



**ADDRESS**

**OF**

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA**

**Dr. S. C. JAMIR**

**TO THE**

**ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

***6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2015***

**Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,**

It gives me pleasure to welcome you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of 15<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 Dr. Ram Prasad Mishra and Laxman Mallick, former Ministers, Late Mohan Nag and Brahmananda Biswal, former Ministers of State, Late Rabaneswara Madhei, Haldhar Mishra and Purusottam Nayak, all former Members of this august House who have made significant contribution to the development of the State. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Rameshwar Thakur, former Governor of Odisha, Late Bhupal Chandra Mohapatra, former Minister and Late Tarini Charan Pattnaik, former Member of this august House and Late Padma Lochan Majhi, ex-Constable of 223 Battalion CRPF who are no more with us. The House may convey our heartfelt condolence to the bereaved families of the departed souls.

3. Odisha is now at the cross roads of varying opportunities to grab to further its journey towards an inclusive society. The course we choose now will have a far reaching consequence over the type of state we want to evolve into.

4. Expectations have been continuously soaring for a better future as our efforts towards achieving faster; quicker distribution of gains from the people-centric good governance has taken strong roots. Now this poses even more big challenges before us to be alert, nimble in our response to the emerging expectations from the people. We want people to aspire for their rightful dues and to participate pro-actively in the state's affairs rather than remaining as passive receivers of Government's empathy and sympathy.

5. To make every citizen a key stakeholder in the governance framework, we must find a new meaning to 'pro-activeness' and strive to make it synonymous with our philosophy of governance. Every level of Government that interfaces with the common man must become more responsive, and more delivery oriented on a sustainable basis. It must be our collective endeavor to create an environment of trust that conveys in no uncertain terms our strong resolve to fulfill every genuine aspiration of our people. And here let me assure that the Government of today has shown in the past and will continue to do so in the days to come with the same vigour and commitment.

**6.** Odisha has made impressive achievements in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction. Despite the adverse impact of global economic slowdown, Odisha has been able to register a reasonably high average annual growth rate of 6.84% during the first two years of 12<sup>th</sup> Plan as against National average of 4.7% during the same period. The real per capita income in Odisha at 2004-05 prices has increased from Rs. 14,862 in 1999-2000 to Rs.25,415 in 2012-13 and Odisha is the only state in our country where there is a highest reduction in poverty levels of 24.6% between 2004-05 to 2011-12.

**7.** My Government has consistently and continuously strived to achieve a sustainable and inclusive higher economic growth, accelerated overall development, reduction in regional, social and gender disparities and a faster rate of poverty reduction.

**8.** To sustain the targeted growth rate and also to meet our inclusive growth goal, my Government is seeking out partnership with private sector for development of required infrastructure and delivery of services through PPPs.

**9.** In addition to the developmental works taken up by the Government under various Plans, Schemes, Programs, my Government has been keenly monitoring the outcomes from the other schemes such as MLALAD Scheme, the Special

Development Programme, the Special Problem Fund and the MPLAD Fund. I am happy to inform you that my Government has been able to spend 81% of the funds released under MLALAD Funds completing 89% of the projects recommended and 84% of the funds released under MPLAD Scheme completing 94% of the projects taken up.

**10.** We are blessed to witness the Nabakalebar of Lord Jagannath which will be held this year. We expect millions of devotees thronging to Puri, to have a darshan of Lord Jagannath in our soil. Managing such massive gathering poses great challenge to the administration, especially in these challenging times of heightened security threats. Let me assure you all that my Government has already put in place a well thought out strategy, coupled with concrete action with a dedicated control system for smooth conduct of the event of our most revered deity.

**11.** Provision of safe drinking water, sanitation, sewerage, drainage, expansion of power grid stations and refurbished power distribution network, augmentation of road network with Puri and trunk roads connecting Puri, improvement of railway station including better passenger amenities, upgradation of health delivery systems, creation of Trauma Center and intensive care units will be made ready to ensure a unique experience to the people.

**12.** The improvement in fiscal situation has given us considerable space to shift our focus to create capital assets, which is being financed from the surplus that my Government is able to generate in the revenue account. We have not resorted to any kind of market borrowing since last eight straight years and this is definitely a good lesson for others to emulate.

