



**Address by**  
**His Excellency**  
**Shri Janaki Ballav Patnaik**  
**Governor of Assam**

**BUDGET SESSION**

**Assam Legislative Assembly**  
**4th March, 2013**

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

I am delighted to address this august House on the occasion of the Budget Session 2013 of the Assam Legislative Assembly. I also take this opportunity to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all of you. I am sure the considered deliberations during this session will go a long way to take our State forward on the path of peace, progress and prosperity.

The Panchayat Election 2013 has been conducted successfully to uphold the democratic tradition in the State. However, my Government expresses its deepest condolences to the families of those persons who have lost their lives in the recent spate of unfortunate violence in the Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council Area during the Panchayat Elections. Nevertheless, the violence was controlled and normalcy restored in the shortest possible time. The multipronged strategy adopted by my Government under the unified command against active militant groups, peace overtures towards groups willing for negotiated settlement and rehabilitation of misguided youth have led to the signing of the Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) with both factions of the DHD last year at New Delhi. This is expected to usher in a new era of hope and prosperity in the Dima Hasao district with proposal of decentralization of power up to the village council level, giving equal opportunities to all communities.

The State Government has taken up various measures to modernize the police department. To address crimes against women and children, Anti-Human Trafficking Units have been set up in different districts of Assam. Women Cells in Police Stations have also been made functional. For the protection of women and girls, an all-women platoon in the Assam police has been formed which goes by the name of "Virangana". My Government is trying to resolve the boundary disputes with the neighbouring states of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya through peaceful negotiations.

The Foreigners' (Tribunal) Order 1964 has also been amended in order to ensure prompt disposal of cases pending before the Foreigners' Tribunals. The Cabinet Sub-Committee on NRC has submitted their Report and the Cabinet, in its sitting on August 16, 2012, approved the same and forwarded it to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for necessary action.

The State Government has renewed its commitment towards the speedy and all round economic development of the State. During the last few years, growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product has shown a steady upward trend. There has been steady increase in revenue generation in the field of Sales Tax, Excise and royalty on mineral resources. The per capita debt of Assam as on 31 March 2012 was Rs. 9355/- which is the fourth lowest in the country and lowest among the special category States. The Financial turnaround of the

State during the last few years has also been significant. The State Government has not resorted to any overdraft from the Reserve Bank of India during the last 7 years. State Finances are now healthy and stable. The actual borrowing by the State Government during the last 4 years has been well below the borrowing limits prescribed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Our Government has been able to create adequate fiscal space for undertaking many innovative schemes and projects for the all-around development of the State. The fiscal position of the State is likely to improve in the coming years and the pace of development will be accelerated so as to put Assam on a high growth trajectory and to attain the status of a front ranking state in the country.

Agriculture is one of the key sectors for the economic development of the State and the Government has given topmost priority for economic upliftment of small and marginal farmers. At present, the Agricultural scenario of Assam has shown progressive trend on all major indicators. Our Government is committed to improve the plight of the farming community and has raised the budget allocation for agriculture to Rs. 69,888.06 lakh during 2012-13 from Rs.65,357.15 lakh in 2011-12 which is an increase of 7 per cent . During 2012-13, the State is anticipated to achieve 7.5 per cent agricultural growth with the production of 55.00 lakh MT of rice and 56.00 lakh MT food grains during the year. The launching of "Mission Double Cropping" enhanced Cropping Intensity upto

150 per cent during the year from 146 per cent in 2011-12. In recognition for commendable performance in production and productivity of pulses during the year 2011-12, the state received the "Krishi Karman Award" from the Hon'ble President of India at a ceremony held on 15 January 2013. My Government will provide the necessary boost to make quality seeds, timely inputs, and enhancement of farm power available to the farmer. With Integrated Nutrient Management and spread of new technology on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), our Government hopes to increase the area under summer paddy by covering an additional area of 2.2 lakh hectare under HYV seeds with the target production of 61.00 lakh MT Rice.

