

# ODISHA REVIEW

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FEBRUARY-MARCH - 2021

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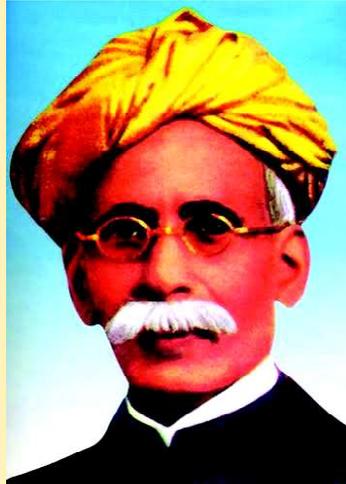
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# CONTENTS

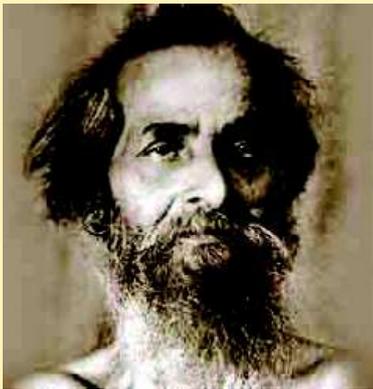
FEBRUARY-MARCH - 2021

<b>Remembering Biju Babu</b>	<i>Dr. Sudarsan Pradhan</i>	... 1
<b>Role and Effectiveness of Political Leaders : A Conceptual Study</b>	<i>Bhabani Shankar Chayani</i>	... 6
<b>Poetess Kuntala Kumari Sabat</b>	<i>Dr. Nirmala Kumari Mohapatra</i>	... 12
<b>Socio-Cultural Life of Didayee Tribes of Malkangiri</b>	<i>Dr. Debashis Patra</i>	... 14
<b>Necessity of Promoting Woman in the Field of Governance as a Political Leader at the Village Level in Odisha</b>	<i>Dr. Bharati Mohanty</i>	... 18
<b>Political Evolution in Ex-Princely State of Patna Under the Dynamic Leadership of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo</b>	<i>Dr. Suresh Prasad Sarangi</i>	... 22
<b>Women Empowerment through Golden Grass Craft in Rural Odisha</b>	<i>Dr. Rajballav Mohanty Dr. Taranisen Panda</i>	... 31
<b>An Overview Upon Some Existing Palaces of Odisha</b>	<i>Liza Nayak</i>	... 34
<b>Evokes Zoonotic Coronavirus</b>	<i>Dr. Ajit Kumar Mahapatra</i>	... 40
<b>Quit India Movement in Odisha with Special Reference to Balasore District</b>	<i>Dr. Pradeep Kumar Giri</i>	... 41
<b>Four Pillars of a School</b>	<i>Dr. Manoranjan Pradhan</i>	... 44
<b>Role of Police in the Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners of Western Odisha : A Critical Appraisal</b>	<i>Dr. Hrushikesh Meher Dr. Samarendra Mohanty</i>	... 47
<b>Biju Patnaik : A Legendary Hero</b>	<i>Balabhadra Ghadai</i>	... 61
<b>Pramod Pati : Father of Indian New Wave Cinema</b>	<i>Golaka Bihari Singh</i>	... 64
<b>Reminiscence of Biju Babu</b>	<i>Uma Shankar Prasad</i>	... 68
<b>Women in Science</b>	<i>Dr. Manas Ranjan Senapati</i>	... 71
<b>Address of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha Prof. Ganeshi Lal to the Odisha Legislative Assembly on 18th February, 2021</b>	...	... 73

# *Our Sincere Obeisance*



*Utkal Gourav Madhusudan*



*Acharya Harihar*



*Laxman Naik*

*Remembering the Stalwart  
with utmost respect ....*



*Legendary leader and visionary Biju Patnaik*



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

# PEOPLE'S GUIDE ANNUAL BUDGET 2021-22

February, 2021

FINANCE DEPARTMENT



## Budget Highlights

### Thrust of the Budget: Transformative Health Facilities & Transformative Infrastructure

- Aspiration for “**New Odisha - Empowered Odisha**” with agenda to transform health, agriculture, education, livelihoods, infrastructure as well as industries to the next level with adequate safeguard for the vulnerable sections of the society
- Converting **SCB Medical College into “AIIMS Plus institute”** to provide **world-class healthcare facilities** by spending around **Rs.3500 crore** over 3 years
- To bring about transformative change in the agriculture & allied sector, there is provision of **₹1,800 crore** under **KALIA Scheme**, **₹450 crore** under **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)**, **₹795 crore** for construction of “**In-stream Storage Structures (ISS)**” in all major rivers, and **₹819 crore** under the scheme **Interest Subsidy/Subvention** to farmers
- Mega plan to **transform Puri into World Heritage City** under **ABADHA** scheme by allocating **Rs.542 crore**
- Transformative initiative for **Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action (EKAMRA) Plan** by spending **Rs.200 crore** under **EKAMRA Plan** to pedestrianize more than 65 Acres around the Lingaraj temple
- Comprehensive plan to transform **Samaleswari temple Area Management And Local Economic Initiative (SAMALEI)** with an outlay of Rs.200 crore under **SAMALEI Scheme**
- A **new world-class hockey stadium** over 15 acres of land at **Rourkela** with an outlay of **Rs.90 crore**

### What is New in the Budget?

- Complete **e-Budgeting** with presentation of Budget in **NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application) – A green initiative**
- A dedicated **Odisha Budget Mobile App** – Available in both Google Play Store and Apple App Store
- **Strategic Budget** making process adopted to improve budget credibility
- Introduction of **Fiscal Risk Statement** as a comprehensive disclosure on all fiscal risks to help better management of risk exposures
- Introduction of **Fiscal Strategy Report** and **Status Report on Public Debt** as disclosures on State Finances
- Introduction of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Budget document**
- Strengthening **disclosure standard**-Budget data is made available in excel format

### Health Care for all



- A total sum of **₹9,164 crore** is allocated for public health care with an increase of about 19% over previous year
- **₹1,353 crore** provided under the scheme **Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana** for free Medical facilities with coverage up to **₹5 lakh per family** in case of male members and up to **₹10 lakh per family** in case of female beneficiaries
- Provision of **₹1,572 crore** made under **Mukhyamantri Swasthya Seva Mission** for building health infrastructure and services
- **₹1,755 crore** provided for **National Health Mission**
- **₹370 crore** proposed for maintaining quality of sanitation, laundry, security, gardening & lift services in public health facilities under **Nirmal Scheme**
- **₹3500 crore** is proposed to **Convert SCB Medical College into “AIIMS Plus Institute”** to provide **world-class healthcare facilities** over next three years and **₹ 500 crore** has been allocated for 2021-22.
- **₹600 crore** under **NIRAMAYA** for free medicine, **₹229 crore** under **NIDAN** for free diagnostics, and **₹162 crore** under **Odisha State Treatment Fund**
- **₹117 crore** to **upgrade health care facilities** with better equipment at major health institutions and District headquarter hospitals
- **₹63 crore** under **Public Health Response Fund** for the management of COVID-19 and emergency healthcare facilities
- **₹40 crore** for a new scheme **Free Treatment for Trauma Fund (FTTF)** for providing emergency health care and trauma care facilities to the victims of road traffic accidents

## Education and Skill Development



- Total **₹24,370 crore** allocated for education and skill development sector
- **₹280 crore** provided under **Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya** to meet the establishment and running cost of the schools
- **₹3,066 crore** for **Samagra Sikshya Abhiyan** and **₹957 crore** for **Mid-day Meal Scheme** all of which will have a State share of 40%
- **₹8 crore** for LPG connection in 10000 Primary and Upper Primary Schools to encourage use of green and clean fuels
- A sum of **₹253 crore** under **Mo School Programme** for infrastructure development of schools
- Looking at the success of **Mo School Abhiyan**, a sum of **₹7 crore** is proposed towards corpus fund under **Mo College Abhiyan**
- Allocation for **₹430 crore** under the **Gangadhar Meher Sikshya Manakbrudhi Yojana (GMSMY)** to provide school bags to all children from Class-I to V, free textbooks and school uniform including shoes to all children from Class-I to VIII and free bicycles to all students in Class-IX of Government and fully aided schools including OAVs
- **₹1,002 crore** earmarked towards all students' scholarships to be credited through DBT
- **₹108 crore** under World Bank assisted **Odisha Higher Education Programme for Excellence and Equity (OHEPEE)** to transform select universities and colleges into Centers of Excellence
- **₹212 crore** for the **Rashtriya Uchatara Sikshya Abhiyan (RUSA)** Scheme for higher education and technical education
- Provision of **₹100 crore** under the Asian Development Bank assisted **Odisha Skill Development Project** to bring up a **World Skill Centre** in Bhubaneswar
- A sum of **₹151 crore** allocated for infrastructure development of Technological Universities and Engineering Colleges, Engineering Schools, Polytechnics and ITIs

## Agriculture & Allied Sector Activities



- Allocation of **₹17,469 crore** to Agriculture and allied activities
- An outlay of **₹1,800 crore** under the scheme **Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)**
- **₹819 crore** provided towards Interest Subvention on crop loans to Co-operative as well as Commercial Banks
- **₹148 crore** provided as **Infrastructure Grants to OUAT** for promoting agriculture education, research and infrastructure
- **₹120 crore** for **National Horticulture Mission**
- Revolving fund of **₹100 crore** each for seeds and fertilizers has been proposed to ensure advance availability of quality seeds and fertilizers for the farmers during the cropping seasons
- **₹454 crore** is proposed towards subsidy for capital investment for establishment of Commercial Agri-enterprises and for popularization of agricultural implements, equipment and diesel pump sets
- An outlay of **₹60 crore** provisioned as **Support to Farmers' Producers Organisation**
- **₹500 crore** allocated for **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**
- **₹106 crore** for the **Odisha Millet Mission**
- Outlay of **₹1,415 crore** for the **Fisheries & Animal Resources Development** sector
- **₹137 crore** proposed for the development of **Brackish Water Aquaculture, Marine Fisheries, Intensive Aquaculture, and Inland Fisheries**.
- **₹70 crore** under the flagship **Machha Chasa Pain Nua Pokhari Khola Yojana**
- **₹161 crore** for **Blue Revolution** for integrated development & management of fisheries
- **₹102 crore** under the scheme **Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikash Yojana**
- **₹100 crore** for **Up-gradation of Livestock Health Care service**

## Irrigation



- An outlay of ₹2,258 crore for incomplete AIBP Projects implemented through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
- ₹795 crore for construction of In-stream Storage Structures (ISS) in all major rivers of the State.
- ₹454 crore proposed under state funded Water Sector Infrastructure Development Programme (WSIDP) for on-going and new projects
- An outlay of ₹710 crore for flood control and drainage work
- ₹860 crore for Parbati Giri Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme
- ₹180 crore under RIDF for Jalanidhi scheme to create additional irrigation potential
- A sum of ₹389 crore proposed for completion of 21,000 Deep Bore Wells
- ₹400 crore under Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana for installation of 1500 community lift irrigation projects
- ₹164 crore allocated for revival of 1000 defunct lift irrigation points
- ₹101 crore is being proposed under Canal Lining and System Rehabilitation Programme (CLSRP)
- ₹77 crore proposed under Nabakrushna Choudhury Secha Unnayana Yojana

## WASH Initiatives: Water Access, Sanitation, and Hygiene



- A massive investment of ₹12,000 crore for piped drinking water which includes ₹2,419 crore under BASUDHA, ₹6,300 crore under Jal Jeevan Mission and ₹560 crore towards operation and maintenance of water supply systems
- Off-budget resources like OMBADC (₹2,150 crore) and DMF (₹665 crore) are employed in convergence mode for piped water supply in 8 mineral bearing districts.
- ₹395 crore is proposed under Odisha Integrated Sanitation Improvement Project, ₹160 crore under Urban Sewerage, ₹190 crore under Urban Sanitation, and ₹215 crore under the Swachha Bharat Scheme to keep our cities clean
- Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) being provided to make every village and habitation Open Defecation Free (ODF) certified. ₹200 crore is provided for the rural component of the Swachh Bharat Mission
- ₹30 crore is provided to expand the coverage of beneficiaries under the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme KHUSHI-Distribution of sanitary napkins

## Industrial Investment



- ₹425 crore allocated for development of Industries sector and attracting investment
- ₹50 crore for the Land Bank in the State out of which ₹20 crore is for financial assistance for the development of the Odisha Economic Corridor
- ₹10 crore is provided for the development of Mega Textile Park at Dhamra, Bhadrak, ₹10 crore for creating a common effluent treatment plant at Paradeep for PCPIR and ₹5 crore for Mega Aluminium Park at Angul
- ₹155 crore financial assistance to IDCO for development of industrial infrastructure
- ₹465 crore to promote MSME sector, a jump of 86 percent in allocation over the previous year
- ₹125 crore for financial assistance to MSME Sector, ₹80 crore for Promotion of MSME Sector, and ₹27 crore for Promotion of Khadi & Village Industries
- Already announced Special COVID Package of around ₹289 crore to support MSMEs during COVID19
- An outlay of ₹163 crore is made for Handloom, Handicrafts, Sericulture and Textile sectors
- Provision of ₹36 crore for the handloom sector, ₹30 crore for the handicraft sector, ₹9 crore for the apparel and textiles sector, and ₹9 crore to the Sericulture sector
- Allocation of ₹135 crore for the Mining sector including ₹47 crore for I3MS and ₹17 crore for Mineral Exploration & Auction

## Infrastructure Development



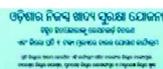
- ₹1,799 crore is provided for the Energy Sector
- Financial assistance of ₹500 crore to be provided through equity infusion to OHPC for buying 49 percent share of AES in OPGC during 2021-22
- Additional equity support of ₹225 crore is proposed for OPGC to cover the project cost and installation of the Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) System.
- ₹332 crore is provided towards equity contribution to OPTCL for construction of 132/33 KV Sub-stations and for non-remunerative power infrastructure.
- ₹90 crore for construction of a 400/220/33 KV GIS Sub-Station at Paradeep
- An amount of ₹30 crore proposed under the Radial to Ring Conversion Project and ₹50 crore under Disaster Resilient Power System
- ₹120 crore provided for System Strengthening for Elephant Corridor and Movement Area and ₹100 crore for ODSSP
- ₹2296 crore provided under Road Development Programme for construction and upgradation of roads in the State
- ₹912 crore under Biju Setu Yojana for construction of bridges
- ₹600 crore under the scheme Construction/ Improvement of Roads & Bridges
- Provision of ₹2000 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna to complete 4000 Kms of rural roads
- Provision of ₹200 crore for the State Highway Development Programme (SHDP); ₹53 crore for road Projects under PPP mode; ₹100 crore for Biju Expressway to improve connectivity in Western Odisha; ₹429 crore for Central Road Fund projects
- Provision of ₹781 crore under improvement and construction of RD Roads & Bridges, and ₹300 crore under the scheme Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana
- ₹100 crore provided for land acquisition, construction, renovation, expansion of Airports at Rourkela, Jeypore, Utkela, Jharsuguda, and renovation of Birasal airstrip
- Outlay of ₹396 crore for the development of Railway projects in the State
- ₹100 crore for the block level Bus Stand and construction of new Bus Terminal at Cuttack
- ₹100 crore for urban road transport and development of Baramunda Bus stand
- ₹34 crore for Sagarmala Project, connecting Balugaon to Krushnaprasad and another connecting Kaninali in Bhadrak district and Talchua in Kendrapada District

## Social Security Measures



- A sum of ₹2,767 crore is allocated for social security measures
- Provision of ₹1,509 crore under Madhubabu Pension Yojana and ₹923 crore for National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for Old Age, Widow and Disability Pensions
- ₹105 crore for Welfare of Persons with Disability (PwD) and ₹14 crore under the National Programme for Persons with Disability
- Provision of Rs.133 crore for welfare of distressed and destitute, which includes Rs.114 crore for establishment of Old-Age Homes
- ₹23 crore for Bhima Bhoi Bhinnakhyama Samarthyaa Abhiyan

## Food Security



- ₹969 crore for distribution of rice @ ₹1/- per kg. under the State Food Security Scheme, 23 lakh additional beneficiaries are provided 5 Kg rice per month per beneficiary at the rate of ₹1 per Kg under the Scheme

## Women & Child Development



- Total **₹3,906 crore** allocated for undertaking various women and child centric policy and welfare measures
- Provision of **₹279 crore** under the Maternity Benefit Programme “MAMATA” scheme for the year 2021-22
- **₹1,113 crore** is also provided under **Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)**
- **₹316 crore** towards financial assistance and other support to Women Self Help Groups and their federations under **Mission Shakti** programme
- An additional **₹100 crore** for construction of **Mission Shakti Gruha** at **block level**
- **₹7 crore** for construction of working women’s hostel
- **Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan - 2.0** would be implemented with outlay of **₹2,286 crore** to improve the nutritional and health status of children below the age of 6 years. **₹378 crore** towards State support to the scheme
- **₹51 crore** for the scheme ‘**SOPAN**’ for augmenting nutritional outcomes in 125 blocks having relatively poor health indicators
- **₹78 crore** for supply of uniforms for children undergoing Pre-School education under the Scheme **Malatidevi Prak-Vidyalaya Paridhan Yojana**

## Development of SCs, STs, OBCs & Minorities



- Total **₹29,063 crore** allocated under Tribal Sub-Component and SC Sub-Component
- **₹110 crore** allocated towards social sector initiatives including **ANWESHA**
- **₹270 crore** for construction of hostels for ST girls and urban hostel complexes under the scheme **AKANKSHYA**
- For 21 numbers of Minority Hostels **₹61 crore** is proposed under **Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJK)**
- Provision of **₹903 crore** for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships for ST and SC students
- **₹101 crore** provisioned under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY)
- **₹59 crore** under the **Special Development Council** for the development of 9 tribal dominated Districts
- **₹140 crore** is proposed under **SCA to TSS (Tribal Sub-Scheme)** to cover more than one lakh beneficiaries during 2021-22

## Wage employment, livelihood, and basic services



- **₹2,001 crore** proposed towards material component under **MGNREGA**
- A Corpus Fund of **₹500 crore** to facilitate **timely payment of wages under MGNREGA pending receipt** of Central Assistance for the wage component
- **₹1,270 crore** provided under **Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihood Mission**
- **₹80 crore** for **Shyama Prasad Mukherjee RURBAN Mission**
- **₹200 crore** for creating **11.13 lakh person-days of wage employment in urban areas**
- Transfer of about **₹6,950 crore** to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies for the provision of basic services

## Public Administration and Law & Order



- ₹6,424 crore for delivery of justice, maintenance of internal security, prevention, control of crimes, fire disaster, and control management, etc.
- ₹315 crore towards the construction of Residential and Non-residential buildings of police, fire, and prison organizations
- ₹50 crore for the development of Infrastructure facilities for the Judiciary
- ₹64 crore for launching of Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) Dial-112, a nationwide distress call for all types of emergency services
- ₹30 crore proposed for the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) project
- Under revenue administration, ₹225 crore is proposed for Buildings, Strengthening of IT Infrastructure, Protection of Government Land, and Prevention of Theft of Minor Minerals.

## Tourism



- ₹542 crore allocated to transform Puri into World Heritage City under ABADHA scheme
- ₹200 crore allocated under Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action (EKAMRA) Plan
- ₹200 crore allocated under Samaleswari temple Area Management And Local Economic Initiative (SAMALEI) scheme
- Allocation more than 25% to ₹500 crore for Tourism Department
- ₹349 crore for the Development & Management of Tourist Infrastructure
- ₹83 crore for Publicity of Tourism

## Disaster Management



- ₹3,050 crore for Disaster Management including ₹2,139 crore under State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and ₹961 crore under National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF)
- Besides, a sum of ₹100 crore for World Bank assisted Odisha Disaster Recovery Project (ODRP)

## Forest & Environment



- ₹1854 crore is provided for the forestry sector.
- It includes ₹903 crore from the CAMPA fund, ₹120 crore for implementation of JICA assisted Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project Phase-II
- ₹15 crore is proposed for Ama Jungle Yojana for bringing more and more forest area under Joint Forest Management

### Science, Electronics & Information Technology



- ₹63 crore for promotion of Science & Technology, out of which ₹20 crore is for Development of Planetarium & Museums, ₹16 crore for State Council of Science & Technology including Regional & District Science Centers and ₹8 crore for Development of Biotechnology
- ₹199 crore for Electronics & Information Technology interventions out of which ₹111 crore for IT Infrastructure & Connectivity and ₹19 crore for the Development of IT Parks & Towers
- ₹21 crore for IT Application & Services

### Planning & Convergence

- ₹441 crore is provided for MLALAD Fund
- ₹100 crore under the Special Problem Fund (SPF) Scheme for taking up projects of special nature in the State
- To further the development process in western Odisha, ₹180 crore is provided for WODC, which is more than double the previous year's allocation
- An outlay of ₹250 crore under Biju KBK Plan to improve infrastructure in the KBK districts, mainly in respect of Biji, Sadak, and Pani
- ₹50 crore is proposed under the SETU scheme for the development of Swabhiman Anchal
- ₹3,143 crore from DMF and ₹3,814 crore from OMBADC are proposed to be utilized for development works during 2021-22

### Sports & Youth Services



- ₹109 crore for the Development & Management of other Sports Infrastructure, part of which will be used to build Urban Sports complexes in selected ULBs
- ₹108.73 crore for Promotion of Sports Education, ₹11 crore for State's support to Khelo India, and ₹8 crore for Improvement of Sports facilities at Rourkela, Sambalpur, Berhampur, and Cuttack

### Housing



- Provision of ₹3,000 crore with a target for the construction of another 5 lakh pucca houses through convergence of PMAY-Gramin and Biju Pucca Ghar Schemes
- ₹300 crore for the construction of 20,000 dwelling units under beneficiary led construction and affordable housing and slum development components of Odisha Urban Housing Mission AWAAS.

### Odia Language, Culture and Heritage



- ₹135 crore for the promotion of Odia Language, Culture, and Heritage, which includes ₹51 crore for Mukhyamantri Kalakara Sahayata Yojana and ₹8 crore for preservation, conservation and protection of monuments and sites which reflect the rich cultural heritage of our State

## Major Achievements of Various Departments and Sectors of Government of Odisha

### Agriculture and Allied Sector

- The new scheme **BALARAM (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan And Resources Augmentation Model)** has been launched by Govt. of Odisha during 2020 to provide institutional credit to sharecroppers among the majority of marginal and small farmers cultivating others' land on lease and those have no other access to avail institutional credit. During 2020-21 there is a target to identify eligible sharecroppers and to form 65000 JLGs. About 3787 number of JLGs have been formed and 36.55 lakhs loan have been sanctioned by the banks to 70 numbers of JLGs following approved criteria of the guidelines as on 5th January 2021.
- Under **Odisha Watershed Development Mission (OWDM)**, 7,721 micro watersheds have been treated covering an area of 41.89 lakh hectares since inceptions.
- **Recognition from Protection of Plant Varieties Registration Authority (PPVRA)** at national level, 1000 paddy & 231 non-paddy "Farmers' Varieties" registered. This initiative has been nationally acclaimed.
- Under **Odisha Millets Mission (OMM)** Programme steps have been taken for extension of OMM programme to 72 blocks covering 14 districts of the State. The initiative



of Millets Mission programme of the State received the **SKOCH Order-of-Merit Award** at the national level.

- In order to strengthen the extension system and to provide timely information to the farmers of the State, "**Ama Krushi**" a "two-way Interactive Voice Response (IVR)" service, a mobile phone based extension system was introduced in the State in 2018. By first week of January 2021, about 10.5 lakh farmers have been registered under the programme. A live call centre [Toll Free Number: 155333] has been introduced to enable farmers to get their queries answered immediately. The web link for AMAKRUSHI is (<https://www.amakrushi.in/go/>).
- Government launched **SAMRUDHI** Agriculture Policy 2020 for the State of Odisha making it more inclusive and comprehensive through market linkage and substantial change in farmer's income.
- **Odisha Organic Farming Policy 2018** has been launched to promote organic farming in the State. It has been programmed to cover 2 lakh hectares in 5 years.
- **Odisha Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) Policy** launched during 2018, to make the state the most sought for agribusiness and food processing sectors with focussed attention and handling support to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in production, aggregation, storage, processing, distribution and marketing of agriculture and allied sector resources for sustainable development by generating large scale employment in rural and semi urban areas. MoU has been signed between Govt of Odisha and NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) to work together for smooth implementation of the Central Sector Scheme for FPOs.
- A flagship scheme '**Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana (MKUY)**' launched during 2018 to provide single window facilities for promoting commercial agri-enterprises. Subsidies are being provided for setting up of Commercial agriculture/ horticulture/ animal husbandry/ fisheries units.
- **Agriculture Production Cluster (APC)** has been formed in Tribal Regions of Odisha to double the farm income of 1.00 lakh women farmers of small and marginal category by formation of 650 producer groups and building 30 APCs/Producer companies in 40 backward blocks of 12 Tribal dominated districts in the state through cultivation of high value crops in 20,000 hectares, grooming of 750 market linked Agri-Entrepreneurs as value chain enablers under the project over a period of 4 years. One MoU signed with PRADAN, OLM, BRLF for implementation of the project in the State. The Government received SKOCH Governance Award 2019 for implementation of the scheme.
- In recognition of the commendable efforts in the area of Conservation / Management, Koraput district of **Odisha got the 2nd prize** both in the categories of Best District (East Zone) for Ground Water Recharge and Best District (East Zone) for Rejuvenation / Creation of Water Bodies respectively in February, 2019 by the Hon'ble Union Minister,

Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

- A project was introduced under RKVY programme namely "Enabling smallholders in Odisha to produce and consume more nutritious food through Agro-forestry Systems" by involving World Agro-forestry Centre (ICRAF). Under the programme 38 nurseries, 1422 hectares of plantations have been covered during 2018-19.
- **Livelihood intervention programme** to fight the COVID-19 pandemic situation:
- Distribution of quality certified seeds at subsidised rate:
- The Government has decided to extend 75% seed subsidy to the farmers during Kharif 2020. 3, 17,760 nos. of farmers have purchased seeds with 50% subsidy.

#### **Demonstration programme of different Crops:**

- Demonstration programme taken up in 76,600 hectare on different crops like -Rice, Pulses, Coarse cereals, Nutri-cereals, Oilseeds, Cotton and Jute etc in 30 districts of the state to provide Livelihood intervention in convergence with State Sector Scheme, NFSM & BGREI Schemes.

#### **Fishery Sector**

- **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** Under this Centrally sponsored Plan Scheme 11,50,000 Fishers of Odisha state have been provided insurance coverage during the insurance period of 2019-20 (1st June 19 to 31st May 20).
- **Promotion of BIO-FLOC technology for intensive shrimp and fish farming in Odisha:** This is a recent technology which promotes high yielding intensive fish farming in small area of bio-floc tanks, size (4 m dia\* 1.3 m depth) and capacity of 12,500 litre.
- **Cage culture in Reservoirs:** Cage culture is an emerging technology for intensive production of fish and has a huge potential for increasing the fish production of the State. Fisheries Department have already installed 322 rectangular cages in 26 reservoirs under NMPS, RKVY, Blue Revolution & State Plan schemes.
- Under PMMSY scheme there is assistance for taking up cage culture @ 40% for General and 60% for SC/ST/Women category on unit cost of Rs.3.00 lakh per cage. Assistance can be availed maximum up to 5 cages for individuals and upto 20 cages for PFCS and SHGs.
- **Skill up-gradation training:** The Fisheries Training Institute at Balugaon is equipped to impart 15 days skill up-gradation training. BWTC Paradeep provides 15 days training to brackish water farmers. Hostel facility is available in both the Institutes. Farmers are trained on latest technologies in fisheries sector.

- **Livelihood Support to Marine Fishermen during Fishing Ban Period:** During 2019-20, 8000 nos. of marine fisher families of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam are covered under the scheme @ Rs.7500/- per family.
- **Saving-cum-Relief :** This Scheme aims at providing saving-cum-relief during lean period. During 2019-20, 10254 nos. of beneficiaries have been covered under the scheme.
- Government initiatives in Fishery Sector to fight with the COVID-19 pandemic situation to boost states' Economy.
- 105000 ponds are going to be created under **Mo Pokhari** with budget of Rs.1000 crore.
- Financial assistance up to Rs.50 lakh for various agri-enterprises including cage culture.
- A special COVID package of Rs.173 crore to boost the fisheries sector to for direct benefit of 44000 fish farmers.
- Livelihood support to 10,600 marine fishers with financial target of Rs.800 lakhs.
- Financial Support to 257 numbers of Primary Fishery Cooperative societies.
- **Rural development is the main pillar of State's development.** In order to improve the quality of life in rural areas and address the multi-dimensional problems of people living in those areas, several programmes have been conceived and implemented. The success of a rural development programme largely depends upon organizational arrangements and adoption of an appropriate strategy for optimum utilization of resources and opportunities. The prime objectives of these programmes are to eradicate poverty, uplift standard of living of people in the rural areas, and bring about a healthy society by creating awareness for hygiene, sanitation and eradication of illiteracy.

### **Food Supply & Co-operation**

#### **The National Food Security Act (NFSA)**

- The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 was implemented in the State from November 2015. State Government has covered 3,23,78,767 beneficiaries (92,58,577 families) consisting of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority Household (PHH) categories which is 99.2% of Government of India upper ceiling and 77.1% of State's population of 2011. These beneficiaries are being provided with 1,62,920 MT rice and 23,890 MT wheat per month @ Re.1/- per kg.

#### **State Food Security Scheme**

- The State Food Security Scheme is being implemented in the State since October 2018. Under the Scheme 10,97,620 individuals comprising of 3,63,319 poor, distressed and left-out eligible families have been covered. The eligible beneficiaries are supplied with 5 Kgs of rice, per person per month @Re.1/- per Kg. Rice to the tune of 5,488 MT per month is being supplied to the beneficiaries from the State Pool.

### Intervention in COVID-19 situation

- During the COVID-19 pandemic situation, State Government have successfully implemented '**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)**' and '**Additional Foodgrains for Beneficiaries under State Food Security Scheme**' by providing PDS beneficiaries additional 5 Kgs of rice per person per month and 1 Kg Dal/ Chana per family per month, free of cost, for eight months i.e. from April 2020 to November 2020.
- In order to **mitigate the hunger of migrant workers during COVID-19 pandemic situation**, State Government have successfully implemented 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Yojana' by providing additional 5 Kgs of rice per person per month and 1 Kg Chana per family per month, to 96,150 migrant workers, free of cost, for the month of May & June 2020.
- State Government have also distributed Rs. 1000/- per family as one time cash relief to all 95.51 lakh families covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 and State Food Security Scheme to provide them with cash assistance during COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- Paddy procurement system has been made more transparent, efficient and accountable through continuous reforms. By leveraging Information and Communications Technology, **Government have prioritized the right of small and marginal farmers** to sell paddy to procuring societies.

