



**Address by
Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
Hon'ble Governor of Assam**



**15th Assam Legislative Assembly
10th March, Budget Session, 2023**

**Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Assam
Legislative Assembly,**

आपोनालोक आताइलोईके नमस्कार जनाईसू। एटा नतुन वित्तीय बसरर
आरंभनिर एई शुभ मुहूर्तत मोई आपोनालोकक शुभेच्छा जोनाइसू।

1. Today, I rise to speak before you in the beginning of the Budget Session of 2023-24. On this occasion let me begin by highlighting some important developments that my government has initiated in recent times to bring Assam to the path of resurgence. Assam is in the midst of great transformation. My government, with blessings from the people of Assam and guidance from Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has scripted a new journey of unprecedented peace, progress and development. For many years, major constraints holding back development in the state were inadequate infrastructure and investment. But due to sustained efforts of my government, there is an incredible change in the state today. There is new confidence, hope and energy among the people, which give a paradigm shift in the development journey of the state.
2. Before I get into details, I consider it my privilege to highlight a snapshot of the achievements of my government in the cultural arena. Two achievements, both related to our cultural history, have stood out from the rest and have helped establish our heritage and culture on a higher pedestal. First, I would like to highlight the event of Lachit

Divas organised in this year. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the event celebrated in the National Capital has generated lot of awareness about Lachit Barphukan, the legendary military hero of Ahom kingdom. This was also a splendid opportunity to carve a niche for the Ahom rule on the international historical map.

3. Lachit Barphukan, the legendary general of Ahom king for his patriotism and gallantry has remained a source of inspiration for generations. He gave a crushing defeat to the invading Mughals, which saved this land from being subjugated to the invaders. Significantly, 2022 was the 400th birth anniversary of this Military General and my government in its bid to pay honour to this legendary general celebrated the event with a series of programmes in New Delhi. This 3 day programme was attended by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Home Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister of Government of India. It is also a matter of pride that Assam has made an emphatic entry into the Guinness World Records for its momentous feat on the Largest Online Photo Album of Handwritten Notes category. The record is made for having received 42.94 lakhs writeups on Lachit Barphukan. In this connection Certificate of Record has been handed to my government by the Guinness World Records Limited, UK on 9th March 2023.
4. My government is fast moving ahead in creating a resurgent Assam in the national landscape. Our endeavours find a major impetus with a number of landmark achievements, notable among them is the successful march of Charaideo Maidams to the coveted UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Maidams are the mound burial system of Ahom

dynasty where the mortal remains of Ahom Kings and members of the royal family were laid to rest. It is a matter of pride and jubilation that the Charaideo maidams, which was India's sole nomination this year, have met all technical requirements of the UNESCO Secretariat. For this remarkable feat, on behalf of the Government of Assam and people of the state, I express my gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the nomination of Charaideo maidams to UNESCO World Heritage Site tag.

5. Bihu is the lifeline of Assam. For taking Assam's pride Bihu to the global landscape and register it in the Guinness World Records, a mega Bihu dance performance by more than 10,000 performers will be held on April 14 at Sarusajai Sports Complex. Hon'ble Prime Minister has already given consent to witness this magnificent event.
6. This year, the state has also made many significant strides in every sector of economy, including connectivity and infrastructure. In the Financial Year 2021-22, the state of Assam has for the first time crossed the Rs. 1 Lakh Cr. mark in budget expenditure. For 2022-23 fiscal, total budget provision for the consolidated fund was made for a total amount of Rs.1,27,793 Cr. Against this budget provision, the Govt. of Assam till February' 2023 has incurred expenditure for a total amount of Rs. 1,03,000 Cr, which shows my government has already crossed the Rs. 1 Lakh Cr. mark in budget expenditure much ahead of this fiscal coming to an end. Going by this trend this year the total budget of my government will be touching around Rs. 1,20,000 Cr., which is a reflection of the growth of the State.

7. Meanwhile the capital expenditure in the state has increased by more than 150% in the last five years from Rs 7946 Cr. in the FY 2017- 18 to Rs 20,229 Cr. as per the pre actual figure of FY 2021-22.
8. In this financial year in a milestone achievement, my government has received Letters of Permission for starting 3 new Medical colleges at Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Nagaon with increase of intake by 300 MBBS seats. While the fourth one at Nalbari is also expected to get permission soon. This will increase MBBS seats up to 1500. This is a momentous step towards improving medical education and doctors' availability in the state, especially considering the fact that since independence, there were only three medical colleges in Assam till 2009 with an annual intake of 326 MBBS students.
9. My government, unleashing a major boost to farmers' income, had rolled out paddy procurement drive in 2021-22 with Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 1940 per quintal for all farmers. This benefited 43,978 nos. farmers in the State and they earned around Rs. 1097 crore. Last year, the state procured 5.65 Lakh MT of paddy, of which only 1 (one) Lakh MT was procured by 16th March 2022. This year MSP has been increased to Rs. 2040 per quintal. My government has been able to procure 3.0 lakhs MT of paddy from farmers as on 4th March 2023, with 33,249 farmers having earned Rs. 612 crores selling their produce in 198 Paddy procurement centres across the state. My Government is hopeful of reaching the procurement target of 10 Lakh MT of paddy by the end of the current Kharif Marketing season on 30th September 2023.

