

# ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



B. 996F  
10 697

## GANJAM

*By*

SHRI NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA, I. A. S. (Retd.)  
*Chief Editor*

UNIVERSITY OF ORISSA  
GAZETTEERS UNIT  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

*Copyright :*  
GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

**Price :**

---

Printed by the Director, Printing, Stationery and Publication, Orissa, Cuttack-753010  
and obtainable from him.

## PREFACE

The country now forming the district of Ganjam has a rich history. It was an important part of ancient Kalinga. Men from distant past have left their imprints in the shape of rock-edicts and paintings on this land. Kalingan merchants had a prosperous maritime trade mainly from the ports of this region. They sailed to the far-away islands of Srilanka, Java, Borneo, Sumatra, Bali and other distant parts of the South-East Asia. We still remember them with pride in the 'Boita bandan' festival celebrated every year on the full-moon day of the month of Kartika (October-November).

Ganjam was the first district of the State to be occupied by the British. But its people did not allow the administration to run smoothly and resisted alien rule at the cost of their sufferings for quite sometime. In this soil the first conference demanding amalgamation of all Oriya-speaking tracts under one administrative unit was held. The district did not lag behind in contributing to the great 'Freedom Movement' of the country. Some of its freedom fighters even established themselves as national leaders.

The district is most beautifully situated. The wavy Eastern Ghats and the Mahendragiri peak, the health resort and place of tourist importance, Gopalpur-on-Sea; the picturesque inland lake Chilika; the life-line river Rushikulya; the hot spring Taptapani and the thickly-wooded hilly country chiefly inhabited by Kondhs, Saoras Shabaras and other Adivasis with their primitive life style are some of the contributions of the nature to this land. The golden beach, the rippling waters of the blue sea and the sun-rise at Gopalpur are simply exciting.

The region has contributed immensely to the Orissan culture. Its age-old music and dance, colourful fairs and festivals, the traditional cottage industries and, above all, the contribution of its writers and poets to both the medieval Sanskrit and Oriya literatures stand ample testimony to the cultural richness of the land. The seven-teenth-eighteenth century Oriya literature centred around Kavi Samrat Upendra Bhanja, a poet of genius who created wonders with words and sounds. He was born to the royal family of Ghumusur. The other two not-less-powerful poets of the region who flourished during 18th century were Kavisurya Baladev Rath of Badakhemundi and Gopalkrushna Patnaik of Paralakhemundi. The Oriya literature would have been poorer without the contributions of these trio litterateurs.

Even though the region was placed under the Madras presidency which was a more developed administrative unit, there was no Gazetteer worth the name in the district. Ganjam Manual, the only work attempted in this line, contains a sketchy account of the district. The book was published more than a century ago. We have, however, freely utilised materials for this volume while compiling this Gazetteer. We have also made use of all available records and other publications of which mention may be made of the *Memphis of the Ganjam Maliahs in the Madras Presidency*-arranged and edited by H. D. Taylor, Esqr, ICS, Collector and the Agent to the Governor, Ganjam; *A Report on the Mamools in the Ganjam Agency 1947* by Shri Udayanath Patnaik, O. A. S, Special Officer; *A Report on the Mamools in Ganjam Agency. 1952* by Shri J. N. Mohanty and *Final Report on the Major Settlement Operation in Ganjam ex-estate areas 1938-62* by Shri N. C. Behuria, Settlement Officer and *Odia Prakasana 'O' Prasaranara Itihas* by Shri Sridhara Mahapatra Sharma.

We have tried our best to give a faithful account of the district in this volume. But we know our limitations and, therefore, invite the valuable opinion of the readers. Any suggestions, they may have, will be taken note of in the Oriya version of the Gazetteer to be published in due course.

For collection and collation of data, and compilation of this volume we are indebted to a number of scholars both in and outside the district of whom mention may be made of late Jugal kishore Panigrahi, Shri N. S. Ayyangar (both Journalists) and Dr. Beni Madhab Padhi and Dr. Prahallad Panda (both Educationists). Dr. Satyanarayan Rajguru and Dr. Krushna Chandra Tripathy contributed history and pre-history respectively which find place in the Chapter-II 'History' of this volume. Dr. Hemanta Kumar Das, on our request, made improvements in the draft relating to poets and writers of the Chapter XV-'Education and Culture'.