### Co-operation

- The KCC are being converted in to **Smart RuPay Cards** to provide the farmers drawal facilities to the ATMs and PoS outlets of all the banks under the National Payment Cooperation network. 40,75,172 KCC have been issued by the DCCBs/PACS as on 31.03.2020.
- During 2019-20, the State Govt. had made a provision **Rs. 667.16 Crore towards interest subvention** for crop loan while a sum of Rs.22.84 Crore has been provided towards Agricultural Term Loan.
- **Crop Loan by Cooperative Banks / PACS/Commercial Banks/RRBs** - Short term cooperative credit structure has achieved significant strides in crop loan dispensation target from Rs.552 Cr. in the year 2000-01 to Rs.15500 Cr. in the year 2020-21. State Government implemented a unique farmers oriented programme known as "**Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation**" (KALIA) Scheme under which interest rate on crop loans upto Rs.50,000/- for both Kharif and Rabi Season is provided at 0% (interest free) from Kharif-2019 (w.e.f 01.04.2019) for prompt paying farmers. During the year 2020-21, there was a target of Rs.9000 crore for Kharif-2020 Season out of which Rs.8321.16 crore has been financed to 18.80 lakh farmers. Crop loan amounting to Rs.3644 crore has been financed during Rabi-2020-21 as on date.

## Women and Child Development:

### Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP)

- Under SNP, Take Home Ration (THR) is provided in the form of a ready to eat mix locally called 'Chhatua' and eggs to children (6 months to 3 years), pregnant and nursing women and out of school adolescent girls (11-14 years). Standardised menu for HCM is followed at the AWCs for the pre-school children. Under SNP 41.27 lakh beneficiaries are covered.

### Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

- ECCE curriculum revised with focus on pre-primary school readiness, corner activities, inclusiveness, early stimulation, involving the parents and community in early childhood development.
- **Ghare Ghare Arunima calendar** developed during COVID 19 with fun-filled activities to be conducted at the household level in 10 mother tongues.
- **Vatsalya**, a campaign to institutionalise care and stimulation of children under three years of age through concrete policy intervention has been launched.
- 'Kuni Calendar', 'Responsive Parenting' posters in 11 mother tongues, Parents+ module in Odia, flip book on happy parenting and videos on Vatsalya & Tiki Mausi on early stimulation - all centred around under threes with components of stimulation responsive parenting have been developed and shared with the districts.
- Child Assessment Card has been institutionalized for every child.
- Child friendly demonstrative model AWC 'Parambhik' established at HETC (Anganwadi Workers Training Centre), Bhubaneswar.

### Convergence for Nutrition Outcomes

- Effective convergence with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water at the State, District and Block level has led to improved health and nutrition outcomes. Joint planning is done at the field level by the functionaries of Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) Department for implementation of VHSNDs (Mamata Diwas), Fixed Immunization Day, identification and referral of high-risk pregnant women, SAM children, Severely Underweight children and their follow-up in the community. **Mo Upakari Bagicha** is being established at the AWCs and household level of pregnant women and severely underweight children in convergence with Department of Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water (PR&DW) and Horticulture.
- Under the **SAMPURNA** strategy of Department of H&FW, special VHSNDs are held in the hard to reach areas where services are delivered jointly by teams comprising of members of Departments of H&FW and ICDS.

- Frontline workers participate in special drives such as Mission Indra dhanush, JE vaccination, National Deworming Day at the village level. Joint planning is also done for identification and coverage of hard to reach areas in the districts and for implementation of designated days such as Nutrition Week, Breastfeeding Week etc. Joint review meetings are held at the District/ Block / Project level for reviewing the progress of programmes implemented and for triangulation of data.

### **Jiban Sampark**

- Project 'Jiban Sampark' launched for the welfare of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. The project aims at improving uptake of health and nutrition services they are entitled to. The other stakeholder departments are H&FW and ST & SC Development.

### **Sishu Abong Matru Mrutyuhara Purna Nirakarana Abhijana (SAMMPurNA)**

- For accelerated reduction of IMR and MMR in the State, a State specific scheme - 'SAMMPurNA' has been implemented in the State since 2015-16. Major interventions include identification, referral and treatment/ management of high-risk pregnant women and children, provisioning of mother and baby kit, reimbursement of transport cost@INR1,000/-for institutional delivery of Pregnant women in notified difficult villages, provision of stretchers for transportation of patients from difficult villages, enhanced daily allowance to mother of children admitted at NRCs from INR 50/- to INR 100/- per day to incentivize the mother, organization of integrated VHND and Immunization sessions at under-served and hard to reach areas, establishment of High Dependency Units (HDU)for management of critical obstetric cases, establishment of Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) for management of critical paediatrics cases at District Headquarter Hospitals. Annually more than 10.00Lakh pregnant women and new-born are being benefitted.

### **Industry & MSME:**

#### **Industries Department**

- Focus on development of industrial corridor along Biju Express Highway.
- Development of a Central Incubator Hub and Time Bound Grievance Redressal System for Start-up of Eco System.
- Target 5 to 10 products of the State which have recognition to support for the development of this product and create systems to scale up operations, ensure quality standard and effective marketing.

#### **Ease of doing business**

- To ensure a hassle-free business Environment to the investors for investing in the State, GO\_SWIFT has been introduced in the State as a single window system. All existing technological applications of the Industry Department including GO-PLUS, GO-SMILE,

GO-CARE, Automated post allotment application and State project monitoring group portal have been integrated with GO-SWIFT and access to all the services is now available through a single sign-on user credential.

### **Single Window Concept and Public Private Partnership (PPP)**

- To mobilise the private sector efficiency for development of economic and quality infrastructure in the State.
- Establishment of an info park in Bhubaneswar, Development of Haridaspur-Paradeep Rail link jointly by Rail Bikas Nigam Ltd. and User Industries, Promotion of SEZs at different locations, Establishment of Bio-Tech Park and development of second Info-City for establishment of IT industry at BBSR.

### **Make-In Odisha Conclave**

- To showcase the policy and regulatory environment, investment opportunities across the focus sector and manufacturing process of the State.
- Receipt of overwhelming response from the investor community and investment intents worth over INR 4.23 Lakh crore were announced. The project is expected to provide employment to over 6.03 Lakh people in the State.

### **Odisha Start-Up Policy 2016**

- To offer incentives to start-ups and other stakeholders over and above the start-up policy of Govt. of India and other existing policies in the State
- Comprehensive end-to-end Start-Up Odisha Portal ([www.startupodisha.gov.in](http://www.startupodisha.gov.in)) was launched to serve as one stop destination for start-ups and incubators. 356 start-ups have been recognised under this policy.

### **MSME Department**

- 4,49,352 MSMEs have gone into production with an investment of INR 21,801.51 crore and employment to 16.92 persons till March, 2020.
- 1,277 downstream enterprises based on the usage of steel, aluminium, waste and paper sludge etc. are providing employment to 8,796 persons. Besides, 786 fly ash based industries are providing employment to 12,645 persons.
- In order to boost systematic development of MSMEs, Food Processing industry and Start-ups, Odisha MSME Development Policy, Odisha Food Processing Policy and Odisha Start-up Policy have been operationalized since 2016.
- As regards food processing sector, MIITs Mega Food Park at Rayagada has already become operational; Marine Food Park at Deras is at advance stage of development.
- MSME Multi-product Parks in Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Angul, Cuttack and Khordha districts have been approved to provide land with developed infrastructure to MSMEs.

- The Odisha Start-up Policy was thus launched on 26th August 2016, notified in May 2017 with an objective of **developing a world class 'Start-up Hub' in Odisha** by 2020 and to create an enabling environment and supporting eco-system that facilitates at least 1,000 Start-ups and bringing the State amongst the top three start-up hubs by 2020.
- 1,517 MSMEs have been provided financial assistance of INR 173.57 crore under Govt. Policies from 2014-15 to 2019-20.
- Under PMEGP, total 8,498 units have been promoted with margin money assistance of INR 203.90 crore approximately by generating employment to 81,773 persons from 2016-17 to 2019-20.
- 33,130 youths have been trained through 2379 motivational camps for setting of MSMEs during the last three (3) years including 9347 trained during 2019-20 through 674 motivational camps.
- Altogether, 467 bank branches have been designated as 'MSME Specialised Branches' to facilitate smooth credit to MSMEs. As many as 5693 proposals are pending involving Margin Money of Rs.175.51 crore and 2989 proposals have been forwarded to banks during 2019-20.
- The export turnover of the State has increased to INR 51,742 crore in 2019-20 against INR 48,120 crore in 2018-19, but the scenario was affected due to global crisis of COVID-19 Pandemic.
- In order to provide single point facilitation to exporters, **Raptani Bhawan** has been operationalised with export agencies namely, DEPM, DGFT, MPEDA and FIEO being accommodated under a single roof.
- International Air Cargo facility at BPIA has commenced since January, 2017. Multi Modal Logistic Park Jharsuguda, Port side Container Terminal Paradip & Inland Container Depot at Balasore have commenced operations. Testing Laboratories of EIA & MPEDA have also started their operations.
- Under an innovative partnership with Facebook, total 3,300 micro entrepreneurs and SHG members were provided 'digital marketing training' under their #SheMeans Business# and 'Boost Your Business' programmes.

### **Health & Family Welfare:**

#### **Maternal Health Interventions.**

- **First Referral Units :** Out of 94 FRUs, 74 FRUs are providing C Section services. Specialist manpower with Blood Banks (51) and Blood Storage Units (44) are also operational.

- **Delivery Points :** State has target of 1190 delivery points of which 530 institutions are functional and steps have been taken for functionalising remaining DPs.
- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) :** Total 68,15,420 number of beneficiaries benefitted under JSY (from 2005 - 06 till December 2019). Due to JSY the institutional delivery has increased from 28.8% in 2005-06 to 85% in 2015-16 as per NFHS-4.
- **Janani Shisu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) :** This programme was launched in November 2011 which provides free treatment to pregnant women and sick newborn and infants (up to 1 year) through implementation of Janani Shisu Suraksha Karyakrama at public health facilities. In last six years (since 2013-14) 27,27,105 number of pregnant women and sick children have availed free referral transport services through 102/108.
- **Skilled Attendants at Birth (SAB) :** To reduce the maternal mortality as well as infant mortality rates the institutional delivery rate is to be substantially raised. Training was given to the Paramedics and AYUSH doctors to augment the institutional delivery rate. These SAB trained staff are posted in the identified delivery points on priority basis. During the year 2019-20 (till Dec 2019) 211 HW (F) & LHV, 176 Staff Nurses and 29 AYUSH doctors were trained in SAB.
- **Safe Abortion Care Services :** Out of 1078 targeted institutions facilities in 338 nos. Facilities are in readiness for providing CAC service in the State. During 2019-20, upto December 2019, 12 days certification training given to 33 doctors and 33 nurses, 3 days refresher training given to 28 doctors and 26 nurses and 3 days TOT (Master Trainer) given to 5 doctors and 2 staff nurses.
- **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Day (VHND) :** Fixed day Health and Nutrition day (VHSND) is being organized every Tuesday/ Friday at Village Anganwadi Centers. So far, 429487 VHSND sessions held out of 422889 planned (98%) during 2019-20 (upto December 2019). In the Aspirational Districts steps are being taken to conduct such sessions in the Mini AWCs also. Further, special VHND sessions are being conducted in the difficult areas.
- **Standardization of OT and Labour Room:** State is taking steps for standardizing Labour Room and OT as per MNH tool kit. Further under DAKSHATA programme, 19 districts are given focused attention for improving infrastructure and practice in 222 labour rooms. After DAKSHATA initiatives it is observed that the skill and knowledge of service providers of Labour Room have improved.
- **LaQshya :** Under this programme the LR & MOT will be standardised for providing quality care services. This will put focus on improvement of infrastructure providing respectful maternity care and ensuring regular supplies to labour room & maternity OT. The target is set to standardise all Medical Colleges & FRUs as prospective target. During this year 6 centers (5 DHHs and 1 CHC) have been certified under LaQshya at State and national level.

- **Maternity Waiting Homes (Maa Gruha) :** These Maa Gruhas are established near delivery points to accommodate the expected delivery cases from difficult geographical pockets at least before 7-10 days of Expected Date of Delivery for having safe institutional delivery. So far 80 MWH are operational out of 106 targeted.
- **Initiatives for Anaemia Control:** IFA and Calcium Supplementation - About 7 lakh Pregnant women covered during 2019-20. Iron sucrose and Blood transfusion services - made available at Institution level for pregnant women with severe anemia. One-time de-worming of all pregnant women ensured during pregnancy in second trimester.
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA):** This programme was started in November 2016 which focused on screening of antenatal cases by doctor, preferably O&G specialist, at least once during 2nd or 3rd trimester. The prime objective of the programme is to screen for high risk pregnancies and initiate its management as appropriate. During 2019-20 up to Dec 2019, 608092 nos. of antenatal cases have been screened and 30642 high risk pregnancies detected. These detected high risk cases are provided with Red Card as a symbol of high risk for priority treatment as per advice of doctor, which is further tracked by the service provider.

#### **Child Health Interventions :**

- **New Born Care Corner (NBCC):** For preventing mortality and brain damage immediately after birth, 560 Newborn Care Corners are functional at all delivery points, i.e., Labor rooms and OTs, to provide essential newborn care and resuscitation immediately after birth (Progressive Target: 1190). Up to September 2019, 16547 newborns have been resuscitated (8% of all live births) and 11704 newborns (5% of all live births) have been referred to higher facility for further treatment.
- **Newborn Stabilisation Units (NBSU) :** For treatment of moderately sick and low birth weight newborns and for stabilisation of sick borns prior to referral, 45 Newborn Stabilisation Units are currently operational in the State which are being upgraded to Special Newborn Care Units in a phased manner based on the case load. The State has plan to upgrade 3 such NBSUs into SNCUs with in 2019. Up to December 2019, out of 5486 newborns, 3328 (61%) have been treated as NBSU and 1692 (31%) have been referred to SNCU for appropriate treatment.
- **Special Newborn Care Units (SNCU):** The State has established 40 out of 45 Special Newborn Care Units for treatment of severely sick newborns at different Medical College hospitals, DHH, SDH and selected CHCs based on the annual delivery load. Further five new SNCUs are under process. Besides, the bed capacity of 12 existing SNCUs has been increased in view of the enhanced case load. During 2019-20 till December 2019, out of 49547 (99.7%) sick newborns have been treated and 74.6% have been discharged successfully after due treatment.

- **Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Units :** KMC units have been established in the 40 SNCUs adjoining the SNCU for providing Kangaroo Mother Care, i.e. to maintain warmth through skin-to-skin contact and promote early initiation of breast feeding to all newborn with special focus on preterm, LBW and sick newborns. 24.3% of stable sick newborns admitted in SNCUs have been provided KMC in 2019-20 till December 2019.
- **Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC):** Training is provided to all ASHAs for early identification and referral of newborns with danger signs and providing counselling care givers on home based newborn care. During 2019-20 till Dec. 19,4,01,185 newborns have been visited under HBNC programme of which 10% newborns were reported LBW and 91% of identified high risk newborns were referred for appropriate treatment.
- **New Casualty and Trauma Care facilities in Odisha:** In March 2019 EFC approved the project with the aim to provide comprehensive trauma care services to 80% of accident victims within golden hours of intervention and to reduce the fatality rate of road accident by 50% in the next five years. These facilities are to be provided at every 50km distance. At present all the DHHs and MCHs are declared as trauma care centres and providing free of cost services to the accident patients. Some private hospitals like Apollo Hospital and AMRI Hospital in Bhubaneswar and Ashwini Hospital in Cuttack are included on pilot basis. For the private hospitals funds are reimbursed from Road Safety Funds under Commerce and Transport Department since September 2019.
- Odisha's improvement over improvement of indicators of malnutrition is best in country.
- Nutrition surveys conducted show an improved trend in the nutrition indicators. As per CNNS, stunting among children U5 (low height for age) has come down to 29% from 34%; wasting from 20.4% to 14% and underweight from 34.4% to 33% (in comparison to NHFS-4 report).

## Education

### School & Mass Education Department

- Odisha made remarkable stride in education by free and compulsory education, especially in rural and backward areas in the age group of 6-14years. During 2019-20, there existed 33,340 number of functional primary schools, with 1,49,518 teachers. Further, over the past 8years, the PTR has consistently improved from 30:1 in 2011-12 to 18:1 in 2019-20, going ahead of the norms as prescribed by the RTE Act. At the upper primary level too, the number of schools has increased from 21,117 in 2011-12 to 21719 in 2019-20.

### 'Mo School' Abhiyan:

- 'Mo School' is a first-of-its-kind initiative by a State for strengthening citizen-government partnership in school education. It seems to have become a successful alumni contribution

programme of the State government as the project cost has touched Rs.100 crore mark by now. It has provided a platform to donate funds, materials and services for over all development of schools in the State. It was launched by the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha Sri Naveen Patnaik on Children's Day, 14th of Nov 2017. Since the programme started in June 2018 schools have reported 1,49,536 contributors with total contribution of Rs.33,60,01,428 till August 2019. Accordingly, the Mo School Abhijan has sanctioned a total of 1205 projects from 9950 schools in 308 blocks with a matching grant of Rs.67,09,22,856. Besides, the School and Mass Education Department has sanctioned 1257 projects in 708 schools with a project cost of Rs.6,45,30,387. Thus the Mo School Abhijan cost now touched to Rs.100,69,24,284.

### **Garima Awards**

- The School Certification Programme (Garima) recognizes and rewards schools that are performing in terms of learning Outcomes, and motivate the rest to improve their performance. Under this programme, schools can nominate themselves to be assessed and certified under three, categories: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

### **ST&SC Development Department**

#### **ANWESHA**

- To provide quality education to SC and ST students, ANWESHA provides quality education to ST/SC students in 178 best private schools in 17 districts. Under this scheme, over 23,000 ST and SC students are getting free quality education in the best private schools in these districts. Free lodging and boarding facility are being provided to students; including school fees, uniforms, study material, tutors etc.

#### **AKANKSHA**

- To provide hostel facility in Urban areas for ST/ SC students for higher education studying in post-matric level courses, Urban Hostel programme AKANKSHA is implemented for providing free boarding and lodging facilities to ST/SC students perusing Post-matric levels of Education like Professional, Technical, Degree and Plus Two courses in Bhubaneswar. Hostels in Bhubaneswar accommodate 550 students. The programme has been expanded to Berhampur, Sambalpur and Rourkela.

#### **Mission SUVIDYA**

- Mission Subidya aims at spread of the joy of literacy and numeracy to tribal children in Odisha. The ST& SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department, Odisha has signed MoU with Akshara Foundation for Mission SUVIDYA in December 2019 in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. It aims to bring qualitative improvement in accommodation provided in 6500 hostels, managed by the ST & SC Development Department, Government of Odisha

with 5.7 lakh students. The Mission will provide congenial atmosphere by guaranteed quality service in safety, health, hygiene and food.

### **Higher Education**

- It is projected that by 2026, there will be a demand for 22.58 lakh highly skilled and 62.11 lakh semi-skilled professionals (Skill Gap Assessment report for Odisha, 2012). To meet this huge demand, Odisha has made concerted efforts towards skill development with its 'Skilled in Odisha' initiative. Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) has been established to provide overall direction, guidance and implementation of skill development programmes in the State by covering different skill sectors.

### **Urban Development**

#### **Drink from tap mission**

- State has taken up a very ambitious programme 24 X 7 water supply with 100% quality guarantee for safe drinking water to the consumer "drink from tap mission".

#### **Swachha Sathi**

- Government has shifted its focus from centralized treatment of solid waste management to decentralized micro composting system involving Women Self Help Group (WSHG) as "Swachha Sathi". Total payment will be around to Rs.500 crore to WSHGs in a 5 year period.

#### **Jalasathi**

- The Jalasathi initiative was launched by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha to facilitate effective water management through participation of the community at the ward level i.e. SHG members as Jalasathis. Main functions of the Jalasathis are sensitization on use of PS and water quality sample testing, visit to households in the assigned ward for collection of water service charges, sharing of feedback on the progress of work for resolution of grievances and planning forward.

#### **Gali Safai Abhiyan**

- In sanitation, Street and lane clearing campaign (Gali Safai Abhiyan) reaching to unreachable areas and cleaning Garbage Volunerable points (GVP), engagement of sanitation experts, massive drain cleaning, desilting, disinfecting of urban areas to ensure cleanliness and hygiene, tagline (Mo Gali Swachha Gali) propagated by Swachha Sathis, Sanitation of all Government Buildings, Roads and Market areas, Health check up of frontline sanitation worker, ensuring PPE for all frontline workers, quality maintenance of community and Public Toilets, provision and procurement of water jetting machine for CT, PT and Aahaar Centre, Thermal fogging and use of blow misters are implemented immediately.

### **Zero Hunger- AAHAAR**

- Objective of the AAHAAR programme is to supply subsidised meal to needy people in urban areas at an affordable cost of Rs.5/- in a dignified environment. The programme helps to alleviate hunger in a significant manner as it is duly appreciated by urban poor. Nearly 1 lakh hot cooked meals are served in 158 Aahaar Kendras in 114 ULBs. Meal services are extended at night in 51 Aahaar Kendras. 100% of Aahaar Kendras are ISO certified, which reflects the quality of services. Each meal cost Rs. 23/- for which beneficiary contributes Rs.5/- and State Government Rs.18/-. Funds required for the programme are mobilized through CSR activities and donations from individuals, institutions and CSR initiatives. Six Women Self Help Groups (WSHG) are directly associated with the management of 11 Aahaar Kendras in Bolangir, Kandhamal and Malkangiri Districts.

### **JAGA Mission**

- With coverage of approximately 1.8 million population covering all the 114 ULBs, this is one of the largest initiative taken by Government to reduce vulnerability of the urban poor by increasing tenure security. It is realized that slum dwellers are the lifeline of the city and the state cannot be developed without their upliftment. The main objective is to transform the existing slums into liveable habitats.
- Odisha won the "World Habitat Award", global recognition of its ambitious unique initiative Jaga Mission. This award is given by World Habitat, UK- based organization, in Partnership with United Nation (UN) habitat, every year, in recognition of innovative, outstanding, revolutionary ideas, projects and programs from across the world.

### **Mo Khata**

- The Hon'ble Chief Minister has laid foundation stones for 242 Micro Composting Centers (MCCs) through Video Conferencing during 2019. These MCCs along with pit composting and Barrel composting have enabled processing of wet waste, generating organic manure, branded as "Mo Khata" and helping in gradual replacement of chemical fertilizers. All ULBs have also started establishing Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) for processing recyclable dry waste. Bidding process for procuring equipment for MCCs and MRFs has been done through the "Government e-market place (GEM) portal.

### **GARIMA**

- "GARIMA" a new Scheme was launched to ensure Safety and Dignity of Core Sanitation Workers of the State. Under this scheme, about 20,000 core sanitation workers and their families covering one lakh population are likely to be benefitted. A dedicated corpus fund initially with Rs. 50 crore will also be created, a State Commission for Core Sanitation Workers will also be constituted, the Scheme is implemented in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of Odisha

## Irrigation

### Major Irrigation Projects

1. Upper Indravati Lift Canal System (43.26 K.Ms.)  
Overall Progress of Proj.- 100%
  - 2.Pump house Comp. & Pump installed.
  3. Main Canal (43.26 kms) - completed
  - 4.Pipe Distribution (1142 kms) - Completed
2. Mahanadi Chitrotapala Island Irrigation Project (Balance Work)  
Overall Progress of Proj.- 85%  
Siphons (2 Nos) - completed  
Canal system - Out of 287 kms, 216 kms completed & balance 71 kms in progress.
3. Rengali Right Bank Canal \*  
Main Canal (95 kms) - completed  
Br. Canals : 78.4 kms completed out of 221.3 kms  
Distributaries : 147.9 kms completed out of 243.3 kms  
Minor canals : 190.9 kms completed out of 323.9 kms
4. Integrated Anandapur Barrage  
Barrage - Work completed  
Main Canals (3 nos, 115.61 kms) - Out of total length of 115.61 kms, 36.66 kms completed, 24.48 in progress, 57.47 kms to be taken up.
5. Kanupur  
Dam - 70% work completed  
Spillway - 74% work completed  
Main Canal - 36.66 kms completed out of 78.21 kms  
Distributaries : 5.7 kms completed out of 73.73 kms  
Minor canals : 35.18 kms completed out of 291.55 kms
6. Lower Suktel  
Dam - 43% work completed  
Spillway - 70% work completed

## **Medium Irrigation Projects**

### **1. Deo**

Dam - 70% work completed

Spillway - 80% work completed

Main Canal (2 nos) - 43.44 kms completed out of 57.90 kms

Distribution system : 17.86 kms completed out of 175.40 kms

### **2. Manjore**

Dam & Spillway - Completed

Main Canal- completed

Distribution system -101.56 kms completed.66 kms to be taken up through underground pipeline (UGPL).

DPR for UGPL submitted for TAC approval. Tender to be invited by February 2021.

### **3. Rajua**

Diversion weir - completed

Left Main Canal - completed

Right Main Canal-80% Completed.

Minor & Sub-minor - 10 % work completed

LA status - 238.71 ac acquired out of total requirement of 265.23 ac. Balance 26.53 ac are in progress

## **Home Department**

### **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)**

- It aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing through adopting the principle of e-Governance and creation of a nationwide networking infrastructure. CCTNS is intended to ensure that Police maintains all Crime and Criminals data through online system in order to provide Citizen's access to various Police Services in a hassle free manner. Odisha is a frontrunner in implementation of CCTNS project and has been recognized by NCRB for its best practices and innovation. At present 18 services are being provided to citizens through CCTNS by Odisha Police.

### **SAHAYATA**

- Odisha Police has also developed Mobile App namely "SAHAYATA" for citizens and "ARAKHI" App to help the Investigating Officers for investigation on the spot. VAHAN

& SARATHI Service of Transport Department has been integrated with Core Application Software of CCTNS.

### **Medico-Legal Opinion System**

- Besides, for qualitative and quicker delivery of services under Criminal Justice System, Medico-Legal Opinion System (a web based Application aimed to avoid delay in getting legal opinion in all important and sensitive cases) has also been integrated with CCTNS Core Application Software database. It enables Investigating Officers of Odisha Police to directly send requisition to Medical Officers who can upload examination reports against requisition. Virtual Police Station, an online mechanism has also been established to facilitate online registration of FIR (e-FIR) in unknown motor vehicle theft cases.

### **Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)**

- State Government has also introduced 'Emergency Response Support System' (ERSS), in the State. Under this system, all emergency services like Police, Fire, Ambulance, Women helpline etc. such as 100, 101, 102, 104, 108, 181, 1098 will be integrated in to single Dial number "112" to respond to people in distress including women and children in an efficient and coordinated manner in the shortest possible time.

### **Rural Development & PR:**

#### **MGNREGS**

- Altogether 8.22 lakh new job cards under MGNREGA have been issued from April, 2020 to 18th Jan., 2021 showing an increase of 150% as compared to 3.29 lakh job cards issued in the same period during 2019-20.
- Against the target to generate 20 crore person days during 2020-21 in the State, 16.55 crore person days has been generated till 18th Jan., 2021 as against 7.52 Crore till this period in 2019-20, showing an increase of 120 %.
- A total of Rs.4,636.50 crore has been spent, out which Rs.3,749.72 crore has been paid towards wages, and thus MGNREGA is having a significant impact on rural economy and livelihoods.
- State Government is paying notified wage rate of Rs.308/- per person per day by topping up Rs.101/- per person per day out of State Budget over the entitled wage of Rs.207/- under MGNREGA in 20 migration prone Blocks of 4 Districts like Bargarh, Balangir, Kalahandi and Nuapada in order to enhance the income of the job seekers & to improve rural economy.
- The State Government has provided additional 200 days of work to each job seekers in 20 migration prone Blocks over & above the entitled 100 days under MGNREGA. The entire wage of additional 200 days is being borne by the State Government.

- Provision of notified wage of Rs.303.40p per person per day by topping up Rs.96.40 per person per day out of DMF in other Districts like Keonjhar, Jajpur, Sundergarh, Angul, Jharsuguda and Mayurbhanj (3 Blocks) has also been made to enhance income of the rural poor.

### **Rural Housing**

- Completion of 3.02 Lakh houses during this Financial Year exceeding the completion of 2.37 Lakh houses during the corresponding previous Financial Year.
- Utilization of Rs.3,936 Crore during this Financial Year exceeding the utilization of Rs.4,486 Crore during the corresponding previous Financial Year.
- 2,98 Lakh beneficiaries newly sanctioned PMAY(G) houses during this FY.
- 4.54 Lakh houses are under construction and all out efforts are made to complete these houses.
- RH beneficiaries have been paid wages of 2.06 Crore person days out of MGNREGS during this Financial Year.

### **COVID Assistance Package (OLM)**

- 71,764 nos. of beneficiaries got assistance an amount of Rs.174.20 Crore to earn their livelihood.
- [Package -1]- 45,358 nos. of beneficiaries have received an amount of Rs.133.16 Crore as working capital for Micro and Nano Enterprises.
- [Package-2] - 7,827 nos. of beneficiaries under Producers' & Enterprise Group have received Rs. 4.91 Crore as working capital for their business.
- [Package-3]- 17,661 nos. of Vulnerable Household beneficiaries have received Rs.28.87 Crore as Individual Assistance to earn their livelihood.
- [Package-4] - 918 nos. of Migrant Returnees having skilled and semi-skilled have received 7.26 Crore as Start Up fund to run their enterprise.

And Odisha is striding ahead ....

# *Editor's Note*



**Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium, Rourkela**



**In Odisha, as dreams turn into reality... 5'T' speaks**

*Leslie Calandey*

**Editor, Odisha Review**

## Remembering Biju Babu

*Dr. Sudarsan Pradhan*

Bijayananda Patnaik, popularly known as Biju Babu was born on March 5, 1916 at Cuttack in Odisha though his forefathers hail from Bhanjanagar region in Ganjam district of southern Odisha. Ganjam district is known for its rich culture. Biju's ancestral homeland, Bhanjanagar is famous for Upendra Bhanja, the late medieval well known Odia Poet who boasted of the dignity and greatness of the Odias. His father was Lakshminarayan Patnaik and mother was Ashalata Patnaik. His father was a great nationalist leader of Odia Movement. Biju Babu was a brilliant student. Biju Babu started his early education at Christ Collegiate School, Cuttack. Thereafter, he joined Ravenshaw Collegiate School and passed Matriculation with first division and was admitted Intermediate Science in the Ravenshaw College. He discontinued from B.Sc degree and underwent training as Pilot. He became a Pilot in British India, but actively participated in the Indian Independence struggle.



His days as a Pilot are more memorable and thrilling for his historic Indonesian operations to assist in the Indonesian independence struggle. He was offered the lavish present by the Indonesian government in 1950 for his contribution to Indonesia as a skilled pilot and act of bravery. Biju Patnaik flew to Java and rescued Sultan Sjahrir out on a Dakota military aircraft reaching India safely via Singapore on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1947. For this act of bravery, Biju Babu was given honorary citizenship in Indonesia and awarded **Bhoomi Putra**, the highest Indonesian award rarely granted to a foreigner.

Then he started his political career and joined Odisha politics. In the year 1946, he was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly from North Cuttack Constituency. In 1952, he was elected from Bhanjanagar Assembly Constituency, in 1957 from Jagannath Prasad Assembly Constituency both in Ganjam district. In 1961, he became the

President of Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee. In the same year the Congress Party won Mid-term Assembly Elections under his leadership. In that election, Congress Party secured absolute majority by winning 82 seats out of 140 seats in the Odisha Legislative Assembly and formed the Government. Biju Babu won from Choudwar Constituency. He became the Chief Minister of Odisha for two years and later resigned from Chief Minister's post on October 2, 1963 because of Kamaraj Plan. Biju Babu took a lot of steps for the rapid industrialisation of Odisha as Chief Minister. He managed to set up **M.I.G (Aero-Engine)** factory at Sunabeda by persuading the then Prime Minister Nehru.

