

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANISATIONS

REPRESENTATION OF THE DISTRICT IN THE STATE AND THE UNION LEGISLATURES

The Sundargarh district had one single-member Parliamentary constituency in the General Elections of 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967 and 1972.

As regards the State Legislature the district had one double-member and three single-member constituencies in 1952 and 1957. At the time of the Mid-term Elections of 1961, the Sundargarh double-member constituency was bifurcated into single-member constituencies, viz., Sundargarh and Talsara, as a result of which the number of single-member constituencies increased from three to five. A separate constituency for Rourkela was created in 1967. At present the district has six representatives in the Vidhan Sabha (State Legislative Assembly) and one in the Lok Sabha (Union Parliament).

Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies

The details of the territorial extent of the Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies are given below*:

Serial No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies
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Parliamentary Constituency

- | | | |
|---|------------|---|
| 1 | Sundargarh | .. Laikera, Sundargarh, Talsara, Rajgangpur, Bisra, Rourkela and Bonai. |
|---|------------|---|

Assembly Constituencies

- | | | |
|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Laikera** | .. Laikera police station (excluding Kirmira, Arda and Parmanpur Gram Panchayats) in Sadar subdivision; Govindpur and Mahulpali police stations, and Satkama and Paruavadi Grama Panchayat in Kuchinda police station in Kuchinda subdivision. |
| 2 | Sundargarh | .. Hemgir police station, Lefripara police-station (excluding Gundiadihi and Dumbahal Grama Panchayats), Bhasma police station (excluding Birbira Gram Panchayat) and Sundargarh police station [excluding |

*The *Orissa Gazette*, Extraordinary, No. 1503, Cuttack, Monday, September 27, 1965, p. 3 & pp. 13-14.

**Laikera Assembly constituency is in Sambalpur district. But for Parliamentary election this constituency is included in Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency.

Serial No.	Name of the Constituency	Extent in terms of Parliamentary/Assembly Constituencies
		Rajpur, Karamdihi, Patrapalli (san) and part of Kinjirkela Grama Panchayats in Sundargarh subdivision.
3	Talsara	.. Talsara police station, Gandiadihi and Dumabahal Grama Panchayats in Lefripara police station, Rajpur, Karamdihi, Patrapalli (san) and part of Kinjirkela Grama Panchayats in Sundargarh police station, Birbira Grama Panchayat in Bhasma police station and Bargaon police station (excluding Panchra and Biringtoli Grama Panchayats) in Sundargarh subdivision.
4	Rajgangpur	.. Rajgangpur police station and Panchra and Biringtoli Grama Panchayats in Bargaon police station in Sundargarh sub-division; Raiboga police station and Kalunga Grama Panchayat in Raghunathpali police station in Panposh subdivision.
5	Bisra	.. Bisra and Biritrapur police stations in Panposh subdivision.
6	Rourkela	.. Raghunathpali police station (excluding Kalunga Grama Panchayat) and Rourkela and Plant Site police stations in Panposh subdivision; and Banki police station in Bonai subdivision.
7	Bonai	.. Bonai subdivision (excluding Banki police station).

The Congress, the Ganatantra Parishad (merged with the Swatantra Party in 1967) and the Jharkhanda are the major political parties in Sundargarh district. Analysis of the election results of 1952, 1957, 1961, 1962, 1967 and 1971 shows the relative hold of the political parties in the district.

POLITICAL
PARTIES AND
ORGANISA-
TIONS

First General
Election,
1952

After two hundred years of foreign rule India achieved her Independence on the 15th August, 1947, and the new constitution came into force on January 26, 1950. Under the provisions of article 326 and 325 of the constitution every adult Indian citizen is entitled to take part in the election. The citizens of Orissa have exercised their franchise in the past five General Elections, both for the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha, since our constitution came into force. In Orissa first General Election was held from the 3rd to the 25th January, 1952.

Vidhan
Sabha
(Legislative
Assembly)

The district was divided into 4 constituencies for the first General Election to the Vidhan Sabha. Of these Sundargarh was a double-member constituency and the other three, namely, Rajgangpur, Bisra and Bonai were single-member constituencies. In Sundargarh double member constituency one seat was general and the other was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Rajgangpur, Bisra, and Bonai were reserved constituencies for the Scheduled Tribes.

In 1952 General Elections, besides independent candidates, three political parties, viz., the Congress, the Socialist Party and the Ganatantra Parishad contested the election. Of these the Congress and the Socialist Party were affiliated to their respective all-India bodies whereas the Ganatantra Parishad was of local origin.

The number of candidates set up, the number of seats won and the number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties in the district were as follows :

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
Congress ..	5	3	81,361
Socialist Party ..	3	Nil	5,431
Ganatantra Parishad ..	4	2	54,337
Independent ..	9	Nil	50,574
Total ..	21	5	1,91,703

Out of 1,91,703 valid votes polled more than 40 per cent went in favour of the Congress, indicating the stronghold of the Congress in the district.

