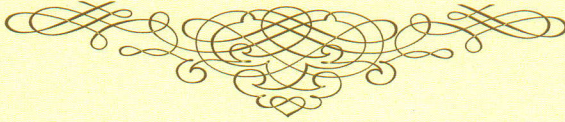




REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS



BY

HONOURABLE

SRI THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT

GOVERNOR OF KARNATAKA

26TH JANUARY 2024

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SHRI. THAWARCHAND GEHLOT,
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1. On this occasion of 75th Republic Day celebration, I would like to convey my hearty wishes to all the people of Karnataka.
2. It was on this historic day, that the Constitution of India came into force. The Preamble of the Constitution provides to all its citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Constitution of India has envisaged all its citizens equal opportunities and equal status to develop themselves with self dignity and thereby to contribute to the development of the nation. My government is working hard to realize these aspirations of the Constitution.

3. My Government had assured the people of Karnataka that we would implement the five guarantees – Shakti Yojane, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuvanidhi programme. I am happy to state that we have implemented all the five guarantees in the State.
4. On June 11, 2023, the ambitious scheme **“Shakti Yojane”** – “Free Travel for Women” was launched to complement the Government's move for women empowerment. According to this, 3.5 crore women of the State, including gender minorities and students are benefitting from this scheme. Women passengers have made 134.34 crore trips under Shakti Yojane since the inception of the said scheme till date.
5. Under the State Government's ambitious Annabhagya Yojane, the state Government has committed to distribute an additional 5 kg food grain along with the 5 KG food grain distributed under the National Food Security

ACT to each beneficiary of Anthyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Household Ration card, thus making it 10 kg food grain to each beneficiary. Presently, till food grains required for this scheme are available, each eligible beneficiary of the State is being given Rs.34/- per kg in lieu of additional 5 kg food grains. This amount is being credited to the bank account of the family members through DBT. From July 2023 to the end of November 2023, Rs.2900.12 crore have been transferred to eligible candidates.

6. The "**Gruha Jyoti**" scheme which has been implemented with effect from 01.07.2023, is providing free electricity to every household in the State subject to a maximum consumption limit of 200 units per month. 1.50 crore consumers of the State are benefiting from this scheme and the Government is releasing a subsidy of Rs.700.00 crore every month in advance to all the ESCOMS in the State.

7. Under “**Gruhalakshmi**” Scheme, a grant of Rs.17,500 crore has been allocated which provides Rs.2000/- to the woman head of every eligible family in the State. Under the scheme, 1.17 crore women beneficiaries have been registered and a total grant of Rs.8181 crore has been released to the said beneficiaries through DBT.
8. Under “**Yuvanidhi Yojane**” orders have been issued by the Government that all those graduates and diploma holders who passed in the year 2022-23 and could not get employment even after completion of 180 days will get a monthly allowance of Rs.3000 and Rs.1500 respectively as unemployment allowance for a period of 2 years or until employed within 2 years. This scheme has been implemented on the occasion of National Youth Day i.e., on Swami Vivekananda Jayanti.

9. Thus, my Government has fulfilled the commitment by implementing the guarantees successfully.
10. As per norms and procedures delineated in the Drought Manual 2020, Karnataka has declared drought in 223 taluks out of 236 taluks out of which 196 taluks are categorized as severely drought affected.
11. The State Government had sought funds from NDRF for undertaking drought relief and mitigation measures in the 195 drought affected taluks.
12. To alleviate the distress of farmers an interim relief of Input Subsidy of up to Rs 2000/- per farmer in the drought declared Taluks is being released by the State Government directly to the Aadhaar linked bank account of farmers. The process to transfer about Rs.580.00 crore for about 30 lakh farmers is underway.
13. Taluk Level Task Forces have been formed under the leadership of Honorable MLAs for the

management of drinking water and cattle fodder at the taluk level and monitoring of drought relief measures. The Government has taken all necessary measures to reduce the effects of drought and provide drinking water to people and livestock.

14. Crop Survey Programme is the flagship programme of Government of Karnataka. In the year 2023-24, a total of 259.57 lakh plots have been surveyed out of 268.00 lakh plots achieving 96.85% progress.
15. Under Raithasiri Yojane, based on the crop survey, an incentive of Rs.10,000/- per hectare to a maximum of 2 hectare is being provided to millet growers through DBT. In order to encourage processing, grading, value addition, packing and branding of minor millets, an assistance of 50% or maximum of Rs.10.00 lakh subsidy is being provided to the millet processing machineries.

