



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

Budget Speech of Finance Minister 2018-19

by

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Finance Minister, Assam



Assam
Budget

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शुभं करोति कल्याणम्
आरोग्यं धनसंपदा ।
शत्रुबुद्धिविनाशाय
दीपज्योतिर्नमोऽस्तुते ॥

**Shubham karoti kalyaanam
Aarogyam dhana-sampadaa
Shatru buddhi vinaashaaya
Deepajyotir Namostute**

*(The lamp brings auspiciousness, prosperity,
good health and abundance of wealth. Let (my)
salutations be to you for the destruction of
ignorance, which is the intellect's enemy.)*

Honourable Speaker Sir,

With this salutation to the Almighty, I rise today to present, to you and the Hon'ble house, the Annual Financial Statement encompassing all Receipts and Expenditure for the year 2018-19.

1. As I stand before you today, in front of this august gathering of my colleagues and the fellow citizens of my state, I am reminded of a quote by Benjamin

Franklin, “*The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself*”.

2. On May 2016, our Government under the able and dynamic leadership of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal took oath of office with a pledge to uphold the letter and spirit of “*jati, mati, bhet*” and to ensure that each of our fellow citizens are assured of a life of happiness, wellbeing and dignity. With humility and with a great sense of purpose, we have taken on this responsibility to relentlessly pursue the vision of a developed Assam.
3. On 26th July 2016, we started this journey of ***Parivartan***. I had a word of caution then that ***Parivartan*** does not happen overnight in a democracy. However, this day in 2018, I and our Government can proudly say that we are well and truly marching ahead in transforming Assam into a vibrant and dynamic state that not only realises her true potential but also reaches her full destiny.
4. Our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, quotes Swami Vivekananda when he visualises India’s preordained destiny of taking on the mantle as the world’s leader as “***Jagat Guru***”. To this, I can add that Assam too is on its way to reclaim her pre-eminent position that is rightfully hers amongst the states of the Union of India. I have always believed and felt that the day is not far when Assam will be in the top five states of the country in good governance, economic

progress, Human Development Indicators and the overall happiness quotient of its people.

5. While presenting my first budget, I had talked about ***Parivartan***. One of the important resolutions that I stated was about the humility of our Government: to not carry any baggage from the past, nor any prejudices or vested interests. We believe that every challenge is an opportunity that beckons. We had resolved Innovation and public participation shall be the touchstone of our governance model. I would like to reiterate that this code of conduct shall continue to be the beacon light of our governance.
6. **Year 2018-2019: Remembering two significant events of Assam's history – Srimanta Sankardev's reform movement and farmers' martyrdom**

This year – 2018 – is very special and historic for the people of Assam. Exactly 450 years ago, Mahapurush Srimanta Sankaradeva left for his heavenly abode in 1568.

7. Every citizen of Assam bows his head in *Naman* to the greatness of Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardeva. Blessed is the air and water of this land that saw his *abirbhav*. As a saint, scholar, playwright, social and religious reformer, he is a colossal figure in the cultural and religious history of not only Assam, but of entire India. He taught us to create this beautiful social mosaic which is the hallmark of our state. I bow before this great soul and seek his blessings :

Pawe Pori Hori!
Koru Hu Katori!!
Prano Rakhibi Mur!!!

During my entire budget speech, the members will notice that there is an effort to uphold the core philosophical values of Srimanta Sankardeva.

8. Secondly, the Patharughat Peasant uprising is a memorable event in the history of peasant uprisings in India and this is the 125th year of this uprising against the oppression and tyranny of the colonial powers. It was on the 28th of January, 1894 when 140 farmers who had gathered to resist the increased taxes on land imposed by the British were shot dead by the colonial forces in front of the Dak Bungalow of Patharughat. I pay my respects to these brave agriculturists and masses of Assam who fought against injustice and raised the flag of nationalism for a life of dignity and freedom. Their fight continues to inspire us to believe in ourselves, to fight with courage, and to achieve our insightful aspirations. I have special announcements to make for the agriculture sector, which I shall touch upon later in my speech today.
9. We have our collective goals clearly entrenched in our aspiration and in our vision. Today, I call upon each one of my fellow citizens to be part of this journey. We all have a role to play. When each of us play our part with dedication, the results will be there for everyone to see. With this appeal, I dedicate this

budget to each and every citizen of Assam with a verse penned by Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Aggarwala;

***“Moiye Bharator Nobin Surya
Purbanchalot Bojao turjyo
Mur puhoror gane
Akaxe, akaxe, dexe mohadexe
Mugdho koribo alok jatri
Xex hobo xex nuhuwa ratri
Korim jogot joi
Nobin Surjya moi”***

10. Our goal in the first budget was to set the agenda and blue print for this mandate. It was a budget set to align the vision of transformation, of “**Parivartan**” with our policies and frameworks of governance. We spoke of the four pillars of our Government – **(i) Personal Integrity, (ii) Political Inclusivity (iii) Governance legitimacy and (iv) People participation**. The core of our Governance policies, and our source of inspiration is the life message of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay’s concept of **Integral Humanism** and the axiom of **Daridra Narayan**, enunciated by Swami Vivekananda.
11. The 2017-18 budget raised the bar to create an environment of hope and aspirations. Our programmes and our actions have mirrored these - from **Advantage Assam** to **Gunotsav**, to **Financial Inclusion** of the marginalised communities of our state, to **Atal Amrit Abhiyan**, and, of course, the continuous vigil and

action against corruption– the resolve of this Government is clearly evident.

12. The great soul of India, our revered President, Late Shri APJ Abdul Kalam said “*You have to dream before your dreams can come true*”. So with this dream of a “*xujola, xuphola, xaishya shyamola Axom*”, I present before you the 2018-19 budget; a budget that has three strands; - “**EKATRIKARAN**” – consolidation of the policies we have announced and the work we have undertaken in the last two years; “**XOMPROXARON**”- Expansion and scaling up the ambitions of some of our existing programmes; and “**UTTARON**” - raising the standards of our pursuance.
13. In pursuit of this very dream, I speak to you holding a tablet to present before you a Budget for a progressive, aspirational Assam that has an inclusive agenda for growth for our citizens regardless of gender and social belonging. I take utmost pride in presenting to you e-Budget on this important day. I also express my gratefulness to Hon’ble Speaker Sir for allowing us to introduce the e-budget through tablets to each of the Hon’ble members of this house. With this initiative, Assam joins a club of very few states in the country to adopt an e-budget.

ASSAM – A LAND OF POTENTIAL, POSSIBILITY and PROSPERITY

14. Assam presents limitless potential for economic growth not only for the country but also for the entire South and South East Asia and is pivotal to the Act East

Policy of the Government. In recognition of this immense potential, a number of infrastructure projects are being implemented in the region with the aim of creating world class connectivity infrastructure through roads, rails, inland water transport and civil aviation. Speaker Sir, there is also a lot of emphasis on mobile and internet connectivity to ensure that every village, every citizen has access to the benefits of modern technology and infrastructure. Over the last two years our Government has worked tirelessly towards fulfilling the promise of **Assam as the land of three P's – Potential, Possibility and Prosperity.**

15. I would like to take a few moments of this house to remind ourselves of the legacy we inherited in 2016. Sir, in the White Paper on Assam State Finances that we published on 24th May 2016, I had spoken at length about the kind of the Government we inherited: a Government where the budgets ballooned but its financing was forgotten, a Government which allowed a substantial run-up of committed liabilities without giving enough stress on internal resource generation. Our Gross Domestic Product of Assam (GSDP) for the year 2014-15 was Rs.1,83,798 crore. The Gross State Domestic Product of Assam for 2017-18 (at current prices) is estimated to be Rs.2,58,337 crore. This is 15% higher than the estimate for 2016-2017. So we can safely say that the growth story of Assam is looking more robust. But as **Robert Frost said “we have miles to go.....”**

FROM FRINGE TO THE CENTRE : *Advantage Assam*

16. Respected Sir, in my first budget speech, I had promised to organize a Business Summit in Guwahati to boost the industries in Assam. I am proud to state that we hosted the first ever Global Investors' Summit in Assam "Advantage Assam: India's expressway to ASEAN" on 3rd - 4th February, 2018. This business summit was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, Shri Tshering Tobgay. The summit drew investors from across the country and around the world in large numbers. Business delegations from over 20 countries attended the summit along with some of the largest business houses of India. Key policy initiatives of the Government of Assam were highlighted to generate an atmosphere of investor friendliness and ease of doing business. The summit witnessed the signing of 200 MoUs worth over US\$ 15 billion. The Government of Assam has also decided to set up a new agency, "**Invest Assam**", within the Industries and Commerce Department to follow-up on the investment commitments made during the summit. Here, I would like to compliment the untiring effort of my cabinet colleague, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Hon'ble Industries Minister for making the event a grand success.
17. Key sectoral policies including Industrial Policy, Assam Start-Up Policy 2017, Information Technology and Electronic Policy 2017, Tourism Policy 2017 have been

announced aimed at transforming Assam into a competitive destination for investments. Consultations have also made headway on North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP).

18. In all of these, our Government is also conscious about ensuring that economic benefits are not restricted only to the chosen few. Ban-Ki-Moon, former UN Secretary-General had said, and I quote, “*Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all*”. Development and prosperity for all is our declared objective. To this end, our Government has launched several initiatives to implement Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the state in order to end poverty, preserve our environment and ensure “*sab ka saath, sab ka vikas*”.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE: FROM BUDGET CONTROL TO PROACTIVE PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

19. Hon’ble Speaker Sir, as I present my third budget, I would like to again reiterate our government’s core focus on ensuring productive expenditure. I had already touched on the fiscal indiscipline that we had inherited. Moving forward it has taken us some time to ensure that systems and processes are put in place for proactive and prudent financial management.
20. I feel that it is of utmost importance that each of the Hon’ble MLAs, as members of Team Assam, understands how the systemic transformation initiated in all the three pillars of public financial management - Budget Preparation, Resource Mobilisation and

Expenditure Management – will facilitate timely and quality delivery of services to the people of the State. Hence, I would like to take the indulgence of this august house for a few minutes to highlight some of the systemic transformations we have brought in:

PILLAR ONE : PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT– BUDGET PREPARATION

Action Taken Report on 2016-17 Budget announcements: Path-breaking and first ever initiative in Assam Legislative Assembly

21. Sir, presentation of the Budget is a solemn duty of the Government. Prior to our Government, it was often seen that there was a tendency to come up with new announcements in each Budget without fulfilling previous announcements. While presenting Budget 2016-17, I had promised that our Government would restore the sanctity of the budget process and would apprise the House about the status of the announcements. Transparency and accountability in governance is our commitment. We endeavored to implement each and every announcement of 2016-17. I am happy to state that while majority of them were implemented, some are in various stages of implementation and a few had to be reoriented. A detailed statement in a separate annexure is placed in the House.
22. After completion of the Financial Year 2017-18, I shall come to you again after the information on the status of implementation on the relevant announcements have been compiled.

PILLAR TWO : PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT– RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Missionary approach of ReSTART Assam

23. One of the objectives of launching the Restructuring Systems and Technology for Augmentation of Resources for Transformed (ReSTART) Assam programme was to ensure a holistic overview of the comprehensive financial management of our state. Our efforts at augmenting the state's resource base for funding development projects in key economic and social sectors is paying rich dividends as the revenue collection has witnessed historical increase due to our untiring efforts at preventing revenue leakages, rationalizing tax policies, adoption of technology interface for tax payments etc.

Externally Aided Projects

24. We have established a dedicated cell called LEAP (Lead Externally Aided Projects) to support the various administrative Departments in coordinating with External Funding Agencies to explore potential projects in critical development areas such as Infrastructure, Rural Development, Industries, Agriculture, Fisheries, etc.

25. Over the last year, we have prepared around fifteen (15) project proposals, ranging from Health, MSME, Fisheries, Forest, Roads, Bridge to Wetland Conservation and Tourism Sectors, amounting to more

than Rs. 25000 crore and they are in various stages of approvals for funding by external funding agencies such as World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), German Development Bank (KfW), French Development Bank(AfD), New Development Bank (NDB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) etc.

26. I am happy to inform this house that in 2017-18, we have launched three new projects funded by World Bank each of which will transform the functioning of the respective Departments:
- i. Assam State Public Finance Institutional Reforms (ASPIRe) Project, amounting to Rs. 283 crore, is housed under the Finance Department and aims at transforming public procurement, public private partnership processes and the revenue and expenditure management systems of the State.
 - ii. Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transformation Project (APART) project worth Rs. 1688 crore under the Agriculture Department aims at adding value and strengthening selected agriculture value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in targeted districts of Assam.
 - iii. Assam Citizen-Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP) is a project under the AR&T Department worth Rs. 315 crore that aims to improve the access in the delivery of selected public services in Assam by strengthening

implementation of the right to public services (RTPS), setting up public facilitation centers; and promoting citizen engagement.

27. Further, we have also started the project preparatory activities for the World Bank funded Inland Water Project under the IWT Department at Rs. 975 crores which will help realize the huge untapped potential in this sector.
28. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I am happy to announce that the Steering Committee of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India has recently approved our project proposal to construct another **Bridge over Brahmaputra connecting Panbazar with North Guwahati**. The proposed cost of this project will be **Rs.1890 crore** and will be funded by the New Development Bank (NDB) with an implementation period of 4 years. In my last Budget, I had earmarked Rs.100 crore to carry out advance action of land acquisition, obtaining of relevant clearances/no-objections from the concerned agencies etc. This year, we are allocating an additional Rs.150 crore to carry out the rest of the preparatory works so that the construction activities can be started this year itself. With this, the expansion of Guwahati city towards north will become a reality.

**NABARD funding
(Rural Infrastructure Development Fund- RIDF)**

29. The Government of Assam has been availing soft loan assistance from NABARD under Rural Infrastructure

Development Fund (RIDF) for important sectors like Roads, Irrigation, Water Resources, Agriculture, Fisheries etc. To give a push to the development agenda adopted by this Government, we had requested NABARD in 2017-18 for enhancing the normative allocation from the earlier existing Rs.800 crore under RIDF-XXIII to Rs.1500 crore. I am happy to announce that NABARD has acceded to our proposal and this gives us additional headroom to take up rural infrastructure development activities.

PILLAR THREE : PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT- EXPENDITUREMANAGEMENT

30. Several procedures in the sanction and release of funds have been simplified and the much-needed computerization of the process of fund release has been fully implemented. I would summarize the systemic changes that our Government has brought in :

- (a) Assam Treasury Rules, 1937 were replaced with new Assam Treasury Rules, 2017 with effect from 1st of April 2017.
- (b) Plan and Non-Plan Heads of the Budget have been merged and salaries and wages of all employees including Muster Roll (MR) & Work Charge (WC) employees are getting their monthly payments from one Establishment Expenditure head regularly, without disruption.

- (c) The procedure and requirement of Retention of posts in the Government has been done away with except for a few contractual employees, Work Charged and Muster Roll workers.
- (d) In my first budget speech on 25th July 2016, I had proposed to establish 25 new Sub-Treasuries in the State over a period of 5 years. I am happy to inform you that, within 19 months of the announcement, we have already opened 4 new sub-treasuries in Mushalpur, Amguri, Doomdooma and Patharkandi. Further, we have already received permission from RBI for 16 other sub-treasuries and they will start functioning in the new financial year of 2018-2019. They are: (1) Majbat (Bhergaon), (2) Dhekiajuli, (3) Golakganj, (4) Moran, (5) Naoboicha, (6) Raha, (7) Silapathar, (8) Sipajhar, (9) Sonapur, (10) Teok, (11) Dudhnoi, (12) Jamuguri. (13) Chabua, (14) Kamalpur (Baihata Chariali), (15) Sualkuchi, and (16) Sarthebari. The remaining proposed sub-treasuries are at various stages of approvals and we shall endeavor to expedite the same as early as possible.
- (e) The turn-around time for receiving the payments on-line from the treasury has been reduced to less than an hour through the e-Kuber Platform of RBI. This application has already been implemented in 35 treasuries and we shall also try to cover all the treasuries at the earliest.

Sweeping Changes in Ceiling Management

31. As promised before this August House, Finance Department has automated the processing and approval of ceilings. The moment the ceiling is approved by the Finance Department, copies are available for downloading directly at the level of the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) & an SMS alerts are sent. As a result of this, more than 40 layers of bureaucratic tables have been removed in one go.
32. Our Government has been at the fore front of the drive to bring in technology to resolve governance and administrative challenges. I would like to brief the August House about some achievements in this regard:
 - (a) **Automation of disbursement of First salary :**
Sir, any new Government employee will have a painful story to tell about the delays and red tape involved in getting his/her first salary released. To overcome the delays, we introduced the complete automation of the preparation, processing and release of First Salary for New Employees. As part of this initiative, we also took the historic decision to release 3 months Provisional Salary to all new Employees in anticipation of the verification and approval by the Finance Department.
 - (b) **Computerisation of Pay Bills :** The Pay Bills being prepared by the DDOs for drawing Employee Salaries is now 100% automated

across all DDOs in the State. This, has also helped prepare a comprehensive Employee Database. Further, it has helped in the correct estimation of salary budget rather than broad projections that was followed earlier.

(c) **End to End Automated Processing of other Treasury Bills** : The Finance Department has now started a pilot project for online preparation and submission of all other Treasury Bills by the DDOs. This will be rolled out across all Treasuries this year and we expect that this will reduce manual errors and the time taken for processing the payments.

(d) Moreover, for improving transparency in Government Procurement, our Government is already using the e-Procurement portal for procurement of goods, works and services which has been further strengthened with the introduction of the Government e-market Place (GeM).

33. As part of the ongoing effort to automate the remaining areas of Financial Management, it is proposed that the following activities are covered in 2018-19 :

(a) **Administrative Approval & Financial Sanction** : One of the biggest delays in the budget execution is due to the physical movement of files across Departments for seeking administrative approval & financial sanction.

Starting 01st April, 2018, we will create an online facility for HoDs and Administrative Departments to submit, process and issue the necessary approvals, sanctions online.

- (b) **MLALAD/Untied Funds/Sruhida Fund Management** : Another big challenge that the members of this House face in the execution of schemes under the MLALAD /Untied funds/ Sruhida scheme is the delays due to the paperwork at the HoD/Department level. We intend to provide an online facility to help reduce the time taken for the release of funds under the MLALAD/ Untied Funds schemes, thereby empowering our Hon'ble MLAs substantially.

Assam Public Procurement Rules 2018

34. I am thankful to the Hon'ble members of the House for approving the Assam Public Procurement Act, 2017 earlier this year. I am hopeful that this will help the State Government officials to transparently procure goods and services and will also aid in the timely execution of works and prevent corruption and cost and time over-runs. The Rules accompanying the Act are ready and we are in a position to implement it from this financial year i.e., 2018-19.

Employee Welfare

35. Employees are at the centre of our Government and the timely and quality implementation of Government programmes largely depend on them. Our Government

has been treating the employees as equal partners in the governance.

36. We took the historic decision of implementing the recommendations of the 7th Assam Pay and Productivity Commission (APPPC) with effect from 1st April 2016 against the Commission's recommendations to implement it from the 1st April 2017. Further, we released the entire salary arrears in a single financial year despite the pressure on the state finances. This is unprecedented. One has not witnessed such a move post pay commission recommendations in the last few decades. To examine the anomalies in the report of the 7th APPPC, if any, the Government of Assam constituted a committee which has recently submitted its report. The report is under examination and the grievances of the employees will be resolved shortly.
37. In addition, under Apun Ghar, the subsidized housing loan scheme announced in the last Budget and implemented alongwith SBI, so far loans for 11,931 employees have been sanctioned to the tune of Rs.1434 crore and 9624 number of houses are under construction. We have made adequate budget provision for the same in the current budget also.
38. Also, under the Bidyalakshmi Scheme we have sanctioned 279 applications for scholarship amounting to Rs. 17.45 crore and 31 applications are being processed. This will ensure that no student misses out on higher education for lack of funds.

39. Employees Health Assurance Scheme which will extend the benefit of cashless treatment in empaneled hospitals to our employees has already been approved by the Cabinet. We propose to launch the scheme during the year 2018-19.

Implementation of Compassionate Family Pension Scheme in place of Compassionate appointments :

40. I am happy to inform this august house that the Pension & Public Grievances Department has issued a comprehensive set of guidelines in respect of Government employees including NPS covered employees regarding the introduction of the Compassionate Family Pension Scheme 2017, in lieu of compassionate appointment. This would be a great relief to the family members of the deceased and is yet another endeavor of our Government to support the families of our employees.

2018-19 Budget – The Road Map

41. I would like to mention that, in the run up to finalization of this budget, we tried to reach out to the students, citizens at large through Twitter, MyGov portal, Facebook etc. It was heartening to see the wide participation and inputs. The logo of Assam Budget has also been finalized through a contest among citizens of our state.
42. In line with our keystone principles of ***Ekatrikaran, Xomprosaran, & Uttoron***, I would like to now present

before you '18 flagship programmes' or the beads which adorn the '**Astadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala**', which is like *Rudraksh Malato* be kept close to our heart to constantly remind us of our commitment to Assam and Good Governance. The 18 chapters- ASHTADASASHLOKI, of Bhagvad Gita, with its call for selfless action, and its discourse on *Dharma* – sacred duty, *Moksha* – salvation and *Karma* – committed action, have been a source of inspiration for mankind.

कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्तेमाफलेषुकदाचन ।
माकर्मफलहेतुर्भुमतिंसंगोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥

**Karmanyevadhikaaraste maa phaleshu kadaachana |
maa karma phalaheturbhuh aatesangotsvakarmani ||**

(A person has the right towards action alone and not towards the fruit of action. Let not the fruit of action be the motive for acting. Also, let there not be any attachment to inaction.)

43. By invoking the philosophy and spirit of the teachings of Gita, I would like to now present the 18 flagship schemes of our Government this year. Effective implementation of these 18 flagship schemes is the collective responsibility of the State Government. We will ensure that the schemes do not suffer from budgetary constraints or any other support. I would

like to mention that this list of the 18 schemes will continue to be dynamic, depending on its relevance, citizen feedback and level of implementation. As my colleagues will see, while we have retained some of the schemes from the last year's list of 18 schemes. However, schemes which were part of the last year's '**Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala**', and do not find mention, have also been provided with adequate budgetary resources.

ASHTADASH MUKUTAR UNNOYONEE MALA

I. Provision of Additional Classrooms, Partition Walls, and Electricity in Elementary Schools

44. As announced in my last budget, we launched **Gunotsav** in the entire state. I am happy to inform this August House that starting from Hon'ble Chief Minister, my cabinet colleagues, members of this August House, and the entire spectrum of government officials, led by the then Chief Secretary, Shri. V. K. Pipersenia, joined this unique festival aimed at improving the learning outcomes in our elementary schools. **Gunotsav** has become one of the major success stories of our Government.
45. The following table summarizes the findings during the first three phases of Gunotsav. The trend clearly demonstrates the rise in learning outcomes which goes on to show why I consider Gunotsav as one major success story.

