



# ADDRESS

delivered by

**Dr. P. C. ALEXANDER**

GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

JOINT SESSION OF THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE AT MUMBAI

---

13th March 2002

MR. CHAIRMAN, MR. SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the First Session of the State Legislature in the year 2002. The year gone by has seen many tragic events which were the handiwork of barbaric terrorist groups. The outrageous attack on the Parliament, the Temple of our Democracy, has provoked the soul of every Indian. I pay homage to the security guards of the Parliament House who laid down their lives to save this sacred symbol of our democracy from any harm. I also express my feeling of deep grief at the horrendous loss of life and property caused by the dastardly attack on the World Trade Centre in New York. India has been at the receiving end of attacks by terrorist groups sponsored and supported from across the border for quite a long time. Maharashtra has always contributed its mite in our country's relentless war against such terrorist activities on our land. In this war against terrorists, 23 policemen from Maharashtra Police and various Central Police Organizations have laid down their lives. I pay homage to all those brave martyrs.

I also express my grief and shock at the recent heinous incidents in Gujrat State which are a blot on humanity, in which many innocent people lost their lives.

Our nation suffered a great loss in the recent sad demise of the Lok Sabha Speaker Shri. G. M. C. Balayogi, an outstanding Parliamentarian and champion of Democracy. I pay my respectful homage to him. Last year we lost two

great sons of Maharashtra, Shri Jayantrao Tilak, the Ex-Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council and Shri Sudhakar Rao Naik, the Ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who had made important contribution in various public spheres. I pay my homage to them and also to the memories of the past and sitting members of our Legislature, who have passed away.

2. It is more than two years since the Lokshahi Aghadi Government assumed office in Maharashtra. It has been a period of many challenges. I am happy to say that my Government has been working sincerely and with commitment to fulfill the assurances given in its Common Minimum Programme. In spite of many problems caused by the global economic slow down, my Government has taken a number of policy initiatives to keep up the pace of development of the State and for betterment of the standard of living of the common man.

3. The year 2001-2002 is the last year of the Ninth Five Year Plan. The target of investment of Rs. 45,125 crore set for the Annual Plans has been exceeded by Maharashtra and the expected actual investment in various developmental sectors is now Rs. 48,980 crore. The State Government has constituted 14 Study Groups to examine and prepare the development programme of various sectors under the Tenth Five Year Plan. The reports of all these Groups have been received and the work of preparation of the Tenth Five Year Plan of the State is at the final stage. The Government has also taken steps to get maximum funds for various projects from International Agencies including the World Bank. My Government hopes that the Maharashtra Urban

Transport Project, Phase II costing Rs. 3,860 crore, the Rural Water Supply Project, costing Rs. 1,656 crore and the Water Services Improvement Project costing Rs. 1,791 crore will be sanctioned during the next financial year. My Government has also prepared 7 other projects for seeking external aid which have been submitted to the Government of India and the concerned External funding agencies for approval. I am sure that with the efforts of the State Government all these project proposals will get approval during the Tenth Plan period.

My Government is committed to remove the identified backlog of Vidarbha, Marathwada and rest of Maharashtra through a time-bound programme and accordingly, specific funds have been earmarked for the purpose.

4. As per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, my Government has prepared a Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme for the three financial years from 2002-2003 to 2004-2005 and forwarded it to the Government of India for its concurrence. The main objective of the Fiscal Reforms Programme is to gradually reduce both revenue and fiscal deficits of the State and achieve revenue balance in the Budget by the end of 2004-2005. The State will be entitled to receive a grant from Government of India of Rs. 493 crore from the Incentive Fund constituted for this purpose, provided the State is successful in implementing the Programme. This will also help the State Government to raise additional low-cost market borrowings and get external financial assistance. My Government is fully committed to an effective implementation of this Reform Programme.