10. With sustained efforts of my government, the financial position of the state has improved considerably. As per estimate, for the year 2022-23, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State at current prices is estimated to reach 5 Lakh Crore as against Rs. 3,92,070.98 Crore in 2021-22. My government is confident of scripting this new history this year with GSDP crossing Rs. 5.00 L Cr. The per capita income of the State in terms of GSDP at current prices is estimated at Rs. 1,22,954 for the year 2022-23 as compared to Rs.1,11,162 in 2021-22 which is an increase of 10.61 percent.
11. My government has implemented a number of reform initiatives in finance sector for ensuring transparency and accountability which has played a key role in significant growth of revenue collection. During the current FY 2022-23 upto November 2022, an amount of Rs.12,747.53 Cr. (GST + Non-GST) has been collected as compared to Rs. 10,141.09 Cr. in the corresponding period of last F.Y. 2021-22 showing a growth rate of 25.70%. Today our own revenue has increased to Rs. 3,500 Cr per month with devolution, which is sufficient to pay salary to government employees from its own source. This is indeed a remarkable achievement of my government.
12. From May 2021 onwards, my Government has steadily progressed on an ambitious reform agenda focusing on policy and institutional reforms harmonised with investments in related sectors. The reform agenda aspires to boost trade, increase investments, generate jobs and to increase resilience to frequent and severe climate related shocks. This has also generated a renewed thrust in the EAP sector in the state showing considerable achievements in 2022.

13. Presently, there are 15 ongoing EAPs with a total involvement of Rs 31,126 Crs in various stages of execution. These projects are under implementation in sectors like Finance, Transport, Public Service delivery, Road & Bridge Infrastructure, Agriculture, Environment & Forest, Water Supply & Sewerage, Power, Skill development etc. Out of these ongoing projects, during 2022, Loan Agreements have been signed for 4 projects involving a project cost of Rs 13,862 Crs.
14. In addition there are 11 pipeline EAPs with an estimated amount of Rs 31,212 Cr. approved for implementation by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is noteworthy that during 2022 itself, out of these pipeline EAPs 5 projects totalling an estimated cost of Rs 13,572 Crs have been approved by Government of India, reflecting the efforts made by the Government to pursue developmental projects and the support received from the Government of India for the State's welfare.
15. Till a few years ago, violence and insurgency were the order of the day in the state. But with committed efforts of the Central Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for bringing lasting peace in Assam and the Northeast, today all major insurgent groups have either laid down arms or joined the dialogue process. Major peace accords were signed with insurgent groups, which include the Karbi Peace Accord, and the Adivasi Peace Accord. As a result of which large number of insurgent cadres belonging to these groups have since joined the mainstream after their outfits were disbanded. As a result of peace and normalcy fast coming to the

state, the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 which was in force for last three decades was withdrawn from 24 districts and one sub-division of Assam w.e.f. 1st April 2022.

16. Today the people of Assam are also standing up to violence and turning their energy and skills to build a better, stronger, safer, productive and stable society. The culture of Bandhs and Dharnas are now a thing of the past. There is a marked improvement in law & order situation in the state. This has contributed to the plummeting rate of average crime rate per lakh of population which stood 384 during the last year and has significantly come down to 202 by the end of December 2022.
17. With the improvement in the law and order situation in the State, tourism sector has witnessed significant growth and attention during 2022-23. While the sector recorded 511% growth in respect of domestic tourists, it is 763% in respect of foreign tourist in-terms of tourist inflow in 2022-23 (January 2023) compared to the last year's inflow. New Tourism Policy 2022 has been prepared to promote the sector further. To promote private investments in the tourism sector in places like Kaziranga, Manas etc., government has given nod to sign agreement for mega hospitality projects with major hospitality groups. Assam is one of the few states in India to grant industry status to tourism.
18. In its bid to provide service to the poor and the marginalised, my government has initiated a number of citizen-centric services. With an aim to ensure quality, time bound and transparent citizen centric land related service

delivery, the Government launched Mission Basundhara 1.0, which concluded with disposal of over 8 lakh applications. The high footfall of applications is evidence that the quantum of unresolved land matters in the public domain was huge, and that people have reposed firm belief on the service provided by the mission. After a resounding success in Mission Basundhara 1.0, my Government launched Mission Basundhara 2.0 on 14th November 2022. Basundhara 2.0 aims to provide additional services like settlement of government khas land and ceiling surplus land, conferring ownership rights to occupancy tenants, settlement of transferred annual patta land, settlement of PGR/VGR Land to individuals, settlement of land for indigenous special cultivators, settlement of hereditary land of tribal communities, composite Land Transfer Services, online payment of land revenue, digital stamping etc.

