



GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

# BUDGET SPEECH

2024 - 2025

Thiru **N. RANGASAMY**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister

2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2024

# **BUDGET SPEECH**

**2024 – 2025**

வான்றோக்கி வாழும் உலகெல்லாம் மன்னவன்  
கோன்றோக்கி வாழும் குடி. (குறள் – 542)

உயிர்கள் எல்லாம் மழையை எதிர்பார்த்தே வாழும்,  
குடிமக்களோ ஆளுவோரின் நேர்மையான ஆட்சியை  
எதிர்பார்த்தே வாழ்வர்.

*All earth looks up to heav'n whence raindrops fall;  
All subjects look to king that ruleth all. (Kural – 542)*

*When there is rain, the living creation thrives; and so  
when the king rules justly, his subjects thrive.*

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

**I** rise to present the Budget for the year 2024-25 before this august House and am extremely happy to place my fourth Budget in this Fifteenth Legislative Assembly. Copies of the Annual Financial Statement, Demands for Grants and Explanatory Memorandum are being circulated to the Hon'ble Members of this House for their consideration.

**2.** I appreciate the wisdom of the people and congratulate them for electing Shri. Narendra Modiji, our Hon'ble Prime Minister for the third time consecutively. I am sure that under the noble and visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister the Country will attain the Viksit Bharat 2047.

**3.** I am extremely pleased to note that the General Election to Lok Sabha 2024 were conducted in a very cordial and peaceful manner in Puducherry. I take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to all the people and, in particular, to all Government Officials from Reveune, Public Health, Public Works, Electricity, Sanitary Workers, Polling Officials and Police for their sincere and diligent duty towards smooth conduct of free and fair elections under the supervision of the Election Department.

**4.** Mr. Speaker, my Government is continuously implementing several progressive Welfare Schemes for the Socio Economic Development of the residents of Puducherry, especially the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society. I am extremely happy

to inform that the GSDP of the Union Territory and the Per Capita Income are growing steadily and consistently over the years, as a result of the steps taken by my Government, which allows us to implement social welfare measures.

**5.** Hon'ble Members are aware that "Vote on Account" was passed by this House for an amount of ₹ 5,187 crore to meet our routine and essential expenditure for a period of five months from 01-04-2024 to 31-08-2024 of this financial year.

**6.** In the State Planning Board meeting for the financial year 2024-25, the importance of allocation of more funds towards Capital Expenditure for boosting economic growth and creating employment opportunities was stressed. The Budget Estimates for the financial year 2024-25 have been prepared taking into consideration the valuable inputs noted during the deliberations.

**7.** The Budget size of the financial year 2024-25 is fixed at ₹ 12,700 crore. Union Territory's own receipts have been estimated as ₹ 6,914.66 crore. The Central Assistance including State Disaster Relief Fund has been estimated as ₹ 3,268.98 crore. Central Road Fund as ₹ 20 crore and allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes has been estimated as ₹ 430 crore. The Government of India has conveyed its approval for Net Borrowing Ceiling (NBC) to the extent of ₹ 2,066.36 crore to bridge our fiscal deficit. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 12,700 crore, ₹ 10,969.80 crore has been allocated for Revenue Expenditure and ₹ 1,730.20 crore has been allocated for Capital Expenditure.

**8.** My Government has allocated an amount of ₹ 2,442.18 crore towards Special Budgeting Components in the current financial year 2024-25, as was introduced in the last financial year.

- (i) ₹ 1,403.46 crore has been allocated for Gender Budgeting.

(ii) ₹ 516.81 crore has been allocated for Youth Budgeting.

(iii) ₹ 521.83 crore has been allocated for Green Budgeting.

**9.** Hon'ble members are aware that a major portion of our financial resources go toward meeting the committed expenditure such as Salary, Pension, Re-payment of Loan and Interest payments. Out of the Budget Estimate of ₹ 12,700 crore for the year 2024-25, ₹ 2,574 crore has been allocated for Salaries (20.27%), ₹ 1,388 crore for Pension (10.93%), ₹ 1,817 crore for re-payment of Loan and payment of Interest (14.31%), ₹ 2,509 crore for purchase of Power (19.76%). Other major expenditures of the Government includes Old Age Pension and other Welfare Schemes like Finance Assistance to Women Head of Family, Subsidy for LPG Cylinders to the tune of ₹ 1,900 crore (15%). Grant-in-aid to the Society run Higher Education

Institutions to the tune of ₹ 420 crore (3.31%) and for the Public Sector Undertakings and for the Co-operative Institutions to the tune of ₹ 1,082 crore (8.52%) has been allocated.

**10.** With this preamble, I shall present Department-wise Budget proposals for the financial year 2024-25.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE**

**11.** Hon'ble Members are well aware that Agriculture sector plays a significant role in the Economic Development having a bearing on rural livelihood, employment, food security and supply of raw materials.

**12.** Besides continuing the many Welfare Schemes implemented by this Government in the Agriculture sector in financial year 2024-25, my Government proposes to effectively implement the novel scheme



*viz.*, “En Veedu En Nilam” to promote vegetable cultivation in a cluster-based approach with technical support from KVK’s and financial support at ₹ 5,000 inputs per individual for growing of vegetables in homestead and roof top gardens, as per notified scheme guidelines, in full swing from Aadipattam this year.

**13.** Also, My Government proposes to establish of Vegetables / Nutrition garden in school campuses involving school children with financial assistance at ₹ 2.50 per sq.ft. to the maximum of 4,000 sq.ft. (or) ₹ 10,000 per school. Further, in order to increase the farming land, it is proposed to extend the subsidy at ₹ 15,000 per hectare for cutting and removal of Prosopis Juliflora in uncultivated agricultural lands in Karaikal region so as to be able to cultivate them. Production of biochar from Prosopis juliflora will be taken up this year for use in organic farming.

**14.** Installation of Solar Pump will be done free of cost by giving a top up subsidy of 100% under PM-Kusum in a phased manner for three years. This will help in gradually reducing use of conventional electricity and thereby reduce the recurrent expenditure of ₹ 5.50 crore every year.

**15.** Assistance will be extended to farmers for performing post-harvest operations to upgrade the quality of paddy to meet the standards for procurement through Food Corporation of India at ₹ 2 per kg. of Paddy for ensuring Fair and Remunerative Price for their produce. 10,000 MT in Puducherry and 20,000 MT in Karaikal is proposed to be procured.

**16.** Financial assistance at ₹ 1 lakh per acre will be extended as back ended subsidy for the establishment of permanent pandal to a land holding with minimum area of 10 acre and a maximum of 2 hectare per individual farmer.

**17.** Two big nurseries for promoting Agro forestry in an area of 1 hectare at a cost of ₹ 16 lakh each will be established at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Puducherry and Manapet Forest Land to produce one lakh saplings. Under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization Scheme, subsidy will be extended for promotion of Agricultural Mechanization activities.

**18.** An amount of ₹ 171.22 crore has been allocated for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in 2024-25.

