

Honourable Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Members of the National Development Council, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Distinguished Colleagues and friends.

To begin with I would like to convey to every one present here the warm wishes of the people of Goa and also my deep sense of pleasure and gratitude for this opportunity to express my views before this august gathering. I feel that my comments and suggestions will best be appreciated against the backdrop of what Goa really is today.

It is with a deep sense of pride that I am able to inform this august body that Goa has not only achieved almost all the targets envisaged for the country as a whole, but has even surpassed most of them. Goa is ranked first with regard to per capita income in the country. My Government has within its first few months managed to bring in cent percent ECS with regard to all government transactions, and Goa is probably the first State in the Country to have achieved this. In fact, in 2002 my Government had initiated the Dayanand Social Security Scheme for old age, indigent citizens, widows, single women and specially abled children wherein monthly pension is being deposited directly in their personal bank account – cash subsidy transfer.

Last few years the State has witnessed sluggishness in its economy, which is reflected from its growth rates of GSDP at constant prices. In the very first year of the Eleventh Plan, GSDP growth dipped sharply from 10.02% in 2006-07 to 5.54% in 2007-08 Thereafter it recovered to 10.02% in 2008-09 and later stagnated and stood at 10.45% in 2010-11.

My Government has taken over the reins of the State at a time when the State was practically debt ridden. However, my government is determined to bring back the lost growth momentum by addressing the issues holding back the growth of the economy.

My Government will endeavor to improve tax receipts by increasing the Tax Base and making efforts to realize 100% taxes through electronic modes. Further, the monitoring and surveillance machinery shall be strengthened to increase revenue collection.

Mining has been a dominant industry functioning for past 60 years providing employment to a number of persons and contributing significantly to the exchequer earnings. Today the economy of the State is hard hit with the closure of all mines in the State. The reason for which the State and my Government is being penalized today is due to the misdeeds of the previous Governments. Even Central Government had its role in the whole mining mess as every mining operation requires grant of environment clearance issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. The haphazard manner in which Environment clearances have been granted has resulted in this situation. As per the estimate around 60 percent of the mines can be restarted as per legal parameters. My Government is determined to crack down on the illegal mining as also the mafias involved in such illegal operations as demonstrated by me by stopping mines having no approval. Further the Government also wishes to reduce dependency of the Goan economy on this sector, However, this cannot be achieved overnight. My Government is committed to recover the losses and punish those who have done the loot and work for betterment of poor people who have been traditionally dependent on mining and are now facing

hardships. Here I would like to point out that the Central Government has earned the revenue in the ratio of 7:1 in comparison to the State Government. Now when State Government is already burdened with more than 30% revenue loss due to closure of mining industry, entire burden of rehabilitating the people who have lost their livelihood due to closure of mining industry is being put on the State Government. Therefore I once again reiterate that the Centre should also take sizable burden in the initiative of the State Government to take remedial measures to rehabilitate the people and come up with a special financial assistance package to share the grief of the State.

It is high time that the Government of India appreciate that States differently placed in the continuum of development have different needs. For example, the proposal of the Ministry of Environment and Forest that all areas within a radius of 10 km from the boundaries of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks be notified as Eco-fragile zones under Environment Protection Act 1986 has extremely adverse implications for Goa, being a small State. It would virtually remove most of the available land from the purview of development. The dwellers in and around such areas of the proposed buffer, would be deprived of many of their developmental and demographic needs.

I reiterate what I have been vociferously pointing out in various forums regarding sharing of resources between Centre and States. Goa contributes as much as Rs. 10,000 crore to the Central kitty but hardly gets anything in return. Mr. Prime Minister Sir, I appreciate the concern for growth and providing mechanism to transfer adequate resources for developing socially and economically backward areas of the country. However, I feel that time has now come to revisit the efficacy of transfer of financial resources under Gadgil-Mukherjee formula which is loaded in favour of population and backwardness and handicaps transfer of resources to better performing States like Goa. It is my firm view that a shift from Gadgil-Mukherjee formula to a new method which is acceptable to all states would be a real reform in financial sector. The Gadgil-Mukherjee formula is depriving the well performing states and awarding non performing states. I, therefore, look forward for adequate compensatory financial support from the Central Government.

