

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all of you to the Ninth Session of 15th 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.

1. This August House has expressed its deep condolence on the sad demise of Late Jayalalithaa Jayaraman, Ex-Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. This house has also expressed its condolence on the sad demise of Late Raghunath Patnaik, Jagannath Mallik, former Ministers, Lalit Mohan Gandhi, former Minister of State, Late Biswanath Sahu, Biswanath Nayak, Rudramadhab Ray, Madhabananda Behera, Durgasankar Das, Sribatsa Nayak, Abhimanyu Ransingh, Binod Bihari Singh Bariha, Lalatendu Bidyadhar Mahapatra, Gorsango Sabar, Bhanu Charan Naik, all former members of this August House and Late Suwendu Mishra, Ex-Captain, 23, Para Regiment, Late Md. Abu Baker, Ex-Commando, Andhra Pradesh, Late Pitabas Majhi, Ex-Jawan, Late Narayan Chandra Pradhan, and Ranjan Dash, Ex-Constables, C.R.P.F., Late Paran Hansda,

Ex-Constable, Odisha Police, whose contribution towards the State was very significant. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Kumar Behera, Basanta Kumar Singh Dandapat and Rajkishore Ram all former Members of this August House and Late Somanath Sisha, Havildar, Sanjay Kumar Das, Subarna Kumar Raj, Pradipta Kumar Rout, Arun Kumar Nayak, Ganesh Prasad Sha all former Assistant Drivers and Tulasidhar Majhi, former Driver Havildar of the Odisha Police who attained martyrdom in the Landmine blast on Sunki Ghati of Koraput District on 1st February 2017. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

2. The State Government is celebrating the Birth Centenary of the legendary Biju Patnaik, and the 80th year of formation of Odisha as a separate State in befitting manner. To commemorate the completion of 200 years of Buxi Jagabandhu led Paika Rebellion of Khordha, a valiant uprising of soldiers prior to Independence that occurred in 1817, my Government proposes to organise events befitting the heroic history of the land and its people.

3. I am proud that my Government has stood firmly with the people of Odisha to ensure their due share of water from Mahanadi River. To prevent the unauthorised

construction activities by the Chhatisgarh Government on upstream of river Mahanadi, and to safeguard the interest of the people of Odisha for whom Mahanadi River is the lifeline, my Government has moved the Government of India to constitute a tribunal to resolve the issue and also moved the Apex Court of the country under Article 131 of the constitution of India. My Government will leave no stone unturned to protect the interest of the people of Odisha on river Mahanadi.

4. We live in an era largely driven by technology, and my Government is very keen to spread and assimilate the use of such technologies that will positively impact our living conditions. While solving social or economic issues, improvising and aligning governance measures to meet the challenges ahead of us, one of the foremost interventions of my Government would be to leverage technology in all our endeavours for achieving excellence.

5. To align with the challenges and needs of our times and to bring in new focus and direction, my Government has changed the name of Agriculture Department to Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Planning and Co-ordination Department to Planning and Convergence Department, Employment and Technical

Education and Training Department to Skill Development and Technical Education Department, Information Technology Department to Electronics and Information Technology Department and a new Department called Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disability is created by my Government bifurcating Women and Child Development Department.

6. My Government has consistently and continuously strived to achieve a sustainable and inclusive higher economic growth, accelerated overall development, reduction of regional, social and gender disparities, faster rate of poverty reduction and allocation of higher resources for planned development of the State. The State Plan outlay has been increased to Rupees 50,200 crores for Annual Plan: 2016-17 from Rupees 11,000 crores for Annual Plan: 2010-11.

7. Odisha has made impressive achievements in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction. The size of Odisha's economy has increased by 22.27 percent in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during the last six years, in terms of GSDP, achieving an annual average growth rate of 6.23 percent. The real per capita income increased from Rupees 47,632 in 2011-12 to Rupees 61,678 in 2016-17 at 2011-12 prices. The growth rate in economy which was 4.61 percent in 2012-13 has reached 7.94 percent in 2016-17.

8. The State Government has recommended 17,596 projects worth Rupees 7,686.88 crores for RIDF-XXII for 2016-17 and has so far availed RIDF loan amounting to Rupees 17, 148.07 crores for 1.99 lakh sanctioned projects.

9. My Government has provided Rupees 250 crores in the Budget of 2016-17 under Biju KBK Yojana for implementation of projects and programmes in the field of irrigation, welfare of ST and SC and connectivity in the KBK districts. Western Odisha Development Council is working relentlessly to reduce regional imbalances and accelerate the pace of development in Western Odisha. Similarly, Biju Kandhamal O' Gajapati Yojana is being implemented since 2009-10 in Kandhamal and Gajapati districts out of State's own resources for infrastructure development in the areas of roads, electricity, water resource and livelihood initiatives.

10. To increase the participation of local people and their representatives in the planning process, funds to the tune of Rupees 1 crore under MLALAD and Rupees 50 lakh under Special Development Programme (SDP) per constituency is being released every year to be utilised for small but essential projects / works based on felt needs of the local people.

11. My Government has amended Odisha District Planning Committee Act during 2015 and corresponding Rules during 2016 for better participation of public representatives in planning process. To encourage the participation of more women in the planning process, as nearly as may be, but not less than one-half of the total number of elected members of the District Planning Committee has now been reserved for women. Similarly, the posts of Vice Chairperson of the District Planning Committees have been reserved for women in those districts where the Chairpersons nominated by the Government are not women for their effective participation in the decision making process. Following the amended provisions of the Act, 11 members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly have also been nominated as Chairperson of DPCs along with the Ministers.

12. Innovation is important at all stages of development. My Government has always encouraged achievements in the field of Innovation and partnered with National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela, Berhampur University, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bhubaneswar and Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology, Burla for establishment of Innovation-cum-Incubation Centres in the

State. In order to focus on convergence in the planning process a Convergence Cell has been created in the Planning and Convergence Department.

13. Odisha Knowledge Hub (OKH) Lecture Series has been launched with a view to promote innovative ideas in different priority areas of development and governance by inviting eminent persons in different fields to deliver lectures and participate in discussion with senior functionaries of the State. District level functionaries are also participating in the event through Video Conferencing. A new Scheme “Critical Gap Fund for District Plan” has been introduced in 2016-17 to address the basic rural infrastructure needs on priority with special emphasis on zero connectivity areas, health and drinking water etc.

14. The State has achieved significant improvement in finance during last 15 years through various fiscal reform measures, as a result of which the State is able to undertake various developmental activities from its own resources.

