

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Respected Members,

1. It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome the Hon'ble members of this august House in the 6th session of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha. The journey of Punjab, our vibrant state, is intertwined with the indomitable spirit of its people, who have time and again demonstrated resilience, determination, and a relentless pursuit of progress. Today, as we gather in this august house, it is imperative for us to acknowledge the challenges that confront us and chart a course towards a future that is defined by prosperity, inclusivity and sustainable development.
2. One of the foremost priorities of my Government is to foster an environment of inclusive growth, where every citizen of Punjab has equal opportunities to thrive and prosper. My Government continuously strives to bridge the gap between the privileged and the marginalized, to ensure that the fruits of development reach every section of society. My Government successfully launched the last mile delivery of ration to every household in Punjab under the scheme Ghar Ghar Muft Ration.
3. My Government reaffirms its commitment to the ideals of democracy, justice, and fraternity. Let us rededicate ourselves to the service of the people of Punjab, mindful of the trust and faith they have reposed in us. Together, let us embark on this

journey with courage and conviction, knowing that the future of Punjab lies in our hands.

4. My Government has launched several groundbreaking schemes in the important sectors of Health and Education. There are 664 successfully operational Aam Aadmi Clinics throughout the state of Punjab. Total 1.07 crores of people have visited the clinics to seek the medical treatment. Medicines worth Rs. 450 crores at the prevailing market rates and diagnostic tests worth Rs. 70 crores have been provided to the patients at these clinics. The clinics have contributed in reducing the out of pocket expenditure on health care of the people of State by a whopping amount of Rs. 650 crores.
5. My Government is committed to provide free medicines to all the patients in Government Hospitals. This year, medicines worth Rs. 222 Cr. have been purchased for supply of free medicines in Government Hospitals. My Government is committed to provide X-rays and Ultrasound facility in all the District Hospitals, Sub-Divisional Hospitals and Community Health Centres.
6. My Government is striving towards the improvement of building infrastructure of Government Hospitals. A comprehensive plan has been made for the upgradation of buildings of all the District Hospitals over the next three years.

7. To promote preventive health care, my Government has launched C.M. Di Yogshala program to offer free Yoga classes across the State. Around 300 certified instructors have been deployed, facilitating 1500 daily yoga classes catering to 35,000 citizens daily.
8. My Government has setup the Punjab Institute of Liver Biliary Sciences in Mohali. The institute aims to advance research, diagnosis, and treatment of liver and biliary diseases, catering to the healthcare needs of the region. State Cancer Institute at Government Medical College Amritsar at a cost of Rs. 114 crore and Tertiary Cancer Center at Fazilka at a cost of Rs. 45 crore have been constructed for cancer patients. Citizens will get benefit from these institutes soon.
9. My Government is fully committed for providing state of art facilities in all government schools of Punjab. Along with the infrastructure at school level we are also working on improving the quality of education. For ensuring sufficient number of teachers in schools, 9518 teachers have been recruited since April, 2022. Long serving employees were demotivated as they were working on various contractual terms and conditions. Out of these, 12316 qualified employees, who were working for more than 10 years, were regularised to give them surety of service with enhanced remuneration.

10. My Government started “Punjab Sikhya Kranti” to improve infrastructure in all Government schools. Under “Punjab Sikhya Kranti”, we have started work on building boundary walls in 7082 schools, out of these 1429 schools are getting boundary walls for the first time. 12126 schools have received internet connection. 4369 toilets in the schools have been repaired, In addition to that, my Government is providing 95,000 dual desks to government schools.
11. My Government is committed to make 118 Government Senior Secondary Schools as Schools of Eminence. These schools will be equipped with smart classrooms, fully equipped labs and playgrounds for scientific learning.
12. To make our school heads equipped with best of management training and exposure, 198 Principals attended Leadership Development Program at the Principal Academy, Singapore and National Institute of Singapore International. 100 Head Masters were sent for capacity building at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
13. Under PEHAL program, Rural Self Help Groups have been engaged to prepare Uniforms of School Students. In this academic year, around three lakh uniforms are going to be manufactured by SHGs.

