

# A GROUP OF MEDICAL STUDENTS AND MEDICAL/NON MEDICAL CONSULTANTS CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT



**New Delhi, (KCN):** A group of medical students and medical/non medical consultants from different medical colleges of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (March 4, 2024). They are in Delhi under the Sevankur Bharat Programme of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan. Speaking on the occasion, the President was happy to note that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Vaidyakiya Pratishthan

has been working to provide health services to the needy at low rates in the spirit of public welfare for the last three decades. It is also working for skill development, employment generation and empowerment of SHGs. She appreciated this NGO for its

contribution in social service and nation building. The President noted that the Sevankur Bharat programme, started in 1997, is promoting national integrity and unity. It is also showing the path of public service to the youth and strengthening the spirit of

'Nation First' among them. She appreciated the 'During Vacation – One Week for Nation' programme under which students visit and stay in tribal areas.

The President said that healthcare is a profession where welfare of the society is not possible if earning money is the main goal. That is why healthcare professionals have to make values ?? of compassion, kindness and philanthropy, their character traits while discharging their duty. She stated that we can learn from the life of Babasaheb Ambedkar how to utilize our personal success for the welfare of society. We should work for social justice, equality and fraternity by following the ideals of Babasaheb.

## PM to visit Odisha on Today

**PM to inaugurate, dedicate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs. 19,600 crores at Chandikhole in Odisha.**



## Sitting MLA Of Telkoi Constituency Premananda Nayak, Former Dhamnagar MLA Rajendra Das Join BJP



**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Sitting MLA of Telkoi constituency Premananda Nayak, who resigned from BJD recently, has eventually joined the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP). Besides, former Dhamnagar MLA Rajendra Das also joined the saffron party. In a major setback to the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD), former minister and sitting MLA from Telkoi constituency Premananda Nayak

resigned from primary membership of the party. Nayak won the assembly election in 2009 and 2019 on a BJD ticket. During Naveen Patnaik's 5th term, he was picked as Skill Development and Technical Education Minister. Meanwhile, Das, popularly known as Raju Das, won as an MLA from Dhamnagar constituency in Bhadrak district on a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) ticket in 2009. The BJD denied him a ticket in 2014 polls. The regional party again gave him the party ticket in 2019, but he lost.

During the 2022 Dhamnagar by-poll, BJD again denied Das a party ticket, following which he filed his nomination papers as an independent candidate and lost. Later, Das was expelled from the BJD for his alleged anti-party activities.

The state government has appointed contractual Urdu teachers and Urdu resource teachers for students taking Urdu as their primary language in various Upper primary, and medium English schools and high schools of the state. Earlier, they were paid Rs 7,400 per month. According to the decision of the state government, now they will get a salary of Rs. 15,000 per month. According to the decision of the state government, 44 Urdu teachers working in Upper Primary, and medium English schools and 40 Urdu resource teachers working in government fully funded and newly funded high schools will be benefited.

## Odisha Govt Increases Remuneration Of Urdu Teachers To Rs 15K

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has announced that the monthly remuneration of Urdu teachers employed in Upper Primary, and English Medium schools of the state and Urdu teachers working in government-fully funded and newly funded high schools has been increased from Rs 7,400 to Rs 15,000.

It is worth noting that on the occasion of the visit of the 5T chairman Karthik Pandian to the districts, the Urdu teachers employed in different parts of the state drew the attention of the chairman regarding their problems.

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inaugurate 5 MLD capacity seawater desalination plant at Odisha Sands Complex of IREL(I) Ltd. This project has been built as a part of field applications of indigenous desalination technologies developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

**Rail Infra:** Expansion of the railway network will also take place with focus on modernising and extending rail connectivity. Prime Minister will dedicate to nation, 162 Km Bansapani - Daitari - Tomka - Jakhapura Rail Line. It will not only enhance the existing traffic facility's capacity but also facilitates efficient transportation of Iron and Manganese ore from Keonjhar District to the nearest ports and steel plants, significantly contributing to regional economic growth.

Inauguration of CONCOR Container Depot in Kalinga Nagar will be done with an aim to boost domestic and international trade. Foundation stone will be laid for the Electric Loco Periodical Overhauling

Workshop at Narla, the Wagon Periodical Overhauling Workshop at Kantabanji and upgradation and augmentation of maintenance facilities at Baghuapal.

Other railway projects including Doubling of Bansapani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhapura Railway Section and 3rd line of Khurda Road-Barang Section will also be dedicated to the Nation by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

New Train between Puri and Anand Vihar (New Delhi) will be flagged off from Kendujhargarh Railway Station. Similarly, Kendrapara District to get passenger train service. Passenger train services will start in Haridaspur- Paradeep Rail Line. Hon'ble PM will flag off the first train service in Haridaspur- Paradeep Rail Line.

Paradeep - Kendujhargarh Passenger will be flagged off from Paradeep. These apart, Container Train from Jajpur to Dadri, Uttar Pradesh will be flagged off by Hon'ble Prime Minister.

## Odisha Govt Okays 22 Projects Worth Rs 4,066.71 Cr, Poised To Create 25,525 Jobs

## 129th SLSWCA: Odisha's Diverse Opportunities to Drive Economic Growth

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Odisha is undergoing a transformative economic evolution as the 129th State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) meeting, chaired by Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena, approved 22 projects valued at INR 4,066.71 Crore. These diverse investments are poised to reshape Odisha's economic landscape, solidifying its position as a premier investment destination. In a landmark decision, the SLSWCA has greenlit a series of 22 new projects spanning various sectors, including Green Energy Equipment, Chemical, Textiles and Apparel, Steel, Iron & Ferro Alloys, Aluminium Downstream, Food Processing, Power & Renewable Energy, IT Infrastructure, Infrastructure & Logistics. With a total

employment generation potential of 25,525 and a cumulative investment of INR 4,066.71 crores across twelve districts, these ventures are expected to significantly contribute to the state's economic development. In the Green Energy sector, Waaree Clean Energy Solutions Pvt Limited, reveals its Electrolyser Manufacturing Plant in Khordha, with a project cost of Rs. 435 crore, promising 300 potential job opportunities. In the Chemical sector, Shalimar Paints Limited in Balasore, with its Paints Varnish and its Applied Products project at an investment of Rs. 135 crore, aims to generate 200 employment opportunities. Reliance Bio Energy Limited introduced two new projects on Compressed Biogas, Fermented

Organic Manure in Dhenkanal and Cuttack with a total investment of Rs 242.42 crore and offering employment to 138 individuals. SSIL Paint Industries Private Limited intends to manufacture paint and allied products, investing Rs 150 crore and potentially employing 200 individuals in Khurda. In the Textile and Apparel sector, OFB Tech Private Limited introduces a project in Khurda on Men's and Women's casual top and bottom wear, denim jeans, and knitted apparel for women men and kids along with leather products at an investment of Rs 857 crore and 15000 job opportunities. M/s. Enrich Clothing Inc. unveils its project on Readymade Garments manufacturing unit in Cuttack with an investment of Rs 52.50 crore and potential

employment to 1020 individuals. In the Technical Textile sector, Shalimar Wires Industries Limited in Khordha unveils its project Synthetic Fabric for Industrial Filtration with a project cost of Rs 76 crore and employment to 100 individuals. In metal downstream, BMW Industries Limited introduces its project in galvanised plain coil, colour coating line and cold rolling mill in Jajpur with a project cost of Rs. 713 crore and offering 276 potential job opportunities. Segma Profiles Pvt Ltd. initiates its Steel Structure

Profiles and Pipes manufacturing unit in Sambalpur with a project cost of Rs 54.26 crore and potentially employing 50 individuals in Sundergarh. Also in the Food, Beverage & Allied Sectors, OFB Tech Private Limited plans to produce maize starch powder, maize gluten, bran fibre, and enriched bran fibre for Rs 150 crore, potentially employing 400 people in Nabarangapur. In the Power & Renewable Energy sector, Hindalco Industries Limited invests in Solar Pv Power in Koratpur with an investment of Rs. 200

crores and 80 potential job opportunities. Tata Steel Limited invests in a 22 MW Solar PV power Plant in Sundergarh, with an investment of Rs. 125.69 crores and offers job employment to 23 individuals. Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited aims to produce compressed biogas for this sector, with a project cost of Rs 136.50 crore and potential employment for 180 people in Sambalpur. In the IT Infrastructure sector, Pine Square LLP and A K Das Associates Ltd. unveils IT Parks (Own Land) in Khordha with projects costing Rs. 110 crores and Rs. 51.62 crores respectively while providing jobs to 250 and 61 individuals respectively. Further in the Infrastructure sector, Geo Impex and Logistics Pvt. Ltd. diversifies its



vermicelli, sweet potato powder production, contributing Rs 52.10 crore and potentially employing 50 individuals in Sundergarh. Also in the Food, Beverage & Allied Sectors, OFB Tech Private Limited plans to produce maize starch powder, maize gluten, bran fibre, and enriched bran fibre for Rs 150 crore, potentially employing 400 people in Nabarangapur. In the Power & Renewable Energy sector, Hindalco Industries Limited invests in Solar Pv Power in Koratpur with an investment of Rs. 200

portfolio with a manufacturing unit in Chatrapur, Ganjam, with an investment of Rs. 207 crore and generating employment for 4,650 individuals. Koli Commercial LLP unveils its project on Coal Transportation through Railway Siding in Angul with an investment cost of Rs. 77.12 crore and offering employment to 182 individuals.

