

## **GOLDEN ERA OF EX-PRINCELY STATE BAMANDA AND CONTRIBUTION TO LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

**SAMIR KUMAR NANDA**

Programme Manager, National Child Labour Project, Labour & Employment, Government of India.  
Email: [drsamir.2015@gmail.com](mailto:drsamir.2015@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT**

Odisha became the first state in the country on April 1, 1936, as a result of the mass movement, the persistent efforts of many humanists and thought leaders to form a separate state, and the result of patriotism. Odisha was the last province to be ruled by the British in 1803. It contains a detailed account of the heroic war, the various dynasties, the involvement of the people in the monarchy, and many more. Odisha, formerly known as Utkal is considered to be the best state in India, while the Bamanda state is a lotus. Behind such parables are the fine arts, literature, sculpture, culture and history of this land. The kings of the then Bamanda state were among the great heroes of Utkal's history who in the past centuries turned the underdeveloped states of Odisha into an industrially prosperous state. During British rule Feudatory system also played an important role. Bamanda State (1360-1948) was one of the princely states of India during the British rule, Once upon a time Bamanda state contributed a lot to Odia Literatures and Odia ,Sanskrit and English language development, Education, Health, Culture, Railways, Telephone, Hydroelectricity and Postal system. The then Bamanda state, which once made a huge contribution to such a society, is today being neglected everywhere. The main purpose of this article is to bring to the attention of the people and researchers to all the contributions of the then Bamanda state Odia language and separate Odisha State.

**Key words:** Bamanda, Deogarh; King Basudeb, Utkal Conference, Sambalpur Hitaishini.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The state of Bamanda was the center of excellence in art and culture. Deogarh district is a part of the glorious history of the state. The golden harvest in the Tikira, Gohira and Brahmani basins, dense forests, mountain peaks, waterfalls and the literature and culture have attracted tourists, pedestrians and scholars alike. In the era where materialistic civilisation has eroded the human values, Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb, king of Bamanda state is on the verge of fulfilling the joyful aspirations of the region's all-embracing seekers, scholars and soul masters, and exposing the writings of intellectuals. In some parts of modern Odisha including Bamanda State, under the Central Presidency, the Oriya language was neglected. Therefore, Raja Basudeb was shocked and started several newspapers and magazines for the development of Oriya language and literature.

Bamanda was known as one of the richest states in eastern India. Its royal tradition contributed to the upliftment of the people, under whose patronage the rising tide for the Oriya language increased. Bamanda region offers pre-historic evidence of the Palaeolithic Age. Archaeologists have unearthed stone axes and shovels at various times, suggesting that the area dates back to the earliest times. Due to the absence of any and verifiable and credible records it is difficult to know the pre-history of Bamanda. Also in ancient texts, such as the Arthashastra of Kautilya, the region, located east of the Mahanadi and west of the Brahmani, is called

Indraban. There is an ancient statue, which is locally addressed as "*Mahabhairava*" at Bhatsingh in the Western part of Bamanda. No historical evidence has been unearthed yet to establish the origin and time of this image, which in present time is worshipped as Samaleswari by the people.

#### **History**

The kingdom was founded by the people. The Bamanda, once known as the *Akhoj Bamanda*, has historically differed in its views on the establishment of the kingdom and its nobles. According to some sources, King Saraju Deb was anointed by the people in the village of Tikilipada in 1370 as the first king of Bamanda, and the last king, King Bhanuganga Tribhuvan Deb, ruled from 1935 to the annexation of the Gadjat kingdom.

For want of any verifiable record the tenure of the previously mentioned rulers since the time of King Saraju Deb until the time of King Kasturi Deb remains vague. However, a chronological sequential and years reign of Kings of Bamanda is available as follows from *Sambad* 1602 corresponding to 1545 C.E.

The undiscovered Bamanda state filled with natural beauty and known as Utkal's Ujjainini, covers an area of 343.83 sq. km. The state, comprising a total of 630 villages, had a population of 123.34 as of the 1901 census.

Period	Name of the Kings
1545-1578	King Ram Chandra Deb
1578-1625	King Bikram Deb
1625-1641	King Haru Deb
1641-1673	King Chandra Sekhar Deb
1673-1713	King Bhagirath Deb -
1713-1745	King Pratap Deb
1745-1779	King Sidasar Deb
1779-1819	King Arjun Deb
1819-1834	King Balunkabrusabha Deb
1832	King Khageshwar Deb
1832-1869	King Braja Sundar Deb
1869-1871	- Regency
1871-1903	King Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb
1903-1916	King Satchidananda Tribhuban Deb
1916-1920	King Dibyashankar Sudhal Deb
1920-1935	Regency
1920-1948	King Bhanuganga Tribhuban Deb

### King Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb, KCIE, CIE

Basudeb, son of Harihar Deb and grandson of King Balunka Brushabha Deb, was born on May 16, 1850.

Basudeb's childhood was spent in Deogarh, the capital city of Bamanda. The state, known as the *BUDHAHANSAKELISARA*, was home to many erudite, learned scholars, talented, and wise persons. Basudeb was excellent in education and proficient in Vedic texts and Bhagavata texts.

