

## GREAT SON OF WESTERN ORISSA

### Prof. Prahallad Pradhan

By: Ashok Kumar Mishra

A true son of Saraswati a living encyclopedia a moving geode of the masses Prof. Prahallad Pradhan (1910-1982) is a great




identity in the field of Indology. He alone could turn a claimant in bringing out a linguistic renaissance in the Orient. None but, he, could only implant the ensign of Orissa, in the world Buddhist's conference, held at Nalanda (1980),

being its unanimously nominated chairman. As the Sanskrit Luminary nominated of the Sub – continent, President Reddy conferred upon him “The certificate of Honour”.

Being a polyglot and having a tireless touring personality, he fanned no prejudice for any thing. Rather, he considered people of diverse nations as the members of one family. For his unifying vision and his fear of God, he had been numbered with the godly. Where ever he went, his humility moved the millions. It is no denying the fact that he emerged as the first Pali scholar of Orissa. His name is added to the Priceless list of Dhamanand Kosamdi, Bhikshyu Jagadish


Sumangalacharya and the like. He remained the peerless President of the All India Oriental conference in the Aligarh session ( Pali section). His Oriya rendering of “Pali Dharmapad” will continue to inspire the succeeding generations. During his research on the scientific philosophy of Buddhism at Biswa Bharati, he had first an entry in to the World of letters by that time, Hajari Prasad Dwivedi bore witness to his versatile genius. There he received an intimation from the Govt. of China & under the recommendation of Neheru's Govt. proceeded to the Oriental Studies Research Centre. From 1948 to 1951 he served there as a visiting professor at Nanking and Peking University. God granted him to observe the course of history there, in Mau Testung's China. A great many Chinese Scholars-seven Radio China had held him in awe and reverence for his unique mastery of Chinese Tibetan languages. At the request of Pt. Rahul Sanskrutayan, he had restored the manuscripts of Basubandhu's “Abhidharma Samuchaya” and Asanga's Abhindharma Kosa Bhasya” (7<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.). After rendering necessary correction, he got them published in pure Dev Nagari under the protective wings of Bihar Royal Society. That brought him international fame.

Prof. Pradhan's Collection of Oriya essays “Sahityayan” his Sanskrit edition of “Manimala”, “Shaiva Chintamani” Guhya



ବିଶ୍ୱ ପ୍ରସିଦ୍ଧ ବରଗଡ଼ ଧନୁଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ  
ଭାରତୀୟ ଷ୍ଟେଟ ବ୍ୟାଙ୍କ , ବରଗଡ଼ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାଖା  
ଆପଣଙ୍କୁ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଜଣାଏ

ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ସହ  
ବିପିନ ବିହାରୀ ପାଣିଗ୍ରାହୀ  
ବରିଷ୍ଠ ଶାଖା ପ୍ରବନ୍ଧକ , ବରଗଡ଼ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାଖା





Sidhhitantra" his publication of Bajari Das's "Artha Gobind" his stirring commentaries on Narayanananda Abadhuta Goswami's "Rudra Sudhanidhi" (16<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.) etc are valuable contribution. He was a champion worker in promoting the cause of education and scholarship in this country. Despite that, being a son of the peasant family he never forgot "Dirty hands can be educated only."

He first initiated "Kalidar Jayanti in Orissa, in company of Dr. H.K. Mahatab Dr. Mayadhar Mansingh, Prof. Gouri Kumar Brahma and Pt. Basudev Mishra. He had striven his best to bring Gangadhar Meher into the National mainstream in company of Padmashri Kalandi Charan Panigrahi. He first founded a Research Centre at Lachhipur (Sonapur) in company of Sri Bhagrathi Nepak – the reason being Lachchipur is near Khalipali for where original script of "Stuti Chintamani" was available.

After Banaras and Dharbhanga, Prahalla thought to establish the third Sanskrit University at Puri, where in his salad days, the orthodox Brahmin had objected him study Paninian Grammar. How be it, his yearning was fulfilled in 1981 when he asked for "Guru Dakshina" from his Ravenushaw vian student Sri J.B. Pattanaik, the then Chief Minister of Orissa of the noble committee, Dr. Sunit Kumar Chattopadhyay was an honorable member. Teacher ship-lecturereship and principalship, he had served in all capacities. At last, as Lord Jagannath's bountiful favours would have it, he remained the first vice chancellor of Sri Jagannath Sanskrit University. Of the Charana Mahasabha held at Tarabha, Sri Bhagirathi Nepak callsto memory

of Pt. Sadashiv Ratha Sharma proclaiming unto all saying Prof. Prahallad Pradhan as not only the "Kulapati of Sri vihar" but also the Kulapati of Utkal" such a lofty station he deserved.

Prahallad remained obliged to Pt. Ramagyana Pande all through his life who had discovered in him a resolute Ekalabya in 1927 and taught him Paninian Grammar at Puri, Ere that, Gudia Baba was his torch bearer in teaching him Sidhanta Koumudi" in his father founded – toll established at Kamgaon of Bargarh District. It was along way (though), Prahallad could, at least, become a Fount of inspiration for a great many Sanskrit aspirants. He turned a Letter of Living. He loved and he served, remaining far above praise and blame. He was as if, trudging on a closed highway. Prof. Dukhishyam Pattanaik called hi "Kirti Shesha" while making his horoscope. He refered him being worthy of an illustrious father like Chintamani Pradhan of Antapali a hamlet hirtherto undotted in the Orissan map.

The legendary Professor had been members of many national and international institutions. He has been in Jhankar editorial Board in Utkal University syndicated and U.P.S.C. – in Kendra and Orissa Sahitya Akademi in the Gyanapith Regional committee. He was the chief in editing the Ancient rolls of Orissa museum. He was in the advisory board of the Governor. He was in the board of appointing professor to the Dept. of Chinese, in Delhi University. He had a high command almost in all the scholarly circles.

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