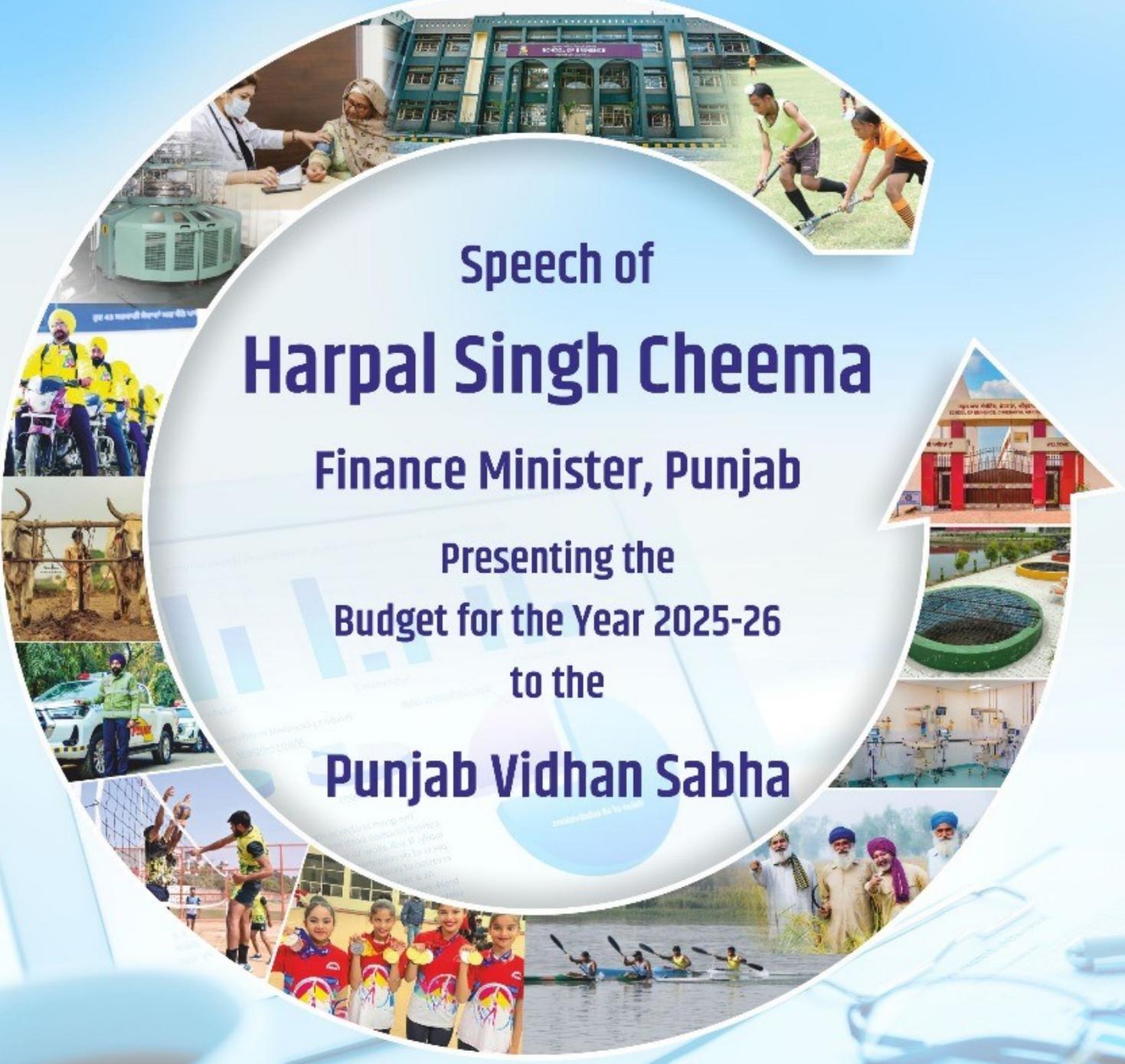




GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB



Speech of
Harpal Singh Cheema
 Finance Minister, Punjab
 Presenting the
 Budget for the Year 2025-26
 to the
Punjab Vidhan Sabha



26 March, 2025 Chandigarh

Budget 2025-26
Speech of
Harpal Singh Cheema
Finance Minister

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. With great humility and a deep sense of commitment, I rise to present the fourth Budget of the Aam Aadmi Party Government in this esteemed House. It is a moment of pride for me to stand before the august House once again, to reflect on the transformative journey of the past three years and to chart a course for the future—one that is filled with promise and potential for Punjab and its people.

2. At the very outset, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, whose visionary leadership has been the driving force behind Punjab's remarkable progress over the past three years. His unwavering commitment to the welfare of our people has guided us in delivering transformative change across multiple sectors, laying a strong foundation for a prosperous and empowered Punjab.

3. There was a time when Punjab was the most prosperous state of India. The best things that happened in India used to happen in Punjab. The green revolution happened here. Ludhiana was called the Manchester of India. It also became a hub for cycle industry. Jalandhar become the global capital of sports goods. In 1980, the per capita income of Punjab was the top in the country.

4. But in the last 4 decades, all these parties have completely looted and destroyed Punjab. Today, Punjab ranks at 15th in the list of States by Per Capita Income. The only legacy these parties left Punjab was that of - Uda Punjab.

5. In 2022, the people of Punjab voted for “Badlaav”. They gave an unprecedented mandate to AAP and Hon’ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, in the history of Punjab. Since then, our Government has undertaken many landmark initiatives to turn that hope to reality.

6. Our Government has taken bold and decisive steps to fulfill the promises made to the people of Punjab. We have provided 300 units of free electricity to 90% of households, reducing the financial burden on families. Over 3 crore people have availed free and quality healthcare services at Aam Aadmi Clinics, ensuring accessible healthcare for all. Our relentless fight against corruption has resulted in the arrest of 817 corrupt officials, reaffirming our commitment to clean and transparent governance. To ensure safer roads, we have established the Sadak Surakhya Force with 144 high-tech vehicles to enhance road safety. Furthermore, the doorstep delivery of 406 government services has empowered citizens by making governance more accessible and efficient, while 1.5 lakh people have reaped the benefits of the “CM Di Yogshala” initiative, promoting health and wellness across the State.

7. Our commitment to inclusive growth is reflected in the financial assistance of ₹16,848 crore extended to vulnerable sections of society, while securing investments worth ₹96,836 crore to boost Punjab’s economy. In the education sector, we have established 118 Schools of

Eminence and facilitated advanced teacher training programs in Singapore and Finland, equipping our educators with global best practices. Additionally, we have revived 15,947 water channels, ensuring that canal water reaches even the tail-end for irrigation, benefitting our farmers and strengthening Punjab's agrarian economy.