16. Under the Karnataka Raita Suraksha Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (KRS-PMFBY), in Kharif 2023, a total compensation amount of Rs.459.59 crore of claims for 6.77 lakh farmer cases for sowing failure and Mid-season Adversity is being settled by Insurance Companies.
17. Under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from January 2023 till December 2023, 63.13 lakhs registered workers belonging to 37.03 lakhs families have been given work under the scheme.
18. The State has about 101.18 lakh rural households and as on date about 72.38 lakhs Functional Household Tap Connection (Jal Jeevan Mission) have been provided.
19. For the year 2023-24, Rs.25,000 crore of agricultural loan is targeted for more than 35 lakh farmers with an aim to disburse Rs.13,672.74 crore crop loans to 17.24 lakh farmers. Medium and long term

agricultural loans of Rs.461 crore have been disbursed to 57,775 farmers.

20. As per budget announcement to make Karnataka State Anaemia Free State, Anaemia Free Nutrition Karnataka Scheme has been implemented at a total cost of Rs.185.74 crores.
21. ST-Elevated Myocardial Infraction (STEMI) program has been implemented in 15 districts in collaboration with Jayadeva Heart Institute. Under this programme, 80,054 ECGs were taken from April to November, of which 1,084 heart patients were treated at tertiary level.
22. Under Dr. Puneeth Rajkumar Hriday Jyoti Yojana, steps are taken to install AED (Automated External Defibrillator) devices in dense public places, bus stands, railway stations and government offices to prevent sudden cardiac arrest death.
23. At present 168 dialysis centers are functioning and a total of 3,685 patients have been

provided dialysis services at free of cost through 2,82,439 cycles of dialysis. Steps are taken to extend the free services to 219 centers.

24. To provide better Emergency Health Services steps have been taken to include 262 new (105 Advanced Life Support Ambulance & 157 Basic Life Support Ambulance) ambulance services under 108 Arogya Kavacha Scheme.

25. "Brand Bengaluru", an ambitious project of the Government of Karnataka has been formulated with an idea that citizen's voice is government's voice for all-round development of the city of Bangalore and making Bangalore a global hub. Under this concept, advice was sought from experts and the public on 8 key issues. Discussions were held with public associations, civil defense forums, industry sector experts. Accordingly, more than 70,000 suggestions were collected and a committee is examining the suggestions and will make recommendations.

26. Keeping in view the comprehensive development of Bengaluru and realizing the need to lay more emphasis on smooth traffic, a Rs.2000/- crore project has been launched and the process of inviting tender for white topping of major roads has been initiated.
27. In order to find a permanent solution to the congestion of Bangalore city, it is proposed to construct tunnel roads at selected places. The process of preparation of Detailed Project Report with the help of international agency for construction of tunnel road of 2 kms area has been initiated.
28. Arrangements have been made to incorporate a photo of the design of the preamble of the 'Indian Constitution' in all the schools of the State and to read the preamble during daily prayers.
29. During 2023-24, 1,89,435 students are admitted in pre matric and post matric hostels of Social Welfare Department.

30. 69,190 meritorious students of Scheduled Caste have been given honorarium amounting to Rs.133.82 crore.
31. In order to support the unemployed SC/ST youth, the Government has introduced 'Swavalambhi Sarathi' scheme to purchase four-wheeler taxi. The scheme shall provide a subsidy of 75% with a maximum of Rs.4.00 lakh.
32. D.Devaraj Urs Self Employed Individual Loan Scheme, Arivu Educational Loan Scheme and Ganga Kalyan Irrigation Schemes are implemented with a total grant of Rs.190.00 crore for the benefit of the backward classes.
33. Since 62 Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools in the State have been upgraded to Integrated Schools from 6th to 12th standard, 1191 students are getting better education.
34. For the first time a scheme providing loan from Karnataka State Financial Corporation to Minority community entrepreneurs at

6% interest rate upto to Rs.10.00 crore is implemented.

