

**SPEECH OF SRI BHATTI VIKRAMARKA MALLU,
HON'BLE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AND
FINANCE MINISTER,
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
WHILE PRESENTING VOTE ON ACCOUNT
BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25 TO
THE STATE LEGISLATURE ON
10TH FEBRUARY, 2024**

Honourable Speaker Sir,

While welcoming you all to the first Budget session Telangana State's Third Legislative Assembly, I bow my head in reverence to people of Telangana for their dynamic decision in the recent elections. We come before you with the spirit of our preamble...

"To secure to all its citizens,

Justice, social, economic and political

Liberty of thought expression belief faith and worship,

Equality of status and of opportunity

2. I am, presenting our Government's action plan to achieve the aspirations of Telangana martyrs before this august house. The people of Telangana are now moving towards real development after ending the dictatorial tendencies of the previous government, where only a few prospered to the detriment of the masses.

3. It is a matter of great happiness and pride for me to present our Government's first budget in a truly free state of Telangana. Our Government has already initiated measures to provide equal opportunities to the people and to brighten the lives of farmers, youth and women of the poorest.

4. In this context, I recall the golden words of our father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. I quote,

“Your beliefs become your thoughts.

Your thoughts become your words

Your words will be your actions.

Your actions become your habit,

Your habits become your values,

Your values become your destiny”.

5. The people of Telangana reposed their faith in us because of our resolve to bring about a qualitative change in their lives. The government will strive to do whatever it takes to maintain this trust. Our governance made the right start by dismantling the iron fences that separated the ruled and the rulers, both literally and figuratively.

6. At this juncture, it is our duty to thank on behalf of 4.0 crore people of Telangana to the then UPA Government, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, UPA Chairperson and Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, who played a crucial role in the process of formation of a separate State of Telangana in 2014. It is also our responsibility to pay homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives for our State. I reiterate our commitment to work for the welfare of the people of Telangana.

7. I am not saying this as a mere formality. This is something I am saying from bottom of my heart. Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Revanth Reddy, my Cabinet colleagues will not hesitate even a bit to fulfil the aspirations of people in the State.

8. In the recent concluded assembly elections in Telangana, we had promised to usher Indiramma Rajyam. We have made our policy clear that there will not be any repression, autocracy in our governance. We have announced six guarantees for the welfare of people. The very first decision of our Government as soon as we assumed office was to give a legal status to the six guarantees given by us. It is a testimony to our resolve and commitment. **As Adam Smith said "There is no such thing as a multi-pronged plan to raise overall human living standards. But it can be achieved to various instrumental means with the resources available in the state".**

9. However, the State is in a dire economic condition. We had already bared the facts before the people of Telangana through a White Paper. Even a prosperous State like ours has been reduced to a begging bowl due to the misdeeds of the earlier rulers. The state economy has suffered tremendously. Instead of spending on the infrastructure development in the state, the government has frittered it on non-essential activities. The Government's credibility suffered as it defaulted in clearing the bills for the expenditure it incurred.

10. This is precisely the reason, why people in Telangana have summarily rejected the past regime and it speaks volumes of our vibrant democracy. In order to get the Government's finances back on track, we have dispensed with wasteful expenditure and we aim to maintain fiscal discipline and give primacy to people's welfare. The previous government's budget was far from reality. It has inflated the receipts and created an illusion that they are providing huge funds for different schemes. For example, in the budget for 2021-22 Rs.17,700 Crores were allocated for the Dalit Bandhu but a single rupee was not released. Further, as per CAG accounts for 2021-22 Rs.4,874 Crores allotted to SC Welfare was not spent, Rs.2,918 Crores allocated to ST development was not spent, Rs.1,437 crores allocated for Backward classes development was not spent. Similarly, from the year 2014-15 to 2023-24 only Rs.297 crores out of the total allocation of Rs.1,067 crores was spent for interest free loans, Rs.2,685 crores only was

spent against budgeted allocation of Rs.7,848 crores. It is clear with this that amounts were shown as allocations to gain mileage but were not actually spent. We dispense with this terrible practice and we have estimated our receipts realistically and have made allocations accordingly. This shows our commitment to match our actions with our words.

11. With proper planning and responsible governance, we will endeavour to fulfil the promises made by us to the people of Telangana. The misdeeds and mistakes of the past regime cannot dampen our spirits and cannot deter us from our goals.

12. With this spirit and confidence, and with the blessings of the people in abundance, I table this budget.

Telangana State Economy

13. In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Telangana showed an increase in current prices from Rs. 13,02,371 crores in 2022-23 to Rs. 14,49,708 crores. However, the economic growth rate exhibited a downward trend, declining from 14.7% to 11.3% during the same period. The growth rate at the national level, however, showed a sharper decline, falling from 16.1% to 8.9%. Consequently, Telangana's state growth rate was higher by 2.4 percentage points compared to the India GDP growth rate.

14. The economic growth rate in Telangana, in constant prices, declined by 1.0 percentage point to 6.5% in 2023-24 from 7.5% in previous year. Whereas the increase in growth was marginal 0.1% at country level. This shows that the Telangana economy experienced a sharp decline in growth.