**13.** Improving efficiency of public spending and getting more value out of every rupee spent are two prime objectives of our public financial management. To achieve this, my Government has separated agriculture from the main budget and adopted an exclusive budget for Agriculture, automated the Treasury Management System through adoption of latest IT enabled services. Using the Central Electronic Payment Processing System, we have introduced 'e-disbursement and e-cheque payment system' for settlement of all payment to different kinds of vendors including contractors. My Government has completely automated the Local Fund Audit Process and has recently launched Odisha Central Audit Management Portal for effective monitoring of response to audit observations by CAG.

**14.** Being an agrarian state where more than 60% of the population depends on it for their livelihoods, my Government has always been very sensitive to the needs of the agriculture sector. That my Government has successively bagged Krishi

Karman Award instituted by our National Government to recognize consistent growth in production and productivity of food grains is a testament to our deep commitment to this sector. Let me take this opportunity to convey in no uncertain terms our deep sense of appreciation to the resilience displayed by our farmers in the aftermath of devastating Phailin & Hudhud and through their efforts, our state is going to register the highest ever food grain production of 120 lakh tons this year.

**15.** Several schemes launched by my Government in the past such as Biju Krushak Vikas Yojana, Jalanidhi aimed at enhancing the socio-economic status of our farming community have indeed started showing good results that has given us the necessary confidence to encourage more farmers to avail the benefits.

**16.** To sustain the growth in the agri-sector, my Government has taken several measures to increase access to inputs and other services. My Government will augment the soil testing facilities by adding three static and three mobile laboratories.

**17.** An interest free, short term corpus fund of Rs.100 crores will be provided to MARKFED and OAIC for easing procurement and supply of chemical fertilizers to our farmers. Another Rs.100 crores of interest free corpus fund will also

be made available to agencies responsible for ensuring quality seeds to farmers that will enable the agencies to procure and pre-position quality seeds at desired location well ahead of sowing season.

**18.** In order to conserve indigenous plant varieties, my Government has established a Gene Bank under Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Right Authority (PPVFRA) that has already registered 438 farmer's varieties in paddy, which is unique in our country. Commercial Agri-Enterprise is a programme to attract youth to the business opportunities in the farming sector. My Government has already established 889 Commercial Agri-Enterprises in the state.

**19.** To ensure that our state does not lag behind in the production of Horticultural crops for which we have the most suitable climatic conditions, my Government has decided to provide additional 20% incentive from State Budget, over and above what is available under National Horticulture Mission to attract prospective entrepreneurs into the broad spectrum of activities in the Horticulture Value Chain.

**20.** Recognizing the criticality of access to assured irrigation, my Government through a scheme "Sustainable Harnessing of Groundwater in Water Deficit Areas", remains committed to provide irrigation to every farmer up to 5 ha in Khariff season and 2 ha in Rabi season. To achieve this, my Government has already installed 21,423 bore wells.



**21.** Under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, my Government is currently implementing 2,885 micro-watershed projects covering 1.12 lakh hectares and we have already formed 4,176 SHGs under this Programme benefiting 42,086 landless and asset-less households across the state.

**22.** To augment steady supply of qualified and skilled manpower to the agriculture sector and also to provide high quality research and development back up, my Government has decided to establish a 2<sup>nd</sup> Agriculture University in the KBK region.

**23.** Extension of assured irrigation services to all farmers of the state by bringing additional 10 lakh hectares of land under irrigation in the next five years is being taken up by my Government through mega lift, minor & micro irrigation projects and completion of major and medium irrigation projects.

**24.** My Government has launched a new scheme “Irrigation Road Construction & Improvement Scheme” to upgrade the status of river and canal embankment roads. For better flood control and development of suitable drainage systems, my Government has started the Drainage Improvement Programme as well. For ensuring proper upkeep of irrigation assets through participative irrigation management system

introduced by my Government, we have been able to involve 22,444 Pani Panchayats for managing the affairs of irrigation in 15.28 lakh hectares of irrigated area in our state.

