सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

BUDGET SPEECH

2026 - 2027

Thiru N. RANGASAMY

Hon'ble Chief Minister

24th August, 2026

BUDGET SPEECH

2026 – 2027

காட்சிக்கு எளியன் கடுஞ்சொல்லன் அல்லனேல்
மீக்கூறும் மன்னன் நிலம்.

-குறள்

(If a ruler is accessible to those who come to meet him and is gentle in his speech, the people of the world will praise and honour his country)

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

I rise to present the Budget for the year 2026-27 before this august House and I am extremely happy to place my first Budget in this Sixteenth Legislative Assembly. Copies of the Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum for the year 2026-27 are being circulated to the Hon'ble Members of this House for their consideration.

2. Hon'ble Members are well aware that, with the continued cooperation and unwavering support of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, my Government has been able to achieve notable progress across several sectors, particularly education and healthcare, through the effective implementation of a wide range of welfare and development initiatives. The victory that we secured in the recent Legislative Assembly election is a reflection of the overwhelming mandate bestowed upon my Government in recognition of the sustained efforts undertaken, in partnership with the Central Government, over the past five years to steer the Union territory of Puducherry on a path of inclusive growth and development. These achievements have reinforced the confidence reposed in my Government and ensured the continuity of its developmental agenda. Above all, the mandate we have received is not merely an affirmation of the progress achieved over the past five years; it is also a reflection of the people's aspiration that the Union territory of Puducherry should attain even greater

heights of progress and prosperity in the years ahead. It is with this vision and sense of responsibility that this Budget has been prepared.

3. My Government has implemented various welfare schemes for the advancement of all sections of society, with particular emphasis on the welfare of the disadvantaged, thereby ensuring inclusive development for everyone. In the coming years, my Government will continue to implement many more welfare schemes, improve the quality and delivery of public services, undertake reforms across various sectors and ensure sustained and inclusive development for all. I am pleased to state before this Hon'ble House that this remains the objective of my Government.

4. Hon'ble Members are well aware that, owing to the Legislative Assembly elections, approval of the Hon'ble House was obtained for the Government's day-to-day expenditure for a period of five months, from 1st April 2026 to 31st August 2026, during the current financial year.

5. The Budget size for the Financial Year 2026-27 has been fixed at ₹ 14,300 crore. Union Territory's own revenue receipts have been estimated at ₹ 7,890.41 crore. Central Assistance including State Disaster Relief Fund has been estimated at ₹ 3,517.86 crore, Central Road Fund at ₹ 25 crore and allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes at ₹ 531.80 crore and Central Government's Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment at ₹ 186.24 crore. The Government of India has conveyed its approval for Net Borrowing Ceiling (NBC), including Negotiated Loan, to the extent of ₹ 2,148.69 crore to bridge the fiscal deficit.

6. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 14,300 crore, an amount of ₹ 12,115 crore has been allocated for Revenue Expenditure and ₹ 2,185 crore for Capital Expenditure. Along with implementing various welfare schemes for the people, strong emphasis has been placed on developing and enhancing the public infrastructure of our Union Territory. Due to this, the percentage of Capital Expenditure against the

Total Expenditure has considerably increased to 7.93% (₹ 1,134.58 crore) in the proposed Budget 2026-27 as compared to only 1.66% (₹ 162.78 crore) in the year 2021-22, which reflects almost a ₹ 971.80 crore increase.

7. I am happy to inform this august House that, with the continued support of the Government of India, the Union territory of Puducherry has received ₹ 227.34 crore during 2025-26 and has been allocated ₹ 186.24 crore during 2026-27 under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), which is a 50 years long-term and interest free loan assistance. This substantial financial assistance will accelerate infrastructure creation and support the implementation of key developmental projects across the Union Territory.

8. Hon'ble Members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources goes towards committed expenditure such as Salaries, Pension, Repayment of Loan and Interest payments. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 14,300 crore for the year 2026-27, an amount of ₹ 2,693.40 crore has been

allocated for Salaries (18.83%), ₹ 1,619.73 crore for Pension (11.33%), ₹ 1,981.57 crore for Repayment of Loan and payment of Interest (13.86%) and ₹ 2,327.86 crore for purchase of Power (16.28%). Further, funds to the tune of ₹ 2,202.45 crore (15.40%) have been allocated towards major welfare schemes such as Free Rice Scheme, Productive Incentive / Subsidy for Farmers, Old Age, Fishermen and Differently Abled Persons Pension, Financial Assistance to Women Head of Family, Subsidy for LPG Cylinders and Distribution of Free Laptops. Grant-in-aid to Society-run Higher Education Institutions to the tune of ₹ 560 crore (3.92%) and ₹ 1,082 crore (7.57%) for Public Sector Undertakings and Co-operative Institutions have also been allocated.

9. My Government has allocated an amount of ₹ 3,070.04 crore towards Special Budgeting Components in the Financial Year 2026-27, comprising ₹ 1,676.89 crore for Gender Budgeting, ₹ 647.84 crore for Youth Budgeting and ₹ 745.31 crore for Green Budgeting.

10. I am happy to announce that, for the first time, my Government proposes to prepare a comprehensive Master Infrastructure Plan for the Union Territory to serve as a long-term roadmap for planned, integrated and sustainable infrastructure development. The Plan will provide a strategic framework for identifying and prioritizing infrastructure projects across sectors, including roads, bridges, public spaces, water supply, sewerage, drainage, telecom utility corridors, convention centres, tourism infrastructure, heritage structures and other projects of public importance. The Master Infrastructure Plan will be prepared by engaging reputed consultants with expertise in integrated infrastructure planning and urban development, ensuring that the infrastructure needs of the Union Territory are addressed in a systematic, sustainable and future-oriented manner.

11. My Government is taking steps to strengthen public financial management through the use of modern digital technology. In integration with the Reserve Bank of India's 'e-Kuber' banking service, electronic

payment systems are being implemented to facilitate secure and seamless financial transactions. With a view to ensuring transparency in Government receipts and enabling real-time accounting and monitoring of Government revenues, my Government proposes to implement an electronic receipts system integrated with the 'e-Kuber' banking service. Further, my Government proposes to implement a paperless electronic system for processing salary bills and other expenditure-related bills across Government Departments.

12. To promote innovation, evidence-based policy making and technology-driven governance, my Government has allocated ₹ 10.20 crore towards Research and Development initiatives to support studies, pilot projects, impact assessments, digitization, process improvements and adoption of emerging technologies, thereby strengthening governance, enhancing administrative efficiency, improving public service delivery and fostering a culture of continuous innovation across Government Departments.

13. With this preamble, I shall now present the Department-wise Budget proposals for the Financial Year 2026-27.

ADI DRAVIDAR AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE

14. The Hon'ble Members are well aware that my Government has been implementing various welfare schemes for the social, economic and educational development of SC & ST people, as well as to improve their standard of living. An allocation of ₹ 642.38 crore has been made this year as Special Component Plan funds.

15. Measures will be taken to ensure the timely disbursement of educational scholarships to eligible Adi Dravidar and Tribal students, enabling them to pursue their education without hindrance and achieve academic progress. Furthermore, all the welfare schemes implemented by this Department will be digitized to ensure they are accessible to the public in an efficient, transparent and user-friendly manner.

16. Under the Full Tuition Fee Assistance Scheme for Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe students, an amount of ₹ 80 crore has been provided during 2025-26 benefiting around 12,000 students studying from Class I to Postgraduate level. During the current financial year, the coverage under the scheme will be extended to around 15,000 students.

17. My Government has provided free house site pattas to around 486 landless Adi Dravidar, Scheduled Tribe and Backward Class beneficiaries in T.N. Palayam, Manapet, Abishegapakkam, Eripakkam and Karaiyambuthur Villages during the last two years. Further, land has been acquired during the financial year 2025-26 at Irulanchandai, Ariyur and Suthukeni Villages, for providing free house sites during this year. Further, land will also be acquired during the current financial year for providing free house sites to landless Scheduled Tribe people in Korkadu Village.

18. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the financial assistance provided for construction of houses to Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries has been enhanced from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 7 lakh. So far, ₹ 15.95 crore has been released to 1,150 beneficiaries. During the current financial year, ₹ 29.15 crore will be provided to 2,500 beneficiaries.

19. Free coaching for the Civil Services Examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will be provided to poor and meritorious Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe students through the Puducherry Adi Dravidar Development Corporation, by engaging a reputed coaching institution. The programme will be commenced within two months.

20. I am also happy to announce that two new hostels, each with a capacity of 120 students and equipped with modern facilities, are being constructed

at Thattanchavady and Lawspet in the Puducherry region to encourage higher education among Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes students. Further, construction of one student hostel each at Karaiyambuthur and Kovilpathu is under progress.

21. Under the subsidy schemes of the Chief Minister's Pudhumai Penn Electric Two-Wheeler Scheme and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Electric Auto Scheme, 100 electric two-wheelers and 5 electric autos, respectively, were provided during the last financial year. During the current financial year, it is proposed to provide 250 electric two-wheelers and 50 electric autos under these schemes. Further, under the scheme for undertaking pilgrimage to the Pancharatna sites of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 70 beneficiaries undertook the pilgrimage during the last financial year. From the current financial year, the maximum age-limit under the scheme has now been enhanced to 70 years to enable a larger number of beneficiaries to avail themselves of the benefit.

22. My Government also proposes to implement a model plan for providing employment on compassionate grounds in Government Departments or Government Public Sector Undertakings, to one member of a family belonging to the Adi Dravidar or Scheduled Tribes communities, who died due to atrocity.

23. Further, the financial assistance for repair and renovation works of temples located in Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes residential areas has been enhanced from ₹ 3.50 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh and the enhanced assistance will be implemented from the current financial year. Renovation works of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Manimandapam at Goubert Avenue, Puducherry, will commence shortly at an estimated cost of about ₹ 2 crore.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

24. Agriculture forms the foundation for our basic needs-food, clothing and shelter. Beyond ensuring

the nation's food security, agriculture provides employment opportunities for the people and supplies essential raw materials to the industrial sector. My Government is committed to increasing farmers' income by enhancing crop and farm productivity.

25. Under the Central Government's 'Mission on Atmanirbharta in Pulses,' high-yielding pulse seeds will be distributed for cultivation over an area of 1,000 hectares in the Puducherry region and 500 hectares in the Karaikal region. This initiative aims to boost pulse cultivation and generate substantial income for farmers. Furthermore, under the National Oilseeds Mission, high-yielding groundnut seeds will be provided to farmers free of cost for cultivation across 550 hectares. Financial assistance will be extended for setting up small-scale pulse milling units and oil mills to uplift the rural economy. Under the National Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation, two drones will be provided to Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Farm Science Centres) to demonstrate the use of drone technology in agricultural operations to farmers.

26. Under the Central Government's 'Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture', financial assistance will be provided to establish a turmeric processing unitrecognising the demand for organically grown produce and processed foods in the Union Territory. Financial assistance will be provided for the purchase of solar-powered crop dryers to facilitate the preservation of agricultural produce, thereby preventing post-harvest losses and safeguarding farmers' incomes during seasons of low crop yield.

27. My Government is highly committes to the welfare of farmers, which the Hon'ble members are well awareof. In karaikal, agriculture mainly depends heavily on Cauvery water, since water supply is highly uncertain during the summer farmers face severe hardships. To address this, my Government proposes to provide a financial assistance of ₹ 1,500 per hectare to Karaikal farmers for summer crop cultivation. This will involve an annual expenditure of ₹ 1.13 crore.

28. Under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, an Integrated Centre of Excellence for Fruit and Vegetable Processing and a Custom Hiring Centre for Farm Machinery will be established at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute in Karaikal. Further, skill development training in agriculture will be provided to 8,500 beneficiaries through demonstrations and field visits.

29. To assist farmers during times of disaster, a crop insurance scheme is currently being implemented under the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, benefiting 20,500 farmers. Under this scheme, the State Government bears the insurance premium payable by the farmers. An online registration system has been introduced to make this scheme more accessible and beneficial to farmers.

30. To promote organic farming, it is proposed to form 10 new groups covering an area of 200 hectares under the "Paramparaghat Krishi Vikas Yojana" and two new groups covering an area of 100 hectares

under the "National Mission on Natural Farming". A 'Unified Loan Interface Portal' will be introduced to facilitate the easy procurement of seasonal crop loans by farmers.

31. All services of the Agriculture Department have been made fully available online, ensuring transparency in service delivery. As a result of this, the Department has been awarded the ISO 37001:2016 Anti-Bribery Management System Certification by the Bureau of Indian Standards. I am pleased to inform this august House that this Department takes pride in being the only Government Department in India to have received this prestigious certification.

32. An allocation of ₹178.27 crore has been made for the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for the year 2026-27.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

33. Animal husbandry plays a pivotal role in boosting the rural economy and generating sustainable

income for farmers. My Government attaches great importance to livestock rearing-which provides nutritionally balanced foods like milk, eggs and meat, and is actively undertaking infrastructure improvements and implementing various welfare schemes.

34. To enhance quality milk production and address the shortage of manpower for milking, modern milking machines will be provided to 150 beneficiaries at a 100% subsidy, at a total cost of ₹ 75 lakh. Additionally, for livestock farmers who are not members of milk co-operative societies, cattle feed for 3,450 milch cows and calf feed for 4,000 calves will be provided at a 75% subsidy.

35. Free insurance coverage at the rate of ₹ 1,500 per calf will be provided for all female calves aged between 4 and 8 months. Medical camps and pet shows will be organized across the Union territory of Puducherry to improve livestock health and encourage livestock farmers.

36. To increase farmers' income and boost meat and egg production, the following will be provided: (i) 48,000 indigenous chicken breeds such as Kadaknath and Sonali; (ii) a package comprising 18 week-old laying hens, feed and cages; and (iii) 25,000 turkeys aged 8 weeks.

37. A functional veterinary dispensary in the Katterikuppam and Alankuppam areas of the Puducherry region and a livestock development sub-centre at Varichikudi in the Karaikal region will be constructed. Furthermore, existing veterinary dispensaries in the Union Territory will be renovated.

38. An allocation of ₹ 85.28 crore has been made for the Department of Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare for the year 2026-27.

ART AND CULTURE

39. The Union territory of Puducherry is a unique cultural hub where Indian heritage and French traditions blend seamlessly. The art and culture of this region

represent a vibrant tapestry of tradition and modernity. Hon'ble Members are aware that my Government is continuously taking steps to promote cultural events of our State.

40. My Government plans to modernise all Government branch libraries and upgrade them into knowledge centres. Mobile libraries will be introduced to ensure easy access to books and educational resources for the general public, particularly those in rural areas. Further, special reading zones will be established to encourage reading habits among the public, providing a peaceful environment for reading.

41. Training sessions conducted by expert professionals will be organised to enhance the employability of youth and help them succeed in national-level competitive examinations. Educational film screenings will be held to foster creativity and learning skills among children. Additionally, the open-air amphitheaters at the Kamarajar Manimandapam will

be utilised to host cultural and educational programs. Exhibitions showcasing the history of Puducherry and the contributions of its leaders will be organized in rural areas.

42. In order to celebrate the research of Tamil Scholars on Tamil culture, literature and global aspects, my Government announced that a World Tamil Conference will be held in Puducherry. In this financial year, the preparatory works are underway. Further, a Tamil Chair for Tamil Etymological Studies will be established at Pondicherry University to promote advanced research in Tamil etymology and to preserve and enrich the linguistic heritage of the Tamil language. Initiatives will also be undertaken to digitize historical and administrative documents, ensuring their preservation and making them easily accessible to future generations.