15. The differing growth rates at current and constant prices between Telangana and India suggest a higher rate of inflation in Telangana compared to the national average. This is further evidenced by the higher Consumer Price Index in Telangana, which stood at 6.65% in December 2023, placing the state fifth in the country in terms of inflation rate, compared to India's 5.69%.

Sectoral growth rates

16. In the fiscal year 2023-24, Telangana's economy demonstrated varied performances across its sub-sectors, influenced by a range of factors. The primary sector, particularly agriculture, experienced a notable decline. The Gross Value Added in the crops sub-sector decreased from Rs.49,059 crores in 2022-23 to Rs.45,723 crores in 2023-24. This significant drop, which translated into a growth rate of -6.8%, was primarily due to adverse seasonal conditions. The Southwest monsoon was delayed by 17 days, and there were large fluctuations in rainfall during the season. Notably, during the critical stages of crop growth in August and October, rainfall was markedly deficient. These conditions, coupled with prolonged dry spells,

groundwater depletion, and insufficient water levels in the Krishna basin, led to a drastic reduction in the sown area of key crops such as paddy, cotton, maize, red gram, and Bengal gram.

17. Concurrently, the secondary and tertiary sectors of Telangana's economy also saw a decline in growth rates. Notable decreases were observed in sectors like electricity, gas, water supply, trade and repair services, hotels and restaurants, railways, and air transport. However, the manufacturing sector presented a contrasting trend, growing at 5.9% compared to just 1.3% in the previous year. Other sectors such as real estate, construction, and mining & quarrying also experienced higher growth rates in 2023-24 compared to the preceding year.

Per Capita Income

18. The Per Capita Income based on the present day prices is expected to be Rs.3,43,297 in 2023-24, It was Rs.3,09,912 last year but the growth rate is decreased.

Good Governance

19. As promised in the election manifesto, Congress Government exhibited its resolve of good governance by converting Pragathi Bhavan into the Mahatma Jyotiba Poole Bhavan and opened its doors to the general public. We have introduced “PrajaPalana”, where, it is open to everyone to give representation on any issue. This programme is held two days in a week and gives us a firsthand insight into the problems being faced by the people. In

these two months, 43,054 representations were received, of which 14,951 were regarding houses, 8,927 related to land problems, 3,267 for pensions and 3,134 regarding employment. Special counters have been set up for the disabled, elderly, women and children so that they are not put to any inconvenience at PrajaPalana. Arogya Sri counters have been set for patients requiring medical assistance. The applications are registered on a portal, where they are monitored and tracked till they are resolved and disposed. District collectors and Heads of Departments have been given access to the information to monitor and resolve any issues in the process. A senior I.A.S officer has also been appointed to oversee PrajaPalana and ensure its smooth conduct.

Abhaya Hastam (Six Guarantees)

20. This government is fully committed to public welfare. Out of the six guarantees promised by us, we inaugurated two of them within 48 hours of assuming office. We have made special arrangements for receipt of applications from 28th December to 6th January, from eligible beneficiaries for implementation of six assurances. We have received an over whelming number of 1.29 crore applications. These applications have been digitised to facilitate identification of eligible beneficiaries and for resource mobilization.

21. We have conducted a special drive from December 28 to Jan 6 to receive applications from the eligible beneficiaries and we have received 1.9 Crore applications in this regard. This number showed the faith that people reposed on the promised we made to them. The beneficiaries' data is being complied through special software and it was compiled on a fast track. This would help in a bigger way in identifying the actual beneficiaries and keep adequate funds for the purpose.

22. Free RTC Bus Transport Facility under Mahalakshmi Scheme was launched by our government on 09 December 2023. The women of the State are extremely happy about this facility. To ensure smooth implementation of the scheme, we have provided funds to TSRTC to the tune of Rs.300 crores each month and we will continue support the scheme.

23. Yet another public welfare scheme - Rajiv Aarogyasri has been revamped and we have doubled the limit for medical treatment from Rs.5 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs. In addition, to ensure uninterrupted medical treatment to the needy, we have released pending dues under Arogya Shri. This measure will provide the much needed succor to the patients who were adversely affected by stoppage of treatment owing to pending dues to hospitals.

24. Two other important promises of our government are, supply of LPG cylinder @ Rs. 500/- under Gruha Jyothi scheme, 200 units of free electricity per month to all eligible consumers. The Council of Ministers in its meeting on 4th February, 2024 has

approved implementation of both these schemes. Very soon, the modalities for implementation will be finalised and schemes will be rolled out. Further, our government is committed to implement Rythu Bharosa, Indiramma houses, Cheyutha and Yuva Vikasam. We are committed to implement them at the earliest.

25. In this budget, we have proposed Rs.53,196 crores, for implementation of these schemes. Provision of additional funds will be made as required, once a complete assessment is made about the schemes.