## **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE**

**19.** Hon'ble Members know that livestock is an integral part of agriculture. My Government is keen to introduce new schemes to improve the sector's performance in terms of productivity enhancement, disease control, fodder production, value addition and adoption of scientific breeding practices.

**20.** In order to provide quality veterinary service to the livestock farmers and to improve the infrastructure facilities, it is proposed to upgrade the existing Key Village Units to Minor Veterinary Dispensaries. To improve the breeding efficiency and to increase the production of female calves, my Government proposes to continue the utilization of Sex Sorted Semen under Rashtriya Gokul Mission – Accelerated Breed Improvement Programme. Likewise, it is proposed to produce 1,000 In-Vitro Fertilized embryos through which high genetic potential female calves will be produced with 90% accuracy. I am glad to inform that Puducherry is the only state in India in which this scheme is implemented free of cost with 100% subsidy.

**21.** For the first time, it is proposed to distribute Pellet Making Machine at 100% subsidy to 400 farmers and 10,000 Asil chicks to the eligible farmers at 50% subsidy.

**22.** My Government is working hard to attain sufficiency in milk production. Towards this objective, it is proposed to distribute Single Milch Cow at 50% subsidy to 1,000 farmers.

**23.** To increase the meat and egg production, it is proposed to distribute Chicks with cage and feed at 50% subsidy under Poultry Development programme to encourage the backyard poultry production. The cost of each unit will be around ₹ 7,500.

**24.** Considering the good response from the rural women and students, it is proposed to distribute 17,000 Turkey poults at 50% subsidy this year also. My Government has proposed to enhance death compensation to the uninsured cows from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 25,000 from this financial year onwards.

**25.** An amount of ₹ 76.56 crore has been allocated for Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare in 2024-25.

## **ART AND CULTURE**

**26.** Special attention will be given to identify the performers of traditional arts such as karagattam, oilattam, poikaalkudhiraiattam, nadhaswaram, parai, *etc.*, and Special emphasis will be made to promote the artists in indigent circumstances in collaboration with South Zone Cultural Centre.

**27.** Kizhoor Monument will be renovated with basic amenities. In association with Archaeological Survey of India, it is proposed to setup an Interpretation Centre at Arikamedu in the model of Roman Cargo Ship and steps will be taken to protect the monument from natural disaster and human vandalism.

**28.** Efforts will be made to preserve the remaining features of Puducherry's unique architectural heritage in collaboration with the International Trust for Artistic and Cultural Heritage of Puducherry (INTACH), including through establishment of a new Museum for Karaikal region at Old Court Campus in Karaikal.

**29.** It is proposed to include “Photography” and “Elocution” as an additional discipline in the conferment of "Puduvai Kalaimamani" award. Steps will be taken for improving Mahakavi Bharathiar and Pavendar Bharathidasan Memorial Museum with light and sound show, audio rendition, interactive programs for students *etc.*, and having a compilation of collection of all works of the poets.

**30.** It is proposed to frame a cultural policy for Puducherry to promote cultural arts and nurturing artists in Puducherry. It is proposed to conduct the sound and light show and State Level Cultural Festival in Puducherry.

**31.** An amount of ₹ 32.75 crore has been allocated for the Department of Art and Culture in 2024-25.

## **CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**32.** SMART-PDS Scheme is proposed to be implemented from the current financial year onwards aimed at preventing food grain leakage and increasing the efficiency of the distribution chain. This technology-based initiative will bring the food distribution network under a single platform to enable authorities to monitor food grain movement at various levels, from procurement to distribution, on a real-time basis.

**33.** I am happy to share that my Government proposes to distribute free Rice and Pulses, Sugar, and Oil in kind at subsidized rate from this financial year.

**34.** The following Ration Card Services will be provided through Common Service Centers (CSC) in online mode: (i) issue of new ration cards; (ii) inclusion and deletion of names; and (iii) surrender of ration card, *etc.*, through CSC.



**35.** An amount of ₹ 276.56 crore has been allocated for the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs in 2024-25.

## **CO-OPERATION**

**36.** To increase milk productivity, my Government intends to supply 75% cattle feed subsidy through the Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producer's Union (PCMPU) throughout the year to the milk pouring members of the Primary Milk Producers' Co-operative Societies to help minimize the cost of milk production.

**37.** In the current financial year, 2.34 crore liters of milk is expected to be procured from Co-operative Milk Producer Societies. An incentive of 5% is proposed in terms of the value of procured milk.

**38.** The Pondicherry Co-operative Sugar Mill, Lingareddipalayam will be reopened with private assistance for production of ethanol and sugar. My Government is taking effective steps in

strengthening the co-operative movement as well as to transform all co-operative bodies into self sustaining bodies in the coming years. For this purpose, I propose to convert the loans extended to some Co-operative Societies in the last financial year into grants, subject to the condition that the societies are able to generate at least 10% of the amount sought to be converted.

**39.** An amount of ₹ 59.49 crore has been allocated for the Co-operation Department in 2024-25.

## **SCHOOL EDUCATION**

**40.** Education enhances our knowledge and skill to attain better status in the Society. Good education gives better employment opportunity by which people can better their lives, which is why my Government extends full support to quality education in Puducherry.

**41.** It is proposed to issue School Bags and Footwear to the students of Government and Government aided schools. The Scheme of “Award of Cash Incentive” to the toppers at regional level and to the students scoring Centum in S.S.L.C. and H.Sc. in Government Schools in all the four regions of the Union Territory will be introduced during the financial year 2024-25. The regional level topper will be awarded a Cash prize of ₹ 20,000 , ₹ 15,000 and ₹ 10,000 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd rank holders and the subject level Centum scorers will be awarded ₹ 5,000 each.

**42.** My Government has successfully transferred all the Government Schools from State Education Board (Tamil Nadu) to CBSE. As per the norms of CBSE, Fire Safety Equipments will be installed in 126 Government Schools. ECCE Resource Centre will be established in all the Primary Schools having pre-primary sections. New modernized Central Kitchen will be established at Karaikal and Mahe region also.

**43.** Hon'ble Members are aware that orders have been issued for providing 10% reservation in Government Quota seats in Medical Colleges to the students who are continuously studying in Government Schools from I to XII standard and have passed the NEET Exam. During 2023-24, a total of 20 students have been benefitted due to the said reservation. To increase the pass percentage of Government School Students in NEET, my Government has planned to conduct NEET coaching classes for XI students also. In order to enroll more rural students, two centres will be arranged in rural areas in addition to the two centres in urban areas.

**44.** An amount of ₹ 952.51 crore has been allocated for the School Education in 2024-25.

## **HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**45.** Higher and Technical Education plays a very significant role in the process of economic and technological development, provides high quality technical manpower and gives Research and Development inputs to industries.

**46.** My Government will continue to extend the financial assistance for the students admitted in Medical, Engineering and Nursing courses through CENTAC under Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme. In 2024-25, 6,950 students comprising 650 Medical, 5,600 Engineering and 700 Nursing students will benefit under the scheme.