King Brajasundara Deb, the son of King Balunka Brushabha Deb, died suddenly during his reign in 1869. Basudeb was the only son of Harihar Badkuwanr, the brother of Brajasundar Tribhuban Deb, the king of Bamanda. As Brajasundar has no son, he adopted Basudeb as his son. Brundaban Chandra Deb, a descendant of Brajasundar and his servant, was also a claimant to the throne. However, Brundaban Chandra Deb's claim was not accepted as Brajasundar had informed the British government earlier of the adoption of Basudeb.

As Basudeb was not an adult, Colonel Bull, a political representative of the British Government, legally surrendered the kingdom to Basudeb in 1869 under the supervision of Badkuwanr Harihar Deb. Basudeb took the title of "Sudhal Deb" and ascended the throne.

### Title of Bamanda Dynasty

There are two titles associated with the Bamanda dynasty - "Tribhuban Deb" and "Sudhal Deb". When a king is "Tribhuban Deb", his son receives the title "Sudhal Deb". Accordingly, Basudeb Sudhal Deb after Brajasundar Tribhuban Deb, followed by Sachchidananda Tribhuban Deb, later his son Dibya Shankar Sudhal Deb and Bhanugang Tribhuban Deb, the last king of Bamanda.

After ascending the throne, in 1871, Raja Basudeb married Princess Girirajkumari of Kalahandi. The happiness of this king and queen did not last long. Within a year of the marriage, the queen gave birth to her son Sachidananda and passed away.

After the sudden demise of the first queen, King Basudeb set out on a tour of the country. He crossed the

forest and reached Sambalpur on the elephant. From there he travelled by boat to the river "Mahanadi" towards Cuttack and Calcutta via Chandbali.

### Amusement Park(Promod Udyan)

During his visit to Calcutta, the king was impressed by his visit to various educational institutions, halls, zoos, magical houses, etc. He visited the Botanical Garden and set up an amusement park in Deogarh.

### Textiles Mill

He established textiles mill in his state after visiting the cloth weaving techniques, paper mills and fly stall yarns in Srirampur.

### Science Laboratory

During his visit to Kashi, he visited the Manamandir and set up a science laboratory in his state. He combines a variety of scientific tools and purchased a variety of science textbooks for technical education. He brought astrologers from Kashi and Mithila and used scientific knowledge on the movements of planets. During his visit to Lucknow, Delhi, Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan, Prayag, Gayatirtha and Baidyanatha Dham, the cotton industries in Delhi and Kanpur attracted the king.

### Barrage, Irrigation and Agricultural Laboratory

In 1890, the king travelled to Mumbai and the South India. Inspired by the Construction and Irrigation Methods of Ambachari Reservoir in Nagpur, barrage was built across the Kalajira and Matuali canals near Ballam in his state to facilitate irrigation. Ballam became famous as one of the most famous agricultural laboratories in Odisha at that time. The king had brought 136 varieties of rice and tested in the laboratory. Inspired by the orange cultivation of Nagpur, the king introduced orange farming in Bamanda.

### Pandita Ramabai

During his stay in Mumbai, King Basudeb met and discussed with Pandita Ramabai. Basudeb's talks with Pandita Ramabai were a landmark chapter. Pandita Ramabai Sarasvati, was a education and women's rights activist and a social reformer, a pioneer in the emancipation and education of women in India, and. After being examined by the faculty of the Calcutta University she was the first woman to be awarded the titles of Pandita as a Sanskrit scholar and Sarasvati.

### Highways & Buildings

During his travels to Ahmadabad, Pune and Bangalore, King Basudeb was influenced by the city's highways and buildings and built highways and buildings in Deogarh.

### Transportation, Communication and Railways

#### Bamra Railway Line (Bengal -Nagpur Railway)

King Basudeb allowed the Bengal -Nagpur Railway line (BNR) to pass through the state and provided 18miles of land free of cost and without revenue. Basudeb's only condition was that all trains passing through this route will stay at Bamra station.

#### Bamra-Deogarh Road and Jhulen Bridge

The king excavated all the remote hills of the state, built roads, communication and transportation. King Basudeb

built the road by cutting down the mountainous. King Basudeb built a 58-mile-long inaccessible road from Bamra to Deogarh through Kuchinda to facilitate communication with Bamra station and all parts of his state, including Kuchinda tehsil and the capital Deogarh. He built the road by crossing the mountain with great difficulty. He built a suspension bridge in the style of an Howrah bridge on the River Bheden near Kuchinda. The then political agent of Raipur was astonished to see the deep penetration of King Basudeb's architectural knowledge and mentioned that-

*"During the year the construction of the road connecting Deogarh, the Chief town of the State with the Bengal - Nagpur Railway; which passes through the Tehsilheadquarters of Kuchinda, had been pushed with vigour. Near Kuchinda there is a very difficult Ghat and this has now been made practicable for wheeled traffic by a really skilful piece of engineering, directed and supervised by the Raja himself, who spent three weeks in camp at this place at a very unhealthy season of the year". (Admn Report-1891)*