26. We vow to fulfil all the promises made during the election campaign. The Warangal declaration for farmers, Youth declaration in Hyderabad, SC-ST declaration announced in Chevella, the BC declaration and Minority declaration announced in Kamareddy will be implemented.

Industries & Information Technology

27. A State's industrial progress will bring lead to employment generation and brings prosperity to its people. Hence, we have initiated measures to strengthen the industrial policy in the state. In this direction, Honorable CM Sri Revanth Reddy Garu along with Sri D. Sridhar Babu, Honourable Minister for Industries and IT has participated in World Economic Forum meeting at Davos in Switzerland. They held consultations with heads of about 50 Multi National Companies and apprised them of the

Agriculture and Industrial policies of the Telangana government. Impressed by the visionary approach of the Government, world famous Information technology and other industrial big wigs have come forward to invest in Telangana state. I feel proud to share that investments to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crore are expected to come to Telangana state. These investments would have a great positive impact on the State's GDP.

28. Micro and Small industries play a major role in providing employment opportunities to people. In order to tap this potential we propose to develop Clusters to establish Micro and Small industries. State Government will effectively tap the funds from the Centre's Micro Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSECDP) program. Utilising PM Mithra funds, we will develop Kakatiya Mega Textile Park. We would also be setting up two Leather Parks with Central assistance.

29. Any development concentrated in pockets would lead to regional and economic disparities. To ensure equitable development across the state, we have decided to set up Pharma Clusters this year in the state. We will ensure that there is minimal loss to people's property by establishing them away from the habitations.

30. Telangana state does not have a coast and hence, ports are not present in the confines of the state. To facilitate exports we have embarked on a plan to set up two dry ports in the state. By

setting up Dry Ports, goods transport for export will be feasible and cost effective too. This would greatly incentivize exports of goods from our state

31. I am proposing an amount Rs.2,543 crores, for the Industries department in this budget.

32. The visionary statement made by former PM Late Sri Rajiv Gandhi ji, three and half decades ago, that “India missed the industrial revolution, but it cannot afford to miss computer revolution,” is still inspiring for all of us. Our aim is to make Telangana state a front runner in Information technology in the country. Developments in IT sector would lead to providing better facilities to the rural areas and its people. Hence our government is ready to roll out a new IT policy. Our government is committed to strengthen IT sector. We will also utilise Artificial Intelligence to better the living conditions in the rural areas as well as for their development.

33. Any Company or entrepreneur enthusiastic to set up base in our State will be assured of all possible assistance from the Government. Our new policy will create state-of-the-art modern infrastructure, which would further boost the IT industry.

34. IT industry is increasing by leaps and bounds in Hyderabad. Hyderabad is brimming with the IT companies. However, to achieve over all development of the state, this is not enough. We should have a concrete policy to spread IT industry throughout

the state. Hence, our government is in consultation with US based organisation IT SERVE to set up companies in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This will contribute to equitable development of Telangana state in the IT field. We are also committed to make Telangana state the strongest in the area of Fiber Network connectivity.

35. I am proposing an amount Rs.774 crores, in this budget for Information Technology.

Panchayat Raj and Rural Development

Dr B.R. Ambedkar said “Democracy is not merely a form of government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellowmen”.

36. One of the government’s priorities is to make every village a true model of rural development. Local self governance institutions have suffered tremendously in the last decade. Hence, we need to start by setting right the mistakes committed by the previous regime for the past 10 years in this area.

37. “Manasa VaachaKarmana: meaning ‘in purity of thought, mind and action —we aspire to make our local self government institutions self sustainable and capable of making decisions for the good of the rural folks. It is not anyone’s favour to democracy, it is their own right which we’re trying to respect and

restore. This is the guarantee we are giving to the helpless, unfortunate and downtrodden sections.

38. Mahatma Gandhi described villages as the backbone of the country. It is to the credit of late PM Shri Rajiv Gandhi who initiated measures to strengthen them. The then Rajiv Gandhi government paved way for the Gram Swaraj as envisaged by the Mahatma through the Constitutional 73rd and 74th Amendments. Late Rajiv Gandhi was responsible for making the Village panchayats financially independent and ensured that the funds from Centre directly reach the villages. Our state government is taking measures and action in tune with the vision of Rajiv Gandhi. We will further strengthen the Village Panchayats and will provide funds on time and assist for the comprehensive development of the villages. We will also give utmost priority to provide road network in the rural areas.

39. Safe drinking water supply is not fully available in the rural areas even today. Previous government made tall claims that it had provided safe drinking water supply to every household in the rural areas at a cost of Rs.35,752 Crore under Mission Bhagiratha scheme. Though thousands of crores were spent, there are still numerous villages in the state, which have no protected drinking water facility. Central Government also took objection to the claims of the previous government of providing safe drinking water to 100% households in the State.

40. In Mission Bhagiratha, water was transported to long distances ignoring the locally available water resources leading to huge escalation in cost and sub optimal utilisation of local resources. Further, severe problems are cropping up in the pipelines and storage tanks and pumping facilities. But the past regime preferred to ignore such issues and went ahead benefiting contractors but not the people. Hence people in rural area are still facing the acute drinking water crisis. There is a need to rectify mistakes in Mission Bhagiratha programme and use it optimally to avoid huge loss to public money. Hence, we have started measures to rectify the defects.

