in the best private schools across 17 districts in the State. The Government bears all expenditure towards the school fees, uniforms, text books along with providing accommodation in urban hostels. It is planned to cover more than 25,000 ST & SC students under ANWESHA over the next few years.
- The State Government provides pre-matric scholarships which is borne by the State Plan that covers more than 14 lakh ST & SC students in the State.
- The State Government has sanctioned 10 Kalinga Model Residential Schools to be set up in Tribal Dominated districts on the patterns of Navodaya Vidyalaya which will be operational by 2018.
- The State Government has launched an Urban Hostel at Bhubaneswar 'AKANKSHYA' for providing accommodation for students perusing higher education.
- The reservation of seats for ST & SC students in Higher Education institutions namely Plus Two Colleges, Degree and Post Graduate Colleges has been enhanced during 2015-16 by the State Government from 12% and 8% respectively to 22.5% for ST and 16.25% for SC students.
- The State Government is also planning to enhance the seats in Engineering and Medical Colleges after necessary approvals from AICTE and Medical Council of India.
- Multilingual education is promoted in schools for the benefit of ST & SC students in the State. Over 3000 special multilingual teachers are posted in S & ME and ST & SC Development Schools for promotion of multilingual education. Further the ST & SC Development has also brought out 10 multi lingual dictionaries for promotion of tribal languages.
- The efforts put up the State Government for promoting educational development among ST & SC students over the last 15 years have borne good results. During the HSC results for 2016, the ST & SC students have fared exceeding well as compared to their counterparts in the general schools. 95% of the ST & SC students from the boarding schools have passed the HSC examination 2016 wherein more than 42 % have secured 1st Division and 46% have secured 2nd Division.

## Socio Economic Development

- In order to promote socio economic development of ST & SC communities the State Government have established 22 ITDAs and 17 Micro Projects which provide various livelihood and income generation activities in the tribal - dominated districts. These specific agencies also provide gap filling of the critical infrastructure requirement in these areas.
- The State Government implements the Focused Area Development Programme (FADP) through the ITDAs which promotes strategic livelihood programmes for Tribal Development in the TSP areas.
- During 2015-16 the State Government has constituted a new ITDA in Telaibani under Deogarh district.
- The Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Communities are given a special attention by the State Government. The Government in collaboration with IFAD has launched a strategic development programme for the PVTG communities during 2016-17 named 'Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme' (OPELIP) under which an overall outlay of Rs.795 Crores will be implemented over the next 8 years. The programme will cover more than 32,000 PVTG households along with approximately 14,000 ST and 5000 SC households.
- The State Government have been pioneers in implementation of the Forest Rights Act in the country. The State Government have so far provided more than 3.71 lakh titles covering more than 5 lakh acres of forest land to FRA beneficiaries. Similarly more than 5000 community claims have also been issued in the State.
- In order to improve the communication facilities in tribal dominated areas, the State Government has launched 'Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana' during 2015-16 wherein over 500 new buses have been introduced mostly in tribal dominated districts.
- The State Government is providing reservation of 22.5% for ST and 16.25% for SC candidates in Government jobs. This facility of reservation is also extended during promotion up to Junior Class-I level, by the State Government.
- Conservation of Sacred Groves of Tribal communities is a priority of the State Government. The Government has taken up a pioneering and ambitious plan for identification, conservation and development of over 2100 Sacred Groves located in the tribal villages of Odisha.
- The ST and SC farmers are provided 97% subsidy to dig deep bore wells at a subsidized cost of Rs.10,000. Over the last 3 years over 60,000 ST & SC farmers have been benefitted through the subsidized tube wells. The State Government plans to take up additional 40,000 tube wells over the next few years.
- ST and SC beneficiaries are provided priority under rural housing schemes. Under the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana 40,000 and 42,000 houses have been provided to ST and SC beneficiaries respectively; while under Indira Awas Yojana 2.24 lakh ST and 1.08 lakh SC beneficiaries are provided houses during the last 3 years.

- Further under the Gopabandhu Grameen Yojana priority is given to cover tribal villages with concrete roads.
- The Government is implementing a scheme for providing Minimum Support Price to various Minor Forest Produce so as to safeguard the interests of the primary NTFP collectors who are mostly tribal families.
- In order to support ST & SC farmers for Post Harvest Management and farm mechanization subsidies ranging from 35% to 50% are being provided. Further 50% subsidy is given to ST & SC farmers for setting up of Commercial Agricultural Enterprises wherein funding up to Rs.50 lakhs is provided.
- The State Government is implementing the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana wherein ST & SC beneficiaries are also given priority.

### **Department of SSEPD**

1. The Department of SSEPD was created as a separate entity on 1st July 2015 after being bifurcated from W & CD Department. The delivery of service as regards to the functioning of the Department mainly aims at the Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender.
2. Presently 51 Special Schools are aided by Government and concurrence of Finance Department has been obtained to open 16 more such schools.
3. 107 number of Laptops were distributed among the visually impaired students pursuing higher studies +3 2nd year & above during the year 2015-16.
4. As a new initiative, Government has decided to provide financial support for therapeutic and rehabilitative services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.
5. Several workshops/seminars on different schemes conducted by this Department to create awareness among the beneficiaries. Prominent among them were observation of World Autism Day, World Down Syndrome Day etc.

### **Ensuring Health Services**

Odisha Government in tune with national health policy, is committed to providing affordable, accessible and equitable health care services to its people located even in far-flung areas. To achieve this objective, sincere endeavour is being made to improve infrastructural development of the health facilities across the State besides making provision for human resource management, procurement of equipments, instruments, essential drugs and other logistics in all the State-run health facilities. Special focus has been given to fill the gap, facility wise and manpower wise, to provide quality health care service delivery.

#### **Significant Achievements :**

Establishment of New Govt. Medical Colleges : with the existing district/referral hospitals, construction of five new Medical Colleges vis-a-vis at Bolangir, Baripada (Mayurbhanj), Balasore, Puri and Koraput

under the centrally sponsored scheme are going to be completed by March, 2017 to address the problem of long-standing shortage of doctors in the State.

Reducing out of pocket expenditure by provisioning of free medicines in Government institutions : Rs.200 crore budget has been allocated for providing free medicines at Government health institutions through Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited. The scheme is being rolled out in a phased manner across the Government facilities and provides free medicines for diseases like Cancer, Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease etc. Since May 2015, more than 2 lakh patients have benefited due to the health scheme.

Place-based incentive : The State Government has implemented place-based incentive to Doctors who are serving in rural and remote areas with specific focus on KBK and KBK + regions. All the 1,751 Health institutions like 32 District Hospitals, 27 Sub Divisional Hospitals, 377 Community Health Centers, 1,226 Public Health Centres etc. are categorized or mapped as V 0 to V 4 based on vulnerability parameters. The State Government is funding the entire expenditure of about Rs.42.00 crore on this account out of its own resources.

### **Infrastructural Development**

An Action Plan along with Budgetary Allocation of about Rs.50 crore per annum has been prepared to reduce infant mortality and maternal mortality and to accelerate the rate of reduction so as to be faster than the national rate of reduction.

Free Referral Transport Services for ensuring free referral transport services to all pregnant women and sick infant of the State, those are seeking health care services at Government Health facilities, "102 Ambulance Services" is being operational in the State.

Mobile Health Units : In order to reach the unreached and vulnerable communities, 114 Mobile Health Units are operational under State Budget to provide primary health care services at the community level in 4682 most difficult villages every month. In addition, funds are also allocated for operationalisation of 22 mobile health units in most difficult and left wing extremist affected areas under "Swasthya Sanjog", through PPP mode. Recently, the Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake free treatment for cancer patients in 7 districts.

E-Swasthya : Web based monitoring tools for all major components have been introduced to bring transparency and efficiency into the system.

For bringing about a transformation it needs lot of efforts. In reality the Government of Odisha led by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik have been putting sustained efforts for the last sixteen years to bring about a smile in the face of every Odia. Hon'ble Chief Minister has rightly said, "in every sphere, we are making a difference to the lives of our people setting national and global standards."

## Success Stories of the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board

Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board was first constituted on 03.01.2004 under section 18 of the Building and other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996. It is headed by the Chairperson with State Government representatives, employers' representatives and workers' representatives. The main function of the Board is to register construction workers as its beneficiaries and grant different benefits such as death benefit, funeral assistance, assistance in case of accident, medical expenses for treatment of major ailments, educational assistance, assistance for purchase of working tools marriage assistance and maternity benefit, assistance for purchase of safety equipments and bi-cycle, housing assistance under Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana and assistance under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and skill development training, etc. for their welfare. Till 31.03.2016, total 14,24,531 beneficiaries have been registered under the Board, out of which total 3,74,273 beneficiaries have been granted financial assistance of Rs.150,81,42,667/- towards different benefits. During the year 2015-16, total 6,95,217 beneficiaries have been registered under the Board and financial assistance to a tune of Rs.105,61,61,244/- have been granted to 2,47,168 beneficiaries towards different benefits.

### 1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS DEATH OF REGISTERED BENEFICIARY

Smt. Sukanti Behera, w/o Late Niranjan Behera of Baramunda Chahala Sahi, Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, Khordha received an amount of Rs.1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lakh five thousand only) on 01.05.2016 as death benefit assistance and funeral assistance towards death of her husband from the OB & OCWW Board.

Late Niranjan Behera who hailed from the district of Ganjam, Odisha was residing at Bhubaneswar and working as a unskilled labour in the construction sector. He registered himself as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and issued with Identity card bearing Registration No. ORI-KHU-1834 / 2010 dated 13.01.2010. Shri Niranjan Behera received other benefits such as Financial Assistance for Purchase of



Bi-Cycle and Safety Equipments @ Rs.4,000/- and Rs.1000/-respectively. Shri Behera breathed his last on 27.02.2015 and was survived by his wife Smt. Sukanti Behera, one son namely Kanhu Behera (Age-18 years) and two nos. of daughters namely Mrs. Gita Behera (Age-20 years (Married) and Kumari Rita Behera (Age-16 years (Unmarried)).

Smt. Sudeshna Pradhan, w/o Late Pitabas Pradhan of Haladipadia, Laxmisagar, Bhubaneswar received an amount of Rs.1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lakh five thousand only) on 01.05.2016 as death benefit assistance and funeral assistance towards death of her husband from the OB & OCWW Board.



Late Pitabas Pradhan who hailed from the district of Ganjam was residing at Bhubaneswar and; was working as a unskilled labour in the construction sector. He registered himself as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and issued with Identity card bearing Registration No.ORI,KHU-16986/2014 dated 07.02.2014. He breathed his last on 27.04.15 and is survived by his wife Smt. Sudeshna Pradhan, one son namely Jagannath Pradhan (Age-19 years) and two nos. of daughters namely Smt. Mamata Pradhan (Age-25 years (Married) and Kumari Banita Pradhan Age-17 years (Unmarried).



Smt. China Mali Khuntia, w/o Late Mahendra Khuntia of Sarakantara, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar, Khordha as received an amount of Rs.1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lakh five thousand only) on 01.05.2016 towards death benefit assistance and funeral assistance towards death of her husband from the OB & OCWW Board.

Late Mahendra Khuntia who was residing at Sarakantara, Patrapada, Bhubaneswar was working as a Mason in the construction sector since last 20 years and died on 05.09.2015. He was a registered beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and had been issued with Identity card bearing Registration No. ORI-KHU-37022 / 2014 dated 28.08.2014. The Registered Beneficiary Late Mahendra Khuntia is survived by his wife Smt. China Mali Khuntia and one daughter namely Kumari Saraswati Khuntia (Age-25 years (Unmarried)).

Smt. Kabita Rout, w/o Late Purna Chandra Rout of Vill./Po:-Gandarpur, Nandankanan, Bhubaneswar, Khordha has received an amount of Rs.1,05,000/- (Rupees One Lakh five thousand only) on 01.05.2016

as death benefit assistance and funeral assistance towards death of her husband from the OB & OCWW Board.

Late Purna Chandra Rout who hailed from the district of Ganjam was residing at Bhubaneswar since last 25 years and was working as a Mason in the construction sector. He was registered as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and was issued with identity card bearing Registration No. ORI- KHU -20209 / 2014 dated 27.05.2014. The Registered Beneficiary Late Purna Chandra Rout is survived by his wife Smt. Kabita Rout, one daughter namely Mrs. (Cajal Rout (Age-20 years) and two sons namely Mital Rout (Age-17 yrs.) and Suraj Rout (Age-15 years).



## 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS EDUCATION OF CHILD OF THE REGISTERED BENEFICIARY

Sri Gurugobinda Sahoo, S/o Gokulananda Sahoo of Vill. :-Paikara Sahi, Po:-Podadiha Ps/Dist.:- Khordha has received an amount of Rs.7,000/- (Rupees seven thousand only) on 01.05.2016 as financial assistance towards education of his daughter, Miss Mamina Sahoo, from the OB & OCWW Board who is presently studying in +3 Arts (2nd Year) in Banki College, Banki, Cuttack.



Sri Gurugobinda Sahoo works as a mason in the construction sector and earns Rs.12000-15000/- per month approximately. He is registered as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and issued with identity card bearing Registration No.ORI-KHU-39815/2014 dated 22.10.2014. Shri Sahoo and his wife Smt. Laxmipriya Sahoo have been blessed with two sons namely, Sri Rudra Narayan Sahoo (Age-18 years) who presently pursuing his B-Tech Degree (2nd Year, Branch-Industrial Design) at NIT, Rourkela and Sri Pabitra Kumar Sahoo (Age-16 years) presently reading in

+2 Science 1st year in MPJ Residential College, Khurdha and one daughter Miss Mamina Sahoo.

Sri Manoranjan Pradhan, s/o Ananta Pradhan of Vill. :-Padmapur, Po:-Balipatna, Dist.:- Khordha has received an amount of Rs.7,000/- (Rupees seven thousand only) on 01.05.2016 as financial assistance towards Education of his daughter namely Miss Jayashree Priyadarshini Pradhan, from the OB & OCWW Board who is presently reading in +3 Arts (1st Year) in Banamalipur Degree College, Khordha.

Sri Manoranjan Pradhan is working as a Carpenter in the construction sector and earning Rs.10000—12000/- per month approximately. He was registered himself as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW

Board and issued with Identity card bearing Registration No. ORI-KHU-50298/2015 dated 05.02.2015. The beneficiary has also received, benefit such as financial assistance towards purchase of working tools @ 4000/- during 2015. Other than the daughter, Shri Pradhan and his wife Smt. Renubala Pradhan also have a son namely Sri Bharat Bhusan Pradhan (Age-16 years) presently pursuing his +2 Arts 1st year and another daughter namely Subhashree Pradhan (Age-22 years Unmarried).

### **3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS MARRIAGE OF GIRL CHILD OF REGISTERED BENEFICIARY**

Sri Sanatan Behera, s/o Late Laxman Behera of Bharatpur, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar, Khordha has received an amount of Rs.25,000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only) on 01.05.2016 as financial assistance towards marriage of her daughter namely Mamata Behera (age- 24 years) from the OB & OCWW Board. The marriage was solemnised on 10.06.2015.



Sri Sanatan Behera who originally hails from Delang, Puri has been residing at Bhubaneswar since last 10 years; He works as a unskilled worker in the construction sector earning Rs.300/- per day towards wages. He registered himself as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and has been issued with Identity card bearing Registration No. ORI-KHU -2704 / 2010 dated 26.08.2010. The Registered Beneficiary Sanatan Behera has also received benefit such as financial assistance towards safety equipments @Rs.1000/- during the year 2015 from the Board. Besides the daughter Shri Behera and his wife Mrs. Manorama Behera are blessed with two sons namely Lochan Behera (Age-22 years) and Kamal Behera (Age-19 years). The second Son Sri Kamal Behera has completed Class 10th and is working in a private company at Bhubaneswar and getting Rs.6000/- per month towards wages.

### **4. NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN MODULAR EMPLOYABLE SKILLS**

Sri Jogendra Patra, S/o Birat Patra of Ghatikia (Nilachal Basti), Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar registered himself as a beneficiary under the OB&OCWW Board and issued with Identity card bearing Registration No. OD-KH-0001056100 dated 10.03.2015.

Sri Patra who originally hails from the district of Ganjam has been residing at Bhubaneswar since last 15 years and working as a “Carpenter /Shuttering Mistry” earning approximately Rs.500/- per working day towards wages. He has successfully passed the competency test in Skill development initiative scheme conducted by the National Council for Vocational Training, Govt. of India during August 2015.

*Source : The Odisha Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, Bhubaneswar.*

# Role of the State and Rights of Women

*Nirupama Swain*

## **ABSTRACT:**

Rights are conditions of life which enable a human being to maintain a dignified life. State is the instrument through which those conditions are provided to human being. In our society women is confined to four walls of a house. Through various social customs and traditions, conditions of women are in a degradable position. In this situation, state has come forward with different provisions for protection of rights of women.

Now-a-days, the state is the most important instrument through which change and development can be possible. Over the years, women are playing role of house makers deserving nothing from society. To maintain a dignified life, every human being - whether men or women need some essential and congenial conditions which are considered as rights. But from time immemorial women are neglected in society. They are silent observers of many social injustices like dowry, child marriage, prostitution and servitude. Power, position and prestige are out of reach of women. More recently, however, protest movements on global scale have brought out the concern that women need special attention.

Both national and international organizations now acknowledge that women are neglected for years and there is a need to rectify this situation. So every state has come forward and made plans and policies for improving conditions of women and protecting their rights.

Before going to have an eye on the role of India for improving women's conditions let us have a look upon international steps.

## **International Steps:-**

For the first time US and various international organizations such as the World Bank and UNESCO set up offices for integrating women into development programs. (Tinker and Jaquette 1987, 425). The UN's declaration for the year 1975 as International Women's Year advocates for gender equality worldwide. The 1975 conference, held in Mexico City legitimized the international women's movement by elevating women's issues to visible international debate. (Tinker and Jaquette 1987, 419) All UN member nations were required to send representatives to the conference. Though the original theme of the conference had focused on equality before the law, development issues were added to the conference's agenda, signaling recognition and

wider endorsement of the women in Development platform (Tinker and Jaquette 1987, 420)<sup>1</sup>

The UN conference also resulted in the declaration of UN Decade for Women from 1976 – 1985. The Decade was intended to sustain momentum from International Women’s Year and follow up on the goals that had been set in Mexico City. Two more conferences on women were planned for 1980 and 1985, at the Decade’s midpoint and conclusion. The UN also created the Voluntary Fund for the Decade of Women, an agency directed to assist in the implementation of the goals and policies resulting from Decade’s three conferences. Originally formed as a temporary instrument, the General Assembly voted in 1981, to extend the Funds tenure beyond the Decade. In 1984, the Voluntary Fund was renamed as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and placed under the organizational umbrella of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Another conference on women was held in 1995, ten years after the Decade on Women had ended. The UN’s target for 30 % minimum female representation in national parliament has been in place for more than a decade. The UN’s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) had originally called on nations to meet the target by 1995. It has reaffirmed at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. The 1995 Beijing conference focused on ‘Action for Equality, Development and Peace’. As with past conferences, the Beijing conference was well attended by representatives from UN member states, and women all over the world came to attend the parallel NGO Forum on women, where activists made strategies and shared stories of their work. The Beijing conference resulted in the signing of the Beijing Platform, which is up for review in 2005.

The signing of the Millennium Declaration and the development of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000 confirmed that gender equality had been mainstreamed into international goal setting. The Millennium Development Goals provided a set of development targets for UN member countries to reach by 2015. Gender equality was institutionalized as one of the eight goals, and while the goal itself discussed political, economic and educational dimensions, the target was limited to the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015 (World Bank 2003)<sup>2</sup>.

### **International Conventions:**

In 1952, the UN passed the Convention on Political Rights of Women. The Convention protected women’s right to vote, run for publicity elected bodies, and hold political office.

Another important milestone in the international movement for women’s empowerment is the Convention for Eradication of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In 1979 the draft optional to the protocol was discussed on the forty – first session of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) in March 1997. The forty – second Commission for the Status of Women meet in 1998, discussed the broad theme of “Women and Human Rights” along with critical areas such as violence against women, armed conflict and rights of girl child.

The Women 2000 session was held at the United Nations between 5th and 9th of June 2000. This meet aimed to review the progress made on the PFA (Platform for Action) implementation by Governments. The meet was marred by the slow pace of work, lack of adherence of most Governments to the

commitments on the PFA and the inherent tensions in the United Nations at that time. The North-South divide was perhaps at its peak at that time. In spite of these hurdles some policies were accepted by various governments including

1. Need to make legal and policy changes would have to be undertaken to ensure elimination of all forms of gender discrimination by 2005.
2. Developing the country budgets to include provisions for achieving the commitments made at the international level.
3. Ratification of CEDAW and the optional protocol to CEDAW.
4. Implementation of “Equal Pay for Equal Work.”
5. Promotion of a nationwide campaign for elimination of violence against women.<sup>3</sup>

### Steps by Government of India:

Over the past few millennia, the status of women in India has gone through many changes. Now, they are participating in all activities such as education, health, defence, politics, media, art and culture, various service sector, science and technology. The Constitution of India contains a number of provisions for the empowerment of women. Right to equality, Directive Principles of State Policy and Universal Adult Franchise are some of the constitutional provisions which give equal status to women with men.

The commitment to gender equality is well entrenched at the highest policy making level-the Constitution of India. A few important provisions for women are:

- Article 14-Equal Rights and Opportunities in Political, Economic and Social Spheres.
- Article 15-Prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex.

- Article 15(3) - Enables affirmative discrimination in favour of women.
- Article 39- Equal means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work.
- Article 42- Just and Humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- Article 51 (A) (e) - Fundamental duty to renounce practices, derogatory to dignity of women.

The Government of India has always attached great importance to the protection and promotion of the rights of women and is committed to achieve it. National Plans and Policies have consistently reflected a vision of progress that is not narrowly confined to expanding incomes, but gives a central place to the achievement of rights, freedoms and wellbeing of women.

Various legislations have been done by Government of India for improving, changing and empowering women. Some important Acts for women are as follows:-

### Women specific Legislation

- Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1965. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.
- Indeed Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986. The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

### Economic

Factories Act, 1948, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1994.

**Social**

Family Courts Act, 1984, The Indian Succession Act, 1925, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (and amended in 2005), The Indian Divorce Act, 1969.

**Women –related Legislations**

- The Guardians and Wards Act, 1860 (8 of 1890)
- Indian Penal Code, 1860
- The Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (15 of 1872)
- The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (yet to be reviewed)
- The Married Women’s Property Act, 1874 (3 of 1874)
- The Workmen’s Compensation Act, 1923
- The Legal Practitioners (Women) Act, 1923
- The Indian Succession Act, 1925 (39 of 1925)
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (19 of 1929)
- The Payments of Wages Act, 1936
- The Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937
- The Special marriage Act, 1955 (28 of 1955)
- The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956
- The Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, 1956
- The Hindu Succession Act, 1956
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (53 of 1961)
- The Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 (33 of 1969)
- The Indian Divorcee Act, 1969, (4 of 1969)
- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (34 of 1971)
- Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973
- The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
- The Family Courts Act, 1984
- National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (20 of 1990)
- The Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution Act, 1992
- The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994<sup>4</sup>.
- Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT), was amended in 2003 to The Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition Of Sex Selection) Act (PCPNDT Act) to improve the regulation of the technology used in sex selection<sup>5</sup>.

**Women Empowerment in Five Year Planning of India:-**

Over the years the plan documents of India have reflected some features of women empowerment but formal ear marking plans for women began with the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

- The Seventh Plan (1985 – 1990) introduced the concept of monitoring of 27 beneficiary oriented schemes for women by DWCD. The exercise continues and the number of schemes covered is being expanded.

- The Eighth Plan (1992 – 1997) highlighted for the first time a gender perspective and the need to ensure a definite flow of funds from the general developmental sectors to women.
- The Ninth Plan (1997 – 2002) adopted the “Women’s Component Plan as one of the major strategy and directed both the central and state government to ensure not less 30% of the funds / benefits are earmarked in all the women’s related sectors. The Government of India also declared 2001 as the year of ‘Women’s Empowerment’.
- The Tenth Plan (2002 – 2007) attempted the major strategy of ‘Empowering Women’ as agents of Social Change and Development. It adopted a sector – specific three-fold strategy for empowering women viz. Social Empowerment and Economic Empowerment and Gender Justice.
- The Eleventh Plan (2007 – 2012) envisions empowerment of women as “Inclusive and integrated economic, social and political empowerment with gender justice”<sup>6</sup>.
- The Twelfth Plan (2012 – 2017) the vision for the XII Five Year Plan is to ensure improving the position and condition of women by addressing structural and institutional barriers as well as strengthening gender equity<sup>7</sup>.

Though various steps have been taken at different levels to improve the conditions of women, so far their status is changing gradually. Only the role of Government is not sufficient, co-

operative attitude from all sections of society are needed to alter their positions. As the society is not static, but dynamic, periodical review of plans and policies are essential. The state should not remain silent after framing plans and policies but right steps should be taken for ensuring efficient implementation of policies and programmes. The real truth is that plans, programmes and legislations are not sufficient enough to change the condition of women. Adjustment and attitudinal change in our social arena is required to protect rights of women.