**25.** For my Government, promotion and strengthening of co-operative movement in the state has always been a top priority and to meet our goals for this sector, my Government has not only brought necessary legal reforms but also consistently raised budgetary support to this key sector.

**26.** My Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach for the betterment of farming community covered under the co-operative sector. Through Kisan Credit Cards, my Government is extending crop loans and to encourage timely repayment of outstanding loans, Odisha State Co-operative Bank has introduced Kisan Credit Gold Card that provides free accident insurance cover of Rs.25,000/- and consumption loan of Rs.5,000/- to non-defaulting farmers. Buoyed by the success that my Government has achieved in the disbursement of crop loan to farmers, we have targeted to disburse Rs.8,500 crores of crop loans in the year 2015-16.

**27.** To ensure that farmers get minimum support price for their paddy and to prevent distress selling, my Government is engaging PACS in paddy procurement as an additional agency. Modernization and upgradation of plant and

machineries of the three sugar mills in the co-operative sector, establishment of market yards under 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grant, creation of warehousing facilities, establishment of threshing floors in the paddy procurement districts and provision of free mobile phones to farmers are some of the key highlights of my Government's engagement in this sector.

**28.** Left Wing Extremism continues to be a big challenge for my Government in the expansion of inclusive development activities into the remote areas, though its intensity has greatly reduced in the recent past. The significant achievements of our Law and Order machinery in containing this form of extremism must be appreciated and encouraged and their resolve to eradicate such a menace hindering growth and development of vulnerable sections of our society must be strengthened. Indeed, this has been the motive force of my Government and we continue our determination in facing any challenge thrown by such groups.

**29.** My Government is working to fill the security vacuum in new areas by augmenting the strength of Special Operation Group and Special Intelligence Wing. We are doubling the strength of District Volunteer Force. We have created Four Special Security Battalions and Odisha Special Striking Force by inducting ex-servicemen for guarding vulnerable police

stations, jails etc. We have also created the Odisha Auxiliary Police Force by inducting local tribal youth from affected districts to strengthen the district police. Parallely, my Government has revised the Surrender & Rehabilitation Scheme to lure more cadres to give up arms.

**30.** To augment State Police and to fill up vacancies and new posts created to operationalize Marine Police Stations, Mahila & Sishu Desks, Anti-human trafficking units, Immigration Office at International airport in Bhubaneswar, 3,026 posts have been created and are being filled up. To counter threats likely to come from sea route, my Government has established 13 more Marine Police stations at strategic locations in the state.

**31.** To prevent crime and to offer timely redressal to such victims, my Government has already sanctioned 37 Integrated Anti-Human Trafficking units all over the state and Special Prosecutors engaged for expeditious trial of such incidents. Parallely, my Government is taking steps to modernize the policing infrastructure and has decided to leverage IT enabled services to improve effectiveness and enhance efficiency levels. My Government has already introduced CCTV surveillance system in Bhubaneswar and Puri and the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networking System is in advanced stage of implementation.

**32.** During the current year, my Government has established 9 new Courts of different ranks in the State to speed up the disposal of pending cases. Besides, 30 new Courts of Additional Civil Judge, one each in every Revenue District Headquarters, especially dedicated to try offences in respect of the District triable by the Judicial Magistrate, First Class, committed against women are being opened.

**33.** The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which is being implemented in both rural and urban areas of the State has gathered momentum, generated sufficient awareness and has provided the right platform in the direction of a clean India. My Government has since been working in this direction and has already succeeded in the construction and usage of 40,04,107 individual household latrines, 70,724 school toilets and 24,993 Anganwadi toilets.

**34.** Providing shelter security to the rural poor is another priority sector for my Government. Through its own flagship scheme “Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana”, my Government proposes to convert all Kucha houses in the rural areas of the State in to Pucca houses. My Government has allotted around 42 thousand houses under Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana and proposes to complete at least one lakh houses under rural housing programme including these houses through incentives during this financial year. To empower the women in rural areas, the Biju Pucca Ghar Yojana houses will be

allotted only in their favour. Apart from this, my Government has announced a Shelter Security Mission to be launched soon to ensure housing for the homestead-less urban and rural poor having no roof over their head.

