

DIRECTOR'S DESK

The digital transformation in the global economy has been accelerated by the pandemic in the past two years. Despite certain challenges like remote working and cyber security issues, digital platforms continued to accentuate growth through empowering, giving access to services, information, benefits and good governance. In other words, digital platforms became the only source of connection with the outer world as business, education, monetary transactions took a digital stride overnight due to lockdown. And with time digital governed operative business models have started ruling the volatile market. Therefore with regards to Mission Purovdaya as we talk about prioritizing logistical and utility infrastructure to attain ultimate transformation of socio-economic landscape in the eastern India. That seems possible with technologically advanced and globally competitive systems that facilitates innovation and allows automation to play a key role.

Therefore the ISCS's Chapter on Purvodaya hosted a web based discussion that allowed IT experts from eastern India to participate and seek insights and deeper understanding on the key issues of concern towards the growth and the related opportunities and challenges for the IT industry in eastern India. The interesting ideas and plans towards the growth of the IT sector, discussed in the webinar in form of an article by Dr. Agnihotri, has been shared in this edition of Bi-Monthly. The Bi-monthly also captures multiple technological approaches that have been taken to enhance the reach of electricity in rural east India.

The other reading of the Bi-Monthly enables readers to experience the cultural treasure trove of eastern India capturing history and comprehending cultural diversities. Focusing on how the Buddhist pilgrims' towns tucked away in eastern India are manifesting tranquility, peace. Also through its devotion soaked atmosphere connecting wheels and ushering contacts between people to a great extent.

— Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India



IT INDUSTRY AND EASTERN INDIA — AN OVERVIEW

Dreamstime

Dr. Madhu Agnihotri*

IT Industry Scenario

IT sector has seen exponential growth in last few decades in India. It has played pivotal role in transforming services and providing technological solutions to cater the industry requirements.

The digital transformation in global economy has been accelerated by the pandemic in past two years. Pandemic has created many challenges such as unprecedented Business Continuity Planning, Cyber security issues and Remote working.

As pandemic ravaged the world, experts predicted that Indian IT industry will probably see downfall in its growth patterns having impact even worse than that of the financial crisis of 2008. However, the current scenario has seen the tremendous increase in the demand for flexible technological solutions. Cloud technology solutions and remote working facilities have provided enormous opportunities and opened avenues for rethinking and redesigning business models for sustainable growth. Data security and confidentiality has emerged as the critical challenge for handling business operations in the new scenario.

As per the recent global 500 IT services ranking report 2022, six Indian IT companies have made it to top 25 list of most valuable global brands. TCS and INFOSYS are the second and third most valuable brand in IT sector in the world respectively. The other companies in the list includes WIPRO, HCL and Tech Mahindra.

Eastern India Scenario

Eastern India covers Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa. The region is very productive endowed with plenty of diversified resources including mines, rivers, fertile soil, rich minerals, heavy industry, research institutions, effective academic infrastructure and rich cultural heritage. Our Honorable Prime Minister (2016) stated that the development of eastern parts of India is a core priority and small towns must also have enough employment opportunities. With this thought in 2020, Ministry of Steel announced the launch of “PURVODAYA” to develop eastern India into an integrated Steel hub.

Eastern belt has huge potential to add more than 75% of country’s incremental steel capacity. Through this mission, government of India aims to transform logistics and utilities infrastructure

leading to the ultimate transformation of socio-economic landscape in the eastern India. Such transformation is possible only with technologically advanced and globally competitive systems. Continuous innovation and automation can play key role in the fulfillment of such dream.

Considering the kind of educational infrastructure, Eastern India has, the region should have been taking lead in delivering knowledge creation, product creation, IT services deliverables. However, most of the leadership is coming from the National Capital Region, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and

Maharashtra. Eastern India cities doesn’t come to the priority list for potential employers although lot of talent pool is available in this region.

In Kolkata, more than 1.5 lakh engineers are working in software industry. Bhubaneswar is the second most important destination in this regard where IT industry is growing at rapid pace.

Due to strong academic infrastructure functioning in eastern India, huge employable talent pool is generated continuously. Every year, thousands of technical and management graduates are produced from eastern India, most land up with jobs in other parts of the country. It has been observed that this talent pool is playing critical lead role in IT industry in the challenging areas of including industry 4.0, artificial intelligence (AI), natural language processing (NLP), blockchain technology and green technology in other parts of our country as well as in other countries. In order to have a balanced eco-system of IT industry in eastern India, such talent pool must be provided with enough growth and employment opportunities.

The scenario is changing gradually in the eastern part now. Eastern India is evolving continuously and development is not only in industry but also promoting social development resulting in overall growth of the region. Many startups and giant IT companies have set up their corporate offices in major cities of eastern India. Friendly government policies, ease of doing business and reasonable budget allocation for eastern India is motivating the growth in IT sector. Startup can be a great way to develop IT industry in eastern India.

The way ahead

The whole eco-system of IT industry has been very dynamic and the industry is able to gain the confidence of fortune 500 companies for quite long time with the help of innovation including high performance computing, cyber security, artificial intelligence and data analysis. India still do not have data protection legislation

and service level agreement although data management is a major domain handled by IT sector. The tremendous impact of IT industry on Indian economy has been well established. The industry revenue is 227 billion dollars from IT industry which is growing significantly every year.

The emergence of IT industry in eastern India is lagging behind from few other states and there is huge potential for growth. In order to ensure the development in eastern India in the context of IT industry, there is dire need of creating more growth opportunities and ensure the scope for continuous innovation. Ease of doing business will attract more companies to set up their offices in this region. Promotion of start-ups can be pivotal in the growth of IT Industry. Government may encourage and support establishment of IT offices and start-ups to keep the talent pool in the region itself. Remote working facility can also play a crucial role in holding the talent pool within the region. Data Protection legislation is needed to ensure the safety of the data that IT industry and its stakeholders has to store, process and analyze.

Conclusion

Digital first enterprise is the need of the hour. It is very significant to consider new operative business models that are flexible and ready to adapt to the volatile market. Industry needs to stay relevant for the customer and cater to the changing needs of the customers. The focus of any industry has to be outcome based for sustainable development. Continuous talent development and regulatory changes to facilitate the digital enterprise to operate in conducive manner are also the key issues that are needed to develop any industry in any part of the world. Eastern India with huge growth potential needs to be explored with flexible business models as per industry requirements. Retaining the capable human resource within the region is a challenging issue that needs to be dealt with systematic planning. Enormous resources within the region in terms of academics, research, and human resource needs to be utilized to its fullest extent so that overall growth of the region can be ensured which ultimately will contribute to the growth and development of the whole country.