The following table indicates at a glance the picture of the General Election held in the district in the year 1952.*

Name of Constituencies	No. of seats	No. of persons con- tested	No. of elec- tors	Total No. of votes	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percen- tage of col. 6 to col. 5	Successful party
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sundargarh	2	10	1,23,170	2,46,340	1,03,795	42.13	Congress & Ganatantra Parishad
Rajgangpur	1	4	49,794	49,794	29,555	59.35	Congress
Bisra	1	4	58,473	58,473	39,877	68.19	Congress
Bonai	1	3	55,347	55,347	18,478	33.38	Ganatantra Parishad
Total	5	21	2,86,784	4,09,954	1,91,705	46.76	

In the first General Elections, 1952, there was one single-member Parliamentary constituency in Sundargarh district. The political parties which contested for that seat were the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad. Lok Sabha (Parliament)

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for the Lok Sabha was as follows :—

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
Congress	74,062
Ganatantra Parishad	68,724
Independents	36,948

In the contest, the Congress won the election by securing 74,062 votes, that is, 41 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituency.

The total number of electors in the Parliamentary Constituency during the first General Elections was 3,89,204 and the total number of valid votes polled was 1,79,734. The percentage of voting for the Parliamentary seat was 46.17.

This election was held between the period from the 24th February to the 14th March, 1957.

Second
General
Elections,
1957

*Report on the First General Elections in India 1951-52, Vol. II (Statistical), pp. 414-415 and pp. 60-61.

Vidhan
Sabha
(Legislative
Assembly)

For the purpose of the Second General Elections, the district was divided into 4 Assembly Constituencies, namely, Sundargarh, Rajgangpur, Bisra and Bonai. Of these Sundargarh was a double-member constituency and the rest three were single-member constituencies. One of the seats in the double-member constituency and all single-member constituencies of the district were reserved seat constituencies for Scheduled Tribes.

In 1957 General Elections, three political parties contested the elections besides Independent candidates. The parties were the Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and the Ganatantra Parishad.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties in the district were as follows :—

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
Congress ..	5	Nil	53,575
Praja Socialist Party ..	2	Nil	4,216
Ganatantra Parishad ..	5	3	1,07,752
Independents ..	7	2	48,057
Total ..	19	5	2,13,600

The figures of valid votes polled show the popularity of the Ganatantra Parishad in the district.

The following table gives further details of the General Elections held in the district in 1957.*

General Elections, 1957	Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total No. of votes	Total No. of valid votes polled	Percentage of column 6 to col. 5	Successful party
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Sundargarh ..	2	6	1,25,759	2,51,518	1,37,075	54.48	Ganatantra Parishad won both the seats.
	Rajgangpur ..	1	5	54,079	54,079	25,031	46.28	Independent
	Bisra ..	1	4	62,706	62,706	32,546	51.90	Independent
	Bonai ..	1	4	56,534	56,534	18,948	33.51	Ganatantra Parishad
	Total ..	5	19	2,99,078	4,24,837	2,13,600	50.27	

*Report on the Second General Elections in India, 1957, Vol. II (Statistical), pp. 170-171 and pp. 78-879.

The strength of the electorate for the elections was 2,99,078 and the total number of valid votes polled was 2,13,600. The percentage of votes polled was 50.27, thus registering an increase of 3.51 per cent over the elections of 1952.

In 1957, there was one single-member Parliamentary Constituency in the district. The seat was reserved for a member of the Scheduled Tribes. Two organised political parties, viz., the Congress and the Ganatantra Parishad and non-party or Independent candidates contested the elections. Lok Sabha
(Parliament)

The number of votes polled was as follows :—

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
Congress ..	51,204
Ganatantra Parishad ..	87,759
Independents ..	47,600

In a triangular contest, the Ganatantra Parishad won the election by capturing 87,759 votes, that is, 47.05 per cent of the total valid votes polled in this Parliamentary Constituency. This time the Congress lost Sundargarh Parliamentary seat won in 1952, to Ganatantra Parishad.

The number of electors for the elections was 4,11,340 and the total number of valid votes polled was 1,86,563. The percentage of voting for the Parliamentary seat was 45.35.

The Second General Elections were over by the end of March, 1957. The Third General Election, in normal course, would have been held in February–March, 1962. But in consequence of the promulgation of the President's rule the State Legislative Assembly was dissolved with effect from the 25th February, 1961, and Mid-term Election was held from the 2nd to the 8th June 1961. Mid-term
Elections,
1961,
Vidhan
Sabha
(Legislative
Assembly)

In 1952 and 1957 General Elections, Sundargarh was a double-member constituency but in the elections of 1961 the double-member constituencies were abolished and the concerned constituencies were bifurcated. Thus in the Mid-term Election the number of Assembly constituencies in the district was increased from four to five, each constituency returning one candidate. Out of five constituencies, Talsara, Rajgangpur, Bisra and Bonai were reserved constituencies for the Scheduled Tribes and Sundargarh became a general seat constituency. The political parties which participated in the mid-term elections were the Congress, the Praja Socialist Party and the Ganatantra Parishad. Non-party or Independent candidates also contested.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for the State Legislative Assembly were as follows :—

Name of parties		No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
Congress	..	5	1	28,254
Praja Socialist Party	..	2	Nil	2,134
Ganatantra Parishad	..	5	4	51,077
Independents	..	12	Nil	31,006
Total	..	24	5	1,12,471

The Ganatantra Parishad continued to be the major political party although it did not have the same amount of success as in the General Elections of 1957.

