



GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

Speech of
Harpal Singh Cheema

Finance Minister, Punjab

**Presenting the
Budget for the Year 2022-23
to the
Punjab Vidhan Sabha**

**27th June, 2022
Chandigarh**

Budget 2022-23
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Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

1. I rise to present the maiden Budget of AAP Government formed on 16th March, 2022 under the leadership of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, our Hon'ble Chief Minister. I feel privileged to have got an opportunity to serve Punjab as the Finance Minister. This becomes more opportune because we as a Nation are celebrating 75th year of our Independence. We all are sitting in this temple of democracy only because of the great sacrifices made by our forefathers and freedom fighters in the national movement. I, on behalf of this Government, dedicate this Budget to them and derive firm resolve and strength to shape their dreams into reality by contributing towards the welfare of Punjab and its people.

2. The people of Punjab have exuded tremendous faith and conviction in the Aam Aadmi Party. They have voted for "Badlaav" and this Government expresses its sincere gratitude for giving an unprecedented majority of 92 out of total 117 seats to the Aam Aadmi Party. This Government led by our Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji promises to create "The Rangla Punjab", which would be an epitome of economic prosperity, social development, and universal brotherhood. We reaffirm our commitment to end the menace of corruption, mafia raj and restore rule of law in the State.

3. The people of Punjab have understood the principles of Aam Aadmi Party. This party does not believe in mere rhetorics, rather it has

presented its resolve in the form of Guarantees. The party has presented a successful and effective model in Delhi under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi and National Convener of Aam Admi Party. Replicating similar initiatives in Punjab, we promise to make it a State over which present and future generations will be proud of.

4. The historical win has infused deep motivation in us to perform and deliver; and the same has been manifested right from the very first day of our assuming the office. Getting inspiration from our revered Gurus, lives of Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh who had dreamt of an independent and egalitarian India at the age of 23 and sacrificed his life in furtherance thereof and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, whose vision of democratic India is clearly manifested in our Constitution, I consider myself fortunate of having this opportunity to present "the roadmap" for the welfare and development of Punjab through this Budget. I am happy to share that our Government in a very short span of last 100 days has introduced umpteen measures and taken decisions which have positively impacted the life of Punjabis.

5. Speaker Sir, AAP Government shall develop a quintessential model of good governance and promises a clean, efficient and effective administration. Our governance model would be participatory, responsive and would ensure equity and inclusiveness. I, on behalf of my Government, pledge that when Punjab would move forward, no section of the population or area of Punjab would be left behind.

6. Our Government under the able and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji has zero tolerance towards corruption. An "Anti-Corruption Action Line" has been launched for common citizens to raise their voice against corruption

and any malpractices being faced by them The entire world is witness to the resolute action of our Hon'ble Chief Minister who took no time to remove his own minister over corruption charges and I would like to inform this august House that as of now 28 corruption related F.I.R. have been registered and 45 people have been sent to jail on corruption charges. I want to appeal to every Punjabi to stand up and become our partner to create a corruption free and mafia raj free Punjab.

7. It is unprecedented that Aam Aadmi Party Government has fulfilled slew of its poll promises just within few days of forming the Government. The Government has taken a breakthrough decision by approving the fresh recruitment of 26,454 employees in the Government and regularization of 36,000 contractual employees. This process is expected to be completed in the next few months. Further, our Government accords its highest priority to the youth of Punjab and is well cognizant of the potential demographic dividend it holds. We undertake to develop an ecosystem to stop brain-drain to countries like Canada, Australia, and create conducive conditions for employment opportunities within Punjab.

8. Speaker Sir, AAP Government is fulfilling its first guarantee made to the people of Punjab by providing 300 units of domestic power supply per month free to all citizens of Punjab w.e.f. from 1st July, 2022. This will bring big relief to Punjabis, who were reeling under exorbitant power bills. I want to further assure this august House that we are fully prepared and have already planned to finance this scheme by cutting wasteful expenditure and through enhancement of our own revenue.

9. We commit that we shall deliver on our promise that every single penny from the State Exchequer would be spent only on peoples' welfare and nothing else. Taking a cue from this philosophy, our Hon'ble Chief Minister has introduced 'One MLA One Pension' which would annually save public money to the tune of ₹19.53 crore (approx.).

10. Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji realizes that Punjab can't succeed if Agriculture sector and farmers fail. In a seemingly small, but significant step towards sustainable agriculture and special emphasis on water saving techniques, this Government has already announced a special financial assistance to promote Direct Seeding of Rice in paddy. Further a landmark decision to procure Moong Dal on MSP has already been taken. The reflection of these initiatives shall be seen in detail in the later part of my Speech.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

11. On this day, I express my sincere thanks to you for allowing me to present the Budget digitally. All Budget documents would be available on a mobile app once I finish my speech. This initiative would help save ₹21 lakhs per annum and more importantly would save over 800 trees.

12. This Budget reflects the philosophy of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji and National Convener of Aam Aadmi Party, who believe that without giving voice to the public, public policy would be a bane. This is for the first time that Government has resorted to wider consultation with general public to prepare the Budget. The Budget preparation exercise that used to remain confined to the walls of the Government Offices went this year beyond these confines and reached the principal stakeholder- the "People of Punjab". The suggestions and consultations were put forward by people from all strata, industrialists, trade associations, youngsters, women and

representatives from all walks of life and I am pleased to state that the feasible aspirations stated by the people of Punjab have been included in this Budget, thus making it a true “Janta Budget”.

13. It gives me immense pleasure to say that we had received 20,384 suggestions on portal and also through emails, letters and memorandums. 72.70% suggestions were received from men with highest from 31 to 40 years age group (45.42%) and 27.30% from women with highest from 31 to 40 years age group (48.20%). The Government also organized meetings at district level to have a bird's-eye-view of peoples' expectations from this Budget. All 23 districts were covered during the tour and slew of suggestions were received. We got overwhelming response from Ludhiana, Patiala, Fazilka, Bathinda, Mandi Gobindgarh, Batala, Sangrur and Amritsar.

14. Speaker Sir, our focus in the first year will be threefold, i.e.

- (a) to restore the deteriorating fiscal health and moderate the augmenting debt by increasing our own revenues;
- (b) to deliver on the promise of “Good Governance” by ensuring effective and efficient use of the public funds, arresting wasteful expenditure, and revamping existing schemes; and
- (c) concentrate on the two foundations of any society, i.e. Health and Education.

15. I, now solicit attention of this august House as I present the Budget for FY 2022-23, which shall contain facts of our State Finances and the vision of this Government standing absolutely true to basic fundamentals of democracy i.e. the Government for the people, by the people and of the people.

WHERE WE STAND

Speaker Sir,

16. The Government has presented before this august House, a White Paper on State Finances bringing its true picture before the people of Punjab. There is a paradigm shift from the White Papers presented by the predecessor Governments which were pessimistic in their perspective and never spoke about the solutions and the way forward. This White Paper presented by our Government while on one hand presents the real condition of State Finances, it also talks about the probable solutions and steps that ought to be undertaken, to bring Punjab back to its original No. 1 stature.

17. The White Paper makes it vividly clear that Punjab has suffered decades of fiscal imprudence. Little was done except lip talk to check skyrocketing unproductive revenue expenditure, freebies and unmerited subsidies. Punjab saw a virtual collapse in the capital and social sector investments, which is vital for future growth, and literally nothing concrete was done to augment tax and non-tax revenues.

