सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2025 - 2026

Thiru **N. RANGASAMY**

Hon'ble Chief Minister



12th March, 2025

BUDGET SPEECH

2025 – 2026

முறைசெய்து காப்பாற்றும் மன்னவன் மக்கட்கு
இறைஎன்று வைக்கப் படும். – குறள்.

“If a king administers justice and protects his subjects, he will be regarded as god”.

Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly,

I rise to present the budget for the year 2025-26 before this august House and I am extremely happy to place my 5th successive Budget in this Fifteenth Legislative Assembly. Copies of the Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum are being circulated to the Hon'ble Members of this House for their consideration.

2. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi Ji for his continuous guidance and whole-hearted support.

Due to the close cooperation and coordinated efforts between the Central and Union Territory Governments, my Government has been continuously implementing several progressive Welfare Schemes for the past four years, especially in Education and Health. Further, my Government is implementing various welfare measures to raise the standard of living of the downtrodden with equitable rights and economic growth. Various initiatives are underway for the holistic Socio-Economic Development of the Union Territory in all sectors.

3. I am extremely happy to state that the Government has been able to sustain and accelerate the economic growth, maintain law and order and invest in the society's future for improving the ease as well as quality of living of the people of Puducherry.

4. The Budget size of the Financial Year 2025-26 is fixed at ₹13,600 crore. Union Territory's own revenue receipts have been estimated as ₹7,641.40 crore. The Central Assistance including State Disaster Relief Fund has been estimated as ₹3,432.18 crore, Central Road Fund as ₹25 crore and allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been estimated as ₹400 crore.

The Government of India has conveyed its approval for Net Borrowing Ceiling (NBC) including Negotiated Loan to the extent of ₹ 2,101.42 crore to bridge the gap of fiscal deficit. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 13,600 crore, ₹ 11,624.72 crore has been allocated for Revenue Expenditure and ₹ 1,975.28 crore has been allocated for Capital Expenditure. The percentage of Capital Expenditure against the Total Expenditure has been considerably increased to 9.80% in the proposed Budget 2025-26, as compared to only 1.66% in the year 2021-22, which is almost a ten-fold increase.

5. My Government has allocated an amount of ₹ 2,760 crore towards Special Budgeting Components in the current Financial Year 2025-26,

(i) ₹ 1,458 crore for Gender Budgeting;

(ii) ₹ 613 crore for Youth Budgeting; and

(iii) ₹ 689 crore for Green Budgeting.

6. Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources go towards committed expenditure such as Salary, Pension, Re-payment of Loan and Interest payments.

Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 13,600 crore for the year 2025-26, ₹ 2,650 crore has been allocated for Salaries (19.49%), ₹ 1,566 crore for Pension (11.51%), ₹ 1,867 crore for Re-payment of Loan and payment of Interest (13.73%), ₹ 2,546 crore for purchase of Power (18.72%). Further funds to the tune of ₹ 2,110 crore (15.51%) have been allocated towards major welfare schemes such as Free Rice Scheme, Productive Incentive / Subsidy for Farmers, Old Age Pension, Financial Assistance to Women Head of Family and Subsidy for LPG Cylinders. Grant-in-aid to the Society run Higher Education Institutions to the tune of ₹ 523 crore (3.85%) and ₹ 1,148 crore (8.44%) for the Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Institutions have been allocated.

7. With this preamble, I shall present Department-wise Budget proposals for the Financial Year 2025-26.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

8. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Agriculture is the major source for economic development of a State. The aim of my Government is to raise the

livelihood of farmers with the help of various infrastructure facilities and assure them a standard agricultural growth and income. In order to boost agricultural activities, my Government is giving priority for implementing various welfare schemes in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

9. The Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for Coconut will be implemented from this year to compensate the losses incurred by the farmers in the coastal areas of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam due to frequent cyclones and natural calamities. I am happy to announce that the Government will also bear the premium amount payable by the farmers for coconut as it is provided for other crops. All the Agricultural Labourers who have registered under Agriculture Labour Welfare Society will be provided ₹ 2,000 per annum as Rain Relief, from the Financial Year 2025-26.

10. An action plan is being implemented in the Union Territory of Puducherry with a goal of making it a fully organic farming state under the "Vision @ 2047, Puducherry".

As a part of this, funds have been sought from the Central Government for implementation of the "National Mission on Natural Farming".

11. In those Lands where generally only Paddy cultivation is done, the cultivation of pulses, oil seeds and millet varieties will be encouraged according to the soil fertility. For this purpose, under the Scheme of Crop Diversification, high yielding seeds of superior varieties are proposed to be distributed at 75% subsidy for general farmers and 90% subsidy for SC farmers. Arrangements will also be made for price support at Minimum Support Price through the Scheme ‘Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM – AASHA)’.

12. An amount of ₹ 216.87 crore has been allocated for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 2025-26.

FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

13. My Government's aim is to protect the ecological balance and environmental stability in the Union Territory of Puducherry by means of scientific management.

14. My Government proposes to plant around 3,00,000 numbers of tree saplings in the forest area and non-forest area. One lakh tree saplings will be distributed to the General Public, Schools, NGOs and Industrial Institutions to encourage tree plantation.

15. Marine turtle protection and conservation programme will be implemented by adopting natural way of hatchery. Under Central Government's MISHTI Scheme, mapping of Mangrove area in Union Territory of Puducherry will be done and action will be taken to protect Mangrove eco-system.

16. An amount of ₹ 13.71 crore has been allocated for Department of Forests and Wildlife in 2025-26.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

17. Animal Husbandry plays a vital role in the livelihood of two thirds of rural people and in strengthening their economic status. My Government proposes to introduce many new schemes aiming to double the income of the cattle farmers and rural women during the Financial Year 2025-26.

18. Action will be taken to distribute feed to 7,500 Milch cattle and calf feed to 2,500 calves under the scheme for the supply of balanced calf feed at 75% subsidy to the non-members of Milk Co-operative Society under SLBP to the Crossbred Heifer Calves. Under Dairy Development it is proposed to distribute 2 Milch cows unit at 50% subsidy (cost of per cow ₹ 60,000) for 1,500 beneficiaries. Further, under Central Scheme "National Livestock Mission", it is proposed to insure 10,000 Milch cows with 85% of Central share.

