



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ADDRESS

BY

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HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE

JOINT SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 2012

**Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative
Assembly, Hon'ble Chairman of the
Legislative Council and Hon'ble
Members of the State Legislature,**

1. I welcome you to the Joint Session of both the Houses of the State Legislature at the commencement of the Budget Session.
2. In January this year, the Government completed half of its term in office. This milestone is as much an occasion to reflect upon past achievements, as it is to plan for the effective realization of goals that the Government has set out to achieve.
3. At the time of assumption of office, my Government had set its vision for the evolution of an inclusive society and an inclusive economy, founded on equitable distribution of the State's resources. Ever since the Government has worked earnestly to actualize this vision.

4. A continuing priority of my Government is to bring governance closer to the people by empowering the local self-governing institutions. The election of 4,128 *Sarpanches* and 29,707 *Panches* for the *Panchayats*, covering 143 Rural Development Blocks, with a voter turnout of 79%, has been a matter of great satisfaction. It vindicates the Government's conviction that the people of this State are now looking for development and progress through democratic means, having seen so much of human and economic loss caused by continuing violence.
5. In keeping with its commitment, the Government has commenced the process for securing the functioning of the *Panchayati Raj Institutions* and the flow of resources to them. For the complete establishment of the Three-tier Panchayati Raj System in the State the process of elections to the Block Development Councils has been initiated, which will be followed by elections to the District Planning and Development Boards.

6. Elections to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) are the next immediate priority of my Government. These are scheduled to be completed by April 2012. This shall complete the process of establishing Urban and Rural self-governing institutions all over the State.
7. My Government is committed to clean and transparent governance. The enactment of the Right to Information Act was a part of this vision. The State Information Commission has been made fully functional with the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner and two Information Commissioners.
8. The J&K Accountability Commission Act has been amended to restrict its jurisdiction to the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Members of the State Legislature. With the appointment of its Chairman and a Member, the Commission has become functional. After carrying out the required amendments in the State Vigilance Commission Act, the process of appointment of the Chief Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners has also been initiated.

9. To improve the functioning of the justice-delivery system, my Government has launched measures to fast tracking trials in different courts and providing timely and meaningful justice. As a part of this initiative, during the year 2011, 245 *Lok Adalats* were held, which settled 8665 cases. A State Litigation Policy was notified, on the pattern of the National Litigation Policy, to institutionalize an effective advisory and regulatory framework in matters in which the State Government or its instrumentalities are litigants.
10. Another major focus for my Government has been to reform the administrative apparatus for providing prompt and effective delivery of public services. After the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act, 2011, 45 different services, concerning the functioning of six departments, have been notified to ensure time bound service delivery to the people.
11. Of the six departments, which are presently notified to deliver guaranteed time-bound services, the Revenue and Transport

Departments have, in a period of five months, during August to December 2011, ensured service delivery within the prescribed timelines in respect of 2.03 lac and 1.19 lac cases, respectively. The Housing and Urban Development and the Power Development Departments have also provided the guaranteed services in over 18,000 and 14,000 cases against about 20,000 and 17,000 petitions, respectively. In view of its remarkable success on the ground, my Government is committed to bringing more services within the purview of this Act, and also to streamlining the back-office procedures to impart greater efficiency in the delivery of public services to the people.

12. Following a policy of zero tolerance towards both terrorism and human rights violations my Government will continue to maintain utmost vigil in the area of internal security. It is a matter for considerable satisfaction that, with the maintenance of peace and calm during summer 2011 a record number of tourists visited the Valley. The number of pilgrims to *Shri Amarnath Ji and Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Yatras* also recorded all

time high figures, being over 6.3 lacs and 100 lacs, respectively.

