



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY



Address by

Thiru **K. KAILASHNATHAN**

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

The Puducherry Legislative Assembly

24th August, 2026

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Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor
to
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUDUCHERRY

“கொடையளி செங்கோல் குடியோம்பல் நான்கும்
உடையானாம் வேந்தர்க் கொளி.”

- குறள்

(He who gives, cares, rules with justice, and guards
his people- Such a ruler shines with the true light
of kingship)

**Hon'ble Speaker and Distinguished Members of
this august House,**

VANAKKAM!

I have immense pleasure in warmly welcoming
and greeting the newly elected Members of the
Sixteenth Legislative Assembly on the occasion of
its first session. I also convey my warm greetings
and best wishes to the newly formed Council of
Ministers.

2. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members
of this august House will discharge their responsibilities
with dedication and uphold the trust and aspirations
reposed in them by the people of Puducherry.

I further hope that each one of you will contribute meaningfully to the progress and prosperity of our Union Territory.

THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE

3. The people of Puducherry have once again reposed their faith in the National Democratic Alliance under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru N. Rangasamy and have entrusted the Government with a renewed mandate. This decisive verdict reflects the confidence of the people in the Government's commitment towards welfare-oriented governance, inclusive development and social justice.

4. I am happy to share with this august House that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, inaugurated development projects worth over ₹ 760 crore, including initiatives implemented under the PM e-Bus Sewa Scheme, Smart City Mission, CITIIS, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and negotiated loan projects.

5. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India also laid the foundation stone for several important infrastructure and development projects in Puducherry involving a total investment of over ₹ 1,570 crore. These include projects under the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) assistance programme, Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), Centrally Sponsored Schemes, negotiated loan, electricity infrastructure, industries, sports and other development sectors.

6. These initiatives will strengthen infrastructure, improve urban services and enhance connectivity, thereby contributing to the overall development of the Union Territory.

FISCAL PERFORMANCE

7. The overall receipts of 2025-26 have increased to ₹ 13,397.69 crore as against ₹ 12,346.80 crore in 2024-25, registering a growth of 8.51 per cent. The Union Territory's own receipts have increased from ₹ 6,848.29 crore to ₹ 7,631.53 crore, reflecting a healthy growth of 11.44 per cent.

8. On the expenditure front, the overall expenditure was at ₹ 13,111.45 crore in 2025-26 as compared to ₹ 12,307.66 crore in the previous year, registering a growth of 6.53 per cent. More significantly, capital expenditure has increased from ₹ 447.48 crore to ₹ 765.59 crore, recording an impressive growth of 71.09 per cent.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

9. I am happy to inform this august House that the economy of Puducherry continues to register sustained growth. The Gross State Domestic Product growth rate, which stood at (-) 2.21 per cent in 2020-21, has increased to 8.12 per cent in 2025-26. This growth rate is higher than the national GDP growth rate.

10. The per capita income of Puducherry has increased from ₹ 3,23,745 at current prices in 2025-26 to ₹ 3,44,926 in 2026-27, registering a growth of 6.5 per cent.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

11. My Government accords the highest priority to strengthening administrative capacity and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. With a view to improving governance, concerted efforts have been made to fill long-pending vacancies in various Government Departments. During the last five years, recruitment has been undertaken in a transparent, fair and merit-based manner, resulting in the filling up of about 4,160 vacant posts through direct recruitment. Further, around 1,000 additional posts are proposed to be filled during the current year through written examinations, for which notification will be issued. These initiatives will not only strengthen Government Institutions but also create valuable employment opportunities for the youth of the Union Territory.

12. To bring greater transparency, efficiency and uniformity in Government recruitment, my Government has constituted the Puducherry Examining Authority for conducting direct recruitment examinations to Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C posts in Government Departments.

The Authority will streamline the recruitment process through a common examination system and merit-based selection procedures. It will conduct Combined Secondary Level, Combined Higher Secondary Level and Combined Graduate Level Examinations, thereby reducing the need for multiple Departmental recruitments and ensuring a fair, transparent and efficient mechanism for selection of candidates. This initiative is expected to enhance administrative efficiency, reduce recruitment timelines and provide greater convenience to aspiring candidates across the Union Territory.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS AND REGULATORY REFORMS

13. My Government remains committed to fostering inclusive economic growth, sustainable development and entrepreneurship through progressive regulatory reforms. As part of a comprehensive Deregulation and Compliance Burden Reduction initiative, extensive reforms have been undertaken across multiple sectors to simplify procedures, reduce compliance requirements and improve the ease of living and ease of doing business in the Union Territory.

In recognition of these efforts, Puducherry secured the 7th rank nationally in the regulatory reform ranking framework of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.

14. To institutionalize these reforms, my Government enacted the Puducherry Ease of Doing Business Act, 2025, introducing statutory timelines, deemed approvals and greater accountability in service delivery. The Jan Vishwas Act, 2025 has further strengthened trust-based governance by decriminalising several minor regulatory offences and promoting a more facilitative business environment.

