

Budget 2018-19

Speech of

Manpreet Singh Badal

Finance Minister

March 24, 2018

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

It is my privilege to present before this August House the second Budget of the Congress Government led by Captain Amarinder Singh Ji. As I, do so, I share some satisfaction that some of the aims enumerated in our previous budget have to a large extent been achieved. Nevertheless this is not the time to sit back for those dedicated to serving the cause of Punjab. With good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, Let us go forth to lead, Punjab, the land we love asking HIS help and HIS blessings.

2. For all eyes and for all time, Punjab has been an expression of hope, courage and glory for the Indian subcontinent. It needs no testament from me or any other man. This great region has written its own history and written it in red, with the blood of its martyred sons that is embedded in its fertile fields. From one end of the world to the other, it has drained deep the chalice of courage.

3. Punjab is a land of soldiers, and has been so since time immemorial. Since before the Prophets of the world's great religions traversed this planet, the soldier, above all men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training - sacrifice. The finest leadership in the form of 'a former soldier' Captain Amarinder Singh, the Chief Minister, has in the past demonstrated that sacrifice - and his Government does not intend to deviate from the agenda we set out with.

4. The shadow cast upon the Land of the Five Rivers is momentary. I assure you that we can be beaten by none save our own selves. I have always said and I repeat that the word Punjabi and pessimism; Punjabi and defeatism cannot be spoken in the same breath. It was none but our fore fathers who turned away the armies of Alexander the Great; trampled the mountains beyond the Khyber, humbled the British Empire challenged the tempest and made them alter their course, laughed at the bolts of lightning. These qualities of courage, sacrifice and dedication to India are the historic qualities, which Punjab has always produced in its sons and daughters which come with the grace of God. This is not a commodity that can be bought from the market place. This can be bought from the market place of the heart provided you can pay for it in blood and good deeds. Having completed a phase in the contribution of building of this great Nation there still remain a few blank pages in the development of India. We can make ourselves worthy of filling these pages.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

5. I am reminded of the beautiful words of a great poet from the Indian Sub-Continent FAIZ AHMED FAIZ: I quote in original

Saba ne phir dar-e-Zandan pe aa k dastak di,

Sehar qareeb hai, dil se kaho, na ghabrae.

(Dawn has again knocked the gates of the dungeon/jail.

Sunshine is imminent, tell your heart to endure for a while)

6. I can invite attention here only to the leading facts of our state finances. Details have been set forth with elaborate care in the lucid Explanatory Memorandum circulated separately. I must attempt a survey un-encumbered by details to help Hon'ble members to form a definite and sure picture of our finances.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

7. Let me take this opportunity to remind this august house that as our Government assumed office, the State was in the midst of a deep fiscal crisis with the treasury being closed and RBI refusing to honour the payments of the State Government. A White paper on the State Finances highlighting the mis-management of States finances from 2007-17 was laid before the House in the 1st session of this Vidhan Sabha. That paper had highlighted the fiscal mess that we had inherited. The crisis is so deep rooted that it'll take a lot of effort and time before we can reclaim our position on the high table of the best fiscally managed states.

8. During 2017-18, the GSDP of the State has increased from ₹4,33,660 crore in 2016-17 to ₹4,77,482 crore at current prices. I am hoping that the State's GSDP during the year 2018-19 would rise to ₹5,18,165 crore. The per capita income of the State has also increased from ₹1,31,112 in 2016-17 to ₹1,42,958 in 2017-18, and is 28% higher than the national average of ₹1,11,782.

FISCAL CONSOLIDATION

9. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended a fiscal consolidation map for all states and the State is legally bound to contain its fiscal deficit to within 3% of its GSDP. Unfortunately, on account of the additional debt servicing of ₹3240 crore per annum of the huge debt of ₹30584.11 crore (as on 31st December 2016) that the previous government burdened the citizens of Punjab just as it was demitting office we have been able to contain the fiscal deficit to 4.36% during the year 2017-18 as compared to 12.18% for 2016-17. In the given circumstances of huge committed liabilities, I could only keep a target of fiscal deficit at 3.81% during the current financial year 2018-19. I am aware of the provisions of the FRBM Act 2003 relating to containing the Fiscal

Deficit and therefore, given that the State is likely to miss this target, as per Section 6(2) of the Act, I am informing this august house of the position.

10. Fiscal prudence demands that the state should generate surplus revenue and deploy the same in addition to the borrowings for capital expenditure in the resource generating assets. However, the policies of the previous ten years have led to a phenomenal increase of the committed liabilities of the state and imprudent expenditure on non-revenue generating assets implies that the state would have a much higher than desirable revenue deficit before we can turn the tide. Under the able decisive leadership of Captain Amarinder ji, we are on course, and I am sanguine that we shall soon reach that state.

11. In this year's proposals the State's Revenue Expenditure has risen from ₹55296 crore in 2016-17 to ₹71182 crore in 2017-18 (RE), an increase of 29%. During the same period, Expenditure on Salaries, Wages and Grant-in-Aid has risen from ₹21729 crore to ₹24938 crore, an increase of 15%, and on Pensions from ₹8773 crore to ₹9469 crore, an increase of 8%. Therefore the expenditure on account of Salaries & Wages (including Grant-in Aid) and Pensions to the employees/retirees alone has risen by 13%. The expenditure on Interest Payments rose from ₹11642 crore to ₹15175 crore, an increase of 30%. The total revenue expenditure on these committed liabilities is itself 87% of total Revenue Receipts of the State during 2017-18. Thus the ever growing share of salaries, pensions and interest payments in its Revenue Expenditure has prevented the State from achieving a Revenue surplus.

12. Despite my best efforts, I have only been able to peg the revenue deficit at 2.42% of GSDP in the year 2018-19. However, we remain committed to reducing this deficit consistently and getting the State into an era of revenue surplus.

DEBT POSITION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

13. Hon'ble Members are fully aware that our Government has inherited a heavy debt burden from the previous Government. When this government took over, it was welcomed with the additional liability of ₹30584.11 crore in the form of loans to settle the so called CCL (Cash Credit Limit) legacy accounts.

14. The total outstanding debt of the State as on 31.03.2018 is ₹195978 crore which is 41.04% of GSDP for 2017-18 (RE) and the Outstanding Debt is likely to be ₹211523 crore in 2018-19 (BE) which is 40.82% of GSDP. The State Government also extends sovereign guarantee for the loans raised by various PSUs and other organizations. The total liability on this account is ₹19357 crore as on 31.3.2018. This means that in case a PSU fails to return its debt liability, it becomes the Government's liability. It is my solemn duty to inform this august house that consistent mismanagement of some of the PSUs in the last ten years has led to a position where the state may actually have to discharge the burden of some the debt incurred by these PSUs which is backed by the state's guarantee.

15. The debt servicing (Principal+ Interest) for 2018-19 is a whopping ₹24870 crore as against the allowed net borrowing limit of ₹15545 crore approved by Government of India for financial year 2018-19. This leaves absolutely no room for the State to invest the borrowed money into development and build resource generating Capital assets. The only way left for this government is to mobilise more revenue while at the same time cutting down on our non-committed expenditure. We have consistently made efforts in the last year without either compromising on essential expenditure or putting over excessive burden on our citizens.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

16. The UPA Government gave the nation the Right to Information Act in 2005 and with the same emphasis on transparency, consensus building and providing effecting decision making tool, the Department of Economic Policy and Planning is preparing a booklet on the major development schemes for the year 2018-19 for the information of the members of this august house and the citizens of this state. This would help to build an inclusive society by spreading awareness through the elected representatives and enabling them to disseminate information amongst the public so that they can reap maximum benefits from the Government schemes/ projects. With renewed optimism, I propose the following sectoral allocations and new initiatives, a road map in line with our party's commitment to the people of Punjab.

FARMERS WELFARE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

17. I will take this opportunity to place on record the appreciation of the hard work of the farmers of Punjab who have fed the nation for decades and made India self-sufficient in food grains and in redeeming its pride. With just 1.53% of the geographical area of the country, we are the granary of the nation. I am pleased to announce that the total outlay for the year 2018-19 has been increased from ₹10581 crore (2017-18 BE) to ₹14734 crore, an increase by ₹4153 crore i.e. an increase of 39.25% over 2017-18 BE and as compared to 2016-17 BE, the outlay has been the increased from ₹6383 crore to ₹14734 crore i.e. by 131%.

