

Editor's Note



As I start writing the Editorial, the countdown to the Navakalebar festival of Lord Jagannath in Puri is scheduled to start from March 29 in the shape of Banajag Yatra. The whole administrative machinery is fully geared up for this onerous task. The festival has been making its presence felt even in the cyber space. The Tourism Department is making use of social networking sites as bridge to interact with the common mass.

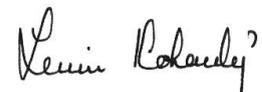
In the meanwhile, our State has bagged Krishi Karman award for the third time at the national level for enhanced agricultural productivity. The pro-poor Government has taken steps to convert all Kucha houses in the rural areas into Pucca houses. The Odisha State Treatment Fund has been made operational to provide medical assistance upto Rs. 3 lakh for treatment of patients suffering from critical ailments. The Odisha State Medical Services Corporation has been conceptualised to provide free medicines to the people of the State. The Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana encompasses 55 lakh farmers and their families with provision of free health insurance coverage. In a bid to bring in transparency and accuracy in distribution of Matriculation Certificates and mark-sheets, the State Government is trying to replace the manual method with a digitalised one. For a holistic cross-sectoral growth of the State these are only few of the popular measures adopted by the Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik.

However, amidst all these developmental works, the State is going to celebrate "Utkal Divas" on the 1st of April 2015. On this day, the long-cherished dream of creation of province of Odisha became a reality. On the 1st of April 1936, ours became the first State in the country to have been formed on linguistic basis. The Constitution of Odisha (Orissa) Order 1936 got the approval of British King on 3rd of March 1936. It was announced that the new province

would come into being on the 1st of April 1936 with Sir John Austin Hubback, ICS as the Governor. On the appointed day in a solemn ceremony held at the Ravenshaw College Hall, Cuttack Sir Hubback was administered the oath of office by Sir Courtney Terrel, the Chief Justice of Patna High Court. The Governor read out the message of good-will received from the King Emperor George VI and Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy of India, for the people of Odisha. **The long-cherished dream of the Odia speaking people at last turned into a reality and Odisha became a separate province.** On this day, we owe our gratitude to the makers of modern Odisha who suffered a lot to bring a smile on our face. The whole state remembers the contribution of Utkal Gourav Madhusudan Das, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, Acharya Harihar, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Dr.Harekrushna Mahtab, Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, Swabhab Kabi Gangadhar Meher, Parla Maharaja Krushna Chandra Gajapati Narayan Dev and legendary Biju Patnaik. Besides, playing a major role in formation of a separate province, the legends of Odisha had an equal contribution in the Indian Freedom struggle. India's history of freedom struggle can not be conceived of without the historic Salt Satyagrah at Inchudi or horror of the Eram Massacre or the martyrdom of Laxman Naik.

Odisha, the name itself sounds synonymous with a rich cultural heritage woven by a colourful thread of different religions, customs and tradition yet each blending into a perfect amalgamation. Our language is now the first language from the Indo-Aryan linguistic group to have been accorded the status of classical language of India making it more challenging and obligatory on the part of every citizen staying in Odisha to contribute further for the enrichment of our classical language. On the occasion of Utkal Divas, let us all pledge to love our State more than our own selves.

Vande Utkal Janani.



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