Address by

The Governor, Uttar Pradesh
SMT. ANANDIBEN PATEL

to
Both the Houses of the State Legislature assembled together
Lucknow, Thursday, February 13, 2020
Magh 24, Shaka 1941
(English Translation of Original Hindi Text)
Hon'ble Members,

I warmly greet and welcome all of you in the first session of the Uttar Pradesh Legislature in the year 2020 convened for both the houses together. I extend my greetings of the New Year and wish that the year may usher you all as well as the people of the state in an era of happiness, prosperity and well being.

I am happy that a special session of the Legislature was convened by my Government to mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, which continued incessantly for 36 hours and a resolution had been made to achieve the target of sustained development as per United Nations Organization by following the lofty ideals of the Father of the Nation.

Daihik Daivik Bhautik Tapa.
Ramraj Nahin Kahuhi Byapa.
Sab Nar Karahin Paraspar Priti.
Chalahnin Swadharmah Nirat Shruti Niti.

To realize the concept of this Ramrajya, all round development of the state is the priority of my Government. The perception of good governance is attained only through people's welfare and trust. This is the reason why the programme of all round development including social, economic and educational aspects of all the sections of society is consistently going on by adopting the policy of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'. In this
very context, my Government, with a view to disseminate the above resolution as mentioned in our constitution, convened a special session of the State Legislature on November 26, 2019 on the occasion of Samvidhan Diwas in the memory of great architect of constitution, Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

Hon'ble Members, my Government is implementing various schemes to extend benefits of its various policies and schemes up to the people sitting on the last rung of social ladder. Following the concerted efforts made by the Government, the works of multi-pronged development are visible everywhere and Uttar Pradesh stands first in following sectors:-

- Stands first under Pradhan Mantri Gramin and Shahri Awas Yojna by sanctioning 27.58 lakh houses and constructing over 17 lakh units.
- First place in the country by paying a record sugarcane price of more than Rs 86 thousand 700 crore.
- First place under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala scheme in the country, by providing LPG connection to over 1 crore 47 lakh families.
- First place in the country by providing toilets to 2 crore 61 lakh families in rural areas.
- First in the country in the establishment of micro, small and medium industries.
• First place in the country under the Prime Minister Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya) and other schemes by providing more than 1 crore 24 lakh electricity connections.

• First place under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana.

• Stands first in the country in respect of milk, sugar, sugarcane and mango production.

• First in the country under the Atal Pension Yojana.

By giving top priority to law and order, my government has established rule of law by adopting a policy of zero tolerance, a crime-free, fear-free and injustice-free environment. During the tenure of my government, there has been full harmony among the people of all religions.

Following the alertness, alacrity and sensitivity of the police and administrative officers, all the 23 innocent children, who were made hostage in the district Farrukhabad, were freed safely, which is a shining example of the government's commitment to the establishment of a fear-free society.

The incidents of rape has decreased by 35.06 percent in the last year as compared to the year 2017. Similarly, there has been a decrease of 53.7 percent in robbery, 44.5 in loot, 38.1 in rioting, 30.43 in kidnapping and 14.05 percent in murder. My government has achieved remarkable success
by ensuring speedy and prompt prosecution against criminals. In the year 2018, two accused were awarded death sentence, 67 were given life imprisonment and 420 were punished under the POCSO Act. In the year 2019, 3 were sentenced to death, 152 to life imprisonment and 585 to other punishment.

As many as 218 POCSO Courts have been set up for speedy disposal of criminal cases related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. In addition, 194 new court rooms in subordinate courts are being constructed.

No positive change is possible without strong will power. Honorable Members, in order to make the police system more effective as per its strong will power, my Government has implemented the Police Commissionerate system in metropolitan areas. Under the first phase, this system has been implemented in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar.

