
Founder of Educational

Institutions

**NIST, APEX,
DIGANTA**

*Dedicated his life for the cause
of Social Justice*



IN MEMORY OF MEMORIES....

Chakradhar Pradhan

It was Apollo Hospital, 2nd June, 10.45 p.m. One of the staff members of Apollo Hospital called Sangram Babu. I moved in with Sangram Babu. No sooner did we get into the chamber than the Doctor's voice aired – "He is no more." Further, he added, "We made a lot of efforts." Looking at us the Doctor could sense that we were not prepared to believe in him. To make things clear, he opened the computer screen and exhibited that heart was no more functioning. It was severe heart stroke. We felt as if earth under our feet had slipped away. A wave of sorrows rippled in the atmosphere.

In the year 1980, Surendra Mudali impressed me with his speech which he delivered in a general meeting of various political groups with masses from various strata conglomerated here with express purpose of promoting the cause of the Students' strike. Although I was quite familiar with the name, I had never seen him before. For the first time, I met him there and became familiar with him. In the second phase when he saw me in the State Conference of S.F.I. at Rourkela, he patted my back out of sheer happiness the moment he discovered me there, and talked to me with great warmth, the facts which were responsible for doubling my respect for him. Towards the later phase, the intimacy between us became much more intensive, when the education camp of the State Level C.P.I. (M) was held at Puri. I was the youngest representative of the party in the camp.

Top notch leaders of C.P.I (M) party like E.M.S. Nambroodipad, M. Basabpuniya, Ashim Dasguptas usually educate the young members of the party cadre on various subjects.

The responsibility of managing these camps, and arrangement of boarding and lodging of the representatives was vested in us. Being the leader of the students of Puri College, I was doing all types of work ranging from collection of party fund to other allied works. We were overwhelmed with pleasure when we were addressed as Comrades by the Seniors and we were greeted by them for the excellent hospitality. Among all these comrades Surendra Mudali stood out as exceptional.

For long time, we have worked together under one flag, inspired by the same political ideals. Since I was attached to the Party Headquarters at Bhubaneswar, I had the scope of meeting Mudali Babu continually. He treated me as his younger brother. Not only me he liked, but also all the younger comrades He used to beam with a smile at the sight of the Comrades. Enquiring into personal matters other than the political matters was the most enchanting part of his personality.

In the year 1992, for some unknown reasons, the Communist Party was bifurcated. Mudali Babu distanced himself from active politics. Hence, the chance of regular contact became scarce. However, I was regularly keeping information about him. I heard of his establishing one Engineering College at Berhampur. I, also, put a pause to active politics and joined the Bar. After long time, one day suddenly we met at IDCO. I came to know from him about his application to IDCO to avail some land. We had an intimate conversation for a long time, and then took down each other's telephone number.

Suddenly, one day he called me over phone to come to his Forest Park Flat, and entrusted me as an advocate with the registration of S.J. Charitable Trust. Since then, the old relationship was revived.

In the first phase, Mudali Babu was constantly in touch with me, seeking my advice and cooperation for the choice of a suitable place and acquisition of land for instituting an Educational institution at Bhubaneswar. But, in the later phase, I could not decline his request when he asked me to continue as Project In-charge of

that Institution.

Since 2004 November, I was most intimately associated with MudaliBabu in the establishment of APEX +2 Science College, APEX Engineering College, APEX I.T.I. and Digant and, in the end. In the publication of Janabadi Weekly. During this period I have learnt a lot from him. Though he was a lawyer by profession, he was a staunch believer of Marxism and Leninism. He was conducting most efficiently Mass Movement along with different Communist Movements. But his efficiency and excellence were not confined to simply that. He was getting enough pleasure from his pastime of beautification of the environment with a clean and charming atmosphere, and plantation of fruit trees and flower plants along with his craftsmanship in construction, interior design and decoration. Virtually, he was an intense lover of Nature. Negligence of work on the part of the workers irritated him very much, but he was feeling terribly restless unless he consoled the person concerned with the soothing words, "I am sorry." His novel quality lay in his love for the lay people, in his interest to involve himself personally ranging from Faculty, Relations, Neighbours, Familiar people to high level officers, and in his natural longing to help them out in their distress and disasters. Especially, whenever he came in contact with the people who worked for the Communist Party and other mass agitations, he was not only extremely delighted, but also went as far as extending help to them.

