

GAZETTEER OF INDIA

ORISSA

CUTTACK

ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

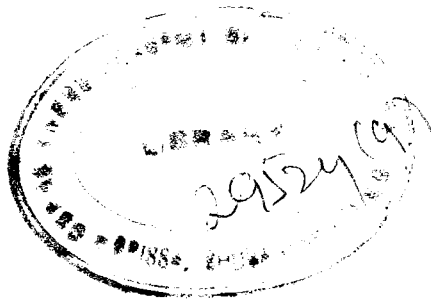


CUTTACK

By

SHRI NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA, I. A. S. (Retd.)

Chief Editor



**GAZETTEERS UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA**

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PREFACE

The Government of India in 1955, formulated a national scheme for revision and writing of District Gazetteers and requested all State Governments to implement it. The Government of Orissa accepted the scheme in 1957-58 and set up the organisation under late Nilamani Senapati, I. C. S., as the Chief Editor who continued as such till his sad demise in 1984. During his lifetime 9 District Gazetteers had been published. Kendujhar District Gazetteer was published under my Chief Editorship in May 1936. Ganjam and Baleshwar District Gazetteers were awaiting publication in the Government Press since June 1989 and July 1991, respectively. The present District Gazetteer is the 13th and the last in the series of Orissa District Gazetteers.

The first District Gazetteer of Cuttack was written by L. S. S. O' Malley and published in 1906. It was revised by E. R. J. R. Cousins in 1933 as the original became out-of-date and out of print. While preparing it he had departed from the original only where necessary. Since then, significant political, social, cultural, economic and administrative changes have taken place in the country as also in the district. In the context of these far-reaching changes, the present series of District Gazetteers written under a uniform pattern throughout the country are not mere revision of old Gazetteers but a veritable handbook of the district in particular and the country at large. The present gazetteer reflects a complete picture of the district and its people in all its aspects which will be useful to a wide range of readers such as research scholars, administrators, politicians, social scientists and more importantly the intelligent men in the street. Historically, culturally, politically, socially and economically the district is one of the most advanced and demographically the most populous district in the State. Historically, its relation goes back to the hoary past of prehistoric age when primitive man left his evidence in the rock-art of Naraj. Nevertheless, the discovery of lithic tools has placed the district in the prehistoric

map of India. The exuberant archaeological remains of the district are quite fascinating to study the human relationship and culture. The innumerable edifices, temples, monuments and forts and their scattered ruins stand as the dumb and mute witness of a long past to indicate the history of many glorious epochs. They come down as some of the specimens of an old and enduring culture. Politically the district was a part of Kalinga empire in ancient time and was the seat of administration from Bhaumakara period to the early half of the 20th century A. D. The spread of western education, emergence of the press, improvement of communication and spirit of democratic way of life had all contributed to a new awakening in Orissa and Cuttack took a leading role in all those fields. The call for unification of Orissa with Oriya-speaking tracts, merger of feudatory States, the growth of national consciousness and the upheaval of freedom movement in Orissa were all spearheaded from here.

Socially the joyous festival of Raja, the pompous observance of Dasahara and Dola, the festival of youth cult 'Kumarotsava', the Bali Jatra revealing the past link with South-East Asia and the performance of Jatras and Palas for aesthetic pleasure are some of the veritable scalars for social amity. Economically the district is rich in agriculture, industry, trade and commerce.

In the field of literature, Sarala Das's writings were handed down to posterity through palm-leaf manuscripts, particularly the Oriya Mahabharata, his magnum opus, can even now be traced in all parts of Orissa, indicating the great popularity and sanctity in which they are held. Although many poets preceded Sarala Das, he is generally recognised as the maker of Oriya literature. He was born and lived in village Kanakavati Patna near Jhankad.

Madhusudan Das, the first Oriya graduate in Arts and Law, the first Oriya Advocate, the first Oriya Member of the then Vice-regal Council, the first Oriya to be a Minister and the first Indian Minister to resign office over the ethics of democracy, was not only the very maker of modern Orissa but also a great

Indian and a great humanitarian by any standard. And in keeping with the age-old tradition of catholicity of the Oriya people, this builder of modern Orissa and uncrowned king of Oriyas for nearly half-a-century, has passed into the mind of Oriyas like a mediæval legend. He was born in village Satyabhamapur of this district.

