



Founder Editor

“Janabadi”

**(Humanright based only
Weekly Newspaper in Odisha)**



Editorial by Surendra Mudali in “Janabadi”

PREYING ON MASS AND MEDIA

The democratic government which has been elected on the basis of the democratic system and its democratic norms are rarely serving their democratic responsibility. On the contrary, it has been seen in examples after examples that it does not hesitate to take recourse to the measures of oppression and suppression of opinions ventilating the failures of the Government, its inefficiency and its despotic character and licentious administration.

As the then Indira Gandhi-led Congress Government had repressed freedom of expression and public opinion through the declaration of Emergency in June 25 of 1975, today, almost a similar kind of undeclared schedules of Emergency situation, though slightly in a different vein, are being adopted by the Government. Starting from the universities to Farmers’ organizations, from citizens society to media, none can escape from the Government’s annoyance. Hardly had we seen the end of such painful and thoughtful scenes of oppression of the citizens like cow protection, love Jihad, home-return etc., an attempt to throttle the Media’s freedom of expression by the Government has already started through the CBI raid on 5th June on Pranoy Roy’s and Radhika Roy’s (NDTV), the proprietors of the most significant Mass-Media in the country. It has been decided by the Media people to give a Memorandum to the President of India under the leadership of Raj Chengappa, the President of Editors’ Guild of India.

At a time when the Govt. system and party make an attempt to use information as a source of business and tries to suppress the is freedom and expression of the mass media, treating as a corporate world, it is imperative to think on the part of the Editors Guild that the attack on NDTV is but an example of gagging the free and independent Mass Media in the country. The Sangh Capitalist Bourgeois Organization, the parental organization of the Government Party appears to be indicating that those who maintain opposite views against the Govt. system, those who stage *dharana*, strikes and processions against the Government, maintain negative thinking, and go against the Govt, they are bound to face the consequences in the hands of either the C.B.I or the Police, the twin securities at the two gates of the Sangh Capitalism. It has been established as a standard rule that if anybody raises questions or point of order against a powerful citizen of the Party who is engaged in doing some work, let it be right or wrong, he is sadly mistaken in his views. Democracy always respects journalism. It always brings the truth to the midst of the mass, the general public. It underlines the truth. On the contrary, the Ruling Party that does not tolerate the truth and fail to self-introspect the willful crimes not only exhibits the intolerance of the power-invested Party and system, but also uses power as a sure weapon to oppress the people.

Janabadi does not oppose the raid or the modus operandi of the C.B.I. It questions the rules and principles on which was based the C.B.I. raid. This is the time when Vijay Mallya, Lalit Modi and alike have easily swindled away more than a thousand crores of rupees, could leave the country without any obstruction and spend a luxurious life abroad. This is the time when more than 30 large companies could honeymoon with the banks and materialize loans to the tune of thousands of crores of rupees and are evading repayment. This is the time when the top investigating agencies like C.B.I. are not bothered when business tycoons like Gautam Adani and Anil Ambani could have huge loans from banks flouting all rules and procedures.



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Against such an appalling financial crisis, our question is how far the C.B. I. is justified in its principles in bringing the charges of financial cheating, and executing a raid against the proprietor of N.D.T.V., who has been involved in a transaction of only 48 crores of rupees.

Such an attempt to throttle democracy and mass media is not a happy sign of democracy. Now the question arises whether we should treat the public as justified or condemn them as erroneous when they say that the Govt. gives the signal of undeclared Emergency situation when it takes recourse to the methods of oppression through its Investigating Agencies when it dare not face or tolerate public criticism, and fails to explain its ways democratically. Complaints have come from Congress, Left Parties and different Citizen Forums that such repressive measures on the part of the Government are clear indication of the pre-Emergency. When the Minorities, Dalits, Scheduled Tribes, and Scheduled Caste people of the country are demanding justice for their legitimate rights, their voice is gagged by the help of the Police. Such scenarios of suppression and flouting of human rights have exceeded more than a thousand in the last two years. At this moment, the attempt of the Govt. to suppress a leading media house like NDTV is surely condemnable. The Ruling Party, B.J.P. that has come into power with only 31% of votes is required to realize the importance of the gravity and the evaluation of the public opinion. The people of the country cannot tolerate by closing their eyes to the deviation of the rules and regulations of the democratic system. The Government is required to analyse the situation and bear the burden of the constitutional responsibility. There is no place for whims and caprices in democracy. The Government must be alert about it. It must refrain from intolerance and suppression. It is undemocratic on the part of the Government to use the weapons of intolerance and suppression on the plea of resisting financial irregularities of others and maintaining law and order, and stabilize its corporate bourgeois system. It is imperative that the Government should desist from such undemocratic and erratic measures and maintain its responsibility to establish make deep rooted democratic values.



Editorial in 2015, August

FOR WHOM IS THIS INDEPENDENCE ?

Surendra Mudali

It was the matter of great pride to achieve our independence on 15th August, 1947. From nooks and corners of the rural to the urban regions, everywhere all the people were overwhelmed with joy and happiness, and saw a dream of a new rising sun. In our constitution, India was declared as a sovereign, democratic and socialistic country. The third chapter of the Constitutes enumerates a number of fundamental rights to all its citizens - equality of all citizens before the law, right to life, right to think and express, right to organization, right to lawful profession, right to religion, right to be presented before the Judiciary within twentyfour hours of arrest, right to education to all boys and girls until fourteen, and right to conscience. In Chapter IV, it has been made mandatory on the part of every Government to make the country a "Social Welfare State." It is put on record in the Constitution that it is the duty of the Government to provide itself a Social Welfare State, to meet out to the people social, economic and political justice, to fix such wages as to maintain one's necessities of life, to safeguard the economic and social needs of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, to provide

nutritious food, health care, and minimization of the heaven-and-hell difference between incomes. But the responsibilities of the Government in the Fourth Chapter were not made mandatory as it was the case with the fundamental rights, mentioned in Chapter III, though at a later period, the Supreme Court of India declared that the provisions as laid out both in Chapter III and Chapter IV are compulsory on the part of the Government. But, it is a matter of regret that the directives of the Supreme Court about the responsibilities laid out in Chapter IV were confined to the judgmental decisions of the Supreme Court, and to the four walls of the libraries. It appears that for a common citizen independence has no meaning.

