

Respected Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Development Council, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Distinguished members of the National Development Council and other Dignitaries present

I am privileged to be here in this august house to address the 57th Meeting of National Development Council. As I stand here, I see the nation passing through challenging transition. In India, we have an unprecedented demographic dividend with the young minds and their enthusiastic aspirations. These minds are shaped in the post liberalisation era where they have seen the stellar growth and abundance of choices which were unavailable to past generations. They have experienced the limitless possibilities that a mere touchscreen can bring in their lives. I bear witness to the growth story that shifted the global focus from European and American continent to the Asian continent with its 'Chindia' phenomenon. And now that we have seen those figures of 9 % growth, the 6~7 % growth has become simply unpalatable. Slowdown of global economy post subprime crisis in United States has cascaded into the European debt crisis. This has resulted in slowdown in our neighbourhood in south-east asia which was propelling itself on the export-led growth. India, with its increasing integration with the global economy has not remained insular from the effects of this global growth deceleration and evidently we recorded only 6.5 % growth in 2011-12. Even this statistics seen in the backdrop of India's federal structure, its diversity and regional dis-similarities and an ambition of 'growth with equity' is laudable. I must congratulate the leaders here who did not abandon the dream of inclusive and equitable growth in favour of a skewed but accelerated growth. The fruits of that persistence in vision are visible now when the erstwhile laggard eastern states are putting respectable growth figures matching with their western and southern counterparts. Nation building is a slow and tenacious exercise and often a generation needs to bury itself in the foundations for a sound edifice to rise, as our forefathers did for our freedom. But as I said earlier, today's generation also demands fast pace and that's why I am happy to see inclusion of this aspiration in the vision of 12th plan of 'Faster, Sustainable and More Inclusive Growth'.

I stand here to represent my state, Assam that has shown resurgence in last decade after a long gloomy spell in 70s and 80s. It's unique in its diversity of languages, tribes, ethnicity and cultures that flourish in co-existence but sometimes clash with tragic results. Our growth story has to be seen keeping this canvas in mind and so I feel proud when despite all its drags, Assam is able to match shoulder to shoulder with more peaceful states on many counts. In the Regional Consultation on the Approach Paper to 12th Five year plan held on 4th and 5th July, 2011 at Guwahati and in the 56th NDC meeting, I had delineated strategies to be adopted for development of the North East Region in general and for state of Assam in particular. I am confident that those views would be considered while finalizing the 12th Five Year Plan.

2. Growth of Economy:

The growth rate of Assam is showing a steady increase from 1.51 % during Ninth plan to 5.33% in the Tenth Plan and is averaging at 6.86% during the Eleventh Plan period. Specifically, growth in Agriculture Sector that was negative (- 1.7 %) in Ninth

plan became positive at 0.63 % during Tenth Plan and is estimated at 4.81 % during the Eleventh plan. Service Sector showed similar growth from 3.41 % in Ninth plan, 7.2 % during Tenth Plan to 8.86 % during the Eleventh plan. Industry Sector witnessed fluctuating growth from 4.02 % during Ninth Plan to 7.9 % during Tenth Plan that decreased to 4.45 % during the Eleventh plan. Significantly, as per advance estimates, per capita income at current prices stands at Rs.37, 481 in Assam during 2011-12 which are significantly more than Rs. 22, 388 at end of the 10th Plan and Rs.14, 257 at end of 9th Plan period.

3. The Human Development Report - 2011 for India has acknowledged Assam's dramatic resurgence on the path of development. The state topped in the percentage change in Income Index and in Human Development Index between 1999-2000 and 2007-08. Assam is ranked third for percentage change in Health Index during same period. We are proud that since 2001 Assam has never experienced any decline in HDI growth rate.

4. During last few years, growth rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has shown a steady upward trend. The GSDP growth rate in 2000-01 was only 2.53% however, today the picture reflects dramatic improvement. As per estimates in terms of constant (2004-05) prices, it grew at 7.34 % over 2009-10. With a growth of 8.42 % over 2010-11, GSDP for 2011-12 is Rs 80,465.13 Crore. With growth of 10.95 % over 2010-11 now it is expected to be Rs.115,407.64 Crore during 2011-12 (advance estimates). The per capita GSDP of Assam at current prices in 2011-12 (advance estimates) is Rs. 37,481.00 as against Rs.34,201.00 in 2010-11 (quick estimate).

Government of Assam has been **able to achieve the fiscal targets** laid down in Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (AFRBM) Act, 2005. We also achieved both revenue and fiscal surpluses during last five financial years. This achievement has enabled us to receive debt waiver to the tune of Rs.105 Crore every year since 2005-06 under Debt Consolidation and Relief Facility Scheme. The Thirteenth Finance Commission also awarded an amount of Rs. 300 Crore to Assam as grant for performance incentive in recognition of our sound financial management. The 12th Finance Commission's prescribed 15 % limit for interest payment as a ratio of revenue receipt has been lowered to 8.81 % in case of Assam. Per capita debt of Assam as on 31-03-2012 was Rs 9355, fourth lowest in the country and lowest among the special category states.

5. During the 12th Plan, economy of the nation is targeted to grow at an annual rate of 9 % with Agriculture, Industry and Services growth rates projected at 4%, 9.6% and 10% respectively. Consequently, after disaggregation of national targets for each of the states, average growth target of economy for Assam is projected at 6.86 % by the Planning Commission. Corresponding growth targets under Agriculture, Industry and Services stand at 3.82 %, 5 % and 9.66 % respectively.

We grew at 8.42 % during the year 2011-12 and extrapolating this figure we should grow at 9.38 % during 12th Plan. However, after consultation with Member (NE) of Planning Commission, we have tempered our targets and realistically aspire to grow at about 8 % during the 12th Plan period. We expect growth at 5 % under Agriculture, 5 % under Industry and 12 % under Services which are ambitious targets than those fixed by the Planning Commission.