The draft District Gazetteer was first circulated for approval among the members of the Working Committee consisting of the Member, Board of Revenue, Orissa (Chairman); Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue & Excise Department, Orissa; Chief Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa; Dr. Khageswar Mohapatra, Professor and Head of Oriya Department, Visva Varati (all members) and the State Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa (Secretary).

After scrutiny and approval by the Working Committee the draft chapters were placed before the Advisory Committee comprising following members for approval which were approved in the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 6th June, 1991.

Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa	..	Chairman
Member, Board of Revenue, Orissa	..	Member
Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa	..	Member
Additional Development Commissioner, Government of Orissa		Member
Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue & Excise Department, Government of Orissa		Member
Chief Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	..	Member
Dr. Khageswar Mohapatra, Professor & Head of Department of Oriya, Visva Varati University		Member
Dr. Karunasagar Behera, Professor of History, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneshwar		Member
Shri Bijaya Krushna Mohanty, Director of Mines	..	Member
State Editor, Gazetteers, Orissa	..	Secretary

The spelling of place names given in the text was approved by the Board of Revenue. A comprehensive index, glossary of Oriya words and terms used in the text and a map of the district have been provided in this volume. Diacritical marks have been used in the glossary to avoid repetition in the text.

We extend our thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Finance; the Surveyor General of India; Director of Census Operation, Orissa, Government of India; all the Departments and the Heads of Departments of Government of Orissa and different branches of the Ganjam district administration who have taken all possible care in furnishing data for the compilation of this Gazetteer.

The draft chapters were compiled under the supervision and guidance of Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Research Officer (Ncw Joint State Editor). He also made preliminary editing of this volume. Gazetteer is a team work. The other members of the staff who worked hard to shape this volume in its present form are: Shri Amulya Kumar Satpathy, Joint State Editor (Retired); Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik, Research Officer; Shri Prafulla Behera, Oriya Translator; Compilers-Shri Ramakanta Mishra, Smt. Bijoyalaxmi Prharaj, Smt. Umamoni Senapati; Shri Chittaranjan Das, Shri Bidyadhar

**Patil, Shri Subodha Chandra Mohapatra and Shri Subrat Kuanr, Section Officer, Shri Sarat Chandra Mohapatra; Senior Assistants- Shri Durga Charan Mohapatra and Shri Braja Kishore Parida; Assistant to Oriya Translator, Shri Rabindra Kumar Swain and Smt. Gayatri Senapati; Head Typist, Shri Satyananda Mahapatra; Senior Typists- Shri Akshaya Kumar Barik and Shri Haribandhu Ghadei; Junior Typists- Smt. Binapani Bose, Shri Pinaki Satpathy and Shri Dwarikanath Maharana; Diarist-cum-Recorder, Shri Sudarsan Sahoo and Driver Shri Laxmidhar Patnaik. In addition, the services rendered by all Class-IV employees of this organization in the preparation of this volume is also acknowledged.**

Our thanks are also due to the Director of Printing, Stationery and Publications, Orissa, Cuttack and the Deputy Director, Survey and Map Publications, Orissa, Cuttack with their staff who will render valuable assistance in bringing out this volume.

**Bhubaneswar  
The 2nd May, 1992**

**NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA,  
Chief Editor**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY PREFACE**

In the meantime the erstwhile Ganjam District has been divided into two districts. The Paralakhemundi Subdivision as it existed before the bi-furcation has been constituted into a separate District in the name of Gajapati District in Revenue and Excise Department Notification No. DRC.-36/92 49137/R., dated the 1st October, 1992 and the remaining areas of the District continue as such in the name of Ganjam District. Government have since ordered preparation/compilation of Gazetters of the newly formed Districts which will be done in due course. The present gazetteer does not contain information in respect of figures collected in the course of 1991 Census as the materials incorporated herein were collected much before the initiation of 1991 Census. Therefore, 1981 Census figures have been incorporated in this volume.