15. The effort of my Government in achieving debt sustainability from a position of debt stress is significant. The Debt Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio has been brought down to 15.7 percent in 2015-16 from the

level of 50.7 percent in 2002-03. Similarly, the Interest Payment to Revenue Receipt ratio has been brought down from 40.2 percent in 2001-02 to 4.9 percent in 2015-16. Prudent level of debt stock has now given the State an opportunity to go for higher capital investment through borrowing, which would accelerate the growth process.

16. For increasing capital investment both in economic and social sector, the State has started borrowing from the Open Market from 2014-15 after a gap of eight years within the overall borrowing ceiling fixed by Government of India. As the State has been generating revenue surplus continuously from 2005-06, the borrowed fund is entirely utilized for creation of income generating capital assets.

17. The impact of demonetization of specified bank notes on the economy is yet to be assessed fully. However, in the aftermath of the withdrawal of legal tender character of specified bank notes of Rupees 1,000 and 500 denominations, economic activity has been interrupted in the segments which are cash intensive. It has brought about a steep deceleration of State's economy and public finances in the initial period. It is evidenced by a decline of over 11% in the own tax collection in December, 2016 over the previous month.

18. Priority of my Government has been efficiency in public spending and productivity. In order to improve the quality of public spending, the State has been taking a number of reform measures in budgetary and expenditure management, project formulation and accountability.

19. As empowerment of the farmers is one of the top most priorities of my Government, Rupees 13,182 crores have been allocated in the special agriculture budget. We have an Agriculture Cabinet to look into issues like self-sufficiency in food grain production, employment creation, infusion of technology in the agriculture sector, address price index fluctuations, raising income of farmers and enhancement of investment in the agriculture sector. The Agriculture Cabinet has decided to take up 1 lakh dug wells, improve Agriculture extension services, transfer seed subsidy directly to the farmers' account and sign agreement with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for the development of agriculture in the State.

20. The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) survey of 2012-13 indicates that farm income has doubled as compared to the survey of 2002-03. Our food grain production touched an all-time high of 118.24 lakh Metric tons during 2014-15 registering 22.7% growth over

96.36 lakh tonnes during 2013-14, and has doubled itself in comparison to what we produced during 2000-01. The Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) in paddy has increased to a record high of 37%.

21. In addition to these, the State is also collaborating with International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre for popularising stress resilient maize and IRRI for rice based crop production technology. To improve nutritional security of the people of the tribal areas a special programme for Millets is being implemented in seven tribal districts of the State from 2016-17. Odisha is the first State in the country to introduce online subsidy administration for Farm Mechanisation.

22. Extensive use of IT tools has helped the State to boost the Farm Mechanisation adoption and delivery system. More than 22 lakh farmers are regularly receiving SMS with information and suggestions regarding best farming practices. Emphasis is being laid for creation of additional irrigation potential under Jalanidhi and Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana. Private Lift Irrigation Points (Shallow Tube Well, Bore Well, Dug well and Surface Lifts) through individual and cluster approach are being promoted under these schemes.

Post harvest management is being promoted by Construction of Concrete Drying Platform-cum-Threshing Floors (CDPTF) in the rural areas of the State.

23. Direct Benefit Transfer of input subsidies under various schemes is being implemented in the State. 17.89 lakh farmers have already been registered and it is ongoing. More than 25.50 lakh farmers have registered in *M-Kissan* portal and information relating to crop weather, plant protection and pertinent crop production technology are disseminated to them through mobile messages.

24. Farm Information Advisory Centres have been established in every block and participatory planning and implementation of programmes are being encouraged. So far, 57.61 lakh farmer families have been enrolled under the Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana (BKKY) and are being provided health insurance coverage. My Government has further reduced the interest rate from 2% to 1% upto Rupees Fifty thousand farm loan for the non-defaulter farmers.

25. Odisha Fisheries Policy, 2015 has been approved and is being implemented to double fish production in the State in five years. Sea Food export has touched Rupees 1791.81 crores during 2015-16. My Government has set a target

Rupees 20,000 crores worth export in the coming years. For enhancing the Brackish Water Shrimp production, 32 clusters have been identified in the State, where infrastructure like electricity and road connectivity has been developed during 2016-17.

26. 1,601.83 hectares of new water bodies have been created during 2016-17. 3,74,800 SIM cards have been distributed to the fishermen and fish farmers of the State. Under Matsyajibi Basagraha Yojana, 3,725 houses have been allotted to fishermen. To promote small fish culture and quality seed production MoU has been signed with World Fish during 2016-17.

27. 50,000 dairy farmers have been benefited under the scheme “Supplementation of Mineral Mixture for Enhancing Milk Production in Odisha” during 2016-17. 75,000 hectares of land has been covered under fodder cultivation in the State through Rashtriya Krushak Vikash Yojana (RKVY). 44 hatcheries have been made functional with weekly production of 30,000 of chicks to strengthen the Backyard poultry production in the State.

28. During 2017-18, average Milk production and procurement per day is expected to reach 6.6 lakh litres. Chilling and processing capacity are likely to be enhanced to 9.4 lakh and 7.0 lakh litres per day respectively.

29. My Government fully recognises the importance of Cooperatives for rendering a wide range of services like Crop Insurance, Paddy Procurement, Efficient management of Warehouses, Agricultural market reforms and developing the PACS as one stop destinations for all agricultural inputs at Gram Panchayat levels for the farmers and other weaker sections of the State. 65% of the total crop loans dispensed to farmers of the State are provided through the PACS.

30. Significant amount of assistance is provided to the Cooperatives for development of infrastructural facilities, strengthening working capital in shape of share capital and margin money for augmenting business and manpower development and motivation of personnel in Cooperatives and emphasis is given on infrastructure development by village level Cooperatives, such as establishment of modern office and banking facilities, setting up of consumer shop, construction of scientific storage, godowns, facilities for food processing for value addition, marketing of agricultural and horticultural produce etc.

31. My Government has taken a decision to provide crop loan to farmers at 1% rate of interest. To increase transparency, concurrent audit system has been introduced for the PACS and computerisation of 2,600 PACS has been

done. Crop insurance indemnity of the farmers is being directly credited to their accounts. Replacement of Kisan Credit Cards with Rupay Debit Cards is under implementation and 11.46 lakh Rupay Cards will be provided to farmers by mid of 2017. Construction work of 737 threshing floors have been completed thereby ensuring threshing facilities to farmers and reducing post harvest loss.

