Speaker Sir,

Before I present the Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22, I bow before this August Assembly, and with all my good wishes and with all humility, I would like to recite a stanza from a poem penned by Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwalla.

\[
\text{Jai hauk Poharar Jai / Jai Hauk} \\
\text{Maanavar mahattar aadarshar jai/} \\
\text{Chira Mangalar, Chira Kalyanor/} \\
\text{Jagatar aei maha bikashar / jai hauk} \\
\text{Yuge Yuge / chira sundoror Jai…}
\]

(may light prevail, victorious be greatness of humanity, eternal wellbeing and welfare be at the core of the great evolution of the universe, triumphant be the beauteousness throughout the Ages)

Being the first women Finance Minister, I am greatly honoured for being bestowed the August task of presenting the State’s Budget with the heart of a mother filled with love and affection. Before I proceed further, I, on behalf of the people of our state would like to offer our best wishes to our daughter, Lovlina Borgohain who is part of Indian Contingent, and is proceeding to Tokyo to participate in the upcoming Olympics.

1. Sir, we all know that not only the knowledge of finances form the core understanding of how a family is run, but the same is also true for every organisation. Covid pandemic has hugely impacted state economy since
year 2020. The life of common man has been severely affected in all spheres beyond imagination. Still, our Government has embarked upon the path of development in such a difficult period with the blessings of people from all walks of life.

2. Under the dynamic leadership of the Hon’ble Chief Minister, our Government has taken firm steps to tackle the 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} wave of Covid pandemic. Our Government has decided to sincerely implement all the pledges related to Economy given in the Election manifesto. The Union Government led by Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been extending all help and assistance to the State Government. We are also committed to strengthen our fiscal efficiency and economic security by adhering to all existing financial rules.

3. In the meantime, I have held discussions with various organizations, institutions, unions, individuals and Government departments. Some suggestions have also been received from cross section of people. I have listened to all the suggestions sincerely to gauge their feelings and have tried my best to reflect their suggestions in the Budget. One of the trendsetter poets of Assam, Late Amulya Baruah wrote:

\begin{quote}
\textit{Mor ache manuhar ooporot biswas}
\textit{Mor ache bhavisyator sustha}
\textit{Ranga suryar ooporat choku.}
\end{quote}

(I have faith upon humanity, I have my eyes focused upon the healthy red Sun of the future)

4. With profound respect for the people of Assam, I have humbly put my effort to prepare this year’s Budget, not as a reflection of annual earnings and expenditure– but
as a stepping stone and a vision document for our next five year’s journey.

5. After one year, we will look back to see how long we have traversed. If we assess that more speed is needed, we will not pause. We will firmly accelerate our pace to reach the cherished goal.

6. Speaker Sir, our ambition is to fully materialize a sense of optimism, as espoused by Sahityarathi- the doyen of Assamese literature. I humbly wish to remind you his famous motivating words:

   Bajok Doba, Bajok Sankha,
   Bajak Mridang Khol,
   Axom akou unnatir pathat
   Jai aai Axom bol

   (Let the Doba, Sankha, Mridong, Khol (revered musical instrument) reverberate, Assam is on the path of progress again, hail mother Assam)

7. I convey my thanks to all the coalition partners of our “Mitra Jot” – the BJP, AGP, UPPL and the Rabha Joutho Sangram Samitee- for their support and suggestions to the Government towards fulfilling people’s aspirations. Speaker Sir, we have a vibrant opposition. I look forward to their cooperation as well.

8. This is the first Budget presented by the State Government in its second term in office. We had released a “Sankalpa Patra” (Charter of Pledge) before last Assembly Election reflecting our vision towards attainment of a self-reliant Assam. We may not have been able to cover all the subjects of the Pledge Charter in the present Budget. But we shall remain committed to our goal and try our best to fulfill them within our five-year term.
9. Speaker Sir, Assam and North East India is a special focus area today. A focus that is unprecedented. And this focus emanates from the blessings of our Hon’ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. We are thankful to our Hon’ble Prime Minister for extending all support to Assam and the North Eastern states.

10. We feel grateful to our Hon’ble Union Home Minister. We all know that no developmental activities are possible if we do not have peace in the region. With a visionary eye, our Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah ji has been working tirelessly for a North East India where peace reigns ensuring all round development.

COVID AND ECONOMY

11. We all are aware that the Covid pandemic induced disaster in the Health Sector has directly impacted the global Economy since 2020, and similarly India and Assam were also affected.

12. The whole world including India is at an undeclared war against the Covid pandemic. We in Assam have also accepted the challenge and fighting against it.

13. Our Government remains very much vigilant and sensitive so that under no circumstances the frontline warriors against Covid feel any economic deprivation. Fund management for the war against Covid remains the chief priority of the Government and it will be so in the future also.

14. Speaker Sir, at the time of Budget preparation, no such Covid-induced situation occurred earlier. But I declare firmly that Government will steadfastly strive to contain Covid and continue the momentum of development side by side.
15. Government has not allowed fund constraints for Covid management. Vaccination drive is being converted to a mass movement with people’s participation. This was a humble initiative of our Hon’ble Chief Minister. I am conveying our Government’s gratitude from heart to all the people and organizations and institutions who have contributed overwhelmingly to CM Relief Fund at the call of our Hon’ble Chief Minister.

16. I will be failing in my duty if I do not place on record our most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the day and night services rendered by thousands of our health workers – doctors, nurses, paramedics, lab technicians, ambulance drivers, ASHA workers and other frontline workers during the current pandemic.

STATE’S ECONOMIC CONDITION

17. Speaker Sir, development is a continuous process. Our government is taking forward this process coherently. Now I want to speak a few words regarding the economic front of our state.

18. Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) reflects a state economy. During 2015-16 financial year GSDP at variable prices was worth Rs. 2,27,959 crores. It increased to Rs. 3,51,318 crores during 2019-20. Percentage of growth during this period was 11.22%.

19. On the other hand, at Constant Prices the GSDP during 2015-16 fiscal was Rs. 1,91,109 crores which increased to Rs. 2,48,796 crores during 2019-20 fiscal. During this period GSDP at constant prices was 7.55%.

20. If we are to note the allocation of funds in the Budget it will also reflect the allocation and expenditure. It is observed that Budget was prepared with thoughtfulness
during last four years and funds were properly allocated which resulted in successful public expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget (crore)</th>
<th>Expenditure (crore)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>66142.17</td>
<td>41931.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>78253.36</td>
<td>57406.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>85922.69</td>
<td>65386.45</td>
<td>76.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>90269.92</td>
<td>71850.51</td>
<td>79.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>99418.91</td>
<td>82488.12</td>
<td>82.97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. As may be seen, over the years not only resources, but expenditure have gone up despite having bleak global economic outlook. We would like to express our gratitude to Hon’ble Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman for her kind gesture and support.

22. People have bestowed upon us to serve them again for our effort to maximize the Budget expenditure in development works. All the more, doubling of expenditure in 2019-20 in comparison to 2015-16 has resulted into a sound economic framework.

23. I have placed the above statistical comparison to prove that ensuring a robust revenue collection system is the prime duty of a Government. If we do not mobilize resources, it will be impossible to make Budgetary expenditure also.

24. Speaker Sir, our Government placed the first Budget in the year 2016. The policies and salient features of the Government were reflected in the Budget. We had
identified four foundations of our model of good governance, which are:

1. Integrity of individual life
2. Political inclusion
3. Administrative equity
4. Mass participation

25. The philosophy of “Ekatma Manavatavad” (Integrated Humanism) of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya and Swami Vivekananda’s “Turjyaninaad” comprising creation of human assets with nation building showed the mainstream of success. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister has the desire to continue his service to the people with the above principles as the guiding force.

26. Speaker Sir, along with the above four foundations and with the objective of attaining our sustainable development goals, we are endeavoring to outline a model of sustainable development in economic upliftment, infrastructure development, industrial development and availability of power.

27. Our Government is committed to face any challenges coming on this front and to strive to reach the desired goal.

28. Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had reiterated India’s commitment to sustainable development at the plenary session of UNO on SDG on 25th September 2015.

29. Speaker Sir, our Government in the last tenure tried its best to bring administration closer to the people. Numerous schemes were taken up to that effect which have succeeded to reach all sections of the people.
wish to briefly outline some such schemes. Some of the schemes will be retained in this year’s Budget.

30. These schemes had some other facets also. Objectives of the schemes were to ensure Social justice and equity for the people apart from strengthening the base of development and growth.

ANNA YOJANA AND LABOUR WELFARE

31. Government of Assam is providing free rice under ‘ANNA Scheme’ to all the NFSA beneficiaries in Assam. We are spending Rs. 489 crores annually for this purpose. This is a very important step in ensuring the food security for all the vulnerable sections of the society. A total of 58.93 lakhs families are covered in the scheme including 6.46 lakh families in the tea garden areas.

32. Apart from this, our Government is providing Rs. 12,000 to women tea labourers as compensation for the loss of wages they suffered during pregnancy and childbirth. This scheme has contributed to check mortality rate as well as maintenance of nutrition for both mother and child.

33. Schemes for higher education of tea tribes student are also taken up. Efforts are being made for development of education in the tea garden areas and sites for 102 High Schools have been identified. Meanwhile construction of several such school has been completed. These High Schools, when completed, will play a decisive role in driving out the obstacles on the educational font.

34. During recent past, roads of Labour lines of the 800 odd tea gardens situated in backward areas were constructed with paver blocks at the cost of Rs. 1.00
crore in each garden. This has resulted in ushering positive changes in such underdeveloped localities.

35. Assam Bhaatta Aachoni (benefit scheme) is being launched whereby timely payment of retirement benefits to tea labourers will be ensured. A worker will receive Rs. 50,000 at an average as retirement benefit.

ORUNODOI

36. Speaker Sir, I have been fortunate to be in this August House as representative for 5 (five) terms. I wish to say that among all the schemes launched so far. “Orunodoi” (sunrise) is the strongest one which will lead Assam forward with self-reliance, self-confidence and strong purpose. Numerous schemes were taken up in the last decades for poverty eradication, but unfortunately poor people were not benefitted fully. Few such schemes have created a section of middle men only. I sincerely believe that poor people will get relief from poverty by this fund transfer process. Rs. 830 per month is provided under this scheme for medical treatment and nutrition.

INTEGRATED SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME

37. Speaker Sir, duty of an elected Government is to provide social security for all sections of the society, specially widows, elderly and specially abled persons. We are committed to extend due schematic benefits to them.

38. In the 2019-20 Budget three numbers of schemes were taken up, namely-

(A) Indira Miri Sarbajanin Bidhaba Pension Scheme (one-time assistance of Rs. 25,000 to widow beneficiary)

(B) Swahid Kushal Konwar Sarbajanin Bridha Pension Scheme.
39. All the three schemes are presently implemented with success. Today 13,24,089 beneficiaries of Swahid Kushal Konwar Sarbajanin Bridha Pension 1,86,139 beneficiaries of Indira Miri Sarbajanin Bidhaba Pension Scheme and 1,60,612 beneficiaries of Deendayal Upadhyaya Divyang Pension Scheme received their monthl pension directly in their bank account every month.

40. I have the pleasure to inform the August House that with the goodwill of Hon’ble Chief Minister, the three schemes were made free from ceiling (FOC) process and from now onwards benefits will be credited to beneficiary bank account by the 10th day of every month. It also been decided that Central share will also be released in advance so that the beneficiaries get their benefit on time.

41. We have also ensured the beneficiaries of National Social Assistance Programme, i.e. Old Age Pension (6,86,237 beneficiaries) and Widow Pension (1,11,964 beneficiaries) received their monthly pension also on 10th of every month through DBT. The total number of beneficiaries, thus, stands at 24,66,635 under these important schemes.

ASOM MALA

42. Communication network is a powerful medium. Strong connectivity played a pivotal role in development of a state’s economy. Road transportation is the medium used by maximum numbers of people. I would like to make a special mention of the New Development Bank (NDB) supported Guwahati – North Guwahati bridge which is being completed expeditiously.
43. Our Government has taken up a wide ranging programme comprising the State Highways and main roads of the districts. Two externally aided project, namely ARNP and ASRIP with Rs. 5000 crore funding from Asian Development Bank have been sanctioned. Preliminary work of the project has already commenced. When completed the projects will give a new look to our road networks.

44. Meanwhile our Government has upgraded 701.85 kilometres of road under NHAI and 929.23 kilometres of road under NHIBCL to 4-lane national highways. In 2020-21 also fund has been allotted for construction of new roads and highways.

45. Construction of the bridge connecting Majuli with Jorhat is now underway. The dream harboured by the people of Majuli for so long will be materialized thereby.

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN CONTAINING COVID PANDEMIC

46. Speaker Sir, the Covid pandemic terrorized the world in 2020 and our state also suffered a lot. The pandemic has affected the state’s economy and threatened public health.

47. During this challenging time Assam under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and erstwhile Health Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma - who is now the Chief Minister, earned success in containing the 1st wave of Covid in comparison to other states.

48. Unfortunately- in 2021, the 2nd wave of Covid has started. Government has taken a lead to contain this wave also and has put all-out effort along with the Covid warriors to safeguard the people of the state.
49. Presently 20,476 hospital beds are being used in the Government Hospitals. Out of that 16,461 beds are used as isolation beds, 2964 numbers are as beds with oxygen, 1151 beds as ICU beds.

50. For emergency service, 600 ICU beds are being built at Guwahati Medical College (200 Bed), temporary Covid Hospital at Sarusajai (100 Bed) and additional 200 Bed at GMCH.

51. Prior to the emergence of Covid pandemic the health infrastructure especially for tertiary care was limited to medical college hospitals. Upto March 2020, the total number of ICU beds was 400 only, out of which only about 120 could be earmarked for Covid patients. There were only approximately 400 oxygen supported beds mainly dependent on oxygen cylinders.

