

# Purvodaya

*The Rise of Opportunities*

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## DIRECTOR'S DESK

The September-October 2023 edition of The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies Bi-Monthly Purvodaya: The Rise of Opportunities binds some very interesting write ups that features how steel sector has potential to spur a new era of development in the eastern India. As the region is endowed with natural resource, therefore the leverage in the steel sector can actually refined the socio-economic and infrastructural landscape of the eastern India. The writer tries to narrate how steps are been taken to fortify the steel industry and inculcate growth and employment opportunities through steel industry.

The second article also trends the importance of the cottage industry that are acting as a backbone to accede inclusive growth and surge rural economy. The article features about the numerous government initiatives that are directed to stimulate the growth of small scale and cottage industry curbing their challenges faced due to the dearth ofadequatemanagerial, technical, economic and marketing support.

In order to commemorate the Annual World River Day that falls on 4th Sunday of September, the Odia article reviews the river water crisis faced by Eastern India along with the central, state government initiatives and citizens involvement to mitigate it. The Bi-Monthly completes itself by highlighting the valuable address by Prof.A.P Dash for the youth and present generation of the country emphasizing on the technological and multi-dimensional growth it has incurred in last 75 years and how the youths should prepare themselves to further anchor the nations role at global platform.As our readers know that The Institute of Social and Cultural Studies in collaboration with The Ministry of Culture, GOI have been organizing numerous seminars and events across the states of Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal and Tripura to commemorate the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav throughout July and August. The concluding of which took place at Cuttack in presence of eminent dignitaries on 26th August, 2023. Institute feels happy to share the event glimpse with all the readers and associates who have supported and encouraged the Institute in taking and organizing such prestigious initiatives.

— Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India



Dreamstime

## THERE IS STEEL IN EAST INDIA

**Mrs. Padmaja Satpathy\***

Human civilizational progress is recorded as having passed through various ages, starting with the Stone Age, through the Bronze Age and finally to the Iron Age. Though historiography records that the Age of Iron ended a long time ago, Iron & Steel is still the back bone of human industrial civilization and the key to a nation's industrial and economic development.

### **Growth and development of the Iron and Steel industry in India**

It is estimated that the people of India mastered the art of smelting iron as far back as 1800 BC and the ancient Iron Pillar at Mehrauli stands testimony to technological prowess in the field. The politically stable Maurya period (322–185 BCE) saw major technological developments in the field of metallurgy. The first mention of iron use in India by a Western hand was by the Greek historian Herodotus (431–425 BCE).

The first modern Iron & Steel plant was set up by TISCO in 1907 at the confluence of Subarnarekha and Kharkai rivers in the East Indian city of Jamshedpur. The Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) was set up in 1919 at Burnpur, West Bengal, followed by the Mysore Steel Works at Bhadravati, Karnataka (now Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Works) in 1923.

In addition to the development of agriculture and a solid education system, a newly independent India's Tryst with Destiny demanded rapid industrialization, with special focus on Power & Steel. During the second Five Year Plan, three integrated projects were started at Rourkela (with Germany assistance), Bhilai (with erstwhile USSR support), and Durgapur (with UK assistance). During third FYP, Bokaro steel plant was started, with production starting in 1972. Three more Steel plants planned during fourth FYP were Salem Plant in Tamil Nadu, Vizag Plant in Andhra Pradesh, and Vijayanagar Plant (Hospet district in Karnataka).

Established in 1973, Steel Authority of India (SAIL) is a Government of India Undertaking responsible for the management of steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela, Bokaro and Bumpur and the Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur and Salem Steel Plant.

### **Iron and Steel Industry of East India**

The heavy concentration of the Iron and Steel industry in the Eastern states of Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and parts of West Bengal is no surprise given the nature & needs of the industry. Steel is a heavy continuous process industry consuming huge quantities of raw materials like iron ore, coal, dolomite, etc. In addition, the plants need steady and enormous supply of fresh water and power. The logistics of handling both the inputs as well as the output of Steel Plants makes a compelling case for proximal siting to the sources of raw materials.

The eastern states sit astride the largest reserves of most of the raw materials required for the production of steel. In addition to mineral reserves, these states have abundant sources of fresh water, with terrain suitable for building dams for water storage as well as power generation. The nearby ports on the coastline along the Bay of Bengal was yet another incentive given the needs

for import of raw material and the export of finished steel.

Availability of labour, both skilled and unskilled but trainable, was another factor. The eastern states were underdeveloped though rich in resources, both natural and human. The GOI and the respective State Governments both aimed to develop the erstwhile backwards areas of the Chotanagpur Plateau in accordance with the principle of the Trickle-down theory of Growth Pole and Growth Centre.

### **Where is Indian Iron & Steel today?**

In the past decade and half, India's Steel Sector has expanded significantly. Production jumped 75% since 2008, and domestic steel demand increased almost 80%. In FY22, India's steel export rose by 25.1%, compared with 2021 and as of April 2022, India replaced Japan as the 2nd largest producer of crude steel and is on course to become the 2nd largest consumer of Steel. Despite being the 3rd largest steel consumer in the world, India's per capita steel consumption is only 1/3rd of the world average. Low per capita consumption dampens the incentive for capital expenditure in setting up huge plants to take advantage of economies of scale.

The secondary steel sector in India contributes over 40% of total capacity and will play a crucial role for India to reach the projected 300 MT capacity. It is imperative to identify capacity expansion challenges with a special focus on secondary steel. Few Indian entities can establish large plants to benefit from economies of scale through the equity route and the majority of factories rely on borrowing and debt finance. India invests significantly less than the rest of the world in Steel Technology R&D.

Till recently, Iron & Steel technology utilized in India was energy & water intensive and very polluting. The availability of power has been a disadvantage for India in Steel production and the correct balance of conventional and renewable energy is required.

The inability of domestic Coal production to meet the needs of the Indian Iron & Steel industry has forced us to depend heavily on imports from the likes of Australia & Indonesia, driving up our costs.



### Way Forward

Though the Indian Steel Industry has come a long way, much yet needs to be accomplished. The GOI has come out with the new National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017. The Policy enshrines the long-term vision of the Government to give impetus to the steel sector.

- Enhance domestic steel consumption
- Ensure high-quality steel production, develop a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry
- Meet the entire demand for high-grade automotive steel, electrical steel, special steels, alloys for strategic applications domestically
- Increase domestic availability of washed coking coal and reduce import dependence on coking coal from about 85% to around 65% by 2030-31
- A Production-linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel has been approved. It is expected that specialty steel production cross 42 million tonnes by end of 2026-27.
- The Ministry of Steel is facilitating the setting up of an industry-driven Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) in association with the public and private sector steel companies to spearhead research and development within the iron and steel industry.

### New projects as an opportunity

The Steel industry is a pivotal ingredient in Indian's drive to become a manufacturing powerhouse through governmental initiatives like Make in India.