19. Earlier, the students of the reserved category faced a lot of trouble in getting their caste certificates issued, leading to great hassles in getting admission into educational institutes and joining government services. With an aim at providing Caste Certificate to the Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Other Backward Castes and More Other Backward Castes at their doorstep in a complete hassle-free manner, my Government has introduced the initiative of Mission Bhumiputra. Under this mission all Caste Certificates are being issued by the Deputy Commissioners, and school students are being handed their certificates in their school itself. Assistance to various government authorised apex bodies of caste organizations in verification of the applicants' castes are being provided by the district administration. The entire process works online right from

application, furnishing of documents, processing to issuing of certificates.

20. My government came to power with a commitment to provide government jobs to 1 lakh youth. Delivering on its promise, the government since 10th May 2021 has given appointment to 41,920 candidates in government sector. All the appointments have been made with utmost transparency. All measures have been adopted to strengthen the government machinery by employing the right candidates. Moreover, process is underway for another round of appointments for 26,000 grade III and IV posts in the State Government. My government will complete 1 lakh employment this year as announced.
21. Statistics show that child marriage is going on in Assam in violation of the Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse Act, 2012 and the Prevention of Child Marriage Act. As a result the maternal and neonatal mortality rates are still high in the state. The state government is taking this issue very seriously and is firm on having zero tolerance against child marriage. My government has already launched a massive operation since 3rd February 2023 against child marriage in the state and as many as 2789 persons who have violated the law on child marriage have been arrested so far. My government will come up with a relief and rehabilitation package for the victims of child marriage.
22. Having highlighted some of the endeavours of my government in bringing a paradigm shift in the development narrative of the State, I now would like to apprise the Hon'ble Members of the house about the sublime goals my government has set for the next year. Continuing with

the development agenda and to foster inclusive growth, my government has set a vision and dream, which I would like to highlight.

- a) My government came into power with a promise to providing 1 lakh jobs to youth in government sector, which I have just stated. But moving ahead my government aims to develop an eco-system where our youth can transform themselves from being job seeker to job creator. In next 36 months, my government will work for opening self-employment opportunities at a much greater scale, which will not only help our youth to be Atmanirbhar but will also go a long way in revitalizing the rural economy.
- b) In case of Child Health, the state has made impressive progress in recent years. NFHS-5 data shows a decreasing trend of Under 5 Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate in the state. But at the same time, data shows an alarmingly high percentage of child marriages and teenage pregnancy in the state, which has a direct bearing on the health of children. Keeping this in view, my government will adopt a mission mode approach to address the issues relating to improvement of Child Health.
- c) My government has so far completed implementation of Category-I and Category-II under Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme (AMFIRS) 2021 which has benefitted almost 10 lakhs borrowers. My Government will take the momentum further and reimburse the lenders in case of Category-III of NPA to make the women borrowers debt free.

- d) Continuing its focus on education, my government plans to take up a comprehensive approach for a resurgence of the education sector in the state. A major thrust will be given to improvement of infrastructure of educational institutions. Infrastructure of heritage educational institutions will be strengthened and hundreds of new schools will be taken up.
- e) Similarly, continuing its efforts to increasing higher educational opportunities for the students, my government will build a sizable number of colleges in the state.
- f) There has been a steady increase of urban population in Assam over the years. For addressing the health issues of these people, my government has already taken a number of steps. However, to make health facilities more accessible and affordable for the people living in towns and cities, urban health will be given a special focus by my government.
- g) Considering the great help that millions in the state have received to fight against poverty through Orunodoi Scheme, my Government has already rolled out "Orunodoi 2.0" with a very inclusive set of guidelines. This scheme will be further strengthened to give a greater push to the economic and social status of the poor and disadvantaged section.
- h) Assam has a long history of tea cultivation. In 1823, Singpho Gam or Bisa Gam, the chief of the Singpho community, presented the first tea plant to Major Robert Bruce, an agent of the East India Company. It was only then that the British discovered that tea was native

to Assam. Keeping this in view, Assam tea is completing 200 years this year. Many schemes are, therefore, in the offing to rejuvenate the sector and for welfare of the tea garden brothers and sisters of the state.

- i) My Government is working with a focus on fulfilling the basic human needs to ensure a dignified living for all. Apart from providing free foodgrains under NFSA, we want to go further and work in the direction of health and home for all. My government aims to ensure some kind of a material possession that every citizen can claim to be his or her own. In this regard, my government will launch a number of initiatives, which will be reflected in detail in the Budget.