41. The first State Finance Commission constituted after the State was formed. The State Finance Commission in its report recommended that 11 per cent of the State Own Net Revenue (SONR) taxes shall be devolved on the institutions of self governance. The Commission further recommended that this 11% has to be given to rural and urban local bodies in the ratio of 61:39. State government is mandated to place the recommendations of the Finance Commission before the Legislature. Yet the previous government totally neglected it. On the contrary, our government has accepted the recommendation of the Finance Commission in toto. We are also committed to releasing the funds as per recommendations.

42. In this Budget we are proposing Rs.40,080 crores, for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development

Municipal Administration department

43. Hyderabad is not only capital of Telangana state but also a major source of income for the government. Hyderabad attained this financial strength thanks to the previous Congress governments. Establishment of IT Sector, Hyderabad Metro Rail, Shamshabad International Airport, ORR and other international level infrastructure facilities in Hyderabad and host of other projects took shape during the earlier Congress regimes.

44. The wealth created through the development of Hyderabad is not meant for a few officers' or leaders' selfish gains but, it belongs to people as a whole. With this aim we are cleansing all systems.

45. Musi River which flows through Hyderabad and the surrounding districts has a long and illustrious history. We have put in place an action plan not only to clean Musi River but also to develop its catchment area as an employment generation region. We are taking immediate measures to revive Musi River, clean it and develop its river front. Honourable CM Revanth Reddy during his recent visit to London paid a visit to River Thames Front and met the officials there to examine the functioning of the Thames River Front. Our government aims to take up integrated development of Musiriver on those lines. In this regard, the CM held discussions with British Commissioner

Alexander Ellis and Sri Suman Berry, Vice Chairman of Niti Aayog.

46. Our government will take up this programme as part of the Musi River Front Project. As part of this, Pedestrian zones, people's plazas, Heritage zones in the Old city will be developed. River Musi and its catchment area would be developed into environment friendly zone with a comprehensive plan. Cultural heritage places will also be protected as part of the project. Funding for the project will be partly raised by monetization of the River Front. Undoubtedly, in future Musi River will be a place of tourist attraction. In this Budget we are proposing Rs.1,000 crores, for the project.

47. Our government is committed to decongest Hyderabad and for development of all regions in the State. Accordingly separate plans will be made by dividing the State into three zones with Hyderabad as the Centre viz. Hyderabad inside the ORR is urban area, the region between ORR and the proposed regional Ring Road is peri urban and outside the regional ring road is rural zone.

48. Government further desires to develop all the municipal areas in the state in a comprehensive manner. As per the recommendations of the State Finance Commission, funds will be released for development of the urban areas.

49. In this Budget, we are proposing, Rs.11,692 crores, for the Municipal Administration

Agriculture

50. The prosperity of the village is linked to the prosperity of the farmer. This is possible only, if agriculture is profitable. Keeping the welfare of the farmer in mind, we promised in our manifesto that we would implement the loan waiver programme for farmers by waiving of their loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs. We are in the process of preparing the necessary guidelines to implement this. This is a testimony of our commitment towards the welfare of the farmer much in contrast to the previous government.

51. I would like to place an important point regarding Rythu Bandhu scheme before this august House. The Rythu Bandhu was introduced by the previous Government with the stated aim of giving investment/input assistance to the farmer. Though it is a welcome gesture it is unfortunate that this assistance went into the pockets of the rich landlords and ineligible people. Rythu Bandhu assistance was given to lands that were not cultivable, lands that had hillock areas, and even for roads. The biggest beneficiaries were landlords owning huge tracts of lands but who never cultivated them and also real estate dealers holding thousands of acres. The government went against its own GO. Realizing this, we decided to review the scheme and implement **Rythu Bharosa** to the actually eligible beneficiaries @ Rs 15,000

per acre. We also promised to include the tenant farmers who were left in the lurch by the previous government.

52. Further, we will implement Crop Insurance scheme based on the PM Fasal Bhima Yojana. In this context, we are studying various schemes being implemented in other States, based on which we will prepare and implement the model best suited to our conditions.

53. Telangana state had the potential to become the seed capital of the country. However, it could not do so. The whole output of the crop and the result of cultivation will be dependent on the seed quality. If the seed is spurious, all the efforts put in by the farmer, his resources and time will come to a nought. Spurious seeds not only destroy the crop, they would cause immense financial damage to the farmer and become detrimental to the village economy.

54. During the previous regime there was a serious problem of spurious seeds and low quality seeds. This pushed several famers into financial distress and some of them even committed suicides. Our government will take stern measures against spurious and low-quality seeds and will not spare any trader who indulges in supplying spurious seeds. We will encourage production of quality seeds in the state and also come with a new seed policy.