14. With all these efforts the enrollment in government schools has been increased by around 17% in Pre-primary classes.
15. My Government has successfully implemented the Centralised Admission Portal for the students seeking admission in the Higher Educational Institutions. Approximately 1.5 lakh students took benefit of the portal seeking admission in various courses during the 2023-2024 session itself in a transparent manner and without any hassles.
16. My Government has ensured to make canal water available to farmers, particularly the farmers at the tail ends who were deprived of canal water for years. During this year, utilization of canal water has increased by more than 38% during the period when there was peak demand of water. This was made possible due to the timely cleaning of the canals and the daily monitoring of canals with the help of technology. Forty-five canals with an approximate length of 400 kilometres, which were lying abandoned, were made functional. More than 1000 kilometres of canal were concrete-lined for the first time. Apart from this, 14100 water courses which were lying idle for the last more than 30 years have also been restored. Further, 10876 bhaicharak khals were converted as government khals. I would like to mention specifically that Sardulgarh block in Mansa

district, which has been deprived of its legitimate right of having canal water through the Tohana Headworks from Haryana since long, has been able to get its due share from Haryana due to efforts made by my Government.

17. More than 13000 kilometres length of Canals were cleaned in the State by utilizing funds under MGNREGA by my Government. This has increased the utilization of MGNREGA funds for cleaning and re-lining of canals from Rs. 77 Cr in the year 2020-21 to more than Rs. 300 Cr, which is more than 300%.
18. I am happy to inform that with the consistent efforts and monitoring by my government, the Shahpurkandi Dam Project which was pending for execution for more than 25 years, is seeing the light of the day at last. Filling of water in the reservoir of the dam has been started. This will help the State to stop any water going downstream to Pakistan. This will also create an irrigation potential of more than 37,000 hectare and will help in creating an additional power of 206 megawatt. This dam will create new tourism potential creating employment opportunities for the state.
19. With the objective to streamline the processes, my Government has repealed the Northern Indian Canal and Drainage Act 1873 which was a 150 years old statute. The provisions of the Act had become

redundant. The new Act has streamlined the processes, giving relief to the farmers.

20. My Government is fully aware of the declining groundwater table in the State. In many districts the groundwater is declining at an alarming rate. To arrest this declining trend, canal water is being used to recharge the ground water and for this purpose 129 recharge sites have already been constructed just in one year.
21. As we all know, the State faced unprecedented rains this year, the entire rainfall for 3 months of the monsoon period was received in only 02 days, i.e. 9th and 10th July, 2023. However, my Government promptly took all possible measures to ensure that least damage is caused to the people, particularly the farmers, due to floods. It is for the first time that the floods arrived in the month of July which had never occurred during the known history of the State. However, my Government was in constant touch with the BBMB to ensure that the water from the dams is released in a very regulated manner.
22. My Government is committed to providing reliable and affordable power to all sectors in Punjab. We remain dedicated to improving power infrastructure and implementing schemes that benefit all citizens.

23. I am happy to share that my Government has acquired a private thermal plant GVK Goindwal Sahib of 540 MW capacity at a very low cost which is history in itself by any state Government. This plant has been acquired at a cost of ₹ 1080 Crores i.e. ₹ 2 Crore per MW whereas a new thermal plant costs ₹ 8.5 Crore/ MW. After Acquisition this plant has been renamed as Guru Amardas Thermal Plant. With the use of Coal from Punjab's own Pachhwara Coal Mine, the generation from this plant will increase by more than double. There will be saving of about ₹ 350 Crores per Year in terms of Power Purchase cost.
24. Earlier during previous Governments, PPAs for purchase of Solar Power were signed at per unit rate of ₹ 4.73 to ₹ 17.91. Because of honest intentions of my Government, we secured 10 PPAs for 2804 MW solar power at per unit rate of ₹ 2.33 to ₹ 2.76.
25. State's Captive Coal Mine i.e. Pachhwara Coal Mine situated in the district of Pakur of Jharkhand state, which was lying non-operational for more than 7 years i.e. since April 2015 was operationalized in December-2022. Till date, about 40 Lakh Metric Tonnes of coal i.e. 1000 railway rakes have been received from Pachhwara Coal Mine at state thermal plants, resulting into saving of ₹ 450 Crores, due to reduced coal cost.

26. The good quality coal from Pachhwarra has improved the plant operations and PSPCL thermal power stations are now facing no coal shortage for optimum generation of power and always have coal stocks over 25 days or so. Further, due to availability of coal from Pachhwarra Coal Mine, no imported coal has been used during 2023-24 at state owned thermal plants, saving hundreds of Crores.
27. During 2023-24 Punjab has met its all time highest ever peak demand of 15,325 Megawatts on 23.06.2023. Overall a record 3427 Lac Units of energy demand was met during a day on 09.09.2023.
28. My Government has ensured more than 8 Hours supply to agriculture consumers during paddy season without imposing any power cut on Domestic, Commercial, Industrial & other consumers, which led to bumper Paddy crop.
29. Electricity is a basic necessity for improvement in standard of living. My Government has implemented a free electricity scheme of 300 units monthly to domestic consumers since July 2022. This has benefited around 70 Lacs i.e. 90% of households, receiving zero bills in a billing cycle.
30. My Government has launched a new scheme namely Door-Step Delivery of Services or “Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar” to provide services to the