- **National Infrastructure**
  - Over 3500 kms of railway track renewal, redevelopment of 50 plus railway stations with a budgeted 2.4 lakh crores Rupees
  - Another 75,000 crores for critical transportation infrastructure development
  - Over 10,000 kms of multi-lane highways
  - New underground railway systems and high-speed trains drive the demand for new coaches, wagons and engines
- **Industry**
  - Increasing demand for Greenfield capacities across industries and modernization of existing plants coupled with rapid growth of Automotive and other sectors
  - Special requirements like Space & Defence manufacturing
- **Urban Development & Housing**
  - Budgeted 10,000 crores to develop urban areas, especially Tier II & Tier III cities
  - Ever increasing demand for housing across the country drives the demand for TMT and associated products

### Eastern India's Steel Production Set for Major Expansion

Odisha is fast emerging as the manufacturing hub of Eastern India through its industry-friendly environment and policy framework.

- The installed capacity of crude steel production in Odisha has grown to 33 MT per annum in 2020-21

from 4 MT per annum in 1999-2000 and is projected to be 100 MT in 2030.

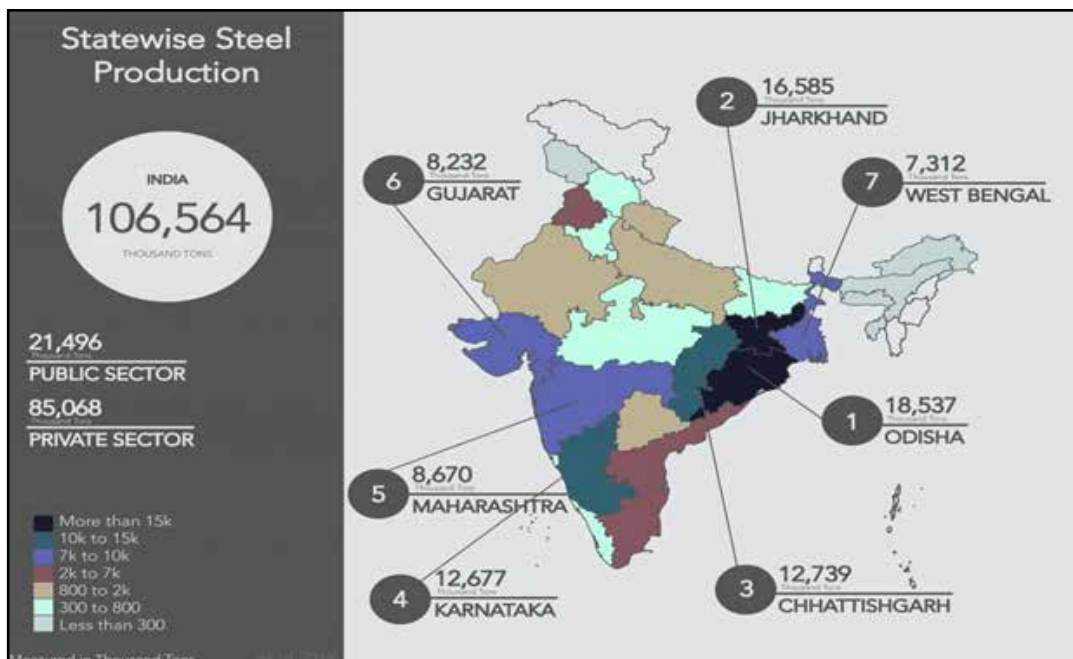
- The state is the largest producer of stainless steel in the country and has more than 20% of steelmaking capacity of the country.
- In March 2021, ArcelorMittalNippon Steel India and the Odisha government signed a pact for setting up the 12-million-tonne integrated steel plant in Kendrapada district with an investment of 50,000 crore.
- Bhushan Power and Steel Limited's integrated steel plant from 5 MTPA to 15 MTPA with an investment of Rs. 55,000 crore to be set up in Rengali, Sambalpur.
- Tata Steel Limited's Crude steel production from 3 MTPA to 8 MTPA, Hot rolled coil from 3 MTPA to 7 MTPA, 2.2 MTPA cold-rolled products and 2 MTPA long products with a total investment of Rs. 47,599 crore to be set up in Kalinga Nagar, Jajpur
- Jindal Steel and Power Limited's 6 MTPA existing Integrated steel plant to the proposed

capacity of 25.2 MTPA with an investment of Rs. 24,652 crore to be set up in Angul, making it the largest single-location steel plant capacity in the world.

- Rungta Mines Limited's Integrated Steel Plant from the proposed capacity of 2.85 MTPA capacity to 7.55 MTPA against an investment of Rs. 11,001 crore to be set up in Jharbandh, Dhenkanal.
- Rungta Mines Limited's Steel Plant capacity from 0.53 MTPA to 3 MTPA with an investment of Rs. 7,920 crore to be set up in Karakhendra, Keonjhar.
- With this additional steel making facility of 28 MT, Odisha is poised to achieve 100 MT Steelmaking capacity by 2030.

All these projects are expected to generate huge direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Eastern India is expected to not only play a pivotal role in driving the national growth but also in propelling India towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy. Odisha shall be the nerve centre in steel. There is indeed Steel in Eastern India.



General Manager (Sales) SAIL, Kolkata



Dreamstime

## COTTAGE INDUSTRY AND HANDICRAFTS SECTORS IN EASTERN INDIA: TICKING THE RIGHT BOXES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Prof. Siba Prasad Mishra\*\*

The cottage industries and handicrafts form the backbone of the socio-economic structure of rural societies characterized by hierarchical, stratified, interdependent, and complex caste system. The cottage industries are based on family capital, household labours, traditional know-how, low-cost conventional technology, and catering to local markets. In her study, Nag Aditi (2022), have observed cottage industries form the pivot of the rural economy, and the promotion of cottage industries leads to sustainable economic development through the use of local resources, talent, and employment generations. The top five cottage industries in India are leather manufacturing, silk weaving, cotton weaving, metal handicrafts, carpet making, and small-scale food processing. The popular and widely accepted cottage industry products and services are khadi, muslin, silk and cotton fabrics, handicrafts items, handlooms products, honey, and wax from beekeeping and floriculture. The handicraft items include woodware, metalware, carpets, shawls, handprinted textiles, paintings, imitation jewelry, earthenware, leather products, bronze and marble sculptures, pottery, attar, and agarbattis. (Source: India Brand Equity Foundations).

The four eastern states namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and West Bengal repositories of rich art and craft heritage such as silver filigree, applique, tribal jewelry lacquer work, terracotta, silk and staple textiles, cane and bamboo craft, pottery works, Sabai grass craft, jute craft, golden grass craft, coir craft, shola pith, natural fiber craft, embroidery, stone carving, patta and tassart painting, , baluchari sari, meta craft, dhokra casting, brass and bell metal craft, zari works, sea shell work, clay toys, batik printing, beetle nut craft, gopa craft, root craft, straw craft, paddy craft, palm leaf engraving, wood carving, and lac items.

In his study, Kundu D.K. 2017 [2], concluded that the ancient cottage industries facilitated establishing trade relations with foreign countries. The major overseas markets for handicrafts from India are the USA, UK, UAE, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, France, Australia, Japan, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Latin American countries. The exportable items from India are silk, coir, jute, floor carvings, and handloom carpets. India is the leading exporter of handmade carpets and commands about 40% global export share and exports to about 80 countries in the world. (Source: **Indian Trade Portal**).