18. To put things in perspective, the current Effective Outstanding Debt of Punjab stands at ₹2.63 lac crore as per 2021-22 (RE). In addition, State Agencies /PSUs /Boards /Corporations have a debt close to ₹55,000 crore, out of which around ₹22,250 crore has been guaranteed by the State Government. In the last five years, from FY 2016-17 to FY 2021-22, the Debt of the State has grown by 44.23%.

19. While the State of Punjab was number one in Per Capita Income across the country for a long time, it has now lost the race to other States. The State slid from the top to the 11th position on Per Capita Income ranking. States like Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu,

Karnataka, Gujarat, Haryana and even Himachal Pradesh have surpassed Punjab on the Per Capita Income parameter.

20. Total Central Transfers (i.e. Share of Central Taxes + Grants from Centre) which was just 22.85% of Total Revenue Receipts in FY 2011-12 has doubled to 46.11% of the Total Revenue Receipts in FY 2021-22. The State's Own Tax Revenue has decreased from 71.82% to 47.79% in the above period, indicating a perceptible decline in the State's ability to raise resources internally and higher reliance of State Finances on transfer from Union Government. The less than expected buoyancy in VAT, State Excise, Taxes on Vehicles, Stamps & Registrations, and Mining etc. is a tell-tale sign of market failure and faulty policies across these revenue generating sectors.

21. There were no attempts or incentive to increase the revenue of the State by the previous Government. It will not be amiss to say that the lack of planning and efforts to consolidate revenue in preparation for end of GST compensation regime has put the State in a compromising situation. As the GST compensation regime is ending in June 2022, the State Government would be staring down a big hole left in its finances to the tune of ₹14,000- ₹15,000 crore in FY 2022-23 itself. This is a "Fall off the Cliff" scenario for the State.

22. To revive Punjab to its glory days, serious relook into the expenditure commitments coupled with direct revenue enhancement measures are need of the hour. To consolidate finances, sustained growth, reduce reliance on debt, structural and policy initiatives are required with unheard levels of ground-level enforcement.

23. To compensate for this "lost decade", State has to cautiously resort to debt option and invest heavily in high quality Capital asset

creation. This would have a multiplier effect on the economy and would initiate a cycle of value-acceleration. Hopefully, Punjab would be able to increase its growth rate and sustain it for years to come.

CURRENT ECONOMIC PROFILE

Speaker Sir

24. Now, I would like to apprise this august House about few key macroeconomic indicators of the State. The GSDP of Punjab for the year 2021-22 at current prices stood at ₹5,73,763 crore which is 8.32% higher than that of the previous year, while the national growth stood at 8.90%. The GSDP for FY 2022-23 is pegged at ₹6,29,834 crore i.e. an increase of 9.77% over previous year. In Punjab's economy, agriculture sector is still a significant contributor i.e. 24.83% in the GSDP. The contribution of service sector and that of industrial sector is 50.63% and 24.54% respectively. Punjab's effective Outstanding Debt stands at 45.88% of GSDP (2021-22) which has shown a growth of 44.23% since 2016-17.

STRENGTHENING PUBLIC FINANCE

25. AAP Government is acutely conscious of the need for fiscal prudence given the status quo. I would like to inform this august House of the notable measures being undertaken for bringing fiscal prudence and efficiency in management of State Finances:

a. **Introduction of Fiscal Risk Statement:** It is a pioneering attempt to introduce a Fiscal Risk Statement along with the Budget with the aim to bring on paper the various kinds of fiscal risk the State is exposed to. This statement would enhance transparency; aid in sound

management of public finances and help in devising appropriate risk mitigation measures for the future.

b. **Gender Based Budgeting Guidelines:** Building on the principles of good governance and inclusive development, I am extremely happy to state that the Government shall issue this year the Gender Responsive Budgeting Guidelines setting out the strategy to promote the goal of gender equality and gender mainstreaming for bringing in social transformation and eliminating inequality.

c. **World Bank assisted Building Fiscal and Institutional Resilience (BFAIR) Project:** The State has collaborated with the World Bank under BFAIR Project. It would introduce an overarching framework through strengthening of the institutional capabilities and accountability; supporting better public service delivery and other reform measures for good governance. The project with a total cost of ₹1,655 crore would be implemented over a period of 5 years to bring in institutional reforms to enhance resilience and fiscal sustainability. Government of Punjab would be contributing Rs. 500 crore (approx.) out of this total project cost.

d. **Tax Intelligence Unit:** To augment additional resource generation, I propose to establish a Tax Intelligence Unit in the State. The Unit shall equip the finance department to improve tax compliances under GST through taxpayer facilitation and communication; and would strengthen tax analytics capabilities in the department to capture trends, patterns thereby bringing out weak and strong areas.

e. **Consolidated Sinking Fund:** To consolidate the State Finances and create adequate provision for disposal of debt commitments in future, my Government has contributed ₹1,000 crore in Consolidated Sinking Fund (CSF) of the State within first two months, taking the

cumulative contribution to ₹3,988 crore, while the previous Governments could only contribute ₹2,988 crore over all these years.

BUDGET 2022-23

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

26. Now, I present before you the Budget Estimates for FY 2022-23. These estimates have been derived out of the sanguine hope of rebuilding Punjab with a strong focus on targeted expenditure on identified priority sectors with special focus on Health and Education sector which are foundation of Punjab's economy and society. My forthcoming announcements will testify the same.

27. I propose a total Budget Expenditure of ₹1,55,860 crore for the FY 2022-23 which reflects 14.20% growth compared to the FY 2021-22 (RE). The Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit have been pegged at 1.99% and 3.78% respectively. The effective Outstanding Debt to GSDP has been estimated to be 45.23% for FY 2022-23.

28. I propose the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure of State at ₹1,07,932 crore which shows an incremental growth of 5.35% over the previous year Revised Estimates. Out of this, ₹66,440 crore is proposed towards the committed expenditure, a jump of 11.10% in comparison to the last financial year. This is largely attributed to the implementation of the 6th Punjab Pay Commission report, legacy debt and associated interest payments.

29. The Budget Estimates of Capital Expenditure is pegged at ₹10,981 crore i.e. a growth of 8.95% over the previous year. This shows the commitment of the Government to invest in the future as capital assets and infrastructure have a multiplier effect on the economy.

30. Now in sync with the vision of AAP Government, I propose the following sectoral allocations and new initiatives.

EDUCATION

Speaker Sir,

I quote here Dr. B. R Ambedkar who said “Education is the milk of a lioness. He who drinks will roar”

31. This Government considers Education as a stairway to the growth and development of humankind. We believe that Education is fundamental to employability, character building, poverty reduction and social prosperity. History is witness to Punjab being the vanguard in our freedom struggle led by great men like Lala Rajpat Rai Ji, Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Ji, Sardar Kartar Singh Sarabha Ji, Shaheed Udham Singh Ji and many other unsung heroes. Similarly, our effort towards education shall be to ensure Punjab becoming a leader in 2047 (100th year of Independence) towards prosperity of the Nation. I am confident that our society equipped with the most advanced education, the farmers with the most advanced technology and the industrialist with most efficient practices shall provide leadership to the Nation. With this aim, AAP Government is committed to provide quality education at affordable prices, where focus will not only be on inputs but also on outcomes.

