



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY

Address by

Dr. KIRAN BEDI

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

The Puducherry Legislative Assembly



16th May, 2017

Address by

Dr. KIRAN BEDI

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor

to

The Puducherry Legislative Assembly

**A king is he who treasure gains, stores up, defends,
And duly for his kingdom's weal expends. —Kural**

**Strategizing, earning revenues, preserving and allocating
resources : a Government should be capable of.**

***Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Members of this eminent
House,***

I am immensely happy to deliver my address in the second session of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Puducherry. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members will endeavour for the comprehensive socio-economic development of the Territory by extending their continuous support. I am sure that each one of them, will work for the upliftment of the people who posed utmost faith in them and for the overall development of the Union Territory. I fully appreciate the Hon'ble Chief Minister's commitment for the speedy implementation of various welfare schemes promised in the Budget 2016-17.

2. I am glad to share in the august House that this Union Territory has extended full co-operation for the rollout of Goods and Services Tax and promotion of Digital (Cashless) Transaction, which would pave way for a robust economic growth.

3. This Government has incurred expenditure to a tune of ₹ 6,144 crore which is 93.80% of the total outlay of ₹ 6,550 crore. I am very happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that this amount when compared to previous year was spent more for the implementation of welfare schemes. The reduction in expenditure is mainly because of shortfall in Union Territory's own resources due to factors beyond control and non-receipt of expected additional grant from Government of India towards implication of VII CPC.

4. Hon'ble Members are aware that the Gross State Domestic Product (G SDP) is one of the major indicators for determining the overall State's economy. The GSDP of the Union Territory has been estimated at ₹ 29,557.38 crore (current price) for 2016-17 which is 11.40% higher

than the previous year figure of ₹ 26,533.46 crore (current price). The per capita income of Puducherry increased from ₹ 1,72,143 (current price) for the year 2015-16 to ₹ 1,90,384 (current price) for the year 2016-17, showing a growth rate of 10.60 %.

5. I am very happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Government of Puducherry has aptly introduced Budget Estimation, Allocation and Monitoring System (BEAMS) in Public Accounts which helps to rationalize the Union Territory's expenditure. This Administration is making most of its payments through electronic transaction mode giving required impetus to the Digital transactions. The Digidhan Mela, which was recently organized in this Union Territory has familiarized the usage of e-transaction among the public.

6. While concluding my preamble, now I wish to inform the Hon'ble Members on the major sectoral achievements made by this Government during the financial year 2016-17:

AGRICULTURE

7. Hon'ble Members are well aware that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for nearly 54% of the people in the country. This Government will continue to give thrust to the development of agriculture with a farmer-centric approach. This will pave way for the sustained improvement in agricultural production, productivity and farmers' income. During the year 2016-17, the agricultural inputs such as seeds, enriched compost, neem cake, plant protection chemicals, etc., were distributed to nearly 21,550 General and SC farmers at subsidized cost for an amount of ₹ 167.82 lakh and ₹ 72.38 lakh respectively under the Crop Production Technology scheme. The Back-ended Investment subsidy to paddy growers were distributed to 2,839 general farmers and 284 SC farmers for an amount of ₹ 93.92 lakh. Integrated Organic farming system has been implemented in Koonichampet village by extending 50% subsidy on a total cost of ₹ 10 lakh under RKVY.

8. To inspire the rural communities to plan, mobilise forces and resources for sustainable development, the Agricultural Development Model Village Adoption Scheme has been implemented in Sorapet in Puducherry region and Ambagarathur, Melavely, Agaramangudy in Karaikal region. Under the scheme, all the development activities of the agriculture and line Departments have been converged for overall development of the village. Soil Health Cards, compact block demonstrations of pulses, training on various technologies were conducted. In order to encourage roof top gardening and vegetable cultivation in urban areas, around 900 Nos. of cultivation kits (distribution of vegetable seed mini kits, grow bags, etc.) were distributed at subsidized cost. Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), District Irrigation Plans (DIP) for Puducherry and Karaikal has been prepared by NABCONS for undertaking the water resources planning and management programmes.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