With a view to providing various services of police to the people of the state, the UPCop mobile app has been developed, which incorporates 28 services like e-FIR registration, senior citizen complaint, missing person, tenant's verification etc. This app has been downloaded by more than 05 lakh people. Presently, to deal with the increase in cyber crimes, cyber police stations are operational in Gautam Buddh Nagar and Lucknow districts and it has been decided to establish cyber police stations in other zonal offices also.
Agriculture is the source of livelihood for the majority of the population in Uttar Pradesh. We have decided to double the income from agriculture within 05 years. Keeping this in mind, a new Procurement Policy for crops was implemented. The minimum support price (MSP) of wheat was increased from Rs 1,735 to Rs 1,840 per quintal and the support price of wheat has been fixed at Rs 1,925 per quintal by the Government of India for the Rabi season 2020-21. MSP of Common and A-grade paddy was increased to Rs. 1,815 per quintal and Rs. 1,835 per quintal respectively. Record purchases of 126 lakh metric tonnes of wheat and 141 lakh metric tonnes of paddy were made directly from farmers in the last three years. For the first time in the state, direct purchase was made from farmers by fixing the support price of pulses, oilseeds and maize. In the year 2018-19, a record production of 604.15 lakh metric tonnes of food grains was achieved against the target of 581.60 lakh metric tonnes. Keeping in view the target of 5.1 percent agriculture growth under the Agriculture Policy-2013, there is a target of producing 641.74 lakh metric tonnes of food grains in the year 2020-21.

Uttar Pradesh has become the country's first state to pay subsidies admissible to the farmers through DBT. Over 80 lakh farmers were paid a total amount of Rs. 01,431 crore directly in their account through DBT. Under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan
Samman Nidhi Yojana', the process of benefiting 2 crore 33 lakh farmer families is in progress. So far, under this scheme 1 crore 87 lakh farmers have been paid the first installment amounting to about Rs. 3 thousand 750 crore and total amount of Rs. 11 thousand 690 crore in their accounts through DBT. More than 3.7 crore soil health cards and 1 crore 11 lakh Kisan credit cards were distributed to farmers. My government has started several schemes to double the income of farmers within the prescribed time limit by maximizing production at minimum cost. Through Kisan Pathshala, more than 50 lakh farmers have been trained in the latest technology of agriculture. For the first time an international level 'Krishi Kumbh' was organized in which about one lakh farmers participated. In all, 526 bovine-based natural farming workshops were organized for 1038 village panchayats along the Ganga.

Sugar is the main agricultural based product of Uttar Pradesh and there are 119 sugar mills operating in the state. In the last crushing season 2018-19, the sugarcane area of the state was 27.94 lakh hectares and 118.22 lakh tonnes of sugar was produced. The total sugarcane area is 26.79 lakh hectares in the crushing season 2019-20. So far, the sugarcane price amounting to Rs 86 thousand 700 crore has been paid by my government, benefiting 46.20 lakh sugarcane farmers. This includes 10 thousand 654 crore rupees of the outstanding cane price payment of the previous government. This is
the record payment so far. In the crushing season 2019-20, 8 thousand 454 crore rupees have been paid against the total cane price of Rs 14 thousand 790 crore. As much as 97.46 percent of the total sugarcane price payable in the crushing season 2018-19 has been paid. For the first time in the state, a plan was made to provide loans to sugar mills for easy payment to sugarcane farmers. New sugar mills were established by my government in place of two closed sugar mills of Pipraich and Munderwa. The crushing capacity of Mohiuddinpur Sugar Mill (Meerut) of Uttar Pradesh State Sugar Corporation was increased from 2,500 T.D.C. to 3,500 T.D.C. Ramala Sugar Mill, Baghpat in the cooperative sector was expanded. With the intention of directly benefiting the sugarcane farmers, the establishment of crusher and crushers for making jaggery and raab was exempted from license. In addition, provision of free license renewal was made for the re-operation of already established Khandasari units.

With the inspiration of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, 1,358 km long 'Ganga Yatra' from Bijnore to Kanpur and from Ballia to Kanpur was organised in order to boost people's faith and respect towards the Ganga, ensure its continuous flow and serenity, promote the Ganga-centric creative thinking in development of the state and facilitate confluence of spiritualism, culture and mass participation for Ganga conservation. The
Ganga Yatra took place in 27 districts, 21 municipal bodies, 1,038 gram panchayats in 05 days from 27 January 2020 to 31 January 2020. During this period, all the 26 departments related to the Ganga Yatra organized activities, programs and functions related to their respective departments and a large number of people were benefited under various schemes of the government.

