

Orissa

State (pop., 2008 est.: 39,899,000), eastern India.

The name Orissa is derived from Sanskrit word "Odra Vishaya" or "Odra Desa". The ancient province of "Odra desa" or "Or-desa" was limited to the valley of the Mahanadi and to the lower course of the Subarnarekha River. It comprised the whole of the present districts of Cuttack and Sambalpur and a portion of Midnapore. It was bounded on the West by Gondwana, on the North by the wild hill states of Jashpur and Singhbhum, on the East by the sea and on the South by Ganjam.

It lies on the Bay of Bengal and is bordered by Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal states. It occupies an area of 60,119 sq mi (155,707 sq km), and its capital is Bhubaneswar; Cuttack is the largest city. Human habitation dates to at least 2100 bce. Part of the ancient kingdom of Kalinga, it was a stronghold of Hinduism before its conquest by the Afghan rulers of Bengal in 1568, when it became part of the Mughal Empire. It was ruled by Britain from 1803 until India's independence in 1947 and became a state in 1950. Situated in a tropical savanna that is subject to heavy rainfall during the southwest monsoon, it has a largely rural population, which is engaged mainly in agriculture. Crops include rice, oilseed, jute, and sugarcane. It has a rich artistic heritage and contains some of the best examples of Indian art and architecture.

It is located in the northeastern part of the country, it is bounded by the states of Jharkhand and West Bengal to the north and northeast, by the Bay of Bengal to the east, and by the states of Andhra Pradesh to the south and Chhattisgarh to the west. Before India became independent in 1947, Orissa's capital was at Cuttack. The present capital was subsequently built at Bhubaneswar, in the vicinity of its historic temples in the east-central coastal plains. Area 60,119 square miles (155,707 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 39,899,000.

Location

Orissa is one of the States of India. It is located between the parallels of 17.49°N and 22.34°N latitudes and meridians of 81.27°E and 87.29°E longitudes. It is bounded by the Bay of Bengal on the east; Madhya Pradesh on the west and Andhra Pradesh on the south. It has a coast line of about 450 kms. It extends over an area of 155,707 square kms. Accounting about 4.87 of the total area of India. According to the 1991 census, it has a total population of 31,512,070 (3.73 percent of the total population of India) out of which about 16,237,000 are male and 15,275,070 are female.

On the basis of homogeneity, continuity and physiographical characteristics, Orissa has been divided into five major morphological regions: the Orissa Coastal Plain in the east, the Middle Mountainous and Highlands Region, the Central plateaus, the western rolling uplands and the major flood plains.

The Orissa Coastal Plains

The Orissa Coastal Plains are the depositional landforms of recent origin and geologically belong to the Post-Tertiary Period. The 75 metre contourline delimits their western boundary and differentiates them from the Middle Mountainous Region. This region stretches from the

West Bengal border, i.e. from the River Subarnarekha in the north to the River Rushikulya in the south.

This region is the combination of several deltas of varied sizes and shapes formed by the major rivers of Orissa, such as the Subarnarekha, the Budhabalanga, the Baitarani, the Brahmani, the Mahanadi, and the Rushikulya. Therefore, the coastal plain of Orissa is called the "Hexadeltaic region" or the "Gift of Six Rivers". It stretches along the coast of the Bay of Bengal having the maximum width in the Middle Coastal Plain (the Mahanadi Delta), narrow in the Northern Coastal Plain (Balasore Plain) and narrowest in the Southern Coastal Plain (Ganjam Plain). The North Coastal Plain comprises the deltas of the Subarnarekha and the Budhabalanga rivers and bears evidences of marine transgressions. The Middle Coastal Plain comprises the compound deltas of the Baitarani, Brahmani and Mahanadi rivers and bears evidences of past 'back bays' and present lakes. The South Coastal Plain comprises the lacustrine plain of Chilika lake and the smaller delta of the Rushikulya River.

The Middle Mountainous and Highlands Region

The region covers about three-fourth of the entire State. Geologically it is a part of the Indian Peninsula which as a part of the ancient landmass of the Gondwanaland. The major rivers of Orissa with their tributaries have cut deep and narrow valleys. This region mostly comprises the hills and mountains of the Eastern Ghats which rise abruptly and steeply in the east and slope gently to a dissected plateau in the west running from north-east (Mayurbhanj) to north-west (Malkangirig). This region is well marked by a number of interfluves or watersheds. The Eastern Ghats is interrupted by a number of broad and narrow river valleys and flood plains. The average height of this region is about 900 metres above the mean seal level.