5. I have great pleasure in mentioning that Maharashtra continues to be in the forefront of Industrial development. During last year, an investment of Rs. 4,548 crore has been made through 378 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda and during the period of ten years from 1991 to 2001, a total investment of Rs. 2,02,431 crore has been made through 8,716 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda. Similarly an investment of Rs. 46,402 crore has been achieved through 2,473 proposals of Foreign investment during this period.

My Government has adopted a comprehensive Bio-technology Policy, 2001 for the development of Bio-technology and has decided to set up a Pharma Bio-technology Park at Pune, Agricultural Bio-technology Parks and Research and Development Centres each at Jalna, Shendre and Akola. My Government has decided to constitute a Bio-technology Development Fund to offer financial and other incentives to Biotech based industries.

Although Maharashtra leads the country in grape production with 72% of India's total grape production, only 3% of the produce is being processed. My Government has adopted a visionary Grape Processing Policy with a view to promote the grape processing industry. The State Government has decided to set up grape processing Parks equipped with the requisite infrastructure in the Districts of Nashik and Sangli. One Wine Institute each is also proposed to be established at Nashik and Sangli to make available trained manpower to support this industry. This will also help to generate more employment in the Agro Processing sector.

On the occasion of Nagpur Tercentenary Celebrations, the Government with a view to accelerate industrialization in Nagpur and adjoining areas, especially the industries based on natural resources such as minerals and textiles, has offered special incentives. Special endeavour is being made to develop infrastructure for the overall development of Vidarbha.

I am happy to mention that the Government of India has given approval to set up the first-ever Special Economic Zone in India at Navi Mumbai, which will facilitate Foreign Direct Investment and accelerate exports.

For the convenience of industries, it has been now made possible to renew the licences issued under the Factories Act, for a period of ten years at a time.

6. The performance of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB), this year, has been commendable. The Khaparkheda and Parli Thermal Stations have got awards from the Central Government for their excellent performance in power generation.

My Government has emphasized on Power Sector reforms. In order to curb power thefts and reduce losses, schemes like energy audit, extensive metering and installation of Time of the Day meters for consumers of high voltage electricity have been undertaken by the MSEB.

With a view to give boost to the non-conventional energy sources, wind power projects with capacity of 434 Megawatt have been approved in the State. Out of these, projects with 258 Megawatt capacity have been installed. NOCs have been given to projects with 445 Megawatt

capacity of bagasse based co-generation out of which projects with 32.5 Megawatt capacity have been implemented.

During the year 2001-2002, two projects, viz. Karanjvan Hydro Electric Generation Project having 3 MW installed capacity and Bhandardara-1 Hydro Electric Project, which has been developed through a private enterprise with installed capacity of 12 MW have been commissioned in the State.

7. My Government has taken a policy decision to make farmers' participation in Irrigation Management mandatory to fully utilise the created irrigation potential in the State. Before handing over the system to Water Users' Associations, the rehabilitation of the distribution system of the project will require considerable budgetary provision. Efforts are underway to seek World Bank assistance for this purpose.

8. My Government has decided to implement MAHATMA JYOTIBA PHULE JALBHUMI ABHIYAN during the next two years with the participation of people at various levels. In order to enhance the capacity of Non Governmental Organisations, a new programme of ' **Mother Non Government Organisations** ' has been introduced. The major objectives of the JALBHUMI ABHIYAN will be to complete the incomplete watersheds, to carry out repairs of percolation tanks, village tanks and farm ponds and to strengthen the sources of drinking water.

9. Last year, my Government had adopted a new drinking water supply policy, based on the principle of demand-driven approach and community participation.

Consequent to the adoption of this policy, rural water supply and sanitation projects have been sanctioned by the Government of India for 4 districts at a cost of Rs. 196 crore and with the assistance of the German Government for 3 districts at a cost of Rs. 153 crore. The World Bank has also agreed, in principle, to give financial assistance to the remaining 26 rural water supply projects in the State.