19. To tap backyard poultry and to enhance rural economy by selling meat and egg, 6 weeks grown 12,000 Kadaknath birds, 25,000 Turkey poults will be distributed free of cost. Further, a kit of 20 egg laying hens, feed and cage will be distributed free of cost to 2,500 beneficiaries.

20. For the welfare of the cattle farmers,–

(i) Hydroponics fodder unit at ₹ 60,000 per unit for 200 beneficiaries;

(ii) Fodder Chaff cutter at ₹ 35,000 per unit for 100 beneficiaries;

(iii) Cattle Pellet Feed Unit at ₹ 60,000 per unit for 100 beneficiaries;

(iv) Green Fodder Silage for 2,000 beneficiaries; and

(v) Rubber Floor Mat for Cattle at a cost of ₹ 2,500 per unit for 2,000 beneficiaries are proposed to be distributed free of cost.

21. An amount of ₹ 82.39 crore has been allocated for Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare in 2025-26.

ART AND CULTURE

22. It is well known to the Hon'ble Members that Art and Culture play a vital role in bringing Communities together. This Department has proposed to continue the monthly financial assistance to Kalaimamani / Tamilmamani / Telugu Ratna / Malayala Ratna Awardees. Further, applications have been received from the eligible persons for the Award during the years from 2015 to 2021 and action will be taken to honour the eligible persons in the Financial Year 2025-26.

It has already been proposed to include the fields of Oratory (Literature) and Photography / Film / Documentary Film under the "Puduvai Kalaimamani Award" Scheme, for which applications have already been received from eminent artistes to confer the Award "Pudhuvai Kalaimamani" in these two fields from 2025 onwards.

23. From this year onwards, it is proposed to present an award in the name of "Karaikal Ammaiyar". A Cultural Hall in the name of "Karaikal Ammaiyar" and a Museum will be constructed at Karaikal. A Study Centre with Library facility is proposed to be constructed at Nehru Nagar, Karaikal, exclusively for those aspirants appearing for various competitive examinations.

24. It is proposed to carry out the special repairs and improvement works at Pavendhar Bharathidasan Memorial Museum. Further, development and renovation of two local museums in the Union Territory of Puducherry will be carried out under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. It is also proposed to carryout repair and renovation works at all the Government Branch Libraries.

25. An amount of ₹ 40.40 crore has been allocated for Art and Culture Department in 2025-26.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

26. The scheme of distribution of free rice was implemented in cash through DBT up to the month of November, 2024. Based on the requisitions received from various quarters of general public, the scheme of supply of distribution of free rice has been implemented through FPS from the month of December, 2024. An amount of ₹ 300 crore has been allocated for Free Rice Scheme in 2025-26.

27. I am happy to announce that my Government proposes to distribute 2 Kilograms of Wheat per month in addition to the Free Rice, to all the Ration Card holders from the Financial Year 2025-26.

28. My Government proposes to provide all Ration Card services through Common Service Centers (CSC) / Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLE).

General public may avail the services of inclusion of new names, deletions and corrections on their own through the Department Website. Further, training will be imparted to voluntary organization to spread consumer awareness to the general public.

29. An amount of ₹ 366.04 crore has been allocated for Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in 2025-26.

COOPERATION

30. All members are aware that Co-operatives play an important role in Socio-economic development. My Government will continue to provide necessary support to the economically weaker Co-operative Societies and Institutions.

31. My Government proposes to establish an Ice Cream Plant of 20 TLPD capacity at PONLAIT in collaboration with NDDB at a cost of ₹ 34.35 crore.

32. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD), it is proposed to install 5 numbers of 3,000 litre Bulk Milk Cooler (BMC) at a cost of ₹ 3.45 crore at PONLAIT and

strengthening of Quality Assurance Laboratory of Dairy Plant. It is proposed to impart training to 510 cattle farmers and 300 employees of the Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers Union.

33. It is proposed to distribute Milch cows at 75% subsidy to the members of Primary Co-operative Milk Producers Society / Self Help Groups. Silage will be provided at a 75% subsidy through the Primary Co-operative Milk Producers Association to provide green fodder for livestock. In order to strengthen the handloom Co-operative Sector, funds to the tune of ₹ 4.06 crore has been allocated under Handloom Development Schemes to PONTEX, PONFAB and Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies.

34. An amount of ₹ 5 crore has been proposed to be allocated in the Financial Year 2025-26 as share capital assistance to spinning mills functioning in Union Territories of Puducherry. The annual subsidy amount for each Fair Price Shop will be enhanced from ₹ 90,000 to ₹ 1,75,000 in Financial Year 2025-26 for 484 Fair Price Shops at Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.

35. The proposal to resume the operations of the Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mills, Lingareddipalayam with Private Partnership has reached its final stage and the Mill will soon start its operations.

36. An amount of ₹ 60.62 crore has been allocated for Co-operative Department in 2025-26.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

37. Providing quality education plays a vital role in social and economical growth. My Government is initiating several steps to raise the standard of education.

38. For the welfare of the students, my Government is providing school bags, school uniforms, notebooks, books, laptops, footwears, *etc.,* under the Free Supply Scheme. Sufficient funds have also been allocated during the Financial Year 2025-26 for the continuation of the said scheme.

39. My Government has implemented the Free distribution of Laptops to the Students of Government and Government Aided Schools successfully.

Free Laptops to the left-out Students of Academic Year 2022-23 and to the Students of Academic Year 2025-26 will be distributed in the forthcoming Academic year itself.

40. In order to cultivate new and innovative thoughts in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, it has been proposed to establish ATAL Tinkering-*cum*-Composite Skills Lab in all the PM SHRI Schools. All the class rooms in these PM SHRI Schools will be provided with Smart Interactive Board.

41. Vidhya Sameeksha Kendra Portal, established as per the recommendation of Government of India, will monitor the activities such as Teaching Ability of Government School Teachers and Learning Ability of Students during the Academic Year 2025-26. Training is being imparted to teachers to handle the classes in the CBSE pattern. As per norms of the CBSE, Fire Safety Equipments will be installed in all Government Schools at a cost of ₹10 crore in 2025-26.

42. My Government will continue to provide Millet snacks in the evening to the students to enhance their Health standard. Presently, Millet snacks are provided to all the students of Government / Government aided Schools for 2 days in a week. I am glad to inform that from the year 2025-26, my Government proposes to provide this Millet snacks "ON ALL THE SCHOOL WORKING DAYS".