As a measure to alleviate crop loss due to occurrence of devastating flood in the State, my Government targets to distribute 26,975 quintal seeds of Flood Submergence Tolerant variety of paddy namely Swarna Sub -1, covering 70,500 hectare in the year. The sector has also given emphasis on Employment Generation with the establishment of 500 mini Oil Mills and 200 Dal Processing Mills during this year.

In the current financial year, a cocoon bank with assistance from the Central Silk Board was established and is working since July 2012 at Boko, where Eri and Muga cocoons are directly purchased on the spot from the growers to protect the floor prices from the vagaries of the market. An

amount of Rs 781.58 lakhs have been provided towards Women Health Insurance Scheme which has been implemented to provide social security to 10,000 families engaged in sericulture. My Government's constant efforts have raised the Eri yarn and Muga silk production to 1062 MT and 114 MT per year respectively.

The fisheries sector in Assam plays an important role in the economy of a sizeable section of the population of Assam. My Government is giving a lot of importance for the development of this sector considering its contribution to the Rural Economy. In the last few years, fish production has shown positive growth, raising the production to over 2.43 lakh metric tons. This has provided employment opportunities and has increased the income of fishermen.

Animal husbandry plays a pivotal role in augmenting the income of farmers and provides increasing opportunities for employment and upliftment of the poorer sections of the society with a scope for broader perspective of a complete rural transformation. There has been steady increase in milk production in the State as well. The Number of Dairy Cooperative Societies has increased from 182 in 2006-07 to 494 in 2011-12. Over 300 Milk Producers' Institutions have also been set up under the same project. Milk processing capacity in the state has increased from 15,000 litres per day in 2006-07 to 1,15,500 litres per day in 2011-12. A

comprehensive awareness programme for hygienic production and consumption of milk has been started. Ten entrepreneurs have been selected to receive government assistance for establishing commercial dairy farms on a pilot basis.

During the year 2012-13, Assam had to face unprecedented floods in three successive waves. In all, 27 districts of Assam faced the devastating and crippling effects of the floods which included a total population of approximately 36 lakhs. 149 human lives have also been tragically lost. The State Government has left no stone unturned to mitigate the sufferings caused by these floods. Relief and rehabilitation operations have been carried on a war footing to provide adequate food stuff, drinking water, health care, etc. A total of 1837 camps were set up for about 10 lakh flood affected people. During the ethnic violence in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Bongaigaon and Dhubri in July 2012, the Government has also responded quickly to bring the situation under control.

The Government has taken necessary measures to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected families. Till date, an amount of Rs.89.91 crore has been released for the affected people. A week- long simulation drill called the Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise 2012, was held with effect from 29 October to 4 November 2012 to harness the strengths and capabilities of the state emergency

responders, education institutions, hospitals, humanitarian agencies etc. as they prepare to meet the urban catastrophes of the city of Guwahati.

My Government constructed 4473.82 kilometers of embankment along with 884 anti-erosion structures and town protection works, 94 major sluices and 545 minor sluices which has protected an area of 16.50 Lakh Hectares of the State from flood. 874.97 Km of drainage channels was also excavated. My Government has started the project "Assam Integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Risk Management Project" which will benefit an area of 1,10,000 hectares with a population of about 10,00,000, in the 3(three) selected sub-project areas of Dibrugarh, Kaziranga and Palashbari. Erosion has been identified as the major cause of concern in flood management and the proposed constitution of the Brahmaputra River Valley Authority by the Central Government is welcome to all of us. There has been consistent endeavor on the part of our Government to save Majuli from flood and erosion and to enlist it in the list of world heritage sites. Regarding the Lower Subansiri Project, the Government is committed towards early completion of the project keeping in mind the interests of the people living in the downstream areas and will seek more power from the project for the State.