8. These transformative initiatives, collectively, embody our Government's steadfast resolve to build a 'Rangla Punjab'—a Punjab that is inclusive, progressive, and brimming with opportunity for all and I am pleased to share that this year's budget is going to be remembered as that year where this transformation is going to touch every pind, every city - big or small - across Punjab. That is why the theme of this budget is going to be "Badalda Punjab."

BUDGET FY 2025-26

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

9. According to the Advanced Estimates provided by the Directorate of Statistics, Punjab's economy is on a strong growth trajectory, registering an impressive 9% growth in the current year. As a result, the State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices has reached ₹8,09,538 crore. Looking ahead, the momentum is expected to continue, with GSDP at current prices is projected to expand by 10% in FY 2025-26, reaching ₹8,91,301 crore.

10. As promised in our first budget, we set out to restore Punjab's deteriorating fiscal health after inheriting a fragile financial state. I am pleased to inform this august House that we have been delivering on our commitment for the third consecutive year. The Punjab's Own Tax Revenue

has recorded double-digit growth in current year also, rising by 14% as of February, 2025.

11. I propose a total Budget Expenditure of ₹2,36,080 crore for FY 2025-26. The Effective Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit are expected to be 2.51% and 3.84%, respectively and have improved from previous figure depicting that the State is treading on the path of fiscal consolidation.

12. Speaker Sir, I would like to present to this august House the “Badalda Punjab Roadmap” to be undertaken across various sectors in the upcoming financial year 2025-26.

YUDH NASHE DE VIRUDH

13. Speaker Sir, we all know that the biggest threat to the progress and prosperity of Punjab is the problem of drugs. An entire generation of youth is being eaten hollow from within due to drugs. Ever since our government came to power three years back, we have broken the nexus between politicians and drug kingpins that was thriving in the last two decades under all parties. It is clear that a problem of this scale requires the entire society to come together and declare a war against drugs. That is why our Government launched “Yudh Nashe De Virudh” from 1st March 2025. The government of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji seeks to annihilate and eradicate this problem right from its roots in our great land of five rivers. The results speak for themselves. In just a few days of this campaign, Punjab Police has filed a total of 2,136 FIRs under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, leading to the arrest of 3,816 drug smugglers across the State. I promise to the people of Punjab that this is only the beginning. We will involve every section of the society in “Yudh Nashe De Virudh” campaign and sustain it until the problem of drugs is

completely eradicated from Punjab.

14. Speaker Sir, bulk of the drugs coming to Punjab come from across the border. It is the primary responsibility of the Union Government to halt cross-border smuggling of drugs and arms, as the 50 km area along the International Border falls under the jurisdiction of the BSF. Yet, nobody can deny that the issue is still prevalent. We have now decided to complement the efforts of BSF by undertaking two initiatives to completely block cross-border smuggling of drugs. For the first time in Punjab's history, the Government of Punjab will establish a second line of defense at the border by deploying 5,000 home guards alongside the BSF. These home guards will be selected from the most determined Punjabi youth, who will act as the eagle eyes protecting the future of Punjab. Secondly, our Government will deploy the most advanced and effective anti-drone systems available anywhere in the world that can track and neutralize the sophisticated cross-border drones being used to drop drugs and arms inside Punjab. We have already started piloting cutting-edge technologies and will deploy anti-drone systems along the border in the coming year. I am allocating a budget of ₹110 crore towards these initiatives next year.

15. We are taking yet another landmark initiative to effectively fight the war against drugs. We have to fight this war not just with force and weapons, but also scientifically through data and analysis. We have decided to carry out the first ever "Drug Census" in Punjab next year. This Census will cover every household of Punjab and will collect data to understand the prevalence of drugs, usage of de-addiction centers, etc. besides collecting data on socio-economic status of the people of Punjab. We will use this data to craft an effective and scientific strategy to eradicate the problem of drugs

within the next 1-2 years. Our Government proposes to spend ₹150 crore on this initiative in FY 2025-26.

16. Along with the issue of drugs, our Government has been very strict on cracking down on gangsters and maintaining the overall law and order situation in Punjab. To ensure that our Police are well-equipped to respond immediately to any tip-offs and nab the culprits in time, we will launch a major initiative to strengthen the fleet of Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) that respond to emergency calls made on '112'. Currently, Punjab Police operates a fleet of 258 dedicated ERVs due to which the average response time to distress calls goes up to 30 minutes. In the next year, we have decided to procure 758 four-wheelers and 916 two wheelers and deploy them as ERVs, which will effectively increase our fleet size by 6 times. With this, we will reduce the average response time to emergency calls to 8 minutes, which will be the lowest in the country. In addition, we will construct a state-of-the-art headquarters for the 'Dial 112' response team in S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), which will be equipped with the latest technologies and facilities. I am announcing an allocation of ₹125 crore towards buying new Emergency Response Vehicles and an allocation of ₹53 crore towards building the new 'Dial 112' headquarters in FY 2025-26.

KHED-DA PUNJAB, BADALDA PUNJAB

17. An important question arises as to how we will engage our youth when we undertake this historic and unprecedented crackdown on drug mafia under the "Yudh Nashe De Virudh" campaign. It is our firm belief that the answer lies in Sports. Punjab has always been a land of champions. Our youth has the talent and passion to shine on national and international platforms. To nurture the future superstars of Punjab, we are rolling out a

Mega Sports Initiative never seen before in the history of the state called “Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab”. It is the firm belief of the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji’s government that our efforts in the coming year will prove to be a game-changer in making Punjab a powerhouse of sports excellence.

18. Speaker Sir, we have unlimited talent for sports in our children and youth in villages. But they don’t even have proper playgrounds or equipments. Under the “Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab” initiative, our government has taken a historic decision to promote sports at the grassroots level by providing playgrounds and indoor gyms in every village of Punjab. Special care will be taken to build quality playgrounds that have proper running track, separate children’s play area and solar lighting. These playgrounds will act as vibrant places in our villages, bringing people of different generations together and closer. They will help us build a close-knit, healthy and happy society, which is also the vision behind ‘Badalda Punjab’. We will also provide the necessary facilities for a locally popular sport in every village playground such as volleyball, football, hockey, kabaddi, etc. For example, there is a huge demand for volleyball in Tarn Taran district. In the last 15 days itself, we have built 87 volleyball playgrounds in the villages of Tarn Taran on pilot basis. Our sports department has mapped locally popular games in every village and in the coming year, such village playgrounds will be created throughout Punjab. We will also setup 3,000 indoor gyms throughout Punjab so that our youth even in villages have the best infrastructure to stay fit and participate in competitive sports.

19. Under the “Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab” initiative, the Punjab Government will also upgrade and modernize the 13 existing Centers of Excellence that will become hubs for all the champion athletes of Punjab competing at national and international level.

