



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB



Speech of **Harpal Singh Cheema**

Finance Minister, Punjab

Presenting the
**Budget for the
Year 2023-24**
to the
Punjab Vidhan Sabha

10 March, 2023
Chandigarh

Budget 2023-24

Speech of

Harpal Singh Cheema *Finance Minister*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. I feel privileged to present the second Budget of Aam Aadmi Party Government in this august House. At the outset, I express my sincere gratitude to you for allowing me to present this Budget digitally like the first one. All Budget documents would be available on the mobile app/ website once I finish my speech.

2. Punjab is the land of Gurus and Seers who have guided us from time to time as to the conception of a healthy and prosperous society. I would like to quote a hymn of Sri Guru Ravidass Ji Maharaj, as enshrined in Sri Guru Granth Sahib wherein he has visualized the settings of his spiritual abode:

ਬੇਗਮ ਪੁਰਾ ਸਰ ਕੇ ਨਾਉ॥

ਦੁਖ ਅੰਦੋਰੁ ਨਹੀ ਤਿਹਿ ਠਾਉ॥

saying "my abode is free from sorrows; there is no room for pains and worries."

3. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the AAP Government taking a cue from Sir Guru Ravidass Ji's *Be-gam Pura* concept, has resolved to ceaselessly work towards creation of a "**Rangla Punjab.**"

4. There is a feeling of satisfaction in my heart, when I look back at the pro-people initiatives taken by our Government in its very 1st year. I am also aware that it is not the time to relax. We have to work with double strength to fulfill the long pending aspirations of 3 crore Punjabis.

5. Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji is working 24*7 to provide clean, effective and efficient governance. His resolve to uproot corruption is visible to the entire world. Many of those who looted Punjab are already languishing behind bars. Once omnipresent and powerful Mafia, which operated with impunity, is now nowhere to be seen. Many sectors which reeked with corruption and mafia raj have been purged with clear political will and honest intentions.

6. Our Government's mission as unveiled during the last Budget is to strengthen the basic pillars of society, i.e. Education and Health. It is heartening to know that over 10.50 lac people got free treatment in AAM AADMI CLINICS since their opening. Further, in the field of school education, Schools of Eminence, which found mention in my last speech, are soon to be a reality. Our boys and girls would compete with the students at expensive private schools and would feel proud to be product of these schools of eminence.

Speaker Sir,

7. It was Hon'ble Chief Minister Ji's commitment to provide regular jobs to Punjabi youth. Fulfilling this promise, 26,797 jobs in Government and its agencies have already been provided by AAP Government. Unlike previous Governments, we would regularly recruit and create an ecosystem for private sector jobs for Punjabis to stop the process of brain drain.

8. With the motto of “public money only for the public” in mind, the historical decision of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji’s Government to provide 300 units of free power per month to domestic consumers has been hailed by one and all. Almost 90% of Punjab’s households are now getting “Zero Electricity Bills”. Similarly opening of public sand mines for “Aam Punjabis” is another unprecedented decision which has been taken by our Government. It is enabling common people to build their dream homes at affordable prices, unlike before.

9. Considering sustainable agriculture as the keystone of Punjab’s social and economic prosperity, significant steps for diversification were taken by Aam Aadmi Party Government under the able guidance of our Hon’ble Chief Minister Ji. Promotion of Direct Seeding of Rice, procurement of moong by Government, and grand marketing plans for MILKFED products were pioneer steps in this regard. This year’s Budget would give further impetus to the Agriculture Sector, the reflection of which would be seen in upcoming paragraphs of my speech.

10. Our Government came out with the white paper on State finances last year, bringing out the width and depth of financial mess left by previous Governments. Our Government inherited that mess including pending liabilities worth thousands of crores. Here, I would like to quote the couplet of Late Rahat Indori Sahb:

हमसे पहले भी मुसाफ़िर कई गुज़रे होंगे

कम से कम राह के पत्थर तो हटाते जाते

11. Aam Aadmi Party Government is trying hard to remove the obstacles left by our predecessors. Our Government bailed out Institutes such as Punjab Agriculture Development Bank, PUNSUP, Punjab Agro. Further, our

Government infused capital in District Cooperative Banks, provided grant to MILKFED and financed mills and SUGARFED to pay our hard working cane growers on time, and ₹2,000 crore has been given for this purpose.

12. The impact of 6th Pay Commission, which was delayed by the last Government, was taken by our Government in the current financial year. Our Government showed its commitment to our officers, employees and pensioners by releasing 6% DA from October 2022, implementing UGC pay scales and the 2nd National Judicial Pay Commission; whereas these were supposed to be paid by the previous Government. The financial impact on State exchequer on account of these is to the tune of ₹1,150 crore.

13. Further, in order to clear pending liabilities and speed up works at the ground level, our Government released previous years' un-disbursed central share of ₹1,750 crore approx. belonging to various centrally sponsored schemes, which was withheld by previous Governments.

14. During my first Budget speech, I, on behalf of my Government promised to deliver on 3 focus areas, i.e. Good Governance, Education - Health revamp and Revenue mop up. I am happy to inform that our Government has delivered on all three parameters. I want to ensure every Punjabi that his/ her expectations are being converted into policies and programs, which shall all fructify in due course.

15. While consolidating the gains and expanding the focus sectors of Good Governance, Health and Education, the central themes for this year would be to:

- (a) Concentrate on boosting farmer & labourers income through promotion of agriculture & allied activities;
- (b) Create a conducive environment for industrial promotion;
- (c) Prioritize infrastructural development through judicious capital

- spending, to have a holistic multiplier effect on the economy; and
- (d) Strengthen the State Finances- augment additional resources through asset monetization and expenditure rationalisation.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

16. In spite of repeated requests being made to the Union Government, I feel sorry to state that Central Government has been turning a deaf ear to the long pending legitimate demands amounting to ₹9,035 crore of the State. For instance, the Sub-Committee constituted by the 15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. Ramesh Chand, in its report had duly verified the rightful claims of ₹6,155 crore related to Clean Term Loan amounting to ₹31,000 crore, which has not been paid to the State. Further, ₹2,880 crore relating to Rural Development Fee being charged @ 3% of MSP on the procured grains that was earlier being reimbursed by the FCI have also not been released by the Union Government.

17. In spite of the difficulties being created by Government of India and legacy financial morass left by our predecessors, our Government is leaving no stone unturned to provide well deserved financial relief to common Punjabis through our programs and policies.

CURRENT ECONOMIC PROFILE

18. Now, I would like to present before this august House, a brief overview of the key macro-economic indicators of the State. As per the Advance Estimates, the GSDP of Punjab for the current year stood at ₹6,38,023 crore i.e. an increase of 9.24% over the previous year i.e. 2021-22. The GSDP for the State is estimated to be ₹6,98,635 crore for FY 2023-24. The contribution from service sector remains highest at 45.91% followed by agriculture and allied sector at 28.94% and industries at 25.15% in the GSDP of Punjab in

FY 2022-23. However, agriculture sector still plays a dominant role in the State GSDP in comparison to all India contribution of 18.11%. Further, the Per Capita Income of Punjab stood at ₹1,73,873 at current prices in FY 2022-23 registering a growth of 7.40%.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCE

19. I am happy to inform that requisite measures as promised are being undertaken for bringing fiscal prudence and efficiency in management of State Finances. To start with, Tax Intelligence Unit has been duly notified and would be fully functional in FY 2023-24, this Unit would develop systemic tools for detection and recovery of tax evasions and non-compliances by the obligated taxpayers. Experts are being hired to examine the entire gamut of taxation and non-tax revenue streams to further mop up revenue of the State.