**47.** In order to strengthen the existing Educational Institutions, My Government proposes to convert the existing Government Higher Secondary School in Maducarai of Puducherry region into a Model Degree College at an estimated cost of ₹ 15 crore during 2024-25. It is proposed to upgrade the selected 11 Colleges in the Union Territory of Puducherry with the financial assistance of Government of India at a cost of ₹ 5 crore for each College.

**48.** Filling up of all the vacant posts in Government Colleges will be undertaken this year to improve the quality of education in Government Colleges.

**49.** An amount of ₹ 330.92 crore has been allocated for the Higher and Technical Education in 2024-25.

## **SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS**

**50.** Apart from Education, my Government has given equal priority to the Sports and Youth Welfare also.

**51.** Hon'ble Members are aware that the Directorate of Sports and Youth Services which was earlier functioning under the Department of School Education is now a separate Directorate.

**52.** To strengthen the Sports and Youth activities, Artificial Turf Hockey field will be laid at a cost of ₹ 1 crore at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Puducherry. Multipurpose Indoor Sports facility at Thirumalairayanpattinam, Karaikal under CSR Fund will be completed this year at a cost of ₹ 1 crore.

**53.** To give a fillip to sports infrastructure for the benefit of the people, especially children and youth, it is proposed to take up open playfields, sports grounds and mini indoor sports-halls in both rural and urban areas, as well as payment of incentives to meritorious sports persons in various games for which an amount of ₹ 32.12 crore have been allocated for this Directorate.

## **ELECTRICITY**

**54.** It is proposed to strengthen the existing Distribution system networks in the Union Territory of Puducherry at a project cost of ₹ 83.14 crore. The Government of India will provide 60% of the approved Project cost as Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) and the Government of Puducherry will fund the balance 40% through counterpart loan from the financial institutions. Similarly, it is proposed to Modernize, renovate and augment the existing Distribution system networks at a total cost of ₹ 404.19 crore for which DPR has been prepared and will be submitted to Gol shortly.

**55.** A new 110/22 KV Sub-station will be established at Thavalakuppam and Gas Insulated Sub-station at Lawspet during the current financial year for which acquisition of land is in progress. It is proposed to augment the existing capacity of Power Transformers at Villianur, Kalapet, Korkadu, Thirubuvanai and Thethampakkam Sub-stations for a total project cost of ₹ 45.02 crore and the work is expected to be completed by December, 2025.

**56.** Last year 176 Construction Helpers have been upgraded to the Helpers and the consequent vacancies will be filled up this year. In addition, my Government is recruiting 73 Junior Electrical Engineers through open direct recruitment for smooth functioning of the Department.

**57.** It is proposed to provide one additional 100 MVA capacity 230/110 KV Power Transformers and associated bay extensions at Thondamanatham and Villianur Auto Sub-stations at a tentative cost of ₹ 20 crores.



It is proposed to lay 110 KV UG Cable from Venkata Nagar 110/22-11 KV Sub-station to 110/22 KV JIPMER Gas Insulated Sub-station at a total project cost of ₹ 21.64 crore.

**58.** An amount of ₹ 2,802.65 crore has been allocated for Electricity Department in 2024-25.

## **FIRE SERVICE**

**59.** Hon'ble Members are well aware of the important task of fire service personnel in saving lives and properties during fire accidents and natural disasters. Hence, my Government proposes to modernize the infrastructure facilities of the Department.

**60.** For the first time, my Government issued orders reserving 33% posts of Fire Services Department in various categories for women. The ongoing recruitment process will be completed this year and the vacant posts filled up.

**61.** It is proposed to utilize land for setting up of new Fire Service Stations at Puducherry, Villianur, Thavalakuppam, Lingareddipalayam and Karayamputhur. It is also proposed to create new posts for the said Fire Stations. Further, it is proposed to construct a building for Divisional Fire Service Station Office at Gorimedu in Puducherry.

**62.** In order to modernize the firefighting equipment, my Government proposes to procure various needed Fire Fighting equipment including modern robotic tools.

**63.** An amount of ₹ 31.19 crore has been allocated for Fire Service Department in 2024-25.

## **FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE**

**64.** Fisheries is a prime and growing sector that plays a significant role in a developing economy by helping generate employment and revenue. My Government has taken all necessary steps to raise the socio-economic standards of the Fishermen community.

**65.** I am happy to announce that my Government has proposed to enhance the Ban Relief Assistance from ₹ 6,500 to ₹ 8,000 and Lean Relief Assistance from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 6,000 respectively as per the request of the fishermen. This will entail an additional expenditure of about ₹ 9 crore per year.

**66.** My Government proposes to add 500 new beneficiaries under "Old Age Pension" along with adding 1,856 and 1,831 new fishermen families under Ban Relief Assistance and Lean Relief Assistance respectively. This will entail an additional expenditure of about ₹ 3.26 crore per year.

**67.** Under the 60% subsidy Scheme of supply of fishery requisites, it is proposed to release an amount of ₹ 1 crore to the registered boat owners. In order to support fishermen, nets worth of ₹ 5,000 will be supplied every year to registered non-motorized fishing craft owners in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**68.** My Government proposes to explore the possibility of group insurance scheme for registered mechanized fishing boats used by Fishermen to support the realization of true reflected value in case of accidental damages, including through full reimbursement of such paid premiums from the current level of 90% reimbursement.

**69.** To create awareness of the fisheries technology / best practices prevailed in other coastal districts / fishing harbour, 100 marine fishermen will be taken to fishing harbours / marine fishing related sites in other States for Exposure visits. Reimbursement of 50% subsidy on current consumption charges will continue to be released to Brackish water farmers.

**70.** In addition to the applicable subsidy at 40% or 60% provided for safety kits to the motorized and non-motorized fishing craft owners, being envisaged under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the balance subsidy amount will be provided by my Government as State share. This Scheme will be implemented through Puducherry Fishermen Co-operative Federation.

**71.** Action is already initiated by my Government to grant diesel subsidy at ₹ 12 per litre including VAT subsidy to the registered motorized fishing craft in the Union Territory of Puducherry on par with registered mechanized fishing boats. Considering the practical difficulties in the implementation of the Scheme *viz.*, establishment of diesel outlets in all fishing village and thereafter, processing issues in every quarter, it is now proposed to grant a financial assistance of ₹ 60,000 per registered motorized fishing craft per annum as diesel subsidy.

**72.** My Government proposes to strengthen required infrastructure facilities in Marine fishing villages, *viz.*, construction of Community hall, Net mending Shed and Auction Hall, *etc.*, Action will be initiated to take up construction of a protection wall in Karaikal coastal area and deployment of artificial reef for biodiversity and resource enhancement of the Karaikal coast.

**73.** The Ice plant constructed at Fishing Harbour, Thengaihattu will be made functional at a cost of ₹ 40 lakh and leased out to the registered boat owner association with minimum rental charge as per Government norms. The existing Periyaveerampatinam Community Hall will be renovated and converted for playing Indoor games for the benefit of fishermen youth. Public toilet will be constructed in all the marine coastal villages for maintenance of hygienic condition for which ₹ 20 lakh will be allocated in the budget and the same will be handed over to the local Fishermen or Fisherwomen Co-operative Society for maintenance.