52. Total number of ICU beds has now been increased to 1540 with approximately 1099 ICU beds dedicated to Covid patients. Number of oxygen supported beds have also been increased to 3,855.

53. Upto June 2021 a total of 95,770 Covid patients were provided free treatment along with food worth Rs. 300.00 per day.

54. The State Government has also provided during this health crisis expensive injection like Remdesivir free of cost to BPL families.

55. Speaker Sir, I wish to convey to this August House that till now 77,86,900 people above the age of 18 years were given free Covid vaccine officially.

56. We expect the mission will continue with speed and efforts for wider vaccination will also be made.
SPECIAL STEP FOR BATADRAVA THAN

Srimanta Sankar  Hari Bhakatar
Jana Jena Kalpataru
Taahanta Binai  Naai Naai Naai
Aamar Parama Guru

“Srimanta Sankar Hari is like the all giving fountain for the disciple. Except him we don’t have any other supreme guru (mentor)”

57. At first, I bow my head at the feet of the “Guru” (Mentor) This House does not surely need any introduction about Sreemanta Sankardeva, we all knew him well. He was the pioneer of the Assamese nationhood and it is not the duty of the Government alone to establish him not only as our “Guru” but as the mentor for the world, it is a bounden duty of the whole Assamese community also.

58. Our Government during the last term had undertaken an ambitious project to turn Bordowa into an epitome of research on art, culture and spirituality besides a pilgrimage destination with high end infrastructure. The cost of the project was Rs. 188 crores.

59. Speaker Sir, you all know well that work of the project was inaugurated by Hon’ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah and presently construction activities are underway.

60. When completed, the project dreamt by our Hon’ble Chief Minister, will be a befitting tribute of our reverence and gratitude to the Guru.

61. Speaker Sir, last five years were the time for us to build the foundation. We dedicated ourselves to develop a robust foundation which shall determine the salient features of our future course of glorious journey for a resurgent Assam.
62. Speaker Sir, I wish to quote poet Hiren Bhattacharjya –

Mor pranoro praanor

Mor gaanoro gaanor aei desh

Mor protito chintaaai

Aei deshar bukut roche

Soich, soonoali bhavishyatar sapun.

(This land is in my heart, this land is in my every song.
Each of my work my thoughts creates dream of harvest, dream of golden future)

63. Our Government has decided upon some issues from the date of assuming office. These far reaching decisions will surely bring a new dimension for the state. The decision to hold Cabinet Meeting each week will help in materialization of official decisions. Sir, in order to ensure that policy decisions at State Headquarter are translated into grassroot level benefits. Guardian Ministers and Guardian Secretaries have been appointed for each district to assess them.

64. Measures for augmentation of revenue collection are a prime duty of a Government. Keeping this foremost in mind, the Government decided in the very first Cabinet Meeting to raise the state’s share in the Numaligarh Refinery’s ownership. This has resulted in increase of state’s share in the Refinery to 26%. This is the biggest decision in state investment sector so far.

EMPLOYMENT TO ONE LAKH YOUTHS

65. This was a bold decision of the State Cabinet which surely will usher in a breeze of hope in the employment sector. A Committee has been set-up to this effect. The Committee will submit its recommendations and decisions to the Cabinet in due course.
66. Hon’ble Chief Minister has decided to set-up four new Police Battalions and four new Forensic Laboratories. Employment avenues will be generated there also.

67. The Government has taken an initiative under Assam Small Financial Grant and Relief Scheme to provide relief to affected womenfolk who had taken loans from various small finance institutions. Meanwhile a committee has been constituted under the leadership of Hon’ble Minister Shri Ashok Singhal. The Committee is presently working on effective measures in this regard.

68. Youths are our future. But sections of these youths are seen to be under the clutches of drugs, leading them to a dark and gloomy future.

69. Government is pledge bound to thwart this tendency. A tough Anti-Drugs operation has been launched. Narcotics worth Rs. 135 crores have been seized of late. Home Guard Jawan Shri Borsing Bey of Karbi Anglong district has been promoted to the post of Police Constable for showing integrity and bravery during such an operation. This is only the beginning. This campaign will be relentless till our state is free from the drugs menace. Furthermore, to sustain this drive, steps have been taken to set up the Assam Narcotics Control Bureau in the state. We feel grateful to our Hon’ble Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji for extending all guidance and support to extinguish this menace.

70. Speaker Sir, our Government has taken firm measures against the illegal transportation of Coal. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are framed against such illegal activity and incidence of tax evasion. It is hoped
that the SOP will be of help in future to check smuggling and tax evasion.

71. Speaker Sir, our Government has created first time highest State Civilian Awards – Assam Ratna, Assam Vibhushan, Assam Bhushan and Assam Sri is to recognize services of great men of Assam. Furthermore, “Sahityik” (Literary) pension commemorating the birth anniversary of Late Homen Borgohain, “Krira” pension, the birth anniversary of a Arjun awardee Shri Bhogeswar Baruah and “Silpi” pension, commemorating the birth anniversary of Jyoti Prasad Agarwalla have been approved by the Cabinet.

72. Respected Chair, it’s my honour to inform this House that the State Government, after consultation with all the stakeholders, has hiked the daily wages of tea garden workers by Rs. 38.

73. Sir, Deputy Commissioners of Bodoland Territorial Region have been entrusted with supervision of development schemes under the aegis of Bodoland Territorial Council in key sectors and a decision has also been taken to create a new Department for Bodoland region.

74. I have briefly outlined our Governments activities and I assure you that we shall strive hard to govern the state affairs in the future with more dedication.

ASTADASH MUKUTAR UNNOYONEE MAALA

75. Speaker Sir, I have been in politics for nearly two decades. I have come across and read multiple budgets of the Union Government, many state governments and of course out own State Government. I always used to feel that flagship schemes are something synonymous with Central budgets. In Assam, we never had the
concept of Flagship Schemes. The reasons were obvious: we never had the resources to announce any flagship scheme of our own.

76. Speaker Sir, the more important reason was – we never thought that we are capable to take up big projects with our meagre resources. When our Hon’ble Chief Minister, as the then Finance Minister, announced the Concept of 18 **Ashtadash Mukutor Unnoyonee Maala** schemes, it was the first-of-its kind endeavor.

77. Speaker Sir, many important schemes – ranging from infrastructure development to social sector to one of the biggest investments have been under the aegis of Ashtadash Mukutor Unnoyonee Maala.

78. The concept is simple and dynamic in nature. These schemes are carefully designed and then selected. Once, more important ones come, depending upon the needs of the state, the old ones are seamlessly moved as major schemes or departmental schemes.

79. Speaker Sir, these **18 Ashtadash Mukutor Unnoyonee Maala** schemes have stood the test of time. Each one of them are important in their own right. I propose to start the list now.

I. **CHIEF MINISTER COVID RELIEF SCHEME**

80. Speaker Sir, in my speech earlier, I have highlighted the impact of Covid and the human sufferings it has entailed. Government of Assam stands firmly committed to minimize these sufferings of our people.

81. Sir, during the course of COVID pandemic, in Assam, till 13th of July, 2021, four thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight (4,888) deaths have been reported. This includes 3,543 males and 1,345 Females whereas, 56 of them were less than 18 years of age.
82. Government of Assam has already announced “Chief Minister’s Shishu Seva Scheme” to take care of children who have lost their parents due to COVID-19 and “Chief Minister’s COVID-19 Widow Support Scheme” to cover widows who lost their husbands due to COVID-19. An amount of Rs. 2.5 lakh to each such widow has been given recently.

83. Now, in order to extend the wholesome support of the Government in form of a financial assistance to the remaining families, an amount of Rs. One lakh shall be provided to the next of kin of the deceased.

84. The modalities for application and availing the benefit shall be issued by Health Department in due course. This scheme, the first of its kind in the country, proves our firm resolve to be with our people during this difficult times. The scheme will immediately cost the exchequer around Rs. 40 Crores. While we pray for the steady recovery of our Covid positive patients, the financial assistance under the scheme will remain available.

II. MICROFINANCE INCENTIVES

85. Speaker Sir, the biggest promise of our election campaign was to provide relief to distressed women who have been burdened with Micro-Finance loans.

86. In Assam today, microfinance serves almost 26 lakh borrowers with a total portfolio of Rs. 12,500 Crore. Bulk of this portfolio is in rural parts of the state and serves womenfolk as clients enabling them to uplift their status through microenterprises facilitated by these loans.

87. Sir, to safeguard the economically vulnerable groups and individuals from the undue hardship of usurious interest rate and coercive means of recovery by all lenders of micro finance, we have already enacted the
“Assam Micro Finance Institutions (Regulations of Money Lending) Act, 2020”.

88. Further, in pursuance of the Cabinet decision dated 11th May, 2021, a Micro Finance Institutions Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Singhal, Hon’ble Minister to prepare a road map for alleviating the miseries of the borrowers of this sector.

89. The Committee recommended some incentives for the borrowers to mitigate the problems faced by them. Accordingly, the Hon’ble Cabinet approved the scheme namely “Assam Microfinance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS), 2021” to provide relief to the microfinance borrowers.

90. The main features of the scheme include categorization of the clients in three groups. Category 1 are the clients who have been regularly repaying and it is proposed to provide them with the support of Rs. 25,000 as an incentive for maintaining good credit discipline. Category 2 are the clients whose payments are overdue by 1-89 days. For these clients, overdue amounts will be paid and thereafter once their accounts are classified as standard and they start servicing their instalments in time, they will be entitled to an incentive of Rs. 25,000. Category 3 clients are the stressed and destitutes whose accounts have become NPA. They will need to apply through a format for consideration under the scheme. As enshrined under the scheme, the lenders of such micro-finance are now completely bound by the guidelines of Fair Practices Code. As such, following this, a benefit of more than Rs. 4000 Crore will start accruing to the borrowers from the lenders directly. This will benefit lakhs of such borrowers almost immediately.

91. Sir, the total requirement toward this waiver / relief is around Rs. 12,000 Crore. Once the lending institutions
extend benefit to the borrowers under the Fair Practice Code, the requirement of funds would come down from Rs. 12,000 Crore to about Rs. 7,500 Crore. I am earmarking the sum accordingly.

III. ENGAGEMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS

92. Unemployment of educated youths is one of the major causes of concern of the state. In order to minimize the negative impact of this problem, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Assam led government in its first cabinet, held on the 11th May 2021, decided to start the process of recruitment of 1,00,000 (one lakh) educated youth of the state in Government sector. To address this issue, a Committee under my Chairmanship has been constituted to expedite the process.

93. Accordingly, the Committee has requested all the Administrative Departments to submit their present vacancy position of the sanctioned posts on the basis of essentiality and non-essentiality as per present requirement.

94. So far, almost all the Departments have submitted their existing vacancy positions as well as creation of new posts as per their requirement and nearly 1,00,000 vacancy and new post creation proposals have been received. A list regarding the requirement of various departments is attached below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Total post targeted to be filled up including new posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Labour Welfare Department</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Animal Husbandry &amp; Veterinary Department</td>
<td>7118</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fishery Department</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Panchayat &amp; Rural Development Department</td>
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<td>General Administration Department</td>
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<td>Soil Conservation Department</td>
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<td>Sports and Youth Welfare Department</td>
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<td>Education Department</td>
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<td>Tea Tribes Welfare Department</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Welfare and Development of Minorities Deptt.</td>
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<td>Hill Areas Department</td>
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<td>Secretariat Administration Department</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Information &amp; Public Relation Department</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Welfare of Plain Tribes &amp; Backward Classes Deptt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Transport Department</td>
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95. It is submitted that this is only an indicative list and the actual number might vary after a complete analysis of the requirements furnished by the departments and after taking into account the factors of essential versus non-essential posts. The moot idea of the entire exercise is to make the entire administrative mechanism efficient and service-oriented. While calculating the posts, the requirements of new districts, sub-divisions, hospitals, etc. will also be taken into account. I would like to further emphasise that a legislation will be brought in to streamline the entire recruitment process with proper delegation, structures. While the established recruitment platforms will continue their functioning, new mechanisms will be introduced. For efficient handling of the entire process, possibility of ROP wise recruitment modality will be explored.

96. Speaker Sir, I take this opportunity to give the assurance before this August House that utmost caution will be taken to ensure a transparent, equitable and fair process for recruitment of educated youths as we start the process.

IV. ORUNODOI

97. Speaker Sir, Orunodoxy is one of the largest initiatives for women empowerment started during 2020-21. It has been our most successful model at direct cash transfer to the women head of the family.

98. Speaker Sir, Orunodoxy has empowered the women of the state. The scheme has provided a financial benefit of Rs. 830 per month to the women members of the family to overcome the daily challenges in meeting their need for health and nutritional support. Currently, an amount of Rs. 167.78 Crore is being released to 20,21,500 beneficiaries every month.
99. Sir, our Government has decided to declare one month in each year as “Orunodoi month” for comprehensive review of the scheme at the field level, which will also entail inclusion and exclusion of beneficiaries based on eligibility. Further, we also propose to place Orunodoi Logo in front of the beneficiary’s home for empowering such *Orunodoi Pariyals*.

100. Sir, we have also decided to increase the monthly amount to Rs. 1000 per family. Also, the Orunodoi Month, based on report, the number of eligible beneficiaries will be increased by an additional 6.36 lakhs number of beneficiaries during the current financial year.

101. Sir, I have earmarked an amount of Rs. 1800 Crore for this particular scheme.

V. **ASOM MALA**

102. Speaker Sir, the ambitious flagship Asom Mala programme for transformation of the state highways and major district road network to next generation high speed road corridors is progressing at a fast pace. The works of four roads announced in the last budget speech are going to be completed during this year. Additional 13 road works of length 262 km amounting to Rs. 2279.55 crore, have been taken up and the works are in progress. Additional critical road projects are under consideration.