In the Aluminium Downstream sector, Cabcon India Limited plans to produce 72000 MT cable conductors in Jharsuguda with a project cost of Rs 100 crore and 1000 job opportunities. For the Machinery and Equipment sector, Rice Lake Weighing Systems India Limited is investing in Material Handling Systems- with a project cost of Rs 51 crores and potential employment to 65 people in Khurda.

## Hindi teachers of Koraput district join Hindi Literacy Movement initiated by CUO

KOLKATA, (KCN): In a special programme on Hindi organised at the University campus on 03 March 2024, Hindi teachers of Koraput district joined the Hindi Literacy Movement initiated by the Central University of Odisha. The programme was presided over by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Chakradhar Tripathi. On this occasion Dr. Ashis Roy, former General manager, HAL; Dr. Pradeep Kumar Khosla, President of Hindi Teachers Sangh; Dr. Padma Charana Mishra, Associate Professor, Business Management;

Dr. Deepthi Shankar, Associate Professor of Sociology, Dr. Prasenjit Sinha, Asst. Professor of English were present on the dais. Dr. Chakradhar Pradhan, Head of Hindi department coordinated the programme and delivered the welcome address. Highlighting the importance of Hindi language learning Prof. Tripathi emphasized that all teachers should involve in this movement to make people literate in Hindi Language, so that national character, national unity and integrity of our country will be enhanced. He started the movement in a mission mode in



Koraput district. He said, large section of people in our country speak Hindi language in their daily life. If we will be able to literate people of Koraput region by Hindi then they can earn more by getting

larger opportunity throughout the country. Highlighting the plan he said, we categorized people for Hindi learning in three groups - 1. schools, colleges and University, 2. small

businessmen, and 3. local people. There are many literatures in local Kuwi and Desia languages. If people of this region learn Hindi they can establish their literature at national and international level, he

said. Taking into account of the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, one Khadi making unit will be established in the campus for giving employment to the unemployed people of this region, he added. He advised the teachers to invest their time in teaching Hindi to the people of this region.

Dr. Roy emphasized on the personal commitment of the teachers for Hindi teaching. He said, "One teacher should have commitment to create at least five Hindi literate people every year." Dr. Khosla said that for national unity, business, and wider relations, development of Hindi language is essential. Hindi language learning makes people "atma nirvar". Dr. Mishra, Dr. Deepthi Shankar and Dr. Sinha also highlighted the significant role of Hindi for overall

## Jindal Stainless commences first-ever use of green hydrogen for stainless steel sector in India, in partnership with Hygenco

### Union Minister Scindia Virtually Inaugurates Plant Commissioning

Kalinganagar, (sapan kar) :- Jindal Stainless (JSL) today commenced the maiden usage of green hydrogen in its stainless steel plant in Hisar, Haryana in a ground-breaking venture in line with its commitment to sustainability and India's targets of achieving Net Zero carbon emissions. The commissioning was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia ji virtually from New Delhi, in the presence of the Secretary, Ministry of



Steel, Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal and CEO of the technology partner, Hygenco Green Energies, Mr Amit Bansal.

Lauding the initiative, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia said, "I congratulate both Jindal Stainless Limited and Hygenco for starting India's first green hydrogen plant in the stainless steel sector. This path-breaking green hydrogen initiative will make the steel sector more green and sustainable."

## ICAR-CIFRI distributed the ornamental fish and other accessories to the tribal women of Saliasahi, Bhubaneswar, Odisha



KOLKATA, (KCN): ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore is consistently working for the social and economic upliftment of the rural women folks through various initiatives in different parts of India. Ornamental fish rearing plays an important role in strengthening the household economy of rural tribal women by providing an alternate source of income.

Under this vision, an awareness cum input distribution program was organized at the SaliaSahi area of Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the tribal women under the STC program on 03rd March 2024. Under the guidance and leadership of Dr. B.K. Das, Director, ICAR-CIFRI, Barrackpore, 16 ornamental fish units were distributed to the tribal beneficiaries in the presence of the DG 2025-26, RID3262, Rtn. Manoj Tripathy, Charter President Rtn. Dr. Smita Sinha, Secretary Rtn. COL. Debabrata Kar, Director Club Admin Rtn. Shibabrata Kar, AG RID 3262 Rtn. Aayush Jaisoria and other members Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar Flamingo. The Ornamental fish units

includes 350 litre capacity FRP tank, ornamental fish, feed, medicines, aerator, heater, pipes, hand net, covering nets, and extension board. The ornamental fish units were installed and demonstrated on the field. A total of 30 women beneficiaries participated in this program and got motivated to take up ornamental fish rearing with the support of ICAR-CIFRI. To strengthen the theoretical and practical skill for ornamental fish culture, the women beneficiaries were trained on ornamental

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# BIJU PATNAIK : The Legendary Administrator

Uma Shankar Prasad



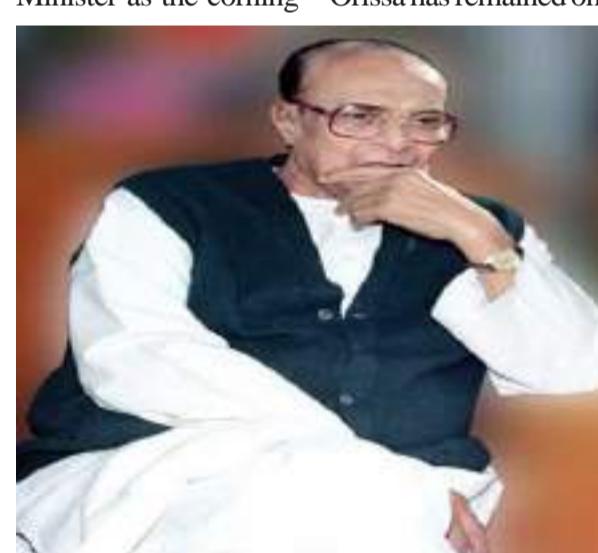
15, 1962. He had said – “A people cannot grow unless the industries were developed and established here”. Calling upon the bureaucrats to change their work-style, Patnaik said, “In the new set-up in the new adventure which we are going to embark upon, I would expect my officials to become thinkers and administrators in turn. I would expect them to collectively and willingly push the State towards the goal of prosperity. I would expect them to become leaders of men and not leaders of the longest notes on the files”.

At the invitation of Biju Patnaik, Internationally known Biologist, Scientist and Philosopher Prof. J.B.S. Haldane accepted the post of the Director of the Biometry and Genetics Laboratory at Bhubaneswar, which was set up by the Government of Orissa. Prof. Haldane, who imparted to the Indian scientific scene a certain colour and character, became an Indian citizen in 1960 and devoted himself to assisting development of science in this rapidly developing country. He accepted Biju's offer because he (Biju) was ‘capable of displaying great respect towards individuals whom he considered to be performing worthwhile work’. This genius died in Bhubaneswar on 1st December, 1964.

After Biju Patnaik took the rein of the State administration, Orissa witnessed rapid strides in education. The period between 1961-67 is aptly described as the golden era in the history of education of the State. At his initiative the Regional College of Education was set up at Bhubaneswar. The Regional Engineering College at Rourkela was established in 1961, the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology was set up and during the Chief Ministership of Biren Mitra (when Biju was the Chairman of the State Planning Board). Universities were established in Berhampur and Sambalpur. Thus Biju is responsible for the giant leap forward of education in Orissa. When the Union government refused to construct the Paradeep Port, as the Chief Minister of Orissa he took upon himself to mobilize resources from within the State and built the Rs.14 Crore Port when the Centre did not show much interest in the project. Patnaik's strong stand on the issue was vindicated when the Centre took over the Port after some years. Biju Patnaik proved his extraordinary organising ability by successfully

holding the Congress Session in 1964 at Bhubaneswar. His dream was fulfilled when on 12th March 1966, the Paradeep Port was commissioned.