Hon'ble Members,

23. In my speech so far, I have tried to give a fair idea about the policies and programmes that my government is adopting for the welfare of the State. I now would like to delve deeper into some of the areas, where my government has been tirelessly working.

(A) Cherishing History and Culture

24. My Government is committed to the preservation of the cultural identity of various indigenous communities of the state. Assam is a melting pot of a variegated cultural mosaic of people and races. The history of the State dates from antiquity and its legendary heroes had all along resisted invasions from outsiders and helped develop a unique culture and civilisation of the region. My Government believes in cherishing the past to envision the future, based on the rich culture that the State has inherited from its forefathers.

25. My government is taking steps to build a grand memorial of Lachit Barphukan at Hollongapar in Jorhat. To honour the supreme sacrifices of the Assamese soldiers in the Alaboi battle ground, near North Guwahati, my Government has decided to set up a war memorial at Pacharia Village of Dadara in Kamrup district.
 26. Padma Sree Pratima Baruwa Pandey's immense contribution to Goalpariya Lokgeet has endeared her to every citizen of the state. My Government has taken initiative to preserve the house of Goalporia Lokgeet Samragee Late Pratima Barua Pandey. It has already been acquired to turn it into a memorial.
 27. Gamocha, the symbol of Assamese culture, is often used to convey our reverence to the respected ones. One of the most significant achievements acquired in 2022 is obtaining GI Tag for Gamocha. This will stop duplicity of production of Gamocha and weavers of the state will be greatly benefited. Government is also taking concrete steps to improve the marketing of handloom gamocha.
- (B) Eradication of Social Evils
28. Society can progress and see the light of the day only when social evils are removed. Eradication of social evils is the pre-requisite for the healthy growth of individuals. Therefore, my Government has taken steps to eradicate all social evils and make Assam the best place for its inhabitants.
 29. Assam Police has launched a war on drugs cartels. As a result of our sustained tirade against drugs, till 2nd March, 2023, 5191 number of cases have been registered under the NDPS Act and 8632 number of drug traffickers have

been arrested with sizeable amount of drugs. Moreover, till 31st December 2022, 203 cases of Human Trafficking have been registered by Assam Police, 173 human traffickers have been arrested and around 358 victims have been rescued.

30. A few years back, every morning the people of the state woke up to the news of poaching of one horned rhinoceros in Kaziranga and other National Parks. However, due to sustained efforts of my Government, Assam has for the first time in recent history recorded zero poaching of the Rhinos in 2022. This has sent a positive message to the national and international community about zero tolerance of my government in dealing with the poachers.

(C) Boosting State Economy

31. As I have already highlighted, my government has taken various steps in radically transforming the Assam economy. Numerous measures have been taken aiming at realising the economy's untapped potential encompassing all aspects, including providing a sense of comfort for agriculturists and an enabling environment for industrialists. Such measures have started showing results on the ground. Registering of GSDP growth braving the impact of Covid-19 pandemic scenario, is its greatest example.
32. In the first two quarters of the FY 2022-23 (up to 30th Sep 2022), Rs. 10,161.65 crores of credit to priority sectors of MSME has been extended. Under the MUDRA scheme Rs. 2,014.29 crore credit has been extended. Total credit extended in the calendar year up to September 30th 2022 in the MSME sector stands at Rs. 12,636.04 Crore and disbursement under MUDRA scheme stands at Rs. 3,344.75 crore.

33. To ease the loan compliance of the MSME sector, my government has also approved Assam Credit Guarantee scheme to provide additional sovereign guarantee up to Rs. 2 crore in association with SIDBI - CGTMSE scheme, which is expected to generate Rs. 5,000-Crore credit availability to the MSME.
 34. My government has also notified the Electric Vehicle Policy of Assam 2021 for promoting electric mobility in the state. The policy is a step towards cleaner environment.
 35. In another boost to the MSME, the Assam Start-up Venture Capital Fund, titled the Assam Laghu Vikash Trust, is going to be set up to create an enabling environment for the local start-up ecosystem which would contribute towards generation of employment for local youths and encourage talents to remain in the state.
 36. My government has auctioned 6 blocks of Quartzite and one block of China Clay with a value of Rs. 25.65 crore. An MoU has been signed with the SBI Capital Market Limited as Transaction Advisor for auctioning six blocks of Limestone in Dima Hasao and one block of Iron ore in Dhubri district. For the first time Government of India has approved three exploration projects on Limestone, Iron and Siliminite. Ministry of Coal has given technical approval for the exploration of coal upto G4 level in Dima Hasao district.
- (D) Social Security Measures
37. My government is committed to follow the principles of social justice and social harmony. To achieve that objective, my government is focusing on empowering different sections of people by creating an enabling ecosystem of social security.