20. With the twin motive to consolidate State Finances and offset the State debt, our Government has contributed ₹3,000 crore in the Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) in FY 2022-23. The previous Government contributed only ₹2,988 crore in last 5 years.

21. Further, to eliminate the bottlenecks, redundancies and streamlining the working of the Administrative Departments (ADs), the expenditure authorization earlier required to be taken from Finance Department, have been duly delegated to the line departments.

22. Our Government is also taking up the issue with the Union Government for allowing the State of Punjab for pre-payment of its high cost long-term debts i.e. National Small Saving Fund (NSSF) Loans, carrying a cost of 9.50% to 10.50% with prevalent low-cost market borrowings of approx. 7.60%. This will immensely help the State in tiding over this difficult fiscal state and help in reducing the interest liabilities of the State.

BUDGET 2023-24

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

23. I propose a total Budget Expenditure of ₹1,96,462 crore for FY 2023-24 which reflects 26% growth compared to the FY 2022-23 (BE). The effective Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit have been pegged at 3.32% and 4.98% respectively.

24. I propose the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure of State at ₹1,23,441 crore which shows an incremental growth of 14% over FY 2022-23(BE). Out of this, ₹74,620 crore is proposed towards the committed expenditure, a jump of 12% in comparison to FY 2022-23(BE).

25. The Budget Estimates of effective Capital Expenditure is pegged at ₹11,782 crore i.e. an increase of 22% over FY 2022-23(RE). The Government would adopt a targeted approach towards undertaking developmental activities during FY 2023-24.

26. I would now like to outline the development roadmap alongwith the proposed budgetary allocations for the initiatives and programs to be undertaken FY 2023-24 across various sectors of the State.

AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

Speaker Sir,

I'll quote Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, who said "If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right."

27. The importance of agriculture in Punjab's society and economy cannot be overstated. The hardworking farmers of our State single handedly fed India, but unfortunately has always got a step-motherly treatment from

successive Central and State Governments. I bow my head and fold my hands to appreciate the work done by our farmers for this Nation. I propose an allocation of ₹13,888 crore for FY 2023-24 for agriculture and allied sectors which is 20% more than last year.

28. Like a mother immersed in feeding her children, Punjab did not worry about her own health. Today, our soil has lost natural nutrients, water table has considerably depleted, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have poisoned our environment. Therefore it is high time for course correction. Going forward in this direction, our Government proposes to introduce a “New Agricultural Policy” with the objective to conserve natural resources and increase farmers’ income. We have already constituted a Committee of Experts to prepare a comprehensive Agricultural Policy for the State.

29. Sarkar- Kisan Milni is a consultative and participative initiative of our Hon’ble Chief Minister Ji, which got a resounding response from the farmers of Punjab. More such Milnis would be organized in coming months, with focus on understanding and resolving problems being faced by our farmers and getting their feedback/suggestions for policy initiatives.

30. I would also like to state that this year, 1 lac quintals of quality seeds amounting to ₹38 crore were procured by State nodal agency PUNSEED through track and trace system and around 50,000 farmers were provided subsidized seeds worth ₹10 crore. Under this initiative, it is ensured that good quality seeds are made available to the farmers of the State.

DIVERSIFICATION

31. Going beyond words, Aam Aadmi Party Government has decided to give a major push to diversification in agriculture. It would include market intervention by Government for Basmati procurement, for which a revolving

fund would be created; 33% subsidy on cotton seeds and track and trace mechanism for ensuring only quality seeds for our farmers. I propose an initial allocation of ₹1,000 crore for a special scheme on diversification in FY 2023-24.

32. Our Government has decided to engage 2,574 Kisan Mitras to provide extension services in each village and spread information and knowledge at farmers' doorstep. This will not only generate employment at village level but shall help farmers to go for the best practices in agriculture.

33. Our Government's pioneer steps for sustainable and water saving agriculture practices would continue to get necessary budgetary support. During current year, 30,312 famers have been provided with an incentive ₹1,500 per acre for adopting the practice of Direct Seeding of Rice, for which ₹25 crore has been paid. More farmers are expected to opt for Direct Seeding of Rice in the upcoming paddy season. Our Government for the first time procured Moong crop at MSP and transferred a total amount of ₹79 crore benefitting 20,898 farmers. I propose to allocate ₹125 crore for these two initiatives in the next financial year.

CHECKING STUBBLE BURNING PRACTICES

34. I am happy to announce that as a result of positive targeted actions undertaken by AAP Government, the paddy straw burning incidents were reduced by approx. 30% i.e. Punjab witnessed 49,922 incidents during Kharif 2022-23 as compared to 71,304 incidents during Kharif 2021-22. Further, our Government has notified replacement of 20% of coal with paddy straw briquettes as fuel in approximately 2,500 brick kilns operating in Punjab and the same shall become applicable w.e.f. 01.05.2023. This would not only help in stubble management but would also create positive externalities.

35. Our Government would continue to engage farmers by providing various possibilities and solutions to eliminate this practice of burning paddy straw. Further, I propose an allocation of ₹350 crore under the Sub-Mission on Agriculture Mechanism, to provide various machines/ equipment to augment productivity and to manage paddy stubble.

FREE POWER TO FARMERS

36. Our Government has provided free power to the tune of ₹9,064 crore in FY 2022-23 (RE) to our Annadatas. AAP Government would continue this support and an amount of ₹9,331 crore is proposed to be earmarked for this purpose in FY 2023-24.

CROP INSURANCE

37. We all know that farming is a risky activity. Every year, some area or some crop is either hit by unpredictable weather or a disease leading to crop failure. I want to announce the noble intention of our Government to provide Crop Insurance to farmers to save them from vagaries of the weather and other uncertainties. The modalities of the crop insurance scheme are being worked out.

HORTICULTURE

38. Horticulture crops play a vital role in the agriculture economy and realizing their importance, I propose an allocation of ₹253 crore for next financial year, i.e. more than double the budget allocated in FY 2022-23(RE).

39. It is my duty to tell that Punjab has become the first State to introduce certification, traceability and block-chain technology for tissue culture potato plants by implementing Punjab Tissue Culture Based Seed Potato Act, 2020. Further, the Punjab Fruit Nursery Act, 1961 has been amended to

supply disease-free certified horticulture planting material to State nurseries.

40. To promote the area under fruit and vegetable crops in their natural growing regions, the Government intends to set up the 5 new Horticulture Estates. These estates would be located in district of Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Patiala, Bathinda and Faridkot. I propose an allocation of ₹40 crore in FY 2023-24 for this purpose.

41. Our Government has also decided to launch a new risk mitigation scheme i.e. "Bhaav Antar Bhugtan Yojna" for horticulture producers. Government would intervene to ensure right remuneration to horticulture producers whenever market prices would fluctuate beyond a certain level. I propose an initial allocation of ₹15 crore for this purpose in FY 2023-24. Further a new scheme for diversification through flower Seed production would also be operationalized in the upcoming financial year.

42. It is a pleasure to tell this house that Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar has created an apple variety through tissue culture, which is suited for Punjab's Climate Conditions. In the next 2 years, we can expect Punjab to have its own apple orchards, which are only seen in hill States.