6. I realise that **inclusive growth** should result in lower incidence of poverty, significant improvement in health standards, universal access to education and better opportunities for wage employment. The growth envisages sustainable income generation accompanied by more opportunities for a better quality of life with inclusion of provisions of basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, roads, sanitation and housing. This should translate with focus on marginalised population and on sections with disadvantages such as Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

It requires multiple interventions. Success depends not merely on introduction of new schemes but consistent emphasis on better implementation, institution strengthening, lesser wastage of resources and attitudinal change. Apart from the continuation of the flagship programmes, there should be a **'Flexible Fund'** with at least 50 % of the total amount allocated as additional central assistance for various central schemes. This will allow states to tailor the implementation patterns as per local needs. Matching contribution from states for various centrally sponsored flagship programmes could be negotiated at the time of setting state-wise targets. I strongly advocate the necessity of provisioning this fund in the 12th Plan. We have demonstrated success of this approach through **Assam Bikas Yojana** introduced in 2008-2009 by utilising Rs.1000 Crore and **Chief Minister's Special Package** since Annual Plan 2010-2011 with financial involvement of Rs.1000 Crore every year covering specific schemes implemented with a great degree of focus under various sectors such as Agriculture, Cooperation, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Rural Development, Handloom and Textiles, Sericulture, Transport, Food and Civil Supplies, Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs, Tea Welfare, Urban Development, Rural Water Supply and Social Welfare Sector.

I also realise that Assam faces major concerns in anaemia, malnutrition, maternal mortality, child sex ratio, neonatal and infant mortality, retention of girls in higher levels of education, crimes against children and women including trafficking, as well as provision of basic services in all areas including sanitation and safe drinking water. **'The Chief Minister's Vision for Women and Children – 2016'** is a strong reiteration of my government's commitment as a lead agent of change in Assam through inclusive development and good governance. The major goals to be achieved by end of 12th Plan in this respect will be:

- Reduction in percentage of anaemia in children (6 to 35 months) by 45 % to 42%.
- Reduction in percentage of anaemia among women (15 to 49 years) by 45 % to 40%.
- Reduction in percentage of underweight children (0 to 5 years) by 30% to 25%.
- Reducing percentage of girls marrying before 18 years by 50% to 11%.
- Reservation for women at 33% in all skill development programmes.
- Bring child labourers into the educational main stream.
- Creation of women cell in every police station with adequate women staff.
- Strengthening the existing Anti Trafficking Unit in all districts for dealing women and child trafficking and witch hunting cases.

7. For Agriculture & allied sectors strategy includes the factors both in agriculture and horticulture sector that are programmed in tune with Government of India's Result Framework Document [RFD]. This RFD includes the past achievement as well as future targets such as food and nutritional security for people, increasing production of rice from 50.45 lakh tonnes to 65.00 lakh tones, pulses from 0.82 lakh tonnes to 1.60 lakh tones, oilseeds from 1.97 lakh tonnes to 3.60 lakh tones and horticultural crops from 74.02 lakh tones to 94.75 lakh tones by integration of all interventions of modern agricultural production technologies, increasing cropping intensity from 146 % to 175% through promotion of double cropping, increased investment in Agriculture through Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) & National Food Security Mission (NFSM) on Rice & Pulse, improved service delivery of quality inputs, transfer of technology from lab to land with special emphasis on climate resilient agriculture, creating storage facilities and avenues for disposal of surplus produces in rural areas through State Agencies and improvement in rain-fed agriculture through extensive cultivation of pulses and oilseeds.

We are trying to strengthen Assam Agricultural University (AAU) for research and education. However, more funds should be granted exclusively by central government for expanding research and education system. Krishi Vigyan Kendras under AAU have been doing commendable job for agricultural development in the state and would be boosted further if they are supported with required fund.

My Government is also giving emphasis on implementation of RKVY and NFSM to boost development of agriculture. I find that norms for assistance and yardsticks of development under these programmes require a liberal and considerate outlook and flexibility of implementation in states. For example, seed is the most critical input for our farmers for which limit of subsidy is 25% ~50%. It is very difficult on part of small & marginal farmers, who account for more than 85%, to contribute balance 50% ~75% of cost of seeds. So, subsidy on distribution to farmers under RKVY and NFSM needs to be enhanced. Schemes of NFSM (Rice) and NFSM (Pulse) are implemented in only 13 and 10 districts respectively. They are required to be extended to all 27 districts as entire state is producing Rice and Pulses with productivity much below the national average. Further, there is a need to incorporate flexibility in selection of interventions under GOI sponsored schemes like Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India.

The world is slowly awakening to disastrous impact of overuse of fertilisers. Luckily, we have remained organic by and large. Fertiliser consumption in Assam averages at 74.6 Kg per hectare against nation average of 142 Kg per hectare. We are improving soil productivity by soil treatment through infusion of macro and micro nutrients. In order to increase productivity and production of paddy, we wish to expand area under Hybrid Paddy from the present 2.4% of total paddy area to cultivable area of entire state during 2012-17. We also wish to expand areas under Hybrid Maize and Vegetables.

The Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act, 1972 has been amended to carry out **the reforms in the agricultural marketing sector** to develop competitive marketing channels and infrastructure. Amended Act has provided for establishment of private market yards, direct marketing and farmer markets besides giving scope to contract farming to promote investment. The State has provided

transportation subsidy and three and four wheelers at subsidised rates to Agriculture Production Management Groups to provide relief from distress sale. This initiative needs further strengthening in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Assam is **growing quality seeds** of paddy, mustard and blackgram under Seed Village Programme to meet the required quantities of certified seeds. But due to high humidity in Assam, storage of pulses is a problem. Hence, creation of scientific storage facilities will be a priority area during the plan period.

Under **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)**, 2.86 lakh farmers are covered till date. Its rate of premium subsidy for Small and Marginal farmers is enhanced from 10% to 50%. This is absolutely essential in flood prone Assam where more than 85% of the farmers are small & marginal. I urge you to simplify the claim settlement to encourage more farmers to opt for crop insurance.

We are committed to **enhance assured irrigation facility** from 29 % to 45% of net cropped area (from 8.30 to 12.60 lakh hectare) by end of 12th Plan. We have vast ground water resource of 21.50 Billion Cubic Metre apart from plenty of surface water. In order to utilize ground water resources, we propose about 8,000 DTW irrigation schemes. For surface water 970 Lift irrigation schemes are proposed. We wish to extend micro-irrigation through tank irrigation which is economical with shorter gestation period, lower maintenance and operation cost. Emphasis will be given to addition of irrigation components like sprinklers and capacity creation through Accelerated Irrigation Programme (AIBP). I request Ministry of Water Resource **to release the fund under AIBP quarterly** in two instalments instead of existing system to speed up the projects.