It is a matter of great regret that the Government, without caring for the objectives, ideals and advice of the Constitution and the directives of the Supreme Court, have opened the floodgates of our country to the foreign monopolistic industrialists since 1991. They were not only given unlimited scope to exploit all our natural resources like land, water, jungle etc., but also the expanse of our market. These foreign monopolistic industrialists were given an opportunity to enter, not into the public industries, but into the private industries, especially the primary industries of our state. Foreign companies were invited to invest more and more capital in the profitable industries of the Government, decreasing the govt. capital in such industries to the minimum. Foreign industrialists and business houses were invited to our country, ignoring the interest of the Retailers and Farmers in Oil, Mines, Defense, Communication and other important research results. Consequently, India, instead of sustaining itself on its own economy, it mortgaged its economy to the foreign companies. Because of this, the Indian Companies hands in glove with foreign companies made sky-high income. Thus, the objective and ideal of the Constitution came to a naught. It is a matter of regret the Constitution and the Supreme Court which safeguards its objectives and ideals - both became silent spectators of such a situation. Excepting directing the Government to take certain measures in a particular issue, the Supreme Court of India is completely silent about the gap that was created between the orders to the Govt. to realize, within a time limit, the goals and ideals of the Constitution, and the implementation of the same by the Government.

Consequently, great exceptions are seen today in the country even after sixtyeight years of independence like poverty, death out of hunger, suicide of the farmers, child labour, iniquity in incomes, the equation of rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. The standard of the poor man's lifestyle and their monetary stability have gone downwards rather than upwards. The general mass has been deprived of the fundamental services like food, drinking water, education, health, and shelter, which amounts to a total disregard of the provisions of the fundamental rights of the Constitution and the directives of the Supreme Court of India. There are no efforts to implement these provisions. Corruption and violation of human rights have reached the highest point in the country.

According to a recently published socio-economico-caste based Census report, more than two thirds of Indian population live in the villages. Their monthly earning per one person is much less than one thousand rupees. Out of the total population, 51% people earn their livelihood depending on their physical labour. On an average, about 70 crores of rural people in manage their life with less than Rs.33/- per day. More than sixtyfive percent of people in rural areas live in reeds-and-mortar houses in a precarious condition. 70 % Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are landless. A total of 67% percent of people live on government grants.

In our Odisha, this picture is more pathetic. The family income of 88 % people living in the villages is less than Rs. 5000/-. 54 % people are landless.



The recently published socio-economic-caste based report, and the three crores ninety-six lakhs of applications of the people seeking Food Protection prove that about 4 crores of people in Orissa suffer from either starving or half-starving situation, and for survival they utterly need the Food Protection Scheme of the Government. Even after 68 years of independence, one can visualize the precarious economic and social condition of both India and Odisha.

On the contrary, there are 8200 very rich people who live in our country. The value of their total property is 56 lakh 70 thousand crores, and, as per the report of an International organization called Wealthex, the total property of these people constitute 75% of the Indian economy. Half of the total property of all the billionaires of India is found with only 5 such billionaires. Only Anil Ambani possesses one lakh fifty thousand crores of rupees. On the contrary, as per the Economic Survey of 2012, 44% people in rural Orissa live on 24 rupees a day. In the rural areas, 82% of people live without water, electricity, and lavatory. This is the real picture of our state as well as our country. In such a sorrowful economic state of affairs, the inaction and silence of our apex courts in the country has enhanced their frustration further.

In such a state of affairs, who can claim that 70% of people of our country and 80% of people of our state of Odisha have achieved economic and social independence? In the words of Dr. Radhakrishnan: "The man who has no means to survive can't boast of his nation's independence."

So time has come for us to think whether such economic and social injustice will go on gliding generation to generation or there will be an end to it and a new Sun will rise one day? Otherwise, to the people to whom the democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people, Indian independence will appear to be a mockery, and they would be repeating the refrain: "For whom is this independence?"



Editorial in 2015, August

Along with this, in the Chapter-IV, responsibility has been saddled on the Government to make the country one "Social welfare State". This is clearly directive principle of state policy. To guarantee the people with social, political and economic justice, wages to them reasonably to live on, to safeguard the economic and social interest, Vitaminous food, providing health service, to minimize high difference of income and all that were mentioned emphatically in the constitution, but as in third chapter, those in fourth chapter, Governments duty, were not made compulsory. Of course, later on the highest court of judiciary announced both of these chapters to be compulsory. It is pitty, the judgement on these chapters only remain in judgement pages of courts decision. For a common man all these seem meaningless. It is an unfortunate matter that aims and objects, ideals and directives of the court in this respect, being ignored in the year 1991 Government opened out the doors for entry of foreign monopolist. Provided them all care, with the market kept opened for them. Most important and graveous land, water and forest – the total natural wealth also left for their loot and Govt. kept silence. Along with Govt. industrial sector, the private industrial sector also was opened to slip into, apart from all the fields of basic industry for monopoly. The Govt. minimised the percentage of profit, invited the foreign monopolists. Oil, mines, defence, communications and even prime sectors

of research and development. The Govt. also distanced the interest of farmer and small traders and invited foreign traders to get in there. This resulted in the govt to mortgage itself than to be self dependent. For this reason only both foreign companies and Indian companies could get sky high income. Aims and objects with ideals deviated from the path. Matter of sorrows - the court at the peak of the country, savior of the constitution and its aims and objects, kept silence. At times to carryout the direction of constitution to Govt. nothing other than this, even whether the order executed is put into implementation, nothing of the sort in its connection, the court was active, rather kept silence. It is of great astonishment. This resulted in - after sixty eight years of independence the country is ridden with poverty, hunger death, farmers suicide, child labour, a great chasm in high and low in come resulting rich to be richer and poor to be poorer. Despite rise in living standard of poor, rather more decreasing day by day. Basic right of food, drink, health, eduaction and housing of citizen is swayed away. Far in this regard directives of both court and constitution dishonoured. The hight of corruption with evasion of human rights is gone upto sky high. Census report on social, economic-caste speaks, more than two third live in rural vicinity. Their monthly carning is much less than even one thousand. out of the total population, fifty one percent (51% people) of people live on only physical labour. About (70 crore) seventy crores of people in rural life manage with only Rs.33/- per day. Sixty fivepercent of people in rural live in mud houses in precauious condition. Seventy percent SC people (70%) and ST people are landless. Total sixty seven(67%) percent of people live on govt grant/contribution. In our odisha this picture is of more pathetic. In rural (88%) eighty eight percent families whose yearly in come is less than 5000 (five thousand) 54% fifty four percent) of people are landless.Recently published further report on socialeconomic-caste says 3 crores, Ninety six lakhsapplication proves in Orissa that more than 60% nearer to (70%) seventy percent of people remain half fed and unfed every day. After 68 years of independence odisha'sprecauious economic conditions, why did not improve ? This we have to in vestigate. On the contrary 8200 very rich are there living. Their total wealth is the 75% of the Indian economy that has been assessed by one organisation "Wealthex". The half of the total properties of all billionares of India is dominated by only 5 persons (five persons). Only Anil Ambani possesses one lakh fifty thousand crore's properties. On the other hand 2012-Economic report says 44% (forty four percent) people in rural orissa live on 24 rupees a day. In the villave 82% of the people live without electricity, even including water and lavatory. In such a sorrowful economic state the highest court of the country's inactiveness and silence has enhanced the frustration further. In such a state of affairs - 70% of people and 80% of people in our state of odisha are is miseris. In the pronouncement of Dr. Radhakrishnan-"The man having no source to survive, can't boast of independence." So time has come for us to think such injustice of economic and social, will go on gliding on generation to generation or otherwise it will be brought to an end with a new sunrise to flash. Otherwise to whom so ever this democracy belongs, independence will laugh at them and they would be breathing long and saying- "For whom this independence ?"