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**Assitant Professor, St. Xaviers College, Kolkata*



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NEED FOR RES IN EASTERN REGION'S DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

Shebonti Ray Dadwal*

The unexpectedly early onset of summer from March saw most of India experiencing scorching heat waves with temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius. The heat wave was attributed to rising surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean coupled with El-Nino effect. But other factors, such as large-scale deforestation, rampant urbanization which has seen a huge rise in energy – mainly fossil fuel – resources and rapid lifestyle changes which, in turn, has resulted in growing carbon emissions are also major contributors for the rising number of heat wave days.

The heat wave also triggered massive power shortfall due to the rise in energy demand, coupled with a paucity of coal which powers 52% of the 400 GW installed generation capacity of the power sector. The crisis also underlined the urgent need for alternate energy resources, particularly renewable energy resources (RES) to be increased in the country's energy mix.

While India has been lauded internationally for its rapid rise of RES in its overall energy basket, the growth has been unevenly distributed among the states. The southern and western states are the largest contributors to RES, followed by northern states.

However, the states of the eastern region, viz., Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, are lagging behind. Unsurprisingly, during the March-April heat wave, these states reported power outages due to generation shortfall. While Jharkhand had to meet peak demand shortfalls by procuring electricity from the market, Odisha, which claimed to be a power surplus state, faced acute shortage of electricity as well, while Bihar saw a power deficit of 200-300 MW per day, forcing it to purchase around 600 MW from the power exchange at higher rates.

The irony is that despite having vast potential in human and natural resources, particularly coal, the eastern states are not included in the top 5 or even 10 of the fastest growing economies of India. All the state governments have time and again announced the goal of industrial development to boost employment and economic growth. At best, they have remained in the middle section of growth levels, while a few have remained at the lower end. Among others, two issues stand in the way of achieving their set goals – poor infrastructure across sectors and insufficient funds, including capital investment. Unsurprisingly, these States have also ranked low in social development indices, with about two-thirds of the population living below the poverty line.

Given India's growing demand for electricity as well and to cut increasing carbon emissions in line with commitments made under the Paris Agreement, the need for increasing clean energy to the country's energy mix is necessary. RES-based power generation currently account for 28% of the power mix, and while they are still far from being in a position to replace coal and gas-based generation due to their inability to provide 24x7 electricity without storage capacity, they can be used for generation during peak demand periods. More importantly, they can provide decentralised or off-grid solutions

for rural and remote areas.

Despite the fact that they lag behind in RES production, the eastern region has substantial renewable energy potential. According to data from the Central Electricity Commission (CEA), Odisha has the ability to produce around 25.78 GW from RES, Jharkhand has 18.15 GW, Bihar has 11.20 GW and West Bengal has 6.26 GW. However, over the last few years, these state governments have adopted policies which focus on developing the renewable energy capacity, albeit with mixed results.

Bihar, which has the lowest per capita consumption of energy, unveiled a policy to focus on supporting the growth of clean energy in 2017, setting a target of installed capacity of 3,433 MW of RE by the end of 2022, including 2,969 MW from solar, 244 MW from bio-mass and 220 MW from small hydropower projects.

But five years later, the state has been able to achieve installation of only 386 MW of RE, which is only around 11% of the target. With only a few months left to achieve the target, the state is now trying to give a serious push to the struggling sector. The Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA), said that it is focusing on the universal solarisation of all government-owned facilities like hospitals, panchayat institutions, jails, schools and all other buildings under the Rs. 20,000 crore Jal Jeevan Hariyali project and claims that in many rural areas, the presence of solar lights has started making its presence felt. BREDA is also working on developing two floating solar projects to increase the solar power expansion to address the challenges of land acquisition as well as land-based solar parks. In addition, the rooftop project with subsidies from the MNRE and the Bihar government is also going on.

A similar case of low RES penetration exists in Jharkhand, which despite holding the country's largest coal reserves and a key contributor towards the generation of thermal energy, finds

itself dependent on other states for electricity, including solar energy. According to the CEA, up to March 31, 2022, Jharkhand had a total of 97.14 MW of installed capacity of power from RE, which accounts for 3.5% of the 2734.64 MW of installed capacity of power utilities in the state, the lowest after Sikkim in the region.

Despite having set a target of 2,650 MW of solar energy by the end of 2020, Jharkhand has not been able to achieve even half its target. Now, in its latest State Solar Policy of 2022, the government has set a revised goal of 4,000 MW of RE through a new roadmap, wherein it is targeting solar parks, floating solar, solar canal top and solar rooftop projects over the next five years. It also plans to make 1000 solar villages with the help of decentralised and standalone small-scale solar plants. To its credit, Jharkhand has become one of the leading states in terms of coverage and number of farmers benefited under the PM-KUSUM scheme over the last few years, with 6711 solar water pumps being installed by 2021 December-end.

A number of reforms have also been introduced in the new scheme, including single window clearance, set timelines for solar projects, environment clearance exemptions of solar projects, provisions for carbon credit and carbon pricing, etc., to pave the way for the growth of renewable sources of energy in the state.

Odisha had unveiled its Renewable Energy Policy in 2016, and according to CEA, as of December 2021, Odisha had the highest installed capacity (597.04 MW) of renewable energy in the eastern region, 430 MW of which is derived from solar energy alone. Under the policy, measures to implement and promote solar energy development in the state with a target to install 2,200 MW of additional solar generation by 2022, including 1000 MW of roof-top solar and other non-land based solar

projects. Although this target has yet to be reached, the demand for rooftop and other solar-powered appliances have risen, as it has found resonance with the people in dealing with emergency power supply, especially during weather-related disasters (the 2019 cyclone Fani forced people to live without power over 15 days, including in Bhubaneswar, although roof top solar customers did not have to suffer) as well as to reduce electricity bills. Under the scheme, 1,163 rooftop solar projects with a total capacity of 12.3 MW and 2.44 lakh biogas plants have been executed along with 13,219 solar-powered drinking water projects as well as distribution of 1,687 irrigation pumps and 82,033 green lanterns. Furthermore, the Central government has recently approved three solar parks to be set up in the state with a cumulative capacity of 340 MW under the solar park scheme.

In 2020, the government asked the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency to increase the target to 1500 MW of solar energy and come up with more cost-effective incentive schemes to promote domestic use of solar power in the state and to prepare a plan for promotional activities and popularise use of solar-based agricultural equipment, water heaters, lights and green-powered machines. New solar technologies in the fields of cold storage, drinking water, millet processing, sewing and rope-making were also on the anvil.