20. To meet the vision of the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji’s government towards “Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab”, I am announcing a historic allocation of ₹979 crore to the sports department in the coming year, which is the highest ever allocation in Punjab’s history. This amount is greater than the amount that the Akali-BJP and Congress governments jointly spent on Sports in 10 years from 2012 to 2022. This itself shows the difference in the vision and ambition our government has towards Sports in Punjab.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Speaker Sir,

“A strong healthcare system is the foundation of a prosperous society—because when we heal, we thrive, and when we thrive, we build a brighter future for all.”

21. We believe that free and quality healthcare should be available as a matter of right to every citizen of India - irrespective of whether they are rich or poor. It is unfortunate for the entire nation that even after 78 years of independence, no government has been able to ensure universal health coverage for all citizens. But Punjab refuses to wait any longer. Health has always been one of the topmost priorities of our government, and we are determined to bridge this gap once and for all. In the last three years, our government has made huge progress towards universalizing access to

primary health care by setting up 881 Aam Aadmi Clinics which provide free doctor consultation, free medicines and free tests to every person. Every day, over 70,000 people receive free treatment at Aam Aadmi Clinics and over 3 crore patients have been served by the clinics so far. A budgetary allocation of ₹268 crore is proposed in FY 2025-26 for this purpose.

22. It is the dream of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, that the people of Punjab should have free and universal access to tertiary care too i.e. for hospital treatment. So far, 45 lakh families of Punjab are enrolled in government health insurance schemes of which 16 lakh families are covered under Central government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana and the remaining 29 lakh families covered under Punjab government's Mukh Mantri Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana. The insurance coverage for the entire family is only ₹5 lakh per annum in these schemes. Speaker Sir, today I am announcing two historic decisions for the health sector of Punjab.

23. For the first time in Punjab's history, the Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji's government has decided to extend the state health insurance scheme in the coming year to make it universal and cover all the 65 lakh families of Punjab. There will be no bar or discrimination - rural or urban, rich or poor everyone can participate in this scheme. The second big decision is that we are extending the insurance cover for all the families of Punjab to ₹10 lakh per annum. This includes those enrolled in Central government scheme too, they will get an additional top-up cover of ₹5 lakh from the State government. Further, all families who are covered under the Mukh Mantri Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana will receive a 'Sehat Card' next year through which they can avail cashless treatment of upto ₹10 lakh in Government and Private Hospitals across Punjab. Speaker Sir, this historic

initiative will empower every household in Punjab with access to quality healthcare, ensuring that no one has to choose between their health and financial stability. I have allocated ₹778 crore in the next year budget for this purpose.

24. The FARISHTEY Scheme is being allocated ₹10 crore to provide immediate treatment for accident victims and incentivize good Samaritans. A budgetary allocation of ₹5,598 crore has been provided in FY 2025-26 for the health sector i.e. an increase of 10% over previous year.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Badalde Pind, Badalda Punjab

25. Our Government recognizes that pinds are the heart and soul of Punjab. The first thing that comes to mind when anyone across the world thinks of Punjab is our farms and our villages. The development of Punjab is therefore incomplete without the transformation of our villages. I say this with a lot of responsibility that the coming year will mark the resurgence of rural Punjab. To improve the quality of living in our villages, we are introducing a comprehensive package to uplift the infrastructure in all 12,581 villages across the State in the next two years. This will be called “Badalde Pind, Badalda Punjab” initiative. In the coming year, the following five works will be taken up in all the villages of Punjab:

- a. Cleaning and rejuvenation of village ponds.
- b. Setting up sewage treatment systems as per Seechewal-Thapar model and other cost-effective models.
- c. Restoring Nehri Khaals to provide canal water.
- d. Construction of village playgrounds.
- e. Installation of streetlights under Mukh Mantri Street Light Yojana.

26. Speaker Sir, many of the works I have described above haven't been taken up for decades in the villages of Punjab. To turn this vision to reality, a total of ₹3,500 crore will be spent under this initiative next year.

27. We can't aspire for a 'Badalda Punjab' without ensuring rural connectivity of all the villages of Punjab. Today, I would like to make a promise to the people of Punjab. In the next year, we are going to build all the broken rural link roads in Punjab connecting the farthest of our villages with each other and nearby towns and cities. Our goal will be to ensure that there doesn't remain a single link road that is broken after a year. To achieve this, we will construct/ upgrade a total of 18,944 km of rural link roads - which I believe will be yet another record for a single year in the history of Punjab. This will cut down travel time, bring greater speed to market for our farm produce, and unleash a whole new energy in what is the lifeline of Punjab's economy. In FY 2025-26, ₹2,873 crore will be spent towards the programme of construction and upgradation of rural link roads by the Punjab Mandi Board.

RANGLA PUNJAB VIKAS SCHEME

28. Speaker Sir, the people of Punjab gave a historic mandate to the AAP Government in 2022 because of our vision of 'Rangla Punjab'. Every single day of our government has been dedicated towards restoring the lost glory of Punjab and to ensure holistic development of the State based on people's feedback. Today, we are taking a huge step in this direction with the announcement of a 'Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme' in every district that will be spent on the most important local everyday developmental needs of the people of that district. The fund will be administered by the District

Commissioners (DCs) and will be spent based on the recommendations of MLAs, community organizations, citizen groups and public-spirited citizens. This fund will be a huge enabler in ensuring all-round development of all our districts across all sectors such as construction and repair of roads and bridges, street-lights, clinics, hospitals, schools, water, sanitation etc. I am allocating ₹585 crore (₹5 crore per constituency) for the 'Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme' in the budget.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

29. Speaker Sir, the people of Punjab travel all over the world. They go to Europe, USA, Australia and the first thing they see is that their roads are so well-designed and constructed, but the same is not true of our cities in Punjab or for that matter cities across India. The roads we see abroad are built of high quality with clear lane markings, there is obstruction-free space for pedestrians and cyclists, there is greenery and landscaping all around and there is adequate planning for all other amenities e.g. benches, street lights, bus stands etc. Many of us wonder why can't the same be provided in our cities. India has the best engineers and architects in the world, but why do our roads look so bad? The answer is simple: "Na Neeyat Si, Na Neeti".

30. I announce with great pride that our Government has taken a landmark decision to build world-class roads in cities across Punjab. In the first phase, we will be building around 50 km of world-class roads in four cities over the next year - Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar and S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali). These will include the most prominent road stretches in these cities that are frequented by local residents and tourists alike.