13. Last year, the educational institutions across the Valley functioned normally, and a number of youth exchange programmes and sports activities were also conducted. Trade and business, which had suffered severe losses on account of the disturbances in the past years, also showed signs of recovery. As the security situation stabilised, the government took steps to reduce the visible presence of the Security Forces, particularly in the urban areas. 3 CRPF Battalions were de-inducted, a good number of security bunkers removed from Srinagar city and 52 buildings in the State, which have been got vacated from the Security Forces, have become available for normal use.
14. Sound financial health provides the foundation for launching a wide range of developmental activities in the State. Investments for public benefits cannot, however, be improved without raising resources and controlling expenditure. The latter also involves improvements in the

quality of accounting. The continuing measures and structural reforms initiated by my Government over the last three years have contributed to significant advances in tax revenue collections and expenditure control. These improvements have been appreciated by the Government of India and the Planning Commission and the qualitative improvement in the maintenance of accounts has been officially recognized by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

15. Recognizing that the government employees are major stakeholders in the developmental process, despite the financial implication of Rs. 4200 crore, my Government announced full payment of pay revision arrears to the State Government employees in five annual installments of twenty per cent each. It is expected that the employees shall discharge their duties with dedication and honesty and ensure efficient service delivery to the people of the State.
16. My Government secured the highest ever Annual Plan of Rs. 6600 crore for the current financial year, from the Planning

Commission of India. This Plan was supplemented by an additional provision of Rs. 1200 crore under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan (PMRP). With adequate counterpart funding provisions in the State Plan, the Government could utilise Centrally Sponsored Schemes in much greater measure. On the recommendations of the Special Task Force, a sum of Rs. 250 crore was provided from the State Plan as a one-time special grant to make up the development deficits in the Jammu and Ladakh regions. We are grateful to the Central Government, particularly the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Chairperson of the UPA, for their sensitive recognition of the special developmental requirements of the State.

17. With liberal funding available from the Union Government under the Bharat Nirman, Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan and other programmes, the Government has strengthened its implementation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the benefits under the various programmes reach the people within the stipulated timelines. A

third-party monitoring system has been instituted in which 389 major projects have so far been put to scrutiny. The Chief Minister's Monitoring Cell has also been undertaking periodic review of schemes and programmes of various departments.

18. My Government remains committed to giving a boost to the agriculture sector. During the past two years, the outlays for seed procurement have been considerably increased to correct the supply-demand mismatch and to improve the seed replacement rates. This step has already yielded significant dividends.
19. The Government has taken several initiatives to promote the interests of the fruit and vegetable growers of the State. Acknowledging our efforts towards the promotion of horticulture the J&K State has been conferred the 'Agriculture Leadership Award' at the national level for the year 2011. A Vegetable Initiative for Srinagar and Jammu was launched with an outlay of Rs. 12 crore for providing end-to-end linkages in vegetable production, marketing and processing by organizing farmers' groups. With the

phased regularization of the services of 2642 *Rehbar-e-Zirat* stipendiaries, more personnel are being functionally deployed at the *Panchayat* level for better agri-extension and outreach.

20. It is intended to further strengthen the renewed focus on the agriculture sector by shortly unveiling a new Agriculture Policy that will lay down a medium to long term road-map for multi-sectoral initiatives for promoting ecologically desirable, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable growth. This Policy will shift the focus from the existing food grain driven farming to the high value segment of agriculture, closely linked to modern logistics, processing and organized retailing, all as a part of an integrated agri-system.
21. Animal Husbandry remains an important sector for improving the socio-economic status of our people living in the rural areas. 10,832 BPL families have been provided around 3.08 lac improved poultry birds, free of cost, under the Rural Backyard Poultry Development Scheme. To

strengthen animal husbandry infrastructure, a liquid nitrogen plant, with 21 litres per-hour capacity, has been established at Zainakote (Srinagar) at a cost of Rs. 2.60 crore. A frozen semen laboratory at Rambirbagh (Ganderbal) has become the country's 5th semen lab to have ISO 9001: 2008 and CODEX HACCP-2003 certification. This laboratory is also receiving demands for the supply of frozen semen from outside the State.

22. The up-gradation and modernization of the departmental fish farms has led to an all time high fish production of 19.70 thousand tonnes. Trout fish production has touched 195 tonnes, against 165 tonnes in the preceding year. Privatization of trout farming has been taken up in a big way under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* in all the three regions of the State. A trout feed mill with a production capacity of 1-2 tonnes per hour, with an investment of Rs. 8.78 crore, will be commissioned shortly at the National Fish Seed Farm, Manasbal. This facility will cater to the trout feed requirements of 3000 units in the private sector.

