

Address by

Dr. IQBAL SINGH

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor

to

The Puducherry Legislative Assembly

***“The earth looks upto sky and thrives
And mankind to King’s rod of Justice”***

-KURAL

***Hon’ble Speaker and distinguished Members
of this House,***

I am happy to convey my warm wishes and greetings to the Hon’ble Members of this august House on the occasion of the commencement of first session of the Assembly for the year 2013. As members are all aware, we are in the second year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan 2012-17 and the National Development Council which met under the chairmanship of Hon’ble Prime Minister in its 57th meeting have approved the Draft Twelfth Plan document and projected an outlay of ₹ 20,446 crore for Puducherry in the Twelfth Plan period.

2. At the outset, I would like to inform this august House that since the meeting of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with Union Territory Government to finalise the size of the Annual Plan 2013-14 has not been held, it has necessitated an interim budget to be presented in the Assembly. Against the approved outlay of ₹ 3,000 crore for the current financial year, the anticipated Plan expenditure would be in the order of ₹ 1,392 crore. This reduction in the anticipated expenditure is mainly due to non-materialisation of World Bank Assistance for long-term restoration of Thane damages. The proposal for ₹ 800 crore for Thane restoration was submitted during August 2012 but the assistance could not be realised. Apart from this, the sanction for permission from Government of India to avail market borrowings and negotiated loan was reduced to ₹ 390 crore

as against the approved borrowing limit of ₹ 819 crore. Global recession in the economy resulting in lesser growth rate and the aftermath of Thane cyclone have led to lesser collection of revenue receipts than the estimated receipts of the Territory. The non-release of Plan grant of ₹ 126 crore from Government of India till date and reduction of JNNURM outlay by ₹ 41 crore are the other reasons for fixing a lower anticipated expenditure for the Revised Annual Plan 2012-13. Despite these constraints in the resources for funding the Plan programmes, my Government has strived to achieve the following Plan targets.

3. The yield gain of 40 to 60% of crops through precision farming method has made farmers to have a desirable change in cultivation pattern. 450 hectares of crops like sugarcane, banana, vegetable, groundnut, turmeric and

flowers have been covered under this programme benefiting 408 farmers. This has also created a desirable change in the judicious use of groundwater. Under the RKVY programme, compact block demonstration promoting System of Rice Intensifying, method of cultivation was conducted in 500 hectares benefiting 740 farmers. One sugarcane harvester with 2 tractors and 3 infielders were purchased and given to the Co-operative Sugar Mill for use of sugarcane farmers. The Government nurseries at Lawspet, Madagadipet and Botanical Garden have also been strengthened by utilising the funds under RKVY. Financial relief of ₹ 37 crores was provided to affected farmers of Thane cyclone which covered 14,000 hectares of various crops, one lakh coconut trees and 130 hectares of area affected by sand casting. 6,190 farmers have been benefited

by the ATMA conducted programmes wherein field demonstrations, trainings, formation of Commodity Interest Groups, farmers-scientists interactions were organised.

4. All the veterinary services are provided free of cost through the network of various veterinary institutions. 3,81,716 cases have been treated and 2,94,302 vaccinations have been given to livestock. 64 health camps and 80 de-worming camps have been conducted. Under cattle development programme, 18,328 calves have been delivered out of artificial insemination to cattle. 35 calf rallies have been conducted. 59,733 artificial inseminations have been done. So far, 39,000 metric tonnes of milk and 10.4 million eggs have been produced. Under Poultry development, 3,124 turkey poultry have been distributed to BPL beneficiaries at 50% subsidy.

Rajiv Gandhi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (RAGACOVAS) successfully got accreditation of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, 12b and 2f status of UGC and NAAC. A MoU has been signed between Veterinary College and National Meat and Poultry Processing Board for training the trainers for meat processing industry and the college has been recognised as Knowledge Partner.