Ironically, although **West Bengal** was a pioneer in solar technology in the country with the government owned WEBEL being one of the first manufacturers of solar panels, its power sector is heavily tilted toward thermal power to meet its power requirements, largely because the state has large coal reserves. As a result, coal-based power makes up 9,197 MW of the total 11,180 MW of installed power capacity in the state. Conversely, RE development has been slow. No doubt, compared to the other eastern region states, West Bengal has a moderate solar power potential

of 6,260 MW, of which only 166 MW was installed as of February 2022, while other RE sources comprise 98 MW comprising of small hydro and 322 MW of bio-energy, leading to a total installed renewable energy capacity of 587 MW plus about 1,400 MW of hydropower capacity.

However, of late, West Bengal has been making efforts to lower its dependence on coal, partly because corporate pressure on clean energy deployment as well as the increasing cost viability of RE, particularly solar power. Several RE projects have been announced in the past few months, albeit small when compared to the larger solar farms being built in other states, most of them based on solar power due to its cost-competitiveness and versatility. These include a 5.4 MW floating solar project at the Sagardighi thermal power plant, and bids have been invited for installing 50 MW grid-connected rooftop solar projects on residential buildings across the state. Another tender to set up two 10 MW grid-connected ground-mounted solar projects on a turnkey basis has been invited at Purulia and a 1 MW ground-mounted solar power plant has been commissioned for the Kolkata Port Trust at Haldia. Another proposal for a 4 MW floating solar project at the IISCO steel plant in Bardhaman has been put up and a tender for the development of 8 MW of solar plants in Durgapur has been initiated, while bids for the installation of 22.5 MW of floating solar projects have also been invited along with a 250 kW solar power plant that is being set up in the remote island of Gharomara in the Sunderbans, which will provide power to about 5,000 people by the end of 2022. One of the more successful RE initiatives has been its Sunshine Schools or Aaloshree project, run by the West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA), which aims to add at least 250 MW of solar power to the

grid by 2030. The scheme aims to lower carbon emissions and bring cheap, reliable energy to classrooms by swapping traditional grid-supplied electricity with solar power produced onsite.

A number of regulatory reforms have also been initiated, including gross metering for rooftop systems with a capacity of above 5 kW, net metering for agricultural consumers, and renewable purchase obligations (RPOs) have also been reviewed and increased.

Despite the focus on increasing the share of RE, the states have to overcome some challenges. These include first, the availability of land for large wind and solar farms, due to high population density and farmlands, which would have to be appropriated for producing large quantities of RE. The governments are trying to tackle by creating land banks and special purpose vehicles to attract private investments in the sector. There are political factors as well. For example, as the RE sector is exempt from paying stamp duty and circle charges, the state government loses revenues from such projects.

No doubt, the installation of rooftop solar panels could offset the challenge of paucity of large tracts of land. A 2012 study by the Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) had recommended that 10% of available rooftops in Patna for example could generate up to 700 MW of energy.

Second, and one of the most knotty issues is financing of RE projects from financial institutions due to the stressed DISCOMs and the debts they are facing. Private investors are wary of investing in areas where timely payments could be delayed or complicated.

Third, the lack of maintenance and the low paying capacity of the local population, most of who are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood is also a deterrent. Moreover, the intensity of solar power or wind is not as strong or of the velocity as compared to the western Indian

states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, causing the same number of solar and wind plants to produce lower energy in the eastern states.

Fourth, large hydro projects are difficult in some states like Jharkhand due to the lack of perennial rivers, although small-scale hydro projects are feasible.

Fifth, the increase in prices of solar equipment following the imposition of cess on imported modules has seen a slowdown in solar energy installations. The cost of an average rooftop system has seen an increase of 17% in 2022 from a year before.

Nonetheless, in the long run, harnessing RES to supplement and eventually replace fossil fuel-based plants is necessary if India has to tackle the dual challenge of demand growth as well as carbon emissions mitigation. More

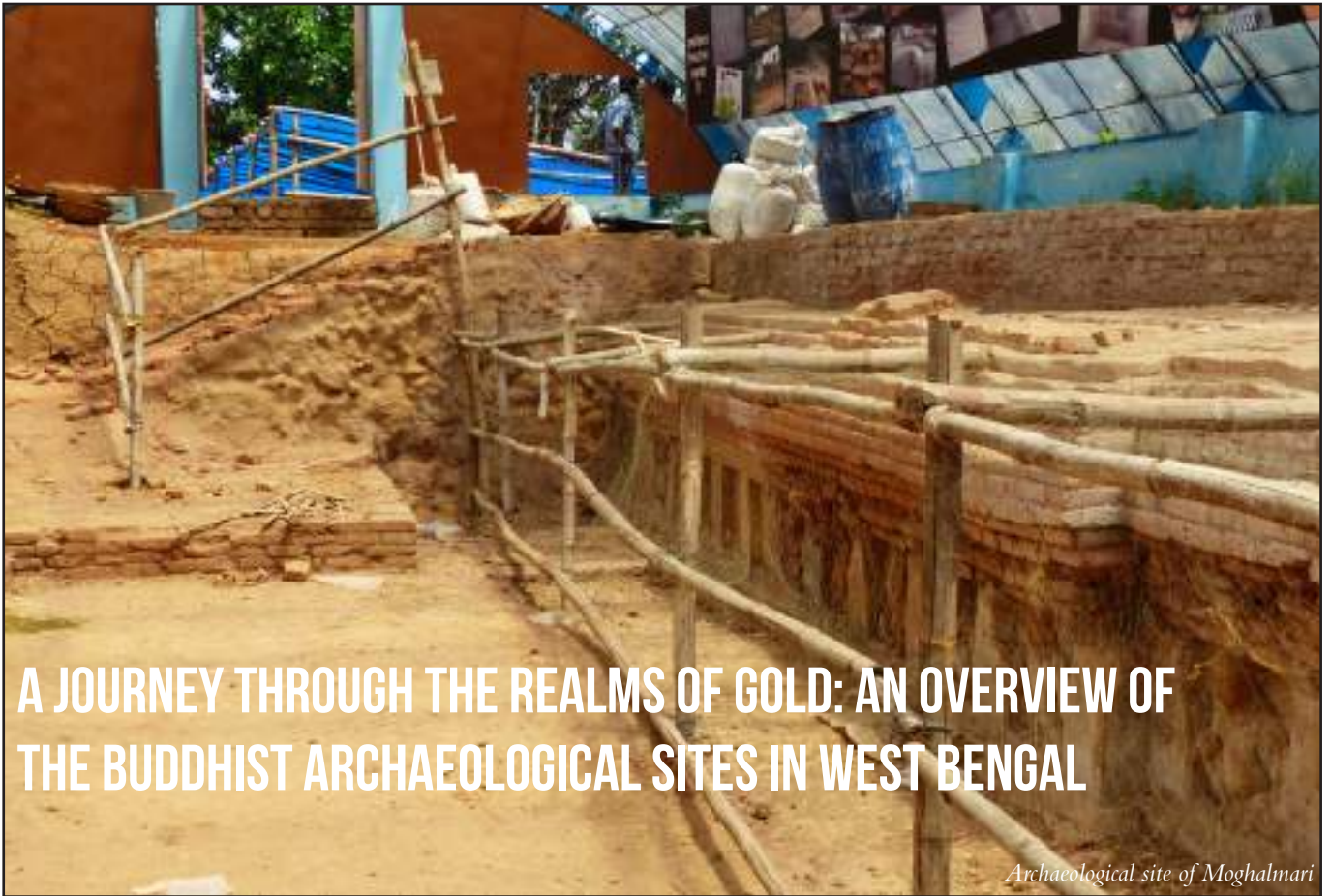
importantly, mini-grids powered by RES can be harnessed to deal with the challenges in the power sector in rural and remote areas. Given that these areas often comprise of scattered households in remote areas with low load requirements due to a small consumer base, the economic and environmental costs associated with connecting a village to the grid network is seen as unfeasible by DISCOMs. Moreover, micro-grids do not have to deal with transmission and distribution losses as power is generated in the same village that consumes it, reducing, even preventing any power outages and voltage fluctuations, and are easy to maintain, besides enabling supply of green energy, thereby reducing environmental costs.

