

## BRIEF HISTORY OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION

Sambalpur Division is named after the town of Sambalpur which is derived from the presiding Goddess Maa Samalai. The idol of Ma Samalai was found by Balaram Dev , the first Chauhan Raja of Sambalpur, beneath a simul (silk cotton) tree in the middle of 16<sup>th</sup> Century. The town of Sambalpur is much older. The Greek geographer Ptolemy (2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD) in his book "Geographike" refers to a town "SAMBALKA" situated on the bank of "MANADA" identified today with modern Sambalpur on the bank of the river Mahanadi.

Sambalpur division was formed in April 1990 by taking sections partly from Chakradharpur division and partly from Waltair division. On date 15.08.1998, 154 Kilometres of newly constructed Sambalpur-Talcher line was added to this division. Lanjigarh- Bhawanipatna section with route Km of 30.25 was added in August-2012 & Bhawanipatna-Junagarh Road section with route Km of 24.05 was added in March- 2014. Now total route Km of Sambalpur Division is 738.5 Km.

This Division serves 9 Districts of Western and Southern Odisha (Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Bargarh, Balangir, Sonapur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Nuapara & Angul) and 2 districts of Chattisgarh (Raipur & Mahasamund).