It is impossible to imagine life without water. Keeping in view the growing water crisis, the Department of Jal-Shakti was also formed in Uttar Pradesh on the lines of the Central Government. At present, irrigation facility is being provided in about 98.48 lakh hectare area from 74 thousand 659 km long canal systems, 33 thousand 848 state tube wells, 29 pump canals, 252 small branch canals and 69 reservoirs. Projects like Bansagar, Pahuj dam, Pathrai dam, Pahari dam, Lachhura dam, Gunta dam, Maudha dam and Jamar dam have been completed lying incomplete for years. About 4 thousand 333 crore rupees were spent on these projects. With the completion of these projects, 2 lakh 66 thousand 666 hectare irrigation area has been increased and 2 lakh 35 thousand farmers have been benefited.

My government is completing the work of 14 other irrigation projects in the state. These include Arjun Sahayak, Bhawani Dam, Rasin Dam, Lakheri Dam, Ratauli weir, Jakhaloun Pump Canal Restoration, Jakhaloun Pump Canal, 250 MW Solar
Power Plant, Saryu Canal, Madhya Ganga, Uttar Pradesh Water Restructuring, Bandai Dam and Majhgaon Chilli. An amount of 20 thousand 686 crore rupees were spent on these projects. It will create additional irrigation potential and will benefit 18 lakh 51 thousand farmers. In all 1.64 lakh farmers were benefited by the drip sprinkler irrigation scheme. Irrigation potential of 15 lakh hectares has been added through about 3 lakh free borings.

Recently, the Jal Jeevan Mission has been started by my government under which it is targeted to provide "water to every house" through Piped Drinking Water Scheme by the year 2024. As many as 283 piped drinking water schemes have been completed in the year 2019-20. Besides, 225 projects have been completed under Neer Nirmal Yojana and work has been started on 354 other projects. As many as 158 projects are under construction under the State Rural Drinking Water Scheme. Under the Chief Minister R.O. Drinking Water Scheme, water treatment plants based on ultra filtration technology have been set up in 28 thousand 41 board primary and upper primary schools in JE and AES affected districts and districts of Bundelkhand region.

Bundelkhand has been the most affected area due to water crisis. Keeping this in view, 545 piped drinking water schemes have been prepared to cover 6 thousand 537 uncovered villages in the 7
districts of Bundenkhand region and 02 districts of the Vindhya region under the piped drinking water scheme, on which work will be started by March 2020. In all, 8 thousand 384 farm-ponds have been constructed in Bundelkhand and 6 thousand 558 farm-ponds are proposed to be constructed this year.

For the integrated management and effective conservation of ground water resources, my government has started the State Ground Water Conservation Mission in 271 development blocks and 22 cities of the state through groundwater management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge.

Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in milk production. Ten green field new dairy plants were established in the state and 4 dairy plants were upgraded. For conservation of bovine breeds in the state, two big cow conservation centers each are being established in all the districts. A total of 4.49 lakh destitute bovines are being protected at 4 thousand 921 cow-shelter sites in the state. So far, 23 thousand 542 cow-breeding families have been handed over 46 thousand 786 bovines under destitute bovine participation. An amount of Rs 22.62 crore has been released by the Mandi Parishad for the maintenance of bovines in 39 registered gaushalas of the state.

Making the country self-reliant through rural development was Gandhiji's dream. The Shyama
Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission Scheme for the development of infrastructure facilities in villages is operational in 16 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Significant progress has been made in the state towards providing roof to every poor. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural), more than 13.75 lakh houses have been constructed and construction of 63 thousand 237 houses is in progress. In addition to the above, a total of 50 thousand 740 persons are being benefited from free housing under the Chief Minister Housing Scheme (Rural). The beneficiaries includes 27 thousand 764 Musahars, 4 thousand 666 Vantangias and 81 Tharu Tribes.

For the first time, 38 villages of Vantangia, Mushar, Kol and Tharu tribals were declared as revenue villages, due to which the poor people of these villages settled in forest areas could get basic facilities like housing, medical facilities, education, roads, electricity and ration cards.

In the case of health services, the picture of Uttar Pradesh has changed and medical facilities have grown rapidly in the state. As of 2016, there were only 12 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. New medical colleges are being setup by my government continuously. The first year course of MBBS has been started in 7 Medical Colleges in the year 2019-20 and construction work of 8 medical colleges is going on in Hardoi, Etah, Pratapgarh, Fatehpur, Siddharthanagar, Deoria, Ghazipur and Mirzapur.
Apart from this, 13 medical colleges in Bulandshahar, Bijnore, Auraiya, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Kanpur Dehat, Lalitpur, Gondar, Sultanpur, Kushinagar, Sonbhadra and Kaushambi have been approved.

