



ADDRESS
OF
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ODISHA
PROF. GANESHI LAL
TO THE
ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

18TH FEBRUARY, 2021

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the Sixth Session of the 16th 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 condolences on the sad demise of Late Dr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Ex-President of India, Late Sushila Devi, First Ex-Lady of the State, Late Sarat Kumar Kar, Ex-Speaker, Late Haraprasad Mohapatra, Late Saharai Oram, Late Sanatana Bisi and Late Sk. Matlub Ali all former Ministers, Late Gurupada Nanda, Ex-Government Chief Whip, Late Pradeep Maharathy, Late Madanmohan Dutta and Late Bishnu Charan Das all Sitting Members, Late Prahallad Behera, Late Bira Sipka, Late Bijaya Kumar Nayak, Late Purusottam Sethi, Late Arjun Charan Sethi, Late Nelson Soreng, Late Ramamurty Mutika, Late Rabindranath Bhoi, Late Abhimanyu Kumar, Late Chintamani Jena and Late Kartikeswar Patra all former Members of this August House, Late Chandrakanta Pradhan, Ex-Sepoy, Indian Army, Late Nuduram Soren, Ex-Naib Subedar, Indian Army, Late Sudhir Kumar Tudu, Ex-SOG Commando, Late Debasis Sethy, Ex-SOG Commando and Late Banawasi Moharana, Ex-Home Guard all from Odisha Police.

3. I request Hon'ble Members to join me in paying tribute to Late Surendranath Mishra, former Member of this August House and Late Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak, Ex-Warrant Officer(GD) Assam Rifles, Late Yajna Narayan Kar, Ex-SPR/EBR, 106 Engineer Regiment, Western Command, Late Krushna Chandra Panda, Ex-Subedar, 14 Bihar Regiment and all Corona Fighters laid their lives for the service of the people during face of critical situation by Corona epidemic in the State.

4. The World has been witnessing unprecedented crisis since last year. The Covid-19 pandemic has created havoc at a global scale leading to severe damage across the Nation to public health, economies, social and mental well-being of communities.

5. My Government had understood the severity at the very beginning and has been pro-actively managing the situation as it emerged. Odisha declared the pandemic as a State Disaster on 13th March 2020, even before a single case was detected and took pro-active measures to

close the educational institutions, social gatherings, religious gatherings etc. Odisha started the lockdown in the State on 21st March 2020, before the National lockdown was announced. The Lockdown was managed in a smooth manner without any major inconvenience to the general public. The Police enforced with sensitivity without resorting to brute force. The essential commodities supply was closely monitored from source to the last sale points.

6. My Government was conscious that strict lockdown will also affect the livelihood of the poor. Therefore, a sensitive approach with social security measures like advance pensions, PDS rations, free kitchens, special support to vulnerable section etc was provided.

7. My Government recognised that such a large scale pandemic cannot be managed without involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the community. Therefore, Sarpanchs were empowered under the Disaster Management Act to enforce and take appropriate measures in their jurisdiction. They were actively involved in covid management.

8. My Government ensured smooth management of the Odia workers returning home from other states due to the pandemic situation. Arrangements were made for the migrant workers in Odisha to return to their States.

9. My Government ensured that free quality treatment for the citizens from the testing stage to critical treatment and until discharge. This is one of the main reason for the low mortality in the State compared to national and international mortality rates.

10. To motivate and honour the Covid Warriors and to unite the society to fight against the pandemic situation, my Government had organised the “Bande Utkala Janani” event and brought together the Odias across the World.

11. My Government has ensured the community participation and management of the Covid situation and large scale infrastructure in terms of dedicated Covid hospitals, temporary medical camps, Covid Care centres, Covid homes and awareness campaigns involving the PRI and SHG members. With the cooperation of all, I am happy that today Odisha has successfully overcome the pandemic situation. The State has done extremely well in every parameter of the Covid management and has been praised by national and international organisations for its foresight and effective situation management without any hassle to the public.

12. The mission of my Government is “Sustha Odisha, Sukhi Odisha”. For us every life matters. Working towards this end and to provide equitable, affordable, qualitative health care services to all, my Government is working on a mission mode. Free and assured healthcare services are now provided at all public health facilities including empanelled private hospitals under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY). Cashless treatment under Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) at empanelled Private Hospitals up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for economically vulnerable families and upto ₹10 lakh for the women members of the beneficiary families for over 70 lakh families is provided in our State. Accountability of health professionals in the delivery of health services, transparency and transformation in healthcare services is being ensured through an effective public feedback mechanism as part of the ‘Mo Sarkar’ initiative.