The Central Plateaus

The plateaus are mostly eroded plateaus forming the western slopes of the Eastern Ghats with elevation varying from 305-610 metres. There are two broad plateaus in Orissa : (i) the Panposh - Keonjhar -Pallahara plateau comprises the Upper Baitarani catchment basin, and (ii) the Nabrangpur - Jeypore plateau comprises the Sabari basin.

The Western Rolling Uplands

These are lower in elevation than the plateaus having heights varying from 153 metres to 305 metres.

Rivers

There are four groups of rivers which flow through Orissa into the Bay of Bengal (Table-2). They are :

(i) Rivers that have a source outside the State (the Subarnarekha, the Brahmani and the Mahanadi).

(ii) Rivers having a source inside the State (the Budhabalanga, the Baitarani, the Salandi, and the Rushikulya).

(iii) Rivers having a source inside the Orissa, but flow through other states (the Bahudu, the Vansadhara, and the Nagavali).

(iv) Rivers having a source inside Orissa, but tributary to rivers which flow through other states (the Machkund, the Sileru, the Kolab, and the Indravati).

River Mahandi

It is the major river of Orissa and the sixth largest river in India. It originates from the Amarkantak hills of the Bastar Plateau in Raipur district of Madhya Pradesh. It is about 857 kms. Long (494 kms. In Orissa) and its catchment area spreads over 141,600 sq.kms. (65,580sq.kms.) in Orissa). The river carries on an average about 92,600 million m of water.

The Brahmani

It is the second largest river in Orissa. It originates as two major rivers like the Sankh and the Koel from the Chhotanagpur Plateau of Bihar and both join at veda Vyasa near Rourkela of Sundargarh district of Orissa forming the major River Brahmani. It flows through the Easter Ghats in Sundargarh, Kendujhar, Dhenkanal, Cuttack and Jajpur districts into the Coastal Plains and enters into the Bay of Bengal along with a combined mouth with the Mahanadi known as the Dhamra. The Brahmani is 799 kms. Long (541 kms. In Orissa) and its catchment area spreads over 39,033 sq.kms. in Orissa).

The Baitarani

It originates from the Gonasika hills of the keonjhar districts. It is 365 kms long and its catchment area spread over 12,790 sq. kms . It enters into the Bay of Bengal after joining of the Brahmani at Dharma mouth near Chandabali Subarnrekha.

The Subarnarekha

It originates from the Chhotnagpur plateau of Bihar. It is 433kms (70kms in Orissa) and has a catchment area of 19,500 kms (3,200kms in Orissa) with a mean annual flow of 7,900 million n.

The Budhabalanga

It originates from the easterns slops of the Similipala massif. It is about 175 kms long having a total catchment area of 4840 sq. kms with an annual flow of 2177 million m . It is major tributaries are the Sone, the Gangadhar, the Catra etc.

The Rushikulya

It originates from the Rushyamala hills of the eastern ghats in Phulbani district. It is 165 kms long with 8900 sq. kms of catchment areas. Its tributaries are the Baghua the Dhanei Badanadi etc. It has no delta at its mouth.

The Bahuda

It originates from the Ramgiri hills of the eastern ghats in Gajapati districts and joins the bay of Bengal in Andhra Pradesh . Its length 73 kms having a catchment area of 1250 sq. kms .

The Bansadhara

It originates from the Flanks of the Durgakangar hills (Lingaraj hills) of the eastern ghats in Kalahandi districts. It is 230 kms long out of which only 150 kms in Orissa. It enters in to the Bay of Bengal at Kalingapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It has a catchment area of 11500 sq. kms .

The Nagabali

It originates from the Bijipur Hills of the eastern ghats near Lanji garah . It is 210 kms long out of which 100 kms is in Orissa. It has a total catchment area of about 9410 sq. kms.

The Salandi

It originates from the Meghasani Hills of the Similipal massif in Keonjhar district. It is 144 kms long with a catchment areas of 1793 sq. kms .

The Indirabati

It originates from the eastern ghats in Kalahandi districts. It is 530 kms long with a catchment area of 41700 sq. kms as a tributary it flows into the Godabari river.

The Kolab

It originates from the Sinkaran hills of the eastern Ghats in koraput districts. It has catchment areas of 20400 sq. kms .