COOPERATION

43. As mentioned in my speech earlier, our Government helped several struggling cooperative institutions to stand on their feet. For instance, ₹885 crore was provided to Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank (PSCADB) to pay back its NABARD loan and clear terminal benefits of its pensioners, which were stopped since 2013. ₹135 crore capital infusion has been done to facilitate District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to carry on their good work. Similarly, ₹36 crore financial assistance was given to MILKFED.

44. In order to rightfully remunerate the cane growers, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji has increased the rate provided by the State Government to ₹380 per quintal. Whereas, Haryana is giving ₹372 per quintal, Uttar Pradesh ₹350 per quintal and Government of India is just giving ₹305 per quintal (FRP).

45. SUGARFED has been provided a support of ₹400 crore to further pay cane growers of the State and clear all pending liabilities. I propose an allocation of ₹250 crore more in FY 2023-24 for SUGARFED. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister Ji successfully raised the issue of enhancing the Sugar quota for the cooperative sugar mills with the Union Government. I am happy to inform that due to his efforts, the sugar mills were allocated an additional quota of 50% and also the export quota. All this has helped these mills to clear last 3-4 years pending inventory of sugar and molasses and earn considerable revenue.

46. Further, for setting up of sugar complexes at Batala and Gurdaspur for efficient processing and value addition to sugarcane, ₹75 crore was provided in the current year, I propose ₹100 crore more in FY 2023-24 to complete the pending works of these projects.

47. Our Government is committed for the holistic development of the dairy sector. It is the dream of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Ji to augment the visibility of our top quality and world class dairy products in national and international markets. For this purpose, MILKFED would expand its procurement network in villages on one hand and on the other hand market its products in national and international markets. ₹100 crore is hereby proposed in the next financial year to nudge MILKFED to reach new heights. Our Government envisages to double the turnover of MILKFED from ₹4,886 crore in FY 2021-22 to ₹10,000 crore by FY 2026-27.

48. MARKFED is setting up new godowns at 13 locations with the total capacity of 1.75 lac MT for which ₹80 crore provision had been made in the current financial year. The construction of 06 godowns is expected to be completed by March, 2023. I again propose ₹100 crore for completion of the remaining 07 projects in the next FY 2023-24.

49. It is heartening to inform that a new 110 Ton Per Day (TPD) physical refinery for processing of crude palm oil and 100 TPD Vanaspati plant at Khanna are being installed by MARKFED and the work would be completed in FY 2023-24. Further, two new Oil Mills at Budhlada and Gidderbaha for processing of Mustard crop would be installed by MARKFED in FY 2023-24.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

50. This year, Punjab's livestock population was struck by Lumpy Skin Disease. I am happy that it was successfully controlled and around 25 lac doses of Goat Pox Vaccine were procured to vaccinate our bovine population and till date approx. 7.45 lac cattle have been vaccinated and sufficient doses of vaccine are available for future usage to fight against this disease. I feel contended that lethal African Swine Fever was swiftly controlled by our Government, before it could balloon to dangerous proportions. Adequate compensation was provided to piggery farmers, whose pigs were culled to prevent the African Swine Fever. I propose an allocation of ₹25 crore in FY 2023-24 for vaccination of livestock and poultry in order to combat future threats to our livestock.

51. We have decided to set-up Mobile Veterinary Units to provide diagnosis, treatment, minor surgeries, sample collection and audio visual support related to animals, to the farmers/ animal owners at their doorsteps. These Mobile Veterinary Units will be located at a strategic location so that services can be provided in minimum time. An allocation of ₹13 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for this purpose.

52. Overall taking into account the critical role played by the Animal Husbandry sector, I propose to allocate ₹605 crore in the upcoming financial year, an increase of 9% over FY 2022-23(RE).

FISHERIES

53. For marching on the path of blue revolution, our Government intends to augment the area under fisheries. The plan is to expand the current 1,212 acres area under shrimp cultivation to 5,000 acres in next 5 years. I propose an initial allocation of ₹10 crore in the next financial year for this purpose.

54. A mini Fish Feed Mill of two ton capacity has been established at district Jalandhar, with Government's subsidy. Farmers would be able to get good quality feed at nominal rates. During 2023-24, an Ice-Plant of 30 ton capacity for the preservation of fish, shrimp and its products is proposed to be established with Government subsidy. These projects and others in pipeline would definitely bolster fish production and farmer income in the State.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

55. Under the Shaheed-E-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Hariawal Lehar launched by AAP Government in FY 2022-23, against a target of 50 lac saplings, 54 lac saplings have already been planted in 7,075 hectare area. We have made a total target of planting 01 crore saplings in the upcoming FY 2023-24 across different schemes.

56. Doing my bit, I have decided that for the papers used by the Finance Department for this Budget preparation, corresponding to the number of trees used, sapling would be planted by us during FY 2023-24.

57. Under 'Green Punjab Mission', 151 Nanak Bagichies, 68 Pavittar Van are being developed. We would expand these Nanak Bagichies and Pavittar

Vans by equal number in the next year.

58. A budgetary allocation of ₹258 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for Department of Forest and Wildlife, allocation of the major ongoing programmes/schemes is proposed as under:

- i. PUNCAMPA- ₹196 crore;
- ii. Wildlife and Zoo Development – ₹13 crore; and
- iii. Green Punjab Mission – ₹31 crore.

EDUCATION

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

59. The one thing, which every Government ought to do is to invest in education, as it is the only engine for economic development and social progress. I propose an outlay of ₹17,072 crore for school and higher education, which is 12% higher than the previous year.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

60. Our Government considers quality and outcome based education as the pillar of any society. We'll not just concentrate on building class rooms and procuring black boards and furniture. The focus is and would be on transforming the very way teaching is done. The pivot of all efforts would be to develop critical thinking, problem-solving aptitude, other life skills and most importantly ethics in every student. I am pleased to share some of the key initiatives taken by our Government FY 2022-23:

- Process for regularisation of significant number of contractual manpower belonging to teaching and non-teaching cadre would be completed soon.
- Mega- Parent Teacher Meet (PTM) convened in December, 2022 in

all the Government schools of the State. The PTM witnessed attendance of 19 lac parents and feedback was collected from 3 lac parents.

- “Mission 100%: Give Your Best” was launched with the aim to improve the performance of students of classes 8th, 10th and 12th in the forthcoming Board examinations and help achieve 100% pass percentage.
- A special initiative has been taken under vocational education in which students were provided skill tool kits specific to their trades after completion of Class 12th so as to start working immediately after completion of the course and become self-reliant.
- Under the concept of Building as a Learning Aid (BALA) 7,700 schools have been provided assistance of ₹4 crore in FY 2022-23.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR UPKEEP OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

61. Our Government as promised in the last budget speech has duly formulated a policy for the upkeep of schools and for creation of the post of ‘Estate Managers’ for all the Government Senior Secondary schools. An allocation of ₹99 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for ensuring basic cleanliness and upkeep of schools while teachers shall concentrate only on academics.

SKILL UP-GRADATION PROGRAMME FOR TEACHERS/ SCHOOL HEADS

62. Up-skilling the teachers is of fundamental importance to make any education system effective and beneficial. The first batch of 36 principals/education officers was trained at the Principals Academy, Singapore in their five day Leadership Development Programme and another batch of 30 principals has also been sent this month. Now our students shall be taught with more effective ways than before.