citizens at their door-step on demand. Under the scheme, 43 citizen services were identified which constitute more than 99% of the volume of the transactions. More than 15,000 citizens have availed the services till date. Similarly another scheme namely AAP ki Sarkar AAP De Dwar, under which camps are being held all over the State to provide services to the citizens in their village has been launched. More than 8 lakh citizens have already visited the camps and have taken the benefit of the availability of services at their places of residence.

31. My Government is committed to providing a boost to the investment and industrial infrastructure in the State. With its earnest efforts, my Government has received 4242 investment proposals with proposed investment of about Rs. 65,993 Crores with the proposed employment of about 3,20,882.
32. We have also introduced Green stamp paper in the registration of sale deed to ensure faster and smooth issuance of regulatory clearances to industry projects.
33. For holding consultation with the industries, with an aim to quickly resolve their issues, "Sarkar Sanatkar Milnis" were organized in different cities. Some major policy decisions were taken in these Milnis such as Waiver of Mining Fee, One Time Settlement Scheme of Property Tax, Huge relief in compounding

- policy for Industry and Special thrust on upgradation of Industrial Focal Points along with INR 1158 Crores to be spent on industry related infrastructure. Two new Police Stations have been setup in industrial areas of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor and IT City Mohali.
34. To give a big boost to the tourism industry of the state, a three-day Rangla Punjab Tourism Summit and Travel Mart was organised from September 11-13, 2023 at SAS Nagar. The flagship first-ever Punjab Tourism Summit immersed the people from across the globe into traditional values & rich culture of Punjab. Investors participating in the summit from across the country, were showcased different investment opportunities in the State.
35. Works are being carried out by my government for the construction, maintenance and restoration of various memorials in the state of Punjab, among which the major projects are the Memorial of Sri Guru Ravidas Ji at Khuralgarh, Development of modern panorama at Bhagwan Valmiki Ram Tirtha Sthal Complex at Amritsar, Preservation of Fort at Rampura Phul, Upgradation/Renovation of Virasht-e-Khalsa, Sri Anandpur Sahib, Bhai Jaita Ji Memorial Sri Anandpur Sahib etc. My Government has undertaken works worth Rs. 15.50 Crore to develop Anglo-Sikh War circuit to boost tourism in the State.

36. In last one year, my Government has given job/self-employment facility to 1,11,810 candidates through 1,332 placement camps/job fairs/self-employment camps. My government has set up 25 new Government Industrial Training Institutes in the State. With the opening of these new ITIs about 8000 youth of the State will get benefits.
37. 6,079 candidates were trained and placement of 288 candidates were done by Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces and Preparatory Institute, Mai Bhago Armed Forces and Preparatory Institute and Centre for training and employment of Punjab Youth (C-Pyte) during the last one year.
38. Continuing the endeavour of providing government jobs on merit to deserving candidates, my Government has ensured fairness in recruitment while also ensuring efficiency. The number of government jobs given by my government to date is 40437 across 40 departments of the Government. A trend is now being observed of reverses brain drain wherein many able youth of Punjab who were opting to go abroad are now joining the service of Government of Punjab.
39. In its endeavor to further uplift rural livelihoods, my Government has made significant strides under the MGNREGA scheme. Punjab has undertaken around 1.64 lakh works of development nature in the rural

areas of the State during the current Financial Year at a total expense of nearly Rs. 1200 Crores. This has helped generate over 319 lakh man-days, which has provided much-needed sustenance to 8.26 lakh households. Under this scheme, my government has taken initiatives to develop playgrounds in different villages, which is critical for the recreation and overall development of our youths. In the current Financial Year, 1560 playgrounds have so far been developed and work on 2252 playgrounds is in progress. Further, under this scheme, a significant contribution has been made to the environmental sustainability, as more than 70 lakh trees have been planted across the State in this financial year.

40. My Government's commitment to providing affordable housing to all is evident in the successful implementation of the Prime Minister Gramin Awas Yojna. With 89% of the targeted 39,762 houses completed, we are on track to fulfil our promise of dignified housing for every rural household by 31st March 2024.
41. The revenue generated from the village common land, or shamlat land, available with the gram panchayats, provides much needed resource to the gram panchayats to undertake works of development nature for the welfare of the village. However, over the years some portions of these

public assets had been encroached upon, thereby depleting the resources of the gram panchayats. My Government has undertaken a proactive step to free these lands from encroachments, and, till date, has been able to free over 12224 acres of shamlat land, worth over Rs. 3000 crores, from encroachment.

