



GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR

**BUDGET SPEECH
OF
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HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER
(in-charge Finance)**

2024-2025

31 July, 2024

Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I rise to present the budget for 2024-25.

2. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the people of this State for their unwavering support during the hard times. During this time, we have received a number of good suggestions from the public and we have started working on many of these suggestions for a meaningful outcome. What we have all seen in the past one year is nothing short of a tragedy. I strongly condemn the loss of lives, properties and livelihood which is the outcome of the loss of trust between communities. It is our collective responsibility to find an amicable solution

3. Sir, one of the casualties of the unrest is our economy. Reduced own revenue collections, increased expenditure on security and relief operations, inflation, difficulties in movement of goods and services, difficulties in implementation of projects and schemes etc. were a few of the challenges that we faced. With normalcy returning to the State, our tax collection is showing a positive trend. I am confident that this improvement will continue during the current year.

4. We continue to work on the economic recovery of our State. Bringing and ensuring a peaceful and secure environment, rehabilitation and support to those who are displaced, providing livelihood to those without one, providing opportunities for skilling, and investing in quality infrastructure are some of the steps that we are taking.

Support from Central Government and Relief Measures

5. Speaker Sir, I would like to place on record the huge assistance of the Central Government. For the past one year, the Central Government has been extending assistance to the State both in terms of fiscal resources and manpower. In order to make up for the revenue losses suffered by the State, the Central Government approved a special assistance for revenue loss of Rs. 500 crores. For this, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of India. The Central government facilitated release of Rs. 565 crores as externally aided projects funding during 2023-24. This was used to finance various infrastructure works taken up by the government. Further, support for security related expenditure amounting to more than Rs. 150 crore was received.

6. I would like to briefly touch upon the relief measures taken up by the Central government as well as the State government. Since the outbreak of the unrest, both the

Central and State governments have been working tirelessly. As a special measure, the Central government approved a **relief package of Rs.101.75 crores as a one-time special assistance for operation of relief camps for people displaced due to the violence in the State**. The amount released under this Scheme was used for meeting expenditure incurred on running relief camp including recurring expenditure on consumable items like rice, dal, cooking oil, vegetables, water, milk, soap and one-time expenses towards setting up of relief camps such as CGI sheets, mattress, bed sheets, blankets, gas stoves, cooking utensils, electrical items, bucket etc.

7. Another package of **Rs. 209.45 crores** was also approved for running schemes of **relief and rehabilitation and rehabilitation of victims/persons affected by ongoing law and order**. **Scheme for providing temporary shelter to displaced families for 3000 shelters** was approved by the Central government for **Rs. 145.18 crore**.

8. Another scheme approved by the Central government is **the Scheme for compensatory packages for farmers**. Under this scheme, an amount of **Rs. 38.60 crore** has been approved and an amount of **Rs. 18.91 crore has been released till date**. This amount has been released to the total number of **3483 farmers** as on date.

9. **Scheme for complementary nutrition and personal hygiene** was another scheme approved by the Government of India for an amount of **Rs. 89.22 crores**. This scheme provides complimentary dietary support like milk, eggs, oats, etc., complementary non-dietary support like diaper and limcee tablets, and one-time support for purchase of blankets, flasks and storage boxes for all relief camp inmates. The State government has also released funds from its own resources for these schemes and reimbursement is being claimed from the Centre from time to time.

10. The Central Government had also approved to provide **IT services in violence affected districts**. Plans are afoot to invest **Rs. 11.00 crore** and **install 1100 computers** in violence affected districts at the cost of Rs.1 lakh per node. This will ensure that internet access is given in all violence-affected districts. These centres would serve as internet access points and computer based exam centres. Further, to ameliorate the living conditions of the relief camps inmates, TV sets have been provided to relief camps at the cost of **Rs. 3.35 crore**.