**Recent Government Initiatives:** The premier organizations playing an active role in the promotion and development of cottage industries in India are the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Central Silk Board, Coir Board, All India Handloom Board, All India Handicraft Board, Forest Corporations and National Small Industries Corporation. The recent government initiatives taken to promote the cottage industry on a long-term and sustained basis are One District One Product (ODOP) as Export Hubs scheme, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust, Start-up Action plan, PMEC, ASPIRE, Funding Support and Incentives, Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation. The government has taken various initiatives under NHDP for skill and design development, advanced and specific need-based training programs, infrastructure and technology support, direct benefit to artisans, participation of craftsmen in national and international events, fashion shows, exposure programs, liberal access to capital, buyer seller meet, fairs/exhibitions/events on virtual platforms, publicity, and brand promotions and R&D. The Comprehensive Handicraft Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) aims at developing

these clusters into self-sustaining areas with an integrated approach for achieving higher production, productivity, economies of scale, support and linkages, capacity building, and brand equity for artisans and craftsman.

**The Way Forward:** The eastern states like Odisha, Bihar, West Bengal, and Jharkhand fare poorly on the important socio-economic parameters in comparison with other advanced states. The prominent features of the socio-economic structure of these natural and mineral resources rich states are subsistence agriculture, high unemployment, low per capita income, poor standard of living, lack of proper infrastructure and connectivity, low technology application, higher incidence of migration. The clay doll industry of Krishnanagar famous for statuettes of Gods, Goddesses, and folk figures facing decline due to factors like lack of capital, higher cost of raw materials, competition from substitute products, and lack of technical advancement in the production process. The study recommends the introduction of innovative technologies and financial, and social support from stakeholders especially from corporate houses and private sector promoters for sustained development of these traditional crafts. (Badsah SKA, 2015[3]).

The economy of Odisha is primarily based on agriculture and the effort to industrialize would bring numerous environmental problems. The study advocates the promotion of eco-friendly cottage industries nurtured by indigenous talent (Satapathy et al, 2016[4]). The middlemen, traders, merchant exporters and buying agents are cashing on the tremendous demand for handloom and handicrafts of Odisha in the overseas market depriving the artisans and craftsman of the remunerative margins. Sincere efforts should be made to export 'made-in-Odisha' products from Bhubaneswar international airport or Paradip Port.

In their findings, Anjani Kumar et al., 2020[5] advocates that access to formal sources of credit increases the socio-economic conditions of rural households. In eastern states commercial banks, RRBs, SHGs, MFIs, Cooperatives should take integrated and comprehensive steps for providing liberal and subsidized capital to cottage industries. Their strategic intervention in all phases of the supply and value chain would help achieve growth of cottage industry. The study recommends changes in the cottage industry like the introduction of innovative marketing practices, infusion of adequate capital and

credit structure, scientific and modern infrastructure, technological support, and sustained brand building (Patel et al., 2023[6]). Guha et al., 2021[7] observed a significant positive correlation between the promotion of handicrafts products through social platforms like YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook and brand awareness, brand image, and brand equity. Hence artisans and craftsmen need to promote their products through social media and take the 'phygital route' (blending digital experiences with physical ones) to achieve greater visibility of the products and services. The 'cluster-centric approach' for the development and promotion of the cottage industry requires both forward and backward integration for holistic development.

The country has 744 handicraft clusters employing nearly 2,12,000 artisans offering over 35,000 products. The handicraft industry is dominated by female artisans constituting about 56% of the total artisan. (Source: India Brand Equity Foundation). By making women folk economically and socially independent cottage industries and handicrafts infuse inbuilt synergy to establish gender equality in society resulting in social change and progress.

Conclusion: The phenomenon of globalization, increased competition, technological innovations, disruptive marketing and retailing techniques, proliferation of e-commerce platforms, emphasis on private labels and social marketing, and liberal imports has compelled stakeholders of cottage industries to have a 360-degree angle look at survival, sustenance, preservation, and promotion of cottage industries. The process of modernization opens myriad gates of opportunities for the cottage industries towards innovation, diversification, market penetration, revenue generation, and environmental protection. The patronage and handholding by advertising and publishing houses, art galleries, fashion houses, exhibitors, museums, art promoters, and corporate sectors would benefit generations of arts and craftsman immensely. The cottage industries of eastern India should take position as 'price maker' in place of 'price taker' to command remunerative and fair prices for the arts and crafts. Increased foreign exchange earnings associated with more employment opportunities would enable cottage industries and handicrafts sector to tick right all boxes against the parameters of economic and social developments.



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# ପୂର୍ବ ଭାରତରେ ନଦୀ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ

L N Mallik\*

ପୃଥିବୀର ୯୭.୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଜଳ ସମୂହ, ମହାସମୁଦ୍ରର ଲବଣାକ୍ତ ଏବଂ ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ୨.୫ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ମଧୁର ଜଳର ଅଧିକ ଭାଗ ତୁଷାରଚୂର ଶୃଙ୍ଗ, ଭୂତଳ କିମ୍ବା ବାୟୁମଣ୍ଡଳର ଜଳୀୟ ବାଷ୍ପ ରୂପରେ ଗଢ଼ିତ ଅଛି, ଯାହା ମନୁଷ୍ୟର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଉପଯୋଗୀ ନୁହେଁ । ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ମାତ୍ର ୦.୩% ମଧୁର ଜଳ ନଦୀ, ହ୍ରଦ ଆକାରରେ ଭୂପୃଷ୍ଠରେ ପ୍ରବାହିତ, ଯାହା ମନୁଷ୍ୟର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଉପଯୋଗୀ । ତେଣୁ ମାନବ ସଭ୍ୟତାର ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ନିମିତ୍ତ ନଦୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ସହିତ ନଦୀଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଆବଶ୍ୟକତା ରହିଛି ।

ମାନବ ସଭ୍ୟତା ଆରମ୍ଭରୁ ନଦୀ ଏକ ଉପକାରୀ, ଜୀବନଦାୟୀ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଜଳ ଉତ୍ସ ଭାବେ ମଣିଷକୁ ସହାୟତା ଯୋଗାଇ ଆସିଥିଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ନଦୀ ଜଳର ଚରମ ଅପବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯାଉଛି । ଜାତିସଂଘର ଏକ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ୨୦୨୫ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ବିଶ୍ୱର ପ୍ରାୟ ୩୪୦ କୋଟି ଲୋକ ଉତ୍କଟ ଜଳ ସଙ୍କଟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେବେ । ଭୂପୃଷ୍ଠ ଓ ଭୂତଳ ଜଳର ଅବିଚାରିତ ବ୍ୟବହାର, ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ ଏବଂ ପାଣିପାଗର ଅନିଶ୍ଚିତତା ଯୋଗୁଁ ଭାରତରେ ଏହି ସଙ୍କଟ ଅତ୍ୟନ୍ତ ବିପଜ୍ଜନକ ମିଳି ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବ । ଦ୍ରୁତ ଅବିଚାରିତ ଶିଳ୍ପାୟନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ନଦୀ ଜଳ ଦୂଷିତ ହେବା ସହ ଅପଚୟ ହେଉଛି ନଦୀ ଜଳକୁ ଶିଳ୍ପ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯାଉଥିବାବେଳେ ଏହାର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ କୌଣସି ବିକଳ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଇ ନାହିଁ । ସେହିପରି ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ, ଜଳସେଚନ ପାଇଁ ବଡ଼ ବଡ଼ ଡ୍ୟାମ୍ ନିର୍ମାଣ କରାଯାଇ ନଦୀର ଗତିପଥରେ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ମରୁଡ଼ି, ବନ୍ୟା ଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ସୃଷ୍ଟି ହେଉଛି ।

