

1. HISTORICAL BHUBANESWAR

'Bhubaneswar' is the short form of 'Tribhubaneswar' which means the God of Universe (Lord Siva) and was adopted for convenience to pronounce. Tribhubaneswar itself changed from 'Tosali' after the construction of 'Lingaraj' temple during the supreme period of Saivism in Orissa. The ancient name of Bhubaneswar was "Ekamra kanan" (a mango forest).

The history of the present Bhubaneswar began with the rule of Nanda emperors of Magadha. But Kalinga was not a part of the empire of the Nanda king when Chandragupta Maurya ascended the throne. It was Ashok, the grandson of Chandragupta Maurya, who conquered Kalinga for the first time in 261 B.C. A great war was fought at the foot of the Dhauli hill, about 5 km south-east of Bhubaneswar. From that time Bhubaneswar continued to be the capital of Kalinga in the Ashokan Empire.

A second important phase, in the history of Orissa, as well as of Bhubaneswar, began with Kharavela's invasion which has been inscribed in the monuments of Udaygiri and the Khandagiri hills, situated on the western margin of the city. Under the patronage of Kharvela, the twin hills of Khandagiri and Udaygiri, became the stronghold of Jainism and Buddhism. By the end of the 6th century, the history of Bhubaneswar entered a new phase with the reign of King Sasanka of Gauda.

King Sasanka, a follower of Siva destroyed number of Buddhist monuments and revived Hinduism. Later on, by the middle of the ninth century, the Bhaumas came and contributed to the growth of art and architecture of the Saiva and Sakta cults flourished and several temples were built in Bhubaneswar.

This was followed by the rule of Kesaris. The Kesaris ruled for about 200 years, from 9th century AD till the advent of the Gangas in 1112 AD. The Kesaris were massive builders. Some of the brilliant specimens of Orissan Temples like Lingraj, Mukteshwar, Rajarani and Brahmeswar were credited to them. During the rule of Kesari the capital was shifted from Tosali (Bhubaneswar) to Cuttack (*Abhinab Kataka*). The last two Kesari kings transferred their capital to Jajpur and Bhubaneswar lost its importance. After the conquest of the Anantavarma Chodagangadeva in 1114 A.D, the capital of Orissa was shifted to Bhubaneswar, which finally retained its cultural supremacy as an important center of Saivism.

Chapter 2 CHARACTER OF THE CITY

After the Kesari dyanasty, Ganga dynasty ruled Orissa from 12th century to 15th century. During this time the temples at Puri and Konark were built. This period is called the golden era in the history of Orissa as art, architecture, sculpture etc reached the highest peak. After the Ganga dynasty the Surya



Udaygiri and Khandagiri



Mukteswar temple

Dynasty emperors like Kapilendra Dev, Purusottam Dev and Pratapruda Dev ruled from 15th century to 16th century. Mukunda Dev was the last Hindu emperor of Orissa.

The Afgans held Orissa until 1592 AD when Akbar's Hindu General Mansigh annexed it to the Mughal Empire. In 1751 the Marathas occupied Orissa and ruled it till 1803 AD, when they ceded it to the British and it was annexed to Bengal. In 1805 Cuttack District was formed and put under the charge of a collector. Later on in 1936 Orissa was made a separate province and Cuttack became its capital. On 13th April 1948, Bhubaneswar got back its status when the foundation stone of the present capital township was laid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, after a gap of 1600 Years. Then Bhubaneswar was born as the new capital of Orissa in close proximity of the old temple town, the Master Plan for the new township was prepared by the famous architect Dr. Otto. H.Keenigsberger in 1954 on the basis of the concept of neighborhood unit planning.

2. TOURISTIC/HERITAGE BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar is an important tourist centre of not only in India, but the whole world itself. Tourism is the major industry of the city. The Lingaraj Temple, Mukteswar temple and Raja Rani Temple which are 11th century A.D. monuments, Ashok inscriptions at Dhauli, archaeological remains of Sisupalgada (300 B.C.) and Jain monuments of Khandagiri and Udaygiri (between 200 B.C. to 100 A.D.) are the places of tourist importance. These monuments depict the magnificence of the Indian art and architecture.

Visitors to Bhubaneswar in a year are about 17,22,000. Other than the monuments, the City also attracts tourist to its master crafts, silver filigree works, colorful appliqué works, stone images, wood carvings, patta paintings, brassware, horn works, bamboo articles etc.

The city has a number of tourist spots. A list of these places is given in Annexure 2.