32. Agricultural Marketing Sector is playing a vital role in upgrading the financial conditions of the farmers in the State. There has been rapid progress of Information and Communication Technology which has revolutionized the market place. e-auction and e-marketing of agricultural produce to provide wider access for the producers to larger markets across the country has become a regular phenomenon. A proposal for setting up 10 e-platforms in selected markets under Regulated Market Committees of the State is in process.

33. To instantly access market information to facilitate proper crop planning and to get better prices for their produce, 59,000 mobile phones have been distributed to the farmers. In order to create scientific storage facility, 180 godowns have been completed and the rest 292 will be completed by the end of 2017 creating an aggregated capacity of 2.11 lakh metric tons.

34. Sustainable Irrigation and efficient management of the irrigation systems has been a major area of focus of my Government. Budgetary allocation has been enhanced to Rupees 7,200 crores to boost irrigation in the State. During the last two years, 2.94 lakh hectares of additional irrigation potential has been created through all sources. The State has set a target of 10 lakh hectares of additional irrigation potential by 2019. It has been programmed to create additional irrigation potential of 2.954 lakh hectares during 2017-18.

35. 54 Parbati Giri Mega-Lift Irrigation Projects, 17,000 Deep Bore Wells, 3,000 Shallow Tube Wells, 7,099 Micro River Lifts, 2,512 Lift Irrigation projects, and 4,300 Check Dams have been targeted to be completed during 2017-18. My Government's flagship programme, Mega-Lift irrigation scheme has been named as "Parbati Giri Mega-Lift Irrigation Scheme", after the renowned freedom fighter and social worker from Western Odisha.

36. It is the constant endeavour of my Government to provide 24x7 quality and uninterrupted power at affordable cost to the people of Odisha. To achieve this, my Government has developed a comprehensive strategy to augment generation and transmission capacity and the distribution infrastructure within the State. Our focus this year is to energize all the un-electrified census villages in the State.

37. Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) is being implemented in the State to facilitate strengthening of sub-transmission distribution networks, metering of Distribution Transformers / feeders / consumer in urban areas along with IT enablement in order to reduce the AT & C loss in the Distribution Sector as well as to provide quality power to consumers. OPGC has started construction work of Unit-3 and 4 at Ib TPS of 2x660 MW to augment power generation and development of captive coal mines with an investment of Rupees 11,547 crores. OHPC has taken up massive renovation, modernization and up rating programme to upgrade the existing Hydro Power Stations in Hirakud, Chiplima and Balimela to ensure increased availability of Hydro Power.

38. My Government is very keen to augment the development of green energy. A proactive Renewable Energy Policy has been notified during 2016-17 for translating the objectives. 20 MW solar project at Manmunda has been commissioned successfully and 1,000 MW solar power is being proposed to be set up at suitable locations by GEDCOL.

39. OPTCL is undertaking massive addition, up-gradation and modernization of the transmission lines and Grid

Sub-stations for smooth flow of power from generating stations to load centres which will go a long way in mitigating the transmission constraints. It has achieved a record system availability of 99.95% with reduction in transmission loss from 3.88% to 3.67%.

40. My Government puts in alround efforts to bring down rural poverty by promoting diversified and gainful self-employment to the rural poor. Poverty eradication programmes in my State run on a mission mode with the focus to create and sustain livelihood opportunities for the rural poor households.

41. My Government is committed to convert all kutcha houses in the rural areas to pucca houses by 2019. Construction of 10 lakh pucca houses during last two years has been possible due to the sincere and relentless efforts of my Government.

42. I am happy to share that more than 500 new Gram Panchayats have been created by my Government to improve administrative efficiency at the grassroots level. My Government is also providing free legal assistance to the people living in the villages through “Madhubabu Ain Sahayata Sibir” which are being held twice a week in each Gram Panchayat of the State.

43. To address the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio in the State in general and in the low Child Sex Ratio districts in particular, a new scheme “Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana” is being implemented in Angul, Dhenkanal and Ganjam for a period of three years.

44. To safeguard the interest of the children in need of care and protection in the State, a new scheme “Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana” (BSSY) has been launched in order to provide financial support to children bereft of biological/ adoptive parents and children who are infected by HIV and found to be the most vulnerable.

45. In order to tackle malnutrition in the State, Odisha Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (ONAP), in association with Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, has been launched. Under Supplementary Nutrition Programme, more than 43 lakh children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers are provided supplementary feeding through Angan Wadi Centres (AWC) for 300 days a year. More than 25 lakh women have been covered under “Mamata” scheme and nearly Rupees 11 hundred crores have been released directly to their accounts.

46. I am delighted to share with you that the State has achieved significant reduction in infant mortality rate which has been a cause of concern for long time by reducing it from 65 in 2005-06 to 40 in 2015-16 as per NFHS.

47. I am happy to state that out of the seven new Government Medical Colleges established by my Government, two Government Medical Colleges at Koraput and Baripada will start their academic session from 2017-18. Academic session of the other three colleges at Bolangir, Balasore and Puri are expected to commence from 2018-19.

48. My Government is providing free medicines to patients under “Niramaya”. To bring in investment into the health sector to widen the health delivery system, the Odisha Health Care Investment Promotion Policy has been enacted. Steps are being taken to set up Low Cost Hospitals in all District Headquarters in the State through promoters. MoU has been signed with M/s Care Hospital Ltd. for establishment of a new Cardiac care 100 bedded Hospital at Jharsuguda in PPP mode.

49. My State has already eradicated Polio and eliminated Neonatal Tetanus. In the recent past the State has launched 4 new vaccines, viz., Pentavalent, Rota, Inactivated Polio

and Japanese Encephalitis vaccines to prevent deadly diseases in Children. Besides, my Government has taken numerous steps like provision of place based incentives to place doctors in remote locations, as a result of which the retention of doctors in remote and inaccessible areas has substantially increased.

50. My Government has restructured the Odisha Medical and Health Services Cadre, creating 1,330 additional posts of Doctors in different ranks of the Cadre by raising the existing sanctioned strength from 5,389 to 6,719. My Government has created 5,120 additional posts of Paramedics in order to provide better health services to the people of Odisha from District Head Quarters Hospital to Sub-Centre level.

51. Further, in order to strengthen the regulatory measures for private clinical establishments, the Odisha Clinical Establishments (Control and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 has been enacted and the Odisha University of Health Sciences Act, 2016 is going to be enacted very shortly.