8. The livestock sector has great role for food and nutritional security but despite having sizeable number of cattle (approx. 85 lakh), per capita availability of milk is only 87ml/head/day as against 210 ml/head/day as recommended by WHO. Similarly, per capita availability of egg is 18 per head/year against 180 and availability of meat is 6 kg per head/year against 10.8 kg as recommended by ICMR. Huge deficit in milk is because local cattle of Assam are non-descript and averages production of 180 lit/cow per lactation length of 210 days in contrast to the average yield of other indigenous breed that varies from 1500 to 3000 lit/cow per lactation length of 300 days. Similarly, local birds produce 70-80 eggs per annum in contrast to the Banaraja, Giriraja species that produces around 180 eggs per annum. Poultry industry in Assam is crumbling under huge cost of poultry feed as this industry is solely dependent upon the fish meal of marine origin, which is unavailable in the state. Consequently, due to low margins, commercial egg production farms are not gaining popularity in the state.

We have chalked out some strategies to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of meat, milk and eggs such as improvement of livestock and poultry, enhancing genetic resources through Artificial Insemination and induction of improved breeds. Flow of central assistance for this sector from Government of India is very meagre in comparison to other states of the country. I urge upon the august house to extend substantial financial support to this sector during 12th Plan.

9. Assam is endowed with 3.92 Lakh hectares of water bodies that include individual and community tanks, *beels*, oxbow lakes, derelict water bodies and river fisheries. We have already achieved annual **fish production** of 2.43 Lakh MT against the estimated demand of 3.00 lakh MT. To bridge the gap between supply and demand, the strategies include development of water resources under both Government and private sector, adoption of resource based technology for achieving sustainable productivity, capacity building of stake holders, establishment of State Brood Banks for quality improvement in fish seed production. Main thrust will be on expansion of the area for scientific fish farming to around 15,000 hectare, increase in productivity of ponds and tank from 1,000 kg to 3,000 kg per hectare by supply of quality fish seed and fish feed. Development of market infrastructure will also be accorded top priority in the form of establishment of modern hygienic fish markets in all districts. The additional production is expected to be around 60,000 tons in 12th plan, thereby bridging the gap and making Assam self sustainable in fish production.

10. In **Environment & Forest** sector, Assam government is conscious of the impact of future climate change and is initiating appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures. We pledge our full support for the Green India Mission. There are two externally aided projects in Assam- one under Indo-French Development Co-operation with focus on eco-restoration and livelihood security and another German project which will concentrate on climate change adaptation strategy.

Assam has 34.4% of the total geographical area under forest cover. In a landlocked state with huge pressure of population, this is significant achievement. Given that the forest cover of Assam contributes in global climate stability and mitigates the deleterious effects of environmental challenges elsewhere in the country, it is necessary to compensate us in form of **carbon credits** to allow for retention and expansion of the Green cover. Commercial exploitation of the forest produce and other medicinal and aromatic plants should be factored in by way of specific financial resources to be incorporated in suitable schemes.

11. I believe that **Rural Development** is central to overall development. I strongly support continued infusion of resources from Government of India into the rural development sector. I urge you to consider following issues pertaining to Assam -

- It is estimated that 1.25 lakh families have been displaced due to erosion in Assam. It is therefore requested that an additional target of one lakh houses under IAY be given as a special package for these erosion affected families.
- Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the admissible administrative expenditure of 6% by MoRD is not sufficient to cover the existing expenses such as remuneration to various contractual staff. It is therefore proposed that the limit for administrative expenditure should be enhanced to 8%. The existing wage rate for unskilled labour in Assam under MGNREGA is Rs 136 per day which is low not only in comparison to other States but also existing market rate. Therefore it is proposed that the existing wage rate for Assam should be enhanced to Rs 180 per day.
- Under the National Social Assistance Programme, the target of pensioners of Widows and Disabled pensions are 63,840 and 24,383 respectively. These targets

are based on the earlier BPL population estimates of 19.7% which has been revised by Tendulkar Committee to 34.4%. In tune with the report it is now proposed that the target for Widow and Disabled persons for Assam should be enhanced to 1, 11,477 and 42,577 respectively.

12. Floods have remained perpetual bane of Assam. Brahmaputra, fourth largest river in world in terms of annual discharge, reaches a level of 100,000 cubic metres per second of discharge during floods. Recently, in September 2012, floods destroyed 2.27 lakh hectare of agricultural land in 20 out of 27 districts and affected 29.14 lakh population. It submerged vast areas in Kaziranga and Pobitora Wild life Sanctuary. Aggradations of the river bed, intense braiding and heavy sediment load are the main factors responsible for extremely unstable rivers in Assam. As these sources are not limited to Assam but have international linkages, the flood and erosion protection measures need to be addressed as a national problem and tackled accordingly. After earthquake of 1950, the rivers of Assam lost their dynamic equilibrium and started causing **bank erosion** in different reaches. This menace has caused Assam 7.4% of the gross geographical area amounting to nearly 4.27 lakh hectares of land mass since 1954. The loss of 8000 hectares of land every year continues due to erosion. Bank erosion has caused more human and economic losses than flooding. We have completely lost 4,521 villages and erosion has affected 9 lakh families. I probably have the largest population displaced by erosion and staying on embankments anywhere in the world. The Task Force constituted by the Government of India has evaluated the cumulative loss due to flood and erosion since 1954 as Rs.36,000 crores at 2004 price level. Therefore, there is an urgent need to look into the matter for a permanent solution to protect the State from further erosion and flood.

- Unfortunately, the state can not avail assistance from State Disaster Response Fund as erosion is not included in the list of calamity. Without erosion control, the problem of floods is only half addressed. Hence an integrated flood management strategy needs to be taken up at the earliest. I request that **river bank erosion be included in the list of calamity** for funding under SDRF in the interest of stability in the region.