He was not a mere individual, rather an arch leader of many Institutions and programmes. It was his vow not only to educate the extremely oft neglected and distressed people, the hungry and the orphans, and the Scheduled Caste and Tribal people, the Dalits and backward people, but to make their life sustainable and instill high aspirations in them. And for this he conceived *Diganta*, a Residential School. Besides this, he was quite conscious of the infringement of Human rights. He was pained to know that many untoward things are happening helter skelter which are not coming to the day light. In many cases, human rights are violated in many ways and in many levels. His mental agitation and practical strategies as to how to thwart such violation of human rights, and how to create an awareness amongst the people of the rural areas have been amply reflected in the Weekly Magazine, *Janabadi*.

He was a living symbol of a good Comrade. In struggle for survival of the disadvantaged and the down trodden he was a front ranking Leader. MudaliBabu was the last person to please a fellow being by merely uttering a few pleasant words, or merely showing him a smiling face, or merely showing off his manners to him, rather he preferred to love him from his heart of hearts. I had developed a lot of respect for him for his uninterrupted working style without rest, and also for his unassuming innocent behaviour. If sometimes I was feeling tired doing my work, his sincerity and commitment to work always created in me extra mental energy to go ahead with work. It is not only I, but also whoever has seen him working from close quarters have been stupefied at watching his working style. He was unperturbed in his ideals. He was firm like the South Pole in his work as well as confidence. If, on the basis of his sincerity and commitment, we can carry out his contribution, efforts and dream to create an exploitation-free society, that will be best homage to Surendra Mudali.



Administrative Officer
Apex Institute of Technology &

WE LOST A GOD FATHER

M. Suresh

The chief of our Institute, Surendra Nath Mudali was a man of principles and high ideals. He had a rare quality of helping out each and every Worker of the Institute in his woe and weal. Despite acute water problems, he left no stone unturned to beautify the premises of N.I.S.T. with lush green vegetation. Really, NIST lost a God Father ("*Dharma Pita*"). Forever you would embellish our memory. I pay my heart-felt homage for the salvation of your esteemed soul.

Course Co-ordinator,
Electrical and Communication Engineering, N.I.S.T., Berhampur



SURENDRA

THE LOVING AND KIND KING

Biswajeet Nayak

In his book, *Manu Samhita*, Manu mentions that a good King must follow up four aspects of principles to gain maturity in his administration: Peaceful means, Rewards, Punishment and Exploitation of the differences. The King about whom I am going to state was not, like the so-called Kings, ruthless, enchanted with the indulgence of power, and a power-loving dictator, rather he was a full-fledged king endowed with all the above four qualities. With abundant love for one and all, endless affection, selfless service and empathetic heart, King Surendra was most endearing and loving to the mass of people. His heart was touched with tears for the sake of the poor and the labour-class/ wage earning people.

He hated cantankerous social practices and false superstitions of the society. He always dreamt of a classless society irrespective of race, religion and colour, because he was a true Worker, work-oriented and a workaholic. He had great expertise to provide good administration to his subjects, i.e. the Workers. As a proprietor, sometimes, he raised his voice at the workers if a work has not been properly done, but, in no time, he would never forget to pat them and solace them with the words, "Babu, I am sorry." His method of accomplishing a piece of work was entirely different. Whenever he thought of doing some work, he doggedly pursued it until it came to a finish. He never had the egotism of being the Master. Even though he possessed a lot of power, he led a simple and spartan life. During his supremacy, he had done a lot of welfare work for the people. No wonder, on the eve of his sudden and untimely death, the "subjects" of his "Kingdom" pine for their beloved "King." The vacuum resulting from his death is irreparable.

It has been said in the *Sarala Mahabharata*:

If people by word of mouth
One's victory wish
By taking away the life of one
No Yama can punish.

Hence, Oh, the Great! Even if you have deserted us and gone away to the other world, the people of your Kingdom are forever harping on your remarkable achievements and greatness. We are totally immersed in singing encomiums in your favour, because in your regime, we have shown us a new way of life and had shown new directions for future life. You made us transcend all superstitions of the society and presented before us a picture of the society. You had trained us how to raise the voice to protest against exploitation, injustice and violation of law.

Oh! The Great! Our fervent request to you is that, wherever you be, please have a soft corner forever for your Empire (NIST, APEX and DIGANTA) and the subjects of the Empire. You cannot go away very far, as you have been ensconced in the throne of our heart. You were not the ruler of flesh and blood, but God Himself. Wherever you are, you are our God forever. In the words of the poet, Upendra Bhanja:

Whatever be the distance, Oh! Damsel!
Of a fallen leaf on the ground

Can't we determine the leaf
Without the name of the tree?
I am such a friend of yours.....