A close confidant of Pandit Nehru, Biju enjoyed free access to Teen Murti Bhawan, the P.M.'s official residence. Nehru had entrusted him with the additional responsibilities of advising him on defense matters during the Chinese aggression and Patnaik was allotted an office near P.M.'s office in North Block. Pandit Nehru had asked him to visit the United States as an Advisory to the Ministry of External Affairs and discuss sensitive defense issues with the U.S. administration. During his stay in Washington, Biju gave interviews to ‘Baltimore Sun’ and ‘Washington Post’, in which he said that he had come to seek both ground to ground and air to air missiles along with radars, which could conceivably be tied to a network of the South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO). US newspapers also portrayed the Orissa Chief Minister as the coming



defense Minister as the coming defence Minister, who will replace Y.B. Chouhan. The opposition charged Biju Patnaik with ‘impropriety of revealing defence secrets, including details of the strength of the Indian Army’. There was a furore in Parliament and even the Lok Sabha Speaker Sardar Hukum Singh ruled that ‘it is not proper to disclose such information which is denied here’. But the Prime Minister strongly supported Biju and declared in the Parliament that whatever has been said by him to American newspaper ‘did not harm us in any way’. This controversy highlighted how close Biju was to Pt. Nehru.

The Indian National Congress has split in 1969. In May 1970 Biju Patnaik and his followers left the Congress (R) in protest against ‘naked bossism’ and central imposition after he had been denied a ticket to Rajya Sabha by the Congress High Command; although his

case was sponsored by the Provincial Congress Committee. In 1970 he resigned from Congress Party and subsequently formed a regional party Utkal Congress. In the 1971 election, no party came out with a clear majority. Biju Patnaik and the Swatantra leader R.N. Singh Deo joined hands. This came as a surprise to political observers, as Singh Deo was a bitter critic of Biju. And with the support of the Jharkhand Party, they formed a United Front. Biju successfully persuaded the 82 years Old veteran Politician Biswanath Das to become the Chief Minister, after his long spell of Political retirement.

A Biju critic says that he functioned in an arbitrary and autocratic manner ‘I am the party and I am the government’ – he used to say ‘Am I not enough?’ What was his reaction when immediately after being sworn in as Chief Minister in 1990 he was asked, how long it would take for him to choose other members of the cabinet. Biju has a painful feeling that in spite of being so rich in natural resources, Orissa has remained one

of the poorest and most backward states in India. The quality of its administration has steadily to the disgust of the voters. The final phase of Biju's political career was perhaps an unhappy chapter to his long, checked political career.

A long illustrious career came to an end on 17th April, 1997 when Biju Patnaik passed away at Delhi. His death one of the worst tragedies that had ever happened to the State of Orissa and removed the greatest figure of our time at very climax of his career. Grief and shock swept across Orissa as news of his death spread. It was perhaps a tryst with destiny that Patnaik was cremated at Swargadwara, Puri. He was to rest in peace close to the abode of his Kalia (Lord Jagannath). Though he was not religious in the traditional sense, he had a sentimental attachment to Lord Jagannath. While addressing public meeting in front of the

Puri Jagannath Temple, he used to enter into a monologue with the Lord.

“It may not be exaggeration to say that Biju Patnaik was the tallest among all leaders from Orissa, who made their mark in national politics. A major reason why he acquired his status was undoubtedly his romantic, impulsive nature, which made him stand out even at a time when, with Nehru and J.P. at the height of their power and there was no death of colourful politicians in India”. According to the veteran journalist, there is no epithet that is not used about him. ‘Why, volatile, flamboyant, dynamic, reckless, daredevil, damn efficient’ and what not? Perhaps all these suit him in one context or the other. But in the jungle of attributes his essential human qualities, his deep love for the people, are often missed. Once Patnaik is deeply moved by the peoples' distress, he will move mountains to give succour.

When Government at the State and the centre were busy doing maths on relief expenditure, Biju pressed into service a private aircraft and himself started dropping food packets to the marooned thousands who would have perished, but for this prompt step.

Tales and anecdotes about him are a legion. There is a story that Pt. Nehru once asked Dr. B.C. Roy – Have you met a man called Biju Patnaik? “I have heard about him: but not yet met him”, was the reply of the Bengal Chief MINISTER. Nehru said, meet him sometimes. I like such forward-looking, brave people. The only difficult is that sometimes you don't know where he will land you.

A giant transference of energy had taken place between him and his people. He delighted the people by his youthfulness of spirit and body and the people were attracted to his spontaneity and utter freedom from pomposity. In the end, his great strength far outweighed his weakness. Therefore when he died, even his most partisan adversaries felt compelled to acknowledge the immensity of the man they had opposed.

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## BOOK REVIEW

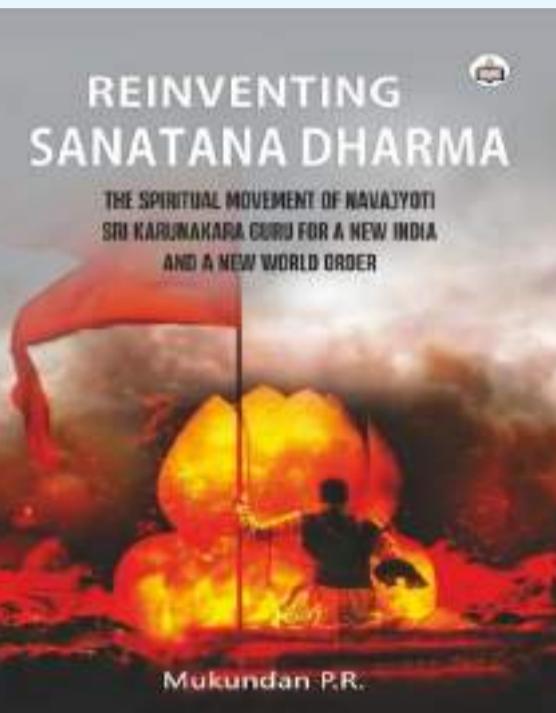
### KARUNAKARA GURU-ARCHITECT OF REINVENTING SANATANA DHARMA

Book : Reinventing Sanatana Dharma  
Author : Mukundan P.R (Direct Disciple of Sri Karunakara Guru)  
Publishers: AuthorsPress, New Delhi  
Pages : 212  
Price : Rs 495



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Guru that defines the inner spiritual splendor or the spiritual evolution of a sincere seeker through the path of Sanatana Dharma. The book convincingly leads the reader through the importance and applicability of the world's oldest spiritual tradition. Discarding all dividing parameters of colors, castes and creed, the Guru



the absolute self and its manifestation and transmutation through multiple biospheres before it gains liberation or Moksha. Beginning from the human world and passing through eight different stages, the soul reaches the Parabrahm Loka which is the ultimate seat of the Absolute. Ten stages of spiritual transformation

accentuated on the need of a spiritual evolution that leads to harmony, love and peace. And his principles profoundly declared the spiritual efficiency of Sanatana Dharma that occupies this space of transformation without these separating factors creating irrational ripples of disgruntlement. The book presents an interesting account of Karunakara Guru who gained his initial spiritual experiences as a child from a Pathan Sufi saint from Afghanistan. Khuresha Fakir was locally known as Pattani Swami as his ancestors were Pathans. The book narrates, indeed demands an approach to be made prominent, that it says would insist humanity to realize the impact of a tradition that goes beyond the common parameters of religion. It gives an arithmetic account on the origin of the universe and to that of humanity and eloquently elaborates on the authority of Vedas and Upanishads. Going deeper into the requirement of the revival of Sanatana Dharma, the book cautions Hindus to irrespective of staying divided in the name of caste and creed, listen to the voice of wisdom that the rishis have echoed in Vedic literatures. It also asks the Hindus to change their pattern of worship that keeps them arrested inside the walls of structures called temples.

Clearly indicating the need of a Guru in the path of spiritual progress, the book suggests re-establishing Sanatana Dharma and its tradition as per the directives of great teachers who realized the truth. The book separates the Hindu identity into a binary. The first is Puranic Hinduism which is based on Puranas and the other is Sanatana Dharma which is a Guru-centric spiritual tradition. This Sanatana tradition, as per the book, is an excellent expression of reality in its absolute sense. The author beautifully narrates the reason why a follower of Sanatana tradition is different from all other spiritual paths. According to him, Sanatana Dharma speaks with authority about

Within that short period during which he took the stewardship of the State administration, Biju Patnaik laid the blue print for Orissa's development and the State was on the threshold of a new of industrial revolution. He not only accelerated the process of development, but was able to locate a number of new industries in the State—the MIG factory as Sunabeda, Balimela Dam, Public Corporations, Panchayat Industries, the Express High way and a lot many. His ambitious projects, which he named as ‘Decade of Destiny’ was meant to elevate the State to a new height.

