

Hon'ble Mr. Speaker and Respected Members,

I am glad to be back here with you in this august House on the opening day of the 4th Session of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha. It is heartening to note that with the cooperation of all of you, my government is going to successfully complete its 1st year in the coming days. During this journey, my government has made arduous efforts to rejuvenate the glory of Punjab. As the people of Punjab gave my government an opportunity to serve them for the first time, we began with the goal of delivering on all our promises notwithstanding severe financial constraints.

1. The motto of my government is to provide its people, a transparent governance and for this, my government has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy towards corruption. To eradicate corruption from the State, my government has launched Anti-Corruption Action Line Number 95012-00200. During the period from 16.03.2022 to 28.02.2023 Vigilance Bureau, Punjab has registered 83 trap cases under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 against 06 Gazetted Officers, 79 Non-Gazetted officials and 22 Private persons who were caught red

handed while accepting illegal gratification. 50 Vigilance Enquiries have been finalized.

2. My government is committed to provide employment to the youth of the state. To fulfil our commitment, my government has organized many "*Niyukti Patr Vand Smaroh*" in the last 1 year under which as many as 26,797 Appointment Letters have been distributed to the eligible beneficiaries by my government.
3. My government believes that 'Health' and 'Education' form bedrock for human and social development and stands committed to strengthen and expand these two critical sectors. My government is upgrading all the Sub-Centres & PHCs of the State into 'Health and Wellness Centres' so that patients, especially in rural areas, have access to quality healthcare at their doorsteps. 3030 such 'Health and Wellness Centres' have been operationalized in the State so far.
4. As promised to the people of State, my government has started 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' across the State. Total 504 'Aam Aadmi Clinics' have been made operational in urban and rural areas of the State, where people are availing free

OPD facilities and are getting free diagnostic check-ups. I proudly announce that our State is one of the 3 best ranking States with 99.24% institutional deliveries as per HMIS data. Infant Mortality Rate in the State has been reduced to 18 per 1000 live births. My government, with an objective to provide Specialized Health Care Services to the residents of the State, carried out a special recruitment drive for Specialist Doctors. I am happy to share that 271 Specialist Doctors have been recruited under this drive.

5. My government remains committed to uplift Education in the State. Despite financial constraints, my government has kept open heart in disbursing funds to educational institutions. Total budget of Rs.152.37 crore was made for all Government Arts Colleges of the State, Rs.8.68 crore for Professional Colleges, Rs.2.92 crore for 15 District Libraries and Rs.285.00 crore for the non-government colleges. My government has accepted long pending demand of University & College Teachers and implemented 7th Pay Commission which will put extra financial implication of Rs.228.05 crore (approx.) per year for the existing Government.

6. My Government has allotted Rs.30.00 crore under Chief Minister's Scholarship for giving concession to General category students in university examination Fee. In order to meet the acute shortage of teachers in the Government Colleges of State, My Government has decided to allow the Government Colleges to appoint Visiting Resource. The visiting faculty will be paid Rs.750/- per lecture of 1 hour in urban colleges and Rs.850/- per lecture in rural colleges. Salary of Guest faculty in Government Colleges has been increased from Rs.21,600/- per month to Rs.33,600/- to Rs.47,100/- per month based on their experience.
7. In order to improve the quality of education in the State, my Government has notified a Policy of Welfare of Ad hoc, Contractual, Temporary Teachers and Other Employees working in School Education. Pursuant to this Policy, 13,769 applications of candidates have been received so far for regularization of their services. 8,798 appointments of teaching cadre have been made for Government schools so far.
8. In order to ensure that the environment of schools is conducive to improved levels of education for the students of Government schools, a budget of Rs.141.14 crore has

been approved. This will ensure that the work of cleanliness, protection of properties and management in the school is carried out effectively by Campus Managers allowing Principals of schools to focus on their administrative and academic duties.