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## The Philosophy of the Gitagovinda

Dr. Prafulla Chandra Tripathy

Srikr̥ṣṇa is the *Parama Purusa* and Srimati Radhika, His loving consort is the *Prakṛti*. She is termed as *Para Prakṛti*. In Sanskrit as well as in Odia '*Para*' means 'another' or 'other'. According to our scriptures the word '*Para*' also refer to Srestha or Supreme Chief which is *Purusa*. So *Prakṛti* is always at work to please *Purusa*. She has completely surrendered her heart and soul for the satisfaction of *Purusa*. But *Purusa*, though feigning indifference, is pleased at heart and charmed at the selfless love and restlessness of *Prakṛti* to please Him. The whole creation is immersed in everlasting joy at this sweet selfless and blissful intercourse between the *Purusa* and *Prakṛti*. *Prakṛti* is always eager to execute the longing of Her beloved in the phenomenal world for which She is very swift, agile and always on at Her heels. Though enjoying the full bliss of being merged with *Nirguna Purusa*, She does not have the slightest trace of desire. She merges completely with *Purusa*. The whole creation is transformed to Vr̥ndavana, the place of sportive union of Radha and Kṛṣṇa. *Prakṛti* goes into *samadhi* while in communion with *purusa*. The playful and loving activities of *Prakṛti* move Her beloved counterpart *Purusa* Who is overwhelmed with intensity of divine love and forgetting His consciousness entreats Radha, the *prakṛti*, with the expression "*dehi pada pallavamudaram*".

At the advent of spring *prakṛti* in form of nature throbs with new life and inspires the whole creation. She has assumed this inspiring form for the pleasure and happiness of *purusa*. In the words of the poet *prakṛti* is "*rtunam kusumakarah*". Having adorned the bosom of the blue-coloured Lord with all that is best and pleasing, the every playful *prakṛti* merges herself with *purusa* and it is this blissful conjoined union of *purusa* and *prakṛti* which has been transformed into the heavenly inter-communion of Radha and Madhava. The *Vasanta lila (Rasa)* as described in the *Gitagovinda* is only a spark of the eternal *lila* of Radha and Madhava going on infinitely. On the infinite powers of God the main three are : 1. *maya*, 2. *svarupa*, 3. *tatastha*. By His *mayasakti* God has created the world, *Svarupa Sakti* is that with which He rests in the eternal *lila* and by his '*tatastha*' power the universe is regulated and governed.

The *svarupa sakti* again can be divided into three composites i.e. *sat*, *chit* and *ananda*. The term '*sat*' means real and existing for ever meaning He Who always exists. The entire world is His manifestation. God being the ultimate source of power lends a spark to others and creates them. This is what is known as *sandhini* power of God. '*chit*' means intellect knowledge, wisdom and consciousness. From the continuous flow of

His wisdom or consciousness a particle of consciousness has come down to this world making it aware of itself conscious. He is the Supreme of all consciousness. He makes others conscious by His own power. This is known as *sambit* power of God. Lastly God is *ananda* or bliss incarnate. *Ananda* means joy, delight and bliss. All bliss owe their origin to God. The animate world feels pleasure or *ananda* only through His grace. The power with which He delights others, is known as the *alhadini sakti* or the pleasing power. As the soul is in constant communion with God, he feels the pleasure and there lurks in his mind a thirst for enjoying the bliss of life. But due to spell of *maya* or illusion, he forgets. It is God Who feels the pleasure and pain in the creation in form of man. By reaching *Brahma*, the embodiment of permanent bliss the thirst of soul for real joy and happiness is quenched. So the *Upanisads* say “*rasovaisati, rasam habyam labdhanti bhavati*”. In other words soul enjoys the fullness of heavenly joy by obtaining the grace of God, the source of permanent bliss.

Every *jiva* or soul pines for testing the pleasures of life. But to taste the bliss of life, one should intensify his feelings for divine love of God. When the feelings for love of God are intensified this is known as *bhava*. Unless *bhava* is awakened at heart, it is not possible to realise God and His bliss. The permanent joy and happiness which one derives by communion with God is termed as nectar and is far above the so called happiness and material comforts of the material world. When *bhava* grows intense it turns into *mahabhava* which links the self with the Supreme Self of God. We cannot hope for the grace of God for ensuring the fulfilment of our worldly desires. But on the other hand we should be prepared to sacrifice all we have in a selfless spirit to gain Him. Love of God should be cultivated at heart for the sake of God and not

for any ulterior motive. The great poet Jayadeva has mentioned in the *Gitagovinda* :

“*Hariravimani rajaniridani miyamapijativiram  
kurumamavachanam sattvara rachanam  
purayamadhuripukamam*”

(*Gitagovinda* –11-7)

It is Krsna Who is *Madhuripu*. His will is the only truth. The *jiva* or soul should exert himself heart and soul to fit into His divine will. One who is deeply engrossed in the material comforts of the world can hardly think of God. So the *jiva* or soul should proceed cautiously on the path of spiritual discipline and sing and hear the glorious *lila* or activities of God with a purified heart free from worldliness and then obtain His grace.

Love is supernatural and God is love incarnate and the only source of Divine joy. This world has been designed by God, as a universal school of love. Love is divinely bestowed upon man. Out of ignorance the *jiva* or soul cannot realise that feelings of Love are the gifts of God which lead him to the kingdom of heaven. Love is the essence of His creation. The Lord or Purusottama appears as the universe with the nectar of divine love and his loving manifestation in every object of this phenomenal world turns it to a paradise.

God exists both within and without the animate world. The primary stage of Divine Love is *bhakti* or intensive yearning and restlessness for God which ultimately leads the *jiva* to the bosom of God. By His will this universe is ocean of love. This instinct of love which God has bestowed on His creation, should be fully utilised by the *jiva* to reach the summit of God-realisation and enjoy perpetual Love. The aspirant who is mad for this Divine Love shall consider the material world as vile dust polluted with the most disagreeable stuff. In order to achieve the God in

himself one should practise *karmayoga*, *jnanayoga* and *bhaktiyoga*. For this, many saints and sages in the past had to undergo most severe yogic penance and austerities to be blessed with love of God. It is a pity that some others do not have the rudimentary conception of God and the divine love. They equate love with carnal desire. God has created this world for His *lila*. As long as there is the creation this continuous flow of Divine Love will enliven the heart of every living being wherein the seed of love shall germinate.

Unless the desires of the mind are completely annihilated, love of God can never be acquired. Spiritual austerity is the only way to put a stop to the desires of the mind. Desirelessness leads to acquisition of love of God which in course of time is transformed to *mahabhava* that merges the soul with the Supreme Self or *Brahma*. The *gopis* had gained this desirelessness of mind through varied modes of spiritual discipline and penance as a result of which they were blessed with co-union with God. It is very difficult to discriminate between one's desire and the will of God without purification of heart. Many believe their own desires to be those of the Lord which only exposes their foolishness. One can hope to realise the will of God if he reaches the level of the *gopis* in the plane of selfless love for God and to enjoy the bliss of Gods' grace even without any spiritual penance. This is the real *samadhi* which is possible only due to passionate and intense love for God.

The *Rasalila* of God marks the climax of divine love. It is this love which has been transformed to *ananda* or eternal bliss. To love God and His creation is what is known as *prema* or divine love. Attachment to sensual objects of this material world is *Kama* or lust whereas attachment to God is termed as love. *Kama* or lust leads the *jiva* to darkness of ignorance

whereas love for God shines out like the sun dispelling darkness. In the *Rasalila* of *vrndavana*, lust or carnal delight was controlled and diverted to blissful eternal love of God. In the scriptures *Madana* is considered to be the god of Love. As He originates from mind, He is known as *manasija*. Mind is always fickle which sways between real and unreal tendencies. In the ordinary sense *kama* or lust that is physical intercourse and real love as some say cannot be conceived separately in this world. Instead of curbing *Madana*, the God of love, His blessings are to be invoked for diverting the lust towards inter-communion with God to attain perfection in life. It is *rasalila* itself which is love incarnate free from any sexual tendency. This represents the very soul of the *Bhagavata* and the *Vedanta*.

The essence and the principles underlying the conception of Radha and Krsna should be studied first before coming to the *lila* itself. In order to understand and assimilate the *lila* of Radha and Krsna as described in the *Gitagovinda*, one should first try to conceive at heart the philosophy of life in the context of self and the supreme self and the connective link in between. It is difficult to follow the importance of the *lila* without a purified heart. So this is known as *achintya bhedabheda*.

Srikrnsna Who is omnipotent and omnipresent is the sole guide of this creation. His peerless blue-coloured body resembling the black clouds embodies numberless stars and planets which are governed by His direction. Can any body expect to conceive Him or win Him Who is so powerful? Yes, He can be conceived and won over only by love or selfless and passionate yearning for Him. Unlike the sages who underwent great spiritual penance and physical privations, a devotee can attract Him by virtue of intensity of *bhava* or *mahabhava* termed as *prema*, the

highest spiritual stage. Srimati Radhika, the primal power or the *Adyasakti* is the most perfect illustration of such selfless intense love for Her beloved Srikrnsna. *Brahma* is *nirguna* and formless. But He has the longing to taste His own bliss, through this creation which is known as love. He incarnates Himself in the world to enjoy the love and devotion of His devotees. *Prakrti* in form of Srimati Radhika is able to quench His thirst for infinite and selfless love.

On reaching the highest stage of knowledge one enters into the kingdom of *bhakti* which intensifies to *bhava*, the inner feelings of the heart. Every atom of the creation is changed with love of God. A spark of consciousness descends from God which constitutes the soul. The formless God is to be meditated in the Lotus of the heart of a devotee with intensified feelings of *bhava*. It is difficult for the average man to conceive at heart the formless God without a concrete shape to meditate upon which serves as a medium and this leads to image worship of God. In the process of spiritual meditation, an aspirant has to proceed from the gross to the subtle by the help of an image of God in a form according to his own fancy and liking.

Without this, meditation becomes very difficult. This is the basis of Idol or Image worship adopted by the Hindus. The *gopis* belong to the kingdom of love who won the love of God through passionate yearning and restlessness and Srimati Radhika was the central figure among them and also the most glorifying illustration of this sort of love for God. By entertaining at heart the image and spirit of Srimati Radhika, the aspirant can achieve success and realise God.

In the *Upanisads* the bliss of God is considered to be the *Brahma* Itself. The universe owes its creation and destruction for fulfillment of this bliss of God. It is this bliss of God or *Brahma*

which was incarnated as Nandanandana (son of Nanda) Srikrnsna. The most arduous penance made by the sages in the dense forest culminated in the *Vrndavana Lila* of God. The *yogis* and the sages eagerly waiting for ages together for their union with that heavenly form of peerless beauty, plunged at last in the ocean of *Nitya Lila* at *Vrndavan* and obtained blissful contentment by testing the nectar thereof. The *sakti* Which creates this *nitya lila* of God is His pleasing counterpart known as *alhadini sakti* or Srimati Radhika. One has to shelter himself under a true preceptor without which it is not possible to obtain the grace of Srimati Radhika, the blissful power and the embodiment of *mahabhava*, the most intensified form of *bhakti*.

The *jiva* cannot taste the divine love of *Vrndavana lila* without enkindling at heart the spirit of Radha. This intense love for God is possible only when the *jiva* is free from the worldly attachments. In the heart of the emancipated soul the formless Divine Love blossoms and it is considered to be *Vrndavana*. The pleasing counterpart Srimati Radhika is the goddess of *Vrndavana*. The *jiva* eagers to obtain its spirit, runs after Srimati Radhika Who is always on eternal quest for Her beloved Madhava. There is blissful union of Radha and Madhava after pangs of separation. This process of hide and seek between the lover and the beloved shall continue as long as the creation exists.

To realise the God-consciousness it is necessary to purify the heart. For this the aspirant should surrender his heart and soul at the lotus feet of God. *Purusa*, the beloved of *prakrti* is the object of love and devotion of an aspirant. After reaching the highest stage of spiritual enlightenment, the *jiva* merges with *Brahma* and becomes *soham* according to *advaita* philosophy. It is only by selfless love and intense

yearning at heart that a devotee can have realisation of God. One may enter to rigid and severe *yogic* discipline and penance for obtaining grace of God, but it is easier to realise Him by virtue of pure and stainless love. A true devotee always thinks of God, weeps for Him and his hairs stand at the end, the moment he utters or hears the name of God. By considering God to be his own, the aspirant feels a divine impulse in his heart and sees in it the reflection of blissful communion of *jiva* and *Brahma*. God resides in the heart of the devotee in the *nitya lila* place which is *Vrndavana*. Entering into the kingdom of love and devotion the *jiva* shall merge into perpetual bliss and reach the climax of Divine love. Intense love for God is based on *bhava* or innermost feelings of the heart which gains intensity and terms into *mahabhava*. Srimati Radhika was the personification of *mahabhava*. So the ultimate goal of a devotee is to cultivate and assimilate the spirit of Radha for the sake of achieving the God-head.

There is manifestation of the power of God in the minutest particles of the world and the animal world. That is why the whole creation appears beautiful. An elastic mind with child like simplicity is required to appreciate and realise this heavenly beauty.

In the *kaliyuga*, the path of *bhakti* has been recommended by the sages as the easiest means to realise God. But this has been pictured in such a way that an average man cannot comprehend it. The human society has in course of the evolutionary process reached the present

stage of its development. The mysterious secrets underlying the spiritual sphere shall be unfolded and people will realise their greatness in promoting religious development.

The heavenly saints of God in their mission to enlighten mankind on the spiritual path and to preach their gospels on the divinity of the creation appear in human society in shape of incarnations of God or holy preceptors to acquaint mankind with the mysterious and playful activities of the creation of God and enkindle the light of God in the heart of purified liberated soul thus fulfilling their mission. They do not aim at emancipation of their own souls by spiritual discipline, but their chief mission is to bring about a super-human transformation of the world. The power of the soul is to be rejuvenated and this awakening of the soul shall in communion with the supreme self be greatest achievement of a spiritual aspirant. This spiritual odour shall spread from the individual to the society taking refuge in the lotus feet of the Lord and the society shall be that of the *Yogis* or spiritual aspirants. Jayadeva was one of such heavenly saints with a mission. It was a different mission – not to preach and sermonise, but to teach and entertain. It was entertainment with a divine purpose of God-realization.

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# Consolidation of Holdings in Rural Odisha : An Overview

*Dr. Sarat Parida*

Odisha a predominantly agrarian state, after the country's independence relied on land reforms like other states for setting right certain major evils in the land system which were not taken care of by the British during the colonial period. In fact, one major evil in the land system which the British had failed to tackle adequately and left the issue to aggravate over the years was the fragmentation of holdings. In 1920's when measures for consolidation of holdings were first taken up in Punjab and Central Provinces, the average size of holdings in some provinces was astounding small. Curiously, in Bengal and Assam, the average size of holdings was only 2.4 acres and 2.0 acres respectively. Like elsewhere in the country, the case in Odisha too, conformed to this trend of growing fragmentation of holdings in the period following independence. In fact, the average size of holdings in Odisha was 2 hectares in 1954 but it was reduced to 1.89 hectares in 1971. The issue of small and fragmented holdings which arguably have bearing in the growth of agricultural economy, was not given serious attention in Odisha in the period immediately following independence as abolition of intermediary interests, tenancy reforms and ceiling on landholdings received priority in the agenda of land reforms. However, in the Silver Jubilee Year of independence i.e. in 1972, the Government of Odisha enacted the Orissa Consolidation of

Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation of Land Act, a landmark legislation that paved the way for land consolidation programme in the state.

The fragmentation of holdings obviously put serious limitation on agricultural growth as it not only obstructs the development of land and agriculture but also prevents the agriculturists to carry out agricultural operation efficiently by using modern tools and implements. Fragmentation generally refers to lands found scattered here and there in the village area in plots separated by land in possession of others. Fragmentation of land occurs due to a variety of factors. But basically the growth of population, the disintegration of joint family system, the law of inheritance, the peculiar method adopted in the distribution of landed property among the heirs, and the growing practice among the landholders and the tenants to rent or sub-rent the land are notable factors that hasten the process of subdivision of land. Besides these certain factors which contributed to the process of subdivision of land in the country during the colonial rule was the over pressure on agriculture brought about by economic ruination of millions of handicraftsmen, artisans and the imposition of money economy.

Consolidation of holdings usually stands for the amalgamation and redistribution of fragmented land so as to make the plots in a holding a compact one. In fact, the programme

of land consolidation aims at giving every right holder a compact area equivalent in value to what he held before in scattered plots. Besides, consolidation to a certain extent conceptualizes an element of village planning by earmarking land for communal use, future developmental purposes, and for facilitating irrigation and drainage channels. Consolidation of lands in recent times is adopted as an effective means of rationalizing the use of land, modern method of cultivation and to save the time and resources involved in agricultural pursuit. Besides India, laws relating to consolidation have been passed in many countries of the world and the scheme have been adopted in several countries viz., Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Germany, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, and United Arab Republic.

The need to check fragmentation of holdings was felt early in India in the decades preceding the advent of independence. In fact, certain provinces enacted legislations in this regard but Odisha had no exclusive legislation of its own. Prior to independence the Central Provinces Consolidation of Holdings Act, 1928 was in operation in the areas of ex-Central Provinces which had been amalgamated with Odisha on 1 April, 1936. These areas included the Mahadevpali police station of Sadar sub-division of Sambalpur district and Nawapar sub-division of Kalahandi district. However, after independence several states have enacted legislations in the field of consolidation. Such laws became effective in Bombay in 1947, Punjab in 1948, Uttar Pradesh in 1953, West Bengal in 1955, Bihar in 1956 and Assam in 1960. The laws passed in West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, and Assam provided for consolidation of holdings as well as the prevention of fragmentation of holdings after they were consolidated. In the consolidation

scheme launched in Punjab, the consolidated plots were allotted as far as practicable in square or rectangular shapes. It is pertinent to note that chapter-VI of the Orissa Agriculture Act, 1951 had contained certain provisions relating to consolidation of holdings. But no tangible step for consolidation was taken up in the state under the Act. The Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) put a premium on consolidation of holding and treating it as a vital component of land reform asked the states to take up consolidation work on a priority basis in areas particularly which were under irrigation projects or within their command areas with irrigation potential. In response to this directive, the state government decided to take up the scheme of consolidation but the provisions of the Orissa Agriculture Act, 1951 was found inadequate in some respect for the intended purpose and this necessitated a new legislation.

Consequently, the Odisha Legislative Assembly passed the Orissa Consolidation of Holdings and Prevention of Fragmentation of Land Bill on 22 August, 1972. After receiving the assent of the President of India on 16 November, 1972, it became Orissa Act 21 of 1972. The Act had two major objectives: to provide for the consolidation of holdings, and to prevent the fragmentation of land 'for the development of agriculture in the state'. In fact, the core objective of the measure was to provide a compact parcel of agricultural land to the cultivator in lieu of his scattered plots. The Act contained the following main features:

1. It authorized the State Government to select by notification the area to be brought under consolidation operation.
2. After the publication of notification, land transfer in the area by way of sale, gift or mortgage would be disallowed except with the previous permission of the Consolidation Officer, matters relating to the preparation of land register and Maps of the villages in

the consolidation area are to be assigned to the Assistant Consolidation Officer.

3. The Assistant Consolidation Officer would prepare in consultation with the consolidation committee formed in the area, the 'Statement of Principles' containing the principles to be followed in carrying out the consolidation operation, areas to be earmarked for public purpose etc.
4. The allotment of plots would be determined on the basis of its valuation and not by area.
5. Section-31 (1) & (2) of the Act provided that from the date of taking over the possessions of the *chaka* a landowner would enjoy the same right, title, interest and liabilities as he had in the original holdings.

The Act provided that no agricultural land in a locality where consolidation operation had been done could be transferred or partitioned so as to create a 'fragment'. A 'fragment' was defined as a compact parcel of agricultural land held by a landowner by himself or jointly with others comprising an area of one acre in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Ganjam and in the Anandapur sub-division of Keonjhar district, and two acres in other areas of the state. Further it provided that no fragment could be transferred except to a landowner of a contiguous *chaka*. However, it provided that a fragment could be mortgaged or transferred in favour of the state government, a co-operative society, a scheduled bank or financial institution as security for the loans advanced by such institutions.

The Act came into force in the state with effect from 10 August, 1973. The consolidation scheme was first put into operation in some selected areas of the state from January, 1974. In the first instance statutory notification under Section-3 (1) of the said Act was issued in respect of 1,293 villages under 10 police-stations in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Mayurbhanj,

Dhenkanal and Ganjam. Initially an area of 158,577 hectares was taken up for consolidation operation. However, consolidation work in 1300 villages distributed in 6 districts of the state had been completed by the end of 1975. The land consolidation programme in the state got acceleration in the mid-nineties. As a result, the number of consolidated villages in the state increased to 6992 by 1998. The total consolidated land in the state covered an area of 918,020 hectares by the aforementioned period and it comprised 17 per cent of the total operated area of the state. By the end of 2010, 10, 039 villages out of the 51,551 revenue villages of the state have been brought under consolidation programme. Consolidation operations have been completed in all respect in 7355 villages by the aforesaid period. It is true that the programme of land consolidation was taken up seriously in the state in the early seventies, after two and a half decade of independence but the programme continues to make steady progress in the state.

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# RTE in Rural Odisha : How Far and How Near

*Dr. Manoranjan Pradhan*

## ABSTRACT

*The RTE-2009 is a historical step of the government to materialize the target of universalization of elementary education focussing equality, equity and quality. The Act clearly indicates the structures and facilities to be available in the elementary schools in order to strengthen the schools ensuring quality elementary education to all children as their fundamental right. The Governments (both union and states) are trying in this direction fulfilling the provisions of RTE like strengthening physical infrastructures, recruiting adequate number of qualified teachers as per PTR, policy supports, required interventions (like SAHAJA), etc. The present paper is an attempt to analyze the enrolment status, infrastructure and learning outcomes of elementary schools in rural pockets of Odisha on the basis of ASER 2014 and other primary and secondary data. Besides, an effort is made to give some constructive suggestions and recommendation for betterment of elementary education in government schools.*

**Key words:** *Enrolment, Reading Levels, Arithmetic Competencies, Rural, Elementary Schools.*

### Backdrop:

The idea of providing free and compulsory education to children, aged 6 to 14 was a welcome and historical step for those who cannot afford to send their children to schools. This idea of providing free and compulsory elementary education to all children of the country (age group : 6 to 14) as a fundamental right was materialized when the RCFCE Act (Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act-2009) came into being in 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Actually, the RTE bill was drafted in 2005 on the basis of the 86<sup>th</sup> amendment 2002. But it received presidential assent and was notified as law on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009 as the RCFCE Act. Before that, the Bill

was approved by the Union Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009; Rajya Sabha passed the bill on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 and Lok Sabha on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009. Since then, the Govt. of India, in partnership with the state governments, has made strenuous efforts to achieve the mandate of universalizing elementary education. No doubt, the Act has helped in changing the face and figures of elementary schools of the country by providing infrastructural facilities but it has not become complete success in improving the overall effectiveness of the education system. In other words, the implementation of this historical act is able to materialize the dream of reaching the scope and facilities of elementary education at every child's doorstep irrespective of geographical disparities

and other barriers. But promoting quality elementary education to all children is yet a great issue and challenge.

The **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2014** released by the **Pratham Education Foundation** in the month of January, 2015, is a pointer to the kind of education the act has been able to provide. While it is important to get children enrolled in schools, it is equally important to keep a tab on what they learn and how they use the learning.

Based on a survey in 577 districts and 16,497 villages covering about 3.5 lakh households and 5.70 lakh children, the report is depressing as the previous ones were. While the enrolment rate has remained over 96 per cent, the schools complying with the RTE Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) increased from 38.9 in 2010 to 49.3 per cent in 2014. The percentage of schools having useable toilets has improved from 47.2 to 65.2 per cent. The present study is an attempt to focus on the picture of Odisha in the lance of ASER-2014.

### Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the study were:

- To study the status of physical facilities available in the elementary schools of Odisha.
- To assess the comparative picture of school enrolment in private and government elementary schools of Odisha.
- To study the learning achievements of the Pupils in elementary schools of Odisha.
- To identify the issues and problems associating with promoting quality

elementary education to pupils in the elementary schools of Odisha.

- To give possible suggestions and recommendations for promoting quality elementary education at elementary stage.

### Data base and Methodology

This study was a documentary analysis. It was based on Secondary data only. The data needed for the study on infrastructural facilities; Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR), Classroom Teacher Ratio (CTR), Drinking Water, Toilet, Library, Mid- day-meal etc, enrolment status in privately managed schools and purely government schools, learning achievements of the learners (mainly reading skills, arithmetic, etc), were collected from ASER 2014, Economic Survey of Odisha-2014-15, published articles of some authors in several journals, magazines and newspapers like the Indian Express, The Odisha Post, The Samaja, The Prameya, etc. But the required data for the objectives 4 and 5, the investigator collected from educationists, teachers, parents, SMC members, students, teacher educators/ Lectures of DIETs, Secondary Teacher Education Institutes through informal discussion, Focus Group Discussion (FGD), unstructured individual interview, etc.