32. A change in approach is being adopted whereby emphasis shall not only be on improving the existing infrastructure and introduction of state-of-the-art school buildings with modern gadgets but also on strengthening and institutionalizing the capabilities of the founders of schools and colleges i.e. the teachers/principals. It gives me immense

pleasure to state that an increased budgetary outlay of 16.27% has been provided in school and higher education; further a 47.84% increase in technical education and a whopping 56.60% increase in budget provisions for medical education have been provided in FY 2022-23. I propose the introduction of the following new initiatives to be undertaken in FY 2022-23.

33. **Financial Support for upkeep of Government Schools:** A Slew of Governments schools are poorly maintained. Lack of basic things such as general cleanliness, potable drinking water, clean toilets, fans and light arrangements and tiny repairs like whitewash dissuade students to attend school and learn. This is basically due to paucity of funds, centralization of decision making and over occupation of School heads/ Principals. The Government proposes to post 'Estate Managers' for a cluster of schools, so that while the principals remain focused on academics, basic and necessary repairs may get immediate attention. For this, I propose budgetary allocation of ₹123 crore in FY 2022-23 and ensure that my Government shall take care of these basic issues in its very first year.

34. **Skill Up-Gradation Programme for Teachers/ School Heads/ Educational Administrators:** With the objective of providing quality education, our Government proposes to impart trainings and build capacities of teachers/ heads/ principals to enhance the qualitative aspects of teaching and better child centric pedagogical practices. I propose an allocation of ₹30 crore for FY 2022-23 to impart short-term and medium-term training through reputed agencies/institutions of India and abroad.

35. Specialized Agencies to undertake Research Studies/Programme Evaluation/ Impact Analysis of various Schemes/ Programmes: The Government proposes to undertake services of specialized Agencies/ Research Institutes like CRRID/ IDC/ Panjab University/ NCERT/ NIEPA etc. for conducting impact and outcome analysis of various schemes currently being run in the Education sector such as Transfer Policy; Smart School Policy; Parho Punjab Paraho Punjab; English Booster Club etc. This would provide a feedback loop to refine these programmes further making them more effective.

36. Schools of Eminence: Our Government is committed to bring world class education to our students, to equip them for future challenges in this competitive world. We have identified 100 existing schools that are proposed to be upgraded as “Schools of Eminence”. These schools would be composite schools from Pre-Primary to 12th standard and would be equipped with superlative infrastructure like digital classrooms, fully equipped labs, vocational training facilities and trained faculty. A budgetary allocation of ₹200 crore has been earmarked for this purpose during FY 2022-23.

37. Establishment of Modern Digital Classrooms in Government Schools: To help teachers and mentors to connect with the students residing in remote places and make use of various virtual learning tools, the Government proposes to establish classrooms connected digitally with online platforms bringing quality education to villages and making learning a virtual interactive experience in itself. The Government proposes to establish modern digital classrooms in 500 Government schools in Phase 1. An allocation of ₹40 crore has been allocated for this during this financial year.

38. **Installation of Roof Top Solar Panel System in Government Schools:** Tapping solar energy can aid schools reduce carbon footprint by 25% and meet 70% of their demand. Producing power via solar panels has proved to be economical which would help schools reduce their power bills. At present, out of 19,176 Government schools in the State only 3,597 have a solar panel system, installed under various schemes. Here, I propose a comprehensive scheme for installation of roof top solar panel systems in Government schools and allocate ₹100 crore for this purpose in the current financial year.

39. **Up-gradation of Infrastructure including boundary-wall in Government Schools:** Schools ought to be safe and secure places, especially for girl students. Further, moveable infrastructure and equipment's especially IT infrastructure must not be prone to theft or vandalism. Our survey shows that still there are 2,728 rural schools & 212 urban schools where new boundary wall is required and there are 2,310 Rural Schools & 93 Urban Schools where urgent repair of boundary wall is required. Further, there is a need of world class school infrastructure, which would be built in every district of Punjab. A budgetary allocation ₹424 crore has been made in this budget of FY 2022-23 for this purpose.

40. **Uniforms for Students:** Currently all Girls and SC/ ST/ BPL Boys from Class 1 to 8 studying in Government Schools are being provided with uniform. This Government has decided to provide uniform to all students studying in Pre-Primary to 8th Class of Government schools, transforming this scheme into a Universal scheme and an amount of ₹23 crore has been provisioned in FY 2022-23.

41. **Punjab Young Entrepreneur Programme:** Punjabi's are known for their entrepreneurial leadership but unfortunately our education system in the past did not focus on development of these essential entrepreneurial skills in students studying in schools. We believe that entrepreneurial skill is the main pillar of strength of our society and on this strong foundation, we intend to march forward. Punjab Young Entrepreneur Programme is a start-up programme where class 11th students would be encouraged to propose their original business ideas, which would be supported by the Government by providing seed money @ ₹2000 per student. This programme is aimed to instill financial and leadership skills in the students, which would equip them to take charge of their careers later in their life. I propose an allocation of ₹50 crore during FY 2022-23 for this purpose.

42. AAP Government is committed to take education to the next level and would continue providing adequate budgetary support to all on-going schemes, few such schemes have been outlined below:

- a. **Mid-Day Meal:** An allocation of ₹473 crore has been made in FY 2022-23 for providing Mid-Day Meal to 17 lakh students i.e. an increase of 35% over FY 2021-22 (BE).
- b. **Samagraha Siksha Abhiyaan:** ₹1,351 crore have been proposed this year as against ₹1,231 crore in FY 2021-22 (RE).
- c. **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC Students:** I propose an allocation of ₹67 crore for providing scholarship to one lakh OBC students in FY 2022-23.
- d. **Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SC Students:** ₹79 crore is proposed for providing scholarship to 2.40 lakh SC students during FY 2022-23.

HIGHER EDUCATION

43. India Skill Report 2022 tells that only 46.20% of graduates are employable in India. Punjab, unfortunately neither features in the list of top providers of employable people nor in employability. This Government aims to improve the quality of higher education by making educational institutions dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious, efficient and forward looking. The focus would not only be on discipline-based teaching but also on skill-based teaching.

44. Punjabi University, Patiala, initially mandated primarily to develop and promote our mother-tongue Punjabi has evolved as a multi-disciplinary educational system. However, it has become a victim of mismanagement in the past and so to revive this University, I allocate ₹200 crore in FY 2022-23 to tide over the ongoing financial crisis.

45. **Provision of Infrastructure Facilities in Nine New Libraries:** I propose an allocation of ₹30 crore in FY 2022-23 for providing infrastructure facilities in libraries of Government Colleges of 9 districts i.e Tarn Taran, Barnala, Ludhiana, Fazilka, Malerkotla, Moga, Pathankot, Sri Muktsar Sahib and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar.

46. **CM Scholarship to General Category Students for Giving Concession in University Fee:** In order to encourage the students of poor families especially of General Category studying in Government Colleges, AAP Government has decided to provide scholarship as concession in the fee, based on the marks obtained by the student. I propose an allocation of ₹30 crore for this purpose.

47. NCC has been the launch pad for career in armed forces, for which Punjabis are well known. NCC cadet strength of Punjab has seen

an uptick. NCC units and training centers are being run by the State Government and play a pivotal role for training Punjabi youth to become disciplined, patriotic, and responsible citizens. I propose an initial allocation of ₹5 crore this year for improving infrastructure and creation of new facilities in NCC units and NCC training centers of the State.