15. Building upon these achievements, my Government has initiated Phase-II of the Deregulation Reforms Programme covering 28 additional priority areas. These measures are expected to further enhance the investment climate, generate employment opportunities and strengthen Puducherry's position as an attractive destination for industry and enterprise. The scale of reforms undertaken has also enabled the Union Territory to become eligible for additional assistance of ₹ 400 crore under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

16. I shall now briefly apprise the Hon'ble Members of some of the major transformative projects and initiatives being implemented by my Government for the sustainable growth and long-term prosperity of the Union Territory.

CAPEX PROJECTS

(i) SMART CITY PROJECT

17. I would like to mention that significant progress has been achieved under the Smart City Mission during 2025-26 through projects aimed at improving housing, urban infrastructure, mobility, heritage conservation and smart governance in Puducherry.

18. Major projects completed include the Mini Stadium at Anna Thidal at a cost of ₹ 14.53 crore, the Housing for Slum Project at Chinnayapuram- Phase-I (₹ 23.45 crore), and the Affordable Housing Project for Economically Weaker Sections at Kumaragurupallam (₹ 47 crore). The underground sewerage system in the boulevard area was remodelled at a cost of ₹ 52.50 crore.

19. The Grand Canal Development project was completed at a cost of ₹ 26 crore. Sustainable mobility initiatives included establishment of Smart Bus Stops and procurement of 25 e-Buses whose operations have received wide appreciation.

20. Under the Smart Governance component, a modern Integrated Command and Control Centre was established at a cost of ₹ 99.63 crore. Heritage conservation works include restoration of the historic Pensionnat de Jeunes Filles French School (₹ 10.50 crore), renovation of the Botanical Garden (₹ 9.89 crore). Further, the Railway Over Bridge near AFT Mill on Cuddalore Road, being constructed at a cost of ₹ 55 crore, is expected to be completed by March 2027.

21. Under the CITIIS programme, housing projects at Dubrayapet and Lambert Saravanan Nagar, Reddiyarpalayam, have been completed, benefiting more than 850 slum dwellers.

(ii) SASCI

22. I am happy to acknowledge the continued support extended by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and would like to thank the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister for having included the Union territory of Puducherry under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme under which ₹ 227.34 crore was released in FY 2025-26.

23. I am also pleased to inform this august House that the Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 128.48 crore under SASCI Part-II for the establishment of the "PM Ekta Mall" over an extent of 4.7 acres, of which the first instalment of ₹ 64.24 crore has been released.

24. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, several important infrastructure projects are being implemented to strengthen connectivity and improve public amenities. Road improvement works are being undertaken in the Thirubuvanai, Thirukkanur and Mannadipet Constituencies at a cost of ₹ 11.56 crore. Construction of the Kasturibai Thirumana Mandapam at Villianur is progressing at a cost of ₹ 7.40 crore.

Further, 100 modernised bus shelters will be established across Puducherry during the current financial year at a cost of ₹ 5.75 crore.

25. My Government is committed to strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting sporting excellence among the youth. In this regard, a FIFA-standard synthetic turf football field is being established at I.K. Kumaran Government Higher Secondary School, Pandakkal, Mahe. In addition, five synthetic tennis courts three in Puducherry, one in Karaikal and one in Yanam are being developed at a combined cost of ₹ 11.88 crore.

(iii) NABARD

26. During 2025-26, various infrastructure and water resource development works are being carried out in the Puducherry region under NABARD assistance at a total cost of ₹ 107.66 crore. In the Karaikal region, strengthening and improvement works covering internal and rural roads are being undertaken at a cost of ₹ 150.49 crore.

(iv) NATIONAL HOUSING BANK

27. With loan assistance from the National Housing Bank, the construction of the Mohan Nagar drainage canals is nearing completion. Further, works for the construction of PCC channel and providing inspection track on the left bank of Authu Vaikkal from Bypass road culvert to Olandai eri in Murungapakkam and reconstruction of Pappammal Koil drain from Perumal Koil street to confluence point at Vaithikuppam are proposed to be taken up at a total estimated cost of ₹ 17.88 crore to improve drainage infrastructure and strengthen flood mitigation measures.

(v) CONSTRUCTION OF ELEVATED CORRIDOR

28. Several major road infrastructure projects are being undertaken in the Union Territory with the support of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the National Highways Authority of India.

29. As part of these efforts, improvement works are being undertaken on the East Coast Road from Ganapathichettikulam to Rajiv Gandhi Square at a cost of ₹ 15 crore. Further, an elevated corridor along NH-32 is proposed at a cost of ₹ 436.18 crore between Indira Gandhi Square and Rajiv Gandhi Square.

30. To further strengthen connectivity, an elevated corridor from Natesan Nagar to Mullodai, together with the four-laning of NH-32, is proposed at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,500 crore. In Karaikal region, strengthening and improvement works on the NH-45A stretch from Nandalar to Vanjore are proposed at a cost of ₹ 57 crore.