43. Presently, under Mid-day Meals Scheme, Egg is provided only three days a week. My Government proposes to extend the provision of Egg to School Children "ON ALL SCHOOL WORKING DAYS".

44. An amount of ₹ 1,032.03 crore has been allocated for School Education during 2025-26.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

45. Higher Education plays a vital role in recognizing a Country as an advanced one. Higher Education is also very important for the improvement of financial status of poor families. My Government will continue to focus on promotion of higher education so as to promote and provide quality human resources for the Industries, Services and Information Technological firms.

46. My Government is committed for making higher education accessible to all at an affordable cost. Currently, financial assistance is being provided under the 'Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Financial Assistance Scheme' to students selected through CENTAC and studying in Medical, Engineering and Nursing courses. From the coming academic year, this scheme will be extended to all courses admitted through CENTAC under Government quota. Further, students admitted under the 10% quota for Government School students in undergraduate NEET courses will be given 100% fee waiver under the 'Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Financial Assistance Scheme'. In order to reduce the financial burden of students studying in Government and Government-aided colleges, 100% tuition fee waiver will be given. This shows that my Government aims to provide equal and easy access to education for all.

47. It is proposed to provide special financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 per month for a period of three years from this academic year onwards to the students who have completed 6th Std. to 12th Std. in Government Schools and are undergoing UG courses in colleges. An amount of ₹ 9.34 crore has been allocated in 2025-26 for the aforesaid scheme.

48. Under the scheme PM-USHA (RUSA 3.0), it is proposed to upgrade three Government Arts and Science Colleges, *viz.,* in Puducherry region – the Tagore Arts and Science College; in Mahe region – the Mahatma Gandhi Government Arts and Science College; and in Karaikal region – the Avvaiyar Government College for Women at a cost of ₹25 crore.

49. "College Management System (CMS)", a digital platform is proposed to be established from the Financial Year 2025-26, for functioning and monitoring of all Government and Government-aided Institution.

50. An amount of ₹360.84 crore has been allocated for Higher and Technical Education in 2025-26.

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

51. My Government is implementing various sports activities to cultivate interest in sports and to improve the physical fitness of the students. To encourage the students to participate in National and International Games, Cash awards / Incentives are being provided to the students, for which an amount of ₹3 crore has been allocated in 2025-26.

It is proposed to develop Playfields in Urban and Rural areas of Puducherry at a cost of ₹9 crore. For the welfare of the youths in villages Mini Indoor Stadiums are proposed to build in Rural areas of Puducherry at a cost of ₹4.50 crore. A Synthetic Atheletic Track will be laid at Karaikal Stadium at a cost of ₹7 crore.

52. An amount of ₹34.34 crore has been allocated for Sports and Youth Affairs Department in 2025-26.

ELECTRICITY

53. One of the top priorities of my Government is to provide uninterrupted power supply to all the consumers in the Union Territory of Puducherry, for which concerted efforts are being taken to strengthen and modernise the transmission and distribution infrastructure of the territory.

54. Establishment of new Sub-stations at Lawspet and Thavalakuppam has been a long-drawn demand as the existing Sub-stations are overloaded causing power interruptions during summer.

Considering the demand, the works pertaining to Establishment of a new 110/22 KV Gas Insulated Sub-station at Lawspet with a station capacity of 50 MVA has been awarded to M/s. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited at a cost of ₹ 44.52 crore. Works have started at this site and expected to be completed by another 18 months. On establishment of the above Sub-station, the people in and around of Lawspet area will be benefited with quality and reliable power supply. Similarly for the Sub-station development at Thavalakuppam, administrative approval for execution of the project at an estimated cost of ₹ 92.26 crore has been accorded and the land acquisition process has been initiated.

55. In order to meet the increasing power demand in Puducherry region, works for augmentation of the capacity of Korkadu Sub-station from 32 MVA to 50 MVA, Thethampakkam Sub-station from 20 MVA to 26 MVA, and Kalapet Sub-station from 20 MVA to 26 MVA, have been awarded to M/s. Power Grid Corporation at a project cost of ₹ 15.90 crore. The work is under progress and is expected to be completed by December, 2025. On completion of this project, the people in and around of Korkadu, Thethampakkam and Kalapet area will be benefited with uninterrupted and quality power supply.

56. Under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, works for strengthening the existing distribution system network by way of establishing new transformers and erecting new lines is being done at a project cost of ₹ 106.59 crore. For the said works, the site survey has been completed and it is expected that the works will be completed by March, 2026.

57. Works relating to erection of one additional Auto Transformer of capacity 100 MVA and associated works at 230/110 KV, Thondamanatham Auto Sub-station at a cost of ₹ 27.73 crore has been tendered and is at final stages of evaluation. This work will be completed by this year.

58. It is proposed to install one additional 100 MVA capacity 230/110 KV power transformer at Villianur Sub-station at a cost of ₹ 30 crore. The existing capacity of Power Transformers at Kurumbapet and Marapalam Sub-stations are also proposed to be stepped-up at a total cost of ₹ 21.22 crore in order to satisfy the increasing need of the consumers of that area.

59. Laying of 110 KV UG Cable from Venkata Nagar 110/22-11 KV Sub-station to 110/22 KV GIS Sub-station at JIPMER at a total project cost of ₹ 42.10 crore is under progress. The work will be completed by the end of the year 2025-26. On completion of this project, alternate power supply to the 110/22-11 KV Sub-stations at Venkata Nagar and at JIPMER will be ensured, besides providing connectivity to the Lawspet 110/22 KV Sub-station, which is under construction.

60. In order to augment and modernize the existing distribution system networks in the Union Territory of Puducherry, DPR for executing works at an estimate cost of ₹ 472 crore has been submitted to Government of India for approval. The pattern of assistance under this scheme is 60 : 40, *i.e.,* 60% of the funds will be borne by Government of India and the balance 40% is to be funded by Puducherry Government through loan from Financial Institutions.

61. In the current Financial Year, modernization work of installing the SCADA system at the cost of ₹ 35 crore in the State Load Dispatch Centre, Puducherry will begin and the same will be completed in the Financial Year 2025-26. Tender for the work has been finalised and the work will commence shortly.