48. AAP Government is committed to improve the basic infrastructure of all Government Colleges and for construction of new state-of-the-art degree colleges in educationally backward areas of the State and initially an allocation of ₹95 crore is proposed in the current financial year.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

49. With an aim to increase employability of our students and to be the top sourcing State of employable people, the focus of this Government would be on imparting practical training through internships, field visits, and skill development projects along with classroom training. With this resolution in mind, an allocation of ₹641 crore has been made with main focus on strengthening, modernization and expansion of the existing systems.

SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES

50. Punjab was a cradle for budding sportsmen. It won't be an overstatement if I may say that each Punjab village had potential medal winners in the past. But other States through their innovative sports policies marched ahead in producing world class sportspersons and even sportsmen and sportswoman belonging to Punjab played for other

States in the absence of any effective Sports Policy in Punjab. It is our Government's dream to bring Punjab back on the same pedestal as before. This year, I want to propose two new schemes for budding and outstanding sports person and accordingly I am provisioning ₹25 crore for this purpose.

51. The Government proposes to set up a state-of-the-art Stadium at Longowal, Sunam (district Sangrur) and adequate budgetary provision for the same shall be provided during the course of the year. Further, to raise the standard of Sports, existing stadiums would also be upgraded.

MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

52. Medical Education is a keystone for health care services in any country. Medical Colleges are cradles, which have the potential to produce world class doctors, the paucity of whom is being felt with each passing day in India. Secondly, we don't want our medical students to go to countries like Ukraine to study medicine and therefore promise to provide best medical education eco-system in the State. With this objective, our Government proposes to set up 16 New Medical Colleges making total 25 Medical Colleges in the State over a period of next 5 years covering every corner of the State.

53. This year, I propose ₹1,033 crore for medical education which is an increase of 56.60% over FY 2021-22 (RE). The focus would be on up-gradation of existing State Government Medical Colleges and also to increase MBBS seats in these colleges. I am happy to announce that a new medical college i.e. Sant Baba Attar Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences, district Sangrur with 100 MBBS seats is being established. An initial allocation of ₹50 crore has been provided in FY

2022-23 for Sant Baba Attar Singh State Institute of Medical Sciences.

54. Our Government shall set up start-of-the-art “Punjab Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences” at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar, an appropriate provision shall be provided in FY 2022-23.

HEALTH

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

“Changi Sehat Sab Ton Vaddi Daulat Hai”

55. The health of any nation depends on the accessibility of equitable, affordable and accountable healthcare system by its citizens. It is a well-known fact that high out of pocket expenses are pushing people into poverty.

56. I would like to assure the people of Punjab that this most essential but highly neglected sector i.e. Health Sector has been accorded top priority in this budget. Our Government would ensure that no one in Punjab is denied of the basic healthcare facilities and goes un-treated due to lack of financial resources. I consider myself fortunate enough to be a part of the Government led by our leader Hon’ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji for envisioning a robust roadmap of schemes and initiatives to be undertaken for the people of the State in the health sector. I am happy to propose the budget outlay for health sector with an allocation of ₹4,731 crore that is an increase of 23.80% over that of FY 2021-22.

57. **Mohalla/ Pind Clinics:** Speaker Sir, our Government believes in providing “last mile delivery” of health care services to the people of Punjab irrespective of geographies, gender, class, caste, age, religion or any other form of discrimination. We have strong commitment to

extend the medical care to the remotest lane of Punjab so that the citizens feel entitled to one of the basic necessities of leading a dignified life. This Government proposes to establish “Mohalla/ Pind Clinics” in order to decentralize the public health services to the lowest level. This year the Government plans to establish 117 Mohalla Clinics for which an initial allocation of ₹77 crore is being proposed. I shall take this opportunity to announce that 75 of these Mohalla Clinics will be operationalized by 15th August, 2022.

58. **Farishtey:** Casualties in road accident due to the dearth of timely medical help is a remorseful experience. AAP Government is extremely sensitive to the cause and would try to make sure that anyone who suffers from a road accident is saved. For this, a scheme on the pattern of ‘Farishtey’ scheme in New Delhi would be launched in Punjab whereby anyone can take a road accident victim(s) and get them admitted to any hospital. The sufferers of road accidents will be given free treatment and the entire cost would be borne by the Government of Punjab and the helper would also be felicitated.

59. **Establishment of Estate Management Unit (EMU):** Infrastructure creation is a crucial requirement for providing best in-house health facilities, however, due to disconnect between the constructors and runners of such infrastructure, continuance and upkeep of these facilities is often ignored. The Government proposes to establish Estate Management Unit (EMU) which shall exclusively look into upkeep and maintenance of the basic sub-structure needs of Hospitals/ Health facilities and remove such glitches in a time bound manner. The Unit would initially be run by the State Government and subsequently be handed over to a specialized agency involved in professional management of such facilities.

60. Considerable allocations are being proposed in different existing health schemes such as Establishment of Trauma Centers, AYUSH, Ayushman Bharat-Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojna, Cancer Raahat Kosh Scheme, Creation of Cancer Treatment Infrastructure and Emergency response Service beside others to plug gaps in this critical Health Sector.

61. Our Government shall set up two super specialty Hospitals one at Patiala and another one at Faridkot in the coming two years. Similarly three more super specialty hospitals shall be opened by 2027.

AGRICULTURE

Speaker Sir,

62. Punjab's agriculture sector is at a crossroad. On one hand, we need to increase farmer's income, on the other we are under obligation to save Punjab from desertification. How farmers were treated by Government of India, when they rightly raised their voice against the three farm laws is an open secret. I, on behalf of my Government salute them for their resolve and fortitude; I also pay homage to those who lost their lives braving the insensitive Government.

63. Realizing that it is time for action and not just talk, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Saheb has acted like no one before, and introduced new schemes to rejuvenate Punjab's agriculture. Reflecting our priority to the Agriculture sector, I propose an allocation of ₹11,560 crore in FY 2022-23.

64. **Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR):** Studies show that DSR method has the potential to save 20% water compared to the puddling technique of paddy cultivation. To incentivize the farmers to go for DSR

technique, our Hon'ble Chief Minister has already announced a financial incentive of ₹1,500 per acre to the implementing farmers. It is expected that this effort will yield positive outcome in the years to come and I propose an allocation of ₹450 crore for DSR in FY 2022-23 to encourage farmers to switch to this water saving technique.

65. **MSP on Moong Cultivation:** AAP Government has made a historic decision to procure moong at MSP. It would nudge farmers to go for 3 crop cultivation from the traditional 2 crop rice-wheat cycle. This 65 day crop would supplement farmer incomes, promote diversification and conserve water and soil. An amount of ₹66 crore as a Gap Funding to implementing organization MARKFED is being proposed for this purpose. Further, I am happy to announce that National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) has agreed to partly procure Moong from Punjab under its Price Support System.

66. **Checking Stubble Burning Practices:** We realize that burning of paddy straw by farmers is not without a reason as they need to get their fields ready for the next crop at the right time to avoid any yield loss. This practice causes air pollution, negatively impacting health of people across states. Further studies have shown that stubble burning is not good for soil health as well. Therefore, this Government would only undertake positive targeted actions for controlling it. I propose to explore various possibilities and solutions for stubble burning. An allocation of ₹200 crore is hereby proposed in this budget.