43. My Government proposes to introduce new courses at Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam to provide

students with wider academic opportunities. A student exchange programme will also be introduced to promote academic enrichment and cultural exchange among students. Further, all necessary measures are being undertaken to strengthen and further develop the institution.

44. An allocation of ₹ 40.94 crore has been made for the Department of Art and Culture for the year 2026-27.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

45. My Government is focused on the welfare of backward class and minority communities. Recognising their contribution to the nation's socio-economic progress, it is considered essential to ensure equal opportunities for them.

46. To ensure that students from backward classes and minority communities study in premier National Educational Institutions, plans are in place to conduct

coaching classes in Government Schools for competitive examinations like NEET and JEE. Furthermore, training will be provided to enable them to participate in competitive examinations for Civil Services, Banking, and Staff Selection Commission recruitments, thereby securing greater representation in Government and Public Sector Undertakings.

47. Integrated skill development and entrepreneurship training programs will be implemented for artisans from minority communities to enhance their innate talents. Additionally, training in small-scale industries, cottage industries and traditional handicrafts will be provided to boost the self-confidence of women from minority communities.

48. Measures will continue to be undertaken to improve the basic infrastructure facilities in minority-concentrated areas. Necessary support will also be provided to upgrade the infrastructure of minority educational institutions. All requisite steps will be taken to safeguard the rights and interests of minority communities and to uphold Puducherry's unique tradition of religious harmony.

49. An allocation of ₹ 16.22 crore has been made for the Directorate of Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare for the year 2026-27.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

50. The Public Distribution System plays a pivotal role in ensuring food security for the economically disadvantaged sections of society. Details of family cardholders are now being accurately verified digitally (e-KYC) using Aadhaar numbers. This ensures that welfare benefits reach the intended recipients. For the convenience of the public, various services related to family cards are being provided online through Common Service Centres.

51. Under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana" (PMGKAY) Scheme, cash equivalent to the value of the rice entitlement is being transferred via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to Priority Household (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) cardholders under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). However, difficulties are being encountered due to data mismatches between Aadhaar, family card records,

and Bank details. Therefore, the Ministry of Food and Public Distribution proposes to implement a system using the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) instead of standard cash transfers in the Union territory of Puducherry. This will ensure that beneficiaries are able to utilise the funds themselves for purchasing food grains against their entitlements at authorised grocery stores. In the first phase 3,49,960 beneficiaries across 1,02,470 family cards will benefit from this initiative.

52. I am happy to announce that my Government proposes to distribute an essential food kit comprising Wheat flour, Ragi flour, Toor dal, Sugar and Ghee, by suitably modifying the quantity of rice presently being supplied, with a view to providing a more nutritious and balanced food basket to all Ration Card holders.

53. An allocation of ₹461.51 crore has been made for the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs for the year 2026-27.

COOPERATION

54. The co-operative movement plays a vital role in supporting farmers, weavers and consumers. Honourable Members are aware that my Government is committed to strengthening Co-operative Institutions thereby ensuring their contribution to the socio-economic development of this Union Territory.

55. Under the National Dairy Development Programme, it is proposed to establish a fully automated dairy plant at PONLAIT with a capacity to process and pack 2 lakh litres of milk per day (2 LLPD). Milk Co-operative Societies will be established at the village level to increase milk procurement. All PONLAIT milk sales shops will be modernised for the convenience of the public.

56. My Government proposes to enhance the subsidy provided on the milk procured through PONLAIT, based on its quality, to a maximum of ₹ 41 per litre.

57. It is proposed to sell Toor dal, Urad dal, cooking oil, sugar and other essential commodities at cost price through fair price shops in Puducherry. Furthermore, small cost-price outlets will be set up at 10 key locations across Puducherry.

58. RTGS and NEFT facilities will be introduced at the Puducherry State Co-operative Bank. It is proposed to issue Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to 1,000 farmers. Furthermore, new branches of the Bank will be opened at Nettapakkam and Sulthanpet. The Puducherry State Co-operative Housing Federation Plans to construct an apartment complex comprising 75 residential units at Muthupillaipalayam, at an estimated cost of ₹ 75 crore.

59. An allocation of ₹ 62.91 crore has been made for the Co-operative Department for the year 2026-27.

ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

60. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Directorate of Economics and Statistics plays a pivotal

role in formulating socio-economic indicators and providing the necessary statistical data for development schemes in the Union territory of Puducherry. Various measures are being taken to further strengthen this Department.

61. Under the National Sample Survey, a Domestic Tourism Expenditure Survey and a Migration Survey are set to be conducted. To ensure the accuracy of agricultural statistical data, area enumeration and crop-cutting experiments will be carried out during the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

62. An allocation of ₹ 6.08 crore has been made for the Directorate of Economics and Statistics for the year 2026-27.

ELECTRICITY

63. Safe and quality electricity supply within the Union territory of Puducherry is essential for economic growth, industrial advancement and improving the quality of life of the people. Honourable Members are well aware that my Government is continuously taking

measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply and to strengthen the electrical infrastructure.

64. The Work of establishing a 110/22 Kilovolt Sub-station with a capacity of 50 Megavolt Ampere at Lawspet has commenced at an estimated cost of ₹ 78.80 crore. Further, tender has been finalized for establishing a sub-station at Thavalakuppam at an estimated cost of ₹ 92.26 crore. Furthermore, a new 110/22 Kilovolt sub-station is to be constructed at Thirubuvanai at a cost of ₹ 60 crore, replacing the existing sub-station.

65. To meet the rising demand for electricity, an additional transformer with a capacity of 100 Megavolts Ampere is being installed at the Thondamanatham sub-station at a cost of ₹ 26.14 crore. Additionally, works to upgrade the capacity of transformers at the Korkadu, Thethampakkam and Kalapet sub-stations are underway at a cost of ₹ 17.70 crore. This will further enhance the quality and reliability of the power supply.

66. It is proposed to install a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of 50 Megawatt at an estimated cost of ₹ 150 crore to store electrical energy and distribute it when required. Under this initiative, a battery storage system with a capacity of 5 Megawatt each will be installed at 10 selected sub-stations. It is also proposed to procure 50 Megawatt of power from the second phase of the National Thermal Power Station to be established in Telangana.

67. An allocation of ₹ 2,740.60 crore has been made for the electricity sector for the year 2026-27.

FIRE SERVICES

68. The Fire Services Department plays a pivotal role in safeguarding lives and property during emergencies and disasters. Honourable Members are aware that my Government is continuously taking measures to modernize infrastructure, equipment, and emergency response systems to strengthen fire-fighting and rescue operations across the Union Territory.

69. During the year 2026-27, steps will be taken to procure advanced fire tenders, mini fire tenders, quick response vehicles and other specialized rescue vehicles to enhance emergency rescue capabilities in Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam.

70. Furthermore, modern fire-fighting and life-saving equipment-including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), advanced breathing apparatus, disaster management tools, rescue boats and wireless communication devices-will be procured for fire stations. This will further strengthen rescue operations. An allocation of ₹ 10 crore has been made for this purpose in the current financial year.

71. To further strengthen the infrastructure of the Fire Services Department, the construction of the Divisional Fire Officer's office at Dhanvantri Nagar will be completed. Additionally, to meet the needs of newly recruited female fire personnel, women's barracks and other infrastructural facilities will be established at various fire stations.

72. An allocation of ₹ 44.50 crore has been made for the Fire Services Department for the year 2026-27.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

73. The fisheries sector plays a vital role in the economic growth of the Union territory of Puducherry and in improving the livelihoods of coastal communities. Honourable Members are well aware that my Government is implementing various schemes to enhance the socio-economic well-being of fishing families.

74. I am pleased to announce that, during the current financial year, old-age pensions will be provided to an additional 1,000 elderly persons belonging to the fishing community.