AAP Government shall continue giving latest training for our Government teachers. I hereby propose an outlay of ₹20 crore in FY 2023-24 for this purpose.

SCHOOLS OF EMINENCE

63. I feel proud to tell that as promised, 117 schools have been identified for upgrading them as “Schools of Eminence”. Of these schools, work for up-gradation on pilot basis has already started at 04 schools of district Amritsar. They are being made operational on Hub and Spoke model, other schools in a given cluster shall be attached to a School of Eminence. I can foresee that these Schools of Eminence would become “Growth Poles” of education. They will have the best infrastructure, all education streams, trained faculty, sports and extra circular activities, career counseling and many other activities for holistic development of a student under one roof. I propose a budget of ₹200 crore in FY 2023-24 for up-gradation of the schools into Schools of Eminence.

PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

64. I am happy to inform the august House that during FY 2022-23, our Government has released previous years pending scholarships amounting to ₹140 crore to OBC students and SC students. For providing these scholarships, I propose an allocation of ₹18 crore for OBC students and ₹60 crore for SC students in FY 2023-24.

65. I will now make a brief mention of proposed allocations under various schemes in the Education sector:

- i. Punjab Young Entrepreneur Programme has been launched with the aim to encourage class 11th students to propose their original business ideas and would be supported by the Government by

providing seed money @ ₹2,000 per student. This startup programme has been started with the aim to instil financial and leadership skills in the students, an allocation of ₹30 crore is proposed for this purpose;

- ii. Installation of Roof-Top Solar Panel System in Government Schools- ₹100 crore;
- iii. Up-gradation of Infrastructure including Boundary- Wall in Government Schools- ₹324 crore;
- iv. For providing Mid-Day Meal to 16.35 lac students - ₹456 crore;
- v. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan - ₹1,425 crore;
- vi. For providing uniforms to pre-primary class students- ₹25 crore; and
- vii. For free books, repair and maintenance of schools- ₹90 crore.

HIGHER EDUCATION

66. It is a fact that unless Higher Education is not up-to date, relevant, students passing out from our Higher Education Institutes would not be employable. Keeping in view the above, the State proposes to undertake the following initiatives in FY 2023-24:

COACHING FOR EMPLOYMENT

67. I hereby propose 2 new schemes i.e. Professional Coaching for Employment and Soft Skill & Communication Training, suitable allocation will be provided during FY 2023-24. Under these schemes, coaching on professional lines would be provided to students by establishing dedicated employability coaching centers in Government Colleges.

PROVISION FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

68. For the construction of 11 new colleges in the State, ₹36 crore has already been released in FY 2022-23. A budgetary outlay of ₹68 crore is proposed for undertaking infrastructure development; improvement of infrastructure facilities and for creation of libraries in the Government colleges of the State.

RASHTRIYA UCHCHTAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN (RUSA)

69. Under Phase 2 of RUSA, the State Government would set up 06 centers for enhancing quality and excellence under the aegis of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar at a cost of ₹70 crore in FY 2023-24. I am happy to share that Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and Punjabi University, Patiala establishing Entrepreneurship Hubs in partnership with foreign Universities and Institutes of National importance that would help in the publication of socially and industrially relevant research projects and patents. An allocation of ₹116 crore is proposed for this purpose in FY 2023-24.

70. Our Government would continue its support and promote the usage of traditional languages of the State. For strengthening and upgradation of Urdu Academy, Malerkotla, an allocation of ₹2 crore is proposed during FY 2023-24.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Speaker Sir,

71. I propose an allocation of ₹615 crore in FY 2023-24 for improving the technical capacities of our technical education institutes, which is almost 6% higher allocation than FY 2022-23 (RE). I am confident that our Institutes would bring out capable and employable engineers & technicians. This

would help our State to prosper as adequate technical expertise is crucial for progress and development.

72. I want to congratulate my Government that after the gap of 13 years, Government Polytechnic College for Girls, Ropar which was closed since 2009 has been re-opened in the year 2022. The Government is also looking into the possibility to run this as a co-education college from FY 2023-24.

73. I am jubilant that Institute of Training of Trainers (ITOT) has been established at Lalru at a cost of ₹10 crore for training of instructors. 28,607 trainees have been admitted in FY 2022-23 in 137 Government Industrial Training Institutes. The Government has signed 236 MoUs with various eminent industries such as Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Company Ltd., Hero Cycles Ltd and many others for providing on-job training to these trainees.

74. For the upgradation of infrastructure, machinery equipment & construction of new buildings for existing Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs); completion of the new ITIs and Polytechnic colleges, an allocation of ₹63 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24.

75. Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement: For the improvement of vocational training and for dissemination of apprenticeship training programmes, I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹40 crore for this purpose in FY 2023-24.

SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES

76. It is our duty to bring back our youth towards sports to create a generation of disciplined and fit leaders. Sincere attempts are also being made to re-activate over 14,500 youth clubs in the State to engage Punjabi youth in various social activities. Also, with the aim of making Punjab a

leading State of the country, our Government is preparing a new Sports Policy that will help in preparing the players for national and international competition. For strengthening sports infrastructure and undertaking various initiatives, I propose an allocation of ₹258 crore for FY 2023-24, which is 55% more than FY 2022-23(RE) .

77. Our Government has revamped the very approach for boosting the morale of the youth and talented sportspersons. To start with, a Sports tournament “Khedan Vatan Punjab Diyan-2022” was conducted from Block to the State level. Around 3 lac players participated in these games and award money worth ₹7 crore has been distributed to 9,961 winner players.

78. Our Government has revived the prestigious Shaheed-E-Aazam S. Bhagat Singh Raj Yuva Award and two youths from each district would be selected and honored with a medal, an amount of ₹51,000 and a Certificate. It would surely send a positive message and encourage youngsters to take up sports.

79. Multipurpose Sports Arenas at district level and sub-divisional level are being set-up and out of 32 projects amounting to ₹46 crore, 22 projects amounting to ₹33 crore have been completed and the remaining are expected to be completed soon. An amount of ₹35 crore is proposed for the construction, up-gradation and strengthening of Sports Infrastructure in FY 2023-24. Further, 10 sports infrastructure projects have been identified to be developed under PPP mode, and feasibility reports are under preparation.

80. The process for purchase of sports equipment for the players undertaking coaching at various coaching centers, academies and sports wings has been initiated in FY 2022-23. I propose an initial allocation ₹3 crore for the purchase of sports equipment during FY 2023-24.

81. Sports University in Patiala is expected to promote sports education in specialized areas, I propose to earmark ₹53 crore for the University in FY 2023-24 for undertaking the 2nd Phase of works related to campus infrastructure and expenditure of its constitute colleges.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

82. Quality healthcare anywhere in the world is dependent upon good medical education, which provides capable doctors, nurses and medical staff to serve and treat patients. I propose an allocation of ₹1,015 crore in FY 2023-24 for Medical Education and Research.

83. I am happy to state that the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Institute of Medical Sciences and Government Medical College at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar has been opened and two batches of 100 MBBS students each have been admitted and the third batch would be admitted in FY 2023-24.

84. To meet the shortage of staff in the medical institutes, 880 Staff Nurses and 81 Para Medical Staff have been recruited. Also, under the new policy for appointment of Senior Residents, 300 specialist doctors have appointed in Government Medical Colleges.