11. Keeping in view the difficulties faced by internally displaced persons (IDP) in meeting regular expenses related to clothing and personal belongings, **the State government**

has been extending financial assistance @ Rs.1000 per person. So far, this facility has been extended four times and has benefitted about 6000 IDPs. An amount of **Rs. 23.48 crore** has been spent on this relief measure.

12. The State government is aware of the difficulties faced by the displaced people especially loss of their homes. **Under the permanent housing scheme for the displaced persons whose houses had been burnt down,** the State government has rolled out a scheme to build 5000 permanent housing in the initial phase with estimated cost of Rs. 375 crore. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 21.67 crore has been released to the DCs concerned for taking up works related to the scheme.

13. **Scheme for interim relief to people** whose houses had been burnt down, was started by the State government to give relief to displaced persons. 25% advance amounting to **Rs. 15 crore** has been sanctioned by the government for release to the affected households.

14. **The State government has extended financial assistance@ Rs. 3000 per day per candidate with maximum of 3 days** to those candidates from the hill areas for appearing in UPSC examinations. Till date, the State government has spent **Rs. 29.34 lakh** on this facility for disbursement to 326 candidates @Rs.9000 per candidate.

15. The State government had created **Rs. 10 crore State Corpus Fund** for extending ex-gratia to the deaths and injured persons. This will ensure that there are no gaps in disbursing ex-gratia to the eligible next of kins of those persons who died in the unrest.

16. In order to address the difficulty faced by Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in generating regular income, my government has launched “ **CMESS- Special Support to Successful Start-Up and Entrepreneurs for employment of IDPs**”. Under this scheme, financial support of upto Rs.1 crore with 35% subsidy is being provided to Start-Ups who will provide employment to IDPs in their enterprises. Also, under CMESS for IDPs, a one-time credit of upto Rs.50,000/- has been provided with 30% subsidy on any bankable business activity and so far. 339 IDPs, including those from the hill districts have benefited with financial support of Rs.1.61 Crore.

17. In order to create better prospects of livelihood opportunities to the inmates in the relief camps, the State Government has taken up a decision to meet office requirements of Government offices with the items produced by the relief camp inmates. For this, the Manipur Handloom and Handicraft Corporation (MHHDC) and Manipur State Rural

Livelihood Mission (MSRLM) have been appointed as Nodal Agencies. An initial amount of **Rs. 50.07 lakh** only has been released to MHHDC for this initiative.

18. To deal with **women related crimes**, an amount of **Rs. 5 crore Corpus fund** has been set aside and kept at the disposal of Manipur State Legal Service Authority under “NALSA Scheme for Compensation to victims of crimes against women” so that immediate relief and support can be provided.

19. Sufficient funds will continue to be provided for relief and rehabilitation of people who have been displaced.

Disaster response

20. Speaker Sir, as everyone is aware, the State had suffered hailstorm in May of this year, the likes of which has not been seen before. A large number of houses suffered damage. We responded quickly and through the DCs, using funds available under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), CGI sheets were provided to households affected. This was followed by flooding on two different occasions in the months of May to July. These floods also had a devastating effect across the State.

21. For the management of the effects of these disasters and for provision of relief, including Rs.10,000 per households affected by floods, about Rs. 60 crore has been sanctioned from SDRF. An additional Rs. 20 crore has also been recently approved. A Central Team had come to visit the State following the hailstorm and the floods in May and had seen the damages caused. A proposal for compensation for damages caused by hailstorm has been submitted to the Central Government. We are also submitting a separate proposal to the Central government for compensation of flood related damages.

Some Achievements of the Government

22. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some achievements of this government.

23. **Under Jal Jeevan Mission**, 84 Schemes have been completed and 1273 ongoing schemes are more than 90% completed. Out of 4.51 lakh households, 3.58 lakh households have been provided functional household tap connections (FHTCs) which is a coverage of 79.45%. In the State, 293 villages are certified as ‘Har Ghar Jal Villages’ as on 1st July 2024.