Mid-Term
General
Elections,
1961

The following table gives further details of the Mid-term Elections held in 1961.*

Name of Constituency	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of col. 5 to col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 4	Party won
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sundargarh	1	5	66,799	27,485	37.48	25,034	37.47	Ganatantra Parishad.
Talsara	1	4	67,491	27,260	35.83	24,183	35.83	Ditto
Rajgangpur	1	7	54,526	21,801	39.98	20,262	37.16	Congress
Bisra	1	5	67,777	27,471	40.53	25,154	37.11	Ganatantra Parishad
Bonai	1	3	58,707	19,249	32.79	17,838	30.38	Ditto
Total	5	24	315,300	123,266	39.09	112,471	35.67	

The strength of the electorate was 3,15,300 of whom 1,12,471 or 35.67 per cent voters exercised their franchise. The voting percentage was considerably less than in the previous elections.

Lok Sabha
(Parliament)
Elections,
1962

The district had one Parliamentary single-member constituency in the Lok Sabha Elections of 1962. The seat was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. Two political parties and two non-party Independent candidates contested the elections.

*Government of Orissa, Home (Elections) Department.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for the Parliamentary seat was as follows :—

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
Congress ..	44,784
Ganatantra Parishad ..	50,859
Independents ..	19,741

The Parliamentary seat was retained by the Ganatantra Parishad. The party captured 50,859 votes, that is, 44.07 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Parliamentary Constituency.

The total number of electors was 4,76,109 and the total number of valid votes polled in this General Elections was 1,15,384 which was 24.23 per cent of the total number of electorate. The percentage of voting was much lower than the 1952 and 1957 elections.

In the General Elections of 1967, the poll was completed in one day, that is, on the 21st February, 1967.

General Elections, 1967

For the purpose of this Fourth General Elections, this district was divided into six Assembly Constituencies, that is, Sundargarh, Talsara, Rajgangpur, Bisra, Rourkela and Bonai. Of these Talsara, Rajgangpur, Bisra and Bonai were reserved seat constituencies for Scheduled Tribes. The other constituencies, namely, Sundargarh and Rourkela were general seat constituencies.

Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly)

In the General Elections of 1967 as many as seven political parties contested the elections besides 13 Independent candidates. The parties were the Congress, the Communist, the Janasangha, the Jharkhanda, the Praja Socialist, the Swatantra, and the Socialist Unity Centre of India.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties in the district were as follows :—

Name of parties	No. of candidates set up	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
Congress ..	6	Nil	44,931
Communist ..	1	Nil	897
Jana Sangha ..	3	Nil	5,840
Jharkhanda ..	4	Nil	5,482
Praja Socialist ..	2	1	16,751
S. U. C. I. ..	1	Nil	3,141
Swatantra ..	6	5	70,036
Independents ..	13	Nil	27,007
Total ..	36	6	1,74,085

In all, 36 candidates contested for six Assembly seats. In the contests, the Swatantra Party captured five seats and one went to the Praja Socialist Party. Out of 1,74,085 valid votes polled the Swatantra Party secured 70,036 or 40.23 per cent of the total valid votes, indicating a considerable hold of this party in Sundargarh district.

General
Elections
1967

The following table gives further information concerning the Fourth General Elections held in 1967*.

Name of Constituencies	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of col. 5 to col. 4	Total valid votes polled	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 4	Party won
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sundargarh	1	7	70,552	35,232	49.93	31,542	44.70	Swatantra
Talsara	1	4	70,168	35,002	49.88	31,351	44.67	Do.
Rajgangpur	1	7	62,146	29,364	47.25	26,589	42.78	Do.
Bisra	1	6	58,075	28,539	49.14	25,677	44.21	Do.
Rourkela	1	9	86,254	41,587	48.21	39,263	45.52	Praja Socialist Party
Bonai	1	3	63,617	20,541	33.86	19,663	30.90	Swatantra
	6	36	410,812	191,265	46.55	174,085	42.37	

The total strength of the electorate was 4,10,812 of whom 1,74,085 voters exercised their franchise, the percentage of voting being 42.37, appreciably higher than the previous one.

Lok Sabha
(Parliament)

In the Fourth General Election, 1967, there was one Parliamentary Constituency in Sundargarh district, i.e., Sundargarh Parliamentary constituency. This constituency included Laikera Assembly constituency of Sambalpur district and six Assembly constituencies of Sundargarh district. The seat was reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The parties which contested for the seat were the Congress and the Swatantra.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for Parliamentary seat was as follows:—

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
Congress	60,454
Swatantra	1,05,272
Independent	36,371

In the contest, the Swatantra Party won the election by capturing 1,05,272 votes, that is, 52.08 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituency.

* One day Poll in Orissa, 1967, p. 134.

The number of electors for the election was 4,78,738 and the number of valid votes polled was 2,02,097 which works out to be 42.21 per cent of the total electorate of the Parliamentary constituency. This percentage shows a definite improvement over the corresponding percentage relating to 1962 Lok Sabha election.

For the second time, the State of Orissa faced mid-term election on the 5th March, 1971. The Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha elections were held on that day.