42. My Government's efforts towards environmental sustainability and sanitation are evident in the implementation of solid and liquid waste management schemes in rural areas.
43. My Government is committed to provide safe drinking water to every rural household in Punjab and I am happy to announce that in April 2023, Punjab became the fifth state in the country to achieve 100 percent coverage in providing Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household.
44. My Government is committed to ensure that water provided is of good quality with appropriate service level. The focus, in recent years has been to use surface water instead of ground water, particularly in areas affected with geological contaminants such as Arsenic, Floride and Iron. All those water-quality affected villages (685 No) which could not be covered with surface water, have been provided with Arsenic and Iron removal Plants or community purification plants at cost of 125.13 Cr.

45. My Government has increased maintenance monthly grant of Blue Star affected Dharmifauji from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000. Ex-Gratia to the Defence/Para Military Personnel who are disabled during performance of their bonafide official duties in War/Operations has been doubled depending upon the disability.
46. My Government has increased financial assistance to the beneficiaries of War Jagir from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 annually.
47. My Government notified State's new Sports Policy in 2023 to restore Punjab's glory in the field of sports for which the state was known in the past but had started sliding down of late. Under the new Sports Policy for the first time, a sum of Rs. 4.59 crore was given in advance as preparation grant to 58 sportspersons from state, selected to represent the country in the Asian Games. For the first time, players from Punjab picked up 20 medals in the Asian Games, which is the highest medal tally since Asian Games started in 1951. They were given cash reward of Rs. 29.25 crore without delay. My government also gave cash reward of Rs 4.58 cr to 136 players from state who won medals in National Games 2023 held at Goa.
48. To recognise achievement of 9 players from state who won Bronze Medal in Hockey in the Tokyo

Olympics 2021, after 4 decades, one cricketer and one athlete my Government appointed 7 players to PPS and 4 to PCS recently.

49. My Government had taken the initiative of starting Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan which saw a participation of 4.5 lac children, youth and veteran players in Second Season, up from participation by 3.5 lac individuals last year. Cash Awards of Rs. 8.97 crore were given to 12000 winners of Khedan Watan Punjab Diyan, across all age groups.
50. My Government aims to increase the staff strength of Sports Department from nearly 350 in place at present, to 2360. Out of this, 500 posts are reserved for outstanding sportspersons who win medals at International and National Levels. This will be big motivation to win, for players from the state. A new cadre of Sports Medicine will be set up under the new Sports Policy to ensure that the sportspersons stay in the best form.
51. My Government has decided to open 1000 Sports Nurseries in the state. It will provide a Sports Facility within 4 km of every Rural and Urban household alike. Where Sports Nurseries will help create a Sporting Culture in the state by providing basic coaching, equipment and high protein diet to 60,000 children everyday, provide employment opportunity to 1000 good sportspersons as coaches, these will

also help check menace of drugs in youth, by providing healthy alternative avenues where they can invest their time and energy fruitfully.

52. My Government encourages NRIs to participate in infrastructure development in their respective villages. NRIs can contribute 50% on any infrastructure project carried out by them, where balance 50% is contributed by the State.
53. My Government has been instrumental in acquiring land 40 acres costing 16 crore at Adampur for construction of state-of -the art Civil Air Terminal by Airport Authority of India at Cost of Rs. 110.00 Crore. Additionally my government has invested Rs. 41.40 crore in providing essential allied infrastructure, showcasing commitment to robust development.
54. My Government's positive impact is evident in allocating 135.54 acres in Ludhiana for an International Civil Air Terminal at Halwara. With an investment of Rs. 44.00 crore, it is nearing completion, showcasing commitment to advancing regional air infrastructure. An additional Rs. 50.00 crore for an interim terminal and allied infrastructure, along with the construction of approach roads and a boundary wall, reflects proactive efforts in enhancing connectivity.