- I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister for helping us with generous relief package during recent floods and for enhancing the budget for Flood Management Programme (FMP) from Rs. 470 crores to Rs. 1500 crores. However, I must point out that FMP under AIBP takes about 2 years from gestation to merely start the execution, due to involvement of multiple players like Brahmaputra board, Central Water Commission and Planning Commission. This leaves the affected area exposed for two consecutive years thereby not only worsening the situation but also resulting in extension of affected reaches due to change in river configuration. As such, the process should be simplified and to avail full benefit of the schemes, they should be completed within one or two working seasons. I propose that all the schemes under FMP should be cleared by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, in all respect by month of September so as to avail of the full working season for their execution. I also urge Government of India to **give us A Special Package outside the Plan** to tackle erosion effectively. This would help us to control floods and effectively mitigate socio economic impact of loss of land and livelihood, of the people.

13. In Industrial sector, I congratulate the Government of India over its decision to allow 51% FDI in retail sector that is sure to have far reaching impact on all sectors of economy. Though India witnessed benefits of a similar bold decision in 1991 in industrial sector, Assam received only marginal benefits of that liberalisation. The extension of North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP-2007) to other states like Uttarkhand and Himachal Pradesh has negated its original impact. I propose that NEIIPP should be suitably reworked to include Service Sectors such as information Technology (IT) and Higher Education.

I would also like to point that most industries in Assam are Small Scale and Micro industries run by first generation entrepreneurs. Micro units have failed to reap the benefits of the NEIIPP. A **special package for Micro Sector Enterprises** specifically for agro based small and cottage industries with simplified procedures is required. Further, to impart competitive advantage, these units should be made eligible for the transport subsidy for movement of raw materials and finished goods within the State by amending the relevant sections of the policy. The local crafts like firecrackers, Assamese jewellery, terracotta, water hyacinth, jute and bamboo need up-gradation of skills, designs and technology for accessing wider markets. We request the Government of India for providing liberal financial support for product specific common facility service centres.

Assam is synonymous with cherished tradition of tea across the country and globe. To encourage the industry, we have declared tea as a 'State Drink'. I propose that tea should be declared as the '**National Drink**'. There are around 78,000 small tea growers who produce nearly 100 million kg of tea, nearly 25 % of total tea in Assam. We have constituted a corpus fund from tea cess for taking schemes for their development. I request you for a special financial package for small tea growers of Assam.

The Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Namrup is the only urea producing company in the entire North East. The existing plant and machinery of BVFCL is aging and technology is obsolete. In order to be competitive, BVFCL has planned to erect a new plant and has requested Assam Government and oil companies in the region to pick up equity. We are considering the possibility of taking 11% equity. I request Government of India to advise the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to approve expansion plan, finalize equity pattern and provide necessary clearances to the project in the interest of the region.

14. I reckon that **Employment and Skill Development** is important to tackle the issue of unemployment which is a major threat to the State. It lies at the base of insurgency, unrest and feeling of neglect amongst youth. Employment Exchanges show a live register of 16 lakh job seekers as on 30th June, 2012. I recognize skill development as pivot for employment by creating employability. It will be achieved through the network of ITIs and registered vocational training providers across the state. All the existing 28 functional ITIs have been upgraded by setting up of modernized workshops and better teaching arrangements which are imparting skills in tune with demands of the industry. On the lines of National Skill Development Council, the State Skill Development Council was constituted with Chief Minister heading the apex body. I propose to establish an ITI in each block of the state and urge upon the house to provide the financial resources on a 90:10 sharing basis.

15. As skill development is central to employability so is **education** to human development. Our literacy at 73.18 % is in sync with the national average of 74 %. We place special emphasis on female literacy with its beneficial cascading effects. For boosting girl's education in the state, 'Chief Minister's Vision for Women & Children – 2016' has envisaged a target of 100% enrolment of girls by 2016.

The universalisation of education up to secondary level during next five years would call for definite action in increasing enrolment not only at primary but also at the secondary level and reducing the dropout rates at all levels and across gender, region and communities. Physical infrastructure at secondary level is being augmented on mission mode through *Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)*. The Annual Status of Education Report of 2010 shows that there are 54 % schools requiring toilets, 60 % need drinking water, 20 % need library, 39 % need playground, 80 % need boundary walls and 20 % need kitchen sheds for mid day meals. There are 39 % of schools with a single teacher out of which 45 % do not have required student teacher ratio. Thus, appointment of sufficient teachers and their training are two major issues in achieving true universalisation. We seek your continuous support to bridge these gaps. RMSA is a Mission mode project under Central Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), being implemented in Assam since 2009 and funded on 90:10 basis. Unlike SSA, Government of India has not enlisted RMSA as a flagship programme. RMSA being only a centrally sponsored programme has suffered since inception due to paucity of funds. Hence the Government of India is urged to upgrade the RMSA as a flagship programme so as to ensure committed and continuous flow of funds. Further the MHRD is also requested to release all the committed funds to Assam in a time bound manner.

Technical and vocational education is imperative to meet demand of trained and skilled manpower at various levels. With this objective, four new universities have been established apart from strengthening the existing universities. The Private University Bill passed by the state assembly to involve private sector has attracted three private universities. The process of establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology has already been initiated. In order to bring these institutions to World Class standard there is need of adequate funds with full support from Government of India. I request the Planning Commission to support us in this endeavour.

In 12th plan we emphasise on effective Public Private Partnerships in higher as well as technical and vocational education. As entrepreneurs would need incentives to invest in Assam, it is requested that a North East Special Incentive package be formulated for incentivising set up of vocational training institutions.

16. Improved manpower with improved quality of services would not only impact positively on the key **health** indicators but also help in better utilisation of assets and infrastructure created during the earlier plan periods. Given the multi-dimensional inequalities of health outcomes across gender, rural-urban and population in various socio-economic strata, both availability of and access to provisioning of quality health care services in the state will be the central focus in the 12th plan. Overall approach in healthcare would conform to four broad elements viz. universalisation and socialisation of basic healthcare, comprehensive and non-exclusionary infrastructure provisioning, equity in access to care and services, and accountability, transparency

and participation. While coverage and efficient delivery of existing services should be stressed upon, new provisioning has been initiated during the next five years. In this approach, the primary and basic healthcare should continue to be funded and managed by public sector with an emphasis on universalisation of access while PPP mode may be relied on in high-end and specialised treatments as well as manpower training and education.