#### **Administration**

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the reign of Raja Basu Deb was the golden era of Bamanda. Raja Basudev created 15 departments, including the administration, the forest department, the police department, the jail department and the revenue department, to oversee the administration. He established three tehsils in the state and appointed Tehsildars. The state has introduced Revenue & land tax laws, as well as banned Child Labour, Migrant Labour child marriage, dowry system and drugs abuse. The following year, King Basudeb ascended the throne, made land settlement of all the lands in the state, and after dividing agricultural land into three main types fixed the tax in the state accordingly. The British government expressed satisfaction with his self-invented system of governance -

*"The Raja of Bamra, in this as in all branches of administration prefers his own independent method of working, and in view of the generally excellent result which he produces, there is certainly no occasion to subject those methods to any disparaging criticism". (Admn. Report-1895)*

#### **Education**

Sudhal Deb was quite aware that the development of the state was not possible without proper education. He made compulsory primary education in the state. The state used ancient education and palm leaf writing until the year 1870. King Basudeb established a new school in 1872 and introduced modern education. However, long before that, in 1845, a Boy's Upper Primary school was established in Deogarh. The king set up a special school for girls' education.

To promote education in the state for both boys and girls Raja Basudeb High School was established in 1882 with 28 other schools. The high school was affiliated with Calcutta University. King Basudeb had requested Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and appointed Vijay Chandra Majumdar as the first Head Master of the said high school from 1883 to 1886. Till date forty Head Masters and one Principal have served the High School.

At that time, students from some parts of Sambalpur, including Deogarh, Kuchinda, Bonei, Palalhada, Athamallik, Gangpur, were studying at the high school.

#### **Health and Trade**

At the time, the king had set up two hospitals in Deogarh and Kuchinda to improve healthcare. For the development of trade, the king set up sawmills, sugar mills and cloth mills in the state and a sales center at Cuttack, taking all the goods produced in the state by boat in the river **MAHANADI** and selling them in Cuttack.

#### **Postal Services**

He set up post offices in the state and introduced special postage stamps and paper currency. Bamanda's postal service became associated with the British Postal Service in 1895.

#### **Telephone**

In 1901, just 25 years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in the world, the then King of Bamanda, Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb, introduced the telephone in the state. The line connects four major administrative centres in the state, namely Bamra, Kuchinda, Deogarh and Barkote. In Mahulpalli and Keshabahal areas, a branch telephone line was set up to deal with piracy and law and order. The connection began in the late 1900s and was completed by the end of 1901. As all negotiations with the government failed, King Basudev himself connected the line at a cost of Rs.8000/-from the revenue. It was called the longest telephone line in India by a newspaper Statesman from Kolkata at the time.

#### **Hydroelectricity Project**

"Pradhanpat" waterfall is the attraction of Deogarh district. Tourists flock here all year round. Tourists like to have a picnic here. However, the second waterfall in the city of Deogarh, "Kurudkot", is in the concealment.

To illuminate the palace and the capital city of Deogarh the Royal Poet Sachidananda Tribhuban Deb, the then king of Bamanda had imported two dynamo and steam engines from England for power generation during the Thread Ceremony of his eldest son Prince Dibya Shankar Sudhal Deb. The engine needed a lot of wood to run. As a result of the threat of deforestation, the king launched a hydroelectric project in the Kurudkot Falls in 1915 to generate electricity. This is the second hydroelectric project in Asia and the first in Odisha. The Hydroelectric Scheme was built in the framework of the Hydroelectric Scheme established in Darjeeling by the British in 1897. It was built by a European engineer working for the Oscar company in Calcutta. The project had been supplying electricity to the city of Deogarh until 1971. It was shut down after the Hirakud Dam became operational and supplied power to Deogarh.

#### **The Palace**

There are also differing views on the establishment of the capital of Bamanda in Deogarh. The capital was established in different places during the reign of various kings. Its capital, was established in Purunagarh and Suguda. The present palace of Deogarh was built in 1896 by the then king Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb and has

been used by the kings of the Gangas dynasty. The palace, based on about 11 acres of land, was ruled by the Bamanda kingdom of 5149 sq. Km. A large conch symbolizes the Bamanda kingdom on the Palace. At the entrance to the palace, there is a wide Lion Gate and special security arrangements on both sides. Entering through the entrance are the palace on the left and Palace of the queen and temple of Goddess Kanak Durga on the right. The huge palace includes the king's residence, the amusement room, the residence office, the warehouse, the guest room, the art gallery, the library, the conference hall, the queen's palace, the royal kitchen, the armoury, and the treasury. There is an open court for celebration of festivals. Today's ruined palace is reminiscent of credits of that time. There are many rooms including king's palace, queen's palace, the meeting room and the round Veranda in this palace. Queen's palace is now being used as his residence by the dynasty's heir and Sambalpur MP Nitish Ganga Deb. Here is a round marble stone that looks like a tabletop. King Basudeb's son, the poet Raja Sachidananda Tribhuvan Deb, used the marble stone as a sundial. He drew on it using his mathematical and astrological knowledge. The stone was placed in the open area of the palace and the time was measured. After the establishment of palace, the Pradhanpat waterfall was used to solve the drinking water problem. Many educational institutions were established to improve education. The king established a printing press for the development of science, education, and language on a regular basis. King Basudeb is considered the worthiest ruler of Bamanda. Bamanda's modern era began with his reign.