While other parts of India have embraced RES, it is time for the eastern states to do the same in order to deal with the twin challenge of growing demand and climate change if they have to achieve their stated goals of socio-economic growth.



Dreamstime

**An Energy and Resources Security Consultant*



Heerak Nandy

Subham Amin*

The history of Buddhism in India appears to be incomplete without the history of its emergence, proliferation, culmination and decadence in Bengal. The history expands from the period of Lord Buddha to the reign of the Pala Dynasty. The history of the Buddhist past of Bengal comprises the chronicles of the Viharas, the centres of excellence, which promotes knowledge as well as wisdom based on the principles of Buddhism. However, the endeavour was not only limited to the promotion of Buddhism alone, but extended to the domains of Hindu and Jain theology, literature, history, philosophy, logic, medicine, aesthetics, politics etc. In fact, the Buddhist Mahaviharas in Eastern India emerged as educational hubs serving as centres of learning to the monks and disciples coming over there not only from India, but from Asia. Mahaviharas such as Nalanda, Vikramsila, Sompura, Odantapuri acquired fame and renown worldwide and established themselves as the most sought-after institutions.

The Viharas, which began to witness signs of decline since the inception of the Sena Dynasty in Bengal, disappeared, following the Turkish invasion in the twelfth century. The Viharas had been

destroyed and the monks fled to Tibet and Nepal resulting in the disappearance of Buddhism from Bengal. The ruins had been covered by the haze of time and amnesia till resurrected by British archaeologists in the nineteenth century. The history of the Viharas in the territory of the present West Bengal did not receive much critical and archaeological consideration before independence. In post-independence period, Archaeological Survey of India, Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta and the State Archaeological Department of West Bengal have undertaken the mammoth task of resurrecting the ruins of the renowned Viharas mentioned in the accounts of the Chinese monks Faxian (also referred as Fa Hien) and Xuan Zang (also referred as Hiuen Tsang) and the Pali texts. The series of excavations conducted by the aforementioned departments have unearthed ruins of *Raktamrittika Vihara* (Rajdanga in Murshidabad district), *Nandadighi Vihara* (Tulabhita, Jagjivanpur in Malda District), *Dantaban or Danta Vihara* (Mogulmari, Dantan in Midnapore West District), *Balanda Mahavihara* (Berachampa, North 24 Pgs. District) and *Bharatpur Stupa* (Galsi, Burdwan East district). These discoveries have remarkable impact to rewrite the lost history of Buddhism in Bengal.

The ruins of Raktamrittika Vihara have been excavated in Rajdanga, in the Murshidabad district. The area is part of the ancient city Karnasuvarna, the capital city of Shashanka, the emperor of Bengal in the 7th century. Xuan Zang in his account *Si Yu Ki* has mentioned about his visit to this Vihara. In 1962, the site was excavated by Dr S. R. Das under the aegis of the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta. According to the scholars, the Vihara was established in 6th century⁴. In 2005, the site was again excavated by ASI, led by its Eastern regional director Bimal Bandyopadhyay. The excavation unearthed

a seal containing the name of Raktamrittika, several statues of Lord Vishnu and Surya, earthen statues of Lord Buddha and Bodhisattva, and also traces of a sewerage system resembling that of the Mauryan Age.⁵ The Vihara bears testimony to the presence of Buddhism in Karnasuvarna during the reign of King Shashanka in spite of the chronicles of his antagonism towards Buddhism recorded by Xuan Zang. In 2020, I had the privilege to visit the site at Rajdanga. The history of Karnasuvarna and the Vihara appear to have been withered from the memory of the residents and exist only in fragments, such as the name of King Shashanka and Karnasuvarna. Moreover, the site is exposed to free movements and the maintenance is improper. The site does not seem to feature in the list of popular tourist destinations of the area. The history, however, appears to have been embedded in the legendary tales and popular narratives in crude forms, which need to be decoded to find the traces of the past overshadowed by time.

Nandadighi Vihara, situated in Jagjivanpur, Malda was excavated in 1992-95 following the discovery of a copper plate with inscriptions in 1987 by Sri Jagadish Gayen. The copper plate inscription states that the land was donated by the Pala King Mahendrapaladeva to his army general Vajradeva, who established the Vihara in the 9th or 10th century. The name Nandadighi Vihara has been deciphered from a seal excavated from here and there is a vast lake named Nandadighi near the Vihara. According to Keka Adhikari Banerjee, this is the only Vihara so far excavated in India named after a waterbody⁶. The site has been declared as a protected heritage by West Bengal State Archaeological Department. The site has been properly restored, maintained and beautified by the State Archaeological Department. The structure of the Vihara presents an expanded brick structure with wells, steps, sanctum, large hall, small quarters for the monks. The walls are decorated with floral patterns and designs one would find in the Viharas of the eastern India. It

could be assumed that like other Viharas such as Nalanda, Vikramsila, Sompura, Nandadighi Vihara has also served as a centre of learning in the Pala period of Bengal. Unlike Rajdanga, the local inhabitants appear to be enthusiastic about this place. As a visitor, I heard the stories of excavation from the locals, who accompanied the archaeologists engaged in excavation of the site. According to the State Archaeological Department, extensive excavations were conducted on the site between 1995-2005 under the supervision of Amal Roy⁷.