24. **Under Amrut 1.0, 38,000 smart water meters** have been installed in the Imphal Municipal Corporation area which is a coverage of 86%. Manipur is the first state in the North East to adopt Smart Water Meters and we plan to extend it to all the Urban Local bodies in the State. Under Amrut 2.0, 9 water supply projects worth Rs.146.07 crore have been approved. Further rejuvenation of 21 water bodies in urban areas is underway which will increase water storage capacity, thereby easing water stress in urban areas.

25. Improving the working of the **power sector** is one of the key focus of the State Government. **The State DISCOM (MSPDCL)** has improved its position from Grade B+ to Grade A as per the latest report available on Consumer Services Ratings of DISCOMS for 2022-23. Now, MSPDCL is listed amongst the top ten power distribution companies in the country. Manipur is a pioneer in prepaid metering in the country. Out of the 5.21 lakh electricity consumers in the State, 4.92 lakh consumers are prepaid consumers.

26. **In the field of health**, the State has been making good efforts. Manipur is steadily moving towards achieving the target goal of SDG 3- Good health and well-being. As per the NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2023-24, the score of Manipur has improved from 75 to 68 and is at 2nd position after Tripura among the NE States. Under PM Jan Arogya Yojana, Ayushman cards have been issued to 6,02,268 beneficiaries which is a coverage of 45% and the remaining 4,81,445 will be saturated by 31st December 2024. Manipur was recognized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the highest number of Ayushman card creation in September 2022 among small states and full utilization of allocated funds and highest beds empanelled per 1000 beneficiaries in September 2023.

27. **In the field of education**, basic infrastructure like electricity, water and sanitation have been strengthened. Now, 51% of schools have electricity. Solar panels have been provided to all 240 targeted secondary and senior secondary schools, as well as to 367 out of 434 targeted elementary schools. Potable drinking water has been provided to all government schools and 75% of schools have separate functional toilets for both boys and girls.

28. **Promoting entrepreneurship** is one of the most important goals of my government. As on date, 5848 Start-Ups and entrepreneurship have been provided financial support under the Manipur Start Up Scheme and more than Rs.129 crore has been invested, including subsidy amount of Rs. 57.54 crore. To further improve the entrepreneurial ecosystem, we have raised venture funds in collaboration with NEDFI, Guwahati. We have also tied up with CGTMSE and SIDBI for the Manipur Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS) which will provide

support of more than Rs. 700 crore to MSME and Start-Ups. So far benefits have been provided to 2206 MSMEs under MCGS for an amount of **Rs.152.06 crore**.

29. Under **Chief Minister's Entrepreneurship Support Scheme**, with the objective of "One family and One livelihood" support to small enterprises with investment of upto Rs. 10 lakh per beneficiary with 30% subsidy is provided. About 800 applicants have been shortlisted and bank appraisal is in the process and banks have started sanction of loans from July 2024.

30. I take this opportunity to say that our government has been responsible for taking up many new initiatives. I am confident that many of our landmark policies like - Chief Minister's Hakshelgi Tengbang, Manipur Start Up Policy, Go to Village, Go to Hills, Chief Minister's Sotharasinggi Tengbang, Chief Minister's Artistsinggi Tengbang, Pension Scheme for Meritorious Sportsperson, Chief Minister's Sportspersons Livelihood Guarantee Scheme, Ima Nongthang Leima Yaipha Tengbang Scheme, etc. have had and will have a positive impact on the lives of the people of Manipur. It is this government that took the initiative to lift the ban on sale of liquor after taking into consideration all aspects of the matter.

31. Since this government came into power, a number of initiatives have been taken up to promote holistic growth in the State. It has always been our intention to spread the fruits of development to every man, woman and child in the State. Our policy measures are aimed at covering the areas of health, culture, sports, entrepreneurship, socially disadvantaged, security and transportation, amongst others. With the recently launched schemes, we hope to extend the benefits of government schemes to each citizen irrespective of where they live. These policies will complement and supplement the existing Schemes of the Central government.