23. My Government is fully committed to take concrete steps for the revival of the cooperative movement in the state with diversification to varied new sectors which shall particularly include floriculture and food processing. With funding from the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), two more Integrated Cooperative Development Projects (ICDPS) have been taken up, one each in Kashmir and Jammu divisions. Under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, two godowns of 1000 MTs capacity each, at Sopore (Baramulla) and Assar (Doda) are proposed to be constructed.
24. The Government has been taking various initiatives for the welfare of the vulnerable sections of society, including the aged, widows, orphans and other special groups. Around 3.5 lac old-age persons, including women in distress and physically challenged persons, were provided monthly pensions aggregating Rs. 40.88 crore. An amount of Rs. 42.58 crore has been spent under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for disbursement of monthly pensions to old-aged persons,

widows and physically disabled persons below the poverty line (BPL).

25. Through 28,487 *Anganwadi* centres, which are now fully functional, my Government remains committed to providing holistic care of children and women, including pregnant and lactating mothers. About 9 lac beneficiaries, comprising children in the 0-6 years age group, pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls, have been given supplementary nutrition at these centres.
26. About 1.82 lac students from the under-privileged sections of the society, including 78,000 scheduled caste and 11,000 scheduled tribe students, are being provided Pre and Post-Matric Scholarships to enable them to pursue education. 13 *Gujjar* and *Bakerwal* boys hostels and 3 girls hostels, with a total capacity of 1425, which includes 275 girls, are being funded to meet the special educational needs of these communities. Two Juvenile/Observation Homes for the neglected/delinquent juveniles have been established in the State, one each at R.S. Pura

(Jammu) and at Batpora (Harwan, Srinagar).

27. In order to provide better living conditions to Kashmiri migrants, my Government undertook, with financial assistance from the Government of India, the development of the Jagti township, near Nagrota, which comprises 4224 two room apartments. This colony has roads, water supply, electricity, drainage, parks, two schools, three community halls and one medical centre. Of the 3504 apartments already completed, 3259 stand allotted. The construction of the remaining apartments will be completed in the current year.
28. The Government remains committed to the return of Kashmiri migrants to the Valley. In a major step aimed at their return and rehabilitation in the Valley, 3000 supernumerary posts were created under the Prime Minister's Package for their employment in the Valley, in different departments. Following their selection, appointment orders in respect of 1922 candidates were issued, of whom 1431 have already joined their posts in various parts of the Valley.

29. My Government is fully committed to maintaining an efficient Public Distribution System (PDS) for the benefit of the poor people. At present, a total of 63,067 MTs of food grains are being allocated monthly by the Central Government for distribution to 18.02 lac families in the State, who are part of the ration regime. In order to ensure transparency and easy access of common people to food grains at the fair price shops/ration depots across the state, the Government has initiated computerization of the Public Distribution System in the State. In the first phase, web-enabled consumer helplines have been established at the directorates for redressing the grievances of the people.
30. My Government is committed to providing quality and affordable healthcare to every citizen. Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) focused attention shall be given for ensuring comprehensive maternal and child healthcare. Efforts are ongoing to strengthen the physical infrastructure at various medical facilities across the state. As a part of this continuing initiative, 18 stabilization units have been set up in

the Community Health Centres. Besides, 50 life saving ambulances have been procured to strengthen the emergency transport system in the state. The emergency block in the Government Medical College, Jammu, has been extended to provide services to more patients and likewise a 200-bed additional block of *Lalded* Hospital also stands completed. Under the *Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY)*, health insurance coverage is being extended to BPL families in the Jammu and Srinagar districts.