5. Government of India's scheme of issuing Marine Fishers Identity Card (MFIC) has been taken up for marine fishermen of Puducherry. For which 36,513 marine fishermen were enumerated. In the first phase, 26,664 cards were issued to the beneficiaries. 1,175 numbers of damaged fishing crafts in Thane cyclone have been covered for compensation to an extent of ₹ 12.80 crore. The Karaikal Fishing Harbour is under operation since July, 2012.

The harbour has berthing facilities for 210 steel boats (18/19 m. length). The harbour has infrastructure facilities such as two auction halls, one net mending hall and 14 gear sheds for the usage of fishermen. A hygienic fish market at a cost of ₹ 3.83 crore in Yanam was opened during January, 2013 by availing financial assistance from National Fisheries Development Corporation.

6. The seedling production in the Forest Department nurseries at Mettupalayam and Lawspet increased for reviving the green cover in Puducherry due to Thane devastation. One lakh seedlings were produced with participatory approach of volunteers and distributed. Afforestation activities were undertaken in 27 hectares besides planting 30,000 hybrid palm seeds along Bahour, Sivaranthagam, Embalam and Kariamanickam tanks. Farmers whose crops were affected due to Thane cyclone have been distributed Casuarina seedlings.

7. A new industrial policy has been finalised after publishing the draft policy in the State Gazette inviting comments / views which will be notified shortly with the aim of achieving a sustained and balanced industrial growth so as to create maximum employment opportunity. Under the motivation of unemployed persons to self employed enterprises, subsidy was released to 496 owner run enterprises / village industries. Various employment oriented training programmes under the handicrafts, coir and silk industries were conducted benefiting 232 persons. The Industries and Commerce Department has participated in the India International Trade Fair 2012 wherein 71 products of various industrial units were displayed.

8. Ministry of Food Processing has released ₹ 1.73 crore to take up preparatory activity and implementation of National Mission

on Food Processing. Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) policy and guidelines have been notified. The Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister shall approve the programmes to be taken up under CSR of the Companies and monitor the implementation. Government of Puducherry has entered into a State Support Agreement with M/s. Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited, for corporate social responsibility schemes. The Gujarat Petroleum Corporation which established gas project in East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh and Yanam has paid ₹ 9 crore out of the agreed amount of ₹ 12 crore to Government of Puducherry.

9. A State Portal <http://py.gov.in> was inaugurated which is the official website of the Union Territory and also is the single window access for all G2G, G2C and G2B services

offered by the Government. The total number of 145 e-forms covering 15 departments has been developed. Presently, forms pertaining to the departments of Revenue, Labour, School Education, Technical Education and Social Welfare are available in the portal. Common Service Centre (CSC) the front-end delivery point for Government, private and social sector services to the public have been inaugurated and 42 centres are operational with effect from 11-2-2013. Through these centres online issue of birth and death certificates across the counter pertaining to respective municipality / commune panchayat are issued. So far, 636 certificates have been issued under the scheme.

10. A third 230/110 KV auto sub-station at Thondamanatham has been commissioned. A Smart Grid Control Centre has been established by Powergrid and inaugurated.

With the better availability of power from all the central generating stations, the Union Territory did not face any shortage of power and uninterrupted power supply was maintained without any major load shedding. 23 new distribution transformers along with 8.54 kms. of HT lines and 18.07 kms. of LT lines have been energised. 10 distribution transformers were enhanced to higher capacities and 1.625 kms. of HT lines and 7.025 kms. of LT lines were strengthened. Preliminary work relating to setting up of 110/11 KV Sub-station at Venkata Nagar, Puducherry is in full swing.

11. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has given a in-principle approval to develop Puducherry city as a solar city. A master plan will be prepared for various renewable energy projects for which Government of India will provide ₹ 2.50 crore.

12. Travel and Tourism industry is well on its way to becoming one of the powerful growth engines of this Union Territory. The Tourism and Hospitality industry has shown robust growth. After 1992, now Puducherry is connected with the other Metros *via* Bangalore through flight services. Action will be taken in this year to expand the existing Airport to operate bigger aircrafts and to connect Puducherry with the other important cities in India.

13. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has identified two new tourism circuits for Puducherry and Karaikal. Ministry of Tourism has appointed M/s. Jones Long LaSalle Property Developers Private Limited as consultant for development of tourism projects. A MoU has been signed with the Ille-et-Vilaine, a country in France for promotion of Tourism, Coastal Zone Management, Heritage Preservation and

Beach development. The Hollywood movie “Life of Pi” filmed in Puducherry had made tremendous impact on tourism sector. It is proposed to promote the locations filmed in Puducherry in the International market as tourist attractions.

14. The commercial Port at Karaikal handled 6.09 million tonnes of cargo and our Government has received ₹ 7 crore as concession fee and lease charges. A Captive Marine Terminal Facility at Karaikal Port for handling liquid chemicals is in operation. This facility has handled 57,000 tonnes of liquid chemicals.

15. Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs is involved in the process of issuing Aadhaar integrated bio-metric based Smart Ration Cards to all card holders. Out of the 514 Fair Price Shops, smart cards have been

issued to beneficiaries of 129 Fair Price Shops. The remaining beneficiaries will be covered by smart card within the current year itself.

16. The percentage of pass performance in SSLC examination from Government schools is 91.67 when compared to previous year of 87.42. 18 Government schools have achieved 100% result. The central kitchen at Lawspet has become operational. Separate curriculum has been evolved for pre-primary children and teacher guidebook was prepared and supplied to all teachers.

17. A MoU has been signed between Pondicherry Engineering College and University of Arkansas, USA for exchange of students in the B.Tech. programme. Kanchi Mamunivar Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Puducherry has been selected one among the three colleges in the

South Zone to offer NCC as one of the ancillary subjects at the Postgraduate level. Construction of Indoor Sports Stadium and Basket Ball Court in Arignar Anna Government Arts and Science College, Karaikal is under way. 1,939 students admitted through CENTAC and studying in Medical and Engineering courses have been reimbursed tuition fee of ₹ 12 crore.

18. Purchase of Computerized Radiography with Picture Archiving and Communication System (CR-PACS) for Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and Postgraduate Institute, Puducherry was done. A new CT scan was supplied and a dialysis unit was established in the General Hospital, Karaikal. As a part of life style modification programme, a MoU was signed between the Government and M/s. Nova Nordisk Education Foundation, a NGO to undertake

a massive diabetic control programme. After the successful implementation of Insurance scheme for BPL families in Karaikal region, a similar health insurance scheme in Mahe and Yanam has been introduced in co-ordination with United India Insurance Company.

19. An Intermediate Reference Laboratory has been established with the accreditation of World Health Organisation in the Government Hospital for Chest Diseases. A month-long malaria awareness programme was conducted in various Public Health Centres and constituency-wise workforce has been developed for control of dengue. Approval of the Medical Council of India has been obtained for admitting students to the third year in the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Puducherry. To comply with the MCI guidelines,

construction activities for the Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute has been taken up at a fast pace.

20. Panchakarma Special Therapy Units have been started in the General Hospitals of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. Naturopathy and Yoga Units have started functioning in the General Hospitals of all the four regions. New Homeopathy units have started functioning at Karikalampakkam, Kosapalayam and Thirunallar. One Thokkanam and Varmam Special Therapy unit started functioning in the Chest Clinic premises at Puducherry. One Mobile Unit serves the rural population.

21. Under Water supply programme, all the service main lines in the urban limits have been replaced with DI pipes at a cost of ₹ 35 crore. Construction of double decker circular overhead

tanks has been taken up at Shanthi Nagar, Lawspet and Karuvadikuppam. Overhead tanks have been completed and put into public use at Madagadipet, K. Andiarpalayam, Senthatham, Koonimudakku, Chinna Arachikuppam, Vadukuppam, Molapakkam and Mangalam villages in Puducherry region at a cost of ₹ 8.60 crore. Augmentation of urban water supply by utilising Oussoudu lake water at a cost of ₹ 47.40 crore will be taken up.