**35.** My Government has also taken a number of initiatives to improve the living conditions of people living in the rural areas, especially those pertaining to providing safe drinking water and access to hygienic sanitation facilities. By now, my Government has already installed 3,95,920 spot sources and 9,618 piped water supply projects across the state and is working to install another 32,450 spot sources and 1,300 piped water projects.

**36.** My Government has taken several initiatives for achieving the goal of inclusive urbanization in the state. The major thrust is on improving urban governance, infrastructure, service delivery and poverty reduction. My Government has decided to constitute Odisha Capital Region Development Authority (OCRDA) for planned urbanization and holistic development of the Capital region with a dedicated fund created to cater to the financial requirements of providing core infrastructure like BRTS, MRTS, ring-roads, sewerage and drainage.

**37.** As the demand for faster, safe and convenient mobility is gathering pace across the state, my Government has started preparing an Integrated Comprehensive Mobility Plan, initially

for Cuttack-Bhubanesar-Puri-Konark region. We have augmented the number of inter & infra city buses through support from State in addition to those availed from JnNURM. My Government is extensively using PPP mode for delivery of infrastructure services and through Odisha Urban Infrastructure Fund, we have been able to extend financial support to such projects. I am happy to inform you all that the 77 ULBs that are left out of National Urban Livelihood Mission, have been brought under a new scheme, “Odisha Urban Livelihood Mission” to be launched soon by state Government as a state funded scheme.

**38.** My Government is in the process of engaging 16,601 Siksha Sahayaks to improve the quality of teaching as well as to keep the PTR as per RTE-SSA guidelines and has started a unique Programme in school called “Sahaja” that aims to provide additional hours of support to slow learners in schools. My Government has established the State Institute of Educational Management, Administration and Training to improve the quality of training to teachers and undertake research and development in the school education segment. As my Government is proposing to establish a model public school in each of the 314 blocks of the State with the objective of imparting quality English medium education to rural students at the block level, my Government is establishing 162 such Model Schools well equipped with ICT Infrastructure, Internet Connectivity and a full time Computer Teacher this year.

**39.** To increase digitization footprints in education sector, as a starting point, my Government has centralized admission by leveraging ICT, has instituted a Personnel Information Management System for Government and non-Government colleges. My Government is also determined to introduce Smart Classes and digital evaluation of answer scripts in the coming days.

**40.** My Government has streamlined the application/selection/renewal and distribution of scholarship through an on-line system and at present offering such scholarship to a total of 14,500 student pursuing +2, +3 and PG Courses and has enhanced the amount to Rs.3,000, Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000 per annum respectively. Similarly, 10,000 brilliant students pursuing higher education in the fields of Technical/Professional streams are awarded Rs.10,000/- scholarship per annum, while for girl students, the scholarship amount is raised to Rs.12,000/-.

**41.** After having achieved unprecedented success in attracting investments into the state, my Government is now on a consolidation phase to ensure such investments are actually grounded and the huge downstream opportunities are availed by our entrepreneurs. While the Aluminium Park at Angul, the Plastic Park at Balasore and Bio-Tech Park at Bhubaneswar are progressing, we are working out the



modalities to make PCPIR at Paradeep a reality. Further to provide better connectivity to industry and faster evacuation of raw materials, my Government is developing two rail corridors connecting Angul to Duburi and Sukinda.

**42.** Recognizing the urgent need to promote MSMEs in Odisha, my Government has taken steps to improve the business eco-system for this sector. Web based applications have been developed to smoothen transactions at various stages of starting the business, availing incentives etc. To provide further impetus to my Government's drive at developing entrepreneurship, we will be bringing out the State Entrepreneurship Policy soon and set a target of generating one lakh employment opportunities during the first year of implementation.

**43.** The Public Sector Enterprises reforms initiated by my Government have delivered significant results. Through the reforms measures, we could reduce the burden of state PSUs on our budget. Given the success the reforms made, my Government has decided to continue implementing reforms and the focus of my Government is now to improve the governance systems in the PSUs, undertake restructuring of some enterprises and apex cooperatives and implement information technologies in the business process.