My Government has been giving special thrust on elimination of rural poverty as well as upliftment of the

economic condition of people in the rural areas. To achieve the objective, the Government has been implementing various poverty alleviation programmes like MGNREGA, IAY, SGSY/NRLM, NSAP, DDP, BRGF etc. At present, 39.32 lakh of rural households have been provided with Job Cards and 203.68 lakh "man days" have been created during the current year. Under the Indira Awaas Yojana, the target for 2012-13 has been fixed at 1,84,408 houses of which 1.6 lakh houses have already been constructed. Old age pensioners attaining the age of 80 years were given Rs. 250/- per month and the same has been enhanced to Rs. 500/- per month. Under the Chief Minister's Special Package, the Self Employment Scheme for daily wage earners is being implemented and more than 3000 families are expected to benefit from this scheme. Under National Rural Livelihood Mission, 44 development blocks have been covered for implementation of various schemes and 800 Community Resource Persons have been trained.

The socio-economic and Caste Census, 2011 is in progress and it would be completed within the next couple of months. The outcome of the census will enable the Government to target the marginalised groups and poor families through various interventions. The Backward Regions Grant Fund has been implemented in the State since 2007. The scheme is under implementation in 13 (thirteen) districts

of the State which include Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Cachar, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Dima Hasao, Chirang and Baksa.

In the education sector, my Government will provincialise 1500 Secondary Schools during the next financial year. Our Government has established digital class rooms in 4 high performing Government Secondary Schools of Assam. Smart Class will be introduced in the Government Secondary Schools of Assam. My Government has announced to introduce Science and Commerce Stream in all Provincialised Higher Secondary schools in the State. TET is to be held for Secondary Education on 24 March 2013. Appointment of about 5000 Graduate Teachers will be made thereafter. Providing Laptops to the 1st Division holders in the HSLC and Assam High Madrassa examination will be continued this year too considering the motivation the scheme roused among the students. Necessary steps have been taken to establish a Madrassa University, a Training College for Madrassa education and infrastructure development of the Madrassa Institution. A Higher Education Mission is proposed to be set up in the State and for that purpose. A total of 41 Colleges have been provided with Rs. 1.00 crore each for infrastructure development. For infrastructure development of the Bodoland University, an amount of Rs. 2.20 crore has been provided. Three new Engineering Colleges have been

established at Golaghat, Karimganj and Dhemaji. My Government has decided to appoint 11,500 Elementary School Teachers against regular vacant posts from among the TET qualified candidates within March 2013. As per the provisions under "The Assam Venture Educational Institutions (Provincialisation of service) Act" 2011, as amended in 2012, all eligible institutions established or recognized before 2002 will be provincialised by March 2013. Free textbooks have been provided to all elementary school students from Ka-Shreni (lower primary) up to Class-VIII . Two residential schools have been established under the SSA, one in Guwahati and another in Silchar, for children without parental protection.

My Government is committed to provide quality health care services for the entire population of the State. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of Assam has reduced from 480 during 2004-06 to 381 during 2007-09. There was a drop of 99 points of MMR during the NRHM period which is the highest drop in the country during the NRHM period. Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of Assam has been brought down to 55 from 68 in 2005. As per latest Coverage Evaluation Survey conducted by the RRC-NE in 2011, Institutional Delivery of Assam is 73.20 per cent. To ensure post-partum care and stay in the hospital up to 48 hours after delivery, the "Mamata Kit" has been distributed to 6,15,441 beneficiaries till December 2012. At present 50 Mobile Medical Units are operational in the

State to provide health care service to un-served and uncovered areas and 15 Boat Clinics are operational in 13 Districts of Assam to provide health care services in riverine and char areas. My Government is taking initiative and various measures to upgrade the AYUSH system of Medicine in the state of Assam. The Government Ayurvedic College, Guwahati & SJN Homoeopathic College Guwahati, shall be upgraded to turn them into Centres of Excellence on Ayurvedic & Homoeopathic education respectively in the whole of the North Eastern region.