31. We will be engaging the top architects from Punjab and rest of India to design these roads as per international standards and subsequently hire contractors who will build and also maintain these roads for a period of 10 years. Under this project, four activities will be taken up for each road:

- i. First, roads will be redesigned and re-laid to ensure uniform lane widths and to remove traffic bottlenecks. Proper lane markings will be done on them as per national standards and we will ensure that they are re-painted every 3 months.
- ii. Second, we will build obstruction-free, universally accessible and aesthetically pleasing footpaths so that pedestrian needs are taken care of. Central verges of the roads will also be repaired. There will be customized landscaping/ horticultural plan developed for the footpaths and central verge in each road to give a world-class look and also to ensure there is no open patch left which leads to road-dust and air pollution.
- iii. Third, our streets have a lot of services haphazardly laid out be it electricity lines, street-lights, water-supply lines, bus stands, trees, etc. that block the flow of people and vehicles. We will ensure alignment of all the services so that they are aesthetically and uniformly placed on the streets/ roads.
- iv. Fourth is maintenance. We will fix the contractor accountability to maintain this infrastructure for 10 years. In case of any repairs, the same will be done within 24 hours of raising a complaint. We will also ensure regular and mechanized cleaning of these streets using world-class equipment so that they maintain the look for 10 years

32. The total project cost of these streets for the first year is estimated to be ₹140 crore, and we have ensured necessary allocations for the same.

33. Apart from upgrading the road infrastructure in these four cities, we also recognize that nearly 40% of Punjab's population lives in urban areas across the 166 towns and cities of Punjab. It is the vision of our Government that each and every citizen residing in urban areas should be able to experience a certain standard of quality of life. Over the next year, we will undertake a major effort to ensure five essential municipal services are uniformly provided across 166 towns and cities of Punjab: cleanliness, water supply, sewage, roads and street lights. I propose to allocate ₹225 crore under Punjab Municipal Development Fund towards this initiative.

34. To establish an efficient, eco-friendly public transport system and reduce dependency on private vehicles, the government will procure 347 E-buses in FY 2025-26, ensuring sustainable and accessible urban mobility across cities in Punjab. Also, allocation has been made in FY 2025-26 for development of Civil Bus Depot Infrastructure at Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Jalandhar.

35. An allocation of ₹300 crore has been provisioned in FY 2025-26 for the Punjab Municipal Services Improvement Project (PMSIP) to strengthen the urban governance, finances, and delivery of sustainable water services to the citizens of Amritsar and Ludhiana city.

36. For the development of housing and urban local areas, I propose a budget allocation of ₹5,983 crore in FY 2025-26.

POWER

37. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am proud to share that Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) has achieved significant milestones in improving its operational efficiency and service delivery. Reflecting its enhanced performance, PSPCL now ranks 7th among State Utilities. In a remarkable achievement, the corporation has been upgraded to grade "A" from last year's grade "B." This progress is attributed to a reduction in Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses from 11.26% to 10.96%, and a reduction in the cost-supply and revenue gap by 25 paise per unit. These advancements reaffirm our commitment to strengthening Punjab's power sector and ensuring a reliable, affordable, and uninterrupted electricity supply for industries, businesses, and households.

38. Speaker Sir, the dream of 'Badalda Punjab' cannot be fulfilled if our towns and villages remain steeped in darkness. It is indeed unfortunate that even 78 years after independence, many of our villages don't have proper streetlights installed. That is why our Government has decided to launch the "Mukh Mantri Street Light Yojana" through which we will install 2.5 lakh street-lights in the next year throughout Punjab. We will use a very innovative model for installing these streetlights. Instead of installing poles which are expensive, we will install these street-lights outside people's homes and draw electricity connections from their domestic connection. An equivalent number of consumed units will be deducted from the electricity bills of these households, and at the same time they will feel safe with a street-light outside their home. I am allocating ₹115 crore towards the "Mukh Mantri Street Light Yojana" for the coming year.

39. To enhance power transmission and distribution infrastructure, in current year, the State has commissioned 16 new 66 kV substations, augmented 106 power transformers, and laid 1,500 km of new transmission lines. The commissioning of two 400 kV substations in Rupnagar and Gurdaspur respectively, along with multiple capacity upgrades at key transmission nodes, has significantly strengthened Punjab's power reliability.

40. I propose a budget outlay of ₹7,614 crore in FY 2025-26 for providing 300 units of free power per month to domestic consumers.

INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

41. Speaker Sir, Punjab is usually seen as an agrarian State. However, the contribution of industry in Punjab's economy has steadily risen over the years. Today, at 27%, the share of industry in Punjab's economy is slightly higher than the share of agriculture. However, Punjab's industry needs a fresh new lease of energy if it has to survive and thrive against global competition. We need to create fertile grounds for hundreds of thousands of new businesses - big and small - to thrive in Punjab. This is the only way to create quality jobs for our youth. To achieve this goal, the Punjab Government will bring in a new industrial policy after carrying out extensive consultation with all the stakeholders. I assure all the industrialists and entrepreneurs of Punjab and the entire country that our new industrial policy will be the best in India and will pave the way for providing a progressive climate for industrial growth and employment generation in Punjab.

42. Speaker Sir, I will now announce a decision that truly shows the scale of the vision that Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji's government has for Punjab's industry. We have decided to make an increased allocation of ₹250 crore next year towards giving financial incentives to various industries, which is by far the highest allocation in Punjab's history. The previous Congress government spent only ₹53 crore towards financial incentives to industry in its five-year term. And the Akali-BJP government before that spent no money at all in five years. This stark comparison shows that it is only this Government that truly cares for the progress and prosperity of industry in Punjab.

43. To further promote national integration and showcase Punjab's industrial and cultural diversity, the State proposes to construct a Unity Mall in Amritsar. This Mall will feature stalls representing all States/UTs and Punjab's 23 districts, offering a platform for artisans and entrepreneurs to display and market their products. An allocation of ₹80 crore has been made for this purpose in FY 2025-26.

44. Our MSMEs remain the backbone of Punjab's industrial ecosystem. Under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, the State is implementing projects worth ₹120 crore to enhance market access, financial assistance, and technology adoption for small enterprises. Additionally, to drive innovation and competitiveness, Punjab is facilitating the establishment of Technology Extension Centers (TEC) in key industrial hubs, including Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Moga, Patiala, and S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali).

45. I propose a budgetary allocation of ₹3,426 crore, including subsidized power for industrial sector. I also propose a dedicated allocation of ₹10 crore for the upgradation of the R&D Centre and the Institute of Auto Parts and Hand Tools Technology (IAHT) in Ludhiana.