**44.** My Government has taken a conscious decision that henceforth, all major minerals, excepting Coal, shall be allocated through public auction so that the much needed transparency can be brought into the state mineral administration regime and also to maximize revenue from this sector for pursuing socially relevant projects and programs. In this regards, my Government has already introduced e-governance systems in the entire chain of activities in this sector to minimize and prevent illegal practices in the mineral sector & has integrated other key players with this electronic system.

**45.** I am happy to share with you that to guarantee uninterrupted, assured and quality power to the consumers of our state, my Government will be undertaking massive modernization, upgradation of distribution infrastructure including separation of agriculture and non-agriculture feeders.

**46.** In order to augment the generation and transmission capacity in our state in view of steady increase in demand for power, my Government has taken a slew of measures including construction of 600 MW Power plant by OPGC, formed a joint venture between OMC and OHPC for setting up 3x800 MW thermal power plant besides providing all requisite support to NTPC's project to generate 7,200 MWs.

All of you will be happy to note that due to our sustained efforts at creating a reliable transmission infrastructure and its scientific management, we have achieved a record system availability of 98%. And to maintain that level of efficiency, my Government has decided to execute 18 more Grid sub-stations and lay 1,025 circuit Kilometers of lines in the days ahead.

**47.** In this era of networked economy, growth can only be achieved and sustained if all the constituents of the network work seamlessly. My Government is acutely aware of the imperative need to create that network which will facilitate easier movement of men & materials within the state boundaries. To achieve this, my Government has decided to constitute Odisha Maritime Board that would develop, manage and administer all the non-major ports in the state. My Government has advanced considerably in the development of ports at Gopalpur, Subarnarekha and Astarang.

**48.** To encourage movement of bulk cargo through waterways, my Government has partnered with Inland Waterways Authorities of India (IWAI) to develop waterways connecting Kalinganagar Industrial cluster with Paradeep and Dhamara Port under the National Waterway No 5.

**49.** My Government has increased the number of RTOs from 13 to 35 to bring in proximity to the people to the transport administration, has computerized all the RTOs to bring in transparency & efficiency and raised 52 additional Enforcement Squads. I am happy to state that these initiatives have significantly contributed to revenue mobilization measures of my Government by raising the contribution to the state exchequer from this sector from Rs.178 crores in 2001 to Rs.885 crores in the last year.

**50.** The “Biju Gaon Gadi Yojana”, a scheme aimed to provide connectivity in the schedule and backward areas is being implemented on PPP mode in which private operators are encouraged to operate small vehicles in the remote and backward areas for which Road Tax and Permit fee are exempted. Also my Government is offering interest subvention on the loan availed for purchasing the vehicle. I am happy to inform this august house that already 256 such vehicles are now plying in 10 backward districts providing assured access to people living remote areas to colleges, schools, markets, hospitals etc.

**51.** As land is an important source of livelihood and dwelling, my Government has been allotting homestead land and cultivable waste land to homestead-less and landless families in rural areas. It is heartening to inform you that so far, 1,15,827 homestead-less families and 35,780 landless families have been extended the benefits.

**52.** Odisha is vulnerable to natural disasters particularly those caused by tropical cyclones and high tide surges. Odisha State Disaster Management Authority has done commendable job in the recent incidents of cyclonic disturbances. My Government has decided to raise 10 more Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Forces units to augment its strength. 135 Multipurpose Cyclone Centers in the highly disaster prone districts have already been constructed while another 180 are to be completed very soon.

**53.** To rehabilitate the Phailin affected people and to help them to build resilient houses and other infrastructure, my Government is implementing the Odisha Disaster Recovery Project wherein we have so far re-located 15,016 families as against the affected 17,248 families at 112 different locations.

**54.** We are now in a world that is changing every second and unless we stay relevant to the changing times, our ability to offer a clean and efficient governance remains severely restricted. So in order to change the prevailing human capital development policies being practiced, my Government has decided to offer training to officers at various levels at reputed institutions, nationally and internationally.