13. The Health infrastructure in the State is being upgraded and expanded on a large scale. Currently, five Medical Colleges and Hospitals and seven number of District Hospital projects are under construction. The SCB Medical College and Hospital project is being taken up to expand the premier institution as a AIIMS-plus institution at a cost of ₹ 3,500 crores.

14. To make health care services accessible in difficult areas, difficult villages have been notified. Alternative transport facilities like Stretcher, Bike Ambulance, Boat Ambulance and Mobile Health Units (MHU) have been operationalised. Maternity Waiting Homes have been established in the notified difficult villages. Further, my Government has also introduced various incentives to attract and retain Doctors in difficult areas.

15. The next level transformation of the public health services in the State has resulted in an increase in people’s faith & trust on public health facilities. Many of the efforts of my Government have been appreciated and acknowledged at various National and International levels.

16. My Government has covered 3.24 crore beneficiaries belonging to 92.6 lakh families of the State under the National Food Security coverage and providing them with 1.63 lakh MT rice and 23,890 MT

wheat per month @₹1 per kg. Besides, in our own Food Security Scheme, 10.98 lakh individuals from 3.63 lakh poor, distressed, eligible and leftout families have been covered with 5 kg rice per person per month @ ₹1 per kg.

17. As part of it's COVID-19 pandemic management strategy, my Government provided additional quantities of rice and dal free of cost for 8 months to state Food Securities Scheme beneficiaries and to about 1 lakh migrant workers driving last May and June.

18. My Government is implementing a transparent, efficient, accountable & robust paddy procurement system through continuous reforms. By leveraging Information and Communications Technology, my Government has prioritized the right of small and marginal farmers to sell paddy to procuring societies and agencies.

19. My Government has installed 4.7 lakh Tube wells and Sanitary wells and commissioned 13,050 Piped Water Supply Schemes to provide Safe Drinking Water to the Rural areas of the State. During 2020-21, we have already installed 209 solar pumps in Hand Pump Tube wells and completed 860 Piped Water Supply Projects along with 637 new Piped Water Supply Projects.

20. My Government has taken up 18 Mega Piped Water Supply projects with an estimated cost of ₹3,059 crore under OMBADC funding in 691 villages directly affected by mining in 8 districts of Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Keonjhar, Angul, Jharsuguda, and Jajpur. Similarly, 9 Mega Piped Water Supply Projects have been taken up with an estimated cost of ₹4,157 crore under DMF funds.

21. Odisha has been a leading State in ensuring universal coverage of pipe water supply in the urban areas. Bhubaneswar has become the first major city in the country to achieve 100% water supply (House) connections followed by 13 other towns so far. 'SUJAL-Drink from Tap Mission' to provide 24x7 drinkable quality water directly from Tap has already been taken up on a pilot basis in 12 zones in Bhubaneswar and Puri, benefitting 1.8 lakh people. The mission will be extended to cover other cities in phases.

22. My Government has adopted a 360-degree approach to water quality management to ensure that the supplied water meets the necessary quality standards. For this, we have built 78 state of the art NABL accredited water testing laboratories across the State. We have installed over 1,200 Iron Removal Plants and 640 Fluoride Removal Plants in tube-wells across the State in areas where groundwater is found to contain traces of Iron and Fluoride.

23. My Government is committed to a time-bound action plan for various measures under the broad objectives of Universal access to Drinking water, Disaster Resilient water supply system, Citizen connect and responsive service delivery.

24. My Government has been successful in completing a record number of houses transparently through a robust monitoring mechanism and taking innovative steps like providing incentive to beneficiaries for early completion of houses and tagging of field functionaries with specific beneficiaries. During 2020-21, we have completed about 2.8 lakh houses following these innovative ways.

25. 2nd phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) has commenced from April 2020. My Government has spent around ₹7,500 crore over 66 lakh individual household latrines, and the State has been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) during September, 2019. To ensure universal sanitation access, more than 747 Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) have also been constructed.

26. Our State has made a transformative shift in Solid Waste Management adopting a decentralized approach with community partnership. 136 Micro Composting Centres (MCCs) in 110 ULBs and 115 Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in 95 ULBs are now operational processing more than 60% of the solid waste generated scientifically converting the waste into wealth in the form of organic manure and recyclable and saleable dry waste. My Government targets to process 100% wet and dry waste generated in all the ULBs by end of 2021. Odisha's performance has been recognized nationally and has been awarded as the "Fastest Moving State" in the Swachh Survekshan – 2020. Besides, 6 cities of our State have found a place in the Top 20 rankings of Swachh Survekshan, 2020.