### **Sabhagoli**

There is a hall at the foot of the palace called the *Sabhagoli*. The hall was built in 1903 during the reign of Sachchidananda Tribhuvan Deb, the then king of Bamanda. There is a large open space around the hall where the people of the state gather to pay their respects to the king. This palace is said to be a gift from the king to the kingdom.

### **Basant Niwas, Lalit Basant**

Reading the poem Written by Sachchidananda Tribhuvan Deb, King of the then Bamanda Kingdom, on the walls of "Basant Niwas"(bungalow) shows how good the state of art and culture was in Bamanda. Once upon a time there was a glorious history of the endless waters of the Pradhanpat waterfall, the everlasting dense forests, the Mountains peaks and the various bungalows built by the kings of Bamanda. Construction began in 1908 and was completed by about 1909.

Sachchidananda Tribhuvan Deb, the then king of Bamanda, built three bungalows near the main waterfall to proof Atithi Devo Bhabah the "guest deity". Named "Basant Niwas", "Lalit Basant" and "Madhu Basant", these bungalows were built for visitors to Bamanda. The 'Basant Niwas', which is about 138.72 feet high from the amusement park, offers spectacular views of both the main waterfall and the city of Deogarh.

The religious king of Bamanda choose the conch as a symbol of Lord Vishnu to keep his beloved conch in his eyes at all times. The conch shell appears on a lotus flower in front of the "Basant Niwas". Again, a man with a beard in a cement circle in front of the " Basant

Niwas " is seen splitting the mountain. Many poets and scholars, such as Radhanath Rai, Madhusudan Rao, and Fakir Mohan Senapati, once spent the night in these Niwas (Bungalows).

Once upon a time there were glass windows, doors and windows on the roofs of the Basant Niwas and Lalit Basant, with different coloured glass and paintings of nature and animals. Standing on the palace, the whole scenic view of Deogarh looks far and wide.

The pillars in the premises of 'Basant Niwas' include a number of poems on 'Basant Niwas'. composed by, King Sachchidananda Tribhuvan Deb. Queen Dambarudhar Priya Devi, Rajkumar-Balabhadra Deb, Jaya Narayana Deb, Dushmana Deb, Lalit Mohan Deb, Vrindavan Chandra Deb, Rajiv Lochan Deb, Jagannath Patnaik, Mishra Brajbandhu Deb Sharma, Jalandhar Deb ,Krishna Chandra Nanda, Shashi Bhushan Rai and Rai M.S Rao of Balasore.

### **Madhu Basant Niwas**

On the east side of the Pradhanpat, the "Madhu Basant Niwas" on the hill top, which is known as Chakrababu Pakka, is now in ruins due to lack of maintenance. Chakradhar Kunwar the then Supervisor of Deogarh Municipality was in charge of construction of this bungalow that's why It is known as Chakrababu Pakka.

### **Court Building**

During the reign of King Sachchidananda, a court house was built in Deogarh, where the offices of the district magistrate and the judicial magistrate still function. The Archaeological Survey of India has been preserving all these monuments.

### **Pratap Bhavan**

A British-style residence was built for McFarlane, a representative of the British government for the Bamanda state. Later, Bhanugang Tribhuvan Dev, the last king of Bamanda, presented it to his brother Pratap Deb. Known as Pratap Bhavan, the residence is still a witness to the British rule.

### **Kailash Bungalow**

Diby Shankar Sudhal Deb the then king of Bamanda built a Bungalow between 1916 and 1919 in the Kailash village rich in natural beauty at a distance of 12 km from Deogarh on the Sambalpur Highway. The State Government declared the site a heritage in 2004. In addition, near Bamra, Kuchinda, Barkote, and Balam, the kings of Bamanda built many bungalows and rest houses.

The State Government has revived the "Lalit Basant" in 2002. Of course, due to the government's maintenance, the bungalows have remained a tourist attraction to this day. However, more sincerity is needed to ensure that there is no such thing as a "Madhu Basant".

It is the responsibility and duty of all of us to revive the art and culture that has been lost and hidden over time.

Bamanda has greatly enriched the great arts and traditions of Odisha. The Ganga dynasty once established its heritage on this glorious land of the past. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the Saraswat Vaibhav, the capital of the Bamanda state, known in the cultural history of Utkal as Buddha-

Hansa-Kelisara, was the best thinker of the Ganga dynasty.