55. As promised by my Government, the drive to eradicate corruption continued with increasing pace. In order to ensure transparent governance, my Government has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy towards corruption. State Vigilance Bureau, Punjab during the period from 16-03-2022 to 08-01-2024 has registered 195 trap cases against 23 Gazetted Officers, 193 Non-Gazetted Officers and 55 private persons who were caught red handed while accepting illegal gratification. Besides this, 241 criminal cases were registered in which 82 Gazetted Officers, 269 Non Gazetted Officers and 300 Private Persons were involved.
56. My Government has launched the first of its kind initiative in the country, a dedicated Sadak Surakhiya Force to ensure enhanced security and to save precious lives on the State and National Highways. Specially trained, freshly recruited 1597 personnel are to act as the back bone to this force, who have been provided with latest, fully equipped 144 vehicles. The force has been deployed all along 4200 km of the Highways, prone to traffic accidents. In addition to patrolling in the assigned areas, they act as a deterrent for traffic violations and more

importantly undertake the role and responsibility of Emergency Response Teams, in case of accidents. Within ten days of its formal launch on 1st of February, 2024, the force was instrumental in transporting 25 people to the nearest hospital, within a record response time of less than eight minutes and saving many precious lives. Moreover, round the clock deployment has also resulted in significant drop in criminal activities all along the highways as compared to negligible police presence earlier.

57. My Government has notified FARISHTEY scheme, in order to save the life and limb of accident victims. To encourage the general public for their hassle-free participation towards helping the accidental victims, my Government will offer a financial reward of Rs. 2000/- to commend their noble deeds. Apart from financial reward, a certificate will be issued to such persons and they have been provided immunity from legal complications and police inquiries.
58. The Law and Order situation in Punjab is improving day by day. Punjab Police has started various initiatives in this regard. Some of the prominent ones include the launching of Anti Gangster Task Force (AGTF) and PGD Portal. AGTF has spearheaded dedicated operations against gangsters and criminals in the state and other parts of the country, leading

to the arrest of several wanted gangsters and criminals and busting various gangster modules along with recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunitions. Till date, AGTF along with other field units has succeeded in arresting 951 gangsters/ criminals, neutralisation of 14 gangsters, busting 312 modules, recovering 963 weapons and 208 vehicles used in criminal activities.

59. Punjab Police have arrested as many as 25,385 drug smugglers after registering 18,953 FIRs since March 16, 2022, and recovered 1860 Kg Heroin from across the state and additionally, 147 Kg heroin was recovered by the teams of Punjab Police from Seaports of Gujarat and Maharashtra, taking the total effective recovery of heroin to 2007 Kgs. Apart from this, Police have also recovered 1247 Kg opium, 1229 Kg Ganja, 604 quintals of poppy husk, and 1.12 crore tablets/ capsules/injections/vials of Pharma opioids from across the state. 355 properties of drug smugglers, worth Rs. 142 crores have been approved by the competent authority for freezing.
60. An effective crackdown was launched against crime, particularly on gangster activities and drugs. More than 210 State level Cordon and Search Operations (CASO) were carried out in drug and crime hotspots.
61. To protect common man from Cyber Crime, my Government has sanctioned funds for up-gradation

of cyber infrastructure, including DITAC Lab, State Cyber Crime Cell and district-level cyber crime cells. To modernise our jails, new technology such as AI based CCTV surveillance system, Full body scanners, Video Conferencing (VC) facilities are being setup.

62. In order to provide employment opportunities to the youth of Punjab, my Government has been carrying out regular drives for recruitment in the Punjab Police. Financial Assistance is being provided by my Government in a timely manner to the families of Police Martyrs.
63. My Government has implemented the accepted recommendations of the latest Judicial Pay Commission. This will benefit thousands of Judicial officers and their supporting staff working in the Courts in the State of Punjab.
64. To give relief to public from Mining mafia, my Government has opened Public Mining Sites across the State. These Mines have generated huge employment for local youth and labour. These earnings would have otherwise been pocketed by the Contractors, as was done in earlier regimes.
65. My Government is also in the process of opening Public Crusher Units shortly where crushed sand and gravel would be sold at controlled rates.

66. My Government is committed to sustained and rapid development of urban services. It gives me immense pleasure to announce that in the Swachh Survekshan, 2023 conducted by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Punjab has been adjudged 1st Rank in North Zone.
67. My Government, keeping its commitment for improving the urban infrastructure, has initiated development works in Urban Local Bodies by way of grant amounting to Rs. 450 Cr. during the current Financial Year besides, the Municipal funds available with ULBs.
68. In our endeavour to promote healthy environment to citizens, my Government has deftly undertaken rejuvenation of Budha Dariya at Ludhiana by way of installing new STPs and augmentation of existing STPs totalling to capacity of 703 MLD at a cost of Rs. 839.79 crore. This will result in reducing pollution in river Satluj and promote the riparian rights of habitation living downstream.
69. Besides this, to minimize the reliance on depleting ground water, a paradigm shift has been adopted for changing drinking water source from ground water to Canal Water. My government has initiated projects worth 650 Cr. in the city of Amritsar and is executing canal water based projects at Jalandhar and Patiala valuing over Rs. 850 Cr. Similarly, a big

canal based water supply project is being started at Ludhiana valuing Rs. 1300 Cr. In addition, 87 Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) of approx. 550 MLD capacity are being set up in 87 towns of the State.