MEMORY

NOT A THING TO BE THROWN TO THE WINDS

Bibekanand Das

On that day, I was returning to Bhubaneswar after finishing all work in Cuttack. It was about 1.30 p.m. I was nearerr to Pahala when it started raining along with wind. I had no other go but to cringe myself into the crowd inside a sweet vendor's shop. There was not a whit of sign of rain coming down. Gradually, the crowd in the shop was increasing. After some time, slowly the pressure of the wind came down, so also the rain. But the rain was so severe that it was not possible to drive home the car. It was continuously drizzling. I thought that why shouldn't I go to the APEX College behind the shop and try for an Advertisement in *Janatantra*?

With the hope of getting Advertisements, we used to send the complimentary copies of *Janatantra* to different Institutions of the State including Apex College and also to potential Advertisers. Sometimes, either I or somebody else of our organization would make a request different Organizations for an Advertisement in our paper, only to return with a wry face. They usually decline our requests for Advertisements on one pretext or another. Hence, I had decided not to ask for Advertisement to , any organization. But then I thought to myself instead of wasting time in this crowd what's wrong if I give a try for an Advertisement? Thinking like this, I changed my mindset and directed myself toward the College. The Security Guard stopped me at the College gate. Knowing that I intended to meet the Chairman, he directed me first to meet the Madam, in charge of the Reception Counter. Madam said, "Now, SNM Sir might be taking rest; hence, please talk to Pradhan Sir, first." Having said this, she made an intercom connection with him and gave me the receiver.

..... "I have come from *Janatantra*; I have come to meet the Chairman," I said.

..... "Are you Mr Bibekananda Das speaking?"

I was suddenly taken aback. Who could be this Pradhan Sir? How could he know my name?

..... "I said, "Yes, Sir. I was returning from Cuttack, I thought..."

..... "O.K. Please give the phone to Madam."

After Madam finished talking to him, she directed a Security Guard to make me reach in Pradhan Sir's room.

After I reached the room of Pradhan Sir, he asked me to be seated. After some time, tea was served. I thought to myself, far from having any intimacy with him, I have never seen him. How come he could recognize me?

While taking tea, he announced that it was already 2 p.m. SNM will get up between 3.00 to 3.30 p.m. In the meantime, he instructed somebody over telephone to intimate him whenever SNM got up.

I went to SNM's chamber along with Pradhan Sir. He welcomed me with a smiling face. Gentle and aristocratic in appearance, he had put on a hat and a pair spectacles. Three cups of tea tinkered

with lemon and honey were served. While taking tea, he asked me with a tone of intimacy, “How is the paper running?”

Without giving any definite reply, I kept silent wreking a smile on my lips.

..... “To run a paper is an uphill task. We knew that you would come. What do you say, Chakradhar?” said MudaliBabu looking at Pradhan Sir.

That means Pradhan Sir is Chakradhar Pradhan

Chakradharbabu said, “Dandapanibabu had told us many days before that you would visit us.”

Oho! That means Dandapani Mohanty (a well-wisher and a patronizer of Janatantra) had informed them about us. I remembered that many days before Dandapanibabu had asked me to go to APEX College and meet MudaliBabu with the mediation of Chakradharbabu. But I had cleanly forgotten the same.

SNM told all by himself, “Your paper sounds good. It deals with the issues of the Tribals and Dalits. You are covering all such news which is not covered by other newspapers. Along with that, please publish other subjects like human rights issues attaching equal importance to them. After having discussion on such matters for some time, he said from his side, your paper does not feature any Advertisements. Have you taken it as a policy to publish your paper without depending on advertisements?

—“It is not possible to run a paper continuously without the help of advertisements. Citing that our paper is a Maoist paper (This had been published by The Samaja), advertisements have been stopped.

Hence, we don’t approach anybody seeking for advertisements.

—“Please don’t take it otherwise; please don’t misunderstand me. You have been doing journalism for many years. Is there no remedy if any newspaper publishes adverse news about another paper?”

—“Generally, there are two strategies to bring necessary remedy to such newspapers: (i) by sending protest letters; (ii) by filing a suit against loss of honour. The first step has been taken. A reminder has also been sent in this context. We have drawn the personal interest of the Editor. But it was of no avail. The second strategy – to file a case. I did not like to do that. That does not mean we admitted of our defeat. We sorted out a ‘third path’. We wanted to chastise *The Samaja* within our limited power. We have been writing against The Samaja in a continual fashion by citing its weaknesses. We have not accepted its solicitous approach at a later period, even though the Managing authorities of The Samaja wanted to strike a compromise with us. We have been appreciated in our approach by many journalistic friends and employees who have been working with The Samaja right now.

Like this, there was a lot of discussion for almost an hour. Rain had come down outside.

While I wanted to leave the chamber, SNM said, “Let there be our contribution, however small it might be, for the paper *Janatantra*. He promised that on behalf of our colleges, APEX and NIST, there shall be four advertisements every year.”

—“We accept your help with gratitude,” I said while coming outside of the chamber. This is the first instance of its kind wherein the donor has offered the contribution to the paper of his own accord. This has so far not been repeated until today.



From that day onwards, SNM turned out to be our Friend, Philosopher and Guide. While he was constantly giving his opinions on the writings published in our paper, he was sometimes passing constructive criticism on different matters. He had categorically mentioned the editorial responsibility for publishing serialized articles which carried abusive language on the part of the writer. When I said that if the said writer (suffering from a diseased mind) protests, we shall also publish those protestations. He did not appreciate such a statement of mine. He said, “ Who will protest for a person who is dead?”

DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS’ FORUM

Because of economic stringency, Janatantra gradually became irregular in its publication and reached at a stage when it was about to be closed down. It could not repay the money it owed to the Printing Press. Some people advised that, since *Janatantra* had been duly approved both by the Information and Public Relations Department and D.A.V.P., we would be highly benefited if we sell the title of *Janatantra*. They suggested : “The money you would get out of its sale proceeds will be much more than the debts you are obliged to pay.” But a founder member of Janatantra was highly opposed to such a proposal. He was of the opinion that it would be improper to sell out such a nice title. If we don’t have funds, we can think of its further publication as per our convenience. So selling out of the title of *Janatantra* was rejected for the time being. With the sole purpose of talking with SNM in this regard, once I arrived at his College. He already knew that *Janatantra* had been closed. Before I spoke anything, he asked me, “What are you doing now?”

— — “Not anything in particular.”

“We have a project called ‘Lawyers’ Democratic Forum.’” The aim of this project consists of collection of information about Human Rights laws, and adoption of remedial measures wherever they are put to disuse, and extension of legal help to the sufferers etc. This project has become defunct for the time being. Its function could have been restored if you could spare a little time.”

Then, he explained me about the. In the first phase, he asked me to collect information from Jail Department, Police Department, Health Department on the basis of Right to Information. He called Chakradharbabu and asked him to make a Room spick and span, for the Forum Office, along with Chairs and Tables, and an Almirah. The project work continued for almost a year. Elaborate files were prepared on the basis of different types of information collected for the purpose. Information about the Police dominance and oppression in the Tribal infested areas was collected. It was decided to file a Public Interest Litigation case in the High Court. All on a sudden, MudaliBabu was required to go to Delhi for some days. In connection with his health check-up, he was detained for quite a few days. After his return from Delhi, the Forum work could not make enough progress.

SPECULATION TO PUBLISH A NEW PAPER

Janatantra could be published once a month out of the money generated by the Forum. Once I told him during the discussion to run the paper on a permanent basis and to take the responsibility of the Management of Janatantra. Discussions in many phases were ensued on this in the presence of Chakradharbabu. It was planned with some certainty to have some fixed terms and conditions and other related issues. It was also decided to form a Trust which would consist of certain fixed number of Representatives. After some days, an office was hired for the purpose. The New Office was inaugurated with Puja and Sacred Fire (*Houm*) on the auspicious day of Sri Ganesh Puja in the presence of Mudalibabu and Chakradharbabu.

In connection with some work, SNM went to Delhi and was detained there for a long time. Because of deterioration of health condition, he was to stay under treatment for quite a long time. Even after about 2 months after his return, there could not be a conclusive agreement about the representatives in the Board of Trust. As a matter of fact, it stood as a hurdle in the process of formulating a Management Trust for *Janatantra*.

After a gap of a month or two months (i.e. October 2014), SNM called me one day, and announced his express view to publish a full-fledged Human Rights-based Weekly Paper. At that time, Chakradharbabu and Lenin Kumar were also present. There was a discussion about the potential name of the Paper, budget and the number of workers to be employed for the purpose. He candidly expressed his desire to become the Editor of the Paper and others were happy about it. I too agreed to their opinion. I was entrusted with the responsibility to forthwith select the Team members and other workers of the potential paper. Soon after that, from the month of November, all the associated work of the potential paper was carried on in the vicinity of APEX. There was a lot of discussion about the title of the Paper and some titles were sent to R.N.I. authorities for their verification, and at last Lenin Kumar's title, "Janabadi" was approved and accepted. It was decided that the target date for the publication of its first volume of will be the Utkal Divas, i.e. the 1st April 2015, and until then it would be published through its dummies. A house was hired in Acharya Vihar and the journalistic and non-journalistic employees of the paper joined there. The first dummy came out in December. SNM was pleased to see the first dummy. He set up a gathering in which he asked, "Why should the paper wait until April? If you are all experienced people, why should it not start from 1st January?" With some amount of hesitation, I said, "Let one or two more dummies be published, so that the self-confidence of our friends will increase."

—"What dummy? Why dummy? Let the paper be published from January itself," said he, and downright rejected the statements of all our journalist friends. Work started with the same target. At last, Janabadi saw the light of the day, Vol. 1, No.1, on the 26th January, and it gained a lot of popularity.

JUDICIOUS S.N.M.

A worker availed leave for one day, i.e. Saturday, and, on Monday, he telephonically asked me for an extension of leave for another two days. I categorically told him that no extension of leave could be granted, and as such he should forthwith report to his duties. He too told that under no circumstances could he join his work that day. During that time, both SNM and Chakradharbabu were present in the office. After listening to me about the affair, SNM told, "If he does not turn up today, let him not come at all. With one month's notice and one month's pay, you can remove him." I again contacted the Worker and intimated him over telephone, "Even if you are late for a few hours, please report to the office that day itself; otherwise, you need not come to the office again. Treat these words of mine as the notice for the termination of your job. At the end of the month, along with the notice money, you can collect the salary proportionate to the days of your duty in the month."

As illuck would have it, I left *Janabadi* in the month of April and Professor Nilamani Sahu joined as Editor of the paper. On the date of the disbursement of salary, that worker along with other colleagues got his salary, but not the notice money. The new Editor Professor Sahu listened to his appeal, but expressed his helplessness to help him out in this case. After nearly two months, the aforesaid worker telephoned me and intimated me about his not getting the Notice money. I explained to him that since you had not completed one year of service from the date of joining the office, you do not deserve the notice money. Yet, when the Trust Chairman had promised to pay, you can meet him and appeal to him; he could consider the case. But he could not meet him. Again after a month,

.....
he telephone me. I told him, "I am no more occupying the chair; still I shall talk to him (about your case)." I telephoned to S.N.M. and told him, "Sir! Since the worker has not completed minimum service of one year in the office, he as a rule does not have the right to get the notice money. But on that day you asked me to terminate him along with the notice money. I too told him in the same light. Now, he approaches everybody and protests against me. What could be done now?"

He said to me, "It's true he has not completed one year of service. Where is the question of Notice money?" Saying so, he dropped the telephone line. After sometime, he called me over telephone.

He said, "Bibekbabu! Had I not asked you to terminate his service along with the Notice money?"

—"Yes, Sir; you are right."

—"Then, it is perfectly fine. Tell him to come to the office and take his money."

It is needless to say that the aforesaid worker got back his money in no time.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

Even though I had left the organization of *Janabadi*, I had regularly continued my relationship with him. Many a time, he would call me over telephone and would have discussion with me either on the articles of *Janabadi*, or on various movements and different leaders. Professor Ganapathi Patra (GP), Advisor to the Organization of Farmers-Labours-Tribals of Narayana Patna was getting treatment in Cuttack Medical Hospital after he was released in a sickly state from the Koraput Jail where he was confined for a long time. As I informed him about my meeting him in the Cuttack Hospital, he too expressed his desire to go to Cuttack all by himself, and see him. Both of us went to Cuttack, and after having preliminary talk about his health matters, he also discussed on many other matters with him. Afterwards, he was many a time seen taking keen interest about his activities and whereabouts.