As a result of my government's efforts, Uttar Pradesh has been awarded MMR by the Government of India for bringing down the maximum 30 percent drop in maternal mortality. The cases of Encephalitis, which was a major cause for death of children in Purvanchal for the last four decades, has witnessed 56 percent decrease, while the death toll has come down by 81 percent. Besides, 104 encephalitis centers have been established at block level to district level and 3.5 lakh people have been trained in the campaign against Japanese encephalitis and acute encephalitis.

My government's priority is to provide maximum medical facilities to the people living in rural areas. Telemedicine has been started in the state under which patients from remote villages can get medical consultation from senior and specialist doctors from control room through mobile phone.

In order to fulfill the resolve to provide basic health facilities at the doorstep of crores of people residing in remote rural areas and urban slums of the state, Chief Minister Arogya Swasthya Mela' is being organized every Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm at every rural and urban primary health center. In these fairs, TB, leprosy, infectious diseases and
non-infectious diseases and pregnant women are being provided facilities for screening and treatment to provide maximum benefit of various national programs. As many as 2.94 lakh men, 3.48 lakh women and more than 1.11 lakh children have been benefited in only two phase fairs conducted from 2 February 2020. Along with this, about 21 thousand patients have been referred to higher hospitals for treatment. In these fairs, gold cards have also been distributed to 58 thousand 611 beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat program.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana 'Ayushman Bharat', the benefit of free medical facility up to Rs 5 lakh per annum is being provided to the families of 1 crore 26 lakh beneficiaries and 10 lakh 56 thousand families under the Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana. So far, Golden cards have been distributed to more than 86 lakh people and more than 3 lakh persons have been treated under the scheme.

Education determines the future direction of the country. My Government has generated awareness about education by running School Chalo Abhiyan. In the academic session 2019-20, one crore 80 lakh students were enrolled. Keeping in view the need of the present day, 15 thousand primary schools have been converted into English medium schools and e-version of text books has been developed as 'e-pothi'. NCERT Courses have
been implemented in schools including madrasas in the state.

My government is implementing Atal residential schools in all 18 divisions of the state to give quality education to 1,000 children/girls and orphans of construction workers in the states, to light up lamps of knowledge in their lives and to ensure participation in the development of the nation by connecting them with the mainstream of society. Free residential education from class 6 to 12 will be provided in these schools. The ratio of boy and girl students for admission in the schools will be 50:50. For all round development of students studying in these schools, their skill will also be enhanced on the basis of their proper career counselling and their proficiency and interest.

At the secondary level, my government has achieved record success in conducting copying-free examinations across the state. In all 149 Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Government Model Inter Colleges are being operated with the aim of setting higher standards of education. My Government inaugurated 7 new State Inter College and 01 Government Girls' School and 193 new Inter Colleges were started and 55 new Inter Colleges were approved. To honour the meritorious students, my government got constructed 113 roads up to the residences of meritorious students under the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Gaurav Path scheme and the meritorious students were awarded by giving cash
prize of one lakh rupees, tablets, medals and citation.

For the spread of higher education, 03 new state Universities are being established in Saharanpur, Aligarh and Azamgarh districts. In addition to these, 49 new government degree colleges are being established in the state. Construction work of 33 of these state colleges has also started. It has been decided to develop Siddharth Vishwavidyalaya, Kapilvastu, Siddharthnagar as International Buddhist Center and Center for Excellence in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. The Uttar Pradesh Private University Act, 2019 has been promulgated for the establishment and regulation of private universities.

Technical education gives the youth better employment opportunities. My government has built 24 government polytechnics and 28 hostels for them. The number of polytechnic educational institutions in the state has increased to 1,325 and the number of seats in these educational institutions has increased to 2 lakh 30 thousand 275. Besides, 22 new government polytechnics are being established in the state. The work of establishing government engineering colleges in Pratapgarh, Basti, Gonda and Mirzapur is in progress.

The concept of self-reliance is realized through skill development. In this sequence, the state government is embodying the vision of 'Shramev-
Jayate'. Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country to promulgate 'Integrated Skill Development Policy'. ASSOCHAM awarded Gold Trophy to the state in skill development. 13 incubators are functional to promote 'start-up' culture in Uttar Pradesh.