(vi) PUDUCHERRY'S DIGITAL LEAP - IT SEZ

31. I would like to mention that the Union territory of Puducherry is poised to emerge as an important destination for information technology and knowledge-based industries with the establishment of an IT/ITES Special Economic Zone at Thattanchavady Village in Oulgaret Taluk, with an estimated investment of ₹ 725 crore. Significantly, the SEZ will be developed by Oulgaret Municipality, making it the first SEZ in India to be developed by an Urban Local Body. The proposed IT Special Economic Zone is envisaged to generate nearly 30,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities over the next decade.

(vii) FIRST MULTI-MODAL INDUSTRIAL SEZ

32. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Government has received approval from the Board of Approval under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, for the establishment of a Multi-Modal Special Economic Zone at Karasur. The project, which will be implemented by PIPDIC, marks a significant milestone in the industrial development of the Union Territory and will be the first Special Economic Zone ecosystem to be established in Puducherry.

33. The proposed Special Economic Zone will be developed over an extent of 213.12 acre with an estimated investment of ₹ 2,500 crore, including private sector participation. The project is expected to generate around 40,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities over the next decade, benefiting both skilled and semi-skilled workers.

(viii) PUDUCHERRY AIRPORT EXPANSION

34. I am pleased to inform this august House that the Government has initiated steps for the expansion and modernization of the Puducherry Airport,

a project of strategic importance that is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity and support the long-term economic development of the Union Territory.

35. At present, the operational capacity of the airport is constrained by a runway length of 1,500 metres, limiting the operation of larger commercial aircraft. The proposed expansion project envisages extension of the runway to 2,300 metres, enabling the operation of larger aircraft such as A320 and A321 class aircraft and substantially improving air connectivity between Puducherry and major destinations across the country.

36. The project, with an estimated investment of ₹ 4,800 crore, includes the development of modern terminal facilities, expansion of operational infrastructure, augmentation of safety systems and creation of additional aircraft parking facilities. Upon completion, the expanded airport is expected to cater to the growing passenger and aviation requirements of the Union Territory and support its emergence as an important regional aviation destination.

EXTERNALLY AIDED PROJECTS

(i) FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY(AFD)

37. Government of Puducherry is implementing the AFD-assisted "Augmentation of Water Supply Sources and Rehabilitation of Water Supply System in Urban Areas of Puducherry District at a total cost of ₹ 534 crore aimed at modernising and strengthening the urban water supply system. The project includes water supply schemes in Villianur, Jayaram Nagar, Amaithi Nagar, Kanuvapet, Uthiravahinipet and adjoining areas at a cost of ₹ 179.68 crore, benefiting around 68,000 people and establishment of four desalination plants at a cost of ₹ 15.40 crore benefiting nearly 70,000 residents.

38. Further, development of alternative groundwater sources and transmission infrastructure and construction of a 30 MLD Water Treatment Plant at a cost of ₹ 42 crore are also implemented. On completion, the project will significantly strengthen water security, reduce dependence on groundwater and ensure reliable drinking water supply to nearly 9 lakh people across the Union Territory.

(ii) ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

39. I would like to mention that, with the approval of the Government of India, the Government of Puducherry has launched the Puducherry Integrated Urban Livability Improvement Project (PIULIP) with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank at an estimated cost of ₹4,750 crore to strengthen urban infrastructure across Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. Key components include a desalination plant at Narambai (₹500 crore), a Water Treatment Plant (₹150 crore), implementation of 24x7 "Drink from Tap" water supply systems in Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam establishment of a Sewage Treatment Plant in Puducherry (₹550 crore), underground sewerage projects in Karaikal and Yanam and rehabilitation of ageing sewerage infrastructure. The project also provides for drainage and canal improvements, extension of the Promenade, rejuvenation of the Grand Canal and development of roads, bridges and connectivity infrastructure. On completion, it will significantly strengthen water supply, sanitation systems and improve urban infrastructure.

(iii) PY-SHORE

40. I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Government of Puducherry has received approval from the Government of India to take up the World Bank-assisted PY-SHORE (Strengthening Coastal Resilience and Economy in the Union territory of Puducherry) project at an estimated cost of ₹ 1,433 crore to enhance coastal resilience, protect shorelines, strengthen marine ecosystems and promote sustainable livelihoods across Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The project includes ₹ 875 crore for coastal protection and environmental restoration through shoreline management, coastal protection structures, a submerged reef, mangrove and sand dune restoration, aquifer recharge and wastewater management measures. It also provides ₹ 439 crore for fisheries and tourism initiatives, including climate-resilient fishing villages, modern fisheries infrastructure and development of projects such as the Pondi Eco Trail, Pondy Necklace and Eco-Cruise Terminal at the Old Port.

ADI DRAVIDAR WELFARE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE WELFARE

41. My Government remains committed to the socio-economic advancement and welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Marriage assistance amounting to ₹ 7.23 crore was provided to 748 poor Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families for the marriage of their first two daughters.

42. My Government also continues to provide social security assistance to economically vulnerable individuals. Financial assistance amounting to ₹ 10.75 crore was extended to 5,174 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries suffering from prolonged illnesses and unable to engage in gainful employment.