In the financial year 2001-2002, with an expenditure of Rs. 203.42 crore upto January 2002 under the Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme, the drinking water problem of 2,644 habitations has been solved and the work in respect of around 4,600 schemes is in progress. Similarly, under various urban water supply programmes, Rs. 119 crore has been spent during the same period on 225 urban water supply schemes which are in progress.

Under the Rural Drinking Water Scarcity Programme, various urgent measures were undertaken in 30,800 habitations from October 2000 to September 2001 with an expenditure of Rs. 115 crore.

Looking at the overwhelming response to the **Sant Gadgebaba Gram Swachhata Abhiyan** and the **Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Swachh Gram Spardha** launched last year, my Government has now decided to implement it on a permanent basis, with a few modifications. It gives me immense pleasure to state that this project of **“Government participation in people’s initiatives”** has given a new developmental vision to the State and the World Bank has also appreciated this project.



10. In order to reduce the pollution being caused to the rivers in the State because of urban sewage and waste, the four cities of Sangli, Karad, Nashik and Nanded have been covered under the National River Programme. Considering the forthcoming **Sinhastha Kumbh Mela** in July 2003, the town of Tryambakeshwar has also been included in this Programme.

11. A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the internationally renowned agricultural expert, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan has been constituted to prepare the draft action plan for planning and management of agricultural development in the State. A Committee of renowned industrialists and officials has also been constituted under the chairmanship of the State Agriculture Minister, for giving recommendations in consultation with the Confederation of Indian Industries to promote value addition to Agricultural produce and increase investments in Agro Industries.

A Special Cell has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture to suggest measures for resolving the constraints arising out of implementation of agreement under the World Trade Organisation for which assistance of law experts will also be taken.

For value addition to agricultural produce, a Food Park and Pack House project worth Rs. 16 crore is being undertaken at Nagpur jointly in collaboration between Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Industries Development Corporation. It has been decided to establish a Flower Auction Centre of international standards costing Rs. 22.40 crore at Mumbai.

My Government has also decided to reconstitute the Vasantrao Naik State Agricultural Management and Training Institute, Nagpur, on the lines of YASHADA for which an expenditure of Rs. 5.80 crore is expected.

From this year the Government has decided to felicitate the Farmers and Institutes for their outstanding achievement in horticulture by a Special Award titled as “**Udyan Pandit**”.

12. In order to reduce the backlog of Veterinary Dispensaries in the State during the year 2001-2002, 31 Veterinary Dispensaries were established and 15 Grade-II Dispensaries were upgraded.

For development of livestock and cross breeding, my Government has decided to establish an autonomous “Maharashtra Livestock Development Board”. The National Project for Cattle and Buffalow Breeding costing Rs. 82.33 crore submitted to Government of India for its approval, will be implemented through this Board.

13. My Government has announced a revised policy for allotment of saline land for fish farming on lease basis. Sixty percent of such land will be distributed to local fishermen and fisheries co-operative societies and forty percent land to small and large industrial entrepreneurs. While leasing out land to the entrepreneurs, provision has been made to take care of the local fishermen and members of weaker sections and also to train and encourage them.

The Indo-French project at Dapchari undertaken at a cost of Rs. 6 crore, for fresh water prawn seed production, employing modern technology, will be commissioned in

June 2002. Under this project, annually 2 crore high quality prawn seed will be produced, fulfilling the demand for high quality prawn seed for aquaculture.

14. During the year 2001-2002, around 302 villages have been connected by all weather roads. Through private financing on '**Build-Operate and Transfer**' basis, 22 works amounting to Rs. 251 crore have been completed upto December 2001 and 19 works amounting to Rs. 271 crore are in progress.

The work of upgrading the 700 km. long Aurangabad-Nagpur Road to the standard of National Highway, the most prestigious project of the State, has been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crore. Out of this, work of 255 km. length, costing Rs. 165 crore is in progress.