Under Pradhanmantri Mudra Yojana, Stand-up India Scheme, Chief Minister Self-Employment Scheme and Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme, 18 thousand 490 self-employment avenues were created. During its entire tenure, the government has set a target of connecting 10 lakh youth with employment and self-employment. To connect youth with jobs and self-employment, long and short term employment training programmes are being conducted by Industrial Training Institute and Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission. In the last three years, 5.54 lakh youth have been trained and 2.05 lakh youth have been employed by the Skill Development Mission. Similarly, 1.95 lakh youth have been trained by state industrial training institutes and given employment.

Infrastructure facilities are essential for development. The stream of development flows through the roads. While expediting the development works in Purvanchal in the state, construction work of 341 km Purvanchal Expressway will be completed this year and the work of 91 km long Gorakhpur Link Expressway and
297 km Bundelkhand Expressway will also be started. The process of construction of 637 km long Ganga Expressway from Meerut to Prayagraj has been started. One lakh 29 thousand 441 kilometre roads in the state have been made pothole-free. Construction work of 7 thousand 948 km of roads in rural areas has been completed. Construction work of 79 long bridges has been completed in the state and construction work of 115 long bridges and 304 small bridges is in progress. Construction work of 86 railway over bridges is in progress. The work of connecting 26 tehsil headquarters and 152 development blocks of the state through two-lane roads is in progress. Under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, more than 6 thousand 310 kilometres of roads were built. The widening and strengthening of 4 lane roads of 716 routes is in progress.

In order to provide new wings to the flight of development in the state, my government has acquired possession of 1 thousand 334 hectares of land for 'Noida International Green Field Airport'. The said airport will be developed through SPV - 'Yamuna International Airports Private Limited' constituted for this purpose. In addition, in the last three years, many cities have been connected with air facilities by constructing civil enclaves of Prayagraj, Kanpur and Hindon Airport. Development of Aligarh, Azamgarh, Moradabad, Shravasti, Myorpur (Sonbhadra), Chitrakoot and
Jhansi Airport is also underway. Land is being acquired for the development of Sarsawa (Saharanpur), Ayodhya and Meerut airports. Currently, there are 48 flights to various cities of the country and 12 flights to different cities of the world from airports located in the state.

Industrial development is a measure of the progress of a state. Honourable Members, due to the efforts of my government, a new dawn has emerged in the field of industrial development in the state. 21 new investment friendly policies have been formulated to make Uttar Pradesh a 'manufacturing hub'. To encourage investment, the foundation of projects worth more than Rs 2 lakh crore were laid through the first and second ground breaking ceremonies after the Investors Summit was organized. More than 25 lakh youth will get employment opportunities from these projects.

The foundation stone of the Defence Industrial Manufacturing Corridor was laid in Bundelkhand by Hon'ble Prime Minister, which will provide employment to 2.5 lakh youth. 46 thousand 220 applications were disposed of through the Nivesh Mitra Portal, creating an environment conducive for entrepreneurs in the state. Uttar Pradesh has joined the leading states in Ease of Doing Business with a score of 92.87 percent.

The eleventh 'Defence Expo' was successfully organized jointly by the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh between 5 to 9
February 2020 in Lucknow. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the event which was attended by more than 3 thousand foreign representatives of defence sector and more than 10 thousand participants from different regions of the country. Defence ministers from over 40 countries participated in the conference on the occasion. As a result of this successful event, a total of 190 MoUs and contracts were signed in the defence sector, out of which 23 MoUs will attract an investment of Rs 50 thousand crore in the Defence Corridor of Uttar Pradesh. For the first time in Lucknow, a joint defence display of the Air Force and Army took place in which the youth of Uttar Pradesh got the opportunity to see and understand the valor, and glorious history of the Indian Army. About 12 lakh people from different parts of the state and country visited the Defence Expo. The organisation of Asia's most successful defence expo will accelerate the establishment of the defence corridor of the state and the establishment of new defence units will provide employment opportunities to the youth through the industrial development of the state.

Micro, small and medium scale industries play an important role in creating huge employment in less capital and less space. Such industries, along with being more environmentally friendly, have immense potential for inclusive growth and employment generation. To encourage such industries, my government has given them
electricity charge exemption, stamp duty exemption, interest subsidy and GST reimbursement facilities. Nivesh Mitra Portal has been arranged by the state government for various approvals, clearances and consents related to the establishment of micro, small and medium industries.

