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Sahitya Akademi

# meet the author

Pathani Patnaik



दादी वंदेनाथक



**P**rofessor Pathani Patnaik, a prolific writer and renowned critic of Odia literature was born on 19 September 1928 in Golbai village of Khurda, a place of great historical importance. Khurda was then within the district of Puri, the sanctum-sanctorum of Lord Jagannath, the Presiding Deity of Odisha. He was the only son of Somanath Pattanayak and Chitramali Devi. He was named 'Pathani', because the parents believed that such a name might protect him against the wrath of Yama, the god of death. He started his schooling at the Lower Primary School in his village and successfully completed his Matriculation from Puri District School in the year 1945. He graduated from Puri College, Puri and did his Post-graduation in Odia from Ravenshaw College, the premier academic institution of Odisha.

While studying in Puri, Pathani became an ardent member of Puri Student Congress and took keen interest in the affairs of the freedom struggle championed

by great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Gopabandhu Das and Pandit Godabarish Mishra. While pursuing his academic career in Puri, he became a member of Taruna Sahitya Mandir (Young Litterateurs' Temple) and also became the First Editor of its hand-written literary magazine titled *Prativa*. While pursuing his Master's Degree in Odia literature in Ravenshaw College, he took up a part-time job as an Assistant Editor of the most prestigious Odia monthly *Jhankar* founded by Dr Harekrushna Mahatab, a pioneering literary as well as political figure of Odisha.

Pathani Patnaik, a distinguished scholar and teacher, started his career in teaching as a Lecturer in Odia in Christ College, Cuttack, in the year 1951, but this initial phase of his teaching career lasted only for four months. In 1953 he joined Bhadrak College, Bhadrak as Lecturer in Odia. But finally he came back to Christ College, Cuttack to resume his career as a lecturer in Odia on 5 July 1954. He served the Christ College as a lecturer and later on as its Principal. He retired as the Principal of Christ College in 1988.

Apart from teaching, writing and delivering enlightening speeches, Pathani Patnaik also rendered invaluable service to the growth and development of Odia language and literature by working as the editor of *Jhankar*, the most prestigious Odia monthly. Another prestigious monthly magazine which he

edited for a considerable period of time was *Sahakar*. After his superannuation, the tireless Patnaik was deeply involved in literary activities and became the President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj, a century-old, prestigious Odia literary organization. He held the post from 1998 to 2001. During his tenure as President of Utkal Sahitya Samaj, Shatabdi Bhavan, an offshoot of Sri Ram Chandra Bhavan came into being and the centenary celebration of Utkal Sahitya Samaj was celebrated with great pomp and show. To mark that historic occasion *Shatabdi Swakshyara* (Edited by Pathani Pattanayak and Bijayananda Singh), a treatise on century-old Odia literary tradition, was published. Adding a feather to his colourful cap Pathani Patnaik adorned the prestigious chair of the President of Odisha Sahitya Akademi from 17 July 2000 to 23 July 2003.

Pathani Patnaik is considered to be an authority on Odia essay and Odia literary criticism. He has been prolifically writing Odia essays and Odia literary critiques on a number of topics, books and authors for more than forty years. His contribution to the field of editing and compiling Odia collections has been outstanding. His *Introduction to Odia Novels* (Odia Upanyasa Sahitya Parichaya), a compilation of critiques on Odia novels and novelists published in the nineteen sixties has brought him state-wide recognition. He has authored some books based on his study of the ancient palm-leaves. His editorials on *Creation and Critique* (Srusti O Samikshya), published in the annual journal of the Odia Sahitya Samaj of Christ College, have been highly appreciated by Odia literary critics. For the National Book Trust India, he has compiled a



With wife and family



Being fellicated by Janaki Ballav Pattanaik, formerly Chief Minister of Odisha

winsome book titled *Odia Short Stories* (Odia Galpamala).

Sri Patnaik has more than 25 books of essays to his credit and the total number of books authored by him exceeds fifty. As an essayist and critic Sri Patnaik is impartial and just. Whether the topic is contemporary or about the past, while writing an essay, he never becomes over emotional. Exaggerated praise or too much of denunciation is completely absent from his critical works. Sri Patnaik has written essays not only on Odia literature but also on the society, culture and education of Odisha and has received acclaim from one and all. Sri Patnaik has also contributed to Odia Short Story and poetry. Though not many in number, his creative works prove his talent and exhibit his vision and voice of and on the society, nature and the universe.

