

Editor's Note



Odisha was carved out as a separate state of India on 1st of April 1936. The emergence of Odisha province was the culmination of a continued and uninterrupted process of a movement with nationalism as its igniting force. The aspiration of people of Odisha saw light and hope with the formation of the state on linguistic basis.

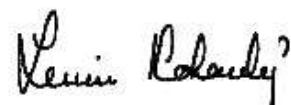
Odisha was known to have a place of glory as Udra, Utkal, Kalinga in the Mahabharata, Kapilasamhita, Manusamhita and Vishnupurana. There is no ancient literature and no regional literature where the name of Kalinga does not find a place. At a point of time the empire of Kalinga extended from the Ganges to the Godavari. Modern scholars have established the fact that sailors of Odisha started their maritime activities since 70 B.C. and landed at Java and Sumatra. The fine art of Odisha which adorned the temples has surprised the whole world. History has always depicted Odisha as a leading province in art, culture and literature.

Odisha was the last province which came under British Rule in 1803. But it was the first province where the national protest movement originated in 1817 famously known as “Paika Rebellion”, the first nationalist movement in India. It sowed the seeds for the growth of national consciousness across the country. To weaken Odisha, the British Rulers dismembered it and different territories were annexed to neighbouring provinces. However the demand for amalgamation of Odia speaking tracts into a single administrative unit and formation of a separate

province for Odias grew louder. Towards the end of 19th Century the Odia movement was intensified. The prominent Odia leaders like Jayee Rajguru, Buxi Jagabandhu, Veer Surendra Sai, Maharaja Krushnachandra Gajapati, Maharaja Shree Ramchandra Bhanjadeo, Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Vyasa Kabi Fakirmohan, Kabibar Radhanath Ray, Pandit Godabarish Mishra, Maa Ramadevi and lakhs of Odia citizens created political awakening which resulted in formation of a separate Odisha province on this historic day.

The state of Odisha has been blessed with a rich and varied resource base, both human and material. Its historical and cultural traditions are also sufficiently vibrant and rich to provide a platform to the community, for all round development. The competitive advantage of Odisha state, in terms of its equable climate, fertile soils, abundant hydel, marine and mineral resources and its industrious population is unique in nature. In almost last two decades the state has established its glory in the country and has marched ahead of many other states in every field. On this auspicious day, we should be determined to utilize each moment in the services of Mother Utkal. As proud Odias we must vow to give Odisha its pride of place and fulfill the dreams of our ancestors.

Bande Utkal Janani.



Editor, Odisha Review