Sir, you would agree that most States are facing resources crunch to meet the growing demand for social and physical infrastructure and if the resources gap is not addressed, I am afraid the cycle of growth, development and prosperity may be adversely impacted. I therefore, feel that we need paradigm shift and introduce a mechanism whereby we reward growth and development and Fiscal effort so that performing States like Goa get their due share

I would like to submit before this August Body a peculiar problem faced by the State of Goa, which may in future cause serious problems to the security of the State. In Goa land is very precious commodity more particularly because of high density of forest cover and due to CRZ restrictions. In recent past lot of land has been purchased by the foreigners and corporate houses sky rocketing the prices of land of the State as such pressure on the land particularly conversion of agricultural land may create a situation wherein locals will not be able to afford a dwelling house for their own self thereby creating identity crises. Therefore Goa needs similar protection as enjoyed by the State like Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh under Article 371 in order to control the pressure on the small available land mass for the State for plan development

Sir, as you may be aware, Joint Cadre Authority (JCA) is supposed to decide the transfer and posting of Officers of AGMUT cadre among different segments. However, over time MHA has taken upon itself to unilaterally transfer Officers without consultation with the other constituents of the AGMUT cadre. It is the legitimate aspiration of any State to have Officers of competence and adequate seniority with knowledge of local conditions to manage the affairs of the State.

I would therefore urge that the Joint Cadre Authority which is responsible for managing the Cadre is reconstituted to include the Chief Ministers of the States/Union Territories of the concerned segment as Members; such an arrangement would automatically provide for adequate consultation mechanism.

I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Prime Minister to Madhav-Gadgil Committee report on Western Ghats. While my State is committed to conserve ecology and environment, it is equally important that the trade off necessary to ensure social economical growth and development are adequately addressed. The report has made recommendations which have serious implications for developing both social and physical infrastructure and efforts required for improving the quality of life in the State. There are recommendations in the report which impinge on the federal structure of the country. Therefore, I suggest that before accepting the recommendations of the report or acting on that unilaterally, the recommendation contained in the report are deliberated in a meeting of the concerned States.

My priorities for the Twelfth Five Year Plan are good governance, creation of state-of-the-art Infrastructure, setting up of super speciality hospitals, development of agriculture and allied sector, improving road connectivity, single window clearances and execution to attract investments, upliftment of the people belonging to disadvantaged sections, making all beneficiaries under various schemes and programmes compliant with Aadhaar and to bring in total transparency in their implementation in the State. Further, boost to the Social Sector has been on top priority of my government.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan saw a decline in performance in the Agriculture and Allied sector although increased allocations were made under this sector. Maximum efforts will be made to revive this sector and make it a profitable venture. As against the GDP growth target of 4.0 per cent for the XIIth Plan under this sector, the State is targeting a growth of over 6.0 per cent in the current year of the XIIth Plan. Appropriate steps would be taken to address the critical issues of concern under this sector. Special efforts shall be made to ensure that all small and marginal farmers are encouraged to continue with their traditional occupations. Scientific agricultural knowledge is important for effective adoption of new agricultural-techniques and technologies, for increasing the agricultural production. However such initiatives of the State Government and aggressive growth in agricultural sector are threatened by the issues like diversion of Mhadai river by Karnataka Government, delay in deciding this issue by appropriate authorities and non releasing of Tillari water by the State of Maharashtra on trivial political issues. I sincerely feel that in such a situation Central Government should come up with a solution to resolve such type of issues.

With a literacy rate of 87.40% (2011 Census provisional) Goa is ranked 5th in the country. Greater emphasis shall be laid broadly on quality education, development of basic infrastructure with emphasis on drinking water supply and hygienic toilet facilities especially for girl students and to achieve zero per cent drop out rate by end of the XIIth Plan period. Emphasis shall also be laid on the overall development of

the students by exposing them to various extra-curricular activities. Higher Education including Technical Education, needs to be seen in a larger perspective. Government is planning to develop an Education hub in the State. It is also proposed to set up a Technical University to promote Goa as a technical hub. Further, the thrust in the XIIth plan would be to achieve cent per cent literacy and to bridge the gender gap in the literacy rate.

The State government plans to construct six-lane bridge on Zuari river and also small and medium bridges connecting various parts of the State to reduce the traffic burden on the National Highways. The emphasis of the State in the coming years will be on upgradation of public transport system by including modern high capacity vehicles for easy and comfortable transport system in the State. The proposal for construction of a Convention Centre, initiated during 2009-10 has not seen the light of the day. My Government is committed to take steps to construct a world class Convention and Exhibition Centre within the next three years.

The State's Electricity Department is continuously earning profits since 2002-03. Power tariffs have been revised marginally in the State after 10 long years to support capital expenditure. Government has taken up the task of making the State efficient and hazard free in power transmission by means of underground cabling.