DOORSTEP DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND SEWA KENDRA

46. Speaker Sir, delivery of corruption-free and hassle-free governance to every Punjabi is a core mission of our Government. We took a giant leap in this direction with the launch of 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar' scheme in December 2023. For the first time since independence, people of Punjab experienced the miracle of not visiting a government office to get their work done. Instead, they could just call the number 1076 and a 'Sewa Sahayak' would come to their home to get work done with zero corruption. In 2023, we launched this scheme with 43 services and till last month, we took the huge step of expanding it to 406 services across 29 major Government Departments. In the coming year, we will continue to expand the reach of 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwar' scheme to cover even more services. While this scheme is already very popular, we have received feedback that the service fee of ₹120 charged by 'Sewa Sahayak' to deliver any Government service at the citizen's doorstep is unaffordable for some. Speaker Sir, we firmly believe that accessing government services is not a privilege—it is everyone's right! No one should have to choose between convenience and affordability. That's why, starting this year, we are reducing the cost of availing such government services at your doorstep from ₹120 to only ₹50. For every service delivered, the Punjab Government will bear the balance ₹70.

47. Along with doorstep delivery of services, the Punjab Government also runs 541 Sewa Kendras that offer 438 services. Every day, nearly 30,000 people visit these Sewa Kendras across Punjab. Our Government cares for the comfort and convenience of all citizens who travel physically to a Sewa Kendra and hence therefore decided to upgrade and modernize their infrastructure. We will ensure that each Sewa Kendra receives a modern facelift with an air conditioner-cum-heating system for year-round comfort, spacious and comfortable seating, proper lighting, hygienic toilets, and user-friendly signage to ensure seamless navigation.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES

48. Speaker Sir, in 'Badalda Punjab' this Government aims to take care of every section of the society. One genuine issue that concerns our brothers and sisters from the Scheduled Castes is the matter of defaults on loans availed from Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation (PSCFC). While most of those who have taken loans have paid it back, there are some genuine reasons due to which some beneficiaries haven't been able to pay back the loans, such as failure of the beneficiary's business, death of the beneficiary and no other earning member in the family, due to the prolonged illness of another member in the beneficiary's house or no other source of income or falling victim to any natural disaster, etc. In some cases, the families have had to sell their house and assets to pay back the loans which pushes them to poverty. Many affected persons have approached us because they know that this is a Government that listens to the 'Aam Aadmi'. Our Government has taken a humane view of this situation and has decided to bring a loan waiver scheme for all those who have defaulted on loans taken through PSCFC until 31.03.2020. A total of 4,650

persons will benefit from this loan waiver programme and will get an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

49. We will continue our efforts aimed at uplifting citizens at every stage of life, ensuring inclusive support, equity, and empowerment. A total allocation of ₹9,340 crore has been proposed for FY 2025-26 ensuring comprehensive support from conception to old age while fostering social justice and empowerment. It includes ₹6,175 crore for providing financial assistance to the elderly, widows, destitute women, orphans, and persons with disabilities.

50. Also, it includes allocation of ₹1,177 crore for the Nutrition and ICDS scheme, ₹360 crore for the Ashirwad Scheme, ₹262 crore for various scholarship programs, and ₹170 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for FY 2025-26.

51. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am delighted to share that women in Punjab have availed more than Twelve crore trips in the State using the free bus travel facility this year, with the Government allocating ₹450 crore for this initiative in the current year. To ensure the continued availability of this service, a provision of ₹450 crore has been made for the financial year 2025-26 as well.

52. In our unwavering commitment to uplifting the marginalized—Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, minorities, and all downtrodden sections—we have allocated ₹13,987 crore in FY 2025-26 to the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), accounting for 34% of the State's total development budget.

AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

53. Our Government has always upheld a Farmer-First approach, standing firmly with our farmers in support of their just demands. This year's budget reaffirms that commitment by introducing measures aimed at enhancing farmers' income and ensuring that agriculture becomes a sustainable and profitable venture. Through targeted policies, financial support, and innovative initiatives, we strive to empower our farming community and secure their prosperity for generations to come.

54. An allocation of ₹14,524 crore has been earmarked for the agriculture and allied sectors in next financial year which is 5% higher than last year.

55. To incentivize crop diversification, a new scheme covering three districts namely Bathinda, Kapurthala and Gurdaspur is being introduced for Kharif Maize crop. A total of about 21,000 hectare area will be diversified from paddy to kharif maize to encourage the production of ethanol to achieve the target of 20% blending of ethanol by year 2025 set by Government of India. The farmers will get a subsidy of ₹17,500/- per hectare for switching to Kharif maize cultivation and will provide benefit to approx. 30,000 farmers. An amount of ₹115 crore has been earmarked for this purpose and for various other initiatives aimed at Crop Diversification.

56. An allocation of ₹149 crore has been made in FY 2025-26 under the Krishonnati Yojana to support critical activities, including agriculture extension, enhancing food security, promoting horticulture, seed development, boosting edible oil production, and digital agriculture.

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

57. Stubble burning is a national concern, and the Punjab Government is committed to addressing it. We are actively exploring and implementing eco-friendly alternatives to curb this issue, ensuring both environmental protection and the well-being of our farmers.

58. In a decisive move towards sustainability and environmental responsibility, the Punjab Government has committed ₹60 crore in capital subsidies to support industries transitioning to paddy stubble-based boilers. This initiative is expected to utilize 3 million tonnes of paddy stubble annually, significantly curbing air pollution while promoting renewable energy solutions. The enthusiastic response from industries, with over 25 stakeholders already expressing interest, highlights the potential for large-scale adoption. This policy not only addresses the pressing issue of stubble burning but also fosters industrial innovation and environmental resilience, making Punjab a leader in sustainable development.

59. To promote sustainable crop residue management, ₹500 crore has been earmarked to support farmers, cooperatives, and gram panchayats. Assistance will be provided for the purchase of CRM machines; establishment of Custom Hiring Centers; and for the development of Paddy Straw Supply Chain Centers. Additionally, awareness initiatives will be undertaken to educate and sensitize farmers on efficient residue management practices.

FREE POWER TO FARMERS

60. To support the farmers, an allocation of ₹9,992 crore has been made in Budget FY 2025-26 for providing power subsidy to the agriculture sector.

HORTICULTURE

61. Speaker Sir, showcasing its excellence in agriculture and horticulture development, Punjab has been awarded the Best Performing State under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme for 2023-24, with the highest number of sanctioned projects in the country.

62. To promote Natural Farming practices in the State, a new initiative is proposed in FY 2025-26, initially covering Amritsar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh (S.B.S) Nagar, Rupnagar, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), and Hoshiarpur districts. This initiative will include conducting awareness programs, cluster formation, Krishi Sakhi support, input resource centers, farmer incentives, certification, training, starter kits, etc. A budgetary allocation of ₹137 crore is earmarked for various initiatives of the Department for FY 2025-26.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

63. To strengthen canal irrigation in Sangrur district, a major new initiative is proposed in FY 2025-26 for laying of extensive underground pipeline network, covering over 38,000 hectares and benefiting 20,000 farmer families. To commence this project, an allocation of ₹100 crore has been earmarked.