38. My government is committed to extend economic and nutritional security to lakhs of financially vulnerable and under privileged families. Under Orunodoi scheme, the monthly benefits have been increased from Rs.1000 to Rs. 1250 from October 2022 benefitting more than 17 lakhs households. The number of beneficiaries will be enhanced to 27 lakh with an estimated yearly outlay of more than Rs.4000 Cr. from April 2023.
39. For supporting people reeling under the burden of micro finance loans during the repeated waves of COVID-19, Assam Micro Finance Incentive and Relief Scheme was launched in 2021 with a total expenditure of Rs.1800 Crore (approx) benefitting almost 10 lakh borrowers.
40. My government has also awarded an amount of Rs 500,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs only) each to the next of kin of 19 Nos of Martyrs who sacrificed their lives during the Freedom movement of the country coinciding with the death anniversary of Martyr Kushal Konwar on 15th of June, 2022.
41. For ensuring shelter to all by 2024, my Government under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana has sanctioned PMAY-G house to 17,09,626 beneficiaries, out of which 7,15,618 houses have already been completed. Moreover, my Government is providing additional facilities of drinking water connection under Jal Jeevan Mission, electricity connection under Saubhaya scheme, gas connection under Ujjwala scheme etc. to the beneficiaries.
42. Under PRADHAN MANTRI ADI ADARSH GRAM YOJANA (PMAAGY) for transforming villages with at least 50% tribal population into model village, my

Government has identified a total of 1700 villages for implementation of the scheme during the year 2021-22 to 2025-26. Fund has been sanctioned for a total of 858 Nos. of villages.

43. My government is successfully implementing the Journalists Medical Welfare Scheme and during 2022-23, financial aids amounting to Rs. 10.12 lakhs were granted to 29 journalists. Under the Assam Pension Scheme for Journalists, pension has been provided to 20 journalists during 2022-23. My Government has awarded Pension to 120 journalists @ Rs. 8,000.00 per month till date.

(E) Autonomous Councils

44. My government is committed to the development and equal growth of the people living across the state. Towards that direction, this government is drawing action plans to transform the Autonomous Councils into promising development zones to fulfill aims and aspirations of the people living there.
45. The Finance (Budget) Department communicated an amount of Rs.37,300.00 Lakh as State Own Priority Development (G) and Rs 10,000.00 Lakh as Special Grant to Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Rs 19,378.00 Lakh as SOPD (G) and Rs 62,000.00 Lakh as Special Grant to NC Hills Autonomous Council for the year 2022-23 for all round development in the two hill districts.
46. Several infrastructural projects like new Medical College and Research Institute at Diphu, Tourist Lodge at Bagori Entry Point have been implemented in Karbi Anglong district. Moreover, at NC Hills Autonomous Council, works for construction like multi-storied parking, Cultural Institute

Hall, improvement of Haflong Mission Road, Beautification of Haflong Market/Town etc. have been commenced by the Council. Apart from this, following foundation stone laid by Prime Minister on 28th April 2022 for Agricultural College at West Karbi Anglong, Veterinary College at Manja and Govt. Degree College at West Karbi Anglong construction will be taken up under PM-Devine.

47. 935 Nos. of TET qualified Assistant Teachers and Post Graduate Teachers have been appointed in various High and Higher Secondary Schools under Bodoland Territorial Region. Foundation Stone for three numbers of Govt. Model Colleges at Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri district of BTR have been laid. Udalguri Polytechnic at Bhergaon, Udalguri has been inaugurated and the academic session is going on. Academic Buildings for three numbers of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) has been inaugurated at Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri district.

(F) Peace and Security

48. My Government is mindful of the importance of peace and security for all. I am happy to say that once considered a restive region, Assam today is being hailed for the general peace, security and tranquility prevailing all across the State. This has largely been possible owing to peace loving nature of the people of the State, the relentless efforts of my Government through its efficient management of law and order, zero tolerance policy against terrorism and working towards fulfilling the genuine hopes and aspirations of numerous ethnicities. Role of the Government of India too has been crucial in maintenance of law and order as almost all the insurgent groups are now engaged in peace-process with the Centre.

49. It is a matter of pride that as recognition of exceptional performance in controlling crime, tackling insurgency, ensuring security of lives and property, and maintaining law and order in the state, Assam Police has been conferred with the President's Colour Award.
50. My Government gives top most priority to connect all inter-state border districts and international border districts with proper road network, keeping both security and development at the forefront. A significant achievement of my Government is that we have taken a bold and positive step for settling the inter-state border disputes conclusively.

