

Bargarh District At A Glance

Known for its peace and harmony, the District of Bargarh came into existence on 1st April 1993 after being inaugurated by Late Sri Biju Pattnaik, the then Chief Minister of Orissa. He had



a special fascination for the district because he spent some portion of his early life at Bargarh with his father, Late Laxminarayan Pattnaik, who was then working as a Munsif in the Bargarh Civil Court. The thrust of the Bargarh District formation committee could only be materialized on 1st April 1993 though the committee had been taking steps for the formation of a district since 1971.

Today Bargarh is a fast developing district in social, cultural and agricultural spheres. The district has a total geographical area of 5834 square kilometers. It is bounded to the east by Sambalpur District and the Mahanadi, to the west Nuapada District and to the north by Jharsuguda District and Chhattisgarh State and to the South Nuapada District.

The district has a population of 13,45,601 as per the 2001 census out of which 6,81,012 were males and 6,64,589 were females. The district consists of two subdivisions, Viz, Bargarh and Padampur, eight tahasils viz., Attabira, Bargarh, Barpali, Bhatli, Bheden, Padampur, Paikmal; and Sohela. Attabira, Bheden, Bargarh, Barpali, Bhatli, Ambhabhona, Bijepur, Gaisilat, Padampur, Paikmal and Jharbandh are twelve blocks in the districts. Further, there are three urban areas, viz. Bargarh Municipality, Barpali NAC and Padampur NAC. There are fourteen police stations in the district besides a number of out posts.

The district has a total cultivable land of 3,54,051 hectares, out of which 1,83,318 hectares

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of land high land, 89,395 hectares of land are medium land and 76,034 hectares of land are low land. Attabira, Bheden, part of Bargarh and Barpali block



are irrigated by the water of Hirakud Dam. On the contrary, the minor irrigation projects fail to meet the requirements of the farmers in the non-irrigated belt of the district. Though the district is known far and wide as the rice bowl of Orissa, a portion of its area namely, the Padampur sub-division is frequently hit by droughts. Now-a-days the area is recognized as a drought prone area in the State. Paddy production in the district is put at approximately six lakh metric tonnes per annum. However, there is no remarkable improvement in non-paddy cultivation like pulses, sugarcane and vegetables. Even today a section of the population earn their livelihood from forest products which also provide them employment of sorts. There are as many as 2,05,000 cultivators in the district of whom 53,092 are big farmers and 1,50,458 are small and marginal farmers. There are 1,64,339 agricultural labourers and 20,000 artisans in the district out of which a majority are engaged in the handloom sectors. There are 9,435 household cottage industries and 2,76,241 BPL families in the district.

On the health front, the district of Bargarh has one district head quarters hospital, one sub-divisional hospital at Padampur, 5 C.H.Cs, 09 P.H.Cs, 02 PPCs, 40 new PHCs, 02 LEUs, 187 sub centres, 14 homoeopathy dispensaries, 17 ayurvedic dispensaries along with an ayurvedic college and hospital at Narsinghnath. In spite of all these, the available infrastructure on health is not adequate to cater to the health needs of the people

of this area.

In the field of education, the district is yet to catch up with the best in Orissa. There are two D.Is of schools – one at Bargarh and the other at Padampur. Although there are number of U.P. Schools, M.E. Schools, High Schools, Law College, Engineering College and ITCs in the district, they are not sufficient to meet the requirements of people. It is evident from the fact that the male literacy in the district is 77.93% and the female literacy is only 50.03%. There is an urgent need to establish an education circle in the district that can address these problems effectively.



In the field of transport and communication the south-eastern railways runs through the district covering only 46 kms. which necessitates the realization of Bargarh. Nuapada via Padampur rail road, N.H. 6 which links Mumbai to Kolkata through Bargarh covers 66 Kilometers. There are 5303 Kms. of GP road, 134 Kms. RD roads covering about 1300 kms., major district roads covering 138.8 Kms. and 5 State Highways covering 135.50 Kms. However, more stress ought to be given on rural connectivity i.e. from village to Panchayat headquarters, from Panchayat headquarters to Block headquarters and from Block headquarters to district headquarters.

A very hot and dry climate prevails in the district especially during the summer season when the temperature varies between 10°C to 46°C. The district sets its share of rainfall from the south-west monsoon. The average rainfall in the district is 1527 mm with the exception of Padampur Sub-division where there is no sufficient rain to support even one Kharif crop.

The district of Bargarh has played a vital role in the struggle for Indian independence. The Ghes Jamindar family alongwith countless others have sacrificed their lives to save the nation from the clutches of the British rule.

The district has led the movement in the co-operative sector in the State , Late Dr. P. K. Acharya is well known for his pioneering work in the field of Sambalpuri handloom. Sri Bharat Chandra Hota was the president of All India Co-operative Union. The Co-operative institutions in the district are his brainchildren. In the handloom sector 12 nos. of artisans have got



national awards with as many in terracotta. On the cultural front, the folk dance and folk music has led Bargarh to a world stage. Bargarh district with the initiative of District BAR Association is playing a vital role for establishment of a Permanent Bench of Orissa High Court at any place, within the territorial reason of Western Orissa.

Govt. Pleader
Bargarh