103. Project preparation of two externally aided projects namely, AIIB aided ASRIP for 250 km and ADB aided ARNIP for 313 km, with total value Rs. 5556.25 crore, to be implemented under the umbrella of Asom Mala, have advanced and procurement works have started. The works would commence from the current year
itself. We intend to carry forward the successful initiative by taking up another four roads during the current financial year: a) Kokrajhar to Rupsi Airport via Bashbari of length 74 km, b) Rowta to Missamari of length 50 km, c) Gohpur Dholpur Road via Ghagrabasti of length 28 km; and d) NH 52 (Dirak gate) Bijulibon Pengeree for a length of 38 km. Further, the missing road links at Ghunasuti between Lakhimpur and Bebejia are to be bridged by providing a one kilometre long bridge. Another missing link over Pagladiya river between Kumarikata and Jalah is proposed to be bridged by providing a major bridge of about 1.2 km length.

104. PWRD has started conducting annual road condition survey and taking decisions of such projects based on the same. Speaker Sir, needless to say that as a result, the state highway and major district road network is showing remarkable improvement.

VI. SWANIRBHAR NAARI

105. Speaker Sir, the artistic sensitivity of weaving in Assam is intimately linked to Assamese culture and traditions. Assam’s silk fabrics also called **Saante Sukuwa Muthite Lukuwa** (is dried in the shade, and folded within the palm) have earned immense recognition from around the world.

106. The Government has decided to procure handloom items directly from the indigenous weaver through ARTFED and AGMC.

107. The weavers will be imparted quality training to upgrade their skills in Handloom Training Centres and Institutes. To fix the rates of the products, four to five quality benchmarks will be defined. In the first phase, approximately 1.23 lakh weavers will be covered.
108. Majority of the weavers use traditional machinery. It is proposed to integrate modern technology to improve the pattern, quality and productivity. The weavers will be encouraged and assisted to acquire various certifications. Additionally, the weavers will be brought under a legal entity like Weavers Producer Association / Company.

109. A brand image is proposed to be established for these products, which will be sold through formal channels of ARTFED (Jagaran) and AGMC (Pragjyotika) in Assam and in other states. Sales counters will be set-up in all Assam Bhawans outside the state, in major airports and in major cities. The e-commerce portals and applications will be leveraged to enhance sales in the national and international market.

110. Additionally, Handloom sectoral tourism will be encouraged and which shall encourage in creation of avenues in an additional line of business.

111. I dedicate this scheme to the Weavers of Assam who are weaving their dreams in the looms.

VII. **1000 KILOMETRES OF EMBANKMENTS CUM ROADS**

112. Speaker Sir, our government has a mission of building a flood free Assam. We have 4474.86 km of embankments which serve as the primary line of defence against floods in the State and are also an important means of communication in remote areas of the State. Most of these flood protection measures are old and require strengthening.

113. As part of our commitment to Flood Free Assam, Government proposes to strengthen these embankments and convert them into Road cum embankments. It is proposed to strengthen and convert
1000 km of embankments in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley into road cum embankments in the current year. Towards this end, an amount of Rs. 1000 Crore will be spent.

VIII. SONALI XAISHAB BIKKASHIT AXOM

114. Speaker Sir, care for mother and childs are provided through the Anganwadi Centres.

115. We recognize the importance of the centres in providing service in the section of Supplementary nutrition, non-formal pre-primary schooling, Health education, vaccination, health check-up and referral services etc. These are being done in collaboration with the Public Health system.

116. Sir, we will set up 1000 model Anganwadi Centre where all facilitation of child care will be available. A Committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner will supervise the construction work and the local MLA will be included in the process.

117. I propose Rs. 13.50 Crore for this.

118. Sir, Rs.25,00,000 is earmarked for construction of an Anganwadi Centre.

119. 10,000 such Centre is targeted for completion in the near future. Necessary fund will be transferred to the Deputy Commissioner.

120. We have decided to purchase rice for the Centres from food Corporation of India. The money saved by this process so will be utilized to supply other food items additionally. We have stressed for implementation of the schemes in transparent manner.

121. Sir, every child has a dream of a bright future when they stepped first to a primary school. Primary School
and Anganwadi Centres are the prime source for a child to garner education, information and for generation of awareness. There Centres are also playing an important role in the mass vaccination drives.

122. Lack of electricity is hampering the Centres effectiveness, for sure. Hence, we are proposing scheme for providing electricity to the Centres, whereby cultural activities and night schooling may be conducted. This will ensure proper running water, sufficient light and fan in the Centre also.

123. We will have to electrify 48,805 numbers of Anganwadi Centres and 13,656 primary schools now.

124. An amount of Rs. 144 Crore is allotted for electrification of Anganwadi Centres and Primary Schools.

IX. Affordable Nutrition and Nourishment Assistance (ANNA) Yojana and Anna Nischito Asoni

125. Speaker Sir, in Budget 2020-21, we had proposed to provide free rice to all the beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The AAY Ration Cardholders are getting 35 kilograms of rice per month free of cost. Similarly, the Priority Household Cardholders are getting five kilograms of rice per person per month free of cost.

126. Sir, we intend to continue this scheme in the same earnest.

127. However, we have also noticed that there are a group of persons living in the periphery of our communities who are deprived of the Anna Yojana. The destitute / homeless who live by begging or those who are of an unsound mind, living in the slum areas on the road-sides are not able to apply for ration cards, and be
covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 due to lack of identification of such persons and families.

128. Their conditions had been further aggravated during the Covid pandemic and the nationwide lockdown. During this tough time, we have seen that various NGOs and philanthropic organisations have come forward with their assistance on a voluntary basis. We salute all such individuals and NGOs who stood hand in hand along with the Government during this tough time.

129. However, we understand that individuals and NGOs have a limited capacity to help. Hence, with the objective of bringing these downtrodden, helpless people within the fold of Food Security and also to remove hunger the Government has decided to launch a new Scheme namely “Anna Nischito Asoni”. Sir, under this new scheme, the Government will identify and select all such categories of people left out from the National Food Security Act, 2013 living in urban areas. Sir, we will provide free cooked meals to all such groups in partnership with reputed voluntary societies.

130. Sir, Government of Assam has brought in systemic reforms in the Public Distribution System by increasing the Fair Price Shop dealer’s margin from Rs. 101.1 to Rs. 143 per quintal of rice distributed to NFSA beneficiaries. In addition, Government of Assam has incentivised the GPSSs / LAMPS / WCCS by providing an annual grant-in-aid of Rs. 5 lakh each for the services rendered by them in the supply chain management of foodgrains.

131. Sir, Government of Assam is committed to implementation of One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) schemes which will provide a technology driven process to enable intra-state and inter-state
portability of ration cards. Towards this end, steps will be taken for installation of electronic point of sale device in every fair price shop and coverage of all the NFSA beneficiaries under the Aadhaar.

132. Sir, I have earmarked Rs. 390.08 Crore for ANNA Yojana.

X. Tap drinking water connection in tea garden labour lines

133. Since the first budget of our previous tenure, we have been expanding the scope and scale of the schemes for the people living in tea garden areas. Starting from basic requirements, the community now has higher aspirations and expectations from this government.

134. Sir, such aspirations are legitimate and are binding on us. We will therefore accord the highest priority to overall development of the tea garden community. Sir, in order to improve their living conditions, we will provide Functioning Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all households living in the tea gardens of the state.

135. Sir, these Piped Water Supply Schemes will cover all 805 Tea Gardens in the state within a year, and undertake the operation and maintenance of these for a period of 5 years, including payment of electricity dues and required chemicals. This initiative will benefit more than 2,69,648 families living in these tea gardens. In due course, we will also provide piped gas supply to the tea garden households, first starting with the upper Assam districts.

XI. REVITALISING AGRICULTURE

136. Assam is aiming at making its farmers self sufficient. But there have been problems in the form of unavailability of quality seeds, water logging, etc.
Therefore, there is a need of scientific approach to transform our present agriculture. Therefore, Government of Assam proposes to constitute an Agriculture Commission under a scientist of international repute to focus on issues related to agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy sector in Assam. The Commission will study and suggest measures for achieving self-sufficiency in the field of agriculture production, milk, egg and pork production, identify constraints and devise a road map to achieve the goal in five years.

137. Speaker Sir, the state proposes to introduce the use of sex sorted semen for the benefit of dairy farmers. There will an increase in the number of high genetic female calves born in cattle & buffalo farms with use of sex sorted semen. It would control the birth of scrub bulls as 80 to 90 percent of all births would be female calves. Female births shall help in meeting the ever increasing demand for milk in the state. This year, it is proposed to cover 50,000 cattle & buffaloes with the use of 1.25 lakh doses of high genetic merit sex sorted frozen semen procured from reputed sources within the country. With 30 percent conception rate, at least 12000 female calves are expected to be born as a result of implementation during the first year. The scheme may continue in subsequent years by inseminating 50,000 animals annually for the next four years. Farmers livelihood and milk production will get a massive boost leading to positive impact on the economy.

138. Speaker Sir, during the Covid pandemic, we witnessed that the rural economy was backed by the livestock sector. In order to further augment the production of milk our Government wants to rejuvenate the livestock
sector by production of clean and quality frozen sexed sorted semen.

139. Additionally, we propose to induct 1500 Murrah Buffalo with high genetic material, encourage milk production by supporting ten progressive dairy entrepreneurs and by providing seed money to 200 eligible Dairy Cooperative Societies and Self Help Groups of the state. **An amount of Rs. 4 Crore is proposed for the same.**

140. At the same time when we were grappling with Covid Pandemic, Assam also witnessed African Swine Flu which devastated the piggery sector. The Government has decided to compensate adequately and stand by our farmers and also generate new pig farms. We will take steps to enhance pig production in the state through infusion of high genetic merit germplasm to improve the production and productivity of pig in the state. To facilitate the quality piglet production, the government proposes to develop big breeding units with 100 breeding sow unit to produce two lakh breeder piglets annually.

141. Speaker Sir, our government proposed to support creation of facilities for development of a central grower unit for production of 3-4 months old layer pullet to support the small scale layer farmers for production of eggs under modern scientific method. Our Government will provide support to small scale farmers at community level on cluster approach for production of table eggs on a very large scale. This will fulfil the current market demand which is presently being imported from other states.

142. Such schemes will be devised in the sharing pattern with 30% government share, 25% beneficiary share and 45% bank loan.
143. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provides benefit to approximately 30 lakhs farmers. Our effort is to cover pre-sowing as well as post-harvest losses due to natural calamities. We are providing Rs. 400 Crore for PMFBY.

144. Procurement of paddy from farmers by payment of Minimum Support Price (MSP) to them is important component of ‘Doubling Farmer’s Income’ in Assam. To step up this procurement and prevent distress sale, Assam Food and Civil Supply Corporation Ltd. is being provided with a working capital of Rs. 200 Crore to procure 10 lakh quintal paddy. In coming years, Assam will invest significantly in procurement system, infrastructure and agencies with an ambitious target to emerge as a significant procurement state in the country.

XII. GARUKHUTI PROJECT

145. Speaker Sir, one experiment of our government was to remove encroachers from more than 77,420 bighas of land in Garukhuti under Sipajhar Block in Darrang district.

146. Now, a Committee has also been formed under the Chairmanship of Shri Padma Hazarika, Hon’ble member of this August House, to lead the agricultural initiatives for development of agriculture and allied activities in these areas.

147. This area is suitable for cultivation of various crops including high value horticulture products.

148. Our objective is to provide livelihood options to indigenous youth living in that area, encompassing not only modern agriculture practices but also scientific animal rearing practices. We will develop this cluster as a beacon of resurgent Assam.
149. Sir, as on date survey works for proposed projects at Gorukhuti have already been completed. We have also deployed an advance party of the 134 Ecological Task Force (ETF) for massive afforestation activities. Necessary communication with the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India and Ministry of Defence has been done. Sir, the construction of temporary structures and renovation of existing building (i.e. Gorukhuti Veterinary Dispensary) has also been proposed.

150. Based on a survey, farmer groups have been identified through assessment for farming activities which will be part of a Multipurpose Agricultural Producer organization. We have planned to introduce 2000 numbers of Gir cows. As a pilot, we plan to procure 50-100 numbers to check their adaptability in the local climate and ecosystem. In this context, a team of veterinary experts has already arrived from Gujarat.

151. Sir, the process of establishment of farm machinery bank has been initiated and procurement of machinery is underway. We have also formed a management team.

152. Sir, large scale cultivation of Rabi crops is being planned. Other activities like training of Farmers Groups/SHGs/FIGs on various aspects such as cultivation technology, farm mechanization have been planned and will commence shortly.

153. I propose an amount of Rs. 9.60 Crore for this Scheme.

XIII. BLUE REVOLUTION ‘SUNIL BIPLAB’

154. Speaker Sir, the building of ponds has been a part and parcel of Assamese rural life. Traditionally, community ponds are built for several purposes - for drinking water, irrigation, rituals, beautifications, to memorialise an event, protect biodiversity and community fishing.
155. The community tanks can be used for increasing fish production through participatory fish culture. Based on this principle, ponds will be constructed on community lands. Assam has sufficient community lands and the recent experience of RIDF implementing “Ghare Ghare Pukhuri Ghare Ghare Maach” shows that fish ponds constructed on the lines of community ponds are successful in achieving socio-economic development.

156. Thus, it is proposed to encourage the community based fish culture by constructing village community tanks in all revenue villages of Assam. At present, there are 26,395 numbers of revenue villages in Assam, and it is proposed to take up one Village Community tank of one Hectare each in all revenue villages. In Phase I, we plan to construct 10,000 village community tanks, during the current financial year. This will ensure an additional 50,000 MT of fish production annually, while ensuring that one lakh people get employment. The expenditure on this count will be made out of CMSGUY Scheme through budgetary support.