HIS CONCERN ABOUT STUDENTS' INTELLECTUAL FLOWERING

For causing an intellectual development of the students of *Diganta*, for generating a sense of patriotism, morality, scientific thinking, and for infusing a revolutionary spirit in them, MudaliBabu was very keen to prepare an additional syllabus for them. He had given me the responsibility to select the right type of topics in this regard. I collected a few books and had selected some topics, too. For a number of weeks, there was a serious discussion on these matters from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Short stories, poems, biographies and autobiographies which I had selected for two groups of students, one Junior and another Senior, were read from cover to cover and discussed threadbare with MudaliBabu, and it was decided that those pieces which were selected by him will be regarded as additional syllabus for the students. In this regard, he would talk to the Principal and the Teachers, and then after the vacation it would come into effect. But before the syllabus was put into practice, as ill-luck would have it, he left the terrestrial world.

DEJECTION AT THE FAG END OF HIS LIFE

It was the third week of March 2017. Once, he gave a phone call around 9 p.m. He asked me, "Could you please come for a while?" I was surprised when I thought why should he call me at this hour of the night? Nevertheless, I reached his place. He said, "I don't have good sleep during the night. I sleep upto 8 p.m. Now, I am unable to hear or see properly. Also, I am unable to read properly. After remaining silent for some time, he again began talking, "Please don't think otherwise. Please

tell me the truth: “Why did you leave *Janabadi*? Neither in moral level nor in thinking level did we have any differences. Don’t mistaken me; only for the sake of logo problem, you left it.”

I thought to myself, he called me only to say this to me. I said, “Why should we ruminate over old things? In any case, *Janabadi* is now having a heyday.”

—“Everybody says that *Janabadi* is alright. You also say that it is alright. As a matter of fact, it is not running well. There are certain problems. He also gave slight hint about the problems it faces. Let me tell you why I have called you. Please come 2 to 3 days a week and have a glance over all the news and articles. You are a Senior person. Our past Editor. Everybody will abide by you. Once you come, all problems will settle down on their own. This much, please help us.”

“Why should you seek *help* from me? I feel it is my responsibility. I shall surely come,” saying this, I receded from him. After that day, my second phase of attending *Janabadi* has begun.

Actually, Mudalibabu was a mélange of multifarious personalities. He was always thinking of transforming the society. He had a dream of doing that. He was always trying to put his thoughts into practice. During his life time, he has certainly materialized certain dreams. Still, he suffered from the agony of not having done some unfinished tasks.

That day was 25th May, Thursday. Like all Thursdays, he had come to the office of *Janabadi* and was sitting in his chamber. Com. Surjyamani and I sat across the table. He enquired of the articles featuring in the next issue of *Janabadi*. Somehow, he was found emotionally charged, and, hence, gossiped more than his share on that day. He said, “During my student career, with a good stock of dreams that I cherished I had decided of treading the path of revolution. That the labours of the stone quarries and the wage earning labours would get their legitimate wages, that the condition of the poor will improve, that everybody’s rights will remain protected — with these and many other thoughts that constituted my overwhelming dreams of establishing socialism and communism, I devoted myself to organizing many Labour Organizations, with least thought of hazards to my life. But where! Where is Revolution? All our dreams of those days have remained as distant dreams even today. Now, I am telling you my last words. There is no doubt of it that both of you are very senior journalists. Hence, please listen to me with enough attention. I am unable to perform anymore. I have decided that Chakradhar will take the place of the Editor. The Paper will run as it is. As he uttered these words, we too became emotionally charged. We thought as if the Fighter Army General were giving his last address.”

Surjyamani’s eyes were filled with tears. He said, “Sir! Why do you say so?”

He said, “Ore! Why are you getting worried? I shall come to the office every week as usual. Only the [Editor’s] name will be changed as Chakradhar. I shall take stock of the situation as before.

No doubt, he uttered these words to give us consolation, but through these words he was preparing the ladder of his last journey. And that day was the last trip to the office of *Janabadi*.

Towards the fag end of his life, he was at once worried about his own health problems and the fragile health of his wife Janaki Devi. He had rightly assessed that the reverse counting of his days had already started. Hence, he had entrusted his profitless dream project *Janabadi*, its management and heavy responsibility of editorship, with his true confidant Comrade Chakradhar Pradhan. It came into effect exactly from the first week of June. And he breathed his last in the night of 2nd June.



THE TALLEST PERSONALITY: MY PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

It will be presumptuous on my part to make any assessment of that great personality who has touched the acme of the field of education. Nevertheless, I shall express my estimation of his success in this manner. Even though, beyond doubt, he had great commitment to democratic socialism, many a time he has evinced the signs of aristocratic and imperialistic attitudes in his manners. Many a time, his stubborn mentality and haughty attitude had come to surface. Still, his sterling qualities of love, sympathy, affection and benignity constituted his saving grace which always covers up the other side of his personality like "haughtiness." In honour of that great immaculate judicious individual, I herewith offer my hundreds of thousands of *pranams* (*ovations*) and humble homage.



Janabadi
IN MEMORY OF SURENDRA MUDALI

Prof. Nilamani Sahoo

Surendra Mudali is no more amongst us. Even if it appears to be unbelievable, it is true. To accept something that is incredible is the most agonizing thing. During such painful hours, I convey my sympathy to his wife, son and daughter-in-law, his daughter and son-in-law along with all his grand children and all his friends and relations.

Surendra Mudali was the founder of a number of institutions. The persons who are involved with the institutions have lost the hand of the protector for all times to come. I also convey my condolences to them.

What is specially significant for me is the Weekly Magazine, *Janabadi*, founded by him. The Weekly has become the voice of the dalits, the exploited and the repressed mass, and has been highlighting their problems. About two years back, he had entrusted me with the editorial responsibility. My age, health and pressure of that responsibility did not enable me to continue with the work for longer time. I could not sustain it for more than three months. Once or twice a week, he used to come to the office of "*Janabadi*". He gave his opinion on the manuscripts, getting ready for publication. He was always focusing on his real motive behind the publication of the Weekly. His chief objective was to safeguard human rights. After me, he had taken up the editorial responsibility and made efforts to materialize his objectives. At present, his life is finished, but neither his idealism nor his work has been finished. However, it is our duty to preserve "*Janabadi*" as the representative voice of the dalits, the exploited and the disadvantaged. We should fashion it as a powerful weapon to fight for human rights. The other institutions Surendra Mudali has created are more or less self-dependant, but not "*Janabadi*", nor can it ever be. Now, to keep it alive, it should be shouldered by the writers, readers and such other people who have enough empathy for the people who are unsafe from different angles, and who suffer from the pangs of poverty. To bear the burden of *Janabadi* in the true sense of the term will be real homage to Surendra Mudali.



