

# **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 550<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI**

61. The State will celebrate with complete dedication and fervour the 550<sup>th</sup> 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, BACKAWRD 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