Springs

There are a number of Mountain springs and hotspring in Orissa. The Badaghagara and Sanaghagara in Keonjhar districts Satpasajya in Denkanal districts the Chandikhole in Cuttack districts the Barunei in Khorda districts, the Narayani and Nirmalajhar in Ganjam and Puri districts, the Patalaganga in Kalahandi districts, the Nursinghanath in Sambalpur districts and the Harisankar in Bolangir districts and some of the important mountain springs in Orissa .

Waterfalls

Most of the rivers, either at the point of origin or over the mountainous bed, have waterfalls. The Barehipani and Joranda (Similipal) in Mayurbhanja districts, Sanaghagara and Badaghagara in Keonjhar district Padhanpuri in Deogarh district khandadhar (Banei) in Sundargarh district Phurlijharan, Khandabaladhar, and Rabandhara in Kalahandi district Kentamari and Putudi in Boudh and Phulbani district DumDuma in Malkangiri district and Bogra in Koraput district are some of the major waterfalls of Orissa.

Lakes

The Chilika Lake is blakish water lagoon located in the southern part of the Orissa coastal plane. It areas varies 780 sq. kms and 144 sq. kms from winter two monsson months having 71 kms long 32 kms breadth. It salinity declleans to a minimum during the monsson. But in winter due to the overflow of the tidal water through the narrow opening from the Bay of Bengal, it is maximum.

Ansupa is a sweet water lake located in Banki of Cuttack districts. It is 3 kms in lengh and 1.5 kms in breadth. Sara is another sweet water lake located near Puri. It is 5 kms in length and 3 kms in breadth. Kanjia is another sweet water lake with about 134 acres of area located in Nandankanan of Cuttack districts near Bhubaneswar.

Land

Orissa's geologic formations vary considerably in both age and character. In the interior regions, extending across the stable landmass of the Indian subcontinent (a fragment of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana), are found some of the oldest rocks of the Earth's crust, while along the seaboard are deltaic alluvial deposits and ridges of windblown sand.

The state can be divided broadly into four natural divisions: the northern plateau, the Eastern Ghats, the central tract, and the coastal plains. The northern plateau (in the northern part of the state) is an extension of the forest-covered and mineral-rich Chota Nagpur plateau centred in Jharkhand. The Eastern Ghats, extending roughly parallel to the coast and rising to an elevation of about 3,600 feet (1,100 metres), are remnants of a very ancient line of hills in eastern peninsular India. The central tract comprises a series of plateaus and basins occupying the inland area to the west and north of the Eastern Ghats; the plateau areas provide scant resources, but several of the basins—notably the Kalahandi, Balangir, Hirakud, and Jharsuguda—have the soil and the irrigation facilities to support local agriculture. The coastal plains are formed of alluvial soils deposited by the many rivers flowing to the Bay of Bengal; locally the area is known as the Balasore (Baleshwar) coastal plain to the northeast, the Mahanadi River delta in the centre, and the Chilika plain to the southwest.

The main rivers are the Subarnarekha, Budhabalanga, Baitarani, Brahmani, Mahanadi, Rushikulya, and Vamsadhara. Orissa's saltwater Chilika Lake is one of the largest lagoons in India. Notable mountain peaks include Mahendra Giri (4,924 feet [1,501 metres]), Malayagiri (3,894 feet [1,187 metres]), and Megasini (3,822 feet [1,165 metres]).

Plant and animal life

Orissa's forests cover nearly one-third of the state. They are commonly classified into two categories: tropical moist deciduous and tropical dry deciduous. The first type occupies the hills, plateaus, and more isolated areas within the northeastern part of the state, while the second is found in the southwest. Moving from northeast to southwest, the density of forest cover generally decreases. Bamboo grows in both forest types, as do tropical hardwoods, such as teak, rosewood, and padauk.

Orissa's woodlands are inhabited by an array of wildlife, much of which is protected in parks and sanctuaries established by the state and national governments. Notable mammals include elephants, gaurs (wild cattle), blackbucks, four-horned antelope, several types of tigers, and various species of monkeys. Peacocks are among the characteristic birds of Orissa's forests. In the east-central coastal region, Chilika Lake is a breeding ground for many fish and water fowl.

Population composition

Scheduled Tribes (a term generally applied to indigenous peoples who fall outside the predominant Indian social hierarchy) and Scheduled Castes (formerly called "untouchables"; groups that officially occupy a low position within the caste system) constitute almost two-fifths of the population of Orissa. The tribal peoples are divided into three linguistic groups: the speakers of Munda languages of the Austroasiatic language family, the speakers of various languages of the Dravidian family, and the speakers of Oriya, which is an Indo-Aryan language. Historically, the Santhal, Savara, and Juang peoples have been among the most prominent of the Munda speakers, while the Khond, Gond, and Oraon (Kurukh) have been the principal speakers of Dravidian languages. The Bhuiyan speak Oriya. By the early 21st century, many of the tribal peoples had adopted Oriya as their primary language. Oriya is the official language of Orissa and is spoken by most of Orissa's nontribal population, except in some parts of the northeast, where Bengali is widely spoken.

