



Utkal Sammilani: The Odia's Jog For Unification Of Odisha

A Discussion on role of Rambha palace and associated with special session.

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Abstract

Utkal Sammilani played a vital role towards the jog of the Odia's for the independent movement like the non-cooperation, Indian freedom struggle movement. The Sammilani work like an awakening to aware to joined as a solder in the movement against the British. Utkal Sammilani not only work for the Indian independence movement but also work for the development of Odia language, literature, Odisha's unification and Odisha as separate provinces. Sammilani also work social reform, economic and political development. But Rambha palaces are also the foot print of Utkal Sammilani it not the first Utkal Sammilani. Because the meeting was held by the presidentship of Khalikotta King Harihara Mardraj on the eve of 2nd birthday of Yubaraj Rama Chandra Madaraj on 13.01.1902.¹ this occasion gives the opportunity to Madhusudan Das led the foundation of Utkal Sammilani, its development and work for Odisha Unification along with other significant work.

Key word: Rambha palace, Utkal Union Conference, Odisha Unification

Introduction

Utkal Sammilani was founded by Madhusudan Das. Its first meeting was held at Cuttack in 1903 where the 62 permanent members are joined. The main object of the conference was a strong campaign for the unification of the state of Odisha, known as the Oriya Movement.² but it could not say that Rambha is the first conference of Utkal Sammilani. We discuss in conclusion side that, why we can't say this is the first conference?

Utkal sammilani formed on the 30th and 31st December 1903 at Cuttack. Basically, it's main aim to leading socio-political organization through which Odia nationalism raises for proper expression of Odia's view on the national level. Its other aim was the political unification of Odia people, economic progress to developed industrial potentiality in Odisha, political social unification of Odia through the scattered Odia speaking people, social status and women education among the Odia women along which discussion the other general problem of Odisha.³

Before the discussion the first conference we should look out the primary preparation of the conference how could the Utkal Conference made for a success for greater Odisha unification and also as a reformist organization of Odisha. In first the odia sabha was established in 1971 to promote Odia language and literature. It became work for specific Odia speaking people instead of general issue. Madhu Babu became the general secretary of the Utkal Sabha and vice president from 1888.⁴

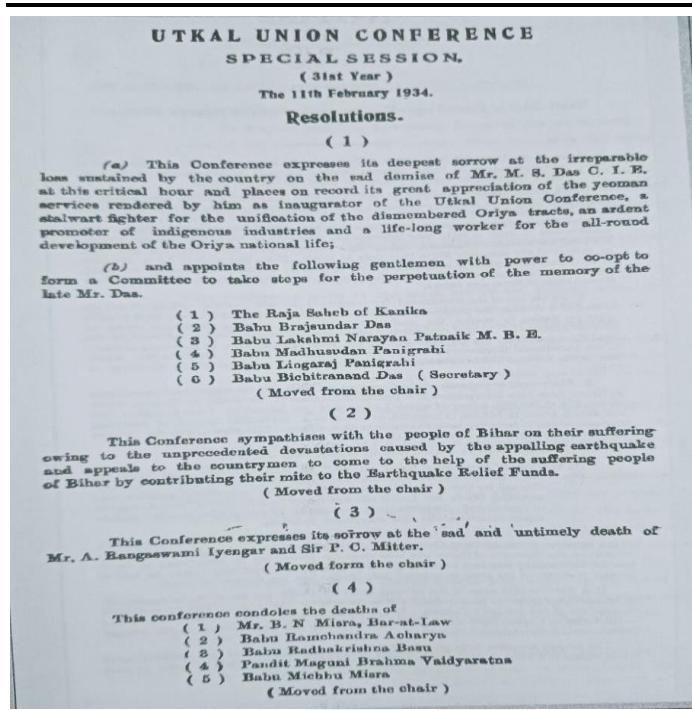


Figure 1 Record Resolution of Utkal Union Conference

a lawyer at Cuttack and decided to work for the people without any cost and became popular Madhu Barrister. He also known as grand Old Man of Odisha.⁶

Utkal sabha to Utkal Sammilani

Earlier Madhu Babu formed Utkal Sabha which main aim was Unification of Odisha and he followed the path of moderate group of nationalist ideology. He wrote several letters to Governor General of India and supports the Ilbert bill to attract the Britisher toward Odisha. In the primary stages he was succeeded to unify Odisha by demand of Ganjam, Vizagapatnam, Samabalpur to amalgamation to Odisha. Further he demanded Patna, Kalahandi, Sonepur, Bamra, Raikhole, of central Provinces and two states of Chotonagpur region Gangapur and Banei, also transformed to Odisha through Utkal Sabha. In that time the Viceroy, Lord Ampthill rejected the demand but he transformed Sambalpur to Odisha.⁷