Biju could not tolerate red-tapism. He would have a thing done immediately and not suffer any delay. Result he was charged with administrative impropriety. To the officials his advise was, ‘be loyal to me not to the government but to the destinies of this State, to the prosperity of the people’. There is a story that once when a speeding motor truck carrying stones for the Paradeep Port was stopped by a traffic policeman, the driver humorously replied that the speed suggested by the policeman would delay the port work by several years, when Biju Patnaik wanted everybody to work at top gear.

The importance that Biju attached to Orissa's industrial development was reflected in his speech which he delivered at the inauguration of the Orissa Planning Board on June

# Harmonizing Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Action



In recent farmer movements across Europe, a pervasive misunderstanding has emerged – a misconception that protecting farmers' livelihoods conflicts with climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. It is imperative to emphasize unequivocally that such a conflict does not inherently exist. Instead, a broader, enlightened perspective reveals that safeguarding farmers' interests aligns harmoniously with mitigating and adapting to climate change. Governments and authorities sometimes adopt a narrow viewpoint, treating present distortions caused by the dominance of big business interests as an unalterable reality. This approach confines their search for solutions within a distorted framework, leading to

problems and a reluctance to acknowledge the conflicts arising from the corporate-led farming model promoted in recent decades. This model inherently favours large farms and unjustly marginalizes small farmers.

A critical aspect of this corporate-led model is its relentless pursuit of increasing corporate and financial control over farming, leaving small and medium farmers increasingly vulnerable. Moreover, it encourages the extensive use and sale of high-profit inputs, such as chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, machines, gadgets, and fuel, sold by big businesses. These inputs, often harmful to the environment, soil, water, and climate, underscore the need for a paradigm shift.

Governments, unfortunately, have primarily supported this harmful model instead of rectifying it. Even when pressed to take environmental protection measures, they tend to make superficial changes that can only succeed with

**Prof (Dr.) S N Tripathy**

enthusiastic supporters of an agricultural paradigm that ensures their livelihoods and contributes significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Governments and international trade organizations, in their pursuit of promoting corporate interests, often ensnare farmers in needless competition with one another. Rather than fostering a sense of global solidarity, farmers find themselves locked in hostile and unfair competition, ultimately causing problems for all involved.

Meanwhile, corporate, trade, and finance interests thrive. Farmer movements must broaden their understanding and work towards a worldwide unity that combines the protection of small farmers' livelihoods with ecologically protective farming practices that safeguard soil, water, and pollinators while contributing considerably to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

pollinators to maintain the balance of nature, ensuring sustainable, healthy, and creative livelihoods for those in food production and processing.

Further, maximizing the potential of local, village-based cottage and small-scale food processing, regulating food trade to ensure farmers and small food processors receive a fair share of the retail price, developing farming technology using local resources while minimizing input costs for farmers, minimizing the use of fossil fuels, with no specific subsidies for them, providing subsidies directly to small and medium farmers, with higher incentives for adopting ecologically protective policies will go a long way towards sustainable development in agriculture.

We need to ensure fair prices for safe, healthy, and nutritious food produced by small and medium farmers, minimize the distance food travels from farm to consumer, allocate farmland to landless rural families and promote kitchen

gardens, engage landless households in community efforts to use vacant land for growing indigenous tree species, provide adequate provisions for farm animals, emphasizing healthy fodder and better pastures, encourage diverse crops and crop varieties in mixed farming systems and crop rotations, prioritizing local food and nutrition needs. These priorities and policies are mutually consistent, supporting each other without any inherent conflict. They form an integral part of a comprehensive approach that addresses justice, peace, health, nutrition, sustainability, and environmental protection in the food and farming sector.

Notably, these priorities gain even greater relevance in the perspective of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The comprehensive mix of policies, rooted in the wisdom of generations of farmers, aligns well with the urgent requirement to reduce fossil fuel usage, absorb carbon dioxide, and adapt to changing

climate conditions. Despite their well-documented benefits, big business interests now seek leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation, posing a significant threat. There is a risk of the entire agenda being distorted to serve corporate profits and control, especially with disruptive technologies like GM crops. Farmers and advocates must vigorously oppose this threat and safeguard the agenda's integrity for desirable changes in the food and farming sector.

The call for change extends beyond mere subsidy adjustments; it demands a fundamental shift towards a holistic, environmentally conscious farming system. Through fostering such a transformation, governments can win the support of farmers, demonstrating that ecological protection and thriving livelihoods can go hand in hand.

**\*Former Professor of Economics, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune, currently at Berhampur, Odisha**

# Legendary Tall Man Biju Babu !!!



Legendary Son of the Soil Tall Man Late Bijayananda Patnaik, affectionately known to the people at large as Biju Patnaik, Biju Babu strode like a colossus in the politics and public life of Odisha, and played a very important role in our national life and politics as well. His life was an extraordinary saga of adventure and sacrifice, valour and prowess.

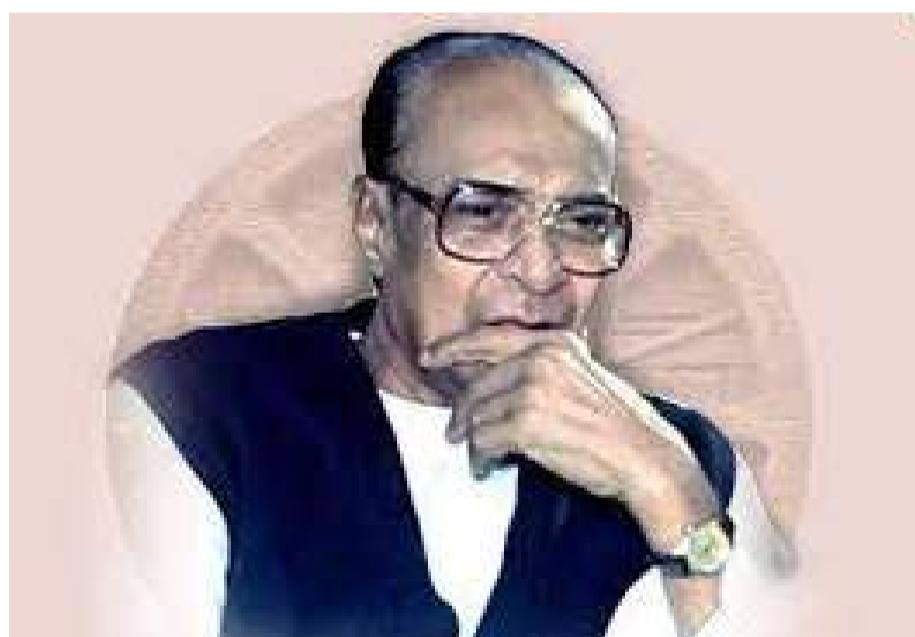
Born on 5 March 1916 in Cuttack, Odisha, he hailed from a family of freedom fighters, ideologues and patriots. Biju Patnaik was educated in the Mission Primary School of Cuttack and Ravenshaw Collegiate School, in the same city and, thereafter, studied in the Science stream in the prestigious Ravenshaw College, Cuttack.

Even as a student, Biju Patnaik was drawn to the national liberation movement. During his school days, Biju Patnaik took part in the

freedom struggle and had to face police lathi charge while attempting to meet Mahatma Gandhi in 1926. In his formative years, he came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and the great nationalist sons of Odisha, Gopabandhu Das and Madhusudhan Das. He actively associated himself with the freedom struggle and participated in the Quit India Movement in close association with revolutionary leaders like Aruna Asaf Ali. He also underwent imprisonment from 1943 to 1945.

A nationalist to the core, Biju Patnaik was an inspiring leader who was deeply committed to the national cause, public welfare and development. He was a socialist at heart and was greatly inspired by the ideals and ideas of Acharya Narendra Deva, Jaya Prakash Narayan, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia and Minoo Masani. His life was a shining example of how commitment to certain finer human values can be the guiding force for the welfare of the people. Naturally, he was a leader of the masses who articulated their

**Pradeep Kumar Panda**



concerns in the Chambers of the nation's representative institutions.

During his long innings in public life, Biju Patnaik was elected time and again to the Odisha Legislative Assembly as also to both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. He was elected to the State Legislative Assembly for the first time in 1947. Thereafter, he was returned to the State Legislative Assembly six more times. During these eventful years, he adorned the Office of the Chief Minister of Odisha during 1961-63 and three decades later during 1990-95.

Biju Patnaik's commitment to parliamentary democracy and to the development and progress of the country through industrialization, his concern for the development of the States and his belief in true federalism provided not only a roadmap for holistic development but also a plan of action. Biju Patnaik has been hailed as the maker of modern Odisha and the architect of industrialization in the State. Himself a successful industrialist,

he brought Odisha into the map of industrial India.