**Bhubaneswar  
The 8th December, 1995**

**NRUSINHA CHARAN BEHURIA  
Chief Editor**

# CONTENTS

	PAGE
<b>PREFACE</b>	
<b>CHAPTER I—GENERAL</b>	<b>1—55</b>
Introduction: Origin of the name of the district; Location, General Boundaries, Total Area and Population; History of the district as an Administrative unit, Administrative set up—Topography and Hill system, River system and other Water Resources, Islands, Lakes and Tanks—Geology—Forests—Flora and Fauna—Climate—Rainfall—Temperature—Humidity—Winds,—Appendices I—VII,	
<b>CHAPTER II—HISTORY</b>	<b>56—150</b>
Pre-history—Ancient Period—Early Historical Age—Asoka's conquest of Kalinga, Spread of Jainism in Kalinga, Kharavela, the Emperor of Kalinga, The Kushana Kings and their coins—Early Medieval Period, The Matharas of Kalinga, Early Gangas of Kalinga, Sailodbhavas of Kongada, The Bhaumakaras, The Somavamsi Kings, The Imperial Gangas, The Suryavamsi Gajapatis, Chalukya Dynasty and the period of Anarchy—Muslim Period—British Period—Role of the District for the creation of Orissa Province—Freedom Movement—Appendices I—IV.	
<b>CHAPTER III—PEOPLE</b>	<b>151—264</b>
Population: Growth of Population, Density, Rural Population, Urban Population, Displaced Persons, Disabled Population, Age Group, Sex Ratio, Migration—Language—Religion and Caste, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes—Customs and Practices—New Religious Leaders and Movement—Property and Inheritance—Marriage and Morals—Divorce—Status of Women—Home Life: Furniture, Utensils and Decorations, Dress, Ornaments, Personal Decoration—Food and Drink—Communal Life—Communal Dances—Arts and Crafts—Fairs and Festivals—Recreation—Appendices I—VII.	
<b>CHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION</b>	<b>265—329</b>
Land Utilisation—Land Reclamation—Soil Conservation—Irrigation—Soil—Crops Implements; Paddy, Pulses, Oil Seeds, Sugar-cane, condiments and Spices; Tobacco, Fruits—Progress of Scientific Agriculture; Agricultural Implements, Improved machinery—Rotation of Crops—Seed, Manure and Fertilisers—Plant Protection—Agricultural Farms—Soil Testing Laboratory—Agricultural Exhibitions and Shows—State	

Assistance to Agriculture—Co-operative Farming Societies—Natural Calamities—Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Poultry Development—Fisheries—Importance of Forest in the Economy of the District—Appendix I	330—355
<b>CHAPTER V INDUSTRIES</b>	
Old-Time Industries—Power—Mining—Industries, Large and Medium Scale Industries—Small Scale Industries—Artisan based Industries, Handloom Weaving—Sericulture—Horn work—Brass and Bell-metal—Panchayat Samiti Industries—District Industries Centre—Assistance to Industries—Labour Employees Organisations—Appendix I.	
<b>CHAPTER VI—BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE</b>	356—393
Banking: History of Indigenous Banking, General Credit facilities available in the district, Role of Private money lenders, Commercial Banks, Post Office Savings Banks, Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies—General and Life Insurance—State Assistance to Industrial Development—Currency and Coinage—Trade and Commerce: Imports and Exports, Trade Centres, Rural Marketing Centres, Regulated Markets, State Trading—Weights and Measures—Appendices I—III.	
<b>CHAPTER VII—COMMUNICATIONS</b>	394—466
Old-Time Routes—Post-Independence Road Communication: National Highway, State Highways, Major District Roads, Other District Roads, Classified Village Roads, Minor Irrigation Roads, Municipal and Notified Area Council Roads, Forest Roads, Panchayat Samiti and Grama Panchayat Roads—Vehicle and Conveyances—Regional Transport Authority—Public Transport—Railways—Waterways and Ferries—Bridges—Port—Airways and Aerodromes—Travel Facilities—Post Offices, Telegraphs and Telephones—Radio, Television and Wireless—Pigeon Services—Transport Owners' and Employees' Association—Appendices I-IX.	
<b>CHAPTER VIII—MISCELLANEOUS OCCUPATION</b>	467—475
Public Administration—Learned Profession—Domestic and Personal Services.	
<b>CHAPTER IX—ECONOMIC TRENDS</b>	476—519
Livelihood Pattern—General Level of Prices—General Level of Wages—Standard of Living—General Level of Employment—Community Development.	



