CHAPTER II

ROURKELA CITY OF ORISSA
Rourkela is one of the biggest cities in Orissa. To know about the city more and more we have to study its Geographical, Economical, Historical, Social and Political background.

(a) **A Brief History of Rourkela:**

Rourkela had 98 villages with the total population of about 3,300, prior to the establishment of the Steel Plant here. 45.3% were scheduled Tribes and 9.6% were Scheduled Castes and 18.5% were non-Hindus. The important tribes were Oram, Munda, Santal, Bhumij. The major scheduled castes in the region are Garda, Pana, Paratani etc.

By December 1952 the Government had handed over to the Hindustan Steel Limited 19557 acres of land of which 4882 acres were Government land. Altogether 30 villages inhabited by about 2500 households were affected by the acquisition of private land. In 1955 the Government of Orissa issued a press note accepting the responsibility of rehabilitation of the displaced persons. The Government named it "resettlement colonies". Besides it, 15 reclamation areas were opened within the radius of 100 kmts from Rourkela. The local people started agitating for their compensation. The displaced persons were given quarters to settle in Jhirpani and Jalda area.

(b) **Geographical location and population:**

Rourkela is situated in $22^012' \text{N}$ and $84^052' \text{E}$. It is 107 kmts.
East of Sundargarh the District Head Quarters Town. Rourkela Urban Area is formed consisting of three urban components viz. Rourkela Steel Township (NAC), Rourkela Civil Township (NAC) and Jalda Census Town and rural components having 39 villages. According to the 1991 census the total area 221.08 sq. kmts of which urban components are of 139.04 sq. kmts and the rest 82.04 sq. kmts belonging to the rural components. The total population of Rourkela Steel Township in 1961 was 90287; in 1971 it was 125426; in 1981 it was 214521; and in 1991 it was 3,98,864; and in 2001 it was 3.70 lakhs. The decadal growth rate of population in the Steel Town is 63.92% and in the Civil Township it is 103.84%. As regards the literacy rate the Steel Township has a rate of 62.96% and in the Civil Township it is 52.86% of the total population. The total S.C. population in Rourkela both Civil and Steel Township Area is 24370 and 9566 respectively.

(c) Administrative set up:

Rourkela is a city, which had two Notified Area Councils- Civil Township and Steel Township in Orissa. The Civil Township is now changed into Rourkela Municipality headed by Chairman of an elected body and the Steel Township, which was headed by the Chief Town Administrator, is now abolished by the Government of Orissa on 15\textsuperscript{th} April 1995. The Rourkela N.A.C. was constituted on the 1\textsuperscript{st} August 1955 with both Civil and Steel Town. On 17\textsuperscript{th} June 1963 a separate N.A.C. was formed for the Steel Town.
The local body (Civil Town) has a council consisting of 11 nominated members out of whom 7 are non-officials and others are Government representatives. The Chairman is from non-official members. The N.A.C. had a population of 95980 according to 1981 census. Besides government grants and loans, this local body gets money from levy of taxes. On holdings, water, light, carriages and grants of licenses under section 290 of the Orissa Municipal Act. The other sources of income include rent from allotted land to shopkeepers, auction sale proceeds of markets, slaughterhouses and ponds. This N.A.C. is assisting the State Public Health Department in arranging water supply to the old town. It has provided water tapes in different parts of the civil town. Apart from this the local body has provided streetlights in the main roads of the town up to the Industrial Estate area and in Uditnagar and Basanti Colony. It maintains a children’s park at Uditnagar and looks after 14.22 kmts of roads of the town.

In 1963 the Steel Township of Rourkela was placed under an N.A.C. Its population was 205598 according to 1981 Census. The council consists of 12 nominated members of which three are officials. The income of the local body besides Government grants and loans includes license fees from carriages, animals, shops, markets, slaughterhouses, cattle, ponds and school fees. The Rourkela Steel Plant management has given some buildings on token rent to officers, schools and dispensaries. The roads, streetlight, water pipes of the steel towns are maintained by
the Steel Authority of India Limited. It maintains a number of lower primary and upper primary schools. It maintains a few markets and slaughterhouses and one animal market. As regards elections, the Rourkela N.A.C (C.T) conducted election for the first time in 1988 in which the Janata Party won maximum seats. But the N.A.C (S.T) is a purely nominated body with no elected representatives in it.