### Analysis and Discussion

#### Physical Facilities as per RTE Norm

Conducive learning environment, better infrastructural facilities, adequate trained, talented and dedicated teachers are the pre-requisites for providing quality education and better learning skills to the pupils in schools. Realizing the needs and importance of physical facilities for students friendly and learning centred educational institutions (Schools), the RTE Act 2009 categorically emphasized on norms and standards

of elementary schools including number of classrooms, nos. of teachers to be appointed and their qualifications, Students Teacher Ratio, sanitary facilities, secured boundary wall for safe and security of the pupils, safe drinking water facilities, separate kitchen for cooking, mid-day meals, playground, game and sports equipments for each class, well equipped library having newspaper, magazines and books on all subjects including story books, learning corners in each class, etc.

It is true that after implementation of the act, the face and figures of the elementary schools even in the remotest areas of the country have been changed; still the strenuous efforts of governments are going on to improve the infrastructure facilities in schools. The ASER 2014 reveals clear cut idea regarding the schools meeting RTE norms and standards. The selected measurable indicators of RTE are collected in ASER is stated below.

**Table- 1:**

**Schools meeting selected RTE norms 2010-14: a Comparative Picture of India and Odisha**  
**% of schools Meeting the following RTE norms in India & Odisha**

Selected Indicators	Areas under major indicators	India			Odisha		
		2010	2012	2014	2010	2012	2014
PTR & CTR	Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR)	38.9	42.9	49.3	22.5	28.0	38.6
	Classroom-Teacher ratio (CTR)	76.2	73.7	72.8	74.0	78.2	68.3
Building	Office/ store/ office cum store	74.1	73.5	76.7	74.7	80.4	80.4
	Playground	62.0	61.1	65.3	44.4	31.4	32.0
	Boundary wall/ fencing	51.0	54.7	58.8	40.8	44.9	48.1
Drinking Water	No facility for drinking water	17.0	16.7	13.9	15.2	11.4	9.2
	Facility but no drinking water available	10.3	10.3	10.5	14.5	10.0	9.2
	Drinking water available	72.7	73.0	75.6	70.3	78.7	81.6
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Toilet	No Toilet Facility	11.0	8.5	6.3	15.5	19.6	15.8
	Facility but toilet not useable	41.8	35.2	28.5	40.1	31.2	21.1
	Toilet useable	47.2	56.4	65.2	44.4	49.3	63.1
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Girl's Toilet	No Separate provision for girls toilet	31.2	21.4	18.8	30.3	37.4	29.3
	Separate provision but locked	18.7	14.2	12.9	19.5	8.2	8.0

	Separate provision, unlocked but not useable	17.2	16.4	12.6	15.5	13.1	9.8
	Separate provision, unlocked and useable	32.9	48.1	55.7	34.7	41.4	53.0
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Library	No Library	37.4	24.1	21.9	34.7	11.7	12.0
	Library but no books being used by children on day of visit	24.7	32.2	37.4	18.5	23.7	22.8
	Library books being used by children on day of visit	37.9	43.8	40.7	46.8	64.5	65.2
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mid-day meal	Kitchen shed for cooking mid-day meal	82.1	84.3	88.1	74.4	80.2	82.6
	Mid-day meal served in school on day of visit	84.6	87.0	85.1	88.8	96.1	96.8

*Source: ASER-2014*

### Enrolment in Govt. and Private Schools

Despite provision of free education, meals, uniform and books offered by the government schools, the parents even the poor rickshaw puller, daily labourers, etc; prefer sending their children to private schools. The ASER 2014 shows the number of children enrolled in private schools, has almost doubled in 2014 in some states, compared to 2005 when the first ASER report was published. The states like Manipur, Kerala, Haryana, UP and Meghalaya have a private school enrolment rate of more than 50 per cent. People in rural areas (including those who do not have pucca houses), are forced to pay to private tutors for giving that extra edge to their children.

As per the ASER 2014, of the 27 states for which data are available, 12 have lower enrolment rates than the national average. Of course, Tripura, West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar

have recorded less than 10 per cent enrolment in private schools. Tripura with 6.7 per cent enrolment rate in private schools had the lowest enrolment rate in the country. Of the 15 states which had enrolment rates higher than national average, four states- Haryana, Poducherry, Kerala and Manipur- had more than 50 per cent enrolment in private schools. Manipur with 70.5 per cent had the highest enrolment rate in private schools in the country, which is closely followed by Kerala with 68.6 per cent. Poducherry (54.3%), Haryana (51.4%), U.P (49%). Punjab (46.7%), J & K (45.4%), Meghalaya (45.3%), Nagaland (39.4%), Rajasthan (39.5%) and Andhra Pradesh (34%) have recorded substantially higher than the national average enrolment rate in private schools (29%). Among the southern states, Karnataka and Tamilnadu had more than 75 per cent of the rural children enrolled in government schools as against about 70 per cent enrolment in private schools in Kerala. The

private school enrolment rates are increasing in Andhra Pradesh and they reached a level of 34 per cent in 2013.

Although private school enrolment has shown a rise in Odisha, the state remains in the bottom pool in the entire country. West Bengal and Tripura are the other two states where the overall enrolment in private schools in rural areas is below 9 per cent. Neighbouring Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have a better average. In central Odisha, the percentage of children enrolled in private schools (age 6-14) in the year 2010, 2012 and 2014 was 5.66%, 7.73% and 9.47 % respectively. Similarly in the North Odisha, the children enrolled in private schools in the above years were 6.87%, 5.65% and 8.85% per cent respectively. But in Southern Odisha, the enrolment in private schools was 5.35 % in 2010, 6.17 % in 2012 and 8.53 % in 2014 (ASER-2014).

In the economically- backward and maoist affected district of Odisha, private schools appear to be thriving and on their way of, if one goes by the rate of student enrolment. In 10 districts, located in KBK region, the enrolment has almost doubled in the last five years. The latest ASER points at the changing pattern.

During 2014, at least 6.92 per cent children between age group 6 to 14 were enrolled in private schools in Kandhamal, Boudh, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri, Ganjam and Gajapati districts (KBK districts). Barely five year back in 2010, was the enrolment in these districts 3.49 per cent. A closer scrutiny shows that the jump was more in the last three years. In 2012, the rate was 4.7 per cent which dropped to 3.85 per cent in 2013, only to shoot up to 6.92 percent in

2014. Compare this with the socio-economically better off coastal and central districts, one finds that the KBK region is catching up. The 10 districts in central region reported a 9.47 per cent enrolment rate during 2014, recording a steady growth over the 8.86 per cent rate reported in 2013. The state average of enrolment in private schools stands.

Keeping in view the rampant growth of enrolment rates of kids in privately managed schools (both in Odia and English medium), the investigator personally discussed with more than fifty parents, whose children are studying in private schools. Most of the parents to whom the investigator discussed were middle and lower middle class family. Besides, the students are more secured, disciplined and reformed in private schools. But they confessed how their family face financial constraints while paying huge amount of admission fee, tuition fee and donation in private schools for the admission of their children.

### **Learning Achievement in Rural Odisha**

The target of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), a mega educational project or movement, is not only to expand the scope of elementary education by providing facilities of Universal access, enrolment, retention and participation but also to make elementary education qualitative and reflective achieving universal achievement.

Similarly, the learning gap between private and govt. school children is very acute. As per other report, 82.4% children in std. II in government schools can read at least letters while the percentage in the private schools is 96.2%. Similarly, the percentage of children in Std. III who can read at least words both in govt. and private schools are 66.8% and 92.4% respectively.

Table - 2

**Trends over time % Children in Std II and III at different READING levels by school type 2010-2014**

Year	% Children in Std II who can read at least letters			% Children in Std III who can read at least words		
	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt. & Pvt.*	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt. & Pvt. *
2010	86.2	94.9	86.8	75.8	90.9	76.5
2011	82.8	88.5	83.1	68.4	88.8	69.5
2012	75.1	96.1	76.7	60.7	95.3	62.9
2013	73.3	92.7	75.7	58.0	90.2	60.7
2014	82.4	96.2	84.1	66.8	92.4	69.3

*Source: ASER-2014*

Table - 3

**Trends over time % Children in Std IV and V at different READING levels by school type 2010-2014**

Year	% Children in Std IV who can read at least Std I level text			% Children in Std V who can read at least Std II level text		
	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt. & Pvt.*	Govt.	Pvt.	Govt. & Pvt. *
2010	60.5	81.6	62.6	45.5	60.7	46.0
2011	57.2	78.0	58.0	38.4	61.3	39.1
2012	58.6	91.8	60.3	46.1	75.7	47.1
2013	56.8	88.6	58.9	53.6	76.3	44.9
2014	59.3	87.6	61.3	50.1	76.7	51.9

*Source: ASER-2014*

Let's discuss the performance of student's in all schools (Govt. & Private) in reading and comprehension is English. The survey reveals in Std.V, 11.7% children cannot even read capital letters, 11.7% can read capital letters, but not more

24% children can read small letters but not words or higher, 29.7% children can read words, but not sentences, and 22.9% children can read easy sentences.

**Table - 4**

**Children by class and READING level in ENGLISH All schools 2014**

<b>Std</b>	<b>Not even Capital letters</b>	<b>Capital Letters</b>	<b>Small letters</b>	<b>Simple words</b>	<b>Easy sentences</b>	<b>Total</b>
I	54.0	19.9	13.7	9.9	2.5	100
II	38.6	18.1	22.8	15.1	5.3	100
III	23.7	19.9	26.3	22.1	8.0	100
IV	16.4	15.9	26.7	26.0	15.0	100
V	11.7	11.7	24.0	29.7	22.9	100
VI	7.0	10.6	21.0	28.6	32.9	100
VII	5.0	6.4	19.2	29.8	39.7	100
VIII	4.8	5.6	17.2	26.6	45.7	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: ASER-2014*

**Table -5:**

**% Children by class who CAN COMPREHEND ENGLISH All schools 2014**

<b>Std</b>	<b>Of those who can read words, % children who can tell meanings of the words</b>	<b>Of those who can read sentences, % children who can tell meanings of the sentences</b>
I	68.0	
II	62.1	
III	67.9	54.0
IV	58.9	52.4
V	55.8	55.3
VI	63.8	56.0
VII	68.2	61.7
VIII	64.2	62.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.9</b>	<b>58.1</b>

*Source: ASER-2014*

### Arithmetic Levels

The ASER 2014 also maps the performance of students in Arithmetic Skills. In class-III, 8.6% children cannot even recognize numbers from 1-9, 28.1% can recognize numbers up to 9 but not more, 35.2% can recognize numbers up to 99, but cannot do subtraction, 21.3% can do subtraction, but cannot do division and 6.9% can do division. Similarly in class-VIII, 9.2% children cannot even recognize numbers 1-9, 21.2% can recognize numbers up to 9 but not more, 29.6% can recognize numbers up to 99 but cannot do subtraction, 21.3% can do subtraction but cannot do division and 18.8% can do division.

On the other hand, the competency levels of children in Govt. and private schools are

remarkably differentiated. For example in 2010, 84.2% children in Std. II of Govt. Schools who could recognize numbers 1-9 and more while 94.6% children of private schools could do so. But in 2014, the rate was decreased 83.6% in Govt. Schools, but the status of counterpart private schools was 95.7% (diminishingly increasing). Similarly, in 2010, about 50.8% and 31.3% students in Std.IV & V respectively in Govt. Schools could do at least subtraction and division, whereas, that of private schools was 76% and 57.2% respectively. Similarly in 2014, percentage of children in Std. IV who could do at least subtractions in both Govt. and private schools were 35.7% and 70.5% respectively. Similarly the percentage of children in Std.V who could do division in Govt. and Private schools in 2014 were 20.5 and 45.4 per cent respectively.

**Table: 6**

#### Children by class and Arithmetic level all schools 2014

Std	Not even 1-9	Recognize no-1-9	Recognize no-10-99	Can subtract	Can divide	Total
I	33.6	41.0	19.1	5.4	0.9	100
II	14.9	37.2	28.6	15.8	3.6	100
III	8.6	28.1	35.2	21.3	6.9	100
IV	6.2	21.0	34.7	23.4	14.8	100
V	4.1	15.6	33.1	25.1	22.2	100
VI	2.7	11.3	27.6	28.1	30.3	100
VII	1.4	7.6	28.6	26.0	36.2	100
VIII	1.6	6.3	28.8	25.6	37.8	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: ASER-2014*

**Issues and Suggestions:**

The foregoing discussion raises the following issues and challenges.

- Rampant increase of enrolment ratio in private schools.
- Learning crisis in government schools of rural India and Odisha.
- Challenge to provide infrastructural facilities in all schools.

According to several surveys and reports, the preference of parents to enrol their children in private schools from low economic standard to elite group is increasing by leaps and bound. Despite all facilities and free education in government schools, the parents are not mentally prepared to send their children to government schools. So it is high time to introspect seriously and check the loopholes of the Govt. elementary schools. During the discussion with some parents and teachers, educationists and headmasters on the above issue, they said the performances of the teachers in the government schools are not satisfactory. No doubt, the teachers are comparatively qualified, trained and frequently oriented than teachers of private schools. But their classroom performance, dedication and accountability towards school, children, above all their profession is not at par with private school teachers. Besides, the engagement of teachers in other activities, non-execution of strict transfer policy, infrastructural facilities, weak and corrupt monitoring system, etc are also responsible for decreasing students enrolment in govt. schools. On the other hand, the expensive propaganda, craze of parents to enrol their kids in private schools, better service to pupils including safety and security of the learners, better monitoring system, conducive school environment, adequate

facilities for all round development, are some factors attracting parents to enrol their children in privately managed schools.

It is a matter of great concern that the private schools located in rural pockets are not so elite public schools. In term of infrastructure, teachers and other facilities, the government schools are better than private schools. However, the learning achievements of private schools are remarkably better than those of government schools. The factors responsible for declining the learning outcomes in government schools are poor inputs (students, mainly first generation learners) lack of accountability, no provision of pre-primary education as primer to primary schools, no regular headmasters in schools, single teachers schools, lack of need based training (local specific), illiterate parents, etc. But the most important factor of the said issue is defective monitoring and supervising system. The education authorities are not seriously and continuously supervising and monitoring the schools. If they do so, that is for formalities or sometimes having malafide intention. It is seen the authorities are failed to keep good relationship with the teachers and Headmasters. They are mostly acting as the masters or owners of the schools instead of good counsellors, guide, friend and supporter to improve standard of schools. Most cases, the parents or SMC members or teachers cannot express their problem or needs before the authorities for betterment of school and children. This shows lack of co-ordination and co-operation between officers and teachers, community and student. But in private schools, the intimacy between parents and school functionaries (HM, Teachers and Managing Committee) is very close. For this, most of the problems of private schools are solved by the parents and community members. Therefore, steps should be taken strengthening relationship between school and society, parents, SMC and

teachers including Headmasters. Steps should be taken at all levels to make the school closer to society, class to community, pupils to people and vice versa.

Another most important issue is that how the Headmasters, teachers, education authorities can impress the parents to enrol their children in government schools when their children are enrolled in privately managed schools. It means they have no trust and confidence on their own schools and faculties regarding quality education. They are not satisfied with the system of education and learning strategies in govt. school. That is why they are sending their children to relatively less qualified, low paid and untrained inexperienced teachers working in private schools. This issue should be seriously introspected by all. If possible the verdict of Allahabad High Court may be implemented in the state.

Besides, to strengthen the schools and improve competency level of students, the government should rethink about 'no detention policy', age appropriate admission (mainly focusing need based bridge course), transfer policy of teachers, strict supervision and monitoring strategy, etc.

### **Concluding Remarks:**

To conclude, to provide qualitative elementary education to each and every child of the country of age group 6 to 14, the government expenditure on education has grown from Rs.18,448 crore (2009-10) to Rs.37,150 crore (2013-1114) for elementary education. But the targets of checking dropouts, bringing all children to school and quality education enhancing competency levels of the learners are not

completely attained yet. So it is high time to rethink for reforming the system to plug the loopholes. The government (both union and states), the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Social activists, philanthropists, educationists, planners, administrators, citizens and all of us should think religiously that the intention of Act is not merely to increase numbers but to improve learning to build a bright future for India. Merely spending huge money on building infrastructure without adequate improvement in teaching and learning material with a result oriented approach will not help our young generation for an ignited India; we have to lay a strong foundation (Elementary Education). Then only the total infrastructures of the country will be strengthened and will be protective in all disaster and difficulties.

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# Livestock Biodiversity of Odisha

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Biodiversity is about the existence of life in all forms, levels and combinations, and is expressed in three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and eco-system diversity. The Animal genetic resources constitute an important component of biodiversity. But out of thousands species of animals, only 40 species were found useful for domestication by different settlements. Fewer than 14 of these 40 species account for as much as 90 % of global livestock production, of which, the major domestic animals are seven mammalian species like cattle, buffalo, goat, sheep, pig, horse and ass and four avian species like chicken, duck, geese and turkey.

Animal genetic resources represent an important component of global biodiversity in terms of food security and sustainability. In developing countries, they play an important role in the subsistence of many communities and sustainability of crop livestock system. It is estimated that domestic animal genetic resources contribute 30% of total human requirements for

food and agriculture, either directly or indirectly. They meet various requirements of human being like meat, milk, egg, fibre, fertiliser for crops, draught power, etc. Besides, it also reduces farmers' exposure to risk and generates employment. Livestock are closely linked to social and cultural lives of several million resource-poor farmers for whom animal ownership ensures varying degree of sustainable farming and economic stability.

## Livestock diversity in India

Approximately 6 % of the total domestic animal biodiversity exists in India. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) data base indicates that India has 61 cattle breed, 19 buffalo breeds, 59 sheep breeds, 29 goat breeds, 3 pig breeds, 3 ass breeds, 6 horse breeds, 8 camel breeds, and 18 poultry breeds. The domestic animal diversity found in India vis-a-vis other regions of the world for some of the important species have been presented below.

Species	World (FAO)	Asia Pacific (FAO)	South Africa (FAO)	India (FAO)	India (ICAR)
Cattle	787	190	94	61	30
Buffalo	72	57	33	19	10
Sheep	910	226	110	59	42

Goat	351	126	70	29	22
Pig	353	157	8	3	3
Ass	77	17	5	3	3
Horse	384	72	25	6	6
Camel	56	14	9	8	8
Poultry	606	72	27	18	18

( Source : National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, India)

Over the years, indigenous breeds of livestock have been selected by different stakeholders for traits like disease resistance, poor roughage base, feed efficiency, ability to withstand migration and periodic draughts as well as for diverse other reasons such as fighting and racing abilities and physical characteristics such as colour, size and gait. Locally adopted breeds may produce less compared to highly specialised breeds but they are definitely more efficient in use of natural resources unfit for human consumption and more suitable for exploitation of higher production in medium and low input production system. They retain significant genetic diversity to cope with changing environment and market needs.

The important factors that contributed to diversity of animal genetic resources in India are: migration, settlement pattern and sharing of genetic resources by human beings resulting in widespread distribution of most important livestock species, market forces, food habit, changing lifestyle, preferences of local population for production and services.

### **Livestock Diversity in Odisha**

Odisha with its varied culture base inherited from ancient times is endowed with large rivers and dense forest that have helped development of various livestock and poultry species with wide diversity. Its rich animal genetic

resource base has been further strengthened by import of various animals by the maritime community of the ancient Kalinga Empire. The historical treatise and sculptures on temples and other archaeological monuments in Odisha give the evidence that the different types of animals such as European draught horses and other precious domestic animals were brought from other countries to Odisha in medieval ages. Besides, various tribal ethnic groups have traditionally preserved varieties of crop as well as livestock population over thousands of years. Recent import of exotic and improved animal breeds by missionaries and government agencies has further strengthened the livestock resources in Odisha.

Livestock production has been an integral part of rural livelihood system in Odisha all through the known history of the state. The predominant farming system in the State is the mixed crop livestock farming system and over 90 % of all farms of all categories conform to this farming system. The livestock wealth in Odisha is equitably distributed in all sections of the society, and constitute a natural resource base with immense livelihood implication. Like agriculture, livestock production system is endeavour of small and marginal farmers. More than 80 % of the rural households own livestock of one species or other or a combination of them to get milk, meat, egg, skin, bone, manure and draught power and

employment for their own purpose or to maintain their livelihood.

According to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census, the livestock population of the state is as follows:

Species	18 <sup>th</sup> Census-2007	19 <sup>th</sup> Census-2012
Cattle	12.30 million	11.62 million
Buffalo	1.18 million	0.72 million
Sheep	1.81 million	1.58 million
Goat	7.12 million	6.51 million
Pig	0.61 million	0.28 million
<b>Total Livestock</b>	<b>23.05 million</b>	<b>20.73 million</b>
Poultry	20.6 million	19.89 million

The State has a strong agricultural and livestock base rich in biodiversity. The sheep and goat found in Odisha are known for their resistance to common endoparasites. They are also highly prolific and possess exceptional quality to survive in water logging condition. Similarly, some of the cattle and buffalo breeds found in Odisha have good qualities for growth reproduction and survivability under summer and saline harsh conditions. Wild types of buffaloes have been found in different regions of State. Odisha possesses rich source of fowl germplasm, which has been patronised since ages by tribes of Koraput, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Phulbani, Sundergarh and other hill districts.

#### **Biodiversity of Livestock in Odisha:**

A brief description of indigenous livestock and poultry breeds, strains and populations found in Odisha that have been developed by the communities is given here :

#### **A) Cattle germplasm Characteristics**

**i) Motu Breed:** Small, milk and drought breed, live on scanty grazing under the

open condition throughout the year and are regular breeders.

**ii) Birnjharpuri Cattle Breed:** A smaller upgraded Haryana type animal.

Compact body with good draught capacity.

**iii) Ghoomsoori Cattle Breed:** Small size, hardy draft breed of Ganjam, Phulbani districts, Odisha extending into Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh.

**iv) Kharial Breed:** Small sized compact and draught purpose breed.

#### **B) Buffalo Germplasm**

**i) Parlakhimendi Breed:** Medium sized, swamp type to look, milch breed. They are best road graziers, regular breeders.

**ii) Manda Breed:** Medium sized, breed on hills and forests, hardy and live without housing facilities, best drought ability. Prospectus to improve milk yield is existing. They are having highest fat of South Odisha breeds. Very small population existing.

**iii) Jirangi Breed:** Small sized, hardy draught purpose, fast working animals

bred on hills and high altitude with high fat % in milk.

**iv) Kalahandi Breed:** Medium sized, very hardy slow working, draught type breed. Well known for longevity.

**v) Kujang Breed:** Medium sized, relatively less compact, stand on flood and graze on the river banks, medium milking breed

**vi) Arni of Koraput:** Wild, large sized, breeds well with local buffaloes. It is under threat of extinction in Odisha.

**vii) Chilika Breed:** Large, compact body, depend on Chilika lake weed, low milk producing, high fat buffaloes, Salt water tolerant and good swimmer.

### C) Goat Germplasm

**i) Black Bengal Goat :** Small, highly prolific, early prolific, early maturing goat, stands well to water logging conditions. The breed thrives well on grass grazing. Chevron and skin is valued.

**ii) Malkangiri Goat:** Early maturing, prolific, kidding twice in 14 months, mostly twins, heavy chevon goats.

**iii) Raigarh Goat:** Early maturing, prolific, kidding twice in 14 months, mostly twins sometimes triplets, good milk goat and good chevon quality.

**iv) Ganjam breed:** Leggy, low prolificacy, late maturing, annual single kidding, slow growing goat with aggressive grazing habit. Goatish odour present.

**v) Narayanapatna breed:** A mutton type prolific breed, twin kidding, 14 to 15 month two kiddings, large goat with good udder and teats.

**vi) Koraput Hill Goat:** Early maturity, prolific, kidding twice in 14 months, mostly give twins, fastest growing goats for chevon production.

**vii) Ganjam Hill Goat:** Very similar to Koraput Hill Goat, but slightly compact (Gua Chelli) with good udder.

### D) Sheep Germplasm

**i) Kuzi Sheep Breed:** Woolly, little breed, highly prolific and best adopt to coast region.

**ii) Ganjam Sheep Breed:** Hairy, short tail, medium type, less prolific annual single lambing, mutton sheep solely live on road side grazing (in rains).

**iii) Koraput Sheep Breed:** Coarse wool to hairy, short tail, small to medium size, annual single lambing sheep for mutton.

**iv) Machkund strain:** Coarse wool, short tail, small size, highly prolific strain, early maturity, Koraput sheep twice lambing in 14 months, some twins and very rarely triplets, mutton type sheep solely live on grazing.

**v) Dharamagarh Sheep :** Course wool, short tail, small size, annual lambing sheep, withstand high ambient temperature and draught.

**vi) Kathargad–Dasmantpur Strain:** Early maturing, high twining sheep of Koraput found in Kathargarh.

**vii) Erka Sheep Breed:** Hairy, medium in size, red coat, highly prolific (early maturing, two lambing in 14 months, mostly twins and about 5 per cent triplets claimed by farmers). Found around Chilika Lake and in Khurda District.

**viii) Bolangir Sheep Breed/ Dharamgarh Sheep :** Course wool, short tail, small size, annual lambing sheep, resistant to high ambient temperature and draught.

**ix) Chotanagapuri Sheep :** Coarse long wool type, small size, annual single lambing found in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts.

#### E) Pig Germplasm

**i) Koraput 'Burudi' Breed :** Small sized pot bellied, prolific, least back fat pigs, solely thrive on scavenging or very little feeding.