Before entering the arena of politics, he had played a vital role in the industrialization of Odisha by setting up the Kalinga Airlines, Kalinga Tubes, Orissa Textile Mills, Kalinga Iron Industries, etc. Odisha's economic development owes a great deal to Biju Patnaik for the construction of the Paradeep Port, the Express Highway, the MIG air engine factory, cement factory, several irrigation projects, etc. He also started two Universities and several other centres of higher education in the State. Biju Patnaik believed

that unless the States became strong, India could never be a strong nation. He used to assert that when he championed Odisha's development, it was not because of any narrow consideration but to make the country as a whole strong and prosperous. He stressed that true federalism would result in strengthening India's unity in diversity which would accelerate the pace of progress of the nation. Concerned as he was for the poor and the downtrodden, as the Chief Minister of Odisha, Biju Patnaik took a major initiative to raise the minimum wages in the State. He was an articulate champion of women empowerment and gave due recognition to the talent of the womenfolk by making reservation not only in employment but also in local bodies in the State during his Chief Ministership. It was his commitment to women's welfare which impelled him to take the stringent measures of enforcing prohibition and abolishing dowry. At the national level, Biju Patnaik came to be recognized as a very eminent parliamentarian. He was a member of the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas representing the Kendrapara parliamentary constituency during 1977-79, 1980-84, 1984-89 and the Aska

constituency during 1996-97, respectively. He was also a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1971. During 1996-97, he was the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. As the Union Minister of Steel, Mines and Coal during 1977-80, he provided a new direction and dynamism to the steel industry in the country. The 'Son of the Soil' breathed his last on 17 April 1997 at the age of eighty-one. Biju Patnaik was a man of rare courage, action and creativity. He is regarded as the 'Bhumi Putra' or the 'son of the soil' in Indonesia for his faring actions during the Indonesian freedom struggle in conducting rescue operations and saving the life of the then President of Indonesia, Sukarno, in the late 1940s. He headed an Air Transport Command in the Second World War during 1940-42. A grateful Russia honoured him for the overtime service to the country in 1945 for flying across to the embattled Soviet troops during the Second World War. In 1948, he landed the first platoon of troops in Srinagar which fought the

Pakistani raiders. An icon and role model for the youth and the younger generations of India, Biju Patnaik was a great patron of science and technology and took several steps in this direction. The Kalinga Foundation and the Kalinga Prize instituted by him and monitored by the UNESCO is an everlasting testimony to his vision of modernisation of society through the dissemination of science and popularising scientific knowledge and ideas. Since its institution in 1951, the Kalinga Prize has become a source of encouragement and inspiration to all those who aspire for excellence in their respective fields.

Legendary Biju Patnaik was a great optimist and had an unshakeable faith and confidence in the infinite potential of the youth of the country. He dreamt of a prosperous and developed India where everyone had the opportunity to develop his or her personality and realize the full potential. Deep Homage to Tall Man!!!

**Economist, Bhubaneswar.**

# Ganga Aarti by Concern for Calcutta and other organisations



**Kolkata (KCN):** City NGO Concern for Calcutta organised a socio-cultural program on creating awareness for keeping River Ganga clean, at Baje-Kodomota Ghat, near Babughat. It was followed by the Holy Ganga Arati performed by Devottar Jai Chandi Thakur trust. Kulkutta ki Jalkatha a drama based story was performed by Sukrit Sen, Swati Sharma and Zahid Hussain from Living Waters Museum and East India Dastangos. "Om Ganga" a dance recital was presented by Ramyani Institute of Performing Arts, directed by Srita Banerjee Hazra. Thereafter magnificent Holy Ganga Arati was performed. The Chief Guest Tarak Singh, Member Mayor in Council (Sewerage and Drainage), KMC praised Concern for Calcutta for spreading awareness about Ganga and its ghats and improving the lives of people of Kolkata. He also underlined the need for keeping the River free from plastic and clean. President Ashok Purohit welcomed all

participants. Narayan Jain, Chairman of Advisory committee enlightened everyone about the activities of Concern for Calcutta to protect environment and also to have better traffic in Kolkata. He assured full cooperation of his NGO for a better and beautiful Kolkata. Soma Gomes, Vice Principal of St. Xavier's

Collegiate School (Primary) graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The program was well conceptualised and implemented by Joeeta Basu, Secretary, CC. Past Presidents Deepa Gangjee, B.G. Roy, R.L. Auddy, K.S. Adhikari, Deepak Jain, Pawan Paharia actively guided. Dr. Purnendu Roy, K.C. Tewari, B.L. Dugar, RD Kakra, Seema Sonthalia, Pushpa Agarwal, K.N. Gupta, Ishwar Goenka, Rachna Nahata, Preetyam Budhia, Sonali De, J.K. Sharma, Ramesh Mahajan, Vivek Sharma, Olivia Dunlop, R.K. Khaitan and others actively helped in making the programme successful. 4,000 persons participated and enjoyed the programme.

## PRIME MINISTER TO INAUGURATE AND LAY FOUNDATION STONE OF MULTIPLE CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS WORTH RS. 15,400 CRORE IN CITY

Kolkata, (KCN): Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will be visiting West Bengal and Bihar on March 6, 2024. On March 6, at around 10:15 AM, the Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple connectivity projects worth Rs. 15,400 crore in Kolkata.

With a focus on enhancing avenues for ensuring ease of urban mobility, Shri Modi will inaugurate Kolkata Metro's Howrah Maidan- Esplanade Metro section, Kavi Subhash - Hemanta Mukhopadhyay Metro section, Taratala - Majerhat Metro section (part of Joka- Esplanade Line); Pune Metro from



Ruby Hall Clinic to Ramwadi stretch; Kochi Metro Rail Phase I Extension project (Phase IB) from SN Junction Metro station to Tripunithura Metro station; Agra Metro's stretch from Taj East Gate to Mankameshwar; and Duhai-Modinagar (North) section of Delhi- Meerut RRTS Corridor. He will also flag off train services on these sections. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of extension of Pune Metro Rail project phase I between Pimpri Chinchwad Metro-Nigdi. These sections will help

decongest road traffic and provide seamless, easy and comfortable connectivity. Howrah Maidan - Esplanade Metro section of Kolkata Metro has the first transportation tunnel under any mighty river in India. Howrah Metro Station is the deepest Metro station in

India. Also, the Majerhat Metro Station (on Taratala - Majerhat Metro section being inaugurated) is a unique elevated Metro station across Railway lines, platforms and canal.

Agra Metro's section being inaugurated will enhance connectivity to historical tourist places. The RRTS section will boost economic activity in NCR.

Shri Kausik Mitra, Chief Public Relations Officer, Metro Railway said today, "This is a gift from our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the people of Kolkata. A long cherished dream is going to be realised with this inauguration."

"I am proud to start constructing our first facility outside Sweden for Carl-Gustaf, a product with a long history with the Indian Armed Forces. We look forward to starting production of our excellent product, now engineered and made in India", says Gorgen Johansson, Senior Vice President and Head of Saab's business area Dynamics. "Today is an important milestone for Sweden and India. Saab's factory will be the first foreign fully

owned defence production facility in India. It is a testament to the strong bilateral relationship between our countries," says Hakan Jevrell, State Secretary for Foreign Trade, Sweden.

Carl-Gustaf has been in service with the Indian Army since 1976 and has been used extensively in counter-terrorism/insurgency operations.

It's a portable, shoulder-fired, single-shot, rocket system that is used for destroying tanks and built-up structures. It is seen as a game changer in urban combat. The M4 variant, which will be manufactured in India, is the latest variant. The origins of Carl Gustaf can be traced to World War II, the fourth-generation variant is the latest.

"We will partner with Indian suppliers and will fully meet the requirements of "Make in India", says Gorgen Johansson, Senior Vice President and Head of Saab's business area Dynamics.

"Today is an important milestone for Sweden and India. Saab's factory will be the first foreign fully

manufacture Carl-Gustaf M4 for the Indian armed forces, and components which may be included in other users' systems," Saab said.

One of the components of the Centre's Aatmanirbhar or self-reliance project is to build a domestic defence infrastructure with public-private participation.