55. In this Budget, we are proposing Rs.19,746 crores for Agriculture

Land administration

56. Dharani Portal brought in by the previous government hurriedly, resulted in immense hardships for the people of the state. Due to the mistakes committed by the officials, many land owners could not use it for their urgent needs like marriage, education of their children etc. They could not sell their rightful land. Further, many misdeeds were committed under in the guise of this opaque portal. During elections, we alleged many times that Dharani Portal was faulty and that we would give utmost priority to revamp it.

57. Accordingly, we have taken immediate measures to revamp the revenue administration and Dharani Portal as soon as we assume Office. We have constituted a five-member Committee to study the Dharani Portal and suggest measures to resolve the problems that it created.

SC, ST and Minority welfare

Martin Luther King said: “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed we hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.”

58. The abundant prosperity of a fraction of the people, with the majority languishing in poverty cannot be called real

development. Let me assure then through this August House that we will not disappoint their faith and we will provide real development to them. We have decided to give adequate priority to SC, ST welfare in every Annual Budget

59. With the aim of providing the best facilities and the education to SC& ST minority students we will strengthen the existing Residential schools. We have also decided to construct buildings with the best amenities for all the Residential Schools presently housed in rental buildings. We plan to install solar panels in these schools and the power charges saved would be utilized to benefit the students further. For the construction of new buildings for SC schools, Rs.1,000 crores, and for ST Schools Rs.250 crores is proposed in this Budget.

60. In the field of Higher Education for the students of these communities we proposed to set up two MBA colleges through Residential Schools Society. Proposals in this regard have already been submitted to All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) for necessary permissions. We have taken steps to complete the process of recruitment of teaching staff in Residential schools and very soon the Residential schools will be equipped with faculty.

61. For SC welfare Rs.21,874 crore, is proposed in this budget. For ST welfare Rs.13,313 crore, is proposed in this budget. For Minorities welfare Rs.2,262 crore, is proposed in this budget.

BC Welfare

62. This government has decided to follow the footsteps of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule who believed that Education only could transform a man to the highest levels. Our commitment and plans for the welfare of the BCs has been elaborated in the BC Declaration. Government, in the past made heavy allocations in the budget for the welfare of the BCs but in reality the funds were never released and spent. They deliberately misled the BCs., which is very unfortunate. Our government's policy will be very transparent and we will ensure that the allocated funds are actually spent in the given time frame.

63. This government is committed to implement this noble idea into a reality. Our aim is to create the best facilities and impart quality education to the students of weaker sections. We have decided to spend more funds on Residential Educational Institutions where a majority of students from the weaker sections study. We will also secure additional funds from the centre under Savitribai Phule Abhyudaya Yojana scheme.

64. Our government will ensure that BC scholarships are given on a regular and timely basis. We will also provide scholarships for students planning to study abroad under overseas education scheme. Our government's idea is to enable the students from the backward classes and weaker sections to concentrate only on their education and get good employment without worrying

about financials at all. We promise to construct buildings for the BC hostels, which are now housed in private buildings.

65. For the construction of buildings for the BC residential schools, we are proposing Rs.1,546 crore, in this budget.

66. Majority of people practicing traditional professions are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Our government will equip such people with modern tools and will also train them. We will also create better marketing facilities for their products. Simultaneously, we will provide the best educational facilities for their children and enable them to get admissions in prestigious schools and universities both in India and abroad.

67. In this Budget, we are proposing Rs.8,000 crore, for BC Welfare.

Women and Child welfare

68. Women constitute 50 per cent in the society. Hence women empowerment should not be confined to only a select few. This is precisely the reason why the Congress allocated a Lion's share of its promises in its Manifesto for the welfare of the women. On December 9, 2023 we have launched Free RTC Bus travel facility to all the women of the state. The women of the State are extremely happy about this wonderful facility and are lauding it. In an effort to make women self reliant we will strengthen the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) under Indira Kranthi Patham Scheme.

69. Our country's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, "Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow." The state government is committed to fulfil in its letter and spirit. Our government's biggest priority will be school education. Apart from providing the required funds for various facilities and schemes on a regular basis, the government has decided to set up digital classrooms in the schools.

70. The government will strengthen the scheme of providing nutritious food to the pregnant and lactating women through 35,781 Anganwadis in the state.

Education

71. The state government's aim is to develop Telangana state as an Education Hub. The Congress government was the first to introduce fee reimbursement programme to help the poor get access to the higher education. But the previous government did not release funds under fee reimbursement programme in time. Consequently many students could not get their education certificates in time, forcing them to forgo best opportunities for higher education and employment. Our government is committed to implement the fee reimbursement programme in a systematic way. Along with fee reimbursement, scholarships to SC, ST, BC and Minority students would also be paid on time.

72. I am happy to inform you that we have proposed to set up Telangana public schools with international standards in every Mandal which would help the students to receive the best quality education at their door steps. We will introduce the new courses in colleges so that the employability levels of the students improve and they become better equipped to compete with the rest of the world. The higher education sector in the state is also in need of a revamp which we will be initiating very soon. To set up these Telangana Public Schools on pilot basis, we are proposing Rs.500 crores, in this Budget.

