



**ADDRESS**

**OF**

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA**

**Dr. S. C. JAMIR**

**TO THE**

**ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2014**

**Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,**

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of 14<sup>th</sup> Odisha Legislative Assembly. Let me take this opportunity to extend my heartiest New Year Greetings to all the Hon'ble Members of this august House as well as to the people of Odisha.

**2.** This august House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late Somanath Rath, Former Speaker, Late Ainthu Sahoo, former Minister, Late Pradip Hota, Maheswar Barad, Sashi Bhusan Marandi, Khetramohan Panigrahi, all former Members of this august House who have made significant contribution to the development of the State. This House has also expressed its condolence on the sad demise of Late Deepak Kumar Pati, Ex-Colonel of 19 Raj Rifles, Late Kanhu Charan Madhi, Ex-Special Police Officer of Odisha Police, Late Jaswant Singh, Ex-A.S.I., Virendra Prasad Saroj, Ex-Head Constable, Surendra Singh, Ex-Head Constable (Driver) and Guroo Dayal, Ex-Constable of B.S.F., Late Pradeep Ghana, Ex-Constable of C.R.P.F., Late J.N. Mahanta, Ex-Havildar, 5171 A.S.C. Battalion and Late Sudhansu Nayak, Ex-Havildar of 299 Fd. Regiment who have rendered exemplary and selfless service and laid down their lives for the cause of the Nation. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Naveen Pradhan, former Minister, Late Narayan Sahoo, Panu Chandra Nayak and Dharmu Gond, Ratnamali Jema, all former Members of this August House and Late Prakash Kumar Rout, Ex-Constable & Late Debendra Dharua, Ex-S.P.O. of Odisha Police who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

3. As I speak to you, I am aware that an aspirational Odisha is fast emerging on the national scene aided by the revolution in information technology and telecom domain and extends its rapid spread across the length and breadth of Odisha, an Odisha that demands more opportunities, greater choices, better infrastructure, and enhanced safety and security. Our youth, our greatest asset, are a confident and courageous lot. I have no doubt that their passion, energy and enterprise will take Odisha to new heights.

4. Amidst these aspirations, we are also burdened by gathering anxieties about economic slowdown, job security and employment prospects. My Government is acutely conscious of these concerns and has been consistently and continuously striving to pluck out such anxieties especially from the vulnerable sections of the society through a mix of targeted developmental interventions.

5. When the people of Odisha had voted my Government to power, it was confronted by a serious financial crisis, a negative Rs.370 Crores of opening balance and an estimated budget deficit of Rs.1,400 Crores. Probably no Government would have faced such a precarious financial position at the start of its innings. But we remained unfazed and determined to change the face of financial position of the State to fulfill our promise of ushering in inclusive and balanced development of our State and I am proud to emphasize in this august House that we achieved what we set out to accomplish and I must thank the people of Odisha for continuously supporting my Government's actions.

**6.** My Government has made remarkable accomplishments in accelerating economic growth and reducing poverty. Our State recorded an average annual growth of 8.23% during the 11<sup>th</sup> Plan at 2004-05 prices. The high growth rate witnessed is here to stay, as it is estimated that Odisha's economy would register an average growth of 9% even during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period. The real per capita income in Odisha at 2004-05 prices has increased from Rs. 14,862 in 1999-2000 to Rs. 26,900 in 2011-12, an increase of over 77% during the period. Our State achieved the highest reduction in poverty among all Indian States when the ratio dropped by 24.6 percentage points.

**7.** Fiscal reforms undertaken by my Government which included expenditure rationalization and revenue generation measures has resulted in a major turnaround of the State's Finances. I am happy to mention that the State's Finances are now robust enough to provide adequate resource support to various developmental activities of the State. I am proud to state that Odisha's Plan size which was Rs. 2,484 Crores in 1999-2000 has increased to Rs. 21,467 Crores in 2013-14 and is likely to rise to Rs. 27,000 Crores for the year 2014-15. Capital Outlay in 1999-2000 was only Rs. 799 Crores. This has gone up to Rs. 7,840.13 Crores in 2013-14.

**8.** My Government have been able to reduce the net debt stock from 46.48% of GSDP in 2001-02 to 17.87% of GSDP in 2011-12, thereby achieving the desired level of Debt-GSDP ratio of 25% recommended by 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission. With improvement in fiscal situation, the State Government has not resorted to Open Market Borrowing since 2005-06. Contribution of State's own revenue has been improving consistently and its share in the total revenue has increased from 41% in 1999-2000 to 52.60% in 2012-13.

**9.** With an objective of reducing regional imbalances and accelerating the pace of development in the western part of Odisha, the Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) has been constituted. It is dedicated to programmes under key sectors like roads, communication, agriculture, minor irrigation, Lift Irrigation, water supply, Infrastructure development for schools & colleges, health services, electrification of villages and so on. So far 16,847 projects at a cost of Rs.770.78 Crores have been taken up and I am happy to inform you that my Government has already completed 11,878 projects.

**10.** Emphasis has been laid on improving the socio-economic conditions of weaker sections of the society, especially in KBK districts. For this purpose, flagship schemes like Special Plan for the KBK districts or RLTA, Biju KBK Plan are being implemented in the districts. Besides, the Biju Kandhamal O' Gajapati Yojna and Integrated Action Plan (for the LWE affected districts) have been launched in the State. These have helped in enhancing the infrastructure condition in KBK and some other districts in a significant way.

**11.** Strict enforcement of Rule of Law and maintenance of order are imperative for the development of any democratic society. Development, progress or growth can only be realized and can be sustained in an environment of peace and harmony that in turn allows people to pursue their activities without fear.