85. Two new Medical Colleges of 100 MBBS seats each at Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur are being set up at a cost of ₹422 crore and ₹412 crore respectively, designs of which have been approved and which are expected to be operational soon.

86. State Cancer Institute for cancer patients at Government Medical College, Amritsar at a cost of ₹119 crore and Cancer Care Center at Fazilka at a cost of ₹46 crore are expected to start soon.

87. I propose for setting up of Trauma Centre at Government Medical College, Amritsar and at Rajendra Hospital, Patiala at a total cost of ₹100 crore and a new Nursing College at village Thikriwal, district Barnala in FY 2023-24.

PUNJAB STATE INSTITUTE OF LIVER AND BILIARY SCIENCES

88. The incidence of liver disease in the state is increasing and most patients require specialist care. In Punjab region, only PGI Hospital, Chandigarh specializes in providing treatment in such cases. As promised by our Government, "Punjab State Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences" has been established at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar and will become fully functional in the financial year 2023-24. This will be the second such institute in the country which will provide comprehensive diagnosis and treatment facility, advance clinical research and prevention of liver diseases and expert doctors will also be deployed to treat the diseases in this Institute. I propose an allocation of ₹25 crore for this Institute in FY 2023-24.

GRANT-IN-AID TO UNIVERSITIES

89. A budgetary outlay of ₹990 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for providing assistance to the various State Universities such as Punjabi University, Patiala, PAU, GADVASU, Sri Guru Teg Bahadur State University of Law, Punjab University, Chandigarh, others and its constituent colleges.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

90. AAP Government is working overtime to strengthen health systems in the State. Our approach as delineated last year is to ensure that basic health facilities, medicines, diagnostics reach every section of the society. We believe that Punjab, only with a healthy population can experience sustained growth. I propose a budgetary provision of ₹4,781 crore for Health

and Family Welfare in FY 2023-24 which is 11% higher than the previous year 2022-23(RE).

91. I must inform this august House that for smooth functioning of health institutions, 1,353 manpower/ medical staff have been recruited in FY 2022-23 under various categories of which 271 are Specialist Medical Officers, 3 Pharmacy Officers, 53 Staff Nurses, 520 Multi-Purpose Health Workers, 480 Ward Attendants, etc.

AAM AADMI CLINICS (AACS)

92. I am proud to inform this august House that against the initial target of establishing 117 Aam Aadmi Clinics, our Government has already established 504 Aam Aadmi Clinics. Another 142 clinics are in the pipeline and are expected to be operational in next few days. In these clinics, 80 drugs and 41 diagnostic tests are being provided free of cost and so far, more than 10.50 lac patients have availed OPD facilities, and 1 lac lab tests have been conducted in these clinics.

STRENGTHENING OF SECONDARY HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS

93. Our Government proposes to launch a special project i.e. strengthening of all secondary health care institutions – Community Health Centres, Sub-Divisional Hospitals and District Hospitals in the State. Not only a major facelift will be given to these Hospitals but also a special recruitment drive would be carried out to fill the 363 vacant posts of Medical Officers (Specialist) and 470 posts of Medical Officer (General). I propose an initial outlay of ₹39 crore in FY 2023-24 for the strengthening of these and other Health Centers as well.

MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH (MCH)

94. New MCH Hospital at Phagwara and Jagraon have already been

inaugurated by our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, and construction of 3 MCH Wings namely Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH) Nakodar, SDH Kharar and SDH Budhlada are now complete and would be made operational soon. The Government has already granted approval for establishment of 7 New MCH Hospitals at the cost of ₹43 crore and for up-gradation of 5 old MCH wings at a cost of ₹37 crore. I propose an allocation of ₹16 crore for FY 2023-24 for this purpose.

AYUSH

95. Two 50 Bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospitals are being constructed at Dayalpur Sodhian, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar & Duneke (Moga). The construction work at Duneke (Moga) has been completed and construction work of Dayalpur Sodhian, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar is near completion and expected to start providing services soon. For this purpose ₹18 crore is proposed to be earmarked in FY 2023-24.

CANCER SCREENING MISSION

96. Cancer has ruined uncountable lives and families in our State. I remember that a train was infamously tagged as Cancer Express, which took Punjabis to a Cancer hospital in Bikaner. Our Government is committed to support cancer treatment infrastructure built in Punjab and is going for Breast Cancer and Cervical Cancer screening as a mission across the State. The purpose is to detect this deadly disease early to successfully treat it.

97. In addition to the above, I shall just give a glimpse of the few proposed initiatives to be undertaken in FY 2023-24:

- i. Running and upgradation of drug management facilities and centres- ₹40 crore;
- ii. Procurement of PET scan & SPECT CT machines for Homi Bhabha

Cancer Centre- ₹17 crore; and

- iii. 24 hours Emergency Response Services - ₹61 crore is hereby proposed.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Speaker Sir,

98. I would like to reiterate that during the very 1st year of our Government, employment has been provided to 26,797 youths of the State of Punjab and advertisements for filling up of 22,594 post have already been issued. The long pending demand of our sisters and brothers have also been fulfilled by our Government as promised, a policy to regularize contractual, adhoc and work charge manpower has been approved and the process would start soon. I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹231 crore for employment generation and skill development in FY 2023-24 which is 36% higher than the previous FY 2022-23(BE).

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

99. We all would agree that training provides an opportunity to learn new skills and technique; promote career advancement and opportunities for the youth. To bridge the industry and skill gap, the Government has entered into MoU's with different agencies that would help in providing training to around 5,000 candidates in FY 2023-24.

100. An outlay of ₹163 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for implementing the various schemes for training and skill development such as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), etc.

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE

Speaker Sir,

101. I congratulate our Hon'ble Chief Minister Ji, that due to his efforts during the last 11 months, Punjab has received 2,295 investment proposals amounting to ₹41,043 crore. It is expected that new investment would gradually open job avenues for about 2.5 lac people.

102. Further, Progressive Punjab Investors' Summit got an overwhelming response from over 1,500 delegates, national and foreign business captains who showed interest in Punjab and its future. Our Government unveiled 5 policies- Industrial and Business Development Policy, Punjab Electric Vehicle Policy, Logistics and Logistic Parks Policy, Water Tourism Policy and Adventure Tourism Policy to showcase our Government's resolve to provide legal framework and incentives for different sectors.

103. The New Industrial & Business Development Policy, 2022 has been duly notified on 08.02.2023 after extensive stakeholder consultation with the aim of attracting robust investment and creating maximum employment in next 5 years. Our Government envisages developing 20 Rural Industrial Clusters, 15 Industrial Parks in order to accelerate the growth of MSMEs and would also place emphasis on Start-ups and Innovation by providing best ecosystem for Ease of Doing Business in the State.

104. Manufacturing of Auto/Auto components including Electric Vehicle, Sports Goods including fitness equipment, Hand tools including Power Tools and Machine Tools, Agricultural Machinery and Equipment, Paper Based Packaging Units, shredding based management units and one district one product have been included in the category of "thrust sector" for the purpose of higher fiscal incentives. Additionally, the use of Paddy Straw as a fuel has been incentivized in the policy.

FISCAL INCENTIVES

105. Our Government would continue its support to the industries for which an outlay of ₹3,751 crore has been provisioned in FY 2023-24 i.e. an increase of 19% over FY 2022-23 (BE). For capital subsidy to industrial units, ₹75 crore and for Industrial Focal Points an initial amount of ₹50 crore is proposed to be earmarked in FY 2023-24.