Like the Fourth General Election, the district was divided into six Assembly Constituencies which included Talsara, Rajgangpur, Bisra and Bonai reserved seat constituencies for Scheduled Tribes. The other constituencies, namely, Sundargarh and Rourkela, were general seat constituencies.

In the mid-term elections of 1971, 12 political parties contested the election with non-party Independent candidates. The political parties which participated in the election were the Congress (led by Jagjivan Ram), the Congress (led by Nijalingappa), the Swatantra, Jharkhanda, Praja Socialist Party, Bharatiya Janasangha, Socialist Unit Centre of India (S. U. C. I.), Communist Party, Communist Party (Marxist), Samyukta Socialist Party, Jana Congress and Utkal Congress. Excepting the last two, all other political parties had their affiliations with the all-India bodies.

The number of candidates set up, number of seats won and number of valid votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties in the district were as follows:—

Name of parties	No. of Candidates	No. of seats won	No. of valid votes polled
Congress ..	6	2	52,014
Congress (N) ..	1	Nil	3,606
Communist ..	1	Nil	1,601
Communist (M) ..	1	Nil	1,446
Jana Sangha ..	3	Nil	4,930
Jharkhand ..	5	2	35,082
Praja Socialist Party ..	3	Nil	7,144
Samyukta Socialist Party ..	2	Nil	430
Swatantra ..	6	2	39,275
S. U. C. I. ..	1	Nil	2,093
Jana Congress ..	1	Nil	448
Utkal Congress ..	6	Nil	15,262
Independents ..	8	Nil	6,915
Total ..	44	6	1,70,246

Mid-term
Elections
1971

Vidhan
Sabha
(Legislative
Assembly)

In all, 44 candidates contested for six Assembly seats. In the multi-cornered contest, the Congress (J.), the Swatantra, and the Jharkhand captured two seats each. The growing strength of the opposition parties will be evident from the statistics.

The following table gives a detailed account in respect of the mid-term elections held in 1971*.

Name of Constituencies	No. of seats	No. of persons contested	No. of electors	Total votes polled	Percentage of col. 5 to col. 4	Total valid votes Polled	Percentage of col. 7 to col. 4	Party won
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sundargarh	1	6	74,306	34,259	46.10	31,627	42.56	Congress (J)
Talsara	1	5	72,762	31,855	43.77	29,901	41.09	Swatantra
Rajgangpur	1	7	67,639	30,023	44.38	27,485	40.63	Jharkhand
Bisra	1	8	62,845	24,684	39.28	22,919	36.46	Jharkhand
Rourkela	1	13	1,05,764	44,240	41.82	40,788	38.56	Congress(J)
Bonai	1	5	67,787	18,914	27.90	17,526	28.85	Swatantra
Total	6	44	451,103	183,975	40.78	170,246	37.73	

The strength of voters was 4,51,103 of whom 1,70,246 or 37.73 per cent of the voters went to the polls. This time the voting was 4.64 per cent less than 1967 General Elections.

Lok Sabha (Parliament)

In 1971, there was one Parliamentary single-member constituency in this district, that is, Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituency. It included Laikera Assembly constituency of Sambalpur district and six Assembly constituencies of Sundargarh district. This Parliamentary constituency was reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.

In the mid-term election of 1971, five political parties, viz., the Congress (J), the Praja Socialist Party, the Utkal Congress, the Swatantra, and the Jharkhand entered the field and contested the election.

* Government of Orissa, Home (Elections) Department.

The number of votes polled by the candidates set up by different parties for Parliamentary seat was as follows:—

Name of parties	Total number of votes polled
Congress (J) ..	68,285
Praja Socialist Party ..	11,438
Utkal Congress ..	26,510
Swatantra ..	50,306
Jharkhand ..	38,375

In the multi-cornered contest, Congress led by Jagajivan Ram won the election by securing 68,285 votes or 35·03 per cent of the total valid votes polled in the Parliamentary Constituency. The total electorate in the Parliamentary Constituency of Sundargarh was 5,22,648. The total number of valid votes polled was 1,94,914. The percentage of voting for Parliamentary seat was 37·29.

In the mid-term General Elections of 1971, the candidate of the Indian National Congress led by Shri Jagajivan Ram was declared elected to the Assembly from Rourkela Assembly constituency, and the same candidate was also simultaneously elected to Parliament from Balasore Parliamentary constituency. As the candidate resigned from the Rourkela Assembly Constituency in preference to the Balasore Parliamentary constituency, a by-election was held at Rourkela on September 29, 1971, for the State Legislative Assembly. By-Elections,
1971

Unlike other elections, in this by-election there was a straight fight between the Congress led by D. Sanjivaya and the Independent candidates as there was no other party contesting the election. In all, 7 candidates, of which 6 were Independents, contested the election. The election was won by an Independent candidate who defeated his nearest rival the Congress candidate by a margin of 1,852 votes.

The strength of the electorate was 1,00,639. The number of persons who voted at the by-election was 52,826 (35,278 males and 17,548 females) which was 52·49 per cent of the total number of voters in the constituency.