**74.** A commercial complex will be constructed at the Office premises of Assistant Director of Fisheries, Mahe and the same will be handed over to the Fishermen and Fisherwomen Co-operative Societies of Mahe region for revenue generation. 40% insurance premium amount for aquaculture crop insurance by fish/prawn farmers will be borne by my Government.

**75.** An amount of ₹ 121.03 crore has been allocated for Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department in 2024-25.

## **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES**

**76.** Hon'ble Members will accept that one of the primary focus of my Government is to ensure that the people of Union Territory of Puducherry are accessible to quality healthcare services, especially to the poor and the weaker sections of society.

**77.** Action will be taken to construct a new Primary Health Centre at Sedarapet to a tune of ₹ 2.73 crore and to construct new Health Sub-Centers at Thattanchavady and Kalitheerthalkuppam at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.19 crore. It is also proposed to support the construction of an ESI Model Hospital at Gorimedu, Puducherry, as well as ESI dispensary with 2 Doctors at Ariyankuppam. Further, my Government has taken steps to have a tie up arrangement with the major private Hospitals for providing Secondary care treatment to ESI beneficiaries in Puducherry, Mahe and Yanam regions.

**78.** It is proposed to start an acute pain services ward in the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute (IGGGH&PGI) to treat the patients who meet with accidents and other trauma. Further, existing pain clinic will be upgraded with addition of newer gadgets like high resolution Ultra Sonography, C Arm, Radio Frequency Equipment and PRP Machines.

**79.** Further, various health infrastructure developments are being carried out in IGGGH&PGI along with the required new equipments *viz.*, (i) fully automated Immuno analyzer, (ii) Fully Automated Electrophoretic Unit, (iii) Laser Thrombectomy Device for Angioplasty, (iv) 3D Colour Doppler Echo Scanner System and (v) Posterior Segment Surgical Equipment System for Vitreo Retinal Surgeries and Laser Vision Correction Equipments will be procured.



**80.** Action is being taken for 24x7 inpatient admissions at Neurology Department including Pediatric Neurology Unit. Full fledged vertigo lab will be established for giddiness and voice cleaning. High Definition Camera for Laparoscopy, upgradation of existing ESWL Machine and introduction of Robotic Surgery will be introduced in Urology Department of the Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute.

**81.** My Government is planning to start a new Dialysis Unit at Community Health Centre, Karikalampakkam. It is proposed to upgrade the Eye Donation Centre to Eye Bank for offering broad range of Eye Donation Services to the public and to involve in-sight Restoration Programme.

**82.** Responding to the need of the people, I am happy to announce the construction of a new building for the Government General Hospital, Karaikal.

**83.** My Government is taking steps to establish Ayush Pharma Park in the Puducherry region. Also Ayurveda and Siddha Drugs Manufacturing Unit will also be established in 2024-25. Ayurvedhya (School Health programme through Ayush) under the National Ayush Mission Scheme will be implemented soon this year. In order to extend the Medical facilities it is proposed to establish Ayush and Yoga Units at Reddiyarpalayam, Gandhi Nagar and Gorimedu ESI Hospitals. New Wellness Centres for Homoeopathy will be started at Lawspet, Ariyankuppam, Gorimedu, Thirukanur, Karaikal, Pandakkal at Mahe, *etc.*

**84.** Panchakarma and Physiotherapy Centre will be established at Mahe, RGAMC&H and new Siddha units will be opened in Yanam, Ariyankuppam and Lawspet. The existing Rajiv Gandhi Ayurveda College will be upgraded by starting Postgraduate Courses under National Ayush Mission (NAM) funds. Ayush integrated educational institution will be established at Puducherry through NAM funds.

**85.** Homeopathy Dispensary and Pharmacy will be setup at the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Pondicherry University. Separate Homeopathic Medicinal Plants Board will be established with the help of Centre Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH).

**86.** An amount of ₹ 1,111.10 crore has been allocated for Health and Family Welfare Services in 2024-25.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**87.** Hon'ble Members are well aware that Information Technology can play a vital role for the economic development of our Country and for the general public to avail various services provided by the Government and to know about the Schemes of the Government. Hence, my Government has proposed to implement new Information Technology Programmes in various Government Departments to utilize the technology at an optimum level.

**88.** My Government is providing various e-services for the easy usage of the people and proposed to introduce more e-services for the benefit of general public. The services like Smart Classrooms, Precision Farming, Traffic Surveillance, Fishing and Fishermen safety, and Health care applications will be improved by 5G Technology.

**89.** My Government has proposed to setup Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Training Academy to provide “Digital Internship Scheme” for College and University students and Information Technology related Projects to the students of Engineering, Polytechnic and Art and Science Colleges.

**90.** It is proposed to implement Meity Tools like Digilocker for the safe custody of Government records. Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG), an App. through mobile will be introduced for easy usage of Government services by the general public.

**91.** My Government has proposed to initiate the process of implementation of e-HRMS 2.0 project for Service Book management in all Government Departments. A separate Cyber Security Division will be setup as per CERT-IN guidelines of Directorate of Information Technology.

**92.** An amount of ₹ 17.56 crore has been allocated for Information Technology in 2024-25.

### **HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND WAKF**

**93.** The Department will take steps to digitalize all the documents relating to Idols, Gold and Silver ornaments and other movable properties of all the temples coming in the purview of this Department and will be uploaded in the portal for the information of the public.

**94.** Further, survey of landed properties of all temples will be made and protected. Efforts will be taken to realize fair rent amount for the leased out properties of all temples.

**95.** An amount of ₹ 5.87 crore has been allocated for Hindu Religious Institutions and Wakf in 2024-25.

## **INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE**

**96.** Industrial sector helps in promoting domestic production, creating employment, generating incomes which are significant for the all round economic development.

**97.** Government of India has given "in-principle" approval for the construction of PM-Ekta Mall in Puducherry, at a cost of ₹ 105 crore. In the Union Territory of Puducherry artisans of more than 20 crafts are active namely Paper Machie, Terracotta and Art Pottery, Soft Toys, Stone Carving, Coconut Shell Crafts, Decorative and Educational Women toys, Crochet, Perfumed Artistic Candles, *etc.* Terracotta and Paper Machie toys have been identified as Geographical Indication (G.I.) products.

The handicrafts made by Puducherry Artisans will get a better platform for direct marketing through PM-Ekta Mall and our residents will be able to access the traditional handicrafts and handlooms of the other States and Union Territories of the country.

**98.** My Government is focused on encouraging the promotion of Software parks, Pharmaceutical formulation companies, Food processing industries, Automobile ancillary units, *etc.* As such, my Government proposes to take the following measures to motivate the entrepreneurs to start new industries in the Union Territory:—

- (i) The Government Order for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Exemption from approvals to Commence Business) 2024 to exempt the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises from licenses / inspection for the first three years of production will be notified and implemented soon.