73. With an aim to strengthen technical education and to attune it with the industry needs, 65 government ITIs in the state would be upgraded. We propose to do it by partnering with the industry leaders in technology. Many prestigious companies have already expressed their interest to work with the government in this regard. A team of our officials visited Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and studied the models being implemented there and proposed suitable model for our State. In this proposed scheme, 65 Government ITIs will get the latest technology tools and machines. New courses will be offered in these ITIs to impart the necessary training to the students, further, the intake capacity in the ITIs will also be enhanced. I am happy to share with you that the Council of Ministers has approved this scheme on Jan 4, 2024.

74. The state government has initiated measures to set up a Skill University. A team of officials has visited Gujarat, Delhi and Odisha states recently for a study of the Skill Universities in those states. A suitable model for our state is being worked out. An amount of Rs. 500 crore is proposed in this budget for infrastructure facilities to all the Universities including Osmania University in the State.

75. For Education, Rs.21,389 crores, is proposed in this budget.

Medical and Health

76. A healthy population is an asset to the State. Timely and effective medical treatment will add to the wealth of the state. Earlier, Congress government had launched a very popular and innovative scheme - Rajiv Arogya Sree to provide free medical care upto Rs 5 lakhs to eligible families. Our government has doubled the threshold for medical treatment to Rs 10 lakhs. This will provide succour to many needy families in view of the increased rates of medical treatment.

77. Our government will give priority to complete the super specialty and other hospitals, medical and nursing colleges, which are in various stages of constructions. NIMS, which is a prestigious medical institute is in need of expansion and we will provide the necessary assistance to further improve and extend the services of the institute. We will construct a new building for the historical Osmania General Hospital. Recruitments in

medical and health departments are very important to ensure uninterrupted services in the hospitals. Proper attention were not given by the earlier regime to complete the recruitments on time. On the contrary, we have fast tracked the recruitment and have given appointment letters to 6,956 Nursing officers. We will strengthen the government hospitals and release funds for their administration. We will provide the required funds and staff. We commit ourselves to continue the support for the medical and health sector.

78. I propose Rs.11,500 crores, for medical and health sector in this budget.

Youth Welfare

79. We will not instigate youth, but will support them, help them to live with dignity in the free atmosphere of Telangana. We will not merely say that youth are future of this country. We will work with commitment to get them better life. This is not mere promise but a responsibility that we will fulfil.

80. We firmly believe that the youth have the highest potential to transform the country for the better. It is essential that the Government supports them and channels their energies in the right direction. This action not only paves the way for their bright future but also keeps them away from destructional tendencies. However, it is very unfortunate that due to ill-conceived measures of the past government and also the

continued neglect, youth have lost their self-confidence and their hope in the future. It now falls upon us to restore their faith in the system. During elections we have taken them into confidence and assured them that all their issues would be addressed. This is why the entire youth stood by us during the last election and ensured our victory. We are aware of our responsibility towards them and will take appropriate measures as promised.

81. Hence, we have started working to issue the Job Calendar. As part of this, we plan to conduct a Mega DSC. Recruitment of about 15,000 Police Constables has been prioritized and will be completed shortly. We have identified additional 64 Group-I posts and have issued a go ahead to complete the recruitment.

82. We have revamped the Telangana Public Service Commission. Further we have released Rs. 40 Crore funds which were immediately required by the Commission and also sanctioned additional staff for its smooth functioning. We are confident the Commission will be able to initiate and complete the recruitment to various posts in a speedy and effective manner without any scope for malpractices at any level.

Labour Welfare

83. Welfare of workers in all sectors including labourers is one of our priorities. We will extend all possible help to workers in both organised and unorganised sectors. In this direction our government has already initiated certain measures.

84. More specifically we have extended accidental insurance to Gig workers. Government has issued orders on 30th December, 2023 extending this insurance facility of Rs.5 Lakhs to them.

Handloom

85. Telangana state is home for Handlooms. Encouraging this industry and its artisans will not only strengthen them economically but will help in preserving our handloom heritage.

86. Now this government has taken up crucial decision that would provide a definitive market to their products. Government will be purchasing material required for uniforms of schools students and also for other needs from the handloom weavers and worker across the state unlike the earlier practice of giving supply orders to only certain section of weavers. Further, we would be conducting a meeting involving weavers from across the states and would take suggestions from them for framing of better policies.

Power Sector

87. The policy of free power supply to agriculture was introduced by the previous congress led government. The farmers benefited from the free power supply scheme which brought cheers in their lives. We are proud to say that the free power supply and the strategic polices adopted by the then Congress government has put an end to the farmers suicides in Telangana. The state

government is committed to supply 24 hours quality power to the farmers.

88. The Government already decided to introduce Gruha Jyothi scheme to supply 200 units of free power to the eligible families and steps are being taken to implement it. The government is proposing Rs.2,418 crores, for this scheme in this budget.

