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Place: Bhubaneswar

THE BIJU PATNAIK MARATHON WAS A RUNAWAY SUCCESS WITH MANY INDIVIDUAL VICTORIES

IT MARKS THE CELEBRATION OF LEGENDARY STATESMAN LATE BIJU PATNAIK'S BIRTHDAY

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary statesman *late Biju Patnaik*, **Department of Sports & Youth Services**, organized the **Biju Patnaik Mini –Marathon on 5th March 2019 in Bhubaneswar**. Conducted on a massive scale, this 5km Marathon was flagged off by the *Hon'ble Sports Minister, Shri Chandra Sarathi Behera*. With many individual victories across categories, a total cash prize of **Rs. 1, 58,000/** was given to Top 5 players from each category (both Men & Women).

Ranjit Mahata & Arati Mahanta were the winners in the 'above 50 years' Category, followed by Arjun Tudu and Samsad Ara Begum in the 'above 18 years' category, and Dilip Naik & Suhana Parmin in the '15-18-year' category. In a remarkable achievement, around 2500 competitors who started the race also finished it successfully. Each winner was awarded Rs. 12,000 for the above 50-year category and Rs. 7000 for above 18 and 15-18 year categories respectively. The cash award was presented by Hon'ble Priyadarshi Mishra, **MLA, BHUBANESWAR NORTH (UTTAR) CONSTITUENCY**, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, MP, Bhubaneswar and Shri Manoj Kumar Padhy, Joint- Secretary, Sports & Youth Services Department.

Commenting on the Mini-Marathon success, Shri Chandra Sarathi Behera, Sports Minister said, *"The state observes Panchayat Raj Divas on March 5th every year to mark the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik. With sports being the heart of the state, the Sports department started organizing a mini-marathon to commemorate the day. It was started in 2003 with a cash award being given to 15 winners across 3 groups (Men & Women), in total 90 Winners, hence now the total cash prize is given to 30 winners across 3 groups (Men & Women). Such an initiative is also a great way of making people remember and celebrate the man whose vision is making Odisha what it is today."*

The route for the marathon began with **the Biju Patnaik Park** being the Flag off point. It went through the *Sisu Bhawan Square- Raj Mahal Square- A.G. Square- Governor House Square- Power House Square* and culminated at the **Kalinga Stadium Gate No.3, Kalinga Stadium Main ground**.

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