9. My Government has launched a flagship program – ‘Schools of Eminence’ on 21st January, 2023. 117 Government Senior Secondary Schools have been selected to be transformed into ‘Schools of Eminence’ which will cater to the students of classes IX to XII. These Schools will be built on five pillars of support and strength i.e. Infrastructure, Academics, Human Resource Management, Sports & Co-curricular Activities and Community Engagement. Apart from this, they will create opportunities to nurture individual ability and skills valuable for higher education, employment and training etc.
10. An International Education Affairs Cell (IEAC) has been established to provide world class training to teachers, school heads and educational administrators working at different levels in the School Education Department. The first batch of trainees consisting of 36 Principals/Education officers has been sent to Principals Academy, Singapore

from 05.02.2023 to 11.02.2023 for a 5-day Leadership Development Program.

11. Power is the most vital necessity for an agrarian State like Punjab referred to as 'Food Bowl of India'. Punjab has to ensure 24x7 Power to more than one crore consumers. Despite the nationwide coal crisis this year, my government has met its all-time high peak demand of 14,311 MW during paddy season which was 13% higher than last year. Pachhara Central Coal Mine, closed for past 7 years due to legal issues was operationalized with receipt of its coal on 12th December giving the State access to cheaper and higher quality coal.
12. True to its commitment, my government has granted free 600 units of electricity bimonthly/300 units of electricity monthly to all domestic consumers, for consumption of electricity from 1st July, 2022. For the first time, over 90% domestic consumers received Zero Bill. 8 hours electric supply was given to Agriculture Consumers. Pending domestic bills on 31.12.2021 amounting to Rs.1298 crore have also been waived off in line with the Government's commitment.

13. My Government has launched Voluntary Disclosure Scheme (VDS) for regularization of extension in load of Agriculture Tubewell Connections from 10.06.2022 onwards at the concessional rate of Rs.2500/- BHP instead of Rs.4750/- BHP. Till date 1.96 lakh farmers have regularized approximately 8 lakh HP of their connected load and benefit of Rs.180 crore under the Scheme. Punjab has also enhanced Available Transmission Capacity (ATC) to 8500 MW to wheel-in more power from outside the State to mitigate its peak demand, especially in paddy season.
14. Agriculture continues to be an important sector of the Punjab State's economy. Punjab, the grain kitty of India, ensured food security of the nation for last five decades and maintained buffer food stocks as per requirement of the country with a latest contribution of about 51% wheat and about 25% Paddy to the central pool in the year 2022-23.
15. My government is deeply concerned about depleting ground water. For its better management and conservation, an incentive of Rs.1500 per acre is being given to the farmers for Direct-Sowing of Rice (DSR). Total

funds of Rs.25.06 crore have been released during kharif season for 1,69,008 acres of land verified under DSR.

16. To promote crop diversification in the State, My Government purchased *Moong* for the first time at MSP of Rs.7275/- per quintal and a total of Rs.61.85 crore was transferred to bank accounts of 15,737 farmers. My government is providing machinery at subsidized rates to manage crop residue. The cases of paddy stubble burning has been dramatically reduced from 71,304 in 2021-22 to 49,922 in 2022-23 which has been possible only because of the efforts of my government in ex-situ and in-situ management of stubble, awareness campaigns, monitoring and effective enforcement of law.
17. To encourage the judicious use of fertilizers, my government aims to distribute 4.00 lakh Soil Health Cards during the year 2022-23. Apart from this, sale of 10 pesticides had also been prohibited as their usage was a constraint in the export of basmati rice.
18. As promised, my government has provided free electricity to 14.05 lakh tube-wells last year with the cost of Rs.7294 crore. I would like to assure that the provision of free

power supply to farmers will continue to be a top priority for the Government. My government has also increased the Sugarcane procurement price by Rs.20 and also cleared long pending dues of 492 Crores.