### Relationship with Gajapati King of Puri

The relationship between the Gajapati King of Puri the Gangas of Bamanda is another interesting fact. On 2nd October, 1918, Lal Mohini Mohan Deb, the third son of Raja Sachidananda Tribhuban Deb, was adopted by the Gajapati of Puri King Mukund Deva III and assumed the customary name Gajapati King Ramachandra Deb IV.

### Bamanda's contribution to the language movement

Bamanda's unique identity is recognized in the history of Odisha. The contribution of the then Bamanda state, especially before the formation of the separate state of Odisha, has enriched the socio-cultural-intellectual community of Odisha. Since the establishment of the printing press, Bamanda (Deogarh) has always been praised for its role in publishing newspapers and magazines, promoting the advancement of language and literature, honouring dignitaries and hospitality. Bamanda has made significant contributions to its potential and resources in the development journey of Odisha. A glimpse into the history of the past reveals that Deogarh, the capital of Bamanda, is a great land area. Literature is the only ideal of his soul and life. The area, once known as Ujjain of Utkal, has been touched by the sacred footprints of many Indian scholars, saints, artists and sportsmen. The Bamanda, fascinated by natural beauty, has long maintained its strong history, culture and traditions, as well as hundreds of new poets, writers, artists, musicians, sportsmen and others.

At a time when materialistic civilization is undermining the human values, to fulfil the joyful aspirations of the region's leading seekers, scholars and soul masters, and to expose the writings of intellectuals, King Basudeb tried to last the rest of his life. In parts of modern Odisha, under the Central Presidency, the Oriya language was neglected in the Chhattisgarh states. Therefore, King Basudev was shocked and started a number of newspapers and magazines for the development of Oriya language and literature.

### Publications

The king imported machinery from outside the state and set up Sudhal printing press in 1885 which was renamed as Jagannath Ballabh Press in 1886. The king made history by publishing a weekly magazine called "Sambalpur Hitaishini" under the editorship of Pandit Neelmani Vidyaratna on 30th May, 1889.

In 1886, King Basudeb set up a press namely Sudhal press in his capital, Deogarh. Earlier, he was inspired by Gourishankar Rai to set up a press office in Cuttack. The first social reformer magazine "SANSKARAK" (*Reformer*) was published by King Basudeb from Sudhal Press, Cuttack under the editorship of Chaturbhuj Patnaik for the purpose of social reforms. The "SEBAK" (*Servant*) magazine, edited by Bhabrahi Das, joined the "SANSKARAK". Both magazines were published with the financial support of King Basudev. Later, King Basudev shifted the press to Deogarh due to controversy over some articles. The press was linked to the Jagannath Ballabh Press.

To inform the British Government of the State's problems King Basudev first published an English-Odia bilingual magazine in 1887 under the editorship of Shri

Ganeswar Patnaik and Shri Nilamani Vidyaratna, which was discontinued later.

Basudeb Sudhal Deb translated "*Muktikopanisad*" and "*Maniratnamala*" into Oriya. On the first page of "Utkal Deepika", Basudeb Sudhal Deb's writings were published in the Bamanda Advertising column.

### Poetry-"Chitrotpala"

After the sudden demise of the first queen, King Basudeb set out on a tour of the country. He crossed the forest and reached Sambalpur on the elephant. From there he travelled by boat to the river "Mahanadi" towards Cuttack. Basudeb's poetic charm captivated by the natural beauty of both banks of the river while travelling by boat on the river Mahanadi. The sentiments of the creator were expressed as subtle poetry. King Basudeb later converted his sentiments into the poetry "*Chitrotpala*".

### Poetry-"Beerabama".

During visit to northern India the heroic story of Queen Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi stirred the poetic soul of Basudeb and he published the story in the form of poetry "*Beerabama*".

### Poetry-"Kiskindya".

After Bangalore, he travelled to Mysore, Travancore, Rameswaram, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Mandraj. During this time, he travelled to Kiskindya and visited the Baliraja's palace, the Pampa Sarovar, the Rushyamukha Mountains, and the Tungabhadra River. This travelling experience inspired him to compose Kiskindya poetry. He later visited Kanchi, Madurai, Rajahmundry, Visakhapatnam, Simhachalam, Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Diamond mines of Golkonda, and returned to Deogarh via Jagdalpur and Bilaspur.

### "Sambalpur Hitaishini"

The Jagannath Ballabh Press in Deogarh published a landmark weekly newspaper, "Sambalpur Hitaishini", on 30th May, 1889. King Basudev first appointed Neelmani Vidyaratna to edit the magazine. The magazine was titled "Sambalpur Hitaishini" with the aim of spreading the word of government with the common good of all the Gadjat areas of Sambalpur, spreading the word of education and civilization, enriching and moving the Oriya language and literature. The magazine's registration number was D-30. "The Sambalpur Patriot", "The Oldest Weekly of The Sambalpur District" was written in English under the name "Sambalpur Hitaishini". The magazine is said to have created three generations of literature. "Sambalpur Hitaishini" was a reflection of the ideals of King Basudeb.

