Section 1: Interview with Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon’ble Chief Minister, Government of Odisha for the *Invest India* magazine (January 2019 Edition)

1. 18 plus years of stable and transparent government and still counting… how does this result in making Odisha a preferred investment destination in India?

Response: My Government has been committedly working for the development of Odisha over the past 18 years. Focussing on our mantra of 3Ts - Transparency, Technology and Teamwork, our reform efforts have been to support rapid, broad based and inclusive economic growth, and industrial development is a key component of this growth. We aim to develop Odisha as a Manufacturing Hub of South Asia and are well-poised to realise this vision through two core initiatives - development of state-of-the-art infrastructure and making available industry-ready skilled workforce. We have implemented several proactive policy-based measures and reforms towards creating an industry-led ecosystem of value addition, sustainable employment generation and revenue augmentation. Such initiatives have been able to provide a conducive ecosystem giving confidence to the investor community from across the globe and the State establishing itself as most-preferred investment destination in India.
2. Odisha is ranked first in investment implementation rate and ranked among the top three investment destinations in India consistently. What are the key benefits that the state offers to attract investors in terms of infrastructure and facilitation support?

Response: Over the last few years, Odisha has developed state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities in the form of industrial regions and clusters including National Investment & Manufacturing Zone at Kalinganagar, Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region at Paradip, Sea Food Park at Deras, Aluminium Park at Angul, Electronics Manufacturing Cluster at Bhubaneswar, Apparel Park at Ramdaspur amongst others to provide competitive manufacturing locations for the investor community. These infrastructure facilities have generated significant investor interest. The infrastructure facilities, combined with the competitive cost of doing business, make Odisha a preferred choice of investment for the businesses.

The State has introduced a first-of-its-kind and innovative single window system, ‘GO SWIFT’ - Government of Odisha Single Window Investor Facilitation and Tracking' portal, to facilitate paperless, time bound and transparent approvals and clearances across the investment lifecycle of industrial projects. The emphasis of the State Government is on swift grounding and commissioning of industrial projects. These initiatives make Odisha the No.1 State in the country in terms of investment implementation rate.
3. What is your vision for industrial development in Odisha? How is Odisha utilizing its strategic location towards realizing this vision.

Response: The State has a blueprint for industrial development in the form of “Odisha Industrial Development Plan: Vision 2025”. This Plan envisions INR 2.5 lakh crore of new investments in 6 identified focus sectors creating 3 million job opportunities in the State by 2025. Our focus sectors include Ancillary & Downstream Industries in Metal Sector; Chemicals, Plastics & Petrochemicals; Electronics Manufacturing; Food Processing; Textiles & Apparel and Tourism. Our emphasis is on infrastructure-led development of these sectors backed by a conducive policy ecosystem.

Odisha’s strategic location along the east coast provides easy access to high-growth markets in Eastern India, ASEAN and the East Asia region. Our strategy is to support a port-led industrial development, providing one of the most competitive logistics environment for the industries. Paradip port has emerged as the second largest port in India. Deep-water operational ports at Dharma and Gopalpur, and the upcoming port at Subarnarekha will further spur industrial development in the region.

4. The second Make in Odisha Conclave concluded in Nov’18. What were some of the key takeaways of the event?

Response: Make in Odisha Conclave is our flagship biennial business event showcasing the policy & regulatory environment, investment opportunities across focus sectors and manufacturing prowess of the State. This year, the event was organized during November 11-15, which saw participation of leading industry captains. The theme of the Conclave was “I am Odisha”, which celebrated the
successes of Odisha and her people in creating a vibrant ecosystem for business in the State. “I am Odisha” provided a unique platform for the people of the State to share their stories that showcase the ‘Odisha of today’ and present their vision for the ‘Odisha of future’.

The Make in Odisha Conclave 2018 significantly differentiated itself from the previous edition as well as other similar events in the country. It went beyond a typical industrial summit and entailed marquee themes and events including promotion of Odia culture and heritage, highlighting role of creative economy in the nation’s growth, reaching the ‘unreached’ districts through measured CSR initiatives, solve pressing challenges of public service delivery through solutions developed by the youth of the country, empowering women through entrepreneurship initiatives, amongst others.
We received overwhelming response from the investor community and we received investment intent worth over INR 4.23 lakh crore leading upto and during the event. More importantly, these projects which will provide employment to over 6.03 lakh people in the State.

5. Odisha is gifted with a highly skilled labour force. What role is the government playing in providing employment opportunities and further training for them?

Response: Odisha, historically acknowledged for its exquisite art and artists, is now contributing to the growth of the nation through its skilled workforce, who are trained in various fields and trades, and have been excelling in various industries, in Odisha and beyond. Today, Odisha ITIs are transforming technical education in India. We
have been the No. 1 State, two years in a row for DDU-GKY implementation. At the India Skills 2018, Odisha ranked 2nd among all States in the country. Focusing on the development of human capital, my Government constituted a dedicated Odisha Skill Development Authority and launched the “Skilled in Odisha” program, which is emerging as a global brand. This unique program is ensuring that industry-ready manpower is available to support the industrial growth.

We have formalized an understanding with ITEES, Singapore to cooperate in establishment and operation of a unique “World Skill Centre” in Bhubaneswar. The centre will be a next-generation skilling institute imparting advance skills through experiential and industry oriented courses. 1.5 lakh youth will be trained in this World Skill Centre in the next 4 years. The Centre will be operational by March 2019.

6. What role do you envision that MSMEs and startups will play in the development of the state? How is your government supporting the such industries in Odisha?

Response: With the setting up of new mega projects in the State, the demand for a wide range of goods and services has increased, generating significant opportunities for small and medium industries in the State. We have put in place a focused policy for the development of MSME sector in the State. Balanced growth of large and MSMEs will not only facilitate sustainable industrial ecosystem but also create higher employment leading to higher overall economic growth in the society.
Odisha is also emerging as the new, modern hub for start-ups. We have established a supportive regulatory framework and robust governance structure to enable growth of start-up ecosystem in the State. Our “Mission – 1000 Startups”, is aimed at facilitating creative and innovative enterprises that will lead the growth across various sectors in the new economy.

7. What according to you best signifies the relationship between Odisha government and Invest India?

Response: The Government of Odisha, through IPICOL, and the Invest India team has been working closely on facilitating FDI investments into Odisha. We appreciate the support and contribution of Invest India, and look forward to further strengthening this partnership in the future, towards Odisha’s development into the manufacturing hub of the region.