Apart from being a great essayist, Sri Patnaik is also an eloquent orator. He has addressed

hundreds of literary as well as cultural meetings and has delivered profound as well as illuminating speeches on a variety of topics.

At present Sri Pathani Patnaik resides in his own house situated near Kanika Chowk of Cuttack city.

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### Bibliography

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- Sahitya Bichara, 1962
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- Prabandha O Samalochana, 1968
- Sahitya Sanhati O Sanskruti, 1972
- Gangadhar Sahitya O Tapaswini, 1972
- Samaja O Sahitya, 1975
- Jibani Sahitya Eka Adhyayana, 1977
- Odia Sahityara Itihasa, 1978
- Sahitya O Samiksha, 1978
- Kabimanisi Nilakantha, 1984



Receiving the Sahitya Bharati Samman of the Gangadhar Rath Foundation

Jatiya Kabi Birakishor, 1993  
Sri Jagannath O Adhyatmika  
Chetana, 1993

Odia Sahitya O Samajara Katha,  
1993

Sahitya O Samalochana, 1993

Sarala Das, 1996

Sahitya Manisa, 1998

Sahitya Anwesa, 1999

Srasta Srusti O Soundarya, 2001

Odia Sahitya Tatwa Tathya  
Tarjama, 2006

Odia Bhasa Sahityara Barenya  
Sadhakagana, 2007

**Literature for Children**

Desha Bideshara Katha O Kahani,  
1972

Sapana Sata Hela, 1987

Lodanahin Mora Jani Jautuka,  
1988

Bakula Banara Panchasakha,  
1988

Duradeshara Lokakatha (1st &  
2nd Vol), 1989

Jainadharna Kahani, 1991

Pilanka Kathasarita Sagara, 1991

Jataka Kahani, 2001

Desabideshara Budhima Kahani,  
2004

Panchatantra Kahani, 2006

Baidika Kahani, 2006

Tenali Ramakrishna, 2004

**Editing and Compilation**

Sahityare Rahasyabad, 1962

Mehera Aloka, 1963

Odia Upanyasa Sahityara

Parichaya (Vol-1), 1969

Rasakallola, 1973

Bidagdha Chintamani, 1973

Odia Galpamala, 1973

Labanyabati, 1978

Odia Upanyasa Sahityara

Parichaya (Part-II), 1997

Satabdi Swakshyara, 2004

Odia Prabandha O

Samalochana Sahityara

Parichaya, 2008

**Awards, Recognitions and Laurels**

Jibanaranga - Cultural  
Association, Cuttack, 1970

Srabani Sahitya Sansad,  
Kendrapara, 1972

Visuba Milana, 'Jhankar' Award,  
1987

Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award,  
1993

Sarala Samman, 1993

Utkal Sahitya Samaj Samman  
 Kshetrabasi Sahityabidya  
 puraskara, 1994  
 Sarala Samman, 1994  
 Pathaka Sansad Samman, 1995  
 Nikhila Bharat Odia Adhyapaka  
 Samman, 1998  
 Lekhaka Sammukhya Samman  
 Punarnaba Sahitya Sansad  
 Sahasrabdi Sahitya Samman,  
 2001  
 Sahitya Bharati Award, 2001  
 Utkal Ratna Samman, 2002  
 Janasudha Samman, 2004  
 Sahakara Prabandha Samman,  
 2005  
 Christ College Diamond Jubilee  
 Samman  
 Bhubaneswar Book Fair Award,  
 2008  
 Sahitya Akademi Award for his  
 Autobiography *Jibanara  
 Chalapathe*, 2010

## A Chronology

- 1928 Born in Golbai Village,  
 Khurda, Odisha.
- 1945 Joined Puri College as a  
 student in Arts stream
- 1950 Invited to the Editorial  
 Board of 'Jhankar' and  
 Prajatantra group of  
 publications.
- 1950 Joined as a P.G. Student in  
 Odia department in  
 Ravenshaw College,  
 Cuttack.
- 1950 Joined as a Research  
 Assistant under the Scholar  
 Artaballav Mohanty in Utkal  
 University.
- 1951 Joined as a Lecturer in  
 Odia, Christ College,  
 Cuttack
- 1953 Got married to Pravat  
 Kumari
- 1954-1988 - Rejoined fresh in  
 Christ College, Cuttack  
 and got his retirement as  
 the Principal of the same  
 college.



With Chief Minister Nabin Pattanaik at a release programme of Children's Encyclopaedia