9. This Government accorded more priority to sustain the livestock health and productivity. All the Veterinary services are being provided at free of cost through the network of field Veterinary institutions. Besides giving free treatment and preventive vaccinations to 5,96,810 cases of livestock, poultry and pet animals, Health camps, De-worming camps and Infertility camps have been conducted periodically. 70,595 Artificial Inseminations have been done to produce desirable future stock. 20,724 calves of desirable superior germplasm were born. In order to update the knowledge and to inculcate farmers to create interest in livestock rearing, 17 Farmers meets were conducted. In the year 2016-17, in order to show more attention on milk production, this Government has taken steps for providing cattle/calf feed at 75% subsidy rate. 48,301 metric ton of milk and 113.56 lakh eggs have been produced and the meat production is 14,615 metric ton. Under National Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDC)

72,281 animals were protected against Foot and Mouth Disease and 74,342 animals were protected against other various diseases through vaccination.

COMMERCIAL TAXES

10. I am very happy to note that this department has achieved revenue collection of ₹1,576.48 crore as against the target of ₹1,575 crore which is 9.55% more when compared to the last year's (2015-16) revenue collection of ₹1,439 crore. The assurance made in the floor of the Assembly during the last budget session regarding exemption from VAT to Helmets, equipments for Swachh Bharat scheme sold to Local Bodies and PWD, Power tillers sold to registered farmers of Puducherry and reduction in the rate of tax to 2% on some of the sales like, e-rickshaw and battery operated cars, LED Bulbs, lamps, tube light, LED Torches and Sanitary Napkins, has been brought into effect from 1st October 2016. My Government is taking all steps for implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

CIVIL SUPPLIES

11. I would like to inform this august House that the primary concept of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country is not only to facilitate the supply of foodgrains and distribution of essential commodities to a large number of poor people through a network of Fair Price Shops at a fair price on a recurring basis but also it played an important role in attaining higher levels of food security and completely eliminating the threats of famine from the face of the country. With a view to provide food security to all, under the Universal Public Distribution System, this Government has implemented Direct Benefit of Transfer (DBT) under National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) for food grains in all the four regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry and cash subsidy are being directly credited to the beneficiaries Bank Account of poorest of the poor “Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)” card holders. As per our Government’s policy, my Government has resolved to ensure continuous supply of 20 Kg. rice at free of cost every month to the beneficiaries.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

12. Education is the most powerful tool with which we can change the world and it is an important factor to promote social harmony and peace. This Administration is committed to provide Education for all and is implementing various schemes under which Free distribution of Text Books, Note Books and Uniforms have been supplied in time and 1,10,434 students were benefitted. Besides the existing transport facilities, 2 buses in new routes at Karaikal were introduced to facilitate the students. 6 posts of Vice-Principal, 11 posts of Head Master Grade-I and 40 posts of Lecturer have been filled up. Under the Nutritious Breakfast and Midday Meals scheme, 65,477 students and 68,150 students respectively were benefitted.

13. In order to improve the quality of education, various trainings have been organized for the teachers, namely “improving communication skill” to 330 numbers of Head Masters (Primary); Training on “Teaching Learning Material” has been imparted to 330 PSTs. Training on

“Phonology and Accent” has been imparted to 286 PSTs. In addition, training was imparted on “Workshop on School Psychology” by INSPA (RMSA) to 60 numbers of TGTs; Refresher In-service Training was imparted to each 50 numbers of Maths and Science (SSA) of TGTs; Induction trainings were imparted to 400 newly appointed PSTs and “Content Enrichment Training” to 250 numbers of TGTs.