106. Fiscal Incentives to the tune of ₹895 crore has been provided to various industrial units in the form of 100% Electricity Duty Exemption; SGST reimbursement to 26 industrial units and Eligibility Certificates (EC) granted to 7 industrial units for availing fiscal incentives.

107. An amount of ₹2,700 crore has been provided by the Government for providing subsidized Power to the industrial units situated in the State and a total of ₹3,133 crore is proposed to be provisioned in FY 2023-24.

GOVERNANCE REFORMS

108. Good Governance is our Government's mantra. Work has already started to create an environment for efficient, transparent and accessible administration through e-governance. Our Government has introduced 110 new services in the 535 Sewa Kendras operating across the State. AAP Government is now working overtime to introduce a flagship programme "Sarkar Tuhade Dwaar" i.e. delivery of citizen centric services at doorstep.

109. The State Data Policy is being operationalized to enable building of platforms which can allow greater interoperability of data available with departments for better citizen delivery.

110. An outlay of ₹77 crore is proposed during FY 2023-24 for various e-governance projects including ₹40 crore for ICT infrastructure and building for e-governance projects.

FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS

111. During the Kharif Marketing Season 2022-23, our Government made all requisite arrangements to ensure smooth procurement of paddy. Government Procurement Agencies procured 182.11 lac metric tonnes of paddy and the Minimum Support Price of ₹37,514 crore was transparently deposited in the accounts of around 8 lac farmers.

112. In year 2022, our Government distributed 4.61 lac metric tonnes of wheat to 1.48 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act, 2013. The process of identifying the eligible beneficiaries was initiated to ensure that only the eligible and poor families get the benefit.

113. Our Government proposes to introduce a one-time settlement scheme to settle the pending cases of defaulter rice millers. Through this scheme the millers would get the opportunity to restart the closed mills by paying less interest and less recoverable amount. In order to bring more transparency during allotment process, Government is also planning to introduce online linking of Mandies with Rice Mills from next Kharif Marketing Season.

REVENUE REHABILITATION & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

114. Our Government under the guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji has introduced slew of measures to bring efficiency and transparency in its revenue department related operations. E- governance initiatives include e- stamping , a website to streamline and facilitate the process of old/private partition; online recording of Khasra

Girdawari (e- Girdawari) ; Online Revenue Court Management system in the Revenue Courts of the State and other steps.

115. Regular support was given to farmers in the time of difficulties faced due to natural calamities, in this regard compensation to the tune of ₹125 crore has been already provided in FY 2022-23, for loss of crops/ livestock/damage to the houses, etc.

116. Our Government would continue to strengthen the Revenue Department related services to ensure corruption-free and transparency for our citizens. An allocation of ₹1,834 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for this department.

NRI AFFAIRS

117. In order to actively engage our NRIs and meet them face to face, our Government's unique initiative "NRI Punjabiyan Naal Milni" programmes have been a great success. NRIs for the first time felt that there is a visible government in Punjab, which is serious in solving their problems. I would like to inform this august House that many NRIs have benefited from these Milni's and their lands were freed from illegal occupation. For example, the success story of village Rode in district Moga in which 17.5 acres of land was given back to the UK-based NRI, was also in the headlines.

118. Our Government had promised to set up the "Punjab Sikhya-te-Sehat Fund". I am happy to announce that the Punjab Sikhya-te-Sehat Fund Trust has been registered. Further necessary approvals as per law are being taken from Government of India and I am confident that the trust would become active in FY 2023-24 and my NRI brothers and sisters would be able to contribute directly to their homeland's development.

DEFENCE SERVICES

119. Punjab's contribution to the safety and security of this nation cannot be forgotten. It is our duty to take care of the families of our soldiers, who fought and laid their lives for this great Nation. I propose an allocation of ₹84 crore in FY 2023-24 for this purpose.

120. Our future generations must learn and get inspired from the sacrifices done by our respected soldiers, therefore I propose an outlay of ₹15 crore for up-gradation and for setting up two new galleries of War Memorial Complex at Amritsar during FY 2023-24.

121. Also, an allocation of ₹3 crore is proposed to be provided for maintenance of Sainik School, Kapurthala.

TOURISM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

122. Efforts to place Punjab on the tourist map and make it a favorite tourist destination have already begun. Our Government has up-scaled infrastructural development in this sector. I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹281 crore i.e. an increase of 8% over FY 2022-23(BE) for this sector.

123. Agreements with 9 private parties have been signed for operation and maintenance of the many tourism related properties of the State. Upgradation of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Museum at Khatkar Kalan, district Shaheed Bhagat Singh (S.B.S) Nagar is underway; the Anglo-Sikh War circuit would be developed to boost historical-military tourism and development of Heritage Complex 'Pind Babe Nanak Da' at Sultanpur Lodhi, district Kapurthala is under process. Further, many other spots with tourist potential have been identified which would be developed on PPP mode.

124. For construction, maintenance and restoration of various memorials in the State, an allocation of ₹110 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24. Further, under the PARSHAD Scheme, Sri Chamkaur Sahib is being developed at a cost of ₹32 crore and we have requested Government of India for inclusion of the famous Shrine “Durgiana Temple” in Amritsar and Sri Anandpur Sahib under this scheme.

125. ₹5 crore is proposed to create a brand image and publicity campaigns for the tourism sector through organizing of tourism events through various modes such as print and electronic media, road shows, social media, etc.

POLICE AND LAW & ORDER

Speaker Sir,

126. Some evil forces are always looking for opportunities to disturb peace and order in our Border State. Attempts in the past were successfully combated by our brave police forces. I, on behalf of my Government warn the enemies of Punjab to fall in line else our Government shall destroy them from the root. For maintenance of law and order, I propose a provision of ₹10,523 crore, which is 11% higher than FY 2022-23 (BE).

127. Our Government is preparing our law enforcement agencies and police forces for all odds. Counter Intelligence wing of Punjab Police is being fortified with latest equipment and infrastructure. An outlay of ₹40 crore in FY 2023-24 is hereby proposed.

128. For effectively combating gangster culture and to restore people's confidence in law and order machinery, Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF)

has spearheaded dedicated operations against the gangsters and criminals in the State. Till end of February, 2023, AGTF has arrested 567 gangsters/ criminals, neutralized 05 gangsters, busted 156 gangster/criminal modules and recovered 563 weapons and 125 vehicles used in criminal activities. To strengthen the police forces to tackle crime and maintain law & order and have peaceful atmosphere in the State, ₹64 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for modernization of police forces.

129. In order to strengthen the infrastructure in the border districts of the State, an initial allocation of ₹40 crore has been provided in FY 2023-24 for undertaking activities such as installation of CCTV cameras in areas close to international border; adequate lightening provisions; high-end vehicles for mobility, etc.

130. The latest and sophisticated threat being faced by the world today is cyber warfare and cyber-crimes. Our Government would modernize the Cyber Crime setup and enhance its capabilities; I propose an initial allocation of ₹30 crore in FY 2023-24 to help them in effectively combatting cyber-crime.

131. I propose an allocation of ₹33 crore for purchase of land for police line, police stations and other police offices and ₹10 crore for construction and renovation of police complexes and buildings in FY 2023-24.