75. Under the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), traditional fishermen living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) who are registered with fisheries co-operative societies receive

₹ 3,000 as the Central Government's share for livelihood and nutritional support. I am happy to announce that this scheme will be universally extended to fishermen using the State funds till the operation of the Central Scheme.

76. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), a subsidy of 30% will be provided to female fisherfolk beneficiaries and 50% to male fisherfolk beneficiaries for the purchase of deep-sea fishing boats valued at ₹ 1.60 crore. Furthermore, a 50% subsidy will be provided for the purchase of fishing nets worth ₹ 40 lakh for deep-sea fishing boats constructed under this scheme.

77. A 50% subsidy will be provided to deep-sea fishing entrepreneurs and fishermen for boatyards costing ₹ 1 crore. Ice boxes worth ₹ 7,500 will be provided free of cost to registered owners of mechanized boats and traditional boats. Furthermore, input subsidies will be provided to 60 new fish farmers entering the aquaculture sector.

78. An allocation of ₹178.80 crore has been made for the Department of Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare for the year 2026-27.

FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

79. Forests and wildlife are not merely symbols of our natural heritage; they are vital natural resources that ensure ecological balance, biodiversity and climate stability. Creating a rich natural environment for future generations is one of the Government's key policy objectives.

80. To increase our green cover, mangrove forests spanning 55 hectares and new forests covering 21 hectares will be established in the Manapattu forest and coastal areas. Furthermore, 4.11 lakh saplings will be planted along roadsides, lake bunds, and school premises under various afforestation schemes, including 'Amma Vanam' (Amma Forest), 'Aanmeega Vanam' (Spiritual Forest), and 'Thayin Peyaril Oru Maram' (A Tree in Mother's Name). Additionally, two lakh palmyra seeds will be sown in coastal areas.

Nurseries will be set up in 76 schools to foster environmental awareness among students.

81. For the first time in the country, an initiative to protect sea turtles by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology will be undertaken. Native bird species will be reared in a natural habitat for public viewing. I am also pleased to announce that the Eco Park, constructed under the Smart City Mission, will soon be opened for public use.

82. An allocation of ₹ 18.65 crore has been made for the Directorate of Forests and Wildlife for the year 2026-27.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

83. Recognizing that the health of the people is the foundation for sustainable development and economic progress, my Government accords the highest priority to health and family welfare. My Government is committed to providing equitable and quality medical services to every citizen.

84. Modern equipment, including ECMO units and ventilators, will be procured to strengthen cardiology services at the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute. Equipment for performing non-surgical laser treatment for kidney stones will also be purchased. Under the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, three Critical Care Units are being constructed in the Puducherry region and one in the Karaikal region.

85. I am happy to inform this august House that a 50 bed eye hospital has been established for ophthalmic care. Furthermore, the existing eye donation center will be upgraded into a full-fledged eye bank and modern equipment required for eye treatment will be procured.

86. Physiotherapy equipment will be purchased for the Karikalampakkam and Thirunallar Community Health Centres and the Katterikuppam Primary Health Centre. A 50 mA digital radiography unit worth ₹ 25 lakh will be installed at the Mannadipet Community Health Centre and a CT scanner will be installed at the Yanam Government General Hospital.

87. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) Scheme, free medical insurance coverage of up to ₹5 lakh per year is being provided to families below the poverty line and to senior citizens aged above 70. Medical insurance coverage under this scheme will be extended to the families of ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers.

88. The Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences, Puducherry, currently offers Postgraduate Dental Degree Courses in seven specializations. Plans are underway to launch postgraduate courses in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Public Health Dentistry starting from the current financial year. With this, the institute will offer Postgraduate Dental Courses across all recognized dental specialisations.

89. Construction work on the 50-bed AYUSH hospital in Yanam is in its final stages. Construction of a 30-bed AYUSH hospital in Karaikal is also in progress. Departments for Panchakarma and Physiotherapy will soon be established at the

Rajiv Gandhi Ayurveda Medical College. Furthermore, Yoga centers have been set up at the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital for Women and Children.

90. An allocation of ₹ 1,114.59 crore has been made for the Department of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2026-27.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

91. Pursuing higher education is essential for achieving success in life and ensuring significant socio-economic advancement. My Government attaches great importance to consistently providing quality higher education at an affordable cost, with equal opportunities for all in our State.

92. I am happy to announce that my Government will provide free bus transport facility to all students studying in Government and Government-aided Higher Education Institutions in the Puducherry region, thereby facilitating easy access to higher education and reducing the financial burden on students towards transportation.

93. Financial assistance continues to be provided to students through the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme'. In the year 2025-26, financial assistance amounting to ₹ 26.14 crore has been provided to 4,903 students pursuing courses in medicine, engineering and nursing. In the current financial year funds to the tune of ₹ 37 crore has been allocated under this scheme.

94. An allocation of ₹ 346.97 crore has been made for higher and technical education for the year 2026-27.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND WAKF

95. An Integrated Temple Management System, featuring facilities such as a mobile application and a Geographic Information System (GIS) has been introduced to ensure the transparent and efficient administration of temples under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. Under this initiative, the basic details of 243 temples have been digitized.

96. My Government plans to provide financial assistance amounting to ₹ 11.50 crore for the renovation and special repair works of temples. Of this, ₹ 10.50 crore will be allocated to temples under the Department's control and ₹ 1 crore to temples not under its control. Additionally, financial aid of ₹ 75 lakh will be provided to conduct 'Oru Kala Puja' (single daily ritual) in temples.

97. A large number of devotees and pilgrims from across the country are expected to visit the sacred Godavari Pushkaralu festival (Kumbh Mela), scheduled to take place from June 26 to July 07, 2027, at the holy site in Yanam where the Godavari River merges with the Bay of Bengal. In view of this, I am happy to inform this august House that ₹ 10 crore has been allocated for the year 2026-27 to upgrade the Godavari river ghats in Yanam and to provide necessary basic amenities for the devotees. Central Government will be approached seeking required funds for this festival.

98. Furthermore, financial assistance of ₹ 21 lakh will be provided to the Puducherry State Wakf Board to facilitate the distribution of educational scholarships to approximately 705 students.

99. An allocation of ₹ 24.16 crore has been made for the Hindu Religious Institutions and Wakf Department for the year 2026-27.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

100. Industrial growth plays a pivotal role in creating employment opportunities, fostering entrepreneurship and accelerating economic development. Honourable Members are well aware that my Government is committed to creating an investor-friendly environment and strengthening Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within our jurisdiction.

101. Various subsidies and incentives continue to be provided under the industrial policy to attract new investments and support existing industries. During this year, financial assistance amounting to

₹ 8.50 crore will be provided to approximately 40 industrial units-including those managed by women, Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes under the Entrepreneurship Promotion and Industrial Development Scheme.

102. I am pleased to inform this august House that financial assistance is being provided for the establishment and expansion of micro food processing enterprises under the 'Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises' Scheme. Additionally, seed capital assistance has been extended to 562 members of Self-Help Groups engaged in food processing activities, thereby fostering entrepreneurship and promoting value-added food processing.

103. A "Made in Puducherry" identity will be promoted to enhance the visibility and marketability of locally produced goods, while new markets will be developed through digital and online commerce. To promote the growth and competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), initiatives

such as Buyer-Seller Meets, Vendor Development Programmes, skill enhancement and Digital Transformation training will be undertaken. Further, comprehensive guidance and facilitation relating to Technical Assistance, Finance and Market Opportunities will be provided through the MSMEs Service and Facilitation Centre.

104. Measures are being undertaken to establish a Multi-Sector Special Economic Zone (SEZ) spread over 213 acres in Karaikal and an IT/ITES Special Economic Zone covering 21 acres at Thattanchavady, Puducherry, with the objective of attracting new businesses and investments and creating additional employment opportunities. Further, avenues for private sector investment have been opened up through the Puducherry Public-Private Partnership Policy, 2026.