There were in all 70 polling stations in the district during the first general elections held in 1952. The number of polling stations was increased in subsequent elections with a view to affording more facilities to the voters to cast their votes. As against 370 polling stations set up during 1967, 518 polling stations were set up for 1971 mid-term election. The number of voters compared to 1967 election had also gone up by over 35 thousand. Polling
Stations

The following table indicates the number of polling stations located in each of the Assembly constituencies in the district for the General Elections of 1952, General Elections of 1957, Mid-term Elections of 1961, General Elections of 1967 and Mid-term Elections of 1971*.

Name of Assembly Constituencies	Number of Polling stations				
	1952 General Elections	1957 General Elections	1961 Mid- term Elections	1967 General Elections	1971 Mid- term Elections
1	2	3	4	5	6
Sundargarh ..	36	104	67	62	88
Talsara ..	..	..	68	63	87
Rajgangpur ..	16	45	54	56	76
Bisra ..	} 18**	46	66	53	71
Bonai ..		52	57	61	85
Rourkela ..	..	..	..	75	111
Total Polling Stations	70	247	312	370	518

There were five Assembly Constituencies in Sundargarh district during 1961 mid-term elections. Rourkela Assembly Constituency was created according to the delimitation order No. 12 of 1966.

**NEWSPAPERS
AND
PERIODICALS**

At present no daily newspaper is being published in Sundargarh district.

Of the English newspapers circulating in this district, the *Statesman*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, and the *Hindusthan Standard of Calcutta* and the *Times of India* of Delhi are popular among the English knowing readers. Among the English periodicals, the *Blitz*, the *Current*, and the *Illustrated Weekly* of Bombay and the *Shanker's Weekly* of Delhi are in circulation in the district and influence public opinion. Owing to the industrialisation of the district and the cosmopolitan nature of its population, the circulation of English newspapers and periodicals has been increasing since 1956.

Among the papers in Hindi, the *Nav Bharat Times* and the *Dharmayug* are widely read by the Hindi knowing population.

* Government of Orissa, Home (Elections) Department, Bhubaneswar.

** Separate figures for Bisra and Bonai Constituencies were not available.

The Bengali daily newspapers, namely, the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* and the *Yugantar* have a good circulation in this district. The Bengali Weekly *Desh* is also popular among the Bengali speaking people.

The Urdu reading public largely depends for its daily news on *Pratap* of Delhi, *Sangam* and *Sathi* of Patna, and *Azad Hind* of Calcutta.

Some Punjabi and South Indian Language papers are also seen in this district.

Scientific periodicals, namely, *Science Reporter*, published by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi, and *Science Today*, a Times of India publication, are popular among the people interested in Science.

Besides the above mentioned papers and periodicals, film magazines published in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras continue to be popular in all the urban areas of the district.

Among the Oriya dailies, the *Samaja*, the *Prajantra*, the *Matrubhumi*, the *Kalinga* (the publication has now been stopped) all published from Cuttack and the *Swarajya*, published from Bhubaneswar, are widely read.

The *Eastern Times*, an English Weekly published by the Prajantra Prachara Samity, Cuttack, and edited by Dr. H. K. Mahatab has a fair circulation in the district.

The Hindustan Steel Limited, Rourkela, has published three house magazines, namely, *Rourkela Samachar* (Oriya monthly), *Rourkela News* (English monthly), and *Sahayoga* (fortnightly in Oriya, Hindi and English). Of the three periodicals, the *Rourkela News* started publication in 1961 and has a circulation of about 3,000 copies. The *Rourkela Samachara*, started in 1964, claims to have a circulation of 2,500 copies. The object of these two periodicals is to project the image of the company and the achievements of the employees in different directions. From September, 1970, the Hindustan Steel Limited started the publication of *Sahayoga*, a fortnightly house magazine, both in English and Oriya. The Hindi edition of the *Sahayoga* appeared in July, 1971, and has a circulation of about 5,000 copies. But the English and the Oriya edition of this magazine claim to have a joint circulation of 15,000 copies. The object of the magazine is to establish a two-way communication between the management and the employees. It also helps in keeping the employees informed of the company policies, practices, management objectives, plans, problems, achievements and failures of the company and about the rules and regulations.

All the three house magazines published by Hindustan Steel Limited are printed in the Ispat Press of the Hindustan Steel Limited and are freely distributed among the employees of the company.

The Utkal Machinery Limited, Kansbahal, is publishing a house magazine called *Kansbahal Khabar* on the first of each month. This house magazine is circulated among all the employees of the said company free of cost. It is published both in English and Oriya.

On October, 1971, an English weekly called the *Steel Express* started being published from Janata Press, Rourkela. At present the paper has limited circulation in the district. The paper publishes mainly news and views of the district. Among the Oriya news weeklies the *Abhas* started publication in 1967 and is continuing. It publishes news and current affairs. The other weekly, *Ispat*, which made its debut in 1969 did not last long. The *Rourkela Dak*, an Oriya fortnightly, appeared in 1959 but has now ceased publication. A literary and cultural monthly in Oriya called the *Abhimukhya* was started from Rourkela in 1969, but was short lived. In 1959, the *Rourkela Review*, an English monthly, started publication from Rourkela, but it could not continue for long. From Rourkela, an Oriya literary quarterly, called the *Nabapatra* came out in the year 1962.