ମନୁଷ୍ୟକୃତ ଅଶୋଧିତ ଆବର୍ଜନା ନଦୀ ଜଳକୁ ଭୟଙ୍କର ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଦୂଷିତ କରିବା ସହ ଏହାର ଗଭୀରତାକୁ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ କରୁଛି । କୃଷି କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଜଳସେଚନର ଚାହିଦା ବୃଦ୍ଧି, ମାତ୍ରାଧିକ ରାସାୟନିକ ସାର ଓ କୀଟନାଶକର ପ୍ରୟୋଗ, ବର୍ଷାଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଅଭାବ, ଜଙ୍ଗଲକ୍ଷୟ, ଶିଳ୍ପାଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳ ପାଇଁ ମାତ୍ରାଧିକ ଜଳ ଉତ୍ପାଦନ ଜଳ ସଙ୍କଟକୁ କ୍ରମଶଃ ଆହୁରି ଘନୀଭୂତ କରିବା ସହ ଦେଶରେ ମୁଣ୍ଡପିଛା ଉପଲବ୍ଧ ଜଳ ପରିମାଣ ହ୍ରାସ କରିବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି ।

୧୯୫୧ ମସିହାରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଉପଲକ୍ଷ୍ମ ଜଳ ୫୧୭୭ ଘନ ମିଟର ଥିବା ବେଳେ ୨୦୦୧ରେ ତାହା ୧୮୨୦ ଘନ ମିଟରକୁ ଖସିଆସିଥିଲା । ୨୦୨୫ ବେଳକୁ ଏହି ପରିମାଣ ୧୩୪୧ ଘନ ମିଟରରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିବ । ବିକାଶ ଆଳରେ ପ୍ରକୃତିର ଏହି ବରଦାନ ପ୍ରତି ଆମର ଅସମ୍ଭବନଶୀଳତା ହେତୁ ନିଜର ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ବହୁ ଛୋଟ ବଡ଼ ନଦୀ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ ସଂଘର୍ଷ କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ନିଜ ଜଳ ଦ୍ୱାରା ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପାଇଁ ବରଦାନ ସାଜି ଆସିଥିବା ବହୁ ନଦୀ, ଉପନଦୀ, ଶାଖାନଦୀ ଅଧୁନା ଅକାଳରେ ନିଜ ନିଜ ସଭା ହରାଇ ଜୀବଜଗତ ପାଇଁ ଜଳ ସଙ୍କଟର ବିପଦ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଆମ ଦେଶର ବହୁ ଛୋଟ ନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଶଯ୍ୟା ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଅଧିକୃତ ହୋଇସାରିଥିବାବେଳେ ମଧ୍ୟମ ଧରଣର ପ୍ରାୟ ୨୫ ହଜି ୬୫ଟି ନଦୀ ବିପଦରେ ରହିଥିବା ଜଣାପଡ଼ିଛି । ପ୍ରମୁଖ ନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକ ମଧ୍ୟ ମାତ୍ରାଧିକ ଭାବେ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣର ଶିକାର ହୋଇଚାଲିଛନ୍ତି ।

ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ମହାନଦୀ, ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ, ବୈତରଣୀ, ବୁଢ଼ାବଳଙ୍ଗ, ବାହୁଦା, ବଂଶଧାରୀ, ରକ୍ଷିକୁଲ୍ୟା, ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା, ନାଗାବଳୀ, ଲହରୀ, କୋଲାବ୍ ଆଦି ୧୧ଟି ପ୍ରମୁଖ ନଦୀ ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା ଏବଂ ଏହାର ଅସଂଖ୍ୟ ଶାଖାନଦୀ, ଉପନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ଅଧିକାଂଶ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଏବଂ ମନୁଷ୍ୟକୃତ କାରଣରୁ ଅବକ୍ଷୟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ମୌସୁମୀ ବୃଷ୍ଟିର ଅନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ ସହିତ ନଦୀମାନଙ୍କର ଉପର ମୁଣ୍ଡରେ ତଥା ଅବବାହିକାରେ କଳକାରଖାନା, ଖଣି ଖାଦାନଜନିତ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ, ଯୌଗାନ୍ତର ଅଶୋଧିତ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ, ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ଏବଂ ଜଳ, କୃଷି ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟବହୃତ ରାସାୟନିକ ସାର, କୀଟନାଶକ ପ୍ରାୟ ସମସ୍ତ ନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକୁ ସଙ୍କଟ ମଧ୍ୟକୁ ଠେଲି ଦେଇଛି । ରାଜଧାନୀ ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱରର ଉପକଣ୍ଠରେ ଗନ୍ଧବତୀ ନଦୀ ଏବେ ସଙ୍କୁଚିତ, ପ୍ରଦୂଷିତ ଗଳ୍ପୁଆ ନାଳରେ ପରିଣତ ହେବାଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ବୈତରଣୀ ନଦୀ, ଗୋବରୀ ନଦୀ, ସାଳନ୍ଦୀ ନଦୀ ଏବଂ ରାଜ୍ୟର ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ଦୀର୍ଘତମ ନଦୀ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମଣୀ ସବୁଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ପ୍ରଦୂଷିତ ନଦୀ ପାଲଟିଛନ୍ତି । କ୍ରମାଗତ ଜଳସ୍ତର ହ୍ରାସ ଯୋଗୁଁ ପ୍ରାଣୀ, ଦୟା, ତେଲ, ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା, ବୁଢ଼ାବଳଙ୍ଗ, ଅଳକା, ଜୟରା, ଲବ୍, କୋଲାବ୍ ଆଦି ନଦୀ ଶୁଷ୍କ ହୋଇପଡ଼ିଛି ।

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଯୋଜନା ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ବଲାଙ୍ଗୀରର ଲୋୟର ସୁକତେଲ ବୃହତ୍ ଜଳସେଚନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ଏବଂ କେନ୍ଦୁଝରର କାନୁପୁର ଜଳସେଚନ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପର ଜଳଭଣ୍ଡାରଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ ଜଳ ଗଚ୍ଛିତ କରାଯିବ ତଥା ବୈତରଣୀର ଆନନ୍ଦପୁର ବ୍ୟାରେଜରୁ ସାଳନ୍ଦୀ ନଦୀର ବିଦ୍ୟାଧରପୁର ବ୍ୟାରେଜକୁ ସଂଯୋଗ କରୁଥିବା ଲିଙ୍କ କେନାଲ, ଗଞ୍ଜାମର ଘଟକେଶ୍ୱର ତ୍ୟାମ୍, ନୟାଗଡ଼ର କୁସୁମା ବ୍ୟାରେଜ ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ହେବ । ଅସ୍ତରଙ୍ଗ ଠାରେ ଦେବୀ ନଦୀ ମୁହାଣରେ ଏବଂ ପାରାଦୀପ ଠାରେ ମହାନଦୀ ମୁହାଣରେ ଟ୍ରେଜିଙ୍ଗଂ ସମ୍ପନ୍ନ ହେବ ।