52. My Government has taken all possible steps to make paddy procurement transparent and systematic. Through

integration with Bhulekh data, an authentic database of farmers selling paddy to Government has been put in place, leveraging technology. For the first time, Minimum Support Price (MSP) is being transferred online from a central account at Odisha State Co-operative Bank, Bhubaneswar to the accounts of farmers across the State.

53. National Food Security Act, 2013 has been implemented in the State since November 2015. Food security coverage is being provided to more than 86 lakh families consisting of 323 lakh individuals under Priority Household (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) categories. Subsidized rice or wheat or combination of both are being supplied to the most vulnerable sections of the society @ 5 kgs per person per month for PHH category and 35 kgs of rice to AAY household per month @ Re. 1/- per kg of rice or wheat. My Government is going to automate around 14,300 Fair Price Shops (FPS) in the State with installation of e-Point of Sale (PoS) devices by the end of March 2017 which will ensure complete transparency in Public Distribution System.

54. My Government has created “Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities” to specifically focus on social security measures. At present

43.23 lakh beneficiaries are receiving pension each month and this year unmarried women above 30 years have also been included in the pension fold. 3 lakh of additional beneficiaries have been included in “Madhubabu Pension Yojana” during 2016-17 and are receiving pension regularly.

55. My Government has provided ‘Banishree’ Scholarships to 41,729 students with disabilities during 2016-17. A special ITI has been established at Jatni for Skill Development of Youth with disabilities. Skill development training programme for PwDs in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped at Bhubaneswar is being carried out. 1,768 persons were provided financial assistance in shape of DRI Loans along with CMRF support to pursue livelihood and self employment activities by the Government during 2016-17.

56. Submission of application and issue of Disability certificate has been made online and 7,61,000 Disability certificates have already been issued. Last year, 219 laptops were distributed to visually impaired students studying at graduation level. The Odisha State Senior Citizen Policy 2016 has been formulated by my Government. My Government has also been emphasising on the need to bring

transgenders into the mainstream of the society by extending the benefits of different schemes to them.

57. My Government has revised the minimum wages payable to the Unskilled, Semiskilled, Skilled and Highly Skilled category of employees. Similarly, the minimum piece rate of wages in 15 scheduled employments have also been revised and notified in the Odisha Gazette.

58. In order to combat child labour issue, my Government is strictly implementing the State Action Plan (SAP) for elimination of child labour in Odisha. My Government has approved a State Action Plan for the Safety and Welfare of Inter-State Migrant Workmen which is under implementation. A Shramik Sahayata Helpline for migrant workmen has been set up at Labour Directorate for providing support and information on issues concerning migration.

59. Seasonal Hostels for children of migrant worker families in the migration prone Blocks of Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada have been opened. My Government has issued instruction for covering Odia migrant construction workers under the Odisha Building and other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. Odisha Migrant Labour Help Desk

is being created in five States namely Delhi, Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telengana.

60. For the benefit of construction workers, my Government is providing housing assistance through, 'Nirman Shramik Pucca Ghar Yojana' and social security assistance to people with disability, old age and widows through, 'Nirman Shramik Pension Yojana'.

61. A new Scheme namely "Construction of Rental Housing Complex in Urban areas (RHC)" is going to be undertaken by the Board for providing temporary accommodation with basic amenities at affordable rent to the migrant construction workers. Funds to the tune of Rupees 40 crores have already been placed with Housing & Urban Development Department for implementation of the scheme.

62. My Government has taken several initiatives for achieving the goal of planned and inclusive urbanization in the State in a balanced and equitable manner. Efforts are on to develop and upgrade the urban infrastructure such as roads, drainage system, bus terminals, water bodies, parks, street lights etc. to make our cities liveable and sustainable. An ambitious programme to convert the conventional street lighting to energy efficient street lighting is under implementation in all the Urban Local Bodies of the State.

Apart from this, energy efficient street lighting system will be implemented in the newly added urban areas as well as areas which are not presently provided with street lighting system.

63. To manage drinking water crisis situations in the water scarcity pockets arising during the summer, my Government has identified 422 hot spots in 24 ULBs and both short term and long term measures are being implemented in these identified places. It has been targeted to replace all the age old water supply pipelines in the State (234 Kms.) which are prone to leakage and contamination to prevent water borne diseases. The work is likely to be successfully completed by March 2017 with a total investment of Rupees 53.30 crores.

64. The work for Berhampur Mega Water Supply Project has been awarded with an investment of more than Rupees 430 crores with a provision for 5 years of operation and maintenance, which will provide safe drinking water to Berhampur town and also to 53 villages located en route from Janibili Reservoir to Berhampur. This is a first of its kind combined drinking water project to be implemented in the State which will benefit both urban as well as rural population. Apart from this, several other projects with a total

investment of more than Rupees 1,500 crores are under various stages of implementation throughout the State in the Water Supply Sector. Adherence to quality standards is paramount in drinking water supply. To ensure this, NABL accredited water testing laboratories at 9 places on PPP mode with State-of-art facilities are being established.

65. My Government has implemented a number of urban reforms and has achieved 3rd position in the Country in achieving 28 reform milestones mandated under AMRUT during the year 2015-16.

66. To provide sufficient number of toilets for the communities having no individual household toilets and for the floating population in the State, an MoU has been signed with M/s. Sulabh International for construction, operation and management of hybrid toilets (Combination of Public and Community Toilets) in 9 AMRUT cities of the State on saturation mode. Under this, 1,500 seats of toilets are in various stages of construction.

67. In addition to Bhubaneswar, Rourkela has also been declared as Smart City in the 2nd round of competition under the Smart City Mission of Government of India. To implement the Smart City Projects, Special Purpose Vehicles

Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited and Rourkela Smart City Limited have been created to implement projects worth Rupees 4,537 crores and Rupees 2,206 crores in respect of Bhubaneswar and Rourkela Cities respectively.

68. The Aahaar initiative which was launched on 1st April, 2015 in 5 Municipal Corporation areas to provide food security to the vulnerable and needy people in the urban areas has been further expanded to cover all the 30 districts. Currently, 110 Aahaar Centres in 74 towns are serving cooked hot meals at Rupees 5 per Meal to 67,000 people everyday thus benefitting more than 2 crores population annually.

69. My Government has established 100 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas in the State to provide the opportunity of quality English medium education to rural students. 23,051 students have been enrolled in these Vidyalayas during 2016-17. In the academic session 2017-18, 60 more Adarsha Vidyalayas will be made functional benefitting 14,400 students. Vocational Education in Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology enabled Services (ITeS), Retail, Travel and Tourism and Banking Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) have been started in 208 selected

schools to enhance the employability of secondary school students through four years of skill based training in vocational subject of their choice. The vocational subject has also been included along with the 3rd language in secondary curriculum.