XIV. DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS FAITH AND CULTURE

157. Assam, a fertile land of vibrant culture, is enriched with various indigenous groups having their own dialects, customs and rituals, art and culture, civilizations, heritage, traditions, religious faith and belief. Our government has embarked upon a new endeavour to preserve and promote these unique traits of indigenous communities by rejuvenating them with various initiatives.

158. The Government proposes to create a new Department, Department of Indigenous Faith and Culture - for
preservation and propagation of the unique languages and cultures, religious customs and rituals, attires, food habits, folk beliefs and traditions of the indigenous communities and ethnic groups of our state. Prime objective of this is to keep the tradition and heritage of small ethnic groups and communities of our state.  

159. The objective of the Department will be to keep vibrant the eternal art and culture, religious traditions, folk songs and similar other identities of each ethnic group of the state.  

160. Speaker Sir, in view of almost similar mandate and works, the following departments will be subsumed under this important Department: a) Directorate of Archaeology, (b) Directorate of Museum, (c) Directorate of Historical and Antiquarian Studies.  

161. I have allocated in the Budget Rs. 100 Crore for functioning of this Department.  

XV. EXPEDITIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL CAPITAL PROJECTS  

162. Speaker Sir, the August House has already noticed expedited administrative reforms in the last 2 months of this newly formed Government. In order to further expedite the administrative process and to do away with redundancy in the system, our Government has decided to do away with the ceiling process for certain schemes of utmost priority. These schemes will be regarded as State Priority Projects with faster implementation modalities, with greater devolution of administrative and financial powers directly to the implementing agencies. Currently, a list of 18 projects is proposed to be classified as State Priority Projects, which are:
i. Assam Assembly building
ii. Super-speciality hospital at GMCH
iii. Ongoing Construction of medical colleges Kokrajhar, Charaideo, Tinsukia, Lakhimpur, Nalbari, Nagaon, Dhubri and Biswanath.
iv. Bihpuria Madhavdev Kalashetra
v. Bordua Prakalpa
vi. North Lakhimpur stadium
vii. Guwahati - North Guwahati bridge
viii. Guwahati Convention Centre
ix. Khanikar Stadium, Dibrugarh
x. Mini Secretariat, Barak Valley
xi. Over bridge project at Mission Chariali, Tezpur
xii. Rail Over Bridge in Jorhat
xiii. Preservation of Ancient Tai Ahom Cultural Heritage at Sivasagar
xiv. Pagladiya bridge
xv. Ghunasuti bridge
xvi. Eight women minority colleges
xvii. New Assam Bhavan, Russell Street, Kolkata
xviii. New Assam Bhavan, SP Marg, New Delhi

XVI. SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL TRADERS AND ARTISANS

163. Covid Pandemic affected all spheres of life. Amongst them one of the most vulnerable sectors which were affected were cottage industries, small traders and artisans. Infact, their livelihood was at stake and they
were not able to pay the rent and taxes due to the lockdown imposed from time to time.

164. We want to extend support to these sections by providing one time grant to overcome the disruption due to global pandemic.

165. I hereby propose to extend a maximum of Rs. 10,000 to each unit or individuals through an institutional mechanism in convergence with the PMSVANidhi Scheme of Government of India.

XVII. SMART PHONE FOR STUDENTS OF CLASS IX AND X IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

166. Hon’ble Speaker Sir, due to Covid-19 pandemic, educational institutions were closed during the lockdown period. During this period, online education is being imparted to students through different online initiatives. But due to digital divide, many of the students could not avail the benefit of online education. Therefore, to minimize the learning loss and bridge the digital divide, the Government has taken an innovative step to provide mobile devices to the students of class IX & X which will mitigate learning losses in respect of these under privileged students. This will act as a positive reinforcement for continuity of Education and will also act as a deterrent against dropout rate in schools. This scheme will benefit almost 8 lakhs students of class IX & X.

XVIII. 1000 HEALTH SUB-CENTRES WILL BE CONVERTED TO HOSPITALS

167. Sir, at present, we have 1,005 Primary Health Care Centres (PHC) and 4,693 Sub Centres out of which 2,344 are Health & Wellness Centers (HWCs). Presently PHCs have doctors, sub centers have ANMs
and HWCs have Community Health Officers (CHOs). In coming days, we will be providing basic health care facilities including the services of a doctor in 1,000 sub centers/HWCs to make them Buniyadi Swasthya Kendra (BSK) where free medical consultation, diagnostics test/ medical treatment of primary diseases including diabetes, hypertension, asthma, communicable diseases shall be provided.

Speaker Sir, this is the list of my Astadasha Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala for the current year and would like to now shift my focus to certain major announcements.
MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

I. FORMATION OF NEW DISTRICT

168. Sir, to facilitate good governance another major initiative taken by us has been the creation of a new District of Tamulpur to further improve economic activity and for better administrative control.

II. CHIEF MINISTER’S SISHU SEVA SCHEME

169. The Hon’ble Chief Minister’s Sishu Seva Scheme envisages a financial assistance of Rs. 3500 per month for COVID orphans below 15 years of age who lost both parents to COVID-19 as well those whose single remaining parent died of COVID-19. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 7,81,200 is put in fixed deposit in the name of the COVID orphan and the monthly financial assistance of Rs. 3500 being the interest on the fixed deposit is continued upto 24 years of age of the beneficiary, when the principal amount is transferred to his/her savings account.

170. A laptop is also provided to each beneficiary. Orphans who do not have an extended family or guardian will be put in child care institutions under supervision of Social Welfare Department.

171. Adolescent boys and girls will be put in suitable reputed institutions including Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya for girl students. These children will be provided access to schools and colleges along with vocational training for which Education Department will coordinate with Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship Department.

172. Girls of marriageable age will be provided financial assistance under the Arundhati Scheme whereby they will be provided Rs. 50,000 to buy gold.
173. The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the scheme on 10th June 2021 by handing over a cheque for Rs. 3500/-, a fixed deposit certificate for Rs. 7,81,200 and a laptop each to eight COVID orphans.

III. CHIEF MINISTER’S COVID-19 WIDOWS SUPPORT SCHEME

174. The Chief Minister’s COVID-19 Widows Support Scheme provides for financial assistance to women who belong to low income group having annual family income below Rs. 5.00 lakhs and who have lost their husbands to COVID-19. The beneficiary is provided a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 2.50 lakhs to help her tide over immediate financial crisis upon death of her husband.

175. Cheques of Rs. 2.50 lakh each to 874 COVID widows were provided from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund in the first phase, the total amount involved being Rs. 21.85 Crore.

IV. ASSAM CULTURAL COMPLEX IN NEW DELHI

176. Speaker Sir, it is seen that good number of Assamese people are settled in Delhi & NCR. To cater the needs of Assamese diaspora and also to showcase the diverse Assamese cultures, our Government proposes to set up an Assam Cultural complex in New Delhi.

V. MAKING GUWAHATI HILLS ENCROACHMENT FREE

177. Speaker Sir, I take this opportunity to intimate the August House that the State Government is committed to addressing the issue of encroachment in the hills in Guwahati City and to free all hills from encroachment. In the endeavor to achieve this objective however, the government will adopt a humane approach towards the encroachers. Government will identify suitable land and
shift the landless encroachers, who are otherwise eligible, to such land on priority. A mechanism will be developed for 24X7 monitoring of the hills by Government agencies using drone and other technology to prevent further encroachment. The state Government will create open spaces and preserve all open existing spaces and hills within the city.

VI. SETTLEMENT IN FOREST AREAS

178. Speaker Sir, to help the eligible populace, we will undertake settlement in forest areas of Assam under the provisions of The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

VII. NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES

179. Speaker Sir, establishment of New Medical Colleges plays a vital role in health care initiative for the citizen. To further strengthen the health care initiative, the Health Department proposes to establish five new medical colleges.

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<td>4</td>
<td>Bongaigaon</td>
<td>16 Crore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tamulpur</td>
<td>16 Crore</td>
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VIII. SETTING UP OF 10 COMMANDO BATTALIONS

180. Government of Assam will set up 10 Battalions at 10 locations of the State in a phased manner. These battalions will be Commando battalions and Constables and officers will undergo rigorous training on the line of
SPG, NSG, CRPF, Cobra etc. Once these battalions are setup, they will not only help in various law and order initiatives as and when required, but will also play a crucial role in counter insurgency operations.

IX. PUBLIC SPACES IN OPEN AREA IN URBAN AREAS

181. Sir, our Government proposes to develop open areas in our towns by construction of parks, sidewalks, other streets waterfronts, open air gyms, yoga corners, and other well-designed public spaces.

X. ARUNDHATI GOLD SCHEME

182. The Government of Assam had introduced the “Arundhati” Scheme during the Financial Year 2019-20 to facilitate the parents of the girl child who are economically weak. In order to enable parents to gift their daughter one Tola gold in her marriage ceremony, it was decided to enhance the financial assistance to Rs. 40,000/- during the Financial Year 2020-21. Under the Scheme, a total number of 7,471 beneficiaries (@Rs. 40,000 each) had been benefitted till date.

183. Meanwhile, steps have been taken for integration of e-Panjeeyan with the Arundhati Gold Scheme portal. The online portal of the Scheme has been redesigned and a new user interface will be launched shortly.

XI. SOCIAL SECTOR SCHEMES

184. Speaker Sir, Government of Assam has already decided to disburse the monthly old age pension and widow pension under Swahid Kushal Konwar Sarbajanin Briddha Pension Achoni and Indira Miri Universal Widow Pension Scheme respectively on 10th of every month. To ease the process of fund receipt from the
Government, the system of issuing FOC has also been discontinued and the senior most secretary of the Department has been authorized to sanction the fund. All those beneficiaries will also be Aadhaar linked which will further strengthen the system of transparency and accountability.

XII. PRESERVING OUR FOREST AND WILDLIFE

185. To further strengthen conservation efforts, our government has notified two new National Parks, namely Raimona and Dihing-Patkai during this financial year. Another wildlife Sanctuary by the name Azgarh Wildlife Sanctuary will be declared in the district of Goalpara. Geographical areas of Orang National Park will be further expanded.

XIII. JEEVIKA SAKHI, BANK SAKHI, KRISHI SAKHI AND PASHU SAKHI

186. Speaker Sir, to provide continuous handholding support as well as for regular capacity building of the SHG members on different aspects, Community Cadres viz. Bank Sakhi, Pashu Sakhi, Krishi Sakhi and Jeevika Sakhi are being developed.

187. Government has already launched “Jeevika Sakhi Express” during the Financial Year 2020-21, under which 4230 Jeevika Sakhis have been provided two-wheeler (Scooty), so that they can deliver service more efficiently and effectively. As these community cadres are the most critical human capacity for delivery of continuous handholding support to the last mile, therefore, our Government proposes to provide two-wheelers to 8086 Community Cadres working under ASRLMS. Further, it is also proposed to provide

(44)
travelling allowances of Rs. 500 per month to each community cadre to meet fuel, maintenance cost, etc.

188. I propose an amount of Rs. 43.21 Crore for the FY 2021-22 under the Scheme.

XIV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - use of NESAC (North East Space Application Center)

189. Speaker Sir, our Government has given utmost thrust to utilization of Space Technology by leveraging NESAC for developmental planning in various sectors viz Agriculture, Horticulture, Water Resources, Irrigation, Rural Development, Fisheries, Geological investigation for ground water prospect zone and activity planning for Gaon panchayats.

XV. STATE UNIVERSITY IN KARBI ANGLONG

190. Speaker Sir, Karbi Anglong is the largest district in the State, our Government proposes to establish a State University in Karbi Anglong for the benefit of the students of the Hill Districts and the adjoining areas.

191. Possibility will also be explored for upgrading the present Diphu Government College into State University.

XVI. CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

192. Speaker Sir, the Government of Assam has proposed to take up various infrastructure projects in Health, Education, Administration and Sports sectors for overall socio-economic development of the State. This step of the Government will boost infrastructural developmental activities in Health, Education, Administration and Sports.
sectors. In order to expedite the infrastructure development in big projects, we propose to bring administrative reforms by earmarking budget provisions in different Global Heads of Account. This process will assist PWD (Buildings) in smooth implementation of projects by way of simplifying accordance of Administrative Approval and release of funds etc. A few examples of such projects are:

- Construction five Medical Colleges in Assam at Golaghat, Dhemaji, Morigaon, Bongaigaon and Tamulpur.
- Construction of Integrated DC Offices
- Construction of Sub Division (Civil) Offices
- Construction of Government Colleges/Schools
- Construction of Stadia at different locations, and
- Construction of Composite Cultural complexes in district headquarters

XVII. TEJASVI NAVADHITAMASTU EDU-INFRA FUNDS (TNEIF)

193. Sir, our Government has setup Majuli University of Culture at Kamalabari. Besides, the Government has set up Rabindranath Tagore University at Hojai, Bhattadev University at Bajali, Madhab Dev University at Narayanpur and Birangana Sati Sadhini State University at Golaghat. I propose the following budgetary allocation for these universities.
XVIII. DISTRICT STADIUM COMPLEXES

194. Speaker Sir, with a view to bringing about overall development of sports in the State and for identification and harnessing sports talents, our Government proposes to construct multi-disciplinary sports complexes in different parts of the state in a phased manner.

XIX. NEW ZOO AT DIBRUGARH AND SILCHAR

195. Speaker Sir, we have planned to establish new Wildlife Safari and Rescue Centers at Silchar and Dibrugarh. The primary objective of the center is to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife in distress as well as preserving natural heritage of Assam. Animal exchange programs and animal adoption programs to these centers will be conducted through CSR initiatives.
XX. APOL - VRS TO EMPLOYEES

196. Speaker Sir, our Government is of the opinion that the employees of Assam Polyester Cooperative Society Ltd. (APOL) Mill deserve an honorable exit. Therefore, we intend to take over the land and assets of the APOL Corporation and re-purpose the same for setting up alternate vibrant industrial activities within the said land. Further, we will also work out the modalities for clearing the liabilities of the APOL Mill including the VRS dues of the eligible employees.

