

# Growth and Development of Press in Orissa

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Human communication is as old as humanity itself. It is not certain when human beings started to follow a particular device or system of exchanging messages. But it is normally understood that the oldest form of human communication is non-verbal. With the rapid growth of Science and Technology, several forms of communication system began to develop. One of the most remarkable results of the industrial revolution was the emergence of mass communication and the twentieth century can be appropriately considered as the real age of development of news media. According to Vilanilam (1993; p.176) "mass communication is just an embryo in the womb of contemporary human history".

The concept of mass media is a social phenomenon. Its effects on the society are tremendous since it is directly related to the people. Mass media as an instrument of social power do have important consequences for individuals, for the institutions and for the society and culture. A study of mass media, especially print media, i.e. newspaper in a given area primarily determines the status, growth and puts effects on the people. This paper is a similar study undertaken in the state of Orissa. The study covers the existing newspapers published in the state of Orissa and discusses history, growth, and development of news in Orissa.

## Early History of Hand-Written Newspapers

The whole Orissa heralded a new era of journalism with the introduction of a hand-written newspaper called '*Kujibar Patra*' edited by Sadhu Sunder Das, a social reformer of that time in 1769. The same newspaper had irregular frequency (sometimes daily, weekly, and fortnightly) was being published from Kujibar Ashram near Chowdwar. Since the printing machine was not available in Orissa, it was written on coarse paper in Oriya language and distributed in different central places of bazaars, the missionary centres and mission homes of Cuttack town and to the rulers and disciples. The news items of the newspaper were based on the then political, socio-religious, cultural, and educational matters, and administrative affairs of government. The paper became so prominent in its news coverage that during 1800 A.D it was translated into Hindi and Marhatta languages. This hand-written newspaper had such a great influence on the then missionary activities that the missionaries were translating the news items and sending to London and those were published and commented in London Baptist Missionary Reports and Journals. Rev. A. Sutton had a remarkable piece of translation from the '*Kujibar Patra*' in 1927 which was sent to the Baptist Mission in London. In that

piece of translation, he had categorically mentioned the news published about the corruption and inhuman activities done at Puri, irreligious activities of the Government, etc. It is believed that some copies of Kujibar Patra is at present available at India House Library in London.

### Early Printed Newspapers

The impact of western culture made a tremendous change in the social lives of Oriya people. When the people of Orissa were dreaming for the development of an intellectual environment, the press, as an instrument of the spread of knowledge and wisdom, came to the soil of Orissa as a blessing. The Christian Missionaries, in their attempt to propagate the Christian religion also established a press in Cuttack known as 'The Cuttack Mission Press' in 1837. The great famine of 1866 had a disastrous effect on the state. The precarious condition of the people knew no bounds and the British Government totally failed to control the situation. To overcome the said unbearable situation, the plight of the people was greatly affected by historic famine that the state had ever seen in its history. The need of a newspaper as the vital carrier of information was then felt essential at all quarters. A well-known Oriya youngman, Gouri Shankar Ray started to publish '*Utkal Dipika*', the first newspaper of its kind in Oriya language in 1866 which continued to provide its message till 1934 with many ups and downs.

The Oriya literature and language met its formative period during the second half of the nineteenth century. This period witnessed a critical situation not only by occurrence of drought but also by a cultural threat. The very existence of Oriya language, therefore, was a problem to many owing to non-existence of a

separate independent state. Thus the adjoining States had an adverse influence on the unified language for Orissa, especially the Bengal province which had a severe impact on the culture of Orissa. Due to total indifference of the British Government and the strong influence of Bengali language, efforts were made to abolish Oriya language and substitute it by the Bengali language as the medium of instruction in the schools of Orissa (Samal; 1989; p. 111).

This had led to a strong agitation. T.E. Ravenshaw, the then Commissioner of Orissa prevented the British authorities to commit such a grave mistake and recommended the use of Oriya language as a medium of instruction. Three literary Celebrities namely, Fakir Mohan Senapati, Radhanath Roy and Madhu Sudan Rao were the pioneers in giving Oriya literature its modern shape. They revealed in their writings the profound influence of western ideas on their thought (Mansingh; 1962; p.185).