The four-page magazine contained reporters from almost all of the Gadjats. Articles on racial slurs, miscellaneous news, royal victories, sent letters, received, education were published. In the first edition of January 1923, Gangadhar Meher's poem "New Year's Prayers" was beautifully described. The magazine also lists the names of 14 students who have graduated from the Teachers' Training School, the names of the students who graduated from the English Medium School in Vernacular, Cuttack district in 1923, and the market price list of Calcutta (Kolkata). A hundred years ago, despite the lack of transportation, postal services, etc the

magazine also covered the issue of conversion of religions in Delhi, Agra and Meerut districts.

The column featured advertisements from many places, including Calcutta. At the same time, advertisements for 248 items at Re1.00, medicines for skin diseases, and watercolours were published in the magazine to attract customers. Bamanda King's advertisement for sale at a warehouse at Rs.3000/- in Cuttack Ranihat is also very touching. The magazine was played a key role in spreading the Oriya language literature, leading the Oriya language movement and in the struggle against the abolition of Oriya language from the Sambalpur region. The re-introduction of the Oriya language in Sambalpur was made possible due to this magazine. The magazine was successful in raising the first voice for the formation of a separate state of Odisha and the unification of the breakaway regions, to play a key role in the construction of railways in Odisha, in eradicating Superstition and building a clean society, as well as creating public agitation over drunk and drug abuse. The magazine is said to have created three generations of literature. The "Sambalpur Hitaishini" was a reflection of King Basudeb's ideals.

Fakir Mohan Senapati's *Utkal Bhramanam*, Radha Nath's *Jayati Keshari, Parvati Kavya*, Bishwanath Kar's *Cuttack Normal School, Child Education, Unauthorized Discussion, Rakshasi Leela, Bainach and Government, Literary Criticism, Literary Discussion*, Poetry, The travelogue was published with Upendra Bhanja, a reply, the body of the Brahma temple, the rise of the Brahma religion and the time of the country, the abuse of language, caste discrimination, a masculine authority, the old, the history, and so on.

By 1913, the magazine had become popular and became the favourite of 2,000 readers. It is also believed to have received its annual number during the Durga Puja after

1906. A very low price, 500 copies of the magazine, which is available for two rupees a year.

Poet Gangadhar Meher wrote about this magazine-

UTKALA RE HELA NABA JUGARA ARAMBHA (A new era began in Utkal)

CHOUDIGE BYAPIGALA SAHITYA SOURAVA (Literature spread all over the world.)

"Sambalpur Hitaishini has played a leading role in the debate of modern and ancient literature and has dedicated itself for life to the advancement of Oriya language and literature."

In the last issue of this journal on 03/03/1923, the editor Deenbandhu Gadnaya mentions; "From next week, publication of the "Sambalpur Hitaishini" will be discontinued forever after 32 years He thanked all the writers, readers and advertisers. The magazine has been gone out of sight.

"Sambalpur Hitaishini" has proved the following verse about King Basudev written in the CHILIKA poem by Radhanath Rai.

*Pahilani Ghora Tamasi Jaminee,  
Futiba Utkala Bhasha Kamalinee  
E Ghora Jaminee abasana Shansee  
Kabyatara Rupe Veera Ganga banshee  
Udile Prathame Bamanda Rajana  
Basudeb Biswa Kalyana Bhajana  
Rakhile Sunama Sehu Kale Kale  
Guna jantre Kholi Jashogiri Bhale*

#### Other Periodicals published from Bamanda

Apart from "Sambalpur Hitaishini" some other magazines, newspapers, and journals were either printed or published at the Jagannath Ballabh Press, Deogarh as follows-

Publications	Editor	Year	Sponsored
The Bijuli	Sri Dasarathi Rout	1893	
The Utkal Madhupa	Sri Nilamani Bidyaratna	1900	
The Alochana	Sri Jalandhar Deb	1900	Sri Yogesh Chandra Das [Headmaster of Rajkumar School, Deogarh]
The Gadjat Basini	Sri Bhagirathi Mishra	1903	Sri Kishore Chandra Birabara Hari Chandan, King of Talcher
The Utkal Darpan	Sri Sripati Mishra	1906	
The Utkal Sebak	Sri Brajbandhu Mishra	1913	
The Upahara	Sri Ramachandra Mishra & Sri Satyabadi Hota	1934	
The Sankha	Sri Mayadhar Mansingh	1945	

#### Language and Literature

Raja Basudeb valued Scholarly honours more than Royal honours. The king's chief interest was to invite scholars from within and outside the state to the royal assembly. At various times, prominent poets from Utkal, such as Radhanath Rai, Madhusudan Rao and Fakir Mohan Senapati, visited Bamanda and were honoured. Fakir Mohan Senapati was conferred the title of BYASAKABI in the Bamanda Raja Sabha.

**Odia Poet Fakir Mohan Senapati** The King of Bamandaalso honoured Fakir Mohan Senapati in Bamanda Darbar with *Saraswathi* titles. In response,

Fakir Mohan Senapati nicknamed Deogarh as the Ujjain of Utkal.