197. I have earmarked Rs. 12 crore for this purpose in Budget 2021-22.

XXI. CENTRES OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

198. As Hon’ble members are aware, some of the best educational institutions, schools or colleges, are the ones which are also very old. Located in different parts of the state, some of them may be in dire needs of infrastructure upgradation. While recognizing the rich contribution made by such educational institutions, I would like to extend a financial package to all such reputed institutions which are more than 100 years old. We would also like to classify them as Centres of Excellence.

199. Speaker Sir, Sainik School Goalpara is fairly old. This great educational institution has produced many distinguished alumni. It is time the State Government extends all financial support to Sainik School Goalpara for its better upkeep and maintenance. I am happy to share that the State Cabinet has recently decided to sign an MoU with Ministry of Defence, Government of India to the effect that all operational costs will be borne by the State Government. With this, I am sure that the long pending proposal for Golaghat Sainik School will
also be cleared and in days ahead Government of India will open more Sainik Schools in different locations in the state.

XXII. ASSAM CANCER CARE FOUNDATION

200. Speaker Sir, to ensure accessibility and affordability for the citizens of our state, we have given maximum attention to build up a robust cancer treatment network in our previous tenure. The Health & Family Welfare Department, in partnership with Tata Trusts, has set up a not-for-profit company by the name of Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) as per the signed Memorandum of Understanding to construct and commission three level cancer care network.

201. It is expected that the Cancer Hospitals at Dibrugarh, Barpeta, Tezpur, Lakhimpur, Mangaldoi, Kokrajhar and Jorhat will become functional during the current financial year while hospitals at Guwahati, Silchar and Diphu are targeted to be completed during 2022.

202. The Government of Assam has so far contributed Rs.750 crores towards the construction of cancer hospitals across the state. Tata Trusts have undertaken to provide equipment required in these hospitals and committed a grant of up to Rs. 830 crores for the purpose. This scheme will be continued and all funds necessary will be provided in due course.

XXIII. NDFB REHABILITATION

203. Speaker Sir, our Government has always strived for peace and harmony. Our efforts have led to build adequate confidence in the Government and the misguided youth have shunned the path of violence and returned to the mainstream. I would like to congratulate the NDFB Cadre who surrendered and now desire to
lead a normal life. Our Government has prepared a package for their rehabilitation.

**XXIV. SIVASAGAR – Conservation of Heritage**

204. Hon’ble Chief Minister on his recent visit to Sivasagar was apprised of need for development of Tai Ahom museum. I am making adequate budgetary provision for the same.

Speaker Sir, in addition to the programmes announced till now, the departments will also have additional schemes and programmes. I will now briefly touch upon the departmental schemes for the next financial year 2021-22.

**I. ACT EAST POLICY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT: Leveraging our Geo-strategic significance**

205. An important Department full of potential, many activities are being planned under the aegis of this Department.

206. The Department plans to launch Kumar Bhaskar Verma Scheme for providing support to individuals and institutions to organize mega-events and facilitate research in furtherance of its aim.

207. It is also planned to set up border haats at the Bangladesh border in Karimganj and Dhubri districts. For these purposes, Rs. 2.09 Crore have been proposed in the Budget 2021-22.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT: Building Strong Governance**

208. The scope of the Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP) is proposed to be increased to process, track and deliver various government services to the citizens.

209. The Anundoram Academy of Administration at Umrangsu is proposed to be expanded. Similar
expansion projects are proposed at Training Institutes at Majuli, Bongaigaon, Guwahati and Silchar.

210. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 136.91 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

III. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT: Groundworks for Prosperity Laid

211. Speaker Sir, I have briefly touched upon various activities being planned by the Agriculture Department. I will list down a few more schemes here. The Department is targeting to achieve rice production in the State up to 70.31 lakh MT from 52.15 lakh MT, food grains production to 63.64 lakh MT from 54.67 lakh MT and maize production to 1.74 lakh MT from 1.28 MT currently.

212. Sir, under CMSGUY, the Department has distributed around 14,957 tractors to farmers’ groups from 22,478 revenue villages of the State with 70% subsidy. Additionally, more than 30,000 power tillers have been distributed under various central schemes. Also, 49,141 pump sets have been installed under RIDF.

213. Furthermore, under Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa-Sajuli Yojana, 7,41,795 nos. of farmers and 4,46,421 nos. of farmers were covered in Phase 1 & 2 respectively receiving Rs. 5000 each in Phase-I and Rs. 2500 in Phase-II.

214. A total 29,83,744 nos. of farmers have been covered under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) with 33,598 claims and is targeting to cover 10 lakh farmers under PMFBY during 2021-22 in Kharif season. The Department also facilitated distribution of 312618 nos. of Kisan Credit Card and 25,35,323 numbers of Soil Health Cards.
215. Sir, the program “Majuli as Organic Hub” has given thrust to the organic cultivation programme.

216. Sir, through the World Bank funded Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) project, major interventions are taking place by way of mechanization in the rice value chain and potato value chain. The project is organizing farmers into Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), organizing agri & food enterprises into Industry Associations (IAs).

217. Increasing the capacity of Purobi milk processing plant from 60,000 liters per day to 1,50,000 liters per day is being done.

218. Ten units of mini fish feed mills of 1.5 tonnes/day capacity each are being built.

219. Additionally, 100 agricultural markets and 40 warehouse godowns are being modernized and upgraded.

220. I propose Rs. 2340.23 Crore for this Department

IV. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT: Supplementing the Farmer’s Income

221. One of the major objectives of our Government has been to create new employment avenues. Animal husbandry & dairy sector can play a pivotal role in the creation of self-employment opportunities, besides supporting to meet the gaps of milk, egg and meat production.

222. A project involving 500 beneficiaries for induction of 1500 high quality Murrah buffaloes is proposed. It will result in an increase in milk production to 202.1 lakh litres of milk by the fifth year.
223. It is planned to introduce high quality frozen sexed sorted semen technology. It will help increase productivity of cows through cross-breeding to produce 12,150 female calves in the first year to ensure rapid expansion of high milk yielding cattle.

224. Further, we will establish 60 commercial dairy farms targeting progressive dairy entrepreneurs of the state. These farms will be provided bank linkages to induct 80 high yielding milk cattle / buffalo for which the requirement will be about Rs. 29.72 Crore. This special initiative itself will result in the production of 148 lakh litres of milk in the first year, and 1080 lakh litres at the end of five years.

225. We will support 281 agro-entrepreneurs to establish one pullet (layer) farm each. Simultaneously, we will support 9,000 beneficiaries each rearing 500 egg laying birds in a cage farming system. This will result in saving of Rs. 792 Crore going as an outflow from the state.

226. We will strengthen the piggery sector and help it recover from the endemic African Swine Fever (ASF). Farmers will be supported for re-establishment of new piggery farms using modern technology.

227. We will establish a critical care unit of animals in five districts of Assam having ultrasound facilities and also set up ten Animal Ambulatory Clinics. We will establish Town Milk Supply Schemes (TMSS) in Tezpur, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh and Silchar. A milk processing plant at Dhemaji will be made operational. A multi-brand milk mall will be established at Khanapara.

228. We will vaccinate 1.8 Crore livestock of Assam for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

229. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 595.09 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.
V. ASSAM ACCORD DEPARTMENT : *Keeping the Promise*

230. We will pay ex gratia of Rs. 5 lakhs to each family of martyrs of Assam Agitation and payment of ex-gratia grant of Rs. 2 lakhs to each of bullet injured people of Assam Agitation.

231. We have also considered setting up a trust to formulate and chalk out plans and programs and schemes for rehabilitation or to provide other benefits to the victims of Assam Agitation and their family members.

232. I propose Rs. 2.76 Crore for this Department

VI. BORDER PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT : *Protecting our land, our borders, out tomorrow*

233. Speaker Sir, the Border Protection and Development Department aims at providing all round development by meeting the special needs of the people and filing in the critical gaps of developmental works in the remotest corner of the state and for instilling a sense of security to the population residing along the borders.

234. We will build 50 new Border Out Posts (BOPs) along the inter-state border.

235. To promote peaceful relations with the bordering states, border festivals will be organised on the frontline areas.

236. It is proposed to provide one month salary as an honorarium to guards posted on the frontline in border areas.

237. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 69.22 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

VII. CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT : *Together we stand*

238. We will set up a web enabled digital platform for registration of societies and other departmental services ensuring faster public service delivery.
239. We will build rural godowns under the NABARD sponsored RIDF program.

240. It is proposed to earmark Rs. 8 Crore to Assam Jute Mill, Silghat to revive the organization.

241. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 158.19 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

VIII. CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT: Preserving Heritage

242. Culture and heritage reflect and shape our values, beliefs, and aspirations, and define our national identity. It is important to preserve our cultural heritage, because it binds us together as a people. Assam, in all its diversity, reflects a proud and confident culture of myriad communities, yet one soul!

243. Speaker Sir, with the objective of preserving and promoting the State’s vibrant culture, the Department has undertaken numerous activities. Under Silpi Sambardhana, we are providing financial assistance to 2160 artists of different fields of Art & Culture.

244. The Department has also taken up 122 major infrastructural projects. A few of them are Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Memorial at Jalukbari, Sarat Chandra Singha Cultural Complex at Chapor (Dhubri), Chandra Nath Sarma Cultural Complex at Pithakhowa (Sonitpur) and Sati Sadhani Cultural Complex at Golaghat.

245. The new proposed initiatives of the Department include Sanskritik Bikash and Gobexona Kendra at 10 districts, Museum Complex at Tezpur dedicated to the four Cultural Icons of Assam, Construction of Bhimbor Deori Samannay Kshetra in Sadia, renovation and modernization of Tai Museum, Sibsagar and Jyoti Bharati, Tezpur.
246. Further, the Department has undertaken development of Alaboi, Dadara and Charaideo Archaeological Site. We will initiate activities to include Charaideo Archaeological Site in the final UNESCO World Heritage list. We will also set up an Iconic Museum in Sivasagar.

247. I propose a sum of Rs. 3 Crore for Shrimanta Sankardev University.

248. I propose to set up a Kalashetra in Dibrugarh.

249. I propose Rs. 151.30 Crore for this Department

IX. EDUCATION (ELEMENTARY) DEPARTMENT: 
*Reaching the unreached with quality*

250. Sir, with a vision to transform 1000 selected schools into Centres of Excellence, across the state, a programme called “Pratyahban” has been launched.

251. 58,224 number of Children With Special Needs (CWSN) will be enrolled in schools and extended support through Home Based Education.

252. Sir, construction works for 10 new B. Ed Colleges as per the Hon’ble Finance Minister Budget Speech 2017-18, are going on. The process for creation of 192 posts for four new DIETs, 390 posts for 10 new B. Ed. Colleges and 32 posts for two Institute of Advance Studies in Education (IASE) are going on.

253. We will provide a free uniform grant to 37,73,645 learners of Government/ Provincialized schools in the academic year 2022.

254. An annual grant will be released to 41,485 elementary schools.

255. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 9389.54 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.
X. EDUCATION (HIGHER) DEPARTMENT : Sky is the Limit

256. Sir, I want to inform the August house that under the scheme Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) two universities and 142 institutions were approved and a total amount of Rs. 391.807 crore was released for various projects. The academic session of nine colleges has already started. Work is under progress in the remaining.

257. For ensuring access to Higher Education in the state, over the last one and half years, rapid expansion has been made in the availability of such facilities not only in Guwahati based establishment of new universities, but also by opening new colleges, polytechnics, introduction of vocational Courses in colleges and introduction of additional streams in single stream colleges etc.

258. Furthermore, in the 2nd phase, two universities and 137 colleges were approved. Moreover, two Assamese Unicode Fonts namely “Usha” and “Jonaki” are developed with the joint efforts of RUSA and Gauhati University during the year 2021.

259. I propose Rs. 2612.80 Crore for this Department

XI. EDUCATION (SECONDARY) DEPARTMENT : Equipping is the Key

260. Free textbooks will be provided to the students of Class IX to XII.

261. We will continue to waive off the admission fees, tuition fees, for students taking admission in Class XI and XII of Provincialised/ Government Higher Secondary Schools and Senior Secondary Schools.
262. Free uniforms will be given to the students of Class IX and X.

263. We will provide sanitary napkins to all girl students of Class VI to XII.

264. A software to execute the rationalisation of transfer and posting of teachers through an online portal will be developed.

265. We will also construct an integrated Inspectorate of Schools and DEEO office as single administrative blocks in seven newly created districts.

266. We will provide quarter and hostel facilities for teachers who are working in schools located in remote areas to ensure regularity of teaching staff.

267. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 5131.51 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XII. EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) DEPARTMENT

268. Speaker Sir, with regards to technical education, the Department has taken many initiatives, such as:

i. Construction of three new engineering colleges at Bongaigaon, Behali and Sualkuchi and three new polytechnics at Hajo, Majuli and Tingkhongat.

ii. Creation of Multi Skilling & Sustainability centre of Assam Engineering College

iii. Under the Overseas Internship Programme introduced last year, 21 UG students from Government Engineering Colleges were sponsored for undergoing internship programmes in reputed Universities of USA and UK during summer vacation.

269. Speaker Sir, I want to inform the August House that 100 meritorious Girls students were awarded a one-
time scholarship of Rs. 30,000 each under a novel initiative to this effect.

270. To have competent technical personnel it is proposed to set up Engineering Services Recruitment Authority (ESRA) this year.

271. I propose Rs. 410.17 Crore for this Department.

XIII. ENVIRONMENT & FOREST DEPARTMENT: Increasing the Green Cover

272. A three-year masterplan will be prepared for greening Greater Guwahati.

273. Frontline staff in protected areas will be provided a ration allowance of Rs. 2000 per month.

274. A third battalion of Assam Forest Protection will be raised, largely for protection of forests located in inter-state border areas.

275. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 730.12 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XIV. EXCISE DEPARTMENT: Enforcement and engagement

276. We will implement a track and trace and include a unique hologram for each excise product to detect spurious products sold in the market.

277. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 72.54 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XV. FISHERY DEPARTMENT: Self Sufficiency is the Target

278. The state is very rich in water bodies potential for fish production but it is yet to be tapped up to its optimum capacity. Speaker Sir, considering the importance of the sector, especially for rural livelihood, we are
committed towards the maximum possible support for overall development of fisheries in the State.

279. As reflected earlier in the Flagship scheme, Community fishery ponds will be constructed across all revenue villages.

280. Fish retail outlets will also be increased.

281. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 122.61 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XVI. FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT : The Poor must Benefit

282. One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme for transparency in distribution of PDS commodities will be implemented.

283. Ineligible NFSA card holders will be removed so as to replace them with eligible beneficiaries in a very rigorous manner.

284. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 915.07 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XVII. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT : Hub of Administration

285. An Assam Bhawan will be set up at Puducherry primarily to cater to the needs of patients seeking medical treatment.

286. Integrated DC Office buildings and Circuit Houses

287. To provide better accommodation to the Grade III and Grade IV employees of Janata Bhawan, we intend to construct two G+9 buildings near Rukminigaon.

288. A cooperative departmental store is proposed to be set up in Janata Bhawan which will help the employees to buy their day to day household goods at the doorstep and at an affordable price.
289. We will construct an additional block within Janata Bhawan.

290. A multilevel car parking facility is proposed to minimise traffic congestion in Janata Bhawan.

291. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 721.30 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XVIII. HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT : *Weaving the Future*

292. We will establish Handloom Model Villages to make the sector more organised.

293. We will establish a Golden Silk Park at Muga Farm Khanapara to facilitate market linkages.

294. We will establish new emporiums at Assam Bhawans at Chennai, Kolkata, Shillong and Mumbai.

295. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 377.18 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XIX. HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT : *Journey Continues for Enhanced Coverage with Quality*

296. I have already highlighted some activities of this Department in my earlier speech.

297. It gives me immense pleasure to highlight the rapid strides made by the Government of Assam in the Health Department during the last five years.

298. The Blood Bank at Guwahati Medical College & Hospital will be upgraded.

299. We will establish two new Blood Banks with Component Separation Units (CSU) facilities at Lakhimpur Medical College and Nagaon Medical College.
300. Under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) around 27 lakh families can avail of cashless treatment across 1350 procedures.

301. It is proposed to start the academic session with 100 MBBS students in North Lakhimpur college.

302. It is proposed to increase the number of medical colleges to 20. Currently, we have about 1000 MBBS and 711 PG seats in Assam. This will substantially increase when all the medical colleges start functioning.

303. It is proposed to upgrade SDH at Biswanath, Charaideo, Majuli, West Karbi Anglong, and South Salmara to District Hospitals.

304. We will establish a 100 bedded MCH wing at S.K. Roy Civil Hospital in Hailakandi district.

305. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 7004.35 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XX. HILL AREAS DEPARTMENT: *God’s Gift*

306. Speaker Sir, the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and North Cacher Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) are being administered by the Hill Areas Department as the nodal Department of the State Government. The present Government is committed towards the overall socio-economic growth and sustainable development to ensure lasting peace and harmony in the Hill Areas of Assam. Both the Autonomous Councils are being empowered by our Government to achieve their development goals.

It is proposed to focus on the drinking water supply and Tourism sector.
307. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 2208.58 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXI. HOME DEPARTMENT : Guarding Assam

308. Police is the face of the Government and thus constitutes a distinctive set of a wide spectrum of functions and services which are vital for safety of the society.

309. Under the ‘Mission for Overall Improvement of Thana for Responsive Image (MOITRI)’ project, we have completed construction and upgradation work in 62 police stations. Remaining eleven are under progress. For the second phase, 76 police stations have been identified.

310. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has inaugurated round the clock Helpdesk with the All India Helpline No. 155260 under the project for Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting Management System. We have become the 8th state in India to launch this service.

311. I am delighted to announce that the Government of India has granted aid for setting up of Cyber Forensic Lab cum Training and new Anti-Human Trafficking Units in different districts of Assam under the Scheme “Nirbhaya Fund”.

312. Sir, our Government in collaboration with Assam Police Border Organisation and its e-governance initiative has brought in IT intervention to the existing manual process of Foreigners Tribunals and Border Police for identification, detection and deportation of illegal immigrants and suspected foreigners.
313. We have undertaken infrastructure creation for 31 Fire & Emergency Service Stations.

314. In an effort to impart proper and prompt justice to a crime and also to expand Forensic Science service, our Government has undertaken the construction of five Regional Forensic Science Laboratory at Jorhat, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Bongaigaon.

315. I propose Rs. 5659.74 Crore for this Department

XXII. HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT : Expanding Horizons

316. The two erstwhile departments namely Guwahati Development Department and Urban Development Department have been merged into one single department named ‘Housing and Urban Affairs’.

317. Speaker Sir, the mandate of this department is to improve the basic facilities available to the citizen and upgrade the infrastructure of the city. It also aims to promote cities as engines of economic growth.

318. Assam State Housing Board has been constructing low cost housing for the economically weaker section people of all over Assam.

319. Sir, we are working to create a flood free city for the inhabitants of Guwahati. Additionally, we are augmenting the water supply schemes at Kamakhya, Panbazar and Satpukhuri.

320. We are also planning to construct a new shelter for cancer patients in Guwahati.

XXIII. INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT : Creating Growth All-Round

321. The Industries and Commerce Department is tasked to sustain and nurture the industrial ecosystem in the state and thereby create employment opportunities for our youth.
322. To this effect, we have taken several initiatives like “Ease of Doing Business”, implementation of fiscal & other incentive schemes, creation of Industrial Land Bank, etc. to transform the State into an attractive investment destination.

323. We will hire and place a dedicated team of young professionals to attract and provide handholding support to investors and ensure Ease of Doing Business.

324. We propose to create Nano Incubation Centres for industries at Silchar, Bongaigaon, Tezpur and Dibrugarh.

325. The Department also proposes to take up an ambitious plan of development of 100 industrial parks across the state.

326. I will be entering into dialogues with small tea growers, and I will address their issues subsequently.

327. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 222.54 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXIV. INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION DEPARTMENT: Connecting the State

328. Our Government has proposed a one-time financial grant to meritorious children of accredited and recognized journalists of Assam. Rs. 30,000 is being provided to children securing 75% in HSLC under SEBA and Central Board. Similarly, we are providing Rs. 50,000 to children securing 75% in HS under AHSEC and Central Board.

329. We are also providing financial assistance to accredited and recognised journalists for medical treatment.

330. Our Government is also providing a pension to journalists at Rs. 8,000 per month. Currently 80 journalists and 20 retired journalists are availing this
scheme. A one-time grant of Rs. 50,000 to 20 media personalities has also been implemented during 2020-21. We plan to continue these schemes.

331. Advertisement bills to media houses against services provided to Government will be made ceiling free. The budgetary support has also been enhanced.

332. I propose Rs. 117.81 Crore for this Department.

**XXV. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT :**

*Leveraging the Digital Technologies*

333. Speaker Sir, the mandate of this Department is to provide information and guidance to the Government on technology related matters for public service. With this objective, the Department has trained more than 21 lakhs and certified more than 16 lakh candidates throughout Assam.

334. The Department has also provided critical support for COVID-19 database, supply of IT equipment and network connectivity in all registration and screening centres, support for online classes, etc.

335. Sir, seventeen citizen services is currently available under UMANG mobile platform, supported by 1215 Common Service Centres (CSCs) and 212 Public Facilitation Centres. Sir, the Department is implementing a state of art Data Centre. AMTRON is also setting up a high speed International Internet Gateway (IIG) in the state.

336. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 30.64 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

**XXVI. IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT : Unleashing the Potential**

337. Restructuring of the Department is proposed by providing one Sub-Division for each Legislative Assembly Constituency.
338. A new project namely Kulsi Multipurpose Project will be taken up entailing power generation of 55 MW and creation of irrigation potential of 20,500 Hectare.

339. Under Prime Minister’s Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)- Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), we have decided to bring 10,000 Small Tea Growers in the state along with other farmers who will be provided Solar or Electric Tube Wells.

340. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 1245.85 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXVII. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT : Rule of Law

341. It is said “Justice delayed is justice denied”. As a citizen-centric Government, we have given top priority to strengthening our state Judiciary so as to ensure that ‘justice is neither delayed nor denied’. The priority of our Government is to give every possible support in this regard to the judiciary by providing them with quality infrastructure and offer support facilities.

342. Our Government has already approved the setting up of 10 more exclusive POSCO courts of which six have already started functioning. Remaining courts will be made functional during the current financial year.

343. Our Government has approved further construction works in Phase - II of the construction of National Law University & Judicial Academy (NLUJAA) after completion of first phase works.

344. It is proposed to set up a Guest House for Judicial Officers at Tezpur.

345. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 593.54 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.
XXVIII. LABOUR & WELFARE DEPARTMENT : Our Prime Priority

346. Speaker Sir, Labour and Welfare Department has taken a bouquet of IT services for delivering online services in wake of Covid Pandemic which will enhance the service delivery of this Department.

347. Sir, our Government realised that one of the most exploited sections is the Motor Transport Workers which comprises approx. 2 lakhs workers and we are committed to bring them under social security net by providing various benefits in event of death/accident, educational assistance and people suffering from major diseases.

348. We are also aware of the conditions of the Small Tea Garden workers and willing to extend benefits in event of death/accident, educational assistance and people suffering from major diseases.

349. I have earmarked Rs. 98.96 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXIX. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT : Resolving Disputes, Providing Justice

350. Our Government is committed to redress the legal cases expeditiously. The legislative Department has been able to prepare and present 26 numbers of Acts in 2020 and 14 numbers of Acts in 2021. Additionally, a total of 10 Ordinances have also been published in the Assam Gazette.

351. The Assam State Legal Services Authority (ASLSA) has provided legal services to a total of 10,027 persons. During 2020-21 a total of 81,645 cases were taken up for disposal through National Lok Adalat, out of which 5996 cases were disposed off.
352. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 17.71 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXX. MINES & MINERALS DEPARTMENT : Nature’s Gift

353. Speaker Sir, as we all are aware that Assam is enriched with natural resources especially in terms of mines and minerals, however much attention has not been given in the past to scientifically exploit its potential.

354. Sir, we have realized the potential of our resources and concrete steps have been taken to extract these resources and augment revenue of the state.

355. I have earmarked Rs. 63.37 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-2022.

XXXI. PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT : Prosperity in the Countryside

356. Speaker Sir, with the mandate of eradicating poverty and development of infrastructure for accelerating socio-economic growth in rural Assam, the Department has been implementing various important schemes.

357. During the Financial Year 2020-21, the Department achieved 9.13 Crore Persondays against the Approved Labour Budget of 9.00 Crore Persondays, which is 101.52 % of the target while in the current FY, against 6.50 Crore Approved Labour Budget, the State has generated 2.33 Crore Persondays till date in the midst of the Corona Pandemic. Rs. 2525.26 Crore and Rs. 576.51 Crore has been utilized in this scheme in the previous and current FY respectively. We have also achieved geo-tagging of 99.94 % of all completed works.

358. It is proposed to launch Swo Nirbhar Nari Atma Nirbhar Axom Achoni and Mukhya Mantri Divyangan Atma Nirbhar Achoni with objective to raise income of the Self Help Groups upto Rs. 50,000/- by creating 3,72,810 Individual Assets and 822 Community Assets.
359. Under Rastriya Gram Swaraj Abhijan the SIPRD, Assam has started Skill Development training programme at Kokrajhar, an initiative for self-employment of surrendered Bodo militants in BTR areas which will cover around 4000 youth.

360. Speaker Sir, with regards to Fifteenth Finance commission Grant, 13,503 schemes have been taken under tied-grant in the sectors like drinking water, sanitation and solid wastes management. Also, 9324 schemes have been taken under Untied Grant (Sectors like road, education, agriculture, rural housing, social welfare) out of which 679 schemes have been completed and remaining are in progress.

361. Sir, a total of 2.38 lakh SHGs have received revolving fund for a total of Rs. 354.87 crore under the flagship programme for women empowerment Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana as well as through its extended version by the Vistarita Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana

362. Sir, our Government has initiated to provide 8085 Scooties to the community cadre under ASRLM during the current financial year in addition to 4238 numbers already provided to Jeevika Sakhis..

363. Speaker Sir, under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) a total of 52,793 rural poor youths have been trained for wage employment in various trades like Automobile, Healthcare and others and a total of 29,540 youth have been given jobs in various organizations. Under Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) a total of 1,07,833 youths have been given training for self-employment.

364. I propose Rs. 8023.69 Crore for this Department
XXXII. PENSION & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES DEPARTMENT

365. Speaker Sir, we have implemented the KRITAGYATA portal which facilitates online Pension Submission and Tracking and the same has been rolled out across the State for Pensions related to the Education Department (Provincialized Schools) and Provincialized PRI employees.

366. I propose Rs. 7662.52 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXXIII. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT : Building a Future – Ready Team

367. This Government is determined to create a future ready team of civil servants built on meritocracy.

368. Speaker Sir, as committed in the last Budget the upper age limit for entry into State Government services for Grade III and Grade IV has been raised from 38 to 40 years. The Department has also disbursed under the Social Security Funds for the benefit of Government employees.

369. A host of reforms have been proposed under APSC which has successfully conducted recruitments for different posts in the most transparent manner.

370. I propose Rs. 23.18 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXXIV. POWER (ELECTRICITY) DEPARTMENT : Propelling All-Round Growth

371. Speaker Sir, AEGCL will continue to implement three ongoing projects for augmentation of transformer capacity and construction of transmission line. Additionally, construction works of eight new projects
involving substations and transmission lines will be taken up.