(G) Reforms

51. My government is committed to build and promote a climate where reform holds the key in expediting development of the people. The government of late has initiated several reformative steps to enhance people's access to our system of governance and increase accountability of the government towards its people.
52. Last year my Government settled 1037 proposals of indigenous landless families of the state residing in various districts for homestead purposes under a Mini Mission initiative. Under this initiative, land was allotted against 319 proposals to various Government Institutions, Private Educational Institutions, various NGOs and Societies for establishment of their institutions and conversion of Annual patta to Periodic patta.
53. Mission Sadbhavana was launched by my Government in Assam Secretariat to dispose the old files submitted before

and MMCH Hospital is in full progress. Further, foundation stone for five new Medical Colleges at Dhemaji, Tamulpur, Goalghat, Bongaigaon and Morigaon have been laid recently. Moreover, three new medical colleges at Sivasagar, Karimganj and Goalpara have also been planned and establishment of Super speciality wing at existing 6 Medical Colleges and infrastructure improvement of 6 District Hospitals and Swastha Bhawan at Guwahati have been taken up. All these infrastructures will provide much needed medical facilities to the people of Assam.

62. For creating sports infrastructure, the government has set up 10 district stadiums and 40 mini stadiums across Assam, out of which 9 District Stadiums and 32 Mini Stadiums have been allotted and work will be starting soon. Sports stadiums at Khanikar in Dibrugarh District, Saboti in Lakhimpur district, and Sualkuchi will be completed soon. The existing cricket ground of Jorhat District will be upgraded to an international standard sports complex.
63. My government has taken up construction of new Assam Bhawan at Dwarka, New Delhi, re-construction of Assam Bhawans at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi and Russel Street, Kolkata and construction of Assam Bhawans at Bangalore and Vellore.
64. Convention Centre-cum-State Guest House at Guwahati is also in progress and will be completed by July 2023. The balance works of the new Assam Legislative Assembly building is in progress and two new 15-storeyed RCC MLA Hostel Buildings at old MLA Hostel campus have been taken up and under tendering process.
65. The road network in Assam is getting strengthened and upgraded with the initiative of my government under the

“Asom Mala” programme. 18 works of 343-km length were taken up under its SOPD component for upgradation.

66. The Extradosed PSC Bridge over River Brahmaputra connecting Guwahati and North Guwahati has achieved 66% physical progress till date. For enhancing the utility of the bridge, a project of Trumpet Junction at Gauripur point of the National Highway at North Guwahati has been approved for Rs. 332.59 crore.
67. Another Major Bridge over river Brahmaputra connecting Palashbari with Sualkuchi has also been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 3197.20 crore and work is going to start very soon.
68. The elevated road project on R.G. Barua Road and AT Road at Maligaon, with 40% and 58% physical progress respectively, once completed, the projects will bring a remarkable change in the city life by reducing the travel time.
69. It is a matter of pride that Assam is showing leading performance among States in implementation of PMGSY. The state received total sanction of 32,421 Km of road works for a sum of Rs. 22,017 crore since inception. Till date the state has completed 30,784 Km road with expenditure of Rs.21,689 crores. Under PMGSY III, against the allotted quota of 4,325 KM, sanction has already been received for 3,756 KM and sanction for remaining 569 KM will be made very soon.
70. For providing affordable Housing and also to decongest the Guwahati city, a new Satellite Township in 550 acres of land of erstwhile Nagaon Paper Mill at Jagiroad (along with fringe area) is being developed by Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority.

71. My government has made persistent efforts to address the drinking water problem of the residents of Guwahati city. On 21st December, 2022, the JICA assisted Guwahati Water Supply Project was partially commissioned with a capacity to cater about 12,000 households under 14 DMAS. Water supply for the remaining 107 DMAS is planned to be commissioned in a phased manner between February 2023 to December 2024.
72. Moreover, for processing waste in scientific manner my government has established a 150 TPD capacity Compost cum RDF plant at Belortol. The construction of plant is undergoing and by mid of 2023 the plant will be functional.
73. In a bid to boost tourism infrastructure in the state, my government under NEC has completed two projects namely "Development of Buddhist Destination Centre at Sivasagar" and "Tea Museum" at Dibrugarh. Another project for "Development of Heritage Bungalow at Kaziranga" under NEC is going on.
74. With successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, as on 23rd December, 2022, 26,57,195 i.e. 41.15% of rural households across the state have been covered with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) since the inception of JJM in Assam.

(1) Education

75. Education is fundamental for achieving full human potential. Providing universal access to quality education is the key to Assam's ascent in terms of economic growth, social justice, scientific advancement and cultural preservation. Assam has a conducive climate for education and its role towards knowledge economy. My government

has recognized the need to create an ecosystem for fundamental research and innovation, keeping the objective of science with a human face in the service of the common man.