43. Financial assistance *in lieu* of free clothing was provided through Direct Benefit Transfer during major festivals such as Deepavali and Pongal. An amount of ₹ 26.33 crore was disbursed to 1,56,781 beneficiaries.

44. Housing security continued to receive priority attention, the State Government's Housing Scheme has been integrated with the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the financial assistance for house construction has been enhanced from ₹ 5.50 lakh to ₹ 7.0 lakh with State Government's contribution of ₹ 4.75 lakh. Further, an amount of ₹ 15.95 crore was released to support the construction of houses for 1,150 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. With the support of the Central Government, My Government has taken efforts to include Kattunayakan, Malakuravan, Kurumans and Erukula communities in the Scheduled Tribes list in the Union territory of Puducherry. Through this, these tribal communities will receive proper recognition and legal rights along with better opportunities for prosperous.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

45. Agriculture continues to play a vital role in the socio-economic development of the Union Territory.

My Government remains committed to enhancing agricultural productivity, improving farmers' incomes and promoting sustainable farming practices through the effective implementation of various Central and State-sponsored Schemes.

46. Under the Crop Production Technology Scheme, production incentives amounting to ₹ 19.51 crore were provided to 28,430 farmers. Priority has also been accorded to horticultural development and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. Under the Param Paragat Krishi Vikas Yojana, organic farming and capacity-building activities were undertaken over an area of 200 hectares. Further, under the PM-KISAN Scheme, financial assistance amounting to ₹ 3.74 crore was directly transferred to 18,704 eligible farmers across the four regions of the Union Territory.

47. My Government also continues to provide comprehensive support to farmers through crop insurance. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, crop insurance claims amounting to ₹ 8.45 crore were disbursed to 8,829 farmers affected by crop losses during the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL WELFARE

48. My Government continues to accord priority to livestock development and dairy farming through the implementation of programmes aimed at improving animal productivity, strengthening livestock health services and enhancing farmers' incomes.

49. To promote clean milk production and improve dairy farm efficiency, 297 milking machines were distributed to cattle farmers at 100 per cent subsidy at a total cost of ₹ 2 crore.

50. As part of its commitment to animal health and disease prevention, my Government conducted 64 livestock health camps across the Union Territory, providing veterinary care, disease surveillance and advisory services to livestock farmers.

51. PONLAIT on turnkey basis with National Dairy Development Board is implementing establishment of a new ice cream manufacturing plant at a cost of ₹ 34.35 crore. With this project, the ice cream production capacity of PONLAIT will increase from 10,000 litres to 20,000 litres per day.

ART AND CULTURE

52. My Government continues to accord high priority to the preservation of cultural heritage, promotion of arts and literature, commemoration of national leaders and strengthening of cultural infrastructure across the Union Territory.

53. As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, extensive public participation was encouraged across the Union Territory to foster patriotism and national pride.

54. The construction of the Tagore Cultural Complex and Open Air Theatre at the Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam Campus, Ariyankuppam, has been resumed at an estimated cost of ₹ 19.53 crore.

55. To preserve and showcase the rich historical heritage of the Union Territory, steps have been initiated to establish an Interpretation Centre at Arikamedu featuring a model Roman cargo ship.

CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

56. Hon'ble Members may be aware that my Government continues to accord high priority to ensuring food security, strengthening the Public Distribution System and delivering citizen-centric services through a transparent and technology-driven approach.

57. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Government of India provided food security support to 6.34 lakh beneficiaries belonging to 1.91 lakh Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Household ration cardholder families, involving an expenditure of about ₹ 16 crore per month during the financial year 2025-26.

58. In addition, my Government continued to provide free rice, wheat and essential commodities to eligible ration cardholders under the State Public Distribution Scheme. My Government also extended special assistance to ration cardholders during major festivals. During Deepavali 2025, free grocery kits containing essential commodities were distributed to 3.46 lakh ration cardholders at a cost of ₹ 20.72 crore. Under the Hon'ble Chief Minister's LPG Subsidy Scheme, an amount of ₹ 31.20 crore was provided to benefit 2 lakh ration cardholders.

COOPERATION

59. Hon'ble Members may be aware that the co-operative movement continues to play a vital role in promoting inclusive growth, strengthening rural livelihoods and supporting the economic well-being of farmers, dairy producers, weavers and other stakeholders across the Union Territory. My Government remains committed to strengthening co-operative institutions through financial assistance, infrastructure development and governance reforms.

60. In the food security and consumer sector, financial assistance in the form of Grant-in-Aid has been significantly enhanced. An amount of ₹ 8.31 crore has been provided as subsidy to Fair Price Shop societies and consumer stores, while ₹ 39.01 crore has been released to the Puducherry Co-operative Sugar Mill to meet employee dues and statutory obligations. Further, subsidy support for Fair Price Shops has been increased from ₹ 90,000 to ₹ 1.75 lakh per shop per annum.