19. Crop diversification is the need of hour and to encourage this, 23 districts have been classified into six Agro Climatic Zones according to the adaptability of the crops. To limit area under paddy-wheat crop cycle and to prevent underground water depletion, cropping patterns like Basmati-Wheat, Maize-Wheat, Cotton-Wheat, Maize-Wheat-Summer-Moong, Cotton-Mustard, edible oil crops and Sugarcane will be promoted. In this regard, "*First Kisan-Sarkar Milni program*" was organized on 12/2/2023 at PAU Ludhiana to involve farmers into policy making. More than 15000 farmers participated in it and expressed their views.
20. My Government laid special emphasis on Veterinary services in the State. Under RKVY, Punjab Veterinary Vaccine Institute, Ludhiana is being upgraded as per GMP norms of WHO with total project cost of Rs.32.00 crore and Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Jalandhar has been modernized and equipped with 16 labs

and caters to disease diagnosis and aero-surveillance in 4 States (Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan) and 4 Union Territories (Chandigarh, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi). In order to provide specialized veterinary services to rural livestock owners, my Government has recruited 418 Veterinary Officers. 650 para-veterinarians have been appointed in all districts to further strengthen the services to livestock at grass root level.

21. My Government has laid special emphasis on shrimp farming, with which, farmers are earning a handsome income of Rs.2.50 to 4.00 lakh per acre in south-western districts of Punjab. Further, to strengthen the fisheries infrastructure, work of establishment of a new Government Fish Seed Farm at district Fazilka is in progress. My Government is keen to provide employment to youth of the State. For this, 3500 new dairy units will be established, dairy training facilities will be further strengthened and modernized, commercialization and mechanization of dairy farming will be promoted through transfer of technology and incentives for better and cleaner handling of milk.

22. Under Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission [PSRLM], 39000 Self Help Groups [SHGs] have been formed by the State so far and during next financial year another 34000 Self Help Groups will be formed.
23. A special campaign was launched to take possession of illegally encroached Shamlat Land. Under this campaign possession of total of 9447 Acre has been taken so far by my government. Measures are being taken to take possession of remaining Gram Panchayat land during the next year.
24. By adopting the approach of convergence of various funds provided under schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme [MGNREGS], 15th Finance Commission [FC] and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), the sanitation work will be taken up in all the villages in the state.
25. My Government salutes the patriotic and brave soldiers of the State. As promised, Ex-Gratia to next of kin of martyred jawans of State has been enhanced from existing Rs.50 lakh to Rs.1.00 crore. Not only this, cash in lieu of land and cash award to the gallantry and distinguished

awardees has been enhanced by 40% and their annuity has also been enhanced by 80% from previous rates. As a mark of respect to the martyrs and ex-servicemen, my Government has provided training to their kins for IT sector in which 1088 students have qualified for B.Sc. (IT), M.Sc. (IT), PGDCA and other computer courses. Moreover, 275 students have been given pre-recruitment training for joining armed forces and para military forces.

26. My Government is committed to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections of the State. Under Ashirwad Scheme, Financial assistance of Rs.100 crore to 19,646 beneficiaries of Scheduled Castes and Rs.61.61 crore to 12,090 beneficiaries of Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections has been provided during the year 2022-23. For the smooth and transparent implementation of this Scheme, 'Ashirwad Portal' has been launched for online acceptance of applications under this Scheme.

27. In order to prevent misuse of SC scholarship, Dr.Ambedkar Scholarship Portal has been opened for inviting online applications. Total 2,47,049 applications have been received. My Government has released Rs.174.72 crore as

40% State Share so far and this amount is being transferred in the accounts of 1,85,578 students shortly. During the financial year 2022-23, my Government has disbursed Rs.4.71 crore to 242 beneficiaries under various self-employment schemes through Punjab Scheduled Castes Land Development and Finance Corporation and Rs.2.86 crore to 135 beneficiaries has been disbursed by Punjab Backward Classes Land Development and Finance Corporation.

28. My Government is keen to reform medical education in the State by establishing new Medical Colleges in the State. It has proposed to open a new Medical College of 100 MBBS seats at *Mastuana Sahib*, District Sangrur. To increase the number of MBBS seats in Government Medical College, Amritsar from 150 to 200, an action plan of Rs.60 crore was approved by the Central Government. An action plan of Rs.60 crore was also approved for increasing MBBS seats from 150 to 200 in Government Medical College, Patiala. Two new Medical Colleges with 100 MBBS seats are being established at Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur with the help of Central Government at a cost of Rs.422 crore and Rs.412 crore, respectively. A Medical College with 100

MBBS seats has been approved for Malerkotla under *Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram* Scheme.