Figure 2: Rambha Palace front View

Charan Deo of Chikiti and paid tribute of death anniversary to the great patriot of Indian leader Sri Lala Lajpat Ray. Thereafter the discussion inauguration of new Odisha province and committee decided to take proper time to needful in the matter.⁸ (Resolution of Conference) while appreciating new Odisha conference decided to emphatically reiterates is demand for inclusion of the remaining oriya tracts like Singabhum district of Chotanagpur Division, Phuljhar, Bindra, Nuagarh and Chandrapur zamidaries in Central Provinces and the taluk of Sompeta and Tekkali and the part of Berhampur, Ichchapur and Paralakhemudhi taluk of the Ganjam district. It demands based upon the joint parliamentary committee of Madras. Same also demand subdivision of Jhargram and Contai and the five police thanas of Mohanpur, Dantan, Keshiari, Narayanagarh,

In former it became the original form of Utkal Sammilani the Madhusudan Das established Utkal sabha in 16 August 1882 or to promote Odia language and literature. It's first meeting was held at Cuttack printing company premises under the leadership of Gouri Sankar Ray as the president and Madhusudan Das as the secretary. Where the discussed the Ilbert bill in details and conclude that the wrote a letter to the Governor General for the acceptance of bill.⁵

Madhusudan Das

Madhusudan Das was born on 28 April 1848 at Satyabhmapur in Cuttack. His Child hood name is Gobinda vallaba. Madhu Babu completed his primary education in his own village and passed matriculation at Cuttack Collegiate School/ after completes his education first he join as a teacher and thereafter he work as a clerk at Balesore. But he left the job and went to Calacutta for higher study. He completed her master degree and in Law. He stated another career as Odisha's. As a lawyer he work for poor people without any cost and became popular Madhu Barrister. He also known as grand Old Man of Odisha.⁶

The Utkal Sabha has excellently work for Odisha unification after the entire onset left out work done by the Utkal Sammilani when it was established and function by several leader of Odisha including the MLA B Das. The Sammilani held every year in different places and demanded of Odisha's unification as soon as possible through tract of Odia speaking people. The 32nd Sammilani held under the presidentship of Mr B.Das, MLA on 17th-18th Novemebr in 1935⁸. There a resolution was passed to include some more places in Odisha province for the unification of Odisha. The conference first recorded the deep sense of sorrow and death of Sj Viswanath Kar and Yubaraj Shree Gouranga



Figure 3: Rambha Palace Side View

and Khargpur in Midinapore district in Bengal. The committee emphatically urges upon the government to accept the recommendation of Odisha administration (Hubback) committee in locating the seat of the government on the new Provinces at Cuttack.⁹ (*Resolution of 32nd Utkal Union Conference*)

In 1931 Utkal Union Conference demand Jamsedpur tract with Odisha. At the same time Madhusudan Das wrote for the some special quotation with the awaking for Odisha People. The Famous quotation is that in Oriya Language.¹⁰

“Uthare Uthare Utkal santan

Uthibu tu Kete Dine

Puruba Kirati puraba mahima

Padhiba Ki tora mane”

(This Oriya line collects from Surendra Mohanty's Non-Government letter)

This source said that Madhu Babu tried to more awareness about the unification of Odisha and he said “I try to Odisha as a separate provinces from last thirty year and the governor create a committee for inquiry to setup the Odisha as a separate provinces’ Same also the letter said about the Singbhami and Jamsedpur should be a part of Odisha.¹¹

Role of Rambha Palace for Odisha Unification

It is truly said that before the Utkal Union Conference the Yubaraja Birth Day celebration give the opportunity to Madhu Babu along with other delegated leader of Odisha should be discuss about the conference which was played as a setup foot print of Utkal Union Conference but that is not the first Utkal union conference. After the Rambha then some type of discuss at Ganjam Sabha where more discussion about the tract Odia speaking people. But the Rambha Special Session of Utkal Union Conference was held on 1905 after the 2nd conference. Which was help to more strong of Utkal Union Conference and many of King and eminent persons donate the money toward more speedup of the union.

The Rambha palace played the vital role for unification of Odisha. The Phillip Duff Commission that visited Odisha to assess the situation relating the merger of Odisha speaking tracts and formation of Odisha province stayed at Rambha Palace from 17th to 21st December in 1924 as a distinguished guest of Rama Chandra Mardaraj who talk with for persuading the commission to support Odias. Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das and Gopal Chandra Praharaj were among the guest and stayed there.¹²