67. **Free Power to Farmers:** I want to put all speculations to rest. AAP Government pledges to stand by its farmers and shall continue providing free power for the agriculture sector. I am proposing a

budgetary allocation of ₹6,947 crore in this FY 2022-23.

68. Any talk of diversification is incomplete without horticulture. This Government's priority is vividly reflected in the proposal doubling the allocation to horticulture sector compared to last financial year.

69. Individual Quick Freezing (IQF) technology is ideal for preserving seasonal fruits and vegetables. IQF fruits and vegetables contain same nutritional value after freezing as they possess in their fresh form. A new Quick Freezing Centre is proposed to be established at village Verka, Amritsar for which I propose an initial outlay of ₹7 crore in FY 2022-23. Further for an Integrated Hi-tech Vegetable Production-cum-Technology Dissemination centre at Malsian, Jalandhar, I propose ₹11 crore to start with in this financial year.

70. For conservation and productive use of run-off water, pond water, rainwater harvesting & augmentation of groundwater recharge, 4 new schemes would be introduced for which I propose an initial allocation of ₹21 crore in FY 2022-23. Further, this Government would continue to support existing schemes and strengthen them further in the field of soil and water conservation, including the National Mission on Micro Irrigation.

71. **Digitization of Agriculture:** With an aim to provide end to end services to our farmers, my Government has initiated comprehensive digitization in the agriculture sector. It includes digitization of farmer profiles, digitization of their land records and online transfer of returns against their produce. It will assist the farmers in reaping the benefits of modern technological advancements in agriculture practices.

COOPERATIVES

72. Cooperatives are mechanisms that ensure growth, empowerment and prosperity of communities. Cooperative agencies have played an unparalleled role in Punjab across various sectors including but not limited to banking, agriculture, dairy and food processing. Giving an impetus to the cooperation sector, I propose an allocation of ₹1,170 crore, which is an increase of 35.67% compared to the last financial year.

73. To augment its covered capacity, new godowns would be set up by MARKFED at 13 locations under NABARD assisted new project for storage of central pool wheat stocks and an amount of ₹56 crore is being proposed in the budget for FY 2022-23. Further, to support MARKFED for trouble-free Moong procurement, the Government has already given a State guarantee of ₹400 crore enabling MARKFED to raise loan for this purpose.

74. AAP Government is devoted for the welfare of all sectors and unlike its predecessor Governments does not shrug off its responsibility. Considering the importance of cooperative banking structures, especially engaged in the agriculture sector, this Government has decided to bailout Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank (PSCADB) for which I propose ₹688 crore for PSCADB to clear its liabilities.

FORESTRY & WILDLIFE

75. Our Government has launched a new project namely “Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh Hariawal Lehar”, under which 50,000 saplings and 115 Triveni would be planted in all Vidhan Sabha constituencies of the State on the 115th birth anniversary of Shaheed-e-

Azam Bhagat Singh Ji. During FY 2022-23, an amount of ₹10 crore is being proposed under the existing scheme “Punjab Community & Social Forestry Project” for this purpose. Further, an amount of ₹240 crore has been allocated for PUNCAMPA funds under which 52 lac plants will be raised during FY 2022-23.

EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Speaker Sir,

76. Our Government is aware of the critical role of skill development in improving employability. However, the gruesome reality paints a dim picture of our status quo. As per the Human Development Report for the year 2020, barely one out of five Indians in the labour force is skilled. Furthermore, India Skills Report of 2022 paints a gloomy picture as far as Punjab is concerned. This ought to be a wake-up call for Governments including ours, as lack of skill in youth jeopardizes our ability to realize true potential of its demographic dividend.

77. The announcement pertaining to recruitment of 26,454 employees is not a mirage but a reality. The Council of Ministers has already approved the recruitment to 26,454 posts lying vacant in various Government Departments, out of which, 10,000 jobs would be offered for various posts in Punjab Police whereas the remaining jobs would be given in other departments. This commitment of our Government would be visible as I propose ₹714 crore in FY 2022-23 in this regard. Besides this, our government will spearhead the employment agenda through the new initiatives proposed to be undertaken in FY 2022-23 under various schemes across sectors which will unequivocally lead to extensive job creation and multiplier effect on the State economy.

78. Our contractual workforce who worked tirelessly were shunned beneath the doormats and remained unrewarded for their relentless efforts by the previous governments. Taking cognizance of this valuable human resource asset and to render them with job security, our Government has accepted the long standing demand of regularization of 36,000 contractual employees. An additional provision of ₹540 crore is hereby proposed in this budget.

79. There is a need to create a synergy between higher education/technical education institutes and skill development initiatives of the Government. Taking this idea forward, I submit that every year, 250 college/university students would be skilled by Skill Vigyan Centre of Punjab State Council for Science & Technology in advanced science & technology domains. For up-skilling youth of Punjab, this Government has invited Tata Technologies (TTL) along with global industry partners and Lamrin Tech Skills University (LTSU) to set up a common facility Centre in the domain of Electric Vehicle (EV) in the State. This will go a long way in catering to developing the skills required in the upcoming field of EV segment, apart from bringing investment to Punjab.

INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE

80. Speaker Sir, we are all mindful of the fact that a strong developed industrial sector is a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth and overall development of the State. This high value sector with strong forward and backward linkages can have a multiplier effect on other sectors of economy thereby generating employment opportunities and raising income levels. We intend to nurture this critical sector of the economy and solve ground level issues being faced by our industrialist brothers and sisters. I, on behalf of our Government assure to create an ecosystem for industrial development in Punjab. To start with, I propose

a budgetary allocation ₹3,163 crore in FY 2022-23 i.e. an increase of 48.06% over 2021-22 (BE).

81. **Setting up of Traders Commission:** Our Government proposes to set up a Special Commission with only traders and businessmen as its members. This Commission would collaborate with the Government in decision-making and policy formulation. The basic idea is to form policies which people of this sector actually want, to help them in adding value, creating employment and peddling industrial development in Punjab.

82. **Industrial Focal Points:** One of the major demands of Industrialists during my Budget related tour to different parts of Punjab was the need to strengthen Industrial Focal Points in the State. I, at first, thank my industrialists' brethren/ people engaged in business for their valuable inputs. Considering their demand, I propose an initial allocation of ₹100 crore for setting up and strengthening of the Industrial Focal Points. Further, I announce that in order to promote industrial revival, un-utilized lands in underdeveloped Industrial Estates and Focal Points would be made available to Industry at competitive rates.

83. **Assistance to PSIDC/PFC:** I propose extending budgetary support amounting to ₹250 crore for letting the PSIDC and PFC discharge off their debt liabilities.

84. **Fintech City:** Considering the vast potential of the Fintech sub-sector within the overarching IT sector, the Government proposes to set up a Fintech City near Mohali where all facilities would be provided to encourage private participation in areas like fintech, block-chain technology, and Artificial Intelligence.

85. The Government is making efforts to develop Punjab as an Industrial Hub for which the land acquisition process is in the last phase for acquiring around 490 acres land at Mohali. Further around 950 acres of land has been acquired at Koomkalan, District Ludhiana over which an Integrated Textile Park is proposed to be developed and also an Integrated Manufacturing Cluster over an area of about 1100 acres is being set up at Rajpura.