76. The decade starting in 2010 saw 5 new medical colleges coming up in Jorhat, Barpeta, Tezpur, Diphu and Lakhimpur with total intake reaching 1100 MBBS students per annum. In the year 2022 Dhubri Medical College got permission from NMC with intake capacity 100, taking total seats to 1200. The year 2023 saw a spurt in new establishment of Medical Colleges with the Letter of Permissions (LoP) for two new Colleges at Kokrajhar and Nagaon reaching student intake to 1400. In the event of Nalbari Medical College getting LoP the intake will reach to 1500. All the operationalised Medical Colleges also have state-of-the-Art 500 bedded tertiary care hospitals to provide tertiary care and treatment for patients.
77. To promote scientific temperament among the young generation, my Government has started construction of six District Science Centre cum Planetarium and 11 District Science Centres. Besides, construction of Convention Centre, Space Odyssey Building and Science Discovery Complex at proposed Science City Project at Tepesia, Guwahati is in progress.
78. Keeping in tune with the New Education Policy, my Government had upgraded 214 High Schools to four class Higher Secondary Schools with a target to upgrade another 716 Schools to four class Secondary Schools. My Government has also approved the integration of three years in Anganwadi with two years in Lower Primary

Schools named as five class Buniyaadi Siksha and now the school readiness of a children shall begin from the age of 03 years of age.

79. With a view to augment academic environment in the tea garden areas in Assam, my Government, for the first time after 75 years of India's Independence, took steps for setting up of 119 Model High Schools. Out of this, 97 Schools are functioning from the academic session 2022-23. Hon'ble President of India had laid the foundation stone of another 100 Tea garden Model Schools in the State.
80. Under PM- DEVINE my Government has planned to completely restructure the present Schools into modern infrastructures to facilitate the best of learning environment and build up the Schools as centre of excellence and learning.
81. During the financial year 2021-22, under Pragyani Bharati Scheme, my Government has released an amount of Rs.8171.47 lakh for fee waiver to BPL students whose parental annual income is Rs.2.00 lakh or below benefiting 3,57,903 nos. of students. An amount of Rs.3542.41 lakh has been released for free Text Books to UG level students benefitting 3,54,241 nos. of students.
82. Under Dr. Banikanta Kakaty Award, Scooters were distributed to 15,160 nos. of Girls students who had passed H.S. Examination in 2018 and 2019 in order of merit. An amount of Rs.2050.00 lakh has been released as infrastructure development grants to 80 nos. of Colleges during the year. During the year 2021-22, my government has also provided Combined Merit Scholarship, P.G. Research Scholarship and Minority girls Scholarship.

83. Under RUSA, 8 numbers of Model Degree Colleges (MDCs) at Dalgaon, Tulungia, Bihali, Eraligool, Amjonga, Deithor, Kakopathar and Borkhola have been made functional. Dibrugarh University and Gauhati University were allotted Rs 40 crores as infrastructure grants. Again during RUSA 2.0 these two Universities have received 10.45 crore each till date for development of infrastructure facilities.
84. The construction work of 6 (six) more engineering colleges at Bongaigaon, Behali, Sualkuchi, Nalbari, Nagaon and Udalguri are under progress. Moreover, construction work of another 8(eight) nos. of new polytechnics at Hajo, Majuli, Tingkhong, Darrang, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, Dhubri and Dima Hasao are also under progress.
85. In order to create industry-ready skilled personnel and entrepreneurs, my Government in collaboration with Tata Technologies Private Limited is working to transform the Industrial Training Institute (ITIS) and Polytechnics in the State as Centres of Excellence.
86. Gunotsav was held in the State from 18th January to 18th February in 2023 in phases I, II and III. The objectives of this exercise was scholastic evaluation from Class I to IX, evaluation of reading skills and evaluation of schools in respect of academic, logistics and infrastructure. During the 2023 Gunotsav, 44,531 schools and 41,28,091 students participated.
- (J) Health Care
87. Since the first day of assuming responsibility of the State administration, my Government has been working with the motto of "Affordable and Accessible Healthcare for

All". In this direction, my Government has taken several steps for the healthcare sector which can rightly be called revolutionary and never-seen-before in the State's memorable history. Once considered the refuge of those who cannot afford treatments in the private hospitals, the hospitals in the government sector today stand out as the most-glorious examples of what resolute will can do in transforming the fortunes of a sector. Treatment such as bone-marrow transplants, which were earlier considered a no-go zone in the State's healthcare system, are now being carried out with active support from my Government. I can say this with all confidence that my Government shall not hang its boot till it achieves all its intended designs for the healthcare sector.

88. My Government is working with the vision for ensuring healthcare services affordable and accessible. For this, various steps such as Chief Minister's Free Diagnostics Programme, free Operation for Children having congenital heart disease, Sneha Sparsha Scheme, Mobile Medical Units (MMU) services for tea garden population, free TB diagnosis treatment etc. are being implemented.
 89. My Government has also signed an MOU with IIT Guwahati to set up a Multi- Specialty Hospital at IIT - Guwahati which will be a hub for Medical Research and Training along with Tertiary patient care services in the days to come.
- (K) Youth Empowerment
90. Youths are the future of the State and my Government has been steadfast since day one in ensuring they are empowered to the extent that they can make use of the

opportunities, a new and resurgent Assam and India is offering. In this direction, dedicated action plans are being implemented on mission modes, which in turn are enabling our youths to foray into territories considered difficult to venture just a few years ago. In days to come, I can visualize the State's youths touching newer heights of success in whichever field they would like to enter.