61. In the housing sector, the Pondicherry State Co-operative Housing Federation Limited extended financial assistance amounting to ₹ 23.08 crore to Primary Co-operative Housing Societies promoting affordable housing. Significant progress has been made in strengthening co-operative governance through digital initiatives. 45 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Credit Societies are being digitalized under the PACS Computerisation Programme of the Ministry of Cooperation.

ELECTRICITY

62. The power sector plays a pivotal role in supporting economic growth, industrial development and improving the quality of life of the people.

63. As part of its commitment to promoting clean energy and sustainable development, my Government is implementing the Prime Minister Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to encourage rooftop solar installations among domestic consumers.

Under the scheme 3,984 domestic consumers have already been provided with rooftop solar installations, resulting in a total installed capacity of 14 MW and a Central subsidy of ₹27 crore has been disbursed. My Government provides an additional State subsidy of a maximum of ₹30,000 for rooftop solar systems of 3 kWp and above.

64. Battery Energy Storage Systems with a capacity of 50 MW/200 MW are proposed to be established across 10 sub-stations at an estimated cost of ₹200 crore. The project will enable efficient energy storage, improve peak demand management and ensure reliable power supply during periods of high consumption.

65. New 110/22 KV sub-stations are proposed at Lawspet, Thavalakuppam and Thirubhuvanai at a total cost of ₹231.06 crore. An additional 100 MVA power transformer will be installed at the 230/110 KV at Thondamanatham sub-station at a cost of ₹26.14 crore. Further, a 110 KV underground cable connection from Vengatta Nagar sub-station to the JIPMER through Lawspet is proposed at a cost of ₹42 crore.

66. As part of long-term energy planning, a Power Purchase Agreement has been entered into with NTPC Telangana for procurement of 50 MW of power which is expected to be commissioned during 2027-28.

FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE

67. My Government remains committed to the sustainable development of the fisheries sector through welfare measures, infrastructure development, modernisation initiatives and livelihood support programmes aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of fishing communities.

68. During the year 2025-26, Ban relief assistance amounting to ₹ 15.91 crore was disbursed to 19,888 fishermen families in the Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions, while lean season relief assistance to the tune of ₹ 12.15 crore was provided to 20,261 fishermen families. Old-age pension assistance amounting to ₹ 32.75 crore was disbursed to 9,634 aged fishers.

69. To promote alternative livelihood opportunities and strengthen the blue economy, integrated cage fish farming and seaweed cultivation programmes have been implemented in the coastal waters of Puducherry and Karaikal in collaboration with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute. The programme has shown encouraging results and is contributing towards the socio-economic empowerment of fishing communities, particularly fisherwomen.

70. Development of the Karaikal Fishing Harbour into a Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour at an estimated cost of ₹130.17 crore has been initiated. The project, for which the foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, will incorporate modern technologies to improve operational efficiency, safety and fisheries management.

71. Climate-resilient fisheries infrastructure is also promoted through the development of Climate Resilient Coastal Fisher Villages at Narambai, Pattinacherry and Karukalacherry. In addition, a project costing ₹1.92 crore for seaweed farming and cage culture is being implemented with a special focus on fisherwomen co-operatives.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

72. My Government continues to accord the highest priority to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, expanding medical education and ensuring accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services to all sections of society.

73. Significant investments have been made to strengthen diagnostic and treatment facilities in Government Hospitals. Advanced medical equipment, including MRI scanners, CT scanners, RT-PCR and ELISA diagnostic systems, digital radiography and X-ray units, laparoscopic surgery systems, and other modern healthcare technologies, have been installed at major hospitals in Puducherry and Karaikal at a total cost of about ₹ 36 crore.

74. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure remains a major focus area. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, construction of 50-bedded Critical Care Blocks has commenced at Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital, Community Health Centre, Karikalampakkam and Government General Hospital, Karaikal at a total cost of ₹ 92 crore.

75. In Karaikal, construction of a 30-bedded AYUSH Hospital, a new Outpatient Department Block at Community Health Centre, Thenoor and infrastructure improvements in Primary Health Centres are progressing steadily.

76. Similarly, at Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences, Puducherry, the BDS intake has been increased from 110 to 125 seats. At Mother Theresa Postgraduate and Research Institute of Health Sciences, new academic programmes including B.Sc. (Nursing) at Mahe (40 seats) and ANM at Karaikal (20 seats) have commenced.

77. Healthcare coverage and financial protection Schemes have also been expanded. Under the Ayushman Bharat Vaya Vandana Scheme 42,292 BPL families are already covered, with an additional 38,200 APL families being included. During the year 2025-26, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana 49,240 beneficiaries received tertiary care services amounting to ₹ 38.07 crore. The monthly honorarium of ASHA workers engaged under the Pondicherry State Health Society was enhanced from ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 18,000, benefiting 341 ASHA workers across the Union Territory.

78. A major focus of my Government has been the expansion of AYUSH healthcare infrastructure. The 50-bedded AYUSH Hospital at Villianur has commenced outpatient services and inpatient services are expected to commence shortly.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

79. My Government remains committed to expanding access to quality higher education, promoting academic excellence and strengthening institutional governance through student-centric initiatives, infrastructure development and digital transformation.