There was significant development in the field of education - both Technical and General Education during the first Chief Minister's tenure. The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (**O.U.A.T**) and **Sainik School** were set up at Bhubaneswar. **Regional College of Engineering** was also set up at Rourkela. For the promotion of technical education, he arranged stipends to poor meritorious students for the first time. He made an arrangement for setting up of a General College in each Sub-divisional headquarters of the State ensuring Higher Education for all.

**Talcher Thermal Power Plant, Balimela Hydro-electric Projects** etc. are the memorable testimonies of his successful achievement. During this period, seven Sugar Mills, twenty one Tile Making units, ten small Foundries and one Paper Mill were also established in Odisha. He gave a boost to Panchayat Industries. He created Tribal and Rural Welfare Department and nationalized the Text

Books. He introduced corporate system of administration as a step towards decentralization of power of administration at Government level. **The Industrial Development Corporation, Odisha Mining Corporation and Odisha Forest Corporation** are three giant Corporations which were created by him.

He had keen interest to restore the glory of sea trade for which Odisha had earned great reputation in the ancient past. Biju Babu believed that without State's own port, the rich natural resources could not be exported to other countries and foreign exchange could not be earned. Therefore, the project of Paradeep Port came to his mind and he took personal interest for its immediate function. Finally, late Jawaharlal Nehru the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the Port on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1962 near the confluence of the river Mahanadi and the Bay of Bengal at Paradeep. After the foundation was laid by Nehru for connection of Paradeep Port, the Government of India did not clear the Project raising some technical objections. But this did not stop Biju Babu to fulfill his dream for which he had sanctioned Rs.13 crore from the Odisha Contingency Fund to march ahead with the progress. That Paradeep Port is now one of the leading ports in the Eastern India. Biju Babu also translated the idea of connecting the Paradeep Port with the rich mineral area at Daitari in Jajpur district and introduced road traffic for which the Express Road Ways came in to being, in record time. It is one of the great achievements of Biju Patnaik.

In 1974, he fought elections in Patkura and won and became the leader of opposition in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. He was the key player in the formation of **Janata Party** and was the head of its Odisha State unit. In 1977, he

contested from Kendrapara Loka Sabha Constituency and won. After 15 years, he came to power again when he was made the Minister, Steel and Mines at the centre under Morarji Desai. In 1980, leaders of erstwhile Janata Party in different outfits and camps fell before the Indira wave. But he retained the Kendrapara seat. He made a hat-trick when he retained this seat in 1984 despite the tremendous Indira sympathy wave in favour of the Congress Party.

In 1985, he resigned Loka Sabha seat to contest Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency and he won in spite of Indira sympathy wave for the Congress Party. He made another hat-trick when he retained the seat in 1990 and 1995 Assembly elections.

After a gap of 27 years, Biju Babu returned to the power of state politics. His second tenure of Chief Ministership started from 5<sup>th</sup> March 1990 which was very special for Biju Babu (Birth Day) to 15<sup>th</sup> March 1995. He was the second Chief Minister of Odisha next to J.B. Patnaik of Congress Party who completed his five years tenure and provided political stability to the state. In 1990 Election, Biju created an all time record by getting 123 Members elected out of 147. The Congress Party, which had remained in office uninterruptedly for ten long years, could secure only 10 seats. The significant features in the elections was that the age of voting right was reduced from 21 to 18 years.

The most important features of his second tenure as Chief Minister were the reorganisation of districts raising their number from 13 to 30. Though in this direction in early 1970s, a District Reorganisation Committee had been constituted with Justice Raj Kishore Das as its Chairman, Udaya Nath Sahu and Sudhansu Mohan Patnaik,

the then Revenue Secretary as members and a report was submitted by it, yet no decision could be taken during the last 20 years in this regard.

The process of renovation of Panchayati Raj system in the state was started by Biju Patnaik. Reservation of women seats increased up to 33% in Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti level of Local Self Government. He was the first leader in the country to have achieved this object of emancipation of women much before anybody could conceive the idea and before the Constitution of India was amended. Minimum wage of labourer was enhanced from Rs. 10/- to Rs.25/- and he enforced its implementation with true spirit.

He gave emphasis for establishment of a second major Steel Plant in Odisha and took special interest in this regard. He invited MESCO, led by Rita Singh, Ratan Tata, Bhushan and Ganapati Companies and Lord Swaraj Paul for this purpose. Lord Paul had visited Odisha at the initiative of a German based Odia Engineer Dr. Rajendra Narayan Das and several rounds of talks with Biju Patnaik for setting up a Steel Plant at Daitari areas of Jajpur district were made. The foundation stone of Steel Plant was laid in the area of Kalinga Nagar.

As a token of economic measures, he abolished the system of surrender leave, Leave Travel Concession, Deputation Allowance, Special Pay and other fringe benefits previously enjoyed by Government employees for so many years.

During Biju Babu's Second term Chief Ministership, provisions were made to establish Special Courts by abolishing Lokpal system considered by him as ineffective, for trial of all

classes relating to corruption charges levelled against persons occupying higher posts and Ministers. Cases were filed against eleven Ministers who had held office during the period 1980-90. The residence of some of the accused persons was raided and their cases were tried by the Special Courts. Even more stringent action was taken by Government against the officers who were involved with corrupt practices. One of the privileges which many officers had been enjoying for long years was occupational a Government quarters paying concessional rate of rent to Government, while letting their own houses at exorbitant rates of rent. In order to curb this bad practice, he initiated steps directing such occupants to vacate the quarters under their occupation or alternatively pay the market rent. All these reformatory steps created a furore among the Government officials.

In 1996, he won two Lok Sabha seats from Aska in Ganjam district and another was Cuttack in Central Odisha, equalling the feats of P.V.Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee both the Ex-Prime Ministers of India. The political career of Biju Patnaik witnessed upward and downward trend, almost critically and inexplicably. He dominated both State politics and Central politics of India for a period of fifty years, whether he was in power or leader of Opposition. His mission and message, his ambitions and dreams made him a magnificent leader, a munificent man.

He was a multi-faceted personality, full of contradictions, heterogeneities and opposites. Biju Babu demonstrated pride and self-respect of the Odia people. He never bowed his head before Nehru, Indira and Morarji to remain in power. The only vested interest he had was the dignity and honour of the Odia people. Biju Babu

is the most vocal proponent of Odisha's pride and prestige, glory and greatness, self respect, self-pride of the Odia people in the best part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Odisha and her people are extremely fortunate to have Biju Patnaik, the illustrious son of the soil served the state as Chief Minister with indomitable spirit, untiring zeal and enthusiasm and firm resolve.

Biju Babu is fairly well known all over India and abroad for his charismatic leadership. A large number of dignitaries and V.V.I.Ps attended his funeral in Swargadwar at Puri, Odisha. Three Helicopter-loads of VVIP including the then Prime Minister H.D. Deva Gowda, ex-Prime Minister Chandrasekhar, A.B. Vajpayee, Krishan Kant, Governor of Andhra Pradesh, and so many Union Ministers, ex-Union Ministers etc. reached Puri to bid tearful farewell to the beloved Biju. Biju Babu breathed his last on 17.04.1997. The death of Biju Babu was a great loss to India as a whole and Odia people in particular. The vacant place in Odishan politics left by Biju Babu was very soon filled by his younger son Naveen Patnaik who played key position in the state politics since 2000.

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# Role and Effectiveness of Political Leaders : A Conceptual Study

*Bhabani Shankar Chayani*

## **Abstract**

*The overarching goal of this paper is to develop a conceptual frame work that will help in the assessment of effectiveness of political leaders of India in an objective manner. This study acquires significance in the context of a democratic set up like that of India which poses varied challenges and uncertainties in the political environment for political leaders to successfully perform in their professional life. Among the leadership literature, study on political leaders is as such minimal. Moreover, what enables political leaders to establish their effectiveness which gets reflected in getting continued mandate from the electorate and ensure electoral success is hardly examined. It is suggested in this paper that, despite multifarious constraints existing within the system, uncertainties of political environment, variations in the personality types and leadership styles, political leaders can yet play five types of roles and acquire the political skills required for their effectiveness. Right mix of roles can enable political leaders acquire optimal effectiveness.*

The assumptions with which political leaders conduct themselves are sometimes challenged by unforeseen, unpredictable and uncertain events and situations. Leaders are found struggling to make sense of shifting environment<sup>1</sup>. Recent chaotic situations in the political arena, empowerment of public and stress on probity, accountability and transparency through statutory provisions such as Right to Information Act, rise of social media require the political leaders not just to rely on traditional concepts of leadership and perform routine functions but also to perform acts of creativity and innovations<sup>2</sup>. They are expected to understand importance of new ideas and concepts such as leadership vision, shaping culture and values, leadership courage and moral leadership etc<sup>3</sup>. The present study intends to help

our political leaders to explore and develop their hidden leadership potential too<sup>4</sup>. It would also help all the major stake holders connected with the political leaders such as political parties, electorate, government, members of the public and research scholars etc., to make a proper assessment of effectiveness of political leaders which is of prime necessity in different contexts.

Indian constitution mandates our political leaders to occupy highest positions in the government and take decisions for the state. They are also required to undertake different activities for development of people. Effectiveness of political leaders is thus necessary not only for their continued success in political career but also for ensuring large public benefits to accrue from their actions.

The political leaders of India are elected through an electoral process which is quite expensive and costs the state exchequer a huge amount. Hence an ineffective political leader is likely to cause huge loss to the state exchequer. The present study on effectiveness of political leaders would enable a continued professional success of the efficient ones among them. Further people get maximum benefit through the process, where effective elected political leaders ensure their development.

Leadership is unidentifiable as it has no physical manifestation. Instead, it is an abstraction. Leadership is an essentially contested concept and can be explained through other concepts, such as 'power', 'influence', 'authority' and 'control'<sup>5</sup> etc.

'Leadership' has been studied under different branches of social science disciplines such as Political Science, Social Psychology, Education, Anthropology, Sociology, and business studies through different theoretical and empirical investigation. Yet, there is no consensus in their definition. There are thousands of competing definitions of 'leadership'<sup>6</sup> which find place in the works of Blondel, 1980 and 1987; Burns, 1978; Edinger, 1975 and 1990; Gardner, 1990; Kellerman, 1984; Mughan and Patterson, 1992; Paige, 1977; Sheffer, 1993; Stern, 1993; and Tucker, 1981. Choosing a single definition would be both arbitrary and restrictive. It would be unable to capture the variations in the types and forms of leadership that have to be exercised across many different arenas simultaneously<sup>7</sup>. However, in the context of our understanding of the effectiveness of political leaders, we shall like to define Political leadership as the power exercised by one or few individuals to direct members of the nation towards actions<sup>8</sup>.

There are different types and forms of political leadership as well as many arenas in which political leadership must be exercised. Types and forms of political leadership correspond to the manner in which leaders exercise their administration and management in different fields. They include charismatic leadership, heroic leadership, revolutionary leadership, innovative leadership, transforming leadership, transactional leadership, sensual leadership, reactive leadership and managerial leadership. An individual may have to exercise a combination of these different types and forms of political leadership at a given point of time<sup>9</sup>.

Political leadership is also exercised in different arenas. There is policy leadership, party leadership, Cabinet leadership, legislative leadership, opinion leadership, bureaucratic leadership, judicial leadership, gubernatorial leadership, mayoral leadership and many more. A leader may have to exercise political leadership in any one or more of these different arenas simultaneously<sup>10</sup>.

Political leaders are able to shape the course of the decision-making process. However, they do not enjoy complete freedom to shape policy outcomes because all leaders are constrained to certain extent by the given circumstances. Hence, Robert Elgie adopts an interactionist approach to the study of political leadership<sup>11</sup> in which he analyses the actions of political leaders in terms of their interactions with the given political environment.

In the nineteenth century, Thomas Carlyle who was associated with the 'Great Man' school of political leadership, argued that political leaders having innate qualities of greatness are endowed by God since birth and act as agents of social and political change. However, Carlyle's

theory had certain problems. It exaggerated the influence individuals exerted on the course of events<sup>12</sup>.

Subsequently, cultural determinants, such as Herbert Spencer have contradicted Thomas Carlyle by denying that individuals have any significant impact on the course of events. They argue that the leadership environment in which individuals operate, shape their actions, leaving them with little or no opportunity to make a personal impact on historical events<sup>13</sup>.

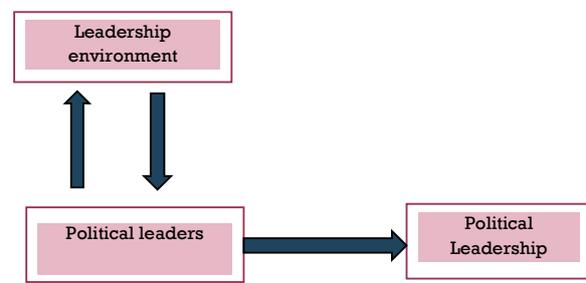
The basic problem with both the approaches is that they are reductionist. The former assumes that only the individual is important to the historical and political process. The latter assumes that the individual is unimportant and that the changes which leaders appear to bring about are really the result of the interplay of impersonal social processes<sup>14</sup>.

However, the study of political leadership is more complex than either of these reductionist approaches would suggest. According to the interactionist group of leadership theorists, in addition to personal attributes, leadership is intimately related to the fabric of the leaders, relevant societies, to social and political organizations, to established institutions, and to leaders' relations with smaller and larger groups of followers which constitute the leadership environment.<sup>15</sup> The extent to which political leaders are able to influence the decision-making process is considered to be contingent upon the interaction between the leader and the leadership environment in which the leader operates. How political leadership is exercised depends on the nature of this interaction<sup>16</sup>.

It implies that political leaders operate within an environment which will both structure

their behavior and constrain their freedom of action. At the same time, it also implies that political leaders do have the opportunity to shape the environment in which they operate, thereby giving them the potential to leave their mark upon the system. Consequently, leaders may change the course of history, but only if and to the degree that the environment permits it. This process is captured in the diagram given below<sup>17</sup>:

**FIGURE 1 The interactionist approach to political leadership**



*Source:* Adapted from Greenstein, 1992, p. 109.

Political leaders vary in terms of their personality traits, focus, the scope of their ambitions, aims, goals, leadership styles and behaviors. In terms of leadership styles among political leaders one may distinguish between, uncompromising leaders and malleable leaders<sup>18</sup>. Dennis Kavanagh has distinguished between mobilizing and expressive leaders<sup>19</sup>. The former is said to emphasize decision-making and task-performance, even at the risk of alienating colleagues whereas the later emphasizes cohesion and the maintenance of the status quo, representing and responding to diverse interests. A rather more complex typology has been devised by James David Barber. He distinguishes among political leaders who are active-positive, active-negative, passive-positive and passive-negative characters<sup>20</sup>.

Barber's approach indicates that different kinds of leaders behave in different ways and that it is possible to generalize about particular behavioral styles<sup>21</sup>. However, Peter Clarke suggests that there is not a single style of leadership that is bound to be successful in any place at any time<sup>22</sup>.

It is found that one of the main tasks of our political leaders in the present context is to respond to any short-term popular demand catering to a local need or needs of personal nature of individuals or groups. This creates a leadership environment which may either help or hinder leaders in their attempts to always take sound decisions to the satisfaction of the electorate. Primarily this is on account of the fact that the list of such demands is quite huge and many demands may not be in conformity with the existing government rules. However, the general point remains that popular demands provide the system with certain dynamism which has the potential to alter the relatively fixed forms of leadership to be found in a country<sup>23</sup>.

Under such circumstances, traditional and contemporary research show that personality cannot explain leadership, and traits of political leaders alone cannot explain their effectiveness with several uncertain factors hovering around in their environment. In this context, political skills of leaders and the manner in which such skills are acquired and exhibited by them may provide a sound explanation of their effectiveness.

Political skill is defined as "the ability to effectively understand others at work, and to use this understanding to influence others to act in ways that enhances one's personal and/or organizational objectives" and is reflective of "a comprehensive pattern of social competencies with cognitive, affective, and behavioral manifestations<sup>24</sup>".

Political skill represents such a characteristic, and leaders who possess it combine social astuteness with the capacity to adjust and adapt their behavior to different situational demands in a way that inspires trust and support, controls and influences others' responses, and appears genuine and sincere.

Those high in political skill are not self-absorbed, because their focus is outward towards others. This permits such leaders to maintain proper perspective and balance, and also to ensure that they monitor their accountability to both themselves and to others, while imposing reasonable levels of accountability on their followers for appropriate work behavior. Such behaviors of politically skilled leaders appear to manifest themselves in two distinct categories of leader behavior: transformational (e.g., relationship building with followers) and transactional with specific reference to contingent reward behavior (e.g., clear goal specification and rewards contingent upon goal achievement<sup>25</sup>).

A growing body of research demonstrates that political skill is associated with leadership effectiveness. Goal attainment is the central issue and the basic definition of effectiveness is conceptualized as the degree of goal attainment. The concept of effectiveness is a ratio implying that two entities are required when defining and measuring it. In the instant case it is assumed that the political skills enable leaders to be more effective in executing the projects and managing the electorate, thereby getting continued electoral mandate<sup>26</sup>.

Although a growing body of research demonstrates that political skill is associated with leadership effectiveness, the field still lacks understanding about how these skills can be acquired by the leaders. Hence, in the present

study, by adopting the five-fold role models of Esther Cameron and Mike Green in their work “Making Sense of Leadership : Exploring the five key roles used by effective leaders<sup>27</sup>” we have tried to establish that a mix of roles enables the political leaders to acquire the necessary skills which in turn would help them strengthen their effectiveness in professional life irrespective of the constraints of personality factors and uncertainties of the leadership environment. The entire process being a complex one requires careful analysis based on empirical data from which conclusions can be drawn.

Esther Cameron and Mike Green have defined the roles as natural clusters of behaviors of a person which appear in his/her conversation and action<sup>28</sup>. They have explored five core roles which successful leaders’ step into in order to lead well and make things happen. These five types of roles have been termed as follows- i) the Edgy Catalyser, ii) the Visionary Motivator, iii) the Measured Connector, iv) the Tenacious Implementer and v) the Thoughtful Architect. In this work each role has been analyzed in terms of its attributes, core values, inner experiences, outer presentations, organizational aspects, situation in which the role is most useful and finally how this role might need to be adapted to particular organizational cultures<sup>29</sup>.

It is found that while some leaders prefer to use just one of the roles others use a mixture of different roles. Many can identify at least one role that seems difficult for them to adopt<sup>30</sup>.

It is revealed that some of the skills associated with leadership such as high level of domination, interpersonal skills, electrifying speaking ability, being thoroughly organized etc., may not always make a leader successful. Leading is far more than applying a set of skills in a

mechanistic manner. Leadership is much deeper and broader than that<sup>31</sup>.

Ability of a leader to step into different roles would indicate the extent to which he/she is able to be creative and spontaneous in adopting new ways of doing things by breaking the routine. It adds to the joy and excitement of life. By experimenting with different roles, leaders can start widening their sense of what roles they can master, and therefore what they can achieve. They thus have to learn to develop the right mix of role to match their personality, the organizational situation and the people around them<sup>32</sup>.

So far different aspects of leadership and specifically political leadership are studied in terms of different concepts. However, our study based on the five-fold role model reveals that the effectiveness of a political leader can be assessed in terms of his ability to play certain types of these roles. It is also established that through different roles not only different political skills can be displayed, but they can also be acquired and nurtured. Despite multifarious constraints existing within the system, uncertainties of leadership environment, variations in the personality types and leadership styles etc., political leaders yet can play such roles and acquire the skills required for their effectiveness. However, a right mix of roles can help a political leader acquire these skills properly and thereby gain optimal effectiveness. Therefore, the five-fold role model can not only help us in analyzing and conceptualizing political leadership but also help in creating an action plan for the political leaders to acquire the requisite skills necessary to achieve optimal effectiveness for their continued success in political career while extending maximum benefits to the public for their development.

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## Poetess Kuntala Kumari Sabat

*Dr. Nirmala Kumari Mohapatra*

"Listen oh brother human !  
Man is not born to weep and die  
To get drowned and to be perished

\* \* \* \* \*

Listen oh brother human !  
You are the children shinning in nectar  
You have no death"

*Kuntala Kumari Sabat*

Kuntala Kumari Sabat (LMP) was a medicine practitioner by profession. She has earned reputation as a doctor and poetess. By interest and aptitude She was a novelist, social reformer and a good orator. She was having multi-faceted talent. Her writing shows the socio-political concern of the then Odisha, ie, 1922-1930. She had deep knowledge in four languages ie, Odia, Hindi, English and Bengali.

On 8th February, 1901, Kuntala Kumari was born at Jagadapur in Bastar locality. Her mother Mrs. Monica and father Dr. Daniel shifted their establishment to Burma as father Dr. Daniel got posted in that new place of Burma. So from the childhood Kuntala Kumari was accustomed with Hindi as the regional language. Her home language was Odia. She learnt English from her father. She also learnt Bengali from a neighbouring lady. In about 1916, Mrs. Monica came to Khurdha with her children. It was the original place of her in-laws. So Kuntala Kumari studied in Khurdha and then in Ravenshaw Girls' High

School, Cuttack. She was a voracious reader. Very soon she picked up Odia and wrote a poem; She recited that self-composed one in lyrical voice and got a lot of praise. She joined in Cuttack Medical School in 1918. She was the top-ranking candidate in the medical entrance examination.

Kuntala Kumari came out successfully in LMP Examination in 1921. She was topper in Bihar-Orissa Medical Council Examination and got gold medal. During four years of her studies she bagged 16 medals in toto. Those were of silver and gold. She started her life as a doctor in Cuttack city in the area of Ganga Mandir. She had to work hard to maintain her family including grandmother, mother and siblings. She was good in doctoring, especially in surgery and diseases of women. Most of her patients were from higher strata of society. Her keen sincerity in service was awarded as patients took her as Goddess. In 1925 the Red Cross Society opened a Maternity Welfare Centre in Cuttack City where Kuntala Kumari was appointed as a lady Health Visitor. Her commendable service and sincerity drew the attention of the then Governor's wife; Madam Wheeler.

In 1928 Kuntala Kumari got married and started a Medical Hall of her own in Delhi. It was named as "Bharati Medical Hall". She was a busy one from morn to night. She was blessed with two daughters. They were named as 'Utkala Kumari and Kalinga Kumari. Before her death

she was also blessed with a male child. It was the irony of the fate that she died of child birth, who saved thousands of patients in pregnancy and child birth.

As a literary personnel Kuntala Kumari was highly esteemed. She was a regular writer in some journals at that time. The Utkal Sahitya was then a well known literary magazine. The Mukura and Sahakara were also good journals then. Her publications drew the attention of literary people of that time. Her anthology of poems "Taraprati" (Ode to Star) was published in 1922. Her first novel "Bharati" was also published in the year 1923. In this year also one collection of poems naming Anjali (offerings by two palms) was published. The next year she published one more anthology of poems naming -Uchhwas. It means spiritual thoughts coming from within. One of the poems from this anthology was Sephaliprati (Ode to the night Jasmine). It denotes her optimism and eternal love towards the Lord. Her songs with patriotism with a beautiful name 'Archana' (Worship) was published in the year 1927. It is divided into four sections; such as- Bilwadala, Durbadala, Chamadal and Satadala. The first three sections were dedicated to noted poets of the then Odisha. They were Radhanath Ray, Nandakishore Bala and Madhusudan Rao respectively. Another collection of her patriotic songs naming Spulinga (Sparkling) was published in the year, 1927. Other collections of poems were Ahwana (The Call) and Premachintamani. The later was full of emotions.

Kuntala Kumari was free to express her multifold thoughts vide novels. During her short life she wrote novels like - Kalibohu (Bride having dark colour skin), Parasamoni (the gem with magnetic power), Naa Tundi (Very talkative), Raghu Arakshita (The orphan boy - Raghu). Her major work in novel was 'Raghu Arakshita'. It

was the story flow of an orphan boy who was settled up in the society through several hurdles. In her writings she tried her level best to establish the value of humanism and freedom of women from social oppression. Her novels show high ability of patriarchy and low status of women in families. So arose struggle for existence and importance. That was the clear scenario vividly depicted in her novels. Several reformations like anti-caste mode, widow marriage, patriotism and nationalistic ideals were illustrated in her essays. She boldly points out the misbeliefs and superstitions on the basis of religion. She also created awareness among the mass to wipe out the social stigma.

Madam Kuntala Kumari wrote a series of essays entitled - "Letter from Delhi". Those were inspiring at that time as it was the period of struggle for freedom. She also wrote against casteism. She had delivered lectures to the people living outside Orissa, especially in Calcutta. Her writings show sympathetic tone for the poor, oppressed and destitute. She wrote inspiring songs at the time of 'Salt Satyagraha' (1930). Most of her essays give the note of reformation, health consciousness especially to the women and girls.

The title - 'Utkal Bharati' was conferred on her in the year 1925. She was highly esteemed in giving conventional addresses in several educational - cultural institutions.

It was a big blow to her life that she passed away so soon at the age of 38 only. It was a big loss to her family, state and nation at large. She was such an important person that her personality and dedications had an impact upon the society as well as the general public. I pay my sincere tribute on her birthday i.e. on 8th February.

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# Socio-Cultural Life of Didayee Tribes of Malkangiri

(An Evening in Kondakamberu)

*Dr. Debashis Patra*

The silvery moon went up after her tender touch of the summit of the hills of Kondakamberu. The cold evening of Pousha (December-January) was gradually descending down at the foot of the village of Oringi. The villages appeared mysterious with creeping darkness of the twilight. The Kondakamberu hills are a separate segment of the Eastern ghat mountains, whose feet are perpetually washed by the river Machhakund. On both the sides of the river valley were there the habitations of the primitive tribes like the Bondas and the Didayees. The issue is how to connect the Bonda tribe of Mudulipada with Didayee tribe on the Kondakamberu hills who are far away from each other.

The Didayee tribe dwells in thirty seven villages of Rasabeda and Antrapalli gram panchayats under Kudumulugumma Block in the district of Malkangiri. The total population of this tribe included in the Bonda community of the Austro-Asiatic family will not be more than five thousand. That they were once upon a time in the same community of primitive Bondas exists in the Bonda folktales. According to the folktale the native place of the Didayee tribe is very old like that of the Bondas. And this habitation has been possible only because of the basin of the Machhakund river. Originating from the Mudgal mountain of Visakhapatnam, the river Machhakund

passing through the Duduma waterfall has entered the district of Malkangiri with its gradual rapid flow. At first the river flowing through a stony and pebbled path is narrow and reaches the Kondakamberu after covering a distance of 47 miles. And here the flow of the river is at a height of 1400 ft from the sea-level and it is not more than 7/8 ft wide. Passing through a terribly dangerous rocky bed, Machhakund becomes Sileru and flows towards Motu. This is the boundary line at Malkangiri of Odisha and East Godavari district of Andhra. The total length of both Machhakund and Sileru is 184 miles. The whole of its bank filled with bamboo woods is amazingly beautiful and captivating.

Like the history of Machhakund and Sileru, Kondakamberu has also its own history. Once it flourished as the principal area of the state of Kambudri. In the year 1443, the king of Nandapur Vinayak Dev of Surya dynasty had established two big villages after killing the king of Kambudri. One village was called Konda Kambirajpur named after his father Kambiraj and another one called Leela Kambirajpur named after his wife Leelavati. Five hundred years after the names of the villages were changed to Neelakamberu and Kondakamberu. At present Neelakamberu is identified as Balimela, Kondakamberu is known as the village of the Didayees.

There was the rule of Matsya dynasty here before the Surya dynasty. Now the history of Kondakamberu without any significance has become useless for the modern man like the history of the Didayees. It was about 7 o'clock in the evening we reached the Oringi village at the foot of the mountains. This was a Didayee village at a lower height. Many researchers camp here in order to study the life of the Didayees. It's because the Didayees at Oringi are relatively modern but are not opposed to tradition.

Sania was an important person in the village of Angra. After he came to know about the purpose of our visit, he arranged our stay in the community centre. The villagers gathered around in large number to see their guests. Solar light was arranged. So the folktales that I collected earlier during my study of the life of Bondas had in fact augmented my interest to know about the Didayees who are closely connected to the Bondas.

The folktales of the Bondas and Didayees reveal that 12 Gadaba brothers were born of the first man and woman on the bank of the river Godavari. They later on settled in the regions of Koraput and Malkangiri. The eldest of them was Bhoi Gadaba and next to him was Asura Gadaba. The other ten were Kandha, Bonda, Didayee, Jhadia, Parenga, Dora, Holar, Pengu, Chileri and Maria. It's because the Didayee was immediately next to Bonda, there is close resemblance between them. During my earlier trips to Mudulipada I had really enjoyed the amazing beauty of the lowlying areas viewed from Bondaguda mountaineous region. There is the habitation of the Didayees on the Machhkund valley. So leaving aside the twelve main Bonda villages, the Bondas living at other places are greatly influenced by the culture of Didayees and are known as 'Didayee Bonda' for the

researchers. Hence the culture and living of the Didayees appear more influential than those of the Gadabas. Like Oringi there are at least thirty three Didayee villages like Bayapada, Naringjhol, Tikiripada, Khadiguda, Gangapada, Damodar Beda, and Nindapari under 5 gram panchyats. The banks of Machhakund, Saptadhara and Sileru have provided the basic necessities for their habitation. According to their language the Didayees are known as 'Gatah-re' and their language is called 'Gatah-sa'. The language of the Didayees belonging to the Munda community has directly originated from the Munda language of the Koraput. Aita Kirsani discussed in detail before me the history of this language in a very simple way; and he said the medium of their writing is Odia scripts which have been used for writing a lot of banter and badinage, folktales and folksongs. He threw also some new light on the Bondas and Didayees. As the Bonda community is divided into two sects like Snake clan and Tiger clan, the Didayees also belong to two sects named Bear and Monkey clans. Besides this, whereas both Didayee men and women accept food from the Bonda families, only the Bonda men accept food from the Didayee families. The Bonda women are forbidden to take food in the Didayee houses. In the mean time some people had assembled there. We called some Didayee young men educated in the block sadar headquarters Gumma to our midst. Based on the book published by the Academy of Aborigine Language and Culture meant for learning the Didayee language, I asked a young man, "Nam mini mene?" (What's your name?) I am Balabhadra Angra, studied up to class seven. Now his occupation is cultivation, his favourite hobby is singing songs. When he came to the village during his student career on holidays, he sometimes went to the forest for guarding the cattle grazing; and sitting on the bank of the river Sileru, he sang

the native songs freely to his heart's content. There he sang a song on our request. It was a song related to marriage because it was quite natural for a boy of 12/15 years at his marriageable age to sing a wedding song. As per practice a boy of 12/15 years ordinarily marries a girl of 15/17 years in the Didayee community. The song is as follows:

*Na nene abna rasam nene nembra banarasam  
Nalurana banaras en bhai bandhu banalu,  
Jhi, baini kata sangre min lam  
Duhkha pili, duhkha sangara butikuli  
sadabele  
Bandhu sangara bandhure mana maa sangc  
mare mana.*

(Oh girl ! I will treat your parents as superiors. I will feed you by working as a labourer and uphold my dharma.)

It was already nine o'clock in the night. After the villagers returned to their own houses, I called Balabhadra and shared my feelings with him. Balabhadra informed that he had selected the daughter of the Nayak (the village chief) and as per the customs he sends rice regularly to the girl's house on the days of village fair. This practice will continue until the girl does not refuse to accept. If the daughter agrees, he will marry her by offering the bride-money and holding a feast in the village. He is preparing himself to offer goats, hen, rice, vegetables and salapa drinks as bride money. A feeling of self- satisfaction glittered on the face of Balabhadra.

