

## **Speech of Shri Manohar Parrikar, Chief Minister, Goa**

50th National Development Council Meeting on 21st December 2002 at New Delhi

***Hon'ble Prime Minister, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, distinguished colleagues and friends,***

I take this opportunity to extend new year greetings to everyone here on behalf of my Government and the people of Goa, and I wish you all a very happy and prosperous year ahead.

At the outset, may I congratulate the Planning Commission for preparing a bold Plan document and particularly the excellent volume on State Plans, Trends, Concerns and Strategies. This document provides fascinating insights into the progress made by all the States and I am confident that it will spur the States into improving their rankings. The concise enunciation of the directions to achieve the Vision of the Prime Minister towards creating 100 million employment opportunities and doubling the per capita income during the Tenth Plan and beyond is commendable. It is for the first time that human development has become the cornerstone of the planning process, encompassing both economic and social development. It is also for the first time that monitorable targets have been enshrined in the Plan. Achieving these objectives will require commitment and the collective efforts of all the States and the Union Government. As such, I urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister to declare the proposed minimum agenda of reforms as the **Prime Minister's 16-Point Programme** and the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation both in the States and the Centre be immediately geared up to draw action plans and programmes to achieve these goals. Every State Government may constitute a High Powered Committee headed by the Chief Minister for this purpose and the NDC may meet once in a year to review the progress.

As far as Goa is concerned I am pleased to mention here that we have surpassed most of the monitorable targets set for the Tenth Plan for the country. I am extremely happy to note that the Planning Commission in its analysis in Volume III of the Tenth Plan document has acknowledged that Goa is among the top five leading non-special category states in per capita flows in terms of public & private investment, institutional investment and credit utilization. The Eleventh Finance

Commission too has ranked Goa as No. 1 in the index of Social and Economic Infrastructure, which means that **Goa is the Best Placed State** in terms of infrastructure facilities. This substantiates similar findings in the Report of the National Commission on Population which places Goa as first amongst all States on Quality of Life, and a study commissioned by the Confederation of Indian Industry on private investment. **All this proves that the strong investment which Goa has been making in human capital particularly has borne fruit and the high social indicators coupled with high financial and infrastructural indicators have given Goa the platform from which it can achieve greater heights and aim to reach the level attained by developed nations.**

My Government has placed people at the very center of all development. We have introduced comprehensive Social Security cover to the most vulnerable sections of the population such as the Senior citizens and single women. This unique initiative, called the **Dayanand Social Security Scheme (DS3)** provides a monthly relief of Rs. 5007-with a yearly simple increase of 5 percent. It has totally redefined the concept of single woman to include a woman who may have been deserted, and the insistence on a marriage' certificate has been waived. All bureaucratic procedures have been simplified and made people friendly. The Scheme is being implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India which directly credits the monthly amount to the bank account of the beneficiary. Recognizing that gainful employment is uppermost in the minds of our Youth and is a potential cause for unrest in the future, my Government is committed to provide livelihood to all youth and to encourage self sustaining enterprise through the **Chief Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Deendayal Rozgar Yojana**. We are planning to provide gainful livelihood to all vulnerable women and the differently abled by identifying products which can be made by them, forming collectives and setting up of a Corporation which will provide brand identity, ensure quality control and market these products. We are confident that by the end of the Tenth Plan there will be minimal unemployment in Goa.

My Government is committed to investing in the future by ensuring that all our children are taken care of. To achieve this, 2003 has been declared as the **Year of the Child** in Goa and we will be taking this opportunity to implement the Goa Declaration on Child Rights to protect, preserve and promote the Best Interests of the Child.

Our literacy and health level indicators are amongst the highest in the country and Goa is now poised to embark on the next phase of qualitative improvement in these two sectors. The entire syllabus of the Goa Board till Standard XII will be reviewed and replaced by one which is based on the principles of the **Joy of Learning** and will include all elements which children need to learn today such as life skills, and will also remove the burden of education on children by lightening the school bag for example, and reducing and dealing with stress. Under the **Cyberage Scheme**, all students in Standard XI and XII are being provided with Personal Computers at home. Higher Education will be linked to industries and to jobs. While universal immunization in Goa is nearly 100 percent and maternal and child mortality is negligible, Goa is facing new life style challenges. We are committed to ensure that Goa becomes a State of Excellence in the field of Education and Health within the next few years.

Greater emphasis is being placed on the provision of infrastructure and we are in the process of setting up an enabling Act in this regard. Being in the third stage of demographic transition, **Goa's Vision is now to attain standards at par with those of developed nations.** Upgradation of infrastructure in terms of 24 hours water supply, total sewerage network, solid waste management, uninterrupted high quality power, supply and high quality transport systems are proposed for the Tenth Plan.