୨୦୨୦ ମସିହାରୁ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ନଦୀରେ in-stream storage structure ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ଯୋଜନା ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ ହୋଇ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସୁଦ୍ଧା ୪୬ଟି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହେଉଛି । ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆଡ଼ିବନ୍ଧ ତିଆରି ଯୋଜନା (MATY) ଅଧୀନରେ ଛୋଟ ନଦୀ ଓ ନାଳ ଉପରେ ୧୨୮୦ଟି ଆଡ଼ିବନ୍ଧ/ଚେକଡ୍ୟାମ୍ ନିର୍ମାଣର ପ୍ରସ୍ତାବ ରହିଛି ।

ବିହାରରେ ଏକଦା ପ୍ରାୟ ୬୦୦ ନଦୀ ଭୂତଳ ଜଳ ସ୍ତରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖିବା ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ପ୍ରଦେଶର ଅର୍ଥନୀତିକୁ ସମୃଦ୍ଧ କରିବାରେ ସହାୟକ ହୋଇଥିଲାବେଳେ ଏବେ ସେଥିରୁ ଅଧିକାଂଶ ଲୁପ୍ତପ୍ରାୟ । ଲଖନଦେଇ, ସାକାରି, ବାଲାନ, ଚାଲାଲିଆ, ଧାଧର, ଛୋଟି ବାଗମତି, ସଭରା, ବାୟା, ତଣ୍ଡା, ଫଲଗୁ ଆଦି ପ୍ରାୟ ଏକ ଶହ ନଦୀ ଆଜି ବିଲୁପ୍ତ । ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଚାର୍ଯ୍ୟାତ୍ମକ ପାଇଁ ପୁଣ୍ୟ ଫଲଗୁର ଧାରା ଏବେ ଆବର୍ଜନାମୟ ଜଳସ୍ରୋତ । ଦିନେ ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣିଆ ସହରର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଭାଗରେ ଲଣ୍ଡନର ଥେମସ୍ ନଦୀ ଭଳି ବହୁଥିବା ସଭରା ନଦୀ ଏବେ ସଂପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଶୁଷ୍କ ଏବଂ ଏହାର ନଦୀଶଯ୍ୟା ଆବର୍ଜନାର ପାହାଡ଼ ପାଲଟିଛି । ସହରାଞ୍ଚଳର ବିକାଶ ଓ ଜବରଦଖଲ ଏସବୁର ମୂଳ କାରଣ ।

ନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ହେତୁ ରାଜ୍ୟରେ କୋଣୀ ଓ ମହାନଦୀକୁ ୧୨୦ କିଲୋମିଟର କେନାଲରେ ଯୋଡ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ କୋଣୀ - ମେଡି ଲିଙ୍କ, ଖଗରିଆ ଓ ଭାଗଲପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଜଳସେଚନ ପାଇଁ କୋଣୀ- ବାଗମତି- ଗଙ୍ଗା ଲିଙ୍କ, ବେଗୁସରାଇ ଓ ସମସ୍ତିପୁର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ନିମିତ୍ତ ବୁଢ଼ାଗଣ୍ଡକ - ଗଙ୍ଗା ଲିଙ୍କ, ସାତାମଡ଼ୀ ଓ ମୁଜାଫରପୁର ପାଇଁ ବାଗମତି- ବୁଢ଼ୀ ଗଣ୍ଡକ ଲିଙ୍କ, ପୂର୍ବ ଓ ପଶ୍ଚିମ ଚମ୍ପାରଣ ଜିଲ୍ଲା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ କୋହରା - ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରାବତ ଲିଙ୍କ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ହାତକୁ ନିଆଯାଇଛି ।

ଝାଡ଼ଖଣ୍ଡର କାରୋ, ବରାକର, ଶଙ୍ଖ, କୋଏଲ, ଦାମୋଦର, ସୁବର୍ଣ୍ଣରେଖା ଆଦି ପ୍ରମୁଖ ନଦୀ ଖଣିଜ ପଦାର୍ଥର ଖନନ, ସିମେନ୍ଟ, ଅର୍ନାଲ୍ ପାଞ୍ଜୀର, ଇହାତ ଆଦି କଳକାରଖାନା ଏବଂ ସବୁଜ ବଳୟ କ୍ଷୟ ଯୋଗୁଁ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ, ଜଳ ସ୍ତରରେ କ୍ରମାଗତ ହ୍ରାସ ଭଳି ଗୁରୁତର ସଙ୍କଟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ । ଗତ ବ୍ରାହ୍ମକାଳରେ ଝାଡ଼ଖଣ୍ଡର ୧୩୩ଟି ନଦୀ ଶୁଖି ଯାଇଥିଲା । ପାଲ୍ଲୀ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ କୋୟଲ, ସଦାବହୁ ଏବଂ ଅମାନତ ନଦୀ ନିଜ ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ପାଇଁ ସଂଘର୍ଷ କରୁଥିବା ଦେଖାଯାଇଛି । ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ଚାଷିଲ, ଇଚ୍ଛା ତ୍ୟାମ୍, ବ୍ୟାରେଜ ଓ ଜଳଭଣ୍ଡାର ନିର୍ମାଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହାତକୁ ନେଇ ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟାରତ ।

ନଦୀର ଭୂଖଣ୍ଡ ଭାବରେ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧି ଲାଭ କରିଥିବା ପଶ୍ଚିମବଙ୍ଗରେ ଅଧୁନା ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ, ଅନଧିକୃତ ଦଖଲ ଓ ଅବୈଧ ନିର୍ମାଣ, ଅନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରିତ ବାଲୁକା ଉତ୍ତୋଳନ ଯୋଗୁଁ ବହୁ ନଦୀ ନିଜର ଗତିପଥ ବଦଳାଇବା ସଂଗେ ସଂଗେ ଆଦିଗଙ୍ଗା, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ, ବିଦ୍ୟୋଧରୀ, ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀନତି, ହୁରନୀ, ବୁଢ଼ୀ ଗଙ୍ଗା ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ବହୁଦେଶୀୟ ନଦୀ ତିସ୍ତା, ଅତ୍ରି ଆଦିର ଅସ୍ତିତ୍ୱ ସଙ୍କଟର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ । ଏହି କାରଣରୁ ସୁନ୍ଦରବନର ଜଳଖଣ୍ଡରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ହ୍ରାସ ହୁଏ ଘଟୁଛି । ଗଙ୍ଗା, ଦାମୋଦର, ମହାନଦୀ, ରୁପନାରାୟଣ, ବରାକର, କାନସି, ଶିଳାବତୀ, କାଳକାନି ଆଦି ନଦୀ ଶିଳ୍ପାଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ଜନସମୃଦ୍ଧିର ଅଶୋଧିତ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ଦ୍ୱାରା ବହୁ ମାତ୍ରାରେ ପ୍ରଦୂଷିତ ।

ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର ୨୪୭୮ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟୟରେ ଘାଟଲ ମାଷ୍ଟର ପ୍ଲାନ ଜରିଆରେ ୧୦ଟି ପ୍ରମୁଖ ନଦୀର ଗଭୀରତା, କୁଳ ଲଫ୍ଟିନ ରୋକିବା, ଆଡ଼ିବନ୍ଧ ନିର୍ମାଣ ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିଛନ୍ତି ଯେଉଁଥିପାଇଁ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର ୬୦ ପ୍ରତିଶତ ଅର୍ଥ ଅନୁଦାନ କରିବେ ।

