



सत्यमेव जयते

Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh  
Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan  
participates as Chief Guest at  
the 100 Years Celebrations of 'The Samaj'  
at 5 PM on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2020  
at National Library, Bhasa Bhavan, Kolkata

Guests on the dais, friends from print and electronic media, Ladies and Gentlemen. Very good evening to you all.

I extend my hearty greetings to all on the occasion of centenary celebrations of The Samaja, Odia daily founded by great personalities like Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly called Punjab Kesari, Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das, who devoted his entire life to the cause of Odisha.

It gives me immense pleasure to participate in the Centenary celebrations of the The Samaja, as it is carrying the ideals of Utkalmani Gopabandhu by duly performing its duty in the fields of journalism, social service, education, health and nation building.

Utkalmani Gopabandhu was a great social reformer and harbinger of new social order. His crusade against untouchability, advocacy of widow remarriage, campaign for literacy, new model of education, stress on both rights and duties emphasis on women education, particularly vocational training and above all a deep commitment and compassion for poor and destitute have immortalised him not only in Odisha but the entire country.

Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das saw journalism as a medium to educate masses even though were illiterate. He believed education could help children grow mentally, physically and spiritually. He inculcated ideas of nationalism and service to mankind, among the children. Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das regarded politics as an instrument of service to the people. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Gopabandhu was one of the Noblest Sons of Odisha.'

I am glad to know that the The Samaja has remained as the nerve centre of journalism, intellectual pursuit and social service since its inception almost a century ago in 1919.

The Samaja is committed for development of the state and the nation and is also catering to the people of Odisha with all information about latest developments in the state, national and international-levels in their mother tongue. It still stands tall as a powerful media to carry news on natural calamities and epidemics to every nook and corner of the state.

The hall mark of the The Samaja being unbiased, independent and un-malicious in disseminating the news. Not only for news, The Samaja also happens to be the sacred institution for the litterateurs and literature lovers of the state.

Elderly people of Odisha suggest to their children to read the Samaja newspaper every day, to learn the Odia language. Starting its publication from Cuttack, the Samaja has gained larger appreciation from its readers with multiple editions, published from Cuttack, Bhubaneswar, Angul, Sambalpur, Rourkela, Berhampur, Koraput and Balasore in Odisha along with Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Kolkata in West Bengal.

Being a leading newspaper, popularity and credibility of the Samaja is still intact while it keeps on promoting feature journalism through 'Saptahik Samaja' and served the needs of literature lovers through its monthly publication 'Gopabandhunka Satyabdi', Samaja in its high tech format is available online and has a web portal through which it is meeting the information needs of readers.

The Samaja has not been limited to news publishing, it has been engaged in service of the poor and the oppressed. It has always been supportive of people affected by natural calamities in Odisha and other states as well and helping them in times of need, to overcome their distress. It has set an example by sharing a major portion of its revenue for the welfare of calamity-hit people.

Apart from the Samaja relief fund, the Samaja has established a 100-bed hospital named as Gopabandhu Institute of Medical Sciences and Research at Madhappur under Athgarh sub division of Cuttack district, to provide health services to the poor and distressed. Radhanah Rath scholarship is being provided to encourage talented students to fulfill their academic ambitions. I am happy to know that under the management of Servants of the people society, the Samaja has earned highest popularity as an institution committed for the welfare of the people of Odisha.

Let me conclude by recalling the words of Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, who said: *"Let my body mingle in the dust of my motherland and let my countrymen walk across it."*

I wish 'The Samaja' will celebrate many more such milestones in the future.

Jai Hind