The discovery of Dantaban or Dantapur Vihara in Mogulmari in Midnapore West district appears to be one of the most fascinating archaeological discoveries in West Bengal in post-independence period. The ruins of the vihara were excavated in a mound known as Sakhisonar Dhupi named after a legendary princess during 2003-12 by Dr Ashoke Dutta of the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta. According to Dr Bankim Chandra Maity, the Vihara was constructed between 5th to 8th century AD⁸. The extensive excavations unearthed a mammoth and widespread structure of a temple, stupas and the monastic complex. According to Dr Ashoke Dutta,

‘Moghaluari possibly exhibits the largest monastic site so far discovered in West Bengal. Its Buddhist character is unquestionably proved by the discovery of a stone image of the Buddha in the *Bhumisparsa* pose...’⁹

The large brick structures with multiple layers, the inner sanctum of the temple at the centre and the monastic complex around, the fascinating stucco figurines on the exterior of the eastern and southern walls, and the discovery of multiple seals and coins, Buddha images, golden crowns and ornaments and various other antiquities render the grandeur of the vihara. While visiting Mogulmari in 2017, I found an enthusiasm among the locals with an inquisitiveness concerning the history of the vihara as many of them actively participated and extended logistic assistance during excavations.

The history of Buddhism in Bengal has been a multi-layered domain of importance. Following the collapse of Dhamma in the plane, the monks migrated to the mountainous regions of Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and North-Eastern part of India and the shrines had been lost in oblivion. Thus, extensive scriptural and archaeological explorations are awaited to unravel the past, which was once the most coveted past of Bengal.



Danta Vihara, Mogulmari, Dantan, Midnapore West

Heerak Nandy

*Assistant Professor Department of English, Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyamahapitha

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Dreamstime

ଡକ୍ଟର ସୁଶାଳ କୁମାର ବାଗ୍*

ପୃଥିବୀର ୭୦.୮ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଭାଗ ହେଉଛି ସମୁଦ୍ର । ଏହାର ୧୪ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ହେଉଛି ଭାରତ ମହାସାଗର । ଭାରତର ୧୩ଟି ରାଜ୍ୟର ସୀମାକୁ ଲାଗି ରହିଛି ସମୁଦ୍ର । ସେଥିମଧ୍ୟରୁ ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତର ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ବଙ୍ଗ ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିକାଶ ପଥରେ ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତ ବେଶ୍ ଆଗରେ ରହିଛି । ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପୂର୍ବୋଦୟ ଯୋଜନାରେ ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ପାଠଶୁଡ଼ିକର ବିକାଶ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆଗେଇ ଚାଲିଛି । ଏହି କ୍ରମରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଓ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ବଙ୍ଗ ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନର ଭୂତ୍ରିଭୂମିକୁ ଅଧିକ ସୁଦୃଢ଼ ଓ ବ୍ୟାପକ କରାଯାଉଛି । ବେଳାଭୂମିର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ପ୍ରତି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ନୂଆ ନୂଆ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଉଛି । ଏ ଦିଗରେ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଭୂମିକା ରହିଛି । ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟୋଦୟର ସିନ୍ଧୁ ରୂପ ଦର୍ଶନ ହେଉ କି ସୂର୍ଯ୍ୟାସ୍ତର ମନୋରମ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ହେଉ ବେଳାଭୂମିକୁ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନେ ଧାଇଁ ଆସିଥାନ୍ତି ।

ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟରେ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ବାତାବରଣ: ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପୁରୀ । ଏକ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ପୀଠ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ । ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ମନ୍ଦିର ପାଇଁ ପୁରୀ ସାରା ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ପରିଚିତ । ଦେଶର ଏକ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ପୀଠ ହେଉଛି ଜଗନ୍ନାଥଧାମ ପୁରୀ । ପୁରୀ ବେଳାଭୂମି ଦେଶବିଦେଶର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କୁ ସର୍ବଦା ଆକର୍ଷିତ କରିଆସିଛି । ପୁରୀ ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟ ସହିତ ଯୋଡ଼ି ହୋଇରହିଛି ଏକ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଭାବଧାରୀ । ଶ୍ରୀଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ସଂସ୍କୃତି ସହିତ ଅଙ୍ଗାଙ୍ଗୀ ଭାବେ ଜଡ଼ିତ ମହୋଦଧି । ପବିତ୍ର ମାଘ ସପ୍ତମୀରେ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାଗାରେ ବୁଡ଼ି ପକାଇଲେ କୋଟି ପୁଣ୍ୟ ମିଳେ ବୋଲି ଲୋକମାନଙ୍କ ଭିତରେ ଗଭୀର ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ରହିଛି । ତେଣୁ ମାଘ ସପ୍ତମୀରେ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାଗା ବେଳାଭୂମିରେ ବୁଡ଼ି ପକାଇବା ପାଇଁ ହଜାର ହଜାର ଭକ୍ତଙ୍କ ଭିଡ଼ ଜମିଥାଏ । ତ୍ରିବେଣୀଶ୍ୱର ମହାଦେବ, ଐଶାନ୍ୟଶ୍ୱର ମହାଦେବ ଓ ଦକ୍ଷିଣେଶ୍ୱର ମହାଦେବଙ୍କ ମହାସ୍ନାନ ପର ରାତିନାତି ଅନୁସାୟା ମହୋଦଧି ଆକତି କରାଯାଇଥାଏ । ସେହିପରି ପୌଷ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିମା ଅବସରରେ