80. Under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme, financial support continues to be extended to students admitted through CENTAC and pursuing professional courses. During the year 2025-26, an amount of ₹ 26.14 crore was disbursed to 4,903 students, including 793 medical students, 3,258 engineering students and 852 nursing students.

HINDU RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND WAKF

81. My Government is committed to ensuring transparent administration of religious institutions, preserving cultural heritage and supporting the welfare of minority communities. Grant-in-aid amounting to ₹ 9.70 crore was released to temples for renovation and repair works. Financial assistance of ₹ 67.50 lakh was extended to 225 temples for the conduct of Oru Kala Pooja, with the annual assistance enhanced from ₹ 20,000 to ₹ 30,000 per temple.

82. Kumbabishekam ceremonies were successfully conducted in 18 temples across the Puducherry and Karaikal regions, contributing to the preservation of religious traditions and cultural heritage.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

83. My Government is committed to leveraging digital technologies to enhance governance, improve administrative efficiency and deliver citizen-centric services. Several e-Governance initiatives have been undertaken to streamline Government processes, strengthen transparency and promote efficient public service delivery across Departments.

84. A major milestone in this regard has been the successful implementation of the e-Office system across all Departments of the Union Territory, enabling paperless administration, faster decision-making and improved efficiency in Government functioning.

85. My Government is also promoting digital skill development and industry exposure among students through the Digital Internship Programme. Under this initiative, 147 students have been placed as interns in 22 Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services companies for a period of twelve months with a monthly stipend of ₹ 10,000.

LABOUR WELFARE

86. My Government remains committed to safeguarding workers' welfare and creating a conducive environment for employment generation and industrial development through progressive labour reforms and effective social security measures.

87. In order to improve the ease of doing business while ensuring adequate protection for workers,

several reforms have been undertaken under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Notifications have been issued covering safety measures for women workers, employment of women in night shifts with appropriate safeguards, flexible working arrangements and enhancement of permissible overtime limits.

88. The Pondicherry Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board continues to extend welfare support to registered construction workers and their families. Welfare assistance amounting to ₹ 23.32 crore has been disbursed towards marriage assistance, maternity benefits, medical support and festival assistance.

89. Employment generation remains a key priority of my Government. During the year 2025-26, employment fairs were organised across the Union Territory in which 2,212 job seekers participated and 889 candidates secured employment opportunities.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

90. The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 is a flagship programme aimed at ensuring universal access to water supply, strengthening sewerage infrastructure, rejuvenating water bodies and promoting sustainable urban development. The Mission is playing a vital role in improving urban infrastructure across the Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions.

91. During the year 2025-26, several important projects were completed under AMRUT 2.0. These include augmentation of the water supply system in Sudhana Nagar, Mudaliarpet, Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 14.96 crore, implementation of a sewerage scheme for left-out areas in Puducherry at a cost of ₹ 4 crore and water supply system covering Nehru Nagar and Thalatheru in Karaikal at a cost of ₹ 17.60 crore.

92. In the Karaikal region, rejuvenation works are being undertaken at Hither Palli Kulam, Seniyar Kulam and Pudu Kulam, along with the construction of 11 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at a total cost of ₹25.21 crore. In the Mahe region, development of Valamari Pond is under progress at a cost of ₹23 lakh, while in the Yanam region, construction of a 5 MLD Water Treatment Plant is being undertaken at a cost of ₹7.60 crore.

93. Under the PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, working capital loans were facilitated to eligible street vendors through various Banks. During the year 2025-26, loans amounting to ₹2.61 crore were disbursed to over 900 street vendors.

94. The allocation under the Members of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme was enhanced from ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore per Member of the Legislative Assembly.

POLICE AND FIRE SERVICES

95. Hon'ble Members may be aware that my Government continues to strengthen public safety and emergency response systems through augmentation of manpower, modernisation of infrastructure and enhancement of operational capabilities in the Police and Fire Services Departments.

96. In the Police Department, a total of 125 Police Constables and 70 Sub-Inspectors were recruited through direct recruitment. Additionally, 48 Police Constables were absorbed from the Home Guards. Career progression was also prioritized, with 171 promotions granted across various cadres. The construction of a three-storeyed Lawspet Police Station has been completed at a cost of ₹ 4.12 crore and the Station has commenced operations. To improve the response capabilities of the Fire Services Department direct recruitment was undertaken to fill 74 vacancies.

PUBLIC WORKS

97. My Government continues to undertake extensive infrastructure development works across the Puducherry, Karaikal and Mahe regions with the objective of strengthening basic services, improving connectivity and enhancing the quality of life of the people. Significant investments have been made in water supply, sanitation, drainage, healthcare, education, public safety and road infrastructure through various State, Central and externally aided programmes.

98. In the Puducherry region, under the Comprehensive Water Supply Augmentation Scheme, a 10 lakh litre capacity double-decker circular overhead tank along with distribution grids and pumping mains at multiple locations was completed at a cost of ₹ 47.12 crore.