132. Further, a special assistance of ₹26 crore is proposed to be provisioned in FY 2023-24 for aiding the Police Housing Corporation for the repaying the loan undertaken from HUDCO.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

133. Social welfare programs and policies are designed to provide economic and social support to needy individuals and families to enable them a life of dignity. Our Government would keep supporting various welfare schemes, for which I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹8,678 crore in FY 2023-24 i.e. an increase of 17% over FY 2022-23 (BE).

SOCIAL SECURITY PENSION

134. A financial assistance of ₹1,500 per month is being provided to 31.59 lac elderly, widows and destitute women, orphan children and handicapped person of the State. I must tell that a survey was conducted in July 2022, according to which 90,248 beneficiaries were found to be dead. An amount of ₹24 crore has been recovered from the heir of 83,372 beneficiaries and remaining recovery is under process. To provide benefit to 33.26 lac beneficiaries, I propose an allocation of ₹5,650 crore in FY 2023-24, an increase of ₹1,002 crore i.e. 22% over FY 2022-23(BE).

135. A budgetary outlay of ₹175 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for undertaking various other welfare schemes such as Poshan Abhiyaan; Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana; Accessible India Campaign, etc. Additionally, ₹497crore is also proposed to be provisioned for providing free travel facility to women.

136. Further, ₹850 crore is being proposed for providing Post Matric Scholarship Scheme; Ashirwad Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) in FY 2023-24.

137. Our Government is committed for empowerment, protection and holistic development of SCs, BCs, Minorities and all downtrodden section of the society. I propose an allocation of ₹13,878 crore during FY 2023-24 towards the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP).

INFRASTRUCTURE

Speaker Sir,

138. As stated at the beginning, one of the key focus sector this year would be of prioritizing infrastructural development through judicious capital spending. It is a fact that no country or region has been successful in the long term, without a strong network of functional infrastructure. Our Government has formulated a strategy for capital spending in the upcoming year. For renovation and upgradation of state infrastructure, I propose a total budgetary outlay of ₹26,295 crore i.e. 13% higher than FY 2022-23(BE) for the concerned engineering departments.

ROADS & BRIDGES

139. We shall undertake construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and building in the FY 2023-24, for which the budgetary allocation has been raised to ₹3,297 crore against ₹1,495 crore in FY 2022-23(RE). Some of the activities to be undertaken are depicted below:

- i. ₹1,101 crore for upgradation, construction and repair of roads and bridges.
- ii. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III: to upgrade 1,278 km of road length- ₹600 crore; and
- iii. Under Central Road Fund Scheme: ₹190 crore for works covering 454 km of roads are proposed in FY 2023-24.

140. I also propose for undertaking special program to repair 12,897 km length of Link roads in FY 2023-24 at an estimated cost of ₹1,992 crore. The repair of these roads is pending for the last 06 years.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS

141. Under a special campaign launched by our Government, 9447 acres of land has been freed from illegal encroachments. This freed land can now be used by the respective gram panchayats for development works and revenue generation in the villages.

142. Marching ahead on our promise of holistic and comprehensive development of rural areas of Punjab, I propose to allocate ₹3,319 crore in FY 2023-24 i.e. an increase of 11% over FY 2022-23(BE). Under the Smart Village Campaign, out of the total 77,986 works, 68,825 works have been completed with an investment of ₹4,092 crore. Further, employment of 285 lac man-days to 8.12 lac household have been provided in FY 2022-23. The following allocations are being proposed for different schemes for rural development during FY 2023-24:

- i. MGNREGS: ₹655 crore for providing employment;
- ii. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin): For construction of 10,000 houses in rural areas, ₹150 crore;
- iii. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission: ₹50 crore;
- iv. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana: ₹20 crore; and
- v. Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan: ₹80 crore.

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION

143. Our Government has adopted a policy shift from groundwater to surface based water supply. Areas with poor water quality with presence of heavy metals and arsenic and water-stressed areas are on the priority list. 100% saturation in 11,859 villages, 146 blocks and 20 districts have been ensured and 20,471 households of 170 border villages have been provided household purifiers for arsenic removal.

144. I propose an allocation of ₹1,987 crore in FY 2023-24 with an increase of 27% over FY 2022-23(RE) for undertaking the following projects:

- i. Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin): ₹400 crore;
- ii. Jal Jeevan Mission: ₹200 crore;
- iii. For repair and maintenance of water-supply related infrastructure- ₹20 crore; and
- iv. For construction of Jal Bhawan at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar with an investment of ₹40 crore.

WATER RESOURCES

145. Our Government is ensuring availability of water till the tail end of our canal systems. The work of cleaning and strengthening of the canal system is being done on war footing. I propose an outlay of ₹2,630 crore i.e. an increase of 15% over FY 2022-23(RE), for undertaking ongoing works and for other new projects in FY 2023-24, the details have outlined in following paras.

146. I am happy to inform the august House that a long pending demand of the farmers belonging to border areas of Ferozepur, Mamdot, Guru Har Shai, Jalalabad and Fazilka regarding effluents from the leather industry mixing with the waters of Eastern Canals- Sutlej river whereby the water was unsuitable for drinking and irrigation purposes; has been duly resolved and from January, 2023, the feeder has started providing clean water that can be used for irrigational purposes. Also, these canals which were earlier functional only during Kharif Season have now been made functional throughout the year.

CANAL ADMINISTRATION

147. **Relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder:** Started in FY 2019-20 and as of now, relining and pucca structure work of around 84 km of Sirhind Feeder and 62 km of Rajasthan Feeder have been completed at a cost of ₹500 crore and ₹735 crore, respectively. During FY 2023-24, relining and pucca structure work would be taken up for the remaining length of 16 km and 34 km, respectively.

148. **Lift Irrigation Scheme:** Out of the 03 lift irrigation works for providing irrigation facilities in the district of Sri Anandpur Sahib, one has been completed and the second is under process and expected to be completed by March, 2023. I propose an allocation of ₹80 crore for undertaking the third lift irrigation work in FY 2023-24.

149. **Concrete Lining of Distributary systems:** I propose an allocation of ₹309 crore in FY 2023-24 for undertaking concrete lining of Arnauli distributary, Bhawanigarh distributary; Khanna Distributary; Nawada Distributary systems. In addition to these, modernization of Naraingarh minor; rehabilitation of Kanganwal distributary system, etc. are also proposed to be undertaken in FY 2023-24.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

150. In order to take care of rising urbanization and to develop world class planned townships, Urban Development authorities have been directed to come up with their plans for new townships under their jurisdiction.

151. In this regard, Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) is developing a new Urban Estate over an area of 1,600 acres at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar for development of residential, commercial and

industrial plots.

152. Acquisition process for setting up Urban Estates of over an area 1,000 acres in New Chandigarh namely Eco City-3 and low density has been started.

153. Greater Ludhiana Area Development Authority (GLADA) would set-up Urban Estate in Ludhiana over an area of 1,600 acres in FY 2023-24. Also, a township over an area of 200 acre would be developed in Bathinda by the Bathinda Development Authority.

154. It is worth mentioning that the Government has decentralized powers to the level of Development Authorities for granting Change of Land Use (CLU), Completion Certificate, Layout and Building Plans. In another such move of process simplification, authority for approval of Building Plans and grant of Completion Certificate to the standalone industries has been delegated to Director, Factories.