ପୁରୀ ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟ ସ୍ୱର୍ଗଦ୍ୱାର ସମ୍ମୁଖରେ ମହୋଦଧି ଆକାଶ ମହୋତ୍ସବର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ । ଏ ଅବସରରେ ଭାରତର ବିଭିନ୍ନ କୋଣଅନୁକୋଣରୁ ବହୁ ସାଧୁ, ସନ୍ଥ, ମହାନ୍ତଙ୍କ ସମାଗମ ହୋଇଥାଏ । ବିଶ୍ୱ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଓ ବରୁଣଦେବଙ୍କ ଉପାସନା ନିମନ୍ତେ ଏହି ମହୋଦଧି ଆକାଶ ମହୋତ୍ସବର ଆୟୋଜନ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ସମୃଦ୍ଧ ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ: ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବେଶ୍ ସମୃଦ୍ଧଶାଳୀ । ପୁରୀ ହେଉ କି କୋଣାର୍କର ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାଗା ବେଳାଭୂମି ଦେଶର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ସ୍ଥଳୀର ମାନ୍ୟତା ଲାଭ କରିଛି । ଏଠାରେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ହୋଟେଲ ଉପଲବ୍ଧ । ଦେଶବିଦେଶର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରୁ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନେ ବିମାନ ଯୋଗେ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର ବିଜୁ ପଟ୍ଟନାୟକ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ବିମାନ ବନ୍ଦରକୁ ଆସୁଛନ୍ତି । ଆଉ ସେଠାରୁ ସଡ଼କ ପଥ ଦେଇ ଶ୍ରୀକ୍ଷେତ୍ର ପୁରୀରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ସମୁଦ୍ର ବେଳାଭୂମିର ମନୋରମ ଦୃଶ୍ୟକୁ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିଥାନ୍ତି । ଭାରତର ଏକ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ଭାବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପୁରୀ ସହର ଏବେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରିପାରିଛି । ରାଜ୍ୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିଭାଗ ପକ୍ଷରୁ କୋଣାର୍କ-ପୁରୀ ବେଳାମାର୍ଗରେ ଇକୋ ରିଟ୍ରିଟ୍ ଟେଣ୍ଟ ଭିଲେଜ୍ ଏବେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ମନ ମୋହୁଛି । ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଜଳକ୍ରୀଡ଼ା କରିବା ସହିତ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନେ ସମୁଦ୍ର କୂଳରେ ରାତ୍ରୀ ଯାପନ କରିବାର ସୁଯୋଗକୁ ହାତ ଛଡ଼ା କରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁନାହାନ୍ତି ।

ଆକର୍ଷଣର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରବିନ୍ଦୁ ପୁରୀ ‘ଗୋଲଡେନ୍ ବିଚ୍’ : ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପୁରୀର ‘ଗୋଲଡେନ୍ ବିଚ୍’(Golden Beach) ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ଆକର୍ଷଣର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରବିନ୍ଦୁ ପାଲଟିଛି । ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ବେଳାଭୂମି ଭାବେ ପୁରୀ ‘ଗୋଲଡେନ୍ ବିଚ୍’କୁ କୋପେନହାଗାନସ୍ଥିତ ‘ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ୍ ଫର୍ ଏନ୍ଭାଇରମେଣ୍ଟାଲ ଏଜୁକେଶନ୍’ (Foundation for Environmental Education) ବା ଏଫ୍.ଇ.ଇ. ପକ୍ଷରୁ ‘ବ୍ଲୁ ଫ୍ଲାଗ୍’ ସାର୍ଟିଫିକେଟ୍ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଭାରତର ୮ଟି ସୁନ୍ଦର ଓ ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛ ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟ ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ପୁରୀ ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ‘ବ୍ଲୁ ଫ୍ଲାଗ୍’ ସାର୍ଟିଫିକେଟ୍ ପାଇବାକୁ ହେଲେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାବରଣ, ସୁରକ୍ଷା, ସୁନ୍ଦରତା, ସ୍ୱଚ୍ଛତା ଆଦି ଏଫ୍.ଇ.ଇ.ର ୩୩ଟି ମାନଦଣ୍ଡକୁ ପୂରଣ କରିବା ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ଥାଏ । ପୁରୀର ‘ଗୋଲଡେନ୍ ବିଚ୍’ ବା ‘ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବେଳାଭୂମି’ ଦିଗବାରେଣୀ ଛକରୁ ମେଫେୟାର୍ ହୋଟେଲ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଲମ୍ବିଛି । ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନରେ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ, ପରିବେଶ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିଭାଗ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ମିଳିତ ଭାବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପାଞ୍ଚୋଟି ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟକୁ ପୁନର୍ବିକାଶ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଯୋଜନା ରହିଛି । ଯଦି ଏହି ଯୋଜନା ସଫଳ ହୁଏ, ତେବେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତର ସବୁଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକପ୍ରିୟ ତଟୀୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ସ୍ଥଳ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ହେବ । ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସମୁଦ୍ର ତଟରେ ଶୌଚାଳୟ, ବସିବା ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା, ଡ୍ରାଏ ଟାଓ୍ୱାର ଆଦି ସମସ୍ତ ପ୍ରକାର ସୁବିଧା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ହେବ ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଆକର୍ଷଣୀୟ ବେଳାଭୂମି: ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ପ୍ରାୟ ୫୦୦ କିଲୋମିଟର ଲମ୍ବ ସମୁଦ୍ରତଟ ରେଖା ରହିଛି । ସେଥିମଧ୍ୟରୁ ପୁରୀ, ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରଭାଗା, ଗୋପାଳପୁର, ବାଲେଶ୍ୱରର ଚାନ୍ଦିପୁର, ଦାଘା, ଆର୍ଯ୍ୟାପଲ୍ଲୀ, ପାରାଦୀପ ଆଦି ଅନ୍ୟତମ । ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର ନିକଟସ୍ଥ ଗୋପାଳପୁର ବେଳାଭୂମି

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ସ୍ଥଳୀ । ଯେଉଁଠି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅନେକ ସୁବିଧା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ରହିଛି । ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଥିବା ବେଳାଭୂମିଗୁଡ଼ିକର ବିକାଶ ଦିଗରେ ଯଦି ସରକାର ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିବେ, ତେବେ ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଏକ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ସ୍ଥାନ ଅଧିକାର କରିବ ।

ଅନନ୍ୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ପୀଠ ‘ଚିଲିକା’: ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଖୋର୍ଦ୍ଧା, ପୁରୀ ଓ ଗଞ୍ଜାମ ଜିଲ୍ଲାକୁ ବ୍ୟାପିଥିବା ଏକ ଲୁଣିଆ ହ୍ରଦ ହେଉଛି ଚିଲିକା । ହ୍ରଦ ଭିତରେ ପାହାଡ଼ ବନ୍ଧରେ ଥିବା କାଳିଜାଈ ମନ୍ଦିର ହେଉଛି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଆକର୍ଷଣ । ଚିଲିକାର ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଯୁଗେ ଯୁଗେ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ମନମୋହି ଆସିଛି । ଚିଲିକାର ନୀଳ ଜଳରାଶିର ଅପୂର୍ବ ଶୋଭା, ମନୋରମ ପକ୍ଷୀ ବିହାର, ଡଲଫିନ୍‌ଙ୍କ ଜଳକ୍ରୀଡ଼ା, ମା’ କାଳିଜାଈଙ୍କ ଦର୍ଶନ କରିବାରେ ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନେ ପାଆନ୍ତି ପରମ ତୃପ୍ତି । ବିଦେଶୀ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ କଳରବ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ଭିତରେ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରେ ବିପୁଳ ଭାବାବେଗ । କବି, ଲେଖକ, ବୃଦ୍ଧିଜୀବାମାନଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ସାଧାରଣ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଆକର୍ଷଣର କେନ୍ଦ୍ରବିନ୍ଦୁ ପାଲଟିଛି ଚିଲିକାର ମନୋରମ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ । ଏକଦା ଚିଲିକାର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ବିମୁଗ୍ଧ ହୋଇ ଉତ୍କଳମଣି ପଣ୍ଡିତ ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଦାସ ଲେଖିଥିଲେ :

