



'KISS' for a philanthropic cause

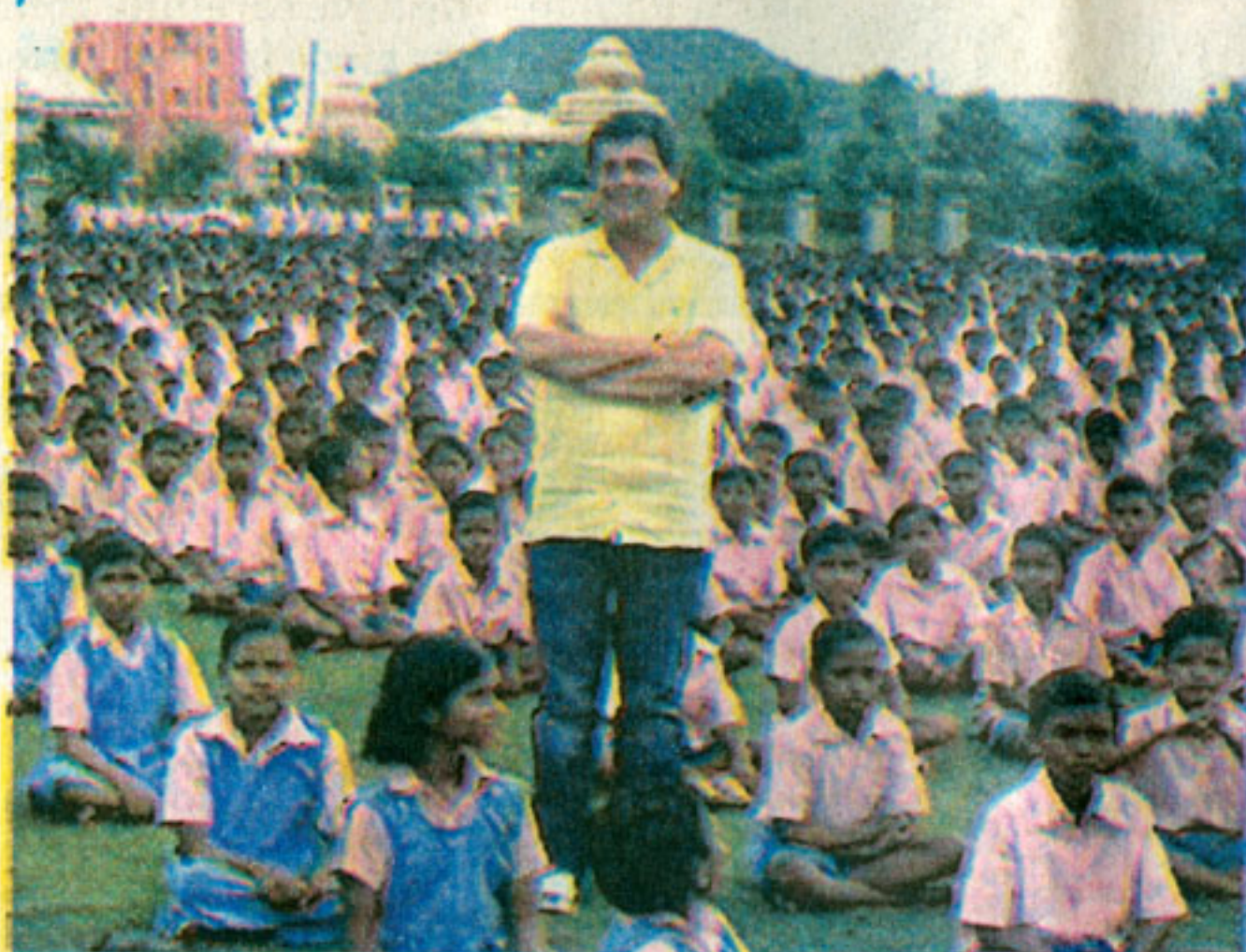
* Country's first indigenous population varsity

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PORT BLAIR, APRIL 23/—/ A deemed university with thousands of students building their career dreams in a sprawling, chic campus is a vision realized in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. This is about Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), an institution of higher learning and the source of funding for India's first potential tribal university, the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar.

KIIT's sister concern - KISS equipped with hostels, computers centres, medical facilities, a library and classrooms that ensure an education—formal and vocational—to more than 15,000 tribal children, is all about tribal care with a purpose. To make sure that the children do not lose touch with their roots, the Institute provides them enough exposure to their tribal culture.

From a humble begin-



ning in the year 1993 with 125 children, KISS has grown up to become the largest residential institute for the tribals in the world providing accommodation, food, healthcare, education from Kindergarten to post graduation, vocational training and all other basic amenities of lie absolutely free with a job after completion of education. The institution today has about

15,083 tribal students studying in various streams of which 60% are boys and 40% girls.