**12.** Due to sustained efforts of My Government, the Left Wing Extremism in Odisha has substantially declined. Augmenting the striking capabilities of the Special Operations

Group and building an effective intelligence network have been the focus of our strategy to combat the Maoist menace. Four Special Security Battalions have been created to enhance the capacity of 83 most vulnerable Police stations. Establishment of Odisha Special Striking Force (OSSF) by inducting ex-servicemen, filling up more than 15,000 posts in various ranks of State Police Force are among the steps that signal my Government's resolve to maintain peace and harmony.

**13.** My Government has now framed a rule for absorption of the Special Police Officers as constables in the "Odisha Auxiliary Police Force" (OAPF) on completion of three years of satisfactory service to encourage the extremists to shun the armed struggle and to return to the mainstream.

**14.** My State Government has revised its Surrender and Rehabilitation Scheme for the Maoists. The Scheme extends financial assistance up to Rs.2.5 Lakhs and vocational training up to 3 years with a monthly stipend of Rs.2,000/-.

**15.** Police Establishment Boards have been set up to decide transfer and posting of police officers as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's directives. A Police Complaint Authority has been set up which is headed by the Lok Pal to look into the complaints against the police personnel.

**16.** My Government has created an Economic Offence Wing (EOW) in the police to deal with FICN and economic offence related issues. The Economic Offence Wing has taken up investigation of a number of financial frauds and land related frauds.

**17.** The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) projects have made substantial progress. Community Policing Scheme “Ama Police” has been launched in my State since 1st April 2013.

**18.** The super cyclone “Phailin” that struck Odisha Coast in the month of October 2013 was one of the fiercest in India in the last 14 years. It had the potential to wreak colossal damage to human life. In hindsight it gives me immense satisfaction to say that our preparedness aided by accurate meteorological forecast helped us save millions of lives apart from significantly containing consequential damage.

**19.** Mass evacuation in unprecedented scale to shelter homes by the administration did the job for us. While about 9,000 people perished in the last super cyclone of 1999, we could limit loss of human lives to just 21 this time. Odisha Disaster Management Authority and its personnel deserve commendation for their nimbleness and the professionalism displayed during pre and post cyclone disaster management.

**20.** My Government’s efforts have been widely appreciated. Special Representative of UN Secretary General personally flew down to Odisha to felicitate our Government’s efforts to evacuate nearly a million people ahead of the severe tropical storm. “Odisha is the first State to receive such award from United Nation in the entire South East Asia” and its response is being used as a model for other States and nations when it comes to handle natural disasters of such massive scale.

**21.** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has sanctioned Rs.915 Crores for Odisha to deal with natural

disasters such as floods and cyclones from National Disaster Response Fund. The State Government had requested Rs.1590 Crores from the NDRF to carry out rehabilitation and reconstruction work after Phailin.

**22.** Agriculture continues to be the backbone of Odisha's economy as more than 60% of our population is dependent on it. Realizing the importance of agriculture in the socio-economic development of the State, my Government has taken the noble initiative of bringing out an exclusive budget on agriculture. My Government has been giving priority to the development of the Agricultural Sector through a number of measures for the benefit of the farming community of the State.

**23.** My State is the second State in our country to present a separate budget for agriculture and allied sectors. The allocation for agriculture and allied sectors in this Budget has been substantially enhanced from Rs.5627.87 Crores in 2012-13 to Rs.7161.84 Crores in 2013-14. The step up in provision in the sector is more than 27%.

**24.** My Government has always remained committed to raising the socio-economic condition of our farming community as we are aware that a capable, knowledgeable farming base will have a strong multiplier effect on the economy. Accordingly, my Government has taken up a slew of interventions aimed at bringing about visible changes in the farming community such as the introduction of free health insurance scheme named Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojna (BK KY) to farmers and landless farm laborers that covers 5 persons of the family for an insured amount of Rs.1 lakh. This will



benefit 60 lakh families numbering 3 Crores persons and would involve a financial outlay of Rs.131 Crores.

**25.** Access to credit at right time, for right amount and at affordable rates has always been a major handicap for our farmers. In order to make farm credit affordable, my Government is extending short term farm credit at the lowest ever interest rate of 2% to farmers of our State through co-operative banks and commercial banks. To encourage financial discipline among the farmers, my Government is extending a rebate in interest rate of 3% on the outstanding loan with additional 2% reduction to timely settlement of the loan. To promote long term financing of agriculture activities, the State Government has completely waived Stamp Duty on the loan documentation.

**26.** 1.2 lakh hectares of new irrigation potential has been created through new small and lift irrigation projects including rehabilitating some of the defunct LI points which has brought visible improvement in the socio-economic status of about 1.17 lakhs small and marginal farmers of the State.

**27.** Farmers are given rebate of upto 80% of water cess wherever the irrigation system is managed by Pani Panchayats and the same rebate goes upto 90% in KBK region.

**28.** Free mobile phones have been provided to 20 thousand farmer families to keep them updated with market information. Kisan Credit Cards have been converted into Smart Cards to easily avail loan.

**29.** Recognizing the importance of assured irrigation support and the need to expand its reach, the State Government has been relentlessly pursuing various projects and programmes, which has resulted in extending irrigation facilities to 31.342 lakh hectares by 2012 from 24.165 lakh hectare in 2000. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period, the State Government has decided to invest an additional amount of Rs.3, 000 Crores to sink 1 lakh deep wells across the State.

**30.** To augment availability of irrigation services in the private, the Government is providing a subsidy of about 75% of the project cost to private lift irrigation points and the same goes upto 90% if the project is undertaken by the community.

**31.** To provide latest and advanced technological support to farmers, the State Government will be establishing 10 agriculture polytechnics in the State to create a professional cadre in agriculture, horticulture, animal resources, veterinary sciences and fishing.