62. The Government of Puducherry is actively implementing the Government of India scheme namely 'PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM – SGMBY)' with a target to solarise 13,000 Households at a total installed capacity of 39 MW by the end of Financial Year 2026-27. So far, 624 roof top solar installations have been done under this scheme and subsidy of ₹ 3.01 crore has been disbursed to the beneficiaries.

63. We intend to solarise all the Government buildings located in our territory. So far 1,210 Government buildings have been identified with a proposed installed capacity of 27 MW. For setting up of roof top solar power plants, bids have been finalised with an installed capacity of 14 MW covering around 500 Government buildings. These plants will be installed through RESCO developers selected by e-tendering process. Necessary letter of award has been issued to the selected developers and work will commence shortly. For the remaining 13 MW, tenders will be called for by the end of March, 2025.

64. During 2025-26 under Capital schemes, it is proposed to execute the following, *viz.*–

(i) 100 Nos. of distribution transformers of various ratings;

(ii) erection of 20 km. of HT lines and 100 km. of LT lines;

(iii) strengthening of 10 km. of HT lines and 50 km. of LT lines;

(iv) provision of 10 Nos. of HT and 30 Nos. of LT Industrial services, 50 Nos. of Agricultural pump sets, 10,000 Domestic services, 2,000 Commercial services and 10,000 new LED street lights;

(v) conversion of overhead LT lines into underground cables for 10 Kms. length; and

(vi) conversion of 100 LT overhead services into underground cable system.

65. An amount of ₹2,904.39 crore has been allocated for Electricity Department in 2025-26.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

66. Hon'ble Members are well aware that my Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of Fishermen and to improve the infrastructure facilities for fishing.

67. My Government is providing Old Age Pension to the elderly people of fishermen society. I am happy to announce that 1,000 elderly fishermen will be included in the Financial Year 2025-26. Total funds to the tune of ₹ 36.40 crore have been allocated for this Scheme in the Financial Year 2025-26.

68. Otter Boards (fishing device) with a unit cost of ₹ 70,000 will be provided to owners of registered mechanized fishing boats (Trawlers) at 50% subsidized rate. Further, Portable fish holding box (Ice Box) with a unit cost of ₹ 7,500 will be supplied at free of cost. Additional funds to the tune of ₹ 2.63 crore have been allocated for this purpose.

69. To augment Inland fish production in Union Territory of Puducherry, it is proposed to provide a maximum of ₹ 50,000 per acre for the fishermen who are fish farming for over 5 years, to renovate the fishing ponds.

70. For procurement of Drag net ₹ 12,000 per unit will be provided on 50% subsidy rate to 100 fish farmers who have registered in Fish Farmers Development Agency (FFDA). Fish farmers will be provided 20% subsidy to procure Deep Sea Fishing Vessel.

71. To enhance the empowerment of Fisherwomen, Portable Mini Solar Fish Dryer with capacity of 20 kg. will be provided to 100 traditional Fisherwomen through innovative technology. Funeral assistance will be increased from the existing ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 20,000 to the families of deceased old age pensioners.

72. Under PMMSY Scheme of Central Government, Three Fish Landing Centres at Periakalapet, Nallavadu and Thengaithittu (Arikanmedu) have been taken up during this year at a total cost of ₹ 86.42 crore.

Further, the project of Development of Smart and Establishment of Integrated Fishing Harbour at Karaikal will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 119.94 crore. It is proposed to take up the dredging work at a cost of ₹ 3.90 crore at Karaikal Harbour for easy passage of Fishing boats.

73. An amount of ₹ 132.44 crore has been allocated for Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare in 2025-26.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

74. My Government is committed to provide free and quality health care services to all the people of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

75. A new Transplant Operation Theatre along with Post-operative Ward is proposed to be opened at Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraudate Institute. To improve the efficiency of Laboratories, it is proposed to install the following equipments.–

(i) Fully Automated Bio-Chemistry Analyser with ISE;

(ii) Fully Automated Immuno Analyser; and

(iii) Automated Electrophoresis System. It is proposed to start acute pain services in the hospital to cater patients with fractures and other trauma. Further, it is proposed to procure essential and life saving equipments to install in the operation theatres.

76. It is proposed to implement high quality infrastructural facilities such as Artificial Reproductive Techniques, Laparoscopic Surgeries facility, *etc.* My Government proposes to construct new buildings for Primary Health Centres at Bahour, Thattanchavady, Mannadipet, Katterikuppam and Kalitheerthalkuppam. Further, it is proposed to construct a pharmacy and patient waiting room at Primary Health Centre, Kalapet. A New Health Sub-centre will be established at Gopalankadai for the welfare of the people of that area.

77. Musculoskeletal Disorders Management will be implemented in 28 Ayush Centres in Union Territory of Puducherry under "National Ayush Mission".

78. My Government proposes to increase the number of seats in BDS Course, *i.e.,* from 110 to 125 (15 seats) at Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences from the Academic year 2025-26 after getting approval from the Dental Council of India. It is proposed to construct an Auditorium-*cum*-Examination Hall and to renovate Gents' and Ladies' Hostel at Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences. It is also proposed to set up Satellite Dental Clinic in Primary Health Centre at Mettupalayam.

79. It is proposed to install a 65 KV Generator each for Primary Health Centres at Ambagarathur, Nallambal, Kottucherry and Varichukudy. A Semi Auto-Analyzer will be installed in all Laboratories of 12 Primary Health Centres at Karaikal.

80. It is proposed to complete the construction work of Trauma Care Unit at Government General Hospital, Mahe in the Financial Year 2025-26. A new Dialysis Unit will be opened at Government General Hospital, Mahe. The construction of extension work of Community Health Centre at Palloor will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 8 crore.

It is proposed to establish Ayush Telemedicine Centre in Rajiv Gandhi Ayurveda Medical College, Mahe and to introduce an Advanced Digital Hybrid Smart classroom at a cost of ₹ 1.68 crore.

81. It is proposed to renovate Old OPD block of Government Hospital and to open a Dialysis unit at Yanam. It is proposed to purchase necessary equipment to improve infrastructural facilities, *viz.,* CT Scan, OPG X-ray Machine, Mobile X-ray unit, for the welfare of the people of the Yanam region. Upgradation of Laboratories will be taken up to accommodate RNTCP, AIDS Control, Filaria, Malaria, IDSP at General Hospital, Yanam.