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GRADE	Phase-I		Phase-II		Phase-III		Total School (All 3 Phases)	Overall %
	Number of Schools	% of Schools	Number of Schools	% of Schools	Number of Schools	% of Schools		
A+	777	6%	1672	9%	3575	20%	6024	12%
A	2323	19%	5480	29%	7063	40%	14866	30%
B	3106	25%	6047	32%	4903	27%	14056	29%
C	3302	27%	3638	19%	1808	10%	8748	18%
D	2778	23%	1974	10%	520	3%	5272	11%
ALL GRADES	12286	100%	18811	100%	17869	100%	48966	100%
% of School Covered	25%	-	38%	-	36%	-	100%	-

46. However, I do admit that the assessments on the infrastructure side presents a very grim picture. We discovered that hundreds of our schools lack basic facilities such as separate classrooms, provision of electricity etc. Many people keep asking us why we have not been able to provide basic infrastructure facilities in our schools all these years. Speaker Sir, frankly speaking, I have no answer. However, we consider ourselves fortunate that God has chosen us to take care of these myriad deficiencies plaguing our basic educational system. A quick assessment has been done. The total requirement on account of additional classrooms, partition walls, and provision of electricity in these schools comes to around Rs. 980 Cr and the details are mentioned below:

Activity	No. of Units proposed	Unit cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
Additional Class Room	13564	5.4	73741
Partition Wall	10472	0.4	3917
Toilet	1379	1.9	2610
Electrification	37560	0.5	17759
Total			98027

47. This is one realm we can ill afford to delay in taking decision. Therefore, despite competing demands for resources from other sectors, I propose the entire sum of Rs.980 crore in one go, during the financial year 2018-19.

II. Tejasvi Navadhitamastu Edu-Infra Funds (TNEIF):*Development of Professional Colleges and Universities*

48. As promised in the Budget 2017-18, we had launched the '**Tejasvi Nav-adhitam-astu Edu-Infra Funds (TNEIF)**' scheme to re-imagine and re-structure higher education and had proposed to allocate special grants of Rs.667 crore for the infrastructure development of Professional Colleges and Universities to be spent

over a period of three to four years. These investments are already showing early signs of rejuvenation across our institutions.

49. To continue with this initiative during Budget 2018-19, I propose to allocate an additional Rs. 256 crore for the infrastructure development of the leading colleges and universities of the State which we are certain will give a major boost to Higher Education in the State.
50. Speaker Sir, we are committed to improve the educational infrastructure of these institutions of higher learning. We are going to continue with our initiative in the next financial year as well.

Sl. No.	Name	Total Outlay (Rs. in crore)	2018-19 (Rs. in crore)
1	Guwahati Medical College and Hospital	100.00	33.00
2	Assam Medical College and Hospital	100.00	33.00
3	Silchar Medical College and Hospital	100.00	33.00
4	Gauhati University	25.00	13.00
5	Dibrugarh University	25.00	13.00
6	Assam Engineering College	25.00	12.50
7	Jorhat Engineering College	25.00	12.50

Sl. No.	Name	Total Outlay (Rs. in crore)	2018-19 (Rs. in crore)
8	Bodoland University	25.00	15.00
9	Kumar Bhaskar Varman University	15.00	5.00
10	Cotton University	20.00	15.00
11	Tezpur Medical College	20.00	10.00
12	Jorhat Medical College	20.00	10.00
13	Barpeta Medical College	20.00	10.00
14	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat	20.00	10.00
15	Veterinary College, AAU, Khanapara	10.00	5.00
16	K K Handique Open University	10.00	8.00
17	Government Ayurvedic Medical College	10.00	6.00
18	Jorhat Institute of Science and Technology	10.00	5.00
19	B Brahma Engineering College	10.00	5.00
20	Science & Technology University, Assam	7.00	2.00

III. Scholarship scheme for girl children belonging to the Minority Communities

52. I would like to announce a scheme that proposes to support all girls belonging to minority community, to further aid and incentivize them to keep pursuing higher education.
53. Towards this end, I propose an annual scholarship of Rs. 2,000, Rs. 4,000, Rs. 6,000, Rs. 10,000 for girl students belonging to minority community studying in class 10th, 11th-12th, graduation & post-graduation, respectively. These amounts which will be credited into their accounts through the DBT mode simply on self-certification that they are unmarried and pursuing their education. We take this noble step in the firm belief that if you educate a woman, you educate a family and this translates to an educated society. For us, *Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas*, as enunciated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the basic guiding principle of governance.
54. For this I allocate Rs. 250 Cr for the year 2018-19.

IV. Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana (KAMS)

55. In my last budget, I announced the vision for promoting at least One (1) lakh self-sustainable, self-help groups in the State who would be extended financial support of up to Rs. 5 Lakh as loan, including capital subsidy, over a period of time. The state cabinet has approved comprehensive guidelines for the implementation of

this scheme and we will launch the scheme in the upcoming financial year. I am happy to state that we have already released an amount of Rs. 250 crore and therefore, the scheme is ready for launch.

56. This year, I would like to further scale up the scheme and add another 26,000 groups in the year 2018-19 making the total number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to One Lakh Twenty-Six Thousand (1,26,000) at 1,000 SHGs per constituency. Further, I propose to allocate a sum of Rs.65 crore in this budget for the enhanced coverage.
57. We are extremely confident that in the coming years the ***Kanaklata Mahila Sabalakaran Yojana*** will be a torchbearer for empowerment of our rural women and enable them to realize their rights and power in all spheres of life.

V. SVAYEM (Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment) Yojana

58. Last year we had announced the Swami Vivekananda Assam Youth Empowerment Yojana, or SVAYEM which envisages to provide financial assistance to young entrepreneurs to about one lakh young people.
59. Speaker Sir, working on the various modalities and mechanism including appropriate banking linkages, took slightly longer time than we had anticipated as we wanted to ensure that the scheme is robust and sustainable.

60. We are confident that the financial support that the State Government is extending will not just provide inspiration to the youths of this State, but also enable them to chase their dreams and aspirations.
61. We are going to launch this scheme in April 2018 and as promised before, I have allocated a sum of Rs.300 crore in Budget 2018-19. Based on the offtake of the scheme, we will expand the program and provide necessary budgetary support to offer loans at subsidized rates to cover additional one lakh youths.

VI. MSME Credit Guarantee Scheme

62. The role of MSMEs is vital in our growing economy and society as they provide employment opportunity for the youths along with showcasing the traditional knowledge and wisdom of Assam. This is the reason why MSME sector was given ample importance during ***Advantage Assam*** as well. But it has been seen that it is not easy for MSMEs to secure loans from major banks because they are usually unable to provide necessary collaterals. At the same time, the risk perception of the lending agencies has to be addressed too so that loans may be given to MSMEs without fear of NPA.
63. Therefore, in addition to the 20% reservation for local MSME products in all Government tenders and 25% preferential pricing that the state cabinet recently approved, I wish to present a scheme to facilitate them to receive loans without collaterals from major banks. Therefore, I propose a new scheme called 'MSME Credit Guarantee Scheme', wherein an amount of Rs.

100 crore will be parked in a Credit Guarantee fund, which will act as a guarantee in case of failure of a project. The guarantee will cover up to 50% of the loan amount taken from scheduled commercial banks & RRBs for loans up to Rs.50 Lakh. Both existing and new MSMEs will stand to benefit from this credit guarantee scheme which, I am hopeful, will encourage entrepreneurship & the growth of industries.

64. I, therefore, allocate a sum of Rs. 100 crore towards this scheme in this budget.

VII. State Level Mega Skill Development Scheme

65. Our Government is committed to providing comprehensive skills training to the youths of the state so that they can get gainful employment in different priority sectors. With the Advantage Assam Summit bearing witness to such encouraging participation and commitments from big corporate houses it becomes imperative to upgrade the skills of the local youths of the State.
66. Now, the Government will undertake **massive skills training program with assured placement** for the youths of Assam, empowering them to compete with the best from the rest of India. The Government will invest **Rs. 14,800 per individual**, in training them and providing them with employable skills. Through this skills training programme we **target to cover 1.5 Lakh youths** over a period of next 3 years which is one of the biggest initiatives being undertaken in the country.
67. Further, we will ensure that these endeavours are linked with our flagship programme of SVAYEM Yojana

to ensure employability and encourage entrepreneurship amongst our young population.

68. I am sure the members of this house will unanimously agree that it is only appropriate that this scheme rightfully features as one of our flagship schemes and I allocate Rs. 77 crore in this year's budget for the implementation of this scheme.

VIII. Zero Interest on Crop Loans, Farmers' Debt Relief and Financial Assistance for Farm Implements:

69. Speaker Sir, a little while ago, I mentioned about the supreme sacrifice made by our farmers during the Patharughat uprising. The scheme that I am going to talk about is a small tribute in the memory of these farmers who sacrificed their lives selflessly. Ours is an agrarian economy. The contribution of farmers to the nation's economy is unparalleled. I sincerely feel that the needs of the farming community must be given top priority.
70. In my last budget, I had announced a series of measures for the promotion of agriculture, aimed at giving relief to our farmers. In addition to the **Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana** (CMSGUY) which aims to double the farm income, we had also proposed a number of other measures such as Zero-Interest crop loans to farmers, financial incentives for farmers using Kisan Credit Cards.
71. During the last one and a half years, we have observed that our farmers have not been able to take full benefit

of the subsidized, short term crop loans through KCCs. The prime reason for this is that most of these accounts have outstanding dues and as a result, credit flow from the banks has been clogged. To activate these inactive accounts, I had introduced a one-time cash incentive of Rs.3000/- per inactive KCC holding farmer, if he renews the card.

72. While this incentive will continue, I would like to take one big step forward in this direction and would like to announce a scheme which will benefit the farmers who have availed bank loans. The Government will calculate the farmers' dues – both principal and interest – to the banks. After calculation, the State Government will deposit 25% of such outstanding dues subject to a maximum limit of 25,000 in each such loan account. I know that this is going to cost the exchequer a huge sum but keeping in mind the larger interest of the farmers of the State, we have decided to announce this one- time measure. This move will unclog the much needed credit supply to the farmers. I have allocated a sum of Rs. 500 crore for this scheme, the details of which will be worked out in due course of time.
73. We will continue to reward the prompt paying farmers by extending 4% interest subsidy, so that they get all short-term crop loans up to Rs. 1 Lakh at 0% rate of interest.

74. Further, zero interest loan, massive tractorization, 25% contribution on the outstanding loan amount are some of the unique schemes which will be launched in our state. These are truly historic. However, I do not want to stop here. In order to encourage our farmers to use scientific implements for better productivity, I propose financial assistance of Rs. 5000 per farmer. This scheme will cover 5 lakh farmers in the State. Adequate budget provision has been made against all these announcements.

IX. Uttoron: State Government Signature Projects for Legislative Constituencies

75. Last year we had sought inputs from our Hon'ble MLAs regarding the schemes they would like to include as part of the Budget. Though many of the needs of their constituencies have already been covered as part of the package of schemes announced by the State Government, there was a need to earmark funds for executing certain "**Signature Schemes**" in each constituency.

76. Hence, our Government is allocating Rs.500 crore for the execution of the State Government Signature Projects under the **Uttoron** Scheme in the various assembly constituencies. Detailed guidelines for the execution of these schemes will be worked out subsequently. The Finance Department will accord the necessary sanctions for projects up to Rs. 10 crore only. The schemes will be implemented by the concerned Department. The list of the schemes is enclosed below.

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
1	Ratabari	Establishment of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya Adarsha Mahavidlaya
2	Patharkandi	Construction of a Govt Model College at Bazarichera
3	North Karimganj	Construction of N K PW Road
4	South Karimganj	Construction of 180 nos. Angwanwadi Centres
5	Badarpur	Development of Road network
6	Hailakandi	Construction of Gudam Ghat Bridge
7	Katlicherra	Construction of roads at Dholai Molai and one Bridge at Kabuli Ciranala
8	Algapur	Construction of RCC Bridge over the river Dhaleswari
9	Silchar	Development of Sports Stadium at Police Parade Ground
10	Sonai	Construction of Silicoorie to Boiragitilla Road
11	Dholai	Infrastructural works of Bubhan Temple
12	Udharbond	Construction of RCC bridge over Madhura river
13	Lakhipur	Construction of Indoor Sports Stadium

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
14	Borkhola	To be finalized
15	Katigorah	Upgradation of Bihara CHC to Model Hospital
16	Halflong, Dima Hasao	Water Supply scheme to Halflong town.
17	Bokajan	Construction of Modern Auditorium Hall
18	Howraghat	Construction of Public Auditorium at Dokmoka Town
19	Diphu	Construction of Multi utility Sports complex
20	Baithalangso	Sports and Youths Utility Centre and Stadium at Hongkram
21	Mankachar	Construction of covered drainage system for Mahamaya Nagar and Shantipur villages
22	South Salmara	Construction of RCC Bridge over Tipkai river
23	Dhubri	Construction of Dhubri Patamari Road with C.C. block pavement
24	Gauripur	Construction of RCC Bridge from Alomganj to Selaipar Road
25	Golakganj	Construction of Stadium at Golakganj

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
26	Bilasipara West	Construction of RCC bridge at Nayahat Saulmari Road
27	Bilasipara East	Upgradation of the S.H.C (State Dispensary) & construction of Model Hospital
28	Gossaigaon	Construction of RCC Bridge and approach in Gossaigaon
29	Kokrajhar West	Construction of RCC Bridge over Gangia River & road to Phatakhata
30	Kokrajhar East	Construction and upgradation of Dotma – Balajan road including RCC bridge
31	Sidli	Construction of Road from Dangtol to Bengtol
32	Bongaigaon	Construction of Road from North Salmara, Chapaguri to Hapachara via Jaknapara.
33	Bijni	Construction RCC Bridge over the Mora Manas river
34	Abhayapuri North	Construction of road from Borghola to Gunialguri
35	Abhayapuri South	Construction of RCC Bridge over River Mora Manas from Malegarh to Barjana

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
36	Dudhnoi	Construction of Sports Complex and Stadium
37	Goalpara East	Protection of Baladmari Char from floods and erosion
38	Goalpara West	Protection of Taparvita area from erosion
39	Jaleswar	Improvement of Lakhipur-Jaleswar Road
40	Sorbhog	Construction of Multi Utility Building
41	Bhawanipur	Construction of Roads in the constituency (details to be finalized)
42	Patacharkuchi	Construction of office building of Tihu Development Block
43	Barpeta	Cleaning and beautification of Harijan canal
44	Jania	Functioning of Jania Development Block
45	Baghbar	Construction of a chain of hostels for working women and men
46	Sarukhetri	Construction of Rural Agriculture Centre with Modern Market and Training facility.
47	Chenga	Construction of road from Chenga to Nowgaon Sarthebari

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
48	Boko	Anti erosion measures to protect Janata Bazar & Jaljali guide Bund
49	Chaygaon	Development of Maa Chandika Devalaya/Chand Sadagar Merghar
50	Palasbari	Construction of Stadium at South Kamrup sports club.
51	Jalukbari	Construction of Stadium at North Guwahati
52	Dispur	Construction of multipurpose mini stadium with Auditorium etc. at Patharkuchi
53	East Guwahati	Upgradation of Ulubari H.S School into Model Integrated Academic Centre of Excellence
54	West Guwahati	Development of Deepor Beel Area including subsidiary tourism, eco-development activities
55	Hajo	Construction of Indoor Stadium with a Swimming Pool
56	Kamalpur	Construction of Roads in Kamalpur
57	Rangia	Upgradation of Rangia College as P.G. College
58	Tamulpur	Construction of RCC Bridge over Boralia river

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
59	Nalbari	Setting up of a full-fledged college at Nalbari Madhya Bahjani
60	Barkhetri	Establishment of ANM & GNM Nursing School at Mukalmua
61	Dharmapur	Construction of outdoor stadium complex at Chamata
62	Barama	Construction of Road with ICBP (Integrated Cement Concrete Pavement)
63	Chapaguri	Construction of RCC Bridge over river Kaldia
64	Panery	Construction of Bhergaon Bamunjuli Road
65	Kalaigaon	Construction of Tangla Mohalipara Road
66	Sipajhar	Construction of Stadium at Sipahjhar
67	Mangaldai	Construction of Sports Complex at Mangaldoi
68	Dalgaon	Upgradation of P.D.U Adarsha Mahavidyalaya.
69	Udalguri	Construction of one RCC Bridge over Bharla River.
70	Mazbat	Construction of UDSA sports complex
71	Dhekiajuli	Construction of Stadium at Dhekiajuli

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
72	Borsola	Development of Heritage Site of Gupteswar
73	Tezpur	Construction of Integrated Sports Complex at Tezpur Stadium
74	Rangapara	Setting up of Degree College at Balipara
75	Sootea	Construction of Stadium at Nag Sankar
76	Biswanath	Construction of Drainage system of Biswanath Town
77	Behali	Development of Tinsuti to Kolapani Road
78	Gohpur	Development of Sports Complex
79	Jagiroad	Development of Drainage System
80	Morigaon	Development of Roads and Drainage System
81	Lahorighat	Construction of CC block road from Tapatala to Chenia
82	Raha	Bridge over Barapani River, from Mina Bazar to Adarsha Bazar with all-weather roads
83	Dhing	Development of Nagaon-Dhing Bhuragaon Roads
84	Batadroba	Construction of Stadium at Kapahera field

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
85	Rupohihat	Construction of Roads from Beltoli to Surirpar
86	Nagaon (Sadar)	Development of Road and Drainage System
87	Barhampur	Development of Swahid Thagi Khut Kriya Pool
88	Samaguri	Construction of Rural Agriculture Centre with Modern Market and Training facility
89	Kaliabor	Construction of Sports Hostel at Dr. T Ao Stadium
90	Jamunamukh	Improvement of Road from Nil Bagan to Murajher
91	Hojai	Development of Sports Complex at Pub Dhaniram Pathargaon GP
92	Lumding	Establishment of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya Adarsha Mahavidlaya
93	Bokakhat	Construction of an Integrated Sports Complex at Bokakhat
94	Sarupathar	Establishment of Science College
95	Golaghat	Construction of Sports Academy at Golaghat
96	Khumtai	Establishment of Sainik School

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
97	Dergaon	Construction of sports complex at Dergaon
98	Jorhat	Tea Tourism Hub at Toklai
99	Majuli	Development of Sports Complex at Tengraimukh
100	Titabor	Construction of Skill Development Centre at Titabor
101	Mariani	Construction of Roads on Assam Nagaland Border
102	Teok	Construction of Roads from Bonai Hojaikan to Ghorasuwa Habi
103	Amguri	Construction of Sports Complex at Amguri
104	Nazira	Skill Training Centre for Rural Youths with Children Activity Centre
105	Mahmora	Setting up of a Sports Complex at Mahmora
106	Sonari	Setting up of Nursing Institute attached with District Civil Hospital.
107	Thowra	Construction of new Embankment on left bank of river Deroi
108	Sivasagar	Completion of the construction of Sivasagar District Library
109	Bihpuria	Construction of Simaluguri to Narayanpur roads and bridges

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
110	Naoboicha	Construction of Cold Storage at Nol Mirigaon
111	Lakhimpur	Construction of RCC Bridge over river Ranganadi
112	Dhakuakhana	Construction of Youths Centre at Dhakuakhana
113	Dhemaji	Construction of Skill Development Centre at Gogamukh
114	Jonai	Improvement of Roads from Pukia Tiniali to Jonai Tiniali
115	Moran	Construction of Drainage system in Moran Town
116	Dibrugarh	Development of Road network in Dibrugarh
117	Lahowal	Setting up of a full-fledged degree college.
118	Duliajan	Establishment of Sports complex at Tengakhat
119	Tingkhong	Construction of G+4 storied multipurpose market complex
120	Naharkatia	Establishment of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Naharkatia
121	Chabua	Development of Drainage System at Chabua

Sl. No.	Constituency	Particulars of Scheme
122	Tinsukia	Cosntruction of Roads and Drains in Tinsukia
123	Digboi	Construction of Stadium at Tingrai
124	Margherita	Establishment of full-fledged Degree College
125	Doomdooma	Outdoor and Indoor sports complex at Doomdooma
126	Sadiya	Construction of RCC Bridge over river Kundil

X. Axom Adarxo Gram Yojana

77. Our Government has already stressed the need for holistic, all-round development of villages and aims to double our farm income in 5 years through the **Chief Ministers Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana** (CMSGUY).
78. Now, taking inspiration from the **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana** conceived by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we in Assam have conceived the **Axom Adarxo Gram Yojana**, a scheme which envisages a creation of model villages where good quality public services – in terms of sanitation facilities, roads, drainage, electricity, drinking water, schools, healthcare institutions - are provided on incremental basis to all the citizens.

79. Over the next three years, the Government will select two villages in each of the 126 assembly constituencies which would then be supported as model villages with holistic, inclusive social and economic development as fundamental objectives.
80. We will provide Rs.5 crore to each model village over the next 3 years and in FY 18-19, I am earmarking Rs.50 Lakh for each of the two model villages in each of the 126 constituencies making a total allocation of Rs.126 crore in Budget 2018-19 & the guidelines of this scheme will be drawn up soon and I urge the Hon'ble Members of this house to kindly leverage this opportunity to transform their constituencies and join hands to make each gaon in our state "*apun gaon*". Transformation and Development Department will act as a nodal Department for this scheme.

XI. City Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF)

81. In the last year's budget, I had announced the City Infrastructure Development Fund for improving the urban infrastructure in 6 large cities (except Guwahati) of the state. The preparatory works on Urban Infrastructure development in these cities is progressing at a good pace and 2018-19 will see a number of new urban infrastructure coming up in these cities.
82. This year, we intend to additionally focus on the middle-tier towns, those with the population above 40000 (as per Census 2011) and accordingly propose

to bring eight new towns under the scheme - Bongaigaon, Dhubri, North Lakhimpur, Karimganj, Goalpara, Sibsagar, Barpeta and Golaghat. Like the CIDF announced earlier, the approach would be to identify the critical infrastructural deficiencies in these 8 towns. Funds will be invested in such a way that durable assets are created such as public parks, landmark roads, district libraries, district level stadia etc. are created to provide benefit to a large section of people. However, as these are middle tier towns, our commitment for each town will be Rs.100 crore each over next three years instead of Rs. 200 crore which we announced for the large cities last year. In the next financial year, we will cover more towns under CIDF.

83. I allocate a sum of Rs.250 crore in Budget 2018-19 for City Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF). I also commit to provide additional allocation during supplementary budget, if required, based on demand.

XII. Axom Mala - Program for State Highway & Major District Road Improvement & Reconstruction

84. Years of underfunding and perennial neglect to maintenance has dilapidated the State Highways (SH) and Major District Roads (MDR) network. The SH & MDR network now needs fast reconstruction. Most roads have poor riding quality, weak pavements, and inadequate capacity. Only about 16% percent of the secondary roads are double lane and 20 percent are still unpaved.

85. To undertake the improvement of SH & MDR network, I propose a programme – '**Axom Mala**' in line with '**Bharat Mala**'. To begin with, a budget provision of Rs. 200 crore for 2018-19 for their reconstruction and maintenance of roads and rehabilitation of RCC bridges. Going forward, we will provide additional budgetary support on this count if required.
86. The scheme will also include cost for continuous field data collection and sustenance of Road Asset Management System (RAMS) so that the data remains current, the plan remains updated and outcomes are accurately measured. Institutional arrangement for continuing with RAMS for strengthening the planning function of the implementing Department will be put in place.
87. A road network master plan will be developed. Simultaneously, the Assam State Road Board (ASRB) will be strengthened by implementing the Action Plan already developed under Assam State Roads Project (ASRP).
88. From a long-term perspective, the state government will fund primarily the reconstruction and maintenance of SH & MDRs, simultaneously it will ring-fence additional resources through external funding from agencies like JICA, ADB, World Bank, etc.

XIII. Conversion of 1000 Timber Bridges into RCC Bridges

89. Speaker Sir, in the last Budget, we had focused on a critical rural infrastructure area that has been ignored

by successive Governments – Timber Bridges. Many of these timber bridges are lifelines of Rural Assam and have been constructed many decades earlier and have hardly witnessed any maintenance & upkeep.

90. In 2017-18, we have sanctioned 208 such bridges. I feel confident that the Public Works Department will pursue sanction of the remaining 792 bridges as well to fast-track the conversion of the remaining timber bridges into RCC bridges. Finance Department will liberally and expeditiously sanction funds for this purpose. When completed, these strong, robust bridges will provide the much needed solid commutation support for our rural areas. We cannot fathom the extent of contribution of these permanent bridges in boosting the rural economy. My colleagues will appreciate why this important initiative finds a place among the 18 flagship schemes.
91. Towards this end, I propose to allocate a sum of Rs.150 crore in this budget.

