

## **DISPLACEMENT, MEMORY AND IDENTITY IN KALINGANAGAR**

**Dr. Kuntala Soy**

*Head Department of History, Talcher Autonomous College, Talcher*

### **ABSTRACT**

*Kalinganagar, located in the Jajpur district of Odisha, was conceived in the 1990s as a centrepiece of India's post-liberalisation industrial ambitions. Large-scale steel plants and allied industries were planned across thousands of acres of land that had long been home to tribal agricultural communities. The displacement of villages, the loss of ancestral land, and the police firing of 2 January 2006 that killed thirteen protesters transformed this region into a nationally significant site of anti-displacement struggle. Most scholarly attention has concentrated on land acquisition processes, compensation disputes, and the immediate violence of the firing. This paper takes a different path. It asks what happens after displacement, examining how communities remember, narrate, and organise around experiences of loss. Drawing on the concept of Memory of Displacement, the paper argues that the Kalinganagar struggle was not only a conflict over land but a conflict over memory, dignity, and identity. Displacement did not conclude with physical eviction. It continued as a living presence in community consciousness, shaping political mobilisation and collective identity across generations. The paper proposes the concept of Industrial Memory Landscape to describe settings where industrial development permanently reshapes the way communities understand themselves, their past, and their future.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Kalinganagar; Development-Induced Displacement; Collective Memory; Industrialisation; Adivasi Communities; Resistance Movements; Industrial Memory Landscape.*

---

### **Article History**

**Received: 08 Jun 2021 | Revised: 12 Jun 2021 | Accepted: 19 Jun 2021**

---