91. Skilling of the youth is the need of the hour given the requirements of Industry 4.0 and modern day technological advancement. In view of this the North East Skill Centre was established in collaboration with ITE Education Services (ITEES), Singapore, which has been providing training in four disciplines — Food & Beverage Services, Hospitality-Housekeeping, Retail Services and Beauty & Wellness.
92. Further, setting up of the Skill University at Mangaldai in Darrang district, construction of which is under progress will play an important role in reshaping all vocational skilling efforts in the state.

(L) Women and Children Welfare

93. My Government is fully aware of its responsibilities towards the womenfolk and children of the State. With enthusiastic guidance from the Government of India, my government has been making every effort aimed at transforming the image of the woman from that of an "*Abla Naari*" (a helpless woman) to "*Sabala Naari*" (an empowered woman). Moreover, my Government has been working relentlessly in ensuring the children of the State are able to have access to the necessary aid that would

enable them to grow up into assets for the nation and contribute towards the process of nation-building in days to come.

94. As part of this, under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, 37,40,542 nos. of beneficiaries are covered during the financial year 2022-23.
95. Further to strengthen the quality of pre-school education and to address the nutritional needs of the targeted beneficiaries and to make the Anganwadi Centres vibrant and attractive, my government has initiated to construct Model AWC building with a cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs per centre in the State. Till date 800 Nos. of model Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) have been completed against 999 nos sanctioned.
96. For empowering women, my Government is implementing a number of Schemes. At present 9,43,543 numbers of beneficiaries have benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

(M) Boosting Energy Sector

97. Energy security is a prerequisite for complete growth of the society and the State. Keeping this in mind, my government took measures aimed at round-the-clock electricity across the nooks and corners of the State. Once considered a regular affair, load-shedding is now a thing of the bygone era and is considered an exception, rather than the norm. Numerous ambitious projects aimed at furthering the cause of energy security are either being implemented or are at various stages of development. Presently, there is no deficit in power supply in Assam

and reliability of power supply has gone up to 22 hrs in Rural area and 23 hrs in Urban areas.

98. APDCL has completed electrification of all revenue villages of Assam and also has provided electricity connection to all eligible household of such villages under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojna (DDUGJY) and 'SAUBHAGYA' scheme.
99. My government as part of its commitment towards addressing the issues of climate change has given a major thrust to renewable energy. It is expected that Assam will be able to generate 3,000 MW of Solar Power by 2026.
100. My government has also taken up the Assam Distribution System Enhancement and Loss Reduction (ADSELR) project to improve voltage reliability with installation of 196 numbers of new Distribution Sub-Stations and 2674 numbers of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS).
101. The construction of 120 MW Lower Kopili Project is expected to be complete by December 2024 and this will augment the power generating capacity of the state.

Concluding Remarks

102. Assam had been a land of plenty in the pre-independence period with the exports of oil, coal and tea indigenously produced. However, the gross negligence that the state faced post-independence had hindered full realization of its potential. Over a period of 6 decades since independence, Assam was reeling under communication bottleneck leading to socio-economic disparity with the rest of India. However, since 2014, Assam and the North-East have gained undivided attention from the Central

Government. Today, the Union Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has showered its unwavering commitment and attention to the state. With this attention, Assam is now witnessing a new era of peace, prosperity and unprecedented development.

103. This unwavering commitment and liberal assistance on the part of the Central Government have infused a newfound confidence and ushered in a new era of growth and development in the State. I wish to say that tomorrow will be ours. The resurgent Assam will have a new identity in the national landscape. The growth trajectory will take Assam to greater heights and make it as one of the top developed states of the country.
104. However, to keep the momentum going, there is a need to dedicate ourselves with full commitment in fructifying the developmental goal of the government. There is a need for the people of Assam to unitedly face the challenges and overcome the hurdles. I am sure Hon'ble members of this August House will also show exemplary leadership and inspire people to work for the common cause of development of the state.

Hon'ble Members,

105. My Government has been inspired and motivated by the mission of our beloved Prime Minister to turn North East into a "New Engine of Growth". Accordingly we have been trying to live up to the expectations in the last year. Our Government has initiated a number of measures aimed at unleashing the State's full potential. I have outlined the policies, programmes and achievements of my

Government. My Government is committed to fulfill all the promises made to the people of Assam. The glimpses of the policies and programmes outlined earlier give an idea of the direction my government proposes to take in the next 3 years. I request this August House to support and work together for all-round development of the state and for the benefit of all sections of the people of Assam.

JAI HIND

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