The Government is keen to provide adequate support to the Cooperative Sector to make the Cooperatives a tool for changing the lives of the down trodden people as well as the rural population. The Cooperative Societies Act 2007 has been amended in the winter session of the Assam Legislative Assembly to incorporate the 97th Constitutional amendment and to insert a separate Sector for 'Cooperative Credit Structure' as per MoU signed by the State Govt. with the Central Govt. and NABARD.

Broadly, the thrust area for the Cooperation Department has been identified as: (i) Operationalization of The Assam Rajib Gandhi University of Cooperative Management (ARGUCOM) established at Sibasagar in 2010 (ii) Rural storage as well as scientific storage of food grains and transparency in the PDS distribution, (iii) Micro-finance

schemes for ensuring flow of Credit for Agriculture and allied activities, (iv) Economic empowerment of Women and (v) Cooperative Banking sector.

There are 2,486 Gaon Panchayat Level Multipurpose Women Cooperatives (GPBMSS/WMPCS) in Assam. The banking sector in the State has witnessed an unprecedented increase of operation during the last decade and the level of competition has also increased. The 8 Urban Cooperative Banks in the State are playing a pivotal role in providing Credit to the small and marginal entrepreneurs in the State as well as generating employment opportunities for the unemployed youth of the State.

Under the Chief Minister's Assam Bikash Yojana and Assam Forest Protection Force scheme, the department has taken-up massive plantation drives in the hillocks of Guwahati City along with construction of eight barracks and watch camps with the deployment of Assam Forest Protection Force personnel to increase the green cover in and around Guwahati. My Government has taken up 'Aranya', which is a module based Spatial Decision Support System (SDSS) using open source technology. It facilitates the decision making in different domains of forestry. The main functionalities of this system include (I) Identification of plantation sites (ii) habitat suitability analysis for wildlife (iii) Carbon pool inventory (iv) land use pattern analysis and (v) Forest Crime analysis. Assam is the first state in the country to constitute Tiger

Conservation Foundations for Kaziranga, Nameri and Manas Tiger Reserves for better conservation and management of Tiger Reserve and also notified Tiger Conservation Foundation Rules for the State for making the foundations operational. To counter the challenge of increasing pressure on forest and its resources, the 2nd Battalion of Assam Forest Protection Force has been raised. The Central Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended to give more force to the legislation. As per this amendment, known as the Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Act, every offence under this Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable within the meaning of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

For efficient management and prompt service delivery by the State PSUs, my Government has laid emphasis on capacity building, instilling of professionalism in PSUs etc. Further, a study has been conducted through institutional consultants for the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding & Training Needs Analysis, through the same consultants, for improvement of performance, accountability and supervision of the State PSUs. In the current financial year, my Government has launched a few innovative schemes for SLPEs to strengthen the IT Infrastructure of a few PSUs for the improvement of their Management Information System and Computerization of Accounts and Technical Up gradation of PSUs. A few officers of the Government as well as of the PSUs have been deputed to the USA and also to places within



the country to undergo advance training on enhancing effectiveness of Boards of PSUs and corporate governance.

My Government is exploring avenues for a balanced economic development of the State as well as to generate employment avenues for the ever increasing number of local unemployed youth. In order to facilitate growth of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise sector, our Government has given special attention for the setting up of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and also for enhancing the employability of local youth through industrialization and skill development training. During the last five years, 6,414 Micro & Small Enterprises have been set up and these have provided approximately 46,955 persons with employment. Besides, under the PMEGP Programme, 3682 enterprises have been set up by local entrepreneurs have generated employment for approximately 25,738 persons.

Initiative has been taken for promotion of brand 'Assam' in respect of Assam Orthodox Tea and handicrafts items in the national and international market. The Look East policy is surging ahead with closer and deeper economic integration by improving relations and exploring market linkage with South East Asian countries including China.

