

CHAPTER XVIII
PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE
ORGANISATIONS

157. Political Parties and General Elections

(a) 1st General Election

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of India and of the Representation of the People Act of 1950 and of 1951, election on the basis of adult suffrage was held for the first time in the district in March 1952.

In this general election, besides independent candidates, members of three all-India Parties, namely, Indian National Congress, Communist Party of India and Socialist Party and one State Party, that is Gaṇatantra Parishad contested for three double-member and two single member Assembly Constituencies. The three double-member Constituencies included Angul-Hindol (Scheduled Castes), Dhenkanal (Scheduled Tribes) and Pal Lahara-Kamakhyanager (Scheduled Castes) where as the other two single member constituencies were Talcher and Athmallik.

Out of 426,178 voters of the district, only 123,754 persons exercised their franchise and elected five Congress, two Communist, and one Independent candidates for the State Assembly.

The Constituency-wise figures relating to the number of electorates, valid votes polled with percentage, parties contested and votes polled by each party with percentage are given below:

Name of constituency	No. of electors.	Valid votes polled and percentage.	Parties contested	Votes polled by each party and percentage.	
Athmallik ..	47,628	8,717(18.30%)	Congress	2,663	30.54%
			Independent	6,054	69.45%
Angul-Hindol ..	1,21,610	29,372(24.15%)	Congress	9,543	32.49%
			Ganatantra	5,737	19.53%
			Socialist	2,559	8.71%
			Two Independents	11,533	39.26%

Name of constituency	No. of electors.	Valid votes polled and percentage	Parties contested	Votes polled by each party and percentage	
(One Congress candidate returned unopposed from the seat reserved for Scheduled Castes).					
Dhenkanal..	96,007 ¹	48,993(25.51%)	Congress	9,578	19.54%
			Communist	11,564	23.60%
			Socialist	8,006	16.34%
			Three Independents	10,078	20.55%
			Communist	9,767	19.93%
Pal Lahara-Kamakhyanager	1,13,039	33,557(29.68%)	Congress	17,251	51.40%
			Socialist	16,309	48.59%
(One Congress candidate returned uncontested from seat reserved for Scheduled Castes).					
Talcher ..	47,894	27,612(57.65%)	Congress	17,711	64.14%
			Ganatantra	7,186	26.02%
			Socialist	2,715	9.83%

For the purpose of Lok Sabha, Dhenkanal and a portion of Cuttack district (West Cuttack) were in one Constituency with two seats in the 1st General Election. Candidates of Congress, Socialist and Ganatantra Parishad parties contested. One Socialist party candidate was declared elected on General Seat whereas the reserved seat was captured by Congress.

This double-member parliamentary constituency had 754,809 voters² of which the total number of valid votes were divided among the candidates in the following manner:—

Congress	..	133,666	(29.31%)	votes
Congress	..	95,660	(20.97%)	votes
Socialist	..	95,907	(21.00%)	votes
Socialist	..	71,874	(15.76%)	votes
Ganatantra Parishad	..	54,494	(11.95%)	votes
Ganatantra Parishad	..	43,957	(9.63%)	votes

(b) Second General Election

The Second General Election for the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly was completed before the end of March 1957.

This time candidates of two all-India Parties, namely, Indian National Congress and Communist Party of India and the State Party, that is Ganatantra Parishad with some independents contested.

1. Total number of votes—192,014
2. Total number of votes—1,509,618

For the purpose of the State Legislative Assembly, the district with 465,988 voters was divided into four single member (Pal Lahara, Talcher, Kamakhyanagar, and Athmallik) and two-double member (Dhenkanal and Angul) Constituencies. Of the total voters, only 162,008 exercised their franchise¹ and elected one Indian National Congress, one Communist Party of India, five Ganatantra Parishada and one Independent candidates.

The statement below gives the constituency-wise figures relating to the numbers of voters, total number of votes polled with percentage and the numbers of votes polled (with percentage) by each party in the Second General Election.