Hindus make up the overwhelming majority of the population of Orissa. Muslims are the largest religious minority in all areas of the state except in certain administrative localities, including Sundargarh, Ganjam, Koraput, and Phulabani, where there are greater numbers of Christians. In none of the state's districts, however, does a single minority religion claim more than a tiny fraction of the population.

The caste structure in Orissa is similar to that in other states of eastern India. Just below the highest-level Brahmans are the Karanas (the writer class), who claim Kshatriya (military) status, with the pen as their weapon rather than the sword. The Khandayats (literally, "Swordsmen") are mostly cultivators but call themselves "Khandayat-Kshatriyas." The tribal peoples for a long time have been undergoing the process of Hinduization, and many tribal chieftains also have claimed Kshatriya status. All castes look to Jagannatha (one of the incarnations of the Hindu god Vishnu) as the centre of their religious faith. For centuries the town of Puri, known as the abode of Jagannatha, has been the only place in India where all castes eat together.

Settlement patterns

Orissa has a predominantly rural population. The irrigated rice-farming region of the coastal plains is heavily populated. Although some tribal peoples have settled in the plains, most live in the hill areas.

The major cities are Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Raurkela Sambalpur, and Puri. All are in the coastal region except Raurkela and Sambalpur, which are in northwestern Orissa.

Agriculture

Although much of the land is either unproductive or unsuitable for more than a single annual crop, about two-thirds of the working population is engaged in agriculture, and the sector accounts for roughly one-fourth of the state's gross product. Cultivated lands occupy about one-third of the total area of the state; about half of these lands are sown with rice. Other important crops include pulses (legumes), oilseeds, vegetables, cereals (such as wheat, corn [maize], sorghum, and pearl millet), jute, sugarcane, coconuts, and spices. Low sunlight availability, modest soil quality, limited use of fertilizer, and variable volume and timing of the monsoon rains combine to give Orissan farmers generally low yields. Agricultural families sometimes supplement their income through nonagricultural pursuits, as farming does not typically provide year-round employment.

Resources and power

The mineral resources of Orissa are considerable. Orissa is a national leader in the production of chromite, manganese ore, graphite, and nickel ore. It is also one of the top producers of high-quality iron ore. Coal from the Talcher field near the east-central city of Dhenkanal provides the energy base for a number of the state's large-scale industries.

Aside from its "captive power plants" (power plants that are dedicated to specific industries), the bulk of Orissa's energy comes from hydroelectric stations. Indeed, the great Mahanadi River system has been harnessed by one of the most ambitious multiple-purpose projects on the subcontinent; the Hirakud Dam and the Machkund hydroelectric project, together with several smaller units, provide flood control, irrigation, and power to the entire lower basin. Thermal plants are a significant secondary source of power.

Manufacturing

Most of the state's manufacturing activities are tied to its natural resources. Large-scale mineral-based industries include steel, ferromanganese, cement, aluminum, and fertilizer production as well as nonferrous smelting. Other major industries include the manufacture of chemicals, ceramic products, and aeronautics equipment. In general, heavy and large-scale industry are concentrated in the interior regions of the state. By contrast, most of the foundries (especially for aluminum and brass), glass works, and paper mills are located in the coastal plains, as are small-scale industries, including sericulture (silk production), cotton textile mills, sugar mills, and rice mills.

Transportation

Communication facilities were undeveloped before 1947, but the merger of a number of feudatory states with Orissa and the discovery of mineral resources required the construction of a network of good roads. Beginning in the mid-20th century, bold construction programs—such as the building of bridges over most of the principal rivers—were undertaken by the government of Orissa, and by the early 21st century, national highways and major roads covered most regions of the state.

Orissa also is served by a number of railways. Major train stations are located in Bhubaneswar, Puri, Balasore, Cuttack, Khurda Road (just southwest of Bhubaneswar), and Brahmapur—all in the coastal plains. There is an all-weather, sheltered, deep-draft port at Paradip, at the mouth of Mahanadi River. This port has become an important departure point for the state's exports, especially coal. An airport in Bhubaneswar offers domestic service.