70. 100 seated Girls' Hostels have been sanctioned in 173 Educationally Backward Blocks of the State out of which at least 60 hostels will be made functional from the academic year 2017-18. State Institute of Open Schooling (SIOS) has been started in all 30 districts in 344 centers with an objective of providing opportunity to the school drop-outs and similar other children who have left schools and are deprived of formal education to pass secondary level education.

71. My Government has provided Bi-cycles worth of Rupees 255 crores to 9,81,087 Class-IX and X students. Free uniforms have been provided to nearly 46 lakh students and more than 2.82 crore free Text Books have been distributed to Class I to VIII students of Government and Government Aided schools. Braille books to 2,100 blind students, Educational assistance to 13,000 differently-abled students and travel assistance to more than 6,000 students have also been provided by my Government.

72. Higher Secondary Education (+2) has recently been brought under the Secondary Education System. Multilingual text books have been provided to impart mother tongue based education at primary level to the scheduled tribe students and special teachers have been appointed to impart such education.

73. My Government has undertaken major administrative and educational reforms since 2000 to make Odisha a knowledge hub of the country. During 2015-16, three new Universities have been established amongst which Rama Devi Women's University, Bhubaneswar has earned the rare distinction of being India's first State-owned Women's University. Eight new Model Degree Colleges have been established in Educationally Backward Districts of the State from the academic session 2015-16. Besides, a State Open University has been established at Sambalpur for ensuring access and equal opportunity for the students in interior areas of the State aspiring for higher education.

74. Under "Biju Yuba Sashaktikaran Yojana", 45,000 laptops have been distributed during the last three years to +2 Pass meritorious students. Free education from +2 to Post Graduation is being provided to all orphan students of the State through the Green Passage Scheme. My Government has introduced an innovative Education Loan

Scheme, the 'Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana' to facilitate education loans at 1% interest to poor and meritorious students to pursue higher education. My Government will spend Rupees 500 crores towards this. For the first time, students have taken admission in +2 vocational courses online through SAMS in 231 Government Vocational Junior Colleges.

75. My Government has streamlined the process of application, selection, renewal and distribution of scholarship through an on-line system and scholarship amount is being transferred to the bank account of all the students through DBT. Coaching assistance and other facilities are being provided to candidates, who clear the Civil Services Preliminary Examination and other National Level Examination from the State.

76. My Government has accorded utmost priority to development and expansion of Technical Education and Training sector for creating employment opportunities for the youths in the emerging industrial scenario of the State.

77. Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA) has been formed since 06.12.2016 under Odisha Skill Development Mission to advise, coordinate and supervise skill

development policy and activities to make Skilled-in-Odisha a reality. 61,004 youths were under Placement Linked Training (PLT) programme during 2011-12 to 2016-17 out of which, 10,437 youths have been placed in gainful employment. During the current financial year, 7,212 youths have been trained under the programme and during 2017-18, 20,000 youths will be covered under the programme.

78. A Central Placement Cell has been created for providing placement to the Diploma and ITI students. During the year 2016-17, 289 Diploma students and 574 ITI students have been engaged through placement cell in various companies. 6 Advanced Skill Training Institutes (ASTI) are going to be set up in the State with the help of State Government and Asian Development Bank.

79. In order to accelerate promotion of MSMEs, New Odisha MSME Development Policy-2016 has been announced by my Government. To provide required infrastructural support, encourage value addition and minimize wastage, my Government has also announced the new "Odisha Food Processing Policy-2016". The policy envisages setting up of mega State food parks at strategic

locations in the districts of Deogarh, Bhadrak, Bargarh, Nowrangpur, Sambalpur, Ganjam, Bolangir, Kandhamal and Kalahandi.

80. In order to boost and strengthen the startup ecosystem in the State, the State Government has announced dedicated “Startup Policy-2016” to develop a world class ‘startup hub’ in Odisha by 2020 and facilitate 1,000 startups in the next five years in the State. Further to foster culture of innovation amongst youths, my Government has also been assisting youth under Odisha Youth Innovation Fund (OYIF). During the current year, 100 youths are proposed to be assisted.

81. Odisha has made tremendous growth over the past decade in terms of industrial growth and establishing an unparalleled environment enabling industrial investment. The State is committed to simplify the processes and expedite project approvals. We have embarked on a mission to leverage technology to complement the governance framework. The approvals and clearances for establishment and operations of industries shall be through an on-line portal with minimum human interface. Our State has already been a pioneer in implementing the “Ease of Doing Business”

framework through a robust single window clearance mechanism.

82. The Industrial Policy Resolution-2015 shall pursue a multi-pronged approach for industrial promotion by providing infrastructure support, institutional support and pre and post-production incentives. A Land Bank has been created to make land readily available to investors for establishment of industries.

83. In the 'Make-in-India' campaign held recently in Mumbai, my Government was able to motivate domestic and foreign investment intents worth Rupees 70,000 crores most of which were in the non-mineral sector. Similarly, in the Investor's Meet at Bengaluru, investment intents of more than Rupees 90,000 crores have been proposed for the State.

84. The biggest ever investment expo in the State, 'Make-in-Odisha', organised by my Government recently at State Capital, Bhubaneswar brought promises of Rupees 2.03 lakh crores investment and creation of 1.4 lakh job opportunities for the youths in the State in 10 sectors. While the traditional investment sectors promised an investment of about Rupees 97,000 crores in mines and mineral sectors, labour intensive sectors like IT and electronics,

manufacturing, apparels, biotechnology, tourism, petrochemicals, chemicals and plastics and food processing saw promises of investment to the tune of Rupees 10,000 crores. More than 80 companies have shown their keen interest to invest in the State. My Government will organise the conclave every two years to achieve the Vision 2025 goal of getting investments worth Rupees 2.5 lakh crores and generation of three million employment opportunities.

85. Public Sector Enterprises play a vital role in the economic development of the State. In the past, various initiatives have been taken by my Government for the growth of Public Sector Enterprises in the State with the assistance and technical support of professional bodies. Steps are being taken by my Government to improve the managerial effectiveness and operational efficiency by providing Capacity Building training programme for the Directors and other Senior Officers of State PSUs.

