



Biju Patnaik

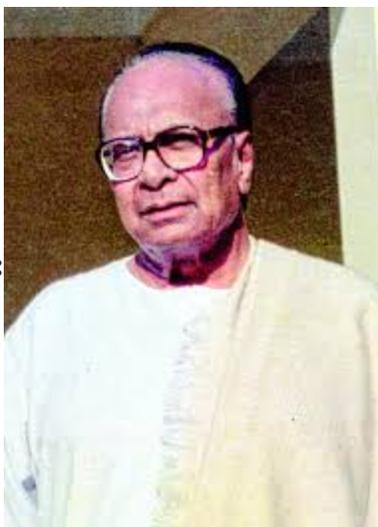
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Why in News

The **birth anniversary of Biju Patnaik** was celebrated (5th March). He is remembered as a freedom fighter, an Indian politician, an aviator and a businessman.

Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**



- Bijayananda Patnaik was **born on 5th March 1916**, he is popularly known as Biju Patnaik.
- He was an ace pilot and joined the Royal Indian Air Force in 1936.
- He was the two times Chief Minister of Odisha.

- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**

- Biju Patnaik started his career as a freedom fighter in 1942. He **joined the Quit India Movement** under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi to make India free.
 - He became a prominent leader of Congress and was engaged in the Quit India Movement with **Jay Prakash Narayan** and **Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia**.
 - In 1943, he **underwent imprisonment for about two years** for his participation in the Quit India Movement.
- He fearlessly undertook covert missions, ferrying freedom fighters to secret meetings with their supporters, and even airdropped leaflets in support of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army**.
- He played a major role in **World War II** and the **Kashmir War of 1948** as a pilot in the Indian Air Force.

- **Role in Kashmir Integration:**

Biju Patnaik had fearlessly flown a DC-3 transport aircraft to Srinagar on 27th October 1947, ferrying soldiers of the Sikh regiment after the tribal invasion from Pakistan in Kashmir.

- **Role in Indonesian Freedom Struggle:**

On the request of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Biju Patnaik flew to Java and brought Sultan Sjahrir out of Dutch controlled territory in Indonesia for a meeting in Delhi.

- For this act of bravery, he was given honorary citizenship in Indonesia and awarded the '**Bhoomi Putra**', the highest Indonesian award, rarely granted to a foreigner.
- In 1996, the Biju Patnaik was awarded the highest Indonesian national award, the '**Bintang Jasa Utama**'.

Source: PIB