About 60 per cent of the State is urbanized and the State needs well-knit sewerage network, as majority of its population is still dependent on traditional septic tank and soak pit system for disposal of sewage water. The government proposes to cover all the major towns with sewage network using latest technology to achieve the goal of total sanitation & clean environment in the State.

The State has taken the initiative for setting up high-tech garbage treatment plant to handle plastic waste efficiently. The coastal areas of the State require intensive management of Solid Waste generated due to tourism activity which is also being taken up.

Water scarcity not only for the purpose of irrigation, but also of drinking, is a core issue which would be addressed in all its sincerity. Steps would be taken towards better regulation, management and development of available water resources in the State and its judicious utilization in a scientific manner. Government has a vision of providing 24 hours water supply during the Twelfth Plan.

Goa's health indicators are significantly higher, than the national averages. As against the IMR target of 25, set by the Planning Commission in its Draft Five Year Plan, Goa is presently well placed with an IMR of 10 per thousand and my Government is targeting to further reduce it to 8 per thousand by end of the XIIth Plan. Similarly as against the Central MMR target of 1 per thousand live births Goa's MMR rate is presently 0.26 per thousand, which is expected to be further reduced to 0.20 per thousand live birth by end of the XIIth Plan.

Further, Goa's health system is regarded as the most extensive in the country with a network of hospitals covering both rural and urban areas in the State. However in the past few years there has been a neglect of basic health facilities leaving a lot to be desired. The task in the coming five year period would be to ensure better facilities by improving the standard of Health Centres and Hospitals. It is noted from the Draft XIIth Plan document, that Planning Commission is targeting to improve the sex ratio to 950. The State's sex ratio as per 2011 census is 920 and it is targeted to raise the

said ratio to 960. Efforts are made to ensure that overall anemia cases will be brought down to less than 20% by end of the XIIth Plan.

To arrest the declining female sex ratio in the state and to ensure, that the girl child does not become a burden for the parents or guardian during her marriage, a new scheme "Laadli Laxmi" has been introduced from the current year wherein financial support of Rs. 1 lakh is given to the girl child on attaining age of 18 years.

Tourism is one of the major activities in the State and due to ban on mining, this sector has now become the State's main financial resource. The need of the hour is to convert low-end tourism of Goa to high-end tourism. It is proposed to create diversified facilities for the visiting tourists. Efforts shall also be made to provide enhanced safety and security to the tourists. The State Government has initiated development of infrastructure facilities at the existing leisure tourism destination like beaches, water bodies, springs, lakes, gardens, hinterland and taken up developing new destinations to attract more tourists, including foreigners.

In the field of IT Sector, Goa is yet to make desired headway. Though the government was spending huge sums of money every year on strengthening the "e-governance" initiatives, the outcomes of these initiatives are yet to be seen and felt by the general public. Government is therefore going in for a review of the IT initiatives afresh with necessary corrective steps, so that the level of development in IT Sector is at par with other States. On the Industrial front, a conducive atmosphere will be created in the State for setting up of eco-friendly industrial units.

On the Social Security front, My Government has taken various immediate steps to ease the hardships of the common man. Reduction of VAT on petrol to 0.1%, which is lowest in the country, provides relief from rising petrol prices by nearly Rs.14/- per liter. The Dayanand Social Security Scheme (DSSS), initiated in Goa by my Government in the year 2001- 02 for improving quality of life of the most under-privileged sections of the population, has been a unique social security initiative in the country. During this tenure my Government has doubled the financial assistance (Rs 2000 per month) under the scheme. As many as 1.17 lakh (30% families in the State) beneficiaries are covered under this scheme.

My Government has introduced a scheme for "Grihani" housewives to assist them in this time of rising inflation. An inflation allowance of Rs.1000 per month is provided to housewives whose family income is less than Rs. 3.00 lakh under the "Griha Aadhar Scheme". Besides this various initiatives are also taken such as monthly assistance to people engaged in traditional occupation and to those who have attained 51 years of age and gross pension of Rs. 2500/- per month to retired seamen. Further the welfare of SC, ST & OBC are also on the high agenda of the Government. It will be ensured that the benefits provided under these schemes are received by genuine and deserving beneficiaries only. My Government has earmarked Rs.300 crores for various interventions under all sectors for the upliftment of the tribals.

Government intends to involve people's participation in all the developmental activities in their respective areas. Greater importance would be laid on the core developmental issues faced by the State and further all efforts will be made in raising necessary financial resources to sustain the State Annual Plans.

We are committed to creating an enabling environment in the State so that all our visions can be realized and Goa becomes a model State for others to follow.

THANK YOU - JAI HIND