In addition to adopting a mission approach in implementing various schemes, we have taken several measures for reduction of Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate. IMR has reduced from 67 per 1000 live births to 55 per live births during 2006 – 2011 as per SRS Bulletin 2011. MMR has gone down in the State in the recent past and as per Annual Health Survey (2010-11) the MMR for Assam is 381 per 1,00,000 live birth. We have envisaged a target of reducing IMR to 38 and MMR to 210 by 2016 to be near the national average.

We have established *Srimanta Sankardev University of Health Sciences* to bring all institutions of Assam imparting medical education under one umbrella. The University is running 56 courses in various branches of health sciences. Emphasis in 12th plan is to develop the existing Medical Colleges at Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Silchar. Shortage of doctors in general and specialists in particular is tackled through three new medical colleges at Barpeta, Jorhat and Tezpur. We have an innovative three year Diploma Course in Medicine & Rural Health Care for extending rural health care. Pass outs are engaged under NRHM to serve at the Sub-Centre level.

We have also introduced some innovative programmes such as '*Mamoni*' which includes Nutritional Support of Rs. 1000/- to pregnant women and '*Mamata*' to encourage mothers to stay in the hospital up to 48 hours after delivery to prevent post partum haemorrhage.

I would like to give healthcare access in nook and corner of Assam. To ensure service delivery at difficult and unreached areas, Mobile Medical Units are made functional in all districts. We have established 15 Boat Clinics to cover highly inaccessible *Char* and riverine areas of Brahmaputra. In Tea garden areas, 250 Tea gardens are taken up under Public Private Partnership (PPP), 800 new ambulances are deployment in health institutions to ensure referral of sick patients and 280 Advanced Life Saving Ambulances are deployed through '*Mritunjoy*' EMRI. sustenance of these initiatives would require substantial infusion of resources in the 12th Plan.

17. In sector of Social Welfare we have made 58279 Angawadi Centres (AWC) operational out of 62,153 sanctioned by Government of India. Supplementary Nutrition was provided for 201 days on average during year 2011-12. Assam is committed for universalization of ICDS and about 95% of child population is covered under it but there are isolated hamlets where more coverage is required. Although necessary support is being received from Ministry of Women & Child Development, a lot is to be done regarding early childhood and pre-school education. Moreover, there are statutory provisions in the Acts to be followed and special mandates to be fulfilled by the State Government. Government of India needs to contribute by making adequate funds available in this regard.

Ministry of Women & Child Development provides fund for construction of AWCs at Rs 1.75 lakh per centre whereas Ministry of Minority Affairs provides fund for construction of AWCs at Rs. 6.34 lakh per centre under Multi Sectoral Development Programme. Government of Assam has taken up the issue with Ministry of Women & Child Development to revise the cost of Anganwadi Centres to Rs. 6.34 lakh per centre. I request you to agree to our proposal.

State Government is committed to carry out the functions elaborated in the People With Disability (PWD) Act, Domestic Violence Act, Maintenance of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, but for these more infrastructures is required for care and protection of children, physically challenged persons and mentally ill persons. These functions may be carried out in partnership with NGOs. The State has to setup and maintain these institutions on its own if no NGOs is forthcoming. Efforts and cooperation of Government of India is required in mobilizing these resources

18. Development of Sixth Scheduled Areas is important to us. Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao and Bodo Territorial Autonomous Districts (BTAD) of Assam are covered under Sixth Schedule of Constitution of India. The population of the two hill districts is 12 lakhs and of BTAD is 31.52 lakh. This is easily comparable to the states which were carved out of Assam of such as Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mizoram, with a population of 29.64 lakh, 19.80 lakh and 10.91 lakh respectively as per 2011 Census. The allocation provided out of Normal Central Assistance (NCA) of Assam to these two districts and BTAD is much lower than the assistance received by Meghalaya amounting to Rs. 3939 Crore, Nagaland at Rs.2300 Crore and Mizoram at Rs. 2300 Crores during the year 2012-13. This has resulted in slower development for these areas apart resulting in support for extremist activities and demand for State within the State under Article 244A of Constitution of India. Now demand has escalated to a separate state. Central assistance provided for two Hill districts and BTC areas of Assam has remained stagnant over years that needs to be augmented commensurate with the per capita central assistance provided for Hill States of the North East Region. This issue was raised in the last meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) too. I urge upon NDC that the anomalies be tackled by raising Central Assistance under Hill Area Development Plan (HADP) by examining the proposal on its merit. Similar assistance should also be provided to the Bodoland Territorial Council every year.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Government of India for providing a special package of Rs. 300 Crore for urgent relief and rehabilitation activities in violence affected areas of Kokrajhar and Chirang which falls under sixth scheduled BTC areas as well Dhubri district.

19. In Special Areas Development, I would like to highlight that Assam has 2175.50 kms of inter-state border and 532 kms of international boundaries with Bhutan and Bangladesh. These areas are remotely located, difficult to access, backward and lack basic and social amenities. They have extremely limited livelihood options and are frequently subjected to border related conflicts and insecurities. To ensure faster development and inclusive growth these areas need special attention for all-round development during the 12th Plan.

Char areas in the state cover riverine areas of the Brahmaputra totalling to 3.60 lakh hectares of land with 25 lakh population. These areas are characterised by high density of population, extreme poverty, illiteracy and lack of infrastructure, insecurity of livelihood, flood and erosion. My submission to the NDC is that these areas be given special programme on the lines of Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) during the 12th Five Year Plan.

20. The transport & communication sector is the engine for economic growth. It is said that to stimulate economy of an area, road is the beginning. Population density of Assam is 397/sq km against national average of 382/sq km, but its road density is considerably low as compared to many other states with similar population density like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It is time that emphasis be given on better connectivity for improvement of trade and commerce with rest of India as well as with South East Asian Countries, under 'Look East Policy'.