Besides the above newspapers and periodicals, most of the educational institutions in the district bring out their own magazines to promote creative thinking among the Students and the Staff.

Voluntary
Social
Service
Organisations

There are a number of voluntary social service organisations in Sundargarh district. A brief account of some of these organisations are given below.

Lions Club

In Sundargarh district, there are two Lions Clubs, one at Rajgangpur and the other at Rourkela. The Lions Club of Rajgangapur was inaugurated by the International delegate Lion Rusi B. Gimi on the 10th October 1961. The Club which has been affiliated to the Lions International, was given its charter by the District Governor Lion Major G. S. Grewal on the 10th August 1962.

The main purpose of the club is to promote international understanding and to render selfless service to the underprivileged, handicapped and the unfortunate, not as charity, but as a social and moral responsibility.

The Lions Clubs of India, Burma, Ceylon, and Nepal are governed by a Multiple District Council which consists of 10 District Governors as its members, duly elected by the various Lions Clubs in the area every

year. There is a South-Western Asian Secretariat at Bombay for administering the various Lions Clubs in this region.

The Lions Clubs at various places operate as individual units even though they are affiliated to the Lions International. This Club at Rajgangpur is managed by a President, 3 Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, 4 Directors, a Tamer, and a Tail-twister. There were 47 members in the Rajgangpur Lions Club in 1971. A nominal monthly subscription which is raised from the members is utilised for administrative purpose. For service projects, normally the Lion members raise funds from the general public by organising charity shows which are exclusively utilised for the service of the poorer section of the community.

Among the major activities sponsored by the Lions Club of Rajgangpur, mention may be made of the following:

1. Free Eye Relief camp at Rajgangpur and at other places of Sundargarh district.
2. Adult education at Ranibandha.
3. Agricultural Project at Lanjiberna.
4. Embroidery School at Rajgangpur.
5. Construction of Passenger's shelter at the local bus stand.
6. Under rural development programme this club has provided (a) drinking water wells (b) irrigation wells for vegetable cultivators (c) medical benefits and (d) educational facilities.
7. Addition of Jersey and Hariyana cows to the dairy farm of Rajgangpur.
8. Opening of Bee-rearing Project at Rajgangpur.
9. Staging of dramas to popularise family planning.
10. Organising lectures on Yoga Ashan.
11. Arranging anti-polio treatment for children.

There is a branch of the Indian Red Cross Society at Sundargarh. The district branch of the society which has been constituted under provisions of the Indian Red Cross Society Act XV of 1920, is functioning with effect from the date of the merger of the ex-States, i. e., 1st January 1948.

Indian Red
Cross
Society

Prevention of disease, improvement of health, and mitigation of human sufferings caused by flood, famine, cyclone, fire, etc., are the aims and objects of the society.

The district branch of the Indian Red Cross Society is managed by two committees—the General Body Committee and the Executive Committee. All the members of the Indian Red Cross Society who have been duly

enrolled on payment of membership fees, constitute the General Body. The General Body elects members to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the society manages the affairs of the district branch. The existing committee comprises :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| (a) Chairman | District Magistrate (Ex-Officio) |
| (b) Vice-Chairman | Chief District Medical Officer (Ex-Officio). |
| (c) Honorary Secretary and Treasurer | Subdivisional Officer, Sadar Sub-division, Sundargarh. |
| (d) Members | Seven members duly elected by the General Body including two M. L. As and the District Health Officers. |
| (e) Co-opted Members | District Public Relations Officer. |

For financial resources, the District Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society mainly depends on :

- (a) Membership subscription,
- (b) Donations and contributions,
- (c) Interest on investments, and
- (d) Grants-in-aid received from the State Branch, and other sources.

Funds raised by the Society are spent for :

- (a) Maternity and child welfare services,
- (b) Management of Blood Banks,
- (c) Promoting the activities of Junior Red Cross,
- (d) Nursing and ambulance association work,
- (e) Relief in natural calamities, and
- (f) Such other cognate objects as approved by the Executive Committee of the District Branch.

This society has also established a Blood Bank at Sundargarh out of the resources of the District Branch on December 8, 1969. The Blood Bank is managed under the supervision of the Director, Red Cross Central Blood Bank, Cuttack. The blood which is collected at this Blood Bank meets the needs of the hospitals in the district and the surplus is sent to Cuttack for disposal at the Central Blood Bank of the State Red Cross Society. One six bedded ward at Bilimunda dispensary is under construction with the donations of the public through the Indian Red Cross Society District Branch.

The Rotary Club of Rourkela was formed in 1957. Like all other Rotary Clubs in the world, this club is also affiliated with the "Rotary International", a truly international service organisation, with headquarters at Evanston, Illinois, USA. Rotary Club

The Rotary Clubs of Orissa, Bihar and a part of Madhya Pradesh are attached to International district number 326 and are placed under the supervision and guidance of a District Governor. The District Governor is elected annually by the votes of the Clubs under his jurisdiction, while the office-bearers of a club are elected every year by the votes of the members of that club.

The Rotary Club of Rourkela has the following office-bearers, all of whom are honorary : a President, a Vice-President, four Directors, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They form a Board of Directors and the Board is responsible for the management of the club.