64. Additionally, a new project is proposed for the reclamation of waterlogged land in Fazilka district, while efforts will also be made to develop irrigation infrastructure, provide micro-irrigation subsidies, and implement water harvesting projects in the Kandi area, benefiting 30,000 hectares.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRY & FISHERIES

65. To enhance animal health services and improve livestock breeds, we propose launching in-patient ward services and a Blue Cross store in six district veterinary polyclinics as a pilot project. An allocation of ₹704 crore has been made in FY 2025-26 for the development of this sector.

66. A state-of-the-art shrimp processing unit is proposed to be set up in FY 2025-26 to support shrimp farming in waterlogged areas, generate revenue for farmers, and create employment opportunities. This facility will ensure scientific processing, leading to better returns for existing shrimp farmers in the State.

COOPERATION

67. The Punjab Government remains steadfast in supporting our sugarcane farmers. For the 2024-25 crushing season, we have ensured the highest sugarcane procurement price in the country at ₹401 per quintal. Furthermore, I am pleased to inform the august House that all pending payments for FY 2023-24 have been fully cleared, ensuring timely financial relief to our farmers. Our Government is committed for continuing this support, for which an allocation of ₹250 crore is proposed in FY 2025-26.

68. Reinforcing our commitment to modernizing the sugar sector and promoting green energy, the 3,500 TCD, 14 MW Co-gen Plant at Batala Cooperative Sugar Mill, built at a cost of ₹296 crore, is now successfully operational. Further advancing sustainable energy initiatives in the State, a Bio-CNG project has also been inaugurated at the mill.

69. Further, an allocation of ₹100 crore has been made for providing financial assistance to the milk producers for ensuring fair remunerative milk prices; ₹75 crore is for recapitalization of District Central Co-operative Banks and ₹28 crore support for the completion of PACS projects, ensuring strengthened digital infrastructure and improved service delivery in the cooperative banking sector.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

70. Our Government is committed towards environmental conservation and wildlife protection, and various initiatives to enhance green cover and biodiversity in the State are being undertaken. So far, around 3 crore saplings have been planted, including 29 lakh around tube-wells, while 268 Nanak Bagichies and 46 Pavittar Vans are being developed in the current year to promote ecological balance. To promote eco-tourism in Punjab, special focus will be placed on developing the Jhajjar Bachauli Wildlife Sanctuary in Sri Anandpur Sahib. To sustain and enhance these initiatives, a budgetary allocation of ₹281 crore is proposed for FY 2025-26.

EDUCATION

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

71. I am pleased to share with the august House that the state of Punjab has set another benchmark by securing the prestigious "Best State" award and the "Best District" award to district Hoshiarpur under the Green Schools Programme. This award celebrates Punjab's exemplary efforts in fostering environmental sustainability among school communities, reinforcing its leadership in nationwide initiative.

72. The State's flagship Mission Samrath has successfully strengthened the basic skills of students, impacting 1.4 million children, 70,000 teachers, and 19,000 schools. By focusing on interactive teaching methods, experiential learning, and Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) pedagogy, it has achieved a remarkable 15% growth in Primary and 25% growth in Upper Primary grades in language and mathematics.

73. The Mega Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) for students from Pre-Primary to 12th grade saw an impressive 21.81 lakh parents across Punjab actively engaging in their children's education, fostering collaboration for their holistic development. This initiative strengthened the bond between parents, teachers, and the school community.

74. In our pursuit of excellence in education, 354 Principals, Head Masters, and Teachers from the Department of Education were sent for skill upgradation to esteemed institutions such as the Principals' Academy, Singapore; National Institute of Education (NIE) International, Singapore; the University of Turku, Finland; and Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad. This initiative aims to align our education system with global best practices, enabling educators to bring back enhanced teaching methodologies that will benefit our students and strengthen the foundation of learning in the State.

75. Building on the success of various initiatives undertaken by this Government, I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹17,975 crore in FY 2025-26 for the Education sector which is around 12% of the Total Expenditure.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

76. Speaker Sir, we reaffirm our vision to make Punjab a leader in education, ensuring that our children are equipped with knowledge, skills, and opportunities to thrive in the 21st century. Our initiatives stand on Four Pillars of Educational Excellence—Quality Learning, Holistic Development, Sustainable Infrastructure, and Inclusive Growth - ensuring every child receives quality education and a brighter future.

- i. **Quality Learning:** Schools of Eminence and Schools of Brilliance will serve as centers of excellence, fostering peer learning and academic rigor. The School of Applied Learning Scheme will equip students with technical skills for livelihood opportunities, while Mission Samrath will instill essential competencies in primary and upper primary students.
- ii. **Holistic Development:** 425 primary schools are being converted into Schools of Happiness to create nurturing environments with well-ventilated classrooms, play areas, and activity corners. Initiatives like the Punjab Young Entrepreneur Programme will foster innovation and leadership among students.
- iii. **Infrastructure Upgradation:** To reduce electricity costs and promote clean energy, solar panels have already been installed in 4,098 government schools, with further expansion planned. Infrastructure upgrades, including boundary walls and maintenance grants, will ensure secure and well-maintained schools, especially for girl students.

iv. **Inclusive Growth:** A dedicated financial provision has been made for the upkeep of government schools, with the appointment of Campus Managers, security guards, chowkidars, and sweepers to maintain hygiene and security. Additionally, crucial schemes like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan- ₹1,240 crore, PM Poshan Scheme-₹466 crore, Free Books - ₹75 crore, and Uniforms to students - ₹35 crore reaffirm our commitment to accessible and equitable education.

77. With this holistic approach, we are laying a strong foundation for Punjab's educational transformation—ensuring our students excel academically, develop essential life skills, and are well-prepared to lead in the modern world.

HIGHER EDUCATION

78. In FY 2025-26, emphasis will be placed on digital learning, research facilities, and skill development programs to align higher education with industry needs. Additionally, efforts will be made to enhance faculty training, upgrade student amenities, and improve campus infrastructure, creating a dynamic environment for academic excellence and innovation.

79. To further strengthen this vision, budgetary provisions are proposed for key initiatives- ₹199 crore under Rashtriya Uchchattar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) and ₹160 crore for infrastructure upgrades, sports facilities, libraries, and skill-oriented programs.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

80. Speaker Sir, our Government is committed to equipping Punjab's youth with the technical expertise and industry-aligned skills necessary for a dynamic job market. In the 2024-25 session, we achieved a record 93.04% admission rate across 137 Government ITIs, with 32,827 trainees enrolled—a remarkable 17% increase from the previous year due to the addition of 5,000 new seats.