With the merger of the feudatory States in Orissa in 1948, some more areas were added to the old district of Cuttack. These ex-States were Athagarh, Badamba, Narasinghapur and Tigiria. Their history, economics and cultural efflorescence have also been made use of in this volume.

The preparation of this gazetteer commenced from the year 1986 and materials had to be collected from different sources including voluntary agencies, non-officials, archives, officers and offices of the State Government concerned, Heads of Departments and district level officers who were to be approached and contacted several times for a satisfactory response. The information/statistics furnished by them had to be sifted meticulously to ensure their reliability and correctness and frequent references had to be made for their reconciliation. It became particularly difficult as various offices/agencies were connected for implementation/administration of the same subject in the district. I was anxious to complete compilation/drafting of the gazetteer of this most important district quickly as my tenure as Chief Editor was fast approaching by the end of December 1992, and I am happy to record that the same was done in time amidst innumerable difficulties and the drafts of all the 19 chapters of the gazetteer were circulated among the members of the Working Committee by August-October 1992.

In view of the importance attached to the gazetteers, a Working Committee and an Advisory Committee have been constituted by the Revenue & Excise Department to go through the draft chapters in meticulous detail. The Working Committee consists of the following members:

Member, Board of Revenue, Orissa

Chairman

Secretary, Revenue & Excise Department,
Government of Orissa

Member

Chief Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	Member
Dr. Natabar Samantray, Retired Professor of Oriya, Samantarapur, Bhubaneshwar	Member
Shri Gobind Chandra Udgata, Gopalimal, Sambalpur	Member
State Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	Secretary

After scrutiny and approval by the Gazetteers Working Committee the draft chapters after revision are sent to Gazetteers Advisory Committee for final approval and printing. The Advisory Committee comprises the following members:

Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa	Chairman
Member, Board of Revenue, Orissa	Member
Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa	Member
Additional Development Commissioner, Government of Orissa	Member
Secretary, Revenue & Excise Department, Government of Orissa	Member
Chief Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	Member
Dr. Karuna Sagar Behera, Professor of History, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneshwar	Member
Dr. Natabar Samantray, Retired Professor of Oriya	Member
Shri Gobind Chandra Udgata	[Member
State Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	Secretary

The Working Committee met on the 23rd December, 1992 which was attended by Shri R. N. Mishra, I. A. S., Collector, Cuttack and Shri B. K. Pattnaik, I. A. S., Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Central Division, Cuttack on special invitation who actively participated in the discussion. Discussions took place chapter by chapter and the Committee with the participation of Collector and Commissioner made some useful suggestions for inclusion in some chapters of the gazetteer. My thanks and gratitude are due to them. An extract of the decision of the said Committee regarding the quality of preparation of this gazetteer is given below:

“The Committee were happy to record their appreciation for the enormous pains and efforts taken for the collection/compilation of such massive data and their orderly presentation in the gazetteer in a lucid and analytical manner which will be of great help to scholars, researchers and administrators at all levels and also to the public in general.”

To give the readers an idea of the physical aspect of the district, important places, the river system and the network of embankments, a map prepared by the Directorate of Survey and Map Publication, Orissa, Cuttack has been given at the end of this volume. In the case of place names the system followed by the Survey of India, New Delhi and the Director of Land Records and Survey under the Board of Revenue has been adopted. The photographs were supplied by different organisations. I am thankful to them. I am thankful to Dr. B. N. Sinha, who was in charge of the excavation of Barabati fort at Cuttack for his giving a detailed report on the excavation which is appended as Appendix I to the Chapter XIX (Places of Interest) of this gazetteer. I am also thankful to Dr. G. C. Chauley, Superintending Archaeologist, Bhubaneshwar Circle, Archaeological Survey of India who has given detailed information on the recent findings in the Buddhist site at Lalitagiri which has been made use of in this volume. My thanks are also due to Dr. Karuna Sagar Behera, who has written Chapter II (History) of this gazetteer except the portion on the feudatory States.