XIV. Atal Amrit Abhiyan

92. As part of our electoral commitment to make quality healthcare accessible to all we launched the ***Atal Amrit Abhiyan*** on 25th December, 2016 – on the auspicious occasion of the birthday of our visionary leader and former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee – an ambitious critical care health assurance scheme for the citizens of our state.

93. These last few months, our teams have spread out to each and every block of the state for the enrolment of the citizens in this program. It is a massive and intricate exercise and I am proud to inform this house that over 1.6 crore beneficiaries have already been enrolled in this program. Each beneficiary over 18 years of age has been given a laminated card with a unique identification number and we have captured the biometrics of each and every enrolled beneficiary for identification.
94. While the enrolment and infrastructure for the cashless scheme is underway, to ensure that needy patients are not denied access to treatment, the Government of Assam has already disbursed two instalments in reimbursement mode till date amounting to Rs. 52 crore given to 9329 beneficiaries. Further, an additional instalment of re-imbusement will be done within March 2018 before the launch of the cashless scheme from April 2018. However, this scheme is not intended to be run on the reimbursement mode but as a scheme for cashless treatment in empaneled proposals. Accordingly, we have already empaneled all the major hospitals of the country for example, Narayana Hrudalaya, Apollo Bengaluru, Medanta Medicity, Tata Memorial Hospital, Fortis etc. under the scheme and are going to launch the scheme in cashless mode from April 2018.
95. It is envisaged that almost 92% of Assam's total population will be covered by this scheme and when

fully implemented, it would be one of the largest such universal health assurance schemes in the world catering to both BPL and APL population.

96. Speaker Sir, implementation of Atal Amrit Abhiyan has given me immense personal satisfaction. Being able to take care of the people when they are sick and most vulnerable has indeed made three decades of my public life fulfilling. It is one of the ways by which I can repay my debt to our respected people for the trust bestowed upon me.
97. Given the magnitude and impact, '**Atal Amrit Abhiyan**' has been brought under the '**Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala**'. I am allocating a substantial sum of Rs. 400 crore for the scheme in this year's budget.

XV. Inclusive Cancer Control Programme: A Partnership with Tata Trusts

॥ॐ सर्वेभवन्तु सुखिनःसर्वेसन्तुनिरामयाः॥

|| *Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah; Sarve Santu Niramayaah* ||

May all be prosperous and free from illness

98. Every year thousands of people from Assam travel outside the state for treatment seeking a cure for the deadly disease – cancer. Every year, most of those who travel, come back poorer and more often than not, bereft of a loved one.

99. The North East Region has a very high cancer incidence and Assam accounts for a majority of these cancer patients. Cancer has become synonymous with death - time has come to address this fallacy. What makes this worse is that almost 60% of all cancers in Assam are preventable and if detected early lead to better survival rates.
100. In the past two years, Government of Assam has taken several steps to address this. The State Cancer Institute (SCI) in Guwahati is fast emerging as a state-of-the-art hub for cancer treatment in the state and boasts of the **first Nuclear Medicine facility** in the Region. The expansion plans for SCI will propel it to be among the top cancer institutions in the country. However, even coming to Guwahati is a challenge for many people in the state and that too for the long duration required for any cancer treatment.
101. Today I would like to announce in the presence of my esteemed colleagues a Distributed Cancer Care Model for strengthening our public health system to provide services as close to the patients' homes as possible which was recently approved by the Cabinet as well.
102. Government Medical Colleges namely, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Jorhat, Tezpur, Barpeta, Diphu (under construction) and eleven District Hospitals namely, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Golaghat, Haflong, Hojai, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, North Lakhimpur, Nagaon and Tinsukia will be

strengthened by 2019 to provide varying degrees of cancer care. We will partner with the pioneers who brought cancer care to India in the form of Tata Memorial Hospital. Tata Trusts will be an equal partner in this landmark public health program and towards all the activities Tata Trusts has committed an investment of Rs. 830 crore and Government of Assam will contribute Rs. 1080 crore spread over two financial years. We are in the process of releasing Rs. 250 crore for this project within 31st March 2018.

103. In the present budget, I am allocating an additional sum of Rs. 250 crore. I am sure my colleagues will agree that this scheme certainly deserves to find a mention in the 18 flagship schemes.

XVI. Universalization of Old Age Pension Scheme

104. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I would now like to recite a shloka which is very close to my heart:

अभिवादनशीलस्य नित्यंवृधोपसेविनः ।
चत्वारितस्यवर्धन्तेआयुर्विद्यायशोबलम्

**Abhivaadan Sheelasya
Nityam Vriddhopasevinah
Chatwari Tasya Vardhante
Ayur Vidya Yasho Balam**

(For those who are humble and always serve the elderly, four things of life steadily increase : their life span, wisdom, fame and power)

105. As announced in my last year's budget, our Government has already enacted the PRANAM Act that lays down that all Government employees should take care of their elderly parents.
106. We feel that time has come to **go beyond the regulatory boundaries** of the Government and look after the entire elderly community and provide benefits that meet their minimum living needs.
107. Standing before you, I would like to take the huge step of announcing a pension scheme that covers **each and every senior citizen** of the State, irrespective of whether they are above poverty line or below poverty line. Each elderly citizen will be entitled to a monthly pension of Rs.250 per month.
108. This **universalization of old age pension** is extended to all the senior citizens of the State except Government pensioners/and those who are already covered under PRANAM Act. An estimated 16 lakh such elderly persons are in the State and keeping this in mind, I am making an allocation of Rs. 400 crore in this Budget.

I can confidently say that there are only a few states in the country today which have implemented universal old age pension of this magnitude.

XVII. Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Aru Jeevan Suraksha Yojana

109. Speaker Sir, in the last Budget I had spoken about the 'weekly cash cycle' that the Tea Garden workers

are trapped in and how the lack of financial inclusion has led to a complete absence of a safety net for the Tea Garden employees.

110. To incentivise the digitisation of the economy of the Tea Garden employees, we had announced that Rs.5000 will be credited to the bank accounts of each Tea Garden employee who had opened their Bank Accounts immediately post-demonetization.
111. We have fulfilled this promise. In January 2018, we launched the '**Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela**', through which we have transferred the first tranche of Rs. 2500 through Direct Benefit Transfer to each of the 7,21,485 bank accounts of Tea Garden workers across 752 Tea Gardens spread over 26 Districts of Assam.
112. Further, to ensure that this digitisation is not a one-off event, we have announced that a further Rs.2500 additional incentive will be transferred to all the accounts that are kept active continuously for 6 months.
113. Moreover, we would like to go a step further and will take necessary steps to initiate the process of enrolling all these active bank accounts under the **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana(PMJJY)** which is a **Life Insurance** coverage plan, and the **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana(PMSBY)**, a government-backed **accident insurance** scheme which have a maximum sum assured of Rs.2 Lakhs.

The annual premiums amounting to Rs.342 per account per year; that is (Rs.330/year for PMJJY and Rs.12/year for PMSBY) will be paid by the State Government. Thus, the aspiration of our Government to provide universal social security coverage for our Tea Garden population, will become a reality.

114. Accordingly, I earmark Rs.120 crore for the Budget 2018-19 for the Phase 2 of the ***Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar aru Jeevan Suraksha Yojana*** in Budget 2018-19.

XVIII. Deen Dayal Divyang Xahajya Achoni

115. Last year we launched the “***Deen Dayal Divyang Xahajya Achoni***” to provide an assistance of Rs. 5000 for medical treatment for our differently abled brothers and sisters so that they lead their life with dignity and fulfilment. This was an effort towards sensitization and we could cover around 1.4 Lakh *Divyang* brothers and sisters during 2017-18.
116. This sensitization exercise has made us feel that the *Divyangjan* have the first right on our resources. We have a big moral and societal responsibility towards them. Therefore, we would like to expand this scheme further by providing a monthly sum of Rs.1000 (Rs.12,000 annual) to our *Divyang* brothers and sisters starting from 2018-19. I feel that this is going to be one of the biggest initiatives in the country in aid of our *Divyang* brothers and

sisters by any state government. We would like to take this initiative further to ensure that this does not remain confined to a scheme; rather, it becomes a legally enforceable right of our *Divyang* brothers and sisters.

117. Accordingly, I allocate Rs. 250 crore in the current budget.
118. Hon'ble Sir, I had started my ***Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala*** with Gunotsav. I am ending it with Deen Dayal Divyang Sahajya Achoni. As can be seen, all these schemes are extremely important and progressive in nature.

“Durneeti Muk, Bidexi Muk, Xontraxbad Muk, Praduxon Muk Axom :

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal has since 2016 led our state from the front, constantly inspiring us to aim better and higher. His clarion call for a '***Durneeti Muk, Bidexi Muk, Xontraxbad Muk, Praduxon Muk Axom***' has been the guiding principles of our Government. On these lines, I am going to announce some specific initiatives in the aid of good governance.

DURNEETI MUKT AXOM

119. Sir, we have reiterated time and again, our commitment towards a ***Durneeti Muk*** Assam. Our

Government has operated on a “Zero Tolerance” policy towards corruption. We would like to take forward this initiative, with many newer steps, some of which I would like to mention below:

- i. Over the last 22 months, we have made an earnest effort to weed out corruption and the officers / staff of various Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Units have unearthed massive scams in APSC, Social Welfare Department etc.
- ii. To further boost the morale of the members of these important wings, and to also encourage more members from the other branches of the Home Department to join these efforts, I propose to provide an additional 15% of the Basic Salary as financial incentive over and above their regular salaries to constables & officials up to the rank of SP, Vigilance, Criminal Investigation Department (CID)& Anti-Corruption, CM’s Special Vigilance Cell and Bureau of Investigation of Economic Offences (BIEO). This is a humble token of appreciation of the tireless efforts put in by the officers and staff of the agencies.

PRADUXON MUKT AXOM

120. “*Cleanliness is Godliness*” is the mantra that Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi stressed on; he placed sanitation and hygiene above even political

freedom in the journey of a nation's emancipation. He demonstrated, propagated and insisted for individual and community cleanliness throughout his life.

121. Our objective will be to encourage cleanliness & sanitation facilities by generating awareness, motivating local communities to create and maintain their own facilities; and encourage affordable and sustainable sanitation. To this end we propose the following :
- a. There are 35 Municipal Boards and 66 Town Committees in Assam. We propose to ensure adequate community toilet facilities for all urban and semi urban areas in our state by March-2019:
 - b. Each town committee will be allocated Rs. 10 lakhs for setting up toilets in PPP mode. The maintenance of these toilets will be the responsibility of individual town committees, municipal boards.

Mukhya Mantri Adarxa Deep Yojana (MMADY)

122. Speaker Sir, the importance of energy conservation cannot be overstated. It is also economical to conserve power than to produce power. I am proud to announce **Mukhya Mantri Adarxa Deep Yojana** for taking measures to spread the message of energy efficiency. LED bulbs consume 90% less

energy than ordinary bulbs and 50 percent lower energy than the CFL bulbs. LED bulbs have a very long life, almost 50 times more than ordinary bulbs, and 8-10 times that of CFLs, and therefore provide both energy and cost savings. LED bulbs usually come with a warranty of 3 years. Under this scheme our Government promises each domestic consumer family in the state 4 LED bulbs of 9 watts. This scheme will cover a total of 52 Lakh households – including the ‘Saubhagya’ scheme beneficiaries – across the State. The Government will work with Assam State Electricity Board and all Districts and Autonomous Councils to make the distribution of these bulbs seamless.

123. I also propose to convert all Government institutions, schools, hospitals and street lights to LED. This will be done in a phased manner. Every district will be asked to prepare a blue print for this shift, with priority wise listing of the facilities which will come under the programme.
124. The Government proposes an allocation of Rs 100 crore for this scheme in this year’s budget.
125. As we march towards a ***Praduxon Mukh Axom***, it is our Government’s earnest endeavour to reduce our carbon footprint and establish Assam as a Carbon neutral state. To this effect, and as per multiple feedback received from the citizens, it has been decided to provide budgetary allocation to

plant tencrore seedlings across the state in the next financial year through community participation.

126. Further, to monitor climate change related matters and to coordinate mitigating efforts, I propose to create an Assam Climate Change Management Society with a seed money of Rs. 5.00 crore.

BIDEXI MUKT AXOM

127. Respected Speaker Sir, earlier Governments have paid very little attention to the dilapidated state of the Foreigners Tribunal (FT) offices spread across the State. Sir, without the necessary basic infrastructure, these Tribunals cannot function effectively and the detection of the foreigners has been no doubt hampered. Our Government has decided to earmark Rs.10 lakhs for the infrastructural upgradation for each of the 100 FT offices. For this purpose, money would be placed at the disposal of the respective Deputy Commissioners and would be channeled through the Home Department. A budget provision of Rs 10 crore has been earmarked for FY 2018-19.
128. Sir, many of us have been fortunate to witness the captivating and inspiring ceremony of the flag lowering ceremony at the Wagah border in Punjab by the security forces of India and Pakistan. It is not just a symbol of our patriotic fervour but also is a big tourist attraction. I am honoured to inform this august house that our Government has decided to

develop border infrastructure on similar lines with an allocation of Rs. 5 crore in four districts – Cachar, Karimganj, Dhubri and South Salmara - where we share international borders. In the current budget, I have earmarked Rs. 10 crore for this purpose.

XONTRAXBAD MUKT AXOM

129. Respected sir, for several decades, Assam's development has been seriously hampered on account of extremism. Many growth opportunities have been lost to generations of our people. Our Government is committed and determined to deal with extremism with an iron hand but at the same time we shall provide an opportunity to militants to surrender and return to normal life.
130. Sir, in the earlier Budget we had announced the '**Swavalamban Scheme**' which aims to build the capacity of the surrendered cadres of different insurgent groups. To incentivize this programme further, we will provide skills training to these cadres through the Assam Skill Development Mission in addition to providing loans up to Rs. 2 Lakhs under the SVAYEM scheme. This will be in addition to the benefits that are being extended to them through other existing schemes. Our Government will walk an extra mile to ensure that the surrendered militants have access to decent livelihood which allows them to lead a life of dignity and to assure them of complete rehabilitation into our social fabric.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

In my preceding paragraphs, I have already announced the *Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Mala* which are basically the 18 flagship schemes of the Government. Further, I also announced some initiatives that will promote good governance. Now, with the permission of the Hon'ble Speaker, I would like to announce a few more important announcements for the budget 2018-19.

I. Paver Block Roads in Tea Garden Labour Lines

131. Assam Tea is a brand par excellence known all over the world. Our tea garden workers, through their tireless labour for generations have contributed immensely in making Assam Tea a much recognised global brand. It is a matter of concern that even today our tea garden workers suffer from lack of basic infrastructure and amenities. As far as road infrastructure is concerned, the labour lines in most of our tea gardens are in a pathetic state. A strong need has been felt by our Government to improve the condition of the labour lines. After a series of discussion with the stakeholders concerned, our Government has decided to construct paver block roads along the labour lines in all the tea gardens in Assam. I allocate a token provision of Rs. 20 crore in Budget 2018 -19 for this purpose. The allocation will be enhanced subsequently to cover all the tea garden labour lines.

II. Financial Assistance for retired staff of Assam Tea Corporation:

132. Assam Tea Corporation Ltd. (ATCL) was established in the year 1972 primarily to save the workers facing miserable conditions in the gardens that were almost abandoned by their proprietors during the great depression in the Tea Industries during late sixties. There are 15 numbers of gardens with about 16,748 numbers of workers deriving their livelihood in the gardens of ATC.
133. Due to the fluctuating fortunes of the Tea Industry, the corporation suffered huge financial losses and has failed to meet the wages / salaries demand of the workers during last 18 years and the retirement benefits such as gratuity, PF, arrear wages / salaries remain unpaid causing great frustration and hardship to the workers and their dependents.
134. This Government, being committed to the tea workers cannot remain mute spectators to their worsening conditions. There are about 16,133 retired workers and staff of the corporation, many who have retired over 20 years back and have suffered for long years with diminishing hopes of receiving any dues after their retirement. The Corporation beset with the annual fund crunch had no option but to allow 839 nos. of retired persons to continue in service after retirement in order to provide succour to the deprive families of the poor

workers. This Government, in the long-term interest of the corporation and its deprived workers has decided to extend financial assistance to the corporation for the payment of retirement dues and relieve them from hardship.

135. Hence, I propose an amount of Rs. 99 crore for payment of outstanding PF dues, gratuity, arrear wages, salary, bonus, etc. of retired worker, sub-staff and staff. However, to avail this benefit, Assam Tea Corporation will have to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Assam Government for outsourcing of operations and bringing back fiscal discipline.

III. Incentives for Tea Garden Sardars

136. The digital mode of payment has been a huge success in the tea gardens thanks to the easy adoption by the tea garden labourers. In order to further promote digital literacy and usage, each line Sardar in the tea garden will be provided with a smart phone of around Rs. 3,000. This initiative will benefit around 20,000 Tea Garden Sardars across the State. A budget provision of Rs. 7 crore has been made for this.

IV. Assuring rights of unmarried daughters of pensioners :

137. Under the current system, there is no provision for unmarried daughters of pensioners, who do not

have any other source of income, to receive the pension benefits in the event of the pensioner's death. Providing financial security for needy and vulnerable sisters and mothers in our society is a top priority of our Government. Thus, our Government has decided that unmarried daughters of pensioners will be eligible to avail of the pension in the event of a pensioner's death.

V. Monthly stipend for purchase of sanitary napkins

138. Our Government's resolve to improve women's health and safeguard her dignity cannot be stronger! It is of concern that even in the 21st century Assam, many of our sisters cannot consistently access or afford the monthly cost of disposable menstrual products and revert to less hygienic solutions. At the same time, there is little relevant health education for girls as they reach reproductive age. Therefore, I announce a policy to ensure ease of access to disposable sanitary napkins.
139. My sisters in Assam between the ages of 12-20 years – and whose family income is below Rs. 5 lakh – can avail of an annual stipend of Rs. 600 which will be directly transferred to her bank account. The registration will be through Block Development Offices. This will be linked to their date of birth and payments will automatically stop once

they reach age of 20 years. This amount will encourage the use of good quality hygienic products. We propose to cover 5 lakh girls during the financial year 2018-19. I have earmarked a sum of Rs. 30 crore for the scheme in this budget.

VI. Ex-gratia for staff working in societies:

140. We recognize the valuable contribution made by the staff working in various missions/societies for implementing National Flagship Schemes such as National Health Mission (NHM), State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRHM), Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), and other societies.
141. However, we have noticed over the years, many of such employees have died in harness. In absence of a proper schemes so far, the societies have not been able to extend any benefit to the family of the deceased. From the current year, I have decided to provide financial assistance in the form of a one-time grant of Rs. 5 Lakh to the families of the staff members who die in harness. Of course, I will also extend this benefit with retrospective effect, since the inception of these societies.
142. I allocate a sum of Rs. 45 crore against various societies in the budget 2018-19 for this purpose.

VII. Enhanced wages for Anganwadi Workers / Helpers & ASHA Workers :

143. Sir, we are all aware about the importance of the first 1000 days in a child's physical and mental development. Our Anganwadi and ASHA workers play a very significant role in Primary Health Care especially in the neonatal care. There are more than 1.18 Lakh Anganwadi workers & helpers, and 31,955 ASHA workers serving providing these services to the people of Assam.
144. Our Government is committed to improve the financial condition of the Anganwadi and ASHA workers. For this purpose, we have decided to increase the salary allowances of **Anganwadi workers and ASHA workers by Rs. 1000 and of Anganwadi Helpers by Rs. 500.**

VIII. UGC Pay-scales to teachers across degree colleges, universities and technical & medical institutions

145. Sir, our Government reiterates its commitment to provide good governance in all forms to its citizens. A major part of it is to ensure citizens get timely benefits.
146. Marrying this principle with Employee Welfare, I am happy to announce that we shall allow UGC pay-scales to teachers across degree colleges, universities and technical & medical institutions. Government is taking all steps to implement it immediately.

IX. Increased wages for Home Guards:

147. 'Home Guards', a voluntary organisation for local defence has been acting as an auxiliary to the Police for the maintenance of law & order, elections and for meeting emergencies. They have been providing yeoman services to the state in maintaining peace and stability and our Government is thankful to them. A long outstanding demand of this group has been to increase their daily wages from Rs.250 per day to Rs 300 per day. I am happy to announce that my Government has accepted this proposal and they will be getting enhanced wages from FY 2018-19.

X. Price Stabilization Fund:

148. Price rise affects the most the poor and disadvantaged and keeping this in mind, last year, we had announced the setting up of the price stabilization fund to provide cushion to our consumers from price fluctuations in essential commodities. The modalities for the implementation of this fund has been worked out in detail by the Food & Civil Supplies Department and I am earmarking Rs.50 crore in Budget 2018-19 to strengthen the arms of the Department to step-in and rectify any market failures and artificial price rises.

XI. Social Media Presence for the Government Departments

149. Sir, I have stated our motto of '*Xu-xaxon*' time and again. As a part of this, we need to take proactive

steps to reach out to the people and communicate to them regarding their rights, and what their government is doing for them.

150. In today's era, it has become important for us to adopt modern means to communicate with the people. For this purpose, we shall establish a social media cell in each of the line Departments to bring the government closer to the people.
151. We, therefore, allocate a sum of Rs. 3 Cr. for this in the current budget.

XII. Swastha Sewa Utsavand Gram Utsav

152. To provide quality healthcare services, I propose "***Swastha Sewa Utsav***" to carry out an assessment of the public health institutions of the state. It is a replication of our hugely popular and successful "***Gunotsav***" programme for assessment of the quality of education. The assessment will be carried out in public health institutions providing tertiary, secondary and primary level services e.g. District Hospitals, Sub-Divisional Civil Hospitals, Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The remaining health institutions including Medical Colleges will be covered in a phased manner.
153. I earmark an amount of Rs.4 crore for this purpose in this budget.

154. Further, the P&RD Department will also conduct a **Gram Utsav** for carrying out an assessment of the activities at the Gram Panchayat level in the State.

XIII. Road Improvement Projects in SAGY villages

155. Speaker Sir, I am certain that there will be no two-opinions in the house if I say that our Hon'ble MPs are the voice of Assam in Delhi. Their efforts in changing the face of our villages, particularly by way of infrastructure development, through schemes such as '**Sansad Adarsha Gram Yojana**' (SAGY), are truly laudable.
156. We, as the state government, would also like to aid their developmental efforts. To this effect, we earmark a **token** sum of Rs.20 crore for road improvement projects in the villages adopted / selected by the Hon'ble MPs. I hope that hon'ble members of parliament from our state will appreciate this gesture of the State Government.

XIV. Regulating Private Educational Institutions

157. Almost on a daily basis, we keep hearing of the high-handed some of the educational institutions in the private segment about their charging exorbitant fees and poor payment structure for their structures.
158. There is no enactment at present to regulate such malpractices. We propose to bring out an appropriate legislation aimed at curbing the increase

in the practice of charging exorbitant fees by the private schools and rapid commercialization of the Educational sector and undue profiteering by some Educational Institutions. Based on the principles of transparency, the proposed legislation would also ensure appropriate payment structure for teachers and allied functionaries in private educational institutions.

XV. Foundation Northeast – For a more cohesive collaboration

159. We, the people of North-Eastern India, not only share common geography, but also shared history, culture and traditions. We have abundant natural resources and share borders with South Asian, Southeast and East Asian countries. All the States of the North-Eastern India are classified as Special Category States owing to our difficult terrain and economic constraints.
160. On the other hand, the interdependence and commonness amongst the North Eastern States is a compelling reason for all North Eastern States to come together and align their development strategies with the overall development framework for the region. Further, given its strategic location, Northeastern India can be developed as a base for India's growing economic links with these countries as well as function as the pivot of the Act East Policy of Government of India.