Highlights of Union Budget 2024

32. Speaker sir, I would like to dwell briefly on the recent announcements in the Union Budget for 2024-25 as many of the new initiatives are bound to have a positive impact on the State.

33. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Central Government for its adept handling of the economy during the past few years. India remains a shining example in the world and will remain so in the coming years.

34. The Central Government has announced a number of policies which are bound to have a positive impact on the State. The Union Budget announcement to take up a comprehensive review of agri-related research is a good step as this will assist the country in increasing food productivity and development of climate resilient crop varieties. This initiative is the need of the hour given the rising population and climate change challenges facing us today.

35. The Budget has also decided to support natural farming and around **1 crores farmers** are expected to be initiated into the new venture. This will promote organic farming to a great extent. The announcement to promote self-sufficiency in pulses and oilseeds will greatly benefit the farmers and the country. The idea to set up large clusters of vegetable production closer to the consumption centre is a win-win initiative for both producers and consumers.

36. The focus of the Prime Minister has always been on increasing employment opportunities for the youth. For this, employability is a necessary criteria. The announcement in the Budget for 3 Schemes for employment linked incentives is a welcome move. This innovative policy to impart experience to first time work forces or workers is laudable. Under the Scheme, a one-month wage of up to Rs. 15,000 to all persons newly entering the workforce in all formal sectors will be provided. Further the scheme aims to incentivize both the employees and employers for engaging first time workers by contributing to their EPFO contributions in the first 4 years of employment.

37. The announcement of a new centrally sponsored scheme for skilling in collaboration with state government and industry is also welcome. Under the scheme, 20 lakh youth are expected to be skilled in the next 5 years. The announcement of a Model Skill Loan Scheme and education loans by the Centre will go a long way in benefiting students.

38. The Union Budget has an allocation of more than Rs. 3 lakh crores for schemes benefitting women and girls.

39. Speaker sir, the budget also announced that 3 crores additional houses under the PM Awas Yojana in rural and urban areas will be built. Our State will benefit from this announcement, especially given the recent floods and cyclones.

40. Under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, socio economic conditions of tribal communities are expected to improve. This policy is expected to cover 63,000 villages, benefitting 5 crores tribal people.

41. The announcement to set up more than 100 branches of India Post Payment in the Northeast region is sure to benefit the State.

42. The announcement to set up a credit guarantee scheme by the Central government will benefit our small and medium enterprises, especially those who are engaged in the manufacturing sector. The scheme provides for facilitating term loan to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral or third party guarantees. The budget has also increased the limit of Mudra loans from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under Tarun category.

43. Under the PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0, there are plans to address the housing needs of 1 crores urban poor and middle class families. I am sure that the new announcement will benefit the people of our state.

44. Speaker sir, the Budget has announced an increase in long-term interest free loan allocation to Rs. 1.50 lakh crores under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI). This will provide additional fiscal resources to the state to expand its infrastructure needs. Funds released under SASCI till date have been effectively utilised by the State.

45. Lastly, but not the least this Union Budget has an allocation of Rs. 11,11,111 crore (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eleven Thousand One Hundred and Eleven crore) for development of world class infrastructure in the country. This is 3.4% of GDP, which is an unprecedented figure.

46. All of these announcements and provisions of the Union Budget will ensure a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

47. Speaker sir, I would like to turn to some of the important budgetary allocations in our budget and certain important sectoral projects.

Law and Order, Security and Fire Protection

48. Speaker Sir, maintaining law and order and instilling a sense of security among the public continues to remain one of the highest priority for this Government. In my speeches of the past years I had mentioned that the Government was starting the process of upgrading equipment, vehicles, arms and ammunition of our Police. This upgradation is being continued

and our initiative has served the State well, especially during the security challenges faced from last year.