My Government has taken many steps for improving the road connectivity in the entire State. Many schemes such as the Mukhyamantrir Pakipath Nirman Achan (MPNA),

Mukhyamantrir Paki Dallang Nirman Achan (MPDNA), Assam Bikash Yojana (ABY), State Annual Plan, SCSP & TSP schemes, etc. have been taken up for the improvement and construction of roads and bridges. Moreover, some additional schemes funded by the World Bank, the ADB and the NABARD have also been taken up for construction of roads and bridges. In the meantime, more than 20,000 Km of all weather roads have been constructed and more than 2,900 RCC Bridges have been constructed. Over and above this, 5000 Km of road work and 1,250 RCC Bridges are in various stages of construction. Assam has 24 National Highways with a total length of 2,848 km. At present 644 km of this length is under the NHAI on which work on the 4-lane East West Corridor Project is in progress. Another 253 km is under the BRO and the remaining 1951 km of NH is under the Public Works, Bldg & NH Department.

My Government has directed the NHAI to complete work on the 4-lane East West Corridor by December, 2014 and to start the 4-lane works of NH-37 from Numaligarh to Dibrugarh within this year. Action has also been initiated for an early start to the 4-lane work beginning from one end of the Nagaon Bypass to Hologgi in the Assam Arunachal Border, via Jamuguri and Gohpur. My Government has persuaded the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to take up construction of the two missing links, between NH-37 and NH-52, connecting Majuli via Tekelipota and upgradation of

the Dhodar Ali to the standard of National Highway. Steps are initiated for the construction of a 4-lane Bridge over the river Brahmaputra between Gohpur and Numaligarh.

My Government has been doing its share for providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to the rural areas of Assam by planning, designing and executing water supply schemes, ensuring adequate sanitation facilities and promoting hygiene practices according to choice and affordability. During the last decade Assam has witnessed a significant improvement in the sectors of rural water supply and sanitation, with increasing coverage of rural habitations in the water supply sector and access to toilets by households in the sanitation sector. A total of 49,093 habitations have been covered under the rural drinking water supply scheme. Over 89 schools have been covered during 2012-13 under the drinking water supply scheme and 1,44,334 Individual House Hold Latrines have been constructed for BPL families.

My Government is committed to contribute to the all round development of women, children, persons with disability and to the old and infirm people of the society as these groups need special intervention for their betterment.

My Government has been implementing the Flagship Programme of the ICDS since its inception to the satisfaction of the general public. At present 58,279 Anganwadi Centres including Mini Anganwadi Centres are in operation. All these centres are covered under the Supplementary Nutrition

Programme for the all around development of Children below the age of 6 years and for pregnant and nursing mothers. 500 women SHGs have been covered under the Mukhya Mantrir Mohila Samridhi Achari. The Women's Development Council is in the process of being set up as the apex body to co-ordinate all the schemes relating to women empowerment in the State. A scheme has also been taken up to insure the lives of unorganized landless labourers of the State under the Aam Admi Bima Yojana.

Under the scheme of Unemployment Allowance to Persons with Disability and Allowance to the family with Disabled Children, my Government has released an amount of Rs.396.00 Lakhs for 6,530 beneficiaries.

My Government has signed an MOU with the Govt. of India to roll out Integrated Child Protection Services to strengthen the Juvenile Justice system and to take up child protection activities in the State as well as to control child trafficking and child abuse.

During the year 2012-13, my Government distributed, 34,248 MT of APL rice, 39,602 MT of BPL rice and 24,641 MT of AAY rice monthly among the 19.06 lakh BPL families and 40.20 lakh APL families. Through special allocations, an additional 14,143 MT of wheat have been provided by the Govt of India by way of adhoc allocations, which has been lifted in close coordination with the FCI and the Railways. The quantum of food-grains is expected to increase in view

of the enactment of the Food Security Act by the Govt. of India shortly. Therefore, initiative has been taken by the Govt. of Assam to enhance the storage capacity of godowns by 6.82 Lakhs MT. Under the Mukhyo Mantrir Anna Suraksha Yojana, 20 Kgs of rice has been provided to each beneficiary family per month at BPL rate against a special FIC. With a view to bringing transparency, accountability and effective delivery of PDS items to the FIC holders in the State, Biometric FIC or Ration Cards are intended to be introduced. There is constant effort to reduce the margin between the wholesale and the retail prices of commodities. Vigilance and monitoring committees have been constituted and these are functioning at all levels.