**32.** To achieve 4% growth in Agriculture & allied sectors and to bring about quantifiable changes in the production and productivity, my Government has been implementing several schemes such as Jananidhi, Popularisation of Agriculture Implements, Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana (BKKY), National Horticulture Mission(NHM), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana (BKVY) & Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna. I am happy to mention here that we have been able to increase food grain production to an all time high of 114 lakh MT in 2012-13 from 54 lakh MT in 2000-01.

**33.** With a view to providing market linkage to farmers engaged in Horticulture produce as well as to ensure raw material access to food processing industry, my Government has recently framed the Food Processing Policy, which is expected to further raise farm incomes and create employment opportunities.

**34.** My Government has developed an ambitious plan to sink 25,000 borewells, construct 6,000 check dams, complete 39 megalift projects and install 1,000 LIPs in the coming days apart from ongoing major, medium & minor irrigation projects that would create additional irrigation potential of 109 thousand hectares in our State.

**35.** I am happy to mention that by end of December 2013, the District Central Cooperative Banks have organized 76,737 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and have credit linked 61,816 Groups by providing loan to the extent of Rs.287.20 Crores. Of the total SHGs 72,787 are women SHGs with credit linkage of Rs.271.20. Further, 9541 Tenant Farmers Groups (TFGs) and 47,814 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) have been formed of which 8,329 TFGs and 46,645 JLGs have been credit linked and provided with loans amounting to Rs.51.67 lakh and Rs.200.09 lakh respectively.

**36.** As all of us are aware that the key parameter that determines as well as sustains societal wellbeing is the status of women in a society, particularly the condition of children growing up in that society. Holistic development of women and children in all its facets i.e. physical wellbeing, economic empowerment, political freedom and a capacity to participate in every activity has been the key driver of all our initiatives.

**37.** “Mamata”, a conditional cash transfer scheme is operational in all the rural and urban areas with an objective of providing partial wage compensation to pregnant and nursing mothers to enable them to rest adequately during their pregnancy and after delivery. The beneficiaries receive a total incentive of Rs 5,000 spread over four installments, which is transferred directly to their accounts. So far, Eleven Lakh Ten Thousand and Fifty Seven women were covered under the scheme. “Mamata” scheme has received appreciation all over the country and is taken as one of the “best practices” to be emulated by the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India and Planning Commission.

**38.** Under Madhubabu Pension Scheme, My Government is providing pension of Rs 300 per month to old age persons, widows, physically and mentally challenged persons, cured leprosy patients, AIDs patients etc belonging to BPL and other low income categories. About 20 lakh such persons are getting benefit from the Scheme in Odisha today. The pension amount goes upto Rs 500 per month once the beneficiary attains the age of 80 years. Further, all pensioners get Rs 200 and Rs 100 respectively once a year towards winter and summer assistance.

**39.** Economic empowerment of women, a basic need to a healthy society is a prime focus of my Government. Through Mission Shakti, the flagship program aimed at women’s empowerment, my Government is encouraging and motivating women to form Self Help Groups, linking them to bank accounts, promoting a culture of saving and motivating them to engage in livelihoods activities. I am proud to

announce that so far 5.36 lakhs SHGs have been established and are linked to bank accounts. The members have been trained in basic accounting and book keeping and also to start small enterprises to augment their family incomes. For pursuing livelihood options, the SHGs loans at concessional interest of 2% are being extended.

**40.** To secure the nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating mothers and children below three years, my Government has at its own cost extended the Supplementary Nutrition Programme to the remaining 15 districts that are not covered by the Government of India Scheme.

**41.** Education as the great enabler of dignified human existence needs no emphasis. However, an inclination and an interest towards education should be created early in the life of a person; else as the person grows up, he/she may not be inclined to pursue an academic career. My Government understands the pivotal role early induction into formal education plays.

**42.** For ensuring an inclusive growth of the budding children, my Government has introduced a new scheme, "Nua Arunima", which is a vibrant preschool education package comprising of school uniforms for children, play materials, teaching and learning Aids, involvement of parents, guardians and grandparents in the activities of children, celebration of different Days at the Anganwadi centers.

**43.** In order to curb atrocities on women, Protection Officers have been appointed at district level to address the issues of Domestic violence under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

**44.** My Government has also taken various measures to safeguard the interests of children in the State. The Odisha State Council for Protection of Child Rights and Odisha State Child Protection Society have already become operational in order to provide safe and secure environment to the children in need of care and protection. The guidelines for implementation of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act have already been framed. The statutory and non-statutory positions for child protection are all filled up.

**45.** My Government has in right earnest started the campaign against sexual harassment at work places and has directed all to form Complaint Committees after enactment of the Central Act.

**46.** The Government of Odisha has adopted multi-pronged approach to the development of S.T. and S.C. population who together constitute about half the population of Odisha. On the one hand, my Government has been creating an environment for educational upliftment of the community, on the other it is extending every kind of support and assistance to the S.C. and S.T. communities to escape out of the vicious cycle of poverty, morbidity and other ailments.

**47.** To remove the stigma normally associated with inter-caste marriages, especially when it involves a member from S.C./S.T. community, my Government introduced a cash incentive, which has now been increased to Rs.50,000/-.

**48.** Additional 30 New Ashram Schools would be opened and 14 higher secondary schools will be made functional including 5 B.Ed. Colleges in Malkangiri, Nawarangpur,

Rayagada, Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj Districts to augment the existing network of schools for the community. Under "Babu Jagajiban Ram Chhatravas Yojna", 44 S.C. Girl's Hostels and 12 S.C. Boy's Hostels have been constructed, which has taken the number of hostels constructed for S.C./S.T. students to 2,679 with an intake capacity of 100 beds each. This would provide additional residential facilities with all amenities to 5,33,000 S.C./S.T. students in our State.