105. I am pleased to inform this august House that, with a view to attracting new investments, promoting industrial expansion, encouraging the growth of emerging sectors and creating greater employment opportunities, my Government is revising the existing

Industrial Policy and formulating a new policy in tune with the changing needs and emerging opportunities.

106. My Government is also implementing the 'Raising and Accelerating MSMEs Performance' (RAMP) scheme to enhance and accelerate the performance of MSMEs. Under this Scheme, financial assistance amounting to ₹ 10.62 crore has been sanctioned to 865 beneficiaries. This Scheme will continue to be implemented to strengthen the competitiveness, productivity and growth of MSMEs in the Union Territory.

107. An allocation of ₹ 122.19 crore has been made for the Directorate of Industries and Commerce for the year 2026-27.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

108. Information Technology plays a pivotal role in making Government operations more efficient, transparent and citizen-centric. My Government is continuously taking measures to ensure that Government

services reach the public quickly and easily by expanding e-Governance initiatives across all Departments and strengthening digital infrastructure.

109. The National Informatics Centre's 'e-Office' system is being implemented in phases across Government Departments, transforming traditional procedures into a fully electronic and paperless administrative system. This initiative is also being extended to Government-aided public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and societies.

110. The electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) is being progressively implemented across all Departments to modernise the management of Government employees and enhance administrative efficiency. This system ensures transparent HR management by maintaining the complete service records of Government employees on an integrated digital platform. In the initial phase, records for approximately 18,000 Government employees have been created, and official e-mail addresses have been provided to them.

111. To further strengthen cyber security measures in the Union territory of Puducherry, a dedicated Cyber Security Division will be established within the Department of Information Technology in accordance with the guidelines of CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team). Further, with the objective of enhancing the employability skills of youth, a 12-month Digital Internship Programme has been launched for 150 students in Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Service (ITeS) companies. Under this programme, each intern receives a monthly stipend of ₹ 10,000.

112. An allocation of ₹ 15.42 crore has been made for the Information Technology Department for the year 2026-27.

LABOUR WELFARE

113. My Government pays special attention to protecting workers' rights and enhancing their socio-economic well-being. By effectively implementing labour laws, the Government ensures fair wages,

safe working environments and occupational health, while also safeguarding the interests of both organised and unorganised sector workers.

114. To facilitate ease of doing business and promote transparent administration, various Labour Department services including registration, licensing, and renewals will be provided online. Furthermore, licences and registration certificates issued by the Labour Department will be integrated with the DigiLocker platform to ensure secure and paperless service delivery.

115. My Government plans to conduct a 'Skill Gap Survey' across the Union territory of Puducherry to identify industry-specific skill requirements and design skill development programs aligned with emerging employment opportunities. Job fairs will continue to be conducted to increase employment opportunities. It is also proposed to transform a library functioning under the Department of Art and Culture in the Karaikal region into an educational centre.

116. A common centre is proposed to be established to digitally connect daily-wage construction workers in Puducherry with potential employers.

117. An allocation of ₹48.18 crore has been made for the Labour Department for the year 2026-27.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

118. Local Administration plays a pivotal role in enhancing basic amenities in both urban and rural areas. My Government is committed to strengthening local bodies and ensuring the easy provision of quality basic amenities to all.

119. A special scheme titled the "Chief Minister's Local Administration Development Path Scheme" (Mudhalamaichar Ullaatchi Valarchi Paadhai Thittam) is proposed to be launched with the aim of strengthening local administration through public participation. Under this scheme, works to upgrade infrastructure such as roads, stormwater drains, parks,

playgrounds, public toilets, cremation grounds, markets, water bodies, and streetlights will be undertaken to improve the daily quality of life for the people. For the first time, a comprehensive five-year plan comprising 2,282 works at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,131 crore has been prepared based on public requests and recommendations from elected peoples representatives. These infrastructure works will be implemented in a phased manner, constituency-wise.

120. Under the solid waste management scheme, the Resource Recovery Park at Kurumbapet will be upgraded at a cost of ₹ 18.20 crore. Furthermore, the status of drinking water supply *via* borewells in all villages will be assessed and quality drinking water will be supplied through overhead water tanks.

121. I wish to inform this august House that an "Iconic Street Food Hub" will be established with financial assistance from the Central Government under the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. This initiative will not only improve the livelihoods of

street vendors but also provide hygienic and regulated food vending facilities, thereby supporting the growth of tourism in our State.

122. Under the Central Government's Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Scheme, elected representatives will be provided with skill development training and the capacity of local bodies will be further strengthened through e-governance.

123. An allocation of ₹388.09 crore has been made for the Local Bodies Department for the year 2026-27.

POLICE

124. My Government is steadfast in its commitment to maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, and fostering a peaceful environment. Infrastructure upgrades, the procurement of modern equipment, and the enhancement of information technology applications are being undertaken to modernise the Police force.

125. I am pleased to inform this august House that the Puducherry Police has been honored with the prestigious 'President's Police Colour' award in recognition of its exemplary service. To further strengthen law and order in Puducherry, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has granted approval for the formation of the 2nd Battalion of the India Reserve Battalion (IRBn). For this purpose, Government of India will provide ₹ 80 crore. Further, 1,007 posts will be created and filled-up shortly. Additionally, 70 posts of Sub-Inspector and 148 posts of Constable have been successfully filled.

126. To strengthen Police Station infrastructure, modern vehicles, cyber security tools, communication equipment, computers, arms and ammunition, prison vans and night-vision binoculars will be procured during the current financial year at an estimated cost of ₹ 28 crore.

127. New buildings will be constructed for the Periakadai Police Station and the Karikalampakkam Outpost in the Puducherry region. Additionally, the Police Headquarters and the Armory building will be renovated. In the Karaikal region, residential quarters for the Superintendent of Police and in Mahe region an Office of the Superintendent of Police-*cum*-residence, a Coastal Police Station will be constructed; various maintenance and renovation works will also be undertaken.

128. An allocation of ₹468.96 crore has been made for the Police Department for the year 2026-27.

PORT

129. A Detailed Project Report will be prepared and works undertaken to establish a cruise terminal at the old Puducherry Port. Work will commence to renovate an existing warehouse at the Port and equip it with facilities for cruise passengers. A Detailed Project Report regarding State-Level marine waterways

will be prepared. The maintenance work of the dredger owned by the Puducherry Port will be undertaken and be deployed to deepen the Port's channel areas.

130. My Government proposes to undertake developmental activities in the regions of Puducherry and Karaikal under the "Sagarmala 2.0" Scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, with the objective of promoting Port-led industrial growth, strengthening transportation infrastructure and facilitating economic development. Further, transportation connectivity will be strengthened to ensure the smooth and efficient movement of materials and goods to and from the Port.

131. An allocation of ₹ 11.52 crore has been made for the Port Department for the year 2026-27.

PRISONS

132. Medical and healthcare facilities for prisoners will be improved and mental health counselling services will be strengthened. Vocational training, skill

development programs, education and literacy initiatives, behavioural counselling and rehabilitation measures will be expanded to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into society upon their release.

133. To modernise prison administration, advanced security infrastructure including full-body scanners and integrated surveillance systems will be established. An allocation of ₹ 4.80 crore has been made for this purpose. A modern district prison, equipped with state-of-the-art security and rehabilitation facilities will be constructed in Karaikal district at an estimated cost of ₹ 80 crore.

134. An allocation of ₹ 19.57 crore has been made for the Prison Department for the year 2026-27.

PUBLIC WORKS

135. The Public Works Department plays a pivotal role in improving the quality of life of the people and creating robust infrastructure for economic growth.

Honourable Members are well aware that my Government prioritises the creation of quality infrastructure using modern construction technologies.

136. I am happy to inform this august House that my Government has initiated a project, with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank to provide 100 per cent underground sewerage coverage in the urban areas of Puducherry. Currently, about 60 per cent of the urban area is covered by the underground sewerage network; the infrastructure in these areas will be rehabilitated and modernised. Underground sewerage facilities will also be extended to the remaining areas that currently lack them.