My Government has formulated and implementing policies and programmes for the all round development of the SC, ST and weaker section of the people of the State. Besides these, the allocation of fund against 6 Autonomous Councils and the BTC has also been enhanced during 2012-13 for imparting development activities of the Council areas. The Hill Areas of Assam, which comprise the two districts of North Cachar Hills and Karbi Anglong, are endowed with natural beauty and precious natural resources. My Government is firmly committed to the welfare of the all round development of these hill areas and has already transferred more autonomy to both the Autonomous Councils which has added a new dimension to the varied fields of development activities in

the area. My Government is looking into the needs of the people belonging to the tea tribe communities to explore the means and ways for the all round development of the people belonging to the Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes in the State. Self employment oriented schemes in Handloom and Textiles, Handicrafts, Tea Nursery, Beauty Parlour etc. are under consideration, including creation of 100 Handicrafts Development Centres in tea garden areas for the benefit of women in rural areas.

My Government has been undertaking various schemes and initiatives for the socio-economic development of the minority communities of the State. Our Government has laid stress on the upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of the people living in char areas through the execution of various developmental and welfare schemes.

The State government has also laid emphasis on the detection and rescue of child labour in the State. The State Government is also thinking of prohibiting the employment of domestic help of children below fourteen years of age. My Government has given special emphasis on the protection of rights of children and women in the State in the project "Vision for women and children".

Our Government is committed to strengthen the public transport system. During the last three years as many as 300 buses have been procured and placed on the road for rural connectivity. These buses have brought about a remarkable

change in the transport scenario in rural areas. With the introduction of 182 JNNURM buses, the quality of the city transport system has been improved substantially. Considering the national focus on safe public transport in the State especially for women and children, my Government has proposed to introduce 10 low floor city buses especially for ladies. With a view to ensure that training is imparted to drivers, especially of heavy vehicles, two Driving Training Institutions are proposed to be set up, one each at Kamalpur in Kamrup Rural and Chirang. The Government has taken up the matter of improvement and expansion of the LGBI, Borjhar, Jorhat and Dibrugarh Airports. The issuance of High Security Registration Plate, which is a highly sensitive product for the prevention of counterfeiting and duplication of Registration Plates, has been started. My Government has been operating 87 ferry services on the river Brahmaputra and the Borak for the purpose of public utility. Additionally, the inland water department is also operating Commercial Services and plays an important role in the development of "River Tourism" by having introduced floating restaurant with the river cruising facility.

Tourism is a sector which can change the pattern of the economic scenario in the country by providing foreign exchange as well as revenue and employment generation. Considering the immense potential of tourism in Assam, my Government has rolled out various developmental projects

for the promotion of tourism in the State. During the last five year plan period, Assam Tourism has participated in different Fairs and Festivals held in different metros of the country as well as abroad to showcase and to aggressively market the colourful products of the State. Several five star hotels are being constructed in Guwahati including, a joint venture at Khanapara, in collaboration with the Indian Hotel Company Ltd. For the first time in India, The International Tourism Mart in the N.E.States was held from 18 January 2013 to 20 January 2013 in Assam at the Sarusajai Stadium, Guwahati, where delegates from 23 countries and North Eastern states, along with West Bengal and Sikkim participated.