	PAGE
<b>CHAPTER X—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>520—537</b>
Administration at the District Level—Administration at the Subdivisional Level—Administration at the Tahasil Level—Community Development Blocks and other offices—Appendices I-II.	
<b>CHAPTER XI—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>538—635</b>
History of Land Revenue Administration : Zamindari Tenure; Inams; A short history of estates—Raiyatwari Tenure—Tenure in Agency Tracts; Mamools; Village Officers system—Rent system during the British period; Raiyatwari Settlement; Agency Settlement; Survey, Record-of-rights and Rent Settlement—Land Reforms—Bhoodan—Waste Land Settlement—Encroachments—Mutation—Consolidation of Holdings—Agricultural Census—Rent/Cess—Irrigation Revenue—Sairat Revenue—Units of Revenue Administration—Administration of other Sources of Revenue: State, Central—Appendices I—V.	
<b>CHAPTER XII—LAW AND ORDER, AND JUSTICE</b>	<b>636—673</b>
Incidence of Crime—Police—Jails and Sub-Jails—Justice—Bar Associations—Appendices I—IV.	
<b>CHAPTER XIII—OTHER DEPARTMENTS</b>	<b>674—694</b>
Works—Housing and Urban Development—Irrigation—Energy—Rural Development—Forest, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry—Agriculture and Co-operation—Steel and Mines—Tourism, Sports and Culture—Food and Civil Supplies—Planning & Co-ordination—Information and Public Relations—Law.	
<b>CHAPTER XIV—LOCAL-SELF GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>695—724</b>
Local Administration during early British Rule—District Board—Urban Local Bodies—Town Planning—Zilla Parishad; District Advisory Council; District Development Advisory Board—District Development Board—Panchayat Samitis—Gram Panchayats—Appendix.	
<b>CHAPTER XV—EDUCATION AND CULTURE</b>	<b>725—785</b>
Ancient Centres of Learning—Ancient and Medieval Sanskrit Poets—Early Educational System—Beginning of Western Education—Literacy and Educational Standard—Spread of Education among women—Spread of Education among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—General Education—Professional and Technical Schools and Colleges—Adult Literacy—	

Music in the District—Music Tradition of other Estates—Institutions for the cultivation of Fine Arts—Poets and Writers (Oriya Literature)—Cultural and Literary Organisations—Libraries.—Appendices I-II.	
<b>CHAPTER XVI—MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</b>	<b>796—851</b>
Survey of Public Health and medical facilities in early times—Vital Statistics—Diseases common to the District—Public Hospitals and Dispensaries—Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic Institutions—Maternity and Child Welfare—Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes—Family Welfare—Nutrition Programme; Health Education—Sanitation—School Health Services—Drug control—Underground Drainage and Protected Water Supply—Slum Improvement and clearance—Appendices I—V,	
<b>CHAPTER XVII—OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>852—877</b>
Labour Welfare—Employment Service—Housing Scheme—Prohibition—Advancement of Backward Classes and Tribes—Other Welfare Schemes—Appendix.	
<b>CHAPTER XVIII—PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>878—911</b>
General Elections—Representation of the district in the State and Union Legislature, Political Parties and Organisations—General Elections—Newspapers and periodicals—Voluntary Social Service Organisations—Appendices I—II.	
<b>CHAPTER XIX—PLACES OF INTEREST</b>	<b>912—948</b>
Athgarhpatta—Asika—Aryapalli—Badagan—Bellaguntha—Barakuda—Bhanjanagar—Brahmanzchai—Brahmapur—Budhakhola—Buguda—Chandragiri—Chhatrapur—Chititi—Chilika Lake—Dhabaleswara—Digapahandi—Ginjani—Gopalpur—Gopinathpur—Gumargarh—Gurandi—Hinjilicut—Humma—Jagannathprasad Jarada—Jaugada—Jillundi—Kabisuryanagar—Kashinagar—Kayima—Khalikot—Kodala—Krishnagiri—Kulada—Mahendragiri—Malatigarh—Mantridih—Marada—Mohurikaha—Narayani—Panchama—Palur—Paralakhemundi—Polasara—Purusottampur—Rambhara—R. Udayagiri—Soranga—Sorada—Taptapani.	
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>949—956</b>
<b>INDEX</b>	<b>957—984</b>
<b>PLATES</b>	<b>985—1016</b>
<b>MAP</b>	