Besides the marriage functions, the births and deaths in the life of the Didyaees are also celebrated with pomp and pleasure. On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of the birth of a baby, the naming ceremony is performed by Dishari. After the death of a person, the dead body is cremated, but in certain circumstances, if the person had expressed his desire earlier to be buried, the burial takes place

after the death. During the funeral rites on the ninth day of the death of the person an arrow is stuck deep into the ground in his house and food items, eggs and the boiled rice are offered to it as a token of affection. The bows and arrows are so intimately connected with the life of Didayees that the arrow used by person represents him after death. On the tenth day of death the departed is invoked by uttering his name before that symbolic arrow and several food items are offered.

At that time light was visible at a distance. The moon in the sky looked dim shrouded by fog. The middle- aged Aaita Kissani with a 'gamcha' (a small bathing towel) around the head and holding a hatchet in one hand and an old lantern on the other arrived at the place. He had come to give us company and to look after us. While narrating the sorrows of their life, he mentioned that the only day of happiness for them was the festival day. So, as the evening set in, a draught of 'salapa' made them forget the day's sorrows and exhaustion.

When the sound of 'Dungadunga' was heard, we turned our ears towards the dense forest in deep darkness. The festival of Pousa will be there after two days for which the dhangdas are making rehearsals of dance and music. Besides the dance and singing on this occasion, the cows are painted with turmeric and vermilion and they are given 'kechdi' to eat. But the fun and frolicking of Chaiti festival is not there in this festival.

The community- hunting of Chaiti festival has a different feel and thrill. All men go for community hunting armed with bows and arrows beating the 'Singha' (a drum- like instrument). If someone doesn't go for hunting or if someone returns without any kill, empty- handed, the dhangdis insult them by throwing cowdung water at them. Whatever they get from hunting, they eat together by making a feast.

In the 'asha' festival, a sheaf of corn is brought from the paddy field and is placed on the thatched roof and then worshipped. Besides this, different festivals prevailing among other tribes like Mango festival, 'Simba' (a kind of beans) festival and Maize- eating festival are also celebrated.

It was quite late in the night. We stopped our discussion and went to bed. When Aaita Kirsani marked us shivering in cold, he collected a few pieces of wood and lighted them. We all sat around the fire. As soon as the day broke, Dubek Pujari came to invite us to go round the village. He is the chief priest of goddess Mauli. We started towards the village, the whole village was basking in the morning sun. Whatever appeared enigmatic in the darkness of the last night, now are they quite clear, calm and composed. The walls of the mud houses were plastered with colours of white, red or yellow soil. At some places on the wall was the picture of a 'Saura' on hunting which represents the primitive tradition. The earthen pots were hung from the tops of 'salapa' trees. Most of the fields were lying vacant after the harvest of paddy, ragi, 'alasi', etc. A few persons were busily engaged in making baskets or containers of bamboos. Some Didayee women were making broomsticks in the courtyard of a house which was a source of earning their livelihood. When we arrived in the middle of the village, we saw villagers assembled around a 'mandap' (a platform). One of them sat still and motionless. The village dishari chanted the mantras as usual and was sweeping over his body with peacock feathers. He uttered the mantra "You are the man to kill, you are the man to make someone alive. I will offer you coconut, I will offer you bananas, I will offer you puffed rice, offer you sacrifices like pigeon, goat and also wine. You go back by the same way you came... go... go ... get lost."

We moved forward. But one thing baffled me: Notwithstanding the rich culture of the aborigines, how is it that the simple- minded primitive man has accepted the superstitions enforced by the dishari ? And lots of his simple and plain consciousness are being sacrificed on the altar of progress and development. We decided to return from there.

We urged the village priest to bring about a radical change in the mindset of the primitives in the wake of the shift of the cultural paradigm. Let him give importance on their education, health and welfare dispelling the darkness of superstitions. Our words instilled hope and faith in him. He gave his consent for the valuable suggestions by nodding his head. He said –"My son is now in service, after being educated. And some others also have got employment at different places. The Didayee Development Project is also doing a lot for us. We need only some more time." We appreciated the rational and judicious statement of Dubek Pujari. It was going to be 2p.m. We took farewell from Oringi village. We left behind the deep dense forests of Kondakamberu mountains and the rocky bed of the river Sileru. The vehicle moved ahead. We went on watching on our way back the recorded video cassettes and photographs. That picture which had the background of Kondakamberu smeared with the sandal paste of silvery moon was amazingly beautiful. We were really transported to a different world altogether. We felt as though the evening was setting in on the Kondakamberu even amidst the bright light of the sun.

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## Necessity of Promoting Woman in the Field of Governance as a Political Leader at the Village Level in Odisha

*Dr. Bharati Mohanty*

A Developing democracy like India needs wider participation of the people irrespective of caste, colour, creed, sex etc. in Its political process. In order to provide this opportunity, the system of democratic decentralization through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) has long been introduced in our country. As the women constitute a very sizeable portion of the total population of India, their participation at grass root politics is so essential to make the democratic governance more successful. The question of their participation arises because of their long standing neglected social status in the male dominated Indian society. Immediately after framing of the Indian Constitution, constitutional safeguards along with the provision of reservation of seats in legislative bodies, public offices and public educational institutions, were, therefore, provided to them for their uplift.

In Odisha, women constitute a very little bit less than 50 percent of the state's total population. Despite some favorable traditional values and customs and emergence of powerful women personalities, the position of the woman is not very rosy. That socioeconomic status is, however, relatively low and they are discriminated against in all walks of life. For centuries, women have been confined to home and suppressed and

deprived of their rights to get a fair treatment from the male dominated society. Development of women has, therefore, been one of the major issues in Odisha.

I am intended to focus on the empowerment of women in Odisha, through the Panchayati Raj System, specifically through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment which has opened up the process of what actually our policy makers wanted. The makers of Panchayati Raj System desired rural women should not only become a beneficiary of development, but more importantly contribute to it. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act involves the participation of women as voters, women as members of political parties, women as candidates, women as elected members of PRIs taking part in decision-making, planning implementation and evaluation.

Research shows that the success of panchayats in focusing on women's strategic gender interests has been mixed. There have been some positive outcomes for individual women, and instances of women chairpersons and members taking on cases of alcoholism and violence against women. However, examples of panchayats being forums that systematically

address and challenge the violation of women's rights, gender inequities and different forms of violence are few. There is a need to better understand how PRIs can become more engaged and proactive around strategic gender issues and provide spaces to promote gender equity within an overall framework of gender responsive governance.

Despite the long history of reservations for women in Odisha, numerical strength has not been an indicator of women's effective participation in local governance. The main reason behind this is women's unequal status vis-a-vis men both at the level of society and within the family. Low socio-economic status (e.g., low literacy rates, lower income/ earning capacity, etc.) and traditional norms that keep women in subordinate positions are also factors that impede women's effective participation. The low position of women in society is evident from declining sex ratios in the state. However, contrary to commitments made at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), on discarding targeted population control policies/ measures, Odisha implements two-child policy. This provides for the disqualification from the elected office of persons with more than two children. This policy has a disproportionate impact on already marginalized women candidates.

Women participate in the Panchayat system in two ways - as elected representatives and as part of the electorate participating in Gram Sabhas and Palli Sabhas proceedings. In the case of the former, EWRs, (Elected Women Representatives) a number of challenges are faced in ensuring their effective functioning- 'proxy leadership' being the main challenge. 'Proxy leadership' means that in practice, male family members of the EWRs act on their behalf.

Due to their subordinate status as women, EWRs are often subject to familial and societal controls that affect their work. They may insist on physically accompanying EWRs in conducting their activities or EWRs require permission from their families prior to attending meetings and performing their tasks. Further, time spent in discharging EWR functions may impact on much needed income generation activities.

At the societal level, EWRs are not taken as seriously as their male counterparts, particularly when they approach the local administration with complaints and petitions received. Additionally, low literacy levels and the lack of practical hands-on training severely impact EWRs effective functioning. There have been reported instances of violence against EWRs both within the domestic sphere as well as outside it. In practical terms, the efficacy of an EWR is much dependent on individual capacity and commitment. However, it is also observed that EWRs in their second or later terms are more confident and assertive than first timers".

As far as the participation of women members of the electorate is concerned, the Odisha GP Act explicitly requires the presence of women in Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha to achieve quorums. However, this has had limited impact on ensuring women's participation in such meetings. Women have little awareness of Gram Sabha meetings being held. Their reluctance to enter public spaces, due to superstitions and gender stereotypical roles and attitudes, have resulted in low to nil attendance levels over the past years. In fact, the Collector of the comparatively developed district of Dhenkanal observed that until 2010, Gram Sabhas were attended solely by men. In rare instances where

women attended such meetings, they were unable to participate effectively in the proceedings due to their inability to speak publicly and embarrassment experienced when putting forth their demands concerning intimate aspects of their lives, particularly aspects of reproductive health and domestic violence. In the past, women might be more likely to approach the Sarpanch or EWR (who could be a ward representative or a Sarpanch) with her problem than to bring it up in a Gram Sabha or Palli Sabha meeting.

The State has a number of schemes/initiatives aiming to empower women, which are funded by either the central or state governments. Each of these schemes is administered through a nodal agency or line department, which engage separate personnel for implementation and service delivery. To illustrate, the National Rural Livelihood Mission of the Ministry of Rural Development, which aims to increase household income and skill development through self managed 'selfhelp groups' (SHG) is implemented by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Another illustration is the centrally sponsored 'Integrated Child Development Services' (ICDS) Scheme aimed at providing creche, nutrition, health, and education services. The Women and Child Development Department implements this scheme and 'anganwadi' workers are engaged to deliver services at the local level. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, (and the national government scheme by the same name) guarantees 100 days of paid work in a year, and gives preference to women seeking employment. Projects to be funded by this scheme (generally small local environmental improvement or public infrastructure projects) are meant to be identified in Gram Sabha meetings, and job cards for eligible

beneficiaries are to be allotted in Gram Sabha meetings. In addition to central and state government schemes there are also a number of laws and legal provisions to address violence against women. However, women, particularly in rural areas, lack awareness of available government schemes and of these laws and have inadequate access to legal services and advice.

### CONCLUSION :

We can reach at a conclusion that the participation of women in the affairs of the Panchayat administration is not up to the mark as compared to their male counterparts. The awareness, interest and involvement of women in Gram Panchayat elections is still in the darkness of traditional culture. A lot of them don't know about the different political parties functioning in our country, but they only know the symbols which they voted for. In other words, they are mere instruments in the hands of the political parties, and by political participation they simply understand casting votes. Though they are regarded as voters, they don't know the value of votes. Even the ones who hold the political posts are suppressed and guided by their male counterparts. They have very little sense about the provisions like voting age, voting age of a person to contest in the election, the period of elections, the provision of fundamental rights, the reservation of seats for women in Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Assemblies and Parliament etc. Their interaction with the Gram Panchayat is quite less and they never put forth their demands before the Gram Panchayat about the facilities and privileges meant for them. This is because of their lack of consciousness and low levels of education. So, in the light of the above analysis, it is quite obvious that a number of

reasons are responsible for their apathy and indifferent attitude towards political participation. As a result, women are not only politically, but also socially, economically, culturally and educationally very backward. Thus it is imperative to create a more favourable environment which would enable the women to play a more effective role in decentralized development.

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# Political Evolution in Ex-Princely State of Patna Under the Dynamic Leadership of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo

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**Abstract:** (The ex-princely State of Patna was ruled by Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo from 1931 to 1948. During his tenure as Maharaja, Sri Singh Deo tried to introduce a number of democratic reforms for the smooth working and good governance of Patna State. This article is a modest approach to unravel the dynamic administration unleashed by Maharaja Sri Singh Deo in ex-princely state of Patna during his tenure as Maharaja)

**Keywords:** (Governance, Political identity, Suzerain Powers, Democratic set up, feudatory state)

## Introduction:

The history of Patna State dates back to Ramai Deo, the real founder of the state who founded the Chauhan dynasty in 1320 A.D. approximately. But Ramachandra Mallick argued that the real state of Patna came into exist in the year 1159 A.D. Prior to the rule of Ramai Deo, the State of Patna was ruled by the eight Mullicks or Pradhan. This system came to an end when Ramai Deo killed all the Pradhans and declared himself as the king of Patna. As per the historical sources Ramai Deo ruled in Patna since 1211 A.D. The rulers like Ramai Deo, Dalaganjan Singh Deo, Prithviraj Singh



Deo and Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo were most popular and benevolent ruler of the ex-princely state of Patna. History always remembers Chauhan dynasty of Patna State for their own special identity and heroism. It could maintain its own special identity in the history of contemporary era and particularly out of twenty-six feudatory states of Odisha whose existence was found at the time of their merger into the Indian Union. Thus, Patna state was one of the premier states of all the princely states in Odisha. It is quite distinct from other princely states of Odisha on the grounds of its special traditions, customs and culture. The main cause of special attention of Patna State was the

working of three branches like, legislature, executive and judiciary under its last ruler Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo.

Most of the foreign as well as Indian writers have done commendable works on the princely states of India. But few works have been done on ex-princely state of Patna which is very insignificant although the state bears a very significant place on the deep rooted and strong socio-cultural based. Its former ruler Sri Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was a benevolent ruler and he tried to introduce a system of democratic governance in the ex-princely state of Patna. The state of Patna was so famous in the history of India because of its individual political identity and importance even during its feudatory stage under all the suzerain powers including the British. Thus, it was one of the premier states of the Eastern Agency at the time of India's independence. The glory of Patna state reached its climax under its ex-Maharaja Sri Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo due to his farsightedness and intelligent vision even if he belonged to a feudal background.

### **Objectives:**

The objective of this article is to focus a brief outline of the evolution of democratic governance in ex-princely state of Patna during the regime of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo who ruled Patna State from 1931 to 1948 and later on who could become a successful Chief Minister of Odisha from 1967 to 1971 by heading the leadership of first non-congress coalition government in the post independent era.

### **Methodology:**

The methodology undertaken in this research work includes historical and analytical methods. The historical records and officials' documents were examined: primary as well as

secondary sources that are available on the subject have been used. A primary source includes historical documents, reports, official statements and interview of eminent historians who possess vast knowledge on ex-princely State of Patna. In the secondary sources, the major works of different distinguished authors in the field have also been included and analysed.

### **Geographic Location of Patna State:**

The Ex-Patna State, presently known as Balangir, formed a part of the erstwhile South Kosala empire. It was situated in the Mahanadi Valley of Sambalpur area and occupied a part of the modern Bolangir district of the State of Odisha. The state lay between North Latitude 20°9' and 22°4' and East 82°41' and 83°40'. It was surrounded on the north by Sambalpur District and the Sonepur State: on the east by the Sonepur State, the Boud State and the Kalahandi state and on the west by the Sambalpur District. The state had an area of 2530 sq. miles according to the Census of 1941 and it had a population of 6,32,220. Bolangir was the headquarters of Patna State.

### **History of Patna State:**

Patna State was a very important state among all the ex-princely states of Odisha. The Chauhan rulers were very courageous and great warriors. It always maintained a very unique position among other erstwhile princely States of Odisha. By dint of their own efforts, they could bring a new culture in their respective state.

The kingdom of Patna State was founded by Ramai Deo in the year 1159 A.D, which within a short span of its militant career became the head of the cluster of Eighteen Garhs. The Patna State under the rule of Chauhans had a glorious past. Historical sources reveal that it was a very

powerful kingdom which was ruled by Kusha, the second son of King Ramachandra. But the modern history starts from Ramai Deo who was instrumental in establishing the Chauhan rule in the state. There were 72 states under its control and it is also observed that until the growth of British Supremacy in these parts, the state of Patna was the fountainhead of a cluster of confederacies of states known as Athara Gadajats (18 forts). The Patna state could maintain its special identity and remained independent even in the time of Moghul emperors as well as during the ascendancy of the Maharattas. The Britishers captured the territory of Odisha from the Maratha in 1803 and thereafter Sambalpur and Patna State came under the control of the British India. Then, the British authority had exercised full control over the State of Patna and the state was regarded as their feudatory state. Further, the State of Patna, from the time of Ramai Deo, had as many as 33 rulers and the last ruler was Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo who was more popular, benevolent and a lover of democratic principles.

### **Personal Career of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo**

Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was a great visionary and a very intelligent ruler who could adept himself in all circumstances. His primary motto was to serve the well-being of the subjects of his empire. He was a man having simple living and high thinking.

Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo had a very charismatic personality and he could realise that good governance is highly necessary for peaceful living of the people. He was such a noble heart having all the repository of good qualities like humbleness, discipline, versatile genius, visionary democrat, good administrator, ruler and leader

par excellence. The inborn qualities of leadership were found in him with a high sense of brilliant leadership of mankind-principled, truthful, honest, just and impartial, humane and kind, caring, considerate and compassionate, generous to a fault with malice towards none, nor a harsh word to anyone, friend, comrade or opponent, superior, peer or subordinate. He always maintained a smiling face even in adversity which was most important hallmark of his nature. A man having divine power who was deeply religious, highly spiritual, brilliant student, erudite scholar and statesman, excellent sportsman, naturalist, photographer, lover of culture and tradition, a wonderful Chow Dancer, persuasive orator, widely travelled, matured and wise personality who could inspired people for his own ideological and disciplined life style. Born on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1912 in the holiest day of Mahavir Jayanti at the royal and dignified family of the princely state of Sareikela, Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was the second son of Raja Aditya Pratap Singh Deo. He was adopted as son by the sonless king of Patna State Late Maharaja Prithviraj Singh Deo. Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was recognized as heir at the age of 12 by the British Government after the death of Maharaja Prithviraj Singh Deo in 1924. But as R.N. Singh Deo was minor at that time, as per the rule of succession established by the Britishers, the Patna State was placed under court of ward till 1933 till he attained maturity and assumed the full charge of the Ruler of Patna.

Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo had a great academic career starting from Mayo Rajkumar College of Rajasthan, where the then principal of this institute late E.C. Jolijones had opined that during his 24 years of service he never came across such a brilliant student like Sri Singh Deo, who never stood second either in education or in sports, debate or in horse riding or in shooting

etc. After completion of education in Mayo College he joined Hazaribag College in 1931 and passed the intermediate Arts Examination, standing first amongst the successful students. While studying graduation he was brought back to the state to take over the administration of Patna State. Thus, Sri R.N. Singh Deo had an outstanding brilliant academic career who stood first class in all the examinations he appeared throughout his life. In the All-India level Diploma examination, he stood first class in the country and received gold medal from the then Governor General Lord Irwin in 1929. At the age of twenty on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1932 he married Kailash Kumari Devi the daughter of Bhupinder Bahadur the then king of Patiala.

### **Governance in Patna State**

Maharaja Rajendra Narayana Singh Deo could establish a popular government in his princely state of Patna during the time of British regime also. A complete democratic set up was found in the Patna State. The three organs like, legislative, executive and judiciary were working in the State. Various administrative machineries like the cabinet, High Court, Secretariat, Civil Service, Local self-government were constituted to provide good governance to the people of Patna State. The various function of the government was divided among different departments which remained under the charge of ministers. The entire state was divided into different divisions to provide better administration. As the Chief of the Patna State, Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo himself supervised all the work of the state.

#### **1. Patna Legislative Assembly**

Patna State had a legislative assembly whose primary duty is to legislate the laws for the smooth and good governance of the state as a

whole. The formation of a cabinet and Legislative Assembly in the Patna State was a rare example which proves that Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo was a true democrat and a firm believer in the Parliamentary Democracy. The Patna State Legislative Assembly consisted of 28 members and a President. The president was not one among these members. Out of these 28 members, 14 were to be elected out of the special constituencies named in the Patna State Legislative Assembly Act of 1943 and the other 14 were to be nominated by the Maharaja, the Ruler. Thus, the Assembly consisted of equal number of elected members and nominated members. The Chief Minister was the ex-officio President of the Assembly and could participate in the business of the Assembly like any other members. The tenure of the Assembly was three years. The Assembly was very powerful and could discuss matters relating to day-to-day administration and formulated laws relating to the larger interest of the people of the Patna State. The Council of Ministers consisted of two ministers and one of them was a representative elected by the legislature and the other one was nominated by the Maharaja himself. Thus, the Patna State Assembly was designed and functioned in a democratic way. This shows Maharaja Singh Deo's firm commitment towards the representative form of government. He also wanted that administration of Patna State must work in accordance with the legislation made in the Patna State Legislative Assembly. Although he came from a feudal background all his activities proved him as a great democrat.

#### **2. Growth, Development and Role of Civil Service**

The good governance of a state cannot be possible without an efficient and competent civil servant whose sole function is to assist the

rulers of the state. In the feudatory states, the internal administration was controlled by the ruler himself who was guided by the provisions laid down in the sanads granted by the paramount power from time to time.

In the state of Patna, the ruler was the custodian of all authority in the state. He was the sole authority so far as the internal administration is concerned. All the administration of the state was carried on in his name. Next to the ruler, Diwan was the highest official in Patna State. The post of Diwan was a very respectable and responsible post which was created since the foundation of the state. The ruler was informed all the necessary information of all the departments from Diwan. An Advisory team was also constituted by taking all the ministers which was also known as Cabinet in 1936-37. Below the ministers a number of subordinate officers were working as the permanent civil servant of the state. For the smooth and convenient administrative system, Patna State was divided into three Sub-Divisions like, Sadar, Titilagarh and Patnagarh having their headquarters in their own respective place. Each and every Sub-Division was under the charge of a Sub-Divisional Officer (S.D.Os) who held the gazetted rank. The Sub-Divisions were the administrative unit of the state and all the S.D.Os enjoyed the judicial powers in both civil and criminal matters. The entire revenue administration of the Sub-Divisions was entrusted to the S.D.Os. The post of Tahsildars and Additional Tahsildars were also created to assist the S.D.Os in revenue matters.

All the civil servants of Patna State were entrusted in different works. The major departments of the Patna State were, Land Revenue Department, Land Records Department, Nuzul Department, Customs

Department, Excise Department, Tobacco Excise Department, Income Tax Department, Police Department, Education Department, Medical Department, Archaeological Department, Cooperative Department, Agriculture Department, Printing Department, Geology and Mines Department, Debottar Department, Public Works Department, Electrical Department and Gardens Department. All these departments were coordinated by the Patna Ruler to bring a system of good governance in the state.

The Patna State Service Commission was also constituted to recruit various upper and subordinate level employee to work in the various department of Patna State. The Commission had the power to fix the criteria for the promotions, Provident fund, salaries and other allowances of the employees working in the different department of Patna State. The main intention behind the constitution of a Commission was to bring transparency in the appointment procedures of Patna State.

### 3. Judiciary in Patna State

Judiciary always plays a vital role in interpreting the law and to deliver justice to the people. The due procedure of law is ensured and strengthened by the judiciary. It is the judiciary who always bring the common man as well as the government to work in the right direction without any fear and favour. However, the administration of justice in the feudatory states was quite different with regard to the modern judicial system. During that time the judiciary does not enjoy the complete independence and both the executive and judicial powers were vested in the hand of feudatory chief. The Chief's court was the highest court and he enjoyed the supreme power and final appellate authority in his empire.

Thus, Judiciary was one of the important organs of the government in the Patna State. Prior to 1934, in the Patna State there were various kinds of courts like, The Court of Maharaja, Court of the Dewan, Court of the Civil Office, Magistrate of First Class, Magistrate of Second Class, and Magistrate of Third Class having different jurisdiction. In the year, 1940, a High Court was established by Maharaja to deliver justice to the people of Patna state. There were three judges in the Patna High Court who were appointed by the Maharaja. All the judges were highly qualified and expert in legal profession. Rai Bahadur Subodh Chandra Dutta retired District and Session Judge, Bengal was appointed Chief Judge of the High Court and Mr. Khettra Nath Sinha, Retired Sub-ordinate Judge, Selection Grade, Bihar and Orissa, was appointed as Puisne Judge and also to discharge duties of a District and Sessions Judge. Beside this, adequate provision was also made to appoint a part time third judge whose services was requisitioned to constitute a Division Bench of the High Court. The prime task of the Court was to interpret the laws and to inflict punishment on the culprits. Maharaja codified the laws regulating the lives of his people of Patna State. The Maharaja had the power to grant pardon. Thus, Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo thought that justice must be given to all section of the society and culprits must be punished in order to develop the peoples' confidence upon the government. Further, transparency must be maintained in each and every field of administration of the state. Therefore, he had given utmost importance to judiciary.

#### 4. System of Education in Patna State

Education is the backbone of the state. An educated and enlightened citizen is an asset

to the state. Hence, Sri Singh Deo had taken a number of steps for the spread of education in the Patna State. The government constructed school building to provide primary, secondary and higher education to his people. The High School as well as almost all rural schools had got library facilities for students. The students were also given financial assistance to pursue technical education. Singh Deo had also established George Sanskrit Tol to provide Sanskrit education. It imparted knowledge in Sanskrit literature (Sahitya), Vyakarana (Sanskrit Grammar), Karmakanda and Dharma Shastra (Scripture). A wing for teaching of Jyotish (Astrology) was also introduced in the Tol in 1940. With a view to provide higher education in Patna State, Singh Deo had established an institution named "Rajendra College" in 1944. At that time, it was affiliated to Utkal University and the first session of the college was started from 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1944. This college has been elevated to the state of an autonomous college by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha and it has become a post-graduate college having the subjects of science, commerce and arts. Recently, this college has been declared as the Rajendra University in 2020 by the Government of Odisha.

In order to facilitate Hindi education one Hindi Middle English School at Bolangir and one Hindi School at Titilagarh were established. A Guru (Teachers') Training School was established in Patna State to impart training to the teachers to make teachers competent in the teaching profession. It was abolished in 1937, with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January as majority of the teachers had been trained. An Industrial School was also opened in the state in 1938 to impart vocational education in different branches such as weaving, tanning and taxidermy. Regular Scout training was given to the High School students and a Girls'

Guild movement was also in progress in different schools. Thus, R.N. Singh Deo had made a significant contribution in spreading primary and higher education in the Patna State to eradicate illiteracy from the society. Besides this, Maharaja Singh Deo also encouraged women education in his Patna state.

### **5. Communication Network in Patna State:**

A good communication network is the pre-requisite for the smooth running of the administration as well as the leading of a happiest life of the people. Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo made a tremendous contribution in introducing a wide range of communication network in the erstwhile Patna State. Patna State Transport Corporation was also created to provide Bus services to the people. Bus services were also provided to go outside the Patna State. There was a workshop in Patna State to repair and maintain all the vehicles of the state. Roads were built up to connect important villages with the headquarters of the Patna State. Telephone and telegraph connections were also available in the important places of the state for the easy communication of the people. Patna State was electrified since 1919 and electric connection was broadened in the state during the reign of Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo.

### **6. Health Administration in Patna State**

Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo gave emphasis to the sound health of the people of his empire. Because a man having good physic can only work in a peaceful mind. Hence, adequate provisions were made to relieve people from various diseases. In this context, a number of Ayurvedic Dispensaries were also set up in the remote villages at government cost to improve the health of the people. The public health department consisted of five branches—medical,

leprosy, vaccination, sanitation and child welfare. X-Ray and Electro Therapy Institute and maternity relief facilities were also provided to the women. A separate ward was created in the hospital for TB and leprosy patients for their treatment and proper attention. Two child welfare centres were also set up in the state for the treatment of the small children. A Vaccination Department was in existence to vaccinate the people. To provide vaccination to purdah women, many special women vaccinators were appointed. A mobile dispensary under qualified compounders were moving around the village areas to provide medical services to the people instantly. Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo was not only concerned with the health of the human being rather he attached equal importance to animals also. In this regard, a veterinary hospital was also in existence at Bolangir for the treatment of inoculated cattle.

### **7. Art and Culture in Patna State**

To promote art and culture in the Patna State he constructed “Koshal Kalamandal” where different types of dance and drama were performed by different artists. He also established the “Dalaganjan Press” where different literary works and “Patna Dipika” and “Patna State Gazetteer” were published. The Kalinga Historical Research Journal was also published from the Patna State and eminent historians of that time Sri Purna Chandra Ratha, Dr. Satya Narayan Rajguru, Balamukund Hota, Sri Manabodh Sahu and other writers from outside Odisha contributed their valuable research articles to this journal.

### **8. Other Developmental Activities in Patna State**

Singh Deo as a Ruler of Patna State took a number of welfare measures for the improvement of socio-economic and educational status of the

people. During the reign of Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo in Patna State the system of Village Panchayat and Gram Sabha was introduced with a view to decentralising the power from the grass root level. There were 770 Panchayats and three Praja Sabhas in the Patna State whose primary duty was to see the overall development of the village areas. Agriculture was the main occupation of the people of Patna State. Therefore, Maharaja Singh Deo established a network of Cooperative Banks and Cooperative Societies to make credit facilities available to his peasants for their agricultural operation. He also made adequate arrangements for storing of food grains in granaries for future needs and during emergencies. He also initiated the enactment of land reforms and adopted brilliant policies of collection of revenues for the larger interest of his peasants. During his reign, Vana Mahotsav Day (forest festival) was observed and emphasis was given on plantation and afforestation in the Patna State.

It was observed that being a member of a royal family, Sri Singh Deo always behaved just like a general people tried to maintain a cordial and good relations with all his subjects irrespective of caste, colour and creed. He was against the social evil of untouchability and enacted certain laws to allow the Harijan communities to enter into the temples and other important public places. Maharaja himself visited so many Harijans and Adivasi (tribal) houses to cure the snake bite people. Thus, he tried to maintain equality among his subjects. This noble quality of Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo made him most popular ruler of that time. The people were also inspired tremendously and accepted untouchability as a social evil. This activity clearly reflected Sri Singh Deo's strong attitude of distinct vision and he was fully attracted towards the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence

and untouchability. In this sense, he was a great follower of Gandhiji.

### 9. Merger of Patna State

After the independence of India, when the Government of Odisha moved for the merger of the feudal states with Odisha, Maharaja R.N. Singh Deo, the ruler of the State of Patna signed the document of merger on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1947 in the presence of Sardar Vallab Bhai Patel, the then Home Minister of India and with that the princely state of Patna lost its identity and became a part of the Indian Union and a part of Odisha province. R.N. Singh Deo carved out a place of honour for himself as the first ruler to sign the instrument of merger in the entire Republic of India. Rulers of all other feudal states followed the footsteps of Singh Deo. To that extent, the State of Patna and Bolangir occupies a position of glory in the history of Modern India. The State of Patna merged in the province of Odisha with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1948 and a new district named Bolangir-Patna was constituted by amalgamating the ex-states of Bolangir, Kalahandi and Sonapur. But, on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1949, the ex-states of Patna and Sonapur were separated from Kalahandi, and a new district named Bolangir was formed by combining the ex-states of Patna and Sonapur. Again, Sonapur was also declared as a separate district from Bolangir on 01.04.1993.

At the time of merger R.N. Singh Deo transferred very humbly the assets and liabilities of Patna State to Odisha Government. These included:

- i) Claims of Provident Fund deposit by the officers and staff share with interest Rs.358785-12 Anna 9 paisa.
- ii) Civil Deposits etc. Rs.198618 -14 Anna 11 paisa.

- iii) Trust Funds Deposited in the State Treasury Rs.156779- 11 Ana 8 paisa.
- iv) Devottar Property Rs.5888-9 Ana 8 paisa.
- v) Arrears of Pay Bills of Officers since 1.1.1947, Rs.720133-Ana, 4 paisa.

### 10. Conclusion:

Maharaja Rajendra Narayana Singh Deo was a true man having a liberal outlook. He always believed in the development of the people and dedicated his life for the noble cause of the people. After signing the instrument of merger, he wholeheartedly transferred all the money which was deposited in the Patna royal treasury to the Government of Odisha without any hesitation. Thus, Patna State always felt proud to have such a nice gentleman who dedicatedly work for the wellbeing of the people of Patna as well as Odisha as a whole.