We shall try our best to be guided by your principles and ideas forever in our life, and shall try to live up to your ideals cherishing them in our heart's memory. At last, I pray Lord Jagannath for directing your soul to a peaceful abode, and pay you a tearful homage to you.

Victory to King Surendra Mudali, the lover of the common mass.

Accountant,
APEX, Pahalo, Bhubaneswar



O ! Karmayogi ! You are Immortal

Jayakrushna Champathi

Mudali Sir has been widely accepted as a *Karmayogi* for each of his work done throughout his life. Not only for your establishing Schools and Colleges, but also for your uncompromising struggle against torture and exploitation of the common mass, you would be immortal on this earth. While fondly commemorating you and your work, I declare this day that I shall try my best to do all my work on the basis of your ideals, and I shall follow up the heavy responsibilities you have entrusted to me both in letter and spirit.

Asst. Secretary, Sankalp



HOMAGE

A. Jaylaxmi

People come and go, but not all exist in our memory. Those who dedicate their lives to the cause of the Nation, State, race and the distressed folk are imprinted in our memory. Such a personality was our beloved SNM Sir. Though, born in an insignificant village, he later lived amidst urban abundance, yet he could not remove the facticity of Nature from his soul. Being inspired with the thought and philosophy of Communism, he not only sensed the still sad music of the repressed, the neglected, the orphans, the helpless, and the destitutes, but also took necessary steps to wipe out their miseries and sufferings. It is this which turned the human in him into a Super human. The revolution that he has brought in, especially in the field of education, will make him immortal.

The tender-minded children of the tribal infested areas, who are deprived of education because of their weak social and financial standing, are forced to lead the lives of the child labours. Realizing such heart-rending agony within himself, he installed in his native place such notable institutions as Digant Residential School, and APEX ITI. The intent was to impart learning to the helpless destitute and the tribal children, so that they would not only pass Matriculation free of tuition fee, but also would get basic training, leading to self employment. Today this institute has turned into a great Banyan tree.



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Sir was not merely a great personality, rather was an Institution by himself. It is said that an individual may suffer death, but not an institution. So long as the Institution exists, the memory of the individual dazzles with scintillating beauty. Though the institution-like individual has disappeared today before our eyes, the Institution of his handiwork will remain immortal for all times to come. The oft-quoted lines by an Odia poet are rendered below:

Nobody is or will forever be
On the mortal stage of the world
After finishing one's given role
Will go back with the death-sting.



Principal, Diganta

THE GUARDIAN OF VILLAGE ALINGI HAS PASSED AWAY

Naresh Ch. Choudhury

Surendra Mudali was the leader of the leaders, but for us, the people of Alingi, he was a veritable Guardian. By providing employment at least to one member of each family of the village, he was trying for the development of one and all. At each and every time, he was providing concrete help and sympathy to the villagers. On his passing away, each and every one of the village has suffered a traumatic shock. As a matter of fact, on his sad demise, the villagers of Alingi have lost their Guardian for all times to come.

Office Executive
NIST, Berhampur



OH ! GREAT ! THOU ART REVERED

Pravanjan Acharya

You are the Founder Father of N.I.S.T., APEX, Digant and Janabadi, You stood as the guardian of all the employees of these institutions. This soil, water, air and all the employees and their families can never forget you.

Oh! Great! Thou art revered. For your sake, I offer the Creator my ovation thousands of thousand times, and pray before Him for salvation of your soul.

APEX, Pahal, Bhubaneswar



THE GRAND WISHES OF THE GREAT LEADER

Mihir Kant Mohapatra

However staunch a critic might be, it was quite but natural to admit that the self-confident, Revolutionary vanguard, promoter of class-lessness, Surendra Mudali had cut a niche for himself through his commitment to work, work planning, and through his love and affection for the common man. He was perfect in realizing the human values and expressing sympathy for the poor man. The purpose of saying this is that Surendra Mudali was so great a genius coupled with wisdom that once he opens his eyes he could surmise the matter at hand, and understand everything before it is reported to him, and go on commenting upon it without any hindrance. When I met him first, I was stunned to hear the exploding of his sentences which led me to self-reflex about the source of his robust self-confidence. How could it be possible to make a rare combination of such qualities as mental strength, determinate decision, strong planning, and the empathy for the downtrodden, I could realize the strength of his personality the day ‘*Diganta*’, the Child Development Centre and Residential School came into existence. It was an Institution whose main objective was to provide free education and health to the poor orphan students, coming from tribal infested districts, and to bring them into the mainstream of the Society. It is not merely a dream any more. Today, it is spreading its fragrance by preserving its perfume on the petals of practical reality,