Constitutional framework

The government of Orissa, like that of most other states and territories in India, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The head of state is the governor, appointed by the president of India. The actual administration, however, is conducted by the Council of Ministers, which is headed by a chief minister and responsible to the unicameral Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha), whose members are elected at intervals of not more than five years through universal adult suffrage. There is a high court in Cuttack; its chief justice is appointed by the president of India. Below the high court are district and sessions courts, magistrates' courts, and various courts that handle particular types of cases.

Orissa is divided into more than a dozen districts, grouped into several revenue divisions, each under a divisional commissioner. A board of revenue is in charge of revenue administration. The district administration is conducted by a deputy commissioner, who is also the district magistrate. The districts are divided into *tahsils*, each having a *tahsildar* as its revenue officer. *Tahsils* comprise groups of villages, administered by *panchayats* (village councils), to which villagers elect their representatives. A *sarpanc* (elected president) heads each *panchayat*. The towns are administered by municipalities.

Health and welfare

At one time there was a high rate of malaria along the coastal belt, and the whole state was subject to epidemics of cholera and smallpox. The incidence of filariasis (a disease caused by the presence of filarial worms in the blood and glands), leprosy, and tuberculosis was also high. Since the mid-20th century, much attention has been paid to health services, and great progress in reducing the incidence of these diseases has been achieved through various programs. Nevertheless, with the exception of cholera and smallpox, which have been brought under control, these diseases as well as sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and measles have remained a concern and a focus of state health initiatives. Allopathic (Western), Ayurvedic (ancient Indian), and homeopathic medical treatment is available throughout the state.

The state conducts various programs to improve and broaden educational, cultural, economic, and social opportunities for tribal peoples and other disadvantaged groups. A research and training institute in Bhubaneswar is charged with collecting information to assist the state government in formulating plans and policies regarding tribal welfare. Other schemes, such as public education initiatives and the expansion of urban immunization and health services, aim to better the welfare of women and children.

Education

Although the number of educational institutions in Orissa has increased considerably since the mid-20th century, the state's literacy rate has remained below the national average, and only a small fraction of Orissa's population is university-educated. Higher education is available, however, at several local universities (and numerous associated colleges). Of the universities, Utkal University (1943) and Orissa

University of Agriculture and Technology (1962), both in Bhubaneswar, are the largest and best known. Training in allopathic, Ayurvedic, and homeopathic medicine is offered at more than a dozen government and private colleges. Orissa also has numerous pharmacy colleges and nursing schools.

The arts

Orissa has a rich artistic heritage and has produced some of the finest examples of Indian art and architecture. Among the most notable traditions in the visual arts are mural painting, stone carving, wood carving, icon painting (known as *patta*), and painting on palm leaves. The state also is widely recognized for its exquisite silver filigree ornamentation, pottery, and decorative work.

In tribal areas, Orissa has a wide variety of dances. Music of the *madal* (a type of local drum) and flute is characteristic of the countryside. The classical dance of Orissa, known as *orissi*, has survived for more than 700 years. Originally it was a temple dance performed for the gods. The movements, gestures, and poses of the dance are depicted in relief on the walls of the great temples. *Chhau*, a type of masked dance associated with the Mayurbhanj district and adjacent areas in the north, is emblematic of Oriya culture. For the promotion of dancing and music, the Kala Vikash Kendra centre was founded at Cuttack in 1952, and it has continued to be a prominent arts performance and training venue in Orissa.

Festivals

Orissa is the site of many traditional festivals. One that is unique to the state is the ceremony of Boita-Bandana (worshipping of boats) in October or November (the date is set to the Hindu calendar). For five consecutive days before the full moon, people gather near riverbanks or the seashore and float miniature boats in remembrance of their ancestors who once sailed to faraway lands (such as Malaysia and Indonesia).

The town of Puri is the site of the Jagannatha temple, perhaps the most famous Hindu shrine in India, and of the temple's annual Chariot Festival, which attracts hundreds of thousands of people; the English word *juggernaut*, derived from the temple's name, was inspired by the massive, nearly unstoppable wagons used in the festival. A few miles away, in Konarak (Konark), is a 13th-century temple that reinforces the significance of the chariot in the region; it is constructed in the form of the chariot of the Hindu sun god, Surya.

History

Since its earliest known history, the land that roughly corresponds to present-day Orissa has gone by various names, most notably Utkala (or Okkala), Kalinga, and Odra Desha (or Oddaka), which appeared in ancient literature as designations for particular tribes. The ancient Greeks knew the latter two groups as Kalingai and Oretes. These names eventually became identified with specific territories.

