

ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



KALAHANDI

By

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GAZETTEERS UNIT
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GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

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GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

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PREFACE

This is the first district gazetteer of Kalahandi. The present district of Kalahandi comprises the ex-State of Kalahandi minus Kashipur police station, and the ex-Zamindari of Khariar now forming the Nawapara subdivision of the district. With the merger of the princely States with the province of Orissa in 1948, the ex-State of Kalahandi together with the ex-State of Patna and Sonepur formed the district of Kalahandi with headquarters at Balangir. On 1st November, 1949, Patna and Sonepur ex-State areas were separated to form the district of Balangir Patna (later Balangir) and the ex-State of Kalahandi, together with the Nawapara subdivision which formed a part of the Sambalpur district since 1st April, 1936, was reconstituted a separate district (Kalahandi) with headquarters at Bhawanipatna. As the area comprising Kashipur police station posed administrative difficulties due to lack of direct communication with the district headquarters, it was separated from Kalahandi on the 1st August, 1962 and tagged to the Rayagada subdivision of the Koraput district.

The ex-States of Orissa had no gazetteers worth the name. Only a brief account of the Kalahandi ex-State appears in the 'Feudatory States of Orissa' written by L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay of the Indian Civil Service, in 1908. In compiling this volume, all available references which include various settlement reports, Raipur District Gazetteer (1900) by F. C. King, Nawapara Gazetteer (typed copy) by D. P. Tripathy, Elliot's Report on Kalahandi State, 1856 (printed at the end of this volume as supplement), the Imperial Gazetteer and other old-time records have, however, been profitably used. All possible care has been taken to keep abreast of the developments and rapid changes that have taken place in the district since its formation in 1948. Useful appendices, a comprehensive index, glossary of Oriya words and terms used in the text, and a map of the district have been provided. The spelling of place names in the map and the text has followed the map published by the Survey of India which, at times, differs from the local spelling, and when such differences occur both the spellings have been given in the index along with their Oriya equivalent. To avoid repetition in the text and to simplify printing diacritical marks have been used in the glossary.

The gazetteer was compiled in the Gazetteers section of the Revenue Department and was circulated to the members of the Gazetteers Advisory Committee which is constituted as follows :--

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We thank the local officers of the Ministries of Finance, Communications and Railways, Government of India ; the Geological Survey of India, all the Departments of the Orissa Government, all Heads of Departments, various branches of Kalahandi district administration, a host of non-official persons and organisations for rendering ungrudging assistance in the compilation of this volume. We are indebted to the officers of the Orissa State Museum, officers of the Home (Public Relations) Department, and the Deputy Director, Map Publications, Government of Orissa, for rendering valuable assistance in bringing out this volume.

We are thankful to Shri Pratap Keshari Deo, the ex-Ruler of Kalahandi ex-State, for his kind help and co-operation in the compilation of this volume. Our thanks are also due to Dr. Nabin Kumar Sahu who has drafted Chapter II (History) of this gazetteer.

The following staff of the Revenue (Gazetteers) Department have worked wholeheartedly in the preparation and publication of this volume: Shri Amulya Kumar Satpathy, Joint State Editor; Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Research Officer ; Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik, Research Officer ; Shri Prafulla Behera, Oriya Translator ; Compilers—Shri Pranakrushna Satpathy, Shri Susanta Kumar Naik, Shri Ramakanta Mishra, Smt. Bijayalaxmi Praharaj, Smt. Umamani Senapati, Shri Chittaranjan Das and Shri Bidyadhar Palai; Shri Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, Head Assistant; Shri Durga Charan Mohapatra, Gr. I Assistant; Shri Braja Kishore Parida, Gr. II Assistant; Personal Assistant to the Chief Editor Shri Pratap Kumar Ray; Stenographer, Isad Ali Khan; Shri Satyananda Mohapatra, Head Typist; Shri Akshya Kumar Barik and Shri Subodh Chandra Mohapatra, Senior Grade Typists.

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Baubaneshwar

The 15th August, 1980

NILAMANI SENAPATI
DURGA CHARAN KUANR

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