

Annual Activity Report- FY 2025-26

Crèche Section

The *Kalika* Crèche Initiative has been implemented in accordance with the provisions of the **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Section 11A)** to support working parents by providing quality childcare facilities. The initiative is guided by the scientific principles of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and aims to promote the best interests of young children while enabling parents to effectively balance their professional and family responsibilities.

Key Activities

Expansion and Strengthening of Crèche Facilities

- During FY 2025–26, the Government has undertaken significant initiatives to strengthen childcare support systems for working women through the establishment of crèche facilities in Government offices across the State.
- At present, the enrolment strength of the Kalika Crèche at Lokaseva Bhawan is 27 children. Due to space constraints, accommodating additional children has become challenging. To address the growing demand, the Chief Engineer, Works Department has been requested to construct two additional rooms above the existing crèche building within the Lokaseva Bhawan premises.

Inauguration of New Crèche Facilities

- A new crèche facility at **Kharavela Bhawan** was inaugurated on **1st December 2025** by Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, marking a significant milestone in expanding institutional childcare support.



Creche, Kharavela Bhawan

- A new crèche facility at **Rajiv Bhawan** was inaugurated on **22 March 2026** by Smt. Pravati Parida, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, further strengthening childcare infrastructure for Govt. employees.



Creche, Rajiv Bhawan

- At present, **nine (9) KALIKA (crèches)** are operational in the State, including:
 - Four at the State Headquarters:
 - Lokaseva Bhawan
 - Kharavela Bhawan
 - Krushi Bhawan
 - Rajiv Bhawan
 - Five at District Collectorates:
 - Jharsuguda
 - Keonjhar
 - Gajapati
 - Rayagada
 - Sundargarh

Achievements

- To promote childcare support and child-friendly public spaces during major public events, funding support of Rs. 10.00 lakh was provided to the Cuttack Administration for a special lounge during Baliyatra 2025, held from 7th to 13th November 2025 at Cuttack. The initiative ensured a safe, nurturing, and supportive environment for young children and mothers visiting the festival, while showcasing the Government's commitment to strengthening childcare services in public spaces.
- A sum of Rs. 30.00 lakh (non-recurring) has been sanctioned and released for establishment of crèche facilities in the Collectorates of 10 districts (@3.0 Lakhs per district) during FY 2025–26.
- A sum of Rs. 6.00 lakh (non-recurring) has been sanctioned and released to the Housing & Urban Development Department and the Water Resources

Department for establishment of crèche facilities at Kharavela Bhawan and Rajiv Bhawan, respectively

- An amount of Rs. 3.00 lakh has been sanctioned in favour of the Odisha State Commission for Women for establishment of a crèche facility at the Toshali Bhawan.
- Further, to enhance the learning environment and overall well-being of children attending the Kalika Crèche at Lokaseva Bhawan, various child-friendly resources and equipment, including educational toys, books, dining furniture, weighing machines and floor mats were provided.

Inter-Departmental Coordination and Child Welfare Measures

- The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and operational guidelines for establishment of crèches have been shared with the Director, Health Services for setting up a crèche facility in the Combined Health Directorate premises at the Heads of Department Building. Following a site visit, necessary communication has been issued for identification of a suitable location.
- The Health & Family Welfare Department has been requested to conduct monthly eye and ear health check-ups for children attending the crèche at Lokaseva Bhawan to ensure timely identification and management of health-related concerns.
- The Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Department has been requested to organize mental health assessments once every six months for children enrolled in the Kalika Crèche at Lokaseva Bhawan.

Awareness and Child Development Activities

- Instructions have been issued to all Collectors for establishment of **Breastfeeding Corners/Rooms** in crèche facilities operating under the Kalika Scheme to support nursing mothers and promote child-friendly workplaces.
- **Celebration of Children's Day** at the Kalika Crèche, Lokaseva Bhawan, with various child-centric activities aimed at promoting learning, creativity, and overall development.



Conclusion

The Department continues to expand and strengthen the Kalika Crèche Initiative through infrastructure development, policy formulation, inter-departmental collaboration, and child-focused welfare measures. These efforts contribute significantly towards creating a supportive, inclusive, and family-friendly work environment for Government employees across Odisha.