

## Gangadhar Paikaray - Leader Extraordinary

*Braja Paikaray*

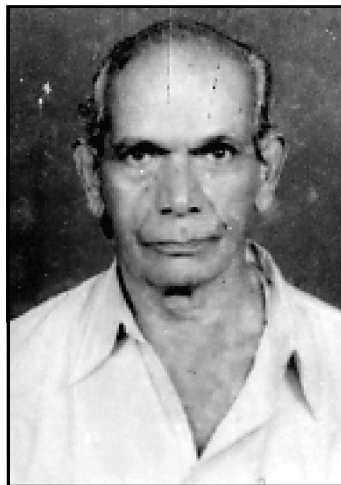
Late Gangadhar Paikaray, a strong believer of human dignity, a relentless fighter for social justice, a delegate of downtrodden was a multifarious personality. He was a great freedom fighter, an able legislator and a legendary peasant leader. He was dreaming of a human society free from hunger, illiteracy, misery and exploitation. He had become a historical figure in his own life time by dint of his good deeds and selfless services to the people of the State.

Gangadhar was born in an aristocratic Khandayat family as the son of late Rajib Paikaray of Sanapadar village in the district of Khurda on 12th July 1915. Being impressed and influenced by the clarion call of Mahatma Gandhi, in his budding period of youth Gangadhar jumped into the fiery path of Indian freedom struggle and took part in civil disobedience movement before finishing his school education.

By dint of his own merit, Gangadhar could be able to adorn the post of Secretary of Puri District Congress Committee in 1934. As an active participant in Indian Independence movement Gangadhar came to the notice of the British Govt and was soon arrested and imprisoned at Patna Camp Jail of Bihar in 1936. After releasing from jail Gangadhar

resigned from Congress Party and joined the Communist Party being inspired with its ideology.

In 1937-38 different princely states of Orissa witnessed Praja Rebellions due to the growing discontentment among the subjects against the mis-rule and mal-administration of Gadjat rulers. Gangadhar was a born fighter and could not resist himself to sit as a silent spectator to the events prevailing in different feudatory States of Orissa. He involved himself with the



Praja Rebellions of Khandapara, Nayagada and Ranapur. He had close relationship with the great revolutionary Saheed Dibakar, the chief architect and mastermind of Ranapur Praja Rebellion. Raja Krushna Chandra Narendra Bajradhar Mohapatra, of ruler of the then Princely State Ranapur threatened Gangadhar to arrest and imprison in case he dared to enter in Ranapur territory. But Gangadhar was made of different stuff. He by birth was a brave

person, not to be cowed down so easily by mere threat of the king. In the deep darkness of the night he was proceeding to Gadabamikilo, the ancestral home of revolutionary Dibakar. The two fighters were discussing and formulating the future plans, programmes and tactics regarding the Praja Rebellion. Gangadhar used to return at the dead

of the night before dawn to his native village Sanapadar, the khasmahal area of Khurda.

The first general election in independent India commenced in the year 1952. Gangadhar took part in the election and got elected as the first M.L.A. of Begunia-Bolagarh Constituency to the State Assembly with thumping majority votes. Subsequently he was fortunate enough to be elected as M.L.A. from the aforesaid Constituency in the year 1961, 1967 and 1971. In Orissa State Assembly he acted as the leader of Communist legislators and was selected as the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee. Gangadhar was an eloquent orator who could place different problems of the common mass of every nook and corner of the state before the treasury bench successfully and could solve the same with utmost sincerity. He was the undisputed leader of his Constituency and soon rose to the position of a state leader due to his positive thought and unflinching devotion towards people's cause.

Though deprived of college education Gangadhar was very much interested for the spread and development of education in Khurda area. He had played an important role for the establishment of Khurda College and was one of the founder members of that College.

In order to impart college education among rural youth of his constituency Gangadhar made every effort in establishing Deuli College as well as Gadamanatir Ramachandi Mohavidyalay with the active co-operation of the local public and became the President of the College governing body of these colleges. Due to his sincere efforts the Text Book Press High School at Bhubaneswar and high school at Sanapadar, Siko, Pichakuli and Manikgoda of his Constituency were established.

In order to provide health services to the common people at their door steps, Gangadhar stretched his helping hand to the local people at the result of which dispensaries were established at Pichakuli, Kadab and Daltola.

Gangadhar was very much interested for the economic development of the farmers and therefore he was deeply involved with the farmer's movement all over the State. Since the year 1970 up to 1996 he was the undisputed president of "Utkal Rajya Krushak Sabha."

In his political life he was honest, and sincere to the people's cause, free from personal ego and hypocrisy. He was loved and respected not only by his party colleagues but by the leaders and workers of all political parties and all sections of the society as well.

Gangadhar was well built having an aristocratic figure with a razor sharp mind. He was possessing a cheerful smiling face with a photographic memory of all events. He was well manned endowed with amicable nature. At the time of peril and disaster he was remaining calm, unmoved, determined and could be able to take firm and just decisions. He was observing the ideology of his beloved Communist Party like a disciplined soldier till his last breathe.

Apart from party politics he was involved with different social and cultural organizations. To name a few he was the president of "Rajya Burma Pheranta Sangha, President of "Bharat Soviet Maitree Sangha and many other Associations.

Gangadhar could be able to survive from the murderous attack at Gadamanatir village engineered by his political adversaries on 18th March 1986 but had to leave the mortal world on 31st August 1999. He shall be rembered by the people of Orissa for ever for his selfless service to the common mass and as a great leader of the downtroddens.

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Braja Paikray lives at Plot No.342/B, Jagamara (Barabari), P.O./P.S. Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar-751030, Orissa.