

Obituary: A Tribute to Prof. (Dr.) Bijay Kumar Patnaik

Bhubaneswar
26th July 2026



Prof. (Dr.) Bijay Kumar Patnaik

04.08.1944 – 16.07.2026

The **Orissa Chemical Society** expresses its profound grief and deep sorrow at the passing of **Prof. (Dr.) Bijay Kumar Patnaik**, an eminent teacher, distinguished chemist, accomplished academic administrator, and a highly respected member of the chemistry fraternity of Odisha, who passed away on **Thursday, 16th July 2026**, on the auspicious occasion of **Rath Yatra**.

Born on **4th August 1944** in the village of **Dadhimachhagadia (now Darukshetra)** in Khurda district, Odisha, Dr. Patnaik had an illustrious academic journey. He completed his **B.Sc. in Chemistry** from **S.C.S. College, Puri** in 1964, **M.Sc. in Chemistry** from **Ravenshaw College, Cuttack** in 1966, and earned his **Ph.D. in Chemistry** from **Utkal University** in 1979 under the guidance of **Prof. (Dr.) Gokulananda Mahapatra**. His doctoral research, entitled "*Synthesis and Pesticidal Studies of New Oxazole Derivatives*," reflected his strong foundation in organic chemistry. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Patnaik served with great distinction as a teacher, researcher, and administrator. After being elevated to the rank of **Professor**, he held several prestigious positions, including **Regional Director of Education, Berhampur**, **Principal of BJB Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar**, and **President of the State Selection Board**. Through these roles, he made enduring contributions to higher education and academic administration in Odisha.

Following his retirement, Dr. Patnaik continued to serve society with the same zeal and commitment. He remained associated with **Shiksha Vikash Samiti, Odisha**, contributing to the promotion of quality education, and actively participated in social service through organizations such as the **Dr. Gokulananda Nityananda Mohapatra Foundation** and **UTSARGA**, an old-age home in Bhubaneswar. A passionate science communicator, Dr. Patnaik served as the **Secretary of Bigyan Prachar Samiti, Cuttack**, and later as the **Editor of Bigyanalok**. As a prolific science writer in Odia, he made invaluable contributions towards popularizing science through numerous articles published in leading newspapers, magazines, and periodicals.

It is particularly poignant that **Dr. Patnaik departed on the sacred day of Rath Yatra, the very same auspicious occasion on which his revered Ph.D. mentor, Prof. (Dr.) Gokulananda Mahapatra, attained his heavenly abode on 10th July 2013**. This remarkable coincidence serves as a touching reminder of the enduring bond between a teacher and his student, united not only in their academic legacy but also in the timing of their final journey.

Prof. (Dr.) Bijay Kumar Patnaik's passing is an irreparable loss to the scientific and academic community of Odisha. The **Orissa Chemical Society** conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, friends, colleagues, students, and admirers. We pray to Lord Jagannath to grant eternal peace to his noble soul and to bestow strength upon his family to bear this profound and irreparable loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Anita pati

Dr. Anita Pati
Secretary, OCS

P. K. Dash

Prof. P. K. Dash
President, OCS

For and on behalf of the members of the Orissa Chemical Society