Preface

Orissa, in comparison to many other states, is a neglected area of research. There is a dearth of studies dealing with the ethnic movements in Orissa. The case studies such as Kosal and Jharkhand movements in Orissa constitute the focus of our work. An attempt has been made in our work to understand the inner dynamic of the state politics and sees how the interplay of socio-economic and political forces paves the way for the emergence and growth of sub-regionalism in the state. It is hoped that the present study will raise many questions, touch many sensitive issues and will stimulate discussion on the important issues concerning the issue of sub-nationalism in India. I believe that the study will also promote a wider understanding of the Orissa society, stimulate fresh initiatives to resolve many of its problems. The idea of the present study had developed during my M.Phil days. The voice of discontent of the students of western Orissa in JNU had prompted me in the beginning to carry out the study.

There are many people to be thanked who have by chance or deliberately helped me in my endeavour. At the outset, I must express my deep gratitude to my Supervisor, Dr. Bishnu N. Mohapatra who has guided me to produce this work. In fact, he has enriched my understanding of the state politics with his valuable suggestions and critical comments. His comments, no doubt, helped me to develop the arguments in the thesis. My frequent interactions with him on diverse aspects of state politics have helped me in understanding the intricacies
of the sub-regional movements in Orissa. His comments and suggestions have not only improved the texts but also my understanding of factors underlying the movements. Nonetheless, I should be held responsible for remaining lapses in terms of arguments and oddities of my English.

I would like to record my gratitude to Dr. N. Bhaskar Rao, Chairman, Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi, who encouraged me throughout and provided all sorts of logistics support to complete the assignment. Similarly I would be obliged to Mr. Bibhu Prasad Mohaptra, who has immensely improved the quality of the thesis by his editorial advice.

A number of libraries rendered immensely useful services. Among them the notable ones are State Assembly Library and State Information Centre, Bhubaneswar, Jyoti Vihar University library, Burla (Orissa), Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, Nehru Memorial Museum library, New Delhi, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi. I am grateful to all of them. I had interacted with many social scientist, sociologists and social activists who shared with me their thoughts and insights about the two movements (Kosal and Jharkhand) of Orissa.

I also thank all those respondents who replied my queries frankly and thus enabled me to gather some valuable information regarding the problem. I apologise to them if their sensibilities are hurt in anyway by the analysis presented here. Let me add gratitude to my parents, brother and sister for their
unusual inspiration, affection, encouragement and generosity in realising this work. Without them, the study would have been incomplete. Finally, I owe a special thank to Mr. Raj, who has taken an undue pain in typing my illegible writings.

As a concluding word, I would wish to record here that in spite of the tremendous help I received from so many quarters, only I take the responsibility for the interpretation offered and views expressed in respect of particular facts or in my general line of argument.

In the long experience of producing this work, I have passed through exquisite pleasures and intense tensions, deep insights and exhilarating changes. Given the choice, I can only say I would do it all again.

New Delhi

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