Fakir Mohan Senapati, who has been regarded as the father of modern Oriya literature, started a newspaper called '*Sambad Bahika*' in 1868 at Balasore. During that period one king Baikunthanath Dey also established a press and started a newspaper named '*Utkal Darpan*'. They both became pioneers in the development Oriya language and literature through the publication of their respective newspapers.

Taking into account the effectiveness of the print media and the increasing awareness of the people about their language and reading habits, the trend of establishing more printing presses was not only became very popular but also imminent. During that period the presses like Mayurbhanja Press (1879), Bamanda Press (1885), Jagannath Ballav Press (1887) and Utkal Darpana Press (1902) were established

in different towns of Orissa (Tripathy, 1990, 22).

Those printing presses were primarily engaged in publishing newspapers and

magazines with different frequency. Some of the newspapers published during that period were :

**Table - 1 : Some of the Earlier Newspapers Published from Orissa**

Sl. No.	Title	Language	Frequency	Year of publication	Place of publication.
01.	The Utkal Dipika	Oriya	W	1866	Cuttack
02.	The Sambad Bahika	-do-	W	1868	Balasore
03.	The Utkal Hitaisini	-do-	W	1869	Cuttack
04.	The Utkal Darpan	-do-	M	1873	Balasore
05.	The Utkal Putra	-do-	F	1873	Cuttack
06.	The Sikhyak	-do-	M	1873	Balasore
07.	The Swadeshi	-do-	W	1877	Berhampur
08.	The Oriya	-do-	W	1879	Cuttack
09.	The Mayurbhanj	Oriya & English	M	1879	Baripada
10.	The Purusottam	Oriya	M	1887	Puri
11.	The Sambalpur Hitaisini	-do-	W	1889	Bamanda
12.	The Ganjam News	-do-	W	1896	Parlakhemundi
13.	The Ganjam Oriya Hitabadini	-do-	W	1899	Berhampur
14.	The Star of Utkal	-do-	W	1909	Cuttack
15.	The Asha	-do-	W	1914	Berhampur
16.	The Samaj	-do-	W	1919	Satyabadi (later from Cuttack)

W = Weekly; F = Fortnightly; M = Monthly

*Source* : Collected from different sources mainly from books regarding publication and printing history of Orissa.

As described earlier, the missionaries were instrumental in setting up the presses in Orissa. They had also taken attempt to publish newspapers first. The following newspapers appeared to have been published by them.

1. Gyanaruna - 1849
2. Prabodh Chandrika - 1856
3. Arunodaya - 1861

Reverend Lassey was editing the newspaper *Gyanaruna*. The editors of the remaining papers were, however, not known. The above mentioned newspapers were considered to be the missionaries' mouthpiece for propagation of their respective religion. As a result, they failed to cover the news in real sense and lost their popularity and subsequently ceased their publications.

A new era in the journalism history of Orissa started with the publication of two newspapers, namely, *The Asha* and *The Samaj*. *The Asha*, published and edited by Sashibhusan Rath made its first appearance in April 1914 from Berhampur and became very popular as a newspaper for which the publisher took the attempt to make it a daily newspaper in 1928. On 4th October 1919, *The Samaj* resumed its first publication from Satyabadi with the sincere efforts of the then well known freedom fighter late Pandit Gopabandhu Das. The publication of *The Samaj*, the popular Oriya daily heralded a new age in the history

of Orissa's newspaper and Oriya journalism to a considerable height.

The Samaj became extremely popular due to its contents and coverage being suited to the information needs of the people, particularly the rural mass. During that time, the freedom movement was very much on the card. This newspaper became the mouth piece of freedom movement. Taking into account its popularity, the publication of the said newspaper was shifted to Cuttack in 1927 and was converted into a daily newspaper and since then, it has almost become as a household commodity in each and every Oriya family of the state.

