

## **Com. Shivaji Patnaik (CITU, Railways) at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Com. Shivaji Patnaik (CITU, Railways) at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa</b>
<b>Date of Interview</b>	January 27, 2003
<b>Place</b>	at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
<b>Context</b>	Com Shivaji Patnaik is still actively involved in trade union movement in Orissa.
<b>Interviewers</b>	Krishna Jha

### **Biographical Sketches**

My date of birth is August 10, 1931. My father had deeply influenced me from childhood. He was an advocate and Congress party member.

My father was also actively involved in Dhenkanal Praja Mandal activities and staged a fight for their liberation. I was a regular reader of Muktiyuddha edited by SA Dange and subscribed by my father since its inception as he was deeply impressed by Dange.

I was recruited as a volunteer in the 1945-46 movement and also in the Praja Mandal conference. At this time I was active in the student front. I had participated in the “Union Jack” movement from December 1946 to January 1947. It was a period when from the labour constituency, Vaidyanath Ratha contested and got elected.

Shivaji was directly involved in the movement launched by All India Railwaymen’s Federation that was first led by Jaya Prakash Narayan. Jyoti Basu was its vice president but later after contradictions came to the surface, Jyoti Basu became the president and Jaya Prakash Narayan resigned.

I was preparing for my school final examination when Vaidyanath Ratha asked me to work for the 1949 strike of the railwaymen. I was working closely with Com Vaidyanath Ratha at Cuttack, Bhadrak and Khurda. In February, 1949, leaders of the strike were arrested and I went underground though not for long. When the strike failed, I was also arrested and only in 1951, I could come out of jail. I resumed my studies and continued organising the press and glass factory workers.

In 1961, at the industrial suburbs of Cuttack, Orissa Textile Mill workers launched a movement and went on strike for 45 days in which I was greatly involved.

Later the AITUC got split and CITU was formed. I joined CITU. Since then, I have been active among the workers in the stone queries, Khadi Gramodyog and Sriram saw mills. I made my headquarters in Khurda and operated from there. I have bases among tile factory workers in Chaudwar, a public sector unit, and peasantry in Pattiya. I had also organised workers in the sectors like Orissa Sales Representatives’ union, insurance, medical representatives. I am also organising bidi workers, Tendu patta workers, forest workers, Anganwadi workers and sweepers’ movement.

## Transcript Summary

Context: Com Shivaji Patnaik is still actively involved in trade union movement in Orissa.

Shivaji Patnaik was born on August 10, 1931. His father was an advocate and Congress party member. He contested against Pran Nath Patnaik for a seat in the Provincial Committee in 1937 and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came to campaign for him. As far as trade union was concerned, the Congress first formed Samyavadi Karmee Sangh in 1933-34 in which communists were also active. Later the Congress Socialist party was also organised formally for which Jaya Prakash Narayan was invited. Bhagawati Charan Panigrahi, a communist, was state secretary.

Shivaji was highly influenced by his father who took part in Dhenkanal Paraja Mandal activities also and staged a fight for their liberation. Shivaji was also reading Muktiyuddha edited by SA Dange. Shivaji's father was deeply impressed by Dange and was a regular subscriber to the journal right since its inception.

Shivaji was a volunteer in the 1945-'46 movement and the Praja Mandal conference and active in student front. He was also active in the "Union Jack" movement from December 1946 to January 1947.

It was a period when from the labour constituency, Vaidyanath Ratha contested and got elected.

By this time, strong trade union units were coming up in Orissa. The union at Orient Paper Mills owned by GD Birla was one among them organised by Com Abdul Momin. At Kendrapara, workers from sewage and drainage sector were organised. Kendrapara workers had an expertise in water pipe management. Dock workers were also taken in. Kripasindhu Khuntiya was also active and organised a protest rally of 2000 workers first time. He organised trade unions even among the Colliery workers from Ramgarh, the constituency of Biju Patnaik.

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Shivaji was preparing for his school final examination when Vaidyanath Ratha asked him to work for the 1949 strike of the railwaymen. He worked closely with Com Vaidyanath Ratha at Cuttack, Bhadrak and Khurda. In February, 1949, leaders of the strike were arrested and Shivaji was underground. When the strike failed, Shivaji was also arrested and only in 1951, he could come out of jail. He resumed his studies and continued organising the press and glass factory workers.

In 1961, at the industrial suburbs of Cuttack, Orissa Textile Mill workers launched a movement and went on strike under the leadership of Shivaji for 45 days.

Later the AITUC got split and CITU was formed. Shivaji joined CITU. Since then, he has been active among the workers in the stone queries, Khadi Gramodyog and Sriram saw mills. He

made his headquarters in Khurda and operated from there. He has bases among tile factory workers in Chaudwar, a public sector unit, and peasantry in Pattiya. He also organised workers in the sectors like Orissa Sales Representatives' union, insurance, medical representatives. He is also organising bidi workers, Tendu patta workers, forest workers, Anganwadi workers and sweepers' movement.