AGRICULTURE

DEBT RELIEF

18. However, despite his contributions, in making us self-reliant, the "Anndata" is in distress. The rising prices of farm input coupled with miniscule rise in MSP by Government of India and stagnating farm production has pushed him into the clutches of indebtedness, at times, ending in suicides. The Union Government, despite repeated requests has failed to come to the rescue of the Anndata. Our Chief Minister has already said that for this Government the goal is "Khushhal Kissan, Pragatisheel Naujawan". Hence, the effort of this Government is directed towards achieving this goal. Despite the fact that this Government inherited empty coffers, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh Ji has lived up to his word of providing relief to the debt ridden farmer of the state. As details regarding the debt liability are being ascertained from the Cooperative and Commercial Banks, I propose to allocate a sum of ₹4250 crore during 2018-19 for implementation of this scheme. During the year 2017-18 ₹370 crore has been disbursed to 71166 marginal farmers. This amount will be duly enhanced, as may be necessary, to fulfill our commitments in debt relief to all eligible farmers, as per the notified Debt Relief Scheme.

19. The focus of this government is the farmer of the state and we have decided that our policies on agriculture and rural economy shall be centered only and only on the welfare of our farmer. While we remain committed to being the granary of the nation, our commitment shall and must run in conjunction with the well-being and prosperity of our farmer.

FREE POWER TO FARMERS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

20. Our government is committed to providing free power to the farmers and for this purpose an allocation of ₹6256 crore has been provided for in the budget 2018-19.

RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJNA (RKVY)

21. As part of the strategy of achieving this goal, I propose to allocate ₹400 crore to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), to draw up and execute a comprehensive agriculture development plan taking into account the agro-climatic conditions, natural resources and technology so as to ensure an inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied services. Through RKVY we shall also complete the Veterinary College at Rampura Phul and also provide for erection of barbed wire to protect the crops from wild animals in the kandi area. The incomplete Veterinary Polyclinics will also be completed under the scheme for which an outlay of ₹3 crore is proposed.

22. Likewise, inter-alia an allocation of ₹25 crore is proposed for support to extension services (ATMA), and ₹10 crore for National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been made in the budget estimates.

PUNJAB LAND IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

23. Resolving a long pending issue, the Punjab Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1963 has been amended to provide for right of way for laying of underground pipelines in land holdings of others by provisioning of payment of a compensation for the damage to crop or structure in the way of demarcated line. I am proposing an allocation of ₹44 crore for underground pipeline projects to ensure optimum utilization of irrigation water during the year.

AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION

HORTICULTURE

24. This year the Government shall make special efforts to reduce the dependence on wheat/paddy cycle and diversify the cropping pattern. The objective is to assist 7000 farmers and 10000 acres cultivable area to be brought under diversification during 2018-19. The Government shall be laying a special emphasis on Horticulture, marketing of produce and food processing to ensure a sustainable success of this effort. As part of these initiatives disease free potato and other vegetable seeds produced at 8 Government Potato and vegetable seed farms, approximately, 6.50 lakh fruit plants from 23 Government fruit nurseries and registered private fruit nurseries and approximately 41,500 Mushroom Spawn Bottles from the 4 departmental Mushroom laboratories shall be provided to the farmers during the year 2018-19. In addition, approximately 80,000 Kg. fruit will be processed at 6 departmental Fruit Preservation laboratories during 2018-19. An allocation of ₹55 crore has been made under National Horticulture Mission during this year.

25. As part of our strategy for promoting horticulture and agriculture diversification, Citrus cultivation will be diversified by introducing 12 new sweet orange and 5 mandarin varieties that can be processed in the State with the assistance of Punjab Agriculture University, at Jallowal (Jalandhar) & Khanaura (Hoshiarpur) nurseries and distributed to the farmers. These nurseries are also being strengthened to make availability of Daisy Tangerine Plants budded on Carrizo for Hoshiarpur region and on rough lemon for Abohar region. About 25000 sweet oranges and 25000 Daisy Tangerine & W. Murcott plants are expected to be planted during 2018-19.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR FLORICULTURE

26. To standardize and demonstrate the world class floriculture technology a Centre of Excellence for Floriculture is being established at Doraha, Ludhiana under the Indo-Dutch work plan. To reduce the wastage and increase the shelf life of perishable commodities a Project Proposal of ₹79.59 lakhs for Establishment of Small Cold Stores (Run by Farm Waste) 15 MT at Kapurthala (for muskmelon) & 30MT Hoshiarpur (for kinnow) in Punjab has been approved under RKVY. To promote cocoon production through Sericulture (SCSP) a project of ₹158.15 lakhs has been sent to the Government of India for the development of sericulture in the State.

CANE GROWERS

27. To provide support to the sugarcane growers in the State, we have provided an allocation of ₹180 crore for the year 2018-19.

CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT

28. We are extremely conscious of the environmental impact of the burning of the crop residue and we believe that the issue can be tackled only through a holistic approach. The State has thus designed a practical and achievable action plan for Crop Residue Management and an outlay of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for this year. The Government has made it mandatory to attach Super Straw Management System (SMS) with self-propelled combine harvester. The Government has also taken an initiative to provide the requisite machinery to tackle the problem of stubble burning through its Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies. Such machinery will be available to the farmers on custom hiring basis at reasonable rates. I would like to inform this august house that due to consistent efforts of the Government and the support of the farmers, the burning of paddy straw has come down to 62% of the paddy sown area during kharif 2017 as compared to 85% during the same period in 2016.

AGRICULTURE MARKETING

29. The success of agriculture diversification relies a lot on marketing. Aware of this fact, during the year 2018-19 a special project at a cost of ₹750 crore will be undertaken to improve the agricultural marketing infrastructure in the state.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FISHERIES AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

30. Livestock holds a special position in the Government's efforts of enhancing farm income, diversification and growth of rural economy. The focus, therefore, is to increase the productivity of livestock. Dairy Development and growth of milk production will be an area of special emphasis targeted to raise the dairy production by 6% during 2018-19 which will mean daily production of 340 lac liters with a marketable surplus of about 190 lac liters milk. People would be motivated to take up dairy farming through village level awareness and training with special emphasis on Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. Commercial dairy farms will be promoted through training and incentives for mechanization, transfer of technology and farm level value addition shall be provided. Gokul Gram at Bir Dosanjh is being established at a cost of ₹12.84 crore to conserve and propagate indigenous cattle breeds. 50% of the grant under RKVY is being dedicated for promotion of Dairy Development in the State during 2018-19. I also propose an outlay of ₹10 crore for a Buffalo Research Centre at Patti, I am sure this would provide the requisite impetus to Dairy development in that area as well.

FISHERIES

31. Increasing area under fish cultivation and fish productivity would also be the thrust area during 2018-19. In view of the success of shrimp farming in saline water affected areas it will be commercially promoted in six districts during 2018-19. Fish seed production will be raised to 16 crore from the present

level of 10 crore. A fish Brood Bank and hatcheries in private sector will be established to give boost to the fish seed production.

PIGGERY AND GOATERY

32. Besides Dairy, poultry and fishery, emphasis is also on promoting piggery and goatery. Government Pig Breeding Farm, Nabha has been upgraded and strengthened. Two new pig breeding farms at Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur have been established and three Goat breeding farms at Kotkapura (Faridkot), Kulemajra (Patiala) and Mattewara (Ludhiana) are being modernized and strengthened.

COOPERATION

33. Cooperatives have played a pioneering role in organizing the strength of farmers in various fields while at the same time making them self-sufficient. The government would continue to support this sector which is promoting diversification of agriculture besides strengthening the rural economy.

DAIRY COOPERATIVES

34. In conjunction with our efforts at agri-diversification and boosting dairy development in the cooperative sector a Mega Dairy project has been planned at Bassi Pathana with a capacity of 10 LLPD by Milkfed (Verka). The project to be implemented in three Phases involves improvement of basic infrastructure including aseptic processing and packaging of milk and milk products with long-shelf life packaging, thus fetching better prices in the market resulting in better farm gate prices to the farmers. An outlay of ₹65 crore has been provided for this project for 2018-19.

CATTLE FEED

35. A New Cattle Feed Plant will be set up at Kapurthala at a cost of ₹13 crore, equipped with latest techniques and energy efficient equipment that will reduce the fuel cost by minimum 20%.

GHEE & EDIBLE OIL

36. A State-of-the-art 80 TPD Vanaspati, 50 TPD Edible Oil Refinery & Fractionation plant at the cost of ₹42 crore would also be set up at Khanna to replace the existing obsolete machinery & plant.

COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS

37. A special project to modernize and expand the oldest sugar mill in Cooperative Sector at Bhogpur with an objective to raise its capacity to 3000 TCD with 15 MW co-generation plant at a total cost of ₹109 crore is underway. An additional amount of ₹31.31 crore has been provided in the state budget 2018-19 for this purpose. Efforts will also be made to modernise and upgrade the Cooperative Sugar Mill at Batala.

PRIMARY AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES (PACS)

38. In order to provide transparency and bring in efficiency through IT at the cutting edge, all the 3,537 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) shall be computerized. An outlay of ₹45.50 crore approximately has been provided in this regard in 2018-19.

YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIES

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

39. The Youth of Punjab has always excelled in Sports and the State Government intends to take more steps for promotion of Sports Culture in the State in terms of creating/strengthening Sporting infrastructure under various schemes like Khelo India and promoting the existing sports events, including the Kila Raipur games. An allocation of ₹50 lakhs is provided under the Khelo India for this purpose.

SPORTS UNIVERSITY AT PATIALA

40. The Government of Captain Amarinder Singh Ji has always pioneered the setting up of Universities dedicated to specific disciplines. The Government proposes to set up a Sports University at Patiala to give a boost to sporting activities. I am proposing an initial allocation of ₹10 crore for this purpose during 2018-19.

STADIUMS AT BLOCK LEVELS

41. The Government endeavors to establish stadiums with an objective to encourage the sports amongst the youth in all the blocks of the State. I propose an allocation of ₹6.25 crore during 2018-19 to establish stadiums at block levels including at Guru Harsahai, Tanda Urmur, Gidderbaha and Khadoor Sahib.

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SHOOTING RANGE AT MOHALI AND SRI MUKTSAR SAHIB

42. Punjab has produced many shooters who have excelled themselves at Olympics and other International events. To encourage this sport, centre of

excellence in shooting range at Mohali and a new trap & skeet shooting range at Sri Mukatsar Sahib will be established with an outlay of ₹6 crore in 2018-19.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND TRAINING

GHAR GHAR ROZGAR

43. The Government of Punjab is determined to tackle the problem of unemployment and fulfill its commitment of 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar'. It is committed to the goals of enhancing the employability of the youth through career guidance, counseling and vocational training as well as to improve the employment opportunities in the state through suitable policy interventions and action plans.

44. District Bureaus of Employment & Enterprise are being established and operationalized in all the 22 districts of Punjab. These bureaus will bring necessary synergy, oversight and effective coordination in the implementation of various schemes for employment generation, skill training, self-employment and entrepreneurship development across the departments at the district level and will also facilitate overseas employment. I propose an allocation of ₹20 crore in 2018-19 for this purpose.

CONNECTING YOUTH WITH JOB PROVIDERS

45. The Department of Employment Generation & Training Punjab (EGT) has developed an IT Platform for skilled youth and industrialists/ companies to interact with each other and final placements of the youth in the industries/ services sector.

INDUSTRIES & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SUBSIDISED POWER

Mr. Speaker Sir,

46. Punjab has always had a very robust MSME sector which has not only provided employment but is also a significant contributor to the state's economy. However, during the last few years it has suffered serious neglect at the hands of the then government and needs support. This government of Captain Amarinder Singh Ji has provided to the industry a subsidy of ₹1440 crore which no other government has ever done in the history of the state by providing power to the industry at a variable cost of ₹5/- per unit.

INDUSTRIAL & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT POLICY-2017

47. The State Government has already notified the 'Industrial & Business Development Policy-2017', which is a part of its vision to put the State back on a high trajectory of growth and prosperity.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND ESTATES

48. The State would develop quality industrial infrastructure with robust policies for its maintenance. The Industrial Parks and Industrial Estates would be brought under one agency and all the necessary amenities and common facilities will be provided in these estates. All the estate management policies will be simplified. A Modern Focal Point at Nabha is being developed at a total cost of ₹55.40 crore. Under the "Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) scheme", our Government will upgrade the Industrial Focal Point, Phase IV- Ludhiana, Jalandhar (Old & Expansion), Bathinda (New) and Mandi Gobindgarh. I also propose an initial allocation of ₹10 crore for development

and modernizing the infrastructure in the existing industrial estates/Focal Points at Khanna, Ludhiana Phase VIII and Patiala.

49. The State will also develop Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Amritsar and Chandigarh-Hoshiarpur-Gurdaspur as Urban Industrial Corridors.

50. The state will also develop a dedicated Marble market, Transport Nagar and an Automobile Market in SAS Nagar (Mohali).

STARTUP & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

51. The State would make targeted efforts to develop a strong eco-system wherein Startups and entrepreneurs can attain their optimum potential, and establish a dedicated organization to spearhead its strategy and action plan for promotion of Startup and Entrepreneurship.

SKILLED WORKFORCE

52. The State is conscious of the dire need for the industry to adopt next generation manufacturing to become globally competitive. Given high dependence on low skill labour, re-skilling or up-skilling of existing workforce will be required to make them ready for the new requirements. The State would set up cluster specific skill centres for various manufacturing sectors.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

53. The State would strengthen the Invest Punjab initiative by setting up "Business First" portal to provide all regular services and fiscal incentives to the businesses through one common integrated platform and business friendly service delivery network.

FISCAL & NON-FISCAL INCENTIVES

54. The State has provided a variety of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to support the growth of existing industries and to attract new investments. The

policy provides strong support to MSMEs to enhance their access to Finance, Technology, Market, Infrastructure and other needs. The State has identified certain thrust sectors for growth and they have been provided higher incentives. It has also given a package of incentives for revival of sick industries. Extreme Border Zone has also been given special incentives.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SETTING UP OF STPI CENTRE AT INDUSTRIAL FOCAL POINT, AMRITSAR

55. In partnership with the Government of India the state has agreed to set up another Software Technology Park of India (STPI) center at Amritsar. It will provide the requisite thrust for an all-inclusive growth of the software industry in this region. The number of units are expected to grow rapidly, once STPI sets up its incubation infrastructure and other facilities at Amritsar.

INDIA BPO PROMOTION SCHEME

56. The India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) envisages capital support in the form of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to eligible Companies with an objective to incentivize setting up of BPO/ITES operations and creation of employment opportunities in the State. This is expected to translate to an employment generation of more than 3000 jobs in this sector in Punjab.

TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

PUNJAB STATE TOURISM POLICY, 2018

57. Our Government has notified the Punjab State Tourism Policy, 2018 to provide impetus to the tourism industry so as to double the footfall of domestic and foreign tourists in the State over the next 5 years. The policy lays special

focus on Medical tourism, Film tourism, rural tourism and development of thematic circuits like Heritage Circuit, Maharaja Circuit, Mughal Circuit, Sufi Circuit etc.

58. Punjab has the potential to become the hub of Medical Tourism both nationally as well as internationally. It also has huge untapped potential for promotion of Film Tourism in the State. To attract national and international film production houses, we are working on a film tourism policy and providing a single window clearance for the purpose of shooting films, to make Punjab the preferred destination for this purpose.

CULTURE POLICY

59. The State has also notified, for the first time, its Culture Policy. The Policy aims to promote, preserve and protect the rich cultural and natural heritage of the State. It encompasses the pursuit of art and culture as pure passion while creating an enabling environment through infrastructure development and by building the required administrative framework.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

60. Our festivals reflect our Punjabi spirit of fun, community bonding and zest for life. During the year we shall devise a calendar which shall showcase the festival celebrations in the state. This is our effort to connect the people especially the Youth and NRIs with our rich heritage of festivals and culture. An allocation ₹5 crore has been earmarked for this purpose in 2018-19.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE 550TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

61. The State will celebrate with complete dedication and fervour the 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 2019. An outlay of ₹100 crore is provided in the budget 2018-19 for preparatory arrangements for these

celebrations including an initial grant of ₹10 crore for Sultanpur Lodhi and ₹10 crore for Dera Baba Nanak to boost the requisite infrastructure for pilgrims who would be thronging these centers and ₹25 crore for Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar as part of these celebrations.

62. We are also marking the centenary of the supreme sacrifice of our brethren at the Jallianwala Bagh during the freedom struggle. An initial outlay of ₹10 crore is being provided for commemoration of this event.

SETTING UP OF MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE 'JAITO MORCHA AND COMPLETION OF OTHER MEMORIALS

63. An amount of ₹38 crore has also been provided during 2018-19 for the completion of Memorials, their operation and maintenance and setting up a memorial to commemorate the 'Jaito Morcha during the freedom struggle'.

64. A special allocation of ₹2 crore and ₹1 crore is also being provided for completion of Sardar Beant Singh memorial and Saragarhi Memorial, Ferozpur respectively.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST CIRCUITS

65. The Department of Tourism has initiated the process to develop tourist circuits on the principles of high tourist value and for implementation of Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Important circuits to be developed include Spiritual Circuit, Maharaja Circuit and Mughal Circuit. An amount of ₹10 crore has been provided during the year 2018-19 for this purpose.

CITIZENS WELFARE

WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES, BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

66. Punjab with highest density of Scheduled Castes population in the country has launched a number of Welfare programmes for them. Please allow me an opportunity to reiterate our Government's strong commitment to the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Minorities. I am happy to announce a sum of ₹1235 crore under various welfare schemes for Educational, Socio-Economic & other Development Programmes during the year 2018-19 for the upliftment of under-privileged sections of our society.