**49.** The State Government has upgraded 22 Ekalavya Model Schools to +2 level so that the access to higher education is increased for S.C./S.T. students of our State. Government has also decided to open urban hostel complexes for S.C./S.T. boys and girls at Bhubaneswar, Berhampur and Rourkela with an intake capacity of 1,000 in Bhubaneswar and 300 each in Berhampur and Rourkela. On-line transfer of post-matric scholarship amount to their respective bank accounts to S.C./S.T. students has been made operational to remove any bottlenecks in its disbursement.

**50.** As many as 8,71,371 S.T. Students and 6,33,992 S.C. Students, aggregating to 15,05,363 students are in receipt of Pre-Matric Scholarship. Under the innovative project meant for providing Pre-Matric Scholarship for day scholar Girl students belonging to S.T. and S.C., as many as 1,14,454 students have so far been distributed with the scholarship.

**51.** Government of Odisha is in the forefront of implementing Forest Rights Act 2006. So far, 3,24,737 individual claims have been finalized that include claims from 17,145 individuals belonging to the most primitive and vulnerable tribal groups. Land rights to the tune of 4.73 lakh hectares of forest land have already been distributed.

**52.** Under the Odisha Tribal Empowerment and livelihoods Programme (OTELP), food security to 57,000 tribal families in seven most backward districts of the State has been ensured in 35 micro-watershed projects. Of these families, 77% can now access safe drinking water within 100 meters of their residence.

**53.** About 2.95 percent of our State's population depends upon fishery and allied activities for their livelihood and their activities contribute around six percent to the GSDP share of agriculture. Odisha being a maritime State, is endowed with 11% of country's water resources and considering the contribution made by fishermen and the potential contribution they can make to our economy, my Government has always accorded priority to the upliftment and empowerment of this important community. A robust fishery sector not only enhances rural income levels but also creates huge employment opportunities and earns precious foreign exchange.

**54.** To encourage fish farming, my Government is providing an interest subvention upto 5% for a loan amount of Rs.3 lakh. To inculcate prudence and discipline among the lonees, an incentive in terms of reduced interest rate of 2% is offered to farmers, so that credit is not denied in future because of earlier default. Already 12,000 farmers have availed such loans so far and as a boost to encourage long term investments in this sector; my Government is offering a concessional interest rate of 3% for a loan upto Rs.10 lakhs with an additional incentive of 2% rebate on interest rate for timely repayment.



- 55.** To encourage higher education among the children of fish farmers, my Government is extending a one-time financial assistance between Rs.3,000 to Rs.7,500 per student who have scored 50% and above in Matriculation examination.
- 56.** To encourage integrated fish farming and raising of quality fingerlings, my Government is offering 30% waiver to all loans available under various schemes to interested farmers.
- 57.** Fish farming at times exposes the farmers to health hazards. It is equally applicable to fisher folk venturing into deep seas. As a humanitarian gesture and to provide succor and assistance in times of their specific needs, my Government extends an assistance of Rs.50, 000 for treatment of some of these diseases. An additional Rs.5,000/- is given to sea faring fishermen who develop ophthalmic diseases.
- 58.** Our State has been proudly receiving National award “Golden Peacock” continuously for the last three years for coverage of highest number of fishermen in Group Accident Insurance Scheme. 10 lakh fishermen have already been covered under the insurance scheme and another 11 lakh fishermen are being covered.
- 59.** One lakh SIM Cards to fishermen and fish farmers in the State are under distribution during this year for gaining up-to-date market information through voice SMS in fisheries sector and it is also planned to provide one lakh SIM cards in the coming year.

**60.** In order to improve rural incomes, it has been a constant endeavor of my Government to accord equal focus to every possible avenue that can supplement our overarching goal. Dairy development is one such area where my Government has initiated some unique interventions, both financial as well as developmental. Integrated Livestock Development Programme “KALYANI” in collaboration with BAIF to produce better graded milch bovine population has produced encouraging success.

**61.** My Government has launched a unique and innovative project “Mobile Veterinary Unit” to provide door step Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Services in rural and inaccessible areas of 105 tribal dominated blocks of the State.

**62.** Odisha’s handloom sector has a rich legacy of some of the finest designs and patterns that are highly popular in our country and abroad. Our weavers, the repository of such traditional knowledge and skills have been neglected for years raising fears of extinction of some of these skills. My Government recognizes their contribution to our rich culture and has come forward to extend all possible help. It gives me satisfaction to state that 50,000 weavers’ families have been brought under Health Insurance cover and of these, 35,000 families are covered under Life Insurance India’s Janshree Scheme, free of cost. Further 15,000 women silk farmers are also covered under the free Health Insurance Scheme.

**63.** My Government is providing Solar Lantern through OREDA to every weaver family. 11,000 Tassar farmer have been provided with Shoes, Torchlight, and Umbrellas.

We have created a “Silk Farmers’ Welfare Fund” with a contribution of Rs 50 lakhs from the State Government for meeting their welfare needs. Under “Mo Kudia” scheme, my Government is providing housing with weaving facilities and has included old weavers into “Madhubabu Pension Scheme”.

**64.** As I speak to you, my attention is consistently drawn to the rising clamor from every section of our society to have better educational facilities in our State. While I respect and appreciate that, I am happy that our people have realized the key to social mobility and better living conditions lies in educating oneself, a trend all of us must encourage.

**65.** I can proudly say that my Government is the cause and the catalyst for the attitudinal change visible today. We have considerably reduced the burden on parents for educating their children by providing free school uniforms (4 sets) to all students between Class-1 to Class-8 studying in Government and Government aided schools including children in schools for special needs.