29. Further, State Cancer Institute for cancer patients at Government Medical College, Amritsar at a cost of Rs.119 crore and a Cancer Care Center, Fazilka at a cost of Rs.46 crore is being built with the help of Government of India. My Government is setting up a Trauma Centre each at Government Medical College, Amritsar at a cost of Rs.31.57 crore and at Rajindra Hospital, Patiala at a cost of Rs.68.75 crore. My Government has also recruited 880 Staff Nurses and 81 Para Medical Staff and the recruitment of 184 Specialist Doctors is under process.

30. Another priority of my Government is the welfare of youth. Particularly considering 'Sports' as a key to youth development, a total budget of Rs.229 crore has been allocated for the year 2022-23, which is 38.14 percent higher as compared to the previous year. Also, a State-Wide Sports tournament named '*Khedan Vatan Punjab Diyan-2022*' was conducted from Block to the State level where around 3 lakh players participated and Rs.6.85 crore prize money was distributed to 9961 winning players. My Government has also launched a Scholarship Scheme

under the name of Olympian Balbir Singh Sr. to boost the morale of eminent sportspersons. Under this Scheme, a budget provision of Rs.12.50 crore has been made to give a stipend of Rs.8000/- per month to any medal winner in Senior National Games and Rs.6000/- per month to the winner in Junior National Games.

31. My government has also distributed a prize money of Rs.9.30 crore to the players of State who won medals in Commonwealth Games-2022 held at Birmingham during August, 2022. A new Sports Policy is being prepared to raise the standard of Sports, in which a Committee, comprising of Sports Experts, has been formed. To develop sports at School and College level, 4750 sports trainees were admitted in Sports Wing of Schools and 1000 in Sports Wing of Colleges.
32. Drug addiction can be eliminated by providing employment to the youth of State. My government has incurred an expenditure of Rs.29.97 crore to provide jobs to 1,20,661 candidates through 1,766 placement camps/job fairs/self-employment camps etc.

33. Centre for Training and Employment of Punjab Youth (C-PYTE) has trained 6168 candidates and placed 470 candidates in Indian Army as Sepoys & 27 candidates in Punjab Police as Constables during the period from 01.04.2022 to 28.2.2023. Maharaja Ranjit Singh Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for boys is providing training to 87 candidates and 22 earlier trained candidates have been inducted into Armed Forces as Commissioned Officers during the period from 01.04.2022 to 28.2.2023. Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute for girls is providing training to 60 candidates and 4 earlier trained candidates have been inducted into Armed Forces as Commissioned Officers during the period from 01.04.2022 to 28.2.2023.
34. Skill training to 36,841 unemployed youth was provided under Punjab Skill Development Mission, out of which 23,869 youth were facilitated to get gainful wage employment from April 2022 to January 2023.
35. My government is committed to promote industrial development in the State. For this, new Industrial & Business Development Policy 2022 is being framed with having focus on attractive incentives both for existing and

new units like reimbursement of SGST, exemption of Electricity Duty, Stamp Duty, special incentives for MSMEs in the area of finance, technology and marketing.

36. Punjab ranks 4th amongst the landlocked and 8th as overall as per the latest Export Preparedness Index (EPI) as released by NITI Aayog. My Government has allotted Industrial Chunks through mode of e-auction to large corporates like M/s Tata Steel Limited, M/s Sanathan Polycot Private Limited & M/s Cargill India Private Limited to set up their projects. PSIEC is in the process of developing a world-class State of the Art Hi-Tech Valley in an area of 378.77 acres at *Dhanansu*, District Ludhiana with a project cost of Rs.465.00 crore. Land measuring 121.45 acres has been procured for setting up of Industrial Park at *Kadiana Khurd*, Ludhiana and for construction of approach road. An area of 130.32 acres has been purchased in village Wazirabad, Fatehgarh Sahib for setting up of Industrial Park.