Professor of Philosophy (Retd.)

SNM, THE HUMANIST

Suryamani Mishra

Having been experienced with more than 10 Daily newspapers and more than 5 Weekly and Fortnightly journals, this journalist, in the year 2015, was approached respectively by Advocate Chakradhar Pradhan, senior journalist Vivekananda Dash and Poet Lenin Kumar for his consent to work with one weekly newspaper. I had given my positive consent to each one of them with a simple yes from my tone, they came back. I was busy then with

daily “Khabar”, As per promise, I was called for a meeting with management at Apex Engineering College. Here I met Surendra Mudali. As I uttered Namaskar to this great personality raising my folded hands, he extended his hand to shake hands. The implication was concealed in what he said: “We are leftists.” Thereafter, he added, “We are going to publish one human rights based weekly newspaper. We wish your association with the paper.” I instantly agreed. The nomenclature that was given to the Weekly was ‘*Janabadi*’.

From the very first issue I am with this Journal. From the very beginning of the publication, it could win the readers’ appreciation. The news of each issue was reviewed and analyzed by the founder editor, SNM. In case he felt any news concealing the failure of Govt. SNM firmly argued against its release.

He was popular as SNM before all Left progressive section of people. He was addressed by some people as Comrade SNM and by others as SNM Sir. All Comrades who were employees like me in *Janabadi* addressed him as SNM Sir. For over a span of two years, I had the scope to watch and understand him from close quarters. If I am to state about the uniqueness of his life, I would say that he was an uncompromising human rights exponent.

As soon as I joined with *Janabadi*, I was told by the senior Leftist leader and SNM’s political associate Janardan Pati by way of information that Comrade Mudali was a very upright and militant Comrade. However, it is a pleasure that you have got an opportunity to work with him. While he was writing the Editorial for *Janabadi*, I was always marking his daring expression. He sharpened his tune to safeguard democracy and democratic thoughts. He always favoured the news of repression and exploitation in the front page. He was not only writing Editorials on caste system, religious superstitions and communalism, but was also of the opinion that the analysis of such matters should be sharp enough to cause laceration to the Government.

Hearing police firing on the anti liquor movement squad in Nomtara of Rajkanika (Kendrapara), the Editor, SNM immediately sent me to go to the spot. As I read out my report on the event after my return from the spot, he could sense the gravity of the matter and placed it in the feature page. Likewise he deputed me to Kalingnagar, Jajpur to investigate on industrial pollution, and to submit facts-based-investigative report. His ground-breaking instruction from time to time to go to the spots to investigate the different problems and prepare a first-hand report, and to take follow-up action on

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the matters had christened me with a unique experience.

That fearless and pro-people Editors like him are exceptional would be conceded by any working journalists associated with newspapers. He was arrested four times in Rourkela during Emergency.

Even in the midnight, if he got any news about repression and torture of workers by the Police or the Employer in Rourkela, he rushed to the spot in his scooter to raise his voice against the injustice and fight for the rights of the workers. Whether it is Police Station or Industry, he was not returning from the place until justice is mitigated to the aggrieved. This has been authenticated by one of my cousins who was working in the Sales Tax Department, Rourkela.

Just before one day of his demise, SNM wanted to know, as usual, over telephone what news was covered from first page to last page, and asked me to read out the whole of it in a synoptic way. While I was reading out the synopsis of the matter, he suddenly expressed about the failing of his health, and his desire to have a sleep. His last words were: "We shall meet after I return from Berhampur." It was about 10.30 p.m. of Friday, a few minutes after the issue of *Janabadi* was sent to pres, the pathetic news reached: "Sir is no more. He has closed his eyes for all times to come."

As, I, as a member of the *Janabadi* family feel the emptiness, in the same manner, all the members of *Janabadi* family feel that they

have lost their pathfinder as well as a guardian. As a matter of fact, SNM Sir was a courageous person. Though SNM was supposed to be recalcitrant, he was really quite loving and

compassionate. If anybody gave an opinion which was different from his, it was not easily acceptable by him. Similarly, it was difficult on the part of the journalists like me who were employees in *Janabadi* office. But at a later stage, we were accepting the fact that his opinion was on the right track.

Though I had fierce controversy with him about news and its reporting, I had ultimately admitted of my defeat before his strong rational arguments. Today at a moment when we experience the attack on the Left and Democratic thoughts, when the Police shoots at the Farmers, when the C.B.I. raids on the Media, there is violation of constitutional and Human rights of the common mass, when humanism is in a dying condition, when laughter is lost to the oblivion, and there is a seeking for the heart, at that very moment the sad departure of h the humanitarian Editor and pro- people compassionate human right activist is certainly an irreparable loss. At last, while offering my hearty floral tribute, I would like to state that he was a friend to the progressive people of the State. His philosophy was based on Marxism and Leninism. Both in his voice as well as manners, he was asserting that Marxism was the first and highest political programme. His goal and action programmes aimed at achieving complete political independence.

If his programmes are given a real shape and properly materialized, that will be the best homage to him.



News Editor, *Janabadi*

MY FATHER FIGURE

Lenin Kumar

Surendra Nath Mudali is the Founding Father of “Janabadi”. Like my father, he was most recalcitrant. I also used to speak too straight. Up front, I too spoke to his face on a subject whenever I felt justified in my opinion though squarely different from his. Why didn’t I keep it in my mind that I was just an ordinary employee of his establishment? It is not that I did not understand Proprietorship and Class system. I felt anguished and became restless whenever he did not agree to the publication of my article in Janabadi Weekly. Even being present in the office, I never initiated my conversation with him for one or two days consecutively. Like my father, he was conscious of his self; If he asked me to explain myself for my silence, I had no other go but to answer, “No I am not angry.”

I remember, in 2006, I was watching from close quarters the Kalinga Nagar movement. My two-roomed rental house in Bhubaneswar was thronged with various political workers. I was never thinking in terms of earning for a living. I had lost job twice. Then he came to know about me from somewhere and employed me at Berhampur Engineering college. It is this which made me familiar with his kindness.

Many times, the police came to the College and had started enquiries about me. Being outspoken in his response, he said that he had not done anything unlawful

by employing me in his college nor had he shown any kind of extra favour toward me. This kind of support was not a small thing for me.