82. My Government proposes to establish 3 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) under Pradhan Mantri – Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) to the tune of ₹ 92 crore at the following locations.–

(i) Puducherry, Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute;

(ii) Puducherry, Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Research Institute; and

(iii) Karaikal, Government General Hospital.

83. An amount of ₹ 1,086.24 crore has been allocated for Health Department in 2025-26.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND WAKF

84. My Government proposes to enhance the financial assistance to Temples from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 30,000 for the performance of "Oru Kala Pooja". Further, it is proposed to enhance the financial assistance from ₹ 3.50 lakh to ₹ 5 lakh for carrying out renovation and special repair works to those Temples situated in the economically weaker section areas / Adi Dravidar colony areas and that are not coming under the direct control of Pondicherry HRI Act, 1972.

85. My Government proposes to allocate required funds in the Financial Year 2025-26 for the renovation of depleted temples which are under the control of HRI.

Further, financial assistance will be allocated in the Financial Year 2025-26 for the renovation work of Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple at Yanam.

86. An amount of ₹ 8.94 crore has been allocated for Hindu Religious Institutions and Wakf in 2025-26.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

87. Industrial sector plays a vital role and helps in promoting domestic production, creating employment and contributing to foreign exchange through exports.

88. The Ministry of MSME, Government of India has approved the implementation of RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) and PIPDIC will be implementing this Scheme which will support the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

89. At present, Subsidy is being provided for installation of Generator in Industries with the objective of promoting green energy and it is proposed to provide subsidy to the Industries for the installation of Solar Panels / Energy Storage Systems. It is also proposed to extend the subsidy benefit to the Modern Rice Mills as well.

90. An amount of ₹ 35.62 crore has been allocated in 2025-26 towards purchase consideration of the two Textile Mills, *viz.,* M/s. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, M/s. Bharathi Mills from National Textile Corporation, New Delhi. Further, an amount of ₹ 19 crore has been allocated in 2025-26 towards Buy-back of IDBI's share in PIPDIC.

91. An amount of ₹ 122.33 crore has been allocated for Industries and Commerce Department in 2025-26.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

92. In modern times, Information Technology plays an important role for General Public and Government Departments. Hon'ble Members may well be aware that my Government is taking every step to streamline the day-to-day activities of the Government to reach the public in an easy way.

93. To get all the essential Government services by the people, it is proposed to integrate all the 227 online services in Puduvai-Seva portal so that the general public may utilize the services through Common Service Centres.

94. My Government has implemented web application e-Office in all the Departments to automate the file processing, by which preparation, getting approval of proposals and maintenance of files has been made easy. My Government has initiated the process of implementation of e-HRMS 2.0 Project, an online system of Service Book management across Government of Puducherry Departments which would benefit all sections of Government employees both serving and retired.

95. An amount of ₹ 16.94 crore has been allocated for Information Technology Department in 2025-26.

LABOUR AND LABOURERS WELFARE

96. My Government is keen on implementing Labour Welfare Schemes / activities both in organized and unorganized sectors. As a part of it, my Government proposes to extend a financial assistance of ₹ 2,000 per annum to these Un-organized Labourers.

97. My Government proposes to impart safety training for 1,000 number of workers through Inspectorate of Factories to ensure the safety of the Labourers.

It is proposed to conduct Coaching Classes in association with reputed Coaching Institutes for various competitive examinations, *viz.,* UPSC, SSC and RRB, at free of cost.

98. It is proposed to upgrade the skill of 30,000 youth of Union Territory of Puducherry through Chief Minister's Skill Development Programme (CMSDP).

99. An amount of ₹ 48.50 crore has been allocated for Labour and Labourers Welfare Department in 2025-26.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

100. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Local Body plays a vital role in maintenance of cleanliness in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Solid Wastes in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipalities are treated under "Integrated Solid Waste Management" using advanced technology.

101. Under the AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, the following Projects / Works are proposed to be undertaken in the Financial Year 2025-26, *viz.*–

(i) Construction of 3.0 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant in Puducherry and Villianur;

(ii) Revitalisation and Improvement of Kanagan Eri, Ponds at Thakkakuttai, Sedarapet, Thondamanatham, Koodapakkam, Gopalankadai and Ramanathapuram in Puducherry region, Seniyarkulam, Hither Palli Kulam, Oppilamaniyar Temple Pond, Thalatheru Periyakulam and Pudukulam in Karaikal region will be taken-up at a cost of ₹ 5.22 crore; and

(iii) Development of Valamari Pond in Mahe Municipality.

102. My Government proposes to enhance the annual MLA-LAD fund from the present ₹ 2 crore to ₹ 3 crore from the Financial Year 2025-26.

103. It is proposed to construct New Bus Stand at ECR in Oulgaret Municipality which will be named after "Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee", marking the Centenary year of his birth. An amount of ₹ 10 crore has been allocated in 2025-26.

104. An amount of ₹ 384.46 crore has been allocated for Local Administration Department in 2025-26.

SMART CITY

105. The Puducherry Smart City Development Limited is implementing various Infrastructural Projects in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

106. During the Financial Year 2025-26, Smart City Mission will continue to undertake and complete the following Infrastructure Projects.—

(i) Development of Grand Canal at a cost of ₹ 23 crore;

(ii) Construction of ROB at Cuddalore road near AFT Mill, at a cost of ₹ 55 crore;

(iii) Restoration to Heritage Building – Reconstruction of Pensionett School at a cost of ₹ 9 crore; and

(iv) Conditional assessment and remodelling of the underground sewage system in the Boulevard area in Puducherry, at a cost of ₹ 52.50 crore.

(v) The "Integrated Command and Control Centre" an advanced facility for managing data related to health, sanitation, public transportation, traffic and public safety, will be fully established, at a cost of ₹ 99.63 crore, within this Financial Year and made operational for multi-sector use.

POLICE

107. My Government is keen on protecting Law and Order to ensure safety and peaceful way of life of the people of Union Territory of Puducherry.

108. It is proposed to purchase very essential equipments, *viz.,* Wireless equipments, Vehicles and other important accessories to maintain Law and Order. All infrastructural facilities in the Department will be upgraded for effective utilization in near future. It is proposed to construct a separate building for IRBn. Timely promotions will be given to the police personnel to encourage their essential services.

109. It is proposed to upgrade the Solai Nagar Out-post as Police Station and a New Police Station will be established at Pathukannu village.

