

PM lays foundation of Talcher plant

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation for the revival of the Talcher Fertilizer plant, the first ever coal gasification based fertilizer unit, inaugurated the Jharsuguda Airport and dedicated Garjanbahal and Dulanga coal mines as well as the Jharsuguda-Barapali-Saardega rail line today.

Governor Ganeshi Lal, CM Naveen Patnaik, Union ministers Jual Oram, Dharmendra Prad-

han and Suresh Prabhu were present at the functions.

The PM said the Talcher Fertilizer revival project by way of a joint venture of Maharatna companies ~GAIL, CIL, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizer Ltd and FCI will entail an investment of ₹13,000 crore and provide employment to over 4500 youths.

It will be commissioned in 36 months, he said.

Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the revival of the plant will transform the region and usher in

development in a big way.

Chief minister Naveen Patnaik urged upon the PM to revise royalty on coal and hoped that at least 50 per cent of urea produced in the plant will be provided to farmers of Odisha. Later at Jharsuguda, the PM inaugurated the Veer Surendra Sai Airport and the mines as well as railway line.

He said three more airports will be developed in Odisha and his dream is to see those who wear "hawai slippers, travel in hawai jahaj".