14. To improve the pass percentage of Government School Students, subject-wise motivational classes for 10th and 12th students were conducted. “Teaching Learning Material” exhibition was conducted at DIET, Lawspet with the objective of creating awareness about the various Teaching Learning Materials to be used by Primary School Teachers for effective teaching. Fifteen TGT’s and PST’s handling English Language for Primary and Upper Primary Classes were identified and deputed to the Regional Institute of English, South India, Bengaluru to attend the 30 days Training Programme on English Language Training.

15. State School Games Championship, Zonal Sports Competitions and selection trial for 63rd National School Games Championship at Regional and State level have been conducted and State School Games Championship Group Sports Programmes were organised. Khelo India State Level Lower Level Competitions were also held.

HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

16. Higher Education continues to be a sector of huge potential and promise for future. Hence, the mission of this Government is to encourage the youth to choose and lead a life appropriate to their talents by ensuring facilities for Higher Education.

17. I am very happy to inform the Members that more than 100 higher learning Institutions both Government and Private have set the right tone for Puducherry to be the knowledge hub among the southern states. Now, with the establishment of Pondicherry State Higher Education Council (PHSEC), the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abiyan (RUSA)” has received an impetus to improve access,

equity and quality in Higher Education by providing funds to State Universities and Colleges. This Government is about to play a major role in the Higher Education sector during the upcoming years. This Government has taken all preliminary measures to encourage the setting up of private Universities to cater to the needs of the students for pursuing higher studies and to increase the employment opportunities.

18. Under the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Financial Assistance Scheme, an amount of ₹ 30 crore was provided to 786 Medical, 4,752 Engineering and 535 Nursing students to pursue professional education. This Government, by considering the demands of both the students and parents to increase the intake of seats in admission in Arts and Science Colleges, has taken steps and increased seats in Under Graduate courses and Post Graduate courses in various Government and Society run Arts and Science colleges from this academic year in order to accommodate 279 seats including 43 seats under PG course to pursue their desired courses.

ELECTRICITY

19. Hon'ble Members are aware that near uninterrupted power supply is the hallmark of this Union Territory. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Ministry of Power, Government of India has recently allocated 53 MW of additional power from Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) New Thermal Power Project over and above the 4.24 MW power already allotted to the Union Territory of Puducherry. Under Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme, 16 Nos. of Distribution Transformers were so far energised at a cost of ₹ 43.41 lakh. In order to provide adequate and reliable power supply to Karaikal town area, a new 11 KV, Town-3 feeder for a route length of 2.8 Kms. has been commissioned along with the RMU Panels at an estimated cost of ₹ 1.70 crore.

20. The installed capacity of Solar PV power plant has gone upto 230.50 KW in the Union Territory including a roof top Solar PV Power plant of 45 KW set up at M/s. French Consulate, Puducherry which has been synchronized recently with the grid of the Electricity Department, Puducherry.

21. Under normal development schemes, 52 Nos. of new distribution transformers of various capacities along with 11.14 Kms. of HT lines and 34.51 Kms. of LT lines were energised. Further, 21 Nos. of distribution transformers were enhanced to higher capacities and 1.859 Kms. of HT lines and 18.57 Kms. of LT lines were also strengthened. Besides, 17 Nos. of HT Industrial Services, 46 Nos. of LT Industrial Services, 10,813 Nos. of Domestic Services, 1,513 Nos. of Commercial Services, 31 Nos. of Agricultural Services, 123 Nos. of street lights were energised. Besides, UG Cables for HT lines for a length of 7.132 Kms. and LT lines for a length of 0.938 Km. were laid and 123 Nos. of LT overhead services and 12 Nos. of overhead street lights were converted into underground cable system during the year 2016-17.

22. In order to improve stability of the power distribution system, old underground cables are being replaced in phased manner. The old oil filled ring main units are being replaced with state-of-the-art Ring Main Units compatible with the proposed distribution SCADA data management system being set up. To address

the long pending demand of the residents of Muthialpet area, a new 110/22 KV Power Transformer has been erected and commissioned at the 110/22-11 KV Vengata Nagar. Muthialpet is now being fed through a new 22 KV feeder, which will ensure uninterrupted power supply to the area.