22. Construction of a high level bridge across Thenpennaiyar at Manamedu in Bahour commune by availing HUDCO loan assistance will be completed shortly. Through NABARD assistance, the reconstruction of bridge with regulator across Malatar river at Kumaramangalam, Puducherry is nearing completion. Reconstruction of existing Marapalam old bridge in Cuddalore road at Mudaliarpet

has been taken up at a cost of ₹ 3.41 crore. Work order has been issued for construction of bridge on the eastern side of the existing damaged bridge across river Thirumalairajanar in Karaikal town on NH 45 A Puducherry-Nagapattinam section with the assistance of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) at a cost of ₹ 11.89 crore. By availing World Bank assistance, the existing unused old bridges built during erstwhile French regime at Nonankuppam, Ariankuppam, Thavalakuppam will be renovated and put into use. Construction of 'C' block for Dr. Ambedkar Polytechnic, Yanam has been taken up at a cost of ₹ 3.80 crore.

23. Six job melas were conducted and 237 unemployed youths were offered placement. Vocational and Career Guidance Exhibition-2012 was conducted in Puducherry and Karaikal.

Modular Employable Skills (MES) courses in 18 trades were started in the seven Government ITIs. I am very happy to announce that a trainee from Government ITI (Men), Karaikal was adjudged as best trainee and awarded cash prize in the 49th State Level Skill Competition for Craftsmen held at New Delhi.

24. The Inter State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) [Puducherry] Rules, 2012 has been brought into force for registration and licencing of employers who engage migrant workmen. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana has been implemented on pilot basis for providing health insurance coverage to BPL workers of construction / unorganised sectors and to their family members. By availing assistance from CSS programme, the Government ITI (Women),

Vambakeerapalayam, Government ITI (Men), T.R. Pattinam are being assisted for better infrastructure facilities. A web enabled portal with common software for uniform adoption by employment exchanges and interconnecting State Directorates of Employment and Employment Exchanges has been taken up.

25. Based on the Thane experience, the Revenue Department has taken up Risk and Vulnerability mapping in Puducherry and Karaikal through a Consultant and a GIS application namely 'Puducherry Decision Support System' has been successfully implemented. National Disaster Response Force carried out an exercise to familiarise students and public in 12 places. The operationalisation of VHF sets has been taken up so as to ensure effective successful last mile connectivity during disasters.

26. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “National Land Records Modernisation Programme” has been taken up with Government of India assistance. This will bring the departments of Survey and Land Records, Registration and Revenue under one-roof by connecting them electronically in order to achieve a comprehensive, transparent and modern land record management system. This programme on completion will achieve the registration of immovable property on real time basis in the revenue records and patta copy can be issued across the counter at the firka level.

27. e-stamping method has been introduced since July, 2012 in the Sub-Registry Office, Puducherry as a pioneer project replacing the existing system. As the e-stamping system gained the support of the public, it has been extended to Sub-registries of Villianur, Oulgaret,

Bahour and Thirukkanur from December, 2012. The Sub-registries in the Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam regions will also be covered before the end of March 2013.

28. As a part of continuing e-governance initiatives, various online services have been introduced successfully in the Commercial Taxes Department. e-payment of taxes has already been introduced through five nationalised banks. These online services are well received by the traders and the industrialists. The e-governance initiatives have improved the service delivery system and brought in more transparency in functioning of the department. Ten Sales tax practitioners have been authorised to run facilitation centres for e-filing and e-payment of monthly returns by collecting a nominal fee through the mission mode project.

29. A total number of 37,500 vehicles have been registered and the revenue collection by way of fees and taxes up to February, 2013 is ₹ 49.80 crore. Based on the direction of the Supreme Court of India, the Transport Department has implemented the high security registration plate to all new and old vehicles. PRTC have operated 14 new buses under JNNURM programme. In order to give better travel comfort, replacement of new buses in 16 old routes in Puducherry and 9 old routes in Karaikal have been done.

