This work profiles the origin and growth of a regional political party in India. Democracy as a system of governance is unthinkable without political parties. Proliferation of regional parties in India in general and in Orissa in particular is quite a natural phenomenon as they are also fully consonant with the federal character of the polity. It is also the expression of increasing politicization and assertiveness of the marginal sections of Indian society. Regional parties are not only legitimate but a permanent feature of the system. They have proved their efficacy not only in different states but have also contributed to political stability at the center. The expression and accommodation of parochial interests have introduced a certain degree of uncertainty and fluidity and sharpened polarization among different strata on regional, caste and sectorian grounds. However, it has strengthened the roots of Indian democracy at the grass root level and widened the range of people who have a satisfying sense of identification with the national political process. The result has been the federalization of Indian polity as well as strengthening of national unity.

Regional parties have largely thrived on anti-Congressism vote bank by and large and opting populist policies with centrist orientation. This is grained with emergence of regionalization of political parties in Indian politics. These outfits have assiduously cultivated anti-Congress vote bank with ‘development’ approach, and have tried to maintain their support base.

The emergence and the consolidation of the BJD Party is a very important and interesting phenomenon both in national politics as well as state politics of
Orissa. The emergence of Biju Janata Dal acquires added significance in the context of Orissa being a backward state that is moving towards a transition society. In a tripolar setup in Orissa the support base of the BJD remains intact and has never suffered any major erosion since its inception. The present study attempts to analyse its ideological position, its social base and its policies and performances. The study also looks into the leadership style, structures, mobilizational strategies and electoral performances of the party during 1990-2004. An attempt has been made to analyse the consolidation of the BJD against the backdrop of the growth of the phenomenon of anti-Congress movement with 'development' issues. In the preparation of this study, all available primary and secondary sources have been consulted. A number of party leaders and activists as well as academicians granted me their valuable time for interviews and exchange of opinions.

A study of the BJD provides an opportunity to examine the politics of a regional party, which continues to play a decisive role despite challenges from both political, social front and that of the challenges posed by the opposition. The origin and growth of the regional party in Orissa also provides an interesting picture. The BJD has provided a strong available regional party opposite to Congress which has been proved beyond doubt in the last two Assembly elections.

However, the SCs and STs in Orissa constitute a major section of the society. Since independence, the patterns of political socialization and politicization have taken place among these sections of society. All parties have tried to mobilise these groups into the political mainstream of the society. An attempt have been made to examine how the BJD's role to mobilise these sections
into its political platform has contributed positively to the political process of Orissa?

The present study consists of five Chapters. The first Chapter provides a theoretical framework and a review of literature and us with the necessary tools to make sense of politics and regional parties in the political system of Orissa.

The second Chapter entitled ‘The emergence of Biju Janata Dal in Orissa: An evaluation’, deals with the various factors which contributed to the rise and growth of BJD in Orissa party politics. It also highlights the ideological position and social base of BJD. In this Chapter also analyse whether the BJD under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik capable to winning popular support base and maintain to articulate the various section of society. However, Chapter second deals with the nature, genesis and growth of BJD as a regional force.

The third Chapter entitled “Electoral Performance of Biju Janata Dal.” This Chapter covers highlights major elections in the BJD have participated and the changes that have taken place in electoral politics from 1990-2004. A critical appraisal of the performance of the BJD is against its declared policies and programmes. The third chapter also deal with a study of political elite of JD/BJD or Orissa of analysing of pattern of leadership in the O.L.A. since 1990. Due to non-available of “who is who of O.L.A. in 2004, other materials to trace the socio-economic background of the members became very difficult. Interviews with a structured questionnaire were conducted for the O.L.A. members during May 2003 to March 2004.
The fourth Chapter entitled "Political leadership of Biju Janata Dal", deals with whether the leadership profile of the party is different from its predecessor party (Janata Dal). Keeping with this in mind the thesis focus the JD/BJD on the basis of occupation and social profile of the Legislators. The fifth Chapter entitled “BJD in Orissa Party Politics: Problems and challenges”, deals with the various challenged both at social and political level. Within the framework of coalition structure of party politics, relations with the other political parties exist in Orissa political arena in 1990s. It is also highlights the future of BJD in the last section of this Chapter. Conclusion summarises the main findings of the thesis or comments on the future trajectory of the BJD within the politics of Orissa.

The study therefore, makes a multi-dimension approach to an analysis of parties and politics in a transitional society like Orissa with special focused on Biju Janata Dal (BJD), a typical regional party. The thesis is an outcome of primary and secondary source materials, which include empirical data, interviews, newspaper cuttings, office files of the parties and other agencies.