

## Obituary: A Tribute to Prof. (Dr.) Gopabandhu Behera



**Prof. (Dr.) Gopabandhu Behera**

**03.02.1939 – 21.09.2026**

The **Orissa Chemical Society** expresses its profound grief and deep sorrow at the passing of **Prof. (Dr.) Gopabandhu Behera**, an eminent chemist, distinguished teacher, accomplished researcher, visionary academic leader, and a revered mentor of the chemistry fraternity of Odisha, who passed away on **21st September 2026**. His demise marks the end of an era and is an irreparable loss to the scientific and academic community of Odisha.

Born on **3rd February 1939** in Kalahandi, Odisha, Prof. G. B. Behera had a distinguished academic career. He completed his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Chemistry from Ravenshaw College, securing First Class First in Utkal University (1958), followed by an M.Sc. (1960), Ph.D. from Utkal University (1969) under Prof. M. K. Rout, and D.Sc. from Sambalpur University (1978). Beginning his teaching career at S.C.S. College, Puri, in 1960, he later served at Ravenshaw College before joining Sambalpur University in 1969, where he became Professor of Chemistry in 1978. During nearly four decades of academic service, he played a pioneering role in developing the School of Chemistry at Sambalpur University and fostering a vibrant culture of teaching and research.

A researcher of exceptional calibre, Prof. G. B. Behera made significant contributions to organic synthesis, surface chemistry, and reaction mechanisms. His academic distinction included international exposure as a Fulbright Scholar in the USA (1985) and visits to the University of Florida (1990) and University of California (1992). As a founder member of the Orissa Chemical Society (OCS), he maintained a lifelong association with the Society, receiving the V.S.R. Gupta Teacher of the Year Award (1995), serving as OCS President (1999), and being honoured with the OCS Luminary Award (2024). Deeply committed to science popularization and chemistry education, he received several other distinctions, including felicitation as a Senior Scientist by the Odisha Bigyan Academy (2010) and the ISSST Lifetime Achievement Award (2025). He also contributed to the wider academic community through several important leadership and advisory roles.

The profound impact of Prof. G. B. Behera as a teacher, researcher, and mentor lives on through the legacy he created. In his honour, the Prof. G. B. Behera Best Ph.D. Thesis Award has been instituted to recognize outstanding doctoral research from universities across Odisha and is presented during the Annual Conference of the Orissa Chemical Society. The Prof. G. B. Behera Endowment Lecture, organized annually by Sambalpur University on his birthday, 3rd February, is another enduring tribute to his contributions to chemistry and education. Prof. Behera will always be remembered as a pioneering chemist, inspiring teacher, visionary academic leader, and compassionate mentor who helped shape modern chemistry research in Odisha. His scientific contributions, values, and dedication to nurturing generations of students and researchers will continue to inspire the chemistry fraternity. The Orissa Chemical Society conveys its heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family, colleagues, students, and admirers. We pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his noble soul and strength to his loved ones to bear this irreparable loss.

**May his divine soul rest in eternal peace.**

*Anita pati*

Dr. Anita Pati  
Secretary, OCS

*P. K. Dash*

Prof. P. K. Dash  
President, OCS

For and on behalf of the members of the Orissa Chemical Society