At the dawn of Indian history, Kalinga was already a famous and formidable political power. Buddhist sources refer to the rule of King Brahmadatta in Kalinga at the time of the Buddha's death, sometime between the 6th and the 4th century bce. In the 4th century bce the first Indian empire builder, Mahapadma Nanda, founder of the Nanda dynasty, conquered Kalinga, but the Nanda rule was short-lived. In 260 bce the Mauryan emperor Ashoka invaded Kalinga and fought one of the greatest wars of ancient history. He then renounced war, became a Buddhist, and preached peace and nonviolence in

and outside India. In the 1st century bce the Kalinga emperor Kharavela conquered vast territories that collectively came to be called the Kalinga empire.

In the 1st century ce, Kalinga emerged as a maritime power. Its overseas activities possibly involved the establishment in the 8th century of the Shailendra empire on the Southeast Asian island of Java (now in Indonesia). Kalinga was ruled by the powerful Bhauma-Kara dynasty during the 8th, 9th, and 10th centuries, followed by the Soma kings until the 11th century. Construction of the 11th-century temple of Lingaraja at Bhubaneswar, the greatest Shaiva monument of India, was begun by the Soma king Yayati.

Kalinga enjoyed a golden age under the Ganga dynasty. The Ganga ruler Anantavarma Chodagangadeva (1078–1147) ruled from the Ganges River to the Godavari River with Cuttack as his capital. He began the construction of the temple of Jagannatha (Lord of the World) at Puri. Narasimha I (1238–64) built the Sun Temple (Surya Deula) of Konarak (Konark), one of the finest specimens of Hindu architecture. In the 13th and 14th centuries, when much of India came under the rule of Muslim powers, independent Kalinga remained a citadel of Hindu religion, philosophy, art, and architecture.

The Gangas were succeeded by the Surya dynasty. Its first king, Kapilendra (1435–66), won territories from his Muslim neighbours and greatly expanded the Kalinga kingdom. His successor, Purushottama, maintained these gains with difficulty. The next and the last Surya king, Prataparudra, became a disciple of Chaitanya, the great Hindu mystic, and became a pacifist. After Prataparudra's death in 1540, the kingdom's power declined, and in 1568, when King Mukunda was killed by his own countrymen, it lost its independence to the Afghan rulers of Bengal.

It was sometime between the 11th and 16th centuries that the name Kalinga fell into disuse. In its place arose the old tribal name Odra Desha, which was gradually transformed into Odisha (or Uddisha, or Udisa), which in English became Orissa. The language of Orissa came to be known as Oriya (or Oria).

The Mughal emperor Akbar wrested Orissa from the Afghans in 1590–92. When the Mughal empire fell in the mid-18th century, part of Orissa remained under the nawabs (provincial governors of Mughal India) of Bengal, but the greater part passed to the Marathas, who ruled much of South India between the 16th and 19th centuries. The Bengal sector came under British rule in 1757 after the Battle of Plassey; the Maratha sector was conquered by the British in 1803. Although after 1803 the British controlled the entire Oriya-speaking area, it continued to be administered as two units. It was not until April 1, 1936, that the British heeded calls for unification on a linguistic basis and constituted Orissa as a separate province; 26 Oriya princely states, however, remained outside the provincial administration. After the independence of India in 1947, the territory of Orissa was expanded to include all of the princely states except Saraikela and Kharsawan, which were absorbed by Bihar. Orissa became a state of India in 1950.

Eminent Personalities of Orissa

Fakir Mohan Senapati (1843-1918)

A Master in the art of writing short stories, he injected a new life in Oriya literature in an environment of gloom and despair. His sense of humour remains unsurpassed in Oriya literature. Discarding romantic themes, he wrote about the common man and his problems. Senapati could rightly be compared with the 20th Century great novelist like Premchand and Bibhutibhusan Banerjee. Eventhough he had no formal education, he proved to be an enlightened teacher, painter and a great administrator. In his writings, Oriya Nationalism was the dominant theme. As a recognised literary poet, Senapati has made his place secure as a great prose writer in Oriya.

Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das (1848-1934)

First Oriya to get the Degree of M.A. B.L. from Calcutta University. Took a valiant stand for unification of scattered Oriya tracts. Emerged on the Eastern horizon as a symbol of new hope and aspiration of all Oriyas. Was the founder of Utkal Sammilani, architect of Oriya movement and pioneer in the field of industrial development. Acclaimed as a great Legislator and Journalist, he was the first Oriya to be the member of Legislative Council and Member of Central Legislative Assembly and was the first to sail overseas. He had the distinction of being the first Indian Minister.