ASHIRWAD

67. The State Government has decided to enhance the grant to eligible beneficiaries under the Ashirwad scheme to ₹21,000 from ₹15,000 w.e.f. 01.07.2017. The payment mode has been replaced with Online Banking Management System so as to bring transparency in the Scheme. I am proposing an allocation of ₹150 crore for this scheme during this year.

POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

68. The complaints with regard to the grant of post matric scholarship to students belonging to the scheduled castes and other backward classes has caught the attention of this house as well. I wish to inform the house that we are carrying out a comprehensive audit of the scheme. The audit involves 2183 private institutions with 5,44,872 students and 2126 government institutions with 5,82,139 students. By 15/3/18 we have completed the audit of about 47% beneficiaries and an amount of ₹329 crore under the said scheme has been pointed out as objectionable. However, we do realize that while this exercise

goes on the students cannot be allowed to suffer, as such for this year we have proposed an outlay of ₹860 crore as against ₹620 crore last year.

EMPOWERMENT OF BACKWARD CLASSES

69. For the empowerment of the Backward Classes, we have increased the reservation quota for Backward Classes from 5% to 10% for admission in Educational, Technical & Professional Institutions. Further, the State Government has increased the family income limit for Backward Classes from ₹6 lac to ₹8 lac per annum.

SOCIAL SECURITY, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

70. Our government has always accorded top priority to women empowerment and underprivileged segments of the society.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

71. I propose to allocate ₹3806 crore under Social Security sector during the year 2018-19 against an allocation of ₹3605 crore during the previous year.

PENSIONS

72. The State Government provides financial benefits under its Social Security Schemes to approximately 17.35 lac beneficiaries belonging to weaker sections of society. In keeping with our promise we have enhanced the monthly pension to ₹750/- per month. I do hope that as our resource position strengthens we will be able to raise it further. This year an outlay of ₹1634 crore has been allotted for this purpose in the budget proposals.

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

73. Under the Integrated Child Development Scheme, six services- Supplementary Nutrition, Immunization, Health Check-up, Nutrition & Health

Education, Pre-school Education and Referral Services are provided to the beneficiaries for which a budget provision of ₹696 crore has been earmarked for 2018-19.

MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRAS

74. A new scheme namely Mahila Shakti Kendra (MSK) has also been approved for the implementation upto 2019-20. The scheme will provide an interface for rural women to approach the government for availing their entitlements and for empowering them through awareness generation, training and capacity building. Student volunteers will encourage the spirit of voluntary community service and gender equality. These student volunteers will serve as "agents of change" having a lasting impact on their communities and the nation. A suitable allocation has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

75. It gives me immense pleasure to reiterate the commitment of our Government to continue to provide 300 units per month of power free to the Freedom Fighters.

DEFENCE SERVICES WELFARE

76. This Government always has a deep sense a gratitude for our ex-servicemen and is committed to the welfare and resettlement of ex-servicemen, war-widows, world war veterans, disabled soldiers and their dependents. To ensure efficient and effective implementation of various welfare schemes and citizen-centric services provided by the Government as well as employment for ex-servicemen, we have launched the "Guardians of Governance" scheme. An allocation of ₹30 crore is being provided in the year 2018-19 for this scheme.

77. An allocation of ₹8 crore is also being proposed for completion of the Punjab State War Heroes Memorial and Museum at Amritsar to showcase the supreme sacrifices made by our armed forces. In addition ₹10 crore is being provided for Sainik Schools in the State.

LABOUR WELFARE

78. The Department is playing a pro active role to provide on line services to industries, commercial establishments and workers in pursuance to the State Policy of Ease of Doing Business. The Department has developed an e-labour portal which provides online approvals for licenses, renewals and mandatory services to the industries, commercial establishments as well to workers.

NRI AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

79. Our NRI sisters and brothers have scripted success stories virtually in every country. Under Friends of Punjab (CM Garima Gram Yojana) and Connect with Your Roots (CYR), the Punjab origin NRIs are being encouraged to connect themselves to their roots in Punjab. We have also assured our NRI brethren that any effort by them shall be supported by the Government by contributing 50% for any infrastructure related work that is undertaken in their villages in Punjab by NRIs.

80. To effectively and expeditiously address the complaints/grievances of NRIs a new Act is being framed to safeguard the rights of NRIs.

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

81. This Government attaches a high priority to the welfare of the weaker sections of the society. Their economic empowerment remains the main focus of the Government to ensure that the people belonging to such sections of the society are not left out on the margins. The Atta Dal Scheme has thus been restructured with the introduction of e-Pos machines which ensures efficient distribution of subsidized foodgrains.

82. It's our further endeavor to ensure that it is only the poor, marginalized and needy who receive the subsidies and other benefits of the government. To ensure that the poor are not disadvantaged by the powerful elite we shall be bringing in a legislation for targeted delivery of financial and other subsidies, benefits and services. This will ensure direct benefit transfer and an efficient, transparent and targeted delivery by linking the Aadhar number of the recipients to these subsidies and benefits.

83. We are all aware of the immense importance of the food procurement operations for our farmer and for the food security of the nation. The Government has thus ensured smooth and hassle free procurement of foodgrains produced by our farmers in the State during the last Kharif and Rabi seasons.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

84. The State Government is committed to provide an all-round development for the rural population through creation of rural employment and rural livelihoods. A total outlay of ₹3020 crore has been earmarked for Rural Development & Panchayats for the year 2018-19 against an allocation of ₹1605 crore in 2017-18 BE, an increase of 88.20% over previous year.

MGNREGA

85. Under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), employment has been provided to 637253 households in the rural area of the State till date and under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin), all houseless rural households will be provided shelter and 1.25 lac households will be covered in the State of Punjab by 2022.

86. The Rural Development department plans to converge the MGNREGA scheme with the schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Development, Water Resources, Forestry and Wildlife and Horticulture. Shelters for animals, fish ponds, orchards will be established by converging these schemes which will benefit at least 75000 households through this exercise. An allocation of ₹325 crore has been provided in the budget 2018-19 for the MGNREGA.

87. 4000 hectares of Kandi belt will be afforested and a park in every tenth village will be established using convergence, thereby not only generating employment but also promoting environmental sustenance.

MAHATMA GANDHI SARBAT VIKAS YOJANA (MGSVY)

88. The Government in its commitment to the down trodden and the under privileged sections of the society has converged various beneficiary schemes under MGSVY with a renewed focus on exact identification of every eligible beneficiary. Other than the sectoral allocations, an allocation of ₹1.5 crore is proposed for this scheme.

SWM IN VILLAGES

89. Solid Waste Management (SWM) in rural areas of the State is one of the most important priorities of the government. At present the solid waste

management is being done unscientifically which would be improved by introduction of scientific way of collection, sorting and disposal. Initially, 740 villages will be covered under this scheme during 2018-19.

DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER

90. Similarly, we need to take up the case of disposal of the sullage water or liquid waste Management in the rural area. A scientific way of treatment of sullage water is essential for ponds situated in villages. Initially, 740 villages will be covered under this scheme during this year.

DIGITISATION OF VILLAGE DATABASE

91. Survey and digital map of villages is to be prepared for determination of details of streets and drains etc. and their ground levels for an effective planning & implementation in future. Initially, the work is to be carried out in five villages per block. I am proposing an amount of ₹1 crore in the budget for this project during the year 2018-19.

SOCIAL SERVICES

SCHOOL EDUCATION

UPGARDATION OF SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Speaker Sir,

92. It is our earnest desire and duty to provide the best quality education to our children and build robust educational infrastructure. To this extent we propose to construct 1597 additional class rooms during 2018-19 so as to provide suitable learning environment for its students. A budget of ₹120 crore has been provided for the said purpose.

93. Green boards are being procured for 3281 primary schools with a budget provision of ₹5.25 crore during 2017-18 and a sum of ₹21 crore will be spent during 2018-19 for procuring Green boards for all the remaining Government primary, middle and high schools.

94. It is also proposed to install RO systems in 1500 schools at an outlay of ₹9 crore with an objective to provide safe drinking water.

95. The State Government had provided ₹21 crore for procurement of benches for primary schools in the current year. During 2018-19, all remaining primary schools as well as all middle schools will be provided furniture with a budget provision of ₹23.14 crore.

SMART SCHOOLS

96. The environment of the school makes a lot of difference in the way students identify themselves with the school. One existing school in every educational block will be converted into a smart school having state of the art facilities and ₹50 crore shall be provided by converging resources for this purpose during the year 2018-19.

UPGARDATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GIRL'S SCHOOLS

97. Our Government is committed to enhancing the girls enrolment in the schools at all levels right from primary to senior secondary level. A major reason for dropout of girl students is the absence of separate girls' toilets in the schools. Mr. Speaker Sir, All schools in the state will be covered with separate girls' toilets for which suitable allocation is being provided.