70. My Government is committed to provide citizen friendly and transparent administration. Many centralized powers have been decentralized. To speed up the approval process for low-risk residential buildings in Punjab, new self-certification scheme has been launched which allows qualified professionals to approve building plans for these buildings, instead of going through government officials.
71. My Government has notified Affordable Housing Policy to make houses available at affordable rates to the lower-middle & lower-income families. Similarly, in order to give reprieve to the standalone buildings falling outside municipal limits, urban estates and industrial focal points and constructed without permission or having deviations from sanctioned plans, my government has issued a policy for getting these regularised at reasonable rates.
72. My Government has facilitated ease of doing business with measures like merging the permission of issuance of Change of Land Use with approval of Building Plan and License. Further, to ensure speedy clearances of Change of Land Use (CLU) certificates,

- Completion Certificate, layout and building plans, my Government has decentralized regulatory approvals empowering the Urban Development Authorities to grant regulatory approvals.
73. In another move aimed to accelerate industrial development, my Government has decentralised powers for approval of Building Plans and grant of Completion Certificate of standalone industries including compounding of standalone industries, outside MC Limit, to Director of Factories. Now the industrialists are no more required to apply at two separate departments (H&UD and Factories) for getting the Building Plans of their factories approved.
74. My Government aspires to develop City of Mohali as a futuristic city having world class facilities and infrastructure, including state of the art International Airport. Mohali is being projected by the state as an Industrial hub. Considering the economic growth potential of Chandigarh & the surrounding areas, GMADA has developed I.T. City near the International Airport, where number of industries are operating. Considering future demands, GMADA would develop Sector 101 as an industrial estate, where several industries would be set up.
75. My Government has always remained extremely sensitive to the cause of people in distress. During

the month of July, 2023, the State suffered badly with the unprecedented rains causing floods. However, my Government standing with the people of the State, extended all possible support to ensure their safety. During the floods they were evacuated to safer places. They were compensated for their loss of lives, livestock, house damaged and crop loss. The State immediately released compensation to the suffering people to mitigate their discomfort because of such unprecedented situation. On receding of water flow, my government immediately restored the damaged infrastructure to its original position.

76. My Government has released Rs. 155 crores for construction of new Tehsils/Sub-Tehsils complexes. The priority of the Government has always been to provide modern infrastructure in Tehsils and Sub-Tehsils which are the main interface of people with the Government. My Government has provided the facility of online service of embossing of documents received from different countries abroad to the people of Punjab and has launched portal for the same on 06.07.2023
77. My Government to serve the people of Punjab better, has consolidated the district patwari/Kanungos cadres into a statewide cadre. This initiative aims to guarantee the presence of

sufficient patwaris in every district, streamline their postings and ensure that hassle free revenue services reach to every individual in the state.

78. My Government has successfully conducted the procurement operations for Wheat and Paddy. 185 Lakh Tons of Paddy and 130 Lakh Tons of wheat was purchased seamlessly and the farmers faced no harassment. The Cash Credit Limit (CCL) for both the seasons was received in record time and payments to farmers started from the first day of procurement itself, an achievement which never happened in earlier governments.
79. My Government has successfully negotiated with Government of India to provide a major relief to the Rice Sheller Industry in the State through suitable modification of the norms of purchase, delivery and acceptance of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK).
80. My Government is executing various schemes to lay a vast road network and to keep it in a smooth running condition in Punjab. Under the current Financial Year, it is planned to spend Rs 570 Cr on the construction of 740 Km new Plan Roads.
81. National Highways Authority of India is constructing Delhi-Katra Expressway in which Eleven (11) no. packages falls under the jurisdiction of Punjab. My government is extending full cooperation regarding

Land Acquisition and for smooth execution of the project. For Ten (10) out of Eleven (11) packages, appointed dates have been declared and work on these are being undertaken smoothly by the NHAI.