#### Odia Poet Radhanath Ray

Sir Basudeb Sudhal Deb, King of Bamandaalso honoured Radhanath Ray with *Kavivara* title. In response, Radhanath Ray dedicated *Nandikesari and Chandrabhaga Kavyas*(poetry)to Sir Basudeb Sudhal Dev. In addition to that, after his second visit to Bamanda, Radhanath Ray also dedicated *Yayati KesariKavya* (Poetry)to King Sachidananda Trivuban Dev. After the sad demise of Radhanath Ray in 1908, KingSachidananda Trivuban Deb,built a monument at

Dudikhhol Ghat near Sirid where the great poet had taken shelter during his return journey from Deogarh to Bamra railway station. The monument also contains a poem composed by the King Sachidananda Trivuban Debin honour of the eminent poet which speaks well about the exceedingly close tie between Radhanath Ray and Bamanda Darbar.

#### **Odia Poet Gangadhar Meher**

King Sachidananda Trivuban Deb was a great patron of Swabbhava KaviGangadhar Meher of Barpali. After the retirement of the poet, the King of Bamanda invited him to Deogarh Darbar during his daughter's marriage ceremony and accorded a warm welcome which astonished Sri Nruparaj Singh, the Zamindar of Barpali, who also accompanied the poet to Deogarh. In course of discussion with the poet, King Sachidananda Trivuban Deb, expressed his desire to enlist the *Swabbhava Kavi* the court poet of Bamanda. However, owing to old age, the poet, expressed his inability to stay in Bamanda. Nevertheless, the Bamanda Darbar was greatly enlightened by the impressive writings of the Swabhava KaviGangadhar Meher published in Sambalpur Hitaishini. The masterpieces of the Navaratna which were published in Sambalpur Hitaishini during the years 1889-1905.

#### **Utkal Sammilani (Utkal Conference)**

King Basudeb Sudhal Deb was a magnet. He had the ability to touch iron and convert it to gold. Neelmani Vidyaratna, a school teacher from Banki, became an eminent editor of Odisha by coming in contact with him. It was Vidyaratna, the Sambalpur Hiteishini editor who was influenced by King Basudeb Sudhaldeb of Bamanda, that it was impossible to improve this historic nation without the unification of the isolated Oriya-speaking areas. Although many great men are represented today as spokespersons for the unification of the Oriya-speaking region, the first co-ordinator of this great movement, Vidyaratna, with the help of King Basudeb Sudhal Deb, acknowledged that some impartial critics. It was the brainchild of Raja Basudeb and Vidyaratna that later formed the Utkal Conference. Respecting Sudhal Deb's outstanding achievements, Madhubabu requested him through telegram to chair the first session of the Utkal Conference Executive Committee on 15 November 1903. Unfortunately, due to the untimely death of Sudhal Deb, it was decided to make the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj the President of the Utkal Conference on 22/11/2013.

The following verse from Radha Nath's Chilika poem about King Basudev was published by the Sambalpur Hitaishini. Radhanath was honoured with the title of Kabibar of the Bamanda Court.

During the reign of Raja Basudev Sudhal Dev, the most enlightened rulers of this clan Bamanda State attained all-round prosperity.

Bhanugang Tribhuvan Deb, the last king of Bamanda, also tried to spread education and literature in the state. In 1935, he published an Oriya magazine, Upahara, which was published until the 1944. The magazine created a new atmosphere of literature in Bamanda. The *SHANKHA* (conch) magazine was published in 1945 by Raj Bhanugang under the editorship of Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh. The Government of Odisha, in its letter No. 57 dated 03.02.18, recommended the introduction of

*SHANKHA* magazine in all educational institutions. The king also made Sanskrit education compulsory for the royal priests.

In the post-independence era during 1980-90 Gadjat Samachar (Weekly) and Hitaishini (Weekly) published for some weeks and discontinued.

#### **Artatran Mishra Library**

In the field of literature, culture and education, many scholars have passed away in the former Gadjat state Bamanda known as "Utkal Ujjain". Many of the sages and intellectuals, have been born on this soil and have enriched its literature, education and culture such as the contribution of the squirrel to the bridge built by Lord Shri Ram, and lost. Similarly, many of our fighters in Deogarh have sacrificed their lives for freedom in the country's freedom struggle. A handful of individuals are being brought to the public eye, celebrating the anniversary. Some of the names are mentioned in all the books, while the rest are lost in the black belly of time. There is no one to remember them. Their contributions to the dissemination and promotion of literature were incomparable, but they are still unvalued today. The late Artatran Mishra, grandfather of my mother late Indira Nanda, was the owner of such an incomparable personality.

During the reign of King, kings employed scholars and dignitaries from across the state and beyond in the royal courts in various departments. Their salaries, etc. were later determined by the merits and abilities of these individuals. There was a great shortage of Brahmins in Odisha at that time. The kings were facing difficulties in performing various worships, festivals, Brahmin meals and so on. So, the Gajapati kings brought Brahmins from different parts of India and established sixteen regimes in Puri.