86. My Government has been encouraging and supporting innovative programmes to popularize science and usage of advanced technology in the State. Biotechnology Policy 2016 provides financial support to conduct seminars, workshops, symposia and conferences in the field of Biotechnology, carrying out Research and Development

projects, Infrastructure development for Biotech Park / Marine Biotechnology Park, Skill and Entrepreneurship Development Programme and other activities relating to Biotechnology.

87. Renewable Energy Policy 2016 has been approved by my Government. OREDA has taken up Solar Energy Based Dual Pump Pipe Water Supply scheme in collaboration with the RWS&S under NRDWP in the villages of IAP areas of the State. During 2017-18, 200 small solar pumps for safe drinking water in schools, hostels and community places will be set up along with 150 drinking water projects through SPV based dual pumps.

88. Dedicated Web based Services in public domain for Land Bank and industry census (GOiPLUS) has been developed by ORSAC which has received international recognition. Power distribution network management for OPTCL, Banking facilities network for RBI, DGPS based survey, mapping and geo-referencing of mines and forest boundary has been undertaken. Through Young Astronomers Talent Search (YATS), every year 20 Budding Astronomers (Students) are awarded by my Government.

89. IT Department has been renamed as Electronics and Information Technology Department to give added emphasis

to electronics System Design and Manufacturing in the State along with e-Governance. A Green Field Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) is being established at Info Valley to create a favourable ESDM Eco System in Odisha. My Government has signed MoU to set up four new Software Technology Parks at Angul, Jajpur, Sambalpur and Jeypore to ensure even growth of IT industries in places apart from Bhubaneswar.

90. The Software export growth in the State has crossed Rupees 3,000 crores to put Odisha at a very prominent place in the IT map of the Country. The E & IT Department has won the Prestigious CSI-Nihilent Award under State Category as a prospering State in the field of IT.

91. My Government has brought out the Odisha Official Language Rule, 2016 by making necessary amendments in the Odisha Official Language Act-1954 . For effective monitoring of all Public Services, my Government has implemented web-based Central Monitoring System and action is being taken to integrate the delivery of online Public Services through Common Service Centres.

92. To encourage healthy competition for better service delivery among different departments and to reward the

innovative practices of officers, various awards have been declared through “Chief Minister’s Award for Excellence and Innovation in Governance and Public Service Delivery”.

93. I am glad that the overall law and order situation in the State during the year 2016 remained peaceful. The overall intensity of Left Wing Extremist (LWE) activities came down in the State during 2016, though the situation remains challenging in parts of the districts of Malkangiri, Koraput and Kalahandi which is gradually improving. A large number of pro-LWE militias and sympathizers have publicly announced withdrawal of their support to the LWE activities in Malkangiri district which is very encouraging.

94. In order to increase the mobile telephone connectivity in the Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected areas, 248 towers have been operationalised. Ex-gratia assistance to the families of civilian victims has been enhanced from Rupees 1 lakh to Rupees 3 lakhs in Security Related Expenditure (SRE) districts and Rupees 1 lakh to Rupees 4 lakhs in non-SRE districts to enhance the rehabilitation components. Provision of allotment of homestead land to the police personnel killed in naxal violence has been extended to Central Armed Police Force Personnel.

95. To augment the police capacity, 250 new posts in different ranks have been created and 792 candidates in the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, Sergeant of Police, Deputy Subedar of Police have been appointed, 32 posts of Legal Advisor have been created to aid and advice the Superintendent of Police in crime cases. 1,370 Constables have been appointed in Odisha Industrial Security Force to provide security support to industrial and institutional establishments.

96. To investigate Cyber crimes effectively, steps have been taken to establish Cyber Forensic Unit in the State Forensic Science Laboratory. A dedicated campaign titled as “Operation Muskan” was launched by the State Police in two phases during 2016 to rescue the missing children in and outside the State. 2,271 boys and 339 girls have been rescued in the campaign.

97. 335 Fire Stations have been sanctioned covering all the blocks of the State. At present 301 Fire Stations are functioning including 3 new Fire Stations at 3 Medical Colleges in the State.

98. My Government has always given utmost priority to ensure the maintenance and preservation of Lord Jagannath

Temple at Puri. The repair and conservation work of Jagamohan of Shri Jagannath Temple has been taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India since 27th January, 2016, and it is expected to be completed very soon. The Department has implemented various schemes for the welfare of the Sebayats in the areas of health, housing and education of their children.

99. For quick and speedy disposal of litigation, my Government notified the establishment of 29 Courts of different categories during 2016. Besides, 70 posts of Judicial Officers have been created in different cadres. My Government has appointed 21 Civil Judges in Odisha Judicial Service during the year 2016 and has taken steps for recruitment of another 153 Civil Judges in the Odisha Judicial Service.

100. To provide free legal assistance to the general public living in the villages, my Government has established "Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibira" in each Grama Panchayat of the State and engagement of advocates in the legal aid cells has been started.

101. My Government has notified the 'Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016' which provide for grant of

Minor mineral concession through a transparent procedure of auction. Steel and Mines Department has implemented Integrated Mines and Minerals Management System (i3MS) Project as a part of Government of India's e-Governance Process to bring transparency in mineral administration. Besides e-permit, e-pass, e-file and e-payment, a mobile application named National Mineral Statistics (NMS) has also been operated to capture the production, despatch and sale value of the minerals on real time basis. In order to ensure end-to-end tracking of mineral carrying vehicles, installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices in all the mineral carrying vehicles is being implemented during the current financial year.

102. Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) Ltd. has undertaken various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities in field of Education, Health, Poverty Elimination, Environmental and Relief during 2016-17. OMC Ltd. has incorporated the 100% owned subsidiary company, Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. with the objective of taking up exploration activities in the State.

103. With financial support from OMC under the initiative of the Centre for Social Responsibility and Leadership

(CSRL), two batches each comprising of 30 students from the financially under-privileged background from Odisha were selected for the coaching programme to crack the country's most competitive and coveted examination JEE 2016. From 2017 onwards, this initiative is renamed as "OMC Super-100" to offer coaching to 100 such students.

104. One of the most important responsibilities that my Government has shouldered is the proper management of land allotment to homesteadless and landless families in rural areas of the State. It is heartening to know that homestead land to 84,065 homesteadless families has been distributed by my Government.

105. My Government is proposing to bring out the Odisha Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016, which will be extremely helpful for dealing with issues related to the farmers and land owners. My Government is attaching utmost priority to Land Acquisition of various kinds of projects such as Irrigation, Drainage, Rail Link, National Highway and Extension of Air Strips in different districts of the State along with timely disbursement of compensation to the project affected families.