**66.** To prevent drop out of girl students when they reach Class 10<sup>th</sup> owing to commuting difficulties, my Government has introduced a revolutionary scheme where every girl in Class <sup>ten</sup> studying in Government, private, aided schools is given a free cycle costing Rs.2,600/-. The same facility is extended to boys of the same class belonging to S.C. /S.T. communities and BPL families. 4, 70,652 students have already been benefited from the scheme so far.

**67.** Recognizing the menace of drop outs among girls students belonging to S.C./S.T. communities and as an

incentive to continue their studies, my Government is extending an annual grant of Rs.3,200/- for girl student in Class-9 and Class-10, which is credited directly to the bank accounts of the students concerned.

**68.** My Government has enhanced the number of scholarship for students of primary and higher primary category to 10,000 from the existing 5,000 at an increased outlay of Rs.90 lakh. My Government has also introduced "Pathani Samant Merit Scholarship" to students who excel in Mathematics. Students in Class-6, Class-9 and +2 level are covered under the scheme and State Government plans to include 7,500 students in the initial phase. From 2011-12, State Government has increased the number of annual student scholarships of Junior, Senior, Post-Graduation and Technical education categories from 16,500 to 24,500.

**69.** At the same time, my Government is providing monthly pre-matric and post-matric scholarship of Rs.290/- to students of OBC/SEBC staying in hostels and Rs.190/- to day-boarders.

**70.** Recognizing that use of languages other than mother tongue acts as a barrier to faster learning especially for tribal children In their formative schooling years, my Government has taken steps to recruit 3500 MLE teachers for teaching in different Tribal languages.

**71.** Path breaking reforms have been introduced in the existing High School Examination system from this year onwards to remove some of the irrelevant practices and to make examination student friendly.

**72.** The contribution our youth can make towards growth and development of our society cannot be ignored any more. While large parts of the world is suffering from aging population, we are at the cusp of reaping the much acclaimed demographic dividend owing to a large young population. However there remains a caveat. We can have the dividend only if we create an environment that channelizes the collective energy of our young population for productive purposes.

**73.** My Government is committed to create conditions that would nurture the soaring ambitions of our youth, ensure that every youth is adequately empowered to realize his latent potential, lead a healthy and dignified life. Formulation of “State Youth Policy-2013” is one such path breaking initiative of my Government that promises to empower them and encourage them to actively participate in the social, economic, cultural and political processes. To create awareness among the youth about Government’s various programs, projects and its institutional framework, we have started in-house training programs. My Government is also providing financial assistance of Rs 10,000/- to youth clubs.

**74.** As it is said, information is power and gone are the days when access to information was limited to a privileged few. The digital revolution sweeping the world has made information access truly social. Lack of devices should not be an impediment and hence my Government has introduced the scheme of distributing free laptops to meritorious students who have excelled in +2 examinations.

**75.** A number of measures have been taken by the Government to promote mass participation as well as excellence in Sports. Steps have been taken to make sports and physical education an integral part of school curriculum. A policy decision has been taken to locate all PYKKA playfields in High Schools and so far 2,000 playfields have been covered under this arrangement.

**76.** The massive industrialization taking place in Odisha will open up huge employment opportunities to technically qualified youth of our State. In order to ensure that the industry has access to a skilled and qualified pool of professionals, my Government has already added 4,300 seats in Government ITIs, 4,245 seats in Government Polytechnics, 1,390 seats at the undergraduate, and post-graduate levels in Government engineering colleges. My Government proposes to spend about Rs.393 Crores under State Plan to improve infrastructure at these institutions, establish Skill Development Centers to impart placement linked skill development training in each district. My Government has already trained and placed 20,000 persons under these interventions. We are also providing free long term craftsman training support to 1,000 students belonging to BPL families in the Left Wing Extremism affected districts.

**77.** Rural to urban migration is a common trend when economic development takes wings. Creation of infrastructure that sustains economic activity of a certain level requires huge manpower, especially for construction activities, which continues to be labour intensive. And as people migrate from rural to urban, they invariably get engaged in construction activities as they lack advanced

skills. Construction remains a highly unorganized sector with hardly any enforceable restrictions on deployment of personnel. There is a scant regard to welfare and wellbeing, causing untold hardship to such gullible population.

**78.** My Government intends to change the working conditions in which such people earn their livelihoods and extend all help and assistance. My Government has decided to support the education of two children of construction worker's family. My Government reimburses the admission fee of students belonging to these families who have taken admissions into ITI, Diploma or Polytechnic or Engineering Degree and Medical courses.

**79.** After one year of getting registered with designated authority, a construction worker is provided accidental health assistance of Rs 1,000 and in case of disability, a maximum Rs.75,000/- is given as ex-gratia by my Government. Similarly for certain life threatening diseases, my Government bears the entire treatment cost incurred in Government hospitals.

**80.** My Government also provides, after one year of registration, to a construction worker safety gear of a value of Rs.1,000/-, after three years of registration, a bi-cycle of value of Rs.4,000/-, financial assistance of Rs.2,000/- to purchase tools and tackles, assistance of Rs.3,000/- for undergoing skill enhancement in a recognized institution, marriage assistance of Rs.5,000/- to two daughters of a workers' family, Rs.2,000/- as assistance for child delivery upto two children to women workers and Rs.1,800/- to bear the cremation costs. Through free life insurance coverage, the worker's family receives Rs.50,000/- in case of normal death and Rs.1 lakh for accidental deaths.