In the 1927 Simon Commission came to India whereas Indian National Congress decided to oppose it at the same time Madhu Babu and Utkal Union back forward to congress opinion and want to welcome to Simon commission for the Odia's Interest.¹³ Simon Commission stayed as a guest at Rambha Palace at the time the king Rama Chandra Mardaraj encourage him to amalgamation of the Odisha Provinces. Thereafter in 1931 the British Government constituted the boundary committee under the chairmanship of Sir Samuel Hoare and O'Donnell. This committee also stayed at Rambha Palace and discuss about the boundary and situation of Odisha. Same also the Lord and Lady willing don at Rambha Palace and the Indian leader Gandhiji and Sister Miraben stayed at Rambha palace and move some places for Swaraj Sabha. In 1955 King Bahadur Saha had

assembled Sri Balabanta Ray Mehta, Pandit Neheru, Sri Nabakrushna Coudry, Sri UN Dhebar, Lal Bahadur Sastri, Gobinda Ballava panta meet at rambha Palace and discuss the various national issues. Lord Wavel to Odonnell, Mr A.C.Duff, Mr. C.F.Phillip, Sir Jhon Austin Hubback and many of British officer, Governor, and National leader stayed here and discuss on lot of issues and problem of Odisha along with India. So Rambha palace played great deal secretly to open for the unification Odisha and Indian freedom movement.¹⁴

Utkal Union and Indian Freedom Movement

Madhu Babu came contact with the Indian national congress and Gandhiji and aim to. Work hard for the unification of Odisha. So that the Utkal union leader joined national congress. The Utkal Union Prepared a Swadeshi Sabha in Puri on October 20, 1905, to promote the Swadeshi Movement. The meeting took place at the Jagannath Ballav Matha and was chaired by Mahanta Bhagaban Ramanuja. Phanidra Kumar Banerjee and Aswini Kumar were among the key speakers.¹⁵

The Swadeshi Sabha emphasized the significance of Swadeshi and encouraged people to take an oath to use only indigenous goods. The event was a success, and the demand for Swadeshi cloth in the region increased rapidly. The Swadeshi Sabha helped strengthen the freedom movement and grow the nationalist spirit in the region.¹⁶

A session of Utkal Union conference was held in 1920 in Chakradharpur and the organization decided to join the non-cooperation movement that had recently been endorsed by the Indian National Congress. It elected a new president, Basanta Kumar Panigrahi, in 2002.

The Utkal Union Conference, also known as the Utkal Sammilani, was a conference that aimed to unite all Odia-speaking parts of India into a single province. The conference was held in Cuttack and was presided over by Raja Ramchandra Bhanja Deo. The conference's primary purpose was to establish an organization to fight for the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts.

Conclusion

Basing on the report of the joint select committee of 1934, a bill was introduced in the british house of commons by the secretary of the state for Indian. This was passed into law and popularly know as Government of India Act, 1935. The Order-in-council for the formation of the provinces of Odisha was simultaneously released in England and India on 21st January, 1936. The Government of India order 1936 contained the provinces of the separate Odisha province. The total area of the new province finally became 32,695 square mile. The new Odisha was created on 28 March 1936 which consisted six districts. From the 1st April 1936 the new Odisha province assumed it function and Sir Jhon Austin Hubback the first governor of Odisha.¹⁷

The Utkal Union played a vital role for unification of Odisha. But the Union and its leader disgruntled on the Indian national congress because the leader of Utkal Union think that the unification of Odisha is the first priority of Odisha. Because of the Bengal writer any time criticize to Odia language, literature and culture of Odisha. Madhu Babu tried his level best to Unite Odisha and save the Odia Asmita. Not only the Bengal criticizes but also Bihar is the 2nd identity of Odia when Odisha came out from Bengal. We considered as the Rambha Palace which has played great role for unification Odisha as well as the Swadeshi Movement, Non Cooperation Movement, and freedom movement. Many of the leaders discuss the most valuable decisions there. The Rambha palace is the very beautiful royal palace to attracted national level leaders. So that the more of British officials stayed there, which help to Madhu Babu and other member of Utkal Union Persuade for a Complete Odisha Unification.¹⁸

The Utkal Union Conference during the existence from 1903 to 1920 shows that it concerned with the problem like Union of the scattered Odia-speaking people, development of industrial potentially, spread of education, improvement of agriculture, extension of railway and roads, more representation of Odia members in the Legislative council, political unification of the scattered Odia-speaking tract was accorded first priority

in the agenda of all conference. As the focus of the aim, the Utkal Union success his several cases which built the grated Odisha like the industrialization, growth of local craft and spread of technical education which helps to Odia people for removal of poverty. Revival salt manufacturing industry and stop exploitation of natural resource. The Utkal union also organized the industrial and agricultural exhibitions to expose the new idea and techniques.¹⁹

In 2010, Utkal Samilani, requested that the Indian government grant "Classical language status" to Odia and take appropriate actions to preserve the interests of the people who speak Odia but reside outside their home state. Utkal Sammilani was a key player in the transformation of the state of Orissa to its modern-day status as Odisha and it opposed Andhra Pradesh's Polavaram project in 2010 till today.²⁰

End Note

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5. H. Panda, *History of Odisha*, p.272.
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