Fighting in Built-up Areas (FIBUA), in other words, an area dense with buildings and structures will entail lethal urban warfare, posing severe challenges for the Israeli ground troops and armoured units. The Indian Army has witnessed urban warfare and troops have been extensively used in Jammu and Kashmir, the northeast, Punjab, etc. Carl Gustaf has been a mainstay of several forces around the world including India. The system can fire various ammunitions like High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT), High Explosive (HE) to anti-structure munition and High Explosive Dual Purpose (HEDP) and multi-target ammo that can be used against tanks and Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

## SBI Requests Supreme Court To Extend Deadline To Give Electoral Bonds Info



**New Delhi (KCN):** The State Bank of India (SBI) has requested the Supreme Court to extend the deadline till June 30 for giving information about electoral bonds to the Election Commission. The Supreme Court in a historic judgment last month had struck down the electoral bonds scheme and told SBI to give the information to the Election Commission (EC) by March 6.

The Supreme Court ended the controversial electoral bonds scheme on the grounds that it violated citizens' right to information. The electoral bonds scheme, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had said, was unconstitutional and arbitrary and may lead to a quid pro quo arrangement between political parties and

donors. The Supreme Court had ordered SBI to stop issuing these bonds and give details of donations made through this mode to the EC. The poll body was then told to publish this information on its website by March 13. The Constitution bench of five judges held that the stated objective of fighting black money and maintaining the confidentiality of donors cannot defend the scheme. Electoral bonds, the court said, are not the only way to curb black money. of blocking black money from entering the political system. The then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said the conventional practice of political funding in India was cash donations. "The

sources are anonymous or pseudonymous. The quantum of money was never disclosed. The present system ensures unclean money coming from unidentifiable sources. It is a wholly non-transparent system," he had said. On the confidentiality clause, he had said the disclosure of the donors' identity would make them go back to the cash option. Soon after the scheme was implemented, multiple parties challenged it in court. These included CPM, Congress leader Jaya Thakur, and the non-profit Association for Democratic Reforms. They argued that the confidentiality clause came in the way of the citizen's right to information.

## PM Means "Elder Brother": Revanth Reddy Bats For Better Centre-State Relation

**Hyderabad (KCN):** Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stood up to be counted on a day the BJP was going big with the 'Modi ka Pariwar' campaign on social media. "Hamare hisaab se Pradhan Mantri matlab bade bhai (According to us, Prime Minister means elder brother)," Mr Reddy said in Adilabad, where he had gone to receive Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Telangana. Then he made his context clear -- that states cannot prosper without the Prime Minister's help and he wanted to bring Telangana on par with Gujarat.

"Only with his (PM Modi's) help can Chief Ministers take their states forward. It is my request that if Telangana has to progress, if it has to move ahead like Gujarat, your help is required," he said at Adilabad, where he shared dais with the Prime Minister.



To reach the Prime Minister's goal of a 5 trillion dollar economy, India needs five metropolitan cities. "Hyderabad wants to contribute. Please support us in the Metro rail... Just as you developed the Sabarmati river, we want to regenerate our Musi river," Mr Reddy said to cheers from the audience at gathering where PM Modi laid the launched or laid foundation for ₹ 6,697 crore worth of projects.

Mr Reddy said it is the people who ultimately lose when there is friction between the Centre and the states. Politics should be limited to elections only and after the polls the elected leaders should thrive for the development of the state with the help of the Centre, he added. In a marked departure from the tradition of his predecessor K Chandrasekhar Rao, the Congress Chief Minister flew to the Adilabad airport early this morning to receive the Prime Minister, keeping the traditional protocol. His address, many said, was a textbook example of political sagacity. He knows the Modi development story has many takers. Instead of being critical of it, he publicly announced that

he wants to be a part of it, openly declaring that he will not be on a political warpath, taking a confrontationist approach against the Centre. Mr Rao, who was the chief of Bharat Rashtra Samithi, had skipped PM Modi's official visits to the state on several occasions. He suffered a massive defeat at the hands of the Congress in the state elections last year, and was replaced by Mr Reddy, who had led his party's campaign.

The Prime Minister in a u g u r a t e d infrastructure projects to the tune of ₹ 6,697 crore and dedicated a second unit of NTPC plant worth ₹ 6000 crore.

Tomorrow, he opens the Civil Aviation Research Organisation at Begumpet and launches over ₹ 9000 projects in Sangareddy, where it will be followed by a public meeting.

# BJD-BJP Alliance Buzz Continues Ahead Of PM Modi's Odisha Visit On March 5

**Bhubaneswar(KCN):** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha on March 5 amid rising speculations of alliance between the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the state Assembly in April. The prime minister will unveil the projects from a function in Chandikhole in Jajpur district, an official statement said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Odisha on March 5, which happens to be the 108th birth anniversary of late chief minister Biju Patnaik, father of CM Naveen Patnaik. Is it

being reported that the PM will pay his respect to "The Tall Man Of Odisha" soon after his arrival at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here in Bhubaneswar. The BJD has made grand arrangements to commemorate the day and reiterated its demand for a Bharat Ratna for Biju Patnaik. The buzz in the state is that the PM may announce the honour for the late CM, which will galvanise the alliance between the two parties. PM Modi has already announced five Bharat Ratnas this year, for former Bihar chief minister and socialist leader late Karpoori Thakur, late Prime



Minister PV Narasimha Rao, late agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, BJP stalwart and former deputy PM LK Advani, and late Prime Minister and farmer leader

Chaudhary Charan Singh. Following the official programme, he will address a rally of the BJP in Jajpur, considered a stronghold of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD).

The PM will inaugurate Indian Oil Corp's mono ethylene glycol project at the Paradip Refinery. He will also inaugurate a 344-km-long product pipeline from Paradip in Odisha to Haldia in West Bengal. He will also inaugurate 0.6 mmtpa LPG import facility at Paradip. PM Modi will dedicate to the nation four-laning of the Singhara-Binjabahal section of NH-49, four-laning of the Binjabahal-Tileibani section of NH-49, four-laning of the Balasore-Jharpokharia section of NH-18, and four-laning of the Tangi-Bhubaneswar Section of NH-16. He will also lay the foundation stone for the eight-laning of Chandikhole-Paradip road. The PM will dedicate to the nation the 162-km-long Bansapani-Daitari-Tomka-Jakhpura rail

line. It will not only enhance the existing capacity but will also facilitate efficient transportation of iron and manganese ore from Keonjhar to the nearest ports and steel plants, the statement said. A CONCOR container depot in Kalinga Nagar will also be inaugurated by the prime minister. He will also lay the foundation stone for an electric loco periodical overhauling workshop at Narla, a wagon periodical overhauling workshop at Kantabanji and upgradation and augmentation of maintenance facilities at Baghuapal.

Modi will also inaugurate a 5-mld seawater desalination plant at Odisha Sands Complex of Indian Rare Earths Ltd. It has been built as a part of field applications of indigenous desalination technologies developed by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. While one will have to wait for the PM to spell out his pitch for Odisha, observers say a friendship between the ruling party and the opposition during election season does not bode well for either, though it may help the BJP close in on its target of "Mission 400" for the Lok Sabha polls.

## 9 Bangladeshi Nationals Detained While Entering Puri Jagannath Temple



**Puri(KCN):** The Singhadwar police in Odisha's Puri district detained nine non-Hindus who were nabbed while entering the Jagannath temple on Sunday. According to reports, all nine are from Bangladesh and they were staying at

a hotel in Puri Town. Among the nine, four reportedly entered the 12th-century shrine while the other five persons were found outside, sources said. The police have detained them and launched a probe into the incident.

The cops have also conducted searches at their hotel rooms, sources said. Notably, non-Hindus are barred from entering the Jagannath temple. "Five non-Hindus were found at the heritage corridor of Jagannath

temple today. We talked to them and came to know that four of their friends had entered the temple. We immediately informed the incident to Singhadwar police. The police detained them and launched a probe. We urge the cops and the district administration to step up security at the shrine," said Shantanu Pandey, a Vishva Hindu Parishad-Bajrang Dal activist from Puri. When contacted, an official of Singhadwar police said, "It has been alleged that some non-Hindus had entered Jagannath temple. We detained them and launched a probe. We are verifying their passports and other documents."