**ii) Pondi or Jhinga Breed:** Medium size, twisted tail, high back fat, prolific breed. Home fed and semi scavenging ability to thrive.

**iii) Wild pigs:** Piglets collected from forest and house reared until one to two years age.

**iv) Ganjam Golla Breed:** Medium size, black skin, strong snout, barrel shaped abdomen, prolific grazing type of pigs.

#### F) Poultry Germplasm

**i) Kalahandi Breed :** Smallest, early maturing, prolific, high hatchability, fast growing birds living on scrap feeding. Good predator escaping ability.

**ii) Vezaguda Breed :** Medium size, quick growing, prolific, high hatchability, game type bird.

**iii) Dhinki Breed :** Large size, quick growing, least feathers, less prolific and low hatchability birds and are individual home fed.

**iv) Hazra Breed :** Medium to large size, quick growing, prolific poultry breed in Mayurbhanj district. The breast muscle is prominent.

**v) Phulbani Breed :** Medium in size, high prolific mostly with rose comb found in Phulbani district.

#### G) Duck Germplasm:

**i) Koraput and Kalahandi:** Have distinct white, black and white, Khaki duck with bluish black colour types. Known for good laying.

**ii) Muscovy Ducks:** Black, black and white and white feather type are seen. They are used for meat and tribals produce hybrids by crossing with other ducks for more meat.

**iii) Rajahansa or Geese :** Large, white plumage or with brownish or Khaki patches over wings.

Nearly one-third of world's livestock breeds are currently at risk of disappearing and the extinction rate is now estimated at about 6 breeds per month. Loss in biodiversity of animal genetic resources is more in developed countries than in developing countries due to use of few high producing breeds. The important factors affecting domestic animal biodiversity are : i) introduction of exotic germplasm for breeding programme, ii) reliance on few selected breeds known for high productivity under intensive system of management, iii) fluctuating market demand, iv) degradation of agro-ecosystem, v) outbreak of dreaded diseases, vi) Occurrence of natural disaster, and vii) war and political instability in a region.

Population of many of the important indigenous breeds of livestock of India and Odisha are declining at very fast. Some of them are at the verge of extinction. Concerted efforts are required to be taken at all levels to conserve the animal genetic resources so that it may yield the greatest sustainable benefit to present generation, while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspiration of future generation.

The following strategies are suggested for the conservation of livestock resources in the state.

1. Conduct research, documentation and study on the indigenous animals and birds of the State.
2. Increase awareness level of the value of local breeds and their significance as a reservoir for certain genetic traits.
3. Evaluate the economic and other benefits of local breeds in the context of village situation.
4. Give emphasis on improving the competitiveness of local breeds by means of selective breeding rather than cross breeding.
5. Involve community and Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) in conservation of local breeds.
6. Make planning under Comprehensive District Agriculture Plan (C-DAP) for conservation of local livestock breed.
7. Conduct census on local breed so that the correct picture could be generated and effective breeding programme can be framed.
8. Develop a state level data bank on livestock genetic resources with network facility to hook-up with national and international data bank.
9. Promote establishment of animal trusts, animal welfare bodies, breeder society, animal lover society and similar other bodies for protection and conservation of indigenous animal and they should be supported technically and financially.

10. Strengthen College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry under Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) to conduct research on indigenous breeds and develop awareness materials on the conservation of animal genetic resources.
11. State Government must initiate all measures to achieve the objective of conservation and improvement of native germplasm as advocated in "Odisha Bovine Breeding Policy, 2015". Government of Odisha must take proactively necessary steps in consultation with research institutions for survey and characterisation of native livestock for establishment of their uniqueness in terms of their confirmation, production and reproduction performances.

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## Empowering Differently-abled Women Through Livelihood Support

*Dr. Lenin Mohanty*

Throughout history people have helped each other in a number of ways. They have resisted the temptation to be selfish and reached out to their fellow human beings. Eminent writer J.K. Rowling has rightly said "We need not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already : we have the power to imagine better". In our country there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, Legislation, Policies, Plans, Programmes and related mechanism on the one hand and situational reality vis-a-vis the status of women on the other. Traditionally Indian society respects women. In reality however most women lead a difficult life. Women have the potential to change their economic status and that of their communities, yet their economic contributions are generally un-recognised and their work under valued women empowerment is vital for the sustainable development.

Women with Disabilities are at higher risk as far as violence is concerned. Teased, taunted, looked down upon, and spoken about instead of spoken to, Women with Disabilities experience the combined disadvantages associated with gender and disability. They live an invisible existence on the fringes of society; exclusion, stigma and prejudice



**Odisha has now made a paradigm shift from medical model of intervention to community based rehabilitation model for the disabled.**

are a routine aspect of their lives. Autonomy, respect, dignity and equality of personhood are denied to them. Women with Disabilities form a heterogeneous group, since disability and gender also intersect with other categories like type of disability, class, caste, ethnicity, and rural-urban residence. There is a lack of information and awareness about the rights of Women with Disabilities and therefore a lack of monitoring process.

According to 2011 Census total population of Odisha is 41,974,218 out of which male and female population is 21,212,136 and 20,762,082 respectively. 12,44,402 Persons with Disabilities live in Odisha among them 5,69,627 are Women with Disabilities and 6,74,775 are Men with Disabilities.

With a view to bring the Persons with Disabilities to the mainstream of society the state government has launched several social security schemes. To monitor proper implementation of these schemes, the state government has also created a new department namely Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

Under this department, the government aims to open district Disability Rehabilitation Centres. Facilities for conducting corrective surgery on differently-abled people will be available at these centres. Besides, a special industrial training institute will be opened at Jatni to impart vocational training to differently-abled persons.

During this financial year 2015-16, 292 numbers of Persons with Disabilities have been trained with varied skills training such as Repairing training, Dress design training and knowledge on Computers Fundamental training inside the VRCH campus, which is jointly organised by Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Handicapped (VRCH) under Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India, and Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD). Toolkit was distributed amongst 76 number of participants from Dress designing and 70 from Domestic Appliances repairing training were also distributed during the year, which will encourage them to use to set up their own start-ups. After receiving training, 28 trainees have already been placed in different sectors of the Industry. 20 PwDs were provided self-employment tool kits sponsored by Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC), and 45 PwDs were issued Completion Certificates.

Besides Government interference and initiation if each one of us try to play a small part



together we can bring about a change in the lives of common man. I have been associated with Shanta Memorial Rehabilitation Centre (SMRC) since my student age. My teacher Miss. Asha Hans is not only the team leader but also our inspiration. SMRC is a non-profit organization working in the field of disability since 1985. Its mission has been to work with solidarity on issue of disability and gender, with an aim to create a world that is non-violent, just, and equal.

The intersection between gender and disability presents itself as a social, economical, health and human rights issue. Women with Disabilities face double discrimination in present society. Due to exclusion and stigma women with disabilities continue to be neglected both in disability specific and gender specific programs and policies. They get very rare opportunity to share their views and concerns. Even if they face violence from within and outside their home environment their voice remains unheard and issues remain unaddressed.

This year too SMRC distributed livelihood support to 30 women with disabilities at Youth Hostel, Puri. I was fortunate to be a part of this empowerment programme, along with DSWO of Puri and, Protection Officer, the

**5 to 10% of Indians face some disability conditions.**



director of JSS and programmer manager of SMRC Ms. Reena Mohanty. The DSWO appreciated the initiative of SMRC to provide livelihood support to women with disabilities. She also mentioned that disability pension and aids and appliances are not going to take women with disabilities forward in their life, if they are not provided with an opportunity for economic activities.

The protection officer spoke about various forms of domestic violence and how an aggrieved can file a case. She also encouraged the women with disabilities to make the best use of those IEC materials to lead a dignified life.

The director of JSS elaborated on the inherent skills and abilities among women with disabilities. He mentioned that disability is not in body; it is in the mindset of people and if women with disabilities get chance they can also excel in their lives.

**When women are empowered, families benefit, and this benefits are passed on to future generations as well.**

The secretary of SNDYAP requested all the women with disabilities to utilize this opportunity and fulfill their desires through the support of SMRC.

I personally feel that economic independence plays a pivotal role in human beings life. If a woman is economically independent then she is less likely to face domestic violence. Such initiatives boost self confidence in women with disabilities and pave the way for a violence free life. Women with disabilities should make the most of it and become self sufficient.

In the programme women with disabilities have received support like materials for petty shop, tea shop and grocery shop. Some of them received tailoring machine and 2 women with disabilities received materials for making "Mukta" (Pearl) which is in high demand in Puri district. One woman with disability got a grinding machine to make Badi locally used in household food items.

At last, women with disabilities shared their feelings after getting the support and explained how they will take forward it.

Amongst the empowered multi-talented disabled women entrepreneurship I was able to notice a row of happiness, full of self-confidence, with a line of positivity and self-assurance.

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

## Elimination of Hereditary and Caste-based Bonded Labour System

*Baghambar Pattanaik*

As per K.B. Saxena report published by NHRC, widespread restrictions exist in villages in relation to essential services particularly those of barbers and washermen. The study on untouchability practices in 1,589 villages of Gujarat published in Frontline May 16, 2014 reads that Dalits couldn't use the services of local barbers in 73% of villages. As per custom and tradition barbers and washermen cut hair and wash clothes only of General castes but not of Scheduled Castes under *jajamani* system of occupation. They render such service for meagre amount customarily paid once or twice a year either in cash or in kind called *bartan* in Odisha whose nomenclature differs from state to state. Therefore *jajamani* system or *bartan* system of barbers and washermen perpetuates untouchability across the country.

The order passed by NHRC on dt.15.07.2008 reads, "The system of *bartan* envisages giving and taking of advance and thereby creates the relationship of debtor and creditor. The person taking the advance is called *sewak* by reason of his birth in a particular caste or community and he is forced to render service for the whole year in consideration of the advance. This being the factual position, there can be no doubt that the practice of *bartan* is a manifestation of the bonded labour system as defined in Section 2 (g) of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976."

The Notification issued by Government of Odisha on dt.17.2.2011 reads, "It is hereby notified that such practice of offering *bartan* to get the traditional/ customary services of barbers and washermen should be abolished. Anybody compelling any barber/washerman to render traditional service shall be punishable under Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976."

On the basis of Notification issued by the Government of Odisha, 1502 nos. of *bartan* -receiving barbers and washermen have been identified and released from bonded labour system in Puri and Cuttack districts so far as per their complaints filed with National Human Rights Commission or Odisha Human Rights Commission. Such process also continues in various other districts of Odisha. Barbers and washermen are absolutely required for customary menial service at the time of funeral rites of upper castes across India. But no other state has issued any notification in line with that issued in Odisha for elimination of *jajamani* or *bartan* system of barbers and washermen under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a case delivered its judgment on dt.15.10.2012 directing to conduct periodical survey on bonded labour once in three years by following the methodology formulated by S.R. Shankaran with suitable modification to suit local conditions. But no state has yet

modified the methodology to conduct survey on bonded barbers and washermen working under *jajamani* system of occupation. No communication has also been made by the Government of India to all States/UTs for conducting survey of *jajamani* system of occupation of barbers and washermen by modifying the methodology in line with the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Government of India has also not enhanced the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Survey of Bonded Labour from the present limit of Rs.2.00 lakhs per district from the year 2000 for which no State/UT has yet conducted any survey by following the methodology with suitable modifications to suit local *jajamani* system of occupation of barbers and washermen. Therefore it has resulted in continuation of untouchability and bonded labour system across the country.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also in its judgment dated 15.10.2012 directed to enhance the rehabilitation package from the present limit of Rs.20,000.00 which remains unchanged till date. No enhancement has also been made on various components of the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour since its modification in May, 2000. Although the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 15.10.2012 has given the responsibility of conducting surveys to District Bonded Labour Vigilance Committees and Sub-Divisional Bonded Labour Vigilance Committees, still no infrastructure facilities have been provided under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour for which whatever such Committees formed remain defunct without any action.

On a memorandum filed with the Hon'ble President of India to consider giving 100% subsidy for rehabilitation of bonded labourers if the Governments express its inability to provide 50% share of financial

assistance for the purpose, due to financial constraints. It has been forwarded from the President's Secretariat (Public-1 Section) to the Ministry of Labour and Employment vide SI. No.: P1/E/1403140254 Date 14 March 2014. But there is no action on it.

1. Whether have all the States and UTs modified the methodology of identification of bonded labour with suitable modifications to suit local condition of *jajamani* system of occupation as per Supreme Court direction and communicated to District Magistrates to follow? Provide such modified methodology to suit local condition of *jajamani* system of occupation modified by every State and UT. If not, the reminder of the Ministry to States/UTs may, please be provided.

2. Whether has the Ministry enhanced various components of Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour including Rehabilitation Grants as per Supreme Court direction? Provide the enhanced components of the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme. If not the reason thereof may, please be stated.

3. Whether has the Ministry considered for providing infrastructure facilities for the District and Sub-Divisional Bonded Labour Vigilance Committees? If not, the reason thereof may, please be stated.

4. What has the Ministry considered giving 100% subsidy for rehabilitation of bonded labour to Governments who express their inability to provide 50% share of financial assistance for the purpose, due to financial constraints as per memorandum forwarded from the President's Secretariat (Public-1 Section) to the Ministry of Labour and Employment vide SI. No.: P1/E/1403140254 Date 14 March 2014? If not the reason thereof may please be stated.

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# Smart City and Sustainable Environmental Design

*Ar. Ipsita Dash*

## **Abstract :**

'At the fringe of our awareness, they control the world around us. At times they even dare to control us. Yet they are now so familiar, so mundane, that we hardly notice.' The old cities of concrete, glass and steel now conceals a vast underworld of computers and software. This digital upgrade to our built legacy is giving rise to a new kind of city a 'smart city'. 'Smart cities are places where information technology is wielded to address problems old and new.' The goal of the cities are to improve the urban network and flow.

The concept of smart city surfaced in the late 90s. The purpose of a smart city is to reduce traffic, save energy and improve public safety.<sup>1</sup>

## **Introduction :**

Urban expansion is the biggest building boom humanity will ever undertake. Climate change has been another significant factor in the development of smart cities, in the hopes that modifying our highly populated urban areas will reduce gas and waste production. This paper deals with the understanding of smart cities and the relevance of sustainable environmental design.

Few questions that this paper tries to answer are - What are the features of smart cities ? How smart city concepts are possible in other countries ? Role of sustainable environmental design in smart city, Smart use of renewable energy, and implementation of smart city concept in India.

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia.

Few examples of smart cities are Amsterdam, Barcelona, Milton Kenyans, Santa Cruz and Stockholm. In this paper the city of Barcelona is discussed. The vision of making it a smart city happened 10 years ago.

## **Model City of Barcelona :**

The model city of Barcelona won the first European Capital of Innovation Award in 2014. According to Boyd Cohen, a famous urban and climate strategist, a Smart City ranks high, based on these six "Smart" indicators : Smart Economy, Smart Environment, Smart Government, Smart Mobility, Smart Living, and Smart People. Its citizens live in a vibrant culture with an open government trying to improve green living spaces, and it makes wise investments in the future. It has the following features for a better quality of life :

1. In 2001, 200 hectares of industrial sites were redeveloped in Barcelona and converted to hubs for technology and innovation.
2. The presence of enterprises allows the creation of cluster areas in several fields of knowledge in which Barcelona is able to obtain international leadership.<sup>2</sup>
3. SIIUR project (integral solution for urban infrastructure) was developed in Barcelona for urban infrastructure and services to manage cities in a more efficient and more intelligent way. The main aim was to save energy and improve the efficiency. The zones where this energy saving measures were carried out were street lights, sensors and detectors, centralizing the communications.
4. Self-powered lighting units also use the hybrid solar and mini wind power, while some rely on solar power technology. These techniques generate enough energy without being connected to electricity. And, cutting the city's energy bill even further, the self-sufficient building projects in the city monitor the energy, so that any deviations on consumption can be quickly corrected.
5. Environment, mobility within and outside, research and innovation sectors, communications, and tourism have been developing through the private and public initiatives. Transportation is one feature which is well taken care off in Barcelona. The bus system have urban sustainable mobility which reduce harmful emissions. 'Bicing' which is a bicycle sharing system is also an economical form of transport designed for short distances.
6. Seven hours of sunshine a day helps Barcelona take advantage of solar energy. The solar energy use was first started in 2006.
7. Drop off bins are installed in neighborhood areas which have sensors which get activated when the rubbish is thrown. The

sensor also gives data to the central system by detecting the trash level.

Smart technologies that get used in different parts of the world to make a smarter city are solar bike paths in Netherlands, smart traffic lights for bicycles in London, smart waste disposal in South Korea, squats for free rides in Mexico and electric vehicles generating power in Berlin.<sup>3</sup>

### **Role of Sustainable Environmental Design :**

Sustainable environmental design in cities is the call of the day. Cities home 54% of the world population and by 2050, about 75% of the population will be residing in cities. Global architecture now needs alternative solutions to the exhausting usage of resources. Through sustainable environmental design, environmental conditions and quality of life can be sought after. The intelligent use of Technology can manage energy and resources more effectively, thereby adapting to the changing urban environment. This technology can analyze the need of users. The 2020 energy targets need reduction in carbon dioxide content by 20%, 20% increase in energy efficiency and 20% of energy coming from renewables.<sup>4</sup>

Sustainable environmental design also focuses on climate change and the use of renewable sources of energy. Climate change is embedded at the global, national, regional and local levels. This is addressed by the linkages of sustainability at different levels. Renewable sources of energy are important because this century is facing an energy crisis. The rate of renewable energy development is slow but with the general awareness of public and government

<sup>2</sup> Barcelona smart city tour pdf.

<sup>3</sup> Barcelona. A city of the future ? Esther Jones (2015).

<sup>4</sup> Barcelona. A city of the future ? Esther Jones (2015).

initiatives, it is growing. The future of energy sector globally is, renewable energy. Space based solar power, human power generated from movement, tidal power, Hydrogen power, geothermal energy from lava, biofuels, flying wind farms, and nuclear power are some of them.

### **Smart city concept in India:**

The satellite town concept came in India to avoid urban decay. Planned settlements began developing far away from the parent metropolitan city. However inclusiveness in the huge tracts of land could not happen, thereby, leading to the formation of the smart city mission. Enhancement of performance of buildings and optimization of the resources are the basic criteria for this mission.

India needs to build the equivalent of a new Chicago every year to keep up with the demand of urban housing. Development of smart cities in India is under the smart city mission. The mission will outline the features that can be replicated both inside and outside of the cities. Modern technology can be used to create a sustainable and self-aware cities.

India has embarked upon the project of creating 100 smart cities within a duration of five years, starting from 2015, and by developing the existing cities. The core elements that is needed for smart city development in India are proper water and electricity supply, sanitation and waste management, urban mobility and efficient public transport, education for all, safety and security of citizens, connectivity and digitization, good health and the most important of all-sustainable environmental development. Smart city mission will be operated as a sponsored scheme of the central government. The high-tech 'smart' devices,

sensors and low-tech bio-mimicry designs will tend to improve operation and life. Having zero footprint through water consumption, by rainwater collection minimize production of green house gases by adaptive architecturing and cutting on destructive living standards are the other objectives to achieve for the cities to be designated as smart cities.

### **Conclusion:**

The city and its citizens need to adapt to the technology for making a city smarter. Retrofitting of old building, efficient use of the services, self-sufficient building and energy generating devices need to be implemented. The life choices of individuals need to be improved. An aware society can lead to a smarter surrounding.

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## My Fond Memories of A Memorable Man

*Surendra Nath Nayak*

The great son of Odisha may be the legendary Biju Patnaik of the stormy petrel of Indian politics or the “Bhoomiputra” of Indonesia. But for me he is Biju Babu. He has left his stamp on Paradeep Port, NALCO, MIG Factory. Sainik School, OTM of Choudwar, Iron Works of Barbil and Rourkela Steel Plant, Talcher Thermal Power Project and Balimela Hydro Power Project. These have made him memorable in bringing progress of Odisha on the tracks. Biju Babu’s life of protracted struggle will always remain a beacon light as long as this Odia race lives. His was a struggle to awake them from their torpor. He was too big for me to measure him. But I always felt blessed being in his august company for more than four decades.

Before entering into politics Biju Patnaik was head and shoulders above the rest and he was much ahead of his time is known from the Kalinga Prize instituted for the popularization of Science which made its mark under UNESCO. Science was the flag bearer of progress filtered into popular psyche. Sixty five individuals from twenty four countries have so far received the prize, six of whom have been Nobel laureates. That apart, he has never shied away from inspiring meritorious students from pursuing proper studies in future. His financial help made them stalwarts in their own field of study. This was not a mere

prize, it was a spirit of this flamboyant man which he wanted to permeate into people’s mindset.

Biju Babu remained in active politics for more than 60 years from the Independence struggle days till he breathed his last. Politics was for him a medium for public service, struggle and progress of mankind. He involved himself in the upliftment of general public by keeping safe distance from the limbo of narrow politics and politicking. He had a divine gift of rising above caste, creed or colour which endeared him to all sections of people. He made this his capital and went on his mission of making Odisha a progressive state. His efforts have borne fruit visibly. But there are possibilities galore and a lot of work remains to be done.

I enjoyed very intimate relations with him. From 60’s till he left us for his heavenly abode, I have been inseparable in his sojourn. I have never entered into the portals of higher education, nor did I enjoy the privilege of being born into well-to-do family. I have umpteen memories of how his fatherly affection made me and a host of others very loyal to him. Our petty failures did not go unpunished. He admonished in his way. A good work was given right support making him an inexhaustible source of inspiration. On the occasion of his Birth-Centenary I feel exhilarated to throw light on some incidents.

Some events need to be narrated to throw light on the icon's mindset, paradigm and personality. One very touching incident has been narrated by his daughter, the noted author Gita Mehta. In an interview her question to him was what was his worst memory of the British Raj. She thought Biju Babu would make mention of his brutal beating by an irate police sergeant for apparently no reason. The sergeant made a free play of his trencher on Biju Babu's head which left him with five-inch gash on his head. He also had suffered solitary confinement. But instead, the father says, "Once I was asked to fly a British Colonel and his adjutant to North-West Frontier. I was climbing into the cockpit. 'My God! I am not going up in an airplane flown by a bloody native the colonel told. Of course, he did not have any option. So I landed in a field about a hundred miles from Quetta, the hottest place in India during summer. And it was damn hot in that field, without a tree for miles. The colonel was sweating and abusing natives'. 'What did you do'. Was the daughter's question after that.

Biju Babu replied: "God back into the cockpit, told him to find someone who was not a bloody native to fly him, and took off, leaving him to walk to Quetta."

Biju Babu efficiently flew freedom fighters like Jayaprakash Narayan, Rama Manohar Lohia, Aruna Asaf Ali and Achyut Patbardhan to secret places in Bombay and Delhi in British fighter planes. That speaks of the daredevilry of Biju Patnaik which could not be thought of at that time when the British ruled the globe.

On the early 1960's there was no motorable road from Cuttack to Paradip. Prime Minister Nehru had to sail from Anantpur Lock of Kujang to Paradip to lay foundation stones of Paradip Port. Biju Babu and Nilamani Babu were

with him. Nilamani Babu has written the following in his autobiography.

Nehru was sitting on the deck enjoying nature. Biju Babu was trying to show him his vision of progress of Odisha in a chart. Nehru felt incensed and shouted back, "You damn fool! You have no sense of proportion. I am having a little relaxation and you chose to disturb me." But Biju Babu was not unnerved. He raised his voices a little and said "A slight glance of the P.M. at this can change the fate of this backward state and you are reluctant to do that. After Nehru, will India have a Prime Minister who will rise above his own state interest and look to the interest of poor state like Odisha"? Nehru burst into laughter and said, "Oh, you know the trick". Then Nehru studied the charts and notes. All these come to fruition in what we know as Paradip today. The next day on 3.1.1962 Nehru inaugurated Paradip Port.

Nehru left us in 1964. Biju Babu fell into bad times. The then Govt. of Odisha instituted Khanna Commission against Biju Babu on trumped up charges. Appearing in the Commission Biju Babu triumphantly said, "I have snapped some bureaucratic red tape. That I have done in the interest of the people of the state. If this misdemeanour deserves hanging, the Commission may hang me." The Commission desisted from indicting him and instead, praised him for a lot of good work. (Khanna Commission Report Jan. 15, 1969)

Biju Babu had a pathological indignation for idleness and statusquoism. He always put pressure on the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steel Plant in Odisha. Even P.M. Indira Gandhi went to the extent of saying in her speech in the Parade Field of Bhubaneswar that when Odisha does not have a good bicycle factory Biju Babu's demand for a second steel plant is

unrealistic. “In the dinner the same day Biju Babu refused her invitation to attend. The next day she flew to Visakhapatnam and Hospet in the South and laid foundation stone for steel plants. Biju Babu felt neglected and the dejection led him to bid good bye to Congress and form a regional outfit in 1970, ‘Utkal Congress’. Election was held in 1971. Biju Babu, perhaps belonged to these few who like Robert Kennedy, said I dream of things that never were and wonder why not. Biju Babu got defeated in four assembly and one Lok Sabha constituencies. But his party got 33 members, one of whom was me, elected to the state assembly which formed government aligning with Swatantra Party under the leadership of Biswanath Das. His electoral failure did not deter him from pursuing his mission of staying in politics with the same dash, doggedness and flamboyances which yielded fruit in the years that followed.