All round development of Patna State was possible because of Sri Singh Deo's able leadership, efficient administration and dynamic personality. The British Government, therefore, honoured him with the title of Knight Commander of the Indian Empire (K.C.I.E). Thereby, he became His Highness Maharaja Sir Rajendra Narayana Singh Deo of Patna. Patna State was a "Salute State" and Maharaja Saheb was honoured with nine-gun salute. Indeed, Maharaja Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was such a versatile genius that it is very difficult to describe his good nobility in writing. His contemporary men those who came in close contact with him always told that "Rajendra Narayan Singh Deo was a man among the princes and a prince among men".

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# Women Empowerment through Golden Grass Craft in Rural Odisha

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The scientific name of golden grass is *Vetiveria zizanioides* (L.) Nash., commonly known as “Vetiver” or “Bena”, a perennial grass of the Poaceae family, native to India. It is common and gregarious in open swampy ground, low lands, rice fields, canals, margins of pond, and in other unattended water bodies of Pakistan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and other south Asian countries (Anonymous, 1999). In western and northern India, it is known as “Khus”. In Odisha, it grows spontaneously in many river side villages of Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Bhadrak, Balasore and Jajpur districts which is locally known as “Kaincha” or “Kainsa”.

The plant grows up to 1.5m high and form wide clumps. The stems are tall and leaves are long, thin and rather rigid, the flowers are brownish purple. Vetiver or Bena has multipurpose uses in India from the dawn of civilization (Jha, 2004). The roots of the plant are used as flavoring agent and the source of an essential oil used in perfume making. But commonly the roots are woven in to



mats called ‘Khas-khas’, used as door and window curtain. It is also used in traditional medicine. But, in Odisha, the plant has an unique use of making craft materials and particularly its inflorescent stock, appearing after the monsoon is the basic raw material for craft making (Tripathy et al., 2014).

## Craft Making

The primary step of this craft making process is the collection of raw materials. It remains the repository of women, who actually set in groups, often having to wade through the water to collect sufficient material by cutting with a sickle. Once collected, the grass split in to two even standards. Normally, women use their teeth to split each stem along its length. Once split, the grass is made to dry under the Sun at least for five days. As the grass dries, it changes its colour from pale green to mild yellow and finally to golden yellow. This is

where; it derives its name as “Golden Grass”. It is the basic raw material for craft making which is stored in a dry room as protection against moisture and decay.

The women folk of the village are the artisans those who gather in their spare time particularly in the afternoon and are engaged in making craft material. The senior artisans are the team leaders who teach and guide others the intricate design of making different articles. The origin of this craft is centuries old and the technique of making craft materials has been handed down from generation to generation. This age old craft requires very little capital but a labour intensive and time consuming process.

### Type of Craft Items

Around 200 types of artifact items are prepared by the lady artisans that can be broadly put in to two broad categories i.e, traditional and modern. Items like “Kuanra pasara” (a container used in Kumari Purnima festival), “Brata Pedi” (a small box for storing holy thread), “Puja Gua Pedi” (box for storing holy *Areca* nut) or “Bhalukuni Bhoga Pasara” (a medium size container used in goddess Bhalukuni worship) etc. are prepared as traditional items for use in some socio-religious



rituals. Modern life style accessories now prepared from golden grass are wall hangings, dining table and bed-room articles, ladies hand bag, ornamental box, hat, tray, pot and glass covers, mobile and land phone stand, pen stand, flower vase etc. which instantly attracts the attention and appreciation of viewers due to their intricate design and glazing golden yellow colour. Often they use different vegetable colours to make these items more attractive. This craft has become so popular that, it is being exported to foreign countries like America, Japan, and Germany.

### Modern Training and Sponsorship

Previously the women folk of some selective villages were making this golden grass craft materials for use in some specific rituals and functions with little or no economic benefit. But in course of time they organized groups in the name of “Mahila Samiti” or Ladies self help group (SHG), expanded their activities and participated in craft exhibitions (Pallishree Mela) as well as in festivals in and outside the states. At present, some Government organizations like District Industries Centre (DIC) and Odisha Rural Development and Marketing Society (ORMAS) as well as some NGOs are providing them training to make them in its marketing. After the skill enhancement training programme, the artisans are able to

produce better quality products as per the modern taste and choice of the urban residents. They also provide suitable platforms to sell their products in different exhibitions and festivals in and outside the state. These materials are also merchandised as handicraft emporiums and different show-rooms across the country.

Another interesting and encouraging news (as published on 19th November 2020) regarding this unique craft is that, The Handlooms, Textiles and Handicraft Department in association with its Skill Development and Entrepreneurship counterpart at the centre will spend Rs. 12.31 crore to provide training and marketing facilities to around 3000 women golden grass craft practitioners from 12 villages in Kendrapara district of Odisha. The initiative would be carried out under the Union Government's World Bank sponsored Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme. Accordingly, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed recently between Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and the State Institute for Development of Art and Craft and District Skill Committee for skill and entrepreneurship development of women engaged in golden grass craft in Kendrapara. But, another important aspect which threatens the existence of the craft is the non-availability of raw materials. Because the wetlands are shrinking due to extension of agriculture and fishing activities. As a result, the "Bena" or "Kaincha" plants are becoming scarce and costly affecting this craft and craftsmen equally.

## Recommendations

Protection of some selective water bodies suitable for the growth of Vetiver grass is warranted where this species can grow undisturbed, and can be easily available. Moreover, some advanced training with modern technology to the artisans, financial assistance to develop their infrastructure as well as proper marketing of their products can save this unique plant based craft from oblivion. It can also add to the women empowerment by making them financially sound, as it is basically a ladies hand work in rural Odisha.

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## An Overview Upon Some Existing Palaces of Odisha

*Liza Nayak*

Man lived on earth as one of the animals like other animals on the earth but his creative genius make him different from other species. Through the gradual process of evolution both biological and technological, human being gradually acquire some short of knowledge to construct their own shelter by observing certain natural phenomenon occurring around him. Then for certain period he took shelter inside the cave. After that he learned how to adjust himself in these changing circumstances. The concept of structural house started in the Mesolithic period and a settled life started at the time of Neolithic and the village life started at the time of Chalcolithic. In Iron Age the settled life and political life became more galvanized. The concept of urbanization goes back to third millennium B.C in form of Indus valley civilization. Second urbanization in India started in 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE in middle and upper Ganga valley. This process of urbanization again appears in next stage of development at the time of medieval period and it reached its zenith under the British. In between several regional political dynasties contributed a lot for the growth of urban centres. Mostly these urban centres grow on the basis of combination of trade, commerce and political centre. Head of the trading community, caravan, and caravan leaders by virtue of their

wealth they constructed palatial buildings. In other word rulers or political head of a region or state built palaces not only for residence but also aiming at fulfilling some administrative requirement that is why palace assumes unusual form, some time gigantic and grandiose one and these are centre of all political activities. It controls economic and politics of a state and it also serves as a centre of art, architecture and literature. This is a common outline about the palatial structure and building, which reflects will and test of the ruler.

Similar set of growth was occurred in Odisha. It occupies an area of 115,707sq kms and is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, Chhattisgarh in the west, Jharkhand and West Bengal in the north and Andhra Pradesh in the south. The very name ancient Odisha conjures up a picture of the regions full of mountainous ranges, dense forest, gurgling fast-flowing rivers and the forest dwelling tribal people living in caves and other protective place. The state has preserved a number of palaces, which stands witness to its history.. So far as political history of Odisha is concerned, Nandas are the 1<sup>st</sup> ruling dynasty in Odisha as reflected in Hatigumpha Inscription but they are invaders probably they didn't have any palatial residence in ancient Odisha.



**Figure-1 Sisupalagarh**

After Nandas the next ruler was Kharavela. He had a capital named as Kalinganagari but it has yet to be properly identified. B.B Lal the excavator of Sisupalagarh tried to identify Sisupalagarh with capital of Kharavela i.e., Kalinganagari, by analysing the first year experience of Kharavela, as ruler he repaired his cyclone ravaged capital. B.B Lal found some short of disturbing element while excavating Sisupalagarh, comparing both epigraphic record and excavation findings he identified Sisupalagarh as capital of king Kharavela. All the early presidential palaces are highly fortified and the buildings were not as in situ that's why this category of sites is studied under category of fort and fortification, not as palace. In his Hatigumpha inscription he mentioned a line which mention the king Kharavela constructed a palace named as 'Mahavijaya Prasada' or 'great victory palace' which he built in his 9<sup>th</sup> regnal year in cost of 38 hundred thousand<sup>1</sup>. After Kharavela, Sailodbhabas, Bhoulmakaras and other dynasties ruled over Odisha in different time and palace but there palace is yet to be properly identified. Then the Somavamsis started their rule from 9<sup>th</sup> century CE to 12<sup>th</sup> Century CE. Basically the palaces of Somavamsi period were in ruined state or not discovered yet. A Charter grant of Janmejy I was found from Sonepur region and it was mentioned in the inscription that this inscription

was issued from the royal residence of Sonepur,<sup>2</sup> so this inscription we got that there must be a palace of Somavamsis existed in Sonepur from where this inscription was issued. In Jajpur a palace of Somavamsi period was found. It is stated that the Jajpur name was derived from Jajnapur or Jajatipur which was based on the name of Jajati Kesari and also for another cause that he performed here Dasaswamedha Yajna and also he built here a royal palace and a court.<sup>3</sup> Mahasivagupta V or Karnadeva's Ratnagiri copper plate described Solonapur (which is identified with Solapur in Puri district) as the residence of queen Karpura-sri,<sup>4</sup> the wife of Karnadeva. Another example i.e. in the Cuttack copper plate which was discovered from the record room of Cuttack Collector, the 1<sup>st</sup> line of that is stated as follows :

*Om Svasti Murasîma-samāvāsita[h] srîmato vijayakatakât.*

Dr. Fleet explained this line as though the Somavamsi had their residence at Murasima (identified with Bolangir or Patnagarh) but this charter from *katak* i.e. present Cuttack but later scholars opined that though the Somavamsis had their residence at Murasima but the identification of *kataka* with present Cuttack was not correct.<sup>5</sup>



**Figure2 Barabati fort**

Then the Gangas shifted their capital from Mukhalingam of Andhra Pradesh to Cuttack i.e Abhinava Baranasi Cuttack, that Cuttack identified with present Barabati. Barabati was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India. Size of its pillar and finding of elephant skeleton, its stone rampart, moat, and gateway prove continuity and legacy of ancient Indian tradition. From Harappan period the tradition of protective wall around a residential area continues till the medieval period. By the early historic time these protective walls were made with mud like Sisupalagarh and by the time of Ganga these earthen rampart transform into stone wall. So it is stated that may be a royal residence existed here. In Barabati, except pillars all other remnants found in form of heap.



*Figure-3 Gajapati palace*

After Gangas, the Gajapati Dynasty came to the power they somehow regarded as descendant of Gangas. These Gajapati rulers have made a revolutionary achievement in context of palace architecture<sup>6</sup>. The most remarkable one is palace of Paralakhemundi or Brundaban palace, which was constructed by Krushna Chandra Singh Deo around 1835 CE, in purpose of beautification of their ruling area.<sup>7</sup>

Except the Somavamsis, Gangas and Gajapatis; there were some minor rulers who

contributed much more thing to Odishan culture and architecture basically in field of palaces. The remains of their palace were still found in some places. Among them are Bhanja Dynasty, Bhoi Dynasty, Virata Bhujanga Dynasty, Naga Dynasty etc.



*Figure-4 Bhanja palace of Baripada*

If we look into the history of Bhanja rulers scholars stated that Bhanjas were divided into two groups they are Bhanjas of Khinjali and second one was Bhanjas of Khijingakota. According to R. C Majumdar and T. N Ramachandra the origin of Bhanjas started from Gupta period and they ruled upto 1947 CE or 1949 CE. The remains of palace of these Bhanja rulers are found in many places. In Haripur Maharaja Harihara Bhanja founded a township in 1400 CE and made it capital of Bhanja dynasty, after him this place was named as Hariharpur or Haripur. A palace is found in this area, this palace is a plain rectangular block of building made with brick and covered with lime plaster. In the north-western side of this palace a Radhamohana temple was found. After Haripur, Baripada regarded as next capital of Bhanja rulers in beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century CE. The palace of Maharaja palace is the biggest building in this town. The Kichakeswari temple was found inside the palace. It is believed that Kichakeswari was

presiding deity of the Bhanja rulers. The palace has consisted with 3 courtyard i.e the durbar hall is the 1<sup>st</sup> courtyard. The second courtyard



*Figure-5 Belgadia palace*

contains the Kichakeswari temple, Maharaja's office, the audience hall and a big pendal and the third courtyard contains the Laxmi Narayan temple and a big hall. This palace now functions as the Maharaja Purnachandra College. Other palaces of Bhanja rulers are found in Gopinathpur. It is stated that this palace of Gopinathpur was residential area of the Bhanja kings of Ghumusar. The scholars have identified this place with Kulada Kataka of Bhanjas. Except it at Khiching the remains of two forts are found, one is Kichakagada and another one is Viratagada; from excavation report it came to know that these forts were perhaps the residential area of Bhanja rulers.<sup>8</sup>

The Bhoi dynasty was founded by Govinda Vidyadhara in 1542 CE and ruled till 1560 CE. They made Khurdha as their capital during the Muslim invasion. So may be during Govinda Vidyadhara they shifted their capital. In Khurdha at the foothill of Barunei hill there is a fort, which is now in ruined state but some traces of wall and rampant are still found. Except this thing there were some mounds which scholars opined that this mound may be the palace of Bhoi kings.<sup>9</sup>

In context of Naga Dynasty who succeeded Ganges in Kalahandi area has come from Chotnagpur area, they regarded themselves

as descendant of God Pundarika. The Ganga ruler Jagannathdev who ruled over Kalahandi area has a daughter named as Surekha, who married to Raghunath Sai a prince of Naga dynasty of Chotnagpur. After that Jagannath Dev went on pilgrimage but when he returned to his territory his son-in-law not allowed him to enter into Kalahandi area. After that in 1005 he conquered the throne of Kalahandi. From 1005 CE ruled up to 1947 CE. The remains of Naga Dynasty palaces are still found. Inside this palace Gopinath and Manikeswari temple were found. It is assumed that Manikeswari was the presiding deity of Naga dynasty. But till 1850 CE Junagarh was the capital of Naga Dynasty. Junagarh literally meaning is old fort or old capital, once there was a huge palace but it was now not in traceable condition.<sup>10</sup> In 15 century CE Phanimukuta was the feudatory ruler of Gajapati king Kapileswaradeva. He founded the Kaptipada area and he made his capital at Koinsari, where he built a fort. Phanimukuta was succeeded by his son Vasanta Virata. Then gradually from Vasanta Virata the Virata Bhujanga dynasty was started. During the war of Purusottamadeva with Kanchi and Vijayanagara rulers Vasanta Virata fought very bravely. After that he assumed various titles like Jaya Bhujanga, Virata Bhujanga, Abhinaba Bhujanga and Parikshita Bhujanga. He



*Figure-6 Viratgarh palace*

was succeeded by his son Jayakumara Virata Bhujanga, whose great grandson was Saratachandra jaya Bhujanga, who has transferred his capital from Koinsari to Kaptipada. For that reason the remains of capital still yet found. It is also known as Koinsarigada. Here the remains of palaces are found. People stated that the some descendant of Virata Bhujanga Dynasty is still living there. After this Kaptipada shows up the next remain of virata bhujanga dynasty in form of palaces.



*Figure 7 Nilagiri palace*

The list of palaces of Odisha is too wide because this includes the palaces of major and minor rulers, ex-zamindars etc. Still now the remains of these palaces scattered in various area. There are also some examples existed where the remains of palatial structure are found but the dynasty and the date of construction is still in darkness. The earliest example of a ruined palace which is in form of a mound is Asuragada. It was dated from 3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE to 5<sup>th</sup> century CE. The excavation work was undertaken by Sambalpur University and Culture Department of the Government of Odisha. Near river lies the ruins of a fort called Asuragada. It is rectangular in shape and has four gateways in four directions. The central part of this fort contains a high mound. The scholars and excavator stated that it may be the ruins of a palace. Other examples are like

Itagada, it was found inside the thick jungle of Badakaman of Kaptipada subdivision. Here the ruins of a large big fort were found known as Itagada. Inside this fort the remains of walls of a palace are still found. Next to Itagada another ruined palace is found at Baidyanath Kshetra of Mayurbhanj. Where the Kakharua raja who ruled from 1454 CE to 1456 CE was killed by his minister Govinda Vidyadhara. At Managovinda which is situated very nearer to Mantri area, the remains of palace is found. According to local people it was the palace of Govinda Vidyadhara. Who after conquering the throne entitled himself as Managovinda and after him the place was named as Managovinda. In Hindol of Dhenkanal district the ex-chief's palace found near a hill range. The Athagarhpatna or Athagarh in Cuttack district also contains a palace of ex- rulers inside the Langalabeni fort and it was surrounded by hills.<sup>12</sup>

After all these palaces there are also some palaces which are in good condition and still speaking up the history of those rulers.



*Figure-8 Dasapalla palace*

**Rani Bakhri or the Queen's palace of Sambalpur** - According to recent news the conservation work has started in this palace and the State Government has sanctioned one crore rupees for the conservation work. This palace was built by King Baliyar Singh for his daughter in 1650 CE.

**Bhanja Palace of Baripada, Mayurbhanj**-This Bhanja palace was situated near famous

Rasikaraya temple and one Jagannath temple of Baripada. The palace and both the temples were under the supervision of A.S.I Department and State Government. The local people admire a lot the work of Government and A.S I Department.

**Ranpur palace of Nayagarh** -The ruler Ramachandra Narendra has built a palace at Ranpur in Nayagarh district. It was still in good condition and proper observation. Except it the T.B Hospital of Ranpur was previously the palace of Ranpur Raj family.

**Kanika palace of Kendrapada** - Kanika palace of Kendrapada known as Kanika Rajbati was constructed by King Agenda Narayan Bhanj Deo of Bhanja Dynasty. The construction of this palace was started around 1909 CE. A floor of this palace is converted into museum. When the members of UNESCO visited the Bhitarkanika they also visited this palace.

**Jatan Nagar palace of Dhenkanal** - This palace is situated upon a hill range. It was built during the durbar rule in Dhenkanal. The king who built this palace was very rude in nature, he tortured the labours who were engaged in the construction work and some of them were put as prisoner in this palace. On the basis of this legend the palace was named as Jatan or Jatana Nagar, the city where the people were tortured. It consists of around hundred rooms and a tank was also there near this palace. But now a days it is marked as a abandoned palace but still it is in good condition. Except the above palaces there are also some palaces which were in good condition like Aul Palace or Ali Palace of Kendrapada which was built during the Dev Dynasty in 1590 CE, Nilagiri in Balasore, Dasapalla Palace of Nayagarh, Khallikote, etc. Most of these palatial buildings were influenced by Persian architecture during the period of Sultan and Mughal but most of the existing palaces of Odisha belong to British period with European Influence model.



**Figure-9 Kanika palace**

Like the temples the palaces also bear the architectural works and periodical developments but with the passing of time these were ruined and there are also no specific sources or documents which will speak about the palaces of various king.

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# Evokes Zoonotic Coronavirus

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Plants, animals, humans  
coexist on planet Earth,  
secure their place, their logic, their rights,  
all interconnected, interdependent and sentient;  
symbiotic partners of a dynamic global process,  
all embodied creatures on earth,  
in a loveful harmonious, syncretic environ.  
All but equal, diverse members of one clan  
"The earth family".

Advance not indulging in  
obnoxious acts of destruction,  
human deliverance  
can't be at the cost of other species.

Humans intrude on animals' habitat,  
introduce a systemic disorder,  
And, animals infect humans.

Amazon rainforest biomes ravaged,  
one third of earth surface colonised;  
mechanistic landuse change  
removes nature's buffers  
between humans and animals,  
effecting pathogen spillover  
from wildlife to humans;  
For material growth, human development,  
Intrusive expansion into natural spaces  
adoption of extensive industrial farming,  
all drive zoonotic diseases worldwide.  
Linked with collapsing biodiversity  
COVID-19 - now found to be  
Of zoonotic origin.  
Ravaging Coronavirus  
spreading its fangs all over the world,  
to humanity - a wake up call.

World's indigenous communities  
who nurture global biodiversities,  
within indigenous territories,  
feel feared to face the brunt of climate havoc.  
Wondrous indigenous view of nature,  
ancient wisdom of indigenous millions,  
their grasp, knowledge about earth,  
guide the activists and researchers,  
to construct strategic roadmap  
to heal impending "Climate Apartheid".

Unified bold endeavour of likeminded,  
countries of the afflicted world,  
must eliminate vulnerabilities to existential risks,  
to preserve great human civilisation.

Unidimensional arrogant pursuit of authority,  
affluence, expansionist vengeful attitudes  
divides the nations into rich and poor,  
developed and developing creates ugly,  
unsustainable 'otherness';  
Multidimensional perspective of well being  
promotes fraternity, plurality,  
unification - not divisiveness.

Concerted global action by multiple players,  
the only reparation to protect, safeguard,  
vulnerable humanity from existential catastrophes.  
A "multilateral coalition"  
of the great super powers,  
can but build back better;  
A loveful universe  
to remain in harmony - together  
The great journey begins now.

---

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# Quit India Movement in Odisha with Special Reference to Balasore District

*Dr. Pradeep Kumar Giri*

## Abstract :

In the Saga of Indian's Freedom movement, Quit India movement forms a landmark. In this historic movement, Odisha in general and Balasore in particular played an illustrious role. Exhibiting unprecedented chivalry, heroism, sacrifice and patriotism in a violent form and hereby created a sensational chapter of flesh and blood. The August revolution took an alarming shape in the places of the district Balasore like Bhandari Pokhari, Dhamnagar, Basudevpur, Iram and Turigadia and converted to a blast furnace and presented thus and heart to plunge in to the ocean of 'Do or Die movement' of Gandhijee<sup>1</sup>.

The people of Balasore a coastal district in colonial Odisha played significant role in the struggle for freedom. The people of the district participated in all phases of Gandhian struggle with tremendous enthusiasm and by their suffering and sacrifice wrote a glorious chapter in the history of our freedom struggle.

It has been pointed out very often that national level works on Indian Freedom movement have not given due recognition to the sacrifices and courage of the people of Odisha. In fact, politically fragmented Odisha, steeped in poverty and ignorance failed to draw nation's attention. It is the responsibility of the researchers, historians of Odisha to project the freedom movement in Odisha in right perspective and to present a comprehensive history of the struggle. Unfortunately it has not been done as yet, though vast amount of historical literature is available at present<sup>2</sup>.

The failure of the Cripps Mission and the fear of Japanese aggression led the congress to

adopt the famous 'Quit India' resolution in the AICC at Bombay on 8 August 1942. The congress took the final decision of launching a country wide non-violent movement under the leadership of Gandhi. The British authorities acted swiftly and arrested members of the working committee including Gandhi. H.K. Mahtab, the prominent congress leader from Odisha was arrested at Bombay, but S.N Diwedy and Malati Devi returned to Odisha secretly. Congress was declared an illegal organization.

In Odisha, all prominent Congress leaders were arrested. Left leaderless, the people of Odisha, suffering from war time restrictions reacted strongly<sup>3</sup>. The movement spread rapidly from Balasore in the North to Koraput in the South. Mob violence was witnessed in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore<sup>4</sup>.

In Balasore District, the people responded to Gandhi's call 'Do or Die' with tremendous enthusiasm. Their reaction found expression in the destruction of Government

properties including telegraph and telephone wires, attack on police stations, post offices and establishment of parallel Government<sup>5</sup>. The Government struck hard and police action and firing followed.

In Balasore Town, Motiganj Post Office was burnt, which was barely 200 yards away from the police station. Anti-British pamphlets were circulated, the public meeting were organized. Banchhanidhi Giri, Amulya Das, Maguni Mahapatra, Golak Das, Pitambar Pani actively participated in the movement<sup>6</sup>. In Barabati area, Gour Chandra Das operated a secret organization whose members were engaged in circulating anti-British pamphlets to the interior areas. In fact, two Anti-British bulletins 'Congress Varta' and 'Satya Sambad' were edited by Sri S.N. Dwivedy who directed the August movement in Odisha as a underground leader. Gour Chandra Das was instrumental in circulating these bulletins in Balasore District, which inspired people almost to a state of open rebellion. The patriotic songs composed by Banchhanidhi Mohanty acted as a catalyst<sup>7</sup>.

Under the leadership of Muralidhar Panda 500 people set fire to the police station at Bhandari Pokhari and injured two police constables. Dhushuri was declared an independent area and a plan was chalked out to occupy Bhadrak Katchery. The police resorted to firing at Lunia on 22 September 1942 which resulted in the killing of nine persons<sup>8</sup>. The police also opened fire at Khaira and Tudigadia. However the most tragic incident took place on 28 September at Iram in the Basudevpur Police station where the police party opened fire on the villagers and killed 29 persons on the spot and some 55 people were injured.

In Iram area, the most significant development was the formation of a parallel

Government. An area known as "Banchhanidhi Chakia" was declared an independent area<sup>9</sup>. The local Zamidar became hostile to the movement and requested the district authorities to station a police force at Iram. The people hearing the news of the arrival of the police assembled at Melan Ground apprehending danger. The luggage of the police force was snatched away by the Satyagrahis. The D.S.P. then ordered the March of the police force to Melan Ground and instructed to open fire. Some 29 people died on the spot and many were injured. The police arrested the leader of the movement Aniruddha Mohanty and Kamala Prasad Kar<sup>10</sup>.

Nowhere in India were so many people killed in police firing during the Quit India movement<sup>11</sup>. The Government was bitterly criticized for this inhuman incident and was ultimately forced to institute an enquiry into the matter. The incident at Eram created widespread hatred among the people against the British Government<sup>12</sup>. The movement in Balasore District was participated not only by Congress, but also by Congress socialists, communists, Forward Bloc, Kisan Sabha, Students Federation, Youth organization and common men. It turned out to be truly a mass movement surpassing all other movements in dimension and intensity, and open rebellion with unbelievable enthusiasm of the people<sup>13</sup>. This was admitted by the viceroy Linlithgow in his telegram to Churchill, the PM of England on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942, "I am engaged here in meeting by for the most serious rebellion since that of 1857, the gravity and extent of which we have so far concealed from the world for reasons of Military Security."

It was a people's revolt, popular initiative asserting itself in the course of nationalist struggle. People acted 'on their own' independent of elite leadership.

Ranjit Guha of Subaltern school calls it 'politics of people' which existed parallel to the domain of 'elite' politics, in which the principal actors were not the dominant groups of indigenous society or the colonial authorities, but the 'subaltern' classes or groups constituting the masses.

The participation of large number of women in Balasore District was the striking feature of the movement. Nowhere in Odisha, such a large number of women came out of veil to participate in the movement. The movement produced the first woman martyr of Odisha, Pari Bewa who died in police firing at Eram. The movement witnessed a lot of violent activities. Followed by brutal police action, firing and arrests. Highest number being 42, including women at Balasore in comparison to other districts in police action.

The high percentage of literacy was responsible for the growth of political awareness among the people who actively participated in the movement. North Balasore was relatively calm as it was reeling under severe cyclone in 1942 and exodus of people from the neighboring Midnapore District as a result of the disastrous Bengal Famine.

South Balasore where the movement took a violent turn was under the spell of great nationalist poets like Banchhanidhi, Laxmikant and prominent Congress leaders like Mahtab, Nandakishore and Nilamani. With the fall of Rangoon and withdrawal of British troops, apprehension of Japanese invasion loomed large in Balasore especially in Chandipur region. The pre-cautionary measures of the Government hit the people of the coastal district very hard. Congress exploited the war-time situation and made the movement more widespread and mass based. Though the movement was crushed by the

end of 1942 it demonstrated the strength of the common man and their hatred of alien rule.

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## Four Pillars of a School

*Dr. Manoranjan Pradhan*

The *Kothari Commission (1964-66)* says, '*The destiny of India is being shaped in her classrooms*'. The statement clearly indicates the role of schools to build up a good nation. But a school stands on four main pillars (STPM) namely, Student, Teacher, Parents and Management/Administration. Sri Maa compares a school with a bird. She says if school is a bird, students/children are the face, teachers and parents are two wings while the management/administration is the tail. The face is the means of identifying anyone, wings are the limbs of flying (operating/functioning) and tail is for showing direction. Like that, the schools and the teachers are well known by the good students. The parents and teachers are two wings to accelerate children in enriching their dreams and the management is the good advising body to pave the way for holistic prosperity of a school. If anyone of the pillars become weak and paralyzed, the whole fabric will be destroyed like house of cards. So each and every pillar plays very vital role to build up a good man-making factory (school). Let's have a discussion about the role of each and every pillar of a school.

**The students/children are the front pillar of a school.** They are the preface. The

longevity and popularity of a school bank on this pillar (children) because they are the past, present future of a school. They are the hidden treasure of a nation too as they have different kinds of hidden potentialities and innate powers. It is the role of school to identify and recognize them first. Then the latent powers should be rightly explored by chalking out good curriculum (*not simply by syllabus*), *developing strategic plan, employing befitted methods and approaches* and above all through proper guidance and counselling. Above all, the students should be allowed ample scope and complete freedom to know, explore and utilize their own talents (Intrapersonal qualities), to utilize their hidden qualities through better understanding and critical/constructive thinking and a congenial learning environment should be created as a result a child cannot feel any major differences between home and school.

**Teachers are the architect of the man-making industry.** They are the 'Maker of History'. So it is well said that *God has created man after his own image, but teacher fashions the child after his own image*'. Indeed, teachers are the arbiters of a nation's

destiny. But it should also be kept in mind that one cannot be a teacher simply by standing before students and throwing information mercilessly. Teacher can never be an information passer, task giver, director or dictator. Rather, he should be a true friend like parents, true critic like real friend and above all, a facilitator and counsellor instead mere guide. Teacher should nourish the students like a gardener not like a farmer. For that he should be a man with human virtues, nationalistic attitudes and feelings of universal brotherhood. He should have conceptual and contextual competencies, pedagogical and managerial competencies, transactional and communicative competencies, competencies for assessment and evaluation of students' performance. The teachers should be potential enough to recognize the students' intelligence at different levels and dimensions. They should never try to make all students alike in a single door mechanism. They should know that each child is unique and different. All children can never be built up alike. So the teachers should focus on multiple learning instead single tracked teaching. They should emphasize to work (Activity) than word (mere verbal expression). Thus, Confucius rightly says, *when I listen, I forget; when I see, I remember; but when I do, I understand.*

**Parents are also the integral part of school.** Their active participation in school activities and wholehearted cooperation to teachers and other members can make a school an abode of learning and treasure of wisdom. But it is seen that the parents knowingly or unknowingly restrict the bright futures of their kids by imposing their dreams on them or seeing their kids in highest position without assessing their real potentials. On the other hand, they also hurdle the school functioning by expecting to fulfill all

needs of their wards. Sometimes they do not hesitate to speak that the schools run on their mercy and teachers are paying on their moneys. But the parents, being the potential stakeholder of educational system, they should think always they are the indispensable part of the school because their buds are being nurtured and nourished there to blossom up as complete flower with all fragrances. What can they do then? No need of donating resources only. The parents should make closer with school and its functionaries, regularly visit school to know about their wards and also about the school, can give valuable suggestions and labour for holistic prosperity of school, keep better rapport with teachers and above all Parents Teachers Association should be strengthened through better relations with other parents from different background and calibers for making school a learning hub and training centre. The parents can turn the school from merely making a school as a store of information (rote learning) and hard disk/record keeper (marks/grade of students) into centre of wisdom and skills like foundational (literacy and numeracy), cognitive (creative and critical thinking) and socio-emotional values (cultural awareness, sensitization and sharing of social issues, inculcation of values). Above all they can protect schools if there is any value crisis and managerial bottlenecks. So every parents should realize their roles and shoulder their responsibilities being the active family members of school.