Name of the constituency	No. of voters	No. of votes polled (with percentage)	Party contested	Votes polled by each party (with percentage)
1	2	3	4	5
Pal Lahara ..	56,801	17,837(31.40)	Ganatantra Parishad Independent Congress	11,964(67.08) 1,479(8.29) 4,394(24.3)
Talcher ..	52,200	28,220(54.06)	Ganatantra Parishad Congress	11,578(41.02) 16,642(58.98)
Kamakhyanagar	67,182	26,337(39.20)	Ganatantra Parishad Congress	20,784(78.92) 5,553(21.08)
Dhenkanal ..	122,143 ¹	79,455(32.52)	Ganatantra Parishad Ganatantra Parishad Congress Congress	29,872(37.60) 29,935(37.68) 10,189(12.83) 9,459(11.90)
Angul ..	115,480 ²	73,249(31.58)	Communist Communist Congress Congress Ganatantra Parishad Ganatantra Parishad Five Independents(G) Two Independents(R)	6,884(9.40) 9,195(12.55) 5,596(6.64) 6,399(8.73) 4,619(6.30) 5,649(7.91) 29,403(40.15) 5,504(7.51)
Athmallik ..	52,182	13,262(25.41)	Ganatantra Parishad Congress Four Independents	7,897(59.56) 2,145(16.17) 3,220(24.27)

In the Second General Election, the district was divided into Dhenkanal, and Angul (Reserved) constituencies for the election of candidates to the Lok Sabha. Both the seats were won by Ganatantra Parishad. In the Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, total number of voters were 414,908 of which 167,688 (40.41 per cent) exercised their franchise. Of the total votes polled, Ganatantra Parishad captured 92,142 whereas Indian National Congress secured 75,546.

¹ Total number of votes .. 244,286

² Total number of votes .. 230,960

The Parliamentary Constituency of Angul had 405,988 voters of which total number of valid votes were divided among the candidates in the following manner.

		Per cent
1. Ganatantra Parishad	.. 68,326	46.27
2. Congress	.. 55,208	37.38
3. Communist	.. 24,133	16.35

(c) Mid-term Election, 1961

In consequence of the promulgation of President's rule, the State Legislative Assembly was dissolved with effect from the 25th February, 1961 and the decision to hold mid-term election was announced by the Government of India in March 1961. Accordingly, the election for Orissa Legislative Assembly was held in the first week of June, 1961. For mid-term election, the district was divided into eight single-member Assembly Constituencies. They were Pal Lahara, Talcher, Kamakhyanagar, Dhenkanal, Gondia, Chhendipada, Angul, and Athmallik. Number of candidates who contested in this election were 30 of which eight belonged to the Indian National Congress Party, eight to Ganatantra Parishad, three to Communist Party of India and the rest were Independents. Out of 487,942 voters of the district, 182,197, exercised their franchise and the seats were divided between Indian National Congress and Ganatantra Parishad in equal proportion.

The following statement gives in detail the constituency-wise figures relating to number of electors, total votes polled with percentage and votes polled by each party in the mid-term election.

Name of the constituency	No. of Electors	Total votes polled (with percentage)	Names of party	Votes polled by each party
Pal Lahara ..	57,505	21,882(38.05)	Congress	9,570
			Ganatantra Parishad	8,278
			Two Independents	2,279
Talcher ..	58,369	31,787(54.45)	Congress	17,745
			Ganatantra Parishad	8,360
			Communist	3,124
Kamakhyanagar	68,645	23,988(34.94)	Ganatantra Parishad	11,395
			Congress	11,166
Dhenkanal ..	63,872	29,079(45.52)	Ganatantra Parishad	16,583
			Congress	11,201
Gondia ..	63,504	20,418(32.15)	Ganatantra Parishad	10,785
			Congress	7,129
			Independents	1,606
Chhendipada ..	59,613	18,987(31.85)	Congress	7,806
			Communist	6,572
			Ganatantra Parishad	3,136
			Independents	386
Angul ..	61,993	20,187(32.56)	Congress	8,752
			Communist	4,941
			Ganatantra Parishad	1,863
			Three Independents	3,716
Athmallik ..	54,441	15,869(29.15)	Ganatantra Parishad	4,951
			Congress	4,065
			Four Independents	5,653

(d) Third General Election

The Third General Election in the State of Orissa was held in the second and third weeks of February 1962 for Lok Sabha seats only.

As in the case of Second General Election, the district of Dhenkanal was divided into two Parliamentary Constituencies, namely, Dhenkanal and Angul with one member each. A Congress candidate was elected unopposed from Angul Constituency and the 2nd seat of the district was also captured by the Indian National Congress as the candidate of the party secured 90,250 out of 133,033 votes polled in the Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency. The other candidate who contested in the election of this Constituency was from Ganatantra Parishad.

(e) Fourth General Election

The Fourth General Election to the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly was held in the third week of February 1967. For this election, the district was divided into two Parliamentary (Dhenkanal, and Angul) and eight Assembly (Pal Lahara, Kamakhyanagar, Gonia, Dhenkanal, Talcher, Chhendipada, Angul, and Athmallik) Constituencies. No seat in the Parliamentary Constituencies was reserved for either a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe member. But Talcher and Chhendipada Assembly Constituencies were reserved for Scheduled Caste members.