The Integrated Road Development works in the city of Nagpur at a cost of Rs. 350 crore, in Pune at a cost of Rs. 260 crore and in Aurangabad at a cost of Rs. 165 crore have been started. The work of converting 133 km. stretch of the National Highway No. 4, in the Satara-Kolhapur Kagal Section, to four lanes has been entrusted to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation and will be commencing shortly.

The work of 4 km. long Bandra-Worli Sea Link Project costing Rs. 600 crore is also in progress which will help ease the traffic congestion in Mumbai city.

15. Under the "**Jeevan Dai**" Scheme, my Government has increased the limit of financial assistance to the persons Below Poverty Line from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 70,000

for the treatment and operations in case of serious diseases involving high costs. Government has also accorded sanction to 24 private hospitals for performing such operations.

In order to ensure that the sick children in the tribal areas are admitted to hospital for proper medical treatment, my Government is providing free meals and financial assistance of Rs. 40 per day to their parents. Similarly, under the **Matrutva Anudan Scheme**, the pregnant mothers are paid Rs. 400 cash and medicines worth Rs. 400 for the treatment of diseases during the pregnancy. So far 68,960 mothers have benefited from this scheme.

Under the World Bank assisted Maharashtra Health Systems Development Project, costing Rs. 747.58 crore, it is proposed to undertake civil works of 144 hospitals including upgradation of 76 rural hospitals into sub-district hospitals, out of which construction work of 11 hospitals has been completed and work of 51 hospitals is in progress.

It is a matter of serious concern that the female population in the State is decreasing as compared to the male population. In this regard, my Government has decided to strictly enforce the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994.

16. A center has been established at the Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur for research and providing treatment to patients suffering from hereditary diseases like Sickle Cell and Thalesemiya occurring especially among the tribal population. For superspeciality services, a

Lithotripsy machine for treatment of kidney stone problems at Government Hospital, Aurangabad, Cathlab equipment for treatment of heart patients at Sassoon General Hospital, Pune and C. T. Scan machines at Government Medical Colleges at Nagpur and Nanded have been provided. A Government Medical College with an intake capacity of 100 students has been established at Kolhapur and the Government is planning to start one Medical College each at Akola and Latur next year.

17. I am happy to note that the literacy rate in the State has increased to 77.3 % and Maharashtra now stands second in India amongst the major States as per the 2001 Census Report. Today 96 % of the children aged upto 6 years are enrolled in the first standard in Schools in Maharashtra. The proportion of out-of-school children in the 6 to 14 age group has come down from 28 % to 20 % during the last decade. With a view to reduce this percentage further, the State Government has decided to implement the Project "**Sarva Shikshan Mohim**". This project worth Rs. 100 crore has been undertaken in the current year and works such as additional school rooms, grants for teachers' payment, school grants and special programmes for handicapped children will be taken under this project.

My Government proposes to make all modern educational facilities available to the educationally backward minority communities. Under the Area Intensive Programme for Minorities, the Government has for the first time, undertaken a project of Rs. 6.37 crore for construction of girls' hostels at Malegaon, Bhivandi and Aurangabad and construction of Urdu schools.

My Government endeavours to ensure that students from Maharashtra can compete successfully at the International level. The Government has therefore, introduced Information Technology as an optional subject at the Higher Secondary level and this subject has been made available even in the Commerce and Arts faculties.

18. The Agency " MAHAYASHNET " is being activated through the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation for implementing the concept of Information Technology and IT enabled education in all Government and Non-Government Education Institutions in the State.

The State has set up a ' Quality Assurance Cell ' for assessment and accreditation of all non-agricultural Universities as well as Arts, Science and Commerce and Technical Education Colleges with a view to provide quality education at the Higher level. The evaluation and assessment of five Universities and 12 Colleges is now complete. I am happy to say that three Universities in Maharashtra, namely the SNDT, Pune and Mumbai have been accorded **Five Star** status by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and the Pune Univeristy is also one of the five universities in the country which has been recognised by the UGC as University with potential for excellence.