37. During the current Government regime (16.03.2022 to 24.02.2023), my government has received 2295 investment proposals with proposed investment of about Rs.41,043 crore, which will provide employment to about

2,50,585 youth. Some of the key projects received during this period includes Tata Steel Limited (Rs.2600 Cr.), Sanathan Polycot Private Limited (Rs.1600 Cr.), Nabha Power Limited (Rs.641 Cr.), Max Specialty Films Limited (Rs.548 Cr.), Vardhman Special Steels (Rs.342 Cr.), Freudenberg Group (Rs.338 Cr.), Nestle India Ltd. (Rs.214 Cr.), Cargill India Private Ltd (Rs.160 Cr.).

38. Startup Punjab under the department of Industries and Commerce is dedicatedly working with Startups for building a strong and conducive startup ecosystem. It has provided seed grant of Rs.3.00 lakh each to 23 startups in the current financial year and has also organized programs to sensitize potential Investors.
39. My Government has encouraged NRIs to participate in the development of infrastructure in their respective villages. NRIs can contribute 50% to the construction of any infrastructure such as school buildings, community services, hospitals, libraries, drinking water, sewerage, latrines, street light, sports stadiums and other projects and the remaining 50% can be spent by the State Government. All out efforts will be made to see that the grievances/complaints of the NRIs are solved at the

earliest, their confidence in the Government machinery is restored, they are provided the required facilities for investment in Punjab and they are successfully involved in the developmental and social welfare projects of the Punjab Government.

40. Department of Civil Aviation and Invest Punjab intend to develop a 'Centre of Excellence' for Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul of electrical and mechanical aggregates of civil and military aircraft engine components & avionics at Patiala Aviation Complex. An agreement has also been signed between Chandigarh International Airport Ltd., and Airport Authority of India Cargo and Logistics Allied Services Company Ltd. My government is set to complete the construction of civil terminals and operationalize the Halwara and Adampur airports for domestic passengers by July 31st.
41. My Government is committed for enabling an environment of efficient, transparent and accessible administration through e-governance. The Government strives to bring in greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the timely delivery of services to citizens through digital interventions. Same day service is, now, being delivered

for services like Affidavit Attestation and Copies of Birth & Death Certificates. Citizen can apply for a service by visiting Sewa Kendra by carrying his/her original documents and without filling any form. Certificates are now digitally signed. eOffice has been implemented in all Administrative Departments, the offices of DC/SDM/Tehsil/Sub-Tehsil, Directorates, Boards, Corporations and Universities. My Government is also in the process of introducing doorstep delivery to citizens. Further, the issue of receipts and delivery of certificates through WhatsApp shall be introduced.

42. Dear Members, I am happy to state that the functioning of the State Legislative Assembly shall be made paperless under National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project and, thus, making it easier to trace decisions and documents as well as to share information for transparent and answerable processes. The State Data Policy is being operationalized to enable building of platforms which can allow greater interoperability of data available with departments for better citizen delivery.
43. My Government is committed to make Old age, Widows, Dependent Children and Disabled Persons self-dependent

and to raise their social and economic level. For this purpose, Rs.3419.19 crore has been disbursed to 3.76 lakh beneficiaries upto the month of October, 2022. The 'Unique ID for Person with Disabilities Project' has been implemented in 102 hospitals of the State with a view of creating a National Database for Persons with Disabilities.

44. Supplementary Nutrition Programme of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) is being implemented by the State in 155 blocks through 27,314 Anganwadi Centres, aims at enhancing the health, nutrition and learning opportunities of mothers, children and adolescent girls. POSHAN Abhiyaan is being implemented in all the districts of Punjab to reduce malnutrition, stunting, anaemia and low birth weight. One Stop Centres have been set up in each District of Punjab to provide immediate emergency and non-emergency services including medical, legal, psychological and counselling to women affected by any kind of violence. Needless to say that despite financial constraints, my Government has continued providing the facility of Free Bus Travel to women of Punjab in State run transport.