49. To protect our Police Personnel in their line of duty, mainly in vulnerable areas we had procured 40 Bulletproof Light Motor Vehicles which has improved the mobility of Police in maintaining law and order. For the first time, we had also procured 10 Mine Protected Vehicles, which is not used commonly by State Police in the country. This heavily armoured vehicle has helped our State Police in accessing highly vulnerable areas and dominating those areas. Apart from this we had procured a variety of weapons and ammunition to meet ever increasing challenges. Overall in the past year we had spent about **Rs. 80 crores** on vehicles and arms with ammunition for our State Police.

50. We also continue to focus on infrastructure for the Police, including Police Outposts, Police Stations, Housing etc. which will provide Police presence in new areas and also provide accommodation for our Police Personnel. A comprehensive package for Strengthening of State Police, including aspects of mobility, arms, infrastructure, training etc. has been submitted to the Central Government and I am confident that it will be approved.

51. In this budget we are continuing our allocation for strengthening and supporting our State Police in every possible manner, with the Demand having an allocation of more than Rs. 2900 crores.

52. The support of the Central Government in the maintenance of law and order has been immense and I would like to place on record my gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Union Home Minister for their unwavering support in this regard.

53. In my previous speeches I had highlighted the importance of having a strong Fire Service, especially in the context of the rapid urbanization in the State. I must thank the Central Government for approving Rs. 40.50 crores for 'Expansion and Modernization of the Fire Services in the State'. This scheme will aid in the upgradation of our Fire Stations, help in procurement of new and fully equipped fire tenders and also provide funds for training and awareness.

54. On the 1st July of this year, 3 new criminal laws, namely the (i) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (ii) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the (iii) Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, have replaced three colonial laws. These new laws are a paradigm shift in India's criminal justice system and were framed with the spirit of 'citizen first, dignity first and justice first'.

Investing in Human Capital

55. Speaker Sir, our most important resource is our people. Despite being land-locked and resource poor, we can achieve growth and development with the talent and hard work of our people. This Government believes that investing in our human capital will pay rich dividends not only for our state but also for the nation. Outlay for Education this year is more than Rs. 3100 crores. The **‘School Phagathansi Mission’** of this Government had provided a much needed push to improve the quality of our Government schools. We had started with 60 schools and then extended to 120 schools in 2 phases. As I had mentioned in my previous speeches, strengthening of another 120 High and Higher Secondary Schools is being taken up under NESIDS Scheme of DoNER at a cost of Rs. 134 crore. The project is being sanctioned soon by the Government of India.

56. Higher Education is another important sector. After completion of higher secondary school, our youth need to have access to good colleges within the state. To improve the infrastructure of the Government Colleges, we launched the **‘College Fagathansi Mission’**. 24 colleges are being taken up initially under this scheme initially and infrastructure upgradation works are underway. Other material support will also be provided for these colleges so that quality teaching and learning aids are available.

57. Under the PM DevINE scheme, we have received sanction for infrastructure development of 2 of our universities - Rs. 54 crore for the Manipur Technical University and Rs. 71 crore for Dhanamanjuri University. The works will be starting this year. Under the same scheme, sanction of a project of Rs. 31 crore for the Manipur University of Culture is also expected shortly.

58. We continue to provide adequate allocation for our various initiatives such as - CM Scholarship Scheme for Civil Service Aspirants, CM Maheiroi e-support scheme, Merit Scholarship etc. All these initiatives, projects and allocation for the education sector will help improve the reach and quality of education in our state.

59. We have made an allocation of about Rs. 1600 crore for the Health Sector in this year's budget. In the past few years we have continuously invested in our Health Sector and this has benefited the public in a big way. A number of schemes, both central and state funded are being implemented synergistically to improve the health outcomes of the people. These include CMHT and PMJAY, National Health Mission and CM's Health for All, infrastructure development of health facilities and PM - ABHIM, 15 Finance Commission grants etc.