Besides some independents, members belonging to five all-India Parties, viz., Indian National Congress, Swatantra, Praja Socialist Party, Communist Party of India and Sanjukta Socialist Party and one State Party, viz., Jana Congress contested for Assembly seats. There were 565,180 adults qualified to vote in the district of whom 243,676 voters exercised their franchise and elected four Jana Congress, three Swatantra and one Sanjukta Socialist Party candidates for the Assembly.

The constituency-wise figures relating to the number of electors, total votes polled, parties contested, votes polled by each party are given below.

Name of the Assembly Constituency	No. of electors	Total votes polled (with Percentage)	Name of the Contesting party	Votes polled by each party (and Percentage)
Pal Lahara	70,554	32,215(45.66)	Jana Congress	20,508(71.59)
			Three Independents	6,517(22.75)
			Congress	1,623(5.67)
Kamakhyanagar	76,868	34,007(44.24)	Swatantra	20,650(65.65)
			Congress	8,097(25.74)
			One Independent	2,708(8.61)

Name of the Assembly Constituency	No. of electors	Total votes polled (with percentage)	Name of the contesting party	Votes polled by each party (and percentage)
Gondia ..	68,609	31,880(46.46)	Swatantra Congress Five Independents P. S. P.	17,185(58.61) 5,117(17.45) 5,467(18.64) 1,554(5.30)
Dhenkanal ..	75,551	32,007(42.36)	Swatantra Six Independents Congress	15,892(53.34) 10,736(36.04) 3,165(10.62)
Talcher ..	66,620	37,416(56.16)	Jana Congress Swatantra Congress Two Independents	21,420(65.25) 5,602(17.06) 3,973(12.10) 1,833(5.58)
Chhendipada ..	69,493	28,331(40.77)	Jana Congress Congress C. P. I. Two Independents	10,631(41.03) 7,151(27.60) 5,862(22.63) 2,264(8.74)
Athmallik ..	69,927	25,325(36.22)	S. S. P. Congress Swatantra One Independent	8,164(35.60) 7,047(30.73) 6,875(29.98) 844(3.68)
Angul ..	67,558	22,495(33.30)	Jana Congress Congress C. P. I. Two Independents	8,067(58.58) 5,392(25.79) 3,109(14.87) 4,343(20.77)

Two Independents and four other candidates belonging to Indian National Congress and Swatantra Party contested for two Parliamentary seats of the district. In both the Parliamentary Constituencies of Dhenkanal and Angul, candidates of Swatantra Party were declared elected. In Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, out of 245,229 votes polled, the member belonging to Swatantra Party got 144,806, Indian National Congress 56,761 and 27,584, votes were cast in favour of the only independent. In Angul Parliamentary Constituency, 176,034 voters exercised their franchise. Of the votes polled, 79,961 were captured by the Swatantra Party candidate, 48,440 by Indian National Congress and 36,895 by the Independent.

(f) Mid-term Election, 1971

For the second time, the State of Orissa again faced a mid-term election on 5th March, 1971. This time the election was held for both House of the People and the State Assembly. Like the Fourth General

Election, the district was divided into two Parliamentary Constituencies (Dhenkanal and Angul) and eight Assembly Constituencies (Pal Lahara, Kamakhyanagar, Gondia, Dhenkanal, Talcher, Chhendipada, Angul, and Athmallik). There was no reservation for Parliamentary Constituencies. But two Assembly constituencies, viz., Talcher and Chhendipada were reserved for Scheduled Castes.

Candidates belonging to two all-Indian Parties, viz., Congress presided over by Jagjivan Ram and Swatantra and two State parties, viz., Utkal Congress and Jana Congress contested for both Parliamentary seats. One Independent candidate was also a contestant for Angul Parliamentary Constituency.

Out of 548,597 voters of Dhenkanal Parliamentary Constituency, 252,999 adults exercised their franchise. Of the votes polled, 12,148 were rejected. The candidate belonging to Congress (J) secured 97,491 votes and was declared elected. Votes polled by the candidates of other parties are (a) Swatantra—65,832, (b) Utkal Congress—33,863 and (c) Jana Congress—33,665.