137. A project to modernise the drinking water supply system across the Union territory of Puducherry is being implemented with financial assistance from the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement).

138. In Puducherry, several projects are being implemented to strengthen drinking water infrastructure,

including establishment of water treatment plants at Brindavanam and Siddhantasaamy Nagar, augmentation of drinking water supply and rehabilitation of pipelines in Muthialpet, restoration of water supply in the Tsunami Rehabilitation Colony at Kalapet and integrated drinking water supply at Pillaiyarkuppam and Chinna Kalapet. These works are being implemented at a cost of ₹ 97.19 crore. Further, 50 purified drinking water dispensing stations are proposed to be established in urban and rural areas, particularly at locations where overhead water tanks have a TDS level above 1,000.

139. To strengthen coastal protection and improve irrigation and drainage infrastructure, coastal protection structures are being constructed along the stretch from Pillaiyarkuppam to Ganapathy Chettikulam, while irrigation and drainage channels in the Villianur area are also being improved at an estimated cost of ₹ 49 crore. In addition, a tar road and a one-way road are being constructed along the surplus channel on the banks of Bahour Lake at an estimated cost of ₹ 10.80 crore, and the works are nearing completion.

140. Further, a Detailed Project Report has been prepared at an estimated cost of ₹497 crore to meet the drinking water requirements of the Union Territory by utilising water from the Pennaiyar, Sankaraparani and other rivers, along with the repair, renovation and restoration of lakes to facilitate groundwater recharge. The proposal has been submitted under the Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti for obtaining a 90% grant.

141. Furthermore, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for implementing underground sewerage systems in the Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions have been prepared, and the works are set to commence within the current financial year. Upon the completion of these projects, modern and disaster-resilient underground sewerage systems will be established in all urban areas of the Union Territory. As a result, sewage will be collected and treated using scientific methods, thereby further improving public health, the environment and the quality of life for the people.

142. A new Primary Health Centre will be constructed in Bahour at a cost of ₹9.10 crore. An administrative building for the Indira Gandhi Arts and Science College in Kathirkamam will be built at a cost of ₹16.91 crore and additional classrooms will be constructed at Avvaiyar Government College, Karaikal, at a cost of ₹10 crore. A state-of-the-art veterinary hospital will be established in Kottucherry (Karaikal region) at a cost of ₹10 crore and a security perimeter wall will be constructed around the new prison complex in Akkaraivattam.

143. Under a Central Government Scheme, a building for Criminal Courts and legal aid services will be constructed at the Integrated Court Complex in Puducherry at an estimated cost of ₹60.19 crore. Additionally, extra facilities including a Lawyers' chamber and a family welfare inquiry centre will be built at the Karaikal Court Complex at a cost of ₹6.27 crore.

144. Works to revamp and upgrade the drinking water supply system will be carried out at a cost of

₹ 92.74 crore across the Uppalam, Kamaraj Nagar, Ozhukarai and Nellithope constituencies in the Puducherry region. Drinking water supply improvement works-including the construction of an overhead water tank with a capacity of 1.50 lakh litres and a groundlevel water tank with a capacity of 1 lakh litres will be undertaken in Valathamangalam Village, Karaikal, at a cost of ₹ 6.34 crore. Furthermore, pumping pipelines will be laid from Nedungadu to Melakasakudi and from M.S.P. Lakshmi Nagar to the Nehru Nagar overhead water tank at a cost of ₹ 6.42 crore.

145. In the Puducherry region, construction of 'L' and 'U' shaped drains and improvements to rural roads will be carried out at a cost of ₹ 21.86 crore. Additionally, a protective wall using gabion structures will be built along the Karuvadikuppam-Edayansavadi roadside at a cost of ₹ 16.17 crore to prevent soil erosion. The road connecting Moolakulam Junction and Gorimedu Junction will be upgraded at a cost of ₹ 11.71 crore under the Central Road Development Fund.

146. One-time improvement works will be carried out on stretches of National Highway-32 (formerly National Highway 45-A) in Karaikal district at an estimated cost of ₹ 56.31 crore. Further, the beach road will be beautified at a cost of ₹ 26.87 crore. At Mahe Poozhithala Beach, a project to beautify the beachfront by constructing a pedestrian walkway along the seawall from the Fishing Harbour to the State border will be implemented at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.30 crore. Furthermore, an additional tourist guest house will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 7 crore.

147. The control system of the Manambedu check dam across the Thirumalairajan River in Karaikal will be reconstructed at a cost of ₹ 12 crore. Furthermore, a sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 2 MLD will be established at Paravaipettai. Flood prevention works, including the development of the Godavari riverbank in Yanam, will be carried out under the Central Government's Jal Shakti Scheme.

148. An allocation of ₹850.86 crore has been made for the Public Works Department for the year 2026-27.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

149. My Government is focused on elevating the quality of life for people living in rural areas and ensuring inclusive, balanced growth.

150. The Government continues to prioritise strengthening the livelihoods of rural people and ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth. To achieve this, I am pleased to announce that the Central Government's "Viksit Bharat" – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G] has been implemented in this Territory since 1st July. Under this scheme, every eligible rural household will be provided with 125 days of wage employment annually. A total of 1,124 works have been identified across rural development blocks under this scheme, with a target to generate 20 lakh person-days of employment.

151. My Government accords high priority to sanitation and environmental sustainability through the effective implementation of the "Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)". Facilities such as individual household toilets, community sanitary complexes, Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems are being established with the aim of achieving 100% ODF Plus (Open Defecation Free Plus) status across all 108 Village Panchayats.

152. Further, rural roads spanning 108 kilometres are set to be upgraded with advanced construction technologies at a cost of ₹67.02 crore under the “Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana” (PMGSY). This will ensure uninterrupted transportation throughout all seasons while also enhancing the durability and long-term usability of the roads. Furthermore, it will enable rural residents to access Educational Institutions, healthcare centres, markets and growth centres more easily, thereby creating greater economic opportunities for the rural population.

153. An allocation of ₹ 158.02 crore has been made for the Rural Development Department for the year 2026-27.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

154. To ensure that all children within the territory of Puducherry attend school is a priority. My Government is implementing various Welfare Schemes with the noble objective of upgrading school infrastructure and providing quality education to all.

155. I am pleased to announce the establishment of four 'Chief Minister's Model Schools'-one in each region of the Union territory of Puducherry. These schools will feature world-class educational infrastructure and modern facilities, including SMART Classrooms, advanced science and computer laboratories, skill-based education, sports facilities, digital learning resources and quality coaching for competitive examinations. This initiative will serve as a model for holistic and high-quality education within the Government school system.

156. To foster a culture of reading, research and lifelong learning, it is proposed to set up state-of-the-art library facilities in top-performing Government schools, based on public examination results. To further elevate the quality of Government schools, a comprehensive Educational Technology (EduTech) Scheme will be introduced, featuring Artificial Intelligence-based learning platforms, virtual laboratories and adaptive learning methods tailored to individual student capabilities.

157. The New India Literacy Programme (ULLAS) continues to be implemented to promote adult literacy and lifelong learning. Through this scheme, illiterate individuals are identified, and the necessary educational support will be provided to them to achieve 100% literacy rate in the Union territory of Puducherry.

158. With a special focus on the well being of female students sanitary napkin incinerators will be installed in all Government High and Higher Secondary Schools across the Union territory of Puducherry. This will facilitate the safe and hygienic disposal of sanitary waste.

159. Students studying in Government and Government-aided schools will continue to receive free uniforms, textbooks, workbooks, footwear, school bags, and laptops. To ensure nutritional support, the scheme providing boiled eggs alongside the mid-day meal on all working days, the Sri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme and the evening millet-based snack Scheme will continue to be implemented.