60. Mental Health of our citizens is an important aspect, which does not get much attention. Considering its importance we had proposed a project for setting up of a 60 bedded Mental Hospital in the State with a cost of Rs. 70 crore under the PM DevINE scheme and this project has been sanctioned by the Central Government. Under the same PM DevINE scheme, we had proposed a scheme to provide 'Super Speciality and assured Speciality Health Care in remote and hill districts' for a cost of Rs. 106.84 crore. This project is in an advanced stage of approval and sanction and will reduce the gap in super speciality healthcare in the hills.

61. Speaker Sir, my government has been promoting Start-Ups and Entrepreneurships in partnership with banks to establish new ventures or upscale existing business with innovative ideas. I have already highlighted some of the achievements in this sector and also the new initiatives we have taken. Under the Manipur Start-up Policy and related schemes, a budgetary allocation of Rs.100 crores is being allocated in this Budget. This shows our commitment to ensuring a livelihood for every family.

62. Skilling is given a high priority by this Government. Funding for skilling is provided under various Central and State funded schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), DDU - Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Start-Up etc. Further, the new skilling scheme announced in the Union Budget will ensure that we have a skilled workforce, who are ready to meet future requirements. We had also started a program to link skilling and training with support provided for funding, materials or credit under various Government schemes. Recently, training of interested youth on various farming activities was carried out during the launch program. We plan to provide certification for trained persons and provide support under various schemes so that the best outcome can be achieved on Government investment.

Agriculture

63. Agriculture is an important sector of the State's economy. The last year has been a challenge for the farming sector as a large number of farming land could not be cultivated due to the unrest prevailing in the State. Compensation has been paid in many cases and the remaining will be covered shortly. However, we are making efforts to ensure that all cultivable farm land are safely accessible to farmers. The problem was made more severe by

the hailstorm and floods in the months of May to July this year. The Government is planning to provide all necessary support to the affected farmers.

64. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are an important source of funding for the Agriculture and allied sector, in addition to State funded support and credit from banks. Allocation for the agriculture sector has been increased substantially by the Central Government and our receipts under agriculture CSS has also increased. We intend to access all available funds under CSS for this sector so that our farmers get the full benefits of these schemes and improve their income.

65. Agriculture, Fisheries, Horticulture, Animal husbandry for poultry, fisheries and especially organic crops have a huge potential in our State. The Government is working towards achieving the full potential of this sector. For Agriculture and its allied sectors of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Sericulture and Horticulture we have made a total allocation of Rs. 883 crore in this Budget.

Development in the Hills

66. Speaker Sir, my Government has always ensured that our hill areas get the full benefit of development. Apart from funding provided under various schemes of different Departments, under the Demand for Tribal Affairs and Hills an allocation of Rs. 919 crores has been provided.

67. Various CSS are implemented for development of tribal areas such as Post and Pre Matric Scholarships, Grants under Article 275 of the Constitution, Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana, Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan etc. Further funds are provided for under 15th Finance Commission grants and 4th State Finance Commission grants.

68. Apart from ongoing schemes and projects we are tying up with the Ministry of DoNER for new projects under the NESIDS scheme. 2 tourism projects at Khoupum and Shirui are being proposed at a cost of Rs. 80 crore, which are in advanced stage of approval. Further, 4 roads and bridges are being proposed under NESIDS Roads for the border districts of Kamjong and Chandel, amounting to Rs. 140 crore, which are also in advanced stage of approval.

69. These are just a few of the projects that are upcoming and many more are in the pipeline for the development of our hill areas. We remain committed to the development of the hill areas of our state.

Externally Aided Projects

70. Speaker Sir, my Government has been giving a strong push to externally aided projects (EAP) for the last many years. EAPs are an important source of funding especially for critical infrastructure projects requiring large funding in the short-term to meet a specific gap not met by any scheme of the Central Government. EAPs also help the Northeastern States in a big way as 90% of the loan as well as interest is borne by the Central Government.