Diganta has so much been imbued with the directives of the Great Man that it is able to dazzle the horizon within its circle. This Great Man like the clay-potter giving shape to the clay images, has, with the soft touch of his fingers, been successful in giving a definite shape to his brain child ‘*Diganta*’ which was the product of his great aspirations. The people like us bestowed with less-progressive mind can hardly understand the human values of his. Sometimes, I think why should he be mad for the poor and their poverty. The truth of the matter was that he was always perturbed by the sadness and poverty of the disadvantaged people. He was burning with desperation in his heart, looking at the poor man’s failing to achieve his basic needs. All this was unbearable for this Great Man.

In the process of giving shape to his grand wish, this Great Leder gave birth and *Karma* (the system of functioning) to the Institution of *Diganta*, but he himself disappeared into the oblivion while the Institution reached the stage of its youth.

Remember, Great Leader! Your disappearance cannot last for a longer period, because we have enlivened your self-confidence in our heart and have commingled with you like *Atma* assimilates with *Paramatma*. Wherever you are, we are able to see and feel all your envisionings. Also, we are aware where you are today. By being the star of the sky, please guide us with proper directions. I pray to Lord Jagannath this much: “May your immortal soul achieve oneness with the Great Soul.” This is our wish.

Project Co-ordinator
Diganta Residential School, Patrakana



IN MEMORY OF ANOTHER DADHICHI*

Dr. Samir Ranjan

It was a tender age then. I had the irrepressible desire to fly in the sky, the desire to pound at the mountain; the anxiety to do something new and showcase it. A meeting of the Communist Party was going on. I along with my friend Bishnu Barik reached the meeting. A man of great height was delivering a speech. He was giving an uninterrupted speech on the exploitation of Workers, which created ripples in my youthful spirit. He focused on the workers' deprivation of his minimum rights in an Industrial town. While the Industrialists fix the price of the factory products according to their own sweet will, how is it that they ignore the hike of the Labourers' wages. Bishnu asked one of the Party Workers, "Who is the person on the dais, who is giving such a nice speech?" The Party Worker replied that he was Surendra Mudali. To the question to which place the person belonged, pat came the reply: "Man of Cuttack." I opposed the doctor-friends who were distributing medicines only to the persons who were bright and fashionable. I lodged a complaint with the S.D.M.O.: "Why won't the poor and dirty looking patients get medicines from the Govt. store?" Later all actions of mine became the part of the beaten track, set by Mudalibabu; so much so that, in course of time, I forgot SurendraMudali. MudaliBabu seasoned the whole of Orissa with a new flavor of Marxist thought and idealism. He has stood as a strong wall against the State which indulged in crushing human rights of the people.

Surendra Mudali was a public speaker of the first order. From the date of his coming-of-age, he had tried to break the wall of the caste system. He was a great *pundit* in the philosophy of Marxism and Leninism. Often, he had shed tears for the downtrodden, and had given them his companionship until the end of his life. In today's world, how many people will be ready to dance before the horse spending money from their own pocket? Seldom have such people come to this world who would like to share the suffering of the disadvantaged. It would not be wrong if we call him as Dadhichi of our time. To live a meaningful life, man has two needs – the need for a decent society and the need for education, and Surendra Mudali has amply fulfilled these needs.

MudaliBabu had been imprisoned during Indira Gandhi's Emergency and her dictatorial rule. At that time, he was the General Secretary of the United Mines Mazdoor Sangh of Rourkela. He had worked with Jyoti Basu, the then Chief Minister of West Bengal. He had worked as the President of Sundargarh Zilla Labour Organization. He also contested from Rourkela Assembly Constituency on behalf of C.P.I. (M).

Since the students of our State had to go to outside the state for technical education, Mudalibabu felt like fulfilling this wanting in the state, and as such established National Institute of Science and Technology (N.I.S.T.) at Berhampur. Though prior to his, there were technological institutes in Bhubaneswar like O.E.C and Krupajalal, they were not adequate enough. Later on, Apex Institute of Technology was also established. Surendra Mudali was not merely confined to the spread of Technological education, he was also concerned with the strengthening Primary Education, and as such he laid the foundation stone for a residential school for imparting primary education in 1999, which was inaugurated in 2011 .