## HackNITR 5.0 concludes



**Rourkela (KCN):** HackNITR 5.0, a two-day hackathon event, concluded Sunday at NIT Rourkela. This edition of the hackathon, inaugurated Saturday, received a massive response as there were over 3,200 registrations, out of which 240 participants from across the country were selected to participate. This much-awaited event is widely popular among tech students who gather to work on solving problems using technology. The fifth edition of HackNITR is organised by the Technical Society of Student Activity Centre, NIT Rourkela in collaboration with Google

Developer Student Club and OpenCode Club. Welcoming the participants during the inaugural ceremony at the BB Auditorium, Vice President of Technical Society Kaustav Chaudhury said, "Hackathon is like a marathon for ethical hackers, but instead of running, participants use their skills in programming, design, and problem-solving to come up with solutions to real world challenges." A hackathon is an intensive teamwork for a set amount of time, usually a day or two, to build something new, like an app, website, or software tool. It's an exciting way for tech and coding

enthusiasts to innovate, learn, and create something useful. Inaugurating the event, NIT Rourkela Director K Umamaheshwar Rao said, "The convergence of artificial intelligence (AI) with the advancements in 5G and the upcoming 6G technologies are opening up new avenues for students to address societal problems more effectively and efficiently. I am delighted to know that more than 3,000 students registered for the event demonstrating their eagerness to drive change through coding, programming or relevant tech skills." Riti Mishra, Major League Hacking



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# Odisha Government Announces Ground Breaking Subsidy Scheme at Global Stainless-Steel Expo

**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Government has unveiled an ambitious Special Subsidy Scheme to boost the stainless-steel Industry within the state. This momentous announcement was made during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, further solidifying Odisha's commitment to becoming the 'Stainless Steel destination' for the world. The GSSE 2023 event, was inaugurated by esteemed dignitaries including Shri. Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha; Mr. Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Ltd.; Dr. Aruna

Sharma, GSSE Steering Committee Member and Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel; and Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director, Virgo Communications and Exhibitions.

In his inaugural address, Managing Director, Jindal Stainless, Mr Abhyuday Jindal said, "It won't be an exaggeration to say that stainless steel is omnipresent, and even for a big event like the G20, stainless steel adorned the roads. Be it the art installations in Lutyens Delhi or the security barriers, stainless steel made its presence felt. It was a historic moment to witness stainless steel reach the moon when the Chandrayaan-3 made a



soft landing on the lunar surface recently." He also touched upon the industrial park in the making in Odisha by his company, and said it is the first-ever stainless steel Industrial park in India with the vision to strengthen the industry.

## RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED INKS A JV WITH PLASTIC LEGNO SPA

**Mumbai:** RELIANCE BRANDS LIMITED (RBL) and Plastic Legno SPA have signed a joint venture arrangement through which RBL will acquire a 40% stake in Plastic Legno SPA's toy manufacturing business in India. This investment by RBL serves a dual purpose, bringing in vertical integration for RBL's toy business and helping diversify the supply chain with a long-term strategic interest in building toy manufacturing in India.

Plastic Legno SPA is owned by the Sunino group that boasts of more than 25 years of toy production experience in Europe. The group started its India business in 2009 out of a need to develop a strong production hub that would cater to global markets, but more importantly to the fast evolving and growing Indian market.

"Keeping with our

## Aditya Birla Group formally launches TMRW – a Digital First 'House of Brands' venture in the Fashion & Lifestyle space

**Mumbai:** Aditya Birla Group today announced the formal launch of its new 'House of Brands' entity – TMRW. This move is in line with the group's strategy to launch and back new-age digital ventures. TMRW, an Aditya Birla Group venture, will create India's largest portfolio of disruptor brands in the fashion & lifestyle space and enable the next phase of direct to consumer (D2C) growth in India, which is poised to be a \$100bn market by 2025. Over the next 3 years, TMRW will acquire as well as incubate 30+ innovative, customer-obsessed brands. The venture will also enable multiple founders to operate within a synergistic 'house of brands' platform that share a common vision and shared capabilities. Aditya Birla Group has appointed ex Facebook & Bain executive, Prashanth Aluru, as the CEO & Co-Founder to lead the build out of this new venture. Prashanth will set up a nimble and

honourable Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar India, this collaboration with Plastic Legno's deep experience in world-class toy manufacturing coupled with our strong footing in the global toy retail industry would open new doors and unparalleled opportunities for toys manufactured in India. It is imperative for RBL to build design to shelf capability for a strategic advantage over the competition and to be an accelerator in building a robust toy manufacturing ecosystem in India not only for domestic consumption but also for global markets," said the spokesperson of Reliance Brands Limited.

RBL has a strong play in the Toy industry with its portfolio of Hamleys, the British toy retailer and homegrown toy brand – Rowan, making RBL one of the leading toy distributors. Hamleys currently has a global

footprint across 15 countries with 213 doors and is India's largest chain of toy stores.

"We are very privileged to have RBL as a partner in this Joint Venture. We are confident that Plastic Legno's experience in Toys production and Hamley's commercial outreach, will complement one another to enable the JV Company to achieve greater heights and successes. We have important development plans to implement, always in the spirit of creating a cultural background in this specific sector in India. We are ready for the challenges of the future, but when there is a group like RBL alongside, we are sure that together we can do a great development," said Paolo Sunino, Co-owner, Sunino Group.

Two-Wheeler Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

Motorcycle sales grew from 125,188 units in May 2021 to 148,560 units in May 2022. Scooter sales of the Company grew from 19,627 units in May 2021 to 100,665 units in May 2022.

The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

A special report on stainless steel titled 'India's Amritkal' by SteelMint was unveiled at the event. According to the report, the stainless-steel industry struggled to regain equilibrium due to the lingering impact of weakened global and domestic demand. This demand contraction reverberated throughout global melt-shop production, with the first quarter of CY23

## PM dedicates NTPC's 800 MW (Unit-2) of Telangana Super Thermal Power Project



**Adilabad, March 4 (KCN) :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated to the nation NTPC's 800 MW (Unit-2) of Telangana Super Thermal Power Project in Peddapalli, Telangana. Based on Ultra-Supercritical Technology, the project would supply 85% power to Telangana and would have the highest power generation efficiency of approximately 42% among all power stations of NTPC in India. The foundation stone of the project was also laid by the Prime Minister. Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone to multiple developmental projects related to power, rail and road sectors worth more than Rs.56,000 crore with the major focus of the projects on the power sector.

## TVS Motor Company registers sales of 302,982 units

**Hosur:** TVS Motor Company sales was at 302,982 units in May 2022. The year-on-year growth is not comparable due to the low base of sales in May 2021 because of the localised lockdown imposed by the Government of India during that period.

**Two-Wheeler**

Total two-wheeler sales grew from 154,416 units in May 2021 to 287,058 units in May 2022. Domestic two-wheeler sales grew from 52,084 units in May 2021 to 191,482 units in May 2022.

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The shortage in the supply of semiconductors has impacted the production and sales of

## Spice Money to enable farmers to withdraw PM-KISAN subsidy through its 1 million Adhikari Network

**New Delhi:** The Government of India has disbursed PM KISAN subsidy, directly to the farmers' bank accounts benefiting over 10 crore farmers and families who have received a grant of Rs 2,000 each. Spice Money, India's leading rural fintech with 1 million strong Adhikari network covering 18,500 plus pincodes, is assisting the farmers and farmer families residing in the heartlands of the country, to withdraw this subsidy through AEPs at their doorstep Adhikari

witnessing a 5% year-on-year decline to 13.66 million tonnes (mnt). China led this dip with 8.27 mnt. The report also underlined that the Indian Stainless-Steel industry quickly recovered by FY23, reaching about 3.5 mnt. Looking forward, SteelMint's forecasts are intriguing, estimating demand to rise to 4.5 mnt by FY25.

Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Industries, Government of Odisha quoted Odisha (Orissa), is making significant contributions to the stainless-steel sector and the minerals sector. Being the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite in India is indeed a noteworthy achievement. Odisha's status as the largest producer of iron ore and bauxite showcases its rich mineral resources. This positions the state as a critical player in the raw materials supply chain for various industries, including steel and aluminium.

He announced Jindal

stainless steel Plant is a massive 1.2 MTPA stainless steel plant and proposed plant expansion to 3.2 MTPA by Jindal Stainless Limited (JSL) in Odisha is a game-changer. This

investment represents a substantial commitment to the stainless-steel sector in the state and will likely contribute to its growth and prominence in the industry.

"The demand for

stainless steel in India

is expected to grow at an average of 9 to 10 per cent per annum over the next few financial years, doubling the growth rate of 4.5 per cent in the last five financial years," said Ms. Anitha Raghunath, Director of Virgo Communications and Exhibitions, the organizer of the GSSE Expo.

## Union Bank of India signs MOU with SIDBI for Co-Financing arrangement of MSMEs

**Mumbai:** Union Bank of India today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for a Co-Financing arrangement for MSMEs. The MoU was signed by Shri Lal Singh, Chief General Manager, Union Bank of India and Shri Vivek Kumar Malhotra, Chief General Manager, SIDBI. SIDBI is country's principal financial institution engaged in the Promotion, Financing and Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

Under the MoU, Union Bank of India would consider Joint financing/Co-Financing with SIDBI to Projects/ Units in the MSME. This MoU would help the Banks to increase their

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lal Singh, CGM (MSME), Union Bank of India, said "MSME is one of the key sectors of our Indian Economy contributing to

GDP, Exports, Manufacturing Output, Employment, Women Empowerment etc. MSME is one of the focused areas of the Bank and at Union Bank

customer base, while helping the MSMEs to meet their funding requirements. The key highlights of the arrangement include joint identification of viable projects and term loan and working capital financing to MSMEs. Initially the arrangement would be at specific centers and once the arrangement stabilizes at these centers, more locations would be covered.

## CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR SUB-WAY NEAR NIDHIPANDA BRIDGE STARTED



**BHUBANESWAR (KCN):** Railway Minister Kept his promise and was sanctioned fund of rupees 14.7 Crores in September 2023. The construction work for Sub-way near Nidhipanda Railway Bridge started today. Sri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister for Railways during his visit to Balasore on 21st June, 2023 had met the villagers who had a long pending demand for construction of a subway near Nidhipanda Bridge (Br. No. 259).

The Railway Minister discussed the issue with local villagers and assured them to resolve the matter. The 'Designing team' of Railway has immediately prepared the design for Subway which was approved by the competent authority. A fund of Rs. 14.7 crores was sanctioned in September 2023 and work is now started with close monitoring.

Railway Board for construction of Subway near Nidhipanda Bridge of Balasore.

Nidhipanda bridge is an important bridge in Haldipada-Balasore section of Kharagpur-Bhadrak section. One of the spans of this bridge is being used by local people for commuting of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The area gets water logged during monsoon and the crossing under the bridge becomes unapproachable cutting connectivity to villages. In light of these issues, after Hon'ble Minister for Railways instructions, a survey was immediately conducted for provision of alternate, safe arrangement for vehicular traffic as well as pedestrians. A scheme was prepared whereby a subway of size 5m (W) X 5m (H) has been proposed at the

approach of the bridge at Kharagpur end. This subway will be used for passing of all kinds of vehicles including heavy vehicles. In view of the above, the construction work has been started which will fulfill the demand of local people. Additionally, keeping in mind that the area is prone to waterlogging during monsoon, a second subway is proposed having dimensions of 4m(W) X 2.7m(H) which is about 1.6m above the bed level of the bridge and will act as an all-weather road even in times of heavy water discharges. With the intervention and close monitoring of Hon'ble Minister for Railways, the project and fund of Rs 14.7 crores was sanctioned in September 2023 and work is now started with close monitoring.



## Blow for CSK as injured Conway ruled out until May

**Chennai** :Chennai Super Kings have been dealt a blow ahead of their title defence as Devon Conway is set to be ruled out of action at least until May. Conway, who was the player of the match in the final last year against Gujarat Titans, will be sidelined at least for eight weeks after it was confirmed that he would be undergoing a surgery this week on his left thumb.

The 32-year-old injured the thumb during the recently held T20I series against Australia and as a result, wasn't available to play the opening Test as well. After medical consultation, the decision was made to operate. With the recovery estimated to be



at least eight weeks, Conway in all likelihood will not be available for more than half the tournament which is set to kick off on March 22 and conclude likely by the end of May. Henry Nicholls, who was

called in as cover for Conway for the first Test against Australia, will now remain with the squad for the second game. Meanwhile, Neil Wagner's hopes of receiving a farewell Test match was quashed after

it was confirmed that he wouldn't be included in the squad as a replacement for the injured Will O'Rourke. The fast bowler sustained a left hamstring strain and would now need at least

two weeks of rest. New Zealand have replaced him in the squad with Ben Sears, who has taken 58 wickets in his first-class career from 19 games so far. While Sears has played T20Is for New Zealand, including the most recent series against Australia, he is yet to feature in Tests. "Ben's a young bowler with a quality skill set," head coach Gary Stead said. "He bowls with genuine pace and gets good bounce which is always a great asset in red ball cricket. We've been really impressed by his performances for the BLACKCAPS in white ball cricket this summer and believe he can make the step up to the Test arena if called upon."

"We'll know more about their injuries between today and tomorrow, but it doesn't look good. We were affected by that and I imagine that both will be out for several matches." What happened in Barcelona's draw with Athletic Bilbao?

On a tense Sunday at Athletic Club, Barcelona's aspirations to

tighten the race for the LaLiga title were dashed in a goalless stalemate.

This draw came as a significant setback for the Catalan giants, who had eyed this match as an opportunity to diminish the lead of table-toppers Real Madrid and overtake Girona for the second spot. Real Madrid had earlier dropped points in a 2-2 tie against Valencia on Saturday, setting the stage for Barcelona to make their move.

However, the anticipated leapfrog over Girona into second place was thwarted as they could only muster a point from the encounter, leaving them eight points behind Real Madrid and still trailing Girona by a single point.

Despite their efforts and a more assertive approach, Athletic couldn't break through the resilient Barcelona backline, which stood firm to ensure the visitors walked away with a crucial point.

## Pep Guardiola calls Phil Foden 'the best in Premier League' after derby heroics



**Manchester** :Manchester City head coach Pep Guardiola has called midfielder Phil Foden the best in the Premier League following his match-winning display against Manchester United. Foden scored a brace as City beat United 3-1 in the Manchester derby on Sunday, March 3.

The 23-year-old scored a

brilliant curling strike from

outside to level the score

in the 56th minute

following Marcus Rashford's goal in the first half. The local lad then won the game for his side by finishing off a Julian Alvarez assist in the 80th minute in front of the home fans at the Etihad. Speaking to BCC after the match, Guardiola said Foden has become more mature, while calling him the best player in the Premier League. Foden has scored 18 goals and provided 10 assists in 40 matches across all

competitions this season.

"It is the amount of games he is playing. He was always a talented player but now he is more mature and understands more the game, especially defensively. He can play middle, right, make moments and cut inside, play in the left, scoring from the left. What can I say? He is the best player in the Premier League right now for the amount of things he does. Unbelievable," said Guardiola.

He went on to say that no player has been as decisive as Foden for Manchester City this season. Foden is the eighth-highest scorer (11) and the eighth-highest assist-maker (8) in the Premier League this season.

## Weighty, even if not wondrous: Lanning finds a way



**New Delhi**: Meg Lanning usually doesn't have off days at the batting crease. On most days, she's good. The others, she tries to make sure she isn't bad. On Saturday, it was the latter.

Only an over before she authoritatively whipped Meghana Singh for a boundary through the legside and then followed up with a clean drive on the up over covers for another four, she was attempting hacks. Quite unlike Lanning.

It was a period where she

was failing to time her shots. Sometimes waiting too long to go on the cut, sometimes getting undone by the strongest opposition to her batting - the left-arm orthodox spinners. By the end of the 10th over, she had chewed up 29 balls for her 30, one of which included an uncharacteristically off-balance slog. She had opened up her front leg and partly fell over while attempting to hit Tarannum Pathan's offbreak for an inside-out

six. In the next over off Mannat Kashyap, she drove straight to mid off where Kathryn Bryce put down a sitter. Two balls later, she pre-mediated a sweep off the left-arm spinner. So early was she to the shot that Beth Mooney, behind the wicket, had the angle covered. But Lanning failed in her execution and the ball went past the keeper much finer than it should have. The rare sight of her batting struggle aside, the rarer sight of her

struggles to get going

early on have been

covered up by the

explosive batting of

Shafali Verma and Alice Capsey.

In the powerplay especially, she

has scored only 44 runs

across four matches, at

a strike rate of 81.48, only

once scoring at more

than run-a-ball. That's not

to take away that in

three of those four games

DC had batted first, a

period where most top-

order batters across

teams have struggled so

far in the tournament.

frustration was visible during this period. "It felt like the wicket was flat-flat and I was missing out a fair bit," Lanning admitted after the game on Sunday. "Gujarat [Giants] bowled well, kept it pretty tight. I had to adjust a few things. Perhaps could have done that a little earlier, just accelerated a bit quicker. But I wasn't able to find my groove. I was getting a bit frustrated, I was trying to put a few away." Just when she got the timing in place and looked good to boss over proceedings, an attempted cut to a delivery outside off didn't get the desired result and she was caught at backward point. In an innings where she had largely struggled on a friendly batting surface, she managed to post a 41-ball 55.

"I would have loved to go

on with it," she confessed.

"It was a disappointing time

to get out. We got on top

and then lost a couple of

wickets after that too."

Through the course of her

innings, she was lucky, she

was scratchy, and her

batting was far from her sublime best. Yet, in hindsight, it was not only the highest score by a batter on the night but also arguably the most effective knock of the match. When timing and grace deserted her batting, luck, grit, experience and a few unlikely release shots were her allies. On a surface that multiple players admitted was easy for batting, not one could make merry. Not even Lanning. It's been that sort of a tournament for her. Despite some reasonable scores, her struggles to get going

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