In 2007 when the newspaper ‘Nisan’ took its birth under my editorship, he chose himself to remain as its well-wisher. Whenever meetings were arranged to give vent to the voice of public agitation, he had invariably participated in them. Needless to say that in apprehension of getting the Maoist brand, many white collared people taking different pretexts not to attend such meetings. But, then, he was made of a different mettle. Irrespective of strategies one adopted, he had great respect for those who fought for the people and sacrificed for their cause. That kind of invaluable realization was he ultimately cherished in his political career of his bygone days.

In 2008, after publication of Nisan, I was sent to Jail. No person other than Surendra Nath Mudali (SNM) would have considered me for re-employment after my return from Jail as it amounted to courting vengeance of the Government. For myself, I have never asked any assistance from him;

but he, of his own, would stand by my side in case of distress and disaster. As I was alone at Berhampur, he apprehended unwarranted danger to me, and, hence, he wanted me to be posted to another Engineering College at Bhubaneswar.

A few years after my coming to Bhubaneswar, *Janabadi* took its birth in 2015. SNM’s dream was that *Janabadi* would have the ample scope to publish what bourgeoisie media would never publish. He told me this will be peoples’ newspaper; it’s final that you will be here.

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Unless one is strong-willed like SNM, who else is there, sans donation, to open a Residential School like *Diganta* to educate the children of the deprived class, and to publish, without commercial and political benefits, a Weekly Journal like *Janabadi* which has been dedicated to fighting for the people's human rights? It was difficult to understand SNM.

Even when he was past eighty, he used to carry the burden of the whole world on his head. O

If on any matter, I expressed arrogance toward him, he did not allow me to keep mum. I felt helpless. Was it my own pride which was at the root of it? Hardly ten days after my father's death, SNM left me conveying condolence to me over telephone. Once again, I became fatherless. At his demise, I lost what was inevitable on my part, but the State lost an emphathetic well-wisher of the people who was always putting up a fight for them.



Associate Editor, Janabadi
Ph.: 8280329705

HE IS EVER REMEMBERABLE

Subhalaxmi Satpathy

Suryamani Sir, suddenly, around 10.45 p.m. intimated me over phone that the Founder of the Weekly *Janabadi* is no more. At such news I was not only perturbed, but also shocked and agonized. On 23rd June around 10 p.m., he breathed his last with heart attack at Apollo Hospital while he was under treatment. At once, it came to my mind that the sad departure of the Founder Father of *Janabadi* who had been nurturing the Janabadi family under his direct care and supervision will be an irreparable loss to it. Particularly, Chakradhar Sir, a close associate of Mudali Sir was choked with tears in his eyes when he spoke to me over telephone, "SNM Sir is no more."

SNM Sir was born in the village Aling of Kantapada Block in Cuttack District. He was the middle son of Mr Jayakrushna, his father and Mrs Haramani, his mother. He was a multifaceted genius. He was at once a Revolutionary, a Philanthropist, a Lawyer and Comrade to the Labour Class. While I was a child, I came to know all about him from my father. Our house was adjacent to theirs. While his brother and other members of the family stayed in the village, he spent fifty springs of his life in giving the leadership to Mining Labour Organizations in Sundergarh and Keonjhar, and at a later stage playing the role of the Founding Father of different educational institutions ranging from Orphanages to Engineering Institutions. He was coming to the village, but not for visiting his home. He was more concerned about the welfare of the village. I had come to know from my father that at one time there was not a single school in the vicinity of around 10 villages nearby. He had had his schooling in Bhingarpur High School which was quite far from his village. He had passed out Class X from that school with flying colours. He was a talented student. In order to set up a school in his village, he joined hands with some of his friends and facing a lot of struggle he established a High School in the

village, named Janata Vidyapeeth.

MudaliBabu established a Weekly journal named Janabadi under his direct care supervision and published its First issue in January 2015 with the express purpose of propagating extensively right type of information and also human rights based information all over Odisha. I have been working as a Computer Operator for this Weekly journal. He used to come to Janabadi office every Thursday in order to make an inspection of the work, and was evaluating all the articles going to be published in the Weekly. Even for his own "Editorial," he was seeking opinions and views of others. While commemorating the greatness of the illustrious son of the soil, I suddenly remember my talk with him in the office one day. He suddenly took interest about my identity. After I revealed the name of my village and that of my father, he was totally taken aback. He was very much happy and delighted to know: "Th daughter of my village is working here." While blessing me by putting his hand on my hand , he said to me, "Never leave Janabadi." The memory of those words overwhelms me and causes tears in my eyes. He was in fact my father like.

His amiable words, straightforwardness, and above all his humaneness will keep him unfaded. He has in fact conquered death. Institutions like NIST, Digant and Janabadi which are unmistakably his handiwork will make him immortal. He had not adopted the legal profession for the sake of greed or benefit, but for giving justice to the afflicted common mass by pleading their cases in the court. His line of thinking was based on the philosophy of Socialism, and he never deviated from this ideal until the end of his life. His voice was sharp and forceful for protecting the interest of the common mass. He has established Digant Residential School in his native place, Aling. Mostly, this institute provides free education to the Orphans and Tribal children. Today, my region has lost an illustrious son of hers who was a super philanthropist. Today, not only the people of my village, but the people of thousands of villages and the people of such great cities like Rourkela and Bhubaneswar are deeply mourning his death. His memory as well as his achievements will always remain fresh and alive. It won't be an exaggeration to say that even during his life time he had become a legendary figure of our history.

At the end, while I offer my tribute to him, I pray God for bringing peace to his soul, and at the same time, I share my heart-felt grief with his family and friends.

Comp. Operator, Janabadi



YOU WILL STAY ALIVE

Satarupa Muduli

That day at the sight of Sir's (Surendra Mudali's) mortal body inside the coffin in the APEX premises, I could not believe my eyes. Looking at him in the everlasting silent posture, it came to my mind, that Mudali Sir, after fulfilling his responsibility of serving the society for which perhaps he had taken his birth, has receded to eternal sleep. Although he never believed in God, on the basis of my faith in God, I shall say that he took away his illustrious son to his abode while he was still weaving stories. Otherwise, very few people are fortunate enough to have such a happy-death. A multifaceted genius, he was at once the hope and faith of the destitute, a servant-leader of the society, people's leader, Comrade to Labours, Guardian of the Movements, Chief of the People's Army, and Founder of Educational Institutions. This great dazzling personality lived a "restless" life, marked by uninterrupted activities in the society. He was dynamically active till the last moment of his life. The day began for him with the singular aim which was abrogation of social inequality. As a matter of fact, a person like Mudali Sir a rare idealistic, competitive individual with a high sense of dignity and self-respect is rarely born on this earth. His contribution to the existing admirers was self-evident.