45. Keeping in view, the menstrual hygiene of women and girls, my Government has launched free Sanitary Pads Scheme named Udaan Scheme. Under this Scheme 4.56 crore (approx.) sanitary napkins have been distributed across Punjab through Anganwadi Centres till 31.10.2022. Mata Tripta Mahila Yojana has also been implemented for the empowerment of Women headed Household. Besides this, the families, who belong to economically weaker sections of society and are unable to take care of their children, are being provided Rs.2000/- per child per month under Sponsorship and Foster Care Scheme.
46. My Government would never compromise on law and security of its people. Enough funds have been allotted to Police department in the financial year 2022-23. To effectively combat gangster culture and restore people's confidence in law-and-order machinery, Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) headed by an ADGP rank officer has been formed and this unit has spearheaded dedicated operations against the gangsters and criminals in the state and other parts of the country. The effective and timely action by AGTF has led to the arrest of several wanted gangsters & criminals and busting various gangster

modules along with recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunitions and vehicles used in criminal activities. Since March 16, 2022, Punjab Police have succeeded in busting 140 gangster/criminal modules with the arrest of 555 gangsters/criminals and neutralizing five, and recovering 510 weapons and 129 vehicles used in criminal activities from their possession in the same period.

47. Dedicated Women Help-desks in Police stations is a critical confidence building measure for women, children and senior citizens as they can be assured that on their visit to a Police station, their grievances would be heard by women police officials, especially in case of Sexual Violence/Domestic Abuse Victims. Accordingly, Women Help Desks have been established and rolled out in all Police Stations and Police Posts of the State of Punjab. To safeguard its people from cyber-crime, my Government has sanctioned funds of Rs.30 crore for upgradation of Digital Investigation Training and Analysis Centre at State Cyber Crime Cell and Cyber Crime Investigation & Technical Support Units at Districts Level.
48. Punjab Public Service Commission has conducted written exam for recruitment of 854 posts of various departments

till February 2023. Apart from this, advertisement for 2178 posts of various departments have been got published in various newspapers and the exam will be conducted soon.

49. My government is committed to provide civic amenities in 163 towns of Punjab where 40 percent population lives. Projects worth Rs.1500 crore for 24x7 canal-based water supply projects at Patiala, Jalandhar and Amritsar are under execution. Canal based 24x7 water supply project for Ludhiana, amounting to Rs.1537 crore is under tendering. The work for Rejuvenation of *Budha Daria* at Ludhiana with a cost of Rs.650 crore is in progress and is expected to be completed in this year. Urban Punjab has achieved 99% door to door collection of solid waste with 84% source segregation. This is planned to be augmented to 100% by March 2023 and December 2023, respectively. My government plans to remediate all 152 legacy waste dump sites by March, 2024.

50. Projects worth Rs. 2796.92 crore are underway in Ludhiana, Amritsar and Jalandhar under the Smart Cities Mission. On the same lines, Projects worth Rs.271.11 crore have been planned at Sultanpur Lodhi. Integrated Command and Control Centre is being implemented at

Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jalandhar and Sultanpur Lodhi at a project cost of Rs.243.92 crore. My government plans on strengthening the existing BRTS system in Amritsar and establishing a City Bus Service in the outer ring road of walled city of Amritsar and in Mohali cluster (Kharar to Derabassi).

51. In order to meet the latest challenges being faced from cyber criminals and to safeguard its people from cyber-crime, my government had sanctioned funds of Rs. 30 crores for upgradation of Digital Investigation Training and analysis centre (DITAC Lab) at State Cyber Crime cell and CI&TSUs (Cyber Crime Investigation & Technical Support Units) at District Level.
52. Punjab Biotechnology Incubator (PBTI) shall start providing Incubation services to startups including Common Instrumentation and Plug & Play services from its upcoming State of the Art building on 01 acre of land in Knowledge City, Mohali from 2023 onwards. Further, PBTI is also coming up with Knowledge and Upskilling Centre in Food, Water, Agriculture & Environment sectors at its upcoming building, with the financial support of Government of India.

