



**ICHR Sponsored National Seminar  
on**

**EXPLORING UNSUNG CHAPTERS OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE OF ODISHA**

**7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

**School of History, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, Odisha**

**The Seminar**

Soon after the British occupation of Odisha in 1803 freedom struggle began in different parts of the province in the form of armed resistance, protest and rebellion against the alien authorities. In 1804, the first agitation was witnessed in Khurda during the tenure of minor king Mukunda Deva II. Jayee Rajaguru, the indomitable minister of the Gajapati Raja was hanged in 1805 for abetting the rebellion and became the first martyr in British Odisha. The defective land revenue system and administrative vagaries of the British rulers continued to cause discontent among the people and as a result, there broke out an armed rebellion by the Paikas that took place in 1817 under the leadership of Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Mohapatra Bhramarabara Ray or Buxi Jagabandhu, the military Commander of the Raja of Khurda. A vigorous military operation was undertaken by the British to suppress the Kondh insurgents and most of them were either shot dead or hung upon the trees. Dora Bisoyee was captured in 1837 and was made a state prisoner in Ooty near Madras. In Sambalpur, the spirit of rebellion was most fierce under the leadership of Surendra Sai, the Chauhan Prince of Sambalpur. It was 30 years before the Great Rising of 1857 that Surendra Sai launched a resistance movement against the British over a succession issue. He could not be captured and kept the flame of revolt aglow till 1864 while the Great Revolt collapsed in 1858. At last, he was captured in 1864 and was detained in Asirgarh fort, where he breathed his last on February 28, 1884. There were yet a few other veteran leaders of Sambalpur region whose significant role in the Indian Mutiny of 1857 can't be ignored. Madha Singh, the Zamindar of Ghens located in Sambalpur region and his three sons namely Kunjal Singh, Hati Singh and Bairi Singh took active part in fighting against British rule. Then, many freedom fighters participated and sacrificed their lives in the Civil Disobedience and Quit India movement. Tribal resistance movements were integral parts of freedom movement in Odisha. The heroic roles played by some distinguished tribal leaders in freedom movement, namely, Lakshmana Naik of Koraput, Ratna Naik of Keonjhar, Kamala Lochan Dora Bisoyee, Chakra Bisoyee and Nabaghana Kanhar of Ghumsur, Dayanidhi Dharua of Mayurbhanj, Rindo Majhi of Kalahandi, Tama Dora of Malkangiri, Dharanidhar Nayak of Keonjhar, Madri Kalo and Nirmal Munda of Sundergarh and Veer Surendra Sai of Sambalpur deserve mention. Besides these, many lesser-known freedom fighters had sacrificed their lives but their names are not listed in the history.

We have apparently forgotten the names of the people who had supported independence movement in favour of these well-known faces. It's appropriate to honour these faces at this moment. The proposed seminar is organized to bring their memory back in public and record their contributions in the history.

The following sub-themes are proposed:

- Popular Movements
- Lesser-known chapters during freedom struggles: Stories of Unsung heroes, freedom fighters
- Key milestones during the freedom struggle
- Unsung women freedom fighters
- Contribution of Tribal leaders in the Indian Struggle

### **About The University**

Gangadhar Meher College, one of the oldest and one of the largest in Odisha, owes its origin in 1944 to the strong initiative, determination and tireless efforts of the visionary members of Trust Fund. It made rapid strides to emerge as a premier institution of the State in the domain of higher education culminating in its elevation to the status of a Unitary University. This university is poised to new heights of excellence in the academic firmament in the years to come. The University provides teaching and research facilities for Undergraduate, Post Graduate and Research programs smoothly on various subjects. Within a short span of eight years, it has already made a mark in the academic arena by providing quality education, organizing national and international level seminars and workshops and regularly publishing in impact journals.

### **School of History**

One of the oldest Departments of this prestigious institution, the Dept. came into existence in 1944. Since then, it has catered to the academic needs of the students of this region in particular and of Odisha in general. Presently the School offers U.G., P.G., Ph.D Programs and a certificate course in Tourism and Heritage Management. The School of History envisions to make it a centre of excellence at the national level by adopting critical pedagogy of the disciplines of History in order to make students understand and practice at higher research the goal that construction of past emerges from the concerns of the present and that disciplinary practices of history are multidimensional and multidisciplinary. The mission of the school is to motivate the prospective learners to get acquainted with the latest findings as well as research methodology of history as a discipline. It aims to cater to the growing demands of the learners not only for those who want to be a teachers or researchers, but also to those who intend to be administrators, journalists or even professionals. The School of History regularly conduct explorations, excavations and heritage tours for the reconstruction of the history. Various national seminars, workshops, invited lecturers are organized by the school.

## Registration fee:

Kindly send your registration fees Rs 500.00 along with duly filled in registration form, your abstract of research paper and your itinerary (with clear mention of your arrival and departure time and date) on or before 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 positively so that we can arrange your accommodation and include presentation of your research paper in the academic programme. Please send your filled in registration forms to Dr Atula Kumar Pradhan, Convener of the Seminar. The bank account details with QR code given below.

Name of the Beneficiary : CONFERENCE CONVENER GMU  
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### CONVENER

**Dr. Atula Kumar Pradhan**, Head, School of History, G.M. University, Sambalpur

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**Dr. Santosh Kumar Mallik**, Asst. Professor, G.M. University, Sambalpur

**Dr. Paramatap Pradhan**, Asst. Professor, G.M. University, Sambalpur

**Dr. Pradosh Kumar Acharya**, Head, School of Botany, G.M. University, Sambalpur

**Dr. Chandan Sahu**, Research Officer, G.M. University, Sambalpur

### For queries & Correspondence

**Dr. Atula Kumar Pradhan**, Head, School of History, G.M. University, Sambalpur

Mobile: 9754875987, Mail: [atulcgculture@gmail.com](mailto:atulcgculture@gmail.com)

**Registration form**  
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**7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**  
**School of History, Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur, Odisha**

To,

**Dr Atula Kumar Pradhan**

Convener

School of History

Gangadhar Meher University, Amruta Vihar

Sambalpur, Odisha- 768004

Mobile: 9754875987

Surname... ..: ..First name(s)... ..Title... ..

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Title of the Paper -----

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Details of the delegate fee (Pl attach bank remittance receipt).....

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