27. My Government is committed to social security and empowerment of the vulnerable sections such as persons with disabilities, destitute & widows, senior citizens, transgenders, persons affected by AIDS and victims of substance abuse. Through social security pensions, my State has covered the highest percentage of the population amongst all States in the country. My Government has also made provisions for the inclusion of destitute, deserted, divorcee women and transgenders under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana fold.

28. My Government has implemented “MAMATA” a conditional cash transfer maternity benefit scheme in the State and covered 45.30 lakh pregnant and lactating mothers, and has transferred ₹2,133 crore directly to the beneficiary accounts.

29. My Government has distributed Take Home Ration, dry ration and eggs to children and pregnant & nursing women under Supplementary Nutrition Programme without any disruption during Covid-19, though Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were closed. My Government has developed more than 16,500 “Mo Upakari Bagicha” in AWCs for improved nutrition of children and high-risk pregnant women. My Government has provided millets under Supplementary Nutrition Programme in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts, which has been an appreciable feat at the national level.

30. It is worth mentioning that five Anganwadi centres in Kalahandi District have been accorded ISO certification. My Government has sanctioned 1,567 new AWCs in the nutritionally challenged blocks covered under the “SOPAN: A Strategy for Odisha’s Pathway to Accelerated Nutrition” in tribal-dominated areas.

31. My Government has now expanded the scope of Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana-2020 to include children without both or single biological parents, and all other categories of children in need of care and protection, with an annual family income below ₹48,000 and children affected by AIDS.

32. My Government has rolled out ‘ADVIKA- every girl is unique’, an adolescent life skill education programme to engage with adolescent girls on various health and nutrition issues.

33. My Government has ensured business worth ₹1,022 crore for 52,958 SHGs in the first nine months of the current financial year by involving them in activities like mask making, free kitchen management, supply of cooked meal in Temporary Medical Centres, pisciculture in GP tanks, Urban Wage Employment Initiatives, stitching and supply of pre-school and school uniforms, electricity meter reading, site Supervisors under MGNREGS, Common Service Centre in Urban Local Bodies, Aahaar Kendra management, Jala Sathi and Swachha Sathi, MDM management, production and supply of Take Home Ration among others. My Government has ensured bank credit linkage to 1.43 lakh SHGs worth ₹2,554 crore to promote livelihoods and nurture entrepreneurship among women members during this year.

34. Odisha is one of the leading States of the country in providing Residential School facility to Tribal students, with 1,735 Residential Schools and 6,954 Hostels for more than 4.5 lakh ST & SC students. Scholarship to ST, SC and OBC students is another major intervention of my Government which covers nearly 17.3 lakh students at the Pre-matric level and about 4.5 lakh students at the Post-matric level.

35. My Government has established 103 special schools and 1 College for Hearing Impaired students for providing education to 6,815 PwD students. Banishree Scholarship has been provided to 23,995 PwD students. 3,511 Physically, Mentally and Socially challenged persons have been rehabilitated through 66 therapy centers. 3,623 PwD SHGs have been formed to orient their social and economic empowerment.

36. Construction of Integrated Social Security Infrastructure Complex is under progress in 10 Districts. These Complexes will provide high-quality residential support, food, clothing, qualitative health and therapeutic services to all segments of the vulnerable population.

37. For the safety and welfare of Inter-State Migrant Workmen in 14 migration prone districts of the State, a 24x7 toll-free Shramik Sahayata Helpline, Household Survey of Migrant Workers, launching of an online grievance redressal system - "e-Shramik Samadhan" for rescue/repatriation activities for migrant workers and quick redressal of their grievance have been undertaken. My Government has announced a Special Package to strengthen the socio-economic standards of migrant workers and a gradual reduction in distress migration in 477

identified migration prone Gram Panchayats of 20 Blocks in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi and Nuapada Districts.

38. To provide quality education in English medium to the students in rural areas, my Government has opened 214 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAVs) in 29 districts and 72,701 students are availing quality education in these schools. Out of the above, 60 OAVs have already been upgraded to Senior Secondary Level and Commerce Stream would be opened in those 60 OAVs.

39. My Government is providing free Uniforms and Text Books to all students of Class I to VIII of Government and Aided schools & has distributed 2.69 crore Textbooks during the academic session 2020-21. My Government has distributed more than 6.20 lakh "Pariksha Darpan" test papers prepared by the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha to Class-X students who will appear at the Annual Matriculation Examination, 2021.