The publication of another Oriya newspaper *The Prajatantra* in 1932 established and edited by Late Harekrushna Mahatab had tremendously influenced the literary and social lives of Oriya people. A new phase in Oriya journalism started with the publication of the said newspaper. After a long closure, it was again reappeared as a daily newspaper in 1947 and still continuing as a major circulated Oriya daily.

The subsequent publications of several other newspapers from different places of Orissa as depicted in Table 6 have enriched the language, literature and journalism in Orissa to a remarkable height in comparison to other contemporary states.

TABLE - 2 : Newspapers Published From Orissa ( In alphabetical order)

Sl No.	Title of the Newspaper(s)	Perio- dicity	Year of origin	Editor(s)	Publisher(s)	Place of Publication
01.	The Agnisikha	D	1968	A.R.Panda	D.P.Nayak	Sambalpur
02.	The Aji Kagaja	W	1984	Dillip Mohapatra	-	Angul
03.	The Aji Kali	D	1985	B.Mohanty	-	Balasure
04.	The Ajira Khabara	F	1983	S. N. Tripathy		Nowrangpur

05.	The Aneka Suchana	D	1991	N.N. Panda		Bhubaneswar
06.	The Anupama Bharat	D	1996	Sarat Mishra	R.K. Panda	Berhampur
07.	The Bartaman Samachar	D	1994	R.C. Nayak	R.C. Nayak	Bhubaneswar
08.	The Bishesha Khabara	W	1984	M.K. Swain	M.K. Swain	Bhadrak
09.	The Bishesha Sambad	W	1996	B.C. Choudhury	B.C. Choudhury	Bhubaneswar
10.	The Capital Poster	W	1988	S. Sahu	S. Sahu	Bhubaneswar
11.	The Chanchalyakar Tathya	F	1991	S. Banerjee	S. Banerjee	Cuttack
12.	The Cinema Gujab	W	1987	R. Mohanty	A.K. Mohanty	Bhubaneswar
13.	The Dainik Asha	D	1914	P.K. Panda		Berhampur
14.	The Dahana	D	1982	Narayan Das	Narayan Das	Athagarh
15.	The Dakara	D	1984	A.K. Panda	A.K. Panda	Sambalpur
16.	The Dharitri	D	1974	Tathagata Satpathy	Tathagata Satpathy	Bhubaneswar
17.	The Dinalipi	D	1981	Satya Mohapatra	Satya Mohapatra	Bhubaneswar
18.	The Durabarta	M	1994	K.M. Rao	S.K. Sahu	Bhubaneswar
19.	The Dhvani Pratidhwani	D	1991	Sairidhi Sahu	Sairidhi Sahu	Balasure
20.	The Eastern Times (E)	W	1981	B. Mahatab	B. Mahatab	Cuttack
21.	The Friday	W	1987	R. Mohanty	A.K. Mohanty	Bhubaneswar
22.	The Ganabarta	D	1994	A Bishi	A. Bishi	
23.	The Ganabhasa	D	1991	C.R. Sahu	R.K. Das	Balasure
24.	The Hirakhanda	D	1981	Dr.H.K.Mahatab/ B. Mahatab	Dr. H.K. Mahatab	Sambalpur
25.	The Indian Express(E)	D	1997	Shekhar Gupta	K. Ranganathan	Bhubaneswar
26.	Info-Ad	W	1997	Manas R. Samal	Manas R. Samal	Bhubaneswar
27.	The Isha	W	1983	A.K. Das	A.P. Das	Kendrapara
28.	The Iswar	D	1996	Manjulata Nayak		Rourkela
29.	the Janamata	W	1992	A. Rout		Bhubaneswar
30.	The Janamukha	D	1988	B.K. Panigrahi	M.R. Pattnaik	Sambalpur
31.	The Janaraba	W	1972	D. Chauhan		Bhubaneswar
32.	The Janasakti	D	1966	L. Mishra	L. Mishra	Bhubaneswar
33.	The Janata	D	1940	Godabarish Mishra		Cuttack
34.	The Jibanmrutyu	W	1992	Sudhir K. Panda	Surendra K. Panda	Bhubaneswar
35.	The Kalahandi Sambad	W	1987	S. Nayak	S. Nayak	Bhawanipatna
36.	The Kalinga Ashok	F	1992	Santosh Banerjee		Cuttack
37.	The Kalinga Bharati(H)	D	1992	H.K. Mishra		Rourkela
38.	The Kalinga Darbar	W	1993	P.P. Pani	Mrs. D. Rout	Dhenkanal
39.	The Kalinga Mail	E	1987	Trupti Mohanty	Trupti Mohanty	Bhubaneswar
40.	The Kantha Dhvani	W	1993	Anjana Behera	Anjana Behera	Bhubaneswar
41.	The Kharpar	W	1981	K.P. Mishra		Jagatsinghpur
42.	The Kholabichara	W	1991	D.R. Mohanty	D.R. Mohanty	Bhubaneswar
43.	The Kholadwar	D	1990	Niranjan Mohanty	Niranjan Mohanty	Bhubaneswar