110. An amount of ₹ 401.50 crore has been allocated for Police Department during 2025-26.

JAIL

111. "Modernization of Prison Project" at Central Prison, Kalapet will be implemented to computerize the entire details of prisoners and functioning of prisons in the Union Territory. This will ensure that all details about the prisoners are available quickly with correct data. "Poor Prisoners Scheme" will be implemented in prisons, especially to help the poor prisoners get Legal aid and to avail Vocational Training programs for Skill development.

112. An amount of ₹ 16.99 crore has been allocated for Jail Department during 2025-26.

FIRE SERVICES

113. Hon'ble Members are well aware that the services of Fire Service Department are very much essential at times of Fires and other Disasters. My Government proposes to purchase Sky-Lift, Fire entry suits, Fire proximity suits, Chemical suits and Fire equipments such as Concrete Cutters, Air Compressors and Projector, and Laptops with digital camera, for which an amount of ₹ 10 crore has been allocated in 2025-26. In Fire Services Department, competitive examination for the posts of Station Officer, Fireman and Fireman Driver have been conducted and appointment offers will be issued soon, after the verification of certificates. Timely promotions will be effected for the senior officials.

114. An amount of ₹ 40.73 crore has been allocated for Fire Service Department during 2025-26.

PORT

115. Dredging at Puducherry Port is proposed through DCI, Visakhapatnam for smooth navigation of Fishing / Cargo Vessels. It is proposed to deploy Dry-docking Dredger for dredging operations in the Navigational Channel of Puducherry Port, in which two lakh cubic meters of sand will be dredged at the mouth of Fishing Harbour-*cum*-Hand Port. It will enable seamless navigation of vessels coming to the Port and Fishing Harbour for three years.

116. It is proposed to convert the existing Godown, to house Cruise passenger's amenities at New Port. It is proposed to prepare a State Maritime Waterways Master Plan for the Union Territory of Puducherry at Old Port.

117. An amount of ₹ 21.41 crore has been allocated for Port Department during 2025-26.

PUBLIC WORKS

118. Hon'ble Members may admit that investment in infrastructure is important for spurring economic growth and to promote overall development of the territory. My Government is keen on improving the roads, augmenting the water supply system, Strengthening the Sewerage and Sewage treatment facilities besides focusing on the overall quality maintenance of the existing assets.

119. As presented by the Honb'le Lieutenant-Governor in this august forum, I am happy to share that under the AFD assisted water supply project, approvals have been accorded for installing 14 Nos. of tube wells, construction of overhead reservoirs and replacement of pipelines in Villianur and Amaithi Nagar, Puducherry for an amount of ₹ 123.25 crore and tenders for these works have been invited. My Government is committed to implement the AFD projects at a cost of ₹ 534 crore which will ensure safe and quality drinking water to all the citizens of the territory.

120. In order to lay a strong foundation for overall infrastructure improvement and for strengthening the road network and as well as to improve the Water Supply Systems, an Integrated Urban Livability Project for Union Territory of Puducherry has been submitted to Government of India at a cost of ₹4,750 crores for availing Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan assistance. The line Ministries of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) have cleared the proposal and the same is under the consideration of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and NITI AYOG.

121. As you are aware, we have been taking efforts for the construction of single decor elevated corridor from Rajiv Gandhi Square to Indira Gandhi Square, for which, a Detailed Project Report costing ₹839.77 crore has been submitted on 10-03-2025 to MoRTH for consideration and approval.

122. During the year 2024-25, NABARD has sanctioned projects worth of ₹171.98 crore for Improvement of infrastructure facilities in all four regions of Puducherry.

The road infrastructure projects for ₹ 99.38 crore are in progress in all regions and construction of Overhead tanks in Alankuppam, Sanjeevi Nagar and Veerampattinam for ₹ 33.32 crore is in progress. Construction of Brackish Water Desalination Plants for safe drinking water in Puducherry and rehabilitation of Muthialpet water supply project for ₹ 81.1 crore will be tendered shortly.

123. Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "AMRUT 2.0", Works pertaining to laying of distribution grid along with providing House Service Connections to the households at Nehru Nagar and Thalatheru in Karaikal region are nearing completion at an estimated cost of ₹ 16 crore. Also, two Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) one in Puducherry region and the other in Karaikal region with a capacity of 15 MLD and 11 MLD respectively at a cost of ₹ 81.53 crore will be completed this year.

124. Augmentation of Water Supply System in Karaikal region at the villages of Nedungadu, Akkampettai and Mudalimedu is nearing completion under "Jal Jeevan Mission" at a total estimated cost of ₹ 10.40 crore.

125. The project for improvement of roads in Puducherry rural areas under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been approved at a cost of ₹ 60 crore with funding pattern of 60 : 40 by Centre and State respectively. Under Central Road Fund (CRF), two road projects at Karaikal and Yanam will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 20 crore.

126. Improvement of internal roads and balance work of riverside walkway (Phase II) at Mahe for ₹ 9.96 crore will be completed this year.

127. Commissioning of 5 MLD Water Treatment Plant at a cost of ₹ 8.78 crore at Yanam is under progress. Further, it is proposed to install Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of 6 MLD capacity at Mettakuru area in Yanam. It is proposed to take up flood protection works at Yanam at a cost of ₹ 199.71 crore with the central assistance.

128. The Raj Nivas, which is a historic and iconic-building has become old in years and needs structural repairs and strengthening. It is proposed to rehabilitate and restore it maintaining its heritage character for which an amount of ₹ 10 crore has been allocated in the Financial Year 2025-26.

129. An amount of ₹ 845.56 crore has been allocated for Public Works Department in the Financial Year 2025-26.

SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS

130. My Government proposes to conduct Large Scale Mapping (LSM) of the entire Puducherry region through Drone Survey with the technical assistance of Survey of India. An MoU has been signed with Survey of India in this regard. After conduct of Digital Drone Survey, all the Land parcels will be given a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN).

131. An amount of ₹ 13.33 crore has been allocated for Survey and Land Records in 2025-26.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

132. It is essential to preserve and protect the environment for the healthy lifestyle of the people of Puducherry. The Department of Science, Technology and Environment is facilitating environmental improvement through various initiatives.