106. To check illicit liquor and generate revenue for the State, my Government has evolved a policy through which manufacturing, distillation and trading in liquor are streamlined under strict vigil of the State which has helped in generating considerable revenue without compromising social values.

107. Odisha Excise Act, 2008 has in the meantime received Presidential assent and the rules are being framed. The new Act will go a long way in streamlining Excise Administration and enforcement. The Act intends to provide a comprehensive law relating to alcohol and other intoxicants in the State by making adequate provisions for punishment of the offenders and to make provisions for matters incidental thereto by replacing the Bihar and Odisha Excise Act, 1915.

108. My Government has taken steps to bring more and more forest areas under Joint Forest Management fold for providing livelihood support and active participation of forest fringed villagers through initiatives like "Ama Jungle Yojana". 7,000 Vana Surakshya Samitis of 30 forest divisions in 14 districts of the State are to be covered under this initiative over a period of 6 years starting from 2016-17 to 2021-22.

109. I am happy that through Green Odisha Mission (Sabuja Odisha Mission) from the year 2013-14 subsuming

all afforestation schemes, 44.52 crore seedlings have been planted. My Government is considering for according approval to its further extension from 2017-18 to 2021-22 with a total outlay of Rupees 456.85 crores. My Government is supporting the initiatives of tribal people in protecting and maintaining their Sacred Groves which are hot spots of biodiversity. Conservation measures have already been taken up for over 1,370 sacred groves.

110. I am glad that the Jagannath Bana Prakalpa (JBP) scheme is being implemented to plant the species for augmenting the supply of timber required for the Chariots during Rath Yatra at Puri. I would like to highlight that voluntary relocation of villages like Kabatghai, Jamunagarh and Kiajhari of Similipal is a milestone for my Government. The land acquired from the villagers will be developed as pasture land for herbivores. Meanwhile all measures have been taken to provide access to necessary infrastructural facilities for the people of relocated villages.

111. Eco-tourism facility at 30 locations is being developed for encouraging tourists towards nature education. 8,00,000 pluckers and binders mostly belonging to weaker sections of society and largely women have been covered under

AamAdmi Bima Yojana. 15,913 Seasonal Staff were covered during 2016 under Biju Patnaik Group Insurance that provides insurance for life as well as disability. All the enrolled pluckers have received their dues in their respective bank accounts. Rupees 130 crores have been paid as bonus @ 100% to the Kendu Leaf Pluckers for the crop year 2016.

112. I am happy to announce that “Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana” that aims to provide transport service to remote and unconnected Gram Panchayats has made substantial inroads. 578 vehicles are plying under the scheme and we have been able to provide connectivity for the first time to 463 unconnected Gram Panchayats during the current year.

113. My Government is committed to improve railway density and provide railway connectivity to all 30 districts of the State. With commissioning of Rajsunakhala station in the Khordha Road- Bolangir Project, connectivity to Nayagarh District has been achieved and Nayagarh Town is targeted to be linked by March, 2017. Work has been started from Bolangir end towards Subarnpur.

114. My Government has signed two MoUs with Ministry of Railways for two new projects Jeypore- Malkangiri of 130 Kilometers length and Nabarangpur–Jeypore of

38 Kilometers length to bring rail connectivity to Malkanagiri and Nabarangpur districts for the first time. A Joint Venture Company is now under formation between Ministry of Railways and Government of Odisha for further development of Railway infrastructure in the State, for which agreement has been signed with Ministry of Railways.

115. My Government has adopted a holistic and integrated approach for the development of Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste population of the State. Focused priorities have been accorded for social, economic, educational, health and livelihood development.

116. I am happy that my Government is introducing an 8 year perspective integrated plan called Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Programme (OPELIP) at an estimated cost of Rupees 795.41 crores which will provide improved livelihood, food and nutrition security for 32,091 PVTG people living in 542 villages within the Micro Project area and its 477 adjoining villages.

117. Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme Plus (OTELP PLUS) is in operation in 35 blocks of 10 tribal districts providing benefits to 36,446 BPL, 3,023 landless and 12,450 vulnerable destitute households.

118. My State is running two mega Urban Hostel Complexes “Akanksha” in the State Capital at Pokhariput and Kalinga Vihar, for 900 ST/ SC boys and girls of post-matric level. The hostels have free residential facilities with provision of all required amenities. Alongwith free food, hostels have reading room, recreation room, activity room and other facilities.

119. Nearly 20 lakh ST/SC students are receiving Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship of around Rupees 1,200 crores, which is transferred directly to the accounts of the concerned students electronically through PRERANA portal.

120. I am very happy over the result of the Annual HSC Examination of the schools run by ST and SC Department which is at an all time high of 95.61%. In order to provide quality education to the ST / SC students, my Government has decided to establish 10 more new Kalinga Model Residential Schools in TSP areas.

121. Our State occupies a unique position in the Indian tourism scenario. My Government has brought out the new Tourism Policy, 2016 that aims at strengthening tourism potentials of Odisha, attracting investors, increasing private

sector participation, augmenting tourism infrastructure and improving marketing and promotion of tourism activities.

122. My Government is focusing on Eco-Tourism and promotes Buddhist Tourism Destinations for international tourists. Steps are being taken to make Odisha a preferred Tourist destination and place it prominently on the National and International Tourist Map. My Government has successfully organized “Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana” during 2016-17 under which thousands of senior citizens from all over the State had a spiritual and divine experience by visiting prominent places of religious tourism of the country.

123. My Government is constantly striving for comprehensive and systematic development of the State’s unique cultural legacy. Odisha is the first State to provide livelihood support to artists through artist federations. Livelihood support to Traditional Artists of the State, promotion and protection of Traditional Art and dissemination of Government Welfare Schemes at the community level through traditional artists is being extended by Zilla Kala Sanskruti Sangha (ZKSS) and Block Kala Sanskruti Sangha (BKSS) initiative of my Government. I am happy that my

Government has decided to form Odia Bhasa Virtual Academy for development, promotion and popularising Odia Language and Literature.

124. My Government has undertaken meaningful interventions for comprehensive development of the Handloom sector. During 2016-17, my Government has provided Rupees 700 lakhs for construction of 1,000 worksheds for weavers. More than Rupees 152 lakhs are being spent on skill up-gradation of 600 weavers.

125. A Block Printing unit has been set up at Gopalpur of Jajpur District to produce diversified range of high quality and exquisite printed hand-woven tassar-silk products. For holistic development of the handloom sector, 6 new block level clusters with investment of Rupees 1,069 lakhs have been sanctioned.