The entire financial resources are raised by the members themselves by their admission fees and annual subscriptions, which amount annually to about Rs. 180 per member in this club. These rates of admission and annual fees vary from club to club and in bigger cities like Bombay or Calcutta the rates are higher. There are about 40 members in the Rotary Club of Rourkela in 1972.

The purpose of this club, like all other Rotary Clubs, is to translate the objectives of the club into action. The objectives of Rotary Club are to foster (i) the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; (ii) high ethical standards in business and professions; (iii) the application of the ideal to each Rotarian's personal, business and community life, and (iv) the advancement of international good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

About community service, which this club has already done or is doing, it may be mentioned that the club—

- (1) established a village hospital and dispensary at Katapali, 45 miles away from Rourkela, in an undeveloped area ;
- (2) established an adult education centre at Kharaberia, 4 miles from Rourkela ;
- (3) sent a student to Germany for higher education with the help of funds placed at the disposal of the club for this purpose by a German firm ;
- (4) donated a push-trolley to the Ispat General Hospital at Rourkela for transporting dead bodies of poor patients to the burning ghat; paid Rs. 500 to the Poor Fund of this Hospital and also donated a Radio for the patients ;

- (5) donated Rs. 1,000 for flood relief in Orissa in 1960,
- (6) donated Rs. 1,001 for the Prime Minister's Defence Fund in 1962 ;
- (7) Rotarians personally collected Rs. 3,000 for the construction of a College at Sundargarh ;
- (8) presented a collection of birds to the local Indira Gandhi Park for the benefit of visiting children ;
- (9) dug a deep well at a neighbouring village which needed it badly ;
- (10) built a bus stand in old Rourkela for the bus passengers ;
- (11) sent a poor blind boy to West Germany in 1970 for an eye operation, the expenses being borne entirely by the Club ;
- (12) is bearing examination fees for a few poor but brilliant students ;
- (13) is running a Book Bank for the poor but meritorious students of a local school ;
- (14) contributing for some years jointly with the Shanti Sena Organisation to the maintenance of a children's school at Rourkela called Binobha Bhawe Sishu Vidyalaya;
- (15) has been making arrangements for several years for free Triple Antigen injections for the children of neighbouring areas.

CARE

CARE stands for co-operative for American Relief Everywhere. It started providing food stuff in Sundargarh district from September 1965 under Nutrition Programme. At present the school programme covering primary school children between the age group 6—12 in I to V standards is functioning in 1,064 primary schools with 40,000 children. Besides, a special Nutrition Programme financed by the Government of India and administered by the Government of Orissa is also functioning in 327 Mahila Samities with 34,000 beneficiaries in all the 17 blocks of the district. The beneficiaries under this programme are pre-school children between the age group 0—5, and pregnant and nursing mothers. At the request of the State Government, small Nutrition Programmes have also been functioning in 6 Mahila Samities and 2 Maternity and Child Health Centres with a total number of 260 beneficiaries. For all these programmes, CARE supplies the required amount of food stuffs.

UNICEF

The word UNICEF stands for United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. The headquarters of this organisation is at Newyork, U. S. A. UNICEF assistance to Sundargarh district was first furnished in 1958 to Majhapara Primary Health Centre. This Orga-

nisation has provided equipment, instruments, medicine, nutritional diet, utensils, vehicles and books to the Primary Health Centres at Majhapara, Gurundia, Kuarmunda, Sargipali, Bisra, Kutra, Lahunipara, Hemgir, Laing and Koira ; the Subdivisional Hospital, Bonai; and the District T. B. Centre, Sundargarh. A number of nurses and auxiliary nurse-midwives were trained in the District Headquarters Hospital-Sundargarh, and the Ispat General Hospital, Rourkela, during the year 1971 with UNICEF assistance. For the development of science education this Organisation has aided the Secondary Training school at Kundukela.

In Sundargarh district this international organisation has 8 Applied Nutrition Programme Blocks, namely, (1) Bonai, (2) Panposh, (3) Rajgangpur, (4) Sundargarh (5) Kutra, (6) Bargaon, (7) Sabdega and (8) Lathikata. Training was given to the people under the Applied Nutrition Programme at the Elementary schools for women situated at Bargaon and Sundargarh. Further, under this programme, UNICEF has provided assistance to the Regional Poultry Farm, Sundargarh.

The Indo-German Club was handed over to a Board of Directors in February, 1967, by the German Social Centre which dissolved at the same period. The club has 160 Indian and 15 foreign members. Membership fee per month is Rs. 20, but the wife of a member is charged at the concessional rate of Rs. 5. This club is managed by the Board of Directors consisting of six members and comprises :

Indo-German Club

- (a) The General Manager, M/s. Hindustan Steel Ltd., Rourkela, as President.
- (b) The Vice-President.
- (c) The Secretary.
- (d) The Treasurer.
- (e) Two other Directors.

The club gets financial aid from no other source except the membership fees. The objectives of the club are the maintenance and promotion of its establishments meant for the service of the members and their guests, and fostering of Indo-German relations. For the achievement of the objectives the club maintains a restaurant, a swimming pool, a bowling alley, a minigolf and sports field.