**Managing Committee** (the fourth pillar) of a school plays very pivotal role for smooth running of school. They are the bacon light of the school. Their transformational leadership and constructive suggestions give a school a new shape with new vision. But in most cases, the attitudes and activities of administration/committee

members seem like entrepreneurs of the school. Their behaviors sometimes compel the teachers to work in a cognitive framework. Even their unnecessary intervention in pedagogical arena demoralize the teachers to think about innovative pedagogy. Sometimes the master and worker treatment of managing committee break down teachers professionalism. So the managing committee or administrative set up should not intervene in the teaching learning activities of schools if not needful. They should never consider schools as the profitable white colour business hub and they are the investors. Rather, they should work as the intellectual priests of a learning temple and disciplined caretaker of futures of the country. They should mainly focus to resource development with keen eye on developmental aspects of school from various angles. They should provide better resource and promote all opportunities to faculty members to explore more and more for making the enlightened future citizens with all human values. Their friendly and respectable behavior to teachers with economical security and pedagogical independence should be repeatedly introspected and retrospected. Above all, the coordination, team spirit, affectionate behavior, democratic attitudes and research

oriented pragmatic visions of school management can give proper directions to all stakeholders of school to reach at their right destination. Their social relationship, relation with parents, intellectuals and other productive members of society can make a school successful man making wisdom centre.

To conclude, all four pillars like important limbs of a school body. Their roles and contribution to make a model school is very important. They should realize that education is only the strongest weapon to change anything at any level- domestic, national and global. Above all the role of all the pillars of an educational institute should be understood as follow;

***‘We serve as Guardians of our Culture  
As the foundations of our Democracy  
As engines of the Economy  
As Drivers of Social Mobility and always;  
As Generators of new ideas’***

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# Role of Police in the Rehabilitation of Released Prisoners of Western Odisha : A Critical Appraisal

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## Abstract

Thoughts regarding the rehabilitation of an offender should start from the day one of his entry into the prison for incarceration. Classification of the prison inmates need to be done with all seriousness keeping in view of one's proper reformation and rehabilitation after release. Research regarding the factors responsible for the development of criminal behaviour needs serious analysis to find out the cause and effect relationship which will goad the researcher and the prison keeper alongwith the police to chalk out effective plans and programmes for rehabilitation. The unsolved problems of the released prisoners before conviction and the newly anticipated problems, after release need to be taken up as a challenge by the Police, Prison Welfare Officers and the N.G.O. personnel in rendering all kinds of support, so that these persons do not resort to crime again, but lead a peaceful and harmonious life. In this paper, an attempt has been made to critically examine from the perspective of the released prisoners as to how they have experienced the role of police in their process of rehabilitation. The scholars have suggested the relevance and importance of community treatment focussing attention on Community Policing handling the problems of rehabilitation effectively involving the rural youth in villages.

(Keywords: Rehabilitation, Aftercare, Prison Vocational Training Programmes, Prisonisation, History Sheeters and Non-History Sheeters)

Released Prisoners though small in number, yet constitute a vulnerable section in every society. They are looked down by everyone for the act they have committed violating the laws of the land and the prevailing social norms and values. The manner in which they are treated and humiliated outside the prison after release is more pathetic and painful than that of the life while undergoing imprisonment. The ray of hope to spend time till death peacefully on release becomes juxtaposed on account of the stigma attached i.e., called "DAGI" results in socio-cultural re-victimisation. Due to lack of social,

economic, political and moral support they revert to crime again and again and re-enter the jail causing over-crowding, mal-adjustment and unhygienic condition. The process of prisonisation leads to the learning of serious crime by petty offenders in association with the hardened criminals. For some habitual petty offenders the prison has become a "Short Stay Home". In this context police as a law enforcing agency play a crucial role in protecting the life and property of the people in general on one hand and on the other rendering support and assistance to the released prisoners for their effective rehabilitation.

In practice, police chase the persons having criminal records with similar modus operandi to detect and apprehend the culprits committing crime. It also becomes part of policing to check and verify the behaviour of the offenders in terms of their patterns of livelihood, extravagant life style and source of earning which gives input of suspicion specifically in property offence cases. Therefore, police keeps a track of the new upcoming criminals as well as the offenders who have been released from prison. Frequent visit of the police to the released prisoner's house on account of suspicion or calling him to the police station now and again adversely affects the smooth re-integration and reformation processes. It is a truism that such action of police used to negatively work in their process of rehabilitation because the public suspect that they might have again got involved in some type of crime commission. No doubt, the role of police in terms of reformation and rehabilitation is commendable in spite of their multiple assignments and pressure of work. But it becomes sociologically relevant to critically examine and assess from the perspective of the released criminals as to what kind of opinions they possess on the functioning of the police with regard to their social re-integration.

Keeping in view the above assumption, the present paper developed two main objectives for analytical enquiry and analysis.

### **Main Objectives**

1. To find out from the perspective of the released prisoners as to what support they expected from the police for their social re-integration.
2. To critically examine the impact of police intervention as experienced by the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation.

### **Research Design and Methodology**

This paper is an outcome of the data collected for the Ph.D. programme during 2012-2013 and the degree awarded in the year, 2016. Exploratory-cum-Descriptive Research Design was adopted for the purpose of the study. The Universe of the study comprises of eight selected districts of Western Odisha out of the ten, namely Bargarh, Bolangir, Boudh, Sonepur, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada.

### **Sampling**

The study involved two categories of respondents for the collection of data namely the released prisoners and the police personnel of the study area. In order to draw the sample from the universe, purposive random sampling method was followed to select 155 released prisoners, because the nature of habitation of the released prisoners was not homogeneous and most of them were living in distant remote places. In addition, they voluntarily changed their residences to different places or were rehabilitated at different places after their release. Though list of respondents and details regarding their locations were obtained from the police stations and prison records; the respondents were not available for the interview at the same locations. On the other hand simple random sampling method was followed as to draw the sample of the police personnel because unlike the released prisoners they were available at their offices for the interview.

The researcher has selected the respondents from the released prisoners on the basis of duration of their stay in the prisons. The police personnel were also selected on the basis of their experiences working in police station and dealing with activities of released prisoners.

For the convenience of the study 8 districts among 10 districts of western Odisha were selected as the universe. These districts are typical in nature in respect of their underdevelopment and strong religious belief and faith of the people. There is caste based social stratification and occupation based social status, which attracts the life of the released prisoners. The sample size of the respondents, i.e. the released prisoners is 155. Keeping in view the significant concentration of the released prisoners as obtained from the district crime officials and also due to paucity of time, energy and fund it was felt proper to confine our attention on the 8 districts instead of covering 10 district of Western Odisha.

### **Focus of structured interviews**

Two duly structured interview schedules were designed to collect the data from the two categories of the respondents, i.e. the released prisoners and the police personnel in different districts of western Odisha. The schedules were framed containing both open-ended and close-ended questions to cover the overall socio-economic aspects of the respondents with specific reference to the problems and prospects of the released prisoners. The interview schedule focused on each household respondents among the prisoners and individual respondents among the police personnel. The major emphasis of the schedule was to find out the information relating to their past and present socio-economic status, income pattern, causes of imprisonment, supports from different sources, rehabilitation process, future expectation, future plan etc. So to say, the schedule was designed to assess the overall situation of the released prisoners. The tool had been executed technically so as to extract the information from the respondents pertinent to the

topic of the research keeping in view to its accuracy and reliability.

### **Case Study**

There were altogether six case studies undertaken on the prisoners who utterly suffered from various problems after their release from the prison. It focused on how life of an individual after imprisonment went on a change, how it led to crisis and how it influenced the entire life system of the prisoner and his family. It was an intentional exercise to test the questions raised in the problem formulation process. The findings of the study through this method had borne a substantial support to the argument of the study that what and how different forces acted in the life of a prisoner and his family. The most fitting cases for the case studies were derived from the sample area during the field work. During the interview process the suitable cases were identified looking into the relevance of the study.

### **Analysis of Data**

Simple statistical analysis of primary data collected from the released prisoners was undertaken for better analysis, interpretation and understanding. In the process of analysis, a critical analysis of the collected data had been made for further verification and re-interpretation of variables that were to be found crucial to the study area. The researcher paid special attention during scrutiny of data collected, classification, coding and tabulation of data to make them measurable and amenable to interpretation. Efforts were made to give systematic treatment to data so as to avoid any form of variation and difficulty in the analysis. The tables were systematically organized in order to explain them under different chapters pertaining to the thesis of the study.

### Tabulation

After the careful classification of data the researcher meticulously computed, systematically arranged and represented the data in the tabular forms under different headings and sub-headings in a master chart. Then the data were re-arranged into various tables and figures. The tables and figures of the study, consisting smaller and larger units, were organized in order to cross-check the assembled data presented in the master chart to make the same valid, explanatory and reliable. The tabulation plan of the study was so arranged as to facilitate an interpretation and factual analysis of data pertaining to the study.

### Role of Police in the Rehabilitation Process

Crime is a manifestation of a disease motivated by numerous factors over which the criminal has no control. Essential rehabilitation service programmes need to be followed up immediately after release of the prisoners to check the motivating factors for repetition of crimes. "The most critical period in a criminal's life is not that which follows his entry into the prison, but that which follows immediately after his release. Whatever, be the monotony of the prison life, its sense of security, orderly routine and its steady and regular supplies of food, clothes, shelter and the like; the prisoner depends on others even for his essential needs. The longer the prisoner in the prison, the greater are his difficulties. On release, he, therefore, finds himself like a cripple leaning to walk again on the avenue of social life with all its characteristics, competitions and struggle for the survival of the fittest. In this atmosphere of insecurity he often finds himself to be a lone traveller, detested by his family, hated by his friends and shunned by society with a little or no money in his pocket to meet his essential needs" (Deb, 1975:603).

In Indian context, it is urgently necessary that an officially recognised system should be evolved to pursue and ensure that the follow up action for the rehabilitation of the offenders must start from the day a prisoner enters into the prison and end with his proper rehabilitation in the family and the society as a whole. This job may not be difficult in India because majority of prisoners hail from the agricultural community and they may be easily absorbed in their original system with little bit of counselling and social assistance. This kind of support and services will be necessary only for those who have lost their socio-economic roots in the process of incarceration. In India, the necessity for the proper rehabilitation of offenders has been started time and again, since the All India Jail Committee, 1919. In fact, all the Prison Reform Committees, since then have made plethora of recommendations for evolving an effective rehabilitation system for the released offenders. But unfortunately, implementation status of these recommendations has not been up to the mark. It is the urgent need of the day that some machinery is created at the Government level to pursue the follow up action of these recommendations. In order to give a fillip to rehabilitation of released offenders, the Government has to play a dominant role. Some organisations like Rehabilitation Bureau which functions under the Government of Japan needs to be created in the country for continuous review and monitoring of the rehabilitation work, since the day they enter into the prison, till they are settled in their normal life (Chattoraj, 2007, pp.5).

The ultimate objective of the correctional administration is the rehabilitation of offenders in the mainstream of social life. Aftercare as the harbinger of any rehabilitative endeavour and as a vital link in the correctional cycle, has been

concerned as an approach and as a service designed to reduce the offender's social isolation and dependence, to help him to get over his social handicaps, to remove the stigma that darkens his present and future life and finally to accelerate the process of his rehabilitation as a socially useful and productive citizen of the country. The person in a prison is often a victim of circumstances and his detention period needs to be utilised for giving him training and equipping him with skills which would help him to rehabilitate himself in the society (Sabnis, 1958).

After release from the prison, the released prisoners confront with several challenges, the most important ones being, lack of co-operation from the family members, neighbours and friends. In this connection Priyamvada Thilagraj(2005) states that the indifferent attitude of the society towards the released "juveniles" causes adverse harm on their re-integration and results in delinquent persistence.

It is said that today in the contemporary period the police has to behave as a friend, philosopher and guide for an individual in the society. Whether, such a role is applicable for the released prisoners or not is a big question mark? The answer is "Yes", because the released prisoners have already been reformed during their period of detention while undergoing disciplined life inside the prison and after release, they need police help and co-operation for their effective integration. But in reality the picture is somewhat different. The so called system of "History Sheeters" often adversely works in the process of their rehabilitation, because the police always keeps an eye on those persons. Any crime recently committed with similar modus-operandi of a released prisoner (History Sheeter), gives a scope

to the police to immediately apprehend that person who had undergone imprisonment having committed that sort of crime. The police immediately calls for the released prisoner and interrogates, in this process sometimes the already reformed offenders are again looked under suspicion by the public along with the friends and relatives. In their study on "Examining Impact of Official Intervention and Delinquent Persistence among Released Juveniles from Correctional Institution"(Thilagaraj and Priyamvada, 2008) have stated that the official intervention increases the probability of involvement in subsequent delinquency and deviance because intervention triggers exclusionary consequences. The official intervention has been taken as the intervention of the Juvenile Justice System with special reference to police intervention.

In order to ascertain the real state of affairs in matter of rehabilitation of released prisoners from jails and released inmates from correctional institutions, a study was conducted during 1996 to 1998 in the Union Territory of Delhi. The study covered 200 adult released prisoners and 100 juvenile offenders from jails and correctional institutions, respectively. One of the interesting findings of the study reveals that, too much of police interference on their post release life was experienced by 67 per cent of adults and 85 per cent of released juvenile offenders (Chattoraj, 2007). According to Priyamvada (2005) the severity of stigmatization in the society due to official intervention paves way for the released juveniles to relapse into criminality.

Generally, it is accepted that once a person enters into the prison he is branded as an offender. In traditional Indian society people used

to attach a social stigma (DAGI) on such persons, even sometimes the entire family members are looked down by the public and ostracised. This very process of stigmatization has been elaborately analysed and discussed in the theory of labelling as propounded by Lemert (1967).

Becker writes: “——social groups create deviance by making rules whose infraction creates deviance, and by applying those rules to particular people and labelling them as outsiders. From this point of view, deviance is not a quality of the act the person commits, but rather a consequence of the application by other of rules and sometimes to an ‘offender’. The deviant is one to whom that label has been successfully applied; deviant behaviour is behaviour that people so label (1963:9)”. While society uses the stigmatic label to justify its condemnation, the deviant actor uses it to justify his actions. He wrote : “To put a complex argument in a few words: instead of the deviant motives leading to the deviant behaviour, it is the other way around, the deviant behaviour in time produces the deviant motivation (1963:26)”.

Thilagaraj and Priyamvada (2008: 14-15) states that “The police intervention in the life of the juveniles plays a significant negative role. Affixing a deviant label could be a momentous occurrence in a juvenile’s life. But thereafter they are suspected and watched vigilantly by police. Their every mis-step is used as an evidence to prove their delinquent nature. Once they are officially labelled as delinquent they are excluded more and more from legitimate activities. Hence, they are designed and dealt with as delinquents and they are finding it very difficult to move into law-abiding path even if they could overcome their own belligerent reaction and self-image, and tried hard to do so. Some of the case studies clearly

indicate that the very image of police is immaterial whether intervention of police is positive or negative; it has adverse effects on the juvenile career. Some of the younger age group released delinquents complained that they faced more problems when compared to higher-level age group juveniles from police”. Apart from the negative perception of the juveniles towards police, there is a societal reaction, which confirms that delinquent label on the juveniles who are frequently contacted by the police. Hence, the chances for de-labelling a juvenile is very limited if he has a prolonged police intervention. In other words, official intervention by way of labelling of delinquent behaviour leads to delinquent persistence.

According to labelling theory, official efforts to control crime often have the effect in increasing crime. Individuals who are arrested, prosecuted, and punished are labelled as criminals. Others then view and treat these people as criminals, and this increases the likelihood of subsequent crime for several reasons. Labelled individuals may have trouble obtaining legitimate employment, which increases their level of strain and reduces their stake in conformity. Labelled individuals may find that conventional people are reluctant to associate with them, and they may associate with other criminals as a result. This reduces their bond with conventional others and fosters individuals the social learning of crime. Finally labelled may eventually come to view themselves as criminals and act in accord with this self-concept. (Mohanty and Mohanty, 2012:pp.100).

### **Analysis and Discussions**

As already stated earlier, the paper focuses on two main objectives; the first one being

to highlight the expectations of released prisoners from the police with regard to their social re-integration in the society and secondly, to critically examine the impact of police intervention as perceived by the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation.

It is an inevitable fact that the more the period of detention of a prisoner the greater becomes the problem in the process of his social re-integration. If the family members or relatives are not regularly visiting the prison and keeping in touch with the prisoner, then it becomes difficult on his part where to settle down? Whether in his own society within the family or in a host unknown society? If his own family members show indifferent and hostile attitude then the problem becomes more complex and complicated. The first and foremost requirement for a released prisoner is a safe place to stay and a regular source of income for maintaining his livelihood.

A flash on the demographic profile (Table-1) of the released prisoners reveal that out of the 155 respondents, 153(98.7%) are Hindus and 2(1.3%) are Christians.

**Table-1: Distribution on the basis of Religion**

Religious Background	Frequency	Percentage
Hindu	153	98.7
Christian	2	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Further, on the basis of ethnic composition (Table-2) the data distribution indicated that 10 (6.5%) belong to the General Castes, 36 (23.2%) belong to the OBCs, 82 (52.9%) belong to the S.C.s and 27 (17.4%) belong to the S.T.s

**Table-2: Distribution on the basis of Social Groups**

Castes	Frequency	Percentage
Gen.	10	6.5
OBC	36	23.2
SC	82	52.9
ST	27	17.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Looking at their present occupations (Table-3) after release it was found that 19(12.3%) were engaged in agriculture, 63(40.6%) were wage earners, 1(0.6%) farm labour; 1(0.6%) hotel boy; 9(5.8%) rickshaw pullers; 9(5.8%) engaged in small petty business (betel shop, tea stall, small grocery shop, illegal sale of liquor, etc.); 28(18.1%) were working as gardeners, part time watchman, fishing, wood cutting from forest, etc; and 25(16.1%) were engaged in more than one job, such as agriculture with small business, farm labour with daily wage earner, etc.

**Table-3: Post-release Occupation**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	19	12.3
Wage earning	63	40.6
Farm labour	1	0.6
Hotel boy	1	0.6
Rickshaw puller	9	5.8
Business *1	9	5.8
Others *2	28	18.1
Multiple occupation	25	16.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. *Business denotes petty business like betel shop, illegal sale of liquor (kuchia), tea stall, small grocery shop, etc*

2. *Others refer to garden keeper, part time watcher, migration for labour work, fishing, wood cutting, etc*

Pertaining to their place of stay (Table-4) it was observed that after release 131 (84.5%) were living in their own natives, while 24 (15.5%) had migrated to different places.

**Table- 4: Distribution on the basis of place of stay**

Place of Stay	Frequency	Percentage
Same Place	131	84.5
Different Place	24	15.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Considering their family type (Table-5) and marital status, it was found that 134 (86.4%) were living in nuclear families, 18 (11.6%) were staying in joint families and 3 (1.9%) were single persons staying independently.

**Table-5: Distribution on the basis of Family Type**

Family Type	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	134	86.4
Joint	18	11.6
Single	3	1.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Their marital status (Table-6) revealed that out of 155 respondents, 148(95.5%) were married, while 7 (4.5%) were unmarried.

**Table-6: Distribution on the basis of Marital Status**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	148	95.5
Unmarried	7	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

On examination of the educational level (Table-7) of the respondents it was found out that, 64(41.3%) were illiterate without any formal education. 3(1.9%) were having knowledge of non-formal education in Adult School and Jail. The respondents who completed up to IV standard constitute 51 (32.9%) of the total respondents followed by 17 (11%) of the respondents having completed standard VII to X and 7 (4.5%) have completed above X standard. The figures shown in the Table indicated that from among the people of all the levels of education the highest incidents of crimes, i.e., 41.3% were committed by the people who were illiterate. Next to them, the second highest incidents of crimes were shown by the people who studied up to only IV standard. Least involvement in crimes was shown by the people who were having non-formal education.

**Table-7: Distribution on the basis of Educational Background**

Educational Background	Frequency	Percentage
Non-formal Education	3	1.9
I to IV	51	32.9
V to VI	13	8.4
VII to X	17	11.0
above X	7	4.5
Illiterate	64	41.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Data on age categories reveal that only 1(0.6%) fall in the category of upto-20 years; 6(3.9%) belong to the age group of (21-30 years); 97(62.6%) belong to the age group (31-

60 years) and 51(32.9%) fall in the age group of more than 60 years.

**Table-8: Distribution of the Respondents on the basis of Age**

Age Group	Frequency	Percentage
Up to 20 yrs.	1	0.6
21 to 30 yrs.	6	3.9
31 to 60 yrs.	97	62.6
more than 60 yrs.	51	32.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

An examination of the monthly income reveals that prior to imprisonment majority i.e. 119 (96.8%) were having a monthly income upto Rs.1000/-, while 32(20.6%) were having upto Rs. 5000/-and only 4 (2.6%) were having upto Rs. 10,000/- as their monthly income.

**Table-9: Income wise distribution of respondents (Pre-Imprisonment)**

Monthly Income	Frequency	Percent
Upto 1000	119	76.8
Upto 5000	32	20.6
Upto 10,000	4	2.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

But after release much change has not been observed in their income categories. Data reveal that because of old age and social stigma 8 (5.2%) convicts are having no source of income, they are dependent on others and old age pension, etc. Further, 111 (72.0%) fall in the group of monthly income upto Rs. 1000/- per month; 32 (20.6%) upto Rs. 5000/- per month; 03 (1.6%) upto Rs. 10,000/- per month and only 1(0.6%) is having upto Rs. 20,000/- per month. Majority of the respondents viewed that even after a period

of ten to fifteen years of their release from prison; the present income is not at all adequate looking at the price hike of essential commodities. They are still in acute poverty and hand to mouth as far as their livelihood is concerned.

**Table-10: Income wise distribution of respondents (Post-Imprisonment)**

Monthly Income No source of Income	Frequency	Percent
	8	5.2%
Upto 1000	111	72.0%
Upto 5000	32	20.6
Upto 10,000	03	1.6
Upto 20,000	01	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### **Support Expected by the Released Prisoners from the Police**

The Prisoners soon after release from the prison confront with great challenges for their re-adjustment in the society. Being stigmatized as law breakers and enlisted for police surveillance, they seek support and co-operation from the police for their re-integration into the society. Police has to play the role of a friend, philosopher and guide for the released prisoner for effective social rehabilitation. Being cut-off for a long period from the families, friends, relatives and the society as a whole, it is but natural that the prisoner has to encounter with several mental pressure while re-building the past familial and social relationships. The emotional sufferings which the family members have undergone during the period of detention of the released prisoners cannot be compensated by anyone. The financial crisis and the negligence of support for the family members cannot be discussed unless one personally experiences it. The family prestige and image is ruined for no

fault of the family members, but due to the misdeed of the culprit.

It is a truism that a released prisoner usually expects some support from the Government agencies to revive his normal life in his own village alongwith the family members. In some cases it has been found that in order to get rid of the defamation and humiliation from the family members and society, some released prisoners have started rehabilitating in new areas (host societies). The released prisoners who are not in contacts with their family members expect that the jail authorities and the police should trace out the whereabouts of the family members and develop liaisoning with them for their re-union. Quite a significant number of the released prisoners opined that they expect the police to come forward in arranging BPL Card, housing through Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), loan for agriculture and small business, education of the children, special provision of Government if any for the ex-prisoners, land patta, employment opportunities, etc.

It is a fact that the police in our country are over-burdened with severe pressure of work. Day by day, due to the increase in population growth, changing life style of the people and craze for more comfort and modern amenities, the nature and type of crimes are becoming more and more complex, complicated and rampant. The public and police ratio for maintenance of law and order situation is not being maintained as it should have been for which the police in general are hard pressed with the workload in carrying out their day to day activities.

The local police used to verify and ascertain the chance of law and order situation, reverting to further crime, targeting someone for

personal grudge or vendetta, the probable source of livelihood of the convict before someone is released into the society. Thus, police visit the family members and discuss with them regarding the convict's rehabilitation plan and programme. The recommendation for release of the offender by the police is made usually, verifying the records available at the Police Station regarding the past character and antecedents from his associates, opinion collected from the victim, and also about the threat perception of the culprit after release into the community.

While making verification of the ex-offenders for recommending release from prison, the police used to visit their houses for thorough enquiry. It is a herculean task for every police officer to ascertain the bare truth about ex-offenders' background of offending and attitude towards re-offending. The neighbours residing around the ex-offender's house are not prepared to accept him as a normal human being, therefore they intentionally misguide the police about his family's present socio-economic condition. There is also fear in the minds of the neighbours that the ex-offender may take revenge on them if something disclosed about his conduct and character. Moreover, suspicion develop in the minds of the public when police visit the house of the ex-offender on a regular routine check up and as to find out regarding his wellbeing and problems. The irony of the problem is that the police while undertaking criminal investigation, in the first round usually suspect the "History Sheeters" who have committed similar types of offences adopting the same type of modus-operandi. These "History Sheeters" are usually considered as "detective" by the police to apprehend the new offenders who have either independently committed the crimes under

provocation or jointly participated in the event of committing such acts. It has been revealed by a significant number of History Sheeters, who have committed their first offences that the frequent visit of the police to their houses and their regular attendance in the police stations have un-necessary developed a negative perception of the public against them. The public in general and the neighbours in particular think that the released criminal again has involved in some type of offence, therefore, the police suspicion and surveillance. The “History Sheeters” in particular confront with such types of problem from the police, which they consider to be adversely affecting the process of rehabilitation and re-integration. Some of them even went to the extent of stating that life inside the prison was much better and comfortable than what we find in our own village along with the family members. No peace and harmony are found in the family and neighbourhood, because of the stigmatisation of imprisonment. Nobody is prepared to accept the released offender as a reformed person with a normal personality (good conduct and character). The image of “British Model Police” is still persisting in the minds of our people and that too more prominently prevailing among the rural people.

It has been pointed out by several released prisoners that the police instead of helping

them for rehabilitation in their respective places of stay, used to harass and humiliate particularly the young released offenders if they were involved in various illegal activities along with their associates. Police used to engage such young released offenders several times as informers taking advantage of their past criminal records. Analysis of data reveal that 44(28.38%) respondents were inhumanely harassed by police being physically tortured. Similarly 11 (7.09%) were un-necessarily scolded by the police using obscene language. Scolding by police using slang languages was mostly experienced by the middle and old age released convicts. 5(3.22%) respondents opined that they were un-necessarily harassed by the police personnel being frequently called to the police station. Further, 2(1.29%) of them said that they were for no reason called to the police station and detained for long hours, on such days they had to forgo their daily wage earning and food, etc. Similarly, 49(31.61%) of them viewed that various types of harassment and exploitation have been mostly experienced by the middle and old age released prisoners from the police. Such harassment and exploitation were mental, physical and financial. Nevertheless, 44(28.38%) of them very honestly revealed that so far they have not experienced any kind of torture and harassment from the police after release.

**Table-11: Age Group and Type of Harassment by Police**

Age in years	Beating unreasonably	Scolding in obscene language	Calling to police station unnecessarily	Detaining at police station	Various ways of harassment & exploitation	No Harassment	Total
up to 30 yrs.	2	-	1	-	1	3	7
30 to 60 yrs.	25	8	2	1	36	25	97
more than 60 yrs.	17	3	2	1	12	16	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>155</b>

Various types of socio-economic and emotional problems are faced by the released prisoners from the very day of their release from the jails. The hope of rehabilitation in family, neighbourhood and the society as a whole does not materialize when no support is received from the near and dear ones. The stigma attached as “Dagi” becomes the major cause for their ostracism and alienation. The released prisoners were not invited to cultural and religious functions of the villages. Being humiliated from all quarters, some of them have become alcoholics. A few of them being socially boycotted, resorted to crimes and re-entered in the prison, where their basic requirements of life i.e., food, shelter and clothing are assured of. The vocational training acquired by the inmates seems to be irrelevant in the competitive job-oriented market. Besides, as discussed above, harassment by the police in different ways have stood on the way of their rehabilitation and re-integration in the family, neighbourhood and society.

### Conclusions

In order to avoid the multifarious problems of the released prisoners in their process of rehabilitation, prospective plans and programmes need to be chalked out for their effective reformation and after-care.

Steps should be taken for early disposal of cases in the court so that the under-trials need not suffer from the problems of losing their jobs, normal family life, etc. Further, un-necessary detention inside the prison for the under-trial involved in the petty offences promotes the “process of prisonization” thereby they interact with the habitual offenders and learn about the different tools and techniques of committing sophisticated and serious crimes.

Judiciary should speed-up the process of granting probation and parole to the deserving offenders for extra-mural (community based treatment), so that they are not cut-off from their family life and social life and do not lose their means of livelihood. In this regard the formation of “Community Policing System” should be seriously thought of, where the voluntary workers come forward to help the police in understanding this challenging work. The Community Policing system could also minimise the burden of police functioning, when a handful of dedicated, sincere and hard working youth share the responsibility of police work in surveillance of released convicts and also helping them in shorting out their various problems with regard to social re-integration.

The problem of apprehension which the neighbours and villagers have towards the History Sheeters with regard to repetition of crime commission when the police visit their houses or call them to police station could be handled tactfully and intelligently by this group of young volunteers. They can act as informers for the police in discharging this benevolent work with regard to the process of rehabilitation along with the prison welfare officers and after-care service personnel. For effective rehabilitation of these released prisoners the volunteers of the community policing should on priority basis keep the “3 point programme” in mind such as:- 1) Re-integration and revival of normal family life, 2) A house (under IAY or any other/arranging loan from bank) to live in, or if existing, necessary renovation and 3) Regular source of income for livelihood).

The existing Odisha Jail Manual need to be modified and given a fresh look as per the recommendations given by the India Model Prison Manual, 2005 prepared by BPR & D, New

Delhi. Steps taken so far in this regard should be expedited at a faster rate without further delay keeping in mind the future prospects of crime prevention and control in our country and state as well as for the future life of the prisoners released and to be released.

The role played by police for released prisoners has two objectives; i.e. (i) to check re-offending (recidivism) and (ii) to support and help in the process of rehabilitation. But in our study it has been found that the police used to give more attention and priority to the first objective of crime prevention and control than that of looking after the rehabilitation process of the released prisoners in his area of operation. Further, it is suggested that the Prison Welfare Officer and the local police officer should jointly undertake the programme of counselling with the villagers and the released prisoners for effective rehabilitation.

The recent judgement of the Honourable Supreme Court of India with regard to the release of the under-trials who have already spent more than half of their period of detention as per the nature of crime committed, excluding the offenders who are likely to be convicted for life and awarded death penalty is a milestone in the area of Criminal Justice Administration and particularly with regard to Prison Administration. The directive of the Supreme Court that within a period of two months, with the help of District Court Judges action for release of such under-trials should be completed in our country. This short of exercise will help reducing the major problem in prison administration, i.e. over-crowding followed by all other ancillary associated problems. Besides, earlier release of the under-trials will definitely make their process of social re-integration more easy and the task of police with regard to surveillance of these persons for crime prevention

and control can be minimized. Further, the process of prisonisation for the petty offenders undergoing trial will definitely decrease the adverse impact on their personality.