- (ii) "The Puducherry Ease of Doing Business (Service Delivery) Bill, 2024", for delivery of services in time bound manner by the stake-holder departments is proposed to be enacted soon.
- (iii) Government Order for Reimbursement of 100% Stamp duty for purchase / mortgage / hypothecation of land / shed / buildings to the entrepreneurs who start new / expansion of existing industries will be notified soon.
- (iv) A separate mechanism will be created to strengthen the Start-ups.
- (v) Setting up of multi-sector industrial estate at Karasur and Sedarapet Village has been initiated for which preparation of master plan is under process.

**99.** My Government intends to explore the possibility of utilizing the idle lands of the public sector undertakings to promote industrial and commercial avenues such as Advanced IT Park,



State of the Art Global Capability Centre in research and development, and Financial Technology Park and the like for generating employment opportunities for the qualified and skilled youth of Puducherry, including the possibility of encouraging top sectorial firms through term limited financial assistance for aiding the hiring the residents of Puducherry.

**100.** An amount of ₹ 67.35 crore has been allocated for Industries and Commerce in 2024-25.

## **LABOUR AND LABOURER WELFARE**

**101.** My Government has improved the overall wellbeing of labourers of all sectors and is committed to furthering their skills, good health, happiness, and prosperity since a motivated labour force adds to the industrial and economic development of Puducherry.

**102.** The minimum wages for the labourers were last revised by the Government in the year 2017. The minimum wages in 19 categories of works ranged from the low slab of ₹ 5,220 to the high slab of ₹ 13,000 previously. I am extremely happy to announce that my Government proposes to enhance the minimum wages in the low slab to ₹ 9,940 which is a whopping 90% increase and minimum wages in the high slab to ₹ 23,790 which is a substantial increase of 83%.

**103.** Presently, the Model Career Centres are functioning in Puducherry and Karaikal region. Government of India has approved our proposal for setting up of Model Career Centres in Mahe and Yanam region for this year, which will be setup at Jawahar Bal Bawan, Palloor, Mahe and N.S.C. Bose Government I.T.I., Yanam, respectively.

**104.** It is proposed to start a Centre of Excellence in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector at the premises of Puducherry Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Murungapakkam.

Action will be initiated to issue and renew the Licenses to Industries, Shops and other Commercial establishments through online from this year.

**105.** An amount of ₹ 45.16 crore has been allocated for Labour Department in 2024-25.

## **LOCAL ADMINISTRATION**

**106.** Basic civic amenities of water supply and sanitation, drainage, street lights, collection and disposal of solid waste and maintenance of public places are necessary to live a decent life.

**107.** My Government has taken up various projects to uplift the existing urban civic facilities in the Union Territory of Puducherry. As a part of the programme, under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Urban), the Integrated Solid Waste Management will be implemented in Puducherry and Oulgaret Municipality at an estimated cost of ₹ 58.75 crore on a Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer Model.

Further, Sewerage Treatment Plants of 0.5 MLD and 6 MLD capacity are proposed to be constructed at Mahe and Yanam region respectively at a total project cost of ₹ 24.35 crore.

**108.** Various infrastructure activities are being carried out under AMRUT 2.0. It is proposed to undertake the following works in the current financial year under AMRUT 2.0 :-

- (i) 24x7 water supply in Pondicherry Town limit area at ₹ 20.38 crore.
- (ii) Installation of 3 MLD Capacity Sewage Treatment Plant at Sankaraparani River in Villianur, Puducherry at ₹ 20.38 crore.
- (iii) Development of Valamarai pond in Mahe Municipality at ₹ 23 lakh.
- (iv) Revitalization of Thaganakuttai pond at Thakkakuttai (Phase-I) and Kanagan Eri Lake in Oulgaret Municipality at ₹ 2.75 crore.

- (v) Rejuvenation of Hither Pallikulam at Kajiyar Street, Pudukulam on Thirunallar Road and Seniyarkulam at Senior Kulathuveedhi, Karaikal, at a total project cost of ₹ 2.71 crore.

**109.** Under National Urban Livelihood Management programme, it is proposed to release ₹ 10,000 as revolving fund to 81 Self Help Groups for an amount of ₹ 81.00 lakh. One Shelter for the Urban Homeless poor will be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹ 70.00 lakh.

**110.** An amount of ₹ 475.17 crore has been allocated for Local Administration Department in 2024-25.

## **SMART CITY**

**111.** SMART City Mission undertakes various development works in the Union Territory of Puducherry in the sector of Tourism Development, Restoration of Electricity, Affordable Housing Scheme, Restoration of Heritage and School Buildings, Water Supply, Sewage System and Urban Underground Drainage System, *etc.*

**112.** We have taken up the construction of a ROB jointly with Indian Railways at Cuddalore Road near AFT at a total cost of ₹ 71.40 crore, out of which an amount of ₹ 53 crore has been remitted to Indian Railways as Government of Puducherry's share. Tenders have been finalised by Indian Railways and the work will commence soon. The condition of the sewage system is being studied for undertaking the improvement of the Under Ground Drainage system, laid nearly 40 years ago, wherever necessary. Public Works Department has been assigned the work of improvement at a cost of ₹ 52.50 crore for which tenders have been called. It is also proposed to establish an Integrated Command and Control Center for the urban area of Puducherry at a cost of nearly ₹ 100 crore. The work awarded to Department of Revenue and Disaster Management is in progress and is expected to be completed by December, 2024.

## HOME

**113.** Hon'ble Members will admit that the Police force plays a key role in society by maintaining peace, law and order.

**114.** My Government proposes to further strengthen the "Anti Narcotic Task Force" for combating illicit trafficking of Narcotic substances. To facilitate seamless transfer of data between Police, Prison, Judiciary, Forensic, the existing online portal "ICJS" (Interoperable Criminal Justice System) will be upgraded to "ICJS 2.0" with the Central Assistance of ₹ 6.29 crore in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

**115.** My Government has filled up various vacant posts in Police Department during the year 2023-24, appointing 253 constables, 26 drivers and 483 home guards. We have initiated action to fill up the remaining 60 vacant posts of Sub-Inspectors this year. Office equipment, furniture, digital equipment, *etc.*, will be procured at an estimated cost of ₹ 2.50 crore and Arms and Ammunitions at an approximate cost of ₹ 3.00 crore as per the requirement of Police force.

**116.** Renovation of the heritage Police Head Quarters building, Construction of Swimming Pool at Puducherry Police Training School, Construction of Karikalampakkam Outpost, Construction of a new building for Armory unit and Construction of Coastal Police Station at Mahe will be taken up in the current financial year for which an amount of ₹ 21 crore has been allocated.

**117.** An amount of ₹ 383.94 crore has been allocated for Police Department in 2024-25.

## **PORT**

**118.** Ports are the lifeline of the economy and play a crucial role in the development of the state, providing economic opportunities and access to global supply chains.

**119.** My Government is exploring the possibility of ensuring 24X7 navigation of cargo and fishing vessels and has engaged the Central Water Power Research Station (CWPRS), Pune to conduct a study



on reducing siltation at the mouth portion of Pondicherry Port, including dismantling the existing Submarine Tunnel to facilitate handling of cargo vessels of higher draft from the present 3.5 meter to 5.5 metre.