My Government is committed to improve the infrastructural facilities to bring out more sporting potentials in the State. Development of the existing facilities as well creation of new ones have been proposed at the District and Sub-Divisional Headquarters as well as in the Blocks where such facilities are not available to up-lift the standard of sporting activities of the players. The Development of the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex and the Mini Stadia constructed earlier would be taken up in a phased manner so that every block of the State will have sporting facilities to cater to the need of the players. Coaching for the talented players who have been spotted in the Rural Sports Competitions held in Block, District and State levels under the Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan and various School Tournaments, is

proposed to be taken up at the State level Coaching Camps by renowned coaches with standard and scientific sports equipments. The Government is awarding Sports Scholarships to talented players and students to encourage their performance in the State, National and International level Sports Competitions. Rs. 70.00 lakh has been earmarked in the Annual Plan, 2013-14, for the purpose. The youth segment plays a vital role in nation building activities. The Government proposes to create awareness and a positive outlook among the youth and students by holding Youth Festivals, Personality Development Camps and Career Counseling Camp through the SLAC at the State level.

The State Government's priority is to concentrate on the preservation and promotion of the State's varied culture as living tradition, keeping its purity in form and content intact. To keep the diverse cultures of the State vibrant & flourishing, my Government holds programmes on Songs, Dance and Drama not only in various places of Assam but also in different places of India and abroad. A Number of new Awards and Honours instituted in the hallowed memory of legendary persons of Assam like-Siu-Ka-Pha, Ajanpeer, Sri Sri Madhab Dev, Fakharuddin Ali Ahmed, Bir Chilaray, K.K.Handique, Natasurya Phani Sarma, Ganesh Gogoi, Gurudev Kalicharan Brahma, Dr. Bhabendranath Saikia, Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharyya, Amol Prabha Das, Chandra Prabha Saikiani, Asom Ratna and a few others have been conferred on eminent

persons in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the fields of art and culture of the country. Our Government has laid primary emphasis on Protection, Preservation and Development of Archaeological Sites and Monuments of the State of Assam. Steps have also been taken to develop the Assam State Museum, Guwahati, to the standards of a National Museum.

The State Government, under the Chief Minister's Assam Bikash Yojana scheme, has been providing basic amenities like clearing roads and drainage using devices like garbage cleaning and road sweeping machines etc. to the people residing in the urban areas of Assam, under the Solid Waste Management Programme. At present, 111 major infrastructure projects are being implemented through Urban Local Bodies and Development Authorities for a total project cost of Rs.689.48 Crore towards the development of Small & Medium Towns in urban areas of Assam. With a Central Assistance of 330.02 crore, the projects have been sanctioned for the development of infrastructure like rehabilitation centre for Hawkers and Vendors, Truck Terminus, Multi-utility Building, Roads, Storm Water Drainage, Business centre, Commercial Complex, Town Hall, Recreation centre, Play ground, Water supply project, Multi storied car parking etc. Under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme, 1424 houses have been constructed for the Urban poor in various towns. Under the Non-lapsable Central Pool

of Resources , a project named "the road side drainage system including improvement of town roads in Nagaon Urban area" has been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.19.24 crore by the Govt. of India. The Mega project of South Guwahati West Water Supply Project under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission is progressing well. The Central Guwahati & North Guwahati water supply project funded by the Japan International Cooperating Agency is expected to be completed by 2015. Land acquisition process is in progress for the South Guwahati East Water Supply Project funded by the Asian Development Bank. The coverage area under this project is 71 sq km which will include 18 wards. The Government has undertaken one Multilevel Car Parking project at Mohendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital Complex at Panbazar for around 250 cars and another near Panbazar Flyover for 400 cars on PPP mode, which will reduce the congestion in the area.

The Government of Assam has given high priority to the sustainable development of Science & Technology. My Government has been implementing various Schemes and Projects through the Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council and the Guwahati Planetarium for popularization of science and also for spreading the scientific temper among the people of Assam. Construction work on Science Centre cum Planetarium at Jorhat, Kokrajhar, North Lakhimpur and Nalbari is under progress. 750 villages have

been provided with 35,568 home lighting systems under the Remote Village Electrification Programme.