40. During 2020-21, my Government has released ₹17.75 crore under Mukhya Mantri Medha Bruti to 35,490 meritorious students, ₹1.77 crore under Odia Bhasa Bruti Puraskar to 3,549 students, ₹10.61 crore under Best School Award to 1,061 number of schools.

41. Under the 'Mo School Abhiyan', my Government has been able to bring together alumni, their alma mater and the community to emotionally connect with the current generation of students in schools. This drive has resulted in mobilization of voluntary contribution ₹58.70 crore in 17,396 schools across the State and a matching grant of ₹117.24 crore has been released by Government. This pool of resources is being utilized for improving school infrastructure and taking the teaching-learning atmosphere to the next level.

42. Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, online teaching has been facilitated through Sikshya Sanjoga, DIKSHA App, Sikshya Darpan and Radio Pathasala to ensure continuous learning of students. During the closure of schools, Food Security under the MDM programme has also been provided to out students in Government and Aided Schools. My Government has also opened Schools and Hostels for the students of Class-X and Class-XII from 8th January, with a stringent SOP for the safety of the students.

43. My Government has introduced Vocational Education in 576 Secondary and Higher Secondary schools wherein 56,692 students have taken admission in 10 different Vocational trade subjects.

44. Our Government ITIs have proved their excellence by participating in the National level grading process. Six Government ITIs of our State have earned the distinction of being ranked among the top 100 ITIs of our country. Enrolment of girls in ITIs has been enhanced from 6% to 18% with the launching of the new scheme 'Sudakshya'. My Government intends to improve enrolment of girls to at least 30% of the strength of each ITI .

45. My Government has established 'World Skills Centre' at Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the ITEES, Singapore with a state-of-the-art facility of global standards to set new benchmarks in course curriculum, pedagogy and standards for laboratories and workshops in Technical Education. My Government has identified 250 young entrepreneurs under the Nano-Unicorn Project of Odisha Skill Development Authority for training in Entrepreneurship Development. My Government has trained about 3.3 lakh youth during 2019-20 under the inclusive skill development initiative, 'Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme'.

46. To enhance the skill level and employment potential of Technical Students holding MCA, MBA, B. Tech., BE, ITI and Polytechnic certificates, my Government has launched the initiative DigitALL. This has enabled the local IT industry to have a readily available talent pool for their expansion needs. My Government is setting up 34 Skill Development Centres in Districts and 38 Skill Development Extension Centres on the campus of Government ITIs and Polytechnics to enhance employment opportunities for the rural youth.

47. With the vision of achieving excellence in all aspects of higher education, Odia University has been established by enacting the Odia University Act, 2017. Required land has been acquired for the establishment of Odia University at Satyabadi. My Government has envisaged a new scheme called the "Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan" to bridge the gap in research activities and promote research in emerging areas with a focus on women researchers. Financial assistance would be provided for Research

Fellowship, Seed Funding for Young Faculty working in State Universities and Colleges, and support for publication related expenses under the Scheme.

48. Odisha is fast emerging as a sporting power in the national as well as international arena. My Government is committed to lead the State to be the main sports destination of the country. It is a matter of great significance for us that Odisha has got the hosting rights for the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, 2023 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela. Ahead of the 2023 World cup, my Government will construct India's largest hockey stadium in Rourkela. 17 Astro-turf hockey training centres are being built in Sundargarh district. This will provide top class coaching opportunity for the kids right from their young age and help them in becoming professional players.

49. My Government has always put its best efforts in the hunt for sporting talents from the grassroots level and nurturing them in sports hostels, academies and High-Performance Centres (HPCs). To further strengthen the sports infrastructure across the State, my Government will create indoor sports halls, fields etc. in the Urban areas in all the districts.

50. My Government has undertaken several strategic steps towards a farmer-centric development in the State, which include a separate Agriculture Budget, a dedicated Agriculture Cabinet for faster processes and sectoral growth, the introduction of scheme "KALIA" (Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation)-first of its kind in the country and a new scheme "BALARAM (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan And Resources Augmentation Model)" for the financing of Joint Liability Groups/ Sharecroppers.

51. It is worth mentioning that NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India have recommended Odisha Millets Mission as the best model and asked other State Governments to adopt Odisha Millets Mission design for promotion of production and consumption of millets. Cambridge University is also partnering with Odisha Millets Mission to research and understand the potential of millets to transform climate resilient agriculture.