INDUSTRIES

23. I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Hon'ble Members that this Government has recently notified "The New Industrial Policy, 2016". The New Industrial Policy will improve the ease of doing business and would also effectively address the issues of faster industrial clearances, industrial land bank and the infrastructure facilities in industrial estates and parks. In order to assuage the bottlenecks of the industries sector, the new industrial policy has come out with a package of incentives to offset the effects of GST regime and their logistic overheads. I hope that this policy will bring result for the betterment of quality of life and creation of more jobs to the people of Puducherry Union Territory. The motto of my Government is to encourage environmental friendly industries in Puducherry.

24. During 2016-17, ₹ 2.10 crore was released as assistance to 20 units to start industries. For the welfare of unemployed youths including SC community, handicrafts artisans/coir artisans, small cottage and tiny industries, training programmes such as In-plant, Vocational, Advance/ High Skilled trainings, Handicrafts trainings in various crafts and Coir trainings were conducted. 1,247 persons including 328 Nos. of SC individuals got benefitted.

25. To motivate the unemployed persons to start Self-employed Enterprises, financial assistance and subsidy were disbursed through Banks. 242 persons benefitted by availing Bank loan of ₹ 2.02 crore and subsidy grant of ₹ 75.08 lakh. Under the programme “Development of Handicrafts and Development of Coirs” 515 persons benefitted for which ₹ 22 lakh was spent. Under the scheme Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, 24 entrepreneurs were released subsidy to the tune of ₹ 34.97 lakh towards the loan sanctioned by the Banks.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

26. Recognizing the service of media persons, this Government has enhanced the monthly pension from ₹ 6,000 to ₹ 7,500.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

27. To provide various services at the door step of common man, the Common Service Centres are established across the Union Territory. Presently, 82 CSCs are functional and in addition 114 new locations have been approved. Services like Issue of Birth and Death Certificate, issue of Patta and Settlement copy, FMB services etc., are presently delivered by the CSCs. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the CSC have been notified to protect the interest of common citizen and village level entrepreneur. Under the e-District Project, 72 services of 11 line departments have been launched for common public.

28. In order to enhance the employability skills, 4,000 students have been trained in the emerging IT fields, besides giving Industrial Certification courses. 1,850 candidates were recruited by 34 companies including 7 Multi National Companies (MNCs) in Two Mega Job Fairs. To exhibit and to inculcate the technical skills, Puducherry Digital Youth Summit was conducted for the first time and 4 students of Puducherry had been sent to Singapore for study visit. In order to give a fillip to make a less cash economy in the country, Digi Dhan Mela has been conducted in this Union Territory. Around 10,000 people visited the mela; wherein, awareness and hands on training had been imparted for various stake holders including general public, merchants, Government Departments etc. 13 Banks including Co-operative Banks and Government Departments concerned have participated and 3 major Organizations viz., JIPMER, Puducherry Engineering College, Puducherry Pollution Control Committee have become cashless transaction institutions.

LABOUR

29. Hon'ble Members would agree that 'Labour Welfare' is a social right. This Government is giving priority for the Welfare of Labour and also introduces legislation from time to time to protect labour welfare. An expenditure of ₹ 8.15 crore has been incurred for extending welfare measure to 37,523 workers who have registered in Puducherry Building and Other Construction Workers Board. Similarly, ₹ 2.60 crore has been spent to extend welfare benefits to 25,020 members who have registered in Puducherry Unorganized Labourer Welfare Society in all four regions.

30. In order to avoid the cumbersome procedure and to save the precious times of Business community, action has been taken to implement the scheme *viz.*, "Ease of doing business" through the National Informatics Centre, Puducherry so as to complete the task of preparation of software to the Puducherry Shops and Establishment Act, 1964 and thereby Registration / Renewal under the Acts were made easy. In order to avoid rush

due to convergence of students in a centralized registration centre and also to ease the difficulties faced by students' community, this Government has initiated a special arrangement at the schools concerned to enrol their 10th/12th standard qualification through online website of Employment Exchange. By this arrangement, 11,869 students of 10th standard and 8,652 students of 12th standard were enrolled.