In 1984 a meeting was held to select candidates for the Lok Sabha in the forthcoming election in the party office. Stalwarts like Rabi Ray, Nilamani Routray, Pratap Mohanty were present in the meeting. I proposed the name of veteran freedom fighter and previous member of Parliament Sri Padma Charan Samantray’s name for Puri Lok Sabha Constituency. Biju Babu flared up and told, “Why do you take the name of a person who is not capable of spending 5 to 10 thousand rupees in the election? Nobody is prepared to assess the financial position of the Party. I have sold everything and at last my Delhi House”. A bitter altercation between him and me followed. Biju Babu told, “argue no more or else I will suspend you from the Party”. This shocked me no end. I left the meeting and went to Cuttack. Then he asked for me. In the afternoon my friend Ashok Das took me to Naveen Niwas where his cook Khairati told me that he (Biju Babu) has not taken a morsel of food after he came from

the meeting. On seeing me, he told “What did I tell you, so that you left the meeting?” “Please forgive me. I felt insulted when you told to suspend me. So I left the meeting in a huff.” “Well, what has happened has happened. Let us take dinner,” he said. This was the relation I enjoyed with him.

After the Emergency in 1977 Lok Sabha election Janata Party swept the polls. Biju Babu became Cabinet Minister in the Centre. State Assembly election was held after some time. Janata Party came to power. After the government was formed I was made the Deputy Speaker, perhaps as Biju Babu had a say in all matters. In the 1990 election, Janata Party came to power in Odisha and Biju Babu became Chief Minister. I was made the Minister, Revenue and Excise. Some party bigwigs did not see eye to eye with Biju Babu’s decision as I was not highly qualified. But Biju Babu stood his ground steadfastly. I took all these as a challenge.

The general practice during that time was a tacit understanding with wine dealers in providing licence. Some members of the ministry were of the opinion to raise the number of dealers for more revenue. This did not go down well with me. I insisted on open tender /auction process for more excise revenue. A lobby worked against me and tried to influence the Chief Minister. He appreciated my stand and growth in revenue vindicated my decision. The most challenging task before me when I was Minister, Revenue, was the district reorganisation. A lot of bottlenecks came in the way. But the daunting task of raising the number of districts from 13 to 30 could be possible because of Biju Babu’s unbending leadership and firm decision making. People of my state must be appreciating the better administrative efficiency it rendered them. The entire credit goes to my leader and path-finder Sri Biju Patnaik. A small thing is still deeply

ingrained in my mind. After he became Chief Minister, he advised all ministers to stay in their houses instead of in Govt. Quarters, if they have their own houses. "You have a small house in Ashok Nagar", he told me. In a lighter vein he asked me to arrange dinner at my Ashok Nagar house for him and some ministers. I arranged dinner. He relished food and appreciated his orders being obeyed.

A peculiar incident of that time strikes me. A landless labourer of Sambalpur district appealed to the district administration to come to his rescue. Though he did it for a number of times, the district administration remained unmoved. The man declared to self immolate if he is not heard. Administration maintained its Sphinx like silence and the landless man set fire to his body and died. In 1988 the then Prime Minister ordered for an enquiry. Member, Board of Revenue, gave his report indicting the District Collector. This report came to my notice in 1992. I recommended for the suspension of the District Collector and sent the file to the Chief Minister who took no time to stand by my order. This was a hot topic of discussion both inside assembly and outside. Some colleagues even went on saying that suspending an I.A.S, was unfair. But Biju Babu declared in his grave baritone voice, "my revenue minister has done his duty justifiably. A district collector is like father and mother of the common man. Allowing a deprived man to commit suicide before him is a crime. I have ordered for his suspension on the recommendation of my revenue minister." Sympathy, empathy and steadfastness are the hallmark of this towering person.

In 1992 after I toured Sambalpur district with MLA, Sri Prasanna Panda. Sri Panda, raised a touching question of 8744 persons being forced to manage with compensation of paltry Rs.300/-

per acre. Biju Babu was touched and felt incensed. He took up cudgels on behalf of the suffering people. He asked member of Board of Revenue, Mr. Sundarrajan to find ways to help the distraught people. No legal way to revive compensation. Ex-gratia was the way and Biju Babu accepted it with candour. Rs.10,000/- was earmarked to be paid per acre. But shockingly all people have not received the ex-gratia till date.

Severe drought wrought famine like condition in undivided Kalahandi. Acute condition forced people to sell children to mitigate hunger. The Hon'ble High Court, passing orders on a PIL, directed the State Government to pay Rs.25,000/- to each family visited by death. Death due to hunger was a truth, Hon'ble Court said. There was a proposal to appeal to the Supreme Court against the High Court Orders. I refused it point blank. But bureaucratic machinations obtained approval from Chief Minister to move to the Apex Court.

It shocked me no end. I rushed to the Chief Minister and explained him the matter. He changed his decision forthwith. The government grant of Rs.25,000/- was followed by his personal assistance of another Rs.25,000/- and a free house to each bereaved family.

The district of Ganjam was hit by devastating flood. I accompanied the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary to the flood affected areas. We moved from village to village. Biju Babu was hit when he fell down at a place. People urged us to visit more villages. Evening was near. Helicopter cannot fly after evening. Some people pulled us to stay back. Biju Babu pulled me from the crowd and we came back to Bhubaneswar in the helicopter. He immediately took steps for adequate relief.

In 1994 while on a tour to Bhawanipatna a youngman pelted stones which injured him. When I and my colleague Nalini Mohanty wanted to proceed to see him, he stopped us admonishingly. Police caught the assailant and brought him before Biju Babu. Biju Babu told in a lighter tone. "What harm did I cause you so that you hit me which left me bleeding?" The man answered "We do this at the instigation of other leaders. I did not have any motive." Biju Babu advised him not to indulge in such activities and asked the police to let him go.

31<sup>st</sup> March, 1997- I met him in the Party Office for the last time in life and sat close to him. He was then Member of Parliament. He usually comes to Party Office at 9 in the morning. "Why are you ( meaning all party members) behaving like this ?", he frowningly told. "I am not telling about you. I have your friends in mind." He sorrowfully uttered. At 10 O'clock the same day he addressed a youth group in the institution of Engineers building. I accompanied him. His entire lecture was tinged with emotion. "I expect a lot from you, young men of Odisha, so do not frustrate me." After this meeting which was his last, he went to Delhi and was admitted into hospital because of illness. I along with a lot of

his followers left for Delhi to see him. The icon, who always exploded against our people's dormant and unresponsive ways, was calmly struggling for life. My heart was sheared into smithereens. 17 days' of best medical treatment failed to save him. He left. Why me alone, the whole of Odisha mourned and felt bereaved. History will tell whether his dear Odisha will disappoint him or not. An era ended with his death. His dead body was brought from Delhi to Naveen Niwas and from there to Puri Swargadwar where it was cremated. I lost myself in the sea of humanity that was a part of his last journey to the burial. To pay tribute to the great soul national leaders like the Prime Minister, ex-Prime Minister and a host of national leaders converged at Puri. Lakhs of people in tearful eyes were crying their hearts out when his mortal frame was being reduced to ash on the funeral pyre. It struck me as if everything was over.

The great soul is no more. But his memories remind us of an icon who had an unending struggle to raise his people from the morass of deprivation.

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Surendra Nath Nayak, Ex-Minister, Odisha

# The Marriage System of the Kishan Tribe of Western Odisha

Laxman Kishan

## Abstract

*This paper attempts to study the marriage system of Kisan Tribe of Western Odisha. It attempts to outline how the institution of marriage has undergone changes due to modernization and other factors. As a whole the institution of marriage has undergone dynamic changes under the influence of Hinduisation as well as modernization. The significance of tradition, culture and value system of Kisan are gradually losing their meaning to the young and educated Kisan. This paper would highlight the changes in traditional marriage system of the Kisan tribe of Western Odisha.*

**KEYWORDS :** Kisan, Kunhar, Oraon, Rice Beer, Grooms, Vermilion, Sindura.

## Introduction:

The Kisan tribe is a numerically larger community in Odisha, the home land of 62 different Scheduled Tribes distributed in all the thirty districts of the state of Odisha. The Kisan people are a peasant community. They are agriculturist. They cultivate and thus are called as Kisan. The Kisans call themselves as "Kunhar" which means hill men. They are known by various names according to the place of their residence. In Sundargarh district they are called as 'Kuda' or 'Kor' and even 'Mirdha' whereas in Kuchinda area of Sambalpur district they are known as 'Kola' or 'Morva'. The Kisan of Odisha use surnames such as Eka (Tortoise), Kujur (A kind of leafy plant), Kindo (A kind of fish seula), Tapo

(A kind of Bird), Tigar (Monkey), Punner (Iron), Babala (Wild dog), Minz ( Kite), Majhi (Term used for the boatmen), Bada (Bangan), Bahala, Bekur (salt), Lakada (Tiger), Hesar (Paddy), ha-ha and Kisan after their names. Probably they came to Odisha earlier than Oraons and settled in the states of Gangapur, Bonai and Bamanda. According to their local traditions they first lived under the patronage of Bhuinya chiefs and later migrated to different parts either in search of land or labour. Now the Kisan is a peasant community and many of them possess land of their own. The tribe is very adaptive. In most areas people of other castes and tribes are their immediate neighbour. The name of Kisan is found in the list of Schedule Tribes in the state of Odisha. According to 2001 census, the total population

of Kisan in Odisha is 321592, i.e. 3.94 % of the total tribal population of the state. Their sex ratio comes to 933 female per 1000 males. Their level of literacy is 50.19 per cent for all, 64.43 per cent for males and 35.88 per cent for females. Their cultural life enriched with traditions, values, performing arts, faiths and festivals. The unique culture of the Kisan has undergone changes under the influence of Hinduisation as well as modernization. The significance of tradition, culture and value system of Kisan are gradually losing their meaning to the young and educated Kisan.

### **Methodology:**

To make a systematic study on the marriage system of the Kisan tribe of Western Odisha the author adopted an appropriate method of data collection for the Ethno-Historical study which includes – field study, interviewing the people, data collection from different sources (primary as well as secondary sources) report writing by asking or interviewing with different persons of the Kisan tribe. This paper would use both research materials from State Library, State Archives and visual data in the form of photographs and ST, SC Welfare Department. The observation method is also to be used here.

### **Marriage rituals:**

Marriage is a remarkable event in the life of Kisan people. It is a ritual union between a man and woman. Marriage as a social institution is found in almost all the societies. The life cycle of Kisan passes through such events as conception, birth, childhood, adulthood, marriage, old and death. The rituals associated with life cycle are also cautiously observed. The Kisan marriage custom strictly follows the principle of endogamy. Monogamy is the practice, but the Kisan society also considers the bigamy. Marriage within the same clan or to a member of any other caste or

tribe is forbidden. The Kisan prefer adult and arranged marriages. In some cases, marriages by mutual consent, phony capture, elopement and service are also considered acceptable. Marriage with one's mother's brother's daughter is common. The bride price called as Kania Muli Hesu (Kanya mula or Suka mula). It may be ten Khani (One quintal rice). The Kisan society is divided into various clans. As Kisan is strictly exogenous in nature, marriage within the same group is strictly prohibited. The clan exogamy is due to the fact that, the member of a Bansa is believed to have descended from common mythical ancestor and are related to each other by blood tie. The Kisan usually marry outside their clan. Monogamous marriage is most preferred and cross cousin marriage is widely observed. Generally adult marriage takes place. The following modes of marriages are found among the Kisan society. 1. Marriage by negotiation or arrange, 2. Marriage by Capture, 3. Marriage by love, 4. Marriage by Intrusion, 5. Marriage by Adoption, 6. Marriage by Exchange and 7. Widow Remarriage.

Among all these forms of marriages, the marriage by negotiation is very common. Except this form of marriage all forms of marriages are arranged at the groom's residence. Bride price is widely prevalent in Kisan society and it is paid by the groom's father to settle up the marriage. Marriage takes place on a platform erected in the courtyard of groom's house. The Kalo officiates as the priest. Vermillion is applied by the groom to the girls forehead. The ends of their clothes are tied together usually by bride's sister. They circumambulate the platform for seven times invoking Dharme Belas/Dharam Rajas the supreme God and Goddess. All forms of marriages are arranged at the groom's residence. For marriage by negotiation, a mediator becomes necessary to pursue with the marriage formalities.

The mediator first approaches the bride's father. Then on an appointed day, the groom and his relatives visit the bride's house. They carry with them rice and rice-beer, dal, goat, cock etc. The marriage consent is symbolically given. The grooms party prepare their food and in the evening they sing and dance with the girls of the village. The next morning they return back. Similarly a party of the bride's relatives, unaccompanied by the bride, pay a visit to the groom's village. After the bride price is agreed upon by both the parties, a date is fixed for marriage with the consent of the village Kalo. Usually marriages are solemnized during the post harvest months.

On the morning of the day fixed for the ceremony, some members of the groom's family, proceed towards the bride's village with rice beer and present to escort the bride. In the afternoon they escort the bride, accompanied by the brides relatives, when they approach the groom's village at the outskirts, a mock fight begins between both the parties. After this, the bride is greeted to the house. A platform is erected for this purpose in the courtyard of the groom's house. In the evening, both the groom and the bride sit on the pandal, rice is cooked on the spot in a new earthen pot. The Kalo worships the Dharme Belas and other Gods. The marriage ritual ends with giving Vermillion to the bride by her new husband and feasting and dancing follow throughout the night. Divorce is allowed in the Kisan society but it must be sanctioned by the members of the family and community council. Ceremonial marriage according to tribal tradition is called Benja. The main features of the Benja are that selection of partner is made by the father or some other guardians of the person to be married. A mediator called Agua is appointed to negotiate between both of the families. The amount of bride price must be settled to mutual satisfaction. The village headman must also be consulted to the clan.

Consequently marriage can take place only during those months of the year when there is not much pressure of work in the field. The symbols of matrimony for women include *sindur* (vermillion in the mid hair parting), glass or lacquer bangles, earrings and toy rings. The practice of bride price is prevalent among them. Divorce due to adultery, maladjustment, impotency and cruelty is socially permissible. Re-marriage of widows, widowers and divorcee are also socially approved. A widow may marry her younger brother-in law, while a widower is allowed to marry his younger sister-in-law.

### Conclusion:

Although they have been greatly influenced by Hinduism, their practice of animism is unabated. They have undergone with perceptible changes due to influence of education, development interventions, hinduisation and modernization. The Kisan marriage rituals are same like Gand, Munda, Santal, Kharia, Kolha and Ho. But in some extent it is little bit different from other tribal groups. The marriage is within their tribe, inter-tribe marriage is strictly tabooed in all tribes. Previously, after payment of bride price, the father of bride allowed the bride to accompany the father of grooms and marriage was performed in the house of bride-groom. But now-a-days, the father of bride wants to welcome the Barat Party at his village and house. On the occasion of marriage, the bride, groom and their parents do not wear black clothes. They wear red, yellow and white dresses. Previously, they use *Palaki* to carry the bride and groom. But now bicycle or rickshaw is used for this purpose. Previously, the members of the Barat were served meat, rice and *handia*, but now they are served *mahua* liquor with meat and rice. Previously they danced on *mandar* but now they dance on loudspeaker. Domkach dance and play are

organized in the house of the groom by female members on the day of marriage. This ritual is still continuing. The marriage is considered successful when the couple is blessed with a child. For the happy married life, the blessings of Gods, Goddess and elders are taken. Worships and sacrifices are made in the name of different spirits. Bigamy and divorce are considered as permissible, but they practice monogamy. The unique culture of the Kisan has undergone changes under the influence of modernization. The educated Kisan people are adopted the new methods of marriage system which has crossed the blind faiths and rituals of the Kisan. Rituals of the Kisan tribe are still on practice but some of them are removed from the list. Gradually the use of rice beer is avoided by young mass and in the place of rice beer the modern educated Kisan are using foreign liquor. But some of the Kisan people are still strictly observing their own cultural practices.

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# Insurance and the Legal Mechanism of IRDA

*Raj Kumar Minz*

Insurance is a form of contract or agreement under one party agrees in return of a consideration to pay an agreed amount of money to another party to make goods for a loss, damage, injury to something of value. Insurance, in law and economics, is a form of risk management primarily used to hedge against the risk of a contingent loss. Insurance is defined as the equitable transfer of the risk of a potential loss, from one entity to another, in exchange for a premium. Insurance rate is a factor used to determine the amount, called the premium, to be charged for a certain amount of insurance coverage.

Insurance is of two types which is Life Insurance and General Insurance or Non-Life Insurance. The business of life insurance in India started in the year 1818 with establishment of the Oriental Life Insurance Company in Calcutta.

Some of the important milestones in the life insurance business in India are:

- 1818 - Oriental Life Insurance Company – 1st Insurance Company.
- 1870 - Bombay Mutual Life Assurance Society – 1st Life Insurance Company 1912 - The Indian Life Assurance Companies Act enacted the 1st Law to regulate the Life Insurance Business.

- 1928 - The Indian Insurance Companies Act enacted to enable the government to collect statistical information about both life and non-life insurance businesses.
- 1938: Earlier legislation consolidated and amended the Insurance Act with the objective of protecting the interests of the insuring public.
- 1956: 245 Indian and foreign insurers and provident societies are taken over by the central government and nationalized. LIC formed by an Act of Parliament, viz. LIC Act, 1956, with a capital contribution of Rs.5 crore from the Government of India.

The General Insurance business in India, on the other hand, traces its roots by the Triton Insurance Company Ltd. The first General Insurance Company was established in the year 1850 in Calcutta by the British.

Some of the important milestones in the general insurance business in India are:

- 1907: The Indian Mercantile Insurance Ltd. set up- the first company to transact all classes of general insurance business.
- 1957: General Insurance Council, a wing of the Insurance Association of India, frames a code of conduct for ensuring fair conduct and sound business practices.

- 1968: The Insurance Act amended to regulate investments and set minimum solvency margins and the Tariff Advisory Committee set up.
- 1972: The general insurance business in India nationalised through The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, with effect from 1st January 1973.

Insurers amalgamated and grouped from 107 insurers into four companies- The National Insurance Company Limited, The New India Assurance Company Limited, The Oriental Insurance Company Limited and The United India Insurance Company Ltd. GIC incorporated as a company. Insurance Sector Reforms In 1993, Malhotra Committee- headed by former Finance Secretary and RBI Governor R.N. Malhotra- was formed to evaluate the Indian insurance industry and recommend its future direction. The Malhotra committee was set up with the objective of complementing the reforms initiated in the financial sector. The reforms were aimed at creating a more efficient and competitive financial system suitable for the requirements of the economy keeping in mind the structural changes currently underway and recognising that insurance is an important part of the overall financial system where it was necessary to address the need for similar reforms. In 1994, the committee submitted the report and some of the key recommendations.

### **LEGAL FRAME WORK**

The insurance sector went through a full circle of phases from being unregulated to completely regulate and then currently being partly deregulated. It is governed by a number of acts with the first one being the Insurance Act, 1938. legislation governing all forms of insurance business to control over the insurance with strict provisions.

### **LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION ACT 1956**

Eventhough the first legislation was enacted in 1938, it was on 19.01.1956, that the life insurance in India was completely nationalised through a government ordinance i.e the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 effective from 01.09.1956 was enacted in the same year. There were 245 insurance companies of both Indian and foreign origin in 1956. Nationalisation was accomplished by the government acquisition of the management of the companies.

### **GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) ACT 1972**

The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 was enacted to nationalise the 100 odd general insurance companies and subsequently merging them into four companies. All the companies were amalgamated into National Insurance Co Ltd, New India Assurance Co. Ltd, Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd, and United India Insurance Co. Ltd.

### **INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT, 1999**

Till the year 1999, there was not any private insurance company in India in the insurance sector. The Government of India then introduced the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999, thereby de-regulating the insurance sector and allowing private company. Further, foreign investment was also allowed and capped at 26% holding in the Indian insurance companies. In recent years many private players entered in the insurance sector in India. Companies with equal strength are competing in the Indian insurance market.

### **DISPUTE REDRESSAL FORUM:**

### **INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN**

### **Functioning of the offices of the Insurance Ombudsman**

The institution of Insurance Ombudsman was created by a Government of India Notification dated 11th November, 1998 with the purpose of quick disposal of the grievances of the insured customers and to mitigate their problems involved in redressal of those grievances. Their complaints were settled out of the courts system in a cost-effective, efficient and impartial way. This institution is of great importance and relevance for the protection of interests of policy holders and also in building their confidence in the system. Regarding partial or total repudiation of claims by an insurer, disputes on premium paid or payable, disputes on the legal construction of policies with regard to claims, delay in settlement of claims and non-issue of any insurance document to customers after receipt of premium, the institution has helped to generate and sustain the faith and confidence amongst the consumers and insurers.

Further the Regulation 5 of IRDA Regulations for Protection of Policyholders Interests, 2002 provides for insurers to have in place speedy and effective grievance redressal systems, and in terms of the Authority's powers and functions as enunciated in Section 14 of IRDA Act, 1999, the IRDA hereby issues the following guidelines pertaining to minimum time-frames and uniform definitions and classifications with respect to grievance redressal by insurance companies.

#### **Territorial jurisdiction of Ombudsman**

The governing body has appointed twelve Ombudsman across the country allotting them different geographical areas as their areas of jurisdiction. The Ombudsman may hold sitting at various places within their area of jurisdiction in order to expedite disposal of complaints. The offices of the twelve insurance Ombudsmen are

located at (1) Bhopal, (2) Bhubaneswar, (3) Cochin, (4) Guwahati, (5) Chandigarh, (6) New Delhi, (7) Chennai, (8) Kolkata, (9) Ahmedabad, (10) Lucknow, (11) Mumbai, (12) Hyderabad, (13) Patna, (14) Bengaluru, (15) Ernakulam, (16) Jaipur (17) Pune. The areas of jurisdiction of each Ombudsman has been mentioned in the list of Ombudsman.

#### **Power of Ombudsman**

Insurance Ombudsman has two types of functions to perform (1) conciliation, (2) Award making. The insurance Ombudsman is empowered to receive and consider complaints in respect of personal lines of insurance from any person who has any grievance against an insurer. The complaint may relate to any grievance against the insurer i.e. (a) any partial or total repudiation of claims by the insurance companies, (b) dispute with regard to premium paid or payable in terms of the policy, (c) dispute on the legal construction of the policy wordings in case such dispute relates to claims; (d) delay in settlement of claims and (e) non-issuance of any insurance document to customers after receipt of premium.

Ombudsman's powers are restricted to insurance contracts of value not exceeding Rs.20 lakhs. The insurance companies are required to honour the awards passed by an Insurance Ombudsman within three months.

#### **PROCEDURE OF LODGING COMPLAINT**

The complaint by an aggrieved person has to be in writing, and addressed to the insurance Ombudsman of the jurisdiction under which the office of the insurer falls. The complaint can also be lodged through the legal heirs of the insured. Before lodging a complaint:

i) The complainant should have made a representation to the insurer named in the complaint and the insurer either should have

rejected the complaint or the complainant have not received any reply within a period of one month after the concerned insurer has received his complaint or he is not satisfied with the reply of the insurer.

ii) The complaint is not made later than one year after the insurer had replied.

iii) The same complaint on the subject should not be pending with before any court, consumer forum or arbitrator.

### **AWARD**

The ombudsman shall pass an award within a period of three months from the receipt of the complaint. The awards are binding upon the insurance companies. You have to accept the award in writing and the insurance company has to be informed of it within 30 days and the Insurance Company has to comply with the award in 15 days after that.

If the policy holder is not satisfied with the award of the Ombudsman he can approach other venues like Consumer Forums and Courts of law for redressal of his grievances.

As per the policy-holder's protection regulations, every insurer shall inform the policy holder along with the policy document in respect of the insurance Ombudsman in whose jurisdiction his office falls for the purpose of grievances redressal arising if any subsequently.

Steady increase in number of complaints received by various Ombudsman shows that the policy-holders are reposing their confidence in the institution of Insurance Ombudsman.

Currently the Ombudsman Rules have been framed by the Ministry of Finance, Insurance Division, in terms of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 114 of the Insurance Act 1938. This was possibly because there is no specific provision in the Insurance Act, 1938

enabling establishment of the office of Ombudsman. It would, however, be appropriate to make provision in the principal legislation for framing of 'Ombudsman Scheme' as it is desirable that the scheme is operated under the provisions of the principal insurance legislation. The Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 of the UK provides for establishment of a body by the Financial Services Authority to operate the "Ombudsman Scheme".

### **NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION**

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), India is a quasi-judicial Commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. Its head office is in New Delhi. The Commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Commission is presently headed by Justice D K Jain, former judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Section 21 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986 posits that the National Consumer shall have jurisdiction: to entertain a complaint valued more than One Crore and also have Appellate and Revisional jurisdiction from the orders of State Commissions or the District Forum as the case may be. Section 23 of Consumer Protection Act, 1986, provides that any person aggrieved by an order of NCDRC, may prefer an Appeal against such order to Supreme Court of India within a period of 30 days.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (in short, 'The Act') is a benevolent social legislation that lays down the rights of the consumers for promotion and protection of the rights of the consumers. The first and the only Act of its kind in India, it has enabled ordinary consumers to secure less expensive and often speedy redressal of their grievances. By spelling out the rights and remedies of the consumers in a market so far

dominated by organized manufacturers and traders of goods and providers of various types of services, the Act makes the dictum, caveat emptor ('Buyer Beware') a thing of the past.