Construction of 33 Industrial Training Institutes buildings has been undertaken in the first phase since a number of Industrial Training Institutes in rural areas do not have buildings of their own. These works are in progress.

19. It is a matter of satisfaction that due to effective and vigilant action taken by my Government, peace and

order prevailed in the State despite serious threats posed by organised crime syndicates and anti-national elements. This has been largely possible due to the preventive action taken by the State police. My Government has curbed anti-national activities by arresting 4 terrorists belonging to the Lashkar-e-Toiba in Thane city and 13 terrorists belonging to the Hijbul Mujahideen in Jalgaon district. My Government has been able to expose the evil designs of Al-Qaeda, the international terrorist organisation by arresting one of its active members. The State Government has, for the first time, created a Commando Force and put it into operation after giving vigorous training. A Riot Control Force has been sanctioned and Quick Response Teams will be carved out from them.

In order to strengthen the police force, my Government has decided to immediately fill up 7,039 posts of police personnel and establish, in all, 27 new police stations in Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur and Pune City Commissionerates. Under the Modernisation Programme of the State Police, a provision of Rs. 242 crore has been made in the current year's budget which will help to improve mobility, communication, computerisation, training and fighting capabilities of the police force. Applications for passports will now be accepted at every district office and Police Commissionerate.

20. My Government has signed a memorandum of understanding with APEDA of the Central Government to establish Agricultural Export Zone for export of Alphonso Mangoes. The State Government has decided to set up a Terminal Market for fruits and vegetables near Mumbai city with modern facilities. In order to

facilitate sale of produce directly to consumers, by small farmers, it is proposed to establish Shetkari Bazars in the State.

An apex organisation, called "Mahabanana", for supporting banana growers in marketing of bananas within the country as well as for exporting, has been registered on 1st January 2002.

21. The rates of minimum wages in respect of 12 scheduled employments have been revised under the Minimum Wages Act. Various schemes are being implemented for the welfare of labour, with special emphasis on education, health, computer training, etc. and for this purpose, provision of Rs.24 crore has been made through Labour Welfare Board for the next financial year.

The survey of child labour prevailing in different industries will be completed by the end of March 2002 and to stop exploitation of child labour, projects of education and rehabilitation of the child labour have been undertaken in Thane and Solapur districts.

22. In the year 2001-2002, in the scarcity declared tribal areas, 2 kg. foodgrains per day per labourer free of cost and in other scarcity areas 2 kg. foodgrains at Rs. 1.50 per kg. for wheat and at Rs.2 per kg. for rice are being distributed under the Centrally sponsored "Food for Work Programme". Around 50,000 Metric tons of foodgrains have been distributed under this programme. The transportation cost for the distribution is however borne by the State Government.



From 1st April 2001 to 15th February 2002, approximately 14 crore mandays of employment have been generated and around Rs. 849.82 crore have been spent on Employment Guarantee Works.

During the period from 1st October 1999 to 31st December 2001, 48,795 soil and water conservation works, on 15,867 Hectare area 1,658 afforestation works, 9,771 rural roads of 10,591 km. length, 74 drinking water wells and 22,072 Jawahar wells and other works have been completed under the Employment Guarantee Scheme.

23. The State Government has decided to give protection to eligible slum dwellers who possess a photo pass and to demolish unauthorised or illegal structures constructed after 1st January 1995, through an amendment made in the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971. Under the said amendment, the owner of the unauthorised structure, the person in occupation or any interested person, as also the Competent Authority or concerned officer, responsible for not demolishing such unauthorised structure, have been made liable for penal action.

24. Maharashtra has played an important role in the relief and rehabilitation work in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Gujarat on 26th January 2001.