The late Artatran Mishra was a *Gauntia* of Kholikhola village, which was completely submerged in the reservoir of the Rengali Dam. At that time the *Gauntias* were representatives of the kings. Kholikhola village was a village under the then *Naikul* block. It is learned that the Rengali Dam was fully operational by the government in 1983 and most of the villages in Deogarh district were submerged. Among them was the *Naikul* block. The *Naikul* block was later established at Tileibani and renamed the Tileibani block.

In the Bamanda state, there were 15 departments at the time. Artatran Mishra was appointed Bamanda State Revenue Officer.

Mohini Mohan Deb, the son of King Sachchidananda Deb of the Bamanda, was anointed as the fourth Gajapati king of Puri and was named after the Gajapati Maharaja Sri Ramchandra Deb. Artatran Mishra later held the post of Tahsildar at the court of Puri Gajapati Maharaja Shri Ramchandra Deb.

The library movement has a key role to play in spreading of education in the map of the world. The world's first library was found in a temple of civilization under Mesopotamia in 2600 BC. A public library in Manchester was discovered in 1602 by Thomas Bodley.

According to history, the first library was established in 1829 in Trivandrum in India. The Diamond Jubilee Library was established in Odisha on the 1897 in Kendrapara and on the 1898 in Baripada. In Bamanda,



on 25/02/1920, a library named Sachchidananda Library was established for the people in memory of Sachidananda Tribhuvan Deb, the father of the then king of Bamanda Diba Shankar Sudhal Deb

When the whole of India was crushed under the British misrule, when the British compared the Indians to dogs and deprived them of education, and kept them under their feet, at that time, the general public in dependent India was looking for a way to survive and in that era of the dependent India of the 40s, Artatran Mishra dared to establish a public library under the Jadagola village. Although he did not have the means to travel, for the dissemination of literature, he bought and distributed books in various languages from faraway Cuttack at his own expense.

Named "Artatran Mishra Library", the library is open to the public. Not only Oriya, but also the beauty of the library was enhancing with English, Sanskrit and Bengali books. Many of the best books in literature were also housed in the Artatran Library. Until 1965, the library has glorified the entire region, including *Jadagola* village. The library was later destroyed in a fire, either due to lack of maintenance or due to public negligence and the name of the library and the identity of its founder were vanished in thin air. One might wonder if it was not a sign of his liberal scholarship to build a library at his own expense for the poorest of the poor, even though he did not have transportation, money, or education at the time.

At the time, he was able to convene scholars from time to time to discuss and debate religious, literary, and cultural languages.

Artatran Mishra was the editor of the Bamanda Book Publishing Company for a long time after retiring from service. Artatran Mishra was also a poet, writer and educationalist. His books, "*Ehi Bhikshya*," "*Udbhatta Kabita*" (1909), and "*Shikshya Prabandha*," were widely acclaimed in educated society.

He had another identity. He was generous and great giver. He distributes vegetables, fruits, milk and curd and so on produce in his garden and home among the villagers and people of the region.

In the first half of the 1949, this generous, literary, writer, poet, founder of the library, a competent official of the state Bamanda, and the tahsildar of Puri Gajapati Maharaj, expired.

#### Award & Honour

Satisfied with Raja Basu Deb's administration and rule, the British government awarded him the title of Sir, the KCIE in 1895 and the CIE in 1889, which the British government never granted to any non-Englishman.

The Government of India has printed postage stamps in the names of only four kings including King Basu Deb of Bamanda out of 800 indigenous kings.

Raja Basudeb passed away on 19th November 1903 at the age of only 53. His death marked the end of the Golden Era of Bamanda.

#### CONCLUSION

Bamanda has greatly enriched the great arts and traditions of Odisha. The Ganga dynasty once established its heritage on this glorious land of the

past. It would not be an exaggeration to say that the literary grandeur of the capital of the Bamanda state, Deogarh, had the identity to better thinking and interest and consciousness of these Ganga dynasty kings.

This land, once called Ujjain of Utkal, for the incomparable contribution to education, literature and culture is neglected in all areas today.

Due to the lack of political will, the district, which laid the foundations for the new Separate Odisha state formation movement, lags far behind other districts in the state in education, literature and other fields. The names of the kings of Bamanda, who played a key role in the Oriya language movement in the subjugated India, are deprived of place in history of Odisha.

By respecting the contribution of Ganga Dynasty, to keep the movement alive the Oriya language and literature even under the British rule, we can lead this soil on the path to betterment and make it better for all.

The Bamanda state, once known as an industrial city, is today a non-industrial district. Hundreds of years ago, the region, which improved its agriculture by facilitating irrigation, is now a non-irrigated area, with six months of pasture per year. Many villages in the state have been submerged in the Rengali river dam scheme, and today the displaced are deprived of access to justice. The state, which has provided free land to the railway department in its state for less than 230 years, has not been able to find a place on the railway map today. Both the Bamanda king and the state, once rewarded by the British government for improving the state in all respects, are neglected today. There is a need for political will, a broad-based movement for the overall betterment of the region.

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