30. 1,800 pregnant and lactating women will be provided financial assistance for improving their health and nutritional status. Financial assistance to the parents of 2,080 SC girl students studying in Standard VI to XII were paid and the balance target of 7,920 parents will also be covered. ₹ 32.40 crore has been

disbursed to 20,952 differently abled persons as financial assistance. 3,200 bi-cycles were purchased and distributed to SC students studying in Standard IX. Other category students will be issued bi-cycles soon. 100 motorised tri-cycles were purchased for distribution among the differently abled persons. Anganwadi Training Centre for training ICDS functionaries was inaugurated. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment have presented the National Award for the best channelising agency for the year 2012 to the Puducherry Corporation for Development of Women and Differently Abled Persons.

31. Construction of 32 tenements at Kanndoor Thottam and 20 tenements at Mottaitoppu, Puducherry are in progress. The Puducherry Building bye-laws and Zoning Regulation 2012 has been notified. Under various sub-missions of JNNURM, 168 dwelling

units at Kuruchikuppam, 64 dwelling units at Pavanar Nagar, Boomianpet have been handed over to the beneficiaries and 200 dwelling units at Lambert Saravanan Nagar, Reddiarpalayam are in the final stages of completion. Collection and conveyance System in Mudaliarpet, Nellithope, Lawspet, Thattanchavady, Muthirapalayam, Reddiarpalayam and Moolakulam zones are in progress and sewer lines for 100 kms. are being laid. Construction of sewage treatment plants at Lawspet, Dubrayapet and Kanaganeri are under progress.

32. Out of the 47,173 identified beneficiaries under Phase-I to V in the Kamarajar Centenary Housing Scheme, 28,525 persons have completed their houses by availing the financial assistance. The Pondicherry Housing Board have

completed 64 LIG flats, 40 HIG flats at Suthanthira Ponvizha Nagar and 32 LIG flats at Murungapakkam and allotted to public. Apart from this, 24 LIG and 36 MIG flats at Valatheru, Karaikal and 8 shops and two office complexes at Murungapakkam, Puducherry have been completed and the Housing Board is making efforts for allotment.

33. Puducherry District has been selected as a pilot district for roll out of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Central Sector / Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In the first phase, 15 centrally sponsored schemes have been rolled out under Direct Benefit Transfer. The State scheme of old age pension covering 33,290 beneficiaries has been completed through Aadhaar based payment mode. The remaining beneficiaries in respect of old age pension

scheme and pension for fishermen and differently abled persons will also be covered under the same mode in the current year. An UID Implementation Cell has been set up to roll out various welfare schemes through Aadhaar based payment mode. A Public Private Partnership (PPP) Cell has been constituted for giving in-principle approval for the PPP projects to be taken up in the administration.

34. Four coastal police stations at Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam are made operational. As part of modernisation, 73 new motorcycles have been inducted for ensuring better mobility. 623 new police constables have been recruited and are being trained in the police training school of Puducherry Police. In order to prevent the atrocities against women, it has been proposed to increase the strength of Women Police. Accordingly, 20% reservation for women constables has been made in the

existing Recruitment Rules. A special recruitment drive will be undertaken to induct more women police constables in Puducherry police. A unique wellness programme for all police personnel has been launched in collaboration with JIPMER.

35. During the preparation of Annual Plan 2013-14, my Government will give focused attention to achieve improved quality of life for the people across both economic and non-economic dimension. The infrastructural development of outlying regions will be given due importance. Priority will be attributed to the development of primary sector in order to have better GSDP. The Plan programmes will have higher share for capital expenditure which will lead to creation of required infrastructure facilities for the Territory. The broad vision and

aspiration of 'Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth' will be the main thrust in the conceptualisation and implementation of the Plan schemes. Finally, I assure the members of this House that my Government will continue to strive for cordiality and goodwill among the various sections of the society.

Jai Hind !