The Roman Catholic Mission has 19 centres in Sundargarh district. The centre at Kesramal was started first. It was started in the year 1908. The present headquarters of the Mission is at Rourkela. It runs 6 Boys' H. E. schools, 4 Girls' H. E. schools, 30 Middle English schools, 151 Primary schools and 6 Technical schools in the district. It provides accommodation to 1,156 students in 13 hostels for boys, and 1,157 students in hostels for girls. The Mission also runs 4 hospitals and 11 dispensaries.

Roman Catholic Mission

Gossner
Evangelical
Lutheran
Mission

The Missionaries began their activities first at Ghoghar in Raiboga police station in the year 1870. At present this Mission has 11 centres of activity, viz., Karimati, Nuagaon, Birmitrapur, Ghoghar, Runga, Nimdih, Rajgangpur, Jharakudar, Jorabandh, Rourkela and Sundargarh. Out of these, Rajgangpur is the headquarters of this Mission in this district. It runs one High English school at Rajgangpur and one Upper Primary school at Karimati. This Mission also runs one dispensary at Purnapani.

Bharat
Scouts and
Guides

The Sundargarh District Bharat Scouts and Guides was formed on October 28, 1962, at Sundargarh. The aims and objects of the Organisation are to engender reverence for God/Dharma and to render selfless service to the country and humanity. This Organisation is functioning at Sundargarh, Rourkela, Rajgangpur, Kenaveta, Bargaon, Kundukela, Darlipali, Patwadihi and Kinjirma. In 1971-72 there were 134 registered Scouts, 27 registered Clubs and 112 registered Guides in the Sundargarh District Association. It arranges Scouts Rally and Camp every year.

Anglican
Church
Mission

The Anglican Church Mission commenced work at Pradharpali (Rourkela) and Hatibari in 1914. The main centres of activity of the Mission are at Rourkela, Hatibari, Rajgangpur, Paramdihi, Raksi and their surrounding villages. The work of the Mission is mainly connected with the spread of education, providing of medical facilities to the poor, and the spread of Christianity mostly among the tribals.

Sarba
Samanwaya
Sangha

In 1969, the depressed class people of Rourkela formed an association called Sarba Samanwaya Sangha for their Socio-economic and cultural prosperity. The association is fighting against untouchability since its inception. It has also planned to utilise the leisure hours of the people belonging to the depressed classes in useful ways. The association has established two Kindergarten schools: one at sector-15 and the other at sector-16, by raising funds from the members of the Sangha. Owing to accommodation and financial difficulties both the schools ceased functioning in 1970. It is also imparting education in dance, drama and music to the children of the depressed classes.

Vanavasi
Vidya Sabha

The Vanavasi Vidya Sabha was founded by Swami Brahmananda Saraswati in 1960. The head office of the Sabha is at Gurukula Vaidika Ashrama, Vedavyasa. The objectives of the institution are:

- (1) to run the Gurukula Vidyalaya in the Vedic way,
- (2) to teach the ideals of Brahmacharya, and
- (3) to propagate the Vanavasi (Adivasi) culture.

The Vanavasi Vidya Sabha is running a Sanskrit Vidyalaya since 1967. At present there are 32 students in this school. The vidyalaya is not exclusively meant for tribal students. Persons of different religious faiths are eligible to get admission into the school but they should follow the principles of Vedic Ashram. The Sanskrit Vidyalaya is affiliated to the Orissa Association of Sanskrit Learning and Culture, Puri. Sanskrit, Hindi, and Oriya are taught in the Vidyalaya. The duration of the course is 12 years including one year general training. The institution gets financial aid from the Government of Orissa and donations from the public. The staff of the Vidyalaya includes 3 teaching and 3 non-teaching personnel.

In respect of social activities, the Gurukula Vaidika Ashram has been working for the uplift of the aboriginals and the depressed and backward classes by initiating them to temperance and clean habits, and by discouraging untouchability and cow-killing. Periodical memorial lectures and learned meetings are arranged under the auspices of this institution. The library at the premises is made use of by the students. The institution has been publishing the *Ashram Jyoti*, an Oriya monthly, and the *Vanavasi Sandesh*, a Hindi monthly, from 1967 and 1968 respectively.

This is a registered institution and is managed by a Governing Body of its own.

Neelachakra, a socio-cultural organisation, was established at Neelachakra Cuttack in the year 1970 and got recognition by the State Government on July 27, 1971. It has 49 recognised branch offices in and outside the State of Orissa. In Sundargarh district, this Organisation has got branch offices at Rourkela, Tensa, Bandamunda and Rajgangpur.

The main objectives of this organisation are : the promotion and expansion of the "Jagannath Culture" in different parts, particularly in the Adivasi and the outlying Oriya tracts ; to look after the social welfare of the State and to present the legitimate demands of the public before the Union and the State Governments ; to render all possible help to the poor and suffering people, and to work for a social and cultural renaissance of the people of Orissa.

Rourkela, Tensa, and Bandamunda Neelchakra branch offices have also taken initiative in providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youths both in the public and the private sectors. In a resolution they have also requested different public and private sector employers to provide 90 per cent of employment opportunity to local candidates.