89. For Transco and Discoms, Rs.16,825 crores, is proposed in this budget.

Forests and Environment

90. The state government accorded priority to the conservation of environment. The government is committed to implement the ban on use of single plastic and also strengthen the Bio diversity management committees with the cooperation of the people. Our priority areas will be to organize environment awareness programmes and training, and other programmes pertaining to bio diversity of the fish in the state, conservation and rejuvenation of bamboo and protection of marsh lands etc.

Housing

91. The previous government has failed to fulfill the promise of providing double bed rooms to all. The previous government exploited people's aspirations for their political advantages.

92. Our government is ready to prepare an action plan to implement the one of the six guarantees of providing Indiramma

houses to the needy . House sites will be given to those who do not have houses and Rs 5 lakh financial assistance to those who own a site. The previous government failed to utilize the funds made available under the central sponsored Prime Minister Avas Yojana scheme. The present government will utilize central funds optimally. I am happy to announce that 3500 houses will be sanctioned to each Assembly constituency under Indiramma housing scheme. For this scheme I am proposing Rs.7,740 crores, in the budget.

Roads and Buildings

93. Roads are symbol of progress. The state government will pay special focus on connecting all Mandal head quarters with district head quarters. The areas which have no road connectivity will be given top priority. New bridges will be constructed on rivers and water bodies to improve the road connectivity to the inaccessible areas. Tribal habitations will also be provided road connectivity on priority. Government is making efforts to improve road network in the rural areas to bolster the rural economy.

94. We will complete all pending works at the new Collectorates and also the construction of the MLA camp office in each assembly constituency. Regional Ring Road will be completed on a fast track and bring to use as early as possible. We will complete the land acquisition as early as possible

Irrigation

95. The Telangana state which was formed on the demands of water, funds and employment recruitment should have made rapid strides in irrigation sector in the last ten years. The state should have flourished with lush green fields. However, due to ill-conceived policies of the past government, this did not materialize.

96. There is absolutely no doubt that previous government has taken decisions and behaved without taking into consideration the advice from irrigation experts. Irrigation sector is in very serious trouble. Hence, I am forced to place certain facts before this House.

97. It became a bane for Telangana state as the previous government has pursued a policy of benefitting the contractors. We have a responsibility to investigate and bring to book the misdemeanors of the persons who indulged in this faulty and corrupt policy. We promised people that a thorough inquiry will be made orders on the quality of construction, ill-conceived designs and corruption involved in the projects of Annaram, Medigadda and Sundilla Barrages. Our action will be in tune with what we promised to the people.

98. Our government is committed to get our rightful share of water in Krishna River and Godavari River for which we will not

shy away from fighting for justice and will not spare any effort to protect the rights of the people of Telangana.

99. Our government aims to complete Dr BR Ambedkar Pranahita Chevella Project, to irrigate upper regions of the state. We plan to take up those projects which can be completed with less expenditure and bring more land under irrigation. The projects being considered are Alimineti Madhav Reddy Srisailam Left Bank Canal, Mahatma Gandhi Kalvakurty Lift Irrigation Scheme, Jawahar Nettempadu LIS, Rajiv Bhima LIS, Koil Sagar LIS, SRSP-Indiramma Flood Flow Canal, J Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme, and Komaram Bhim and Chinna Kaleshwaram.

100. I propose Rs.28,024 crores, for Irrigation in this budget.

Endowments

101. Telangana has ancient and great heritage temples. We propose to develop Vemulawada, Bhadrachalam, Basara, Jamulapuram (*Chinna Tirupathi*) and Dharmapuri to make them more convenient for the devotees to visit. We are formulating plans to develop tourism circuits linking all famous temples in coordination with the tourism department. We will identify and record all temple lands and take measures to protect such lands from illegal encroachments.

102. Telangana is going to celebrate the biggest tribal festival of the Country – Sammakka Sarakka Jathara at Medaram. We have

made elaborate arrangements for lakhs of devotees who throng the place to have a darshan of Sammakka Sarakka during the Jathara. Further, we have released Rs.110 Crore funds to provide all the necessary facilities at the Jathara. The Endowments department has already launched an online portal for the devotees to contribute “Bangaram” to the deities.

Tourism

103. Telangana has wonderful places of touristic interest which also have a history and rich heritage attached to them. It is our duty to preserve this rich asset for the future generations. We have abandoned forest, water falls, forts standing testimony to history, great temples... Jain temple at Kolanpak, Nagarjun sagar, Budhist Stupas at Nelakondapally etc.

104. The government is formulating a comprehensive plan to develop tourism sector in the state. If this plan is implemented it will result in providing employment to lakhs of people and the state will benefit from additional revenue.

105. In the implementation of this new strategy for strengthening the tourism sector we will coordinate with the State Endowments department to encourage temple tourism. Further we will monetize various vacant and unused lands under tourism department which will generate revenue and also protects the properties from encroachments.

106. The government is taking measures to further develop the world-famous heritage structure Ramappa temple. We are taking steps to restore the dilapidated temples in Mulugu district in the vicinity of Ramappa temple. This will restore the glory and prestige of Ramappa temple.