126. SERIFED is being suitably restructured and strengthened by my Government with marketing support and share capital assistance to increase its working capital to support tribal silk farmers. 15,376 Tassar farmers have been provided utility items under Chief Minister's Special Package, and 16,990 Sericulture farmers have been covered under "Aam Admi Bima Yojana" during 2016-17.

127. 4,210 artisans have been trained and 900 artisans are provided with marketing assistance. It has been proposed to train 4,576 artisans and provide marketing assistance to 2,200 artisans during 2017-18.

128. To improve road connectivity in a time bound manner and considering connectivity as means to socio-economic growth of the State, my Government has allotted significant amount of resources for this sector. Last year 417 road projects of 1,638 Kms were taken up with Rupees 375 crores allotted for completion of these projects. With an allocation of more than Rupees 187 crores, the construction of Gurupriya Bridge is likely to be completed by September 2017, which will connect the separated regions with main land of Malkangiri district benefiting the tribal people of the region.

129. My Government has prepared a road infrastructure development action plan with an investment of Rupees 1,411 crores under the Odisha State Road Project. Civil works have been started in Bhawanipatna-Khariar road corridor, Anandpur-Bhadrak-Chandbali road corridor, Berhampur-Taptapani road corridor and Jagatpur-Chandbali road corridor. Under Biju KBK Yojana 3 bridges and improvement of 20 Kms of road would be completed during 2016-17.

Under the Vijayawada-Ranchi corridor passing through Odisha, 775 Kms of road length is being executed by State R&B with a cost of Rupees 1,520 crores.

130. The thrust of my Government is to provide proper road connectivity, infrastructure, safe drinking water and sanitation facility to holistically develop the rural areas of the State. All weather connectivity has been provided to habitations through the construction of 481 bridges under 'Biju Setu Yojana' with an expenditure of Rupees 780 crores. 120 Bailey bridges have been constructed in the remotest tribal pockets of the State, out of which 10 bridges are in Malkangiri district. During 2016-17, about 5,000 Kms of rural roads have been completed. By the end of 2017-18, my Government plans to complete 150 bridges, 6,000 Kms of rural roads, 19 Model Schools and 314 Government buildings.

131. My Government aims to provide access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene to all and end open defecation by 2019. During 2016-17, more than Rupees 2,378 crores were provided in the budget for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.

132. 4,41,635 Spot Sources (Tube wells and Sanitary wells) and 10,420 Piped Water Supply Schemes have been installed in the State to provide safe drinking water in Rural Odisha. During the current financial year, 129 Piped Water Supply Schemes and 8,159 Spot Sources have been identified. It is heartening to note that 139 Gram Panchayats of my State have been declared Open Defecation Free and I am hopeful that more Panchayats would become open defecation free soon.

133. My Government attaches utmost importance to the promotion of sporting activities and development of sports infrastructure in the State. In its effort to encourage sportspersons to excel in national and international level, my Government has come out with a definite policy for direct recruitment of meritorious sportspersons in Odisha Police and in the State owned PSUs. 60 Sportspersons have already been recruited in Odisha Police. Shri K. Ravi Kumar, Weightlifter of international repute who had won Gold Medal in Commonwealth Games 2010 has been directly appointed in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police in June 2016.

134. Similarly cash award to successful sportspersons has been substantially augmented. Highest Cash prize of Rupees 1 crore has been announced for winning gold medal in

Olympic Games (individual event) and Rupees 50 lakhs for Team Event. During the last two years, 441 sportspersons have received cash award worth Rupees 2.53 crores ranging from Rupees 15,000 to Rupees 20 lakhs depending on the level of participation and achievement. 203 sportspersons and 2 coaches have been awarded with cash awards amounting to Rupees 75.51 lakhs during 2016-17.

135. Participation of 4 women hockey players and two women athletes in the Rio Olympics is historic and is indicative of my Government's proactive policy initiative in the promotion of sports and sporting infrastructure.

136. To promote sports and sports infrastructure "Mini-Stadiums" are being constructed in Blocks and Urban Local Bodies. Construction of Swimming Pool Complex, Multi-purpose Indoor Halls at district headquarters and Integrated Sports Complex at major Divisional Cities of the State are the other priority areas on which my Government is currently focusing.

137. As a part of 'State Youth Policy-2013', an innovative programme of 'Active Citizenship' has already been launched on the eve of 'Gandhi Jayanti-2014'. The programme aims at inculcating civic sense, respect to women, and empathy

for Persons with disability, saying 'No' to substance abuse and promoting patriotism among the youths. Every year, the programme covers all the educational institutes of the State, with an audience of more than 6 lakh students.

138. My Government has launched "Biju Patnaik Annual Himalayan Expedition", an annual expedition of youth from the State to major Himalayan peaks commemorating the Centenary Celebration Year of Late Biju Patnaik. The first batch of 15 youths has scaled Mt. Rudugaira in September 2016. The expedition aims at instilling values of discipline, team spirit and leadership among the youth.

139. The State is already in the international sporting map. The city of Bhubaneswar has successfully hosted the prestigious 8 Nation FIH Champions Trophy Men's Hockey Tournament in December 2014 and is going to host the Hockey World League Final in December 2017 and the prestigious Men's Hockey World Cup in December 2018.

140. My Government is implementing a dedicated public grievance and pension grievance redressal mechanism in the State. Apart from that, Grievance applications received from Grievance Boxes / Kiosks installed at various locations

of the State are collected and attended to on regular basis for their early disposal. Pending pension cases of the State are regularly monitored and necessary instructions issued to all Pension Sanctioning Authorities for early disposal of pension cases. Pre-Scrutiny Meeting on pending pension cases and Pension Adalats are organized in various districts for expeditious disposal of long pending cases.

141. My Government is preparing “Vision: 2036” Document for the State, which will reflect United Nation’s declared Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as needs and aspirations of the people of Odisha by 2036, which coincides with 100th year of formation of Odisha as a separate State.

142. Odisha today is a space of unrestrained development. And the future is to be ensured on sustainable terms with the participation of one and all in the process of development. Odisha has a rich history of struggle and survival and people have amply demonstrated their resilience during those testing times. The path taken in the past has meaningful lessons for us, to draw from. Along with that, incorporating the challenges of today, we must embark on the journey of creating a robust Odisha of tomorrow.

I once again reiterate my Government's commitment to ensure alround development of all the sections of the people and all the regions of the State on non-negotiable basis.

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

Bande Utkal Janani.