133. The Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Puducherry, with the financial support of World Bank has proposed to implement the Project "Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Economy (PY-SHORE)", at a cost of ₹1,433 crore, over a period of 5 years. PY-SHORE aims to enhance coastal resilience and promote sustainable development, ensuring a resilient, coastal economy for Puducherry. The project proposal has been submitted to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India for approval.

134. In order to control pollution, my Government has initiated the following activities, *viz.*, complete phasing out of Single Use Plastic in the Union Territory of Puducherry, connecting all the large-scale orange category Industries in Continuous Online Emission/ Effluent Monitoring System and installation of cloth bag vending machines in all market places.

135. An amount of ₹20.27 crore has been allocated for the Department of Science, Technology and Environment in 2025-26.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

136. For the growth of Union Territory of Puducherry, the role of Town and Country Planning Department is very much essential. My Government's aim is to convert all Huts into Brick Houses.

137. It is proposed to complete the Improvement works to the tenement blocks at Chinnapoigai Nagar and Arunthathipuram, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 1.70 crore. Further, improvements to the internal roads and drains at Subbiah Nagar, Ariyankuppam, Puducherry and at Karaikovilpathu, Karaikal will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 2 crore.

138. All the ongoing 3,300 Houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana will be completed during the Financial Year 2025-26. It is proposed to obtain approval for the construction osf 250 tenements at Anbu Nagar, Karaikal under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 Scheme.

139. The 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 Scheme' has been merged with the State Scheme of Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme of Union Territory Government. Under the Scheme, the Central Government will contribute ₹ 2.25 lakh. Additionally, the State share of ₹ 2 lakh will be increased to ₹ 2.75 lakh. As a whole, the beneficiaries will receive a total financial assistance of ₹ 5 lakh.

140. An amount of ₹ 88.67 crore has been allocated for Town and Country Planning Department in 2025-26.

TOURISM

141. Tourism plays a vital role in fostering cultural pride and driving the economic development of the Puducherry Territory. The State is witnessing a significant surge in tourist arrivals, drawn by its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage. To cater to their essential needs and enhance their experience, various tourism development projects are being actively undertaken.

142. My Government proposes to establish "Multiproduct Tourism Zone" in 100 acres of Land available at Beach front at Manapet Village, where it is proposed to develop (i) Theme Parks (ii) Resorts (iii) Convention Centres (iv) Wellness Centre, *etc.,* under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

143. The Development of Alankuppam lake is included in the Master Plan of Puducherry region. The Concept Note and DPR will be completed in the Financial Year 2025-26 and the Project will be taken-up with the approval of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Development of Eco and Adventure Tourism in T.R. Pattinam River and Estuary in Karaikal, will be taken during the Financial Year 2025-26. Concept Note in this regard has been submitted to the Government of India for approval.

144. Adventure Sports Carnival, Food Festival and Beach Festival will be organised in the Financial Year 2025-26. Karaikal Carnival, New Year Celebration and French Festival in collaboration with French Consulate, will be organized in the Financial Year 2025-26.

During the National Tourism Day, this Department has organized Educational Tour for Government School Students of Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Similar Tour arrangements will be made for the Government School Students of Mahe and Yanam regions during World Tourism Day 2025. From this year, "Pongal Tourism Exhibition" will be organised in a grand manner.

145. An amount of ₹ 20 crore has been allocated in 2025-26 towards first stage of Land acquisition for expansion of runway of Puducherry Airport.

146. An amount of ₹ 72.40 crore has been allocated for Tourism Department in 2025-26.

TRANSPORT

147. Green Mobility Policy will be notified shortly which will provide the necessary impetus for faster adoption of green technologies such as electric and hybrid vehicles by people and will accelerate Puducherry's transition to environment-friendly transportation.

It is proposed to provide subsidy towards purchase of e-vehicles as well as to provide 50% concession on Road Tax while registering such vehicles.

148. Under PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme, proposal was submitted by Government of Puducherry for operating 75 Nos. of Electric buses under Gross Cost Contract (GCC). Now, Government of India has finalised the tenders and the approval of Government of Puducherry will be communicated within this month. Under this Scheme, 25 electric buses (9 metre) and 50 electric buses (12 metre) will be deployed in Puducherry. By this initiative, two thirds of the bus fleet of PRTC will be electrified. Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 8.15 crore for establishment of e-depot and for behind the metre infrastructure works at Mettupalayam. For the implementation of Intelligent Traffic Management system and Automated Fare Collection System, Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 10 crore and tender for execution of the project has been invited.

149. My Government proposes to operate 10 ultra deluxe buses through PRTC on long distance routes for inter-city connections. It is also proposed to deploy 10 electric buses for Karaikal and 5 each for Mahe and Yanam (all 9 metre) through Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

150. Under Smart City Mission, the operation of 38 e-rickshaws and 25 e-buses in the city will commence shortly. Further, the construction of 15 Smart Bus Shelters in Puducherry region will be completed by March, 2025.

151. My Government proposes to provide 50% subsidy for those who purchases CNG Tempos for public transport so as to control the air pollution and to improve the environment.

152. An amount of ₹ 69.59 crore has been allocated for Transport Department in 2025-26.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE

153. The esteemed Members of this Hon'ble House are well aware that my Government is steadfastly implementing various Schemes to safeguard the welfare of socio-economically backward communities, with a special focus on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities. In 2025-26, funds to the tune of ₹ 526.81 crore have been allocated under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP).

154. It is proposed to grant monthly financial assistance of ₹ 3,000 to the SC / ST Unmarried / Widow who are not employed and who have attained 30 years of age or above, till they are married or employed.

155. It is proposed to enhance ₹ 500 per month to SC / ST beneficiary under the SCSP fund towards the Scheme of 'Old Age Pension to the Widows / Destitutes / Adolescent Girls' / Old Age People' run by the Department of Women and Child Development.

156. It is proposed to grant monthly financial assistance of ₹ 5,000 to the SC / ST Orphaned Children until they attain the age of 18 years for their benefits of Education and other essential needs.

157. My Government proposes to grant monthly stipend of ₹ 500 and ₹ 1,000 per month to the Short-term Skill Development Classes like Type-Writing / Shorthand and Computer Classes, respectively to the SC / ST students, till the completion of course or for a period of one year, whichever is earlier.

158. It is proposed to arrange for Free Personality Development and Communicative English Coaching Classes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Hostel students in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

SOCIAL WELFARE

159. My Government is implementing various Welfare Schemes aiming to uplift the Social status of differently abled, aged people and other Weaker sections of the Society and also for ensuring equal opportunities to them in all walks of life.