(d) Political Parties, Interest Groups and Voluntary Social Service Organizations in Rourkela: -

Rourkela is a single Legislative Assembly Constituency but forms part of the Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituency. It was created a separate general constituency in 1967. The political parties, which are active in Rourkela, are the Cong. (I), B.J.P, Janata Party, BJD, Jharkhand, CPI, CPI (M), and SUCI etc.

The Lions Club of Rourkela was established in 1962. It is affiliated to Lions International. Its main purpose is to promote international understanding and to render selfless service to the underprivileged, handicapped and the unfortunate, not as charity but as a social and moral responsibility.

The Rotary Club of Rourkela was formed in 1957. It is affiliated to the Rotary International. Its main objectives are to foster the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service, advancement of International goodwill and peace through the world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal service.
The Sarba Samanwaya Sangh was formed in 1967 by the depressed class of people of Rourkela for their economic and cultural Prosperity. It was fighting against untouchability.

Neelachakra is a Socio-Cultural Organization, which was established at Cuttack in 1970. It has a branch at Rourkela. Its main objectives are the promotion of “Jagannath Culture” in the different parts particularly in the adivasi and the outlying Oriya tracts, to look after the social welfare of the state and to present the legitimate demands of the public before the union and State Govt.

(e) Socio - Cultural Organizations: -

The Life and Rhythm was started in 1960. The main activity of this organization is staging drama. The Rourkela Kala Parishad was established due to the effort of Guru Bansidhar Dwevedi an exponent of classical music and dance. Another organization “Dream Land” operates in Rourkela whose main thrust is organizing drama. “The Kalinga Kala Parishad ” is the only organization from Orissa, which participated in the All India Multilingual Drama Competition held in Delhi and Bombay. It has received regional and National Award for more than once in the Allahabad Multilingual short play competition. The Konark Sanskrutika Parishad was found in 1965 and has dedicated itself to the upliftment of Orissan Art and Culture. The parishad observes annually the Jayanti of Oriya poet Gangadhar Meher and the “Boita Bandana Utsav”.

The Bhanja Kala Kendra was opened at Rourkela in 1967. It
imparts teaching in dance and music. Other organizations having similar objectives are, “The Kabi Chandra Kala Mandir ”.

The Natraj Nrutya Parishad, The Ispat Kala Mandir, Mahumachhi, and ‘Yugavani’ etc. “Music Circle” is another Cultural organization, which is running a College of “Dance and Music”. It arranges for eminent classical singers and instrumentalists of India to perform in the city from time to time.

Besides Oriya organizations people of other languages do have their own organizations to foster their culture, prominent among them are “the RYMA” and “Pravasi” both Bengali Organizations. The people of Kerala have the “Kerala Sanskrutik Samaj”. There is the “Andhra Association” (Andhra People), the “Milvartan Sabha” (Punjabi), the “Rourkela Malayali Samaj,” the “Dakhin Bharatiya Samaj” etc.

Besides there is the “Pragati Utkal Sangh” which possesses a good library “The Cultural Academy” brings out a very high standard Oriya literary Magazine-“Nabapatra”. They also organise the “Loka Nataka Mahotsava”. It also organizes the “Fine Art School”. The Adarsa Pathagar has a very rich library as far as Oriya literature, history and culture are concerned. They organize Bhanja Jayanti and invite eminent Bhanja Scholars as speakers. The existing Bhanja Bhawan complex in Rourkela is their direct contribution to the cultural life of Rourkela. There are “Biraja Khetra Sangh”, “Dhamara Sangh” and “Khandayat Mahasava” in Rourkela.
Educational Institutions in Rourkela:

Sundargarh is divided into two educational districts viz. Sundargarh and Rourkela where two district Inspectors of schools have been posted. These two educational districts are controlled by the Inspector of schools, Sundargarh Circle, posted at the head quarters of the district.

The rise of literacy in the district was mainly due to the development of several industrial towns like Rourkela and Rajgangpur. The first women's College of the district was established at Rourkela in July 1967. During this period also a Polytechnic for women was established.

Out of five Cambridge and Convent Schools in the district four of them are located at Rourkela to impart education up to Secondary standard whose medium of instruction is English.