Pandit Gopabandhu Das (1876-1928)

Aptly described as the Gandhi of Orissa, Pandit Gopabandhu Das played a pivotal role in the formation of a separate province of Orissa. Born and brought up in an atmosphere of Brahminical orthodoxy, he shattered the shackles of narrow caste barriers. A Law Graduate from the Calcutta University. He was an active sentinel of Oriya Movement, Freedom Fighter and a great social reformer. As an educationist he was responsible for establishment of Satyabadi School at Satyabadi in the Puri District. Imbued with patriotic fervour the students of Satyabadi School were known as indefatigable fighters against British Imperialism. Gopabandhu regarded politics as an instrument of service to the people. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, Gopabandhu was one of the Noblest Sons of Orissa. His spirit of service and sacrifice finds an apt echo in his following lines.

“Let my body mingle in the dust of my motherland and let my countrymen walk across it”.

Nilakantha Das (1884-1969)

Secured M.A. Degree in Philosophy from Calcutta University. Spurned an offer of a lucrative job by the British Govt. and preferred to serve as the Mead Master of Satyabadi High School. Endowed with a profound erudition he became a legendary figure in his life time. A powerful speaker, his speeches in Central Legislative Assembly and Orissa Legislative Assembly have left an indelible impression on Legislative history. He was a rare amalgam of a Writer, Editor, Speaker and Author. Author of an excellent commentary of Geeta. His epics are considered as Master piece of Oriya Language. A distinguished freedom fighter and a revolutionary, he inspired the youth to fight against untouchability and other social evils. Led the movement for amalgamation of outlying Oriya tracts and was a symbol of Oriya culture.

Biswanath Das (1889-1984)

An eminent Freedom Fighter, able Statesman, remarkable Administrator, astute politician and a Charismatic leader. He was elected as the president of the Ganjam District Board in the year 1920 and joined the Non-cooperation movement in response to the call of Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 after giving up his lucrative law practice. Continued to be a member of Madras Legislative Assembly from 1921 to

1930. Gave up the membership of the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1931 and joined Salt Satyagraha. As a great Patriot led the peasant movement and fought for the creation of a separate Orissa Province. He had the distinction of being elected as Prime Minister of Orissa. Resigned from the Prime Ministership on 4th November 1939 at the bidding of Indian National Congress. In 1950 got elected to Lok Sabha and became the President of Utkal Pradesh Congress Committee. He was appointed as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. A noble son who has left an indelible impression on a resurgent Orissa.

Gajapati Maharaja Krushna Chandra Dev (1892-1974)

An Architect of modern Orissa. He attended the first Round Table Conference in London on 16th November 1930 wherein he made a fervent appeal for creating a separate province of Orissa on the basis of Language and homogeneity. As an eloquent spokesman of Oriyas, he was felicitated by Madhusudan Das, the father of modern Orissa. As a scion of illustrious Ganga Ruler he espoused the cause of the poor and downtrodden. Later played an important role in bringing together the vivisected parts of Orissa and laid the foundation of United Orissa. He was a member of old Madras Legislative Council, a member of royal commission of Agriculture and a member of Orissa Legislative Assembly. He was twice elected as Prime Minister of Orissa. He was an Educationist, Freedom Fighter, Social Reformer and a champion of the poor. He established a permanent theatre at Paralakhemundi for promoting cultural activities.

Raja Artatran Deo (1900-1946)

Enthroned as Raja of Khariar, (present day Nuapada district), in 1921. A great patron of Art, Culture and Education. Sportsman of distinction, member of many committees and Organisations. Sponsored Scholarships for deserving students for higher education. Patronised "Beer Bikram Theatre" of Khariar, the first permanent Oriya Stage in the State. Nominated member of Orissa Advisory Council. Elected to Orissa Legislative Assembly in 1937 and 1946 from Khariar Assembly Constituency. Played a pivotal role in formation of Orissa as a separate province in the year 1936. It was at his instance and under his enlightened leadership that Khariar Zamindari merged with the State of Orissa leading to full Statehood

Biju Pattanaik (1916-1997)