161. Against this backdrop, I announce the setting up of a North-East Foundation which will act as a think-tank for the region. This foundation will also liaise with leading think-tanks at the National, Global level and articulate the perspectives of this important region in a strategic, holistic manner. As a goodwill gesture, the Government of Assam will take lead in establishment of this foundation and provide seed funding for a period of 5 years. I hope that my colleagues from the other North-Eastern states will see value and come forward to support this initiative.

XVI. Reservations in the Medical Colleges for North-Eastern States

162. In my last budget, I promised to make Assam the hub for medical education in the North-East. While we have already initiated several steps to this effect, I am also aware of the fact that some of North-Eastern states do not have adequate facilities where their youths can obtain medical education.

163. As it is often said, Assam is considered as the eldest of the eight sister states. I would, therefore, like to propose a reservation of two seats in our medical colleges for students from other North-Eastern states that do not have a State medical college. We will extend this provision till medical colleges are established and operational in these states.

XVII. New Educational Institutions :

164. Education is the backbone of the society. Expansion of educational infrastructure is one of the basic

initiatives that our government has been taking from the very first day in its office. In **Uttoron**, which we have discussed previously, we have announced establishment of a few degree colleges in various parts of our state. In addition to that, the following educational institutes will be established for which adequate budget provision has been made.

- a. A new medical college will be established in Karimganj. Construction of Kokrajhar, Tinsukia and Nalbari medical colleges will commence from this year. The ongoing construction work of Diphu, Dhubri, Nagaon and North Lakhimpur will be further fast-tracked.
- b. Ten new Government Law Colleges will be established in Dhubri, Nalbari, Rangia, Nagaon, Diphu, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Tezpur, Silchar and North Lakhimpur.
- c. Ten new B.Ed. colleges will be established at Karbi Anglong (West), Bongaigaon, Baksa, Nalbari, Kamrup, Morigaon, Dima Hasao, Sivsagar, Biswanath and North Lakhimpur.
- d. Three new polytechnics will be established at Tingkhong, Majuli and Hajo.
- e. In pursuant to my earlier budget announcement, we will start construction work of engineering colleges at Behali, Bongaigaon, Sualkuchi, Udalguri, Nalbari and Nagaon

during the next financial year. The ongoing construction work of Dhemaji and Golaghat engineering colleges will be completed this year and accordingly, adequate budget provision has been made.

- f. Nine new women colleges will be established predominantly in Minority Areas viz. Sonai, Chenga, Batadraba, Jaleswar, Golakganj, Bilasipara, Mangaldai, Hailakandi and Karimganj.
- g. Further, six more new degree colleges shall be opened at Borsola (Sonitpur), Doomdooma (Tinsukia), Majuli, Baksa, Chirang and Udalguri, in addition to the model colleges already announced under the Uttoron initiative.
- h. To promote skill development in the state, we are setting up a Mega Skill City in partnership with ITEES Singapore, to provide globally relevant employment skills to the youths of Assam. I have earmarked Rs. 18 crore separately for the setting up of the Mega Skill City and its associated activities.
- i. We have also envisaged the setting up of a 'State Institute of Public Finance' to provide top-class capacity building of the officials and all stakeholders.
- j. Further, we will also set up a State Labour Training and Research Institute to train labour welfare officers.

- k. A horticultural college will be established at Dima Hasao.
- l. We will also set up a Sports University at Chabua in Dibrugarh district in the name of Sri Sri Aniruddhadeva.

165. We are committed to implement all the above-mentioned projects in the educational sector so that, quality educational avenues are available to our students from every part of the state.

XVIII. Two-wheelers for Girl Children :

166. In my previous budget I had announced that we will provide two-wheelers to the top 1000 girl students who pass Higher Secondary Examination 2017. This objective was to provide easy access to them for Higher Education.

167. I would like to take this initiative further. This year, we will provide two-wheelers to top **5000 girl students** who pass Higher Secondary Examination 2018.

168. I allocate a sum of Rs. 25crore in Budget 2018 -19 for this purpose.

XIX. Improved roads and drainages for towns and cities :

169. Sir, one of the central themes of our Government has been focus on large capital projects, especially for the improvement of critical infrastructure in the cities and towns of Assam. Our allocations for the

Big Cities Infrastructural Development Fund or the additional 8 mid-size towns that we have included this year is all a testimony to this fact. We are aware that we need to also expand our focus on infrastructural improvements beyond the large cities of Assam. This is especially true because Assam is urbanizing very rapidly and the provision of good quality roads with drainage facilities is essential to sustain this growth. I am providing a sum of Rs. 200 crore in Budget 2018 -19 for construction of roads and drainages in towns and cities other than Guwahati / cities already covered under CIDF.

XX. Assistance to Urban Local Bodies for better citizen service delivery :

170. To introduce modern solid waste management facilities in Guwahati and 6 other cities viz. Nagaon, Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Tinsukia, I propose to provide 50% Viability Gap Funding for solid waste management projects.
171. Provision of street lights in a city or town is considered to be a basic service. However, it is observed that in many cases, citizens have been deprived of this basic service because of the inability of urban local bodies to pay electricity bills in time. In order to meet this challenge, I propose to provide 50% of the monthly electricity charges due against each and every urban local body of our state. This step would ensure proper functioning of street lights in all our cities and towns. I have made adequate

provisions for this in budget 2018-19. In addition to this, Finance Department will also allocate a sum of Rs. 242.12 crore under 5th Finance Commission Grant to ULBs to provide improved citizen services.

XXI. Regulation for construction of roads in Guwahati :

172. All of us must be aware of the hardships faced by the citizens of Guwahati during the rainy seasons due to waterlogging. Through the years, as the city has developed, Guwahati's roads have also been repaired & redeveloped plenty of times. However, in the absence of regulations and proper monitoring, it is observed that the roads are not dug up before they are reconstructed. As the height of the roads gradually increased, it has resulted in water-logging in residential and office premises on the road-side.
173. To curb this issue, we would like to propose a regulation that mandates digging of the roads prior to re-construction so that the height of the road does not increase. We are hopeful that this solution will benefit thousands of our fellow citizens residing in the city of Guwahati.

XXII. Atal Tinkering Lab :

174. NITI Aayog, Government of India has setup a network of Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATL) at the Secondary school level, which are dedicated work spaces where young minds are exposed to the latest

technological advancements like 3D Printers, Internet of Things, Robotics, Sensors etc. These labs are designed to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds. Our Government is committed to the spread of the culture of innovation across each and every government school in Assam. Already, NITI Aayog has selected 56 schools across Assam to set up ATLS. To ensure that more Government schools in the State are equipped with ATLS, we have decided to fund the setting up of ATLS in 50 government schools on a pilot basis this year.

175. I allocate Rs.10crore in Budget 2018 -19 for this purpose.

XXIII. State Innovation Fund : Encouraging innovation in Governance

176. Deputy Commissioners of the concerned districts are the front-line implementing champions of the various government schemes and programs. In line with the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, our Government is committed to fostering a climate for innovation & development of cost effective solutions to local problems. Many successful schemes implemented across the country have had their origins in humble, cost-effective initiatives attempted at the district level, which have then been replicated as success stories in other parts. The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public

Administration and '**Karmashree**', the Assam Chief Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration have been instituted to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by various districts for the implementation of schemes.

177. To facilitate our Deputy Commissioners to finance innovative solutions to local governance issues we plan to set-up a 'State Innovation Fund'. The detailed guidelines of this scheme will be issued soon and we are hopeful that this will create an enabling environment for grassroots solutions to emerge.

178. I set apart Rs.15crore in Budget 2018 -19 for this purpose.

XXIV. Bamboo- New Face of MSME industries in Assam

179. Sir, as you are aware that Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has offered a gift to each and every rural household of North East by virtue of his ground-breaking decision to remove Bamboo from "**forest tree**" classification and thus allowing bamboo to be cultivated freely. With this decision I am certain that bamboo will soon become a major revenue generating source for the rural households of Assam. Additionally, it will be used as a raw material for the upcoming biofuel plant of Numaligarh Refinery.

180. While we shall fully strengthen the State Bamboo Mission in Assam under the active guidance of National Bamboo Mission, we propose to develop Assam Bamboo Experience Centres (ABECs) at Assam Bhawans / Houses in various cities of the country and also in Guwahati and all the district headquarters of the State, over a period of time. These Centres will galvanize the MSME activities involving bamboo as raw material. Funds will not be a constraint for setting up of these centres. I have provisioned for Rs. 5 crore for this purpose in the current budget.

XXV. Support to Assam Youths: Campus to Corporate

181. Sir, we are producing enough Engineering and Commerce graduates. But mere degrees would not fetch enough jobs for our boys and girls in the ever changing market. Their employability will improve only if they acquire skills through training in special modules in various futuristic software and other courses like Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP). However, such trainings are often prohibitively expensive with costs ranging from Rs 2 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs per student. Thus, the economically depressed sections of our society are often deprived from availing these courses.

182. I am happy to inform you that we have been in touch with ERP majors like SAP and others and they have

committed to creating 10 Centres of Excellence in State with an intake capacity of about 5000 graduates of Engineering and Commerce, over a period of 3 years at a minimum cost on the lines of some other states in the country. Once trained, I am hopeful that most of these trained students will have excellent of finding employment in the reputed companies in India and abroad.

183. For this, I will set apart Rs. 10 crore in the FY 2018-19.

XXVI. Geographical Indicator Tag for various Indigenous Assam based entities:

184. The Nation mostly associates the image of Assam with tea and rhinoceros. However, there are many indigenous items that have originated in Assam that have seldom got their due recognition.
185. Items like Traditional Jewelry of Assam, Blacksmithy of Koronga (Jorhat), Bell Metal Craft of Sarthebari, Brass Metal Craft of Hajo, Endi Silk of Assam, Local Liquor (Laopani, Saaj), Komal Chaul (Soft Rice), Joha Chaul (Aromatic rice), Bora Chaul (Sticky Rice), Kekowa Boa Rice, Kopou Ful (Local Orchid) and Fulam Japi (Decorative Japi) are all indigenous to Assam and are yet to be fully realize its potential in National and Global Market.
186. In order to preserve the identity of these indigenous items and realize their full potential, I propose to

obtain Geographical Indication status for all these mentioned items. This will enhance the demand of these exotic items in international and national market that will boost the economy through increase in export of these items, increase of tourism and directly enhancing the livelihood of the people like farmers and artisans of Assam who are involved in the production of these mentioned items.

XXVII. District Level Skill cum Investment Mela :

187. Sir, you are aware of the roaring success that the first ever Global Investors Summit: Advantage Assam saw and the sense of pride and hope the event has given each and every Assamese. To spread the message of entrepreneurship and self-employment beyond Guwahati, we plan to organize District Level Skill cum Investment Mela where the local youths, entrepreneurs would be provided an opportunity to showcase their products and businesses. Additionally, it will be a platform where entrepreneurs would be sensitized on the **SVAYEM** (Swami Vivekananda Assam Youths Empowerment) Yojana under which credit support will be available to these youths for income generating enterprises.
188. Sir, as part of this initiative, steps will also be taken to impart 15-30 days' skills training to the local youths and entrepreneurs and this training shall also cover surrendered militant to provide them with an opportunity to be self-reliant.
189. I propose an amount of Rs. 10 crore for implementing this scheme.

XXVIII. Sarthebari Bell Metal & Other Handicrafts :

190. The tinkling sound that emanated from every house in Sarthebari was once the music of prosperity. Today, however, Assam's brass and bell metal industries are not in sound health. Factory-made cheaper replicas of these painstakingly-crafted wares and hazardous working conditions are two of the reasons for this decline.
191. Sir, we propose to revitalize this internationally famous handicraft. A roadmap will be readied by the Industries Department for interventions to completely re-vitalise this industry and make this a commercially viable avenue for revenue generation for our artisan.
192. For this purpose, I earmark a sum of Rs. 17.5 crore in this year's budget for the revival Sarthebari and other industrial clusters.

XXIX. Equity Infusion for Expansion of Capital Projects :

193. Assam Petro-Chemicals Limited (APL), a profit earning public sector undertaking of the Government of Assam was incorporated in 1971. The company produces methanol from natural gas locally available in the upper Assam districts with a production capacity of 100 tonnes per day (TPD) of Methanol & 125 tonnes per day (TPD) of Formalin.

194. To meet the growing demands of the industry, the State Cabinet, recently approved the equity infusion of Rs.177 Crore to expand the production capacity to 500 TPD methanol and 200 TPD formalin. The Government of Assam has already infused Rs. 88.46 crore as equity capital in the company for the project and in this budget, I propose to earmark another Rs.68.54 crore for the equity expansion of this capital infrastructure project worth Rs. 1337 crore.

XXX. Botanical Garden at Kaziranga :

195. Our Government has decided to develop a World Class Botanical Garden at Kaziranga which will attract the tourists and put our state on the Orchid Map of the country.
196. I allocate Rs. 8 crore in Budget 2018 -19 for this purpose.

XXXI. Pension Trust for employees of Power Utilities :

197. The estimated deficit of Pension Trust of Power Utilities at the end of FY 2018-19 would be Rs. 1163.87 crore, out of which, the deficit for FY 2018-19 would be Rs. 376.92 crore. As on 28th February 2018 there are around 16500 pensioners and this will increase by another 4500 pensioners in the next 5 years and, accordingly, the liability and deficit would also increase. So one time support of the existing deficit is immediately required to make timely

payment of pensioner's liability. I propose to provide one time support of Rs. 1163.87 crore, which will enable the power utilities to bring down the yearly deficit to Rs. 276 crore.

XXXII. Filling up of Grade III & Grade IV vacancies :

198. Of late, I have come across many newspaper reports which try to propagate that the Finance Department is going to put a ban on recruitment. Nothing can be more untrue than this. Creation and rationalization of posts, deployment of staff in aid of enhancing productivity is an ongoing process. Hence, I would like to emphasize that ever since we have come to power, 3711 Grade-IV posts in the government have been filled up. Finance Department has been very liberal in creation of additional posts. Through my budget speech today, I urge all the Departments to come forward for filling up the vacant posts. Finance Department will actively consider their proposals and facilitate the entire process.

XXXIII. Relaxation in age-limit for Grade III & Grade IV posts :

199. In March 2016, the State Government had revised the upper age limit for entry into government services by five years from the existing 38 years to 43 years as many eligible candidates had missed their chances to enter the government service either due to the ban imposed on normal recruitment to various services and posts for a considerable period

of time from the latter half of 1990s. This relaxation was applicable in case of all categories of posts except Police Service (both Armed and Unarmed). Home Guard, Civil Defence, Fire Brigade and Jail services, and was valid for a period of two years.

200. Now, keeping in mind that there are still a large number of candidates who deserve to get an opportunity to apply for Government jobs, the upper age limit for entry into Grade III and Grade IV jobs in State Government will now be 44 years until March 2019. Detailed notification will be issued in this respect in due course of time.

XXXIV. Transparency and accountability in recruitments :

201. Further, in the digital age that we are in today, I will urge the Departments to go for online applications and do away with the manual application process. This will also bring in more transparency and accountability in the system.
202. Further, we feel that we need to rationalize the various categories of posts. This is in line with the changing times and requirements. I propose to constitute a Commission to look into the entire matter of redeployment of posts from less needy Departments to more needy ones. This exercise will be completed within this financial year.

XXXV. Abolition of treasury challans for Grade-III and Grade-IV posts :

203. As of now, for filling up applications for government vacancies, the candidates, except those belonging

to the BPL, have to pay Rs. 250 against every job application. As a goodwill gesture to our unemployed youth, I propose to abolish application fee for all Grade III and Grade IV posts.

XXXVI. Inter-state Boundary Pillars :

204. Sir, I am happy to submit in this august house, that our government has been extremely proactive in seeking and acting upon citizens' suggestions through portals such as 'assam.mygov.in'.
205. I recently received a suggestion from one of our citizens that in inter-state boundary, proper boundary pillars should be erected so that there is no misunderstanding between our sister states on this count. As such, I propose to provide adequate budgetary assistance of Rs. 10 crore in the current budget for erecting concrete boundary pillars in undisputed boundary areas.

XXXVII. Pratyahban :

206. Sir, in my today's speech, I have already elaborated on the **Gunotsav** scheme. We would like to take the scheme further. It is our dream that no child is deprived of the opportunity to reach his/her potential. We would like to ensure that the children attending the state schools get the same opportunities, infrastructure, tools and teaching quality as those studying in the best of the Private schools.
207. To this aim, we are launching a pilot scheme, "**Pratyahban**", to support and handhold the schools

& teachers having the potential of being the Torch Bearers to provide the best education to Assam's future generation. In the Pilot phase, only one school from each Gaon Panchayat, or its equivalent in six schedule areas, will be selected under the scheme.

208. The Government would put in place a support system for these selected schools. The support system will include free breakfast, improved infrastructure, a set of uniforms – which can be at par with the private schools – and adequate teachers.
209. This support system will enable our selected Government schools to compete with the best private schools of that locality and will ultimately become a centre of excellence in that area. With this hope and enthusiasm, the state government will launch ***Pratyahban*** scheme from next financial year. I am allocating a sum of Rs.25crore for this in the current budget which can be enhanced depending on the outcome of the scheme.

XXXVIII. Assistance to cinema hall entrepreneurs :

210. In my last budget speech, I had made an announcement that a subsidy of Rs. 50 lakh for reopening of closed cinema halls, Rs. 25 lakh for renovation of existing / functional cinema halls and a subsidy of 25% of the capital cost for the establishment of new cinema halls will be given. I am happy to announce that the State Cabinet has

recently approved the guidelines for the same. I feel confident that this will help promote the film culture and entrepreneurship in Assam.

XXXIX. Expansion of Sanjeevani- Village Health Outreach Program

211. For comprehensive management and treatment of all common communicable and non-communicable disease, currently, 80 Mobile Medical Units are functioning in all the districts of Assam under "**Sanjeevani- Village Health Outreach Program**" since 2011. It is once-a-month, fixed date outreach initiative at the village level specially screening of Hypertension and Diabetics etc. The services aim at early identification, Screening, referral, follow-up and free medicines for effective Chronic disease management at doorsteps. Each MMU has a pre-defined calendar and a route plan for delivering the services covering 2 villages and a population of 3000 each day on an average and 48 villages in a monthly cycle of 24 days. Total 3744 numbers of villages have been covered in FY 2017-18.
212. Considering the changing scenario of disease burden in the state from communicable to non-communicable disease, I propose to expand this programme to all the villages of Assam in a phased manner. During the current year, we propose to cover 7680 villages. For this purpose, I am allocating a sum of Rs 16 crore in the current budget.

XL. Revival of Assam Polyster Cooperative Society Ltd. (APOL)

213. APOL, once a crown jewel of the State, was established in 1981 with Spinning, Processing and Weaving units and the mill continued till 2003 when it had to be closed due to want of working capital. Subsequently, the spinning unit was revived in 2006 but the lack of ongoing support and guidance from the Government has meant that the unit has fallen into financial stress which has affected the livelihoods of many people. Our Government, recently approved a package for the revival of the corporation which will provide succor to the many families that are dependent on this organization.
214. Accordingly, I have allocated Rs. 9.1 Crore for the revival of APOL and I am confident that this will mark a new beginning for the organization.

XLI. Ex-gratia to next of kin of brave-hearts who lost their lives during the Bodoland agitation

215. The last decade of the 20th century witnessed the Bodo agitation in parts of Assam. Subsequently, the movement resulted in the historic signing of the Bodoland Accord and creation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). The unity & integrity of Assam, a key pillar of this accord, was recognized while also guaranteeing autonomy for the BTC for the rapid socio-economic and cultural advancement of the Bodo people. The creation of BTC is the result of the sacrifices of these brave-hearts.

216. Today, we work together and march hand-in-hand for a progressive, vibrant and united Assam. Our Government would like to pay respect to these brave-hearts of the Bodoland agitation. I announce an ex-gratia payment of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of those who lost their lives during the Bodoland agitation. I am making adequate provision for this in the current budget.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has said and I quote: "*Good governance with good intentions is the hallmark of our government. Implementation with integrity is our core passion.*" Whilst re-stating the core principles of this budget - ***Ekatrikaran, Xomproxaron*** and ***Uttoron*** - I would like to congratulate each and every Department of the Government, Directorates, District establishments, Autonomous Councils and Societies who have worked tirelessly to translate the policies of this Government into reality. However, our work is far from done; rather it has just started. The bulk of the policies and schemes that we have announced are just beginning to bear fruit and the time is ripe for us to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves with renewed vigour and commitment to the work of betterment of our state and the lives of our people. I would now, like to highlight the status of some of the key policies and works undertaken by various Departments and new initiatives planned by them for the Budget Year 2018-19 :

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND TRAINING
DEPARTMENT: *Building Strong Governance***

217. I have spoken right at the beginning of my speech about the Rs.315 crore World Bank funded Assam Citizen Centric Service Delivery Project (ACCSDP), that is currently under implementation to bring the government services to the doorsteps of the citizens. The project holds immense transformative potential and can go a long way in empowering the citizens and we have started the implementation of the project in right earnest.
218. Under the ARTPS Act 2012, 55 services were originally notified and we have now notified another 391 more services under the ARTPS Act 2012.
219. In the last Budget, I had spoken about the setting up of four Training Institutes for Grade-III & IV Staffs in order to make capacity building an integral part of their service career. Accordingly, we have initiated the process for setting up the institutes in Guwahati, Bongaigaon, Silchar and Majuli.
220. I have also already mentioned about the State Level Award for extraordinary works in the field of Public Administration, KarmaShree, and I hope this will continue to inspire the field officials who are implementing various State Government schemes.
221. I earmark a total amount of Rs. 26.2 crore for the Department in this budget.

II. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT : *Groundworks for Prosperity Laid*

222. I have already mentioned about a variety of new schemes that I propose to launch in this Budget for the benefit of the farming community.
223. We have initiated the issuance of Farmers' Identity Cards as this will help various Government initiatives to support the farmers as we go forward. I allocate an amount of Rs. 11.00 crore for this initiative.
224. Our Government has also taken up soil testing as a mandatory step and has started the distribution of **Soil Health Cards** to every farmer thereby ensuring that they know the exact status of their soil enabling them to apply all necessary inputs of production. I propose an amount of Rs. 14.96 crore for this purpose.
225. One of the key initiatives that our Government has taken up for this sector is to provide irrigation to all agricultural land under crop within the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana** (PMKSY). Already the State Action Plan of **Per Drop More Crop**, has been finalised to converge and rationalise various irrigation activities implemented by different Departments under this scheme. I earmark Rs. 16.5 crore for this purpose.
226. The Government also proposes to set up a state-of-the-art Agricultural Tissue Culture Centre which

will help the bring the best of the technology to the State for the propagation of the scientific agricultural practices, for which I propose an amount of Rs. 15 crore for the same.

227. To revive the seed farms across the State, and to make them modern, I earmark Rs.50 crores which will be used for the infrastructural development of these farms, and to procure farm machineries. I am hopeful that this program will provide a fillip to the agricultural sector.
228. I propose a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 1801.14 crore in 2018-19 for the Department.

III. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY:
Supplementing the Farmers' Income

229. One of the major objectives of our Government has been to create new employment avenues. Animal husbandry & dairy sector can play a pivotal role in the creation of self-employment opportunities, besides supporting to meet the gaps of milk, egg and meat production.
230. Sir, the Government's focus on the support of the farmer community through fruitful schemes such as cross-bred calf/heifer rearing, low input technology (LIT) poultry birds such as e.g. Vanaraja, Giriraja, Kamrupa have been well accepted by the rural women folk. Accordingly, the Department has proposed to distribute LIT birds to increase egg

production as well as to enable & promote women empowerment during the Financial Year 2018-19.