52. My Government has launched Mukhyamantri Krushi Udyog Yojana to promote agri-enterprises through ease of doing agri-business.

53. To create irrigation potential and improve livelihoods, my Government has taken up soil conservation measures, plantation, watershed development activities and creation of Micro-watershed clusters and Water Harvesting structures in convergence mode.

54. My Government has also identified agriculture and allied sectors as the growth propellers for Odisha's farmers, women SHGs and entrepreneurs. The fisheries sector in the State has achieved another milestone by receiving two National Level awards – the "Best Marine State" award and the "Best District Award" for Kalahandi district in the Inland fisheries sector.

55. My Government is emphasizing water conservation and improvement of water use efficiency with an investment plan for ₹11,700 crore over the next 4-5 years for large scale conservation of surface water inside streams and rivers. Further, groundwater recharge work through 10 thousand Minor Irrigation and irrigation tanks covering 15 districts amounting to ₹1,098 crore have been taken up in association with Green Climate Fund. Nearly 16 thousand Check Dams have been constructed under Mukhya Mantri Adi-Bandha Tiari Yojana (MATY) for the conservation of water. Deep Bore Well Scheme and Parvati Giri Mega-lift Irrigation programme have brought a major transformation in irrigation scenario in the State. So far my Government has handed over about 79 thousand bore wells to farmers and commissioned 109 Mega Lift Projects.

56. My Government believes in transparency in administration and encourages the active participation of people in governance initiatives. Under "5T" initiative a mobile app "Secha Samadhan" has been developed for grievance redressal of farmers and a web portal is in place to receive online application from farmers for Deep Bore Wells and Community Lift Irrigation Projects. Besides, another web portal has also been developed to receive online applications for the allocation of bulk water to commercial and other establishments.

57. My Government has taken steps for the conversion of all the Kisan Credit Cards to Ru-Pay Kisan Cards to enable the farmers to access

their sanctioned loans through ATMs. The small, marginal and landless farmers, sharecroppers and rural women have been organized into several Joint Liability Groups for enabling access to credit from financial institutions without any collateral security. During the current financial year, till December, about 38 thousand Joint Liability Groups have been provided with the finance of ₹230 crore by Cooperative Banks. Under the KALIA scheme, interest on crop loans up to ₹50,000/- has been reduced to 0% making available interest-free crop loans from the year 2019-20.

58. Odisha is fast emerging as the 'Manufacturing Hub' of Eastern India. My Government has formulated and implemented progressive policies and developed state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate ease of doing business and bring in a facilitative environment for industrial development in the State. Even during the prevailing pandemic situation, Odisha has been able to attract new investments across multiple sectors and has approved worth over ₹1.20 lakh crore of investment proposals. At the same time, projects have been grounded in diverse sectors ranging from healthcare, renewable energy, downstream to steel & aluminium, IT and food processing.

59. For the promotion of micro, small and medium industries, IDCO has developed 117 Industrial Estates/areas in strategic locations of the State. My Government is taking steps to modernize and expand 10 existing Industrial Estates in the first phase and to establish 5 best-in-class New Industrial Clusters in the coming five years under Vision-2025.

60. My Government has undertaken the Start-up Odisha Initiative with the launch of the Start-up Odisha Policy and Start-up Odisha Portal. Odisha has been consistently recognized as a "Top performer" and "Leader" State among all States in Start-up ranking in 2018 and 2019 respectively, by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

61. My Government has announced a Special COVID Package of around ₹289 crore to support MSMEs during COVID-19 which includes Interest Subvention to 1.76 lakh units assisted under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, grant towards promoter's contribution of 5% of the project cost to 4,359 micro-enterprises under Prime Minister

Employment Generation Programme, provision of ₹100 crore to enterprises with integration of COVID-19 Assistance Package, top-up subsidy of 15% of the project cost to Food Processing Enterprises under Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises, reimbursement of State GST to 175 MSMEs and waiver of Annual Maintenance Charge payable to IDCO benefitting 5,000 MSMEs in Industrial Estates/Areas.

62. Odisha has a rich tradition of handlooms and cottage industries in the State. During 2020-21, ₹52 crore has been provided for the development of the Handlooms sector. My Government has provided interest-free loans to leading marketing organizations of the State-UTKALIKA and Boyanika to provide sustainable employment to Handloom weavers during COVID-19 pandemic. MoUs have been signed with Flipkart and AJIO for providing market access to the artisans to market their products online globally.