Under the one district one product scheme, specific products of each district are being selected and developed. The Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana has been launched by the state government to promote the arts of traditional craftsmen from urban and rural areas like carpenter, tailor, basket weaver, barber, goldsmith, blacksmith, potter, confectioner etc. In the financial year 2019-20, an amount of Rs 30 crore has been approved to provide benefit to 20 thousand craftsmen.

Mukhyamantri Swarojgar Yojana is being operated to provide self-employment opportunities to the youth. Under this scheme, self-employment is being provided by setting up a project up to Rs 25 lakh for manufacturing and up to Rs 10 lakh in service sector. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Rs. 22 crore 98 lakh margin money has been disbursed to 721 beneficiaries against the target of establishing 3 thousand 487 units.

The handloom industry has an important role in providing employment. It is the most employment generating, pollution free, decentralized cottage
industry in Uttar Pradesh after agriculture sector. UP State Special Handloom Expo is being organized every year in four big metros outside the state to provide appropriate opportunities for marketing of handloom products. In order to promote handloom exports, weavers of the state are being involved in exhibitions held in India and abroad.

Without electric energy, it is not possible to imagine development in the modern era. Honourable members, I am happy that there has been a remarkable improvement in the state of power supply across Uttar Pradesh, as a result of which the power supply roster has been fixed for 24 hours in district headquarters, 20 hours in tehsil headquarters and 18 hours in rural areas. To ensure uninterrupted power supply in the state, a total of 586 new power sub-stations of 33/11 KV have been started so far by my government and capacity of 1058 power sub-stations has been increased.

A new solar energy policy has been implemented by my government to increase alternative energy sources. 100% stamp duty has been exempted to encourage this. The solar power generation capacity in the state has now increased to 949 megawatt. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Solar Street Light Scheme for lighting of rural markets in the field of public utility and Mukhyamantri Samagra Gram Vikas Yojana are being operated for street lighting in revenue villages.
The concept of city development is realized through cleanliness. Honourable members, I am happy to inform that 14 municipal bodies of the state have been honoured under the Swachh Bharat Mission by the Government of India for outstanding work in the field of cleanliness in Uttar Pradesh. All 75 districts of the state have been declared 'Open Defecation Free' (ODF). 8 lakh 33 thousand individual household toilets were constructed in the state. Four thousand community toilets were constructed in the cities. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme, 60 cities of the state were covered. Under Namami Gange project, 45 sewerage projects were started, out of which 12 projects have been completed.

Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Urban Housing Scheme under which 9.13 lakh houses are under construction and 3.81 lakh houses have been completed so far, against 15.63 lakh houses sanctioned. Projects worth Rs. 20 thousand crore are being implemented in ten major cities selected under Smart City Scheme - Lucknow, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, Saharanpur, Bareilly, Jhansi, Moradabad and Aligarh.

The system of a state is evaluated by the welfare schemes being run for the society. My government is committed to the welfare of every section of the society and for this purpose various
schemes are being run.

Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana, more than one lakh poor girls from poor families were married. The predetermined aid of Rs 35 thousand has been increased to Rs 51 thousand for this scheme. Financial assistance is being provided for the marriage of daughters of scheduled caste persons living below the poverty line. Under the Prime Minister Jan Vikas Karyakram, construction of 42 government inter colleges has been completed.

My government is also sensitive towards senior citizens. The amount of old age pension scheme has been increased from Rs 400 to Rs 500 per month. More than 44 lakh senior citizens are being given pension under this scheme.

For minority welfare, my government is committed to realize the resolve of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Religious education in recognized Madrasas and Maktabs as well as education of modern subjects is being provided under the Government of India funded scheme.

Hon'ble members, we are indebted to the freedom fighters who sacrificed everything in the freedom struggle. Under the scheme of sanctioning pension and grants to them and their dependents, the amount of monthly pension has been increased to Rs. 20 thousand 176 by my government. Freedom fighters are allowed free travel facility in
the buses of the State Road Transport Corporation along with a companion and free medical and food facilities in the state hospitals is provided for the freedom fighters and their dependents. Apart from this, 'Seva Sadan' is operational in Lucknow and Mathura for them.