35. During the current year, the Government is taking steps to distribute various equipments to the differently abled persons at a cost of Rs.54.40 crore.
36. On the occasion of completion of 50 years of renaming as Karnataka, "Karnataka Sambhram-50" programs are being celebrated all over the State throughout the year.
37. Retired journalists in distress will be given a monthly honorarium of Rs.12000/- and the family honorarium has been enhanced to Rs.6000/-.
38. Forest Department has conducted research on various aspects including sericulture, climate change, concentration of metals, exploration of terrestrial indoor plants, exploration of micro algae, rejuvenation of river Chithravati in Chikkaballapur district.

39. In collaboration with the Forest Department, a unique 'Sasya Shyamala' program has been organized to plant approximately 50 lakhs saplings in the school and college campuses of the State.
40. Excellent response has been received from passengers after the implementation of Shakti Yojane. Along with this, priority has been given to increase the number of buses and services of all road transport corporations in the state. During the past eight months period 1148 new buses of various models have been added.
41. Through the Karnataka State Police app, citizens are given the opportunity to register a case of vehicle theft from home hassle free.
42. E-Challan system enables to locate pending fines for traffic rules violation and provides an opportunity to pay fines online.
43. In order to strengthen the policing at the lower level, day/night beats are being implemented through e-beat system.

44. State Level Single Window Clearance Committees have approved 165 Investment Projects, wherein, Rs.45,325 crore investment will be made and will create employment opportunities to 42,292 people.
45. 42% of the software exports from the country are contributed by Karnataka. The State Government regularly revises its policies to suit the changing requirements of IT & BT sectors and to upgrade the skills in the most advanced and emerging technologies.
46. The 26th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit with the theme 'Breaking Boundaries' was held from 29.11.2023 to 01.12.2023 during which 40 nations participated, making the event a grand success.
47. In the 19th Asian Games-2023 held in Hangzhou, China from 23-09-2023 to 08-10-2023, eight athletes from Karnataka have won 9 medals, bringing laurels to the country and the state. These athletes have

been honoured and a total cash prize of Rs.175.00 lakh has been distributed to them.

48. In the Department of Survey Settlement and Land Records, which is functioning under Revenue Secretariat, special programmes such as Swavalambi Digitization of Aakar bandh, UPOR Project, Re-survey etc., have been given special emphasis.
49. Section 5 of The Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978 has been amended to provide that there is no limitation of time to restore the land granted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. My Government has, thus, guaranteed the right of land ownership to the people of these communities.
50. Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board has registered **4.14 lakh** Building and Other Construction Workers as beneficiaries. So far **3.33 lakh** beneficiaries have availed benefits under

various welfare and social security schemes amounting to **Rs.359.55 crore**.

51. Seva Sindhu (Citizen Services) is an enrollment platform for all guarantee schemes. Since 44 schemes including newly implemented five guarantee schemes by the State Government have been integrated into the DBT platform, a total financial assistance of Rs.10,035 crore has reached 2.54 crore people.
52. The Kaveri 2.0 app developed for the Stamps and Registration Department has contributed significantly, leading to an additional revenue of Rs.10483 crore.
53. In the Budget 2023-24, a total grant of Rs.16,735.49 crore has been allocated for the Water Resources department (Major & Minor Irrigation). Financial progress of Rs.9223.24 crore and creation of irrigation potential to an extent of 31,117.98 Acres (12,593 Ha) have been achieved by the end of November-2023.

54. First phase of lift irrigation works, electricity supply works of Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project are near completion. In this year, it is planned to release water in gravity canal to 42.00 kms on a pilot basis.
55. Action has been taken to hand over the compensatory afforestation land to the Forest Department for speedy implementation of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir and Drinking Water Project and to speed up planning works and land acquisition process.
56. The implementation of the prestigious Upper Krishna Project Stage-3 of North Karnataka will be expedited with priority for Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement activities under the Project.
57. On the occasion of 75th years' celebration of adoption of our Constitution, Karnataka and India have achieved unprecedented progress. This has become possible due to the adoption of our wonderfully written constitution in the

year 1950. We are grateful to Dr.B.R. Ambedkar and his entire committee members for their great vision. They have become a beacon of light to move forward in the path of progress.

58. India is a nation where humanity has lived since ages. It is a country which is blessed with different religions, societies, cultures and languages, all interplaying with each other in harmony. We have to establish peace and harmony amongst all giving the message of “unity in diversity” to the whole world and we should strive for consolidation and solidarity of our National Unity. Let us all work together to make Karnataka progress in all spheres for the overall, inclusive development of the State.

Jai Hind! Jai Karnataka!