44.	The Kosala Khabar	M	1978	P.R. Dubey		
45.	The Kosala Sambad	W	1992	A.K. Das	A.K. Das	Bolangir
46.	The Light	F	1981	B.K. Panigrahi	B.K. Panigrahi	Balasure
47.	The Lokakatha	F	1991	D.K. Pattnaik	D.K. Pattnaik	Rajgangpur
48.	The Lokamata	W	1935	Nilakantha Das		
49.	The Manthan	F	1995	Sarat Rout	Sarat Rout	Bhubaneswar
50.	The Matrubhasa	D	1989	C.S. Mohapatra	Pravakar Mishra	Cuttack
51.	The Matrubhumi	D	1951	B.K. Kar	B.K. Kar	Cuttack
52.	The Mukta Mandap	D	1990	Ashok Mishra	Alekh Mishra	Puri
53.	The Nabeen	W	1957	Rabi Rath	B.P. Brahma	Berhampur
54.	The Nari Kalyan	F	1993	Rina Garnaik		Bhubaneswar
55.	The Nayabati	D	1978	M. Rath	M. Rath	Athagarh
56.	The New Orissa	D	1933			Berhampur
57.	The Nijukti Khabar	W	1992	Sudhir Panda	Surendra Panda	Bhubaneswar
58.	The Nijukti Suchana	W	19..	Prakash Das	Prakash Das	Rairakhola
59.	The Nitya Nutan	F	1991	P.K. Mishra	P.K. Mishra	Bhubaneswar
60.	The Nirbhar	W	1994	G.S. Dwibedi	G.S. Dwibedi	Rourkela
61.	The Nutanbrata	D	1988	Binapani Das	Binapani Das	Balasure
62.	The Observer (E)	W	1936	M.S. Mohanty		Cuttack
63.	The Orissa Times(E)	D	1965	R.P. Sastri	S. Sastri	Bhubaneswar
64.	The Paryabekhyak	D	1990	Rabi Das	Rabi Das	Bhubaneswar
65.	The Pragatibadi	D	1973	P. Bal	P. Bal	Bhubaneswar
66.	The Prajatantra	D	1923	B. Mahatab	B. Mahatab	Cuttack
67.	The Purbanchal Sambad	W	1991	P. Nayak		Bhubaneswar
68.	The Rakta Chabuk	W	1991	G.B. Panda	G.B. Panda	Dhenkanal
69.	The Rastradeep	W	1963	J. Mishra	S. N. Singh	Cuttack
70.	The Rastradoot	W	1982	-	-	Balasure
71.	The Report	D	1997	L.P. Das	A.K. Sahu	Balasure
72.	The Rourkela Reporter	W	1978	R.D. Das	R.D. Das	Rourkela
73.	The Sakala	F	1997	M.R. Mallick	M.R. Mallick	Bhadrak
74.	The Sakhigopal	W	1997	S.C. Mishra	-	Puri
75.	The Samachar Darpan	W	1997	A. C. Mishra	-	Rourkela
76.	The Samaj	D	1919	R.N. Rath	-	Cuttack
77.	The Samalak	W	19..	-	P. Das	Sambalpur
78.	The Samaya	D	1996	S. Hota	Ranjib Biswal	Bhubaneswar
79.	The Sambad	D	1984	S.R. Pattnaik	S.R. Pattnaik	Bhubaneswar
80.	The Sambad Bahika	D	1968	P. Rout	Smt. P. Rout	Cuttack
81.	The Sambad Kesari	D	1989	S. K. Pradhan	S.K. Pradhan	Bhubaneswar
82.	The Sambalsri	W	1991	Saudamini Pati	Saudamini Pati	Sambalpur
83.	The Samyabadi	W	1968	Sivaji Pattnaik	Sivaji Pattnaik	Bhubaneswar
84.	The Sudarshan	W	1989	B.C. Routray	B.C. Routray	Bhubaneswar