The State Government has been making efforts to augment the power generation capacity in the State. The Government is giving maximum emphasis on installation of solar plants. At present, the APDCL has approximately 20 lakh low voltage consumers in the State. Installation of hybrid solar and wind lighting systems in the Assam Secretariat and in the offices of all the Deputy Commissioners of the State are proposed to be taken up. The Government will encourage all utilities to take measures under the Energy Conservation Act to ensure energy efficiency and its conservation. The 3 MW Stage -II and 6 MW Stage - I of the Myntriang Small Hydro Electric Project shall be commissioned in 2013-14. Further, construction of the 120 MW Lower Kopilli Hydro Electric Project is being started in 2013-14. In the last 6 years the State government has taken up rural electrification works in a big way under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). A total of 8505 un-electrified villages and 13,009 partially electrified villages have been taken up for electrification. The electrification works in 7992 un-electrified villages and 12374 partially electrified villages have been completed. The Government has also taken up a target of Electric Connections to more than 11 lakhs BPL households and till date around 9 lakhs BPL households have already been given connections. The state government has also laid

emphasis on the harnessing of alternative energy resources including the solar power.

The Government of Assam has taken adequate initiative in the exploration and development of the mineral resources of Assam in recent years. The geological investigation works carried out by the Government has resulted in the establishment of workable reserves of cement grade limestone, coal, china clay, glass sand, sillimanite, granite, iron ore etc. in the State. On the other hand, exploration activities carried out by the public sector units, Oil India Ltd & Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., have helped in production of crude oil & natural gas in Assam. These activities have contributed significantly in the industrial and economic development of the State. My Government is taking necessary steps for setting up two large cement plants in the joint sector involving Assam Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. so that limestone reserves of Assam could be utilized for industrial development.

Our Government has taken up several initiatives for the implementation of various e-Governance schemes in the State. Under the National e Governance Plan of the Govt. of India, the Assam State Wide Area Network (ASWAN) has been set up, linking Block and Circle Offices and Sub Division (Civil) offices to the Districts HQ and finally to the State HQ at Dispur. Out of the approved 304 Points of Presence (PoPs), 271 PoPs have been rolled out so far. The network is being used

extensively by most of the field offices. The Government has set up 3881 Common Services Centres across the State for providing G2C and B2C services to the citizen. The Secretariat Less Paper Office project has already been started in a pilot mode in the Departments of Information Technology, Administrative Reforms & Training and Personnel, from December 2012.

My Government is constructing new Assam Bhawans at Bangalore and Vellore, work on which is going on at the envisaged pace. Fund for uninterrupted construction has also been made available. The Assam House at Delhi will be demolished soon and it will be replaced by a multi-storied Assam Bhawan with all modern amenities to reduce congestion of the needy boarders. An additional Multi-Storied Assam House at Kolkata is also coming up along with extensions in Assam House Shillong and Assam House, Mumbai.

For the development of the ex-Servicemen, my Government will enhance the existing grant for Gallantry Awards for the new recipients from the Financial Year 2013-14. Construction of Sainik Rest House cum Office Building at Guwahati is nearing completion. There is also a Plan to set up Sainik Rest Houses in all the District Headquarters for the benefit of Ex-Servicemen. The Government has also allotted land for the setting up of 9 new Polyclinics for the welfare of Ex-serviceman.

The issue of transparent governance is the need of the hour. In order to increase the efficiency in delivering public services, my Government is implementing the Assam Right to Public Service Act-2012 to provide services to its citizens in a time bound manner and at the same time, making public servants accountable.

Hon'ble Members, I have placed before you the policies and programmes of my Government. My Government is committed to make all efforts to implement the policies and programmes that have been outlined. I hope the deliberations of this House will help achieve this objective.

**Jai Hind**



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