155. A new World Bank Report estimates that India will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years into urban infrastructure if it is to effectively meet the needs of the fast growing urban population. Realizing this reality, our Government is focusing on urban development and strengthening of local bodies. A budgetary outlay of ₹6,596 crore is proposed in FY 2023-24 for Local Government and Urban Development.

156. Out of this, ₹1,149 crore is proposed to be provided under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), ₹425 crore under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Further, a provision of ₹460 crore for surface water supply Ludhiana and Amritsar, ₹412 crore for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), ₹250 crore for Punjab Municipal Development Fund

and an initial allocation of ₹5 crore for Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Amritsar is proposed in FY 2023-24.

MINING

157. For the first time the Government has operationalized 33 public mining sites in districts Ludhiana, Fazilka, Tarn Taran, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar, Rupnagar and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar for use of sand by manual excavation for general public and another 117 Public Mining sites shall be operationalized soon. Also, the New Punjab State Sand and Gravel Mining Policy, 2023 has been notified by which the Government has reduced pit head rates for sale of material from ₹9/cft to ₹5.5/cft to make sand and bajri affordable to public.

158. In addition to above, all the vehicles carrying minor minerals and machinery involved in mining activities in the State shall be registered and more than 4,400 vehicles have been registered till date; 27 Inter-State check posts have been established in the districts sharing borders with other states; a toll free number for registering complaints related to illegal mining or charging higher rate.

TRANSPORT

159. Major reforms in the transport sector have been initiated. Our Government has duly approved and recently notified the Punjab Electric Vehicle Policy, that intends to promote the use of electric vehicles. The Government has implemented the Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility for scrapping of old vehicles. The tentative sites for setting up Scrapping Facility have been identified and would be made functional in FY 2023-24. The Government proposes to launch Integrated Depot Management System (IDMS) in all depots of PRTC and Punjab Roadways in FY 2023-24.

160. To conduct the fitness of commercial vehicles with Ultra-Modern Equipment's, the Government proposes to establish on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) basis, 06 Automotive Testing Stations in the State namely at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar, Patiala, Bathinda, Ludhiana, Faridkot and Amritsar.

161. I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹567 crore i.e. and increase of 42% over FY 2022-23 (BE) for the transport sector, out of which ₹35 crore is for establishment/up-gradation of 28 bus stands in the State in a phased manner and ₹48 crore has been provided for Punjab State Road Safety Fund.

POWER

162. Despite nationwide coal crisis this year, Punjab has met its all-time highest ever peak demand of 14,311 MW during April- September, 2022 i.e. an increase of 13% in comparison to previous year. Our Government also ensured regular 8-hours of power supply to Agriculture Consumers, despite critical coal shortage in power plants.

163. I must inform this august House that our Government has released regular subsidy payment to PSPCL this year, unlike before when PSPCL always clamored for timely releases. A provision of ₹7,780 crore for providing power subsidy to the domestic consumers has been made for FY 2023-24.

164. With sincere efforts of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, Punjab was able to start the operations at its Pachhwara Central Coal Mine, which was closed since last 7 years. With the operationalization of this mine, PSPCL would be able to save approx. ₹250 crore per annum.

165. PSPCL has been accorded approval for undertaking reform-based and result-linked Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). Our Government has committed to clear its pending subsidy payment of over ₹9,000 crore to PSPCL in the next 5 years, which was pending since 2014-15. Under RDSS, Distribution infrastructure works and Metering works such as segregation of mixed feeders, bifurcation of feeders, New Distribution transformers (DTs), etc. amounting to ₹9,642 crore would be undertaken over a span of 5 years. Our Government has already paid arrears of Power Subsidy and interest thereon amounting to ₹1,804 crore and ₹664 crore, respectively in FY 2022-23.

NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

166. The present Renewable Energy installed capacity is 2,227 MW which is approx. 16% of total installed capacity of the State. Requisite measures are being taken to increase Renewable Energy capacity to 50% of the installed capacity by year 2030 in line with the National Agenda for clean energy sources.

167. Our Government is aggressively pursuing the development of Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects which utilize surplus paddy straw to the tune of 16.54 million tons per annum. The Government aims to take the desired actions to increase the paddy straw usage by 5 to 6 million tons in CBG projects by year 2030.

168. AAP Government intends to solarize all diesel-based agriculture pump sets in next five years with the mission to solarize the entire agriculture pump sets of the state by year 2030.

CIVIL AVIATION

169. Connectivity to the world brings new opportunities and open new avenues to any State. Punjab is fortunate to have large Punjabi Diaspora all around the world. Keeping the above in mind, and also the increasing footfall at our airports, construction of 2nd Phase of terminal building of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar is under active consideration. For the development of the terminal building at Indian Air Force Station, Halwara, our Government has decided to contribute ₹57 crore, and the work is expected to be completed by May, 2023 and flight operations expected to start by December, 2023.

170. The Government has signed two separate agreements with Airport Authority of India Cargo and Logistics Allied Services Company Ltd. (AAICLAS) to expand air cargo facilities at Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar and to operationalize Perishable Cargo Complex at Sri Guru Ram Dass Ji International Airport, Amritsar.

REVENUE AUGMENTATION AND OUTSTANDING DEBT

Speaker Sir,

171. The honest intent of our Government is evident from the growth in State's Own Tax and Non-Tax Revenue Receipts in the current year. In comparison FY 2021-22, a spell bound increase in both the Own Tax and Non-Tax Revenues of the State i.e. State GST 23%, State Excise 45%; Stamps and Registration by 19%, Taxes on Vehicles by 12% in FY 2022-23 (RE) and Non-Tax Revenue by 26%.

172. The Total Revenue Receipts of State has been projected to be ₹98,852 crore in FY 2023-24, of which the Own Tax Revenue accounts for

₹51,835 crore and Non-Tax Revenue accounts for ₹7,824 crore. Further, the Share of Central Taxes has been pegged at ₹18,458 crore and Grant-in-Aid from Centre at ₹20,735 crore in FY 2023-24.

173. In order to formalize financial transactions, education the customer and mop up GST revenue, I propose to introduce “Bill Leyao Inaam Pao” Scheme in FY 2023-24, on basis of draw taken out, monthly prizes to be given to people/customers who would submit their bills with the Taxation Department.

174. Our Government paid back a large amount of ₹15,946 crore as principal and ₹20,100 crore as interest on the debt taken by previous Governments during FY 2022-23. Again in the upcoming FY 2023-24, our Government would have to pay a whopping ₹16,626 crore as principal and ₹22,000 crore as interest. The effective Outstanding Debt to GSDP has been estimated to be 46.81% for FY 2023-24.

CONCLUSION

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

175. Right intensions, noble thinking and courage to remain upright in public life have the power to transform politics and nations. Aam Aadmi Party Government gets these virtues and inspiration from its National Convener and Hon’ble Chief Minister, Delhi. I, on behalf of all members of my party promise to serve this great land of five rivers with dedication and sincerity to bring back its lost glory.

176. I want to thank our beacon of hope, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann ji, for providing an unparallel leadership. His passion for Punjab’s revival inspires us and guides us to take the best possible decision in public interest.

177. Lastly, I am impelled to appreciate my team of Officials and hardworking staff in the Departments of Finance and Planning, who worked day and night with full sincerity to complete this complex task.

178. I commend the Budget proposals for the Financial Year 2023-24 to this august House for approval.

JAI HIND