81. To bridge the industry-academia gap, we have phased out outdated courses and introduced cutting-edge, industry-oriented programs while expanding the Dual System of Training (DST) to integrate hands-on industry experience with vocational education. Women's participation in technical fields is also being prioritized, with engineering trade courses in ITIs (W), supported by ITC and Swaraj Engines, set for statewide expansion.

82. For FY 2025-26, a budgetary allocation of ₹579 crore has been proposed for upgrading infrastructure, procuring advanced machinery for New Age courses, and completing ongoing building projects. This includes a budget provision of ₹33 crore for opening of New ITI's.

MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH

83. Under the "CM Di Yogshala" initiative, 3,200 yoga sessions are held daily, benefiting over 1.5 lakh individuals. A dedicated yoga trainer program has also been launched, enrolling 2,630 trainees, with plans to expand daily yoga sessions to nearly two lakh people. Additionally, major healthcare infrastructure projects are in progress aimed at strengthening healthcare services.

84. In FY 2025-26, a new medical college with 50 MBBS seats is proposed at village Barnala Kalan, S.B.S. Nagar. A budgetary provision of ₹1,336 crore is proposed in FY 2025-26 for undertaking various initiatives, an increase of 27% over previous year.

GRANT-IN-AID TO UNIVERSITIES & CONSTITUENT COLLEGES

85. Our Government would continue to prioritize the development of various State Universities like GADVASU, PAU, Panjab University, Punjabi University, GNDU and others; together with their constituent colleges. A budget provision of ₹1,650 crore has been earmarked in FY 2025-26.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION & TRAINING

86. Empowering the youth of Punjab with opportunities for employment and self-reliance remains a key priority of our Government. In this year, 85,248 candidates secured job placements through 1,468 placement camps, while 24,345 individuals facilitated with self-employment loans. Since April 2022, 51,655 appointment letters have been issued under regular government recruitment. Punjab also takes immense pride in its young achievers - 22 cadets have joined the NDA and other academies, 18 have been commissioned as officers, and 47 cadets cleared the NDA exam with an exceptional 74.60% success rate, among the highest in the country. To further enhance employability through skill training and career counseling, I propose an allocation of ₹230 crore, reflecting a 50% increase over last year's allocation.

TOURISM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

87. To honor and showcase Punjab's rich cultural and spiritual legacy, the Government has established the Bhagwan Valmiki Panorama at Ram Tirath, Amritsar, at a cost of ₹33 crore. This state-of-the-art museum, featuring 14 galleries, presents the life, teachings, and contributions of Bhagwan Valmiki Ji through modern technology. Inaugurated on 7th October 2024, the panorama has attracted thousands of devotees, providing them with an immersive and enlightening experience.

88. To honor the 350th Martyrdom of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, a series of commemorative events will be held at the State-level during FY 2025-26, along with the development of infrastructure at sites associated with Guru Sahib's visits. Special focus will be given to the holistic development of Sri Anandpur Sahib, the city founded by Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji. Further, a special budget of ₹10 crore will be earmarked to develop Nangal into a tourism hub, enhancing its infrastructure and promoting it as a key tourist destination.

89. In FY 2025-26, the Government proposes to construct a Heritage Street and auditorium at Shaheed Bhagat Singh (S.B.S) Nagar at a cost of ₹54 crore. Additionally, 32 cultural programs; festivals and plays on historical personalities will be organized across the State, reflecting our unwavering commitment to preserving Punjab's glorious history and cultural traditions. To undertake various initiatives, a budgetary allocation of ₹204 crore has been provided in FY 2025-26.

HOME AFFAIRS, JUSTICE & JAILS

90. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Sadak Surakhya Force (SSF), launched in 2024 under the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, has significantly enhanced road safety in Punjab. The teams respond to emergencies within 6-8 minutes, providing vital first aid and quick transport to hospitals. These proactive measures have led to a remarkable 48% reduction in road accident fatalities, reinforcing our commitment to public safety. A budget allocation of ₹11,560 crore has been made for the department of Home Affairs, Justice and Jails.

91. Also, the State has implemented key security and rehabilitation measures to improve prison management and inmate-welfare. AI-powered CCTV surveillance is being deployed in central jails to detect and prevent illicit activities, along with the expansion of V-Kavach jammers across 12 sensitive prisons. Emphasizing inmate rehabilitation, over 2,200 prisoners have been enrolled in educational programs, while 513 prisoners are set to join various skill development courses. An amount of ₹100 crore is proposed in FY 2025-26 for construction, renovation & upgradation of jail infrastructure in the State.

92. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, an allocation of ₹233 crore is proposed in the Budget FY 2025-26 to modernize and upgrade police infrastructure. This includes construction and renovation of police complexes, purchase of land for police lines, police stations, and housing for the police personnel, etc.

93. For further enhancing the State's judicial infrastructure, we propose to construct court complexes in Derabassi, Khanna, and Patran at an estimated cost of ₹132 crore in FY 2025-26.

INFRASTRUCTURE

ROADS & BRIDGES

94. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, during the current year, we have successfully completed 1,444 km of roads and constructed 20 bridges at a total cost of ₹1082 crore. These infrastructure enhancements have significantly improved connectivity, benefiting commuters, farmers, and businesses while driving economic growth and regional development.

95. The following works are proposed to be undertaken in FY 2025-26:

- i. **Strengthening Road Networks:** ₹855 crore through State and NABARD funding for the construction and upgradation of 2,718 km of plan roads and new connectivity routes and others.
- ii. **Enhancing Bridge Infrastructure:** ₹155 crore has been allocated for the construction of new bridges and for the completion of ongoing bridges.
- iii. **Upgrading Key Infrastructure:** ₹190 crore under Central Road Fund (CRF) for the upgradation of 200 km of roads and the construction of five bridges, including three under Setu Bandhan.
- iv. **Strengthening Rural Connectivity:** ₹600 crore under PMGSY-III for the upgradation of 1,300 km of rural roads.

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION

96. I propose a budgetary outlay of ₹1614 crore in FY 2025-26 to accelerate the implementation of surface-water-based schemes, rehabilitate aging infrastructure, and strengthen rural sanitation under

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin). This also includes a provision to upgrade/provide piped water supply, and ensure improved service delivery and access to clean drinking water in 176 villages of the State.

WATER RESOURCES

97. The Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, a vital infrastructure initiative on the River Ravi, is progressing steadily, with the main dam now completed. With an investment of ₹2,604 crore incurred so far, the project is set to generate 1,042 MU of hydroelectricity and enhance irrigation across 1.55 lakh hectares in Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC) system i.e. in Amritsar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran, and Pathankot. Additionally, the Kala Singha Drain lining project in Jalandhar, worth ₹34 crore, is underway to improve water management and urban infrastructure.