82. For Link Roads Scheme during the Financial Year 2023-24, rural road length of 836 Km roads have been completed and an expenditure of Rs. 106 Cr been incurred.
83. My Government has notified Mukh Mantri Tirath Yatra Scheme for the residents of Punjab to be taken to various religious shrines all over the country free of cost in 3 tier AC train and AC buses. India being a religious country, the pilgrimages are very important for the people of this country because the religious sentiments of the people are associated with these places. There are many such elders in the State of Punjab who, due to different ages and lack of financial means, cannot visit the pilgrimage sites of India. Apart from this, it is the dream of every person of the State that he/she must visit the pilgrimage places at least once in his/her life. Arrangements for comfortable stay, food, local travel and welcome kits for the pilgrims were made by my government. My government signed an MOU with IRCTC for running trains to Sri Hazur Sahib, Nanded, Patna Sahib, Varanasi, Mathura, Vrindavan and Ajmer Sharif. Only one train was made available which took 1000 to

pilgrim to Sri Hazur Shaib and thereafter no train was made available by IRCTC. Apart from trains, my government also made arrangements for the pilgrims to visit places of worship in Punjab and joining states by AC buses. The religious places so visited are Sri Amritsar Sahib, Sri Anandpur Shaib, Sri Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabo, Mata Vaishno Devi ji, Mata Jawala ji, Mata Chintpurni ji, Mata Naina Devi ji, Khatu Sham ji and Salasar Balaji Dham. Every day, 10 buses from different parts of Punjab carry pilgrims to these places of worship. Till 25.02.2024, 602 buses have been sent to various shrines taking total 25577 pilgrims.

84. My Government has made almost all services for driving licenses and registration certificates available through the VAHAN and SARATHI web applications. Online Vehicle inspection and fitness are conducted through a mobile-based application by Motor Vehicle Inspectors, integrated with the VAHAN web application.
85. Under the VVMP (Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Programme), my government has made functional two vehicle scrapping facilities each at Ludhiana and Morinda. A vehicle scrapped at above facilities will be entitled to tax exemption on buying of new vehicles.

86. My Government has established a Regional Driving Training Centre at Tolewal in District Malerkotla which is at present offering refresher course for renewal of heavy license and which will be later on upgraded to full fledged heavy vehicle license test track.
87. Like previous years, recognising consistent contribution of the State towards the central pool during the Financial Year 2022-23 to the extent of 21.40% in paddy and 46.24% in wheat, my Government has taken initiatives to ensure similar success in other crops also. The focus area for diversification of crops in the state has been to shift to those alternate crops which are much less water consuming crops. My Government has provided 33% subsidy on cotton seed amounting to Rs. 17.13 crore to approximately 87,000 farmers to ensure better productivity of cotton in the cotton belt of Punjab.
88. My Government has been providing financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per acre to the farmers for promotion of Direct Seeding of Rice crop. Under the same scheme, during the year 2023-24, around 1,70,000 acres have been covered by 19,097 farmers with a budgeted subsidy amount of Rs. 75 Crores.
89. In order to make the Basmati crop beneficial and economically attractive to farmers, my Government

has decided to establish a Basmati Extension-Research Center and a residue testing laboratory in coordination with APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) which will give a boost to Punjab's Basmati exports and directly benefit the farmers. This Basmati residue testing laboratory will be set up at Jalandhar. Farmer friends and supervisors are also recruited to increase the area under Basmati cultivation. The area under Basmati has increased from 4.95 lakh hectares in Kharif 2022 to 5.96 lakh hectares in Kharif 2023, which is about 20% more than that in the previous year. In order to enable farmers to export Basmati of international standards, my Government has banned application of 10 agricultural pesticides in the state which has yielded very good results in checking the problem of pesticide residue in Basmati crops.

90. My Government has been providing 80% subsidy to farmer groups/panchayats and 50% subsidy to individual farmers for purchase of machineries, for both in-situ and ex-situ management of crop residue in the state. From the financial year (FY) 2018-19 to FY 2022-23 a total of 1,17,000 machines has been provided for stubble management. During the financial year 2023-24, approximately 23,000 machines have been provided to farmers under this scheme and similarly in the ensuing Financial Year also this scheme shall be continued. My Government

is also aggressively pursuing the development of Compressed Biogas (CBG) projects which shall utilize surplus paddy straw to the tune of 1.87 million tons per annum. Such measures have reduced the fire incidents during the last Kharif harvesting season from 49,922 in the previous season, to 36,623 this season which turns out to be 26%.