53. During the current financial year, additional 1000 Dairy Cooperative Societies have been brought under the ambit of online milk procurement system. Apart from this, the new building at Verka Ludhiana Dairy has been inaugurated for automatic milk reception, processing & packaging of fresh milk and fermented products. Handling capacity of Milk Plant Ludhiana has been increased from 4 LLPD to 9 LLPD. Liquid Milk Processing and Packaging Unit at Verka Ferozepur Dairy of capacity 1 LLPD has also been inaugurated.
54. The State's gross revenue collection from various taxes during the period April-December, 2022 has shown 12.83% increase from the previous year i.e., Rs.28,730.26 crore against Rs.25,463.66 crore collected in same period last year during April-December, 2021. The net GST collection for the State has been increased by 17.22% i.e., Rs. 15,003 crore during April 2022 to January 2023 as compared to Rs.12,799 crore in corresponding period of April 2021 to January 2022. Similarly, the revenue from Excise has also witnessed an increase of Rs.2059 crore (40%) i.e., Rs.7205.90 crore for the period from April 2022

to January 2023 as compared to Rs.5147 crore for the same period in 2021-22.

55. My Government made all arrangements for timely procurement of 191 LMT paddy during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23. Further, 182.11 LMT paddy was procured by Government procurement agencies including FCI. Rs.37,514 crore MSP was transferred in nearly 8 lakh farmers' bank accounts. I am pleased to inform that my Government is fully geared up for the procurement of 132 LMT of wheat expected to be procured in the State during the ensuing Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2023-24. RMS 2022-23 was also successfully completed on 31.05.2022 in the State of Punjab and 96.45 LMT wheat had been procured by Government procurement agencies. Payment of 19,435 crore of MSP had been made directly in the bank accounts of 7,51,416 farmers.
56. My Government has made budget provision of Rs.23.00 crore under various schemes for the development of zoos and wildlife in the State for the year 2022-23. Through these Schemes conservation, rescue, habitat improvement of wildlife animals and development works for upgradation of the zoos are carried out in the State.

57. My Government proposes to construct approximately 25,000 EWS houses under Punjab EWS Housing Policy in different phases by various Special Development Authorities in the State. The constructed houses will be provided to the Economically Weaker Sections of the society.
58. The power to grant Change of Land Use, Completion Certificate, Layout and Building Plans have been decentralized at the level of Development Authorities. Steps to simplify the procedure of granting these approvals have been taken to ensure quick disposal of cases within stipulated time frame. In another such move aimed at boosting economic development, powers for approval of Building Plans and grant of Completion Certificate to the stand alone industries have been delegated to Director, Factories.
59. PUDA has purchased about 1100 acres of land from Panchayat Department for setting up of Integrated Manufacturing Cluster at Rajpura as a part of Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor Project. Execution of the Project would enhance the industrial activities in the State. Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) has decided

to develop a new urban estate, namely, Aerotropolis in different phases over an area of approximately 5500 acres near the International Airport at Mohali. In the first phase, about 1650 acres have been taken up for development of residential, commercial and institutional plots etc. Tenders for development of peripheral roads in this area have been invited. Acquisition process for setting up of Urban Estates in New Chandigarh, namely, Eco City-3 and Low/High density has been started. The proposed acquisition for these estates is more than 1000 acres, which is likely to complete in mid of year 2024.

60. My Government launched 'Family Visit' or '*Parivarik Mulakats*' with prisoners on 15th September, 2022 in 23 jails of Punjab. Now, it has been started in all 25 jails. The objective of 'Family Visit' or '*Parivarik Mulakats*' is to ensure that prison inmates are able to maintain contact with and remain integrated with their families. Till 26.02.2023, a total of 9633 family visits have been completed. With this initiative, Punjab has become the first State in the country to do so.
61. My Government has exempted the shops and other commercial establishments from the provisions of sections

9 and 10 (1) of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958. This will allow the Shops and Commercial Establishments to remain open all 365 days of the year and 24 hours a day. This will not only boost the economy but will also generate more employment. To promote Punjabi language, my government has directed all shops and commercial establishments in the state to use the Punjabi language on display boards.