ପୂର୍ବ ବର୍ଷମାନ, ହାଡ଼ଡ଼ା ଏବଂ ଉତ୍ତର ଚବିଶ ପ୍ରଗଣାର ବାଙ୍କୀ, ଖାରୀ, ଯମୁନା, ସରସ୍ୱତୀ, ଗାଙ୍ଗୁର ଏବଂ ତାକାଡିଆ ଆଦି ଛଅଟି ପୁରାତନ ଜରାଜୀର୍ଣ୍ଣ ନଦୀର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର ପାଇଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି । ଏହା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ବାଙ୍କୁଡ଼ା, ହୁଗୁଳି ଓ ଉତ୍ତର ଦିନାଜପୁର ର ଗଣେଶ୍ୱରୀ, ଆମୋଦର, ବିରାଇ ଓ କୁଳୀକ ନଦୀଗୁଡ଼ିକର ପୁନରୁଦ୍ଧାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଶେଷ ହୋଇଛି ।

ନଦୀର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରତିବର୍ଷ ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ଚତୁର୍ଥ ରବିବାର ବିଶ୍ୱ ନଦୀ ଦିବସ ଭାବେ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଥାଏ ।

ଭାରତର ବିଶିଷ୍ଟ ଜନନାୟକ ତଥା ପୂର୍ବତନ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଅଟଳ ବିହାରୀ ବାଜପେୟୀ ତାଙ୍କ ଶାସନ ସମୟରେ ଭାରତରେ ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ଯୋଜନାକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଦେଇ ଏକ ବହୁତ ବଡ଼ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେଇଥିଲେ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନର ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀଙ୍କ ଗଙ୍ଗା ସଂଯୋଗ ଅଭିଯାନ ଏକ ଦୃଷ୍ଟାନ୍ତମୂଳକ ଯୋଜନା କହିଲେ ଅତ୍ୟୁକ୍ତି ହେବନାହିଁ । ନଦୀମାନଙ୍କର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ଜଳ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣକୁ ରୋକିବା ପାଇଁ ଦେଶରେ 'ନମାମି ଗଙ୍ଗେ' ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି 'ଗ୍ରୀନ୍ ମହାନଦୀ ମିସନ୍' ପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ଅନେକଗୁଡ଼ିଏ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ହାତକୁ ନିଆଯାଇଛି ।

କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପ୍ରତୀକ୍ଷିତ ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ପରିଯୋଜନା ଜଳ ସଙ୍କଟ ସମାଧାନ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏକ ବଡ଼ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ବୋଲି ବିଚାର କରାଯାଉଛି । ତେବେ ଏହି ପରିଯୋଜନାକୁ ନେଇ ରାଜ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସହମତି ହୋଇପାରି ନ ଥିବାରୁ ଏହା ଏଯାଏ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହୋଇପାରି ନାହିଁ ।

ଦେଶର ୩୧ଟି ନଦୀକୁ ଯୋଡ଼ିବା ପାଇଁ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିସ୍ତୃତ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ୧୫ ହଜାର କିଲୋମିଟର ଲମ୍ବ ତୁଆ କେନାଲ ଖୋଳାଯିବ, ଯେଉଁଥିରେ ୧୬୪ ଘନ କି.ମି. ପାଣି ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ ରଖାଯାଇପାରିବ । ଏଥିପାଇଁ ୩ ହଜାର ଷ୍ଟୋରେଜ ତ୍ୟାମ୍‌ର ନେତୃତ୍ୱକ ବନାଇବା ଯୋଜନା ରହିଛି । ଏହା ଭିତରେ ରହିଛି ୪ଟି ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଲିଙ୍କ ଓ ହିମାଳୟ ଉପତ୍ୟକାର ୧୪ଟି ନଦୀର ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ । ଏହି ଲିଙ୍କଗୁଡ଼ିକ ହେଲା, କେନ-ବେତବା ଲିଙ୍କ, ଦାମନଗଙ୍ଗା-ପିନଜଲ ଲିଙ୍କ, ପାର-ତାପି-ନର୍ମଦା ଲିଙ୍କ, ମହାନଦୀ-ଗୋଦାବରୀ ଲିଙ୍କ ।

ମହାନଦୀ-ଗୋଦାବରୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣରେ ମହାନଦୀ, ଗୋଦାବରୀ, କ୍ରିଷ୍ଣା, ପିନାର-ପଲାର-କାବେରୀ, ଭାଇଗାଇ ଓ ଗୁଣ୍ଡାର ଆଦି ୯ଟି ସଂଯୋଗ ପ୍ରଣାଳୀ ରହିଛି ।

ଫେବୃୟାରୀ ୨୦୧୨ରେ ସୁପ୍ରିମ କୋର୍ଟ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରହିତ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣାଇ ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ବିଶେଷ କମିଟି ଗଠନର ଆଦେଶ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଏହାପରେ

ସେପ୍ଟେମ୍ବର ୨୩, ୨୦୧୪ରେ ଜଳ ସଂଶୋଧନ, ନଦୀ ବିକାଶ ଏବଂ ଗଙ୍ଗା ସଫେଇ ମନ୍ତ୍ରଣାଳୟ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଗତ ଏକ ବିଶେଷ କମିଟି ଗଠନ କରାଯାଇଛି ।

ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ହୋଇପାରିଲେ ସବୁ ନଦୀରେ ଜଳଧାରଣରେ ଏକ ସମତୁଳତା ରକ୍ଷା, ବନ୍ୟାପରି ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ବିପର୍ଯ୍ୟୟର ମୁକାବିଲା ତଥା କୃଷକମାନେ ଉପକୃତ ହେବେ ବୋଲି ପରିଯୋଜନାକୁ ସମର୍ଥନ କରୁଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିବିଶେଷ କହନ୍ତି । ତେବେ ରାଜ୍ୟଗୁଡ଼ିକର ବିରୋଧକୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅଣଦେଖା କରାଯିବା ଅନୁଚିତ୍ । ନଦୀର ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ପ୍ରଭାବ ସହ ଖେଳିବା ଦେଶ ପାଇଁ ବିପଦ ମଧ୍ୟ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିପାରେ । ସମସ୍ତ ଦିଗକୁ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରି ନଦୀ ସଂଯୋଗୀକରଣ ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପଗୁଡ଼ିକର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟତ୍ଵ ଛିନ୍ନ କରିବାକୁ ପଡ଼ିବ ।

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ବିଶ୍ଵ ଜଳ ଦିବସ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୨, ୨୦୨୧ ଦିନ ‘ଜଳ ଶକ୍ତି ଅଭିଯାନ: କ୍ୟାଚ୍ ଦ ରେନ୍’ ଅଭିଯାନର ଶୁଭାରମ୍ଭ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଯେକୌଣସି ସ୍ଥାନରେ, ଯେକୌଣସି ସମୟରେ ବର୍ଷା ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ନେଇ ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ଦେଶବ୍ୟାପୀ ଗ୍ରାମୀଣ ଓ ସହରୀ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଏକକାଳୀନ ଭାବେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ କରାଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ଦେଶରେ ମୌସୁମୀ ବର୍ଷାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଏବଂ ମୌସୁମୀ ବର୍ଷାରୁ ଶେଷ ହେବା ମଧ୍ୟରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାରୀ ହେଉଛି । ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର ଭାଗିଦାରୀ ଭାବରେ ଚୂଳପୂଜାପ୍ରସଙ୍ଗରେ ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା ପହଞ୍ଚାଇବା ଲାଗି ଜନ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ରୂପରେ ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି ।