231. The Government has also taken steps to supply fodder seeds among the progressive dairy farmers to reduce the feed cost; to build capacity of the livestock & poultry–farmers to enhance their skill for more scientific management of livestock activities; to initiate livestock insurance programme covering cattle, buffalo, pig, goat, poultry under National Livestock Mission (NLM); to initiate massive vaccination programme to root out Foot and Mouth Disease of cow and also to implement a programme against Goat Pox, Enterotoxaemia, pesti-des-petits-ruminants (PDPR) control programme etc. under National Livestock Health & Disease Control Scheme.
232. Sir, Dairy Development, Assam will complete the process of formation of 200 dairy cooperative societies in 21 districts of the state during 2018. Thrust will be given to provide necessary support inputs as per need base to progressive dairy cooperative societies for enhancement of milk production viz. cattle feed, milk procurement equipment, bulk milk cooler, milk collection centre etc. and I have earmarked sufficient budget for the same.
233. As announced in the last Budget, the process of the setting up of Dairy Science College at Sorbhog

in Barpeta for imparting B.Tech. (Dairy Technology) course is progressing well and should come up soon.

234. I propose a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 455 crore in 2018-19 for this Department.

IV. BORDER AREAS DEPARTMENT: *Protecting Our Land, Our Borders, Our Tomorrow*

235. Our Government aims at providing all-round development of the State by meeting the special needs of the people and filling up the critical gaps in development works in the remotest corners of the state, and for instilling a sense of security to the population residing along the Indo-Bangla and Indo-Bhutan International Border, and also along the Inter-state Border Areas of the districts sharing 2743.1 KM border with the neighbouring states of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and West Bengal.
236. For the promotion of peaceful co-existence with the neighbouring states, Border Outreach Programmes are proposed for which sufficient provision has been maintained in Budget 2018-19.
237. For the construction of Cultural Hall, market complexes and community halls in the Inter-state Border Areas an amount of Rs. 12.00 crore is being allocated.
238. A total budgetary allocation of Rs. 161 crore is being proposed in 2018-19 for the Department.

V. CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT : Together We Stand

239. In order to encourage, motivate and strengthen the cooperative societies in the State, our Government has instituted the *Bishista Samabai Manyata Bota*, which will be awarded to 18 best performing cooperative societies of the State in 6 categories.
240. In order to enhance the capacity of the GPSSs in the procurement of goods and services, a scheme of 'Managerial Subsidy to GPSS' is being implemented.
241. Further, to build sufficient rural infrastructure for storage and preservation of food grains and agricultural produce, I have allocated a sum of Rs.50 crore under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
242. Women cooperatives and clusters are an important means to economically empower women in our society and for their financial inclusion. To enhance the participation of women in the cooperative sector I have allocated sufficient provision for the *Mahila Samabai Sabalikaran Yojana* and Samabai Biponi.
243. Our cooperative societies can only be effective if we ensure that their members are adequately skilled and trained in various aspects of technical, financial and administrative management of their societies. To develop permanent infrastructure like

administrative buildings, classrooms, etc. for training and capacity building of these cooperative societies, I have allocated suitable provisions for this purpose.

244. To enhance milk production in our state and to make Assam self- sufficient in the Dairy sector, our Government is giving financial assistance to Dairy Cooperatives for which necessary provision has been made.
245. A total budgetary allocation of Rs. 156.99 crore is being earmarked for the year 2018-19

VI. CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT : Preserving Heritage

246. Culture and heritage reflect and shape our values, beliefs, and aspirations, and define our national identity. It is important to preserve our cultural heritage, because it binds us together as a people. Assam, in all its diversity, reflects a proud and confident culture of myriad communities, yet one soul!
247. Speaker Sir, the archaeological sites and monuments are witness to our history. We have worked on the preservation and conservation of 127 archaeological sites and monuments and we would like to promote historical tourism in the days to come. This also means that our existing museums which act as repositories of this historical narrative need to be upgraded. We are also planning a new museum at Barak Valley.

248. As I recollected at the beginning of my speech, this year marks the 125th anniversary of the Patharughat Rebellion. As a homage to the 140 brave martyrs of this rebellion, we propose a Memorial Museum at Patharughat and I propose an allocation of Rs. 1 crore for the same.
249. In my last budget speech, I had made several commitments regarding various initiatives in the cultural spheres. Sir, I am happy to submit before this August House that we have made progress this regard. To enumerate a few: the work for establishment of **Kumar Bhaskar Barman Kshetra** in Nalbari has been initiated, land has been allocated for the establishment of **Ajan Peer Khetra** in Sivasagar on similar lines. Further, as promised, we also have incorporated the Festivals of **Ali Aye Ligang** and **Me-Dam-Me-Phi** in the annual calendar of Cultural Affairs Department.
250. Further, it is also proposed to renovate the Nilima Barua Folk Art Museum at Gauripur and necessary budgetary allocation for the same has been made.
251. We have initiated the process of construction of **District Library and Auditorium at Silchar** in addition to the up-gradation & modernization of District Libraries at Nagaon, Jorhat, Guwahati and Bongaigaon and for this, I allocate Rs. 8 crore in this Budget 2018-19.
252. Speaker Sir, as announced in my last Budget, we successfully held the 1st ever Guwahati

International Film Festival which was a grand success. Going a step ahead, in 2018-19 I propose to organise the first International Children Film Festival and the first International Documentary Film Festival in addition to the 2nd Guwahati International Film Festival under the ambit of Jyoti Chitraban. I have made sufficient budgetary allocations in budget 2018-19 for holding these events.

253. As a mark of respect and honor to legendary film personality Biju Phukan, we are instituting an award in his name. I am confident that this will inspire may budding actors to excel in this profession.

254. ***Sabka Saath sabka Vikas – A small tribute to our collective identity***

Our Government seeks to recognise the existence and contribution of each and every community, however small it may be, in Assam who are part of this greater Assamese society and its culture. Our diversity is our strength! And today I announce with great pride that we shall construct a “***Ekata Bhawan***” in *Dhola-Samannaya Khetra* in Tinsukia district. This Bhawan will showcase culture of various communities of Assam. Each community will be provided space in this Bhawan.

255. To take this spirit further during the upcoming financial year, I propose a budgetary allocation of Rs. 155.83 crore for the Department.

VII. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT :

Elementary Education Department : Reaching the unreached with quality

256. Many flagship schemes of this Department like the Provision of Additional Classrooms, Partition Walls, and Electricity, Pratyahban, setting up of B.Ed colleges etc. have already found a mention either in the '*Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Maala*' or among the major announcements earlier in my speech. In addition to these schemes, we propose to undertake a number of new initiatives while continuing most of the existing schemes.
257. As announced in the last Budget speech, the Education Department has initiated the process of amalgamation of different categories of schools located in the same campus or nearby. These will not just help in the facilitating of saving of administrative costs but also help in rational allocation of teachers.
258. Further, to improve the academic and the administrative environment in the education system, we intend to introduce the concept of the Panchayat Education Officer who will act as the DDO for all the LP/ME/MV/UP Government/Government Provincialized schools in the Panchayat. The equivalent of the same would be the Urban Education Officer (UEO) at the Municipality/ Municipal Board level in urban/semi urban areas.

259. We also intend to conduct the regular recruitment drive to hire about 15000 new teachers to the elementary educational system.
260. Sir, we will continue with Gunotsav this year as well, for which, I have allocated a sum of Rs. 30 crore and I am sure that we will be able to find improved learning and better infrastructural facilities when we visit schools for Gunotsav this year.
261. I earmark an amount of Rs. 8519 crores for the Elementary Education Department in this budget.

SECONDARY EDUCATION: *Equipping is the Key*

262. With an objective to provide free education to the students from underprivileged backgrounds, our Government has waived off the admission fees/ tuition fees etc. for those students taking admission in both Higher Secondary schools and Colleges for the first time since 2017-18. We will continue the fee waiver scheme during the next financial year also.
263. Our Government has also incorporated the scheme of distribution of Free Text-Books at Secondary Level (Class IX to Class XII) for the first time and a total of 1.08 crore free textbooks have already been distributed amongst 766100 numbers of students of Class-IX & X during the academic session of 2017.
264. I further propose a budgetary provision of Rs 47.00 crore for providing Free Text-Books to the students of Class-IX to XII during 2018-19, in five core subjects

for all streams viz. (i) Science, (ii) Arts, (iii) Commerce & (iv) Vocational Education in all major media of instruction. Further, the text book scheme will be expanded for the students of the degree 1st/ 2nd/ 3rd year also.

265. The quality of education in some of the educationally backward areas remain a matter of concern. The main reason behind this is the lack of skilled teachers and resources. Therefore, our Government during its last fiscal, has incorporated a scheme called “Introduction of Tele-Education through Virtual Classrooms” to inculcate concept based learning by way of virtual interaction covering the core subjects of English, Science, & Mathematics from Class VI to Class X.
266. In order to facilitate the completion of school education and to reduce the dropout rates, Government has decided to establish 100 new schools in the educationally backward areas by upgrading existing LP and UP schools to High Schools up to Class-X in a PPP mode. Further, Rashtriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Assam has initiated the process for running the operations and management of Secondary Schools under PPP mode in Tea Garden Areas of Assam.
267. Government of Assam in Secondary Education Department has incorporated a new scheme during 2017-18 for construction of boundary walls in the examination centres of HSSLC/HSLC exam. We

seek the support of the Hon'ble MLA's through their untied additional funds. As per the scheme guidelines, out of the total approved cost of construction, Government will provide 50% of the total cost of construction and the remaining 50% cost of the construction will be provided through MLA/MP Area Development Fund. Adequate budget provision has been proposed for continuation of the scheme during financial year 2018-19.

268. We will also continue some of the existing successful schemes like the Anundoram Borooah Award, free cycle distribution scheme etc. in this year as well and I have made necessary allocation for the same.
269. Further, for about 6000 additional contractual teachers are engaged currently who are paid a fixed remuneration of Rs. 15500 per month. From the next financial year, we will increase the same to Rs. 20000 per month.
270. Further, the provincialization process of eligible teachers will be completed in the financial year 2018-19.
271. I propose to allocate Rs. 509 crores for the Secondary Education Department for the year 2018-19.

HIGHER EDUCATION: *Sky is the Limit*

272. For ensuring access to Higher Education in the state, over the last one and half years, rapid expansion has been made in the availability of such

facilities not only in Guwahati based establishment of new universities, but also by opening new colleges, polytechnics, introduction of vocational Courses in colleges and introduction of additional streams in single stream colleges etc. This year colleges shall be asked to start Post Graduate classes wherever it is possible under a set of guidelines to be issued so that quality is not compromised. Further 50 colleges shall be provided with additional science stream this year.

273. We have also undertaken some important structural changes for accelerating reforms in Higher Education. Required policy changes have been introduced to have non-political eminent educationists as Chairman of Governing Bodies of Colleges and for selection of Principals by a committee headed by Vice Chancellor of the University to which the college is affiliated. The College Principal post has now been made a tenure post of 5 years and it has been proposed to introduce a policy that a teacher shall not be eligible to apply for the post of Principal in the same college where he had been serving for more than three years ensuring non-partisanship.
274. To streamline the technical education, we have already initiated a process to bring all Government engineering colleges under the affiliation of Assam Science & Technology University. Functional Autonomy shall be provided to all the Government

Engineering Colleges. The modalities shall be completed soon in order to allow independent functioning and self-decision by the institutions through their Board of Governors. The funds under Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) shall also be leveraged for the Engineering Colleges.

275. I am happy to inform that under the Rashtriya Uchchar Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA), five Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Model Degree Colleges announced last year have already been started at Behali (Biswanath), Amjonga (Goalpara), Tulungia (Bongaigaon), Eraligool (Karimganj) and Dalgaon (Darrang). In addition, academic programme of 2 more colleges at Deithor (Karbi Anglong) and Borkhola (Cachar) will be started from this year.
276. A Bill for the establishment of the three new universities by way of up gradation of three colleges has been passed and the universities have been named as Bhattadev University, Madhavdev University and Kabi Guru Rabindranath Thakur University at Barpeta, North Lakhimpur and Hojai respectively. The process for the creation of posts and appointment of Vice Chancellors is being fast-tracked and is expected to be completed shortly and academic courses will be started soon.
277. To take forward the student excursion programme for colleges and to provide them better exposure, I propose to partner with Rajasthan under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat project.

278. In order to encourage girl students in pursuing technical education, I propose to provide 100 meritorious girl students studying in Polytechnics and Engineering colleges with a scholarship of Rs. 30,000 per year.
279. Higher Education Department has also identified two clusters of leading colleges to be upgraded and developed into cluster universities one each in Jorhat and Guwahati. Jorhat cluster University will consist of JB college, Bahona College, DCB Girls college & CKB Commerce College and Guwahati cluster University will consist of Arya Vidyapeeth College, B Barooah College, Handique Girls College, Gauhati Commerce College & Pragjyotish College.
280. I have earmarked a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 2545 crore in 2018-19 for the for the Education (Higher, Technical) Departments.

VIII. ENVIRONMENT & FOREST DEPARTMENT:
Increasing the Green Cover

281. For the purpose of conservation and upkeep of Deepor Beel, I propose the formation of an autonomous authority, namely Deepor Beel Conservation and Development Authority under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister.
282. Sir, I would like to inform this August House that a proposal for Man-Animal Conflict resolution project is being reviewed by the State Government for

external aid. The proposed project aims at reducing man animal conflict situations in Assam through habitat restoration, early warning system, afforestation, adopting innovative mechanism of repelling wild elephants. Further, the project aims at institutional strengthening of the Environment and Forest Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 2750 crore.

283. For our younger friends, I have some good news: we are taking up steps to bring Assam State Zoo at par with the best zoos in the world an amount of Rs. 5 Cr. has been earmarked for this purpose as an initial grant.
284. A total amount of Rs. 505 crore is being proposed for the Department in 2018-19

IX. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT : *Self Sufficiency is the Target*

285. As proposed during my last Budget speech, a special programme called “Matsya Jagaran – Ghore Ghore Pukhuri, Ghore Ghore Maachh” has been launched to promote sustainable pisciculture and to take the scheme forward, I allocate additional provision this year.
286. Further to achieve self-sufficiency in fish production in Assam, we have prepared a project proposal amounting to Rs. 3400 crore for Assam Fisheries Development & Livelihoods Project seeking funding

from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project aims to develop community tanks & tanks in private land and complement the **Chief Ministers' Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY)**. I am happy to inform the house that the project proposal has been included in the annual rolling plan of JICA by the Government of India and the State Government has established a dedicated cell for project preparation and monitoring.

287. Further, to restore 500 un-registered wetlands in Assam with a focus on the development of small indigenous fish species, fresh water shrimp culture and to introduce fresh water pearl culture in Assam, we have prepared another project proposal worth Rs.1800 crore and have been working closely with the French Development Agency (AfD), seeking their financial assistance.
288. To facilitate propagation and restoration of endangered species of fish and conserving the Fish Biodiversity of the State, the Fisheries Department is also developing a directory of indigenous fish species. Future plans include a data base and a gene bank for indigenous fish species at an estimated cost of Rs.9.36 crore. Accordingly, I have allocated sufficient budget in the current year to move along these activities.
289. A total amount of Rs. 160 crore is proposed for the year 2018-19

X. FOOD, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT : *The Poor Must Benefit*

290. Sir, it is a matter of pride that in the last one year, through the focused efforts the State Government, and under the able guidance of the Central Government, we have provided domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) connections to over 9.5 lakh women households across the State under the ***Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Scheme(PMUJY)***. In order to further incentivize the adoption of domestic LPG connections by the remaining BPL families, our Government plans to provide a financial assistance of Rs.1000 per family and for this purpose, I propose to allocate Rs. 128.70 crore in this Budget.
291. During my previous budget speech, I had announced that we will change the process of fund release for the food grains under the NFSA, and accordingly have now started releasing the transportation cost and commission to the GPSS and other agents in advance and subsequently adjust this amount against the funds to be released by Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies. This mechanism has been tested over the past year and now we can clearly see an end to the cycle of corruption in this matter. A budget provision of Rs.591 crore for the payment of transportation cost & payment of commission has been made in budget 2018-19.

292. Speaker Sir, another innovation of our Government has been the launch of '**Aamar Dukan on Wheels**', a mobile shopping facility for essential goods (Non-PDS items) in an eco-friendly e-rickshaw. Through this scheme, not only do the consumers get their daily requirement of essential commodities at their doorstep at a reasonable price, but also provides gainful employment to our unemployed youths. I have made necessary budget provision in 2018-19 to take this innovative scheme forward.
293. Further, we propose to open an additional 664 new "**Aamar Dukan**" shops during 2018-19 and a necessary budget provision has been made for the purpose.
294. We also aim to construct warehouse and cold – storage infrastructure in 6 locations across the state.
295. A new scheme, "**Fair Price Shop Automation**" has been started in collaboration with Government of India in the ratio 75:25 for which I have allocated Rs.25 crore in the budget.
296. I have proposed a total amount of Rs. 877 crore for the Department for the year 2018-19

XI. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT :
Hub of Administration

297. Our Government is aware that citizens across all strata of society visit metro cities for healthcare, education and other such reasons. The cost of daily

living in these cities can be prohibitive, even for short visits. To fulfil this long felt un-met need, construction of new multi-storeyed Assam Houses and Bhawans at New Delhi, Vellore, Chennai, and an additional one at Kolkata is being taken up. Our Government has already put in a formal request to the Government of Telengana for allocation of a suitable plot of land measuring approximately three (3) acres in Hyderabad for setting up of Assam Bhawan at Hyderabad and we are thankful to the Government of Telengana for their positive response. Similar initiatives for setting up Assam Bhawans at new locations such as Pune, Chandigarh, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Bhubaneshwar have also been taken up. Further we also propose the construction of 3rd Assam Bhawan in Delhi and towards this end, I have earmarked Rs. 100 crore under the Assam Infrastructure Financing Authority for the construction of the same.

298. Our Government believes in gender inclusion and providing equal space and opportunity to all employees. In pursuit of this, we shall introduce common facility rooms for female employees in Secretariat & DC Offices.
299. Another major exercise that will commence soon will be to cover all eligible residents of the State for Aadhaar enrolment during 2018-19. I call upon all the elected representatives, officials and our general public to cooperate and participate in this mammoth exercise.

300. I allocate a total amount of Rs. 727 crore for the Department for the year 2018-19.

XII. GUWAHATI DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: *The Gateway Must Get Its Due*

301. As promised in my last Budget Speech, the Assam State Capital Region Development Authority Act, 2017 came into force from 1st day of Jan, 2018. The new Authority will prepare a regional plan for the development of the State Capital Region for the rapid and integrated development of the entire area to transform Guwahati region into a large vibrant metropolis.

302. The design of the Guwahati Open Spaces and Park Integrator (GOPI) work is allotted to Singapore Corporation Enterprise (SCE), Government of Singapore. I have allotted necessary budgetary provision for the implementation of GOPI in this budget.

303. Further, the work on the Kamakhya Ropeway connecting the Kamakhya Railway station and the area near the temple which will benefit lakhs of pilgrims every year who visit to seek the blessings of Maa Kamakhya is progressing smoothly. The process of the preparation of the DPR is underway and the estimated cost of the 1.06 km project is Rs. 33 crore.

304. The work of creating more open and green spaces in urban areas is also gaining speed at three

proposed sites, Old Jail land at Fancy bazar for a proposed amount Rs 58.63 crore, the Assam State Housing Board complex at Adabari, Maligaon at an estimated Rs 8.74 crore and the Khadi & Village Industries Board complex at Hengrabari at an estimated cost of Rs 14.81 crore.

305. As announced in the last budget, the City Infra Development Fund (CIDF) will continue for beautification and landmark project infrastructure creation. An amount of Rs.100 crore has been allotted in the current budget.
306. It is proposed to develop three modern freight terminuses with Intermodal Transport at Changsari, Chaigaon and Sonapur to ease out the traffic congestion and to reduce accidents and pollution in the city. I have allocated Rs. 5 crore in the budget for the development of this project which will be developed on PPP mode.
307. To resolve the issue of lack of parking, more number of parking facilities will be created in the city. An allocation of Rs 5 crore has been made in the current budget.
308. To address the perennial problem of artificial flooding in Guwahati, an amount of Rs.50 crore is allocated for development and maintenance of existing water retention basins.
309. Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) has engaged 58 NGOs for collection of Municipal Solid

Waste from door to door. Sweeping of arterial roads, streets, footpaths, pavements, etc. have been taken up by GMC extensively. GMC has converted 3750 numbers of street lights to LED lights from the conventional Sodium vapour light. It has helped in reducing energy consumption and at the same time provides better illumination.

310. The Guwahati Smart City Limited (GSCL) has initiated a variety of projects including the Borsola Beel project which aims to establishing a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), landscaping and cleaning of the Beel. Further, the Brahmaputra Riverfront Development project has been also initiated from Kamakhya to the Raj Bhawan. We have also set up bio toilets and water ATMs at 20 locations on a pilot basis.
311. The works under the Guwahati Water Supply Project, funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is progressing at a rapid scale and attempts are underway to start water supply this year and I have earmarked sufficient budget for the same in the financial year 2018-19.
312. To implement a sewerage project for a major portion of the city, a loan agreement for Guwahati Sewerage Project (Zone-I) between JICA authorities and the Central Government has been signed. For the financial year 2018-19, a fund of Rs.10 crore has been made for the project.

313. To improve the water supply, drainage and solid waste management in Guwahati and Dibrugarh, our Government has taken initiative in the sector with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank under the Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program (AUIIP). The program is implemented in two tranches, starting from March 2012 with a total cost of Rs. 1886 crore and the overall budget allotment for 2018-19 for AUIIP is Rs. 358 crore that includes ADB's loan share.
314. A total amount of Rs. 1515 crore is being proposed in 2018-19 for the Department.

XIII. HANDLOOM, TEXTILE & SERICULTURE DEPARTMENT : *Weaving the Future*

315. In my last budget speech, I had announced the launch of Mission Muga with an aim of achieving a production of one million kg Muga by 2026. Our Government is committed to achieving this ten-fold increase in the Muga production and we will continue to intensify our activities in this area.
316. As announced in the last budget, we have set up a *Mulberry Silk Yarn Bank* at Sualkuchi which is now making available quality yarn at affordable prices to the local weavers. As per this scheme, revolving fund for the purchase of Mulberry Silk Yarn of around Rs. 18.4 crore is earmarked in addition to the dovetailing of the Sualkuchi Institute of Fashion Technology for bringing the latest advancements in design to the doorsteps of the Silk Weavers. The

weaver beneficiaries are to be provided identity cards which will entitle them to get yarn for maximum 5 working looms at the rate of 1.5 kg per working loom per month which is at 20% below the market price. This initiative has been very well-received by the weavers and we will continue with this initiative and I earmark Rs.20 crore in this Budget for the same.

317. Further, to upgrade the skillsets of our traditional weavers, our Government is proposing a scheme to develop weavers clusters comprising of 20 weavers each, wherein seed capital of Rs.5 Lakh will be given to each cluster in order to introduce new techniques, looms etc. I have allotted necessary provision during this financial year 2018-19 to cover 100 such weaver clusters.
318. Majuli island, with its ethnic Mishing population, is well known for the unique textile motifs. To preserve and promote this traditional industry we propose to establish a “*Model Handloom Village*” at Majuli for which a budgetary provision of Rs.200.00 lakhs has been made during this current financial year, 2018-19.
319. I have earmarked Rs. 385 crore for the Department of Handloom, Textile & Sericulture.