85.	The Sun Times (E)	D	1988	S.R. Pattnaik	S.R. Pattnaik	Bhubaneswar
86.	The Surya Kiran	W	1994	B.B. Mangaraj	L. Mishra	Bhubaneswar
87.	The Swadhikar	D	1988	A.K. Pati	A.K. Pati	Kendrapara
88.	The Swarajya	D	1991	Sangita K. Devi	Rathunath Behera	Bhubaneswar
89.	The Taruna	W	1949	P.C. Mishra	P.C. Mishra	Berhampur
90.	The Trisakti	D	1986	R.K. Mishra	-	Bhubaneswar
91.	The Utkalika	D	1997	K.M. Rao	K.M. Rao	Bhubaneswar
92.	The Utkal Lipi	F	1994	Dillip Mohapatra	Pramila Mohapatra	Bhubaneswar
93.	The Utkal Mail	D	1987	B.K. Routray	-	Rourkela
94.	The Utkal Samaj	D	1994	Prafulla Chandra	Prafulla Chandra	Puri

# D - Daily, W - Weekly, F - Fortnightly, M - Monthly.

*Source :* Since there is no such single source locating all the above information, the investigator has to collect from individual newspapers available in several libraries.

Table - 3 :Growth of Newspaper Publication in Orissa by Language

Sl. No.	Language	Total Newspaper Publications	%	Cumulative%
1.	Oriya	87	92.56	92.56
2.	English	6	6.38	98.94
3.	Hindi	1	1.06	100.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

Table - 4 : Growth of Newspaper Publication in Orissa by Frequency

Sl. No	Frequency	Actual Publications	%	Cumulative %
1.	Daily	47	50.00	50.00
2.	Weekly	31	32.98	82.98
3.	Fortnightly	12	12.77	95.75
4.	Monthly	4	4.25	100.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>100.00</b>	

The above tables clearly depict that, while there are only 6 newspapers in English language and only 1 in Hindi, there is a very good number i.e. 87 newspapers in Oriya. The circulation of daily newspapers is quite encouraging. The daily newspapers are 47,

while weeklies and fortnightly are 31 and 12 respectively that constitute the whole spectrum of newspaper publication in the state.

In respect of growth of newspapers, while there were only few newspapers published from Orissa in the pre-independence era, the strength of such newspapers in the state witnessed a spectacular increase after India attained its independence. However, if one analyses the decade-wise growth of such newspaper publications, the trend of such publication is still increasing as evidenced from the fact that in 1997 alone, four newspapers have been enlisted. The real and spectacular growth is seen in the decade 1984-1994 during which, 45 (51.13%) titles emerged. Even if, the rate of growth during 1994-1997, i.e. a short span of only three years is also quite encouraging, as 15 (17.4%) newspapers in the said spell of three years have been enlisted.