63. The tourism and hospitality sector in Odisha has huge employment potential and it contributes substantially to the State economy. It directly employs about 1.2 lakh persons and the allied sectors under the organized segment employ approximately 3 lakh persons. Total employment including the unorganised sector associated with tourism has been estimated at 10 lakh persons. My Government has undertaken a plethora of initiatives to boost tourism in the State including the formulation of a new Tourism Policy, infrastructure development in and around major tourist destinations, Eco-Retreats at Konark, Bhitarkanika National Park, Daringbadi Hill Station, Hirakud Reservoir, Konark's Ramchandi Beach and Satkosia Tiger Reserve and Ecotourism Camps at Satkosia & Similipal.

64. My Government has ensured the development of an extensive Road Network to provide freight corridors for industries, deliver basic goods and services in time and improve the living condition of rural people in inaccessible areas. Along with Integrated Development of Heritage and Monuments at Tourist Destinations, steps are being taken to preserve, revitalise and develop the heritage sites across the State. During 2020-21, my Government has planned to complete 5,504 km of rural roads and more than 250 bridges on rural roads through different schemes.

65. My Government has provided bus services in 257 routes by utilizing 441 buses out of which 46 routes are inter-state ones. We are contributing around 25% of the construction cost as well as land free of cost for rail projects being executed in the State. We have also decided to provide land free of cost for the connectivity from the Rail Head of Narla Station up to the proposed location of the Electric Locomotive POH Workshop in Kalahandi District which will certainly boost the rail-based industry in the region. To expand and further develop the aviation sector in the State, my Government has decided to establish an Aviation training centre at Birasal Airstrip, construct a new airstrip at Malkangiri, upgrade Jeypore Airstrip in Koraput district, Rourkela Airstrip in Sundargarh District, and Utkela Airstrip in Kalahandi district into full-fledged airports under RCS-UDAN Scheme. With the efforts of my Government Jharsuguda Airport has already been developed into a full-fledged Commercial Airport where flight operations started in March, 2019.

66. My Government is committed in providing 24x7 quality power supply to all. Odisha has become a power surplus State. My Government is providing funds for the strengthening of transmission and distribution infrastructure to OPTCL and the Distribution Companies. Odisha has a robust transmission system with more than 14 thousand km of Extra High Tension lines and about 21 thousand Mega Volt Ampere installed capacity. 33/11 kV Grid Substations are being constructed to address the low voltage situation. Out of 473 Grid Substations of 33/11 kV planned to be set up under ODSSP, work of 335 Substations has been completed.

67. As part of the second round of distribution reforms, my Government has vested the management of three DISCOMs, CESU, SOUTHCO and WESCO in three joint venture companies, Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited, Tata Power Southern Odisha Distribution Limited and Tata Power Western Odisha Distribution Limited respectively. My Government holds 49 percent equity in these companies and the rest 51% by TATA Power Company Limited.

68. My Government has launched Mo Bidyut Portal and Mobile Application to enable the consumers having demand up to 5 kW to get

new connection within 48 hours of application and also to facilitate payment of electricity bills and lodging grievances online.

69. My Government has undertaken various projects and programmes to preserve, protect and nurture the environment, wildlife and natural resources. Some of the flagship schemes are Green Mahanadi Mission, Increasing green cover in the State, National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for Green India, Ama Jungle Yojana, Eco-Tourism, Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project and Sustainable Biodiversity Management etc. My Government has awarded 141 voluntary organizations, villages and educational institutions with “Prakruti Mitra” and 156 individuals with “Prakruti Bandhu” on the occasion of World Environment Day, 2020 to encourage the Conservation and Protection of Environment.

70. Odisha is known for its cultural diversity. In the second meeting of the Heritage Cabinet, seven proposals have been approved for the promotion of Odia culture which includes according classical status to Odissi music, separate Directorates for Odisha State Archaeology and Odisha State Museum, digitisation of Odisha State Museum and Ananda Bhavan Museum which memorialises Biju Patnaik enabling virtual tour and holistic development of Suando, the birthplace of Pandit Gopabandhu Das. My Government has also launched a new programme ‘Dikhyant’ for reviving the age old teacher-disciple tradition and revival of dying Art in the State.

