



THE ODISHA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS

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To:

Sri Prem Chandra Chaudhary
District Magistrate, Ganjam, Odisha

October 24, 2015

Re: Cost-effective relocation of the proposed Urban Model Library and the renovation plans for other 3 identified libraries in Ganjam

Dear Sri Chaudhury,

We would like to thank you and the BMC commissioner for a very fruitful series of face-to-face discussions with our representative Dr. Priyadarshan Patra -- on the ongoing plans and actions for our "Library Initiative" in Ganjam. Dr. Patra and the local citizen representatives met with you on Oct 14th. With your huge support, we held discussion with Mr. Mohanty (the Municipal Commissioner and his staff including the Executive Engineer). Mr. Mohanty and Dr. Patra also visited the MKCG Research Library (MRL) which is located a few yards from the BMC Office. All agreed that OSA should consider the pros and cons of the two "front-runner" locations and choose the site for the proposed Urban Model Library -- namely, the Berhampur Municipal Library (BML) or MKCG Research Library (MRL) on KC Town High-school Road.

Both have their own unique strengths and the BMC Staff showed clear, strong support for whichever location we choose. After our internal discussions and debate, we feel the MRL would be the best choice for the model library, given that it has the large usable and well-constructed space needing least amount of additional construction, and it can start functioning early and keep everyone's interest up and keep engaged. It's also in a great location within the city with good opportunities for parking around it, and room for building two washrooms. The BMC staff seemed very supportive of this and said they are interested in reviving it. **BML would have required a very large sum for construction work alone. Thus, we agree to and ask for moving the location of the Model Library from BML to MRL.**

Kindly direct BMC to create the plan for MRL and execute the plan in consultation with us and the concerned citizen representatives. Please note that BMC has to make sure there is good staff to operate the MRL. Of course, we would succeed the best if the ultimate beneficiaries are also partners in this endeavor. We can help encourage volunteers who can give time to the library and get recognition for their time, in return. It's worth noting that Dr. Patra met with many young people and senior users of the BML Library. They all seem very excited about our ideas and your support -- they have requested us to help realize this "dream" of a Model Library soon -- so that it will directly and significantly benefit them and other

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citizens of Brahmapur/Ganjam. They loved the idea of “e-library” and expressed strong need for computers and broadband internet access -- and e-books, etc.

Additionally, we would like to remind you about the 6 lakhs that was allocated for renovation of Shashibhushan library, and Sadhana library, and **modernization of the Satyabadi Library near Gosani, Nuagaon**. The BMC staff confirmed that the Satyabadi library will remain but would be shifted a little thus could use some funds for modernization.

We also request you to integrate the Library User Group and Civil Society Members to be in the Library advisory committee to make the library vibrant as per OSA's vision and guidelines, and your own interest to see Ganjam create an iconic public library.

Finally, I request you to expedite the overdue implementation process for Urban Model Public Library and other library renovations at your earliest as per our mutual exchanges and discussions. The OSA library committee members will be happy to support your representatives for any discussion or questions on the detailed recommendation/guideline for a smooth and timely implementation. **Please don't hesitate to ask us any question you may have to facilitate a speedy and sound execution.**

Yours Sincerely,

Sushant Satpathy
(President OSA and on behalf of the Committee for OSA Public Library Initiatives)

Copy forwarded to

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3. Shri Manoj Kumar Mohanty, Municipal Commissioner, Berhampur, Ganjam [ber_municipality@rediffmail.com]
4. Few Berhampur Citizen Representatives helping us with our “model library” vision:
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