Another interesting trend of newspaper publication is the 'Place of Publication'. The publication of newspapers is done in almost every part of the state including the remote

towns. While the state capital, Bhubaneswar, is heavily concentrated with the publication of 34 (38.63%) newspapers, the remote towns like Rajgangpur, Nowrangpur, Athagarh, Bolangir and Bhawanipatna have started getting their local newspapers. Cuttack, the cultural capital of Orissa, remains at second position of newspaper publication scenario having 13 (14.77%) newspapers of different frequencies at its credit followed by Balasore, Sambalpur and Berhampur with 6, 5 and 4 newspapers respectively.

Besides these newspapers as depicted in the above table, there are a number of other small and medium newspapers published from Orissa. While some newspapers have already ceased their publications mostly owing to their poor financial base and quality, few of them still could retain their continuity in publication amidst much struggle which include : '*Janabhasa*' and Kalinga Mail from Bhubaneswar; '*Rastradoot*' and '*Ajikali*' from Balasore; '*Agnisikha*' and '*Dakara*' from Sambalpur; '*Yugbarta*' from Rourkela; '*Kurukshetra*' and '*Matrubhasa*' from Cuttack, etc.

In addition to the foregoing newspapers, some of the prominent magazines that contained news, features and literary articles have also dominated the publication scenario considerably. These magazines are either attached to the publishers of various newspapers or other publishers apparently because of their sound press infrastructure.

Another significant contribution to the field of Oriya journalism is the addition of weekly issues of various magazines usually appended to a daily newspaper. These magazines contain investigative articles on burning problems of the state alongwith feature

articles, small write-ups on science and technology, film, music, general knowledge and other entertainment notes. These magazines are so popular that the readers used to wait eagerly for the weekend to find the magazine in their hand. Although, the Eastern Media Ltd., Bhubaneswar started the trend of weekly-magazines for its daily newspaper '*The Sambad*', it was followed by other dailies who started such feature as a permanent attribute to their respective newspapers to attract more readers and to gain revenue.

However, the development of newspaper as a mass media in Orissa could not be improved both in terms of quality and quantity to an extent expected. It is due to certain factors which can be attributed to poverty, illiteracy, rural-based society and absence of reading habits and less political awareness among the people in the state.

Orissa was the least urban state in India in which only 6 per cent of its total population used to live in towns and cities as per 1961 Census. The literacy rate during the period was estimated at 22 percent. These two inter-related aspects appear to be very much critical in understanding the slow, yet spectacular change in the penetration of newspapers since the 1980s.

This sort of changes is witnessed with the immediate rise of daily circulation of newspapers. The proportion of Oriya newspaper readers according to an estimate went from roughly 7 per 1000 to 22 per 1000. By 1992, Oriya circulation newspaper had gone from being the lowest of 12 major languages to being eighth ahead of Telgu, Kannada and Panjabi (PII, 1993, 37). The growth of Oriya daily newspapers thus has been lucidly reflected in Table -4.

The actual growth of Oriya newspapers, however, can be attributed to strong political affiliations of the respective editors concerned. Due to some reasons or other, politicians took the shelter of newspapers and started one such media under their patronage and control apparently for a say on bureaucracy and the government. As per the estimate of Jeffrey (1997; p.513), eight prominent Oriya newspapers have been started or promoted by politicians, especially in the rank of Chief Ministers. It is obvious for two reasons that (1) the source of advertisement from the State Government can be easily guaranteed by the politicians; and (2) the newspaper can work as a mouthpiece for the propaganda of the concerned politician or the political party. 'Those who do not offend the right persons sell much of their space', a journalist wrote in 1982. A source for the politician-publishers is not one who whispers news-leaks but one who caught up cash' (Sinha; 1982; p.3). Such a politician-publisher nexus, to some extent, seem to be a blessing for the newspaper industry in Orissa quite for a long time.