ରହ ରହ କ୍ଷଣେ ବାସ୍ତାୟ ଶକଟ
 ଦେଖିବି ଚିଲିକା ଚାରୁ ଚିତ୍ରପଟ,
 ଚିତ୍ର ମଣେ ଯେଣୁ ନାହିଁ ଅନୁଭବ
 ବାସ୍ତବ ବିଶ୍ୱେ କି ଏ ଛବି ସମ୍ଭବ ?
 ନୀଳ ବୀତିମାଳା ଧାରେ ଧାରେ ଯାଏ
 ଲାଗଇ ସ୍ୱପନେ ଦେଖିଲା ପରାଏ ।
 ସନ୍ତରନ୍ତି ବକ୍ଷେ ପକ୍ଷୀ ଦଳ ଦଳ
 ଓଲଟିଣ ତଳେ ଦଶନ୍ଧି ଯୁଗଳ ।
 ଘୋର ନାଦେ ଯହୁଁ ଉଠିଲେ ସେ ନଭେ
 ଉଠେ ଶତ ଖନ ଚିଲିକା-ଗରଭେ ।
 ସତ୍ୟ ବୋଲି ମନେ ନ ହେଉ ପ୍ରତୀତ,
 ପଲକେ ସେ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ହୁଏ ତିରୋହିତ । (୧)

ପୂର୍ବୋଦ୍ଧତ ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନରେ ଚିଲିକାର ସ୍ଥାନ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର । ଚିଲିକାର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟକୁ ଉପଭୋଗ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ସମାଗମ ହେଉଛି । ଚିଲିକାର ଅନ୍ୟତମ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଆକର୍ଷଣ ହେଉଛି ଏହାର ଜୈବବିଭିନ୍ନତା । ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ଓ ପ୍ରାଣୀମାନଙ୍କ ଅପୂର୍ବ ସମାହାରର ଏହା ଏକ ଅନନ୍ୟ, ଅନୁପମ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟତମ ଜୈବବିଭିନ୍ନତା ହ୍ରଦ ଭାବେ ଦେଶବିଦେଶର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କର ଦୃଷ୍ଟି ଆକର୍ଷଣ କରିପାରିଛି । ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କ ଆଗମନକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି ଅନେକ ଛୋଟବଡ଼ ହୋଟେଲ, ଲଜ୍ ଗଢ଼ି ଉଠିଛି ଚିଲିକା ଆଖପାଖ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ । ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଇକୋ-ଟୁରିଜିମର ବିକାଶ ଦିଗରେ ଯଦି ସରକାର ଅଧିକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରନ୍ତେ, ଏହା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଅଧିକ ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ କରିପାରନ୍ତା ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶା କେବଳ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ସମୃଦ୍ଧଶାଳୀ ନୁହେଁ, ସଂସ୍କୃତି, ପରମ୍ପରା, ଲୋକନୃତ୍ୟଗୀତ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱତନ୍ତ୍ର ପରିଚୟ ରହିଛି । ସେହିପରି “ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶା । ଏଠାକାର ଘଞ୍ଚ ଅରଣ୍ୟ, ଛୋଟବଡ଼ ପାହାଡ଼, ପର୍ବତ, ନଦୀ, ଝରଣା, ଜଳପ୍ରପାତର ଆକର୍ଷଣ ଅନନ୍ୟ । କବି, ଭାବୁକମାନଙ୍କୁ ବିମୋହିତ କରେ ଏ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ମନୋରମ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଦୃଶ୍ୟ । ପୁଣି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆନନ୍ଦନା କରିଦିଏ ଏଠାକାର ସବୁଜିମା ଭରା ଦୃଶ୍ୟରାଜି । ସତରେ ଈଶ୍ୱରଙ୍କ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କେତେ ବୈଚିତ୍ର୍ୟମୟ ! କେତେ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣକ ଓ ସ୍ୱନ୍ଦର ପ୍ରକୃତିର ରୂପ । ଜଞ୍ଜାଳଗ୍ରସ୍ତ ମଣିଷ ଜୀବନ । ବ୍ୟସ୍ତ କର୍ମମୟ ଜୀବନରେ ମଣିଷ ଚିକିଏ ଖୋଜେ ସୁଖ ଓ ଶାନ୍ତି । ପ୍ରକୃତି କୋଳରେ ନିରବରେ କିଛି କ୍ଷଣ ରହିଲେ ମଣିଷକୁ ମିଳେ ଅପାର ମାନସିକ ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ଆନନ୍ଦ । ତେଣୁ କିଛି ମୁହୂର୍ତ୍ତ ପାଇଁ ହେଉ ପଛକେ ପ୍ରତିଟି ମଣିଷ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ପରିବେଶରେ ବିତାଇବାକୁ ଚାହେଁ ।” (୨)

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଅନେକ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ପୀଠ ଏବେ ବି ଲୋକଲୋଚନ ଅଗୋଚରରେ ରହିଯାଇଛି । ଯଦି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଥିବା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ସ୍ଥଳାଗୁଡ଼ିକର ବିକାଶ ଯଦି କରାଯାଇପାରନ୍ତା, ତେବେ ଭାରତର ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଭଳି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଏକ ସମୃଦ୍ଧଶାଳୀ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ର ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ଲାଭ କରିପାରନ୍ତା । ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ଶିଳ୍ପର ପ୍ରଗତି ହେଲେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଆର୍ଥିକ ବିକାଶ ମଧ୍ୟ ସମ୍ଭବପର ହୋଇପାରିବ । ରାଜ୍ୟବାସୀ ରୋଜଗାରର ପନ୍ଥା ପାଇପାରିବେ ।

କେବଳ ପୂର୍ବ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ନୁହେଁ, “ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ରହିଛି ବହୁ ଦେବଦେବୀ ପୀଠ । କେଉଁଠି ନଦୀ କୂଳରେ ତ କେଉଁଠି ଘଞ୍ଚ ଅରଣ୍ୟରେ ଅବା କେଉଁଠି ଜନବସତିରେ ନିର୍ମିତ ହୋଇଛି ବହୁ ସୁଦୃଶ୍ୟ ମନ୍ଦିର ।