There were 529,664 voters in Angul Parliamentary Constituency of whom 175,770 electors cast their votes. Number of valid votes polled in this constituency was 1,65,985. The candidate of Congress (J) got 55,615 votes and was followed by the candidates of Swatantra (40,319 votes), Utkal Congress (32,913 votes), Jana Congress (26,438 votes) and one Independent (10,700 votes). The candidate of Congress (J) party was declared elected.

Members of four all-India Parties, viz., Congress presided over by Jagjivan Ram, Swatantra, Communist Party of India and Sanjukta Socialist Party and two State Parties, viz., Utkal Congress and Jana Congress along with some Independents, contested for eight Assembly seats. The district had 629,654 voters. In this election 2,27,509 valid votes were polled of which Congress (J) secured 69,838 votes, Utkal Congress 58,932 votes, Jana Congress 41,325 votes, Swatantra 33,992 votes, Sanjukta Socialist party-4,153 votes, Communist party of India 3,675 votes and Independents 15,594 votes.

In this election, four candidates of Congress (J), three candidates of Utkal Congress and one candidate belonging to Jana Congress were declared elected.

The statement given in the next page shows in detail the constituency-wise figures relating to number of electors, total valid votes polled, votes rejected, and votes polled by each party in this mid-term election.

Name of the Constituency	Number of electors	Total valid votes polled/ votes rejected	Name of party	Votes polled by each party
1	2	3	4	5
Pal Lahara ..	77,727	29,292 2,129	Congress (J)	11,299
			Jana Congress	8,468
			Utkal Congress	5,156
			Swatantra	2,465
			Independents (3)	1,894
Kamakhyanagar ..	84,934	30,472 1,693	Congress (J)	17,422
			Utkal Congress	5,661
			Swatantra	4,061
			Communist Party of India.	2,252
			Jana Congress	1,071
Gondia ..	77,069	28,585 2,099	Congress (J)	11,280
			Swatantra	9,040
			Utkal Congress	3,810
			Jana Congress	1,476
			Communist Party of India.	1,423
			Independents (2)	1,011
			S. S. P.	495
Dhenkanal ..	83,178	31,104 2,125	Congress (S)	10,995
			Swatantra	8,463
			Jana Congress	6,646
			Utkal Congress	4,055
			Independent (1)	945
Talcher ..	73,459	31,234 2,652	Jana Congress	12,716
			Utkal Congress	11,240
			Congress (J)	5,618
			Swatantra	1,660
Chhendipada ..	79,437	26,072 2,045	Utkal Congress	13,185
			Congress (J)	4,751
			Jana Congress	4,100
			Swatantra	1,858
			Independent	2,178
Angul ..	77,693	22,218 1,602	Utkal Congress	9,471
			Congress (J)	4,804
			Jana Congress	2,337
			Swatantra	452
			Independents (5)	5,154
Athmallik ..	76,152	28,532 2,088	Utkal Congress	6,354
			Swatantra	6,038
			Jana Congress	4,511
			S. S. P.	3,658
			Congress (J)	3,619
			Independent (4)	4,352

158. Newspapers

Up to the end of 1969 five periodicals, viz., "Banhi" and "Khabar" (English fortnightlies), "Chalantika" and "Ramarajya" (Oriya monthlies) and "Anjali" (half-yearly school magazine) were published in the district. Three of these periodicals, viz., "Banhi", "Ramarajya" and "Anjali" were published at Dhenkanal, whereas "Khabar" was published at Talcher and "Chalantika" at Angul. The year of first publication of these papers are "Anjali"—1951, "Banhi"—1965, "Khabar"—1966 "Chalantika"—1967 and "Ramarajya"—1969. Except "Anjali", other periodicals were dealing with news and current affairs.

Oriya dailies like 'Samaj', 'Matrubhumi', 'Swarajya', 'Prajatantra', and 'Kalinga' published outside the district are in common circulation within the district. Besides, English dailies like 'The Statesman', 'The Hindustan Standard', 'The Amrit Bazar Patrika' are in circulation in urban areas.

159. Voluntary Organisations

(i) Orphanages and Rescue homes, etc.

There is no Rescue home, but one house is maintained by the Salvation Army at Angul for orphans (*see* Salvation Army).

(ii) Yubak Sanghas and Mahila Samitis

There are a number of Yubak Sanghas and Mahila Samitis functioning in each of the Community Development Blocks of the district. The members of Yubak Sanghas individually take part in poultry rearing, pisciculture, improved method of cultivation and preparation of compost pits. Collectively they do many welfare works like village cleaning, construction of village roads and school buildings, renovation of bathing tanks, digging of irrigation channels, etc., and organise cultural functions like drama, Kirtan, Dasakathia, etc. Many of the Yubak Sanghas have their own libraries and reading rooms.