The Government of Maharashtra has adopted two heavily earthquake-damaged villages, Vondh and Adhoi in Bhachau taluka of Kutch district. In these villages around 1,500 temporary shelters with civic amenities have been constructed and comprehensive rehabilitation project of approximately Rs. 75 crore has been formulated. The work

of 2,600 pucca houses with all civic amenities will be completed by December 2002.

25. As per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, 94 Fast Track Courts have been established for disposal of the pending cases in the State. It is a matter of great satisfaction that 7,821 Civil and Criminal cases have been disposed off till 31 December 2001.

26. Considering the work done by Padmashree Karmaveer Dadasaheb Gaikwad for the landless and weaker section of the society, the Government has decided to celebrate his birth centenary during the current year.

The Maharashtra State Handicap Welfare Action Plan, 2001 has been adopted by the Government. The Action Plan provides for opportunities in the areas of employment, self-employment, free education, barrier free access in public buildings and other important issues related to the health and overall development of the handicapped.

The Government has set up the Maharashtra State Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation for the overall development of the handicapped.

The " Maharashtra State Sports Policy 2001 " has been framed with ' Fitness for all through Sports ' as its core issue. This sports policy has considered **Village** as its basic unit.

27. The Government has earmarked an outlay of 9% of the Budgetable outlay of the State Plan for the Tribal Sub-Plan for the year 2002-2003. From the year 2002-2003, provision of 9% would be kept aside also

from the non-budgetable outlay of the State for tribal development.

28. With a view to provide good governance to the public, my Government has set up in 7 Districts of the State, citizen facility centres by the name “SETU” using Information Technology. Through these Centres citizens will be able to get around 83 certificates at a single window.

It gives me great pleasure to mention that, the pilot project that I inaugurated for the computerization of registration and stamp office last year at Pune is now being implemented all over the State. The registered documents are being delivered within half an hour at a nominal cost. Due to computerization of Public Works Department, all the tenders of this Department are made available on the Government's web site.

The records of all Gram Panchayats in Hingoli District have been computerised. This programme will be taken up in other districts also.

29. As part of the most ambitious project for the development of Vidharbha, my Government has decided to set up a Multi-Modal International Hub Airport, at Nagpur and also to develop the Airport area as Special Economic Zone. The necessary follow up for sanction of the project is being taken up with the Government of India.

30. More than 2,800 service societies of unemployed youth have been established in the State to help them gain self-employment. Local Self-Government Bodies and Non-Government Organisations are being encouraged to

set up “**Lok Seva Centres**” in urban and semi urban areas of the State in order to provide day to day services required by citizens.

It is satisfying to note that **Maulana Azad Alpasankhyak Arthik Vikas Mahamandal** and **Annasaheb Patil Arthik Magas Vikas Mahamandal**, which were set up recently for the upliftment of minorities and economically backward classes, have started giving financial assistance to the unemployed.

31. The first phase of the Conservation and Tourism Development Project at Ajanta and Ellora has been completed at a cost of Rs. 91 crore with the help of the Government of Japan. As a result of this, facilities have been upgraded at the Aurangabad Airport and infrastructure facilities around the historic caves at Ajanta and Ellora have been substantially improved. Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation has also recently provided modern research and conference facilities at Lonar, the site of the crater created by a meteoric impact. This will help international tourists as well as geologists in their research activities. A tourist resort has been constructed at village Tarkarli in coastal Sindhudurg district which will promote tourism in the region.

32. My Government is making all possible efforts to amicably resolve the long standing border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka. A high-power Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister is constantly following up this issue.

33. Honourable Members, during the present Session, you will be considering the Supplementary Demands, the

Budget for the year 2002-2003, the Vote on Account, the Bills to convert certain Ordinances into Acts and some new Bills which may be brought before you for consideration. During this Budget Session, for the first time the budget proposals will be discussed thoroughly before the Department Related Standing Committees which have been constituted. Due to this, the process of sanctioning of the Budget will become more effective and meaningful.

I wish your deliberations during the present Session every success.

**JAI HIND ! JAI MAHARASHTRA !**