**120.** Further, the preparation of a DPR to construct a Cruise Terminal at Pondicherry Port to handle Cruise Vessels has been taken up with National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), and IIT (Madras).

**121.** Dredging will be carried out at Puducherry Port for free movement of cargo and fishing vessels this year and the sand obtained from dredging would be used for nourishment of beach and installation of navigation aids.

**122.** An amount of ₹ 16.03 crore has been allocated for Port Department in 2024-25.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

**123.** The infrastructure sector plays a pivotal role in driving India's economic growth and overall development. As the Union Territory continues its path towards becoming an economic powerhouse, the need for robust infrastructure becomes increasingly apparent. My Government is also very keen on improving the infrastructure of this Union Territory.

**124.** To solve the drinking water quality issues in Puducherry urban area, it is proposed to install 40 deep tubewells for a depth of more than 300 meters to tap good quality water from Vanur sandstone at an estimated cost of ₹ 12 crore at various locations. It is also proposed to set up 7 brackish water treatment plants, each with a capacity of 1 MLD, at an estimated cost of ₹ 30.50 crore at various locations in the Puducherry region under NABARD loan. Under an AFD-funded project, it is proposed to set up a 20 MLD Water Treatment Plant by utilizing surface water from Oussudu Lake and rehabilitate the water supply system for Villianur town and Kalapet areas.

**125.** It is proposed to take up new Augmentation works at various places at a cost of ₹ 11.50 crore under NABARD Jal Jeevan Mission. Construction of 5 MLD Water Treatment Plant in Yanam is in progress under AMRUT 2.0.

**126.** In Kanagneri Sewage Treatment Plant, odour control machinery will be setup for which tender has been invited and work order will be issued shortly. A Sewage Treatment Plant is under construction at Dubrayapet, Puducherry, at an estimated cost of ₹ 39.50 crore under AMRUT 2.0 and State funds.

**127.** It is proposed to construct 3 MLD capacity of Sewage Treatment Plant Sankaraparani River at Villianur at an estimate cost of ₹ 36.70 crore. The project will be retendered. 11 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant is under construction at Karaikal under AMRUT 2.0 and State share. It is proposed to construct 6 MLD and 0.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Yanam and Mahe at an estimated cost of ₹ 28 crore and ₹ 4.80 crore respectively.

It is proposed to appoint a consultancy firm for preparation of DPR for setting up of 50 MLD desalination plant at Puducherry is at final stage. Establishment work will be started during this financial year and it will take another 2 years for completion of the project.

**128.** Government has proposed to create infrastructure facilities for all four regions of Puducherry by availing Asian Development Bank loan assistance for ₹ 4,125 crore over a period of next 5 years. It is expected that the project will be started during this financial year.

**129.** To prevent sea erosion in Pillaichavadi to Ganapathi Chettikulam coastal area, it is proposed to take up construction of short groynes at an estimated cost of ₹ 22 crore with NABARD Assistance.

**130.** It is proposed to take up cleaning and desilting of all major drains such as Uppar drain, Karuvadikuppam, Grand canal and Olandai surplus

under annual maintenance contract to upkeep the drains neat and clean throughout the year. It is proposed to establish Rain water harvesting structures at different parts of Puducherry and karaikal for ground water recharge.

**131.** The project for Construction of a new Check Dam *in-lieu-of* existing damaged old Check Dam across Sankaraparani river connecting Sellipet and Pillaiyarkuppam village at an estimated cost of ₹ 20.40 crore will be retendered.

**132.** The balance works of Road Over Bridge (RoB) at Uppar drain connecting Maraimalai Adigal Salai and Kamaraj Salai will be taken up and completed during this financial year at a cost of ₹ 29 crore under State fund. A Detailed Project Report for ₹ 500 crore has been submitted to Regional Office MoRTH, Chennai, for approval for “Construction of elevated corridor / grade separator connecting Indira Gandhi Square and Rajiv Gandhi Square”.

**133.** Under PMGSY Scheme it is proposed to improve roads to a length of for 92 kms. at a total cost of ₹ 60 crore in rural areas of Puducherry and Karaikal. It is proposed to relay of damaged roads in urban areas of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam including construction of side drain at a total cost of ₹ 120 crore under SIDBI, NABARD and State funds.

**134.** Proposed balance work at old distillery complex to accommodate Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, as a transit accommodation for ₹ 13.40 crore will be taken up. It is proposed to take up Structural Strengthening works for restoration of Rajnivas, Puducherry, at a cost of ₹ 14.00 crore under State funds.

**135.** Construction of Government Servant Quarters after demolishing the old damaged dilapidated quarters at Lawspet, work will be taken up at a cost of ₹ 100 crore.

**136.** An amount of ₹ 743.89 crore has been allocated for Public Works Department in 2024-25.

## **REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

**137.** I am happy to share that the long awaited project “Formation of four lane covering 10 villages from Villupuram – Puducherry – Cuddalore – Nagapattinam section of NH-45A in the State of Tamil Nadu/ Union Territory of Puducherry” is nearing completion. As a part of it, the remaining compensation of ₹ 10.59 crore will be disbursed to the land owners during the current financial year. Also, it is proposed to disburse compensation of ₹ 7.08 crore for the provision of junction improvement, grade separator, fly over, service road and for structures in the acquired land.

**138.** My Government will take action to disburse the Compensation Amount in the financial year 2024-25 for the acquisition of land in the villages of Kuppam, Sellipattu, Thuthipet and Thiruvandarkoil in connection with the proposed new FOUR-WAY LANE Mamallapuram – Puducherry.

**139.** An amount of ₹ 52.52 crore has been allocated for Revenue and Disaster Management Department in 2024-25.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**140.** Hon'ble Members are aware that Climate Change and Air Pollution have profound impact on the environment and human well being. The Government has initiated steps for the establishment of 3 Air Quality Monitoring Stations at Puducherry for the assessment of the ambient air quality in the rural areas. Action has been taken for establishment of Science Centre, Digital Planetarium and Innovation Hub in Thirunallar Temple Town, Karaikal with the collaboration of the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Ministry of Culture, Government of India at an estimated cost of ₹ 17.26 crore.

**141.** It is proposed to establish a State of the Art, Oceanarium and Marine Biology Station at Narambai, Puducherry.



**142.** My Government proposes to take up projects related to shoreline management, environmental conservation and climate resilience such as prevention of beach erosion at a cost of ₹ 130 crore, beach restoration project through southern-reef construction at a cost of ₹ 60 crore, Pandy – Necklace for promotion of Eco-friendly Tourism in Thengaithittu and provision of livelihood opportunities to local communities at a cost of ₹ 50 crore, construction of a cruise terminal at a cost of ₹ 175 crore, *etc.*, and is exploring the possibility of availing Work Bank Loan under Blue Economy Program for Sustainably Harnessing Ocean Resource and Economy (SHORE) for this purpose.

**143.** An amount of ₹ 11.59 crore has been allocated for Science, Technology and Environment Department in 2024-25.

## **TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

**144.** Hon'ble Members will admit that the major goal of Urban Development is to plan integrated and sustainable human settlements that can withstand increased environmental, social, and economic problems while improving rural community's quality of life.