98. Other than this, the government will provide free sanitary napkins to all girl students from Class 6-12th in all government schools with an objective to promote menstrual hygiene and reduce dropout of girl students. I propose an initial allocation of ₹10 crore during 2018-19 for this project.

99. I also propose an allocation of ₹2 crore in this year for the completion of Infrastructure in Senior Secondary Schools for girls, Mandi Ahmedgarh.

100. Further, whenever we have a chance to interact with the Principal or teachers in the schools we are informed that there are no funds that are available for small repairs and maintenance. Starting this year we shall regularly provide funds for the maintenance of the schools and this year I am proposing a provision of ₹10 crore for regular upkeep and maintenance of the existing school infrastructure.

GREEN ENERGY IN SCHOOLS

101. We are all aware of the imperative need to shift to renewable sources of energy. This year we propose to install solar power systems on all the senior secondary schools in the state through Public Private Partnerships to make these schools self-sufficient in electricity.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

102. 'Padho Punjab Padhao Punjab' programme has been launched to improve the learning levels of students studying in Government schools. The program is being run meticulously in a planned manner in all primary and upper primary schools in the state. The initial results show substantial improvement in the learning levels of the target students. A provision of ₹10 crore is being made to support the activities undertaken in the programme.

103. In order to promote the scientific thinking and reasoning it has been decided that the Department will make all efforts to increase the strength of students learning science by at least 20% during 2018-19.

PRE-PRIMARY CLASSES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

104. This Government has taken an initiative of its own kind which is a first in the country. We have started Pre-primary classes in all the Government primary schools w.e.f. 14.11.2017. Around 1.60 lakh children of age group 3-6 years have been enrolled in pre-primary classes. To support this endeavor an initial allocation of ₹2.50 crore has been earmarked for providing teaching learning material to students of pre-primary classes during 2018-19.

FREE TEXTBOOKS TO ALL STUDENTS

105. The State will provide students from Class 1st to 12th studying in Government schools all requisite text-books free of cost during 2018-19. A budget provision of ₹49 crore has been provided for this purpose. The text books for academic session 2018-19 are already under print and the department will be in a position to provide the text books to the students at the beginning of the next academic year.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

106. Use of modern technology including computers and projectors makes not only teaching more friendly but also helps in better understanding of the concepts thus, resulting in better learning attainments by the students. Wi-Fi services will also be provided in all the schools in association with private partners. The MoU for the same has been signed. 200 schools would be covered by March 2018. Remaining schools will be covered in a phased manner over the next 2 years.

107. Further, all the existing records available with Punjab School Education Board are being digitized to ensure speedy delivery of various services to the

citizens. From the current academic session, the Board will issue digital certificates for Matriculation and 10+2 examinations.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

108. Vocational education under NSQF scheme has now been extended to another 380 schools. It is planned to cover 500 more school with Vocational education during 2018-19.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker Sir,

109. If we aim to achieve the Gross Enrolment ratio of 32 by the year 2022 which presently stands at 28.6 (year 2016-17) we have to strengthen the infrastructure for Higher Education and improving the access to the same. The Government has thus decided to open ten new Degree Colleges, and I propose an initial allocation of ₹30 crore this year for this purpose.

RASHTRIYA UCHCHTAR SHIKSHA ABHIYAN, (RUSA)

110. Under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, (RUSA) two model Degree colleges- at Pathankot and Ferozepur have started functioning w.e.f. last Academic Year. Two more professional colleges - Arts & Sports College, Jalandhar and Punjab State Aeronautic College, Patiala are nearing completion at the cost of ₹26 crore each. I would like to add that I am making a provision of ₹1.50 crore in 2018-19 to complete the ongoing work for upgradation of the Sports College, Jalandhar.

MAHARAJA AGRASEN CHAIR AT PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

111. We propose to set up a Maharaja Agrasen Chair at Punjabi University, Patiala with an allocation of ₹7 crore to document the role played by the

Agrawals in economic development of Punjab and, this year an initial outlay of ₹2 crore has been provided.

MAHARANA PRATAP CHAIR AT PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA

112. As a small act of gratitude to one of the great sons of our country, the Government proposes to set up a Maharana Pratap Chair at Punjabi University, Patiala with an allocation of ₹7 crore and, this year an initial outlay of ₹2 crore has been provided.

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

113. We are proud of our Panjab University and we are committed to supporting it. Starting this year we have decided to enhance the total grant to Panjab University, which is one of the oldest Universities in the country, to ₹42.62 crore in 2018-19 from the existing ₹33 crore. This includes an additional grant of ₹6 crore this year to help the University meets its past deficit. I am also proposing a grant of ₹8 crore for its constituent colleges.

114. Similarly, the grants to the other Universities in the State, viz; Guru Nanak Dev University, Punjabi University, PAU, GADVASU, Guru Ravi Das Ayurved University and Rajiv Gandhi National Law University is proposed to be enhanced at least by 6% over the previous year's allocations.

115. I am also proposing an additional one-time grant of ₹50 crore for Punjabi University, Patiala this year.

116. The Government is committed to promote all languages, especially Punjabi for which an allocation of ₹25.01 crore is being provided during 2018-19.

WI-FI IN COLLEGES

117. Our Government is committed to providing all modern facilities to the students and staff of the Government Colleges for better exchange of information and improved teaching methodologies. We have thus decided to provide free Wi-Fi services in all the 48 Government colleges. I am happy to announce that the facility is already operational in 23 colleges and the rest of the colleges will be covered by the end of July, 2018.

118. The Government wishes to see the Universities and academic institutes of the state emerge as centers of innovation, research with a strong industry connect. We would thus encourage and support the Educational institutions to start incubators and research centers in their campuses by involving the industry.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

119. It gives me immense pleasure to inform the august House that as a result of successful intervention of the Chief Minister Scholarship scheme for the benefit of students studying in Government Polytechnic Colleges, the admissions have improved by approximately 25%.

SKILLS UNIVERSITY

120. The Government has decided to set up a 100 acre Skills University in the name of Sri Guru Gobind Singh at Sri Chamkaur Sahib for employment oriented training. Requisite budgetary allocations would be provided in due course for this purpose.

PUNJAB NAUJAWAN HUNAR VIKAS YOJANA

121. The government has decided to launch a new scheme Punjab Naujawan Hunar Vikas Yojana with an objective to provide free skill training to the

unemployed youth in the age group 18-35 years at any of the Skill training centres. The scheme will specifically focus on Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, specially-abled, women and school dropouts. I propose an initial allocation of ₹10 crore during 2018-19 for this purpose.

122. The government also plans to set-up ITIs/ Skill Development Centres in the blocks where none exists. An ITI on PPP mode will also be set up in Cycle Valley, Ludhiana to link the industry with skilled workforce.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE

123. Our Government is committed to providing equitable, accessible and affordable quality health services to its entire population particularly the underserved. The Government is allocating an outlay of ₹4015 crore during 2018-19 for its primary and secondary health care services with an increase of 13% over previous year budget estimates.

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION (NHM)

124. Under the Flagship Programme of National Health Mission (NHM), ₹914.57 crore is proposed during 2018-19 for upgradation of Health infrastructure, provisioning of equipments, diagnostics and free drugs for the patients. The proposed allocation is 18% higher against the last years allocation of ₹776.63 crore.

NEW HOSPITALS AND TRAUMA CENTRES

125. The Government will also set up new hospitals at Doraha in Ludhiana and Ghanour in Patiala, and upgrade the existing Civil Hospital, Bathinda. To provide immediate care to victims of accidents, we propose to build Trauma centers on the important highways for which I am proposing an initial allocation of ₹20 crore in the year 2018-19.

SUPPORTING CANCER PATIENTS AND DRUG DEADDICTION

126. Under the Mukh Mantri Cancer Rahat Kosh, ₹30 crore is being proposed this year to provide financial assistance @ ₹1.50 lakh for free treatment to the cancer patient. A State Cancer Institute at Amritsar costing ₹39 crore, and a Tertiary Cancer Care Centre at Fazilka costing ₹45 crore will also be constructed. A support of ₹25 crore will be provided to the Cancer and Drug De-addiction Treatment Infrastructure Board (CADA) to support the augmentation of cancer diagnostic and treatment infrastructure and implementation of new strategy for Drug De-addiction in the State.

NATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION SCHEME (NHPS)

127. The Government of India has recently announced the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) under which a coverage of ₹5 lakh to the economically weaker 15.06 lac families, identified under SECC 2011 will be given. The State will not only adopt the NHPS scheme but also, provide such cover to its left families from the NFS Survey vis-a-vis SECC Survey. As the scheme has been rolled by the Government of India, suitable adjustment will be made in the budgetary allocations.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRES

128. Our Government has also decided to strengthen 2950 Sub-Centres as Health & Wellness Centre (HWC) in a phased manner to provide Comprehensive Primary Health Care Services at the doorstep of the community. Apart from this 600 more HWC will be taken up for strengthening and operationalization 2018-19. For this, a provision of ₹22.50 crore is being proposed this year.

AYUSH

129. Under the National AYUSH mission, an allocation of ₹24 crore is being proposed for strengthening of the Ayurvedic & Homeopathic Dispensaries and construction of two Ayurvedic Hospitals.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGES

130. Medical Education and Tertiary health care is an important element of the plan of this Government to provide a comprehensive health care cover to our people. With an objective to boost this, the government proposes to set up a Medical College at S.A.S. Nagar and two more Medical Colleges in the state.

STRENGTHENING EXISTING MEDICAL AND DENTAL COLLEGES

131. The existing Government Medical Colleges at Patiala and Amritsar, the centers of secondary and tertiary health care for our people require massive up gradation in terms of infrastructure and equipment for providing better medical care and for increasing new MBBS and PG seats. A total of ₹73.34 crore is being proposed in the budget for the upgradation of Government Medical College Patiala and Government Medical College, Amritsar. We also propose to upgrade the Government Medical College, Faridkot and -Advance Cancer Hospital Bathinda and for this purpose a sum of ₹10 crore is proposed.

132. During this year we also propose to upgrade the Dental Colleges at Patiala and Amritsar and for this purpose ₹5 crore is being proposed in the budget.

INFRASTRUCTURE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

133. Punjab has 167 towns and cities and approximately 40 percent of the State's population resides in urban areas and the State gets 60 percent of its GDP from these urban areas.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

134. Punjab has always led the nation, whether in producing food grains, or providing electricity to all villages and Households. This government of Captain Amarinder Singh is committed to "Har Ghar Safai, Har Ghar Pani"

HAR GHAR SAFAI, HAR GHAR PANI

135. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission we are focusing on Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and scientific Solid Waste Management (SWM). We are committed to the mission and an outlay of ₹100 crore is being provided for Swachh Bharat Mission in 2018-19. I assure you that we shall not allow funds to be a constraint in this mission of ours. All Municipal Towns/areas would be made open defecation free by 30.06.2018.

136. We are all aware that the ground water is fast depleting in our state, and conscious of this fact, project proposals for 24x7 surface drinking water schemes for Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Jalandhar to be implemented with support from the World Bank & ADB have been prepared. These projects would be executed over next three years.

137. A special assistance of ₹1540 crore will also be availed from HUDCO to complete the balance works of water supply and sewerage schemes in 122 towns and cities of the State during 2018-19.

AMRUT

138. For the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme a provision of ₹500 crore has been proposed this year. This scheme will be implemented for upgradation of infrastructure works such as water supply, sewerage, septage, urban transport and green parks will be developed for 16 towns with population of more than 1 lakh, thereby enhancing the amenity value of these towns. A total investment of ₹40.93 crore is being proposed to develop at least 1 park in each of these towns.

SMART CITIES

139. Under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) three cities of Punjab were selected namely Ludhiana, Amritsar and Jalandhar to be developed as smart cities. A provision of ₹500 crore is provided in 2018-19 for this purpose.

URBAN TRANSPORT FUND

140. With an objective to promote Urban Transportation facilities including infrastructure and O&M through PPP mode we propose to set up an Urban Transport Fund of around ₹75 crore during 2018-19.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

PUNJAB SHEHRI AWAS YOJANA

141. The state government has notified the Punjab Shehri Awas Yojana (PSAY) to provide free housing to houseless SC/BC families having household annual income less than ₹5 lakh and to provide subsidized housing to all urban poor/poor residing in the slums as well as urban middle class.

142. The construction of 10,000 EWS dwelling units for eligible families would be taken up in a phased manner. A Central assistance @ ₹1.50 lakh per house for construction shall be availed from Government of India under

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (U) and balance funds and land shall be provided by the state government. A provision of ₹335 crore for PMAY (U) and ₹38 crore for PSAY has been made in 2018-19.

POWER

143. The focus of the State Government is to strengthen power infrastructure, reduce line losses and bring transparency in billing procedure by using IT tools. During the year 2017-18, the State Government continued to provide free power to farmers and subsidized power to SC, BC and Non SC-BPL category. In addition, power to industry is being provided at a variable cost of ₹5/- per unit. We are committed to this policy for which a total allocation of ₹8950 crore is being made in the budget 2018-19. Out of this ₹1254 crore is being provided for SC, BC, Non SC-BPL and domestic consumers.

GENERATION

144. The total installed capacity of the State is presently 13182 MW which will further rise to 13660 MW by the end of 2017-18. The peak demand anticipated for the year 2018-19 is 11705 MW, which could, therefore, be met easily. There is a proposal for installation of Super Critical Thermal Plant (5x800 MW) at GGSSTP Ropar for improving the reliability and quality of power. Feasibility of setting up Gas based power plant and also for setting up a 100 MW Solar power plant at ash dykes area of GNDTP Bathinda is being explored.

TRANSMISSION

145. It has been planned to construct 16 new sub stations during 2018-19. The sub stations having loading more than 80% will be augmented or provided with additional transformers. Accordingly, it is envisaged that the total capacity of 1371 MVA will be added during the year. In order to de-load the existing 66

KV transmission lines and to improve the reliability of the sub-transmission network, PSPCL will also construct 800-1000 Ckt.-Km of transmission lines during the year at an estimated cost of ₹450 crore.

DISTRIBUTION

146. It is proposed to spend ₹900 crore during the year 2018-19 for separation of AP feeders including those in the Kandi area and strengthening of the Distribution System in urban and rural areas.

CIVIL AVIATION

147. The Aeronautical Engineering College at Patiala will be completed this year and it will start its academic teaching this year. The State Government is also exploring possibilities of partnership of our flying clubs with international agencies for better placement of trainee pilots.

148. We are also taking up the matter of setting up of a Civil Air Terminal at Halwara Airport with the Government of India.

ROADS & BRIDGES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

149. This Government is committed to building robust roads and bridges infrastructure & more importantly maintain the existing one. The allocation for construction and maintenance of new roads, bridges and building for this year has been raised to ₹1067 crore. Further, ₹100 crore has been earmarked in 2018-19 for the ongoing and new Judicial Court Complexes coming up at Mohali, Ferozepur, Patti, Bathinda, Ludhiana, Nawanshahr, Baba Bakala & Mukerian. Additionally, ₹230 crore has been kept for upgradation of 75 rural roads and 4 bridges with the assistance of NABARD. The State has got 5 roads

declared in principle as National Highways and work of upgradation of these roads shall be undertaken at an estimate cost of ₹1200 crore.

IMPROVING CONNECTIVITY

150. My Government is happy to allocate an amount of ₹315 crore for Upgradation, Construction & repair of Roads & Bridges in the year 2018-19 which will also include the construction of Rail under Bridge at Gurdaspur, Rampuraphul, Gidderbaha, Morinda and Sujampur, Rail Over Bridge at Dhakki, Mandi Gobindgarh, Malerkotla, Dina Nagar and Chugiti Lado Wali Road Jalandhar, High level Bridge at Talwara Jattan in Pathankot and Pantoon Bridges on river Satluj in Ferozepur and Sri Anandpur Sahib.

PMGSY & CRF

151. I am proposing an allocation of ₹235 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to complete works at 410 Km. Roads. Under Central Road Funds Scheme, a provision of ₹300 crore has been kept for 19 works of Roads in the Districts of Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Barnala, Patiala, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Muktsar, Fazilika, Faridkot and Tarn Taran benefiting 406 Km of Roads. Also, ₹20 crore has been kept for maintaining the OPRC Network of Roads upgraded with the assistance of the World Bank.

LINK ROADS

152. Further, the State Government will take up a special project for the repair of 16,000 kms of Link roads at the cost of around ₹2000 crore. Another project for the Widening/ Upgradation/ Remodeling of damaged and narrow bridges falling on the Link roads at the cost of ₹200 crore will be completed by 31.12.18.

TRANSPORT

NEW BUS STANDS

Mr. Speaker Sir,

153. As the density of population in the urban areas increases the problem of traffic congestion due to the bus stands in the heart of the cities also becomes critical. During this year we propose to take up the development of 16 new bus stands in PPP mode including those at Amritsar, Barnala, Batala, Bathinda, Balachaur, Dhuri, Mansa, Gurdaspur, Nakodar, Kartarpur, Patiala, Ludhiana, Sirhind, Jalandhar, Raikot and Ropar.

154. As a commitment to environment protection, the Transport Department would bring a policy for the use of electric vehicles to reduce the pollution in the State.