160. Digital infrastructure development will be undertaken in schools selected under the PM SHRI Scheme. As part of this, SMART classrooms equipped with modern technology, high-speed internet connectivity and modern electronic devices to facilitate easy and comprehensible teaching will be provided. This initiative aims to equip students with 21st century skills, enhance the quality of learning, and create a technology-driven educational environment aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy.

161. To ensure transparency, teacher transfers will be managed through a centralised counselling system integrating Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) and e-HRMS.

162. An allocation of ₹ 1,102.57 crore has been made for the Directorate of School Education for the year 2026-27.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

163. Climate change and environmental sustainability have emerged as critical challenges shaping the future of our society. Honourable Members are aware that my Government is committed to fostering development and ensuring environmental protection in harmony with climate adaptation, driven by science-based planning and sustainable initiatives.

164. Honourable Members of this august House are well aware that the Government of Puducherry is set to launch the 'PY-SHORE' project-funded by the World Bank at an estimated cost of

₹ 1,433 crore. The PY-SHORE project will promote sustainable resource management, particularly in the fisheries and tourism sectors, while fostering economic development and strengthening the resilience of the coastal areas across all four regions of the Union Territory. All necessary preparatory measures are currently underway in collaboration with various stakeholders to implement this project at the earliest possible.

165. To address climate change and ensure sustainable development, the Government is taking steps to institutionalise the Puducherry Climate Change Cell as a permanent entity. Furthermore, environmental pollution will be reduced through a low-carbon growth strategy and waste management practices grounded in scientific assessments and e-waste management protocols.

166. An allocation of ₹ 16.72 crore has been made for the Department of Science, Technology, and Environment for the year 2026-27.

SOCIAL WELFARE

167. My Government continues to implement various welfare schemes-including pensions and the provision of free rice-aimed at improving the livelihoods of the vulnerable and persons with disabilities in society.

168. An integrated online welfare service platform will be created to facilitate easy access to Welfare Schemes for persons with disabilities. To ensure the delivery of services with equality and dignity, frontline staff across Government Departments will undergo skill development training regarding disability-related issues.

169. Children with special needs in Government schools will be identified at an early stage and the necessary support will be provided to them. In order to do so, teachers will receive skill development training concerning autism, intellectual disabilities and learning disabilities.

170. With the aim of ensuring optimal child development, my Government will conduct developmental assessment camps in Villages,

Anganwadi centres, and schools to detect development delays and disabilities in children at an early stage. Parent awareness programs will be conducted, and technological aids and digital learning facilities will be established for differently abled children.

171. Mobile health units will be introduced to provide counselling and guidance on healthy lifestyle practices and medical services such as preventive health checks, blood sugar, blood pressure monitoring and cardiac screening-directly at the doorsteps for the elderly, and the differently abled persons who are unable to travel.

172. Furthermore, a Palliative Care Programme, driven by volunteers, will be launched to provide compassionate care to individuals suffering from chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

173. 'Puducherry Social Service Awards' will be presented to honour individuals, volunteers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and institutions that excel in working for the welfare of the differently abled, transgender persons, the elderly, and vulnerable sections of society.

174. An allocation of ₹ 132.51 crore has been made for the Social Welfare Department for the year 2026-27.

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

175. My Government is implementing various schemes with the aim of promoting sports and fully harnessing the potential of the youth in the Union territory of Puducherry. Honourable members are well aware that my Government is creating modern sports infrastructure and identifying talented sportspersons to provide them with training and financial incentives.

176. Under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme, an artificial turf hockey ground will be laid at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 8.85 crore. Multi-purpose indoor stadiums, each costing ₹ 3.50 crore, will be constructed at Katterikuppam, Murungapakkam and in the Avvaiyar Government College for Women in Karaikal. Additionally, an artificial turf

football ground will be set up at the I.K. Kumaran Government Higher Secondary School in Pandakkal, Mahe.

177. Approval has been granted for the construction of five synthetic tennis courts across the Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions. Furthermore, cash awards totaling ₹1.40 crore have been distributed to sportspersons who excelled in international, national and South Zone-level competitions.

178. I am pleased to announce the establishment of a 'Khelo India State Centre of Excellence' at the Sports School in Uppalam, Puducherry. Furthermore, Khelo India Centres for football, badminton, volleyball, and athletics have been established in the Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions, respectively.

179. With the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Sports and the Sports Authority of India, the Union territory of Puducherry plans to host the 3rd Khelo India Beach Games

in January 2027. It is expected that over 700 athletes from 25 States and 6 Union Territories will participate in this prestigious national sporting event, competing in various beach sports along Puducherry's beautiful coastline. I am pleased to inform this august House that this initiative will further boost sports, tourism, and youth engagement.

180. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Sports, my Government plans to organise a national-level beach volleyball tournament for both men and women. I am happy to inform this august House that these events will not only highlight Puducherry as a premier destination for hosting national-level sports competitions but also provide additional opportunities and experience to athletes from the region.

181. Walking is a beneficial form of physical exercise that people of all ages can easily undertake. Given the rising prevalence of lifestyle-related diseases

in the current scenario, awareness campaigns and promotional activities regarding the importance of daily walking will be undertaken. Through this, the physical and mental well-being of the public can be improved, paving the way for a healthy Puducherry.

182. An allocation of ₹46.93 crore has been made for the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs for the year 2026-27.

SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS

183. I am pleased to inform this august House that Large Scale Mapping of the entire territory is being undertaken through a drone survey project in collaboration with the Survey of India. This modern re-survey scheme will facilitate the preparation of high-quality maps and establish a robust foundation for development planning and land management.

184. The NAKSHA project - a national initiative for the land survey of urban settlements using geospatial technology to modernise urban land records has been

launched in Puducherry. I am also happy to announce that the Union territory of Puducherry has been awarded an incentive of ₹ 5 crore for successfully achieving the first milestone of the NAKSHA project under the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment'.

185. To strengthen land survey infrastructure, a network of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) has been established in Puducherry. My Government plans to set up similar facilities in the Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions. With the prior consent of the beneficiary, measures will be taken to link Aadhaar numbers with revenue records to enhance the accuracy and reliability of land records.

186. Licensed surveyors and draftsmen will be engaged to expedite service delivery to the public and ensure the speedy resolution of land survey-related disputes.

187. An allocation of ₹ 17.88 crore has been made for the Department of Survey and Land Records for the year 2026-27.

TOURISM

188. My Government is undertaking various development works with the aim of transforming Puducherry into an iconic tourism hub. In addition to promoting heritage, cultural, spiritual, coastal and nature tourism, my Government is upgrading tourism infrastructure and basic amenities for tourists. Consequently, it continues to maintain a leading position in attracting domestic tourists.

189. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has announced an important Scheme *viz.,* 'One State, One Global Destination' for developing 50 key tourist destinations across the country as Global destinations, with an allocation of ₹ 500 crore for each destination. My Government will make every effort to secure this prestigious initiative for the Puducherry region, leveraging its rich heritage, pristine beaches, vibrant culture, spiritual significance and immense tourism potential. The proposed development will focus on strengthening tourism infrastructure, promoting sustainability and

enhancing the overall visitor experience, thereby positioning Puducherry as a leading international tourism destination and generating greater employment and economic opportunities for the people of the Union Territory.

190. I am happy to inform this august House that the 'Seagulls' restaurant on Beach Road is set to be renovated to meet the growing needs of tourists and to promote key tourism events.

191. The convention hall and urban recreation centre at the Old Port Complex are being upgraded into premier venues for events, exhibitions, conferences and weddings. Additional infrastructure-including an overhead water tank, modern kitchen facilities, restroom complexes and a perimeter wall-will be provided to facilitate large-scale events.

192. The famous 'Le Café' restaurant on Beach Road will undergo complete renovation to enhance tourist amenities while preserving its heritage character. Furthermore, the 'Yatri Nivas' at Kennedy Nagar will be revamped to improve accommodation facilities for tourists, the general public and Government officials.