**145.** Preparation of GIS based Master Plan for Karaikal and Mahe under AMRUT Sub-scheme is in progress and it will be notified in 2024-25. The long expectation of the people in regularizing the existing residential buildings, my Government has proposed to implement one time building regularization scheme this year.

**146.** The Puducherry Building Bye-Laws and Zoning Regulation will be revised comprehensively in order to facilitate Online Building Permission system to cover all category of buildings such as Ordinary, Special, Industrial and Multistoried buildings so as to implement a full-fledged Online Building Permission System (OBPS) in 2024-25.

**147.** It is proposed to install the water closet for the tenement blocks at Jawahar Nagar, Boomianpet at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.63 crore. Special repair works to the tune of ₹ 39.25 lakh will be carried out at the tenement blocks and relaying the existing internal roads with drains at Tiruveni Nagar and Odiampet in Villianur Constituency.

Similarly, improvements to the internal roads with drains at Ayyannar Nagar, Yanam will be done at a cost of ₹ 22.80 lakh.

**148.** Under "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana" Scheme, 2,500 houses will be completed in the current year and awareness programmes will be conducted to motivate the non-starter beneficiaries for commencement / completion of houses.

**149.** An amount of ₹ 51.78 crore has been allocated for Town and Country Planning Department in 2024-25.

## **TOURISM**

**150.** Puducherry is well known for beautiful beaches, Heritage Buildings, Temples, Handicrafts, Backwaters, *etc.* The Tourists are fond of these tourism potentials and repeatedly visiting this region. My Government is committed to give more attention to increase the facilities and infrastructure for the development of tourism in this Union Territory.

**151.** I am happy to note that Puducherry and Karaikal have been selected for the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and PRASHAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. The Consultant has been selected by the Ministry of Tourism, for the preparation of Inception Report, Master Plan for the Projects. After sanctioning the projects the works will be taken-up accordingly. Development of Puducherry and Karaikal Beach, Alankuppam Lake development in Puducherry will be taken-up under “Swadesh Dharshan 2.0.” Temples in Puducherry and Karaikal having traditional and spiritual importance will be taken for development so as to attract tourists and public under “Prashad Scheme”.

**152.** It is proposed to develop Theme Park, Resorts, Convention Centres and Wellness Centre, *etc.*, with PPP mode under “Multipurpose Tourism Product Zone” at Manapet Village, for which the RFP has been prepared and is under process for being floated soon.

**153.** Interested water sports entrepreneurs are encouraged to operate cruise boat services in Puducherry and licences has been renewed for Boat Operators / Scuba Diving. Bed and Breakfast Scheme Home Stay accreditation has been given to 33 establishments in Puducherry.

**154.** It is proposed to organize several signature events throughout the year, including Adventure Sports Carnival, Food Festival and Beach Festival, *etc.* Further, we propose to continue celebrating the following events / festivals for the Year 2024–25: (1) Karaikal Carnival, (2) Shopping Festival, (3) New Year Celebration and (4) French Festival in collaboration with French Consulate, Pondicherry.

**155.** In order to promote Tourism and to increase the number of tourist visiting Puducherry, it is proposed to participate in inbound and outbound Tourism Travel Marts, organizing of Stakeholders meeting and by participation in International Tourism Summit. An agreement under PPP mode has been signed for the development of Digital Museum at Murungapakkam.

**156.** My Government proposes to expedite the expansion of Puducherry Airport for jet aircraft connectivity to major domestic and some international destinations. Hon'ble Members are aware that the existing Airport is capable of operating only 72 seater ATR type flights. We have proposed a new runway orientation to the Airports Authority of India which involves orienting the current runway towards NH 45 at a 40-50 degree angle so as to provide a 3,000 meter long runway in the most cost-effective manner. Upon our request, the Airports Authority of India will soon take up the technical and economic feasibility study of the proposed new runway.

**157.** An amount of ₹ 31.75 crore has been allocated for Tourism Department in 2024-25.

## **TRANSPORT**

**158.** Transport Sector plays a major role in economic development. In order to reduce vehicular air pollution, the Government is considering the formulation of a technology neutral emission control

policy to increase the usage of electric and hybrid vehicles in the Union Territory of Puducherry, including steps to install Charging Stations in public and private places as well as possible institutional and financial support and skill development training.

**159.** Government of Puducherry is keen to operate 10 ultra-deluxe buses in long distance routes for inter-city connections. It is also proposed to operate 25 nine metre e-Buses for public transport through Public Private Partnership under the Smart City Scheme. Out of this 10 buses are air-conditioned and will ply on urban and sub-urban areas. Apart from this, under the Prime Minister's e-Bus Sewa Scheme, a total of 75 e-Buses will be operated with the grant of subsidy from the Government of India. The Bus Depot infrastructure will be developed with 100% grant and Behind the Metre charging infrastructure with 90% grant.

**160.** The Government has announced the Puducherry Vehicle Scrapping Policy, 2024, to incentivize people to replace their old vehicles with new ones. Under this policy, permitted commercial vehicles will receive a 15% road tax concession for 8 years, while personalized vehicles will enjoy a 25% road tax concession.

**161.** Under the Smart City Scheme, 15 smart bus shelters are soon to be established. Additionally, 38 e-rickshaws will be operated in the town area by Women Self Help Groups for the convenience of both tourists and the general public.

**162.** To enhance operational efficiency and revenue collection, the Automatic Fare Collection and Intelligent Transport System project is set to be implemented within the Puducherry Road Transport Corporation. Recently sanctioned by the Central Government, the project is currently in the tendering stage.



**163.** An amount of ₹ 47.50 crore has been allocated for Transport Department in 2024-25.

## **ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE**

**164.** One of the main policies of the Government is to improve the livelihood of Adi Dravidar and Tribes and to seek socio-economic development of these segments of the society. Great emphasis have been given by this Government that all the children of Adi Dravidar and Tribal families should be provided with excellent and adequate education so that they could also rise up in their way of life. My Government has earmarked an amount of ₹ 488 crore under SCP component this year.

**165.** I am glad to share that my Government has proposed to implement a novel scheme, *viz.*, “Mudhalvarin Pudhumai Penn” by providing Subsidy for purchase of e-Scooter. 75% subsidy will be provided for purchasing e-Scooters to 500 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe working women and college girl students restricting to ₹ 1 lakh.

**166.** In order to encourage the use of Solar energy, 90% subsidy will be given for installing 2 KV roof solar panels with net metering for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. ₹ 1 lakh will be fixed as maximum subsidy amount and 200 beneficiaries are targeted for the current financial year.

**167.** Under "Kamarajar Maruthuva Kaapidu Thittam" Scheme, coverage of Health Insurance at ₹ 5 lakh for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people will be provided for those who are not covered under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) Scheme.

**168.** Educational tour of 3 days for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students studying 8th and 9th standard in Government Schools will be organized. In order to improve the learning experience, it is proposed to issue preloaded online Tablet (Personalizing Learning Platform) to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students studying 5th to 9th standard in Government Schools.