372. Support to meet the deficit of the Pension Trust will be provided.

373. Our Government has taken steps to convert all Loans and Grants as on 31.03.2021, of all three Power Utilities into Equity and waiving of the interest outstanding on such loans.

374. Sir, in order to meet the forecast load demand up to the year 2026-27 as well as strengthen the existing power network of the state AEGCL has proposed a project for “Enhancement of intra-State Transmission System of Assam” being funded by AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank). It consists of construction of 24 new substations of different voltage levels along with its associated transmission lines all across the state.

375. Sir, a 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project will be implemented in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong along-with 100 MW Replacement Power Project in Namrup and 20 MW Capacity in Majuli.

376. Another 100 MW gas-based unit at Namrup is proposed to be set up.

377. Under JYOTISMAN ASOM, free electricity for the lowest social strata, tariff relief to all category of consumers will be provided and a revolving fund of adequate amount will be generated to avoid any delayed payment surcharge

378. Sir, 90,831 Distribution Transformers will be metered to ensure proper energy accounting and auditing for identification of loss prone areas and 1051 meters will be installed at 33 kV and 11 kV feeders for proper energy
accounting for identification of high loss areas to arrest the causes.

379. Sir, massive infrastructure push under Externally Aided Projects for creation of 196 new 33/11 kV sub-stations at 1140 locations, modernization of line and substation through Renovation and modernization of 33 kV & 11 kV feeders in hilly terrains and fault prone areas.

380. I propose Rs. 4394.96 Crore for this Department

XXXV. PRINTING & STATIONERY DEPARTMENT

381. Speaker Sir, for overall enhancement of efficiency of Government Press, modernisation is the need of the hour. In this regard, we propose to commission new machinery which would increase productivity and at the same time reduce the cost of production.

382. I propose Rs. 41.89 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XXXVI. PUBLIC ENTERPRISE DEPARTMENT : Towards Revitalization

383. Our Government is taking all necessary efforts to not just revive the sick industries in the State but also to administer the State PSUs efficiently and make them sustainable and profitable.

384. Speaker Sir, during FY 2020-21 our Government has taken decision to enhance the share capital holding of the Government of Assam from the existing 12.35% to 26% in Numaligarh Refinery Limited. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 1000 Crore has already been paid. The remaining amount will be paid during current Financial Year.

385. Sir, the Public Enterprises Department is preparing the framework and roadmap for implementation of
i. Online Application Receipt systems for selection of candidates by Public Enterprises Selection Board and

ii. Online Performance Appraisal and Review (PAR) System for the employees of the State PSEs on the lines of GOI Best practices, towards improving the performance of Assam PSEs

386. I propose Rs. 1.47 Crore for this Department.

XXXVII. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
: Clean Water, Clean Assam

387. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to provide clean drinking water to every rural household and under the Jal Jeevan Mission by 2024 we are confident to cover every household.

388. The Department has also constructed 4,33,789 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) and 1149 Community Managed Sanitary Complexes (CMSC). 2550 villages were selected for implementation of Solid Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) initiatives in convergence with the P & RD Department. Material Collection Facilities (MCF) for management of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, procurement of vehicles for waste collection and transportation and development of soak pits for grey water management have been undergoing since 2020-21.

389. I propose Rs. 1204.36 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.
XXXVIII. PUBLIC WORKS (BUILDINGS & NH) DEPARTMENT: *Building Infrastructure for Stronger Nation*

390. Speaker Sir, we have seen speedy implementation of the large infrastructure projects during last 5 years and I must acknowledge the services rendered by the Public Works (Building and NH) Department.

391. Sir, construction of new medical colleges attached with District/Referral Hospitals at North Lakhimpur, Dhubri and Nagaon is going on a war footing. Further, construction works of new medical colleges and hospitals at Nalbari, Tinsukia and Kokrajhar have started along with Charaideo and Biswanath Medical College. We are also planning to start a new medical college at Guwahati and Goalpara soon.

392. Sir, I am happy to inform you that construction of new Assam Bhawan at Vellore is nearing completion and the Department has planned the construction of new Assam Bhawan at Dwarka (New Delhi) and reconstruction of Assam Bhawan at Chanakyapuri (New Delhi) and Russel Street, Kolkata. Further construction of Convention Centre cum State Guest House at Guwahati has been taken up.

393. Sir, in order to preserve our diversified cultural integrity various projects such as works of Sri Madhabdev Kalakshetra at Narayanpur (Lakhimpur), development of Batadrava Thaan as cultural and tourist destination and development of Martyr’s Park with Convention Hall at Dhekiajuli have been initiated. The work of Baresaharia Bhaona at Jamugurihaat in Sonitpur district and Swahid Smarak Khetra and Memorial Park at Paschim Baragaon in Guwahati are progressing well.
394. I have earmarked Rs. 988.92 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-2022.

XXXIX. PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS) DEPARTMENT : Connecting Assam

395. Speaker Sir, in our state, where surface connectivity plays an important in communication, the importance of PWD (R) Department cannot be more highlighted. The Department has an onerous responsibility. In the last five years, the Department has built hundreds and thousands kilometres of road, has connected more than 1000 RCC bridges. This journey, Mr. Speaker Sir, will continue in years ahead as well.

396. The Department has worked to bridge the missing links for improving road connectivity, such as on the Subansiri river at Ghunasuti in Lakhimpur and Pagladiya river at Kumarkata.

397. Major bridge over river Brahmaputra connecting Palashbari with Sualkuchi will be proposed.

398. Construction of Bridge over River Brahmaputra connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati is reaching completion in August, 2023.

399. Under the DONER funded NESIDS, the works of three projects, namely (i) Construction of three lane Road over Bridge at Jorhat in replacement of Railway LC Gate, (ii) Construction of double lane road from Lanka to Umranas via Diyungmukh, Haflong Tiniali and Panimur, and (iii) Construction of RCC Bridge over River Dikhow at Chiripuria Ghat along with a road from Chiripuria via Ajanpeear Dorgah Road to NH 37 are in progress.

400. Sir, under the arrangement with NABARD, N.F. Railways will construct nine railway-over-bridges to
eliminate busy railway level crossings on cost sharing basis under RIDF.

401. I propose Rs. 8583.37 Crore for this Department

XL. REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: Taking Care of Land and People

402. Speaker Sir, I now move on to speak about the various activities and achievements of the Revenue Department. This Department looks after land revenue administration in all their facets viz. formulation of government land settlement policy, administration of land reforms, maintenance of land records, land requisition and acquisition, administration of land, land revenue and local rate, administration of Assam Survey Organization, preparedness and organization of relief operations during natural calamities etc.

403. The Assam survey and settlement training centre will be upgraded as a ‘Centre of Excellence’.

404. Under the scheme ‘Arundhati’, financial assistance of Rs. 40,000/- is being provided for purchase of gold benefitting 7471 beneficiaries.

405. Sir, our Government has enhanced financial assistance for victims as under

i. from Rs. three lakh to Rs. five lakhs for persons killed by extremists

ii. from Rs. one lakh to Rs. two lakh for persons killed due to accidents in public places

iii. From Rs. two lakh to Rs. three lakh for persons who become permanently invalid
406. Sir, our Government has been progressively investing resources towards strengthening the disaster management mechanism through measures such as-

i. Investment for flood risk management using remote sensing technology

ii. Severe weather alerting system

iii. Strengthening emergency operation centres and constitution of circle level quick response team at Revenue circle level

407. I propose Rs. 2809.24 Crore for this Department.

XLI. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT : People Making Technology Work

408. To provide a fillip to growth of science & technology in the state, various initiatives have been taken up to percolate the benefits of technology to the masses.

409. A new institution of excellence to spearhead our commitment towards climate change resilient society, we have renamed the Department as Science, Technology and Climate Change.

410. It is planned to develop Guwahati Biotech Park which intends to build a dynamic ecosystem of entrepreneurship and innovation that engages with a robust and enthusiastic network of support, including innovators, mentors, investors, funders, accelerators and incubators. Technology Incubation Centre (TIC) and Business Enterprise Zone (BZ) will facilitate the growth of the Biotech industry in this region.

411. AEDA (Assam Energy Development Agency) is playing a pivotal role in alternative energy sources and has facilitated in setting up the R&D as North East Renewable Energy Research Lab (NEREL) at Jorhat which focuses on applied solar energy research.
412. I propose Rs. 32.18 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XLII. SECRETARIAT ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT: 
Service is the Motto

413. Speaker Sir, Secretariat Administration Department is the nerve centre of Assam Secretariat. The Department has implemented numerous IT initiatives for better administration and enhanced transparency.

414. I propose Rs. 453.88 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XLIII. SKILL, EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEPARTMENT

415. It is proposed to expedite work of Assam Skill University for establishing Assam as a pioneer in high end Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institution in the Eastern region of India.

416. North East Skill Centre (NESC) Guwahati in collaboration with ITEES Singapore aims to drive excellence through providing a one-year training programme at par with international standards in sectors of retail, hospitality and beauty and wellness to train 400 youth per year.

417. A centre of excellence is being proposed in the field of computer hardware, software and automation etc. to meet with the current demand in the IT-ITES sector for quality skilled manpower. Further, ITIs have been strengthened by increasing the enrollment capacity and establishment of new ITIs in PPP mode to make ITIs function better. MoUs have been inked with leading PSUs and Corporate as industry partners

418. Online process of registration of job seekers in employment exchanges has been implemented through
Aadhaar based verification which will facilitate a wider platform for job seekers.

419. I propose Rs. 175.66 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XLIV. SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT: *In Reforms Lie the Key*

420. Speaker Sir, this Department is the nodal agency for implementation and safeguarding of universal social protection measures, to ensure that the benefits of development reach every member of our society, particularly women, children, Divyang, senior citizens and the marginalised.

421. *Poshan Abhiyan* is implemented across the State to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, adolescent girls and women) and reduce low birth weights.

422. To empower women, the Department is undertaking schemes/activities namely Pradhan Matri Matru Vandana Yojana, Bet Bachao Beti Padhao, Scheme for Adolescent Girls (presently in 22 Districts), Protection of Women from Domestic Violence, Vocational Training cum Rehabilitation Centre (VTRC), "One Stop Centre", Women Helpline, Working Women Hostel, Ujjawala, Swadhar Greh, State Commission for Women, State Resource Centre for women, Mahila Shakti Kendra etc. Further Government has considered launching the Women Helpline 181.

423. Scheme for accommodation of Working Women at Goalpara and Jorhat has been launched.

424. Deen Dayal Divyangjan Pension is extended to persons with disabilities through a monthly pension of Rs. 1000.
This scheme has touched the lives of 1,60,612 as on date.

425. I propose Rs. 2011.61 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XLV. SOIL CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT : *Conserve the Degraded for All-Round Development*

426. Speaker Sir, the primary objective of the Soil Conservation Department is to reduce land degradation, enhance soil moisture regime, preserve rainwater to increase agricultural productivity and net cropped areas, thereby facilitating farmers to take up double cropping.

427. To improve the land for double cropping the Department is responsible for watershed development under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) wherein in the last 5 years we have completed 228 watershed projects with financial involvement of Rs. 48825 lakh.

428. I propose Rs. 245.20 Crore for this Department

XLVI. SPORTS & YOUTH WELFARE DEPARTMENT : *One Spirit, One Team*

429. Sir, we can all agree that sports unites the nation by bridging the social and cultural boundaries and thereby promoting nationalism and integration.

430. Speaker Sir, the Integrated Sports Policy has been suitably amended in order to facilitate the successful sports icons of the State. Smti Hima Das was conferred the post of Deputy SP of Assam Police Service, cash award of seven lakh rupees provided to Smti. Lovelina Borgohain and three lakh rupees to Shri Shiva Thapa.

431. Sir, under Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY), 500 fields were developed. We are
also developing a Sports University at Chabua, Dibrugarh.

432. Furthermore, we are proposing 100 Open Air Gym across the state. Additionally, one swimming pool, one mini gym in all district and sub divisional headquarters is being proposed. We are also reviving the Assam Flying Club Ltd as a Centre of Excellence in aviation sector at Lilabari. Also, we will conduct village Olympics in GP, Block and District level.

433. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 143.11 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

XLVII. TEA TRIBES DEPARTMENT: *Pride of Assam*

434. Our Government accords highest priority to the welfare of tea garden workers and Our Hon’ble Chief Minister accords special attention to tea garden welfare and following his vision we have taken up several welfare schemes especially for the young generation.

435. Under our commitment to empower women of tea tribes we propose to provide Rs. XXX lakh each for one women SHG for opening of grocery shops in each of 1100 Tea Gardens registered under ATEPFO, auto rickshaws for one women SHG in each of 1100 Tea Gardens registered under ATEPFO.

436. Adivasi and Chah Janagusthi Sammanay Kalashetra will be established to preserve and showcase cultural traditions, art and heritage of over 100 groups that constitute the Tea Tribes community. It will be a multi-faceted institution modeled in the line of Srimanta Sankardev Kalakhetra at Guwahati.

437. Swahid Dayal Das Panika Swaniyojan Achoni to provide a one-time grant of Rs. 25,000 for educated
unemployed youth for skill development and entrepreneurship. This will benefit entrepreneurs doing petty business from the tea tribe community.

438. I propose Rs. 81.41 Crore for this Department.

XLVIII. TOURISM DEPARTMENT : Awesome Assam

439. We have initiated rigorous branding, international road shows, in-flight branding of Assam tourism, participation in national & international tourism fairs, printing of publicity materials to put Assam on the tourist map of the continent.