Out of total 2848 km of National Highways in Assam, which constitute arterial network, about 1000 kms are yet to be developed to the required standard. These highways in Assam are vital for connectivity to other northeastern states and as a result they have high traffic density. They thus should be treated on priority basis for four laning and some with two lane should have paved shoulder. But the first year of 12th Five Year Plan approved by the Ministry has neither provision for 4-laning nor for paved shoulders. I urge the august house to upgrade the highways in Assam for the development of entire North-eastern region.

Entire stretch of Brahmaputra has only three bridges. For strategic and economic reasons, number of bridges should be increased substantially. I appreciate that two new National Highways namely, NH-315-A with length of 64 km and NH-127-B with length of 70 km has been declared by the Ministry recently. Investment decision for these two National Highways should be taken early for construction to be completed within this plan period. I also request Ministry to expedite 4-laning work of NH-37 from Numaligarh to Dibrugarh.

It is also worth mentioning that there are important missing links such as Dhubri – Phulbari, Tinsukia – Naharkatia – Hukanjuri and road link to Majuli. **Dhodar Ali** is an important road which should be developed urgently for better connectivity of many districts of Upper Assam as well as states of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh. For development of these roads a provision of Rs.10, 000.00 Crore will be required in 12th Five Year Plan.

Majuli, the largest riverine island and cultural hub of Assam is still devoid of proper road connectivity from main land. Proposal for connecting Majuli from Disangmukh near Sibsagar via Dhakuakhana– North Lakhimpur is already with the Ministry for inclusion under SARDP-NE. Although 4-laning from Numaligarh to Dibrugarh had been approved in 2005, even after 7 years, physical work is yet to be start. Expeditious completion of the project is of vital importance for Assam. Progress of work of East – West Corridor in Assam is very slow. Only 400 km out 621 km has been completed in a span of 11 years. NHAI need to expedite completion of the project.

Ministry of Home Affairs had approved for construction of 313 km road along Indo–Bhutan Border in Assam. State PWD was instructed to bear the cost of land acquisition and afforestation but is not in a position to bear such huge cost. Considering the strategic and diplomatic importance of this road, I request the Government of India to bear the entire cost.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) is a truly path breaking initiative that has connected rural India like never before in history. Assam has hugely benefitted by this scheme but as habitation pattern in Assam is different from other states, many habitations with population below 500 still remain unconnected. There is a requirement of additional 5000 Km provide connectivity to such habitations. Similarly, construction of RCC Bridge in PMGSY is funded up to length of 50 Metre only. However as entire Assam is criss crossed by many rivers and rivulets with widths more than normative 50 metres and require at least one bridge in every 7 Km, many bridges are required to be constructed with length of 100 metre and above. I suggest that construction of RCC bridges up to the length of 100 metre should be funded under PMGSY programme.

In Assam we plan to convert all 2383 Semi Permanent Timber Bridges to RCC bridges for all weather connectivity. There are no specific programmes for major district roads, which provide connectivity between districts as well as state and national highways. These major infrastructural gaps need to be addressed in 12th Plan by way of specific resource allocation.

21. North-eastern region is one of the most hazard prone regions in Asian continent, with different areas prone to multiple **natural disasters** like earthquakes, floods, landslides and cyclonic storms. Seismically, it is one of the most active regions of world and falls in highest seismic zoning of Zone-V. It has faced at least a dozen mega earthquakes measuring more than 7 on Richter scale in past 100 years, two of which, Shillong earthquake of 1897 and Assam earthquake of 1950, recorded 8.7 on Richter scale, are considered amongst most severe earthquakes anywhere in world. Assam also faces frequent landslides as well as very high winds during rainy season.

While natural hazards are inevitable, losses can be minimized through adequate risk management. This is amply demonstrated in case of floods in Assam. Setting up of State Disaster Management Authority, adoption of preparedness measures like Flood Early Warning System (FLEWS), use of satellite imagery for monitoring embankments and contingency planning, losses due to floods have come down considerably. While rainfall activity has remained more or less same in 2004 and 2011 at 1524.9 mm and 1502.4 mm respectively, population affected by flood which was 52.75 lakh in 2004 has come down to 9.12 lakh in 2011. Crop area affected has also come down from 2.13 lakh hectares to 0.73 lakh hectares.

Disaster risk has primarily been dealt within very narrow framework of flood control, rehabilitation and support to vulnerable groups through ‘calamity relief’ which is seen essentially as a non-plan item of expenditure. There is a lack of sector-specific risk reduction plans with allocated budgets to address protection of critical infrastructure including schools and hospitals, strengthening of land-use zoning, infrastructure

development planning and building codes which poses a challenge for implementation of risk reduction measures.

Model developed by North East Space Application Centre for FLEWS needs to be developed further for which infrastructure for IMD & CWC in terms of increase in rain and river gauge stations in upper reaches is required to be undertaken by Government of India. Further, FLEWS needs to be extended to cover all districts of Assam to avoid or reduce risk and for effective response. Wild life depredation to crops and homesteads for poor population living in fringe areas need to be adequately compensated. Raising scale of such compensation merits support in terms of resource allocation. Considering importance of the issue, due provision for additional plan fund support to in the 12th plan should be there for undertaking activities relating to infrastructure development like setting up of District Disaster Information & Response Centre, capacity Building of different stakeholders and mitigation activities like FLEWS, safety audits of buildings and retrofitting measures.

22. In **Power sector**, I would like to inform this august house that according to Central Electrical Authority (CEA), the peak hour demand in Assam is likely to rise to the level of 1752 MW by the end of 12th Plan. Currently, average peak demand is 1250 MW against available 700 MW thereby leaving a shortfall of 550 MW. We are able to meet only 16% of the peak demand with its own power project (about 200 MW). Forecasting for next five years, even after adding the share of 240 MW receivable from Palatnana, 380 MW from Bongaigaon TPP, 208 MW from Subansiri Hydro Project and 65 MW from Kameng Hydro project, we fall woefully short on meeting the demand (1698 MW against the peak demand forecasting of 1752 MW). Therefore, the only option is to set up own power projects to meet at least 50 % of demand forecast. We have identified several new project like 150 MW Lower Kapili, 60 MW Upper Borapani , 60 MW Inter Mediate, 500 mw Margherita TPP, 100 MW Amguri TPP which will require investment of about Rs 7996.00 Crore out of which our share would be Rs 2408.00 Crore. I urge you to provide us substantial support in this area.