**169.** It is planned to issue Unique ID Card to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people in Union Territory of Puducherry in 2024-25, for extending welfare measures to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

**170.** My Government has proposed to implement one more Scheme viz., "Mudhalvarin Gramam" Scheme wherein 10 villages which having more than 50% of the Scheduled Caste population will be selected and provided ₹ 50 lakh will be provided for next 3 years for the improvement of infrastructure in the village.

**171.** Under "Mannin Magal Thittam", Skill Development Training will be imparted to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women between 18 and 40 years with subsidy of ₹ 25,000.

**172.** To improve the ability to participate in the National Level Competitions, provision of financial assistance will be taken up for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

The total expenditure for participating in the National level competitions as per scheme guidelines will be fully reimbursed by my Government. The opportunity cost for the parents of Girl students studying in the Government schools will be enhanced from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 6,000.

**173.** The retention scholarship to the students studying at the Government Schools in the 1st to 5th standard will be enhanced from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 5,000. Likewise, the pre-matric scholarship given to the students studying in the 6th to 8th standard will be enhanced from ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 5,000 and the students studying in the 9th and 10th standard will be enhanced from ₹ 2,500 to ₹ 8,000.

**174.** My Government has proposed to introduce Scholarship Scheme to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students of Puducherry who are pursuing their studies abroad in terms of scheme guidelines with the assistance of Central Government.

## **WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES**

**175.** The aim of this Government is to uplift and empower the Backward Classes and Minorities in the society by extending financial assistance and make them self dependent citizens.

**176.** My Government is continuing to implement the ongoing welfare schemes in this financial year 2024-25 for educational, economic and social upliftment of backward classes and minorities. It is proposed to construct new Government Girls' OBC Hostel at Villianur and Kamarajar Nagar, Puducherry. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) Scheme of Government of India, will be implemented this year in order to strengthen the basic infrastructure facilities and to provide equal opportunities in terms of Education, Health, Employment and Skill Development to the people belonging to minority community.

**177.** In order to provide employment opportunities to students and graduates belonging to Backward Classes and Minorities, my Government proposes to impart Skill Training to make them industry ready.

**178.** An amount of ₹ 21.29 crore has been allocated for Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities Department in 2024-25.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

**179.** The major objective of my Government is to provide a decent standard of health and living conditions to differently abled citizens besides providing equal opportunities and render highest degree of self respect for them in the society.

**180.** Apart from the existing welfare measures, my Government proposes to grant financial assistance like Travelling Allowances, Dearness Allowances, Purchase of Sports Articles, *etc.*, to the recognized Differently abled Sports Association who participates in the International / National and Zonal level sports competitions.

**181.** Under the Scheme "Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE)", it is proposed to conduct a survey and identify the persons engaged in the act of begging. This will be followed by the conduct of Outreach and awareness campaign and providing services such as food, cloths bedding, hygiene, counseling and medical aid. The De-addiction Centre and Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) will be setup in co-ordination with the Health and Family Welfare Directorate to identify and rehabilitate the addicts inorder to mainstream them to lead a normal life.

**182.** An amount of ₹ 108.98 crore has been allocated for Social Welfare Department in 2024-25.

## **WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**183.** The major thrust of this Government is to ensure all round development of children and empowerment of women. My Government will continue to implement the existing welfare schemes / benefits

meant for women and children and explore avenues for improving the economic condition of women, especially the rural women.

**184.** Growth Monitoring Devices will be provided to the Anganwadi Workers at a cost of ₹ 78 lakh to monitor the growth of children. It is proposed to renovate and repair the old and dilapidated Anganwadi buildings. It is also proposed to construct hostels for women on need basis to help the working women and students who pursue higher studies. It is proposed to convert 39 Anganwadi Centres into Anganwadi-*cum*-Creches.

**185.** It is proposed to setup a Child Help Desk at Bus Stands and Railway Station of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry. An innovative project, *viz.*, “Child Safe Online” will be implemented in Puducherry in collaboration with Trust for Youth and Child Leadership (TYCL) to ensure Children’s right for protection from online abuse and exploitation.



**186.** An amount of ₹ 753.12 crore has been allocated for Women and Child Development Department in 2024-25.

## **GENERAL**

**187.** My Government proposes that :—

- (i) Reimbursement of Medical expenses will be provided to the people who are living below poverty line through “Pondicherry Medical Relief Society”.
- (ii) Financial Assistance will be provided to the people living below poverty line for converting their hut into pucca house under the old scheme of Perunthalaivar Kamaraj Centenary Housing Scheme.
- (iii) Financial Assistance to the tune of ₹ 10 lakh will be provided for rejuvenation of temples located at the Scheduled Caste hamlet.

- (iv) Financial Assistance of ₹ 1,000 per month will be provided for a period of three years for the students studied in Government Schools from 6th standard to 12th standard to pursue Under-Graduate Degree Courses.

**188.** My Government has taken steps to strengthen the sick oriented Co-operative Societies in Puducherry and Karaikal region in the ratio of 90:10 (State : Society). An amount of ₹ 15 crore will be allocated for this purpose in this financial year.

**189.** In order to achieve 100% immunization coverage in the Union Territory of Puducherry, a sum of ₹ 10,000 will be given to all children who are native of Union Territory of Puducherry and who were born and residing in the Union Territory of Puducherry and completed all immunization schedule as per the Universal Immunization Programme (Mission Indradhanush) till the completion of one year (Fully Immunized Child).

**190.** Being aware of the administrative regulations related to the issue of compassionate appointments, my Government intends to examine the possibility of a comparative service benefit policy to process such applications, subject to fulfilment of eligibility criteria related to age, qualifications, *etc.*, as a special one time measure. We will similarly try and find optimum solutions, once and for all, to manpower related issues of non-functional undertakings.

## **CONCLUSION**

**191.** My Government is keeping well control over the fiscal deficit and Debt/GSDP ratio and adheres all the fiscal indicators and traveling in the right path. My Government is well aware that Capital Infrastructural Facilities are required for over all Economic Development and hence, more funds are allocated for Capital expenditure in the financial year 2024-25 than the previous years. At the same time, the Hon'ble Members are

well aware that my Government is always concentrating on the implementation of various Welfare Schemes to the needy poor and downtrodden people, Children, Youth and Women.

**192.** Hon'ble members are aware that the committed expenditure of the Government such as Salary, Pension, Re-payment of Loan and Interest payments are always on the rise. Hence, it becomes necessary to search the ways and means for mobilizing additional revenue resources to spend more on the developmental activities so as to ensure sustained Economical Development and to increase the Employment opportunities.

**193.** With this conclusion, I place this budget for the year 2024-25 before this august House and solicit the support of Hon'ble Members in this regard.

**VAZHGA BHARATHAM**

**VELGA PUDUCHERRY**

**NANDRI VANAKKAM!!**



Puducherry Legislative Assembly



## **BEST - PUDUCHERRY**

( **B**usiness, **E**ducation, **S**piritual and **T**ourism Hub - Puducherry )