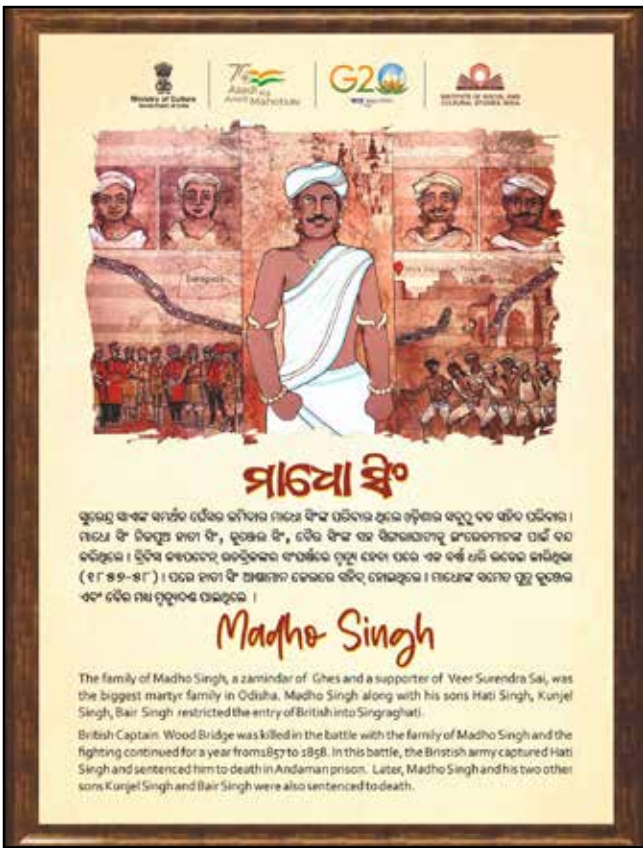
ଦେଶରେ ପ୍ରଥମ ଜଳ ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତ ସର୍ବଭାରତୀୟ ରାଜ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀସୂଚୀୟ ସମ୍ମିଳନୀ ‘ଓ୍ଵାଟର ଭିଜନ୍ ୨୦୪୭’ ବିଷୟବସ୍ତୁକୁ ନେଇ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୨୦୨୩ରେ ଅନୁଷ୍ଠିତ ହୋଇଛି, ଯାହାର ଲକ୍ଷ୍ୟ ହେଉଛି ସ୍ଥାୟୀ ନିରକ୍ତର ଓ ମାନବ ବିକାଶ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦର ଉପଯୋଗ ତଥା ଏ ଦିଗରେ ନୀତି ନିର୍ଦ୍ଧାରକମାନଙ୍କ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଆଲୋଚନା ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି । ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଦିଗରେ ଜନସାଧାରଣ, ସାମାଜିକ ସଂଗଠନ ଓ ବେସାମରିକ ସମାଜର ଯଥେଷ୍ଟ ଗୁରୁତ୍ଵ ରହିଥିବାରୁ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଭାଗୀଦାରୀ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବା ସମ୍ଭବରେ ସବିଶେଷ ଆଲୋଚନା ହୋଇଥିଲା । ‘ଜଳଜୀବନ ମିଶନ’ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ପ୍ରତି ଘରକୁ ଜଳ ଯୋଗାଣ, ପ୍ରତି ଛୁଆ ଜଳ, ଅଧିକ ଅମଳ ଅଭିଯାନ ଦ୍ଵାରା ଦେଶରେ ୭୦ଲକ୍ଷ ହେକ୍ଟରରୁ ଅଧିକ ଜମି ଅଶୁ-ଜଳସେଚନର ଅଧୀନକୁ ଆଣିବା, ପରିବେଶ ପାଇଁ ଆମର ନଦୀ ଓ ଜଳଉତ୍ପାଦନ ଗୁରୁତ୍ଵପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଅଂଶ ହୋଇଥିବାରୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ରାଜ୍ୟ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ପରିଚାଳନା ଉପରେ ଗୁରୁତ୍ଵ ଆରୋପ କରିବା, ନମାମି ଗଠେଇ ଏକ ଉଦ୍ଘାଟନା ଭାବେ ବିବେଚନା କରି ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ରାଜ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କର ନଦୀ ଜଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଅଭିଯାନକୁ ସେହିପରି ଚଳାଇବା ଆଦି ବହୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ଵପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଷୟରେ ଆଲୋଚନା ହୋଇ ସିଦ୍ଧାନ୍ତ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଛି ।

ନଦୀ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏବଂ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ନିମିତ୍ତ କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାର, ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର, ପୌରାଞ୍ଚଳ ଓ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳର ସ୍ଵାୟତ୍ତ ଶାସନ ସଂସ୍ଥା, ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବେସରକାରୀ ସ୍ଵେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସଂଗଠନ ଏବଂ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କର ସମୂହ ପ୍ରଚେଷ୍ଟା ଏକାନ୍ତ ଅପରିହାର୍ଯ୍ୟ । ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ଏହାର ଗୁରୁତ୍ଵ ଉପଲବ୍ଧି କରି ଆମ ନଦୀ, ଆମ ଦାୟିତ୍ଵ ବିଚାରରେ ସକ୍ରିୟ ହେଲେ ଏହି ଅଭିଯାନ ସଫଳ ହେବ ।



Dreamstime

\*Advisor (Logistics) Port & Steel Sector, Kolkata



# KRANTITEERTHA

Prof A.P. Dash \*

As an active citizen of India, I am proud to be here today at the concluding event of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav as part of ISCS - Ministry of culture collaborative project “*Krantiteertha*”. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Govt of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The Institute of Social & Cultural Studies collaborated through a project on revolutionaries “*Krantiteerttha*” i.e., enabling the Institute to highlight and appraise the young generation about the contribution of the Heros of India freedom struggle through events and National seminars across Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar and Tripura; since the eastern India was the epicentre of Krantikari freedom struggle against British Raj.

Being an academician and scientist, I must start with NEP-2020. It is just not an education policy. It is the vision of New India. New India is a golden buzz word of all Indians. What is this New India exactly? It is the strength and skills of more than 135 crore Indians. It is the strength of the youth, who

constitute 50% of our Country's Population. It is the strength of the Rural Population, who constitute more than 50% of the Indian population, living in villages.

Taking a holistic view, I can elucidate that New India is the Young India aspiring to live a dignified and corruption-free life by transforming India into a land of opportunities and inclusiveness using their own strength and skills. The Young India is positively and fully inching towards New India. The scene is very constructive and vivid. We must create a system where the cost of being corrupt and dishonest is so high, that every citizen aspires to do right and live an honest life. That can be a gift of a new Indian Dream to New India.