193. The Chunnambar Boat House and Paradise Beach in Puducherry, which serve as major hubs for water sports activities were damaged by Cyclone Fengal resulting in the deterioration of essential infrastructure and basic amenities. My Government proposes to redevelop these destinations by providing modern water sports and adventure sports facilities, along with the necessary equipment and supporting infrastructure.

194. To encourage tourists' interest in handicrafts, provide enhanced art-related experiences and create additional opportunities for artisans at the Murungapakkam Arts and Crafts Village, additional infrastructure will be constructed. Furthermore, various tourism promotion events, multimedia advertisements and digital campaigns will be undertaken to showcase Puducherry globally as a premier tourist destination.

195. Major events such as the International Yoga Festival, World Tourism Day, the Beach Festival, and tourism conferences will continue to be organised. To promote adventure and water sports, approvals

have so far been granted to 62 operators. Further, revised guidelines are currently being prepared to ensure the highest standards of safety and quality in the conduct of these activities. Additionally, 39 lifeguards have been deployed in beach areas to ensure the safety of tourists.

196. The expansion of the Puducherry Airport is a key priority for my Government. Continuous efforts are being made in coordination with the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Airports Authority of India to acquire the land required for this project.

197. An allocation of ₹ 55.84 crore has been made for the Tourism Department for the year 2026-27.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

198. Safe and affordable housing is essential for improving the standard of living of the economically disadvantaged. Honourable Members are well aware that my Government is continuously taking measures to improve housing facilities and basic infrastructure in urban and slum areas.

199. A total of 2,428 houses, currently under various stages of construction under the Pradhan Mantri

Awas Yojana (Urban)-Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme will be completed during the current financial year. Furthermore, a target has been set to benefit 3,000 new beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban 2.0) Scheme in the year 2026-27.

200. Reconstruction and improvement works will be undertaken at the residential quarters in Jawahar Nagar, Puducherry, at an estimated cost of ₹4.96 crore. A multi-purpose community hall will be constructed at Periyar Nagar, Savanapet, at a cost of ₹90 lakh. In the Kovilpathu area of Karaikal, a community hall will be established, residential quarters will be renovated, and internal roads will be improved at an estimated cost of ₹1.70 crore. In the Kanakalapeta area of Yanam, internal roads along with drainage facilities will be upgraded.

201. An allocation of ₹130.10 crore has been made for the Town and Country Planning Department for the year 2026-27.

TRANSPORT

202. Hon'ble Members are aware that my Government is continuously taking measures to

modernise public transport infrastructure and promote green transport within the Puducherry region.

203. Twenty-five electric buses have already been introduced under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and are operating on various routes across the Union Territory.

204. Fifteen smart bus shelters have been constructed under the Smart City Mission. Furthermore, 38 electric auto-rickshaws have been procured for emission-free transport and handed over to the Puducherry Municipality for operation under a 10 year contract. Additionally, my Government plans to operate 75 electric buses under the 'PM-eBus Sewa' Scheme. The necessary charging and bus infrastructure facilities for these buses are currently being established at Mettupalayam.

205. To enhance inter-city connectivity and provide safe, comfortable and premium public transport services, my Government proposes to introduce Volvo buses under the PPP mode on key routes connecting Puducherry with Chennai, Bengaluru and other major cities.

206. Public transport services are set to be modernised through the introduction of Automated Fare Collection (AFC) and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in Puducherry Road Transport Corporation buses. Moreover, 10 Semi-Deluxe buses and 10 Air-Conditioned Deluxe buses will be introduced to enhance inter-city connectivity and passenger convenience.

207. I am pleased to announce that an Environment-friendly Mobility Policy will be implemented to promote the use of electric vehicles and enhance charging infrastructure across the Puducherry region. Furthermore, the vehicle scrapping policy will continue to be implemented to reduce pollution and encourage eco-friendly transportation.

208. An allocation of ₹ 79.57 crore has been made for the Transport Department for the year 2026-27.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

209. My Government has been working steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the socio-economic

and educational advancement of women, as well as the health, nutrition and holistic development of children. Honourable Members are well aware that my Government is taking all necessary measures to protect the rights of women and children, and to ensure they live healthy and dignified lives.

210. Pension benefits are being provided to 1,96,616 beneficiaries under the Puducherry Old Age and Destitute Pension Scheme. Honourable Members are aware that the monthly financial assistance provided to all beneficiaries under the Old Age Pension Scheme has been increased by ₹ 500.

211. Furthermore, the monthly financial assistance being provided to women, heads of families living below the poverty line has been raised from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 2,500. Currently, 63,000 women are benefiting from this scheme. My Government is taking steps to bring all eligible women, heads of families living below the poverty line under the ambit of this scheme.

212. Various schemes for the welfare of women and children will continue to be implemented under 'Mission Shakti'. Financial assistance schemes benefiting women from poor families, daughters of widows, families with a single girl child, and families with newborn girl children will continue. Additionally, Anganwadi services will be further strengthened through nutritional improvements, the upgrading of Anganwadi centres and an increase in the honorarium for Anganwadi workers and helpers.

213. Various child welfare and child protection schemes will continue to be implemented to ensure the safety, care and rehabilitation of children. Furthermore, child helpline services, foster care and kinship care support, as well as institutional care and adoption services, will be further strengthened to safeguard the rights and well-being of children.

214. An allocation of ₹ 1,072.32 crore has been made for the Department of Women and Child Development for the year 2026-27.

GENERAL

215. To further strengthen the administrative capacity of the Government and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of various Government services to the public, my Government is taking steps to fill 957 direct recruitment posts, including Junior Engineers, Upper Division Clerks and Lower Division Clerks in addition to 3,099 posts filled-up in the past three years. This will entail an additional expenditure of approximately ₹ 50 crore per annum.

216. In order to enhance higher opportunities for students and to enable them to improve their learning skills for National-level Competitive exams like NEET and JEE, free Tablet PCs will be provided from this financial year to students studying in Class 9th Standard and 10th Standard in Government and Government Aided Schools. This would involve an additional expenditure of ₹ 16.25 crore benefiting 16,250 students.

217. To honour the sacrifice of freedom fighters, my Government proposes to enhance their monthly pension from ₹ 15,000 to ₹ 25,000. This enhancement would involve an additional expenditure of ₹ 6.46 crore per annum.

218. My Government intends to increase the amount currently provided under marriage financial assistance Schemes with a view to strengthening the social security and economic well-being of women. Accordingly, I am pleased to inform this Hon'ble House that from this financial year, the financial assistance for (i) the marriage of poor bride living Below Poverty Line will be enhanced from ₹ 35,000 to ₹ 75,000; (ii) the marriage of daughter of destitute / widow will be enhanced from ₹ 40,000 to ₹ 1,00,000; (iii) Widow's re-marriage will be raised ₹ 75,000 to ₹ 1,00,000 and (iv) Marriage of poor Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribes brides will be increased from ₹ 1,00,000 to ₹ 1,25,000. This enhancement would involve an additional expenditure of ₹ 4.90 crore per annum.

CONCLUSION

219. Keeping in view the expectations of the people and the developmental needs of this territory, this Budget has been prepared by giving priority to the advancement of key sectors, including infrastructure, education, health, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, social welfare and employment generation. Every announcement

in this Budget reflects the Government's firm resolve to uplift the standard of living of all sections of society.

220. My Government is committed to strengthening fiscal discipline while ensuring continued investment for growth. Through various reform measures such as expanding revenue sources, enhancing tax and non-tax revenues, improving the operational efficiency of public utilities and further, strengthening fiscal management-the Government will take decisive steps to gradually reduce the revenue deficit and achieve a stable fiscal position. The Government's goal is to advance Puducherry on the path of development through transparency and people-centric administration.

221. With these concluding remarks, I submit the Budget for the financial year 2026-27 for the approval of this august House.

LONG LIVE BHARAT !

VICTORY TO PUDUCHERRY !!

THANK YOU ! NAMASKAR !!!

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