**55.** My Government will provide Rs.25 lakhs to any district that has innovated on any of the activities leading to better and efficient delivery of services for their documentation and dissemination. My Government has added 26 additional services to the existing list of 63 services under Odisha Right to Public Services Act to further improve the time-bound public delivery system.

**56.** To further increase the forest cover to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change, my Government has set a target of planting/distributing 12.20 crores of saplings during this year. My Government has so far succeeded in distributing land rights to the tune of 5,39,532 acres of forest land under Forest Rights Act that includes 17,798 individuals belonging to the most primitive and vulnerable tribal groups.

**57.** My Government has already established 1,683 educational institutions where 4,51,797 students at present are pursuing education at various levels including 2,60,211 girls. My Government has already completed construction of 5,287 residential hostels for ST students with all support facilities and another 1,640 hostels are under construction. About 4,14,053 students including 2,51,029 girls are residing in these hostels.

**58.** My Government is providing pre-matric scholarship to 14,02,217 students from SC and ST communities to support their education and reduce financial burden on their parents. Similarly, 3,22,821 students from these communities are covered under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme of my Government.

**59.** Equitable distribution of food grains to all with focus on the tribals, slum dwellers and other vulnerable sections of the society shall be ensured by my Government through the proposed new holistic Odisha Food Security Act. Indicators reflecting the socio economic conditions of a family will be introduced to make the coverage inclusive and holistic. To stop pilferage and ensure complete transparency in the distribution of entitlements to deserving families, my Government is undertaking digitization of ration cards.

**60.** The National Food Security Act shall cover about 3.26 crore persons and in the process, approximately 72 lakh ration cards are to be issued to the surveyed families. My Government is taking a very proactive role to ensure its proper implementation.

**61.** To infuse transparency in the procurement of paddy from farmers and to facilitate timely payment into their bank accounts, my Government has introduced Paddy Procurement Automation System at 60 high procurement blocks in our state.

**62.** My state has the unique distinction of being the first state in our country to have enacted a new law on Excise matters in the lines of the model Excise Policy circulated by Union Government.

**63.** Considering its latent potential and to make Odisha self-sufficient in fish production by 2020, my Government has worked out a special package that includes easier access to inputs, additional financial support, establishing linkages with other sectors, supplementing central schemes with assistance from State Plan, providing bank linkages and required implements to farmers at subsidized rates.

**64.** My Government is implementing the Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme to encourage people to take up dairy production. For scaling up artificial insemination, my Government in partnership with National Dairy Development Board will be setting up the Regional State of Art Semen Station at Kathapal, in Mayurbhanj district soon.

**65.** My Government is creating infrastructure for artisans in the form of construction of 500 work sheds for artisans, providing skill upgradation training and is administering Chief Minister's special package for weavers and artisans. My Government has decided to convert Raghurajpur, the famous "Pattachitra" village into a Model Craft Village and also establish an incubation center at Bhubaneswar to nurture various activities in the apparel sector.



**66.** A healthy society is a prerequisite to achieve developmental goals and moving purposively in this direction, my Government has constituted the Odisha State Medical Services Corporation for distribution of free medicines through a wide network of Drug Distribution Centers at Government facilities. 102 Ambulance Service has been implemented in the State for pregnant mothers and the new born babies. The Odisha State Treatment Fund has been made operational in the State to provide medical assistance up to Rupees 3 lakh for treatment of patients suffering from critical ailments. Biju Krushak Kalyan Yojana is being implemented in the State by my Government which provides free health insurance coverage up to Rupees One lakh to five members of a farmer/Agriculture labourer's families. Now it has an astounding coverage of nearly 55 lakh farmer families in Odisha. My Government is adding another 140 ambulances under the "Emergency Medical Ambulance Service" and has decided to start 5 new medical colleges at Puri, Baripada, Balasore, Koraput and Bolangir.

**67.** The Right to Information Act, 2005 is being implemented by my Government in true letter and spirit. The RTI Central Monitoring Mechanism named "Lok Soochana" has been lauded by many including the World Bank for its effectiveness. To bolster the existing RTI framework and to make it more citizens friendly, my Government has decided to create an RTI Call Center, introduce e-payment of RTI Applications

and extend such service through the Common Service Centers all over the state.

