PREFACE

The present thesis demonstrates the intricacies of 'development-environment' paradigm through a dominant pattern of shrimp aquaculture upon the society. The impact of development has been analysed and manifested through the nature-society relationship from a case study on the lives of the rural fishermen of Orissa Coast, in Chilika Lake. The protest movement of these traditional fishing communities known as 'Chilika Bachao Andolan' (CBA) or 'Save Chilika Movement' portrays many facts within the triangular objects of natural-society and economy. Development is basically an economic model that has not found proper place within the symbiotic relationship of nature and society of this fishing community in Orissa coast.

Since the early eighties and nineties a wave of people's movements has swept the state of Orissa. By far the best known of these movements is the initiative carried out by the local traditional fishermen community in the early part of nineties against the commercial shrimp aquaculture projects favoured by the state and outside interests- popularly known as 'Chilika Bachao Andolan' (CBA). The study attempts to address a number of questions. A few of them are the following:

- Is it appropriate to follow a western model of development in the context of India and at the cost of the marginalized people?
- Is it necessary to serve the purpose of development at the cost of environment?
- Can a nation prosper marginalizing the marginalized?
- Can a nation/state suppress grassroots social movements overlooking the problem of the large grassroots people?
- How does the state initiated projects (shrimp culture project) reconfigure the strategies at the grassroots and what effort does it have on shaping relations within the social movement?
- Can eco-social movements challenge the state authorities?

All these questions have been answered in the present thesis by discussing various variables in the case of the campaign against the state-initiated shrimp farm
projects in Chilika, in Orissa. In this work an attempt has been made to understand the rise and growth of a social and ecological resistance, its nature, politics and its impact upon the state government. In the narrative an overview of development and environment approach in India is also presented. Attempts have also been made to understand various concepts such as 'development', 'environment', 'ecological people', 'Common Property Resource' (CPR) and property rights, class struggle so as to understand the environmental resistance in the purview of development-environment structure and operation. The case study has been specifically selected to understand various cross-currents of development/globalization/liberalization and their utility for a particular class or community of people. Hence, the thesis will be of a great interest to scholars of social science, sociologists and social activists concerned with the said terms and paradigms, both at a theoretical and practical level.