

## **An article on Odisha day**

Utkal Divas celebration on 1st April 2020.

Odisha

Utkal is a Sanskrit word. Odisha was referred as Utkal in ancient times.

It means a region, where the level of art and craft is very high and it contains some superfine artisans.

“Utkrasta Kalayah deshah jah, sa Utkala”.

In 1576, coastal Odisha was conquered by the Mughals. The last Hindu emperor of Odisha was Gajapati Mukunda Dev. Odisha was divided broadly into six major provisions or Sarkar. Different parts of Odisha were ruled by different Hindu kings after 1576. Nizam of Hyderabad occupied the area between Rajmundry and Srikakulam in 16th century. Some part of it was attached to Bengal, remaining part was attached to Maratha empire in 1751. In 1760, British occupied northern part and incorporated it into Madras presidency. In 1803, British East India, won the Odisha province, from Marathas. Northern and western districts of Odisha was attached to Bengal presidency by Britishers.

The coastal section of Odisha was separated from Bengal and along with Bihar was made into a new province in 1912, considering the agitation of Odia people for separate state for Odia speaking people. In 1936, Bihar and Odisha were separated and after long period of struggle, Odia speaking people were united. Utkal Sammilani was created by Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das with a thought of keeping the odia spoken locations/areas intact and united for the safe custody of language, culture, customs and traditions as well. Struggle for a greater Utkal Pradesh with the help of wide spread Odia spoken locations keeping together with all Odia spoken areas intact, started under these great sons of Kalinga. For this divine work Kings of Mayurbhanja, Kanika, Bamanda and Khalikote helped a lot. Leaders like Madhusudan Das, Pandit Nilkanth Das, Bhubanananda Das, Maharaj Krishna Chandra Gajapati worked tirelessly for achieving this day. Since then people of Odisha celebrate 1st April as Utkal Day.

The land of art, culture and devotional integration or of the Kalinga war, the greatest bravery, and dedication or the unity and sacrifice of Odia people, for the safety and security of Kingdom are the exemplary indications of greatness. The great warrior Veer Kharvela and Kapilendra Dev's winning journey for greater kingdom are the greatest examples of my Utkal Pradesh and its greatness.

The great poets – Gangadhar Meher, Fakir Mohan Senapati's inspirational poems and literature created self confidence and demand within the race for united Utkal Pradesh.

Madhubabu's poetic call....  
Uthare uthare utkala Santana  
Uthibu Tu Ketedine....  
Vande Utkala Janani

Dr Pratima Das  
Associate Prof : C.H.M.College.