We, proud Indians, know about Chandrayan-III. Chandrayaan-3 was launched on 14 July 2023. The spacecraft entered lunar orbit on 5 August, and the lander touched down in the lunar south pole region on 23 August, 2023 making India the fourth country to successfully land on the moon and the first to do so near the lunar south pole.

Today, the 26th August, 2023, is indeed a special day for all of us, especially to the scientific community; when the Honble PM of India is coming via Bangaore to greet all the scientists involved in the success of Chandrayan-III. Today every Indian feels the strength of New India. A scientist greeted by a PM of the stature of the present Indian PM, is more than getting a Nobel Prize. It has a different flavour,

I belong to a remote village of Odisha and on this occasion, I cannot stop remembering some of the much less known freedom fighters or people those who have significantly contributed to the freedom struggle.

Odisha, a state in eastern India, has a rich history of freedom fighters who played crucial roles in the Indian independence movement. While some of these individuals might not have gained widespread recognition, their contributions were instrumental in shaping the course of history.

**Rendo Majhi** was born in *Uraladani* village in Kalahandi. He was a freedom fighter. He was a leader of the Kandha revolution in the Kalahandi region in Odisha against the British in India in 1853.

In 1853 Lt. Macneill arrested Rendo Majhi and imprisoned him without trial. The fire of revolution grew among the Kondhas by the arrest of Rendo Majhi.

After two years, in 1855 Lt. Macneill with him brought Rendo Majhi who was tied with iron chain in legs and hands and moved village to village in order to create fear among the Kondha leaders. But the Kondhas went out of control of British.

On 10 December the Kondhas attacked the residence of Lt. Macneill. But the British killed Hundreds of people. Lt. Macneill escaped narrowly because the Tahasildar of Kandhamal Dinabandhu Pattanaik came and rescued him and his people. The British hanged Rendo Majhi.

If we remember a place it is obviously **Eram**, a small village in Bhadrak. It played an important role in the history of Indian Independence movement. It is also known as *Rakta Tirtha* (The Pilgrim of Blood) and the second Jallianwala Bagh of India.

On 28 September 1942 there was a huge gathering at that place to protest British Raj and to prepare a course plan of action to fight against British. Under the leadership of Kamala Prasad Kar a crowd of 5000 people gathered at Eram Melana ground.

Afraid of this gathering a police force from Basudebpur police station, led by DSP Kunjabihari Mohanty marched towards Eram. As like Jaliyanawala Bagh, DSP Kunjabihari Mohanty acted as General Dyer and opened fire on the huge gathering at 6:30 PM, within few minutes 304 shots were discharged against the agitating crowd and soon 29 persons were dead on the spot and 56 were injured.

**Gadadhar Hota**, also known as "Gandhi of Nayagarh," made significant contributions to the Indian independence movement and social reform. He played a pivotal role in organizing and leading various movements against British colonial rule.

**Madho Singh and his sons Raja Madho Singh** was a notable figure in the history of Odisha who played a significant role in its political landscape during the colonial period, which was continued by his sons.

**Basu and Bisuni:** Basu Sethi was a young freedom fighter from Odisha who played a pivotal role in the Gandhian movement. Bisuni Madhual was another young participant in the Gandhian movement in Odisha. They belong to Kanika, Basu was one of the first martyrs from the region who embraced the ideals of nonviolent resistance advocated by Mahatma Gandhi. While Bisuni, too, is considered one of the earliest martyrs of the movement in the state

THE BAL BROTHERS: **General Lokanath Bal and Harihar Bal**, popularly known as the "Bal Brothers," made notable contributions to India's struggle for independence through INA

**Gadadhar Mohapatra** : Gadadhar Mohapatra was born on 5 July 1922 nearin Koraput. In 1940 he joined the Indian army in Jeypore and was posted in Kolkata. He entered Rangoon with INA. But after the defeat of Japan and the Indian National Army he was imprisoned by the British army in 1945 and was lodged in Rangoon Central jail as a prisoner of war.

**Govinda Chandra Mishra (Nayagarh, Odisha):** **Govinda Chandra Mishra** from Dasapalla was the first freedom fighter of Odisha to come in contact with Gandhi in Sabarmati Ashram. Govinda Mishra also led Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and the Quit India Movement in 1942 and on both occasions he was arrested and jailed.

**Jambubati Pattnaik, Bargarh, Odisha** : This courageous woman freedom fighter from Western Odisha was born on 9 November 1886 in Binika village of present Bargarh district. Her first phase of freedom struggle started in 1930 when she along with ten women satyagrahis of Sambalpur participated in the salt satyagraha in Balasore.

**Captain Laxmi Indira Panda** from Jeypore, Odisha made significant contributions to India's struggle for independence. Her involvement in the Indian National Army (INA) under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose showcases her dedication to the cause of freedom.

These are just a few examples of the unsung heroes from Odisha who played pivotal roles in the fight for India's independence. Their contributions, along with those of countless others, collectively helped shape the destiny of the nation.

**Dr Gangadhar Dash** of Puri later migrated to Koraput, participated in the non-cooperation movement at the age of 22 and was arrested and jailed.

Similarly, no one knows the sacrifice of **Lokanath Dash** of Hindol state. He was a senior staff with the king but unceremoniously kicked out due to his support to *Prajamandal Andolana* and led a pathetic life till death.

The unsung heroes of Odisha are the threads that weave our history together. Their stories deserved to be told, celebrated and remembered. Let us draw inspirations from their courage and commitment and carry forward their legacy of positive change

The address was made during the Concluding Event of ISCS-Ministry of Culture Collaborative Project "Krantiteertha" on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 26th August 2023 at J.N. Indoor Stadium, Cuttack



\*Vice Chancellor, AIPH University, Bhubaneswar & Padmashree Awardee

# Event Report

## KRANTITEERTHA

Unsung heroes, organizations & places of Freedom Movement of Odisha were remembered in an elegant ceremony organised as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebration by Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies ( ISCS ) on 26th August 2023 at JN Indoor Stadium in Cuttack.

The program was inaugurated by Governor of Odisha H.E. Professor Ganeshi Lal who was also the Chief Guest.

Padmashri Prof. Aditya Prasad Dash delivered the keynote address. The programme was also attended by Shri Kalyan Chaubey, President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) & Acting CEO of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and several other dignitaries and a large no. of youths. An exhibition of unsung heroes of Odisha was organised as a part of celebration.

Shri Arindam Mukherjee Director of Institute of Social and Cultural Studies emanated the event with a Welcome Address on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav which as an initiative of the Government of India have been

commemorating 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Various initiatives are initiated to highlight and to spread awareness regarding the role of unsung heroes, organizations, and places of freedom initiatives among the youths through organising seminars, exhibition, discussions, various competitions in various academic institutions in states of Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, and Tripura.

Through the project named "Krantiteertha" Institute of Social and Cultural Studies (ISCS), is taking the government of India's initiative to appraise the movement by revolutionaries during the British Raj amongst the youth and present generation.

ISCS is organising 45 programmes in these states. In Odisha, ISCS organised 13 programmes of various competitions and seminars at Puri, Baripoda, Baleswar, Bhubaneswar, Bolangir, Bhawanipatna, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sambalpur and Berhampur.

A cultural program was organised as a part of celebration highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Odisha.



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