XIV. HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT:
Journey Continues for Enhanced Coverage with Quality

320. It gives me immense pleasure to highlight the rapid strides made by the Government of Assam in the Health Department during the last couple of years.

321. There has been a significant reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the State which now stands at 44 and reduction in Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) through various interventions.
322. Last year I had announced that in order to tackle the issue of high IMR/MMR in the Tea-Garden, all temporary tea-garden women workers would be provided a sum of Rs.12000 as wage compensation during their period of maternity. I am happy to announce that the State Cabinet has recently approved this scheme and we will launch the scheme very soon. Further, the Cabinet has also approved the expansion of the scheme to cover the permanent employees as well. I am confident this scheme will help the women tea garden worker look after herself better and her unborn baby without compromising the livelihood of her family.
323. I am happy to announce that the Government of India has started the preliminary activities for the establishment of AIIMS at Guwahati. The State Government is supposed to provide power and water supply and approach roads leading to the institution for which steps have already been taken. The establishment of AIIMS in the State of Assam will go a long way in fulfilling a long-standing demand of the people of the State.
324. In order to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services along with diagnostics facilities, Government of Assam has deployed 80 dedicated Mobile Medical Units exclusively for tea garden areas.

325. The Government of Assam has also taken various initiatives for procurement of quality drugs. The essential drugs are procured in generic form and provided free of cost to all OPD and IPD patients. The State has already notified the modified Essential Drugs List (EDL) where number of free drugs has been significantly increased from 205 to 441 to treat communicable and non-communicable diseases, including diseases like Cancer, Nephro, Haemophilia, Thalassemia that necessitate super-specialty interventions.
326. As a part of community & preventive Medicine, as announced in my last budget speech, 100 Yoga centres in 100 selected development blocks have already been established in the State under Assam Yoga Project (Phase-I) and the remaining development blocks shall be covered in Phase-II in the FY 2018-19.
327. National Health Mission (NHM) Assam is in the process of upgrading various tiers of public health facilities viz. Sub-Divisional Civil Hospitals (SDCH) to District Hospitals (DH), Block Primary Health Centres (BPHC), Community Health Centres (CHC), First Referral Units (FRU) etc. details of which are reflected below: to SDCH, undertake construction of 12 numbers of CHC (Model Hospital), and to strengthen a number of BPHC/ PHCs etc. at an overall cost of Rs. 369 crores. The details of the proposed health institutions to upgraded and the cost of the proposed upgradation is mentioned below.

List of approved health institutions to be upgraded		
SI No	Name of scheme	Amount Approved (Rupees in Lakh)
A. Upgradation of SDCH to DH		
1	Hojai DH	2848.77
2	Garmur SDCH	2229.47
3	Hatsingimari SDCH	2162.79
4	Biswanath Chariali SDCH	2187.89
5	Hamren SDCH	2828.1
6	Sonari SDCH	1744.2
B. BPHC/CHC/FRU to SDCH		
1	Jonai BPHC	1824.43
2	Tamulpur BPHC	1627.29
3	Jakhalabandha FRU	1536.55
4	Sarbhog CHC	1500.77
5	Sadiya BPHC	2042.15
6	Bokakhat SDCH	1205.69
7	Mukalmua FRU	1451.37
8	Lakhipur BPHC	1139.19
C. Construction of CHC[Model Hospital]		
1	Mahalipara (Majbat)	664.58
2	Dimakuchi (Panery)	668.5
3	Karigaon (Kokrajhar)	656.32
4	Malinibeel (Silchar)	683.2
5	Longnit Natun Bazar (Diphu)	678.77
6	Bilasipara	667.57
7	Boko	667.57
8	Gossaigaon	667.57
9	Dhing	667.57

10	Nazira	667.57
11	Kaklabari(Chapaguri)	667.57
12	Haluwating (Amguri)	667.57
D. Strengthening of BPHC/PHC etc.		
1	Rajgarh	191.88
2	Sasoni	117.99
3	Rangapara	63.29
4	Nilambazar	106.8
5	Lumding	2016.5
Grand Total		36849.48

328. We have set up a Commissionerate of Food Safety and Drug Administration which we will further strengthen through capacity building, creation of additional posts, and by strengthening the enforcement measures. Further, we will adopt the best practices for drug testing and food analysis and also make operational the State Drugs Control Laboratory in FY 2018-19.
329. I also propose to set up an advanced trauma care centre in Jorhat so that patients do not have to travel and timely care is provided in times of need.
330. Sir, I would also like to inform this august house that a project proposal for Strengthening of Health Systems and Medical Education is currently under consideration with Ministry of DoNER to be financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency having an estimated value of Rs. 2875 crore. The proposed project aims at comprehensive

upgradation of the healthcare, health administration and medical facilities / infrastructure in Assam including improvement in key health parameters such as Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

331. I propose a budgetary allocation of Rs. 5082 crore in 2018-19 for this Department.

XV. HILL AREAS DEPARTMENT: *God's Gift*

332. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight that our Government has made higher allocation to the Hill Districts of Assam, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and Dima Hasao Autonomous Council compared to earlier years. The following table gives the details of the allocations :

Budget Allocations for KAAC, DHAC Autonomous Council				
Rupees in crore				
Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
KAAC	282.01	282.01	339.44	374.32
DHAC	121.35	121.35	146.50	161.39

333. Further, in the last Budget I had announced that we are giving the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) and Dima Hasao Autonomous Council (DHAC), one-time special grants to bridge the developmental gaps of these regions. Accordingly, I had earmarked Rs. 100 crore for KAAC and Rs. 45 crore for DHAC in the current financial year and

this entire money will be released within 31st March, 2018 for taking large capital investment projects in these two hill districts. Further, apart from the higher normative allocation of Rs. 374.32 crore for KAAC and Rs. 161.39 crore for DHAC, I am allocating an additional sum of Rs. 100 crore for KAAC and Rs. 50 crore for DHAC in budget 2018-19.

334. In addition to these substantial financial grants, I am also further allocating a sum of Rs. 39.44 crore for KAAC and Rs. 24.87 crore for DHAC, as per the recommendations of the 5th Assam State Finance Commission.

335. I am hopeful that this grant will be put to the best use by the two autonomous councils in a transparent manner with fullest accountability to improve the physical infrastructure of the region and the lives of the people of the region

336. Also, I have announced the establishment of a number of educational institutions to be set up in the two hill districts of the State. I am sure that this will provide great opportunities for the people of the region to pursue courses of their choice.

XVI. HOME & POLITICAL DEPARTMENT: *Guarding Assam*

337. As mentioned in my earlier budget speech, police is the face of the Government for “*Parivartan*” and thus constitutes a distinctive set of a wide spectrum of functions and services which are vital for safety of the society.

338. Our government started the Project “***Mission for Overall Improvement of Thana for Responsive Image(MOITRI)***” last year to make the police more responsive, techno-savvy and people friendly, with an aim to develop the police station as a people friendly service provider for our citizens. Under the project MOITRI, construction work has already begun in 27 out of the 73 Police Stations proposed in the first phase. I propose a budget provision of Rs. 100.00 crore in the financial year 2018-19 for the same.
339. We have already issued appointment orders to nearly 3000 youths in the police force. Further, I propose to additionally recruit more than 5000 Constables in Assam Police during the financial year 2018-19.
340. To further strengthen border vigilance and to improve law and order situation in international and inter-state border areas, our Government proposes to raise 5 new I.R. Battalions and I am earmarking a budgetary provision of Rs. 25.00 crore for the same.
341. **Cyber Dome at Guwahati and Cyber Police Station at Police district HQ :**
- In fulfilling the promise made in the last year’s budget speech, Assam Police has started the Cyberdome Project to enhance the technical

intelligence collection along with Digital Forensics, Big Data Analysis and Cyber Security of the Digital Infrastructure. Assam Police (SB) has signed an MoU with National Technical Research Organization (NTRO), which is a premier central technical intelligence gathering agency, to start a state-of-the-art social media lab and Training facility which will not just serve the Assam Police personnel but also the Police Personnel from other North Eastern States as well. Assam will be the second state in India after Haryana to have such a facility.

342. Our Government also proposes to set up 35 numbers of cybercrime police stations, one each in every police district. The cyberdome at Guwahati will act as the apex cybercrime coordination centre for cyber security, cyber forensics, digital data analysis, social media monitoring and collaborate with the proposed district-level cyber police stations and closely monitor the cyber space. This project will further streamline the digital communication of the police Department with the citizens through the police-public portal and improve the overall service delivery mechanism of Assam Police.
343. Tourism is a great catalyst for social cohesion. To ensure safety of domestic and international tourists, our Government proposes to establish six number of tourist police stations, one each at Kaziranga

National Park (Golaghat), Manas National Park (Barpeta), Dibru Saikhowa National Park (Tinsukia), Nameri National Park (Sonitpur), Orang National Park (Rowta), and one tourist police station at Guwahati.

344. We also intend to upgrade the Police Training College at Dergaon to State Police Academy and equip it with a magnificent edifice, modern gadgets and latest modules of training. This project shall be given a much greater push in the financial year 2018-19 and I earmark a sum of Rs. 6 crore for the same.
345. The Government is in the process of sanctioning 42 number of new Fire & Emergency Services Stations at different places of Assam.
346. We plan to start a Forensic Science Institute in the Directorate of Forensic Science, Assam which is expected to help the younger generation to comprehend the role of Forensic Science in the justice delivery system. Wide ranging training programmes will also be started at the proposed institute for different government officials on subjects like cybercrime, counterfeit fake currency notes etc.
347. A total amount of Rs. 5584 crore has been earmarked in 2018-19 for the Department.

**XVII. IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM ACCORD
DEPARTMENT : *Keeping the Promise***

“আছে মানুহৰ বিশ্বাস,
আমাৰ আছে ভৱিষ্যতৰ সুস্থ বঙা সূৰ্যৰ পিনে চকু
বৰ্তমানৰ নিৰালস্য নিৰাসক্তিৰ, বিকৃত জঞ্জাল লই
জীয়াৰ বুকুত, আমাৰ দুৰু দুৰু স্পন্দমান অন্তৰতো আছে
শতক ভৰসা.....
.....তাৰ বাবে আমি উৰ্বৰা মাটিৰ কৰ্মনিষ্ঠ পূজাৰী।
আমি যুগ পৰিস্থিতিৰ প্ৰতীক
বস্ত্ৰৰ আৰু আদৰ্শৰ দ্বন্দ্বাত্মক গতি
সংগ্ৰাম লিপ্ত বিপ্লৱী”

348. I quote these few lines of Amulya Barua who himself tragically passed away, a martyr to mindless violence. History tells us that our Freedom, our Rights and our Reforms are protected and won by those who come out of the safety of their homes to raise their voice. It took too long, but the 855 martyrs of Assam agitation were paid obeisance by this State government in December 2017. Though we can never repay the debt we owe these great souls, a humble offering of Rs 5 lakhs each was made to the next-of-kin of these 855 sons and daughters of Assam as a symbol of our gratitude and respect. In my earlier budget speech, I had submitted that we have an obligation towards the victims of bullet injuries and sexual crimes. To put words to action, I announce financial assistance of Rs. 2 lakh to each of the bullet victims, seriously injured persons, and

rape victims. I have earmarked an amount of Rs. 10 crore for this.

349. The Government of Assam is committed to the effective implementation of the Assam Accord in letter and spirit. In my first Budget Speech, I had stated that the Assam agitation was not only an agitation for saving Assam from the aggression of foreigners but also it was an agitation to protect sovereignty and integrity of the country.
350. The sealing of the Indo-Bangladesh border is the topmost priority for the Government of Assam to check illegal migration across the Bangladesh border. Out of 263 km long Assam-Bangladesh Border, 201.51 km length of border is covered by physical barrier i.e. fence. Process is on to cover the remaining area by technological solutions which include deployment of cameras, sensors, radars, lasers, high mast light etc. BSF is implementing technological solutions in this stretch.
351. The publication of the first draft of NRC featuring the names of 1.90 crore Indian citizens living in Assam is a major event in the history of the state and the country. The remaining 1.39 crore cases continue to remain under verification under the overall monitoring of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. I propose to allocate Rs. 91 Crore for the carrying out of the NRC works for the year 2018-19.
352. Our government has also initiated the process for the Revival of Ashok Paper Mill (Assam) Ltd. which

was one of the agreements of the Assam Accord and I am confident that we will be soon be able to reach a resolution on this.

XVIII. INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT :
Creating Growth All-Round

353. As highlighted earlier in my speech, “**Advantage Assam: Global Investors Summit**” at Guwahati on 3rd & 4th February, 2018 has positioned Assam, as “India’s expressway to ASEAN”. We have managed to attract the attention of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) / Business-to-Business Network (BBN) countries and business conglomerates to make Assam as the Industrial Hub and springboard for ASEAN/BBN markets as part of our Hon’ble Prime Minister’s “Act East” vision.
354. Further, to ensure that the potential investors get easy access to land, we have created a “**Land Bank**” to support them in establishing their units. Our Government has declared the area within 1 km beyond 500 metres on either side of NH-37 from Jalukbari, Kamrup (M) to Kukurmara, Kamrup (R) and NH-31 from Jalukbari, Kamrup (M) to Tihu, Nalbari excluding tribal belts and blocks, wetlands, notified forest land, VGR land as an ‘**Industrial Corridor**’ to facilitate rapid industrialization in the state without compromising with the land rights of our indigenous population.
355. In the post GST era, tax exemptions to the existing industrial units under the respective Industrial

Policies became incompatible as industrial units are required to deposit tax amount under GST regime. To continue our thrust on industrialization, our Government took pioneering efforts by introducing the Assam Industries (Tax Reimbursement for Eligible Units) Scheme, 2017. The Scheme not only provides 100% tax reimbursement to existing industrial units but also to new units which come into existence during the post GST regime.

356. In order to reap the benefit of the momentum generated by the Global Investors Summit, it is proposed to set up a dedicated agency under the name & style “Invest Assam”. The agency will work in tandem with “Invest India” and undertake Investment Promotion & Investment follow up activities on a regular basis.
357. We also envisage Guwahati as a start-up Hub for the eastern region of India. To provide a platform to the entrepreneurs, we are setting up a state-of-the-art incubation centre - “**Assam Hub**” - at Ambari, Guwahati with end to end innovation ecosystem with facilities like plug and play work spaces, high speed internet connectivity, conference rooms, access to mentors and investors, legal & regulatory guidance, etc. We are also implementing “**Assam Startup Policy, 2017**” under which Startups will be provided both fiscal & non fiscal incentives.
358. In total, I have allotted Rs.839 crore to the Industries & Commerce Department in my budget for 2018-19.

**XIX. INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT : *Connecting the State***

359. In my last Budget speech, I had proposed to constitute a '**Journalist Family Benefit Fund (JFBF)**' for providing financial assistance to the bereaved family members of journalists who may have lost their lives while on duty. As announced, we have already sanctioned Rs.100 lakh for this purpose and I am also making adequate Budget Provision for this in the budget 2018-19.
360. During the current financial year, we have also extended one time ex-gratia of Rs.5 lakh each to the next of kin of 31 journalists of the State who have lost their lives or have been declared missing while on duty. I am making adequate budget provision for this purpose during the year 2018-19.
361. Further, as promised in my speech last year, the '**Pension Scheme for Journalists**' has been introduced to provide retirement benefits to journalists working for more than 20 years in Assam and we have already distributed individual pensions of Rs.8000 per month to many respected journalists. We will continue this schemewith a provision of awarding pensions to additional 20 journalists each year. The necessary Budget provisions have been made.
362. Moreover, with a view to ensuring security and protection of the journalists & their families, I now

propose to introduce a new scheme '**Journalist Insurance Scheme**', the guidelines & modalities of which will be prepared by the Department. I am proposing adequate budget provision for the same.

363. I have made necessary provision for setting up of the "**Media Fellowship**" for pursuing higher studies in journalism so that 20 media persons can be selected for this fellowship at the rate of Rs.50,000 each.
364. As a token of appreciation of the work being done by the Media Trust, I propose to give a one-time grant of Rs.10 lakh to the Trust.
365. I earmark a budgetary allocation of Rs. 63 crore in 2018-19 for the Department.

XX. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT :
Leveraging the Digital Technologies

366. Our Government recently inaugurated the Directorate of Information Technology, the setting up of which is expected to increase the reach and service delivery capability of the State Government to deliver services.
367. With an aim to effectively implement the recently promulgated Electronic Service Delivery Rules, 2017, I have earmarked necessary amounts in Budget 2018-19.
368. We are also establishing a **Tech City** near Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati

with an Electronic Manufacturing Cluster at its core at a total project cost of Rs.119.89 crore which is slated to start functioning from 1st January, 2019. In the Tech City, it is proposed to start manufacturing of export oriented Quantum Dot Nano particles, which will be the 4th factory in the world, and the first in India. This would enable production and growth of downstream industries for quantum dot LED displays, solar Photo Voltaic, efficient batteries, security inks etc.

369. Sir, it is our dream to leverage the latest technologies for the rapid development and progress of the villages in the State. With this in mind, we plan to set up a '**Tech-Village in Assam**' on a pilot basis which will have the state-of-the-art technological advancements including Internet of Things, Robotics, Artificial Intelligence etc. If proven successful, we will scale up the initiative to other parts of the State as well.
370. I am also happy to inform you that the e-District services have now completed two years during which more than 1 million online applications have been filed by the citizens. I propose that the best performing districts be recognized and awarded for their effective implementation of e-District.
371. I propose to allocate an amount of Rs. 60 crore for the Department in 2018-19 for the Department.

XXI. IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT : *Unleashing the Potential*

372. Our Government is committed to doubling the farmers income by 2022. Accordingly, the Government has taken up various schemes and out of 20 Major and Medium irrigation schemes. We have already completed 15 of them and 5 are under process, thereby creating an irrigation potential of 2.79423 Lakh Ha. by December 2017.
373. In Major & Medium irrigation sector, Dhansiri Irrigation project (Major) has been taken up under loans from NABARD and is targeted to be completed within March 2018 to create a potential of 23,972 ha.
374. Further 4 numbers of Minor Irrigation Scheme in each LAC and 1000 numbers of tube well schemes powered by solar as well as electrical energy have been proposed under PMSKY (HKKP) and PMSKY to bring 19120 ha. of land under the facility of irrigation coverage during 2018-19.
375. An amount of Rs. 1700 crore is being proposed for the year 2018-19 for the Department.

XXII. JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT : *Rule of Law*

376. It is said “**Justice delayed is justice denied**”. As a citizen-centric Government, we have given top priority to strengthening our state Judiciary so as to

ensure that '***justice is neither delayed nor denied***'. The priority of our Government is to give every possible support in this regard to the judiciary by providing them with quality infrastructure and offer support facilities. Steps have been taken for the construction of an auditorium at the Gauhati High Court campus, installation of CCTV Cameras, creation of Disabled Friendly Courts, supply of drinking water and the construction of public toilets in all court complexes.

377. I am happy to inform you that Fast Track Courts under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 have already been notified and steps are being taken for disposal of these cases expeditiously. Moreover, a special court for trial of the case relating to the Bomb Blast on 30th October, 2008, was recently inaugurated and is a commendable step taken by the Hon'ble High Court to give justice to the victims of the case.
378. In total, I have allotted Rs. 582 crore to the Judiciary Department in my budget for 2018-19 for taking up various initiatives for this Department.

XXIII. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT : *Resolving Disputes, Providing Justice*

379. Our Government is committed to redress the legal cases expeditiously. Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) centres have been constructed in the districts of Darrang, Nalbari and Tinsukia and Sonitpur and

Cachar and will be completed in the districts of Bongaigaon, Dhemaji, Golaghat, Jorhat, Dibrugarh, Kokrajhar and Barpeta soon. Further, the construction of ADR Centres in the remaining Districts will be taken up in a phased manner under the 14th Finance Commission Award

380. An amount of Rs. 45 crore is allocated in 2018-19 for the Department

XXIV. MINES & MINERALS DEPARTMENT : *Nature's Gift*

381. The Mines & Minerals Department of the Government of Assam has taken multiple initiatives and made remarkable achievement in the development of mineral resources of Assam in recent years. There has been a significant contribution to the revenues earned by the State in the form of royalty collected on the production of crude oil, natural gas, coal and limestone.
382. However, our Government is also concerned about the impact mining activities have on the surrounding population and on the environment. In pursuance of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 2015, District Mineral Foundations, a non-profit body, are being constituted in all the 33 districts of the state to work for the interest and benefit of the families/areas affected by mining related operation.
383. The Department is also actively working on the establishment of GPS enabled Vehicle Tracking

System to monitor the transportation of mineral produces in the State to prevent illegal trading of minor minerals which will enhance the revenue collection from mineral produce and eradicate malpractices.

384. In order to increase revenue of the State, the Department has already granted Petroleum Mining Leases (PML) for the production of crude oil and natural gas.
385. Further, I would like to propose various investigation programmes like detailed exploration of coal deposits in Kalyadung area in Karbi Anglong district, detailed exploration of limestone deposits in Burhahundong area in Dima Hasao district, exploration, geological mapping and drilling alongwith reserve estimation of glass sand deposit in Jiajuri, Nagaon district, extensive study and detailed mapping of decorative stone in Ajagarh Hill, Goalpara District and Baghara, Manaha, Hatiutha Pahar, and Kashughopa of Morigaon district.
386. I earmark an amount of Rs. 22 crore for the year 2018-19 for this Department.

XXV. PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT: *Prosperity in the Countryside*

387. I have already announced a number of schemes earlier in my speech for this Department including the Kanaklata Mahila Sabalikaran Yojana and the Universalisation of the Old Age Pension scheme.

388. For providing Self Employment grants to Educated Youths, I propose a new scheme ***Atal Atma Sansthapon Yojana*** under the aegis of State Institute of Panchayat & Rural Development. A budget provision of Rs 5 crore is proposed for the year 2018-19.
389. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, in the last year, we have started the construction of 1,67, 662 number of houses and will now dovetail with the LED bulb distribution scheme that I had announced earlier in my speech under which the beneficiaries of PMAY will stand to benefit from access to energy efficient LED bulbs.
390. Further, under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), we have provided revolving funds to 80111 number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and trained over 21200 numbers of candidates under the Deen Dayal Grameen-Kaushalya Yojana in addition to providing self-employment to 70306 numbers of rural youth under Rural Self-Employment Training Institutions we will continue to strengthen this.
391. I also propose to build 77 blocks of Community Toilets at Rs. 8.00 lakh per unit and for this an amount of Rs. 6.16 crore is allocated in budget 2018-19.
392. The State Government is also gearing up for conducting the Panchayat elections and the preparations for the same are underway.

393. A total amount of Rs. 5808 crore has been earmarked in 2018-19 for the Department.

XXVI. PENSION & PUBLIC GRIEVANCES DEPARTMENT :

394. Speaker Sir, I am happy to announce that our Government has issued a number of new regulations and revision of pension to deliver better benefits to the pensioners and family pensioners.

395. The basic pension of pensioners (excluding family pensioners) shall be increased by 20%, as and when he/she attains the age of 80 years. This shall be calculated on the basic pension drawn by the pensioner on the date of attainment of 80 years of age.

396. We have further amended the rule for extension of life time family pension to the disabled son/daughter of the Government servants irrespective of the date of retirement/death of the Government servant. This amendment has been made for the benefits/welfare of the disabled son/daughter of the Government servants.

397. During the period from June 2016 to January 2018 a total no. of 20,873 pension cases were resolved. I am happy to announce before this August House that all pending pension cases will be settled within the financial year 2018-19. I consider this among one of the biggest achievements of our Government

as this has provided the much needed succor to thousands of Government employees who would have to otherwise run from pillar to post to get their pension papers sanctioned.