31. For providing free hospital services to all pregnant women and sick neonates, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, *Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram*, has been introduced during the current year. Similarly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene among Adolescent Girls (10-19 yrs.)" has been introduced in 10 districts of the State, under which 100 ANMs/LHVs have been trained as Block Facilitators.
32. Being seriously concerned about the declining sex ratio in the State the

Government is organizing sensitization workshops and sex determination laws are being strictly enforced. From this year, the Government has announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for those who provide information about ultra sound clinics carrying out sex determination procedures.

33. The Government is making concerted efforts to spread education to the uncovered areas of the State. A new adult education initiative, with focus on the female adult literacy, has been launched. A State Literacy Mission Authority, *Zilla Shiksha Samities* and Block *Shiksha Samities* have been constituted to cover 20 districts under this initiative.
34. My Government will continue to focus on consolidation, quality improvement and expansion in the education sector to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education. Under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)*, the major focus will be on the completion of ongoing civil works, involving 2759 primary schools, 354 upper primary schools, 4443 additional classrooms, 24 Block Resource Centres and 67 Cluster Resource Centres. It would be

our endeavour to introduce pre-schooling classes at the elementary level for raising the standards of education in Government schools, especially for the children of the poor classes of society, who face large scale educational deprivation.

35. In order to support this massive effort to spread education, 1488 more personnel have been engaged as *Rehbar-e-Taleem* (RET) and 1644 existing *Rehbar-e-Taleem* have been regularized. Under the *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan*, 279 Middle Schools have been approved for upgradation to the level of High Schools. This has raised the number of High Schools in the State to 1697.
36. For Higher Education 22 new degree colleges have been approved, of which 11 colleges shall be set up under the State Plan and the remaining would be established with Central assistance. While the Central Universities of Kashmir and Jammu have become functional on a makeshift basis, land for their permanent locations has been identified. 3321 *Kanals* of land has already been transferred for

the establishment of the Central University Kashmir at Ganderbal.

37. My Government has constituted a Skill Development Mission, chaired by the Chief Minister, which targets to skill 40 lac persons by 2022 in a cross-section of existing and emerging sectors. As a part of focus on imparting technical skills, 18 new polytechnics have been sanctioned. The process of partnering with the private players, under the PPP mode, has been initiated to improve the quality of training of technicians and their placement in the private sector. 27 ITIs have been approved for up-gradation in a phased manner under the Public Private Partnership mode. Under the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan, 14 ITIs, including 9 women ITIs, and 12 women wings in the existing ITIs, have been established.
38. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme, *Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan*, for providing opportunities to the rural youth in various sports events at the Panchayat level has been launched in the state with 90 per cent funding by the Government of India.

39. My Government is successfully implementing the *Sher-e-Kashmir* Employment and Welfare Programme for the Youth (SKEWPY), under which a dependable database of unemployed youth has been created at the District Employment and Counselling Centres all over the State. These centres have also started counselling the educated youth across the state about their potential career prospects in the public and private sectors. 556 projects, involving 590 entrepreneurs, with a total project cost of Rs. 56.58 crore, have been sanctioned under the Seed Capital Fund Scheme (SCFS).
40. The Voluntary Service Allowance Scheme (VSA) has been a great success. 31,931 youth have been covered under this dispensation, who have been paid a cumulative VSA of Rs. 23.86 crore. Similarly, under the J&K Self Employment Scheme (JKSES), margin money, interest subsidy and bank loans are being provided to young entrepreneurs. A total of 2745 entrepreneurs has benefited from the scheme.

41. Our artisans are not only part of our great cultural heritage but also contribute significantly to our economy. During 2011 the financial turnover in the Handicrafts sector is estimated at Rs. 2457 crore, including exports of nearly Rs. 545 crore.
42. With continuing modernization and perpetual changes in the global economy, it is important that our Handicrafts and Handlooms sectors are adequately supported to successfully meet the challenges of the market. My Government is committed to support these sectors through appropriate interventions. The stipend payable to the trainees at the Handicrafts and Handloom training centres in the state has been enhanced from Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 and Rs. 700 per month, respectively. In order to improve the access of artisans and weavers to micro-credit, the loan slab for the artisans has been raised from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1.00 lac and interest subsidy has been enhanced from 5% to 10%. A special fund of Rs. 2.50 crore for the revival of *Kani shawl*, silk handloom *sarees* and antique *Pashmina shawls* has been set up.