The Act mandates establishment of Consumer Protection Councils at the Centre as well as in each State and District, with a view to promoting consumer awareness. The Central Council is headed by Minister in-charge of the Department of Consumer Affairs in the Central Government and the State Councils by the Minister in-charge of the Consumer Affairs in the State Governments. It also provides for a 3-tier structure of the National and State Commissions and District Forums for speedy resolution of consumer disputes. To provide inexpensive, speedy and summary redressal of consumer disputes, quasi-judicial bodies have been set up in each District and State and at the National level, called the District Forums, the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission respectively. At present, there are 629 District Forums and 35 State Commissions with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) at the apex.

NCDRC has its office at Upphokta Nyay Bhawan, 'F' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023. Each District Forum is headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge and each State Commission is headed by a person who is or has been a Judge of High Court. The National Commission was constituted in the year 1988. It is headed by a sitting or retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The National Commission is presently headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. K. Jain, former Judge of the Supreme Court of India as President and has ten Members, viz. Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.M. Malik, Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. S. Chaudhari, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ajit

Bharihoke, Hon'ble Mrs. Rekha Gupta, Hon'ble Dr. B. C. Gupta, Hon'ble Dr. S. M. Kantikar, Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.K. Jain, Hon'ble Mrs. M. Shreesha and Hon'ble Mr. Prem Narain.

The provisions of this Act cover 'goods' as well as 'services'. The goods are those which are manufactured or produced and sold to consumers through wholesalers and retailers. The services are in the nature of transport, telephone, electricity, housing, banking, insurance, medical treatment, etc.

A written complaint can be filed before the District Consumer Forum for pecuniary value of up to Rupees Twenty Lakh, State Commission for value up to Rupees One Crore and the National Commission for value above Rupees One Crore, in respect of defects in goods and or deficiency in service. The service can be of any description and the illustrations given above are only indicative. However, no complaint can be filed for alleged deficiency in any service that is rendered free of charge or under a contract of personal service.

The remedy under the Consumer Protection Act is an alternative in addition to that already available to the aggrieved persons/ consumers by way of civil suit. In the complaint/appeal/petition submitted under the Act, a consumer is not required to pay any court fees but only a nominal fee.

Consumer Forum proceedings are summary in nature. The endeavour is made to grant relief to the aggrieved consumer as quickly as in the quickest possible, keeping in mind the provisions of the Act which lay down time schedule for disposal of cases.

If a consumer is not satisfied by the decision of a District Forum, he can appeal to the State Commission. Against the order of the State Commission a consumer can come to the National

Commission. That any person aggrieved by an order of NCDRC, may prefer an Appeal against such order to Supreme Court of India within a period of 30 days. Functioning of District Forum, State Commission and National Commission is consumer friendly, and thus a consumer can file a complaint and also address arguments in person. In genuine cases where the complainant/ appellants/ petitioner before the National Commission is unable to engage the services of an advocate legal aid is provided by the Commission free of charge.

In order to help achieve the objects of the Consumer Protection Act, the National Commission has also been conferred with the powers of administrative control over all the State Commissions by calling for periodical returns regarding the institution, disposal and pendency of cases. The National Commission is empowered to issue instructions regarding:

- (1) Adoption of uniform procedure in the hearing of the matters,
- (2) Prior service of copies of documents produced by one party to the opposite parties,
- (3) Speedy grant of copies of documents, and
- (4) Generally overseeing the functioning of the State Commissions and the District Forums to ensure that the objects and purposes of the Act are best served, without interfering with their quasi-judicial freedom.

The Registry of the National Commission is at the Ground Floor, Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan, 'F' Block, GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110023 which remains open on all working days. For any enquiry with the Registry of the National Commission, one can contact on Telephone Nos. 01124608801, 24608802, 24608803, 24608804 and Fax No. 24651505. The filing

timings are from 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Every matter filed with the Registry is listed on the 7th day of its filing for admission before the National Commission.

### **LOKADALATS**

It has been revealed by the experience of Lok Adalat that it is easier to settle money claims because in most of such cases only quantum alone may be in dispute. The success of Lok Adalat in expeditious disposal of Motor Accident Claims has made it very popular in the insurance sector also. These days Lok Adalat has become an ideal mechanism of grievance redressal preferred by both the policy holders and insurance companies.

### **CIVIL COURTS**

Besides the Grievance Redressal Cells, the institution of Ombudsman and Consumer Forum, a dis-satisfied policy holder could further knock the doors of justice by way of litigation. He can approach the ordinary civil courts and avail the litigation mode of resolution of disputes, as in any other civil case.

The mechanism of civil courts is lengthy, cumbersome and expensive. Insurance disputes keep lingering for decades in civil courts. Moreover the civil courts do not have the expertise or specialization to deal with such disputes.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is submitted that although various Acts, rules and regulations have been passed in India, yet the reality is that the Life Insurance Consumer is not fully satisfied and life insurance companies are still exploiting and fleecing the consumers. Hence, more consumer awareness and protection through legal way is required.

The long delayed amendments to the insurance laws that Parliament passed recently

have some good features for protecting the interests of policy holders and their family members, industry experts said. Looking at the provisions, successive central governments could have done a great service to policy holders had they brought these amendments much earlier by keeping out the contentious issue of hike in foreign direct insurance (FDI) to 49 per cent from 26 per cent, the experts added.

After much trouble and tribulation, the much awaited amendments to the vintage Insurance Act, 1938, and other insurance related laws have come into being with parliament passing the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act, 2015.

“The Act has also brought about substantial changes for protecting the interests of policy holders by amending Section 38 (assignment of policies), Section 39 (dealing with nominations) and Section 45 (limiting the rights of insurers to call in question on the grounds of fraud and the like),” a Supreme Court advocate and an expert in insurance/company/competition laws.

The new law also prescribes heavy penalties against insurers for misspelling and other misdeeds which, in a way, would protect the policy holders.

The amended law gives special protection to parents, spouses and children who are listed as nominees in life insurance policies. “These nominees will be beneficially entitled to the policy proceeds and no other legal heir can claim the policy benefits and dispute the claim made by the family members. Earlier, any nominee acted as a trustee and was accountable to the legal heirs of the life assured.”

Further, the law now recognises partial assignments under life insurance policies as against the earlier situation of total assignment.

For example, if a policy holder has borrowed say Rs.5,00,000 and intends to pledge his Rs.8,00,000 life insurance policy, he can assign to the lender only up to his borrowings and not the entire policy amount. The balance interest in the policy (Rs.3,00,000) rests with the nominees.

According to an industry official, assignment of rights in a life insurance policy will not impact nomination in certain cases. Under the old law, assignment of policy would cancel the nomination. However, under the new law, a transfer of a policy in consideration of a loan shall not cancel the nomination, but will affect the rights of the nominee to the extent of the outstanding loan.

“Further the bill also states that where the policy is reassigned, the nomination which was cancelled earlier will stand automatically reinstated.” The new law makes the insurance companies liable for the acts and omissions of their agents, including violation of the code of conduct, and liable to a penalty which may extend upto Rs.1 crore.

“This is intended to fix responsibility on insurers for the misdeeds of its agents under the “Principal Agent” relationship.” The new law also addresses India’s uninsured population is around 500 million.

“Currently the life insurance penetration is only 3.9 per cent. We expect this to go to six per cent in five years’ time. We are projecting the life insurance sector to grow by 15 per cent per annum,” says V Manickam, secretary-general of the Life Insurance Council. He said the entry of new players would force companies to look at new markets like the north-eastern states for business and also rural areas.

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## The Koyas : A Socio-Cultural Study

*Dr. Debashis Patra*

Malkangiri District has the unique distinction of having the largest concentration of colourful tribes. The Koyas are an important tribe among the 62 tribes of Odisha. This tribe is rich in primitive customs, tradition, art and culture. Except Malkangiri of Odisha they are also found mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Chhatisgarh. However their concentration is more in Malkangiri than in Andhra Pradesh or Chhatisgarh.

These primitive offsprings of forest likes to establish themselves as integral to the Dravidian race. They are intimately familiar with the hills and forests, river and rivulets, open meadows, the birds soaring in the sky and the wild animals roaring in the dense forest. The march of civilization has little effect on this tribe and they still maintain their social customs and traditions in their own way. Now it is an attempt to throw light on various aspects of the socio-cultural life of the Koya tribe of Malkangiri.

Archaeological studies reveal that they had migrated from “Koi” and “Gondwana” regions of Baster district in Chhatisgarh and their roots had gone deep into the soil of Malkangiri since time antiquity. As this area is close to the land of Telegu and Chhatisgarh, the language the Koyas speak is a peculiar ad- mixture of both. Most of their words have a Telegu origin. But the spoken dialect has no alphabet of its own. The Koya tribe,

call themselves “Koyiee” and they speak a Dravidian dialect.

The study of eminent researches reveals that the Koyas belong to the family of “Austic”. As they have hailed from the “Koi” region, they are known as Koyas. In their tribe also, there are divisions. They are “gattera”, “metatara”, “gamminar” etc. The gattera Koyas dwell in Podia Black. The Koyas use five kinds of surname like - *Madkami, Podiami, Madhi, Kawasi, Sodi*. They inhabit at places like Podia, Kalimela, Mathili, Korukanda in the district of Malkangiri. Their number is more than two lakhs in the entire district.

The Koya villages are situated nearby the hill slopes where hill streams are available and suitable for shifting cultivation. Houses in Koya village do not confirm to any pattern. A koya house is built on a square ground plan and the wall around it is a bamboo lattice work either plastered with mud or kept bare. A kind of locally grown grass or straw is set on the roof for thatching.

The chief of every Koya village is called “Peda”. The chief priest of the village deity “Disari” who is a key person of the village, plays a vital role in the life of the Koyas. He is a leading figure in all festivals like the functions of thread ceremony,

marriage etc. As they have not yet imbibed full faith in modernity and one hesitant to welcome it, the “Disaris’ appease the common men by reciting to their conventional belief in sorcery and magic.

Koya people are good looking and have perfect physique. They have sharp nose, thin lips, broad shoulders and their women are sleek and smooth with well-built. Koyas are the men of moment. They do not think of tomorrow. Both male and female are hard working. They are most simple, truthful, freedom loving and honest. A guest of one family is regarded as the guest of the whole village.

*Dhoti, shirt and gamchas* for men and coarse and cheap sarees for women are the traditional dress of the Koya community. Women wrap the saree around the waist and it hardly covers their knee. This is to facilitate free movement of the feet while working and dancing. Children up to 3-4 years of age go naked. In some villages boys wear “*koupuni*’ - a small piece of cloth.

Koya women are fond of ornaments. Their common ornaments are bangles, armlets, bracelets, necklaces, rings, hairpin etc. These ornaments are usually made of silver, aluminium, brass and sometimes gold. “*Khadu*’ is an important ornament used by married women. Men of the tribe use dresses fitted with bison-horn in their marriages and festival dances.

The *Koya* women enjoy greater freedom. They believe in mutual respect. There is no dowry system in the Koya society. Rather the bridegroom has to pay bride price to the father of the bride. After marriage a *Koya* woman starts working in the field with her husband, collect *Mahua* flowers, *Kendu* leaf etc. So birth of a girl child is not a burden rather it is a blessing for a *Koya* family.

Each Koya village has two separate long halls at the end of the village. One is “*Dhangada basa*’ for boys and the other is “*Dhangadi*’ for girls. Grown up unmarried girls and boys of the village come to these houses, spend the evening there, know each other and engage in dance and music till late night. The boys and girls communicate their idea and feelings through romantic love songs. After song and dance the boys and girls sleep in their respective dormitories. These dormitories are the socio-cultural centres of the Koya society.

Dance, song and the music are the part of the koya’s aesthetic life. “*Dhemsas*’ dance is the popular dance of the koya tribe. The male members use the musical instruments like *dhola*, *tamaka*, *Dungdunga* and *mahuri*. Their dance, music and songs are highly influenced by the beautiful elements of nature like the sun, the moon, the sky, the rain and the trees, flowers, birds etc. Among the Koya everyone is a musician and poet. They exhibit pleasure and happiness by composing songs. These songs describe the history of goods, the process of creation, some epic stories, romances, humorous, acquisitions and anger. These songs are handed down from generation to generation with slight variation when considered necessary.

Like other tribes marriage within the clan is prohibited in Koya society. Monogamy is the rule, although in the exceptional cases polygamy is practiced. The different types of marriage of the *Koya* community are 1. *Maga Vibha* (arranged marriage) 2. *Udulia* (Love marriage), 3. *Jhika Vibha* (by capture) 4. *Paisamundi* (widow or divorced woman marriage). The *Udulia Vibha* is now common in Koya society. Bride price or “*Kanya Jhola*’ is a must for every type of marriage. It is given by the boy’s side consisting of wine, cow, pig, rice, some money etc.

A child irrespective of sex is always welcome to a *Koya* family. Both male and female child are economic assets to the family. During pregnancy a *Koya* woman has to observe many restrictions. She should not eat any sacrificial meat. She is not allowed to touch a corpse nor visit the burial ground. At the time of delivery, she is attended by an elderly and experienced woman. *Gurumai* the female priest is summoned to conduct rituals for smooth delivery. Usually the *Koya* name their children after 21 days in consultation with the disari.

The staple food of the *Koya* is rice and it is supplemented by millets, maize, pulses, seasonal fruits, roots and tubers. Non-vegetarian items like meat, chicken, fish, egg are also taken by them. Irrespective of sex and age they consume liquor. It is also offered to friends and relatives as a mark of social courtesy. *Mahuli, landa, handia, salap* etc. are their various kinds of liquor but *salap* is the most favourite drinks.

The *Koyas* observe a number of festivals. Most of their festivals are community oriented, these festivals are *Chaiti Parava, Push Parav, Magha Parav, Bali Yatra* etc. The *Chaiti Parava* is celebrated in the month of March-April. It is celebrated in three phases. Last phase is most important. It is community hunting (*Bento Shikar*). All the male members of the village have to go for hunting with their traditional weapons. The men can't return without a kill. The hunted animal is brought in procession with garlands on its neck. The flesh of the hunted animal is distributed equally among the villagers. The whole night is spent on dancing and singing accompanied by the drum and *dungdunga*.

The *Koyas* practice both cremation and burial to dispose of the corpse. On the tenth day *buda* ceremony (*dasaha*) takes place. "Menhir" or memorial pillar are constructed outside the

village in the name of the dead; somewhere a simple wooden pillar or tall flat stone is placed in upright position.

The *Koyas* have deep faith in gods and goddesses. They worship them for their wellbeing. The most important deities are *Nissani munda*, village deity; *Jhankara Devata*, the earth goddess; *Donga Devta*, the forest god; *Mahpuru*, the supreme god etc. They also pay much respect to *Duma Devta* the dead ancestors. They sacrifice hen, pigeon, pig to appease these gods and goddesses.

There are weekly markets located at convenient places in the *Koya* area. Both men and women from far off and nearby villages visit these market centres to sell whatever surplus agricultural and forest produce they have and buy whatever things they need in their day to day life. The things which the *Koyas* sell at the market mainly are chilli, brinjal, mahua, millet, horse gram, rice, tomato and tobacco leaves. All these things are sold by *Koya* women.

The life of *Koyas* is a systematic one. Because it is more devoted to agriculture than hunting. An agricultural calendar of the *Koyas* is prepared and shown in Appendix-I.

A careful study on the socio-cultural life of the *Koya* tribe shows that they lead a very simple and joyful life. Government has planned to make them educated, to expose them to the light of modernity and bring them to the mainstream of social life. Text books of their language have been prepared in Odia alphabets. Some of them are trying to carve out a separate identity of their own either in the political sphere or in government service. All the same they have not forgotten the captivating moments of *Dhamsa* dance, nor the time of shedding of *Mahua* flowers. They love their life with pleasant mode of beating sound of *Dung Dunga*.

## Appendix-I

Koya Month	English Month	Activities
<i>Push</i>	January	Harvest of late paddy, maize and millets, collection of a kind of grass millets, collection of a kind of grass used for thatching.
<i>Magh</i>	February	Worship of <i>Bimdu Pandu</i> (Rain God)
<i>Phagun</i>	March	Collection of <i>Mahula</i> and <i>Kendu</i>
<i>Chait</i>	April	Collection of <i>Mahula</i> , <i>Kendu</i> , Observance of <i>Ikka Pand</i> (New <i>Mahula</i> eating ceremony).
<i>Semiti (Vaisak)</i>	May	Collection of <i>Mahula</i> and <i>Kendu</i> , Seasonal fruits (Mango, Jackfruit), observance of <i>Bijja Pandu</i>
<i>Padman (Jyestha)</i>	June	Ploughing of field and sowing ceremony. Fencing of kitchen gardens, cleaning and burning of dangar land where seeds and <i>suan</i> are sown.
<i>Burdabata(Aasadha)</i>	July	Sowing of <i>Paddy</i> of rice fields and pulses.
<i>Mundkhol(Sravana)</i>	August	Collection of roots and tubers from jungle.
<i>Kani (Bhadrav)</i>	September	Observance of <i>Kurum Pandu</i> or the new <i>Suan</i> eating ceremony.

*Dasra (Aswina)* October Harvesting of early *Paddy* and new rice eating ceremony (*Nuakhia*)

*Devali (Kartik)* November Harvesting of early *Paddy* and observance of *Sikud Pandu* or new bean eating ceremony, watching wild animals and birds to same crops.

*Pand(Margasira)*December Storing of *Paddy*, harvesting of maize, *Suan*, pulses and oil seeds.

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# An Overview on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana

*Hemanta Kumar Nayak*

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), the skill training and placement programme of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), occupies a unique position amongst other skill training programmes, due to its focus on the rural poor youth and its emphasis on the sustainable employment through the provision and incentives given to placement tracking, retention and career progression. The Government of India has set an ambitious target for providing skill training to 500 million of its youth by 2022, which is in line with the estimated demand for skilled manpower over the next decade. As per the 2011 census, India has the 55 million potential workers between the ages of 15 and 35 years in rural areas. At the same time, many industrialised nations are facing an ageing population problem. Some of these countries are expected to face a cumulative shortage of 57 million workers by 2020. These numbers represent a historic opportunity for India to transfer its demographic surplus into a demographic dividend. Several Ministries have been assigned targets for skilling India's youth to contribute to the Government's vision for making India the skill capital of the world.

Even as India moves towards becoming an international skills hub, there is need to

acknowledge the challenges prevailing the rural poor from taking advantage of this momentous economic transition. Lack of formal education, marketable skills and other constraints imposed by poverty place significant entry barriers to today's job market. DDU-GKY is therefore designed to not only provide high quality skill training opportunities to the rural poor, but also to establish a larger ecosystem that supports trained candidates secure a better future. The design of DDU-GKY, as detailed below, represents the strategy of the programme aimed at making rural India a key partner to India's growth story.

## **Key Features of DDU-GKY**

Outcome led design guaranteed placement for at least 75% trained candidates and moving towards minimum mandatory certification.

- Shift in emphasis from training to career progression. Incentives for job retention, career progression and foreign placement.
- Greater support to placed candidates, post-placement support, migration support and Alumni Network to enable farm to factory transition.

- Special Regional Focus Jammu & Kashmir (HIMAYAT), 27 Left Wing Extremist Districts (ROSHINI) North East states.
- SC/ST 50%, Ministry 15% women 33%
- Enable the poor and marginalized to access benefits demanded design through funding of skill training programme that are based on national and international market demands.
- Standards-led delivery pioneering standard operating procedures provide essential quality assurance framework for training infrastructure and service delivery.
- Inclusive program design mandatory coverage of socially disadvantaged groups.

DDU-GKY follows a 3 tier implementation model. The DDU-GKY National Unit at MoRD is the agency responsible for national policy-making, funding, technical support and facilitation. The DDU-GKY state skill mission embedded in general within the State Rural Livelihood Missions (SRLMs) are envisioned to play a central role in providing co-funding and implementation support to DDU-GKY in the state and the Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) who implement the programme through skill training and placement projects.

This document is designed primarily to support the above stakeholders in implementation of the programme, by providing an outline of important administrative process. These guidelines apply to projects of DDU-GKY as well as Roshini except as modified by notifications issued from time to time, amending all or some aspects of the guidelines.

The guidelines provide a framework for major processes such as, who can be trained the essential eligibility norms for potential PIAs, projects and PIA appraisal norms, funding norms as well as the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which will be notified from time to time. It is essential that the SOP and guidelines are read together, in order to understand the overall policy framework and institutional procedures for implementing DDU-GKY. The SOP and scheme guidelines are expected to serve as key reference documents for everyone involved in programme implementation. They would form a fundamental part of all training curriculum for the National Unit and State Skill Mission. This document is also meant to serve as a guide to current PIAs, and potential PIAs who will need to be clear about the processes detailed here in order to understand how they can partner effectively with DDU-GKY.

This document replaces the previously notified guidelines (Aajeevika Skills Guidelines September 2013) and replaces the same. The key changes in the updated scheme guidelines pertain to the following sections.

- (a) Prioritization of projects under appraisal process (5-12) : The criteria for prioritization applications during the appraisal process has been detailed.
- (b) PIA categories and criteria (4-7) : Eligibility criteria for PIAs has been streamlined and definition of PIA categories has been expanded to include training partners with experience in priority areas of DDU-GKY.
- (c) Expansion of beneficiary target group (3-11) : Definition of target group for DDU-GKY has been expanded to be made more inclusive. Youth from MGNREGA household with at least

15 days work in the previous financial year or from a household covered under auto inclusion parameters as per SECC, 2011 (when notified) or a household with a RSBY card or a Yojana/ BPL PDS card or a family member who is a member of an SHG under NRLM, and now all eligible for DDU-GKY. The minimum age for candidate has also been reduced to 15 years and the upper age limit for women and vulnerable populations has been revised to 45 years.

(d) Industrial Internship (3.2.2.13) : This section has been added to provide details on DDU-GKY support for industrial internships. Industrial Internships are a new intervention under

DDU-GKY where the programme provides funding support for 12 months internship programmes guaranteeing 75% placement.

Framing national policies is an iterative process that must be responsive to lessons from implementation efforts and the perspectives of all our key stakeholder. Consequently, this document continues to be a work in progress that will be improved upon in the future.

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**Late Sarada Prasad Mishra**  
(Birth : 01.02.1962 - Death : 17.04.2016)

*Eminent fiction writer and Public Relations Officer Late Sarada Prasad Mishra was a good human being, successful both in personal and professional field. He was also associated with the editorial section of Utkal Prasanga. We pay our sincere obeisance on his sad demise.*

# Child Domestic Labour in Odisha

*Dr. Kahnu Charan Dhir*

## **Introduction**

Children employed in others' houses in order to perform the household chores like helping in food-preparation, taking care of the babies, cleaning the utensils and the floor of the house, washing the clothes, helping the old family-members in doing their day-to-day activities, etc is a common phenomenon in India. It is an inhuman and cruel form of child labour, for these children are not only deprived of their parents' affection at their tender age, but also not given the minimum comfort like the employers' children. They are forced to live at the outer houses—in unhygienic condition, sleep on the floor—very often without a mosquito-net and feed on the left over of the family-members. They are frequently subject to the cruel behaviour of the owner and his family-members, the instances of which are not scanty. The wage for a Child Domestic Labour (CDL) is very less and in many cases, the child is attached to the family for a long time—till he grows old or till she attains the age of marriage. Child Domestic Labour, a manifestation of child-bondage is a brutal form of labour—an example of the sheer violation of human rights which needs to be curbed.

## **Domestic Work**

As per Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO),

“domestic work” means work performed in or for a household or households and “domestic worker” means any person engaged in domestic work within an employment.

The term “domestic work” covers a wide range of tasks and services that vary from country to country and that can be different depending on the age, gender, ethnic background and migration status of the workers concerned, as well as the cultural and economic context in which they work.

## **Child Domestic Labour & Child Labour**

As stated earlier, Child Domestic Labour (CDL) is a general reference to children's work in domestic work sector in the home of a third party or employer. This general concept, according to the ILO covers both permissible and non permissible situations. Likewise, child labour in domestic work refers to situations where domestic work is performed by children below the relevant minimum age (for light work, full-time non-hazardous work), in hazardous conditions or in a slavery-like situation.

## **The Magnitude of Child Domestic Labour**

India takes the credit of hosting the largest number of child labourers in the world but it is an irony that there is no updated (latest) and reliable figure of the total number child labourers in the

country. As per Census 2001, 2,52,000 children were engaged in *beedi* manufacturing and 2,08,833 in the construction sector. An estimated 185,595 children were employed as domestic helpers and in dhabas; 49,893 children work in auto-repair workshops. The Census of India, 2011 puts the figure of working children in the age-group of 5-14 years at 4353247 against 12666377 as per the Census 2001. But the real picture is different as a large number of children working in different sectors—organised and unorganised go unnoticed due to the laxity of the enumerators and the apathy of the parents and the employers, the latter putting them out of sight of the surveyors in the fear of punishment by law. Further, a good number of NGOs have conducted surveys on enumerating the child labour. In consideration of their findings, it can be said that the latest figure of the child labourers in India could be more than 55 lakhs.