Cinematography

107. As already announced by the state government, state-sponsored film awards known as Nandi awards have now been renamed as Gaddar awards. This is our tribute to Revolutionary Balladeer and Singer late Gaddar. This decision reflects our respect towards a peoples poet who aroused the masses with his writings and songs.

Planning

108. Our government will provide funds for developmental activities in all the Assembly Constituencies, so that peoples representatives can take immediate action for important activities. Erstwhile government has completely neglected this area leading to a great unrest among the public representatives. Our government is committed to give due respect and required funds to all the constituencies under the constituency development fund.

Law and Order

109. Law and Order is the first and foremost responsibility of the state government to maintain law and order in the state. If law

and order is maintained and is under control, welfare programmes will reach the people in a proper manner. One major issue faced by the people during the last five years is rampant use of drugs. The youth has fallen prey to this dangerous addiction.

110. Our government has initiated stringent measures without any delay against the drug supply and consumption. In a very short time, the police and the drug control administration have seized huge quantities of marijuana and other narcotic drugs. This is a proof of this wide spread menace. Our action will continue till the state become free of drugs. Our government has further exhibited its resolve to protect our youth by banning hooka bars in the state.

111. Our government has allotted 100 acres of land for the construction of new Telangana High Court buildings. This action of ours will strengthen the judiciary to dispense speedy and effective justice to the people.

Speaker Sir,

112. Last but not the least, I wish to place before you an important decisions taken by our government on 4th January, 2024

- We have adopted our state's well known poet and son of the soil Sri Ande Sri's song, "Jaya jayahe Telangana" as the state song.

- We have changed our State transport registration code from TS to TG.
- We have decided to make changes to the existing official symbol of the state, which was full of feudalistic remnants. The new Telangana State symbol will reflect the spirit of the Constitution, democracy Telangana identity and culture.
- Changes will also be made to Telangana Talli statue to reflect Telangana mothers.

113. We have taken these decisions to preserve the Telangana self respect, culture and its unique identity. This government has given a confidence to people of Telangana and assured them that all their dreams will be fulfilled and the realization of Indiramma Rajyam is not far away.

Reasons for vote on account budget

114. Presenting our government's first budget as a vote on account budget is a little disheartening for us. But Central Government has introduced vote on account budget on 1st February 2024. Our Government has a clear vision on how to pool up resources for our plans and schemes. As part of that vision we have the clarity that we need to tap the maximum funds from the Central Government under its various schemes. Only if a full scale budget is presented by the Government of India, we will be able to have a reasonable estimate of the funds that might

be transferred to us. Hence, we have decided to introduce a full budget after the Central Government introduces its regular budget.

115. This budget is to fulfill the Congress Government's commitment of establishing Indiramma Rajyam in Telangana. The central focus of the budget is overall development of the Telangana state. I propose two pronged development of Telangana: 1) Development of weaker sections of Telangana by spending budget resources on the six guarantees with a rational principle. No family below the poverty line should be left untouched with the resource development of their families and persons. The six guarantees invest resources (both by transfer of money and agrarian and other forms of development) with a rational approach to every family that deserves the welfare package. The six guarantees included: the Mahalakshmi, Rythu Bharosa, Gruha Jyothi, Indiramma Houses, Yuva Vikasam, and Cheyutha, would also be implemented. At the same time this budget keeps in mind a vast agrarian sector to boost production. We also keep urban development with a planned industrialization and production.

116. Development of the state in terms of education, health, infrastructure, employment which cover the main demands of the Telangana movement—Neellu, Nidhulu, Niyamakalu. For the last ten years in ten budgets none of these issues were covered

in a planned manner. But my budget will change that course and make it people centered development and their welfare.

117. The earlier Government made the state bankrupt. The burden of unplanned loans is a major challenge. Yet we will stand by the people with planned developmental goals.

118. Our Government is planning to cut down wasteful expenditure in day to day Government operations and also by curbing expenditure on unwarranted infrastructural assets. Our budget focuses on people's overall development, progress and their happiness.

Respected Speaker Sir,

119. I would like to present the Budget for the year 2024-25 to this House.

2022-23 Accounts

120. As per the accounts of 2022-23, Expenditure is Rs.2,04,523 crore, Revenue Surplus is Rs.5,944 crore, Fiscal deficit is Rs.32,557 crore.

2023-24 Revised Estimates

121. Estimated total expenditure is Rs.2,24,625 crore, out of which Revenue expenditure is Rs.1,69,141 crore, Capital expenditure is Rs.24,178 crore, Revenue surplus is Rs.9,031 crore, and fiscal deficit is Rs.33,786 crore.

Vote on Account Budget Estimates for 2024-25

122. I propose, 2024-25 financial years' total expenditure is Rs.2,75,891 crore, Revenue expenditure is Rs.2,01,178 crore, Capital expenditure is Rs.29,669 crore.

123. I commend the vote on account budget for 2024-25 for the approval of this Honorable House.

Jai Telangana

Jai Hind