62. Minimum wages have been increased by my Government after a period of two years. The minimum wage of an unskilled worker has been increased by Rs. 714.96/- per month and has been fixed at Rs. 9907.68/-. Daily wage has been increased by Rs. 27.50/- per day and has been fixed at Rs. 381.06/- per day. Similarly, the wage for an agricultural worker has also been increased by Rs. 28.70/- per day and has been fixed at Rs. 397.46/- per day.

63. The present Renewable Energy installed capacity of the State is 2227.12 MW which is approx. 16% of total State installed capacity. It is planned to increase Renewable Energy to 50% of the installed capacity by 2030 in line with the National Agenda for clean energy sources. The State is also aggressively pursuing the development of

Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) projects which utilize surplus paddy straw to the tune of 16.54 million tons per annum. Total 2227.12 MW capacity of Renewable Energy Projects have been commissioned comprising of 1493.95 MW capacity Solar Power Plants, 462.07 MW Co-Generation Power Plants, 91.5 MW Biomass Power Projects, 175.35 MW Mini Hydel Projects and 1.5 MW Waste to Energy projects. In addition, 43 CBG projects having total capacity of 495.58 tons per day have been allotted. In the agriculture sector, 15,820 solar pumps, 1,03,329 solar street lights for village security and 1,78,000 Family size Biogas plants have been installed.

64. To promote tourism circuit in the State of Punjab, 39 Projects worth Rs.91.55 crore under Heritage Circuit Theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme were sanctioned. Under PARSHAD Scheme, Projects worth Rs.32 crore for development of infrastructure in Chamkaur Sahib have been initiated. Rs.50.00 crore was also released for 25 important Projects related to restoration and conservation works of various monuments and heritage properties, including development of the Anglo-Sikh War Circuit.

65. I am pleased to announce that Punjab has become the 5th State in the country to achieve 100% coverage of piped drinking water supply to all 34.26 lakh rural households. My Government has made a policy shift from providing water supply schemes based on groundwater to surface water-based schemes, especially in the water quality affected and water-stressed areas of the State. This is to mitigate fast-declining water table in many districts and issue of presence of heavy metals such as arsenic, fluoride, etc. in the ground water in certain pockets of State. To address the issues of water quality and water scarcity, 15 large multi-village surface water supply schemes costing Rs.2,091 crore covering 1721 villages to be completed by September, 2024. In-line Arsenic and Iron Removal Plants based on adsorption technology from IIT Madras are installed in 195 villages and are in progress in 40 villages.

66. Under *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* (PMGSY-III), an expenditure of Rs.411.78 crore has been incurred on ongoing and completed works during the Financial Year 2022-23. 365 km of rural roads have been upgraded. Under NABARD, in the FY 2022-23, 218 km of roads & 3 bridges have been completed. In FY 2022-23, 161 km of

plan roads have been completed and Rs.75.96 crore has been spent on these completed and ongoing works.

67. My Government has started luxury bus services from various cities of Punjab to Delhi Airport at affordable prices. The learning driving license can now be obtained online, thus, providing real time online services. Similarly, the registration certificates in respect of non-commercial vehicles are being provided by dealers at their end thereby reducing delays and unnecessary hassles. Furthermore, moving towards a pollution free travel, the State Government has formed an Electric Vehicle Policy which will provide a conducive environment for the growth of EV industry in the State.

68. My Government has started a new initiative to reach out to the common masses. Under this programme, the district level officers viz. Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners (General and Development), Municipal Commissioners, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and Block Development & Panchayat Officers etc. are visiting the field areas under their jurisdiction and resolving the grievances of general public on the spot. Absolute Border Area Development Camps-cum-Jan Sunwai Camps are

being held in border areas where the general public is getting the benefits of Governmental Schemes and Programmes.

Before I conclude, I compliment all the Hon'ble Members for actively participating in the activities of this august House. I am confident that you all will serve Punjab and its people with utmost dedication and sincerity and will cooperate with my Government in its endeavour to take the State forward on the path of development and make it corruption free. As I wish you all the success in your deliberations, I am sanguine that we all will walk together step-by-step to re-establish '*Rangla Punjab*'.

JAI HIND