Women's welfare is a measure of the country's progress. My Government launched 'Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan' for women's empowerment. The facility of 181 women helpline, one stop centres and rescue vans have been provided for all the districts of the state. Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana has been launched to develop positive thinking towards girls, under which more than 2 lakh 60 thousand girls have been benefited so far. Under the Pradhanmantri Matri Vandan Yojana, 18 lakh 57 thousand 38 beneficiaries were benefited in the state. Currently, over 24 lakh 75 thousand beneficiaries are being paid pension under the Nirashrit Mahila Pension Yojana.

The foundation of healthy life starts from childhood. Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, Supplementary Nutrition Scheme and Hot Cooked Food Scheme are being operated in Uttar Pradesh in this direction. In addition to the Anganwadi programme for child development, vocational skills training is being imparted to adolescent girls through the scheme.
The youth are the builders of future of the country. India is a young nation full of young aspirations. To promote the physical, intellectual and cultural development of youth in Uttar Pradesh by my government and to instill a sense of patriotism in them, sports competitions, promotion and training of youth and women Mangal Dal, state level youth festival, cultural programmes and Vivekananda Youth Award Programmes like schemes are being conducted.

The 23rd edition of the National Youth Festival was held in Lucknow from January 12 January 16, 2020, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the inspiration of youth. It was attended by around 7,000 youth from 24 states and union territories, including about 2,000 youth from Uttar Pradesh and youth icons. This festival displayed the image of a mini India with the presence of young participants from all over India and the youth of the state were also acquainted with the cultural heritage of other states. This event was extremely successful with a view to channelize a new energy among the youth of Uttar Pradesh and to reinforce the spirit of unity and integrity of the country.

My government is sensitive to the empowerment of people with disabilities. Uttar Pradesh was awarded the National Award for Best State on International Day of Disability by the Government of India for honouring and
empowering the disabled. Uttar Pradesh Disabled Marriage Promotion Scheme, 2019 has been started by my government for the purpose of conducting Divyang Vivah. The amount of Divyangjan Pension has been increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per month, under which 10.47 lakh persons with disabilities are being benefited. A special stadium is proposed in the Dr. Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University campus. Mamta School is being established in Prayagraj district for the education of mentally challenged children and Inter College for the deaf and dumb boys and girls is being established in Lucknow and Gorakhpur district respectively.

The Seventh Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, India Region was held in Lucknow from 15 to 19 January 2020. This international level conference was organized for the first time in Lucknow. Representatives of legislative institutions of different countries including the presiding officers of various state legislatures of India also attended the conference. In this four-day conference, there was a serious discussion on the role of public representatives and the development of legislative competence in them. The convention also discussed the development of the tradition of national aspirations as required in the 'Westminster Model' of parliamentary democracy. The conference was appreciated globally for its contribution in the preservation and promotion of democratic values.
Tourism brings prosperity to our cultural, natural and geographical heritage. To attract tourists to state, a tag line of "UP nahi dekha to India nahi Dekha" and for Kumbh "Sarvasiddhipradah Kumbh" was released. Deepotsav is being organized in Ayodhya, Krishnotsav in Mathura, Dev Deepavali in Varanasi and Rangotsav in Barsana. Integrated tourism development work is being done under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme by identifying Ramayana Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Heritage Circuit and Spiritual Circuit, Bundelkhand Circuit, Shaktipeeth Circuit, Mahabharata Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Sufi Circuit and Jain Circuit. High level tourist facilities are proposed in Ayodhya, the city of Lord Shri Ram. Cultural centre is being developed in Varanasi and Bateshwar, the birthplace of former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. Apart from this, 46 tourism projects are being developed along with Water Sports in Ramgarh Tal of Gorakhpur, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and Devdari Rajdari Waterfall in Chandauli.

The government is fulfilling its every mission, every resolution with the support of the people. Honourable members, I have presented to you a brief outline of basic government policies and important ambitious programmes. Soon, the budget for the financial year 2020-2021 will be presented in the House.

Honourable members, I am confident that in the interest of the general public of the state, all the
honourable members will cooperate with my government and provide their valuable contributions in fulfilling the aspirations and maintain the dignity and greatness of this House. My government is dedicated to public welfare and is committed to creating an environment in Uttar Pradesh through thoughtful policies paving way for many paths of prosperity and development.

I hope that we will get your positive support in taking the state forward on the path of development.

With these words, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous life and thank you heartily that you have given me the opportunity to present before you the activities of my government.

Jai Hind!