398. I earmark an amount of Rs. 8005.79 crore for this Department in 2018-19.

XXVII. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT: *Building a Future-Ready Team*

399. This Government is determined to create a future-ready team of civil servants built on meritocracy.

400. In the last budget, I had announced that we had decided to establish an exclusive state of the art training centre for the civil servants at Umrangsu on the model of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration that trains IAS Officers at Mussoorie. The work, in this regard, is progressing & I have made necessary budgetary provisions for this purpose in 2018-19.

401. I allocate Rs. 16 crore for the year 2018-19 for the personnel Department.

XXVIII. POWER DEPARTMENT : *Propelling All-Round Growth*

402. Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) aims to increase its generation capacity by installing Replacement Power Project in LTPS (Lakwa Thermal Power Station) and NTPS (Namrup

Thermal Power Station). Moreover, the installation and commissioning of Myntriyang Small Hydro Electric Project is under progress. The project will be completed in this financial year. APGCL is also taking up Lower Koplili Hydro Electric project at a project cost of Rs.1115 crore, which will be funded by ADB, GoI and GoA. The project is scheduled to start from April, 2018. APGCL has taken up works of installation of an 80 MW Solar Park in Amguri.

403. Installation of average 10 MW capacity rooftop solar power generating equipment is also underway. Under the scheme power generating equipment will be installed in the rooftop of personal homes, institutions, social sectors etc. on a 70:30 capital subsidy basis. The Ministry of Natural and Renewable Energy (MNRE) wing of the central government envisages generation of 688 MW electricity by 2021-22. Out of this, 663 MW power will come from solar energy and 25 MW power will come from small hydroelectric station.
404. Under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY), all un-electrified villages are being provided electricity connection.
405. In Assam, the SAUBHGYA scheme has been inaugurated on 23rd January, 2018 aiming to achieve universal household electrification in Assam. The objective of the scheme is to provide electricity connection to all households in rural and urban

areas by providing last mile connectivity. This scheme also covers the electrification of remote and inaccessible villages with standalone Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) based system where grid extension is not feasible and the project will be completed in this financial year.

406. In 72 towns of Assam, including Guwahati, digitisation has been completed. Now, electricity bills can be paid through apdcl.org (official website of APDCL) and myBijulee Android App or by wallets such as PayTM, SBI Buddy, PhonePe etc. A Centralized Customer Care Centre has been established at Sixmile, Guwahati for the benefit of the customers of APDCL. Further, we intend to strengthen the 1912 call centres of APDCL so that the concerns of the consumers are addressed immediately.
407. The system improvement package for Guwahati Project Area will be completed this year. To maintain power supply in all conditions, SCADA system is being introduced in Guwahati. Moreover, a pilot smart grid project is also being commissioned in Guwahati on a pilot basis. The work of laying underground cables in select locations of Guwahati has been sanctioned and initial works are going on.
408. Sir, I would also like to inform that a project proposal for external aid is currently under review with state

Finance Department. The project is for a High Voltage Distribution System which aims at improving the power distribution scenario in Assam by reducing AT&C loss to the optimal level, institutional strengthening and financial sustainability. The estimated value of the project is Rs. 3000 crore.

409. I earmark a total amount of Rs. 2702 crore in 2018-19 for the Department

XXIX. PUBLIC ENTERPRISES DEPARTMENT : *Towards Revitalization*

410. Our Government is taking all necessary efforts to not just revive the sick industries in the State but also to administer the State PSUs efficiently and make them sustainable and profitable. Accordingly, the Public Enterprises Department has prepared a draft "**Public Enterprises Policy**".

411. During the financial year 2018-19, we propose to initiate the process of disinvestment in some select PSUs to encourage the public to invest in the PSUs as shareholders so as to improve its management, governance, accountability, and to bring in professional management in the functioning of these PSUs.

XXX. PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT: *Clean Water, Clean Assam*

412. Of the 88099 habitational areas in rural Assam, 52742 have been fully covered with water supply

till December, 2017. During 2018-19, we propose to cover 300 habitations where water quality is affected and another 200 habitations which are partially covered habitations, by providing safe drinking water.

413. Fluoride and Arsenic contamination of drinking water sources is still a matter of grave concern warranting early mitigation. We propose to complete 96 numbers of community water purification plants for addressing this critical public health issue by utilising the fund allocated for this purpose by NITI Aayog.
414. Under the World Bank funded, **Neer Nirmal Pariyojana** seven Large Multi-Village Schemes (LMVS) covering parts of the districts of Kamrup (M), Jorhat, Hailakandi, Sivasagar, Morigaon, Bongaigaon and Sonitpur have been undertaken. The estimated cost of the project is Rs.1474.03 crore.
415. One of the central objectives of **Swachh Bharat Mission**, the flagship program of Government of India, is to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and clean villages. As on 25th January 2018, 4 Districts, 25 Blocks, 417 Gaon Panchayats covering 7893 villages have been declared as Open Defecation Free and our Government will attempt to achieve the state wide ODF target very soon and will now focus on ODF Sustainability and Solid Liquid Resource Management in the financial year 2018-19.

416. In the year 2018-19, Solid & Liquid Waste Management activities will be taken up in 400 Gaon Panchayats of the State. In addition, 300 numbers of community sanitary complexes are proposed to be constructed.

417. I earmark an amount of Rs. 2661 crore in 2018-18 for the Department

**XXXI. PUBLIC WORKS (BUILDING & NH)
DEPARTMENT : *Building Infrastructure***

418. Our Government, with the support of Government of India has a target to increase the total length of National Highways in Assam from the 3900 km at present to about 7000 km.

419. It is proposed to construct 4 more Bridges over River Brahmaputra namely (a) Dhubri – Phulbari; (b) Gohpur – Numaligarh; (c) Disangmukh - Tekeliphuta & (d) Kamalabari - Nematighat. This is in addition to the Bridge over Brahmaputra recently approved by the Government of India between Panbazar & North Guwahati which I mentioned earlier in my speech.

420. Nine numbers of new Flyovers at various location on NHs will be constructed by NHAI. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways deserves our gratitude for not only announcing significant initiatives for infrastructure development of the State but also increasing rapid turnarounds of approved projects.

421. To ease traffic congestion in Guwahati an alternate Ring Road has been proposed from Changsari to Narengi via Jalah and Kurua passing through Narengi, Khanapara, Basistha, Azara, Jalukbari and Changsari utilising the proposed 6-Lane Bridge over River Brahmaputra between Narengi and Kuruwa.
422. I have earmarked an amount of Rs. 469 crore in 2018-19 for the Department

XXXII. PUBLIC WORKS (ROADS) DEPARTMENT:
Connecting Assam

423. During the two financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18, about 7913 Km of road length including 745 numbers of RCC bridges have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 5872 crore. The works are at various stages of tendering, award and construction.
424. In my earlier budgets, I had committed Rs.2000 crore for the construction of new roads and maintenance of old roads over a period of 3 years. Accordingly, we have already released Rs. 600 crore in 2016-17 and Rs. 800 crore during 2017-18. As promised, I have allocated an amount of Rs.600 crore in the financial year, 2018-19.
425. Under the World Bank funded **Assam State Road Project**, the work of upgradation of 258 km of State Highways and rehabilitation of 770 km of State Highway/Major District Roads are in progress. Already, 98 km of upgradation work and 410 km of

rehabilitation works have been completed and the balance works are in progress. Under the Central Road Fund, a total 333 km of road work including 25 numbers of RCC Bridges have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs.842 crore and works have already commenced.

426. Further, the PWD Department has under the Assam State Roads Project, set up a Road Asset Management System which will evaluate the road network in the state based on scientific parameters like gradient etc., henceforth facilitating and the selection of roads for State Highway & Major District Road maintenance will be henceforth driven by the objective, scientific criterion adopted by the system rather than the earlier subjective approach.
427. Further, with an objective of improving the road connectivity to & from the neighbouring states by re-habilitating about 1100 km of roads in Assam we have prepared the Assam Inter State Road Connectivity project proposal worth Rs.3190 crore and have placed it to Government of India for funding by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
428. Moreover, in response to the Railway Authority's proposal to do away with busy railway level crossings in the state, a scheme for construction of railway over bridges have already been started and is in the design stage. This scheme will be implemented on a cost sharing basis with the Ministry of Railways.

429. I propose an amount of Rs. 4529 crore in 2018-19 for this Department

XXXIII. REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT : *Taking Care of Land and People*

430. Speaker sir, we propose to undertake a survey of all the 1030 numbers of non-cadastral villages in Assam which have not yet been surveyed. Once these villages are surveyed, lakhs of indigenous families can be offered settlement over land and will get the land pattas- a promise we had made as part of our commitment to securing "*jati, mati, bheti*" for our citizens.

431. We also propose to render all possible benefits to the common people with the e- initiative measures including Integrated Land Record Management System, e-stamping facilities, installation of Modern Record Room, etc. The e-initiatives measures will bring transparency to the land revenue administration and benefit both the public and the Department.

432. Our Government has enhanced the amount of Remuneration of Gaon burhas to Rs.6500 from Rs.4200 to incentivise and award them for their services rendered.

433. Our Government has also taken up the initiative to carry out GIS mapping of all the Village Grazing Reserves (VGR) & Professional Grazing Reserves

(PGR)so that encroachments are prevented by monitoring using online GIS portal.

434. Our Government has initiated bold steps against illegal encroachment on Government land including VGR, PGR, wet land etc. In the first two years of our Government, 14483 Bighas 2 Kathas and 11 Lessas of Government land and land in tribal belt and blocks have been made encroachment free and we are committed to continue our implementation of Clause 10 of the Assam Accord.
435. Our Government enhanced the quantum of ex-gratia grant to Rs.5 lakhs from Rs.3 lakhs to the next of kin of the persons killed by extremist/ terrorist/ miscreants or during communal/ ethnic/ group clashes or due to firing of security forces, Rs.2 lakhs from Rs.1 lakh in case of persons killed due to accident in public places or public carriers. Further, we have also enhanced the financial assistance for persons sustaining simple injury from Rs.20,000 from Rs.10,000, Rs.1 lakh from Rs.50,000 in case of grievous injury and Rs.3 lakhs from Rs.2 lakhs in case of persons becoming permanently invalid.
436. The Assam Survey and Settlement Training Centre situated at Dakhingaon imparts training to IAS, ACS Officers, SKs, LMs etc. With modernization of methods of survey, it has become imperative that this Training Centre is upgraded into a *Centre of Excellence* with a state of the art Auditorium,

Laboratory and for such modern facilities, an amount of Rs.10 crore has been proposed in this Budget.

437. We are taking a number of initiatives under the Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council to promote the scientific temper among the student community.
438. A total amount of Rs. 1565 crore is proposed for 2018-19 for the Department.

XXXIV. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY : *People Making Technology Work*

439. To provide a fillip to growth of science & technology in the state, various initiatives have been taken up to percolate the benefits of technology to the masses. An ambitious step has been taken by the Government to set up an additional centre of ISRO in Guwahati. Hon'ble Chief Minister has already written to ISRO in this regard. I am making a token provision in the current budget for this purpose and will subsequently allocate additional funds once the matter is finalized.
440. I am happy to announce that the construction work of 3 new planetariums at Kokrajhar, North Lakhimpur, Nalbari is nearing completion. Further, the construction of an additional 6 new planetariums proposed at Majuli, Kaliabor, Aamingaon, Bongaigaon, Silchar, Diphu will start soon.

XXXVI. SKILL DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LABOUR WELFARE : *Our Prime Priority*

446. Sir, I have already announced a State Level Mega Skill Development scheme, one of the important schemes under the Astadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Maala, and also the partnership that we have announced with the ITEES, Singapore.
447. In addition, I am making adequate budgetary provisions to facilitate proper handholding of unemployed youths, provide vocational training and career counselling through the Employment Exchange Centres in the State.
448. In conjunction with the Labour Welfare Department, I propose to empower the bluecollar workers of our state by launching a grievance redressal and information centre to provide telephonic advice, information and guidance to address worker related concerns and grievances.
449. In our continued policy of inclusion, I am making adequate budget provision for a new scheme called KARAGAROR PORA KARIKOR (KPK) for providing skill training to jailed inmates to make them self-reliant.
450. I earmark a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 385 crore in 2018-19 for this Department.

XXXVII. SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT: *In Reforms Lies the Key*

451. I have already spoken earlier in my speech about one of the biggest initiatives of our government, the *Deen Dayal Divyang Xahajya Achoni* implemented by this Department. We will intensify the process of the preparation of an exhaustive database for the persons with disabilities and once this is completed, the project shall reach out and cover all districts of Assam.
452. For the effective implementation of various schemes, it has been decided to bifurcate the Directorate of Social Welfare into two separate directorates namely:
- a. Directorate of Women and Child Development
 - b. Directorate Social Justice and Empowerment.
453. To ensure the security of women, we are setting up a Women Helpline which will be functional shortly through a telephone code 181.
454. Child welfare and child protection are also central to our Government. With this aim, our Government is implementing various schemes such as child labour prevention and rehabilitation, combating trafficking of children, creating safe and child friendly space for vulnerable children in the children homes, schemes to prevent child marriages, and ensuring all round development of children in conflict with law for which necessary budgetary provision has been made.

455. An innovative scheme “**Chetona**” is being implemented to create awareness among senior citizens on the facilities available to them. Awareness camps are being organized in some convenient places by taking two or three districts into a cluster. It is proposed to hold **15** (fifteen) such camps for which necessary budget provision has been made.
456. A scheme called “**Project Reach out - Respond**” has been implemented in collaboration with State Legal Service Authority in which prosthetic limbs and aid appliances are distributed through ALIMCO and Bhagaban Mahabir Bikalanga Sahayata Xomitee.
457. For 2018-19, I earmark an amount of Rs. 2098 crore for the Department

XXXVIII. SOIL CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT :
Conserve the Degraded for All-Round Development

458. In the past two years, various activities for conservation of Soil and Water to increase the crop production as well as restoration of ecological balance have been undertaken.
459. Our Government has also taken up projects for the mitigation of flash flood in Guwahati. Further, 86 numbers of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) have been taken up with financial assistance from Government of India for

the creation of water harvesting structures and mitigation of soil erosion under RIDF. After execution of these projects, benefits like enhancement of moisture regime, control of soil erosion, increase in crop production, restoration of ecological balance etc. will be achieved.

460. I earmark an amount of Rs. 181 crore in 2018-19 for the Department

XXXIX. SPORTS & YOUTHS WELFARE : *One Spirit, One Team*

461. Sir, we can all agree that sports unites the nation by bridging the social and cultural boundaries and thereby promoting nationalism and integration.

462. The Government of Assam is committed to realize the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister of making Guwahati the sports capital of the Country and Assam a sports hub. With the goals in mind, our Government has adopted an ***Integrated Sports Policy*** for overall development of sports in the State and to bring about a systemic transformation in the entire sports ecosystem.

463. Keeping in line with the Chief Minister's vision to promote Assam as the Sports State of India, we propose to give a grant of Rs. 5 crore each for installing flood lights in stadium in Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Karimganj, Diphu, Mangaldai, Tezpur and Tinsukia thereby strengthening rural sports infrastructure. I allocate a sum of Rs. 20 crore in the current budget for this initiative.

464. Gaon Panchayat level Football tournament will be organized to promote spirit of healthy competition and participation. Each panchayat will be given Rs. 25,000 to organize the tournament. Similarly, Anchalik Panchayat level and Zila Parishad level tournaments will also be organized. This will also ensure in spotting young talent in time and nurturing the same. Each Anchalik Panchayat will thus be given Rs. 2 Lakh and Zila Parishad will be given Rs. 3 Lakh to organize tournaments. I have made a budget provision of Rs. 10 crore for this initiative.
465. Our Government proposes to take-up the Border Outreach Programme for promoting amity and friendship amongst people in bordering areas. Various programmes will be organized in the Inter State / International border areas in the form of friendly competitive matches where teams will comprise local youths of these areas. This scheme will create the right sporting ambience in these areas and help in bridging the social and cultural boundaries and promote integration
466. A total amount of Rs. 163 crore is being proposed for the Department

XL. TOURISM DEPARTMENT: *Awesome Assam*

467. Since our Government came to power, we have initiated rigorous branding, international road shows, in-flight branding of Assam tourism, participation in national & international tourism fairs, printing of publicity materials to put Assam on the tourist map of the continent.

468. The incentives & subsidies proposed in the Assam Tourism Policy 2017 is designed to attract investment in Assam in this sector & the greenshoots of investment are already visible.
469. Over the years, the Tourism Department has been successfully organizing the Ambubachi Mela. From this year, our Government under the chairmanship of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, will strive to organise Ambubachi Mela in a bigger, grander manner to the level of Kumbha Mela, thereby increasing its popularity.
470. Our Government has taken the initiative to send 15000 pilgrims from the State to Puri, Brindavan, Ajmer Dargah Sharif for religious and cultural visit. Under the scheme, a total of 1100 pilgrims in the age group of 55 to 75 yrs from Assam have so far visited some of the popular pilgrimage destinations of India. During 2018-19, a budget provision of Rs.500.00 lakh has been kept aside for this purpose.
471. To promote budget tourism, the home stay infrastructure development scheme, *Aamar Alohi*, is being implemented. Under this livelihood scheme, 31 entrepreneur-beneficiaries in five national parks and Majuli island have been selected for home stay infrastructure development.
472. Sir, I would also like inform this august house that a project proposal for Integrated Circuit Development

in Tourism is currently under consideration with Ministry of DoNER having an estimated value of Rs. 720 crore. The proposed project aims at increasing the tourist inflow into the State by developing dedicated tourist circuits, infrastructure creation and capacity building. The project will have substantial impact on the tourism revenues of all the NER States as every Rupee spent in Assam will see a multiplier effect across the region.

473. I earmark a budgetary allocation of Rs. 81 crore in 2018-19 for this Department

XLI. TRANSFORMATION & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT : *Fulcrum for Development*

474. I have already spoken about the 'Axom Adarxo Gram Yojana' earlier in my speech, one of the key beads of the Ashtadash Mukutar Unnoyonee Maala, which will be implemented by the Department.
475. This Department was created to serve as the nodal agency to ensure "**Parivartan**" and to coordinate multiple Departmental activities so that they are aligned towards common goals.
476. Through **State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA)**, the Transformation and Development Department has provided a platform for various stakeholder deliberations in priority development areas of the state.
477. A Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Cell has been set up under the Transformation &

Development Department, and “Assam 2030- Everything for Everyone- Achieving Inclusive and Sustainable Development” has been published.

478. Adoption of modern GPS/ GIS enabled technology and other such scientific tools for intensive evaluation and monitoring of ongoing priority projects of the state has also been initiated.
479. I earmark an amount of Rs. 1787 crore for 2018-19 for the Department.

XLII. TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT : *Connecting Highways, River Ways and Beyond*

480. Earlier in my speech, I spoke about the project preparatory works that are underway for the World Bank funded Inland Water Transport Department.
481. Sir, to introduce faster moving water transportation at Inland Water Transport (IWT) ferry services, our Government has proposed to procure Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boats to be utilized as river taxi for development of ferry services on the river Brahmaputra.
482. I also propose to further set up floating terminals at different ferry points of the river Brahmaputra and Barak to provide safe, secure and easy embarking and disembarking to IWT vessels.
483. IWT Assam is working in synergy with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Shipping. Government of India for

development of floating terminals under Central Sector Scheme (100% Grant-in-Aid) at different ferry points in the States.

484. To replace the existing super deluxe buses which are more than 3 years, ASTC proposes to purchase 6 nos. of Super Deluxe Buses at a total estimated cost of Rs. 230.00 lakh.
485. I propose a total amount of Rs. 518 crore for the Department in the year 2018-19

XLIII. URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT:
Expanding Horizons

486. To further strengthen the urban local bodies (ULBs), I am introducing three dedicated municipal services viz. Assam Urban Administrative Service, Assam Urban Engineering Service and Assam Urban Financial Service, each of which will aid in strengthening the institution of ULBs in making them the real 'engines of economic growth'.
487. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), 16 projects are scheduled to be executed by 2020. In addition, one Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) project is to be taken up soon in Guwahati.
488. Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) we propose to train 13,000 urban youthss for employment. We also propose to strengthen 3000 women Self Help Groups (SHGs) by providing revolving fund (RF) assistance. To encourage

entrepreneurship, we propose to facilitate bank loans with interest subvention to 1145 individual and group enterprises and to also facilitate credit linkages to 740 SHGs.

489. I also propose to construct 2000 numbers of affordable housing units for families belonging to economically weaker section (EWS) and lower income group (LIG) at Dodora, Azara Revenue Circle under Kamrup District and another 300 Units at Khanikar Village under Mankota Khanikar Mouza in Dibrugarh District.
490. Sir, I would like to inform you that currently a project proposal for Assam Municipal Development is being posed to Government of India and is currently under review. The proposed project aims at improving the urban services in Assam and the capacity of the ULBs and state level urban institutions to help sustain and expand the urban services while complementing the urban reforms undertaken through the AMRUT and smart city missions. I am hopeful that we will be able to get approval of Government of India this year.
491. I propose a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 1633 crore in 2018-19 for the Department

XLIV. WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

492. Assam is a riparian state. Brahmaputra and Barak, the two main rivers of Assam flowing through the

state have contributed immensely towards achievement of progress in all spheres of socio-economic and cultural aspects within the state. It is proposed to construct an express highway along both banks of river Brahmaputra, for which the work of initial survey and investigation has already been completed.

493. The signature project on rejuvenation of river Kollong which was taken up for execution in 2017-18 is making headway and for this purpose an amount of Rs.15 crore has been provided in the budget 2018-19.
494. We have also made sufficient budget provision in budget 2018-19 for the execution of the externally aided projects – Assam Integrated River Bank Management Project (AIRBMP).
495. For a permanent solution of the problem of flood and erosion of Majuli island, the largest populated river island of the world, the construction work of the full-fledged water resources complex at Majuli including the construction of a material bank for storing flood fighting materials required during emergency situations including other works is presently underway.
496. This Government has contemplated to take a maiden step to take up corrective dredging in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. As the first phase for such an innovative approach, the Government

has proposed to purchase one dredger along with other ancillary machineries, for starting corrective dredging in the tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak. The Government has already accorded approval to the proposal for an amount of Rs. 18.00 crore under SDRF already.

497. I earmark a total budgetary allocation of Rs. 824 crores in 2018-19 for this Department.

XLV. WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF MINORITIES DEPARTMENT: *On the Path to Inclusive Development*

498. Inclusive development is a declared goal of our Government. The diverse social fabric of Assam is our strength and we need to harness this to ensure our state is steadfast in her road to progress. We are committed to bringing all round development to the minority communities including the linguistic minority and people living in char areas.
499. To promote self-employment, we propose to impart skill development training to the minority youths on a priority.
500. For empowering minority women, I have already announced some schemes earlier in my budget speech.
501. An amount of Rs. 327 crore has been provisioned for the year 2018-19 for this Department.

XLVI. BODOLAND TERRITORIAL COUNCIL :
Respecting Autonomy

502. Our Government has increased the allocations to the Bodoland Territorial Council to meet their special developmental needs and this can be seen from the table below :

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget
Amount (In crore)	462.66	523.66	555.19	610.71

503. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, had also encouraged the State Government to facilitate the developmental activities in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) area and accordingly, we had announced a one-time special grant of Rs. 1000 crore for the region, of which Rs. 300 crore is going to be released in before 31st March, 2018. In continuation with our allotment in the previous year, I have allocated an additional sum of Rs. 300 crore as in 2018-19 to the BTC over and above the normative allocation.

504. In addition to the higher normative allocation and special allocation of Rs 300 crore, I am also further allocating a sum of Rs. 177.52 crore as per the recommendations of the Assam State Finance Commission to the Bodoland Territorial Council.