43. With a view to upscaling the skills of the varying categories of craftsmen in the State, 7289 persons have been trained in different crafts at the existing 553 training centres of the Handicrafts Department. Another 1054 trainees have been enrolled in 100 training centres of the Handloom Department and 2608 artisans have been covered under the *Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojna*.
44. While according priority to the promotion of the traditional industry, the Government is also conscious of the need for facilitating the small and medium enterprises through the cluster approach. A common effluent treatment plant at the Industrial Growth Centre, Lassipora, Pulwama, at a cost of Rs. 6.42 crore, has been made operational from November, 2011. 1075 small scale industrial units, involving an investment of Rs. 246.80 crore potential to provide employment to 7165 persons have been formally registered. A new Textile Park has been approved for Kathua and a Mega Carpet Cluster Project is being implemented in three districts of Kashmir. In recognition of the State's excellent performance under

the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme the 2011 National Award for the best KVI Board was conferred by the President of India upon the J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB).

45. Flagship programmes like the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)' have helped the State to move towards inclusive development. An amount of Rs. 440 crore spent under this programme during the current year made a valuable contribution to the generation of gainful employment in the rural areas. It would be my Government's endeavour to significantly increase the effectiveness and reach of this programme and secure an equitable outcome on the ground.
46. The Government has also continued to focus on other poverty alleviation and rural development programmes. Under the *Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)*, 10101 houses have been constructed. 2998 Self Help Groups and 3889 individual *Swarozgaries* were assisted under the *Swarnjayanti Gram*

Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). Under the Rural Sanitation Scheme, 831 Community Sanitary Complexes/Women Sanitary Complexes (WSC) and 223061 Individual House Hold Latrines (IHHL) have been constructed. In pursuit of the dream to convert every habitat into a model village, my Government has been successful in establishing 119 model villages across the State. Based on scientific analysis, the Government has prepared a Perspective and Strategic Plan under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, and secured sanction of Rs. 270 crore for its implementation.

47. Being seriously concerned about the adverse effects of climate change and global warming, my Government is committed to protecting our forests, natural habitats and water bodies. The Jammu & Kashmir State Forest Policy, formulated in 2011, articulates the role of forests in poverty alleviation and supporting the livelihood needs of the community, including the mitigation of climate change effects. The policy stresses the symbiotic use of forests and the centrality of

communities, women and Panchayati Raj Institutions, while recognizing the genuine requirements of the rural and tribal population for fodder, fuel wood and small timber.

48. My Government has launched the Wular Conservation and Management Project with an allocation of Rs. 30 crore for 2011-12 under the 13th Finance Commission Award. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), the demarcation of vulnerable forest areas has been taken up on priority and emphasis is being placed on recovering the encroached areas by fencing and other measures.
49. Recognizing that infrastructure development is vital for the all round rapid growth of the economy, my Government remains committed to devoting sustained attention to this sector.
50. Hon'ble Members, my Government accords the highest priority to the power sector. Already, the rapid developmental strides made by the State have increased the demand for higher levels of uninterrupted

and quality power supply. This demand for more power is bound to increase with every passing year. Against the power generation potential of 20,000 MW of electricity, only 2,461 MW have been harnessed in the state so far. My Government has evolved a multi-pronged strategy which focuses on establishing new hydro-electric projects in the State Sector, under Joint Ventures and through private initiatives. For enabling the private sector power producers to actively participate in the State's Power Development Programme, the Government has approved separate policies for the rapid establishment of mini hydel and micro hydel projects.

51. Three hydel power projects with a total installed capacity of 203 MW (New Ganderbal 93 MW, Lower Kalnaie 50 MW and Parnaie 60 MW) have been tendered by the State Power Development Corporation. These projects shall be executed under the EPC Mode. Under the Central sector, one unit of 11 MW capacity of Chutak HEP (44 MW) in district Kargil has been commissioned; the remainder 2

units of 11 MW each of this project are likely to be commissioned during the current financial year. The 45 MW Nimoo Bazgo project in Leh district is being commissioned by September 2012, while the 240 MW Uri-II HEP in Kashmir is at an advanced stage of execution and is expected to be commissioned by the NHPC during the current financial year.