71. Our efforts through the years have borne fruit and we have made significant progress in this regard. There are six (6) EAPs currently under implementation in the State. These include the (i) ADB funded Imphal-Kangchup-Tamenglong road and this project is being closed this year, (ii) NDB funded Manipur Water Supply Project (iii) the KfW funded Forest Management Project (iv) World Bank funded Dam Rehabilitation Project (v) NDB funded Sewerage Project Phase-II (vi) NDB funded Lamphelpat Waterbody Rejuvenation Project. Altogether, these six (6) projects amount to about Rs. 7000 crores.

72. 4 (four) EAPs are in advanced stages and are awaiting only the loan negotiation and signing – (i) ADB funded Imphal Ring Road project (ii) ADB funded Sustainable Loktak Lake Restoration project (iii) World Bank funded Manipur Infotech Development (MiND) and (iv) AIIB funded Manipur Urban Roads (concrete pavement) Project. These upcoming four (4) projects amount to about Rs. 5300 crores. These projects will not only improve the infrastructure in the State, but also create opportunities for livelihood and employment due to the large incoming investment.

Connectivity

73. Connectivity is a critical sector for the development of the State. While National Highway works and border road projects are implemented mainly by agencies under the Central Government, the State Government implements road projects through the Public Works Department and Rural Engineering Department. Combining all sources of funding, with the exception of projects implemented by Central Government Agencies, the Capital Outlay on Roads and Bridges in this FY 2024-25 is more than Rs. 3000 crores.

74. PMGSY projects had been delayed due to the unrest in the last financial year. However, works are now progressing well and we target to complete the Phase-I and Phase-II of the scheme at the earliest and at the same time start works on Phase-III. An allocation of Rs. 1688 crore has been provided for this scheme.

75. We have been able to increase our receipts under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) from last year. Compared to small amounts in the past years, in FY 2023-24 we were able to receive Rs. 147 crore. This year we have allocated Rs. 170 crore in the budget. CRIF is an important source of funding for road projects and we are making all attempts to access more funds from it.

76. The upcoming Imphal Ring Road project will ease the congestion faced in Imphal City and add to the economic growth of rural areas through which it will pass. In addition, the concrete roads project will provide us with long lasting roads with reduced maintenance costs. The savings will enable the Government to invest more in roads in the hills and rural areas. Both these Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) are in advanced stages of procurement and loan agreement and signing for the projects are expected within this year. An allocation of Rs. 900 crore has been provided for both these EAPs in the budget.

77. We have been focusing on connectivity in our previous Government. We are taking this forward and to the next level. With the support of the Central Government multiple projects are being taken up. The railway line is targeted to reach Imphal in the near future. The first consignment of essential goods through train at the Khongsang Railway Station was received in July, 2023. Further, the first consignment of foodgrains was received on 13 July 2024. The receipt of goods by train will ease the challenges faced by the State in terms of transportation of goods.

Sports

78. Speaker Sir, the support of this Government to the field of sports remains unchanged. This year we have taken up a host of measures for developing our sports infrastructure and supporting our sportspersons. I had already spoken about the recently launched 'Sportspersons Livelihood Guarantee Scheme'. This scheme will provide athletes who have retired from active sports and are without a livelihood, to avail support under this scheme. For this we have provided Rs. 4 crore in the budget. We have also provided funds for providing quality coaching to our sportspersons, including hiring of foreign coaches.

79. We are continuing our funding for our Indigenous arts and games, pension for meritorious sportspersons, support to football as well as other clubs in the State. Plans for construction of the Manipur Football Academy are underway and works for the construction of football fields with natural grass have been initiated.

80. We are planning to upgrade our sporting infrastructure. Apart from the Khelo India Scheme, we are exploring various sources of funding. We have posed 2 projects under NESIDS (North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme). The project for construction of a new 'Multipurpose Indoor Stadium in Khuman Lampak' is in advanced stage of approval with a tentative project cost of Rs. 40 crore. Another project for 'Digital Infrastructure of Sports Excellence' has also been posed to DoNER under NESIDS scheme.