BORDER AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

155. Border Area Development Programme was started by Government of India in 1986-87 as a fully funded Central scheme. Punjab has received only meagre funds under this programme as the criteria adopted for allocation of funds is not in the favour of smaller states like Punjab. With this meagre amount, only smaller infrastructure works could be carried out. With effect from 2016-17, much against our repeated requests the funding pattern of the programme has also been changed to 60:40.

156. Recognizing the development needs/hardships being faced by the people of the border areas, the State Government is formulating a Special Package for the upliftment of these areas which includes creation of new social and industrial infrastructure. To begin with, special incentives for setting up of new industry in the Extreme Border Zone (EBZ) of area falling within 30 Km of

International Border has been included in the new Industrial and Business Development Policy-2017. Further, in order to give a fillip to the development of border areas of the state, in addition to Infrastructure related projects, area specific projects would also be taken up during the year. The government will take up the construction of V.R Bridge of Patti Nallah connecting Kandiala Sarhali as an area specific project. I am proposing an outlay of ₹300 crore for the border areas this year as well which is in addition to ₹58.34 crore provided under the Centrally Sponsored Border Area Development Programme.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

HAR GHAR SAFAI, HAR GHAR PANI

157. Our Government is committed to “Har Ghar Safai, Har Ghar Pani” and to achieve that we propose to ensure 100% coverage of rural households with individual household connections from piped potable water supply schemes by 2021. An enhanced allocation of ₹1489 crore is provided for 2018-19 so that each resident of rural area of the State gets clean and safe drinking water.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

158. Even as other states are struggling to provide potable drinking water to their citizens by providing at least one source of clean drinking water in a village, we aim to be the first state in the country to provide piped drinking water to all the households.

159. 800 habitations for augmentation of existing water supply schemes will be covered at an estimated cost of ₹600 crore. Another ₹60 crore will be spent to improve access to water through household connections and operational improvements for another 1200 villages. Further, with the help of NABARD upgradation of 257 schemes costing ₹175 crore will be taken up during 2018-19.

160. Under the National Water Quality Sub Mission, the Government of India has agreed to provide 50% funding for coverage of 777 Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations for providing long term sustainable measures. A proposal costing ₹550 crore for coverage of quality habitations with canal based water supply schemes in districts Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur and Amritsar has been submitted to Government of India. For remaining districts, piped water supply schemes based on ground water will be undertaken during 2018-19.

161. Water Supply Infrastructure in 55 villages falling under the Kandi areas of district Pathankot, Hoshiarpur, Nawashehar, Ropar and Mohali will be upgraded at a cost of ₹20 crore during 2018-19.

162. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), State Government had fixed a target for construction of 4,80,000 individual household latrines (IHHLs) upto 2017-18 at a cost of ₹720 crore. Rural areas of 13 districts comprising 87 blocks and 10351 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) and remaining 9 districts, 57 Blocks and 2034 villages shall be declared Open Defecation Free by June 2018. ₹150 crore are being provided for Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin for 2018-19 to achieve this target.

163. Swachhta Darpan is an online ranking system launched by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Government of India to rank the performance of the districts under Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin. Four districts - Ludhiana, Fatehgarh Sahib, Barnala and SAS Nagar have achieved Ist Award in Swachhta Darpan ranking all over the country.

WATER RESOURCES

Mr. Speaker Sir,

SAVE WATER SAVE PUNJAB

164. While Mother Earth blessed many states with underground minerals like coal, iron ore etc. we were blessed with water. When the nation called we used this blessing to fulfill the food needs of the country. Today, the need of the hour for us is a sustainable management of our depleted water resources; the call today is 'SAVE WATER SAVE PUNJAB'. With a view to take all possible measures to save our groundwater and plan for future of water in the state, a Mission Directorate of Groundwater Management has been established and is in the process of being operationlised. I am also proposing outlays for projects with this key objective in mind.

165. To tackle water logging problem caused by the badly damaged lining of the Rajasthan Feeder canal and Sirhind Feeder canal, groundwork for inviting international competitive bids for the twin canal projects has been completed. While awaiting clearance by the Government of India, an outlay of ₹152 crore has been provided in the budget 2018-19 for these twin projects.

166. 60,729 hectares of water logged land in South Western districts of Punjab will be desalinated and reclaimed through a special project for which an outlay of ₹145 crore has been provided in the budget. Besides, a new project to tackle water logging and floods in the state has also been included at a total cost of ₹10 crore.

167. The irrigation network of Punjab was a major factor in the success of the Green Revolution and we shall continue to strengthen it. A project to realize the un-utilized irrigation potential created under various projects and systems has

been formulated under the Incentivisation Scheme for Bridging Irrigation Gap (ISBIG) of the Government of India.

168. Responding to a major demand of the people of the Kandi area a provision has also been made for installation of 72 alternative deep tube wells in the Kandi area.

169. Two projects viz Relining of Channels of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch and Extension of Kandi Canal from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur have been included with an objective to create additional irrigation potential at an outlay of ₹19.80 crore and ₹11.68 crore respectively.

170. The other projects to be undertaken during the year are:

- Relining of Bist Doab Canal at a cost of ₹50 crore.
- Construction of Banur weir and lining of Banur Canal System with an outlay of ₹7.66 crore.
- Repair and Reconstruction of Distributaries /minors with an outlay of ₹50 crore.
- Three projects Renovation/rehabilitation/ Reconstruction of Minor Systems and Distributaries in Abohar Area of Fazilka district at a total cost of ₹8.46 crore.
- Construction of Flood Protection Works along left side and right sides of River Beas in District Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur and Kapurthala a cost of ₹9.22 crore.
- Three projects for Renovation/ Rehabilitation/ reconstruction of Minor System and Distributaries namely Punjawa Distributory Project costing ₹12 crore, Daulatpura Minor Project costing ₹13.52crore, and Malukpur

Distributory Project costing ₹16.50 crore have been proposed to be taken up during 2018-19.

171. For setting up of additional power generation capacity of 206 MW and creation of additional irrigation potential of 37,143 hectares, in Punjab and J&K besides enabling RSD power station to act as a peaking station, the government intends to resume the construction work of Shahpurkandi Dam national project during the coming financial year and a budget provision of ₹70 crore has been made for this project.

172. A special Lift Irrigation Scheme at a total outlay of ₹46 crore with an objective to boost agriculture in Sri Anandpur Sahib will be launched during 2018-19. I propose an initial allocation of ₹9 crore in 2018-19 for this project.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

173. This Government is committed to sustainable development and preservation of ecological diversity of the State. I thank the Hon'ble Speaker Sir, for taking a strong Green initiative of allowing us to present the Budget documents as a soft copy which though has resulted in meagre savings of ₹48 lakhs, but more importantly it has saved about 200 trees from being cut. It shall be our endeavor to reduce the consumption of paper in all the Government departments during the year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

174. The Department of Science, Technology & Environment has taken a number of steps to keep pace with new technology and to give a boost to R & D activities. A massive awareness campaign was launched to curb the burning of paddy straw in fields. A reduction of about 23% in incidents of stubble burning could be achieved as compared to incidents in the last year.

175. Six new sewage treatment plants were installed & commissioned for treatment of 58 million liters/day of sewage. Further, with implementation of Green Bridge Technology, about 20% reduction in BOD of water in Budda Nallah could be achieved.

176. India's 1st Technology & Innovation Support Centre under the aegis of UN's World Intellectual Property Organization has been set up at Punjab State Council for Science & Technology to facilitate access to international facilities on Intellectual Property Rights.

177. To provide technological support to the food processing industry in Punjab, a secondary Agriculture/Food Processing Entrepreneurial Network is also being set up with the support of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) of the Government of India in 2018-19.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

GHAR GHAR HARYALI

Mr. Speaker Sir,

178. It is our solemn duty that we must leave this planet much greener and safer for the coming generations. I exhort my fellow Punjabis to join this effort and I am happy to announce a new scheme "Ghar Ghar Haryali-Each one plant three for greening Punjab". Under this scheme, the State will provide 15 plants of native variety such as Shisham, Kikar, Amb, Jamun, Amla, Neem etc. to each house hold.

BIODIVERSITY PARKS

179. I also propose for setting up of Biodiversity Parks at Bathinda, Gidderbaha and Sangrur.

NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

180. The Government of Punjab has set a target to produce approximately 3200 MW of renewable energy by installing different technology projects during the five year period 2017-22. This comprises installation of around 2000 MW of Solar Power Projects, 350 MW of Biomass based power projects (Bio-ethanol, Compressed Biogas & Power), 550 MW of Co-Generation Projects, 250 MW Mini Hydel Projects and some other innovative RE projects. These Green Energy Projects will help in protecting the environment from harmful gases and will also become a source of employment for the youth of Punjab.