Comrade Mudali had understood that it is impossible to have the development of the Tribals, Dalits and Economically Backward Classes without education. The uniqueness of this school was that it not only

imparted learning to the children of the Tribals, Orphans, Dalits and Economic Backward Class, but also took care of all the expenses regarding their boarding and lodging. Also, the children of this school have proved their excellence in State competitions. It is a pleasure to watch the serene environment and the scientific system of learning in the school. It is undoubtedly an unforgettable contribution of MudaliBabu. The other invaluable contribution of MudaliBabu's is the Weekly Magazine, *Janabadi* which is pledged to present the subaltern voice before the Society. The newspaper which has become the puppet of the Government can never focus on the problems of the deprived. SurendraBabu had realized this in his life time, and had honed the voice of the deprived. Until the end of his life, he was the Founder Editor of *Janabadi*. In the meantime, it has created a spate of poets and writers, the best being SurendraBabu himself. In his life time, he has published many of my articles. He reads them again and again, and understands them. After he became the Editor of *Janabadi*, I came to know that he was no other than the same Surendra Mudali, the man of novelty, who had instilled in me a spark of revolution in the beginning of my career. His demise is a great loss to the Left and Progressive front. The people of Orissa have lost a Communist Leader who was an emblem of fighting. Be in Peace and Happiness wherever you are. Lal Salam, Comrade, Lal Salam.

*Dadhichi:

One of the views about the significance of Dadhichi in the Indian Myth.

Indra was in danger of losing his throne because of the mischief of the Asura, Vritra. He appealed Brahma for helping him out in this crisis. He advised him to go to the Rishi Dadhichi, also known as Dadhyanchi to come to his rescue. The Asura had got a boon that he cannot be killed by weapons made by wood or iron. Dadhichi sacrificed his life through his austere yoga and made his bones available to Indra who prepared a lethal weapon out of his bones, namely Vajrayudha and killed the Asura, Vritra. Dadhichi is known for his sacrifice.

On the eve of the 1st Death Anniversary (Surendranath Mudali)

Sudhir Kumar Sahu

One year has passed away. We still feel presence amidst us. Your affection, devotion, helpfulness and love will stay with us forever.

Your love towards plants, affection towards animals and birds, respect towards workers and colleagues is still memorable for us.

We pray before the Almighty for your immortal soul.

Staff of NIST



About my Beloved Sir

Sadasiba Mishra

Born on 2nd July 1935

Child Hood:

Inspired by father and uncle, who were associated with freedom movement (father was extending help to freedom fighters in underground and uncle was directly associated with freedom movement) developed attitude to work for poor.

School Period:

Came in contact with left student movement and communist in underground as a banned party. Developed contact with them and became sympathiser of communist movement.

College Carrier:

Became active member of left student movement and ultimately became a leader of left student movement in Odisha and joined Communist Party.

Joined High Court Bar in 1963 as junior of Late Biswanath Pasayat, father of Justice Arijit Pasayat. Shifted practice to Rourkela Bar in 1963 towards end. Although he was a leading criminal lawyer of Rourkela but communist movement attracted him more and ultimately became the founder of CPI (M) and CP(M) lead trade union movement in Sundargarh mining district. Expanded the party and trade union movement to mining rich Keonjhar district. He joined the communist movement from his student carrier with a dream to change the present Bourgeois – landlord system in our Country to a communist system of class less society. He led historic Rourkela Contractors' Workers and mining contractor's workers movement of Raurkela and Sundargarh district and was detained under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) conjcutively in the year 1973, 1974 and 1975 for All India Railway employee's strike, historic steel plant contractor workers' strike and emergency in 1975. He spent more than one year in underground in different times to avoid police arrest during workers movement and was arrested and put in jail for more than 12 times till 1990.

He was State committee member of CP(M) and vice-president of State CITU and National Council member of CITU for a long time. He left CP(M) in the year 1992 since the party under estimated its working class leadership character and middle class, educated, opportunist and careerist became the leaders of a working class party. He conceived the idea of need of more Engineering Colleges in Odisha when there was one engineering college in the state only. Motivated his son Sangram, who appreciated the idea and returned back from USA to Odisha with his wife to promote the project called NIST at Berhampur.

He had got soft heart for poor. Keeping in view the intolerable poverty in Odisha, specifically among tribal people, he started a residential school named as DIGANTA Residential School primarily for tribal boys, where around 800 tribal students are reading from class-I to ITI along with local students.

He formed a lawyers' Forum for the cause of democratic rights for the people called 'Democratic Lawyers Forum' and founder of weekly news paper called 'JANABADI', which deals with human rights, civil liberty and cause of toiling millions.

Employee, NIST, Berhampur