Biju Pattanaik was a trained pilot of acknowledged competence. Had special interest in Science and Technology and was responsible for instituting the prestigious International Kalinga Prize. He was the pioneer of Industrial movement in Orissa and was the head of Air Transport command during the war (1940-42). An indefatigable freedom fighter, he led the underground movement for freedom of the country along with Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Mohan Lohia and others. Landed first platoon of troops in Srinagar during attack by Pakistani raiders. Succeeded in safely airlifting the Indonesia leaders during war. He was honoured by the Indonesia Govt. as "BHUMIPUTRA". Elected to Orissa Legislative Assembly from 1952. Chief Minister of Orissa from 1961-1963 and 1990-1995. Member, Rajya Sabha 1980-1984 and 11th Lok Sabha from 1996-1997. Union Minister of Steel from July 1977 to January 1980. He had the distinction of laying the basic infrastructure for development of Orissa. Special mention could be made of Paradeep Port, MIG Factory at Sunabeda, Ferro Silicon Complex at Theruvali, Hydro Electric Power Project Balimela. Thermal Power Station, Talcher, Engineering College, Rourkela, Engineering College and Medical College at Burla, Express High Way linking Dairari with Paradeep, Sainik School, Regional College of Education, Bhubaneswar, Regional Research Laboratory of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology and many others.

He was a great visionary who worked relentlessly for the uplift of the people of Orissa.

Chandra Sekhar Behera (1873-1936)

Chandra Sekhar Behera of Sambalpur was a leading freedom fighter and an active participant in the Non-Cooperation Movement. He consolidated the National freedom movement in Sambalpur region and merged his activities with the Indian National Congress. He was a founding member of the National School of Sambalpur started on lines of Satyabadi Vana-Vidyalaya founded by Gopabandhu Das. As the chairman of Sambalpur Municipality, he received Gandhijee in Sambalpur in 1928. Organised a mass movement against illiteracy and untouchability.

Nandini Satapathy (1931-2006)

The first lady Chief Minister of Orissa Srimati Nandini Satapathy was born in Cuttack and did her degree from Ravenshaw College. She was the author of many poems and short stories and the editor of Oriya monthly "Kalana". She was also conferred with "Sahitya Bharati Sammana" for the Oriya translation of famous novel "Lajja". The Founder cum Secretary of Orissa Women's Relief Committee, Srimati Nandini was elected to Rajya Sabha from Congress party twice. During her illustrious career she led Indian Film Delegations thrice, i.e. to Moscow & Tashkent and also accompanied the then Prime Minister as a member of India's delegation to Commemorative Session of United Nations in New York. She was in the Chairmanship of Children's Film Society of India twice. In Orissa's political scenario she was elected as the leader of Orissa Congress Legislature Party twice & was the Chief Minister.

Kalindi Charana Panigrahi (1901-1991)

Kalindi Charana Panigrahi belongs to Sabuja Gosthi (Green Community of Orissan Poets) of 20th century was born at Khurda. He is regarded as a superb poet, story writer, novelist, dramatist, editor and essayist. This great man's pen never stopped till his death. His Auto-Biography 'Jaha Ange Nivaichi' is an unforgettable contribution to the literary treasure of Orissa. This Padma Bhusan award winner was also honoured the fellowship from Kendra Sahitya Academy. A D.Litt Degree from Sambalpur University was awarded by IMFA CHARITABLE TRUST for his life long contribution to Oriya literature. The doyen whose creation 'Matira Manisa' was made a film has left this eternal world but his creations are still immortal.

**SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE****HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF ORISSA**

**Chief
Minister's
Team**



Shri Naveen Patnaik
Chief Minister and also in-charge of the Ministries/
Departments not specifically allocated to the charge of any
Minister viz.:

(i)	General	Administration
(ii)		Home
(iii)	Water	Resources
(iv)	Forest &	Environment
(v)	Works	

CABINET MINISTERS

Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai

Minister of Finance, Excise

Dr. Damodar Rout

Minister of Agriculture, Cooperation, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development

Shri Anang Uday Singh Deo

Minister of Planning & Co-ordination, Public Enterprises

Shri Surya Narayana Patro

Minister of Revenue & Disaster Management

Shri Raghunath Mohanty

Minister of Industries, Steel & Mines, Parliamentary Affairs

Smt. Pramila Mallick

Minister of Women & Child Development Department

Shri Debi Prasad Mishra

Minister of Higher Education, Tourism, Culture

Shri Prasanna Acharya

Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Public Grievances & Pension Administration

Shri Prafulla Samal

Minister of Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations

Shri Bijay Ranjan Singh Bariha

Minister of ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare

Shri Bikram Keshari Arukha

Minister of Rural Development , Law
