PREFACE

An humble attempt has been made in this thesis to put Dr. H.K. Mahtab, the builder of modern Orissa, in the proper political perspective in order to prove what a farsighted politician and statesman etc. he was, no doubt that Dr. H.K. Mahtab was one of the generals of India's Freedom Movement in which Mahatma Gandhi was the commander-in-chief. He led Orissa in Gandhiji's struggle for Independence when he had to play the role of a political Administrator. Both as the Chief Minister of Orissa, and Minister in the Union Cabinet, he left a mark of administrative efficiency. He also made his presence felt as the Governor of undivided Bombay and in several posts he held in the party and the Government at different periods. If he had proved his political acumen in the fight against the British before independence in the independent India he often turned out to be the vociferous critic of Government both as opposition leader and as voice of dissent in ruling party. Apart from politics, Dr. Mahtab enriched Oriya Literature and became a trend setter in Oriya Journalism. In his seven decades of long public life Dr. Mahtab had always worked for strengthening Orissa and India as well as for the well-being of the society.
The thesis has been divided into six chapters, the first chapter captioned 'Dr. H.K.Mahtab's Life and Time' deals with the life sketch of Dr. H.K.Mahtab in order to explain what influences operated on his mind and what environmental factors shaped his thought process. With chaotic socio-economic scenario at dawn of the twentieth century amidst the political subjugation under British Rule, Dr. Mahtab was born to a feudal family. So in this chapter, I have focussed thoroughly about the very environment in which he was born and brought up in order to prove Dr. Mahtab's strong personality. Though he had all comforts available from the childhood and was good at studies from his school days, Dr. Mahtab took interest in the affairs of society and nation at large. While his family pressurised him to take charge of his estate, Dr. Mahtab went to College. His aim was not completion of higher studies but to prepare himself for a prolonged fight for country's independence. Thus, he prepared himself as a freedom fighter. He gave up College education midway and joined freedom struggle under Gandhiji's leadership. Within a short time he took over the leadership of Congress Party in Orissa which was spear-heading the movement for independence and ultimately when the goal was achieved, Mahtab headed the independence Government in State. In
Independent India, he proved his efficiency as an administrator in different posts and Chief Minister of Orissa, Minister of Union Cabinet and Governor besides other party and Parliamentary posts. Not only in politics Dr. Mahtab made his mark but also in other fields like Literature, History and Journalism.

The second chapter captioned 'Dr. H.K. Mahtab and Freedom Struggle'. It elaborates his active participation in freedom struggle which he joined giving up higher studies, while in College he devoted more time in watching political action in the country and came in contact with Gandhiji at Calcutta Congress Session. After that he opted for the life of uncertainty of a Freedom Fighter and accepted the hardship for two and half decades.

The Third Chapter bears the title 'Dr. Mahtab as Prime Minister'. In this chapter I have high-lighted on Dr. Mahtab’s efficiency as an able administrator. Because, in 1946, he became Prime Minister of Orissa just before Independence and continued as the head of the State till 1950. As the first ruler of Independent Orissa he not only gave the State its present geographical shape by merging the princely states but as also laid the foundation for the future shape of Orissa.
With the merger of princely states, his contributions transcended the territory of Orissa. By suggesting this idea to the then Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallava Bhai Patel he did a great service to the nation.

The Fourth Chapter / captioned 'Dr. Mahtab and his miscellaneous role in Political Career' and it covers Dr. Mahtab's different assignments as Union Minister, Governor, Chief Minister and Opposition Leader. Interestingly in all jobs he showed his acumen.

The Fifth Chapter titled 'Dr. H.K. Mahtab as a Political Columnist' proves Dr. Mahtab's versatility. His contributions to literature, history, journalism with a distinct style of writing placed him in a separate position among politicians. He gracefully retired from politics a decade before his death, but he remained as an effective political columnist till the end.

The last and the Concluding Chapter is the Sixth Chapter termed as 'Conclusion'. In this chapter I have made an assessment on Dr. Mahtab and his political profile. I have also made concluding observations on his brilliant political career, his contributions and how everything in his mind was
subordinated to the struggle for the independence of the country including the development of Orissa.

Thus, the thesis consists of six parts and it is intended to put Dr. Mahtab in the national canvass of India.

In analysing the subject, the treatment has been historical analytical, documentative and interpretative in character.

My study will primarily be based on behavioural. I have applied the historical method in order to justify the circumstances in which he was born and brought up and also for his active participation in the national struggle. Further, I have adopted the analytical method for the detailed and the exhaustative analysis of Dr. Mahtab's Political career and to prove him as a successful administrator. The every purpose of the thesis will not be practical if I do not apply the experimental method for examining Dr. Mahtab as Chief Minister, and the Governor. In doing so, I have accepted as working
hypothesis that the ideas of Dr. Mahtab are both contemporary and modern in character.

I have discarded the scientific method of study from my thesis because Dr. Mahtab was a seasoned farsighted politician who needs no scientific experiment in the laboratory of political science. For the study of Dr. Mahtab the time is the only testing equipment for him to establish and prove Dr. Mahtab's era as a 'A GOLDEN AGE'.

Thus the governing purpose of my study is to discover the stages of growth in the field of politics and administration and to find out the different policies that Dr. Mahtab had applied during his political career.