31. One Job fair was conducted in which 82 candidates participated against which 45 candidates were selected. National Career Service Portal system of registration was introduced and 520 job seekers had registered for various employment opportunities which would help the unemployed youth to compete in the National Level opportunity.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

32. Hon'ble Members are well aware that Swachh Bharat Mission, the largest cleanliness drive launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, is being successfully implemented

in this Union Territory and I am proud to say that this Government has taken keen interest to fulfil the very objectives of the Mission to reduce and eliminate open defecation through construction of individual, cluster and community toilets. The cleanliness and hygienic environment witnessed throughout the Union Territory of Puducherry proves this Government's effective initiatives taken towards carrying out the Mission successfully.

33. Due to improved focus on Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas, ₹ 3.73 crore was spent on Capacity Building and for construction of 2,207 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs). 38 wards have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Mahe region has already been declared ODF.

34. Door to door segregated collection of municipal waste is being successfully implemented in Karaikal and Mahe Municipalities. Municipal compost is being produced from the bio-degradable waste in Karaikal region. In Mahe Municipality, composting at the household level is being successfully implemented.

POLICE

35. To encourage the Police personnel and to strengthen the Police force, promotions have been awarded to 205 police personnel in various cadres from Police Constables to Inspectors. On compassionate grounds, 35 persons were appointed as Police Constables and 30 Home Guards have been absorbed as Police Constables.

36. The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) connecting all Police Stations with State Crime Record Bureau (SCRB), National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has been implemented in this Union Territory at a cost of ₹ 9.94 crore. The Citizen Police Portal for public has been made fully operational. A fully equipped Indoor Physical Training Centre (Gymnasium) has been constructed for Police Personnel undergoing training at Police Training School, Puducherry for an amount of ₹ 1.90 crore. Steps have been taken to construct three Storied Office Building at Gorimedu, Puducherry.

PUBLIC WORKS

37. This Government is very particular in providing protected clean water supply and improve the infrastructure facilities especially in rural areas. 15 Nos. of road works of various type *i.e.*, widening, improvement, strengthening of the existing roads were carried over at a cost of ₹ 13.96 crore. Construction of student centre in the Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College at Kalapet, Puducherry was completed at a cost of ₹ 1.58 crore.

38. Apart from the above, the channel bank protection work from Palloor Sub-Station to Aravilagath Palam at Palloor at a cost of ₹ 1.90 crore and the badly damaged municipal roads including the improvement works to the PWD roads at Mahe region at a cost of ₹ 13.07 crore were completed. Actions have been initiated to execute the various civil works announced during the Budget Session 2016, of which desilting of drains in Puducherry and Karaikal region and desilting of canals in Karaikal and Yanam region were completed at a cost of ₹ 9.44 crore. Besides, this Government is executing many

civil works, which are of infrastructure development in nature, under the sectors viz., Water Supply and Sanitation, Roads and Bridges, Public Works, Housing, Irrigation and Flood Control. As the resources to improve the infrastructure was found very limited, some of the major projects were implemented by availing negotiated loan to the tune of ₹ 133.68 crore. Under Central Road Fund (CRF), ₹ 9.71 crore was spent for development and maintenance of national highways during 2016-17. Further, my Government will take all efforts to increase the water resources. Action has been taken for desilting of lakes and ponds after inviting open tenders.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

39. To generate employment opportunity for rural families, 474 works were taken up; of which 39 works were completed and the remaining 435 works are under progress. 31,017 households benefitted and ₹ 10.42 crore has been incurred under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). 201 new Self Help Groups (SHGs), 160 Habitation Level Federation

(HLF), 44 Panchayat Level Federation (PLF) were formed and 24 SHGs have been provided Revolving Fund. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), financial assistance to a tune of ₹ 4.14 crore has been provided to 1,862 beneficiaries for construction of toilets and the work has been completed.