Currently we meet the gap by procuring power from or beyond the Eastern Region through bi-lateral trading or from power exchanges. This exercise is jeopardised due to drastic curtailment in Available Transfer Capacity (ATC) from Eastern to North Eastern Region. At present, the ATC for short Term Open Access (STOA) is only 135 MW during off peak hours and 215 MW during peak hours for the entire North Eastern Region. We, therefore request the Government of India to increase the minimum ATC for STOA to 400 MW. Many Hydro projects are situated in Sikkim, thus the share of power its projects go to Eastern Regional States only of which its a member. Ironically Sikkim happens to be a member of the Forum of Ministers of Industry and Commerce of North Eastern Region and is availing the benefits of the North Eastern Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIPP). I submit that Sikkim be made a constituent member of North Eastern Regional Power Committee so that share of power from its generation projects can be allocated to the North Eastern States.

The formula for sharing of power from hydro- electric projects and thermal projects need to be reviewed. In the Lower Subansiri Project given to NHPC in 2004, the State Government was assured that at least 600 MW purchasable powers would be

available for Assam. In addition we expected that out of the 12% free power (240 MW), at least half (120 MW) would be made available to the state as Assam will face adverse downstream effects. But the actual allocation of LSHEP to Assam is only 208 MW of purchasable power and a tiny quantum of 1.25 % (25 MW) free power to Assam. We reiterate demand for increase power allocation to 600 MW and 120 MW free powers being half of the 12%.

Serious misgivings have been voiced over the upcoming Lower Subansiri Dam on Assam-Arunachal border. Local people are apprehensive about the safety of dam as well as its downstream impact. While we recognise the need for tapping the hydro-electrical potential of the region, I feel that such projects would be more sustainable if accompanied by a special economic package in form of Central assistance for benefit of affected people in the downstream areas.

Assam persuaded National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to take up **the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (BTPP)** and gave them 900 acres of fully developed land including township and hospital for free beside facilitating coal and water linkages. In spite of this, actual allocation to state from BTPP is mere 381 MW under the pretext of revised Gadgil Formula. We regret to point out that Ministry of Power has ignored revised Gadgil Formula in number of cases earlier and allocated entire quantum of power from CPSUs like NTPC to host states. There are many example such as Simadri TPS (2000 MW) to Andhra Pradesh, Tanda TPS (440 MW) to UP, Faridabad TPS (431 MW) to Haryana etc. We request allocation of entire quantum of power from 750 MW BTPP to Assam. In case its not possible, the commitment of 15% unallocated power should be reserved for Assam.

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) was constituted as NER based Central Sector Power Utility but of late some of the generation stations of NEEPCO have not been performing well. We request Government of India to kindly impress upon NEEPCO to solve pending issues in right earnest. We also request to allocation of 50 % of power from Monarchak TPP being set up by NEEPCO in Tripura.

Necessary land alongside a perennial river had been acquired for setting up of a 'Pit Head' thermal station at Margherita in Upper Assam. NTPC was requested for a joint venture with our generating company called APGCL to set up the project. We have applied for 1.686 MMT of coal linkage from North Eastern Coal Fields (NECL) in November,2009. It may be noted that NECL is already committed to supply coal to Bongaigaon Thermal Power Plant as such it may not be possible for NECL to supply additional coal for Margherita project. NTPC should therefore be asked to get part of their additional coal linkage of 1.7 MMT from Eastern Coal Fields so that equivalent quantum of coal from NECL can be utilized for the proposed plant in Margherita. The Central Government was requested to arrange coal linkages for Chandrapur Thermal Power Station and Bongaigaon Thermal Power Plant projects. Intervention is needed in this issue for early allocation of coal linkage.

Oil and natural gas resources in Upper Assam can support several small sized power generating stations. State Government has applied for **gas linkage** for the proposed 100 MW Amguri Thermal Power Project which is yet to be made available

by MoP&NG. This may kindly be allotted. It is urged that National Gas Grid be extended to provide at least one node in Assam.

We wish to give more emphasis to **small dams with micro and mini hydro projects** below 25MW. In the SHP policy of Government of Assam, 90 locations are listed for development of Small Hydel Power Project with power potential of 148.90 MW. Out of these, few projects are taken up by Assam Power Project Development Company which is a joint venture of Government of Assam and M/S Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services limited. A special assistance is required from the Government of India over and above the normal limit of Viability Gap Funding to make these projects viable.

Under **Rajib Gandhi Grameen Vaidytikaran Yojana (RGGVY)**, 95.37% of un-electrified, de-electrified villages are connected and connection is also provided to 8, 19,377 BPL families. However, in Tinsukia, Goalpara and Cachar districts, the parameters of the initial survey carried out were tentative and as such a large number of habitations within the villages remained uncovered. Revised Cost Estimates for above districts were submitted for approval but sanction was not accorded as the schemes were sanctioned in the 10th plan. There has been a strong resentment as lots of habitations and BPL households could not be covered earlier. We, therefore request Government of India to sanction the above projects for these districts.

23. Urban areas typically include large areas under the Master Plans but services such as Water Supply, Housing and Solid Waste Management are confined to Municipal area only. There is a need to increase the ambit of these services to the plan areas. Even within municipal areas urban local bodies are unable to provide basic services due to paucity of funds. JNNURM addressed some of the infrastructure issues but innovative methods are required to bridge the huge resource gap.

Specifically in the North Eastern States, due to geographical limitations, urbanisation is in nature of small and medium towns which do not full fill the norms of JNNURM. Hence there is urgent need to restructure JNNURM for coverage of these towns in the North Eastern States.

24. In Information Technology Sector I wish to express my gratitude to the Government of India for setting up a node of the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) at Guwahati. This is sure to increase internet coverage in the North Eastern region. I wish to indulge him further to set up link between the International Internet Gateway at Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh under the SEA-ME-WE-4 undersea submarine cable system to Guwahati. This link will provide high speed internet connectivity to the region.