Tourism forms the backbone of Goa's economy today and we are conscious of the need to provide new vistas for tourism like Eco-tourism, Hinterland tourism and Heritage tourism to attract more tourists and yet at the same time preserve the environment and also the unique character of Goa. While appreciating the role that tourism has played in Goa's economy we are making efforts to build up other sectors also such as Information Technology and Bio-technology. Various IT Projects like Hi-tech Habitat and Cyber city are being taken up. It is also proposed to establish a Special Economic Zone with emphasis on IT and Tourism.

Amongst other initiatives, **Social Security "Smart" Cards** are being issued to the adult population and we hope to cover every person in Goa with this multipurpose card in the near future.

The Tenth Plan Document of Goa will be a **"People's Document"** and citizens are being given an opportunity to participate in the planning process and to share

their views and dreams for Goa. The Plan focuses **on Human** Development and aims to improve the **Quality of Life of** the people of Goa. It stresses the need to provide livelihood to everyone and its corner stone is the preservation, protection and maintenance of the "**Essence of Goa**" i.e. everything which goes to make Goa the beautiful and successful state it is today. We are therefore moving towards a greater appreciation of what nature has given to this State and an examination of how these can best be exploited for the good of the people.

Good Governance is an integral part of my Government. Our delivery systems are being made more effective and efficient so that all services and benefits reach the people. People's participation is being ensured at all levels of development with a strong focus on Citizen-Government interface, greater transparency and accountability. One of the most important components for the successful delivery of government services at the doorstep of citizens is development of e-governance applications for Government departments/offices. In this respect, a lot of headway has already been made. For example, land records have been fully computerized. The Government has prioritized 20 departments having direct public contact for immediate and complete computerization. Special IT implementation teams are being set up in each of these departments and a Core Committee will supervise the progress of work on a periodic basis. My Government has decided to make an intranet of Government departments, the GOANET, operational by January 2003.

I welcome the recognition in Vol. III of the Plan Document that investments in human capital " creates another type of recurring expenditure dilemma, in that, the delivery of the services that create human capital is primarily through personnel and require a relatively heavy staff component e.g. teachers, health care workers, etc." The document goes on to state that expenditure on such staff are an essential and continuing part of the programme since without them the desired development outcomes will not be realized. This is in fact the experience of Goa where the Teacher-Student ratio is 1:23 and the Doctor-Population ratio is 1: 2077 in the Government, both of which are perhaps amongst the highest in the country. While rightsizing the Government workforce, the role played by these employees till date and their further contribution to sustain the levels of development and improve quality, through enhancement of productivity primarily, have to be kept in mind.

Goa became the first State to introduce the **Voluntary Retirement Scheme** for

government employees with additional tax benefits. We are in the process of finalizing a **Short Service Commission** for future government employees and also working out the modalities of a **Pension Fund** . As per a study conducted by CRISIL, Goa is one of the fastest developing States in the country today and has recorded admirable increases in tax and non tax revenues. In fact due to a successful combination of broad basing user charges, rationalization of rates and implementation of reforms, **non tax revenues are expected to register a total increase of 60 percent by March 2003 over March 2001**. We are firm on augmenting the resource position by sourcing Foreign Direct Investment and also involving Non Resident Goans in the development process. Our fiscal deficit has been contained and our revenue deficit is 1.20% of GSDP. Fiscal Reforms are an integral part of the State's Tenth Plan.

I had stated in my speech last year that I welcomed the acknowledgement in the Planning Commission that good performance should be rewarded and that there is tremendous scope for both the Planning Commission and the Union Government to participate in a more pro-active way towards Goa.

I would like to reiterate here that good performance has to be rewarded. As per Vol. III of the Plan Document, Goa receives the second lowest central support as a percentage of the Tenth Plan outlay amongst all the States in the country. One of the main reasons for this is the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula which appears to reward non-performance. The time has come to review this in earnest. The "single blue print" approach of the Government of India has to change and it should be appreciated that States differently placed in the continuum of development need different interventions. For example, the proposal of the Ministry of Environment and Forests that all areas within a radius of 10 Kms. from the boundaries of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks be notified as eco-fragile zones under the Environment Protection Act 1986 has extremely adverse implications for Goa because it would virtually remove most of the available land from the purview of development. What is required here is an appreciation of the fact that Goa has been able to sustain its forest cover which now stands at 38 percent. With such a small area, land still has to be made available within the State for development for Hospitals, Colleges etc. What may apply to a large State cannot be applied to small States. We will not be able to achieve our 10<sup>th</sup> Plan goal of becoming a "State of Excellence" if central schemes and policies do not support us.

One of the major areas which is causing stress to State finances is the high interest rates charged by the Government of India on loans. I would like to suggest that the Planning Commission agree to alter the loan-grant ratio in the Central Plan Assistance from the existing 70:30 to 50:50 levels. State Governments should be given the flexibility to raise soft loans from the market to swap existing high interest central loans.

We are committed to creating an enabling environment in the State so that all our visions can be realized. Development is manifested in the Quality of Life of the people and implies giving a greater choice to improve the living standards through increasing entitlement and capabilities. In Goa we are striving to achieve this through our planning process.

THANK YOU

JAI HIND