

Editor's Note



I write this note at a time when our Chief Minister has opposed the Centre's move to convene a meeting of State D.G.Ps with Union Home Minister to deliberate over the contentious National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) and demanded that the Prime Minister has to address the Chief Ministers first. Prior to this, he had started reviving talks about a Third Front in national politics which will be transparent, corruption-free and secular. Not long back, under his leadership the Biju Janata Dal made a sweeping victory in the recently conducted Zilla Parishad polls. Translating the victory in 651 Zilla Parishad Zones in terms of Assembly Constituencies comes to more than 120 of the 147 Assembly Constituencies. The highest ever Budget proposal for Odisha amounting to Rs. 52755.15 crore has been placed for the Finance Year-2012-13. The Budget proposal seeks to further consolidate and strengthen the intervention made for ensuring Food, Employment and Health security for the citizens of the State. The best part is that, there has been an increase of 42.64 % in the allocation for Agriculture. This clearly proves that our Chief Minister has put his feet firmly on the ground and now it is his turn like his legendary father and Socialist leader Biju Patnaik to play a major role in the national mainstream politics.

Shri Biju Patnaik was a dreamer but to make it a reality he could go to any extent. At one time not a very feasible Paradeep Port, Express Highway, Sunabeda MIG Factory was made a reality because of his relentless efforts. There was no end to his dreams. He was a political leader but never a comprising one rather a person who held both power and position for a very long time because he was different in the field of politics. He was a Pilot, but a fearless one, who brought the President and Vice-President of Indonesia to India amidst a fierce battle. He was an industrialist but the profit was used for the benefit of the poor and setting up of the prestigious Kalinga Prize. He took pride in identifying himself as the successor of the emperor Kharavel and the people accorded him that honour. Biju Babu's flamboyant and assertive personality and love for politics has made him a darling of the masses and unparalleled leader of the country. His worthy son has since taken over his father's legacy and is now ready to go one step forward.

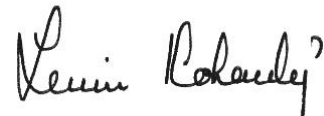
The step taken by the Odisha Government in the recently concluded Panchayati Raj elections by providing 50 % of seats to women is historic. This is related to the recognition of the

value of women's contributions to the production process, household work and in the public field. On March 8th we will celebrate the International Women's Day to recognize that peace and social progress require the active participation and equality of women and to acknowledge the contribution of the women. In the last decade under the leadership of Shri Naveen Patnaik much progress has been made in women's access to education and proper health care. Their participation in paid labour force has grown and legislation that promises equal opportunities for women and respect for their human rights has been adopted. The empowerment process that was encouraged by legendary leader Shri Biju Patnaik has been made multifold under the leadership of his worthy son and leader of the masses Shri Naveen Patnaik.

I feel the common factor between both these legendary personalities who are incidentally father and son lies in the fact that both of them are dreamers. The question is the approach, while Biju Babu was flamboyant, Naveen Patnaik is artistic. But both of them love Odisha and its people more than they loved themselves.

On this 5th of March the birth anniversary of the Statesman Shri Biju Patnaik, let us all join hands with our beloved Chief Minister to bring a smile on the face of every Odia. Both of them are doers, be it removing poverty, creating jobs and empowering the villages and the villagers, they led by examples.

Let us learn to criticize less and be doers more. That will be the greatest tribute to the legendary leader Biju Patnaik on the eve of his birth anniversary.



(Lenin Mohanty)
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