86. Lastly, I want to ensure businessmen/industrialists of Punjab that AAP Government shall eradicate the atmosphere of fear and create a business-friendly environment by completely eliminating ground level corruption and alleged Inspector Raj. Again, the issue of VAT refund is proposed to be resolved within six months and Industrial Power Subsidy shall be continued to be provided by the Government for which an allocation of ₹2,503 crore has been made in FY 2022-23. An amount of ₹100 crore is proposed for disbursement of sanctioned Capital subsidy to eligible & entitled industrial units under various Industrial Policies during 2022-23. Government shall also bring a Progressive New Industrial Policy to build the State as an attractive investor's destination.

GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Speaker Sir,

87. Good governance model has 8 major characteristics. It is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective & efficient, equitable & inclusive and follows the rule of law. I assure people of Punjab that AAP Government would deliver on all 8 characteristics mentioned above. We promise that common people of Punjab will be given priority whenever they interact

with Government machinery.

88. Delivering on the promise of good governance, AAP Government has enhanced the timings of all 320 Sewa Kendras and all Saanjh Kendras by two hours on weekdays and these service centers shall also remain open on Sundays. A flagship programme 'Lok Milni' has been launched by our Government for "on-the-spot" redressal of the people's grievances. Again, with the determination of ensuring service delivery in a transparent and accountable manner, the Government has introduced 100+ new services through Sewa Kendras operating across Punjab taking the total number of such services to 425.

89. To ensure every single penny from the State Exchequer reach the targeted beneficiary in a time bound manner, our Government shall put in place a robust Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism, which will not only tap leakages but also bring efficiency and effectiveness in governance.

90. CM field offices shall be set up in every district of Punjab. Further, this government proposes to set up annual awards for best districts and the best sub-divisions adjudged on their performance contributing to growth of the State economy.

91. We also propose to introduce "Doorstep Delivery Services" system whereby citizens would be able to avail various services from the comfort of their homes. For instance, essential public services like getting caste/ marriage certificates, driving license, ration card, new water connection/electricity connection etc. would be soon delivered at their doorstep.

92. There is also a plan for setting up of Centre for Emerging Technologies that shall enable use of artificial intelligence and machine

learning in the Government functioning. To introduce greater purpose and accountability in the administration's working a District Performance Dashboard would also be prepared to monitor the performance of districts on various indicators.

93. In furtherance of the objective of good governance, we propose to set-up "State Institute for Smart Governance and Financial Management", a dedicated institute to assist the State Government in developing a governance model based on a holistic approach with the underlying objectives of bringing efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and sustainability in the system thereby giving 'Visibility to Governance'.

94. A Government without authentic data is like a doctor without stethoscope. Punjab is one of the pioneering States to have a comprehensive State Data Policy. The State aspires to nurture a culture of data-driven and evidence-based decision making. Through implementation of Punjab State Data Policy, 2020, the State would leverage data and technology to optimize service delivery chains of various program/schemes through e-governance systems. A State Data Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary would be set up to monitor the implementation of State Data Policy. A State Data Integration Platform (SDIP) is being planned which would facilitate access and management of data across all departments, stopping the culture of thinking in silos.

HOME DELIVERY OF ATTA

95. Our Government is extremely sensitive to the cause of poor and downtrodden and has decided to ensure door-to-door delivery of well packaged atta in place of wheat to 1.58 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act/ Smart Ration Card Scheme to ensure

availability of good quality of food to them. We expect a positive impact of this scheme on the lives and livelihood of the beneficiary. There would be no need for beneficiaries to stand in queues, lose their daily wage and spend money to convert grains into atta. Other intended outcomes include plugging leakages, stopping recycling of grains. For this special initiative of our Government, I propose ₹497 crore in the current financial year.

96. PUNSUP was reeling under the burgeoning debt availed on account of Atta-Dal Scheme. Due to paucity of funds, PUNSUP could not repay its Short Term Loan of ₹350 crore and resultantly slipped into the NPA category. To provide respite to the corporation, the State Government proposes a bailout package of ₹350 crore in FY 2022-23 for settling the NPA accounts of PUNSUP.

NRI AFFAIRS

97. AAP Government believes that our NRI brothers and sisters are significant stakeholders in the development of the State. In order to mobilize NRI community to partake in the developmental initiatives, under the guidance of our Hon'ble Chief Minister Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji, "Punjab Sikhya te Sehat Fund"- a trust to assist capital asset creation in health and education sector will be set up during the course of the year and Government will provide a token assistance initially as seed money to it during FY 2022-23.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS

98. The Government remains committed to the welfare of great freedom fighters and their families and I propose an allocation of ₹16 crore for FY 2022-23.

DEFENSE WELFARE

99. The Government, while bowing its head to the martyrs, and other defense personnel who laid their life for the Nation, has doubled the ex-gratia assistance from existing ₹50 lacs to ₹1 crore. An allocation of ₹130 crore has been earmarked in FY 2022-23 i.e. an increase of 11.00% over FY 2021-22.

100. My Government accords due reverence to its ex-servicemen and with firm commitment towards their welfare, adequate assistance for setting up of old-age home for the ex-servicemen at Mohali would be provided during FY 2022-23.

TOURISM & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

101. We believe that Punjab is a State with enormous tourism potential, which unfortunately has not been harnessed. Tourism contributes significantly to the growth of States like Rajasthan, Kerala, Gujarat, etc. but its contribution is minuscule in Punjab. Our Government desires to make Punjab into a sought-after tourist destination. Efforts have already started to develop places with high tourism potential and attract private investment. The Government would be concentrating mainly on eco-tourism, rural tourism, cultural and religious tourism.

102. Recognizing the huge potential of tourism in our Birns and Forests, our Government proposes to develop all Birns and Forests for eco-tourism which may prove to be a great source of revenue for the State of Punjab.

103. In order to pay homage to the great sons of the soil, this Government of Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji would hold iconic

events to celebrate 75th anniversary of India's freedom. Various events would be organized on the Birth Anniversary/Martyrdom Day of our Freedom Fighters Lala Lajpat Rai Ji, Shaheed-e-Aazam Bhagat Singh Ji, Shaheed Udham Singh Ji and Shaheed Sukhdev Thapar Ji in schools, colleges and universities across villages and cities.

POLICE MODERANISATION AND LAW & ORDER

Speaker Sir,

104. Peace and development go hand in hand. Punjab has long hostile international border that poses constant threat to peace and tranquility in our State. In addition, Punjabis are facing a fresh challenge from Gangsters, who were unheard of a decade ago. Our Government firmly resolves to maintain constant vigil, fight and obliterate the evil forces that threaten peace, unity and integrity of my State. A full-fledged anti gangster task force has been formed to wipe out gangsters operating in Punjab, and I am hopeful of positive results very soon.

105. **Modernization of Police Forces:** To strengthen the police forces and equip them with latest gadgets, technology and tools to tackle crime, maintain law and order and create a peaceful atmosphere in the State, an allocation of ₹108 crore is proposed during the current FY 2022-23. Further, Cyber-crime control rooms shall be set up in all districts with an outlay of ₹30 crore.

106. Police have to develop new strategies to deal with crime and criminals. It is important that Punjab police personnel learn about new strategies. Therefore, the Government has undertaken the initiative of building the capacity of police personnel by organizing international training programmes during FY 2022-23.

107. **Safety & Security of Common People:** We accord top priority to the safety and security of our men and women. During our tenure, the entire State would be covered with CCTV network to check the crime and tap criminals. To start with, ₹5 crore is hereby proposed for installation of CCTV cameras at Mohali and similarly CCTV cameras will be installed in Police Mahila Mittar Kendras during FY 2022-23.