Dhauli: the Pagoda of peace

3. THE CHARACTER OF BHUBANESWEAR

Today, Bhubaneswar, the capital and temple city of Orissa, with cluster of more than 500 magnificent temples, occupies a remarkable place in the religio-cultural scenario of the State and has earned international and national fame for the “Kalingan” style of art and architecture. The city of Bhubaneswar has its importance as a:

- Historical city
- City with heritage sites
- Tourist city
- Administrative

3.1 HISTORICAL CITY

Bhubaneswar, represents some of the finest manifestations of Kalingan style of temple architecture. The city has a long history, which dates back to the period of great Mauryan emperor Ashok. During the days of Mauryan Emperor, it was known as “Tosali”, the Capital City of ancient Kalinga.



Bhabanisankar Temple

3.2 CITY WITH HERITAGE SITES

At one time Bhubaneswar had about 7000 temples. Since the 3rd century BC numerous temples and caves propagating different faiths such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Vaisavism and Jainism had flourished which are depicted in numerous temples and caves. These temples and caves are the areas of heritage importance. Most of the temples and caves are concentrated in the old town area. Historically, this old city is regarded as the ‘*Ekamraskshetra*’. The heritage area spreads over an area of 510 Ha and consist of four villages namely Kapilprasad, Bhubaneswar, Goutam Nagar and Raja Rani.



Bindusagar Lake

The old city is featured by conglomeration of temples, monuments, mandaps, heritage ponds etc. Initially, the old city had 1000 temples and at present, the total temples are limited to 320. Majority of the existing temples are deteriorating rapidly and the precious stone carvings are also in damaged condition.



Temple complex

3.3 TOURIST CITY

Bhubaneswar forms the apex of ‘Golden Triangle’ with Puri and Konark at the other two ends. It is connected with rest of India and abroad through airways, railways and roadways. In the recent years, there has been a sizeable increase in the number of hotels and other facilities for guided / contracted package tour with Bhubaneswar as the centre. There are, all total 24 high spending group of hotels belongs to star categories and 53 nos. of other moderate hotels.

3.4 ADMINISTRATIVE

With the shifting of the capital in 1948, a number of administrative offices started coming up. A number of offices and institutions like the Secretariat, the Regional Research Laboratory, the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, the Government Press, the Institute of Physics and other departments came up.

These above characters of the city require the environment, including its quality to retain its importance and to suit to their supporting functions. The environmental needs of Bhubaneswar to retain its cultural heritage, to preserve and protect monuments and to ensure it fulfils its tourist functions and retain or bring back it's historical flavor are given below.

Planned development

- Well planned and maintained areas in and around monuments, heritage sites and other tourist sites
- Well organised areas for local textiles and handicrafts that attract tourists
- Efficient traffic and transportation system including public transportation, good road network, wide roads, pedestrian zones, walkways
- Clean environment including clean air, safe drinking water
- Good surroundings including efficient drainage and sewage system, garbage collection and disposal
- Aesthetics – urban design elements such as parks, gardens, fountains
- Adequate greens, open spaces and recreational areas
- Amenities and facilities within reach
- Adequate electricity and water supply
- Safety from hazards
- Lack of ugly scenes within visibility including waste dumps along roads, defecation along railway tracks, badly laid electricity wires/poles, overflowing sewage
- Revival/preservation of cultural and historical heritage
- Improved living conditions including appropriate employment opportunities to the local people

For ensuring a sustainable Bhubaneswar, there has to be a comprehensive urban system. As is said in the Agenda 21 of the UN Conference on Environment & Development, *“By examining all uses of land in an integrated manner, it makes it possible to minimize conflicts, to make the most efficient trade-offs and to link social and economic development with environmental protection and enhancement, thus helping to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. The essence of the integrated approach finds expression in the coordination of the sectoral planning and management activities concerned with the various aspects of land use and land resources”*.

For a sustainable Bhubaneswar, the requirements as listed above are to be ensured in Bhubaneswar. This essentially calls for proper planning/management and integration of the following aspects:

- i. Social aspects – population, slums, employment, culture, heritage etc.
- ii. Economic aspects – economic activities to be compatible to tourism activity for retaining/bringing back the cultural and historical heritage and avoiding such activities as polluting/hazardous industries that are not compatible
- iii. Environmental aspects – including clean air, clean water, proper drainage/sewage, protection/preservation of natural resource areas etc.
- iv. Land aspects – optimising the land uses through appropriate land use planning and land use management

The present study is an attempt to bring out the status and issues related to the above and propose measures for improving the city to suit to the local requirements including social, environmental, economic and land aspects.