

Editor's Note



Odisha is a land of many splendours. Utkrasta kala ra desha-Utkal or Odisha is gifted with abundant natural resources. By harnessing these resources, we are now a leading State in our country where sustainable industrialization and infrastructure building has been the hallmark. There has been a six-fold increase in the State Plan Outlay. The positive attitude of the State Government towards every aspect, a collective enthusiasm of the people of the State, a committed bureaucracy and a peaceful environment backed by a vast reserve of trained manpower and abundant natural resources augur a happy future for the State in the development front. But for the Maoist problem, Odisha would have been far more successful by now.

The Maoists in Odisha, on the pretext of being spokesperson for the tribal and the less privileged are using systematic violence to create a general climate of fear amongst the population to achieve their political goal. Two days back, one faction of Maoists abducted a very popular Legislator and a votary of the tribal people Shri Jhina Hikaka without any rhyme or reason. On March 22nd 2012 a Police S.I. of Mudulipada Police Station of Malkangiri was killed by the Maoists. On 18th of March 2012, two Italian citizens were kidnapped by Maoists from Daringibadi of Kondhamal. In the recent past Maoists had also killed 75 soldiers in 2010 and kidnapped the then Malkangiri Collector Shri V.Krishna. All these attempts are meant to fulfill the never-ending list of demands by using violent means. As the scale of violence increases, our State has to compromise a lot. Many issues of violence also come into mind, not just physical but a way of thinking that shows of a violent bent of mind.

We are a country of laws. We have them dating back to East-India Company. And we have Courts to try and put them into effect. From the small Court to the mighty Supreme Court, we have the whole gamut of them. After going through such happenings, it comes into my mind that, yes, we have laws, but do we have justice ? We would like to appeal all those people who are not happy on the way the laws are implemented to walk that road from selfish uncaring individuality to a community way, from self aggrandizement to servanthood, from being self-centered to other-centered, from some self-interest to common good. We have to be willing to make that journey and once we embark on it, the lines between paradoxes become clearer.

But not everything is lost yet. In forgiving and repentance, a better life for the wrongdoers and the victim begins. Speaking through prophet Ezekiel, God says “I will give you a new heart and put in you a new spirit; I will remove from you, your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh; and I will put my spirit in you and make you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” God has created us, not as an abstract human race but as individual men and women. It is high time instead of fighting a proxy battle against a progressive State; the Maoists should lay down their arms and be a part of the democratic ways. Only then can the dream of our forefathers from Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das to legendary leader Biju Patnaik be made a reality.

Bande Utkal Janani.

Keeni Kalandy'