91. Being sensitive to the cause of farmers, my Government has been proactive in clearing the past dues as well as ensuring timely payment to the sugar cane growers. During the crushing year 2022-23, sugar mills in Punjab paid a total amount of Rs. 2558 crores out of Rs. 2572 crores to the farmers up to 30.11.2023 in which private sugar mills paid Rs. 1831 crores out of Rs. 1846 crores to the farmers and all possible efforts are being made to pay the remaining amount of Rs. 14 crores. The entire due amount of Rs. 725 crores has been released to the farmers by the cooperative sugar mills of Punjab.
92. Keeping to its words, my Government has been holding Sarkar-Kisan Milni to interact with farmers to resolve agriculture related issues in the state.
93. My Government installed a new sugar plant within present Batala Sugar Mill, with 3500 TCD Capacity with 14 MW Co-gen Plant which is expected to start at the end of March-2024 and a new sugar plant, within present Gurdaspur Sugar Mill, with 5000 TCS

Capacity with 28 MW Co-gen plant is being installed and expected to start at the end of March-2024.

94. My Government has added 75,000 MT covered capacity of godowns under Markfed with cost of Rs. 51.00 crores during the year 2023-24. To uplift the artisans of the State, my Government has initiated a project under the name of Mission Phulkari in which the village level artisans have been given training by National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi for latest craftsmanship.
95. 25 lakh doses of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccine were administered to 100% cattle population of the State in a campaign mode from February, 2023 to April, 2023 free of cost. During the current year, LSD vaccine will be administered again to 100% cattle population of the state, free of cost.
96. 1,30,000 doses of Sexed Semen have been purchased to produce High Genetic Potential female calves in the last one year. This will help significantly in solving the problem of stray animals in the State.
97. In order to supplement the farming income, my government is giving subsidy for undertaking projects in fisheries and shrimp farming and also facilitating the unemployed youth for establishing dairy units.

98. To consolidate the State Finances and create adequate provision for disposal of debt commitments in future, my Government has contributed Rs. 1750 Crore in Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) of the State during Financial Year 2023-24, taking the cumulative contribution to Rs. 7738 Crore.
99. My Government through its concerted efforts over the past two years has been able to achieve double-digit growth in own-tax revenue is indicative of its effective efforts and accomplishment i.e. 21% growth in Own-Tax Revenue; 16% growth in State GST; 13% growth in VAT receipts and 11% increase in State Excise and Taxes on Vehicles respectively (upto November, 2023).
100. Under the Punjab Building Fiscal and Institutional Resilience for Growth (BFAIR Project), my government has undertaken initiatives of building capacity of the staff by providing training in financial management.
101. To ensure transparency in the State of Punjab, our Finance Department has created its own IFMS and is working on developing various other online modules like E-voucher, E-Sanction, Non-Treasury Accounting Module etc. With the implementation of same, the payment system will become more robust, transparent and paperless. In order to facilitate

timely submission of pension cases, the Pension Module has been made live throughout Punjab, thereby removing the inordinate delay due to manual processing. In addition, Old Pensioner Database Module and Medical Reimbursement Module are also ready to be implemented in Punjab.

102. My Government has seen a handsome jump in the revenue collection of Excise and Taxation during the current financial year as compared to last year. In comparison to last financial year, until January 2024, GST has increased by 15.77% from Rs. 15003 crores to Rs. 17,369 crores; VAT has increased by 10.89% from 5319 crores to Rs. 5,898 crores and Excise revenue has increased by 9.99% from Rs. 6701 crores to Rs.7370 crores. The overall tax revenue being collected has increased by 13.44% from Rs. 27342 crores to Rs. 31018 crores till January 2024 as compared to the corresponding period in the financial year 2022-23.
103. My Government has engaged IIT Hyderabad for Big Data Analytics of the GST data to improve revenue collection and check tax evasion.
104. In order to reduce compliance burden of legacy cases and to enable trade and industry to focus on their compliance under GST, my Government has introduced One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme

under VAT from November 15, 2023 which shall be effective till March 15, 2024.

105. My Government has also implemented "Bill Liyao Inam Pao" Scheme to check GST evasion and create awareness among the public to demand bills for any purchases they make. Until January 2024, nearly 59,000 bills have been uploaded by the consumers and they have won prizes worth Rs. 54 lakhs till now.
106. I am happy to share the news that my government has helped the Vidhan Sabha to use information technology very effectively to work digitally and improve its efficiency. This will also help the Hon'ble members of the Vidhan Sabha to do their work at ease and without any paper

Dear Members, My Government has fulfilled its promises and commitments to the people of Punjab by ensuring fair, just and effective delivery of public services. I hope that all of you will contribute your best as the representatives of the people in this august House. I wish my best regards to all of you for your active partnership in people-centric decisions for Punjab's holistic development.

JAI HIND !