99. Priority has been accorded to flood mitigation and drainage improvement. Several projects, including construction of drains, flood diversion channels, canal improvement works and installation of pumping systems, were completed at a total cost of ₹ 83.50 crore.

100. Road connectivity has also been enhanced through improvement of urban and rural roads in Puducherry, Villianur, Mangalam, Oulgaret, Ariyankuppam, Nettapakkam and Bahour regions. Projects including construction of a bathing ghat near Thirukanji, drainage improvements and retaining wall works are under progress.

101. The construction of a Critical Care Block at IGGGH & PGI, a Primary Health Centre at Bahour and a new four-storeyed hospital building at the Community Health Centre, Palloor (Phase-I) are being implemented. Public safety is being enhanced through the construction of Police Outpost at Karikalampakkam. Educational and sports infrastructure are being upgraded through the addition of classrooms at the Kanchi Mamunivar Government Institute for Postgraduate Studies and Research, renovation of the synthetic hockey field and gallery at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Uppalam and construction of a new school building for the Government High School, Ariyankuppam. These projects together represent a total investment of over ₹ 73 crore.

102. In the Karaikal region, substantial investments have been made in water supply and urban infrastructure. Overhead tanks, sumps, pumping systems and allied infrastructure have been created at a cost of ₹ 62.60 crore. In the Mahe region, road infrastructure is being strengthened through improvement works on internal roads.

103. Further, an amount of ₹ 41.95 crore has been sanctioned under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund for the improvement of more than 30 kilometres of roads across the Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions.

REVENUE

104. My Government continues to strengthen disaster management systems, modernise land administration and extend social security support to vulnerable sections of society through technology-driven and citizen-centric initiatives.

105. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme, financial assistance amounting to ₹ 7.18 crore was provided to 2,193 poor families. Further, free house-site pattas were issued to 393 eligible landless poor families.

106. Significant progress has been achieved in the modernisation of land records and geospatial governance. A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into with the Survey of India for undertaking comprehensive drone-based surveys across the Union Territory. My Government has also launched the National Geospatial Knowledge-based Land Survey of Urban Habitations (NAKSHA) programme in Puducherry.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

107. My Government continues to implement various rural development programmes aimed at enhancing livelihood opportunities, promoting women's empowerment and ensuring sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas of the Union Territory.

108. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme continues to serve as an important instrument for rural employment generation. During the year 2025-26, 11.59 lakh mandays of employment were generated, of which 88 per cent were contributed by women, benefiting 57,689 rural households.

109. A notable achievement under the Mission has been the progress made towards the 'Lakhpati Didi' initiative. Against the target of creating 15,000 Lakhpati Didis, a total of 13,127 women have already attained this status through successful engagement in agriculture, livestock rearing, handicrafts, food processing and service-sector activities.

110. My Government is also implementing road development projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III. Under the programme, strengthening and improvement works covering about 72 kilometres of internal roads in the Puducherry region are being undertaken at a cost of ₹ 52.73 crore.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

111. My Government continues to accord high priority to strengthening school education through comprehensive student welfare measures, nutritional support programmes and infrastructure development initiatives aimed at improving educational outcomes and ensuring inclusive access to quality education.

112. In an effort to strengthen the education system, bridge teacher shortages and improve learning outcomes, 184 Primary School Teachers (PSTs) and 214 Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) were appointed through direct recruitment. Additionally, a notification was issued for the recruitment of 38 Physical Education Teachers (PETs).

113. To support students and reduce the financial burden on families, free textbooks, notebooks and uniforms were distributed to students studying in Government and Government-aided schools across the Union Territory. During the year 2025-26, an amount of ₹ 16.49 crore was utilised under the scheme, benefiting 89,128 students.

114. My Government has also continued its efforts to bridge the digital divide and promote technology-enabled learning. Free laptops were distributed to 15,783 students studying in Government and Government-aided Higher Secondary Schools, including students who completed Class XII and those pursuing Class XI, at an expenditure of ₹ 59.97 crore.

115. Special emphasis has been placed on improving the nutritional status and well-being of school children. Under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme, nutritious meals were provided to 65,856 students at an expenditure of ₹ 13.47 crore.

116. To further promote healthy dietary practices among students, the Evening Millet Snacks Scheme is being implemented across schools at a cost of ₹ 3.71 crore. The wages of personnel engaged in school nutrition programmes have been enhanced to ₹ 18,000 per month, benefiting 894 employees.

SOCIAL WELFARE

117. A major focus of my Government has been the provision of financial assistance to differently abled persons to ensure economic security and improve their quality of life. During the year 2025-26, monthly financial assistance ranging from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 4,800 was provided to 20,767 beneficiaries, involving an expenditure of ₹ 88.62 crore. *In lieu* of free distribution of rice, cash assistance was provided to 20,767 differently abled persons through Direct Benefit Transfer at an expenditure of ₹ 11.20 crore.