Despite a number of limitations to fully capturing all hidden work situations, a number of household surveys among those used in the 2012 ILO's global estimates on child labour, provide important quantitative information on child domestic work—allowing for global estimates on child domestic workers to be made. As per the ILO estimate, about 17.2 million children are in paid or unpaid domestic work in the home of a third party or employer; of these, 11.5 million are in child labour, of which 3.7 million are in hazardous work (21.4% of all child domestic workers); and 5.7 million, mostly adolescents, in permissible work but need to be protected from abuse and provided with decent work; in addition, undetermined numbers of children are in domestic work as result of forced labour and trafficking. In 2012, the ILO produced Global Estimates on Forced Labour. Of the total number of 20.9 million forced labourers, children aged 17 years and below represent 26% of all forced labour

victims (5.5 million children). While the specific number of children in forced labour and trafficking for domestic work remains unknown, evidence points to the existence of significant numbers of children in debt bondage, victims of trafficking and in servitude situations; 67.1% of all child domestic workers are girls; 65.1% of all child domestic workers are below 14 years: 7.4 million aged 5 to 11 and 3.8 million aged 12 to 14; child domestic work touches all regions of the world.

As regards the children accomplishing the task of domestic labour in India, it can be safely claimed that they constitute a major section of the entire child labour force. As per a conservative estimate, it shall not be less than 6 lakhs.

In Odisha, the last survey on child labour was conducted way back in 1997, putting the figure at 2.15 lakhs. According to some NGOs this figure is unrealistic and they claim that the number is nearer 7.30 lakh on the basis of a study conducted by the ILO in 1990. As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the age group of 5-15 years was 3,77,594. But the figure was only 92087 in 2011, which again raises doubt by some NGOs actively involved in promoting the cause of child labourers. On the basis of UNICEF's definition—10-14 years old, not in school and hence child labourers—it is 13 lakh. NGO studies claim that 15% of the child-population in the age-group of 5-14 works as child labourers, including those who work on their families' own agricultural land. According to them, the magnitude of child labour is alarming and it must have exceeded 10 lakh by 2011. But in view of less school-dropouts in the recent years, the figure, at best could be put at 4 lakh, which does not seem unrealistic.

### **Is Domestic Child Work hazardous?**

Some adherents of the practice claim that it is not hazardous like other forms of child labour,

for the children who are usually deprived of the basic necessities of life in their own houses could get the same in the place of employment—the quantity may not be at par with the expectation of the human rights activists. Barring the rare instances of torture in employment, they are taken care of properly, claim these supporters. According to them, the employer is simply an extended family and therefore offers a protected environment for the child. Further, there is an increasing need for the women of the household to have a domestic “replacement” that enables them to enter the labour market. In some cases these children are also sent to schools, thereby making a balance between work and study. They do not hesitate to quote article 21 of the Constitution, in accordance with which the poor parents send their children to perform light works at others houses in lieu of food, cloth and shelters—the basic necessities to live a life as they could not afford the same at their own places. May be for this reason, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1987 does not list as hazardous the employment of children as domestic labour in the list of seven occupations and eight processes prohibited by it. But the ILO has identified a number of hazards to which domestic workers are particularly vulnerable and the reason it may be considered in some cases a worst form of child labour. Some of the most common risks children face in domestic service include: long and tiring working days; use of toxic chemicals; carrying heavy loads; handling dangerous items such as knives, axes and hot pans; insufficient or inadequate food and accommodation, and humiliating or degrading treatment including physical and verbal violence, and sexual abuse. The risks are compounded when a child lives in the household where he or she works as a domestic worker. These hazards need to be seen in association with the denial of

fundamental rights of the child, such as, for example, access to education and health care, the right to rest, leisure, play and recreation, and the right to be cared for and to have regular contact with their parents and peers. These factors can have an irreversible physical, psychological and moral impact on the development, health and wellbeing of a child. According to a survey conducted by Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), an NGO, “more than 90% of girl-children engaged in domestic work are exploited through different forms of sexually harassment by their employers, or by their cousins or relatives’. For example, many little girls of nine or 10 say innocently. “My master is very affectionate, he often puts me on his lap and pets me saying ‘good girl, good girl’. Often, men will ask DWs to massage their bodies and nobody thinks anything about it. ‘Even male DWs are sexual abused’, claims CACL. An NGO study in India found that out of 70,000 sex workers, 15% had begun working as DWs between the age of 15 and 18.

A Utkal University study found that nearly 90% of girl DWs started work before they completed 12 years of age, more than 75% belonged to the age-group 12-14 years. Pre-puberty girls, whilst themselves still unaware of their sexuality, are increasingly becoming targets of sexual abuse. Again 70% stepped out to work to supplement the family income. The study also found instances where mothers had accepted ‘silence money’, following the abuse of their daughters. This is often prompted by a sense of helplessness and ignorance with regard to registering official protests. Studies reveal one common aspect in the mind set of child DWs—that their work hours extend to all hours, that they have no legitimate rights. Abuse, even sexual abuse, is accepted as a professional hazard to be endured. The only alternative is to leave the job. To the last one, all child DWs are hesitant to talk

about their jobs even after they have left them. They fear they will not only lose their present jobs but will be ‘branded’ by the local employer community.

### **Root causes of Child Domestic Work**

#### *Social and Cultural Factors*

In many parts of Odisha, especially in tribal pockets which are the prime sources of supplying child domestic workers to different urban areas and villages child domestic work is considered a major component of socialization—children are taught the domestic chores from their parents while assisting them in performing the same. At an early age, when they are considered fit to handle the household chores in others’ houses, they are pushed to the employers’ family in lieu of some wage. In some cases, the families consider it a cultural necessity that the girl children are born to serve in others’ families—the grooms’ households. Since the village atmosphere and for that matter the atmosphere at the family of origin is not conducive to train to manage certain chores like rearing a child, taking care of the old, etc, the parents consider the employment at others’ houses a part of a woman’s “apprenticeship” for adulthood and marriage. Although the tacit intention of sending the children to work in others’ families is earning some money, the author was astonished to find the above social-cultural factors among the Santhal and Munda tribes of Kankadahad Block of Dhenkanal district in the state of Odisha. Almost all the respondent-parents claimed that child domestic work in the employers’ family is a social cultural necessity which they have been inheriting from their forefathers. Child Domestic Work is also regarded in a positive light as a protected and non-stigmatised type of work and preferred to others forms of employment—especially for girls.

#### *Feminisation*

Many studies on child labour claim that more than 60% of the girls than boys living below poverty line are deprived of an education and sent out to work to supplement the family income. Girl child labourers, to quote ILO, the nowhere children; a section of the child population that is neither at school nor reported to be economically active.

A large proportion of girl child labourers enter the unorganised sector of domestic work. Girls are seen as naturally domestic workers, seemingly trained at home in doing house work. In the absence of the official sources data, rough estimate available from sporadic studies actually limit a realistic assessment of the magnitude and nature of the problem. However, that there is an overwhelming ‘feminisation’ of domestic work is well established and visible. According to the Sharamshakti report (1998), there are 16.8 lakh female domestic workers in the country, as against 6.2 lakh male workers. This finding is reinforced by another study, conducted in the early-1980s, by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, which says females constituted 78% of DWs in a 12-city study. In Odisha, a 1997 study by the Department of Applied Economics of Vani Vihar, Utkal University, reveals a strong preference among employers for girl- children, particularly part time DWs. Invariably, all research points to the fact that children DWs are preferred not only because they cost less but are more pliable than the boys. A section of researchers, like the adherents of the “nimble figure” theory—the belief that the small fingers of the children is indispensable to weave carpets than the grown up children believe that the girls are better fitted to the new environment—unlike the boys, they learn and handle the household chores quickly.

### *Social Exclusion*

In many parts of the country, the rigid caste system acts as a push factor for Domestic Child Worker. In order to overcome the rigidity of the social exclusion, the members of the lower castes consider fleeing to urban areas and working in different sectors, both organised and unorganised. The children are often seen working in others' houses—cleaning the utensils, helping the olds in performing their day-to-day works, assisting the cooks in food preparation, watching the children playing, etc. In all these instances the intention is to supplement to the family's income.

### *Violence suffered by children at their own homes*

In some cases, the children flee their houses in order to escape the violence inflicted on them by their parents. Sometimes, as the author found in five cases in Bhubaneswar city, the children get troubled due to the quarrels among the parents and other family disturbances and they feel it better to leave the villages for the nearby or distant urban areas where they fall prey to the mediators who take them to the employers. Although children under this category form a small segment of the entire child labour force, more particularly that of the Child Domestic Workers, it is a matter of great concern for the social psychologists. A Utkal-University study revealed that 30% of the total Child Domestic Workers have fled their houses due to family breakdowns— either the father had deserted the family, or he was an alcoholic or a drug addict or, the mother was living with another man. This study found that the absence a supportive family structure made girl DWs more vulnerable.

### *Poverty*

Poverty undoubtedly is the prime reason for child labour. It surpasses other reasons like

socio-cultural factors, social exclusion, etc. In Odisha, 48% of its population still lives below poverty line. A study by Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) in 2001 on child DWs in Odisha found that lack of regular income by the head of the family—mostly daily-wage earners or small cultivators—was a major reason for the incidence of child domestic labour.

As regards occupation, 85% of the state's population is dependent on agriculture, which is mostly rainfed—prey to erratic monsoons in the absence of adequate irrigation facilities. The land reforms measures in many parts of the state seem unsuccessful. The average ownership of land (by households) in its poorest districts is between 0.5 to 2 acres. There still exists a big hiatus between the traditional Zamindars (Malgoozars and Sahoo-kars termed in different regions) and the poor landless and marginal farmers. The frequent occurrence of drought, flood and cyclone brings untold miseries to poor farmers. In a normal paddy year, the harvest is never more than 100 bags of paddy. The family consumes part of the yield, which, once all the debts have been paid off, sustains them for a maximum of three to six months depending on family-size. Barring paddy, the farmers do not take interest in growing other crops, especially the cash crops. Although the government has been imparting training to the farmers on state-of-the-art techniques of production in agriculture, there seems to be lack of interest among the farming communities. In recent years, distribution of 25 kg of rice at the rate of Re 1 per kg per household living below poverty line has given a solid blow to the incidence of absolute poverty in the state, but it has not brought an end to the occurrence of migration of poor families to neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. At the same time, a chunk of population flees to other states on the

plea that they are starved at home and there is a dearth of job in the state. The migrating farmers in many instances get jobs only in unorganised sector as they lack the skill demanded by the organised sectors. In order to supplement the families' income, they force their women and children to work in others' households, that too at a meagre wage.

### **State's effort to tackle Child Domestic Work**

The successful implementation of mid-day-meal scheme in the schools and free feeding programme for pre-school children at Anganwadi centres in the state, particularly in the backward areas which are the main sources for supply of child domestic workers, has restricted the swelling of the problem. To justify the same, the enrolment of children in primary schools in the state was 42.73 lakh in 2002-03 which has risen to 45.82 lakh in 2008-09. Similarly, the enrolment in upper primary schools was 9.16 lakh in 2002-03 which went up to 21.22 lakh in 2008-09. Likewise, the gross enrolment ratio in 2005-06 was 83.59 in 2005-06 which increased to 106.31 lakh in 2008-09. The dropout rate in primary schools has come down to 2.83% in 2009-10 as against the dropout rate of 41.8% in 2000-01. Likewise, the dropout rate in upper primary schools (the prime parameter of child labour) was 57% in 2000-01 which slowed down to 8.19 % in 2009-10. The above-statistics is an indicator of the fact that the rate of child labour, including the child domestic workers has been showing a negative trend in recent years.

It is a fact that the state government has played a commendable role in rehabilitating a great portion of the child labour force through 20 National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs), but the lack of follow-up action by the administration has made the rehabilitation strategies unsuccessful in many cases.

The district child welfare committees have been set up with the objective of curbing the exploitation of children by the employers. When accused of inaction, officials at the Women and Child Development Department and Labour Department pass the buck back and forth saying that unless a case is filed with the police they cannot initiate any action. The onus of pro-activism, therefore now seems to rest squarely with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

### **What is the Solution to end Child Domestic Labour?**

The problems posed by child labour in domestic work require a complementary approach in different domains and at different levels.

- On orders from the Supreme Court, the central government amended the All India Service (Conduct) Rules 1968, in February 2000. This prohibited the employment of children below the age of 14 as domestic servants by government servants. In order to assess the magnitude of the Child Domestic Labourers in Odisha, the first and foremost target should be the houses of the government servants.
- Before implementing different strategies for the rehabilitation, a vigorous and effective statewide survey on these children should be conducted. Co-operation of parents and employers in this regard is required. Further, proper follow-up action by the implementing agencies should be conducted so that the different strategies of rehabilitation could be made more effective.
- There should be a massive awareness among the parents that their children should not be burdened with household chores of others at a time when they are expected to play with

their friends in their villages. Further the social attitude that the children are indispensable for domestic works and the beliefs amongst employers and parents that these situations represent a protective and healthy environment for children – especially girls should be changed.

- The law enforcement mechanisms should be strengthened so that the employers engaging the children in hazardous domestic works should be punished.
- If at all a lower minimum age for the domestic workers is established, say 20, the employers would not prefer them for accomplishing the petty jobs at their homes.
- Identification of the hazards the children face while performing household chores should be made so that stringent legal actions could be initiated against the employer inflicting such hazard, thereby dissuading them from employing children at their households.
- The hours of domestic work performed by the children should be regulated and the employers should be compelled to provide

them with the wage at par with their young and grown up counterparts, so that the employers shall prefer the latter than the children.

- The enrolment of the children at school should be made compulsory; an affective vocational education for the vulnerable children should be ensured and successful feeding programmes at schools should be implemented.
- Effective labour inspection that is authorized by law to enter premises in order to enforce provisions applicable to domestic work should be made.
- The employment relationship in domestic work should be formalised through written contracts / model employment contracts;
- Finally, the worldwide movement against child labour should be supported by all.

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## Biju Babu's Support to Local Entrepreneurship

*Dr. Prasanta Kumar Mohanty*

Biju Babu's saga of courage in rescuing Indonesian leaders from Dutch prosecution as well as flying into Kashmir in similar missions are well known.

Also well known is his extraordinary entrepreneurship in establishing number of industries including Kalinga Airlines, Kalinga Iron Works capable of making Ductile Iron Pipes, Kalinga Tubes and even Kalinga Refrigerators. His courageous and legendary leadership is also well known by his establishing the Paradeep Port, developing the Daitari Iron Ore mines, and building an express way to transport ore to Paradeep Port by road when denied railway development by the Centre. There are many other examples such as the Rourkela Engineering College, now recognized as a National Institute of Technology (NIT).

### **What is not so well known is his support to Local Entrepreneurship :**

There may not have been any Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd.(IMFA), Orissa Sponge Iron & Steel Ltd. (OSIL), or even Nilachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) without Biju Babu. Example of Orissa Sponge Iron & Steel Ltd. ( OSIL) given below illustrates.

Our Country has plenty of good quality of iron ore but not enough good quality coal to make coke required for usual iron and steel making. An alternate route to make iron and steel using inferior quality coal has needed in the national interest. Since no commercially proven technology was available for such iron making called sponge iron anywhere, the Govt., of India together with UNIDCO (United Nation) joined hands to set up a pilot scale production plant in Andhra with help from Lurgi of Germany to demonstrate its possibility. Since building such a pilot scale plant and thereafter scaling up to a commercial size plant and experimenting with it would need a long time. An Odisha led enterprise called Torsteel Research Foundation in India (TRFI) persuaded their associated steel producers using scrap in Electric furnace to contribute capital and join hands with IPICOL OF THE State Government to build a commercial size sponge iron plant to improve technology as needed thus creating Orissa Sponge Iron Limited (OSIL).

This plan for Orissa Sponge was not approved by the Foreign Investment Board of the Central Government since import was involved with unproven technology. Biju Babu intervened and got a Cabinet Committee set up with the Prime Minister approval and got the Project

approved. Even thereafter difficulties did not end. There was only three days left to open Letter of Credit for the import since missing it would result in large price escalation. Biju Babu again helped. Orissa Sponge got its Letter of Intent changed to Industrial Licence in one day; received import License the next day; and free foreign exchange for the import after three days in all, Letter of Credit was opened. Orissa Sponge got built.

Orissa Sponge not only built a commercial scale sponge iron plant but also developed and patented a technology which was adopted by many plants in India including Usha Martin Group funded by the World Bank (IFC) and the German Development Bank (DEG) with OSIL process technology in preference to LURGI Technology of Germany.

Similarly, NINL was revived by a group of companies consisting of Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Ltd. (OSIL), Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC) and Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa (IDCOL) called Orissa Group joining hands with MMTC. The Orissa Group was led by OSIL who funded several

project studies by MECON; located and purchased an almost new Blast Furnace from an Italian Govt. Company ILVA who were asked to close their plant to reduce over production of steel by the European Union. OSIL also arranged to open the letter of credit for the purchase with State Bank of India.

A new company had now to be formed to implement the Project. Biju Babu rightly thought it appropriate to get NINL ownership transferred from Central Govt. to the State Government. NINL is now managed by MMTC. The Orissa Group disinvested in favour of IPICOL.

Another vision of Biju Babu will also get fulfilled when a one million tones capacity steel plant is built in Keonjhar.

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# Residual Power of Supreme Court

*Om Prakash*

Special Leave Petitions in India (SLP) holds a prime place in the Judiciary of India, and has been provided as a “residual power” in the hands of Supreme Court of India to be exercised only in cases when any substantial question of law is evolved, or gross injustice has been made.

Under Article 136 of the Constitution of India any person aggrieved by any Judgment, decree, determination or order in any cause or matter passed or made by any Court or Tribunal in the territory of India may appeal to the Supreme Court of India. Accordingly a person aggrieved by any order or judgment of High Court or of Tribunal may appeal to the Supreme Court by filing Special Leave Petition.

This is special power bestowed upon the Supreme Court of India which is the Apex Court of the country, to grant leave in any judgment in case any substantial constitutional question of law is involved, or gross injustice has been done.

“Special leave petition or SLP hold a prime place in the India judicial system. It provides the aggrieved party a special permission to be heard in Apex court in appeal against and judgment or order of any Court and tribunal in the territory of India.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS OF FILING OF SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION IN SUPREME COURT OF INDIA**

### **SLP under Article 132 of the Constitution of India:**

Special Leave Petition is filed under Article 132 of the Constitution of India which contemplates for an appeal to the Supreme Court of India from a judgment, decree or final order of a High Court, whether in civil, criminal or any other proceedings, if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India. On the basis of such certificate the party can approach the Supreme Court of India and engage a lawyer for SLP in Supreme Court of India and file a SLP in the Supreme Court of India.

### **Appeal by Special Leave Petition (SLP) under Article 136 of the Constitution of India:**

Provides that the Supreme Court of India in its discretion grant special leave to appeal from any judgment, decree, determination, sentence or order in any case of matter passed or made by any Court or tribunal in the territory of India except the Court of tribunal constituted by or under any law relating to armed forces. The party aggrieved by the order of the High Court can engage a

lawyer for SLP in Supreme Court of India and file a SLP against the orders of the High Court.

**Special Leave petition or SLP can be presented under following circumstances:**

1. SLP can be filed against any judgment or decree or order of any High Court/tribunal in the territory of India.
2. SLP can be filed in case the High court refuses to grant the certificate of fitness for appeal to Supreme Court of India.
3. SLP can be filed against any judgment of High Court within 90 days from the date of judgment.
4. SLP can be filed within 60 days against the order of the High Court refusing to grant the certificate of fitness for appeal to Supreme Court.

**Who can file SLP?**

Any aggrieved party can file SLP against the judgment, order or verdict of refusal of grant of certificate by the High Court or directly.

**Procedure for filing special leave petition (SLP)**

***Time limit:***

The Rules Governing SLP are contained in order XVI of the Supreme Court Rules 1966. Under the said Rule, SLP can be filed against either the order of High Court rejecting petition for leave to appeal to Supreme Court of India, i.e., on High Court refusing to grant Certificate of fitness for Leave to Appeal to Supreme Court or against the Order/judgment itself. It is also possible to file SLP against the Judgment of the High Court either in Writ Petition (WP) or in the income Tax Reference. If the petition is filed against the Judgment of the High Court, the time limit is 90 days from the date of Judgment/Order and if the petition is filed against the Order of High

Court refusing to grant Certificate of fitness for Appeal, the time limit is 60 days from the date order refusing to grant Certificate of fitness for Appeal, the time limit is 60 days from the date of Order refusing to grant Certificate. The above time limit is subject to the time taken for obtaining certified copy of the Judgment/Order; i.e., subject to Sections 4,5,12 and 14 of the Limitation, Act, 1963.

**Preparation of Petition:**

1. The petition should state succinctly and clearly all facts as may be necessary to enable the Court to determine whether SLP ought to be granted or not! The petition should be signed by Advocate on record of the Petition.

- (i) The petition should contain statement as to whether the petitioner had filed any petition in the High Court for Leave to appeal to Supreme Court or not! The petition should also contain a statement that no other SLP has been filed by the Petitioner against the Order appealed.
- ii. The Petition should be accompanied by a certified copy of the Judgment appealed against and an affidavit of Petitioner verifying the petition.
- iii. The annexure to the Petition; i.e., Exhibits to the Petition should be certified copies of documents which had formed part of the record in the High Court, if the certified copies are not available, uncertified copies can be filed and an affidavit verifying the Annexure as true copy should also be filed.
- iv. The petitioners has to file seven copies of the petition.
- v. The petition is required to be filed on white paper and not on green ledger paper.

- vi. The petition should be cyclostyled, if possible, typed or printed.

#### **Contents of SLP:**

This petition is required to state all the facts that are necessary to enable the court to determine whether SLP ought to be granted or not. It is required to be signed by Advocate on record. The petition should also contain statement that the petitioner has not filed any other petition in the High court. It should be accompanied by a certified copy of Judgment appealed against and an affidavit by the petitioner verifying the same and should also be accompanied by all the documents that formed part of pleading in lower court.

#### **The Scope of Power Vested with the Supreme Court of India under Article 136 of Constitution of India:**

The Constitution of India vest “discretionary power” in the Supreme Court of India. The Supreme Court of India may in its discretion be able to grant special leave to appeal from any judgment or decree or order in any matter or cause made or passed by any Court/tribunal in the territory of India. The Supreme Court of India may also refuse to grant the leave to appeal by exercising its discretion.

An aggrieved party from the judgment or decree of High Court cannot claim special leave to appeal as a right but it is privilege which the Supreme Court of India is vested with and this leave to appeal can be granted by it only.

An aggrieved party can approach the Apex Court under article 136 in case any constitutional or legal issue exists and which can be clarified by the Supreme Court of India. This can be heard as civil or criminal appeal as the case may be.

#### **Judgments of Various Courts of India on SLP:**

There is catena of Judgments mentioning about the scope of power of Supreme Court under Article 136, the maintainability of special leave petitions. The below mentioned are some of prominent Judgments mentioning about SLP.

- Pritam Singh v. the State (Air 1950 SC 169)(2)
- Kunhayammed vs. State of Kerala (2000) 245 ITR 360 (SC) (3)
- Smt. Tej Kumari vs. (2001) 247 ITR 210 (4)
- N. Suriyakala vs. A Mohan dodos and Others (2007) 9 SCC 196 (5)
- Trupati Balaji Developers Pvt. Ltd vs. State of Bihar AIR 2004 SC 2351,(6)
- Jamshed Hormusji Wadia vs. Board of Trustees, Port of Mumbai AIR 2004 SC 1815
- Mathai @ Joby v. George (2010) (4SCC 358)
- Columbia Sportswear Company v. Directorate of Income Tax (Judgment of Supreme Court of India in SLP no 31543 of 2011)

#### **Affidavit:**

- i. Affidavit verifying the petition is required to be filed along with the SLP. The affidavit should be typed on plain white paper;
- ii. Affidavit verifying the uncertified copies of the Exhibits/Annexure should be filed;
- iii. If the petition is filed beyond 60/90 days the affidavit should be filed explaining the time taken for obtaining certified copy and /or the reason for delay.

**Court Fees Payable:**

- i. On the SLP, the Court fees payable is Rs.250/-
- ii. In case of petition on certificate granted by High Court, the Court fees payable is Rs.250/- if the amount of dispute is Rs.20,000 or less and for every Rs. 1,000/- in excess of Rs. 20,000/- Rs.5/- but the maximum Court fees payable does not exceed Rs.2,000/-.

**Vakalatnama:**

The petitioner should appoint an advocate on record in New Delhi and send Vakalatnama in favour of the proposed Advocate on record who will be filing the SLP.

**Interim Relief and Grant Leave:**

If any interim relief is required a separate application should be filed giving facts and circumstances as to why interim relief is sought from the Court. It is discretionary power vested in the Supreme Court of India and the court may at its discretion refuse to grant leave to appeal.

**Bibliography:**

- a) Constitution of India, 1950

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Om Prakash, Qrs: E208, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-12.