In Tamil Nadu there are voluntary organisations, which help the prisoners on their release. The Tamil Nadu Government has undertaken massive projects for the rehabilitation of the habitual offenders, through the police department, by forming Industrial Colonies in selected areas. The Discharged Prisoners Aid Societies in various districts and Nationalised Banks also play their parts in extending financial assistance to the ex-prisoners and others (Murthy, 2008, p.p. 52). Further, the “Crime Prevention Society” in Uttar Pradesh is looking after the re-socialisation process of the criminals. Prisoners’ colony in Rajasthan is a creditable community programme extended for the prisoners. It has been set out of the prison walls. Here prisoners are made to settle down with their family and allowed to do any occupational activity of their interest without any security hitch in the outside world. This helps the prisoners to get back into the fold of community life. In Maharashtra, the establishment of Nava Jivan Mandals (Released Prisoners Aid Society) is a fine example of community participation. The Bombay Presidency Released Prisoners Aid Society is arranging financial assistance and jobs for the prisoners through Probation Officers by visiting and collecting the particulars of the prisoners to be released regularly. Prisoners in search of job or not having any means for livelihood are offered fooding and lodging at the Society’s Home at Agripada, Mumbai (Murthy, 2008).

In Odisha, particularly in the rural areas, the feeling of stigmatisation on the released

prisoners as “Dagi” is very severe. Accepting a released prisoner as a normal human being seems to be a myth. This sort of feeling is more accelerated due to the role of police which disturbs the mind of rural people. The rural youth and the police personnel constituting the Community Policing System need to focus attention on the development of Human Factors, such as “awareness” about the various issues pertaining to the process of rehabilitation; “positive perception” about the released prisoners, realistic inputs to be generated for “motivation” of these persons for joining hands with the villagers in getting co-operation and support and also inculcating a spirit of “positive attitude” to meet all challenges in achieving success goals. Once the team acquires and develop these human factors, they can interact with the villagers in organising meetings regularly along with the released prisoners and inculcate in them a feeling to develop and promote such factors, thereby gradually helping the process of rehabilitation to work effectively and smoothly.

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## Biju Patnaik : A Legendary Hero

*Balabhadra Ghadai*

The great dramatist Shakespeare rightly observed that life should be measured by deeds, not years. Life of Bijayananda Patnaik, affectionately called Biju Babu as a freedom fighter, a pilot, a nationalist, a leader and a statesman of national and international repute is a shining example. He was a man who created history, changed history and shaped history. And the history he shaped was the history of a progressive and prosperous Odisha.

Born to Laxminarayan Patnaik and Ashalata Devi at Anand Nivas, Tulsipur, Cuttack on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1916, Biju Babu had his early schooling in Mission Primary School and Mission (Christ Collegiate) School. He joined Ravenshaw Collegiate School and passed Matriculation in 1932 with a first division and got admitted to Intermediate science class in the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. He discontinued his B.Sc to undergo training as a pilot at the Aeronautic Training Institute of India and Delhi Flying Club. After completion of the pilot training, Biju Babu joined Indian National Airway. He married Smt. Gyana Devi in 1939, who hailed from an aristocratic rich family of Kashmir. His father-in-law's 'M.N. Radha Krishna & Co Ltd.' was a famous company at that time.

Biju Babu was a pilot par excellence of Royal Force of Indian Airways. He had the reputation being appreciated by the Governor General of India and chief executives of the British Government. His individual contribution to the Russians against Nazism of Germany was recognized as timely help at the critical juncture of the war. This apart, he could be able to evacuate the British families at Rangoon apprehending danger from the attack of Japan on Myanmar, during the period of war and he was praised by the British administrative authority for his dynamic and strategic act of bravery. To one's surprise, while he was the head of the Command under RIAF, he airdropped the leaflets of Quit India Movement on Indian soldiers fearlessly. His love for the country and freedom struggle were exemplified in his risky operation of air dropping leaflets supporting the cause of Netaji's Indian National Army. During that time, the freedom struggle was at its zenith at the call of Quit India slogan by Mahatma Gandhi. He was associated with underground movement led by Jayprakash Narayan and Ram Manohar Lohia and underwent imprisonment during 1943-45. Aruna Asaf Ali, one of the fighters of Quit India Movement, has said, "Among the thousands who came forward to take up the challenge, Biju

Patnaik was one of the most fearless and who mobilized his fellow pilots and inspired them to help the Underground Directorate”.

Biju Babu was a rare personality of valour, bravery, heroism and indomitable spirit. His role in the Indonesian freedom struggle was miraculous. Indonesian freedom fighters declared independence of the country on 17th August, 1945 from the Dutch. The Dutch created trouble to regain sway over the territories. The Dutch launched an attack on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1947. President Dr. Sukarno asked the Prime Minister Sultan Sjahariar to leave the country for mobilizing the outer world to counteract the enemy but that could not be possible because the Dutch had absolute control over sea and air routes. At this crucial juncture Nehru came out to help Indonesia. He entrusted the task to his trusted pilot Biju Patnaik. Biju Babu accepted the proposal. He took off in an old fashioned Dakota with his wife Gyana Devi for Jakarta. On his way at Singapore he received a threat call from the Dutch to shot down his aircraft if it enters Indonesian air-space but he braved the hazards and flew to Jakarta (Java) and brought Dr. Sjahariar and Dr. Mahammed Hatta by his own Dakota and reached India via Singapore on 24 July, 1948 and held discussions with Nehru. For his act of bravery at critical moment, Biju babu was honoured in 1950 and rewarded with the forest land measuring 500 acres, a palatial building and special grant and opportunity for setting up industries which are accounted to be about five hundred crores. But at the request of his wife Gyana Devi, he declined to accept the offer with humility as a token of India’s goodwill for the Indonesians. Later on, Indonesia conferred on Biju Babu the highest honour of the country ‘Bhumiputra’ (Son of the Soil) in 1973.

In the year 1946 Biju Babu was elected uncontested to the Odisha Legislative Assembly from North Cuttack Constituency. In 1952 and 1957 he won from Bhanjanagar and Jagannath Prasad respectively. On 13 February 1961 Biju Babu assumed the president-ship of the State Congress. The over all responsibility of the Congress Party in fighting the mid-term election in 1961 was that of Biju Patnaik. The Congress Party captured 82 seats out of 140 securing 45% of the total votes polled and he won from Choudwar Constituency. The poll verdict was astounding and as a reward for securing absolute majority for the Congress first time in the Legislature, Biju Babu took over as the Chief Minister on 23 June, 1961. In 1967 he unsuccessfully contested but next year he was nominated to the Rajya Sabha. In 1971 he contested from four Assembly Constituencies and one Lok Sabha Constituency as a candidate of his newly formed regional party named Utkal Congress but lost the election. In spite of successive defeats he was firm and headstrong.

Biju Babu was elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly in 1971 in a by-election from Rajnagar. In 1974 he won from Patakura and became the Leader of the Opposition. In 1977 he won from the Kendrapara Lok Sabha Constituency and became the Union Minister for Steel & Mines and Coal from July 1979 to January 1980. He was the Member of the Lok Sabha from 1980-85. In 1985 he resigned his Lok Sabha seat to contest from the Bhubaneswar Assembly Constituency and became the Leader of the Opposition in Odisha Legislative Assembly. In 1990 Assembly Polls he steered his party Janata Dal into victory and became the Chief Minister of Orissa for the second time. It is worth mentioning that his party could secure 123 seats.

Biju Babu contested the 12<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha election (1996) from Aska and Cuttack Constituencies and won both the seats. Later on he resigned from Cuttack Parliamentary seat.

Biju Babu's first spell of Chief Ministership lasted for only 15 months but during this short period he made a mark in the history of Odisha by giving his people a powerful and efficient administration. He sought to inject a rare dynamism into the administration and lifted the featureless and futureless people of Odisha out of the slough of despondence. He succeeded in setting up the Paradeep Port, the MIG factory at Sunabeda, a Thermal plant at Talcher, the Express Highway connecting the iron ore deposits of Sukinda with Paradeep, Balimela Hydel Project, Engineering College of Rourkela, Sainik School and Regional College of Education at Bhubaneswar and Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology at Bhubaneswar.

The name of Kalinga was so dear to the heart of Biju Babu that he set up Kalinga Tubes, Kalinga Airways, Kalinga Iron Work, Kalinga Refractories and the Kalinga, a daily Odia Newspaper. In 1951 he established the international Kalinga Prize for popularization of Science and Technology among the people and entrusted the responsibility to the UNESCO.

Biju Babu was well aware of the fact that Odisha was a poor and backward state in the country inspite of having a good deal of natural resources and its reason was the lack of proper planning for development. He set up the State Planning Board and a number of Public Corporations. Ayodhya Nath Khosla, the internationally reputed engineer as the Governor of Odisha gave a helping hand to Biju Babu in formulating the development of the river basin of

Odisha, by preparing a ten-year plan popularly known as the Decade of Destiny.

During the second term of Chief Ministership from 5.3.1990 to 15.3.1995 Panchayati Raj movement gained momentum under his dynamic leadership. He took a revolutionary step to reserve 33 percent of seats for women in the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj system and subsequently Orissa Zilla Parishad Act of 1991 and the Gram Panchayat Samiti Amendment Act of 1992 were passed by the Orissa Legislative Assembly, which provided for 33 percent of reservation for women including S.C. and S.T. women. Further provision was made so that one third of the Zilla Parishad would have inclusively women Chairpersons. In the case of Panchayat Samities and the Gram Panchayats one of the two office-bearers, i.e. Chairperson or Vice- Chairperson in case of Samiti and Sarpanch or Naib-Sarpanch in case of Gram Panchayat must be a woman. As a mark of his profound love for Panchayati Raj institution the people of Odisha observe his birthday (March 5) as Panchayati Raj Divas.

This great son of Odisha passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 1997. It was an end of an epoch. The people of Odisha are inheritors of the great legacy left behind by Biju Babu. They should come forward to follow and adhere to this great leader's dream, idea and vision in right earnest and strive hard in creating a vibrant, progressive and prosperous Odisha of Biju Babu's dream and vision.

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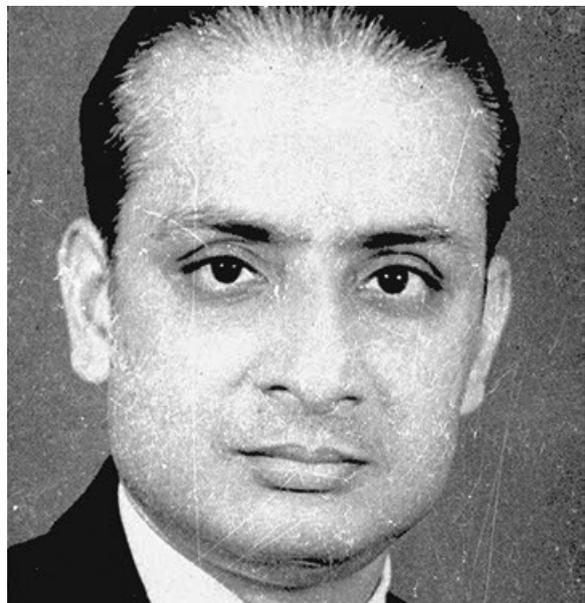
## Pramod Pati : Father of Indian New Wave Cinema

*Golaka Bihari Singh*

In India, the feature films generally address the entertainment needs, whereas documentary films cater to the information needs of people. As a non-fictional motion-picture, documentary films intended to document reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction, education, or maintaining a historical record. Established in 1948, the Films Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has pioneered the documentary film movement by way of documenting the transformation of India as an independent and developing nation. It was the only national medium for reaching out to the public en-masse, in regard to cultural heritage, information, education, instructional purposes.

Unlike the present form, the early documentary films, originally called “actuality films”, lasted for few minutes, even one minute or less. The films were pretty radical and were shown in the cinema halls, mandatorily before screening of the features films in terms of the Cinematograph Act of 1952. Each film had over 9000 prints and was dubbed into 18 Indian languages and exhibited through compulsory block booking in every permanent cinema halls of the country.

From around the mid-1960s up to the declaration of the Emergency in 1975, the Films



Division went through a spurt of experimentation, that yielded a small but historically significant corpus of films with instructional vision. The robust experimentation got staggered under the imaginative tutelage of visionary Chief Producer of Film Division Mr Jean Bhowmagary. It was under his directives, the constellation of gifted film makers like Pramod Pati, S.N.S. Sastry and S.Sukadev developed many experimental films. With in the various constraints and the-then bureaucratic framework, Pramod Pati emerged as front runner, by taking risk in making many

innovative, experimental films of new order, those hold lasting value.

Son of eminent mathematician Narayan Pati and Kshetramani Pati, Pramod was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1932 at Sambalpur. He studied at Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Ravenshaw College and obtained a degree in Science from Utkal University in 1950. Thereafter he studied Cinematography in the reputed Sri Jayachamarajendra Occupational Institute (SJOI), Bangalore and passed out as a gold medalist in 1952. On acquiring professional qualification he got appointed as the Film Officer of the Government of Orissa with the onerous responsibility to start a film unit for the production of social utility films on Agriculture, Adult Education, Health, Fisheries, Tribal life, visit of dignitaries etc. About fourteen films were made by him during the assignment and with the magnificent output, he got catapulted to capture the attention of the Prime Minister's Office.

Acclaiming and acknowledging his talents, Government of India awarded him with the fellowship to study puppet and animation film making technique for a couple of years, at FAMU in Prague, Czechoslovakia under Jiri Brdecka, Edward Hoffman and Jiri Trnka, the renowned global personalities of the domain. High spirited youngman Pati, full of youthful effusiveness, exuberance had also the opportunity to learn the art of new wave film making from Norman McLaren of the National Film Board of Canada. On returning to India, in 1960, Pati joined Films Division as head of its animation unit, after an high resonance virtual interview of Indian Union Public Service Commission conducted at United Kingdom Embassy at London.

In his films Pati shows the torning of India between past and future, science and religion,

aspirations and achievements. His films basically focused on social and political issues, such as the position of women, caste and poverty, communalism, the young and dissent. His popular films of new wave make touched on these issues presented them with greater directness, complexity and subtlety. He carried out the experimental films with sequential titles, those are eccentric as also intriguing.

Understanding the social need of nurturing film aesthetics, he focused on encouraging the growth of a radically new syntax for ethnographic/documentary films. The titles looked to transcend mythology and folk traditions of India by shifting interests away from illusionism, and presented different, more complex panorama of life of the complex Indian society, especially the distinctive presentation of issues and situations that affect the everyday life of the people.

Exposing ourselves to his films help us to understand various aspects of the society, the complexities, as well as simplicities of life in India and around the world. Though old, the films broaden our imagination and understanding of issues beyond the existing visual boundaries. The movement was more a reaction to the social injustices prevalent in India. He artfully integrated western influences of animation filmmaking to create his own form of films that had social relevance.

His films tracks the changing political environment and several administrative, infrastructural, and policy changes of the time, along with the emerging "experimental" film and interview format films. The views expressed in the film are sometimes bitter, often humorous, at times satirical but seldom complimentary. The socio-economic realities of the characters in his films are realist in nature, the mainstay being human relationship and aspirations.

To exhibit outrage against film censorship, he has courageously placed an elusive placards in his film 'Explorer', disapproving censorship. This speaks of his courage and positive conviction.

If one creative and determined person comes at the top of the organogram, the whole domain changes. So it all happened with the joining of Pramod Pati at Film Division, the scenario and environment got changed. Pati, who took inspirations from the global masters, began to infuse various innovative styles and designs in the Indian animation films. Cut-outs, pixilation, time-lapse techniques kickstarted in India. His films, brilliantly subversive, made use of animation, in-camera effects and inventive sound design to unsettle and provoke the viewer.

He was the first Indian, who made use of the pixilation technique, a stop motion technique where live actors are used as a frame-by-frame subject in an animated film, by repeatedly posing while one or more frame is taken and changing pose slightly before the next frame or frames. The actor becomes a kind of living stop motion puppet. This technique is often used as a way to blend live actors with animated ones, depicting the transitoriness of life. This type of animation also makes use of large props and other found objects.

Pati who headed the animation unit at Film Division for some years, didn't adhere to the contemporary style, rather made films of new order, which gathered huge commendations and international awards. The films directed by him also moved away from traditional story telling structure and created a space outside the narrative filming tradition. Through the use of nonlinearity, special effects and electronic sound, the films both challenge and affirm the ambitions of a postcolonial nation, caught between its past and future. It takes the audience through a mosaic

of random, sequentially rhythmic shots using elemental components of cinema, such as - camera movements, the sounds accompanying every shot and the swift focus shifts dexterously.

He also made use of optical illusions and visual perception in his films, that induced far reaching effect. Even his short films such as Explorer (1968), Claxplosion (1968) and Trip (1970) regarded as proto scientific films in view of formal features, imagery and sound. His great classics, experimental films, including Explorer (7 mins, 35mm), Claxplosion (2 mins, 35mm), Trip (4 mins, 35mm), Abid (5 mins, 35mm), Perspectives, Atom acclaimed various international recognition and honour. He was the fountainhead of realistic human stories of middle-class Bharat, that is India.

His colleagues with profound honour admit that Pati was a man of *Prayog, an innovator, who stuck his own anubhab (experience), svabhav and integrity. Prayoga* is a theory of experimentation that is not just limited to aesthetics but also the illustrative production aspect of cinema, the practice of experiment. Pati says on his own film, Abid (1972)- "Unlike a cartoon film, which is a rapidly moving series of photographed drawings, in pixilation, a moving object is shot frame by frame, and then through clever editing made to appear in motion. By its nature, this movement is agile, energetic and unpredictable just like the pop art movement."

His tenure in Film Division often celebrated as a turning point in the evolution of new wave documentary cinema in India and remembered as the golden period of film division. He brought new grammar and ideology to Indian documentary cinema. His experimental approach and fearlessness with new formats, was much

innovative in style, that engrossed as India's most progressive and aestheticised experimental shorts. His experimental, innovative and new wave pictures gracefully acknowledged as the classics of new wave Indian cinema. His films are representative of a peculiar moment in the history of Indian experimental cinema.

This new wave introduced a different, not existing before kind of cinema, that was highly self-aware and revolutionary to mainstream filmmaking, that captures true human emotion and aspirations. It was characterised by emphasized plot and dialogue, jump cuts rather than continuity editing, location shooting, handheld cameras, long takes, direct sound and available light. Non-linear and fragmented editing became another major and exciting contribution in his films.

His films offer a small window onto India's extensive and eclectic avant-garde cinematic landscape. While his short films have traditionally been categorized as 'experimental' and 'avant-garde', in real term, some are also examples of proto science-fiction cinema, as they provide a flickering glimpse of a newly budding outer space imaginary in seventies.

Deeply introspective and philosophical in nature, Pati's communication to cine world was more spontaneous and informal. People have described him as a man obsessed with work, keeping long hours where even his wife had to visit the sets to have a conversation with him. He was also inviting participation of people in his projects, including that of the office peon.

When the Films Division of India started uploading some of its old titles on to its YouTube channel in January 2013, regular film fans discovered what students of cinema had long known: that Pramod Pati was an avant-garde genius, deserving of the kind of close attention

usually reserved for "serious" auteurs. The commemorative set of DVD, titled *Pramod Pati-FD Master* released recently, contains eleven films, ranging from stop-motion sleight of hand to straightforward docu-shorts. amazingly rearrange the mind of the viewers, after a half century of his craftsmanship.

Pramod Pati is the titanic name, who carved out a niche for himself as the Father of New Wave Indian Cinema. His untimely passing away at the age of 43 brought a close to the great innovative chapter in Indian film history. His funeral procession was attended by many heavyweights of the film industry, politicians and cinegoers. Even Maharashtra Government had declared half-day holiday in the city of Bombay, so as to pay respect to Pati and participation in the funeral of the great luminary.

The Pramod Pati Special Jury Award, one of the most prestigious global award for most innovative cinema was instituted in his honour by the Government of India. Besides Govt. of Odisha also instituted annual Pramod Pati Award for best cine cameraman of Odisha.

He is no more, but his mastercrafted new wave documentary cinemas will be relevant in the years to come. As long as there is cinema, there will be space for innovative and experimental films of Pramod Pati. This remarkable feat had earned Pati a place of pride in the Indian cinema platform. This great son of Odisha, the luminary new order cine craftsman made us proud by giving brand India a global recognition.

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## Reminiscence of Biju Babu

*Uma Shankar Prasad*

Biju Babu was a great Indian and a prodigious Odia too. He dedicated his entire life to build a great egalitarian and democratic India. His life was a saga of sacrifice and adventure. His ability to create confidence among the people of Odisha and inspire them was phenomenal. He had a remarkable capacity to transmit his cheerful strength to others. For that Julian Huxley, the great Zoologist of International fame and the brother of eminent world philosopher Aldous Huxley



speaking about Biju Patnaik has rightly said “A memorable Indian whose adventures will surely fill a book. As per the remark of an eminent Economist the long life can be read as something of a history of India back to the time when the country was run by the British. And he gave Indian politics a rare fresh of colour. When Dr Ram Manohar Lohia was seriously ill and admitted in Wellington Hospital, New Delhi almost in a stage of coma, it was almost the daily routine of Biju Babu to come and see Dr. Lohia in the hospital which proves his servitude. The affectionate feelings of Mr Pattnaik towards Dr Lohia was great. Those who familiar with the “Quit India Movement of 1942 launched by Mahatma Gandhi were well aware of the fact that Biju Babu along with Dr Lohia, Jaya Prakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali and Achut Patwardhan kept the flag of 1942 movement flying after Gandhiji’s arrest. Biju Babu was a young pilot then. He was courageous enough to make the supreme sacrifice by actively responding to the clarion call of ‘Do or Die’ of Mahatma Gandhi. He was arrested and put behind the bars along with other leaders.

Such dynamic figure Biju Patnaik was born in Cuttack, Odisha on very holy day on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 1916 in the lap of Ashalata Devi and

Laxminarayan Patnaik. Although his father Laxminarayan Pattnaik was in judicial service but he was a great nationalist and also a prominent leader of the Odia movement. Biju Babu inherited the qualities of fearlessness, bravery and love of Odisha right from his parents. He had two brothers and one sister. He had his early education in Mission Primary School and Christ Collegiate School at Cuttack. In 1927 he was admitted in the famous Ravenshaw Collegiate School where Netaji once was a student. He passed Matriculation with first division and got admitted in science class of the famous Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. In his student career he was an accomplished sportsman and led the university team champion in football, cricket, hockey and Athletics for three consecutive years. He discontinued studies for a B.Sc degree to undergo training as a pilot at the Aeronautic Training Institute of India and Delhi Flying Club. In fact, as a child Biju was fascinated by aeroplanes and from his school days, he had decided to make his career in flying. His great pleasure was flying and his interest as a pilot provided his career with a metaphor that endured from the frolics of his youth to his ambition to be a politician and industrialist. He married Gyan Devi in 1939.

He showed his penchant for the extraordinary at a very young age. Like his role model Napoleon, he seemed to have deleted the word 'impossible' from his dictionary. When Japan entered the war in 1941, Biju Patnaik evacuated British Families from the advancing invaders. He pioneered risky operations across the Himalayas to help the Chinese revolutionaries in Chiang Kai Shek's China. He once flew all the way to Stalingrad on yet another mission. The British Government particularly appreciated his efforts to evacuate British Families from Rangoon

when the Japanese invaded Myanmar during World War-II. Aruna Asaf Ali, who was one of the prominent fighters of the Quit India Movement, has said- Among the thousands who came forward to take up the challenge, Biju Patnaik was one of the most fearless, and who mobilized his fellow pilots and inspired them to help the "Underground Directorate". In 1971 Biju Babu formed a state party in Odisha named 'Utkal Congress'. He then did not look back and never joined the Congress till the end of his life.

Biju Patnaik is considered as a pioneer of the industrial growth of Odisha and he established a string of industries in Odisha. He set up the Kalinga Tubes, the first modern Textile Mills at Choudwar, the first Refrigerator factory at Jobra, Cuttack and a low Shaft Furnace at Barbil. He started his own airline, the Kalinga Airways and in 1947 carried soldiers in to Kashmir, when he was threatened from across the newly created border sky. At great risk, he landed the first platoon of troops in Srinagar. In 1951 he established the Kalinga Prize for the popularization of Science and entrusted the responsibility to the UNESCO. In the year 1946 he was elected to Odisha Legislative Assembly and from that period like a colossus, Biju strode Orissa's political arena for more than four decades. Whether in power or in the opposition, he was one of the most influential politician of the country. His flagship industry was one time Asia's largest pipe manufacturing plant. The resounding success in 1961 mid-term poll established him as a superb party organizer and the brief period of his administrative stewardship built his image of a dynamic man who could electrify the people of the State with a sense of urgency and keep bureaucrats on their tiptoes. Within that little span of time Mr Patnaik laid the blueprint for Odisha's

development and the state was on the threshold of a new industrial revolution. He not only accelerated the process of development, but was able to locate a number of new industries in the state- the MIG factory at Sunabeda, Balimela Dam, Public Corporations, Panchayat Industries and the Express Highway etc. His ambitious projects, which he named as “Decade of Destiny” was meant to elevate the State to a new height. Biju could not tolerate red-tapism. He would have a thing done immediately and not suffer any delay. To the officials, his advice was, be loyal to the destiny of this State, to the prosperity of the people.” According to Biju Patnaik “people cannot grow unless the industries were developed and established here.” I would expect my officials to become thinkers and leaders of men not leaders of the longest notes on the files. The period of Mr. Patnaik, between 1961-67 is aptly described as the golden era in the history of education of the state. At his initiative the Regional College of Education was set up at Bhubaneswar. The Regional Engineering College at Rourkela was established in 1961, the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology was set up and during the Chief Ministership of Biren Mitra, when Biju was the Chairman of the State Planning Board,

Universities were established in Berhampur and Sambalpur. Thus Biju Babu is responsible for the giant leap forward of education in Odisha.

He was a prominent figure in Odisha’s political landscape over four decades. He was a pathfinder in the fields of Women Empowerment and Panchayati Raj. He has displayed unflinching courage and ability, astuteness as he served the State and the country in different capacities as Chief Minister, Union Minister with integrity and dignity. He was a great architect for Odisha. A long illustrious career came to an end on the 17 April, 1997 when Biju Patnaik passed away at Delhi. In his death Odisha lost a greatest figure. At a stretch he was wily, volatile, flamboyant, dynamic, reckless, daredevil, efficient. Such a man like Biju Babu will never take birth again in the soil of Odisha. But Biju Babu left a proud legacy like Shri Naveen Patnaik our beloved Chief Minister.

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Uma Shankar Prasad, Columnist and Editor,  
Margadarshi.

## Women in Science

*Dr. Manas Ranjan Senapati*

**National Science Day** is celebrated in India on 28 February each year to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28 February 1928. The event is now celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions. The focal theme for 2020 National Science Day is “Women in Science”. Women have made significant contributions to science from the earliest times. Historians with an interest in gender and science have illuminated the scientific endeavors and accomplishments of women, the barriers they have faced, and the strategies implemented to have their work peer-reviewed and accepted in major scientific journals and other publications. The historical, critical and sociological study of these issues has become an academic discipline in its own right.

The involvement of women in the field of medicine occurred in several early civilizations, and the study of natural philosophy in ancient Greece was open to women. Women contributed to the proto-science of alchemy in the first or second centuries AD. During the middle Ages, convents were an important place of education for women, and some of these communities provided opportunities for women

to contribute to scholarly research. While the eleventh century saw the emergence of the first universities, women were, for the most part, excluded from university education. Outside academia, botany was clearly the science that benefitted most from contributions of women in early modern times. The attitude to educating women in medical fields in Italy appears to have been more liberal than in other places. The first known woman to earn a university chair in a scientific field of studies was eighteenth-century Italian scientist, Laura Bassi.

Although gender roles were largely defined in the eighteenth century, women experienced great advances in science. During the nineteenth century, women were excluded from most formal scientific education, but they began to be admitted into learned societies during this period. In the later nineteenth century, the rise of the women’s college provided jobs for women scientists and opportunities for education.

Marie Curie, a physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactive decay, was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize in Physics and became the first person to receive a second Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Forty women have been awarded the Nobel Prize

between 1901 and 2010. Seventeen women have been awarded the Nobel Prize in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine. Overall, the Scientific Revolution did little to change people's ideas about the nature of women – more specifically – their capacity to contribute to science just as men do.

According to UIS data, less than 30% of the world's researchers are women. UIS data also show the extent to which these women work in the public, private or academic sectors, as well

as their fields of research. But in order to reduce the gender gap, we must go beyond the hard numbers and identify the qualitative factors that deter women from pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

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**Address of Hon'ble Governor of Odisha  
Prof. Ganeshi Lal  
to the Odisha Legislative Assembly  
on 18th February, 2021**

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Sixth Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Odisha Legislative Assembly. Let me take this opportunity to extend my heartiest New Year Greetings to all the Hon'ble Members of this August House as well as to the people of Odisha.

2. This August House has expressed its deep condolences on the sad demise of Late Dr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Ex-President of India, Late Sushila Devi, First Ex-Lady of the State, Late Sarat Kumar Kar, Ex-Speaker, Late Haraprasad Mohapatra, Late Saharai Oram, Late Sanatana Bisi and Late Sk. Matlub Ali all former Ministers, Late Gurupada Nanda, Ex-Government Chief Whip, Late Pradeep Maharathy, Late Madanmohan Dutta and Late Bishnu Charan Das all Sitting Members, Late Prahallad Behera, Late Bira Sipka, Late Bijaya Kumar Nayak, Late Purusottam Sethi, Late Arjun Charan Sethi, Late Nelson Soreng, Late Ramamurty Mutika, Late Rabindranath Bhoi, Late Abhimanyu Kumar, Late Chintamani Jena and Late Kartikeswar Patra all former Members of this August House, Late Chandrakanta Pradhan, Ex-Sepoy, Indian Army, Late Nuduram Soren, Ex-Naib Subedar, Indian Army, Late Sudhir Kumar Tudu, Ex-SOG Commando, Late Debasis Sethy, Ex-SOG Commando and Late Banawasi Moharana, Ex-Home Guard all from Odisha Police.

3. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Surendranath Mishra, former Member of this August House and Late Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, Ex-Warrant Officer (GD) Assam Rifles, Late Yajna Narayan Kar, Ex-SPR/EBR, 106 Engineer Regiment, Western Command, Late Krushna Chandra Panda, Ex-Subedar, 14 Bihar Regiment and all Corona Fighters laid their lives for the service of the people during face of critical situation by Corona epidemic in the State.

4. The World has been witnessing unprecedented crisis since last year. The Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc at a global scale leading to severe damage across the Nation to public health, economies, social and mental well-being of communities.

5. My Government had understood the severity at the very beginning and has been pro-actively managing the situation as it emerged. Odisha declared the pandemic as a State Disaster on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020, even before a single case was detected and took pro-active measures to close the educational institutions, social gatherings, religious gatherings etc. Odisha started the lockdown in the State on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020, before the National lockdown was announced. The Lockdown was managed in a smooth manner without any major inconvenience to the general public. The Police enforced with sensitivity without resorting to brute force. The essential commodities supply was closely monitored from source to the last sale points.

6. My Government was conscious that strict lockdown will also affect the livelihood of the poor. Therefore, a sensitive approach with social security measures like advance pensions, PDS rations, free kitchens, special support to vulnerable section etc. was provided.