71. Odisha due to its geographic location is affected by recurrent disasters that adversely impact life, livelihood and backtracks the State’s economic growth. During the last 5 years the State has encountered several major disasters including very severe cyclonic storm ‘TITLI’ in October 2018, extremely severe cyclonic storm ‘FANI’ in May 2019, very severe cyclonic storm ‘BULBUL’ in November 2019, super cyclone ‘AMPHAN’ in May 2020 in addition to heavy rains, floods and droughts. While the disaster preparedness of my State has set global benchmarks, following this benchmarking, a proactive vision and with effective preparedness at all levels, my Government has been able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic very effectively, which resulted in containing the spread of the virus, creating proper medical facilities for treatment of the affected and saving precious human lives. COVID-19 was declared

as a “Disaster” by the State Government under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and various guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were issued under the said Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Required funds were released out of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the District Collectors and Government Departments for COVID-19 management.

72. The overall law and order situation in the State remained peaceful during 2020. No major law and order incident took place due to the proactive role of the police. The Police successfully handled the COVID situation. 49 Police personnel have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty and 940 police personnel have donated plasma to save the lives of critical COVID patients. The Left Wing Extremism scenario has remarkably reduced during the past five years due to proactive security and administrative response. My Government has established new Company Operating Bases at Gurasetu of Swabhiman Anchal of Malkangiri district, Musanal of Kalahandi district and Sadingia of Kandhamal district. Jodambo Police Station has been made functional in Swabhiman Anchal.

73. My Government is implementing Emergency Response Support System with a Command Centre at Bhubaneswar. In this system Police Service, Fire Service, Women and Child help Line etc. are now being brought under one umbrella. Odisha fire service has rendered commendable service in carrying out relief and rescue operations during different natural calamities. A dedicated web portal “Agnishama Seva” has been integrated for online issue of Fire Safety Certificates and Fire Safety Recommendations under the 5T framework and Fire Service has been included in “Mo Sarkar” to provide better citizen centric service to the public.

74. My Government is giving much-needed emphasis on the modernisation of the Judiciary keeping in pace with technology. For virtual mode of hearing and trial of cases, high-speed internet service has been provided in Orissa High Court. Similar facilities would also be provided in 30 district judgeships. To make available judicial documents relating to court cases, a scanning and digitization programme has been undertaken.

75. My Government envisages carrying out reforms in identified areas and adopts best practices in the delivery of public goods and services. "Odisha Right to Public Services Act, 2012" is being implemented to provide all notified services to the citizens within a stipulated time. 'Odisha One' Portal acts as a single-window for citizens to avail all online public services offered by the Government. For better convenience, Odisha One Portal and Central Monitoring System have been integrated for timely maintaining of public service delivery. Citizens can file online appeals and revisions through the Odisha One Portal. Litigation Management System (LMS) is being implemented for monitoring court cases on a real-time basis.

76. During the lockdown due to the outbreak of COVID-19, most of the public service was made available with IT-enabled services across the State. Government employees were enabled to Work-from-Home with VPN facilities. Video Conferencing facility has been provided using OSWAN across the State by connecting Lokaseva Bhavan with Blocks. Regular Video Conference are being conducted by all Government Departments with Collectors and other field level officials. OSWAS has been integrated with MS Office 365 enabling web conferencing through the Microsoft Teams application.

77. Dissemination of information and effective public outreach works as a link between the people and the Government. It not only sensitises the public about the policies and programmes of the Government but also ensures people's participation in the successful implementation of developmental programmes. In the wake of the unprecedented spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the State Government has been working in a mission mode to inform and educate the people. IEC activities like-slots in TV and radio jingles, bulk messages through different mobile phone networks and social media uploads regular media briefings, a talk show with experts and specialists are also being carried out through Live Common Feed Technology which are broadcast regularly in different regional channels for public benefit.

78. My Government has set a benchmark in using Information Technology to make the revenue administration fair, efficient and transparent. Computerization of Tahasil and Registration offices, implementation of IT applications such as Bhulekh, Bhunaksha, e-

Mutation, e-Registration, e-Pauti and e-Certificates are some of the important interventions in this direction. Filing of applications, payment of requisite fees, approval and downloading of certificates have been made online through web-based applications. This has reduced the physical interface between Government Offices and Citizens thereby enhancing transparency and good governance standards. Till now my Government has allotted homestead land under the “Vasundhara” Scheme to 47,587 persons in the State.

79. My Government has been able to plough back about ₹2,800 crore through mopping up of Government money parked in bank accounts. One Time Settlement (OTS) schemes have been introduced for the realization of arrear revenue in respect of major tax and non-tax items of the State’s resources. My Government has been able to collect its revenue amounting to ₹38,760 crore by the end of January, 2021 which is about 7.3% more than the collection during the corresponding period of the previous year. Despite the severe impact of COVID-19 on revenue, the State has been able to achieve positive growth in its own revenue which is an indication of recovery in economic activities in the State.