The activities of Mahila Samitis include tailoring, hand stitching, goat rearing, gardening and poultry farming. Some of the Samitis take part in implementing Family Planning Schemes and pre-school feeding programme.

(iii) Utkal Navajeeban Mandal

This organisation was started in 1946 with its headquarters at Koraput and was registered in 1957. Late Sarnghadhar Das was its first president. It is now having its headquarters at Angul. This non-official organisation mainly aims at the overall development of the Adibasis. So far as the district of Dhenkanal is concerned, one maternity centre at Angul and 5 centres at Sanmunda, Bitiri, Sorat, Gunudei, and Nuahata are functioning. Besides, a Women's Welfare Training Centre at Angul

is also functioning under the supervision of this body to train women in midwifery along with some handicrafts. Students passing from this institution are absorbed as Sevikas in the Social Service Centres opened in tribal areas. At present the president of the organisation is Mrs. Malati Chaudhury.

(iv) Bajirant Chatrabasa

This institution was started at Angul in the year 1946 by late Sarang-dhar Das and Shrimati Malati Chaudhury with the aim of providing food and education to the children of the political sufferers of the 1942 Prajamandal Movement. In 1947, it was converted to a regular State level hostel for Adivasi boys and girls. The total strength of the hostel in 1970 was 104 which included 54 Adivasi, 25 Harijan and 25 non-Adivasi students. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes boarders residing in this hostel get stipend at Rs. 30 per month direct from Government. This institution annually spends about Rs. 50,000. It is aided by the State Government and also by some non-official organisations like War on Want, Red Cross and OXFAM. The Chatrabasa is attached to the Khalari Senior Basic School where the students receive education up to Class VIII through Basic pattern. Besides an agricultural farm, some associated projects like a weaving shed, a small cattle farm and a workshop for carpentry have also been provided.

(v) Salvation Army*

The Salvation Army, an international organisation to help the needy and neglected people established one of its branches at Angul in 1915. The Government at first entrusted this organisation, work of reclaiming the character and habits of Panas of Angul who were then branded as a criminal caste.

At present the Salvation Army has established five centres at Angul, Banarpal, Jarapara, Purunagarh, and Gurang. At Angul, the organisation maintains a house with 17 orphans who were collected from distressed families. These boys are prosecuting their studies.

(vi) District Athletic Association

The District Athletic Association was started in 1948 at Dhenkanal. At present about 20 clubs of different subdivisions of the district have been affiliated to this association and in turn it is affiliated to the Orissa Olympic Association and to all other State Associations of Games and Sports. It is also recognised by the Orissa Council of Sports. It conducts annual sports, football, hockey, badminton, Kabadi and volley-ball tournaments of the district and takes part in all the inter-district events conducted by the respective State Associations. It also helps for development of sports and games in rural areas of the district.

*For more about the Army See Chapter—III (People).

(vii) Central Social Welfare Board

The following voluntary institutions of the district have received aid from the Orissa branch of Central Social Welfare Board.

Name of Institution	Period of sanction	Amount Rs.	Purpose
1	2	3	4
1. Talcher Nari Kalyan Co-operative Society, Talcher.	1-1-1957 to 31-12-1957	3,000	For equipment and raw materials for craft class for women Rs. 1,000 and the rest for maternity centre and distribution of medicines.
2. Angul Narimangal Co-operative Society, Angul.	1-4-1957 to 31-3-1958	1,000	For handicraft section of women.
3. Nari Kalyan Kala Kendra Rankia, P. O. Guneibili.	1-10-1957 to 31-3-1958	500	Purchase of raw materials for craft section.
4. Grama Mangal Pathagar, Raipur, P. O. Mandar.	1-4-1959 to 31-3-1960	500	Library and recreation of children.
5. Chainpur Kastrubai Mahila Samiti, P. O. Gadsila.	1-4-1961 to 31-3-1962.	500	Recreational activities for women and children.
6. Sorbodaya Sisumangal Samiti At., Chandia P. O. Lethaka.	1-4-1961 to 31-3-1962	500	Recreational activities for women and children.

Besides, the Samaj Mangal Samiti, another voluntary institution of the district has also received aid, amounting Rs. 14,800 (75 per cent of its total budget of 1962) from the Welfare Board to run the social extension project centres at Joranda, Kabera, Chiruli, Gundalei, Bainsia, Chattia, and Khankar.