

## IMPACT OF MANDAL COMMISSION REPORT IN ODISHA WITH THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

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### ABSTRACT

In the year 1979 during the Janata Party government in Centre the “Mandal Commission” was established. The purpose was to “ identify the socially or educationally backward.” The Commission got the report about Orissa by Sri Chintamani Panigrahi, the then Governor of Manipur. This Commission proposed to the Central Government for the reservation of 27% of the lower and backward-caste people in Indian societies. In the month of March 1981, in Lok –Sabha, a unanimous decision was made for the reservation. Sri Viswanath Pratap Singh took oath as the Prime-Minister of India on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1989. Sri Biju Pattanaik sworn as the Chief- Minister of Orissa on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1990. On the “Nirvan Day” of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the Prime-Minister declared about the implementation of the Mandal Commission Report. Consequently the agitation started against the reservation issue in the Northern parts of the country. Later, it spreaded to other regions. Being a great leader of the Janata Dal Sri Biju Pattanaik wrote letter to the Prime-Minister about the dissatisfaction in Orissa. In many parts of Orissa there were demonstrations, student-police clash, and violent activities etc. went on. The chief Minister had no more interest for the implementation of the Mandal Commission. There was the rivalry between Sri Ram Dhan , the Chair-man of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe Commission of India and the Chief- Minister of Orissa. Mostly the opposition parties and the agitated mob demanded the reservation only on economic status of the people instead of lower castes. The senior leaders of the Janata Dal who opposed Sri Viswanath Pratap Singh were Sri Chandra Sekhar, Choudhury Devilal and Sri Jaswabanta Singha. The main opposition political parties like the BJP and the Congress(I) opposed to the steps of the Mandal Commission Report. In Northern India, the people opposed the Mandal Commission Report, where in Southern India people greeted it. The Janata Dal leaders in Centre and in Orissa accused the Congress(I) leaders responsible for the violence and misguidance to the agitated students and mob. Consequently due to the situation of the country some leaders of the Janata Dal opposed Sri Viswanath Pratap Singh . Except Mandal issue the “Khalistan” claim, the racial conflict in Jammu and Kashmir shook the Central Government. Due to the impact of the Mandal Commission Report dramatic change occurred in the next Assembly Election in Orissa.

**KEYWORDS:** Commission, Reservation, Back-Ward, Implementation, Demonstration Political, Violence, Election, Impact, Social, Economic