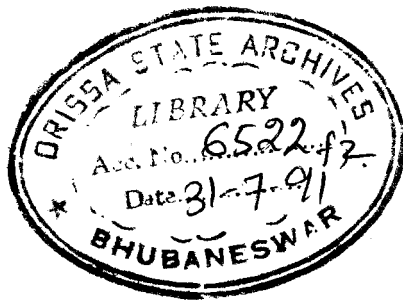


GAZETTEER OF INDIA

ORISSA

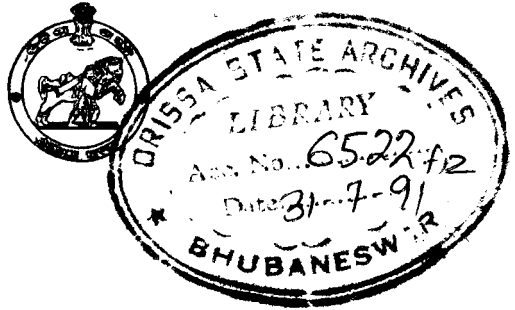
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PURI



ORISSA DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

RI-2/281



PURI

By

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GAZETTEERS UNIT
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

PREFACE

A district gazetteer is the most comprehensive single source of knowledge about the district. While presenting a broad picture of its physical features, history, administration and socio-economic life, it also aims at providing useful and authentic information relating to the field of agriculture, industry, education, medical and public health services, places of interest etc., in the district. As such, it forms an important reference book for administrators, research scholars and general readers.

Historically and culturally Puri is one of the most important districts in the State of Orissa. The first District Gazetteer of Puri was written by L. S. S. O'Malley and published in 1908. It was revised by P. T. Mansfield in 1929. Since then, significant political, social and economic changes have taken place in the country. The achievement of independence by the country in 1947 and the declaration of India as a Sovereign Democratic Republic in 1950 have brought in new social and political consciousness among the people. The implementation of the Five Year Plans and other development programmes have ushered in a new era of prosperity and progress in the country. In the context of these far reaching changes, the present series of district gazetteers written under a scheme jointly sponsored by the Government of India, the State Governments and the Union Territories are not mere revisions of the old gazetteers, although the scheme has been termed as the 'revision of district gazetteers'. The general scheme and contents of the present series of district gazetteers have been adapted to the needs of altered conditions.

With the merger of the ex-States with the province of Orissa in 1948, some areas have been added to the old district of Puri. The ex-States of Nayagarh, Daspalla, Khandapara, and Ranpur, which are contiguous, now form the Nayagarh subdivision of the Puri district. These ex-States had no gazetteers worth the name excepting the sketchy accounts of them given in L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay's 'Feudatory States of Orissa' published in 1908. All available references which include various survey and settlement reports, Annual Reports on the Administration of the Feudatory States of Orissa and Chota Nagpur, Administration Reports on the Nayagarh State, Cobden-Ramsay's work, O'Malley's Puri District Gazetteer and other old time records have been profitably made use of in compiling this volume. Useful appendices, a comprehensive index, glossary of Oriya words and terms used in the text, and maps have been provided. To avoid repetition in the text and to simplify printing diacritical marks have been used in the Glossary.

The Puri district gazetteer was first drafted and approved by the Central Gazetteers Unit in 1962. But its publication was withheld as considerable improvements

on it were felt necessary. The old draft has now been revised and rewritten and made up to date with latest available data. Useful appendices on Puri, Bhubaneswar, and Konarak have been provided to Chapter XIX and special Chapters on Jagannath, and the Naba-kalebara of 1969 and the Car Festival have been given at the end of the book as supplements. Copies of the revised draft were circulated among the members of the Gazetteers Advisory Committee which is constituted as follows:—

- | | | |
|---|----|---------------|
| 1. Chief Minister | .. | Chairman |
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We take this opportunity to thank Dr. P. N. Chopra, Editor, Gazetteers and the staff of the Central Gazetteers Unit, Department of Culture, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, for their painstaking scrutiny of the draft and the helpful suggestions given by them with a view to improving the standard and quality of the publication. It may be mentioned here that the Government of India bears a part of the expenditure incurred on the compilation and printing of the gazetteers.

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 Puri district administration, a host of non-official persons and organisations for rendering ungrudging assistance for the compilation of this volume. We are particularly 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. Our thanks are due to Dr. N. K. Sahu during whose tenure of office as State Editor, the Puri District Gazetteer was first drafted. Dr. Sahu has written Chapter II (History) of this gazetteer. We also thank Shri Kedarnath Mahapatra, the reputed scholar and historian, for going through the draft on 'Jagannath' and the literature portion of Chapter XV and making valuable suggestions for their improvement.

The following staff of the Revenue (Gazetters) Department have worked whole-heartedly in the preparation and publication of this volume. Shri Amulya Kumar Satpathy, Research Officer; Shri Basanta Kumar Das, Oriya Translator; Compilers—Shri Gour Prasad Patnaik, Shri Prafulla Behera, Shri Pranakrushna Satpathy, Shri Susanta Kumar Nayak and Shri Ramakanta Mishra; Shri Sarat Chandra Mohapatra, Head Assistant, Shri Durga Charan Mohapatra, Gr. I Assistant; Stenographers—Shri Pratap Kumar Ray, Shri Maheswar Mohanty and Isad Ali Khan; Typists—Shri Satyananda Mahapatra, Shri Braja Kishore Parida, Shri Akshya Kumar Barik, and Smt. Bijoylakshmi Praharaj.

Our thanks are due to the Director, and the Deputy Director, Printing, Stationery and Publication, Orissa, and the staff of the Orissa Government Press, Cuttack, for their hard work and co-operation in bringing out this publication.

Bhubaneshwar
The 15th August, 1977

NILAMANI SENAPATI
DURGA CHARAN KUANR



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