181. We also plan to carry out the solarisation of Agriculture Pump sets, and during 2018-19, 5000 Solar Pumps are proposed to be installed. Besides, 25000 solar street lights & 3500 biogas plants would also be installed during 2018-19.

HOME AFFAIRS AND JUSTICE

182. The State Government is committed to provide Emergency Services relating to public safety across the State of Punjab on 24x7 basis and during the year a centralized contact Centre would be established in Punjab for receiving all Emergency Calls directly across the State including Remote Rural areas.

183. An amount of ₹124 crore has been provided under different schemes to strengthen the law and order machinery in the State during the year 2018-19. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS); a mission mode project under the National e-Governance Programme has networked a total of 600 sites (400 Police Stations, 200 Higher Offices). All Police Stations in the State stand digitally connected. Citizen Services offered through 'Saanjh kendras' have been linked with CCTNS database. Solar Power Backup System

have been installed in Police Stations across the State under CCTNS project and 69 more solar power backup system are being installed.

REVENUE

184. The Revenue Department continues to be a strong interface with the agrarian economy. The Government is thus focusing on online documentation of revenue record and computerization of its public interface services.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

185. This Government is committed to clean, transparent and efficient governance. Nishandehis shall now be carried out using the Electronic Total Station. This project has already been rolled out this year in the districts of Patiala, SAS Nagar, Ludhiana and Jalandhar and we aim to cover the remaining districts during 2018-19.

186. We are also planning to set up state of the art modern record rooms for the custody and maintenance of the revenue record.

187. Preparing ourselves for disasters, ₹34.70 crore have been provided for purchase of fire safety equipments in towns and cities and ₹1.55 crore has been provided for purchase of search and rescue equipment for the State Disaster Response Force.

GOODS AND SERVICE TAX (GST)

188. GST has been implemented in the country w.e.f. 1st July, 2017. While the implementation had a serious effect on the cash flows of the revenues of the state to the extent that they were unpredictable both in terms of receipts and timing in the initial months of implementation, we do hope that by the end of the fiscal year the state would receive all of its assured revenues. This

uncertainty has of course also had an impact on the state's ability to release funds for development works.

189. The State has made all efforts to help and facilitate a smooth adoption of processes and procedures under GST by the trade and industry. About 1000 workshops have been organized for the stakeholders to sensitize the taxpayers. Facilitation Centres have been set up in each district along with all sub offices. Fulfilling our pre-election commitment all the 41 Information Collection Centers (ICCs) have been removed from Inter State borders w.e.f. 31/8/2017 enabling free movement of goods vehicles.

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

190. The total Budget size for the year 2018-19 is ₹129698 crore. However the effective Budget size is ₹102198 crore as the above figure contains a budget provision of ₹27500 crore towards Ways and Means transactions for the current year. The total Receipts are expected to be ₹122923 crore. The details are as follows:

Sr. No.	Item	Revised Estimates 2017-18 (₹ crore)	Budget Estimates 2018-19 (₹ crore)
1	Revenue Receipts (2+3+4+5+6)	56872	73812
2	State's Own Tax Revenue	35490	41064
3	State's Own Non-Tax Revenue	5096	10249
4	Share of Central Taxes	10617	12429
5	Grants-in-Aid from Centre	5668	8570
6	Additional Resource Mobilization	-	1500
7	Capital Receipts (8+9+10)	45808	49111
8	Public Debt excluding Ways and Means Advance	18233	21555
9	Ways & Means Advance	27500	27500
10	Recovery of Loans	75	56
11	Total Receipts (1+7)	102680	122923
12	Revenue Expenditure (13+14+15+16)	71182	86351

13	Salaries and Wages (including Grant-in-Aid)	24938	25709
14	Pension and retirement benefits	9469	10305
15	Interest Payments	15175	16260
16	Other Revenue Expenditure	21600	34078
17	Capital Expenditure	4389	6385
18	Repayment of Public Debt excluding Ways and Means Advance	7530	8610
19	Repayment of Ways & Means Advance	27500	27500
20	Advances of Loans	2197	851
21	Total Expenditure (12+17+18+19+20)	112797	129698
22	Revenue Deficit (12-1)	14310	12539
23	Fiscal Deficit (22+20+17-10)	20821	19720
24	Primary Deficit (23-15)	5646	3460
25	Outstanding Debt	195978	211523
	GSDP at Current Prices	477482	518165

* Figures have been rounded off

191. In my budget proposals, I have proposed raising ₹1500 crore through Additional Resource Mobilization (ARM) measures, some of which I am outlining. The Government has decided to bring in a legislation for imposing a nominal development tax @ ₹200 per month only on the Income Tax payees who are engaged in professions, trades, callings and employments. Many of the progressive states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, A.P and Tamil Nadu have been collecting such tax for development for a long time. The State also intends to bring a new Social Security Legislation to create a dedicated fund to meet its commitment towards the weaker sections of society. Further, we also intend to rationalize our Non-Tax revenue receipts during the year.

192. However, this still leaves an unfunded resource gap of ₹4175 crore. I hope that with improved efficiency in tax compliance and administration and efficient delivery of public services, we would be able to economize on the expenditure and thus close this gap which is visible as of now.

193. It gives me immense pleasure to place on record that as a result of fiscal prudence exercised by my Government in the last one year, the State could reduce the number of days for which the treasury remained in overdraft from 179 days in 2016-17 to 98 days in 2017-18 thereby reducing the interest liability on this count only on the State by about ₹5 crore. The State had remained in Double Overdraft for 29 days in 2016-17, we hope to close 2017-18 without going into Double Overdraft even for a single day.

CONCLUSION

194. No greatness of achievement is impossible for good men determined; fortune is an unfailing ally of the brave. Let it not be said of this Punjabi generations that we lacked courage and integrity. Let it not be said of this Punjabi generation that we left determination and purpose to our adversaries. We have come too far; we have sacrificed too much, to disdain the future now.

Mr. Speaker Sir,

195. I quote the words of the legendary Allama Iqbal:

Nahin Hai Na-Umeed Iqbal

Apni Kisht-e-Weran Se

Zara Nam Ho To Ye Mitti

Bohat Zarkhaiz hai Saqi

(But of the barren acres, Iqbal, will not despair;

A little rain; and harvest shall wave at last, O Saki).

196. The boundless talent and energy of the people of Punjab is a flame which can be hidden but never extinguished. It is the duty of our Government to reveal this phenomenal flame to the rest of the world once again.

197. May I, as one who reflects anxiously and every day on Punjab's future, warn the House that let none of us be deflected for one instant from the clear path of prudence by empty and false promptings howsoever alluring. Let us build surely and gain strength and security before we listen lightly to the voice of any temptress - for then alone shall we be able to pursue the many ideals which lie close to our heart. We want to win success eschew failure; to this and let us try unremittingly with our whole energy and courage.

198. Today our judgment is called to question. Captain Amarinder Singh ji, and his Government, whose shoulders bear the overwhelming burden of faith, and who has been entrusted by the people of Punjab with the sacred responsibility of leading and taking collective decisions, have a choice to make. We can choose to be careless, and add to Punjab's uncertainty and regression, or we can be a force of stability. We can choose, as some states in the country today are, short term solutions and quick fixes, or long term decisions that require courage and are rooted in wisdom.

199. Hon'ble Speaker, let me express to this House in the strongest terms possible, that this government has unequivocally chosen to put the progress, prosperity, and pride of Punjab above all else, and have chosen to put the interests of our children and Punjab's future generations first. We have chosen to act with courage. We have chosen the long term.

200. I wish to record my gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. A friend and a leader of Men. Without his unstinted support and guidance, I would not be able to discharge my duties effectively and efficiently.

201. I thank you Mr. Speaker Sir and all the Hon'ble Members of this August House for their whole hearted support and co-operation.

202. On behalf of the Government, I wish to record my tribute to the valuable help received from the Principal Accountant General, Punjab. His standards have been rigorous, but I trust that we will not fail to improve under his vigilant scrutiny.

203. Sir, my last words must be an expression of appreciation for the work of Mr. D.K. Tiwari, Secretary Expenditure, other officers and staff of the Department of Finance and of Economic Policy & Planning, and especially for Mr. Anirudh Tewari, Principal Secretary, Finance whose singular devotion to duty has resulted in a high level of efficiency and prudent estimation. It is to their trained application and zealous devotion to duty that we owe the clear picture of our finances presented today. This work is onerous and of the highest responsibility.

204. Judged thus, I trust the watchfulness of the Finance Department and the foresight of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh will commend itself to the whole-hearted approval of this Assembly so that the welfare of the people of Punjab is safeguarded which is the prime obligation of this Assembly.

Sir with these words, I commend the Budget proposals for 2018-19 to this August House for approval.

JAI HIND