505. I am confident that this will go a long way in overcoming the development deficits of the region and help bridge infrastructural gaps that the Bodoland areas suffer. I hope that the increased allocations and this special one-time assistance will be spent in a prudent, transparent manner with fullest accountability and go a long way in catering to their varied needs and boost the socio-economic condition of the entire BTC area.

XLVII. WELFARE OF PLAIN TRIBES AND BACKWARD CLASSES : *Unstinted Support*

506. In line with Goal no. 12 of our Sustainable Development Goals, we plan to promote green industries and local traditional arts and crafts. Assam has a long- standing tradition of using various natural dyes in local handloom and handicraft products which are greatly valued in the market. Thus, to revitalise the natural dye craft industry of the state, we have proposed a “Livelihood Cluster Project” to be introduced from the financial year 2018-19 with a special focus on promotion of natural dye-based textiles, to boost the weavers belonging to SC community.

507. We have also made increased allocations and releases to the six autonomous councils in the State so as to ensure the special developmental needs of the people of these regions. The table below indicates that we are allocating 10% more to these

councils compared to the year 2017-18. the allocations to these councils. We will continue to increase the allocations to these groups subject to the submission of proper utilization certificates of the allocated funds by the councils.

Sl. No.	Name of the Council	2017-18	2018-19
		Budget (Rs. in crore)	Budget (Rs. in crore)
1	Lalung (Tiwa) Autonomous Council	36.00	39.60
2	Mising Autonomous Council	72.00	79.20
3	Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council	54.36	59.80
4	Deuri Autonomous Council	20.35	22.39
5	Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council	33.18	36.50
6	Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council	18.00	19.80

508. I have also allocated an amount of Rs.10 crore in the budget for 2018-19 for the establishment of model Elementary schools in Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council Area.

509. I earmark a total budget of Rs. 4085 crore for the WPT & BC department.

XLVIII. WELFARE OF TEA TRIBES DEPARTMENT: *Pride of Assam*

510. Our Government accords highest priority to the welfare of tea garden workers and Our Hon'ble

Chief Minister accords special attention to tea garden welfare and following his vision we have taken up several welfare schemes especially for the young generation. A special coaching programme has also been formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Chief Minister on 16th November 2017 for the youths of the tea tribes' community to compete in the Civil Services Examinations. Construction of hostels for both boys and girls has also been undertaken.

511. For the promotion of sports and youth welfare among the tea tribes' communities, besides organizing the Chief Minister's Tea Tribes Football Tournament, it has been decided to construct three football and archery academies for boys and girls of the community to tap their innate potential in sports.
512. Further as promised in my last budget speech, another 25 Rangamanchas amounting to Rs.15 lakhs each will be constructed this year.
513. It is also proposed to construct a patient care home at the Guwahati Medical College premises exclusively for the tea tribes' people.
514. A scheme to provide power tillers to around 70 groups of farmers of the tea tribes' community has been taken up. mini rural water supply schemes have also been taken up as a pilot project in 20 tea gardens of the State.
515. An amount of Rs. 81 crore is proposed for the Department for 2018-19.

PART-II

TAX PROPOSALS

Respected Sir,

Over the last couple of budgets, I have tried to stress on the significance of revenue generation and divided the Budget speech into 2 parts with Part II focusing extensively on resource augmentation. As has been mentioned in the beginning of my speech, our Government gives a huge focus to ReSTART Assam, in order to garner more resources to implement large scale developmental projects.

Our Government strongly believes in living within our means. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without keeping a close eye on adequate generation of resources. Through our varied efforts at streamlining the tax collections, including championing the implementation of GST, we have seen substantial increase in our tax revenues by leveraging technology, adoption of progressive policies, legislative and administrative actions which have all reduced the leakage of revenue.

However, a closer look at our revenues from non-tax sources indicate that there is **substantial scope for growth.**

We realise that the Government of Assam has been providing a **slew of services** through its various administrative machineries **without generating enough resources** to meet its cost of operations.

The raising of revenues from non-tax sources which includes fees, fines, user charges etc. is vital for the sustainable delivery of services. I propose to give detail on this later in my speech. First, I propose to place in front of the house the report card on Tax Revenue.

Status of implementation of GST in Assam and revenue collection

1. As you know Sir, Assam was the first State in the country to ratify the historic GST Constitutional Amendment Bill and we have played an extremely crucial role in the GST Council. This was reflected in the fact that we were given the opportunity of hosting the 23rd GST Council Meeting which was attended by the Union Finance Minister among other delegates. Sir, the transition to GST in Assam, by and large, has been smooth and hassle free. It is encouraging to note that there is a steadily rising trend of revenue collection under GST despite of lowering tax incidence on many items of mass consumption.
2. During the current fiscal, the Commercial Tax Department, up to February, 2018 has collected an amount of Rs.10,147 crore the details of which has been given below.

Particulars	Amount (In crore)
Collection under GST (from 1/7/2017)	3,558
GST compensation	684
Collection from items outside GST	3,151
Other taxation Acts including VAT	2,754
Total collection	10,147

It is pertinent to mention that GST came into effect from 1st July, 2017 and hence this fiscal also covers the pre-GST period from 1st April, 2017 to 30th June, 2017. During the same period of the previous financial year 2016-17, we had collected a sum of Rs. 8,993.95 crore. Thus the collection during the current financial year shows an increase of 13% so far.

3. **Status of Excise Reforms and Revenue Mobilization:** I would like to briefly recount the various steps taken by our Government and also indicate the initiatives planned in the coming year :
- a. The Assam Excise Rules, 1945 was replaced by the new Assam Excise Rules, 2016 and has come into force w.e.f. 1st September, 2016.
 - b. A number of reforms including streamlining the license fee structure, rationalizing the number of Dry Days, regulating the opening and closing time of Liquor shops etc., have been implemented by the Department.

- c. The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2018 was introduced to provide stringent punishment for certain kinds of offences.
 - d. Our Government is also taking steps to leverage barcode & holographic technology on Liquor bottles to curb evasion of Excise Duty.
 - e. These steps have resulted in an increased Excise revenue collection which has reached Rs.980 crore (up to Feb 2018), over 18% higher compared to the preceding year.
4. **Status of Motor Vehicle Reforms and Revenue mobilization** : To increase the tax revenues from motor vehicles, we have initiated a number of reforms including the online dealer point registration facility, online licensing, application & fee deposition. Further, the On-Demand Transport Technology Rule 2017 will come into effect in a month for the regulation of Web-based Taxis and aggregators which will generate additional revenue to the State.
5. The Motor Vehicle tax revenues during the current fiscal have reached Rs.561 crore (up to Feb 2018), which is 22.5% higher collection compared to the preceding year.

Relief to small tea growers

In the last two Budgets, the rate of specified land cess has been reduced from 25 paisa to 10 paisa per kg green

tea leaf in two phases. Now, we will go a step further and completely exempt the cess on green tea leaves despite the fiscal impact as committed in my previous Budget speech to remove the cess over a period of time. Besides, exemption limits under the Agriculture Income Tax Act has been raised up to 2.5 lakh from the exemption limit of Rs. 1 lakh and the other tax slabs have already been rationalized.

New Tax Proposals

In spite of higher budgetary commitments, I would not like to propose any new tax except the rationalization of electricity duty, in aid of the long term sustainability of the ASEB Pension Fund Investment Trust which looks after all matters involving payment of terminal benefits to the employees of ASEB/successor entities. In order to make the ASEB Pension Fund Investment Trust self-sustainable and to meet the liability gap, I propose to levy Electricity Duty at 5% on ad-valorem basis as against the existing specific duty which is currently at 20 paisa per unit.

NON TAX REVENUE

Sir, as mentioned earlier, we have given limited attention on the generation of non-tax revenues and we would like to rationalize the fees, fines and user charges levied so that we are able to improve our collections from these important sources. I place before you some of the proposals that we will consider in various sectors in this financial year.

1. Revenue Department

Sir, I want to apprise the house that the contractors or suppliers affix a tender fee of Rs. 8.25 only which is too

low considering the tender value has been raised much higher from earlier. I propose to increase the same from Rs. 8.25 to Rs. 100 for tenders up to Rs. 20 Lakh, and Rs. 500 for tenders beyond Rs. 20 Lakh. This will definitely boost the resources of the state as well as discourage the non-serious bidders from participating in the bidding process. The Revenue Department will work out the modalities for the proposed increase subsequently.

Further, I also propose a 1% increase over the prevailing rates for stamp duty levied and registration fee for transactions in immovable properties to augment the revenue from these quarters.

2. Environment and Forest

It is important to raise revenue in order to combat the adverse effects of exploitation of natural resources, to fight climate change, and to promote sustainable tourism and allied sector. Therefore, I propose to enhance various fees that are associated with wood based industries and eco-tourism centres located in protected forest areas. I also propose to enhance the services of the Forestry and Allied sectors through enhancement of the service charges & fees.

3. Public Works Department

Sir, I would also like to state that in order to enhance the services of PWD, I propose to also increase the Contractor Registration fees for the large contractors :

Sl.No	Name of Non Tax Revenue	Present Rat	Revised Rate
1.	Class I (A)	Rs. 15000	Rs. 1,00,000
2.	Class I (B)	Rs. 10000	Rs. 50,000
3.	Class I (C)	Rs. 5000	Rs. 25,000
4.	Class II	Rs. 2000	Rs. 5,000
5.	Class III	Rs. 500	Rs. 1,000

All these proposals will not result in the collection of substantial revenues. As per my preliminary estimation, the cumulative additional collection may not even cross Rs. 10 crore. Nevertheless, to expand the revenue base, we have to look at our non-tax revenue sources. To achieve that, I am going to constitute a High-Powered Commission to look into the ways and means to augment our non-tax revenue.

Further, to generate a third stream of revenue for the State Government, we would like to explore the possibility of investing in profitable State-run PSUs. To emphasise this point, we have earlier invested in Numaligarh Refinery which earned a dividend of Rs. 168.93crore in 2016-17.

Also, to reduce the outflow of interest liabilities, I propose to retire high-cost debt and swap it with low-cost debts. This will result in substantial savings which can be redeployed for developmental purposes.

BUDGET ESTIMATES

The Budget Estimates of 2018-19 show a receipt of Rs. 90673.42 Crore under the Consolidated Fund of the State. Out of this, Rs. 74118.50 Crore is on Revenue Account and the remaining Rs. 16554.92 Crore is under Capital Account. I have shown the estimated receipt in the Consolidated Fund from different sources at Table- 1. After adding the receipt of Rs. 290914.84 Crore under Public Account and Rs. 100.00 Crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate Receipts amount to Rs. 381688.26 Crore. As against this, total expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State in 2018-19 is estimated at Rs. 90269.92 Crore of which Rs. 71329.37 Crore is on Revenue Account and Rs. 18940.55 Crore is on Capital Account. The estimates of Grant-wise Expenditure from the Consolidated Fund during 2018-19 have been shown in Table- 2. Taking into account the expenditure of Rs. 290318.35 Crore under Public Account and Rs. 100.00 Crore under Contingency Fund, the aggregate expenditure for the year is estimated at Rs. 380688.27 Crore. Thus, estimated transactions during the year will result in an estimated surplus of Rs. 999.99 Crore. This, together with the opening deficit of Rs. 3149.04 Crore will lead to a Budget deficit of Rs. 2149.04 Crore at the end of the year 2018-2019.

Honourable Speaker Sir, based on the key motif woven by the yarns of Ekatikaran, Xomproxaron and Utossron,

we have endeavoured to present to you a budget that is not just holistic, aspirational and futuristic but also inclusive, participatory and versatile. We have taken great steps in making this budget future ready, citizen friendly and all-embracing through our e-budget model that has easy to use provisions of SDG, gender, child and elderly related.

Speaker Sir, it is important that the budgetary announcements are implemented in right earnest with periodic review. I will request my respected colleagues in the cabinet to take some time out for overseeing the implementation of the key initiatives. I will also urge our new Chief Secretary to review the implantation status of the budgetary announcements at her level with the Departments.

From the Finance Department's side, I can assure you that we will leave no stone unturned. Finance Department will play a very pro-active and facilitative role in ensuring that all announcements and schemes are implemented in a timebound manner. We stand here to always keep our promises.

Speaker Sir, as you may have noticed, we have taken the best schemes from the past and have further consolidated them, further expanded on prospective opportunities to serve public better and have set a higher benchmark for ourselves to achieve this financial year. I am sanguine that with the help of my colleagues, my

beloved peers and the holy grail of our government – its citizens, the state shall gift itself a better dream, a better tomorrow and a better society.

I shall end my Budget speech with a solemn prayer :

ॐ सह नावतु ।
सह नौ भुनक्तु ।
सह वीर्यं करवावहै ।
तेजस्वि नावधीतमस्तु मा विद्विषावहै ।
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

With this, I commend this budget for consideration of this August house.

JAI HIND

JAI AAI ASOM

BHARAT MATA KI JAI

Table- 1	
Estimated of Inflows into the Consolidated Fund of the State during 2018-19	
	(Rs. in Crore)
State Tax Revenue	17451.69
Non-Tax Revenue	8191.67
Share of Central Taxes	26095.30
Centrally Sponsored Schemes	17473.10
Finance Commission Grants	3312.67
Other Transfer/Grants to States with Legislature	1594.06
Public Debt	14008.19
Recoveries of Loans & Advances	2546.74
Total	90673.42

TABLE - 2

Estimates of Grantwise outflows from the consolidated fund and a part of the Public Account of the State during 2018-2019

(Rupees in Lakh)

Grant No / Appropriation	Title of Demand / Appropriation 2018-2019		Voted	Charged	Total
[1]	[2]		[3]	[4]	[5]
C1	Public Service Commission	Revenue	0.00	1495.23	1495.23
C2	Head of State	Revenue	0.00	837.68	837.68
PD	Public Debt & Servicing of Debt	Revenue	0.00	442240.00	442240.00
		Capital	0.00	383031.08	383031.08
1	State Legislature	Revenue	7702.62	64.08	7766.70
		Capital	5112.28	0.00	5112.28
2	Council of Ministers	Revenue	775.88	0.00	775.88
3	Administration of Justice	Revenue	42003.54	5991.87	47995.41
		Capital	14820.00	0.00	14820.00
4	Elections	Revenue	19740.82	0.00	19740.82
5	Sales Tax & Other Tax	Revenue	56969.72	0.00	56969.72
		Capital	5178.58	0.00	5178.58
6	Land Revenue	Revenue	40850.83	0.00	40850.83
		Capital	1500.00	0.00	1500.00
7	Stamps and Registration	Revenue	4870.96	0.00	4870.96
8	Excise & Prohibition	Revenue	7384.98	0.00	7384.98
		Capital	50.00	0.00	50.00
9	Transport Services	Revenue	27525.38	0.00	27525.38
		Capital	24335.46	0.00	24335.46
10	Other Fiscal Service	Revenue	299.95	0.00	299.95
11	Secretariat & Attached offices	Revenue	81216.98	0.00	81216.98
		Capital	500.00	0.00	500.00
12	District Administration	Revenue	53470.56	0.00	53470.56
		Capital	13020.47	0.00	13020.47
13	Treasury & Accounts Administration	Revenue	12455.59	0.00	12455.59
		Capital	2235.00	0.00	2235.00
14	Police	Revenue	491511.93	256.85	491768.78
		Capital	18866.77	0.00	18866.77
15	Jails	Revenue	9734.04	20.00	9754.04
		Capital	2529.20	0.00	2529.20
16	Printing & Stationery	Revenue	4500.04	0.00	4500.04
		Capital	264.00	0.00	264.00
17	Administrative & Functional Buildings	Revenue	27315.51	0.00	27315.51
		Capital	7066.32	0.00	7066.32
18	Fire Services	Revenue	13202.67	0.01	13202.68
		Capital	7087.68	0.00	7087.68
19	Vigilance Commission & Others	Revenue	22257.70	0.00	22257.70
		Capital	100.00	0.00	100.00

20	Other Administrative Services	Revenue	27899.61	0.00	27899.61
		Capital	20.00	0.00	20.00
21	Guest Houses, Government Hostels	Revenue	6126.17	0.00	6126.17
22	Administrative Training	Revenue	1837.67	0.00	1837.67
		Capital	786.03	0.00	786.03
23	Pension	Revenue	800579.38	0.00	800579.38
24	Aid Materials	Revenue	1.00	0.00	1.00
25	Miscellaneous General Services & Others	Revenue	168974.68	0.00	168974.68
		Capital	86100.00	0.00	86100.00
26	Education (Higher)	Revenue	237841.92	0.00	237841.92
		Capital	16340.00	0.00	16340.00
27	Art & Culture	Revenue	9609.49	0.00	9609.49
		Capital	5973.80	0.00	5973.80
28	State Archives	Revenue	221.49	0.00	221.49
		Capital	13.00	0.00	13.00
29	Medical & Public Health	Revenue	448341.36	135.50	448476.86
		Capital	59739.92	0.00	59739.92
30	Water Supply & Sanitation	Revenue	60433.01	0.00	60433.01
		Capital	205751.00	0.00	205751.00
31	Urban Development, Town & Country Planning	Revenue	69246.90	0.00	69246.90
32	Housing Schemes	Revenue	279.00	0.00	279.00
33	Residential Buildings	Revenue	418.92	0.00	418.92
		Capital	200.00	0.00	200.00
34	Urban Development- Municipal Administration	Revenue	93410.06	0.00	93410.06
		Capital	396.00	0.00	396.00
35	Information & Publicity	Revenue	6344.91	0.00	6344.91
36	Labour & Employment	Revenue	31795.73	0.00	31795.73
		Capital	6743.59	0.00	6743.59
37	Food Storage & Warehousing	Revenue	79743.78	0.00	79743.78
		Capital	5979.30	0.00	5979.30
38	Welfare of Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe & Other Backward Classes	Revenue	120252.85	0.00	120252.85
		Capital	17782.89	0.00	17782.89
39	Social Security, Welfare & Nutrition	Revenue	209671.89	0.00	209671.89
		Capital	200.00	0.00	200.00
40	Social Security & Welfare (Freedom	Revenue	8360.69	0.00	8360.69
41	Natural Calamities	Revenue	108414.61	0.00	108414.61
42	Other Social Services	Revenue	32602.78	0.00	32602.78
		Capital	150.00	0.00	150.00
43	Co-operation	Revenue	10570.93	0.00	10570.93
		Capital	5129.00	0.00	5129.00

44	North Eastern Council Scheme	Revenue	2395.90	0.00	2395.90
		Capital	117031.96	0.00	117031.96
45	Census, Survey & Statistics	Revenue	8098.22	0.00	8098.22
		Capital	264.00	0.00	264.00
46	Weights & Measures	Revenue	1959.37	0.00	1959.37
		Capital	86.08	0.00	86.08
47	Trade Adviser	Revenue	148.77	0.00	148.77
48	Agriculture	Revenue	128094.74	0.00	128094.74
		Capital	46251.39	0.00	46251.39
49	Irrigation	Revenue	56018.31	0.00	56018.31
		Capital	114071.40	0.00	114071.40
50	Other Special Area Programmes	Revenue	611.94	0.00	611.94
		Capital	15526.72	0.00	15526.72
51	Soil & Water Conservation	Revenue	4713.04	0.00	4713.04
		Capital	13392.00	0.00	13392.00
52	Animal Husbandry	Revenue	37083.35	50.00	37133.35
		Capital	8514.97	0.00	8514.97
53	Dairy Development	Revenue	3267.81	0.00	3267.81
		Capital	289.20	0.00	289.20
54	Fisheries	Revenue	7564.03	0.00	7564.03
		Capital	8518.19	0.00	8518.19
55	Forestry & Wildlife	Revenue	49903.63	0.00	49903.63
		Capital	643.10	0.00	643.10
56	Rural Development (Panchayat)	Revenue	212308.30	36.10	212344.41
57	Rural Development	Revenue	368544.39	0.00	368544.39
58	Industries	Revenue	37833.74	0.00	37833.74
		Capital	37625.09	0.00	37625.09
59	Village & Small Industries Sericulture & Weaving	Revenue	35488.07	0.00	35488.07
		Capital	3037.80	0.00	3037.80
60	Cottage Industries	Revenue	8460.38	0.00	8460.38
		Capital	41.73	0.00	41.73
61	Mines & Minerals	Revenue	2097.50	0.00	2097.50
		Capital	113.50	0.00	113.50
62	Power (Electricity)	Revenue	212479.66	0.00	212479.66
		Capital	57742.00	0.00	57742.00
63	Water Resources	Revenue	33708.07	0.00	33708.07
		Capital	48784.00	0.00	48784.00
64	Roads & Bridges	Revenue	166490.73	0.00	166490.73
		Capital	298395.99	0.00	298395.99
65	Tourism	Revenue	7114.26	0.00	7114.26
		Capital	986.00	0.00	986.00

66	Compensation & Assignment To Local Bodies & Panchayati Raj Institutions	Revenue	24190.90	0.00	24190.90
67	Horticulture	Revenue	4968.04	0.00	4968.04
		Capital	800.00	0.00	800.00
68	Loans to Govt. Servant etc.	Capital	7598.50	0.00	7598.50
69	Scientific Services & Research	Revenue	3942.31	0.00	3942.31
		Capital	1240.00	0.00	1240.00
70	Hill Areas	Revenue	258.38	0.00	258.38
		Capital	524.00	0.00	524.00
71	Education (Elementary, Secondary etc.)	Revenue	1294521.40	0.00	1294521.40
		Capital	67400.00	0.00	67400.00
72	Social Security & Welfare	Revenue	1002.00	0.00	1002.00
73	Urban Development (GDD)	Revenue	59163.47	0.00	59163.47
		Capital	92356.00	0.00	92356.00
74	Sports & Youth Services	Revenue	13035.61	0.00	13035.61
		Capital	3347.30	0.00	3347.30
75	Information & Technology	Revenue	5906.86	0.00	5906.86
		Capital	100.00	0.00	100.00
76	Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council	Revenue	109933.32	0.00	109933.32
		Capital	29808.49	0.00	29808.49
77	N. C. Hills Autonomous Council	Revenue	56937.91	0.00	56937.91
		Capital	10734.57	0.00	10734.57
78	Bodoland Territorial Council	Revenue	266796.36	0.00	266796.36
		Capital	11829.82	0.00	11829.82
	Total	Revenue	6681809.28	451127.33	7132936.60
		Capital	1511024.10	383031.08	1894055.18
	Grand Total		8192833.37	834158.41	9026991.78

Annexure
Abstract of Transactions

(Rs. in crores)

	Actuals	Budget	Revised	Budget
	2016-17	Estimates	Estimates	Estimates
	[1]	2017-18	2017-18	2018-19
		[2]	[3]	[4]
A. RECEIPTS				
I Consolidated Fund	53140.12	84732.16	70401.27	90673.42
Revenue Account	49219.81	70719.61	55905.13	74118.50
Capital Account	3920.31	14012.55	14496.14	16554.92
II Contingency Fund	0	100.00	100.00	100.00
III Public Account	230915.05	162580.51	271044.22	290914.84
Total (I + II + III)	284055.17	247412.67	341545.49	381688.26
B. EXPENDITURE				
I Consolidated Fund	57406.81	85922.69	99453.08	90269.92
Revenue Account	49362.72	68319.45	79256.54	71329.37
Capital Account	8044.09	17603.24	20196.54	18940.55
II Contingency Fund	0	100.00	100.00	100.00
III Public Account	226053.09	161757.17	244920.53	290318.35
Total (I + II + III)	283459.90	247779.86	344473.61	380688.27
C. TRANSACTIONS DURING THE YEAR				
Surplus (+)	595.27			999.99
Deficit (-)		-367.19	-2928.12	
D. OPENING BALANCE				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (-)	-816.19	-1982.61	-220.92	-3149.04
E. CLOSING BALANCE				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (-)	-220.92	-2349.80	-3149.04	-2149.04