I thank the local officers of different Ministries of Government of India, the Departments and the Heads of the Departments of Government of Orissa, various branches of Cuttack district administration particularly the Collector, Cuttack and a host of non-official persons and organisations who have co-operated with us in preparing this fascinating gazetteer.

The following staff of the Revenue (Gazetteers) Department have worked whole-heartedly and ungrudgingly in the preparation of this volume: Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Joint State Editor (he has since retired on the 30th November, 1992); Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik, Research Officer (Joint State Editor since the 1st December, 1992); Shri Prafulla Behera, Oriya Translator; Compilers; Shri Ramakanta Mishra, Shrimati Bijoylaxmi Praharaj, Srimati Umanmoni Senapati, Shri Chittaranjan Das, Shri Bidyadhar Palai, Shri Subodh Chandra Mohapatra and Shri Subrat Kuanr; Shri Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, Section Officer; Assistant to Oriya Translator

Shri Rabindra Kumar Swain; Shri Durga Charan Mohapatra and Shri Braja Kishore Parida, Senior Assistants; Shri Satyananda Mohapatra, Head Typist; Senior Typists: Shri Akshya Kumar Barik and Shri Haribandhu Ghadei, Junior Typists: Miss Binapani Bose, Shri Pinaki Satpathy and Shri Dwarikanath Maharana; Shri Sudarsan Sahu, Diarist-cum-Recorder; Shri Lakshmidhar Patnaik, Driver and all Class IV employees of this office have also rendered ungrudging assistance in their official capacity in the preparation of this gazetteer. I am thankful to all of them.

BHUBANESHWAR
30th December, 1992

NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA
CHIEF EDITOR

SUPPLEMENTARY PREFACE

After demitting office of the Chief Editor on 31st December, 1992, I re-joined as such on 12th November, 1993. Balleshwar District Gazetteer which was pending publication in Government Press since July 1991 was published in July 1994. The useful suggestions given by the members of the Working Committee were duly incorporated in the relevant chapters of Cuttack gazetteer excepting a few and the chapters as revised were circulated among members of the Advisory Committee for their comments and the same were also sent simultaneously to Government Press for printing. The Advisory Committee met on 9th March, 1994 and after a thorough discussion approved all the 19 chapters of the gazetteer as circulated among the members with the observation that the missing information on serious law and order situation and status-wise details of lands should be incorporated at the proof-reading stage, if and when received. In spite of best efforts and constant contact with the appropriate authorities of Police Department, the information regarding serious law and order situation in the district up to 1992 could not be procured, but information on status-wise details of lands in the district was made available and hence this has been incorporated in the appropriate chapter XI-Revenue Administration in great detail during the proof-reading stage. Some other major events of great public importance like constitutional and statutory change effected in the intervening period regarding Local Self-Government and Panchayati Raj Administration have also been incorporated in the chapter XIV-Local Self-Government at the proof-reading stage. Another sorrowful event of much public importance, namely the unprecedented flood of 1994 has also been incorporated in great detail in Appendix II of chapter IV-Agriculture and Irrigation at the proof-reading stage to retain its memory on a permanent basis.

In the meantime, Cuttack district has been divided into four districts, namely Cuttack with subdivisions of Cuttack, Athagarh and Banki and three single subdivision districts Jajpur,

Kendraparha and Jagatsinghapur in Revenue and Excise Deptt. Notification Nos. 214 and 215, dated 27th March, 1993 w.e.f. 1st day of April, 1993. This gazetteer is for the undivided district of Cuttack. Government have since ordered preparation/ compilation of gazetteers of the newly formed districts which will be done in due course.

Our thanks are also due to the Director (General), Director (Technical), Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and the staff of the Orissa Government Press, Cuttack for extending their ungrudging help and co-operation in the early publication of this gazetteer.

BHUBANESHWAR

NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA

11th September, 1996

CHIEF EDITOR

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