## Freedom of Press and Media Trial

*Jajati Keshari Samantasinghar*

Man is different from other animals in certain traits and among these speaking power, i.e. power to express his own idea and thought is one such important trait. In passage of time man has left its ancient life and strolled on the path of modern civilization and in this process of journey to speak otherwise from ancient stone age to the present 21<sup>st</sup> century, ideas, thoughts, opinions views are chiefly responsible in achieving excellence, be it in the sphere of philosophy, science, literature culture etc.

After the Right to life and Right to property, freedom of speech comes as the next important and significant in the hierarchy of rights. Many a times the pages of human civilization have been stained with the blood of those, who have sacrificed their lives for their freedom of thought. One such event was the case of Socrates the great philosopher who stood firm for his ideas and preferred hemlock to life. Freedom of speech has always been held very dear to the heart of human being.

The preamble of Indian Constitution, therefore categorically, speaks inter alia to secure to all its citizens liberty of thought, expression etc. Part III of our Constitution under the heading of Fundamental Rights has well enumerated six fundamental rights.

Freedom of thought and expression as mentioned in the preamble has its fullest form in the article 19 under the nomenclature of Right to Freedom. The said article has given the total indices of different categories of freedom.

Freedom of speech and expression as enumerated under sub clause (a) of clause (1) of article 19 connotes the liberty to express one's views, opinions, beliefs and mode of expression either through words, writing, printing, features or any other intelligible mode that can convey the thought, view and opinion.

In *Ramesh Thapar Vrs State of Madras*<sup>1</sup> Patanjali Shastri, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India observed as follows.....

“Freedom of speech and of the press lay at the foundation of all democratic organisation, for without free political discussion no public education, so essential for the proper functioning of the process of popular government, is possible. A freedom of such amplitude might involve risks of abuse. But the framers of the Constitution may well have reflected with Madison, who was the leading spirit in the preparation of the First Amendment of the Federal Constitution, that it is better to leave a few of its noxious branches to their luxuriant growth than by pruning them away to injure the vigour of those yielding the proper fruits.”

Indian Constitution though has enumerated under article 19 (a) (1) about the freedom of speech and expression for its citizens; however, it has nowhere mentioned about the freedom of press. Since printing media/electronic media are two other important modes of expression of opinion, views etc it can essentially be said that freedom of press is implied in freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

It is settled law that Right to Freedom of speech, expression in article 19(1) (a) includes the liberty of the press<sup>2</sup>.

**Sakal Paper (p) Ltd.-Vrs-Union of India, AIR 1962 SC.305**

All modern democracies have therefore, given much importance to freedom of press. A free press is the sentinel of democracy. Successful democracy requires deliberation and discussion.

Amidst all in a democracy people rule themselves through their popularly elected representatives and public opinion is the sentinel against arbitrariness and authoritarianism of those rulers.

**How the public opinion is articulated?**

It is largely through the medium of either print or electronic media (Free press) public opinion is articulated and all of us know how important is the role of public opinion in a democracy. Because public opinion ultimately brings social change and social development.

Secondly it is one of the chief instruments of information and also works as a medium for exchange of ideas, view etc. Very often it also carries the views of the government, opposition and virtually works as a strong medium for imparting education for the public, be it political social, economic, cultural, science, metaphysics or philosophy. Media is thus one of the main instruments of social education and enlightenment.

Lord Mansfield had defined the liberty of press as consisting in printing without previous license, subject to the consequence of Law<sup>3</sup>. It needs no emphasis that a free press which is neither controlled by the executive nor subjected to censorship can play its oral role of social auditing in a free state. In particular, regularly published political press is essential in a modern democracy.

India is a home to heterogeneous culture, language, religion so also is our political life. In a multiparty system like ours, the political affiliation of the people has again been diversified on the

basis of caste, religion, language etc. In such a context, the media freedom must be exercised with much caution and responsibility.

The dimensions of the media liberty is not only that media ought to be free and at liberty to publish the news without pre censorship rather it is more than that.

The media must at the same time be sensitive to the impact it brings on the society by disseminating/publishing news on highly sensitive issues. Basically, it must weigh the pros and cons of the said news on the society.

Right to know or Right to information is now treated as a basic right. A free media no doubt plays a pivotal role in brining news/information. In Indian Express Newspapers Pvt. Ltd. –Vrs- U.O.I<sup>4</sup> the Supreme Court held that “the expression freedom of press has not been used in article 19 but it is comprehended within Act 1(1)(a). The expression means freedom from interference from authority which would have the effect of interference with contents and circulation of newspapers. There cannot be any interference with that freedom in the name of public interest. The propose of the press is to advance the public interest by publishing facts and opinions without which a democratic electorate cannot make a responsible judgement. Freedom of the press is the heart of social and political interference.

It is the primary duty of the courts to uphold the freedom of press and invalidate all laws of administrative actions which interfere with it contrary to the constitutional mandate.” In Bennett Coleman & Co v. UOI<sup>5</sup> the Supreme Court felt that the freedom of speech and expression is not only in the volume of circulation but also in the volume of news and views. The press has right of free propagation and free circulation....

With the advent of information technology and consequent revolution the electronic media particularly in the name of the investigative journalism could have broken out news regarding crimes, offences, scams, of sensational nature

even before investigating/enforcement agencies are informed about the occurrence. The matter does not stop there. In a bid to increase TRP the media goes on airing the sensational crimes/offence, scams round the clock under the caption of breaking news. Interviews, sponsored debates and discussion by the panel of experts in the news room of any electronic media is a regular feature as to the reported Crimes, Offence, Scams etc.

#### **AIR 1973 SC 106**

Before the matter was fully investigated and adjudicated upon in any court of law, the media hype has already made someone victim and someone as perpetrator of the crimes. Possibly by spreading of news and views about the many presumptions about ..... crimes like the background of the accused, the possible motive behind crimes, offences and the purported display of barbarism, inhumanity, insensitivity to public morality and blatant dishonesty imputed to the accused has some time a negative impact as it would bring an warranted hatred and contempt for an accused even before he is adjudged guilty in the court of law. For example in many matrimonial cases, we come across situations where false cases are being foisted by the daughter in law and due to unnecessary media hype innocent husband, father in law or mother in law are being looked down in the society contemptuously.

In state of Maharastra –Vrs- R.J.Gandhi<sup>6</sup> the Supreme Court held that, a trial by press/electronic media is very antithesis to rule of law. It can well lead to miscarriage of the justice. A Judge has to guard himself against such pressure and he has to be guided strictly by Rule of law.

Another damaging effect of media trial is that sometime the interviews either with the accused or with victim or his/her family, panel discussions, debates etc either published in print media or aired through electronic media reveal some narrations, factual enumerations, data etc which might have material value from the point of trial of case by the judiciary and definitely would

have a tendency of interfering with administration of justice. In Sidharth Vashist –Vrs- State (NCT of Delhi)<sup>7</sup> it was held that trial by media should be avoided particularly at a stage when suspect is entitled to constitutional protection, otherwise there is danger of serious risk and prejudice.

At the same time there is no denying the fact that media in a country like India has been playing its role more or less successfully. It is due to the media involvement many cases have seen justice.

#### **AIR 1997 SC 398**

#### **AIR 2010 SC 2356**

It is due to the relentless fight of families of victims along with continued unconditional support of media, many cases could have caught nerves of the people, mention may be made of Jessica Lal murder case, Priyadarshini Mattoo murder and rape case, Sivani Bhatnager murder case, Sanjeeb Nanda hit and run case, Delhi Nirvaya case, Bombay rape case of a journalist and so many.

Recently it is due to constant media coverage the Sheena Bora murder case where the Government removed the Bombay Police Commissioner, Rakesh Maria ultimately handed over the matter for CBI probe. Thus media has always been playing a vital role in bringing high profile crimes and scams to the public.

Undisputedly the media is the unwritten fourth structures of any nation and happens to be the main articulator of public opinion and as such it stands foremost among all other organs. However, at the same time it must remain socially committed towards the welfare of the people guarding the national interest with an evangelist zeal always treading on the path of truth and morality hearing to the voice of greatest happiness of greatest number of people i.e. public utility and welfare.

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Jajati Keshari Samantasinghar, Secretary, Odisha State Bar Council, Cuttack.

## ODISHA UPDATE

### **FISCAL PERFORMANCE OF THE STATE DURING 2015-16 ACHIEVED HIGHER SCALES**

Fiscal performance of the State achieved higher scales during 2015-16. This was discussed in All Secretaries meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi in Secretariat Conference Hall. Reviewing the performance of all departments Chief Secretary advised all principal secretaries and secretaries to submit brief action plans with definite targets on each of their priority agenda for the fiscal year 2016-17. The departments were also advised to make use of social media for improvement in governance and outreach extension of the Govt. Focusing on the utility of social media Shri Padhi said that near about 65% of our population are below 35 years of age who could be engaged and addressed through social media more effectively. Mobile apps would also be more helpful. Principal Secretary IT Sri Pradeep Kumar Jena presented an action plan for on utilization of the social media and said that at present more than 30 mobile apps have been developed and put to use in various departments. Chief Secretary further advised the departments to convert more and more public services to digital mode and put them on e-service platform. Shri Padhi also appreciated the stand out performance of Panchayati raj department at national level in the matters of the construction of rural housing. The department could complete more than 6.5 lakh IAY houses during 2015-16 for which Odisha became eligible to get more number of houses for current year. The Special Secretary Finance Shri Vishal Dev presented the fiscal performance of various departments during 2015-16 which showed that the total state plan expenditure during the year has been around 40498.71 cr. recording a growth of around 35% over last year i.e.2014-15. The total expenditure in agriculture and allied sector has been Rs.8498.27 cr which is 20.12% more than that of 2014-15. Similarly, the infrastructure sector spending has been to the tune of Rs.12122.03 cr which is 17% more than that of the previous year. This sector has achieved 93.36% utilization of the budget outlay. The investment in social sector has been Rs.16937.25 cr which is 13.83% more than 2014-15. Keeping in tune with higher expenditure, the revenue generation has also been enhanced to the tune of Rs.30566.73 Cr which is around 10% more than that of the last fiscal. The revenue collection from own tax sources has been Rs.22418.29 cr. The collection from non-tax sources has been Rs.30566.73 cr. In spite of the slowdown in global market the royalty from mining has reached Rs.5716.80 cr which is around 8% more than pervious year. The departments were advised to conduct online reconciliation of expenditure

with the Accountant General through iFMS. The reconciliation up to February, 2016 need to be completed by 30th April, 2016 and the reconciliation up to March, 16 be completed by 27.5.2016. The departments have been warned that failure to reconcile the expenditure within the scheduled time would lead to non-processing of their bills in iFMS.

### **ODISHA STRIDES AHEAD IN MALARIA CONTROL AND PREVENTION**

Odisha strides ahead in Malaria control and prevention. The conditions in 8 districts have improved to move to pre-elimination and elimination phase. This has been discussed in a high level meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi wherein Principal Secretary Health & Family Welfare Smt. Arati Ahuja outlined the issues for discussion. The meeting deliberated on system strengthening in the context of Malaria elimination. Reviewing the progress Chief Secretary Shri Padhi directed to intensify State sponsored Malaria Elimination Scheme named DAMAN in remote district from the month of May, 2016. Chief Secretary assured that State Govt. would provide the required fund for the purpose from its own resources. Further, Chief Secretary Shri Padhi directed the Health & Family Welfare Department to ensure availability of Malarial medicines at PHCs and Health Centres and cautioned the department that no person should be deprived of getting medicine in time. Dr Madan Mohan Pradhan, Joint Director, Health while presenting the national survey figures said that conditions have improved significantly in 8 coastal districts where Annual Parasite Incidence (API) per 1000 population is less than 1. Looking to block API data, it was decided to move to elimination phase in 3 districts namely Puri, Kendrapara and Jagatsinghpur. Other 5 districts namely Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur, Cuttack and Khurda would move to pre-elimination phase. Replying to a media query after the meeting, Joint Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Shri Surjit Das said that the scheme DAMAN is an innovative and integrated approach for control and prevention of Malaria. The scheme is sponsored and funded by Govt. of Odisha. It was decided in the meeting that the implementation of the scheme would be intensified in 8 districts which have reported more than 10 API. These districts include Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamala, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Nuapada and Rayagada. An amount of Rs.25 cr has been estimated for the purpose. The services to be provided would include diagnosis, treatment, intensive mass awareness, behavioural change communications, haemoglobin test, nutrition test, supply of medicines etc. The meeting further decided to set up 25 entomological units in various districts including 5 municipal corporations to address Malaria and other vector borne diseases including Dengue, Chikungunya etc. It was also decided that around 1.52 cr LLI nets would be procured from Global Fund for TB, AIDS & Malaria ( GFTAM) control through Govt. of India within 6 months. This would meet present requirement of the State. Besides, the ongoing programmes like indoor residual spray, diagnosis and treatment within 24 hours would also be intensified.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE COMMITTEE ON PLOT ALLOTMENT**

Implementation of the recommendations of Task Force Committee on plot/house allotment in BDA and CDA area has been put on track with Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi reviewing the progress on the matter in a high level meeting held in secretariat conference hall wherein Director General Vigilance

Dr. R.P. Sharma, Principal Secretary, General Administration Shri G.V.V. Sharma along with Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Shri G. Mathivathanan outlined the issues for discussion. Reviewing the progress Chief Secretary Shri Padhi directed concerned departments and agencies to complete the assigned tasks within 3 months. Replying to a media query after the meeting, Principal Secretary, Shri Sarma said that General Administration department had issued the modalities for implementation of the recommendations of the task force committee on 6th May, 2015. Accordingly, respective departments and agencies like BDA, CDA, Odisha State Housing Board, Vigilance and Finance have started implementing the recommendations as approved by the Govt. Available data shows so far BDA has cancelled 11 allotments and issued 732 show cause notices against which 653 replies have been received. Similarly, Vigilance department has taken up examination of fraudulent practice and criminal intentions in the transactions and have registered 24 cases out of which 8 belong to Odisha State Housing Board, 7 belong to Cuttack Development Authority area and 9 belong to Bhubaneswar Development Authority area. CDA has also issued 1091 show cause notices against which 914 replies have been received. So far the enquiry committee has recommended 8 cases in CDA area for cancellation. OSHB has issued 90 show cause notices. The received replies are being examined as per the provisions of the various schemes and legal stipulations. Apart from this, Finance Department is also preparing a data base of the left out cases from 1.1.1995 onwards. Chief Secretary advised the investigating authorities to give adequate chance of hearing to the allottees as per the principles of natural justice. It was decided that all concerned agencies shall complete the tasks assigned to them within three months.

### **STATE ACHIEVES AROUND 10% GROWTH IN REVENUE COLLECTION DURING 2015-16**

State achieved around 10% growth in revenue collection during 2015-16 over the financial year 2014-15. This has been discussed in a high level meeting on revenue collection held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi wherein Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shri R. Balakrishnan outlined the issues for discussion. Reviewing the overall of revenue collection during 2015-16, Chief Secretary, Shri Padhi advised the major revenue earning departments to tap the untapped sources for enhancing the revenue collection. Steel & Mines department was advised to enhance the level of production within the permitted capacity of mining leases. Revenue & Disaster Management Department was also advised to initiate follow up action on the study report about stamp duty and registration fees. Development Commissioner Shri Balakrishnan advised the revenue earning departments to use the IT platform for Focused Arrear Recovery Monitoring System (FARMS). This would help the departments to monitor and augment arrear revenue collection. The departments were also asked to make full utilization of electronics mode for receipt of revenue. So far, this system has been enabled in commercial taxes, mining revenue, excise duty, electricity duty & inspection fees for captive consumption, motor vehicle tax and e-dhaRani. It was proposed to enable the system fully in stamp duty, land revenue, industrial water rate and forest royalty soon. This would help the tax payers in making payment of tax and also facilitate the departments to monitor the revenue flow and detect the defaults. Available data shows during 2014-15 the total own tax revenue collection was around 19,824.44 cr and non-tax revenue was around Rs.8070.87 cr making a total revenue flow of Rs.27, 899.31 cr. As per the tentative figures available, there has been around 10% growth in

revenue collection during 2015-16. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi directed the departments to adopt proactive revenue measures with a target of about Rs. 36,000 cr for the current financial year so as to support higher plan outlay and enhanced capital investment.

### **CHIEF SECRETARY INAUGURATED THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK IN MIND TREE**

Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi inaugurated the ground breaking ceremony of the software development block of the leading IT company the Mind Tree amidst chanting of sacred versions from Veda, Koran and Bibel. Principal Secretary, IT Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Secretary, Women & Child Development Shri Vishal Dev, Municipal Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation Shri Kishan Kumar, Dr. Subroto Bagchi, the co-founder of Mind Tree along with other dignitaries and engineers participated in the ground breaking ceremony. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi took an overview of the IT booming activities of Mind Tree in Odisha. Around 1000 young engineers have already received professional training from its global learning center. The company would start special learning programme on various IT themes for IT engineers from the current year. Replying to a media query after the ceremony, Center Head of Mind Anindya Mitra Shri Maitra said that the present project would be the 2nd Phase Software Development Block. This block would provide the space and facility for 1500 IT engineers to design and develop various software applications. The initial estimate of the project has been over Rs.50 cr.

### **CRM APPLAUDS THE STATE FOR EXCELLENT WORKS IN RURAL HOUSING, ROADS, MGNREGS AND SKILL TRAINING**

Central Common Review Mission (CRM) applauded the State for excellent works in rural housing, rural roads, MGNREGS and skill development training. The mission team led by Chairman Shri Summit Bose, after 3 days field visit to various blocks and villages had a wrap up meeting with Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi and Secretary, P.R. Shri Deoranjan Kumar Singh in State Secretariat. The members of the team mentioned, "We are extremely enthused to see the works done in rural housing". The programme implementation has won people's confidence and a large number of houses have been completed". Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said, "housing for all is a priority agenda of State Govt and Govt. is making all out efforts to make the programme successful at ground level." Secretary, P.R. Shri Singh mentioned that around 10 lakh houses for rural poor have been constructed during 2014-15 & 2015-16 with direct involvement of beneficiaries themselves. As per SECC data around 44 lakh households have been identified on priority basis to be covered under the scheme. It has been targeted to construct around 5 lakh houses each year. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said, "the landless persons are being enlisted to be included in it. The landless would be provided homestead land under the Basundhara scheme so as to make them eligible for rural housing programme. Govt aims at prioritizing poorest of the poor in this scheme". The team also expressed their satisfaction over construction of PMGSY roads connecting high ways with villages. They said, "we went up to village level to see the quality and quantum of work. The performance was excellent". Available data show, a total number of 9372 PMGSY roads stretching over 36,168 Kms have been completed in the State up to 31st March, 2016.

A total amount of around Rs.14930 cr has been invested in it. Presently, the programme is being implemented with 60:40 funding share between Central and State Govt. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said that State would make appropriate budget provision for maintenance of the PMGSY roads. Sources say, around 150 cr. has been provided under the State budget for maintenance of these roads. The team commended the convergence of MGNREGS with various programmes like horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry, rural livelihood mission, dug wells, agriculture etc. at the ground level and said that many innovative practices of convergence were also being followed. Secretary Shri Singh mentioned that around Rs.1200 cr of MGNREGS funds has been converged with various State and Central Govt. schemes. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said that there would be more focus on this convergence in current financial year also. The team also looked into implementation of the programmes like Din Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kausal Yojana (DDUGKY), public distribution system, electrification, internet connectivity, reduction of IMR & MMR, management of malnutrition etc. and expressed their satisfaction about the outcomes of these programmes. They mentioned that the skill development training under DDUGKY in IT, Computer, retailing etc. were qualitative and trained youths were also being provided placements. Secretary, Panchayati Raj Shri Singh said that around 35,000 youths have been trained under the scheme this year. The team suggested the need for extending internet connectivity to G.P. level. Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said that presently the connectivity has been established up to block level and steps are being taken to extend it to G.P. level.

### **ODISHA BECOMES THE LEADING STATE TO ROLL OUT CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE IN ROAD SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

Odisha has become a leading State to roll out capacity building initiative in road safety management . A study report on road safety conducted by an independent organisation like IRTE (Institute of Road Traffic Education ) was discussed over Road Table Meeting held in Secretariat Conference hall under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi wherein Principal Secretary, Excise Shri S.P.Thakur outlined the objective of the Study. Dr. Rohit Baluja, President of IRTE tabled the report for discussion. Replying to a media query after the meeting, Chief Secretary Shri Padhi said that the institute made a detail study about road safety stretching over 45 kms from Pitapali on NH-16 to OMC square in Cuttack. The study has lighted upon road and traffic engineering, training of police and traffic personnel, public awareness, sophisticated traffic tools and systems, drink & driving etc. The recommendations will be carried over and implemented in close collaboration among concerned depts like NHAI, Transport, Police and Excise. The State has already set up a traffic training institute. This will be strengthened for advanced training to urban police and traffic. Available data show Govt. of Odisha took the initiative for curbing down fatal accident on NH. For the purpose, IRTE was invited to make a road safety study on the NH. At the initial level IRTE conducted an indepth study from Pitapali to OMC square including Kalpana square to Rasulgarh. The survey was conducted by a team of experts from 6th April to 4th May, 2016. The methods like mobile road crash investigation and crashlab analysis were used in the study. The study project was supported by ISWAI.

*U.K.Mohapatra, Information Officer*

## **MoU SIGNED BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND UTKAL TUBERS INDIA PRIVATE LTD FOR POTATO SEED PRODUCTION**

A Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Odisha and Utkal Tubers India Private Ltd is signed in the presence of Minister, Agriculture, Farmers Empowerment, Fisheries and ARD Shri Pradeep Maharathy for potato seed production in the state. Potato seed is the major constraint for potato production in the state. Task Force report on Potato estimated requirement of 1.20 lakh MT of potato seeds by 2017-18. At present, potato seeds are being produced in a limited quantity in Odisha and thus, there is a huge gap between supply and demand. To meet the demand, large quantities of potato seeds are being procured from Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, every year by the farmers of Odisha and Directorate of Horticulture which not only drains the Government exchequer but also results in reduction of quality due to long distance transport. The Task Force had recommended for seed production to be done inside state, with private involvement. M/s Utkal Tubers India Private Ltd, Bangalore has proposed to produce potato seeds in the state by establishing tissue culture laboratory for production of disease-free planting materials and multiplication inside the state. The potato seeds produced will be marketed inside Odisha and in Eastern India. As per the MoU, Government will lease out 10 acres of land at Deras farm, Khurda for establishment of Tissue Culture Laboratory and 40 acres of land at Similiguda, Koraput for seed multiplication with usual Government rent for a period of 15 years, extendable by 10 years with due approval of the Govt. Utkal Tubers India Private Ltd will establish the required infrastructure and seed multiplication at their own cost. There is no virtual investment from Government side. As per the programme, there will be production of about 1.10 lakh MT potato seeds by the year 2020-21. This will ensure supply of potato seeds to the farmers of Odisha at reasonable price and help in area expansion and production of potato in the State, Minister Shri Maharathy expressed.

## **STATE BOARD FOR WILDLIFE RECOMMENDS PROPOSAL FOR INCLUSION OF HADAGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN SIMILIPAL TIGER RESERVE**

The 2nd meeting of Standing Committee of State Board for Wildlife is held under the Chairmanship of Minister, Forest and Environment Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha. After detailed discussion the committee recommended some proposals for approval of Chief Minister and Chairman of State Board for Wildlife Shri Naveen Patnaik for further recommendation to Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for their approval. Proposals for construction of Jetty and Public Rain Shelter at Gupti inside Bhitarkanika WL Sanctuary, Jetty and Public Rain Shelter at Talchua inside Bhitarkanika WL Sanctuary, 4-laning of Baharagoda to Singhada Section (199.200 km to 310.806 km) of NH-6 (Package-I) under Project Director, NHAI, Balasore and inclusion of Hadagarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Similipal Tiger Reserve were recommended by the Standing Committee.

## **MINISTER, FOREST & ENVIRONMENT INAUGURATES WEBSITE OF STATE CLIMATE CHANGE CELL**

Minister, Forest & Environment and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha has inaugurated website of State Climate Change Cell ([www.climatechangecellodisha.org](http://www.climatechangecellodisha.org)). Climate change is right now

a global phenomenon in the world. Its devastating consequences can be felt in many regions of the world. Many scientists opined that Global warming, natural calamities and rising of sea level are gradually escalating due to climate change. This results in submergence of many lands associated with damage to coastal area settlements, plants, animals etc. It is therefore very essential to take preventive measures. The first draft Climate Change Action Plan was prepared in the year 2010 to accelerate the activities to curb the impact of climate change in our state. Odisha was the first state to prepare this Action Plan and set an example for all other states. With the cooperation of 11 line departments, several key activities have been taken into account from the identified activities in the State Action Plan on Climate Change and Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Energy, Housing & Urban Development, Water Resources and Forest & Environment dept. have taken remarkable steps to mitigate the impact of climate change. Basing on the experience gained from previously prepared reports and achievements till date, the Government has prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change for the period 2015-2020 for a long term Climate Change Prevention System and this Action Plan has been uploaded in the website [www.climatechangecellodisha.org](http://www.climatechangecellodisha.org). In this regard concerned departments, Institutions and general public are requested to give their valuable comments/suggestions/views in [odishaclimatecell@gmail.com](mailto:odishaclimatecell@gmail.com). After getting these comments and suggestions from public and the stakeholder Institutions the report will be finalised and implemented.

*Manas Ranjan Khuntia, Information Officer*

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