PREFACE
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Madhusudan Das, popularly known as Madhubabu in Orissa, the pioneer of national self consciousness of the Oriya people is considered as the chief architect of modern Orissa. A versatile genius, a national leader with an extraordinary self confidence and exemplary public spirit his life is but a sanguine journey from a mutilated land of lost hope to the gradual emergence of a strong, unified state of Orissa.

The spirit of Renaissance touched the land in a feeble manner in the most indistinct way. But the strong willed, patriotic visionary through English education, close association with British officials a thorough knowledge of the land and its people with deep love and concern in his hearth, he plunged headway into social service for political awakening, economic development in the most selfless manner through penny and dynamic power of organization. A pioneer of neo-industrial movement, he ventured into novel enterprises like Tanning, Silver Filigree and many more things. From the literary and intellectual angle, he was the most gifted of his distinguished contemporaries, and his inspirational writings, speeches, poems, throw flood light upon plagued and miserable state of affairs in the political arena of Orissa. With a true Indian spirit, receptive to fresh ideas and impulses, he was always willing to appreciate and imbibe the best in foreign culture into the framework of his own ideas. Gifted with a highly sensitive and original mind and deep spiritual insight he tried to inspire his people, awaken them from the self-imposed slumber to face the stark reality of deprivation. Before the fame of the Swedeshi movement of Bengal reached its height he popularized and promoted the indigenous industries, making use of salt movement putting emphasis on dignity of labour, which was highly acknowledged and appreciated by Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.
An arid legislator, capable, dedicated and efficient minister, he acted in the most selfless manner to achieve the welfare of people in the educational, agricultural, industrial, economic and political, literary and intellectual field.

The history of modern Orissa comes as a testament to his indefatigable and extraordinary efforts to build Orissa with new vive and spirit and bears the indelible imprints of his life as a saga of sacrifice. For the uplift of his people he utilized the princely earning in establishment of new industries, training of artists and willingly became a fakir. His generosity has little parallel except in mythology. To the people of Orissa, he was the uncrowned king, who could achieve impossible feat with his manliness, courage and unflinching determination. The main objective of this study is to unearth the spirit of his flaming patriotism, deep rooted liberalism that shaped the destiny of an emerging state. Genuinely secular, deeply spiritual, absolutely modern, the preserving patriot became the torch bearer for coming generations. Certainly his personality and achievements need to be studied and emulated. His ideas and philosophy tested in the 19th and 20th century Orissa have contemporary relevance.

The thesis in the first chapter throws light on the prevailing socio-economic and political conditions of Orissa. It brings to lime light the oppressive and exploitative attitude of foreign administration especially the administration of the British people. Environment plays a significant role in shaping the personality of a leader. The deplorable and miserable plight of the Oriya people kept in Madhusudan the fire of liberation burning, which ultimately resulted in emergence of Orissa as a separate state.

The second chapter dives deep into the various aspects of Oriya nationalism as built and inspired by the indomitable spirit and sacrifice of Madhusudan. Various burning issues affecting the Oriyas like language, truncation of Oriya speaking tracts and salt movement played their respective
roles in uniting the people from all sections of the society under the efficient leadership of Madhusudan.

The third chapter highlights his pioneering role in the formation of Utkal Union Conference, which was an effective wheel to move the vehicle of Oriya nationalism. It unearths the moderate Madhusudan hidden in a firm and strong personality. As champion of Oriya nationalism, a true Oriya in spirit and aspiration, his contribution to Oriya nationalism has been vividly analyzed.

Madhusudan as a nationalist apart from his being an Oriya nationalist has been described with an analytical rigour in the fourth chapter. The supposed discrepancy and dichotomy between his two nationalisms has been tried to be explained in right perspective. He was not an apologist for British rule, though he tried to achieve everything for Orissa within the frame work of British rule like Gokhale.

The fifth chapter deals with the study of Madhusudan as the legislator. On various issues like decentralization of power, rights of poor and downtrodden people, representation of depressed classes, non-applicability of Bengal Land Act to Orissa, establishment of Panchayat raj, growth and development of industries, special educational institutions in Orissa, provision for women education, improvement of railways in Orissa, as member of the Council and Minister, he played a very dynamic and active role to preserve and protect the interests of poor Oriyas.

The sixth chapter on economic and social ideas of Madhusudan opens the entire gamut of his dedicated spirit and sacrifice for the industrial and economic development of the poor Orissa. His pioneering role in establishing industries and reviving the old filigree work with self sacrifice and dedication even to the point of being declared insolvent remains a testimony to the monumental work he had done in this field. His love for Orissa and the zest with which he tried to heighten Orissa’s name and past glory remain till today exemplary to be emulated.
The last chapter makes an attempt to analyze in a nutshell the profile and performance of Madhusudan Das. Not a narrow provincialist, a pioneer of planned economic growth, champion of underdogs, his love for mother tongue Oriya, exponent of Swadeshi, his cry for economic upliftment of Orissa, leading a life of sacrifice, Madhusudan remains a monumental personality exacting reverence and homage from all sections of the society.

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Cuttack

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