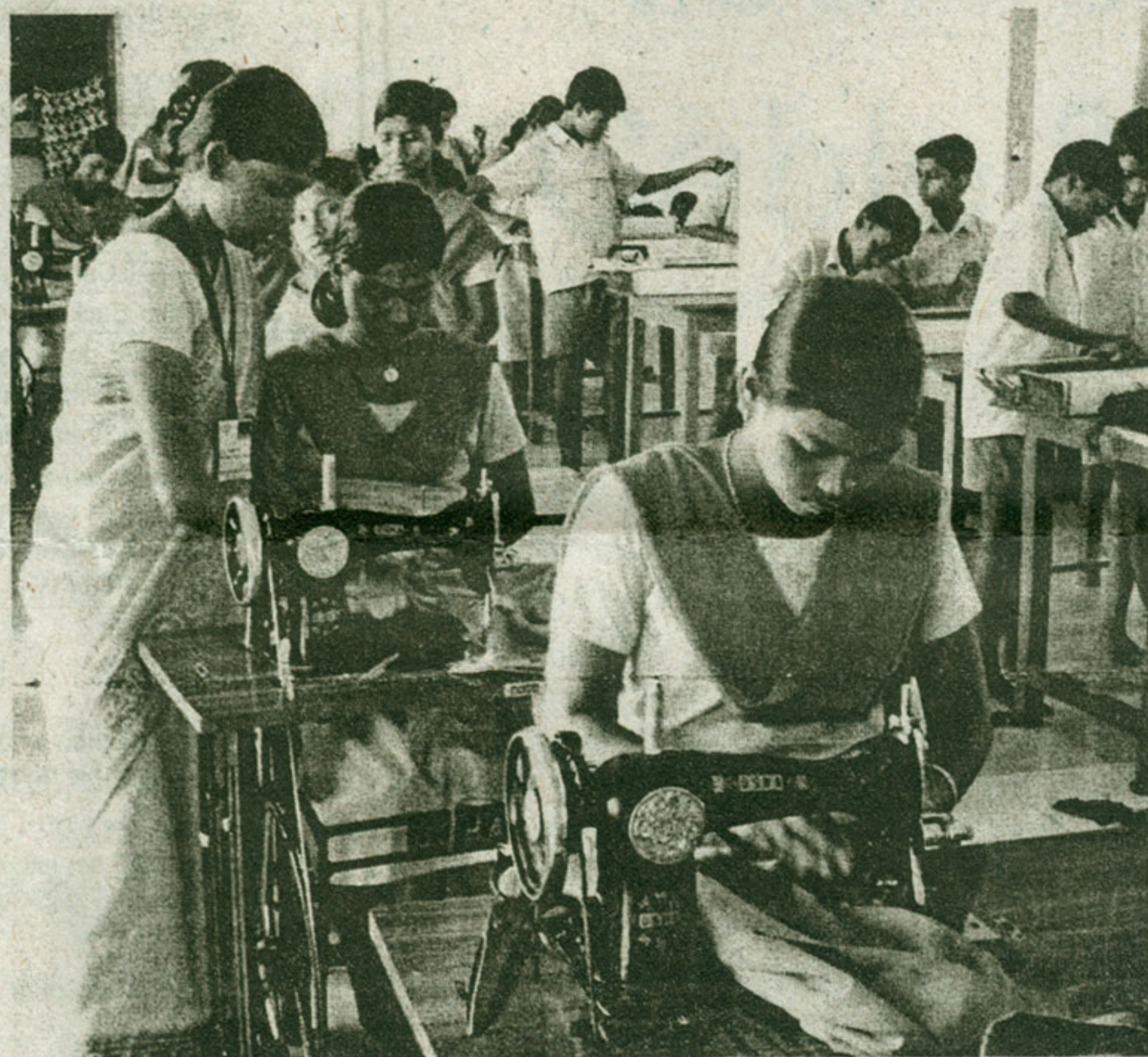
The theme that runs through the KISS setup is an aptly christened slogan "KG TO PG." The curriculum takes the students from primary to higher secondary, Plus Two to Bachelor of Business Administration and beyond to Post-Graduation. *continued to page 5*

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If ITI diploma courses are for the average students, high school dropouts can opt for driving, TV repairing, mobile phone repairs, tailoring or any other job-oriented courses. Spread in a sprawling campus spread in 80 acres of land, students from 62 tribes of Odisha including 13 primitive tribes are enrolled today in the institute besides tribal students from adjoining states in the country. The institute also provides 5% reservation in KIIT University for various professional courses.

“Wearing a simple cotton attire and a humble smile, Dr. A Samanta, KIIT-KISS Founder, is the precursor of the social revolution. Having the feel of being poor, experience of living without his father's hand on his head since the age of four, Dr Samanta



dreamt of setting up KIIT all by himself with less than Rs 5000/- in his pocket.

A confident Dr Samanta realized his dream and created an architectural marvel spread across 25 sq.kms in 20 wi-fi state of the art campuses but that was not enough. His dream of a world where poverty would not stand as a obstacle to one's education, Dr Samanta created Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences - a slice of heaven for 15000 neglected and under privileged tribal children.

KISS is a school that gives the tribal children an opportunity to dream and turn it into reality. It's mission is to eradicate poverty and hunger, transform 'liability' into 'asset', bring tribal children to mainstream, enable tribal students to lead a decent life, preserve tribal heritage, culture and values, nurture tribal children as 'change agents' for their community - all through education. Tribal children from any part of the country can pursue education at KISS. One has to apply to the institute with relevant documents and a tribal certificate,” said Mr Satyabrata Das, Head of the Publication Cell of KIIT University in an exclusive chat with this Correspondent.