80. The COVID-19 pandemic posed a unique challenge to Odisha’s public finances. The crisis resulted in a shrinkage in fiscal space which compelled my Government to reprioritize its public spending to meet the higher demand for spending on COVID management, creating livelihoods opportunities, promoting agriculture as well as the Industries & MSME sector for employment generation. As a temporary measure, the corpus of the Contingency Fund was enhanced from ₹400 crore to ₹2,000 crore to provide the required fiscal space for aggressive COVID response. My Government has also adopted an innovative way to avail cheaper sources of financing from surplus cash balance in dedicated funds, like CAMPA and OMBADC to maintain required liquidity during the crisis period. As a result, funds could be made available at around 150-200 basis points cheaper than the Open Market Borrowing. My Government has also exercised the option for repayment cost of Open Market Borrowing for ₹2,500 crore out of the corpus of Consolidated Sinking Fund which has provided the State the much-required liquidity during the crisis.

81. My Government has taken up a series of reforms in public financial management which are based on global best practices. They are intended to enhance fiscal sustainability and improve budget performance by strengthening medium-term fiscal planning and improving budget transparency. These reforms include the introduction of a Medium-Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) with a three-year outlook on State Finances, introduction of the strategic budget-making process, bringing out monthly and quarterly fiscal analysis reports, disclosure of budget documents and advance communication of a realistic budget ceiling to all Departments for formulation and prioritization of their Budget proposals within the ceiling communicated.

82. My Government took several reform measures through IT intervention to counter the COVID-related lockdown for ensuring smooth Treasury operations and financial management in the State. The State adopted two prong strategies to deliver its services by adopting procedures for minimizing human dependency in treasury administration through the use of technology strictly adhering to Covid guidelines.

83. Online processing of bills by Treasuries was facilitated during the lockdown period of COVID-19 without waiting for receipt of physical Bills. Implementation of Single Page Pay Bill was strictly followed which downsized the voluminous salary bill and thereby reducing the chances of being exposed to a huge quantity of paper documents and its human carrier. Global Allotment system was introduced in respect of salary and personal advances to ensure timely disbursement of monthly salary to employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure were issued for the virtual working of Treasuries to provide uninterrupted services in the crucial juncture of lockdown.

84. My Government introduced digitally signed Electronic Authorities for Pension and other pensionary benefits to avoid delay in despatch and disbursement. A special arrangement was made for the disbursement of pension/family pension in treasuries without physical appearance of pensioners at the time of disbursement of their first pension. Submission of a life certificate once a year by pensioners to their pension disbursing authority is essential as per the codal provision. To avoid the exposure of old age pensioners to the pandemic, the timeline for submission of the Life Certificate was extended from

November 2020 to May 2021. The bulk disbursement facility available in IFMS was used frequently for DBT amid COVID restrictions.

85. When reports of the outbreak of COVID-19 started to emerge at the beginning of the year 2020, my Government immediately swung into action to bolster testing capacity, to try to understand what was going on, and contain the spread of infections by strict enforcement of lockdowns/shutdowns, containment strategy, social distancing norms, sanitation measures, use of facial masks and high standard of personal hygiene. Odisha has done exceedingly well in managing and containing the pandemic.

86. The pandemic has not only presented herculean challenges, but it has also been the cause of sudden disruption in the delivery of essential services and economic activities, thereby resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods. Now I can only hope that from this crisis we can truly build back better to a more resilient community and economy in the coming years.

87. Technology is going to serve as a tool in the delivery of good governance and public goods and services in a transparent manner. My Government has adopted the 5T Framework and Mo-Sarkar in its endeavours for transformative governance. My State has performed phenomenally well in several sectors, be it rural housing, putting lakhs of ST and SC students in our educational institutions, the vibrant Mission Shakti movement transforming our socio-economic landscape, our flagship health initiatives, our own Food Security Scheme for every deserving family or our sporting and tourist infrastructures or carrying out administrative reforms or public financial management reforms. My Government will continue to prioritise delivery of essential services, creation of livelihood opportunities and development of key and basic infrastructure including connectivity, provision of safe drinking water, power supply, supporting agriculture with irrigation and other facilities and taking health care and education to the next level.

88. I would like to reiterate that my Government is fully committed to develop all regions of the State and empower all sections of the people.

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

“Bande Utkal Janani”