52. The State's transmission and distribution network has been considerably strengthened with the completion of 220 KV grid stations at Mir Bazar, Budgam, Ramban and Bishnah. As a result, the State was able to draw and supply more power during the winter season, which resulted in better supplies to the valley. However, Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses continue to be cause for serious concern in the power sector. The Government will be addressing this problem under the Restructured Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (R-APDRP), under which the power utilities are now being mandated to reduce T&D losses by 3%

per annum, for a period of 5 years, through suitable technological and management interventions.

53. While my Government would continue with its concerted efforts to improve the power situation in the State, the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy to supplement the power requirements, with a special focus on the un-electrified villages in the far flung areas, shall continue to receive top priority. As many as 25,000 households in the un-electrified villages across the state have been provided Solar Home Lighting Systems (SHLSs) in the current year, taking the total households covered under this initiative to 42,000 till date. Additionally, 15,150 solar lanterns were provided to *Gujjar* and *Bakerwal* families for meeting small lighting requirements. My Government intends to set up micro hydel power projects of 100 KW capacity at different locations in the State to provide adequate electricity to the un-electrified villages.
54. Road connectivity is extremely important for inclusive development of the State.

45 bridges and 26 roads have been completed across the state. 2542 Kms of roads have been black topped/ macadamized, while another 1911 Kms have been up-graded to fair-weather status during the current financial year. Under the PMGSY, 948 Kms of roads have been constructed to connect 171 new habitations. Increased transparency and efficiency has been introduced in the planning, implementation and monitoring of new road projects with the use of e-tendering and the application of remote sensing mechanisms.

55. Keeping in view the importance of communications, my Government has been actively pursuing and facilitating the central sector road and rail projects in the State. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has commenced work on four out of six road packages, as well as on two tunnels, Nashri and Qazigund, between Jammu and Srinagar. The 10960 m 'Heading' of the Railway Tunnel at Banihal was also achieved in the current year. With the completion of these projects, the current inconvenience on the Jammu-Srinagar highway will be redressed.

56. In the Public Health Engineering sector, the completion of 33 water supply schemes has resulted in providing drinking water facilities to 196 habitations covering 50,000 souls. 1350 hand pumps (machine/manual drilled) have also been installed under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), benefiting around 30,000 souls. 1500 rural schools have been provided the facility of potable drinking water. To ensure the quality of drinking water supplied to the rural population, work on 60 water testing laboratories has been started at the Divisional and Sub-Divisional levels in the State, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this financial year.
57. On the recommendation of the Special Task Force on Jammu, a new water supply scheme which will tap the waters of the Gambhir Nallah, instead of Mansar lake, has been taken up for execution at a cost of about Rs. 384 lac. This project will meet the drinking water requirements of the targeted population, while ensuring the conservation of Mansar Lake.
58. On river Tawi, in Jammu, the construction of a barrage and its allied works 800 mtr

downstream of the *Tawi* Bridge, has been going on at full swing. The resultant artificial lake, stretching up to the *Gujjar Nagar* bridge, would not only recharge ground water to make the limited drinking water resources of Jammu city more sustainable, but also emerge as a major tourist destination.

59. My Government has conceived a project for the construction and extension of the Ravi Canal from Basantpur to Satwain. This project would facilitate tapping of the entitled 0.65 Million Acre Feet (MAF) of water from the river Ravi and would ensure assured irrigation supplies to the farmers in Kathua and Samba districts. The provision of assured irrigation to around 1.05 lac acres of land is expected to produce nearly two lac tonnes of food grains annually.
60. The first phase of the Flood Management Programme of River *Jhelum*, in the valley, involving a total cost of Rs. 2200 crore, is presently under implementation. Under this plan, the first installment of Rs. 97 crore stands released and two suction/cutter

dredgers have been procured, which would be shortly put to operation to de-silt the outfall channel of river *Jhelum*. The desiltation of the 42 kilometres long flood spill channel, carried out after a period of 32 years, has diminished the incidence of floods in the *Jhelum* basin. Besides, work on the stabilization and beautification of the river *Jhelum* from *Budshah* Bridge to the Weir, at a cost of Rs. 10 crore, has been completed. This has improved the overall aesthetic environment of Srinagar city.

