



3rd Anniversary of the BJD Government (2014-17)

**Address by Shri Naveen Patnaik,
Honourable Chief Minister to his Council of
Ministers on 21st May 2017**

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Odisha to his Council of Ministers on the 3rd Anniversary of Office**

May 21st, 2017

Recently, I had been to Baripada. Most of you present here are senior people. Could any of you have imagined 20 years ago, that there would be a Government Medical College in a district like Mayurbhanj or Koraput?

Today it is a Reality.

I want to take you back to the year 2000 and bring you back to where we have reached now. To put today's meeting in perspective, let me make a comparison of where we were and how far we have moved forward. From a State known for mishandling natural disasters leading to loss of thousands of precious lives, to a State that has set global benchmarks in disaster management.

From a State, that was doing subsistence agriculture to being an agriculturally progressive and winning the Krishikarman Award four times. We are the only State to have doubled farmers' income in the last decade.

From a State, that was food grain deficit and dependent on Railway tracks from Punjab and Haryana to feed its own people, to a State that is the third largest contributor to the Public Distribution System (PDS) -- playing a major role in the food security of the Country.

From a State, known for its abysmal record in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) -- being the bottom-most in the country, to having the sharpest decline in the IMR -- becoming better than the national average.

From a State of financial bankruptcy -- not being able to pay the salaries of its people to a State known for excellence in financial administration.

From a State known for corruption and nepotism to a State known for transparency and anti-corruption measures.

From a State known for acute poverty to a State known for bringing about the highest poverty reduction in the country. 24.61 percentage points decline has meant, 80 lakh persons come out of poverty in the last decade.

From a State known for lack of connectivity to having one of the best road networks in the country -- reaching the far-flung areas of the State.

From a State, that had more than a million children out of school to less than 50,000 now, and that number is fast reducing. Our dropout percentage that used to be 52% is now less than 5%.

A State not known much for its industrialisation -- to a State which has achieved one of the highest industrial growth rates in the country while keeping people as the primary focus.

Odisha has come a long way.

This transformation is well recognised by our people, who have repeatedly reposed their faith in us.

Three years ago on this day, after taking oath of office, we had our first meeting of the Council of Ministers where we resolved to adopt our manifesto as the Policy of the Government. Some of our major achievements in this regard are:

- Completion of more than a million houses for the rural poor
- More than four lakh hectares of additional irrigated area and six lakh hectares more to be completed in the next two years
- Historic decision to provide crop loans at 1% interest
- More than 25 lakh mothers benefitted under MAMATA Yojana -- and this has become a model for the country for MMR and IMR reduction.
- Women empowerment is a key pillar of our development. Loans to women Self Help Groups (SHGs) at 1% interest rate to improve financial viability of SHG activities
- Our Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced from 96 in the year 2000 to 40 in 2015-16 (NHFS Data). This effectively translates into saving about 51,000 more babies annually compared to the year 2000.

This is the finest example of the success of our combined efforts at the grassroots. The Infant Mortality Rate is universally established as the key indicator of overall development as it reflects economic and physical access to food, health and livelihoods. It reflects women empowerment, education, connectivity, agricultural prosperity. It establishes growth with equity. In short, it validates our governance model.

- More than 1.3 crore people covered under the free medicine scheme NIRAMAYA
- Cancer treatment facilities in all District Headquarter Hospitals
- Nine Government Medical Colleges sanctioned and at different stages of completion
- 160 Adarsha Vidyalayas established in the State
- To reduce the pressure on parents, education loans to students for higher studies at 1% interest
- Coverage under Madhubabu Pension Yojana increased to 43 lakhs for Senior citizens, widows, etc who are below poverty line.
- Nearly 19 lakh Construction Workers registered and Rs.400 crores worth of benefits distributed to around 10 lakh Workers
- Odisha continues to be the pioneering State in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act -- about 4 lakh land titles have been distributed
- We have half a million tribal girls in hostels and it is the largest number in the country
- We cover about 19 lakh SC/ST students with Scholarships amounting to Rs.1000 crores
- More than 8 lakh Kendu Leaf Pluckers have been provided with insurance coverage
- In a historic decision, Rs.130 crores were distributed to 8 lakh Kendu Leaf Pluckers as 100% bonus

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- 1400 sacred groves in tribal areas have been taken as a priority for conservation
 - 500 crucial bridges have been completed under the Biju Setu Yojana
 - Work is on in full swing under the Biju Express Way connecting the Western and Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts
 - More than 25 lakh houses provided with electricity connection. The remaining households will be connected by 2019
 - More than 7000 villages have been electrified and 500 Sub-Stations of 33/11 capacity are in progress
 - More than 1000 kilometres of kutchha roads in urban areas have been converted to pucca roads
 - 1300 kilometres of new pipelines laid to provide drinking water benefiting 10 lakh people
 - Odisha Urban Housing Mission has taken up 60,000 houses for the urban poor
 - Odisha has been recognised as the number one State for attracting live manufacturing investment in the country as per ASSOCHAM
 - Odisha has been recognised as Leader in implementation of business reforms by the World Bank
 - The whole country is in awe of our Skill Development Authority which aims at making Skilled-in-Odisha a brand
 - Nearly 5 lakh youth have been covered under our Skill Development Initiatives and we will cover another 6 lakh youth by 2019. We have also provided Placement Linked Skill Development to more than 1.5 lakh youth

While I thank the entire team for our achievements in the last 3 years, I'm seriously concerned about the last mile delivery and in some cases harassment being faced by people. These must be addressed.

In this regard, I will suggest 3 Ts – Teamwork, Transparency and Technology – I want every Department to fine tune their functioning with these 3 Ts in mind. In the next 2 months, I will be taking independent feedback on the steps taken in this regard.

My esteemed colleagues, let us remember that it is our job to empower people to aspire high with the faith that their aspirations will be turned to reality.

It is this faith that the people of Odisha have on my Government which makes them to bless us continuously.

Let us work together with commitment and dedication to honour this faith people have on us.

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