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

118. My Government is committed to promoting sports and nurturing young sporting talent through the development of modern infrastructure, strengthening training facilities and recognition of outstanding sporting achievements. Foundation stone has been laid for the new synthetic athletic track at the District stadium, Karaikal at the cost of ₹ 9.95 crore.

119. The world-class Synthetic Athletic Track developed under the Khelo India Scheme at a cost of ₹ 7 crore at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, Uppalam, Puducherry was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. To encourage excellence in sports, cash awards amounting to ₹ 1.40 crore were distributed to meritorious sports persons who secured medals at international, national and South Zone competitions.

TOURISM

120. Through strategic investments in tourism infrastructure, destination development and promotion, sustained efforts are being made to strengthen the tourism sector as an important driver of employment generation. As part of this long-term vision, the Tourism Vision 2047 document has been prepared, outlining a comprehensive roadmap for sustainable, inclusive and future-ready tourism development across the Union Territory.

121. Under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme, development of Karaikal Beach and waterfront has been sanctioned at a cost of ₹20.29 crore and is awaiting CRZ clearance. The Boulevard development project in White Town under the CBDD Scheme, funded at ₹22.50 crore, is also progressing steadily. In addition, the project for development of pilgrim facilities and tourist attractions at Sri Dharbaranyeswarar Temple, Thirunallar, Karaikal, under the PRASHAD Scheme sanctioned at ₹25.94 crore, is in the pipeline.

122. To diversify tourism offerings and attract new visitor segments, adventure and water-based tourism activities are being actively promoted. At present, 62 operators have been authorised to conduct adventure and water sports activities.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

123. My Government continues to place special emphasis on providing affordable housing to economically weaker sections. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 1.0, construction of 839 houses has been completed and financial assistance amounting to ₹14 crore has been disbursed to beneficiaries.

124. My Government has also undertaken several reforms to promote planned urban development and improve the ease of doing business. Amendments to the Puducherry Building Bye-laws and Zoning Regulations, 2012 have been notified to simplify procedures, reduce approval timelines and facilitate investment, particularly in the micro, small and medium enterprise sector.

TRANSPORT

125. To strengthen inter-city connectivity and improve passenger services, orders have been placed for the procurement of 20 additional Air-conditioned luxury buses. Simultaneously, the Electric Mobility Policy is being implemented to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles through incentives, tax concessions, expansion of charging infrastructure and capacity-building measures.

BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES WELFARE

126. My Government is committed to strengthen livelihoods of Backward Classes and Minorities through preserving traditional occupations and supporting the educational needs of students. Under the Karmaveerar Kamarajar Scheme, free bicycles were distributed to 8,861 students studying in Class IX across the Union Territory during the financial year 2025-26 at an expenditure of ₹ 5.55 crore.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

127. My Government remains steadfast in its commitment to improve the quality of life for senior citizens, women, children and other disadvantaged sections of society across the Union Territory. Through a comprehensive range of welfare programmes, efforts are being made to ensure their social and financial security.

128. Under the Puducherry Old Age Persons and Destitutes Pension Scheme, the number of beneficiaries has been increased to 1,96,616, thereby extending pension coverage to an additional 15,000 eligible persons.

129. To enhance financial security, the monthly pension has been increased by ₹ 500 across all categories. Accordingly, beneficiaries in the 55-59 years age group now receive ₹ 2,500 per month, those in the 60-79 years age group receive ₹ 3,000 per month and senior citizens aged 80 years and above receive ₹ 4,000 per month. Widows, destitutes, unmarried women and transgender persons are also provided monthly assistance of ₹ 2,500. An expenditure of ₹ 563.33 crore was incurred during the year 2025-26 towards implementation of the scheme.

130. Through the Scheme for Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to Women Heads of BPL Families, monthly assistance has been enhanced from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 2,500 benefiting around 63,000 women. Financial assistance amounting to ₹ 2.31 crore was provided under various schemes supporting the marriage of poor brides, daughters of destitute widows and girl child welfare initiatives, benefiting 424 beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

131. With the vision of a developed Puducherry, which is inclusive, sustainable, economically strong and a hub of opportunities for the youth, contributing to a developed India by the year 2047, my Government is steadfastly working towards building a prosperous, self-reliant and developed Puducherry where the benefits of growth reach every resident and every region. Guided by the principles of good governance, social justice and sustainable development, we remain committed to creating greater opportunities, improving public services and enhancing the quality of life of our people.

132. The year ahead will witness continued efforts to strengthen infrastructure, promote economic growth, create employment opportunities, empower women and youth, protect the environment and deliver citizen-centric governance. My Government remains fully committed to ensuring balanced and sustainable development across all four regions of the Union Territory while safeguarding the interests and aspirations of every section of society.

133. Hon'ble Members, during this Session, the Budget for the financial year 2026-27, the Appropriation Bills and other legislative proposals will be placed before this august House for consideration.

134. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members will participate constructively in the deliberations and extend their valuable suggestions and support in shaping policies and programmes that will further accelerate the progress and prosperity of the Union territory of Puducherry.

135. I extend my best wishes for the success of the deliberations of this Session.

JAI HIND !