7. My Government recognised that such a large scale pandemic cannot be managed without involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the community. Therefore, Sarpanchs were empowered under the Disaster Management Act to enforce and take appropriate measures in their jurisdiction. They were actively involved in covid management.

8. My Government ensured smooth management of the Odia workers returning home from other states due to the pandemic situation. Arrangements were made for the migrant workers in Odisha to return to their States.

9. My Government ensured that free quality treatment for the citizens from the testing stage to critical treatment and until discharge. This is one of the main reason for the low mortality in the State compared to national and international mortality rates.

10. To motivate and honour the Covid Warriors and to unite the society to fight against the pandemic situation, my Government had organised the “Bande Utkala Janani” event and brought together the Odias across the World.

11. My Government has ensured the community participation and management of the Covid situation and large scale infrastructure in terms of dedicated Covid hospitals, temporary medical camps, Covid Care centres, Covid homes and awareness campaigns involving the PRI and SHG members. With the cooperation of all, I am happy that today Odisha has successfully overcome the pandemic situation. The State has done extremely well in every parameter of the Covid management and has been praised by national and international organisations for its foresight and effective situation management without any hassle to the public.

12. The mission of my Government is “Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha”. For us every life matters. Working towards this end and to provide equitable, affordable, qualitative health care services to all, my Government is working on a mission mode. Free and assured healthcare services are now provided at all public health facilities including empanelled private hospitals under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). Cashless treatment under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) at empanelled Private Hospitals up to Rs.5 lakh per family per year for economically vulnerable families and upto ` 10 lakh for the women members of the beneficiary families for over 70 lakh families is provided in our State. Accountability of health professionals in the delivery of health services, transparency and transformation in healthcare services is being ensured through an effective public feedback mechanism as part of the ‘Mo Sarkar’ initiative.

13. The Health infrastructure in the State is being upgraded and expanded on a large scale. Currently, five Medical Colleges and Hospitals and seven number of District Hospital projects are under construction. The SCB Medical College and Hospital project is being taken up to expand the premier institution as a AIIMS-plus institution at a cost of Rs.3,500 crores.

14. To make health care services accessible in difficult areas, difficult villages have been notified. Alternative transport facilities like Stretcher, Bike Ambulance, Boat Ambulance and Mobile Health Units (MHU) have been operationalised. Maternity Waiting Homes have been established in the notified difficult villages. Further, my Government has also introduced various incentives to attract and retain Doctors in difficult areas.

15. The next level transformation of the public health services in the State has resulted in an increase in people's faith & trust on public health facilities. Many of the efforts of my Government have been appreciated and acknowledged at various National and International levels.

16. My Government has covered 3.24 crore beneficiaries belonging to 92.6 lakh families of the State under the National Food Security coverage and providing them with 1.63 lakh MT rice and 23,890 MT wheat per month @ Rs.1 per kg. Besides, in our own Food Security Scheme, 10.98 lakh individuals from 3.63 lakh poor, distressed, eligible and leftout families have been covered with 5 kg rice per person per month @ Rs.1 per kg.

17. As part of its COVID-19 pandemic management strategy, my Government provided additional quantities of rice and dal free of cost for 8 months to state Food Security Scheme beneficiaries and to about 1 lakh migrant workers driving last May and June.

18. My Government is implementing a transparent, efficient, accountable & robust paddy procurement system through continuous reforms. By leveraging Information and Communications Technology, my Government has prioritized the right of small and marginal farmers to sell paddy to procuring societies and agencies.

19. My Government has installed 4.7 lakh Tube wells and Sanitary wells and commissioned 13,050 Piped Water Supply Schemes to provide Safe Drinking Water to the Rural areas of the State. During 2020-21, we have already installed 209 solar pumps in Hand Pump Tube wells and completed 860 Piped Water Supply Projects along with 637 new Piped Water Supply Projects.

20. My Government has taken up 18 Mega Piped Water Supply projects with an estimated cost of Rs.3,059 crore under OMBADC funding in 691 villages directly affected by mining in 8 districts of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Keonjhar, Angul, Jharsuguda and Jajpur. Similarly, 9 Mega Piped Water Supply Projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of Rs.4,157 crore under DMF funds.

21. Odisha has been a leading State in ensuring universal coverage of pipe water supply in the urban areas. Bhubaneswar has become the first major city in the country to achieve 100% water supply (House) connections followed by 13 other towns so far. 'SUJAL-Drink from Tap Mission' to provide 24x7 drinkable quality water directly from Tap has already been taken up on a pilot basis in 12 zones in Bhubaneswar and Puri, benefitting 1.8 lakh people. The mission will be extended to cover other cities in phases.

22. My Government has adopted a 360-degree approach to water quality management to ensure that the supplied water meets the necessary quality standards. For this, we have built 78 state of the art NABL accredited water testing laboratories across the State. We have installed over 1,200 Iron Removal Plants and 640 Fluoride Removal Plants in tube-wells across the State in areas where groundwater is found to contain traces of Iron and Fluoride.

23. My Government is committed to a time-bound action plan for various measures under the broad objectives of Universal access to Drinking water, Disaster Resilient water supply system, Citizen connect and responsive service delivery.

24. My Government has been successful in completing a record number of houses transparently through a robust monitoring mechanism and taking innovative steps like providing incentive to beneficiaries for early completion of houses and tagging of field functionaries with specific beneficiaries. During 2020-21, we have completed about 2.8 lakh houses following these innovative ways.

25. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) has commenced from April 2020. My Government has spent around Rs.7,500 crore over 66 lakh individual household latrines, and the State has been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) during September, 2019. To ensure universal sanitation access, more than 747 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) have also been constructed.
26. Our State has made a transformative shift in Solid Waste Management adopting a decentralized approach with community partnership. 136 Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in 110 ULBs and 115 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in 95 ULBs are now operational processing more than 60% of the solid waste generated scientifically converting the waste into wealth in the form of organic manure and recyclable and saleable dry waste. My Government targets to process 100% wet and dry waste generated in all the ULBs by end of 2021. Odisha's performance has been recognized nationally and has been awarded as the "Fastest Moving State" in the Swachh Survekshan – 2020. Besides, 6 cities of our State have found a place in the Top 20 rankings of Swachh Survekshan, 2020.
27. My Government is committed to social security and empowerment of the vulnerable sections such as persons with disabilities, destitute & widows, senior citizens, transgenders, persons affected by AIDS and victims of substance abuse. Through social security pensions, my State has covered the highest percentage of the population amongst all States in the country. My Government has also made provisions for the inclusion of destitute, deserted, divorcee women and transgenders under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana fold.
28. My Government has implemented "MAMATA" a conditional cash transfer maternity benefit scheme in the State and covered 45.30 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers, and has transferred Rs.2,133 crore directly to the beneficiary accounts.
29. My Government has distributed Take Home Ration, dry ration and eggs to children and pregnant & nursing women under Supplementary Nutrition Programme without any disruption during Covid-19, though Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were closed. My Government has developed more than 16,500 "Mo Upakari Bagicha" in AWCs for improved nutrition of children and high-risk pregnant women. My Government has provided millets under Supplementary Nutrition Programme in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts, which has been an appreciable feat at the national level.
30. It is worth mentioning that five Anganwadi centres in Kalahandi District have been accorded ISO certification. My Government has sanctioned 1,567 new AWCs in the nutritionally challenged blocks covered under the "SOPAN: A Strategy for Odisha's Pathway to Accelerated Nutrition" in tribal-dominated areas.
31. My Government has now expanded the scope of Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana-2020 to include children without both or single biological parents, and all other categories of children in need of care and protection, with an annual family income below Rs.48,000 and children affected by AIDS.
32. My Government has rolled out 'ADVIKA- every girl is unique', an adolescent life skill education programme to engage with adolescent girls on various health and nutrition issues.
33. My Government has ensured business worth Rs.1,022 crore for 52,958 SHGs in the first nine months of the current financial year by involving them in activities like mask making, free kitchen management, supply of cooked meal in Temporary Medical Centres, pisciculture in GP tanks, Urban Wage Employment Initiatives, stitching and supply of pre-school and school uniforms, electricity meter reading, site Supervisors under MGNREGS, Common Service Centre in Urban Local Bodies, Aahaar Kendra management, Jala Sathi and Swachha Sathi, MDM management, production and supply of Take Home Ration among others. My Government has ensured bank credit linkage to 1.43 lakh SHGs worth

Rs.2,554 crore to promote livelihoods and nurture entrepreneurship among women members during this year.

34. Odisha is one of the leading States of the country in providing Residential School facility to Tribal students, with 1,735 Residential Schools and 6,954 Hostels for more than 4.5 lakh ST & SC students. Scholarship to ST, SC and OBC students is another major intervention of my Government which covers nearly 17.3 lakh students at the Pre-matric level and about 4.5 lakh students at the Post-matric level.

35. My Government has established 103 special schools and 1 College for Hearing Impaired students for providing education to 6,815 PwD students. Banishree Scholarship has been provided to 23,995 PwD students. 3,511 Physically, Mentally and Socially challenged persons have been rehabilitated through 66 therapy centers. 3,623 PwD SHGs have been formed to orient their social and economic empowerment.

36. Construction of Integrated Social Security Infrastructure Complex is under progress in 10 Districts. These Complexes will provide high-quality residential support, food, clothing, qualitative health and therapeutic services to all segments of the vulnerable population.

37. For the safety and welfare of Inter-State Migrant Workmen in 14 migration prone districts of the State, a 24x7 toll-free Shramik Sahayata Helpline, Household Survey of Migrant Workers, launching of an online grievance redressal system - "e-Shramik Samadhan" for rescue/ repatriation activities for migrant workers and quick redressal of their grievance have been undertaken. My Government has announced a Special Package to strengthen the socio-economic standards of migrant workers and a gradual reduction in distress migration in 477 identified migration prone Gram Panchayats of 20 Blocks in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada Districts.

38. To provide quality education in English medium to the students in rural areas, my Government has opened 214 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAVs) in 29 districts and 72,701 students are availing quality education in these schools. Out of the above, 60 OAVs have already been upgraded to Senior Secondary Level and Commerce Stream would be opened in those 60 OAVs.

39. My Government is providing free Uniforms and Text Books to all students of Class I to VIII of Government and Aided schools & has distributed 2.69 crore Textbooks during the academic session 2020-21. My government has distributed more than 6.20 lakh "Pariksha Darpan" test papers prepared by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha to Class-X students who will appear at the Annual Matriculation Examination, 2021.

40. During 2020-21, my Government has released Rs.17.75 crore under Mukhya Mantri Medha Bruti to 35,490 meritorious students, Rs.1.77 crore under Odia Bhasa Bruti Puraskar to 3,549 students, Rs.10.61 crore under Best School Award to 1,061 number of schools.

41. Under the 'Mo School Abhiyan', my Government has been able to bring together alumni, their alma mater and the community to emotionally connect with the current generation of students in schools. This drive has resulted in mobilization of voluntary contribution ` 58.70 crore in 17,396 schools across the State and a matching grant of Rs.117.24 crore has been released by Government. This pool of resources is being utilized for improving school infrastructure and taking the teaching-learning atmosphere to the next level.

42. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has been facilitated through Sikshya Sanjoga, DIKSHA App, Sikshya Darpan and Radio Pathasala to ensure continuous learning of students. During the closure of schools, Food Security under the MDM programme has also been provided to out students in Government and Aided Schools. My Government has also opened Schools and Hostels

for the students of Class-X and Class-XII from 8<sup>th</sup> January, with a stringent SOP for the safety of the students.

43. My Government has introduced Vocational Education in 576 Secondary and Higher Secondary schools wherein 56,692 students have taken admission in 10 different Vocational trade subjects.

44. Our Government ITIs have proved their excellence by participating in the National level grading process. Six Government ITIs of our State have earned the distinction of being ranked among the top 100 ITIs of our country. Enrolment of girls in ITIs has been enhanced from 6% to 18% with the launching of the new scheme 'Sudakshya'. My Government intends to improve enrolment of girls to at least 30% of the strength of each ITI .

45. My Government has established 'World Skills Centre' at Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the ITEES, Singapore with a state-of-the-art facility of global standards to set new benchmarks in course curriculum, pedagogy and standards for laboratories and workshops in Technical Education. My Government has identified 250 young entrepreneurs under the Nano-Uncorn Project of Odisha Skill Development Authority for training in Entrepreneurship Development. My Government has trained about 3.3 lakh youth during 2019-20 under the inclusive skill development initiative, 'Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme'.

46. To enhance the skill level and employment potential of Technical Students holding MCA, MBA, B. Tech., BE, ITI and Polytechnic certificates, my Government has launched the initiative DigitALL. This has enabled the local IT industry to have a readily available talent pool for their expansion needs. My Government is setting up 34 Skill Development Centres in Districts and 38 Skill Development Extension Centres on the campus of Government ITIs and Polytechnics to enhance employment opportunities for the rural youth.

47. With the vision of achieving excellence in all aspects of higher education, Odia University has been established by enacting the Odia University Act, 2017. Required land has been acquired for the establishment of Odia University at Satyabadi. My Government has envisaged a new scheme called the "Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan" to bridge the gap in research activities and promote research in emerging areas with a focus on women researchers. Financial assistance would be provided for Research Fellowship, Seed Funding for Young Faculty working in State Universities and Colleges, and support for publication related expenses under the Scheme.

48. Odisha is fast emerging as a sporting power in the national as well as international arena. My Government is committed to lead the State to be the main sports destination of the country. It is a matter of great significance for us that Odisha has got the hosting rights for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Ahead of the 2023 World cup, my Government will construct India's largest hockey stadium in Rourkela. 17 Astro-turf hockey training centres are being built in Sundargarh district. This will provide top class coaching opportunity for the kids right from their young age and help them in becoming professional players.

49. My Government has always put its best efforts in the hunt for sporting talents from the grassroots level and nurturing them in sports hostels, academies and High-Performance Centres (HPCs). To further strengthen the sports infrastructure across the State, my Government will create indoor sports halls, fields etc. in the Urban areas in all the districts.

50. My Government has undertaken several strategic steps towards a farmer-centric development in the State, which include a separate Agriculture Budget, a dedicated Agriculture Cabinet for faster processes and sectoral growth, the introduction of scheme "KALIA" (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood

and Income Augmentation) - first of its kind in the country and a new scheme “BALARAM (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan And Resources Augmentation Model)” for the financing of Joint Liability Groups/ Sharecroppers.

51. It is worth mentioning that NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Government of India have recommended Odisha Millets Mission as the best model and asked other State Governments to adopt Odisha Millets Mission design for promotion of production and consumption of millets. Cambridge University is also partnering with Odisha Millets Mission to research and understand the potential of millets to transform climate resilient agriculture.

52. My Government has launched Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana to promote agri-enterprises through ease of doing agri-business.

53. To create irrigation potential and improve livelihoods, my Government has taken up soil conservation measures, plantation, watershed development activities and creation of Micro-watershed clusters and Water Harvesting structures in convergence mode.

54. My Government has also identified agriculture and allied sectors as the growth propellers for Odisha’s farmers, women SHGs and entrepreneurs. The fisheries sector in the State has achieved another milestone by receiving two National Level awards – the “Best Marine State” award and the “Best District Award” for Kalahandi district in the Inland fisheries sector.

55. My Government is emphasizing water conservation and improvement of water use efficiency. With an investment plan for Rs.11,700 crore over the next 4-5 years for large scale conservation of surface water inside streams and rivers. Further, groundwater recharge work through 10 thousand Minor Irrigation and irrigation tanks covering 15 districts amounting to Rs.1,098 crore have been taken up in association with Green Climate Fund. Nearly 16 thousand Check Dams have been constructed under Mukhya Mantri Adi-Bandha Tiari Yojana (MATY) for the conservation of water. Deep Bore Well Scheme and Parvati Giri Mega-lift Irrigation programme have brought a major transformation in irrigation scenario in the State. So far my Government has handed over about 79 thousand bore wells to farmers and commissioned 109 Mega Lift Projects.

56. My Government believes in transparency in administration and encourages the active participation of people in governance initiatives. Under “5T” initiative a mobile app “Secha Samadhan” has been developed for grievance redressal of farmers and a web portal is in place to receive online application from farmers for Deep Bore Wells and Community Lift Irrigation Projects. Besides, another web portal has also been developed to receive online applications for the allocation of bulk water to commercial and other establishments.

57. My Government has taken steps for the conversion of all the Kisan Credit Cards to Ru-Pay Kisan Cards to enable the farmers to access their sanctioned loans through ATMs. The small, marginal and landless farmers, sharecroppers and rural women have been organized into several Joint Liability Groups for enabling access to credit from financial institutions without any collateral security. During the current financial year, till December, about 38 thousand Joint Liability Groups have been provided with the finance of Rs.230 crore by Cooperative Banks. Under the KALIA scheme, interest on crop loans up to Rs.50,000/- has been reduced to 0% making available interest-free crop loans from the year 2019-20.

58. Odisha is fast emerging as the ‘Manufacturing Hub’ of Eastern India. My Government has formulated and implemented progressive policies and developed state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate ease of doing business and bring in a facilitative environment for industrial development in the State. Even during the prevailing pandemic situation, Odisha has been able to attract new investments across

multiple sectors and has approved worth over Rs.1.20 lakh crore of investment proposals. At the same time, projects have been grounded in diverse sectors ranging from healthcare, renewable energy, downstream to steel & aluminium, IT and food processing.

59. For the promotion of micro, small and medium industries, IDCO has developed 117 Industrial Estates/areas in strategic locations of the State. My Government is taking steps to modernize and expand 10 existing Industrial Estates in the first phase and to establish 5 best-in-class New Industrial Clusters in the coming five years under Vision-2025.

60. My Government has undertaken the Start-up Odisha Initiative with the launch of the Start-up Odisha Policy and Start-up Odisha Portal. Odisha has been consistently recognized as a “Top performer” and “Leader” State among all States in Start-up ranking in 2018 and 2019 respectively, by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

61. My Government has announced a Special COVID Package of around Rs.289 crore to support MSMEs during COVID-19 which includes Interest Subvention to 1.76 lakh units assisted under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, grant towards promoter’s contribution of 5% of the project cost to 4,359 micro-enterprises under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, provision of Rs.100 crore to enterprises with integration of COVID-19 Assistance Package, top-up subsidy of 15% of the project cost to Food Processing Enterprises under Prime Minister’s Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, reimbursement of State GST to 175 MSMEs and waiver of Annual Maintenance Charge payable to IDCO benefitting 5,000 MSMEs in Industrial Estates/Areas.

62. Odisha has a rich tradition of handlooms and cottage industries in the State. During 2020-21, Rs.52 crore has been provided for the development of the Handlooms sector. My Government has provided an interest-free loans to leading marketing organizations of the State- UTKALIKA and Boyanika to provide sustainable employment to Handloom weavers during COVID-19 pandemic. MoUs have been signed with Flipkart and AJIO for providing market access to the artisans to market their products online globally.

63. The tourism and hospitality sector in Odisha has huge employment potential and it contributes substantially to the State economy. It directly employs about 1.2 lakh persons and the allied sectors under the organized segment employ approximately 3 lakh persons. Total employment including the unorganised sector associated with tourism has been estimated at 10 lakh persons. My Government has undertaken a plethora of initiatives to boost tourism in the State including the formulation of a new Tourism Policy, infrastructure development in and around major tourist destinations, Eco-Retreats at Konark, Bhitarkanika National Park, Daringbadi Hill Station, Hirakud Reservoir, Konark’s Ramchandi Beach and Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Ecotourism Camps at Satkosia & Similipal.

64. My Government has ensured the development of an extensive Road Network to provide freight corridors for industries, deliver basic goods and services in time and improve the living condition of rural people in inaccessible areas. Along with Integrated Development of Heritage and Monuments at Tourist Destinations, steps are being taken to preserve, revitalise and develop the heritage sites across the State. During 2020-21, my Government has planned to complete 5,504 km of rural roads and more than 250 bridges on rural roads through different schemes.

65. My Government has provided bus services in 257 routes by utilizing 441 buses out of which 46 routes are inter-state ones. We are contributing around 25% of the construction cost as well as land free of cost for rail projects being executed in the State. We have also decided to provide land free of cost for the connectivity from the Rail Head of Narla Station up to the proposed location of the Electric Locomotive

POH Workshop in Kalahandi District which will certainly boost the rail-based industry in the region. To expand and further develop the aviation sector in the State, my Government has decided to establish an Aviation training centre at Birasal Airstrip, construct a new airstrip at Malkangiri, upgrade Jeypore Airstrip in Koraput district, Rourkela Airstrip in Sundargarh District, and Utkela Airstrip in Kalahandi district into full-fledged airports under RCS-UDAN Scheme. With the efforts of my Government Jharsuguda Airport has already been developed into a full-fledged Commercial Airport where flight operations started in March, 2019.

66. My Government is committed in providing 24x7 quality power supply to all. Odisha has become a power surplus State. My Government is providing funds for the strengthening of transmission and distribution infrastructure to OPTCL and the Distribution Companies. Odisha has a robust transmission system with more than 14 thousand km of Extra High Tension lines and about 21 thousand Mega Volt Ampere installed capacity. 33/11 kV Grid Substations are being constructed to address the low voltage situation. Out of 473 Grid Substations of 33/11 kV planned to be set up under ODSSP, work of 335 Substations has been completed.

67. As part of the second round of distribution reforms, my Government has vested the management of three DISCOMs, CESU, SOUTHCO and WESCO in three joint venture companies, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited, Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited and Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited respectively. My Government holds 49 per cent equity in these companies and the rest 51% by TATA Power Company Limited.

68. My Government has launched Mo Bidyut Portal and Mobile Application to enable the consumers having demand up to 5 kW to get new connection within 48 hours of application and also to facilitate payment of electricity bills and lodging grievances online.

69. My Government has undertaken various projects and programmes to preserve, protect and nurture the environment, wildlife and natural resources. Some of the flagship schemes are Green Mahanadi Mission, Increasing green cover in the State, National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for Green India, Ama Jungle Yojana, Eco-Tourism, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project and Sustainable Biodiversity Management etc. My Government has awarded 141 voluntary organizations, villages and educational institutions with “Prakruti Mitra” and 156 individuals with “Prakruti Bandhu” on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2020 to encourage the Conservation and Protection of Environment.

70. Odisha is known for its cultural diversity. In the second meeting of the Heritage Cabinet, seven proposals have been approved for the promotion of Odia culture which includes according classical status to Odissi music, separate Directorates for Odisha State Archaeology and Odisha State Museum, digitisation of Odisha State Museum and Ananda Bhavan Museum which memorialises Biju Patnaik enabling virtual tour and holistic development of Suando, the birthplace of Pandit Gopabandhu Das. My Government has also launched a new programme ‘Dikhyant’ for reviving the age old teacher-disciple tradition and revival of dying Art in the State.

71. Odisha due to its geographic location is affected by recurrent disasters that adversely impact life, livelihood and backtracks the State’s economic growth. During the last 5 years the State has encountered several major disasters including very severe cyclonic storm ‘TITLI’ in October 2018, extremely severe cyclonic storm ‘FANI’ in May 2019, very severe cyclonic storm ‘BULBUL’ in November 2019, super cyclone ‘AMPHAN’ in May 2020 in addition to heavy rains, floods and droughts. While the disaster preparedness of my State has set global benchmarks, following this benchmarking, a proactive vision and with effective preparedness at all levels, my Government has been able to respond to the COVID-19

pandemic very effectively, which resulted in containing the spread of the virus, creating proper medical facilities for treatment of the affected and saving precious human lives. COVID-19 was declared as a “Disaster” by the State Government under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and various guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were issued under the said Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Required funds were released out of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the District Collectors and Government Departments for COVID-19 management.

72. The overall law and order situation in the State remained peaceful during 2020. No major law and order incident took place due to the proactive role of the police. The Police successfully handled the COVID situation. 49 Police personnel have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and 940 police personnel have donated plasma to save the lives of critical COVID patients. The Left Wing Extremism scenario has remarkably reduced during the past five years due to proactive security and administrative response. My Government has established new Company Operating Bases at Gurasetu of Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, Musanal of Kalahandi district and Sadingia of Kandhamal district. Jodambo Police Station has been made functional in Swabhiman Anchal.

73. My Government is implementing Emergency Response Support System with a Command Centre at Bhubaneswar. In this system Police Service, Fire Service, Women and Child help Line etc. are now being brought under one umbrella. Odisha fire service has rendered commendable service in carrying out relief and rescue operations during different natural calamities. A dedicated web portal “Agnishama Seva” has been integrated for online issue of Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Safety Recommendations under the 5T framework and Fire Service has been included in “Mo Sarkar” to provide better citizen centric service to the public.

74. My Government is giving much-needed emphasis on the modernisation of the Judiciary keeping in pace with technology. For virtual mode of hearing and trial of cases, high-speed internet service has been provided in Orissa High Court. Similar facilities would also be provided in 30 district judgships. To make available judicial documents relating to court cases, a scanning and digitization programme has been undertaken.

75. My Government envisages carrying out reforms in identified areas and adopts best practices in the delivery of public goods and services. “Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012” is being implemented to provide all notified services to the citizens within a stipulated time. ‘Odisha One’ Portal acts as a single-window for citizens to avail all online public services offered by the Government. For better convenience, Odisha One Portal and Central Monitoring System have been integrated for timely maintaining of public service delivery. Citizens can file online appeals and revisions through the Odisha One Portal. Litigation Management System (LMS) is being implemented for monitoring court cases on a real-time basis.

76. During the lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19, most of the public service was made available with IT-enabled services across the State. Government employees were enabled to Work-from-Home with VPN facilities. Video Conferencing facility has been provided using OSWAN across the State by connecting Lokaseva Bhavan with Blocks. Regular Video Conference are being conducted by all Government Departments with Collectors and other field level officials. OSWAS has been integrated with MS Office 365 enabling web conferencing through the Microsoft Teams application.

77. Dissemination of information and effective public outreach works as a link between the people and the Government. It not only sensitises the public about the policies and programmes of the Government but also ensures people’s participation in the successful implementation of developmental programmes.

In the wake of the unprecedented spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Government has been working in a mission mode to inform and educate the people. IEC activities like-slots in TV and radio jingles, bulk messages through different mobile phone networks and social media uploads regular media briefings, a talk show with experts and specialists are also being carried out through Live Common Feed Technology which are broadcast regularly in different regional channels for public benefit.

78. My Government has set a benchmark in using Information Technology to make the revenue administration fair, efficient and transparent. Computerization of Tahasil and Registration offices, implementation of IT applications such as Bhulekh, Bhunaksha, e-Mutation, e-Registration, e-Pauti and e-Certificates are some of the important interventions in this direction. Filing of applications, payment of requisite fees, approval and downloading of certificates have been made online through web-based applications. This has reduced the physical interface between Government Offices and Citizens thereby enhancing transparency and good governance standards. Till now my Government has allotted homestead land under the “Vasundhara” Scheme to 47,587 persons in the State.

79. My Government has been able to plough back about Rs.2,800 crore through mopping up of Government money parked in bank accounts. One Time Settlement (OTS) schemes have been introduced for the realization of arrear revenue in respect of major tax and non-tax items of the State’s resources. My Government has been able to collect its revenue amounting to Rs.38,760 crore by the end of January, 2021 which is about 7.3% more than the collection during the corresponding period of the previous year. Despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on revenue, the State has been able to achieve positive growth in its own revenue which is an indication of recovery in economic activities in the State.

80. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a unique challenge to Odisha’s public finances. The crisis resulted in a shrinkage in fiscal space which compelled my Government to reprioritize its public spending to meet the higher demand for spending on COVID management, creating livelihoods opportunities, promoting agriculture as well as the Industries & MSME sector for employment generation. As a temporary measure, the corpus of the Contingency Fund was enhanced from Rs.400 crore to Rs.2,000 crore to provide the required fiscal space for aggressive COVID response. My Government has also adopted an innovative way to avail cheaper sources of financing from surplus cash balance in dedicated funds, like CAMPA and OMBADC to maintain required liquidity during the crisis period. As a result, funds could be made available at around 150-200 basis points cheaper than the Open Market Borrowing. My Government has also exercised the option for repayment cost of Open Market Borrowing for ` 2,500 crore out of the corpus of Consolidated Sinking Fund which has provided the State the much-required liquidity during the crisis.

81. My Government has taken up a series of reforms in public financial management which are based on global best practices. They are intended to enhance fiscal sustainability and improve budget performance by strengthening medium-term fiscal planning and improving budget transparency. These reforms include the introduction of a Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) with a three-year outlook on State Finances, introduction of the strategic budget-making process, bringing out monthly and quarterly fiscal analysis reports, disclosure of budget documents and advance communication of a realistic budget ceiling to all Departments for formulation and prioritization of their Budget proposals within the ceiling communicated.

82. My Government took several reform measures through IT intervention to counter the COVID-related lockdown for ensuring smooth Treasury operations and financial management in the State. The State adopted two prong strategies to deliver its services by adopting procedures for minimizing human dependency in treasury administration through the use of technology strictly adhering to Covid guidelines.

83. Online processing of bills by Treasuries was facilitated during the lockdown period of COVID-19 without waiting for receipt of physical Bills. Implementation of Single Page Pay Bill was strictly followed which downsized the voluminous salary bill and thereby reducing the chances of being exposed to a huge quantity of paper documents and its human carrier. Global Allotment system was introduced in respect of salary and personal advances to ensure timely disbursement of monthly salary to employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure were issued for the virtual working of Treasuries to provide uninterrupted services in the crucial juncture of lockdown.

84. My Government introduced digitally signed Electronic Authorities for Pension and other pensionary benefits to avoid delay in despatch and disbursement. A special arrangement was made for the disbursement of pension/family pension in treasuries without physical appearance of pensioners at the time of disbursement of their first pension. Submission of a life certificate once a year by pensioners to their pension disbursing authority is essential as per the codal provision. To avoid the exposure of old age pensioners to the pandemic, the timeline for submission of the Life Certificate was extended from November 2020 to May 2021. The bulk disbursement facility available in IFMS was used frequently for DBT amid COVID restrictions.

85. When reports of the outbreak of COVID-19 started to emerge at the beginning of the year 2020, my Government immediately swung into action to bolster testing capacity, to try to understand what was going on, and contain the spread of infections by strict enforcement of lockdowns/shutdowns, containment strategy, social distancing norms, sanitation measures, use of facial masks and high standard of personal hygiene. Odisha has done exceedingly well in managing and containing the pandemic.

86. The pandemic has not only presented herculean challenges, but it has also been the cause of sudden disruption in the delivery of essential services and economic activities, thereby resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods. Now I can only hope that from this crisis we can truly build back better to a more resilient community and economy in the coming years.

87. Technology is going to serve as a tool in the delivery of good governance and public goods and services in a transparent manner. My Government has adopted the 5T Framework and Mo-Sarkar in its endeavours for transformative governance. My State has performed phenomenally well in several sectors, be it rural housing, putting lakhs of ST and SC students in our educational institutions, the vibrant Mission Shakti movement transforming our socio-economic landscape, our flagship health initiatives, our own Food Security Scheme for every deserving family or our sporting and tourist infrastructures or carrying out administrative reforms or public financial management reforms. My Government will continue to prioritise delivery of essential services, creation of livelihood opportunities and development of key and basic infrastructure including connectivity, provision of safe drinking water, power supply, supporting agriculture with irrigation and other facilities and taking health care and education to the next level.

88. I would like to reiterate that my Government is fully committed to develop all regions of the State and empower all sections of the people.

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

*Bande Utkal Janani.*