

## Modi 'gifts' ₹4,500cr projects to Odisha

Baripada (Odisha), Jan. 5: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched a slew of Central government projects worth more than ₹4,500 crore in Odisha and said these will also benefit lakhs of people in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Describing the projects as a new year gift for the people of Odisha to ensure speedy development of the state, Modi said "these will benefit the people in three eastern states of Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand".

Affirming the Centre's commitment to strengthen infrastructure and connectivity in the country, mainly the eastern region, Mr Modi said the focus is on boosting railway, airways and highway connectivity in Odisha.

Enhanced connectivity will bridge the gap between the mineral belt and industrial units, the prime minister said adding "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*" is Centre's motto, as he launched the projects before addressing a BJP rally at Chhau Ground at Baripada in tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district.

The projects were unveiled during Mr Modi's second visit to the eastern state in less than a fortnight. He had unveiled a slew of projects in Bhubaneswar and addressed a BJP rally near Khurda town on December 24.

The projects are — road highways and transport, petroleum and natural gas, railways, culture, tourism and passport services.

— PTI