**81.** Our cultural heritage is unparalleled and needs to be preserved and promoted as our identity is closely interwoven to our cultural moorings. Our Folk Art is very ancient and it is threatened by gradual extinction due to lack of support and patronage. My Government is deeply concerned and therefore taken up measures to systematically identify such near extinct art forms. We have adopted a three tier framework spanning State level, district level and block level to create an inventory of such art forms and identify artists. I am proud to state that so far we have identified 459 of such endangered folk art forms. My Government has created a corpus of Rs.10 Crores for promotion and popularization of such art forms by providing training to artists in 9 districts. My Government has also decided to use such folk art in all its social campaigns.

**82.** To boost Tourism in our State and, my Government has recently formulated the Tourism Policy, 2013 that aims to create the required eco-system in which the sector can grow and thrive as Tourism has a great potential to generate employment, which is a prime focus of my Government.

**83.** My Government has been making constant and concerted effort to formulate and implement welfare scheme to ensure quality health care services to the people of the State in tune with the National Health policy.

**84.** In December 2011, my Government formed the Odisha State Treatment Fund Society (OSTFS) to provide financial assistance up to Rs.3 Lakh to poor patients for treatment of their major ailments. The scheme has been highly successful and created tremendous public response. From its inception



till December end around 17,533 poor patients have been provided financial treatment assistance to the tune of Rupees thirty Crores sixteen lakh eighty five thousand seven hundred two only.

**85.** Our State has more than 43,000 of ASHAs and formed “Gaon Kalyan Samitis” in all revenue villages through active participation of PRIs and Self Help Groups. As a result, 60,168 Mamata Diwas, 30,622 Immunization Sessions are successfully held in all AWCs each month covering more than 9 lakh pregnant women and 55 lakh children. Simultaneously more than 60 lakh school children are being covered through School Health Programme.

**86.** In order to reach the unreached and vulnerable communities, 114 Mobile Health Units are operational under State budget to provide primary health care services at the community level in 4,682 most difficult villages every month. Steps have also been taken to ensure availability of health care services in 27 vulnerable communities and 184 most difficult sub-centers.

**87.** Further, in order to ease the access of public health facilities during critical situations, free referral transport services, through 466 Janani Express and 422 Ambulances are already in operation. More than 4.00 lakh pregnant women, 35,000 sick and newborn babies are being benefitted annually under the services. In order to provide free emergency 108 Ambulance Service, 328 ambulances with all modern equipment, instruments and trained manpower are operational in 19 districts.

**88.** Through Janani Surakhya Yojna, Janani Sisu Surakhya Karyakram and other compensation schemes, my Government is providing free services like provision of drugs, blood, diagnosis and referral services to all pregnant women and sick new born.

**89.** My Government is seized of the perils of climate change and the kind of misery it can inflict on population. In order to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental disasters, my Government has taken up various schemes for afforestation under “Sabuja Odisha” on a mission mode where 12 crore seedlings are targeted to be planted. It is also planned to take up coastal shelter belt plantation in 2200 ha and mangrove plantation in 300 ha land. Forest cover in the last 14 years has increased by 1,870 sq.kms.

**90.** An “Elephant Corridor Development Management Plan” in 14 identified elephant corridors is being implemented to reduce the man-elephant conflict.

**91.** 6.15 lakh kendu leaf pluckers and binding laborers have been enrolled under Aam Admi Bima Yojna of LIC of India. In addition, kendu leaf pluckers have also been provided with chappals and binding labours have been provided with 1 mosquito net, 1 blanket, and 1 lantern each. The procurement price of one Kerry (20 Leaves) of kendu leaf has been increased from 40 paisa to 60 paisa during the 2013 crop year to benefit the kendu leaf pluckers.

**92.** My Government has devolved powers and responsibilities upon the 3-tier Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) as mandated in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Constitution

so as to enable them to function as Institutions of Self Governance. Accordingly, 21 subjects relating to 11 Departments have been devolved to the control of 3-tier PRIs. Provisions of Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) have been implemented in the matter of strengthening Palli Sabhas and Gram Sabhas and by providing reservations for Scheduled Tribes in the PRI structure.

**93.** My Government gives much stress on strengthening local self Government by holding Palli Sabha and Grama Sabha for selection of beneficiaries and projects under different Schemes and programmes and ventilation of grievances and suggestions.

**94.** The flag-ship programmes of Government such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Indira Awas Yojna (IAY) and National Rural Livelihoods Mission have been implemented successfully by my Government. All the 30 districts of the State are now covered under MGNREGS and by the end of the December-2013, a sum of Rs.732.51 Crores has been utilized out of the available fund of Rs.990.75 Crores thereby generating 379.17 lakh man days.

**95.** My Government, under “Mo Kudia” Scheme, is meeting the housing needs of widows, destitute women, domestic violence affected persons, Maoists violence affected persons, physically challenged persons etc belonging to low income categories outside the BPL fold.

**96.** In order to prevent migration in 11 Blocks of migration prone districts of Bolangir and Nuapada, 150 days of

wage employment is being provided per family in the current financial year. Besides, in PHAILIN and flood affected Blocks of Ganjam and Balasore Districts, additional projects have taken up under MGNREGS.

**97.** For the 10 Districts not covered under Backward Region Grant Fund Scheme, the Gopabandhu Gramin Yojna (GGY) is implemented to provide rural infrastructure i.e. primarily Biji, Sadak and Pani to every revenue village.

**98.** Ensuring food security and holding the price line is a major concern of my Government. Towards this end, my Government is providing rice at subsidized rate to weaker and vulnerable sections of the society through one of the flagship schemes of the Government of Odisha i.e. "Rice @Rs.1/- per Kg". Rice under the Scheme is being supplied to 60.98 lakh families and beneficiaries including boarders of S.T. & S.C. hostels, physically disabled persons, Kandhamal riot affected persons and fishermen affected due to Olive Ridley conservation.