The Rourkela Science College superseded by Government College, Rourkela, the second college of the district was established by a Private body on the 16th August 1961 at the Steel town of Rourkela and subsequently on July 1st 1963 the State Government took over the management of the college. The college provides teaching in Arts and Science. The college is affiliated to the Sambalpur University.

The Rourkela Evening College was established on 14th July 1966. Since 18th March 1989, the management of the college has been taken over by the State Government.
The Sushilabati Khosala Dayananda Anglo Vedic College for women was started on July 1967. The College affiliated to Sambalpur University, was managed by D.A.V. College and Trust Society, New Delhi. But now it has been taken over by the Government of Orissa.

Started in 1957 by the State Government the Industrial Training Institute; Rourkela imparts training to Electricians, Fitters, Mechanics, Turners, Welders, Wiremen, Stenographers, Draftsman, and Machinists in motor, Tractor, Refrigerator and Radio mechanism.

The State Technological Institute (UGIE) was opened in 1963, which provides training in engineering. It is affiliated to the State Council of Technical Education and Training, Orissa.

Besides there are other educational institutions. They are the Homeopathy Medical College, Municipal College, B. Ed. College, Ispat College, Gandhi Mahavidyalaya, Vedvyas Mahavidyalaya, Womens' College (Government), Nilasaila College, H. K. Ray College, Kalyani Ray College and the Regional Engineering College.

In addition to these colleges there are 12 High Schools. The Rourkela Steel Plant authority have also started +2 courses in some of their High Schools and English medium schools such as Ispat Vidyamandir, Sec-19, Ispat Vidyapitha, sec-14, English medium school, sec-20. The erstwhile N.A.C (S.T), Rourkela authorities have opened a +2 N.A.C College both Arts and Science in Sector – 7 in 1994. The 12 High Schools, 16 primary and 11 upper primary schools, which were managed
by the erstwhile N.A.C (S.T) Rourkela, are now under the jurisdiction of Rourkela Municipality. The N.A.C. (S.T), Rourkela has been abolished by the Government of Orissa on 15th April 1995. The mass education department of Orissa has decided to take over the management of the above said schools.

(g) Public Health: -

The Steel Plant provides adequate medical facilities to its employees. Ispat General Hospital is one of the largest hospitals in Orissa. It has got general clinics as well as special clinics. Primary Health Centres are being operated in many Sectors. Ispat General Hospital has special clinics like Neuro Surgery clinic, Cardiac clinic, Nephrology clinic, Plastic Surgery clinic and Oncology clinic. Routine FNAC, the Super M-100 X-Ray Unit, the nuclear medicine laboratory are available here.

(h) Development of Ancillary Industries: -

A number of large, medium and small scale and ancillary industries created an industrial complex in Rourkela. There are about 245 registered SSI units working in and around Rourkela supplying various engineering spares and consumables.

The metal industries manufacture engineering articles like gears, slotted shafts, couplings, liners, bushes etc. Some of the Industries manufacture steel furniture, stainless steel utensils, aluminium grills, agricultural equipments, wire ropes, chains and bolts and nuts.

There is an Industrial Estate with 64 sheds. It provides
modern type of factory accommodation and 52 factories have been established in the completed factory sheds of the Estate.

(i) **Lines of Transport:**

Rourkela zone of State Transport Service comprising Rourkela and Sundargarh Sub-Zones with headquarters at Rourkela plies buses in 26 inter-state and inter-district were controlled by the Divisional Transport Manager. Rourkela as separate unit operated buses to 13 different places in Orissa for general mass.

Rourkela is located on the main route of How-Mum line of S.E. Railway. The main line of S. E. Railway passes about 105 kmts. in Panposh and Sundargarh sub-division of the district. Trains connecting the four metropolitan cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata pass through Rourkela. Besides it, there is an Airstrip at Rourkela owned and maintained by R.S.P, which is also licensed for private use.

(j) **Factors of Unity:**

Rourkela is now one of the leading industrial cities in India. The Steel Plant has attracted people of different states to this place. People speaking different languages, professing different religions, of different origin live here. This has given the Rourkela culture a typically cosmopolitan colour. In spite of this diversity there runs a thread of unity among the people of Rourkela.

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