160. It is proposed to enhance the funeral assistance issued to the claimant of the deceased differently abled persons from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000. It is also proposed to enhance the Cash State awards for the welfare of the differently abled persons by ₹10,000 for each category from the Financial Year 2025-26.

161. My Government will initiate necessary steps to consider the persons with spinal cord injury to be treated on par with the orthopaedically differently abled persons and to provide them with a suitable specialized Mortorized Tricycle.

162. It is proposed to enhance the Scholarship amount to the differently abled Students from ₹1,000 to ₹4,000 per annum from 1st to 5th Std., from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 per annum from 6th to 8th Std. and from ₹3,400 to ₹6,400 from 9th to 12th Std.

163. It is proposed to enhance the Scholarship amount to the differently abled Students from ₹5,000 to ₹8,000 per annum for Under-Graduate Courses and from ₹6,800 to ₹9,800 per annum for Postgraduate Courses.

164. An amount of ₹ 134.64 crore has been allocated for Social Welfare Department in 2025-26.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS CELL

165. The Government of Puducherry has been disbursing monthly pension of ₹ 12,000 per month to the Freedom Fighters of Puducherry to honour them. My Government proposes to implement the Transfer of Freedom Fighters Family Pension to their unmarried dependent daughters as was done in 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Yojana (Central Government Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme)'.

166. An amount of ₹ 17.12 crore has been allocated for Freedom Fighter Cell in 2025-26.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

167. My Government is actively implementing various Welfare Schemes to safeguard the well-being of Backward Classes and Minorities and enhance their Economic status.

The distribution of Free Bi-cycles to School students and essential equipment to support Self-employment would be continued uninterrupted for ensuring sustained benefits for the deserving. It is proposed to construct new Government Girls' OBC Hostel at Villianur and Kamarajar Nagar in Puducherry region.

168. An amount of ₹ 16.77 crore has been allocated for the Department of Backward Class Welfare and Minorities in 2025-26.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

169. My Government is actively implementing the Welfare Schemes for the betterment of Women and Children.

170. Hon'ble Members are well aware that my Government is providing monthly financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 to Women Head of Family who are Living Below Poverty Line (BPL), so that the women get financial support toward enhancing their personal income and deserving families are provided a lifeline. I am happy to announce that my Government proposes to enhance said financial assistance to ₹ 2,500 per month from the Financial Year 2025-26.

171. My Government will provide all essential items and equipment for better functioning of the Anganwadi Centres in the Union Territory of Puducherry. It is proposed to construct 11 Nos. of New Anganwadi Centres and to undertake repair works in respect of 28 Anganwadi Centres in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Action is being taken to upgrade 65 Nos. of Anganwadi under the Central Government Scheme of "Saksham Anganwadi".

172. It is proposed to set-up New Open Shelter for Boys' in all the Districts of Union Territory of Puducherry. It is proposed to reconstitute the Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Board in the regions of Mahe and Yanam and it is proposed to set-up Child Help Desk at Bus Stand and Railway Station of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

173. An amount of ₹ 786.56 crore has been allocated for the Department of Women and Child Development in 2025-26.

GENERAL

174. My Government proposes to increase ₹ 500 to all categories of Old Age Pensions covered by the Women and Child Development Department.

175. It is proposed to fill-up 2,298 regular posts in the cadre of Deputy Tahsildar, Village Administrative Officer, Village Assistant, Sub-Inspector of Police, Police Constable, Coastal Home-Guards, Lecturer, TGT (Lang.), TGT (Subjects), Primary School Teacher, Conductress, Agriculture Officer, Pharmacist, ECG Technician, ANM/ Maternity Assistant, Health Assistant, Junior Engineer, Construction Helper, Library Information Assistant, Junior Library Assistant, Assistant, Upper Division Clerk, Lower Division Clerk, *etc.,* in the Departments of Revenue, Police, Education, Agriculture, Health, Electricity, Art and Culture, *etc.*

176. My Government proposes to provide the following Financial Assistance to the students studying in Government and Government Aided Schools who have lost either the Mother or Father.—

(i) ₹ 2,000 to the students studying from 1st Std. to 5th Std.;

(ii) ₹3,000 to the students studying from 6th Std. to 10th Std.; and

(iii) ₹4,000 to the students studying from 11th Std. to 12th Std.

177. An additional allocation of ₹45 crore has been made in the Financial Year 2025-26 for the payment of outstanding salaries of Government Medical Institutions, Agricultural College, Veterinary College, Government sAided High and Higher Secondary Schools.

178. An additional allocation of ₹88 crore has been made in the Financial Year 2025-26 for the payment of outstanding salaries and repayment of loans of Government Public Sector Undertakings PASIC, PAPSCO, AFT and SBTML.

179. The Delhi Development Authority has allotted a plot at a cost of ₹25 crore at Dwarka in New Delhi for construction of a New Puducherry Guest House.

CONCLUSION

180. It is the foremost duty of my Government to fulfill the expectations of the people with integrity and commitment, in accordance with the trust they have placed in us. With this guiding principle, a range of Welfare Schemes are being meticulously formulated and implemented across all sectors through transparent governance. These initiatives aim to uplift and empower children, women, students, senior citizens, the differently abled, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, economically weaker sections, Backward Classes and other communities, fostering holistic socio-economic development across the Union Territory.

181. Development of infrastructure facilities plays a major role in the growth of the GDP and per-capita income of the Union Territory, contributing to the overall progress of our society. Therefore, an additional allocation of ₹ 300 crore has been made in this Budget over the previous financial year towards various capital infrastructure works / assets of the Government including grants allocated to Government-Aided Institutions under creation of capital assets.

182. Furthermore, I am pleased to inform this Hon'ble House that while executing these Welfare Schemes, the Union Territory has successfully maintained its fiscal deficit and Debt-to-GSDP ratio within permissible limits. My Government remains steadfast in its efforts to strengthen the Union Territory's financial position and accelerate economic growth through well-planned measures.

183. With these concluding remarks, now I present the Budget for the Financial Year 2025-26 for the approval of this Hon'ble House.

VAZHGA BHARATHAM !

VELGA PUDUCHERRY !!

NANDRI VANAKKAM !!!

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