କେଉଁ ମନ୍ଦିରରେ ଆରାଧ୍ୟ ଦେବତା ତ କେଉଁଠି ଆରାଧ୍ୟ ଦେବୀ ଅତି ନିଷ୍ଠା ଓ ଆକ୍ରମିକତା ସହ ପୂଜା ପାଇଆସୁଛନ୍ତି । ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଥିବା ମନ୍ଦିରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ସର୍ବଦା ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ପରିବେଶ ଲାଗି ରହିଥାଏ । ବର୍ଷ ସାରା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପର୍ବପର୍ବାଣି, ଯାନିଯାତ୍ରା, ମହୋତ୍ସବରେ ଉତ୍ସବମୁଖର ହୋଇଉଠେ ଏହି ସବୁ ପବିତ୍ର ପୀଠ । ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ପ୍ରବଳ ସମାଗମ ହୁଏ । ଏଭଳି ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ଓ ପବିତ୍ର ପୀଠ ଥରେ ଦର୍ଶନ କଲେ ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କ ଅନ୍ତର ତଲ୍ଲାନ ହୋଇଉଠେ, ହୃଦୟ ପ୍ରସାରିତ ହୋଇଉଠେ । ତେବେ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାରେ ଏଭଳି ଅନେକ ମନ୍ଦିର ରହିଛି

ଯାହା ଏବେ ବି ଲୋକଲୋଚନ ଅଗୋଚରରେ ରହିଛି । ଏହି ସବୁ ମନ୍ଦିରଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସୁସ୍ଥ କାରୁକାର୍ଯ୍ୟ, ନିର୍ମାଣ ଶୈଳୀ, ମନ୍ଦିର ନିର୍ମାଣର ଇତିହାସ, କିମ୍ବଦନ୍ତୀ, ଗାଥା, ଲୋକକଥା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକ ଓ ଗବେଷକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଶ୍ଚର୍ଯ୍ୟଚକିତ କରେ । ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ପରିବେଶରେ ଥିବା ମନ୍ଦିରଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅପୂର୍ବ ଶୋଭାରାଜି ଓ ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ବାତାବାରଣ ସର୍ବଦା ଭକ୍ତ ଓ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କୁ ଆକୃଷ୍ଟ କରିଆସିଛି ।” (୩)

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ସର୍ବଦା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟକଙ୍କୁ ଆକର୍ଷିତ କରିଆସିଛି । ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତର ଅନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ଭଳି ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ବେଳାଭୂମିଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସୌନ୍ଦର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ମନୋମୁଗ୍ଧକର । ପୁରୀ, ଗୋପାଳପୁର ସମେତ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ବେଳାଭୂମିର ବିକାଶ ଦିଗରେ ସରକାର ଯଦି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରନ୍ତେ, ତେବେ ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନରେ ଦେଶର ବେଳାଭୂମି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ମାନଚିତ୍ରରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ନାମ ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚରେ ଲିପିବଦ୍ଧ ହୁଅନ୍ତା । ଏଥିରେ ତିଲେହେଁ ସନ୍ଦେହ ନାହିଁ ।



Webinar on

IT INDUSTRY AND EASTERN INDIA: AN OVERVIEW

18th May, 2022



Dreamstime

The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies as a part of its Purvodaya Chapter organized a Webinar on “IT Industry and Eastern India: An Overview” on 18th of May 2022 to identify the sector’s growth and potential to attain development and involve young minds of the state in its flourishing journey. The webinar emanated with a welcome Address by the Moderator of the Webinar, Ms. Madhu Agnihotri who highlighted how exponential growth in last few decades in India has played a pivotal role in transforming services and providing technological solutions to cater the industry requirements. She further added that as pandemic ravaged the world, experts predicted that Indian IT industry will probably see downfall in its growth patterns having impact even worse than that of the financial crisis of 2008. However, the current scenario has seen the tremendous increase in the demand for flexible technological solutions. Cloud technology solutions and remote working facilities have provided enormous opportunities and opened avenues for rethinking and redesigning business models for sustainable growth. Data security

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, INDIA

Webinar on
**IT INDUSTRY AND EASTERN INDIA
AN OVERVIEW**
18th, May 2022; 5-6pm (IST)
Platform: Googlemeet

<p>Chair</p> <p>Shri Subimal Bhattacharjee <i>Director, Jaakta, New Delhi & an independent adviser, consultant on cyber security, defense and high end technology policy issues</i></p>	<p>Moderator</p> <p>Dr. Madhu Agnihotri <i>Assistant Professor, St. Xavier's College</i></p>	
<p>Speakers</p>		
<p>Dr. Omkar Rai <i>Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha, Department of MSME, Government of Odisha, Former DG, STPI</i></p>	<p>Shri Nilabdhii Samantray <i>Head of Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, CSM Technologies</i></p>	<p>Dr. Venu Gopal Jerugumalli <i>DGM AI Factory, ZF II Centre India</i></p>

and confidentiality has emerged as the critical challenge for handling business operations in the new scenario.

Taking the thread of the discussion further the Distinguished Chair of the webinar Sri Subimal Bhattacharjee, Director, Jookto, New Delhi & an independent adviser, consultant on cyber security, defense and high end technology policy issues firstly thanked the Institute's initiative for organizing such virtual discussion session. Secondly he mentioned how the industry has a lot of potential in itself to engage human resource and becoming a complimentary sector with the other mainstream sector through extending



Subimal Bhattacharjee

support and creating work opportunities. The First Distinguished Speaker of the webinar, Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha, Department of MSME, Govt. of Odisha, Former DG, STPI mentioned how India with large number of Startups in IT sector has secured a distinct IT identity globally and are further mending policies and objectives to improve the IT structure and attain growth.

The Second Distinguished Speaker, Sri Nilabdh Samantray, Head of Data Science & Artificial Intelligence at CSM Technologies highlighted some investor effective policies in Odisha that are cascading positive effect in



Madhu Agnihotri

the region. He conferred that if we can strike a balance between technical education, policies and investment then IT industry can become a significant sector to accumulate growth and also deliver software services and credibility's. The final speaker of the event, Dr. Venu Gopal Jarugumalli, DGM AI Factory, ZF IT Centre India reflected about some models on outsourcing that have been initiated by Andhra region to facilitate development of IT sector in Andhra Pradesh. As outsourcing models give opportunities for public-private engagements, staff up gradations and resource management techniques to appease the demands of the IT global chains.



Dr. Omkar Rai

The session further facilitated a discussion between the participants and the speakers and concluded with a vote of thanks by Krishnendu Baksi, Programme Coordinator, ISCS, India.

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Published by, Director, ISCS, India, 48/2, Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road, Kolkata-700 014

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