The other issue plaguing the region is non-availability of internet bandwidth at Guwahati and other parts of North east India, which is a major bottleneck in setting up IT industry and attracting private sector investment despite the fact that more than 15% of the total IT/ITeS manpower in country come from this region. I urge the house to take up the issue in the right earnest.

25. In **Mines & Minerals** I would like to focus that the **Oil Industry Development cess** is levied by Government of India on crude oil production from onland areas as per provision of Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974. Oil producing companies in Assam like Oil India Ltd and ONGC Ltd. have been paying the cess on crude oil produced by them. OID Cess which was Rs 2500/- per tone has been revised to Rs 4500/- per tone with effect from 17.03.2012. Crude oil production in Assam during year 2011-12 was 4.964 million tonne. Considering the rate of Rs 2500/- per tonne, the amount of OID Cess would be Rs 1241.00 Crore in one year. This amount would increase significantly in the coming years at revised rate of Rs 4500/- per tone. We want that 50% of this amount should be utilized for development of the industries related with oil and rest should be given to Government of Assam so that we can execute schemes like infrastructure development of areas in and around oilfields and restoration of the lands damaged.

Expected production of crude oil in Assam is about 13~14 million tones annually. Production of crude oil has remained more or less static during last several years which has not only hampered the industrial growth but also caused loss of revenue income (both tax and non tax) for Assam. There are about 23 marginal marginal/small oilfields owned by ONGC and Oil India where production was not up to the potential. Central PSU's are not giving due importance to development of these fields. Unless they are developed, production of petroleum can not increase in near future. We request Government of India to accord special dispensation for allocation of few fields owned by ONGC and OIL to Assam Hydrocarbon and Energy Company Ltd. under a suitable arrangement to improve production.

Another important issue affecting Assam relates to **loss of revenue due to under payment of oil royalty** by ONGC & OIL India Ltd. Withdrawal of the provision of protection of state royalty by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas in May 2008 has caused this loss due to discounted price. Central Government since 2009-10 has been cushioning oil marketing companies from losses incurred in import of crude by getting them domestic crude at hugely discounted prices. As a result, royalty on crude oil sold to three refineries at Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Digboi belonging to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd is paid on discounted price, whereas for crude oil supplied to Numalighr Refinery, which is not a national oil marketing company, royalty is paid at full rate. The Comptroller and Auditor General has calculated the oil royalty loss of Rs 850 Crores to State in 2009-2010. We are also incurring substantial losses on tax revenue in terms of VAT and Entry Tax due to this anomaly. Loss to Assam Government due to less payment of VAT and Entry Tax was to the tune of Rs 150 Crores in 2009-2010. As per spirit of taxation laws, VAT and Entry Tax should be paid on market price of crude oil and not on administered price. Thus it is apparent that a part of under- recoveries of the CPSUs is indirectly being recovered from our tax revenues. Assam should not be denied the benefits of its natural resources and should be compensated for under-recoveries.

The Ministry also instructed Oil India Limited and ONGC to pay royalty to oil-producing states on the basis of sales to oil-marketing companies, rather than the earlier basis of well head prices. We request revision of these orders so that oil producing companies pay royalty to Assam on the well head price determined by actual price of equivalent crude oil prevailing in international market instead of the

sale price. I also request intervention for raising effective royalty rate from the present 16.66% to 20% by modifying existing royalty calculation formula.

26. The North-East as a whole is receiving focused attention in successive plan periods that has generated new hopes and substantial benefits of development have flown to the region. The need of hour is of heavy investment in well-identified thrust sectors expeditiously so that economy of this region can progress in sync with rest of the nation. All North Eastern states have received the benefits directly or indirectly from existing infrastructure and other facilities in Assam and especially in Guwahati, gateway of North East Region. Development projects taken up in Assam would, as a naturally corollary, ensure that the benefits accrue to entire region.

I believe that higher investment is the impetus required by us to grow in tune with rest of the nation. This is the only way fulfill the desires of our people. To achieve this, allocation of **North Eastern Council** should be enhanced by providing additional fund for completion of ongoing schemes which in turn should provide more funds for taking up new schemes. Vision 2020 document focused on connectivity, power availability, institutional development and capacity building as thrust areas for NEC's XI plan. I support this approach and hope that emphasis on these identified thrust areas will continue during the 12th Five Year Plan Period.

27. The issue of **up gradation of the existing Airports in Assam** merits attention of the house. *Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi* Airport is proposed to be upgraded as a regional hub and as an international airport with connectivity to neighbouring countries. This up-gradation requires 300 acres of land with acquisition cost of Rs. 125 Crores. This cost should be made a part of the project cost to be borne by Government of India. The up-gradation of airports with night landing facilities at Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Silchar needs to be taken up on priority basis by Airport Authority of India. There is also a need to establish an aviation manpower training institute through NEC and DONER funding at Lilabari Airport in North Lakhimpur.

28. In **Railways**, I reiterate our demand to declare North East Frontier Railway be as dedicated zone for North Eastern States. There is also an urgent need to provide doubling of railway line from Alipur Duar to Guwahati and Tinsukia to Guwahati. Construction of Bogibeel Bridge and broad gauging of Lumding- Silchar-Kumarghat line needs to be expedited.

29. There is a huge potential for development of **Inland Water Transport** in Assam. We request for a special project for development of port infrastructure, jetty, storage and handling facilities at various ports of call between Sadiya and Dhubri including facilities for dredging, night navigation, and channel marking on this route. A long term protocol with Bangladesh for National Waterways-2 by the Government of India would benefit us immensely.

I am grateful for the benevolent support of Central Government for several initiatives announced in August 2008 such as setting up State level University of Science and Technology, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Model School in each Block, National Institute of Design, Science City, Tourism Hub and Skill

development Mission. We are making earnest efforts towards materializing these. I request your continued support in completion of these initiatives in 12th plan period.

I am thankful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Chairman of the National Development Council and this august house for giving me an opportunity to deliberate on the issues which are essential for faster growth and removal of regional disparity of the North Eastern Region. I hope that strategy for 12th Five Year Plan will address these issues effectively and ensure rapid, balanced and inclusive development for the entire nation.

~~ JAI HIND ~~