Table - 6 : Population in Orissa and Daily Newspapers in Oriya, 1961-91

	1961	1971	1981	1991
Population (millions)	17.6	22.0	26.4	31.7
No literate (millions)	3.8	5.7	9.0	12.9
Literacy (per cent of total population)	22	26	34	41
Urbanisation per cent	6	8	12	13
Oriya daily circulations ('000)	60	90	178	697
Oriya dailies per '000 people in Orissa	3	4	7	22

Notes : The literacy figures are based on total population numbers used in the Press and Advertisers Year Book for the relevant years. Oriya daily

circulations are those of the Registrar for Newspapers of India (RNI), which fluctuate considerably.

The trend of newspaper publishing and journalistic activities is quite in rise since 1980s. Four newspapers have been covered under Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) till 1995 and the audited circulations of Oriya dailies reached 4,22,000 in 1996 (ABC; 1996, p.56). Such a sudden rise in circulation and mushrooming of small Oriya newspapers can be possible for one or all of the following reasons, such as :

1. Steady increase of literacy percentage and rapid urbanisation;
2. Adoption of advanced printing technology that makes the newspapers better in format, coverage and readability;
3. Advertiser made it easy for a good source of income so that the publication of a newspaper becomes easier.

With the changing profile of Orissa's position as a developing state in India, there is a good sign of the improvement of Oriya newspaper industry. Although the arrival of television and its wide use has been much talked about, it will not replace the newspapers. Because the demand for newspaper is a continuous one and its rate of growth is increasing day-by-day. With the spread of literacy and increasing information needs of the public, the Oriya newspapers will remain as the most widely accepted medium of mass communication for the state of Orissa.

Orissa has a great tradition and cultural heritage in learning and literature. If the first hand-written newspaper is believed to be published in Orissa, it can be ascribed that the state of Orissa heralded the cult of journalism

in India. The missionary activities paved the way for the journalistic activation for the development of their mission. As a result, the presence of printing press could be realised on the soil of Orissa and that gave the impetus for the printing of newspapers. The early newspapers were started by some eminent persons for the cause of freedom movement. But the later stages witnessed the mushrooming of newspapers of different frequencies. It has been found that the publication of newspapers is more or less attached to politicians and they use it for their political goal. Still, a few number of newspapers in Orissa have actually impressed the people and those are widely circulated among the people of the soil. Most of the newspapers do not reach the readers, as they are meant for some other purpose. However, Orissa has witnessed a very sound growth of newspapers.

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### GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS RELEASED FUND FOR COMPUTERISATION AND NET-WORKING OF THE CITY COURTS IN BHUBANESWAR.

Hon'ble Minister, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare and Excise, Shri Kalindi Behera told in the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts at New Delhi on 18.9.2004 on behalf of Hon'ble Chief Minister about the release of Rs.59,32,631/- for computerisation and networking of the City Courts in Bhubaneswar for speedy disposal of the cases.

Government of Orissa has submitted the additional requirement of 537 judges and Magistrates to the Govt. of India, Shri Behera expressed in his speech. The scheme of Fast Track Courts, being implemented under the 11th Finance Commission Award has been a success in Orissa. Shri Behera strongly urged that this scheme should be allowed to continue for the next five years on the same funding pattern. Similar scheme for Fast Tract Magistrate Courts should also be initiated. In fact, the pendency of cases in the Magistrate Courts is much more than in the Courts of District Judges and the Additional Judges. Shri Behera supported the proposal for providing the Law Clerks to High Court Judges to give them the research support in writing of judgements.

Shri Behera urged that the Union Government should provide cent percent grant for the creation of judicial infrastructure in the State of Orissa to the level of the national average. The State of Orissa has already decided to form a cadre of Public Prosecutors to gradually replace the persons appointed from the bar. About 50 of them have already been recruited by OPSC and working as Public Prosecutors in the Courts. Shri Behera urged that the Union Government should come forward to bear the additional expenditure on the schemes to be implemented as an outcome to this conference.