**68.** To Keep my State at the top of Digital governance, Introduction of e-governance through Odisha State Wide Area Network to connect the state headquarters with different levels of Governance through broadband, establishment of the Odisha Data Center for managing e-governance applications, 6,264 Common Service Centers being made operational in rural areas for G2C services, and implementation of OSWAS, the fully automated office workflow system in the State secretariat as one of the first states of the country have put my Government digitally ahead so that a transparent and accountable governance system could be delivered in a hassle-free manner to the people of Odisha.

**69.** In order to eliminate the practice of child labour in our State, my Government is adopting a mix of interventions spanning awareness creation to strict enforcement and penalty.

**70.** To ensure safety and welfare of migrant workers, my Government has started registering such workers under the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board so as to extend benefits to such workers as well and has entered into tripartite agreement with neighboring states to protect their interest even at the place of migration. The

Package for Construction Workers introduced by my Government is meant to meet the aspirations and manifold work place needs of this segment. My Government has recently announced enhanced benefits under the Construction Workers Package to benefit such workers in a more effective manner.

**71.** To address the health concerns of BPL families and workers engaged in various industrial and commercial establishments, my Government has brought about 44 lakhs BPL families under the Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and 3.5 lakh families under the ESI scheme. My Government has decided to extend the ESI coverage to new areas such as Khuntuni and Chendipada and also tied-up with super specialty hospitals in the state as well as outside for providing super specialty care.

**72.** Through Maha Samadhan Sibirs, Samadhan Sibirs and Krushi Samadhan Sibirs organized at different locations in the State; my Government has been very proactive to public grievances. My Government will be intensifying such outreach initiatives in future to ensure that every problem of the public is resolved at their nearest locations.

**73.** To keep our rich, unique and unparalleled cultural heritage intact, my Government is taking sincere steps for their promotion, preservation, revival of some of the near extinction folk forms through the revival of Bhagabata Tungis, pension to Indigent Artists, installation of statues, grants to cultural organizations, creation of Zilla Kala Sanskruti Sangha and

Block Kala Sanskruti Sangha that aim at providing livelihood to traditional folk artists and protection of traditional folk forms.

**74.** The State is committed towards both social and economic empowerment of women. To empower girls and women, Odisha State Policy for Girls and Women has been framed with the provisions of inheritance, equal land rights, free homestead land of 4 decimals to homestead-less women of lower income group, special package for differently-abled women among other things.

**75.** With the launching of 656 kilometres 4 laned Biju Expressway to be built at a cost of Rs. 3200 crores as a life-line road network connecting eight backward districts of Western Odisha and KBK region, my Government has shown its commitment and priority in strengthening the road network in Western and KBK Districts of Odisha.

**76.** Considering the contribution of the State Highways in improving the Socio-economic condition of the people, my Government has undertaken a new initiative namely State Highways Development Programme for all-round development of the State Highway Network of Odisha.

**77.** A large number of village roads have been converted into Cement Concrete Roads and all-weather connectivity to unconnected habitations has been ensured by constructing bridges under Biju Setu Yojana throughout the State. Recently, the State Government has undertaken another ambitious connectivity programme, Mukhya Mantri Sadak

Yojana to provide all weather connectivity to small habitations with population up to 100 not covered by any other connectivity programme.

With active support from different sections of the society, Odisha so far has made significant progress in many sectors. Our aim is for holistic development, by striking a balance between our efforts and opportunities in a way that facilitates fulfillment of needs in its entirety.

The exuberance, restlessness and soaring ambitions of our youth must be addressed innovatively and carefully for the most productive use so that they scale new heights and carry forward the rich legacy of Odisha into the future. We need to create these avenues for young people to contribute and excel and add value to our society. We need to expose them to the many possibilities that are coming up and the way technology is harnessing such possibilities. We need to ensure that there is a secular access to opportunities and we are ready to incubate, mentor and support all such volunteered initiatives. I appeal to all of you to join us in these collective efforts of ours and take Odisha to enviable heights.

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

**JAI HIND**

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