**99.** Rural connectivity plays a very important role as it enables faster movement of goods to the markets and improves mobility of rural population thereby positively impacting their lives. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) 26,830.12 K.M. of all weather roads have been constructed till December, 2013 to provide connectivity to 9,026 unconnected habitations. 63 nos. of bridges have been completed under Biju Setu Yojna till end of December, 2013. At an investment of Rs 1,000 Crores, my Government is planning to lay cement concrete roads in rural areas of 5,000 kms.

**100.** With a view to enhance the quality of life in rural areas, my Government is taking all out efforts in providing safe drinking water and better sanitary facilities. In total, 3,64,953 spot sources (Tube wells and Sanitary wells) and 8,624 piped water supply projects have been installed. Of the target for ensuing year to install 30,000 Spot sources and 1,300 piped water supply projects, my Government has already completed 15,194 Spot sources and 240 piped water supply projects.

**101.** Recognizing its crucial role in reducing the burden of disease on poorer section, Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) is being carried out in all the districts of the State. With an investment of Rs.1,423.51 Crores by December,2013, my Government could succeed in construction and usage of 39,71,450 individual household latrines (IHLs), 70,625 School Toilets and 24,959 Anganwadi toilets so far.

**102.** Improvement of inter-State and intra-State road connectivity to support trade and business and thus to provide much needed impetus to our economic development is high on my Government's agenda. We have introduced in 2013-14, a new scheme "State Highways Development Project (SHDP)" for development of State Highways in the State to Double Lane Standard. Under this new Scheme, all the State Highways of the State will be widened & improved to Double Lane Standard within the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

**103.** To consolidate on the gains Odisha achieved on industrial front, my Government is in the process of framing sector specific policies, establish dedicated product based

and multi-product based industrial clusters/parks/ and also through revisiting the extant policy framework. The basic aim is to broad base industrial growth, enhance investment, increase the share of industrial production in State's Gross Domestic Product and generate large scale sustainable employment to achieve the goals of inclusive growth.

**104.** Due to favorable policy framework and backed by a responsive Government and efficiency of its various institutions, my Government through single window mechanism attracted more than 435 large scale investments worth more than Rs.8 lakh Crores in various sectors. Many of these investments have fructified into increasing the capacity of Power Generation by a whopping 362%, Alumina by 438%, IT Exports by 605%, aluminum by 661% and Steel by 751%.

**105.** My Government is working with a vision to create entrepreneurship culture in the State leading to sustainable Promotion and Development of competitive Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). In order to achieve the goal, Government has gone to the block level to motivate the youth, provide training and hand holding support to generate self employment. My Government has kept a target of setting up of about 7,000 new enterprises with employment generation target of about 37,000 during the current year.

**106.** In our endeavor to infuse transparency in governance, my Government is implementing projects under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) across the State. The two core IT Infrastructure projects like State Wide Area Network (SWAN) to provide dedicated leased line connectivity upto

Block level and the State Data Centre (SDC) to host and manage various critical e-Governance applications of the State have been successfully implemented. Apart from the core IT infrastructure, the e-District Mission Mode Project has been rolled out successfully in all the 30 Districts of the State after its successful implementation in the two Pilot Districts i.e. Ganjam and Mayurbhanj.

**107.** My Government has recently announced an industry friendly ICT Policy-2014 for overall development of IT/ITES/ESDM sector of the State. The objectives of the Policy are to promote Odisha as an attractive investment destination for IT/ITES/ESDM companies by providing them with a congenial, industry friendly and pro-active industrial climate.

**108.** Providing quality, uninterrupted and reliable power to the consumers across the State is a big concern of my Government. To enable this, the Government has embarked upon a coordinated strategy to augment generation and transmission capacity within the State and also is improving the distribution infrastructure to supply quality power to the consumers.

**109.** My Government is giving a lot of emphasis for strengthening distribution infrastructure. As a part of this, 500 Nos. of 33/11 KV Sub-stations and associated network at a cost of about Rs.3,000 Crores and, exclusive Agricultural and Fishery Feeders at a cost of about Rs.1,000 Crores has are now under construction.

**110.** In order to supplement the efforts of Rural Electrification Programme under RGGVY and Biju Gram Jyoti Yojna,

my Government is investing substantial amount of resources under DESI scheme to augment availability of distribution transformers in the rural areas. Under RGGVY Phase-I about 14,500 un-electrified and de-electrified villages have been covered and a large number of habitations above 100 populations have also been covered.

**111.** With a view to streamline land management practices and to expand the outreach of such services to every Block, my Government has opened Tahasil Offices in each Block. The State Government enacted “The Odisha Special Survey and Settlement Act, 2012” and framed corresponding “The Odisha Special Survey and Settlement Rules, 2012” to facilitate Hi-Tech Survey operations in the State. The Odisha Government Land Settlement (Amendment) Rules, 2010 brought by my Government that envisage streamlining the procedure for settlement of certain categories of lands for homestead purpose. So far, such lands have been settled with around 5.30 lakh families throughout the State.

**112.** To provide homestead land to homeless families, my Government have directed the District Administration to purchase private land for distribution among the eligible homesteadless families where Government land is not available for the same. Similarly, Government has taken steps to provide agricultural land to the eligible landless families. So far, 1,08,223 eligible families have been provided with homestead land and an area of Ac.36,289.692 has been settled in favour of 33,732 number of landless families.

**113.** Recognizing the contribution of road transport in the overall development of society, State Government in 2007



formulated the Transport Policy for establishing an efficient, transparent and modernize transport administration and management system for both freight and passenger traffic movements. Modern management of RTOs activities have resulted in continuous increase in motor vehicle revenue from Rs.178 Crores in 2001 to Rs.829.55 Crores in 2012-13.