61. The Government remains committed to restoring the pristine beauty of the Dal-Nagin Lake. Out of a sum of Rs. 298.76 crore sanctioned for the conservation and management of this Lake, a sum of Rs. 194.55 crore has been spent on laying of sewer lines, house connectivity and the construction of sewerage treatment plants. The Government of India has recently also approved a project costing Rs. 356 crore for payment of compensation and rehabilitation of the Dal dwellers residing within the Dal lake.

62. With development and increased commercial activity in the past years the infrastructure in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar has come under growing severe pressure. My Government has taken a series of initiatives to augment and improve the civic infrastructure. Two major sewerage and drainage projects for Jammu and Srinagar cities at a cost of Rs. 129 crore and Rs. 132 crore, respectively, under JNNURM, have been taken up. Side by side, funding from the Asian Development Bank has also been accessed to construct flyovers and scientific landfills for the two cities. A modern abattoir is currently under construction at Nagrota (Jammu). A similar project at Srinagar has been put to tender, for implementation under the funds made available by the 13th Finance Commission.
63. My Government has promoted e-governance in the urban local bodies to improve the pace and quality of service delivery. Some of the citizen-centric services, which are ready to be rolled out on-line, include building permissions, birth certificates, and the payment of utility bills. In order to ensure transparency in the

award of contracts, the Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Housing Board are now following e-tendering processes.

64. My Government has been taking a number of measures to boost tourism in the State by strengthening physical infrastructure, enhancing soft-skills of local enterprises and youth, and opening new tourist destinations. To attract high-end tourists, my Government has established a Golf Circuit in the State. Golf courses at Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sidhra were commissioned in the current year. On the request of the State Government, the Union Government has sanctioned 33 Destination and Circuit Development Projects this year, involving a cost of Rs. 132.98 crore. The 'Development of *Naagar nagar (Srinagar)* to *Watalab circuit*', 'Trans Himalayan Cultural Centre at Leh', and 'Way-side amenities on the Katra-Shivkhori circuit' are some of the projects sanctioned. The conservation of the *Mubarak Mandi* Heritage Complex is also being partly funded under the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Three Mega Pilgrim Circuits, namely Sufi Circuit for Kashmir, Buddhist Circuit for Ladakh

and Spiritual Circuit for Jammu have been proposed for sanction to the Government of India.

65. My Government is committed to expand the scope and outreach of information technology in the state. A state of the art State Data Centre will be operational shortly. This centre will act as the central repository of all Government related applications as well as databases and afford infrastructural back-up for delivering services to the people through a medium of State Wide Area Network.
66. Community Information Centres in 135 Blocks have been established and 646 Khidmat Centres to provide common services to the people have been made functional. The Government will focus on enhancing in-house efficiency using Information Technology and also provide an increasing number of services to the people through the Khidmat Centres. Such measures have started yielding positive results in various sectors. Computerization of the Motor Vehicles Department under the *Vahan & Sarthi* Scheme has been completed in eight districts; it will be

completed in another six districts by the end of March 2012.

67. Hon'ble Members, I have attempted to give a brief overview of the plans and programmes of my Government and also some of the achievements in certain sectors. The people of the State have entrusted you the responsibility to carve out a bright future for Jammu and Kashmir. I am confident that all of you, with your wide experience in public life, will contribute meaningfully to enhance the spirit of peace, unity and harmony, which is essential for the progress and prosperity of the State and its people. My Government would seek the whole-hearted support of both the Houses, and of the civil society at large, for bringing about faster, balanced and inclusive growth in the State.
68. Before concluding this Address, I convey my best wishes to all of you and hope that the deliberations during this session, in both the Houses, will be fruitful.

Jai Hind.