Conclusion
CONCLUSION

The character of politics at the national and state level has been changing and regional aspirations are getting more prominence in the national politics too. There is some commonality among national and regional parties so far as there are changes in the process of adapting to the new situation.

It is against this theoretical background of a transitional polity that the Biju Janata Dal has been singled out for the analysis. Some broad conclusions drawn from this analysis are given below. These should not be taken either as definite or even as authoritative because we deal with an entity, which is nascent and still growing.

a. The Biju Janata Dal emerged as a product of political developments at the national level and state level. In the national level, the decline of the congress party, regionalisation of national politics, coalition culture, political realignment, etc., on the one hand; and at the state level two political developments within the inter party leadership crisis and factional conflicts on the other hand. In this situation of an open division, the state unit of Janata Dal would not be in a position to function as an effective opposition, rather it plays an effective role as a state party to consolidate anti-Congress politics by forming an alliance with the BJP. Naveen Patnaik was a true inheritor or Biju’s Janata Dal, he has formed the BJD, a typical regional party.

b. So far as the question of its social base is concerned, it suffers from a dualistic approach. On the one hand, it originated in anti-Congressism that is, it evolved as a party of middle class/ caste, especially the three upper caste Brahmin, Karan and Khandayat. The other sections of society – women, dalits and
minorities not neglected. No doubt, the party organisation is dominated by the middle caste but it claims to be a broad based, mass political body dedicated to the aggregation and articulation of the interests of a cross-section of the society. This is a characteristic of normal feature most of the Indian parties. There is no party institution or policy or decision that is neither determined nor influenced by caste/class considerations. Nevertheless, over the years the social base of the party has grown attracting a large number of the OBCs, SCs, STs, minorities and women. Thus the BJP's social and regional support base complements the BJD’s social base. The BJD is stronger in the largest and most developed region of the coastal Orissa and draws support from all sections of society in a way typical of regional parties. In short, the social base of the BJD has definitely been enlarged.

c. One of the important causes of the growth of the party has been the emergence of new social and political forces that have brought about vital changes in Orissa society. The emergence of new social group particularly woman. The consequences of Naveen Patnaik’s progressive policies of “Mission Shakti”. The increasing importance of women issues and interests has created a new set of leadership within Orissa party politics in post-Biju phase polity. Under such circumstances, other parties in Orissa failed to understand the changing situation and could not make necessary adjustment. As any party can maintain its position in stiff political competition on the basis of new form of politics of mobilisation.

d. Orissa is one of the few states in the country that have not witnessed any major sectional mobilisation along caste or class lines. The absence of a large peasant
caste has meant that politics is still the prerogative of the small upper castes and that mandalisation has had no effect. It is true that the OBCs, SCs and STs, all have been politically mobilized on the decision making processes but they are still too fragmented and are less dominant in the political scene in Orissa.

e. The changing pattern of party system from two party Congress-Janata Dal and then a triangular (Congress-BJD-BJP) competition has added little to the political agenda except the question of regional discrimination. But this pattern changed in 1998. The emergence of bi-nodal party system was the outcome of a process of alliance between the BJD-BJP in the 1998 general elections. The changing patterns of party System in Orissa since post mid 1990s as political observer pointed out in past as bipolar i.e. the Congress and the BJD-BJP shift towards the bi-nodal party system i.e. the anti-Congress vs anti-BJP at the State of Orissa. The BJD-BJP alliance is an example of anti-Congressism. This is due to the party merger, party splits and electoral alliance etc.

f. The leaders of the Biju Janata Dal are from higher socio-economic background. It does not mean that other socio-economic backgrounds are not represented in the BJD. The emergence of the educated legislators in BJD is a positive sign in party politics in Orissa under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik which was lacking under its predecessors party i.e. Janata Dal. They were centred on a single leaders. However, the BJD as in the case of many other state level parties lacks internal democracy and is centered on a single leader. This makes the party authoritarian in nature.
The next question was to probe its credentials as a democratic party. To what extent does the composition, leadership recruitment and its general functioning confirm with the democratic norms?

The organisation, leadership and functioning of the party under review too reflects deep-rooted authoritarian trends and tendencies. Organisational elections are merely a façade. There is hardly inner-party-democracy or collective decision-making.

Thus under the plural party system in Orissa the BJD maintain its position since its formation as a political force because it did take up issues of backwardness, regionalistic orientation in terms of ‘development’, and a new form of politics of mobilisation. The Congress party and other parties weakened due to the factionalism. Factionalism within the BJD has been due to the personal interest to gain political power without leadership strength. This initiated the processes of party proliferation, which has direct effect on the electoral process serve as a link between traditional society and modern political institutions.

The Study shows that the Biju Janata Dal has a member of achievements to its credit, for instance, providing a clean and transparent administration, achievement of socio-economic targets, a fair deal to the down trodden, especially the dalits and minorities. Most of these came as a package with the launched of “Mission Shakti” which became a social movement. This paved the way for gender equality enabling women’s involvement in the political process. The opposition parties failed to take into account the hopes and aspirations of newly emerging classes. In these circumstances, the BJD could maintain itself because it has already created an independent political base.
It has almost become a habit with Naveen Patnaik and his loyal supporters to boast that they fulfilled whatever they promised. That is very much true of the first ministry of Naveen Patnaik in Orissa. The women folk of the state still remember with nostalgia the good old days when Naveen Patnaik-began “Mission Shakti”- a drive to improve the conditions of rural women community. This contributed to power sharing in a coalition with the BJP at state level.

The role of the BJD as an opposition is not worthy of mention (1998-2000). The return to power for a second term is because of its own strength not as Biju’s legacy and has contributed to the social and regional expansions of its alliance partner- the BJP. The electoral defeat of the Congress party in consecutives term from the state and the exclusion of the Bijay Mohapatra-Dilip Ray-Nalinikanta Mohanty bloc are gradually strengthening the support base of the Biju Janata Dal.

Finally, the future prospect of the Biju Janata Dal is seems to be better. A number of factors indicate the possibility of a rise of Biju Janata Dal in future. First, the internal fighting among the sister parties like Janata Dal and Orissa Gana Parishad and their close alliance with the congress; secondly, Naveen’s shows more flexibility in adapting to the new development quickly; thirdly, the unfortunate record of Congress party while in power in the state and finally, BJD’s alliance with the BJP will most likely favoured electoral competition.