After joining *Janabadi*, I came to know from fellow Comrades a lot about Sir's socialistic thoughts. But, then, I had met him only 5 to 6 times.. His suggestions were entirely different. On the surface, he appeared to be a person of haughty nature, but, actually, he was a man of immense love and affection. In spite of his ailing health, he never considered to be weak. On our first meeting, he asked my identity. Having come to know that I was daily commuting from Jagatsinghpur to Bhubaneswar, he appreciated me with the rare words, "Sabash" (Bravo). Soon after he added, "I shall speak to Chakradhar to arrange your accommodation in Sahid Nagar Hostel." Having heard these words, I could easily conjecture the humanitarian qualities in him. Once he asked me to translate a piece of writing, based on the Indian Constitution. Besides that, he wanted to know about my educational qualifications. After nearly an hour's discussion on Indian Constitution, he convinced me that the Indian citizen as a part of sovereign Indian democracy has not been able to taste its full progress and development. There is a tacit agreement that Indian Constitution should not only remove the inequity, and socio-politico-economic disparity, but also should primarily aim at providing economic justice to its people. As a matter of principle, he focused how the Constitution aimed at bringing steady progress and development of the Dalits, the repressed, backward classes and the minorities. I have got a lot of inspiration in this regard while I worked for the Human Rights-based paper, *Janabadi*. Sir's aim at publishing *Janabadi*, giving primary importance to cover the sorrows and pangs of the neglected and disadvantaged stood it in a good stead, and endowed it with a special identity w compared to other newspapers of the State. Sir is no more present amidst us, but his contribution to the society will be memorable forever.

It is not easy to make an assessment of his unique personality, his achievements, revolutionary thoughts, and action plans. He is a towering personality who germinated as a little star-flower under the cover of the earth, water, air and sky, and enriched the society with his welfare measures. I pray the Almighty for the salvation of his soul. On the demise of this great person, the employee of *Janabadi* offers sincere homage to him.



THE SUCCESSFUL ARCHITECT OF MAN-MAKING FACTORY - MY SIR

Krushna Chandra Behera

Having been promoted from Primary School, I was admitted to High School. My family was not a well-to-do family. My father was a farmer. To manage his family, he was dependent on labour. So it was a day dream on my part to think of further studies in a College. Fatherly Surendra Mudali was the dust-game childhood friend of my father, who, later, provided me a means of livelihood. My house and Mudali Sir's house are in the same village. It appears like yesterday, but I met him in the year 1991 in Parida Street of our village. At that time, I was reading Matriculation.

On the date of introduction with him, he sharply replied, "You are the son of my friend, Nanda." I agreed to it. As he asked about my qualification, I told him that I was reading Matriculation. The advice that he gave soon after was that of a guardian of a Family. "Give your mind and heart while reading your lessons. Prepare yourself to be a good man—a big man." On return home, I told my father about his advice and directives to build my life. He told me that he was his childhood friend. By educating himself, he has become a very big man. Accepting service to the common mass as his vow and commitment, sometimes, he has gone to jail, and sometimes, he has become a victim of affliction for others.

He is the pride of our village. He has gained reputation not only in our village, but also in other villages like Niali and Adaspur and also in places like Cuttack and Rourkela. To remember that I had been introduced to such a big man on that day creates anguish in my heart. After I passed Matriculation, I graduated B.A., but the system of the Government is such that I spent my days at home as an unemployed person. My father became worried about me, and, at last, advised me to meet Mudali Sir. I met Mudali Sir. As he came to know about my jobless condition, he said, "You can join Diganta Residential School. As per his directive, I joined *Diganta*. But I had to be ousted because of my mismanagement in *Diganta*. I had admitted of my fault. Afterwards, he appointed me as In-charge of 'Boys' Hostel', 'Ladies' Hostel', and Library. I had to face harsh words from him because of my failure in discharging of my responsibilities. Later on, he had bestowed on me the love and affection of a son. He had appointed me to different posts one after another. But he was pained to find that I was unable to discharge the responsibilities. At the end, he had appointed me in the office of *Janabadi*. Until today, I have been continuing in *Janabadi*. But his memory remains afresh in my mind. He will always remain memorable for me. On this day, I remember him. For a person like me who belongs to the backward class and economically backward family, he was not only an Employer, but also a Deity. He had liberated not only me, but also several members of more than two hundred families, from unemployment. He was the successful architect of such Engineering Colleges, like N.I.S.T. Engineering College, and APEX Engineering College. He has proved to be a great model of humanist by providing free education every year to more than two hundred Tribal students in Diganta Residential School. As a matter of fact, he was the successful architect of the man-making Factory.

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NO. NOT A PERSON BUT AN INSTITUTION

Banita Sahoo

O! Great soul..... the soul of sanctity! At the outset I offer you my tearful devotional tribute. Whatever I write today about you, it will be much less. That was a Saturday. I was at Angul. In that very afternoon, I came across the news that you were no more in the mortal world. You had relinquished the mortal body and plunged yourself into the five basic matters. I could not believe this harsh blatant truth. I was stunned for a while. Unconsciously, my eyes were filled with tears. I feel like a relation manqué as I could not have the last *darshan* of your body. A sense stirs in me as if I have lost some one dear and near of mine.

Even if you came nigh the sunset of life, you were never stagnant. You were always active with the busiest schedules and routine programmes. It will not be wrong to say that your departure has taken away the relief of shadows on the heads of many. Your ideals were the source of inspiration for many of us. Whatever you have left behind will remain as forceful impact and encouragement for all of us.

Mine is long eight years' relationship with you. I had availed the opportunity of knowing you through '*Diganta*'. Then I got the opportunity to work in your weekly paper, *Janabadi*, whereby I closely came in contact with you. It was a rare place where I got ample comfort, opportunity and freedom.

As a man, you were a benevolent person. As a Master, you were different from other Masters, a rare exception, who paid the wages by inviting the truant employees. It was my misfortune that I could not get an opportunity to work there for a longer duration. You were completely away from the concept of 'Master – Employee' relation. In any matter, you listened to people with rapt attention irrespective of their rank and file. You never entertained the discriminatory attitude towards others like Junior/Senior, Big/Small etc. That's why whenever the employees saw you, they made no efforts to bow down their head. In my opinion, you were not an individual, rather an institution, virtually a conglomeration of many institutions which have provided roofs to hundreds of families. Today, by losing you, they have all become orphaned.

You were committed to the rights of the poor innocent people. Especially for women's rights and human rights, you always indulged in putting up a ceaseless fight. *Atma* (the Soul) suffered no death. The cycle of Birth and Death is the law of Nature. As per that law, I pray God to give birth on this earth to people like you who is none other than the Great Soul, the Devatma for the welfare of the poor and innocent people. Once again, I offer my humble tributes to you.



News Editor, Janatantra