SOCIAL WELFARE

40. I am proud to share with this Hon'ble House that 3% reservation for the differently-abled persons in Government jobs has been notified on the occasion of World Disabled Day. I would like to inform that the disabled persons are continuously provided with various welfare benefits like supply of prosthetic appliances, motorized tri-cycles, scholarship to students, transport allowances, funeral expenses @ ₹ 5,000 to the kith and kin, grant of incentive for marriage, Meritorious Award to the blind students who score first three ranks in the school final examination. 285 disabled persons benefitted under the tour programme.

SURVEY

41. I am glad to share with the Hon'ble Members that this Government, in this emerging electronic era, has digitalized the spatial data, that is, Field Maps and the computerized land details have been uploaded in the website. This would facilitate the public to get the Field Measurement Book (FMB) copies from the nearby Common Service Centre (CSC) without approaching the Department. At the first instance, this facility has been extended to Puducherry and Karaikal Region. Under the Housing Scheme, so far 45 free house sites have been distributed to the landless labourers.

TRANSPORT

42. Hon'ble Members will agree that efficient transport system is essential for sustainable economic development of the country which plays an important role in promoting National and Global integration. One of the significant facilities provided by this Government is the new Mini Buses, which are operated to mobilize the people from the sub-urban areas. The office building of the Regional

Transport Unit at Kattukuppam, which caters to the requirements of Bahour Taluk has been expanded at a cost of ₹ 30.40 lakh.

43. In order to create awareness among the public about Road Safety, this Government has made the wearing of helmets as mandatory and regularly conducting Road Safety Awareness programme every week in Educational Institutions.

WELFARE OF BACKWARD CLASSES AND MINORITIES

44. This Government always pays more attention on Welfare of BCs and Minorities and provides adequate hostel buildings with necessary infrastructure facilities for the welfare of the students belonging to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and De-notified Communities, which benefitted 230 students.

45. This Government will take all measures to protect the interests of Minorities and continue to implement welfare schemes for their betterment. Apart from providing

Pre-Matric Scholarship to 933 students, this Government also encouraged the backward class students who were found meritorious in the school final examination by honouring Thiyagi V. Subbiah Award along with a cash prize.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

46. Hon'ble Members are aware that protection and appropriate care extended to Women and Children by this Government under various schemes will no doubt improve the social discipline in this Union Territory.

47. During 2016-17, ₹ 94.36 lakh has been incurred towards the financial assistance to perform marriage of poor brides, pregnant women and lactating mothers, marriage allowance towards marriage of daughter of destitute widows and incentive to family having one or two girl children whose parents have undergone Family Planning. This Government gives top priority for continuous implementation of "Old Age Pension" scheme. 1,44,847 persons of old age, widows, destitute, unmarried women and

transgender are availing the social security benefits. Under this scheme, ₹ 331.68 crore was spent during the year 2016-17.

48. Supplementary nutrition was provided throughout the year under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme through 855 Anganwadi centres. 26,242 children and 5,819 mothers were provided supplementary nutrition for which a sum of ₹ 16.61 crore was spent during the year 2016-17.

49. My Government has committed to continuously improve the quality of life of the people. The infrastructure development in all the regions will be given due importance and more attention will be given to the areas which are found backward. Due importance will be given both for agriculture and industrial sectors in a balanced manner by suitably supporting them. More priority will be given for capital expenditure without affecting the continuing welfare schemes. The aspiration of my Government is to achieve the broad vision of all round development for the betterment of the people for living in a safe, clean, healthy and peaceful environment.

50. I hope the Hon'ble Members of this august House, will deliberate upon various issues relating to the development of the Union Territory in a cordial and co-operative manner respecting each other's views. I wish all success in your deliberations.

NANDRI !

JAI HIND !!