440. Speaker Sir, in order to tap the immense tourism potential of the state which will not only create employment opportunities but also contribute to economy of the state, the Department proposes to take up the following schemes/activities:

i. Sanjivani scheme to support the Tourism Stakeholders affected due to the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic, providing a working capital term loan based on the current bank norms.

ii. Aamar Alohi to promote sustainable tourism and provide employment opportunities in semi urban and rural areas through Rural Home Stay schemes.

iii. Punya Dham Yatra for the senior citizens of Assam to various pilgrimage destinations of the State / Country.


v. Development of Sivasagar as an iconic Destination.
vi. Installation of Ropeway between Kamakhya Railway Station and Kamakhya Temple.

441. I propose Rs. 74.24 Crore for this Department.

XLIX. TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: Transforming Assam

442. Speaker Sir, it is the core Department to formulate and implement the policy framework for development. The Department is also responsible for ensuring that our policies and plan reflect an inclusive, balanced and sustainable development of agenda for Assam.

443. The Department has released a sum of Rs. 279.80 Crore to 11,192 number of Namghars and religious places during 2020-21. In order to stop poaching in the Kaziranga National Park we have established 75 numbers of anti-poaching camp. Additionally, we have taken up integrated development of Majuli island and special development for indigenous communities of Ahom, Chutia, Moran and Motok.

444. Sir, we will also develop the seven aspirational districts in Assam at par with the other developed districts of the state. Assam is also the frontrunner in four SDG goals, i.e. affordable and clean energy, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption and production and life on land.

445. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 1719.47 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

L. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT: Connecting Highways, River Ways and Beyond

446. Speaker Sir, the Transport Department of the Government of Assam is one of the major revenue earning Departments whose mandate covers a wide
gamut of activities from ensuring road safety, of the citizens using the road network in the State as well as safety of the ferry commuters and safe passage of cargo transportation transports through inland waterways across the state.

447. In this regard, an Android-based mobile app has been developed. Additionally, 348 e-challan equipment, 15 Traffic Interceptor vehicles and 11 Speed Laser Guns have been procured to monitor speeding of vehicles.

448. Sir, our Government is implementing a World Bank funded “Assam Inland Water Transport Project” to acquire infrastructural & institutional development in Assam IWT sector. To promote inland water transport, two new companies namely ‘Assam Shipping Company’ and ‘Assam Ports Company’ will be formed within 2021-22.

449. Under the Uberization scheme, 140 beneficiaries have been supported in purchasing buses. We have initiated the construction of ISBT at Khanapara and Tezpur in addition to the station building at Majuli.

450. Under Bhraman Sarathi, free bus services facility for Women and the Senior citizens was being provided.

451. I propose Rs. 488.74 Crore for this Department.

LI. WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

452. Speaker Sir, this Department tackles flood and erosion problem of the state in a sustainable way. With regard to flood and erosion management as well as infrastructure development the Department has taken up 401 schemes.
453. Sir, the Department has protected 16.50 lakh hectares out of 31.05 flood prone area by construction of 4486.44 kilometres of embankment. Additionally, the Department has taken up 1019 anti-erosion & town protection works, 101 major sluice, 545 minor sluice, 892.21 kilometres of drainage channels and 897.61 kilometres of raising & strengthening of existing dyke.

454. Sir, under the World Bank funded “Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP)” project two comprehensive flood management schemes, one at Buridehing river and the other at Manas Beki river is being proposed.

455. Furthermore, the Department has proposed seven schemes under NABARD (RIDF-XXVII) and fourteen schemes under SOPD-G for the year 2021-22 which will be taken up after the recession of the flood season.

456. I have earmarked a total of Rs. 893.56 Crore for this Department in Budget 2021-22.

LII. WELFARE OF MINORITIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT : On the Path to Inclusive Development

457. Inclusive development is a declared goal of our Government. The diverse social fabric of Assam is our strength and we need to harness this to ensure our state is steadfast in her road to progress. We are committed to bringing all round development to the minority communities including the linguistic minority and people living in char areas.

458. The Department has taken up schemes like ANM, DMLT, DPT, BMLT training courses, distribution of e-
rickshaw, coaching for medical and engineering entrance exams, etc.

459. Furthermore, to encourage the education of children belonging to minority communities, 2,40,458 pre-matric scholarships, 29,529 post-matric scholarships and 7120 merit-cum-means scholarships have been awarded in 2020-21.


461. I propose Rs. 77.09 Crore for this Department.

LIII. WELFARE OF PLAIN TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES DEPARTMENT: Unstinted Supports: Breaking all barriers

462. The WPT & BC Department has covered all key sectors such as Education, Agriculture, Women Empowerment, Health and Income Generation for bringing about a positive change among the economically backward section of STs, SCs and OBCs through vital initiatives such as:

i. Grants-in-aid to ST, SC and OBC beneficiaries, entrepreneurship training to ST communities

ii. Infrastructure Development in ITDP & outside ITDP areas

iii. Scholarship schemes through National Scholarship Portal through DBT mission benefitting 1,19,185 ST/SC/OBC students

(87)
iv. Hon’ble Chief Minister’s Special One Time Assistance for development and assistance to Tai Ahom Development Council, Chutia, Moran and Mattak communities.

v. Infrastructural projects in the Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

vi. Skill Development Trainings on “ANM”, “Draughtsman (Civil)” & “Surveyor (Civil)”

LIV. WELFARE OF BODOLAND DEPARTMENT:

463. Sir, a new Department called ‘Welfare of Bodoland Department’ has been created to formulate and implement policies and programmes for the Welfare and all-round development of the people inhabiting the Bodoland area.

464. We have already notified the Bodoland Administrative Staff College (BASC) in Kokrajhar.
Part - II

Speaker Sir, our Government, in the last 5 years, brought a paradigm shift in budget management and fiscal responsibility. Achieving transparency through technology, embracing ease of doing business for attracting investment, our Government left no stone unturned in our tireless endeavour to make our great State a shining example of progress.

Sir, I would like to mention that while we had to mobilise and marshal all the resources for tackling Covid pandemic, at the same time the revenue generation was taking a hit as the economy came to a standstill. But despite such a situation, our State, under the constructive and decisive leadership of our present Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma as the then Finance Minister, has successfully managed the situation. This has only been possible due to the far-sighted reforms and policies that were brought into effect in the last 5 years by our Government.

COMMERCIAL TAXES REFORMS

Speaker Sir, I would like to highlight that during the last fiscal of 2020-21, the Tax Department collected Rs. 14,645 crores as against the collection of Rs 14,967 crore during the previous year in spite of the economic slowdown due to Covid pandemic.

During the 1st quarter of the current fiscal of 2021-22, the tax department has been able to mop up Rs 3,501 crores compared to Rs. 1,920 crores in the 1st quarter of the last year despite second wave of Covid.

Sir, I would now like to highlight the various measures taken in the last five years on various fronts:
- **Enhancement of threshold for composition levy and increase in threshold limit for registration for marginal traders:** The upper limit for composition levy for marginal taxpayers has been enhanced to Rs. 150 lacs from Rs. 75 lakhs which enabled such taxpayers to pay 1% lump-sum GST over total turnover without requiring maintenance of any detail account. The threshold limit for registration under GST has also been increased to Rs. 40 lakhs as compared to Rs. 6 lakhs under VAT which has eased the burden of tax compliance for the small and marginal taxpayers.

- **Tax Holiday to Tea Industries:** To give a boost to the Tea Sector in the State of Assam and promote sustainable growth, the Government has already declared Tax Holiday for three years on payment of tax in respect of green tea leaves grown and bought by the tea estates w.e.f 1st of January, 2019 under the Assam Taxation (On Specified Lands) Act, 1990.

  Further to promote and support the tea sector which suffered a setback due to changing climatic conditions and other factors, the Government also granted full exemption from payment of Agricultural Income Tax w.e.f. 1st April, 2020 for a period of three years.

- **State GST (SGST) reimbursement under the Industrial Policy of Assam:** It is a matter of pride that the State of Assam is the first state in the entire country in the GST regime to roll out GST reimbursement scheme for the existing industries enjoying tax incentives under the VAT regime as well as for the new industries to attract fresh investment. Under the Assam Industries (Tax Reimbursement for Eligible Units) Scheme, an amount of Rs. 783.61 crore of SGST has already been reimbursed so far to the eligible Industries.
Liquidation Scheme for payment of arrear dues: With the aim of clearing the long outstanding arrears, the amnesty scheme was provided through the Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrear Dues) Act, 2019 to clear the arrear dues during 2019-20 and 2020-21. During the current fiscal of 2021-22 it is also proposed to bring a similar Scheme in order to clear the long outstanding arrears.

GST waiver & lowering tax rates to reduce the cost of critical Covid items for the end user: GST has been fully waived or reduced on essential medicines and other related medical devices, testing kits and equipments used for prevention and treatment of COVID-19 till 30th September, 2021 which may be extended depending on situation.

Relief measures for taxpayers under GST law in view of severe COVID-19 pandemic: Further, in view of the challenges faced by taxpayers in meeting the statutory and regulatory compliances under Goods & Services Tax (GST) law due to the outbreak of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has provided various relief to the taxpayers e.g. reduction in rate of interest, waiver of late fee, extension of due date of filing GSTR returns, relaxation in availment of ITC and amnesty scheme for non filing of GST return etc.

Deemed registration/enrolment facility for Profession Tax: Under Professional tax Act, many taxpayers, registered under different taxation Acts, often fail to get themselves enrolled or registered. To ease the compliance burden on tax payers, it is proposed to provide deemed registration or enrolment to taxpayers registered under other taxation Acts.
Automation under Non GST Acts: The business processes, under various non GST laws, such as registration, filing of return, payment of taxes, are currently done manually by tax payers. To make such business processes simple and hassle free for taxpayers, it is proposed to provide electronic platform for online compliances which would also eliminate the physical interface.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT REFORMS

Speaker Sir, this August House would be happy to know that the excise revenue collection has witnessed remarkable surge from Rs. 966.32 Crore in 2016-17 to Rs. 2031.05 Crore in 2020-21. I would like to mention the significant reforms undertaken by the Government in the last 5 years:

- Abolition of concept of bonded warehouse and shifting the point of levy: This has ensured that only duty paid liquor comes out from the manufactories. Further, the excise duty is now levied on MRP basis subject to abatement. All these structural changes have significantly curbed leakages of Excise revenue and led to substantial jump in revenue collection.

- Abolition of archaic mahal system of country spirit: The country spirit mahal system was replaced with more scientific system of bottling of country spirit, ensuring improved standard of quality at the same time.

- Heritage Alcoholic Beverages policy: The department formulated the Heritage Alcoholic Beverages policy in 2017, to financially empower various ethnic tribes especially women and to boost tourism.
Automation & digital platform for business processes to reduce human interface: The revenue collection, permits and passes, licences has been made online and fully digital. Further, under the World Bank funded ASPIRe project, a comprehensive and robust online system has been developed which will be rolled out shortly. Further, a state of the art chemical laboratory of the Excise Department is also being set up.

ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST DEPARTMENT REFORMS

Collection of forest royalty will be synchronized with works departments to increase the revenue three fold in the next financial year.

Speaker Sir, on the vein of the laudable decision of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, who as the Finance Minister took the historic decision to place his budgets without placing any extra tax or financial burden on the populace, I too, with the aim of continuing this trend, would like to hereby place my budget without levying any extra tax on the public.
The Budget Estimates of 2021-22 show a receipt of Rs. 107317.54 Crore under the Consolidated Fund of the State. Out of this, Rs.88979.40 Crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs.18338.14 Crore is under Capital Account. I have shown the estimated receipt in the Consolidated Fund from different sources at Table- 1. After adding the receipt of Rs. 182253.14 Crore under Public Account and Rs. 200 Crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate Receipts amount to Rs. 289770.68 Crore. As against this, total expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State in 2021-22 is estimated at Rs. 107556.29 Crore of which Rs. 84405.47 Crore is on Revenue Account and Rs. 23150.82 Crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of Grant-wise Expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2021-22 have been shown in Table- 2. Taking into account the expenditure of Rs. 181610.81 Crore under Public Account and Rs. 200 Crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs. 289367.10 Crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated surplus of Rs. 403.58 Crore. This, together with the opening deficit of Rs. 969.78 Crore will lead to a Budget deficit of Rs. 566.20 Crore at the end of the year 2021-22.

Speaker Sir, I am great follower of our cultural and historical traditions. Our legacy is extremely rich. Our Vedas more than 3000 years old. The beauty of the Vedas is that
they continue to be relevant, contextual, and hence they continue to inspire us. Not without reasons therefore, I would like to end my this year budget speech with a verse from the Vedas.

‘আনু তত্ত্ব ক্রতবো রাত বিশ্বতঃ
(Let all the positive vibes flow from all directions to this place)

JAI HIND
JAI AAI ASOM
BHARAT MATA KI JAI
Table 1

Estimated of Inflows into the Consolidated Fund of the State during 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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Where Rupee Comes From

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(99)
## Annexure

**Abstract of Transactions**

(Rs. in crores)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[1]</td>
<td>[2]</td>
<td>[3]</td>
<td>[4]</td>
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</tbody>
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### A. RECEIPTS

I. Consolidated Fund
- Revenue Account: 64495.08
- Capital Account: 14257.61

II. Contingency Fund: 100.00

III. Public Account: 17298.65

Total (I + II + III): 253749.54

### B. EXPENDITURE

I. Consolidated Fund: 82588.12
- Revenue Account: 65817.28
- Capital Account: 16770.84

II. Contingency Fund: 200.00

III. Public Account: 167618.14

Total (I + II + III): 250206.26

### C. TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actuals</th>
<th>Revised</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (+)</td>
<td>3543.28</td>
<td>1934.10</td>
<td>403.58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deficit (-)</td>
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<td>-3949.98</td>
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### D. OPENING BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Actuals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (+)</td>
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<td>2980.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deficit (-)</td>
<td>-563.08</td>
<td>-3183.80</td>
<td>-969.78</td>
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### E. CLOSING BALANCE

<table>
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<th>Actuals</th>
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<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus (+)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit (-)</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1249.50</td>
<td>-969.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(100)