**114.** In order to provide transport service in schedule and other backward areas, “Rural Transport Connectivity Scheme” through PPP mode is being implemented where private operators will be encouraged to operate small vehicles in these areas for which exemption on Road Tax and permits and interest subsidy is proposed to be granted. More than 1000 small transport vehicles are expected to be operated in 118 schedule blocks in 12 districts from 2014-15 onwards.

**115.** Improved Port connectivity to derive competitive and comparative advantage is being actively pursued by my Government. We have framed the Odisha Port Policy in the year 2004 to attract private investors for development of potential port sites and overall development of maritime sector. Consequent to this, Concession Agreements have been signed with private investors for developing ports at Gopalpur, Subarnarekha Mouth, Astaranga and Chudamani. As per the Concession Agreement, Government will get revenue varying from 5% to 11% of gross income of the ports.

**116.** My Government has taken a historical and first of its kind step to bear 50% of the cost of laying the stretch between Dasapala-Balangir of the long pending Khorda Road-Bolangir railway line and providing land free of cost for the same. The project which was sanctioned way back in 1984-85,

could not progress due to inadequate financial support from Ministry of Railways. Once completed, the proposed railway connectivity would further improve the development of some of the most backward districts of our State.

**117.** My Government has been pursuing a policy of local value addition for mineral resources leading to increased employment besides generating revenue for undertaking welfare programmes for the people. My Government has signed 48 no. of MOUs with different promoter companies for establishment of steel plants involving a total investment of over Rs1,60,000 Crores. Already 30 no. of Steel Plants have commenced partial production with investment of over Rs.80,000 Crores generating direct employment for over 12,000 persons besides indirect employment of about 25,000 persons.

**118.** For bringing transparency in mineral administration, an Integrated Mines and Mineral Management System (i3MS) is being implemented. Online e-transit permit and pass system has hastened the process of issue of permits for transportation of minerals and also ruled out the possibility of use of fake permits for such transportation.

**119.** The public sector enterprises, once touted as 'engines of growth' became a big drag on State finances contributing significantly to State's fiscal stress. We had limited choices, either continue budgetary support and thereby put increased strain on State finances or undertake reforms. We chose the latter. After three phases of extensive reforms, we have not only rescued our State finances from the burdens of these entities, we could convert some of these enterprises

strong businesses. In our endeavor to strengthen Public Sector Enterprises, some employees got adversely affected, but My Government ensured that such persons get rehabilitated gainfully.

**120.** My Government introduced a Corporate Governance Manual to increase transparency, accountability and also for delegation of powers to PSU Boards. We introduced MoU system to tie PSUs performances to quantifiable outputs and outcomes and further decided to rank these PSUs on a scale. Further delegation of powers to PSU Boards is now linked to their performance and its sustainability.

**121.** My Government has notified Urban Water Supply Policy-2013 to provide all urban households access to piped water connection. The Odisha Urban Parking Policy, 2013 has been notified to regulate parking in the urban areas for the benefits of the citizens. The Advertisement Policy for Urban Odisha, 2013 has been notified to mobilize additional resources for the Urban Local Bodies. The Special Regulation Rules for Installation of Mobile Towers in Urban Areas, 2013 has been notified to safeguard health of the citizens by regulating installation of mobile towers.

**122.** The Nabakalebar of Lord Shree Jagannath is going to be held in 2015. My Government has started the necessary preparations to ensure pilgrims expected to arrive in lakhs do not face any problems while they stay in Puri by taking up a number of initiatives. In order to meet the challenges of the increased demand for power, my Government has taken up a programme to up-grade existing energy infrastructure such as construction of new Grid Substations and lines and

upgradation of existing distribution infrastructure including underground cabling in Puri and adjoining areas with an investment of about Rs.282 Crores. My Government is constructing a new bus terminus near Maltipatapur in Puri at an estimated cost of Rs.22 Crores for seamless management of traffic.

**123.** My Government is extending financial assistance from Chief Ministers' Relief Fund ,through Collectors, to needy persons affected by natural calamities, communal violence, physically challenged persons and widows and old people, upto a sum of Rs 10,000/- to provide immediate relief and in case of need for rehabilitation, a total support of Rs.20,000/-. For ensuring a decent cremation to the deceased from poor families, my Government is providing financial assistance ranging from Rs.2,000/- in rural areas to Rs. 3,000/- in urban areas under Harishchandra Sahayata.

**124.** To improve governance and infuse transparency, My Government has notified the Right to Services Act 2012 that ensures timely delivery of 63 services of 10 Government departments to citizen. In order to take administration closer to people and also to resolve their grievances locally, my Government has directed all the District Collectors and Superintendents of Police to visit various Blocks every Monday to conduct Joint Grievances Redressal Meetings. My Government is the first in the country to decide, immediately after the Presidential Assent to the Lokpal Act, to enact the Lokayukta Act at the State level that would bring under its ambit the Chief Minister and other Members of the Council of Ministers.

Odisha stands tall as a State because we are seen as an inclusive society and known to be very accommodative, flexible and open to new ideas as a people. We have learned our lessons and are now better prepared to manage the emerging complexities and the challenges of the future. We have the will, courage and capability to march towards our overarching goal of inclusive development and creation of a society that provides every person and individual equal opportunity to pursue his or her interests. While we should rejoice in the benefits that are already there, the challenge is to relentlessly pursue our efforts to accelerate economic growth and widen opportunities. I appeal to all of you to support our endeavors in marching ahead as a proud State.

I now leave you to your deliberations and wish you all success.

**Jai Hind.**