108. Jails had become safe havens for criminals over the years. Our Government has already announced the closure of VIP cells in Punjab Jails and promised strong action against those offering and enjoying special facilities inside jail premises. Further, for construction of modern District Jail in Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar (Mohali), land measuring 17.5 acres has been identified at village Kurara and initially ₹10 crore is proposed during FY 2022-23.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND JUSTICE

109. Inclusiveness is the guiding principle of a welfare Government. We have deep allegiance towards the upliftment, protection and promotion of the interests of all the vulnerable sections of the society. AAP Government would continue extending all kinds of support needed under various welfare schemes currently operational. Further, appropriate actions would be taken in due course to make them more effective and efficient. We propose a budgetary allocation of ₹7,437 crore for the FY 2022-23.

110. **Social Security Cover:** The budgetary allocation for Social Security pensions is proposed to be increased from ₹4,071 crore during 2021-22 (BE) with coverage of 28.12 lakh beneficiaries to ₹4,720 crore in FY 2022-23 with a target of covering 31.23 lakh beneficiaries.

111. **Mata Tripta Mahila Yojana:** An allocation of ₹46 crore is proposed in FY 2022-23 for this purpose.

112. **Poshan Abhiyaan:** I am proposing a budgetary provision of ₹53 crore for FY 2022-23 to cover 11.20 lakh children between 0-6 years age and 1.80 lakh pregnant women and lactating mothers.

113. **Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme:** I propose an allocation of ₹640 crore for providing scholarship to 2.50 lakh students approximately.

114. **Ashirwad Scheme:** An allocation of ₹150 crore is hereby proposed in FY 2022-23.

115. **Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY):** I propose an outlay of ₹200 crore in FY 2022-23.

116. Our Government is committed to the welfare and development of our Scheduled Caste brothers and sisters. I propose to make a budgetary allocation of ₹12,992 crore in FY 2022-23 towards Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) which is an increase of 12.29% over the previous year. This budgetary outlay would provide support in undertaking socio-economic development; improvement of living conditions; provision of basic services such as primary schools, health centres, veterinary centres, community halls, nutrition centres, extension of electricity and common work places/ facility centres, etc.

117. Further, the Government proposes for setting up of Dr. B. R. Ambdekar Bhawan at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar which shall house all the offices under one roof to provide welfare services related to the Scheduled Caste population.

INFRASTRUCTURE

118. Infrastructure is of singular importance for economic growth of any region. Economic and social infrastructure like roads, power, railways, critical supply lines, schools, hospitals, transport, holistic rural and urban development etc. are pre-requisites for development of an area and bring new opportunities for the people residing in those areas. I propose an allocation of ₹23,498 crore for FY 2022-23 across infrastructure sectors in Punjab.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATS

119. Punjab's 63% population still live in villages, therefore it becomes essential to ensure "Pindan da Vikaas" in a holistic way. An allocation of ₹3,003 crore is being proposed in FY 2022-23 for development of rural areas in the State. An anti-encroachment drive is already underway to get panchayat land back from illegal occupants. As per latest records, illegal occupants were removed from approximately 6100 acres of panchayat land, worth several thousand crore of rupees.

- a. A special repair program to repair 2,217.35 km length of Link roads is proposed in FY 2022-23 at an estimated cost of ₹361 crore. Also, under the ongoing projects, it is proposed to complete works of New Construction/ Widening/ Special Repair on the balance 4,800.66 Kms road length with an estimated expenditure of ₹757 crore.
- b. An allocation of ₹600 crore is being proposed in budget of FY 2022-23 under MGNREGS.
- c. Under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), 8 Clusters in 7 districts covering 246 villages were selected for development to make our rural areas socially, economically and

physically sustainable. I propose an allocation of ₹145 crore in FY 2022-23 towards this scheme.

- d. To realize the dream of every Punjabi building his/her own home, our Government has resolved to provide assistance for the completion of construction of 17,117 houses for which I propose a budgetary allocation of ₹292 crore under 'Housing for All' by 2024 programme for the FY 2022-23.
- e. I propose a budgetary allocation of ₹20 crore to treat 28,867 hectare area covered under Kandi districts for constructing check dams, wire crate structures, run of control structures, stone masonry retaining wall, renovation of ponds, percolation tanks, farm ponds etc.
- f. For proper disposal of solid and liquid waste and cleaning of ponds of the villages before the onset of monsoon season, ₹33 crore has been allocated for this purpose in FY 2022-23.

WATER RESOURCES

120. It is a fact that agriculture success in Punjab would not have been possible without adequate irrigation facilities. Presently, there is a need to expand, rejuvenate and mix surface water irrigation with ground water irrigation. This judicious mix of surface and ground water for irrigation has a potential to solve both water logging and water depletion problems. I propose an allocation of ₹2,547 crore for undertaking various water resources projects in FY 2022-23, some of which are listed below:

- a. **Shahpur Kandi Dam Project:** A budgetary outlay of ₹189 crore is being provided in FY 2022-23 for construction of the remaining work of main dam on River Ravi and it is expected to be completed by year 2023-24. On completion it would generate 1,042 million units of

Hydro-electricity with an installed capacity of 206 Megawatts and create additional irrigation potential of 37,173 hectares as well as intensive irrigation of 1.18 lakh hectares under Upper Bari Doab Canal system.

- b. **Relining of Rajasthan Feeder and Sirhind Feeder:** A budgetary outlay of ₹780 crore is proposed in FY 2022-23 for execution of works which are expected to be completed by June, 2024. It would save seepage losses of 752 cusecs from Rajasthan Feeder and 256 cusecs from Sirhind Feeder and would also help in arresting water logging in south-western districts of Punjab.
- c. **Kotla Branch Part-II Project:** For lining of watercourses under this project, an allocation of ₹18 crore has been proposed in this budget. The work is expected to be completed by 31.03.2025 whereby 1.43 lakh hectares of land in district Bathinda, Mansa, Sangrur and Barnala would be getting better irrigation facilities.
- d. **Drainage:** Flood protection works are being executed along Indo-Pak border on river Ravi and its tributaries Ujh under “River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas” for which suitable outlay has been provided for in FY 2022-23.

WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION

121. The State Government is committed to provide safe drinking water through piped distribution network and sanitation facilities to all households of the State. An allocation of ₹2,374 crore is proposed in this financial year with an increase of 48.94% over 2021-22 (RE). Overall 98% of 12,009 villages have been declared 'Har Ghar Jal' villages with 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage.

- a. **Arsenic-cum-Iron Removal Plants:** To ensure long term mitigation measures in arsenic affected habitations, 51 Arsenic-cum-Iron Removal Plants based on adsorption technology using Nano materials developed by IIT Madras in 72 arsenic affected habitations at a cost of ₹400 crore would be undertaken in FY 2022-23 and work in remaining 62 habitations covered under this scheme would be completed.
- b. **Community Water Purification Plants:** An outlay of ₹51 crore is being proposed for undertaking activities to provide potable drinking water through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) and Decentralized Household Purifiers in arsenic affected habitations and also for installation of fluoride removal in fluoride affected habitations of the State.
- c. **Maintenance of Existing Infrastructure:** Special emphasis is being laid on the repair and maintenance of infrastructure on water supply schemes for which an allocation of ₹18 crore is proposed and also construction of Jal Bhawan at Sahibzada Ajit Singh (S.A.S) Nagar at a cost of ₹10 crore is hereby proposed to be undertaken during the current financial year.