81. Altogether we have allocated Rs. 98 crore for the development of Sports. This does not include the various infrastructure support under the Scheme for Capital Investment, Khelo India, NESIDS, NEC etc. for which the fund flow is different.

Water Resources and Flood Control

82. Sir, the arrival of monsoon brings worries to the people of the State due to recurrent floods, and the subsequent damage experienced in the recent floods of May and July of this year is a clear example. Our Government has made various efforts to mitigate the damage caused by floods.

83. The Government of India had sanctioned the 'Flood Management and Border Area Programme' to take up flood management works in 10 (ten) river basins of the State. Works under this project are progressing well and upon completion I am confident that we will be able to manage any flood situation more effectively. An allocation of Rs. 220 crore has been allocated for this project.

84. I have already mentioned about the project for rejuvenation of the Lamphelpat Water Body. This project, upon completion, will serve as a reservoir for any excess rainwater and will be able to prevent flooding in Imphal City to a large extent. The increased water capacity created in this waterbody prevented massive flooding in the adjoining areas, in the recent episodes of heavy rainfall. In addition to this, projects for conservation of wetlands are ongoing or being taken up across the State such as in Waithoupat, Yaralpat, Utrapat, Phumnom Pat, Jaimeng Wetland etc. which will aid in flood management.

85. In total, about Rs. 490 crore has been allocated in this budget for projects and works which will enable the State to manage floods more effectively.

Environment and Forest

86. The recent floods have reminded us of the need to preserve our environment and forest so that we can reduce the impact of climate change on our lives. This will require the support of all the people in the State and we must jointly work towards this. I urge everyone to take up the plantation of trees under the 'Ek Per Maa Ke Naam' program launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on the World Environment Day. While the Government can provide funds for schemes and projects, without the support of the people we cannot achieve the aim of a clean, green and climate resilient Manipur.

87. We have invested in the maintenance and development of the Loktak Lake in the past few years. For the implementation of the 'Integrated Management Plan' of the Loktak Lake, the Central Government had approved and sanctioned Rs. 145 crore this year. The components of this scheme includes - (i) Institution and Governance (ii) Land and Water Management (iii) Species conservation and habitat management (iv) Sustainable resource development and livelihood improvement. This project has the potential to preserve and rejuvenate our precious lake. Apart from this, many other schemes for our environment and forest are under implementation, both under Central and State funding.

88. Following the implementation of the Nambul River Conservation Project we have proposed the 'Rejuvenation of the Imphal - Manipur river along with Faecal sludge and septage Management at 27 ULBs' under the National River Conservation Project (NRCP) to the Central Government. Overall, we have made an allocation of Rs. 413 crore for the Environment and Forest sector in this budget.

89. Speaker Sir, I have highlighted some of the main allocations in the Budget. There are, however, many other important areas which I am not able to highlight due to paucity of time. We remain committed to the all-round development, including all sectors, of the State.

Budget Estimates 2024-25

90. Sir, let me turn to the Budget Estimates for the year 2024-25

91. The total receipts are estimated at Rs. 34,815 crores. The revenue receipts are estimated at Rs. 27,716 crores and capital receipts at Rs. 7,099 crores. Total estimates of State's own tax and non-tax receipts are Rs. 2,470 crores and Rs. 300 crores respectively.

92. For the year 2024-25, I am proposing a total gross expenditure of Rs. 34,899 crores out of the Consolidated Fund of the State. Total Revenue Expenditure is estimated at Rs. 20,628 crores. Capital outlay is estimated at Rs. 8,616 crores.

93. Sir, at the end, let me sum up by highlighting the likely fiscal position during the year. Fiscal deficit is estimated at Rs. (-) 1526 crores. This is 3 % of the GSDP. During 2024-25, the total outstanding debt as a percentage of GSDP is projected at 35%.

94. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2024-25 is estimated at Rs. 49,937 crores.

95. With this, Mr. Speaker Sir, I present the Budget Estimates for 2024-25, with the hope that the same will receive the approval of this August house.