98. During FY 2025-26, we propose to install 40 deep tubewells in Rupnagar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh (S.B.S.) Nagar, Hoshiarpur, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali), and Pathankot, along with 167 shallow tubewells near the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers. These initiatives will enhance irrigation across 7,877 hectares of agricultural land at a total cost of ₹85 crore, ensuring better water availability for farmers in water-stressed regions.

99. To ensure last-mile connectivity and expand canal irrigation, the government has prioritized the lining and rejuvenation of watercourses across the State. In FY 2025-26, 63,000 hectares will be covered under these projects, including laying underground pipelines, with an estimated cost of ₹315 crore.

100. With groundwater extraction at an alarming 166% and 117 out of 153 blocks overexploited, Punjab faces a severe water crisis. To address

this, the government has identified ₹8,227 crore worth of surface water projects to expand canal irrigation in previously excluded areas. These projects will be executed in a phased manner to sustainable water management.

101. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, in FY 2025-26, an allocation of ₹723 crore is proposed for undertaking new projects and ₹1,343 crore for the completion of ongoing projects. Under these schemes, work related to construction, reconstruction, restoration of watercourses and laying of underground pipelines across various districts will be undertaken to enhance irrigation efficiency. For this sector, a total budget allocation of ₹3,246 crore is being proposed in FY 2025-26.

MINING

102. Speaker Sir, fulfilling our commitment, we have operationalized 74 Public Mining Sites, sold 91.21 lakh metric tons of material, and successfully allotted 39 clusters under Commercial Mining Site auctions addressing environmental and operational challenges.

103. To enhance monitoring and curb illegal mining, the Government has mandated GPS installation in all mineral transport vehicles, empaneling four companies for implementation at competitive rates. Additionally, an APP has been launched, allowing real-time reporting of illegal mining activities with photo and video evidence. Efforts are also underway to include more sites in District Survey Reports (DSRs) to ensure the availability of mining materials at competitive prices.

REVENUE AUGMENTATION AND CAPITAL CREATION

104. The Total Revenue Receipts have been projected to be ₹1,11,740 crore in FY 2025-26, of which the Own Tax Revenue accounts for ₹63,250 crore. Further, the Share of Central Taxes has been pegged at ₹25,703 crore and Grant-in-Aid from Centre at ₹10,576 crore in FY 2025-26.

105. Over the last three years, I have had the privilege of overseeing the Department of Excise and Taxation. I am pleased to report that the department has achieved remarkable growth. Our excise revenue has surged from ₹6,254 crore in FY 2021-22—when we assumed office—to ₹10,350 crore in the current financial year, reflecting an impressive increase of over 63%. This substantial progress is a testament to the honest governance of Aam Aadmi Party and the dynamic leadership of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji. Looking ahead, we have set an ambitious yet achievable target of ₹11,200 crore for the next financial year, ensuring continued fiscal strength and economic growth.

106. These revenue augmentation measures are not confined to just one tax or department. Our GST receipts are expected to increased by 62%, rising from ₹15,542 crore (FY 2021-22) to ₹25,200 crore (FY 2024-25 RE). This remarkable growth depicts the result of multi-pronged strategies, including collaboration with IIT Hyderabad to enhance operational efficiency, the strengthening of SIPU (State Intelligence and Preventive Unit) and TIU (Tax Intelligence Unit), and the launch of citizen-focused initiatives like "Bill Leyao, Inaam Pao."

107. Building on this momentum, we have set an ambitious GST receipt target of ₹27,650 crore for the next financial year—the highest-ever estimate—reflecting our commitment to robust economic governance and revenue enhancement.

108. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, our tax policies reflect our unwavering commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment. As a testament to this, our Government introduced the One-Time Settlement (OTS) Policy to resolve arrears under the legacy VAT regime. Designed after extensive consultations with stakeholders, the scheme received an overwhelming response from the industry, with 70,311 dealers benefiting from a waiver of ₹867 crore in outstanding tax liabilities. Moreover, the initiative led to a remarkable recovery of ₹164 crore for the State treasury—far surpassing the mere ₹13 crore collected through two OTS schemes by the previous Government. This success underscores our commitment to fair and pragmatic tax reforms that support businesses while ensuring revenue efficiency for the State.

109. The Stamps and Registration revenue is also expected to witness an impressive growth of 87%, rising from ₹3,308 crore to ₹6,200 crore (FY 2024-25 RE) over these three years. For the next financial year, the revenue is estimated to reach ₹7,000 crore, marking a 13% increase over the current year. This upward trajectory underscores our commitment to strengthening revenue streams.

110. All these revenue augmentation measures have resulted in our Own-Tax Revenue increasing from ₹37,327 crore in FY 2021-22 to ₹57,919 crore in FY 2024-25 (RE) i.e. an increase of ₹20,500 crore in just 3 years of

our Government. For the next financial year this figure is estimated at the highest-ever ₹63,250 crore. This revenue augmentation has resulted in debt consolidation with Debt-to-GSDP Ratio of the State falling from 44.77 percent to 44.50 percent in next year.

111. The Department of Finance has undertaken significant pension reforms to enhance efficiency and transparency. A key milestone in this journey is the launch of the "Pension Sewa Portal," designed to streamline the pension process and provide seamless services to over 3 lakh pensioners.

112. Our employees are the backbone of our administration, and their welfare remains our top priority. Unlike previous governments that delayed their rightful dues, we have taken decisive steps to address this long-pending issue. We have implemented a structured liquidation plan to clear the 6th Punjab Pay Commission dues amounting to ₹14,191 crore, directly benefiting more than 6 lakh of our employees and pensioners starting from the current year itself. This is not just a financial commitment but a recognition of their invaluable service.

113. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the actual average annual capital expenditure during the last five years of the previous Congress regime stood at a mere ₹3,800 crore—an abysmally low figure that hindered long-term growth and infrastructure development. This neglect has had lasting repercussions, slowing progress and limiting opportunities for our future generations. Our Government is committed to reversing this trend through decisive action. For the upcoming financial year, I have earmarked ₹10,302 crore for Capital Expenditure, a significant increase from ₹8,347 crore in the current year.

This substantial allocation reflects our dedication to building robust infrastructure and long-term assets that will drive economic growth and ensure a prosperous future for our State.

CONCLUSION

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

114. With a firm belief that this “Badalda Punjab” Budget will further strengthen the foundation of a prosperous and self-reliant Punjab. I would extend my heartfelt gratitude for the visionary guidance of our National Convener and the dynamic leadership of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, whose steadfast commitment has been instrumental in propelling this wave of transformative change.

115. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the dedicated officials and staff of the Departments of Finance and Planning, whose relentless efforts have been instrumental in crafting this comprehensive and forward-looking Budget.

116. I now humbly present to this august House, the Budget proposals for the Financial Year 2025-26 for approval.

JAI HIND