ROADS & BRIDGES

122. During my visit of Bathinda as a part of “Janta Budget” exercise, the demand of bridges at Janta Nagar and Multania Road was brought to my attention. I assure sufficient funds for the construction of bridges in Bathinda in the FY 2022-23.

123. The Government proposes to develop Kandi Area which stretches from Chandigarh to Pathankot. A Highway from Chandigarh to Pathankot along the Shivaliks is proposed to be developed, which

would bring new opportunities to this sub-mountainous Kandi Area and for which the Government shall take up the matter with National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Government of India.

124. Our Government would provide world class infrastructure in the form of new safe and sustainable roads and bridges and would also work to maintain the existing ones. Efforts are already on, to check wasteful expenditure, eliminate market failure, and ensure transparency and accountability in this sector. The allocation for new construction and maintenance of existing roads, bridges and building in FY 2022-23 is proposed to be ₹2,102 crore.

TRANSPORT

125. Transport sector in Punjab has been infamous for established monopolies by powerful politicians, loss of State revenue due to faulty policies and inefficient and weak State transport corporations. My Government pledges to provide safe and affordable public transport facilities to common people while simultaneously ending the so called transport mafia in the State. We would work to bring quality and equity in this sector and promote new technological interventions such as electric vehicles, CNG operated vehicles to provide comfort to the riders and solace to the environment. Further, construction of 45 new bus stands and renovation of 61 bus stands of PUNBUS and PRTC would be initiated during FY 2022-23.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

126. Studies show that India's urban population would double by 2050 and Punjab is expected to be one of the fastest urbanizing States in India. This Government is aware of the growing aspirations of Urban Punjab and therefore would place our cities/towns at the core of our

economic and developmental framework. We aspire to make our cities sustainable engines of economic growth and cultural transformation, i.e. *The Harbingers of Modern Punjab*. An allocation of ₹6,336 crore is being provided in FY 2022-23. It is also an objective of this Government to empower urban local bodies, making them self-sufficient and professional in their approach.

- a. **Smart Cities Mission:** The cities of Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar and also the holy city Sultanpur Lodhi are being developed as Smart Cities and an allocation of ₹1,131 crore is being proposed this year.
- b. **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT):** Under AMRUT Mission projects amounting to ₹2,785 crore for 16 Towns of Punjab are being carried out. This years' allocation of ₹1,100 crore is being proposed for undertaking major projects including 24x7 Surface Water Supply Schemes for Jalandhar & Patiala; Rejuvenation of Buddha Nallah, Ludhiana; Rejuvenation of Badi Nadi & Choti Nadi, Patiala; Canal Based Water Supply project in Amritsar and Ludhiana with the assistance of the World Bank Financing besides others.
- c. **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban:** I propose a budgetary allocation of ₹180 crore for undertaking activities under this Mission including Solid Waste Management; Horticulture Waste Management and Jiva Amrit/ Bacterial Culture for expediting composting process.

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

127. Urban planning is the core requirement for development in this era of hyper urbanization. Unplanned urban development becomes a bane, reducing urban clusters into chaotic places. Moving ahead in the direction of planned urban development, it is heartening to tell that

44 Master Plans covering 79 towns have been notified and further 70 Master Plans are currently being prepared. This Government would work on city mobility plans, making urban transport a priority sector.

128. My Government believes that access to basic civil infrastructure is the right of every Punjabi irrespective of their economic status. Therefore, with a view of promoting equity and inclusivity in our cities, we resolve to construct 25,000 EWS houses in phases.

129. E-governance initiatives in this sector are being brought, for the ease of stakeholders; IT initiatives such as Online Building Plan Approval System, GIS mapping of properties, scanning of property records are underway, which would bring transparency and accountability in this field.

REVENUE AUGMENTATION

Speaker Sir,

130. Today we stand at an inflection point, where fiscal wisdom calls for surplus revenue generation, especially when GST compensation shall end on 30th June. We have to moderate our revenue expenditure while elevating our capital expenditure and implement policies that would result in sustained GDP growth, leading to overall development of the State.

131. With this premise in mind, I will begin with the revenue roadmap to achieve our expenditure goals in priority sectors this year. This is a welcome departure from previous budgets, where Governments had only focused on announcement of Schemes and theoretical budget allocations, without backing them up with real revenue collections. I would like to convey that we have already initiated revenue augmentation measures. I expect our revenue receipts in 2022-23 to

increase by 17.08% compared to RE 2021-22, contributing ₹95,378 crore to the State exchequer. **Hallmark to this ambitious feat is that this would be done without imposing any New Tax on the people of Punjab.**

132. The new excise policy would be a “game changer” policy, which would break monopolies/ oligopolies that have developed in this sector over the years. We are hoping for enhancement in our excise revenue to ₹9,648 crore, which would be a whopping increase of 56% over FY 2021-22. Again efforts are already on to plug loopholes in GST collections, I expect a buoyancy of about 27% in GST collections in FY 2022-23, which would add around ₹4,350 crore more to the State kitty.

133. Our Government is determined to repeat the enhancement story in the Non Tax Revenue sector as well. New policies in various sectors including mining are expected to uptick State’s Non-Tax Revenue by ₹636 crore that is a 11% increase compared to last financial year.

134. Besides, share of Central taxes and Grants-in-aid from Centre are estimated at ₹14,757 crore and ₹28,731 crore respectively.

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

135. Right intentions have the potential to transform challenges into opportunities. I, on behalf of every member of my party assert that our intentions are pure and sanguine. This Budget covers all sections of society including workers, famers, youth, small businessmen, industrialists, ex-servicemen, disadvantaged people, women, children, and both urban and rural areas. We would work day and night to create a Punjab of our dreams coinciding with the dreams of our forefathers and freedom fighters. The road ahead might be tough, but our resolve

is much stronger to overcome any road block. As tall and great buildings can only be built on strong foundations, the Budget, I am presenting today focuses on the basic foundations of our Punjabi society and economy.

136. I wish to record my gratitude to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Sardar Bhagwant Singh Mann Ji and thank him for his steadfast support and guidance. Further, I would like to thank all Members of this august House and expect thoughtful discussions and civilized debates in this assembly for the betterment of Punjab.

137. Last but not the least, I wish to record my appreciation for the Officers and staff working in the Finance and Planning Department, who have worked with full devotion to complete this complex task with high standards of efficiency and accuracy. On behalf of the Government, we are indebted by the regular insights received from the office of Principal Accountant General, Punjab which has helped us to improve our systems.

138. With this, I commend the Budget Proposals for the Financial Year 2022-23 to this august House for approval and want to conclude with a most celebrated hymn written by Guru Gobind Singh Ji, which has guided me and would keep on guiding this Government through thick and thin...

ਦੇਹ ਸਿਵਾ ਬਰੁ ਮੇਹਿ ਇਹੈ ਸੁਭ ਕਰਮਨ ਤੇ ਕਬਹੂੰ ਨ ਟਰੇਂ ॥
ਨ ਡਰੇਂ ਅਰਿ ਸੇ ਜਬ ਜਾਇ ਲਰੇਂ ਨਿਸਚੈ ਕਰਿ ਅਪੁਨੀ ਜੀਤ ਕਰੇਂ ॥

Jai Hind