



**ADDRESS OF
THE GOVERNOR OF KARNATAKA
TO THE STATE LEGISLATURE**

12-02-2024

Monday

Honourable Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council,

Honourable Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly,

Honourable Chief Minister of Karnataka,

Honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka,

Honourable Leader of the Opposition of Karnataka
Legislative Council,

Honourable Leader of the Opposition of Karnataka
Legislative Assembly,

Honourable Ministers and Honourable Members of the
Karnataka Legislature.

1. It is my privilege to address and extend a warm and hearty welcome to all of you to this Joint Session of the State Legislature.
2. My Government, which came to power with new dreams through the support, recognition and trust of the people in the elections to the State Assembly is working with unison in both speech and action. Word should be crystal clear. It is the stand of our votaries to keep their word. Then only there is value for the words. We have ushered in a new culture in an environment where promises are devalued. My Government has ushered in a new culture when there is a political climate

of undermining promises without giving value to what is said. My Government has done what it has said, without compromising on the love, trust and hopes of the people. It has brought a wind of change in the lives of 7 crore people of the State, by launching a new era of happiness, peace and contentment.

3. In today's context of increasing economic inequality in the country, Karnataka is leading economically by following the path of development, by reducing economic inequality. Development not only means economic development but also includes sustainable development and social harmony. With these factors my Government has been following the "Karnataka Model" from the moment it came to power. My Government's aim is to further strengthen this model and make Karnataka state unique in the entire country.
4. The Government's five guarantee schemes have provided solace to the people suffering from growing economic inequality. The huge number of applications for the programs is proof of how much these programs were needed by the economically disadvantaged. Considering adequate implementation of these programs as a priority, my government is making a well-equipped system for this. However, the government is aware that these guarantees are not enough for the lives of the people who remain financially weak due to economic inequality.

5. Development where wealth is concentrated in a few individuals cannot be called development. Therefore, the Government has decided to make economic development in such a way that the disadvantaged masses will be included in the overall economic development and the fruits of economic development will naturally be available to all. Guarantee schemes are just a beginning in this regard.
6. I am pleased to inform that my Government has very successfully and effectively implemented the five guarantee schemes Shakti, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Jyoti, Gruha Lakshmi and Yuvanidhi.
7. Due to the guarantee schemes implemented by my Government, more than 1.2 crore families are coming out of the poverty line and rising to the middle class status. It is a global record that more than 5 crore people of the State will be promoted to middle class status by this one decision of my Government.
8. My Government is observing significant changes indirectly in people's lives through guarantee schemes. Despite drought in our State, farmer suicides in our state are less than last year. My Government is working with the belief that it is not appropriate for any person to commit suicide for any reason.

9. My Government is a futuristic Government. All our projects are aimed at bringing contentment and peace to all the people of this State in the future. We have embraced innovation in our policies. All necessary steps are taken by my Government to create new aspirations in agriculture, industry and service sectors which are the backbone of the economy and to increase employment opportunities and provide life security.
10. New innovations in technology are occupying all aspects of people's lives and creating new opportunities. We are devising a new education policy to equip our youth to embrace these opportunities and inculcate entrepreneurship. The State Education Policy of Karnataka will open up new possibilities of providing education that will meet the needs of present and future with the educational progress that the State has already achieved. The Government has realized the necessity of correcting the deficiencies in the field of education and restructuring it according to the needs of the times. The State Education Policy will show a new direction for the country in this regard.
11. My Government being a people-centric and pro-development has made remarkable achievements in just 8 months of its formation. The aspiration of "Sarva Janangada Shanthiya Thota" of the national poet Sri Kuvempu and all round development of the State are the mottos of my Government.

It is our pride to note that both these missions have been effectively implemented in this 8 months of administration.

12. These schemes are reaching all kinds of eligible people in the State directly without the interference of any middlemen irrespective of one's caste, region and religion. Universal Basic Income is being literally implemented by my Government without saying it in words, which has given a level of peace to the people.
13. It is considered as a public record that my Government has implemented guarantee schemes in a short span of time without allowing any confusion and entanglements. The media of the country and abroad have praised this. Studies are also being done. It has made good governance, transparent and people-friendly systems its main mantra. My Government has made ease of governance, not forgetting ease of doing business, a top priority. This is a revolutionary step in the field of public administration itself.
14. On June 11, 2023, the ambitious scheme "**Shakti Yojane**" - "Free Bus 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 irrespective of caste, religion are benefitting from this Shakti scheme. Women passengers

have made more than 150 crore trips under Shakti Yojane since the inception of the said scheme till date.

15. Under the State Government's ambitious "**Annabhagya Yojane**" along with the 5 kg food grain distributed under the National Food Security Act, an additional 5 kg food grain has been committed to be distributed, 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 direct benefit transfer. From July 2023 to the end of January 2024, Rs.4595.00 crore have been transferred to eligible candidates.
16. 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. 1.60 crore consumers of the State are benefiting from this scheme.
17. Under "**Gruhalakshmi**" Scheme, a grant of Rs.17,500 crore has been allocated which provides Rs.2000/- every month 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.11037 crore has been released to the said beneficiaries till January 2024 through DBT.

18. 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. Thus, my Government has fulfilled the commitment by implementing the guarantees successfully.

19. The money in the hands of the people from the guarantee schemes has given a new boost to the economy. On one hand, domestic and foreign investment is flowing into the State in a big way. In these 8 months investment of more than Rs.77,000 crore has come into the State. On the other hand, economic activities are picking up due to new accumulation of purchasing power among the people due to guarantee schemes. Tax collection is increasing. Up to the end of January, I am proud to state that the rate of growth in GST collection of our State stands first in the country. A new era of development has begun here since the last 8 months. My Government is committed to take it even higher. The guarantee schemes launched by my Government are a model for the country. Other Governments are competing to adopt these schemes.

20. There is a robust growth in the revenue collection of the State. We are second in the country in GST collections. The budget has provided for implementation of guarantees. The studies commissioned by the Finance Department show positive impact and response from people about these schemes.
21. My Government has achieved unparalleled achievement in terms of development as well as implementation of guarantee schemes. Despite the drought, there is a record level of development in the fields of road, water, education, health, agriculture, sericulture, animal husbandry, industry etc. It is a record that out of the total budget announcements, notifications have been issued and implemented in 97 percent of the total announcements.
22. My Government is ready to implement more pro-people schemes. However, not enough resources are available from various sources. Karnataka ranks second among the states that collects highest tax in the country. But it is ranked tenth in terms of receipt of tax share. My Government is putting every effort to get our due share in a rightful and justifiable manner.
23. After the formation of the new Government, a total of 93,350 cases were pending in the courts of the Collector/ Sub-Divisional Officer/Tahsildar of the Revenue Department, out of which 84,253 cases have been settled and 57,087 cases

are pending as on 5th February 2024. Digital Certificates Delivery system has been implemented as a part of people friendly administration. Bhu Suraksha Scheme has been implemented in order to preserve the records of the Revenue Department. Podi Mukta Gram Yojana has been restarted.

24. Large part of the State is facing severe drought conditions. Karnataka has declared drought in 223 taluks out of 240 taluks during Kharif 2023, out of which 196 taluks are categorized as severely drought affected. The State Government has released Rs.324 crore to 31 districts for immediate drought relief measures like availability of drinking water and fodder.
25. The State Government has submitted memorandums related to Kharif Drought Relief to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India seeking financial assistance of Rs.18171.44 crore from NDRF for drought relief measures in drought affected taluks. Till now, no amount has been released. The State Government is making all necessary efforts to release drought relief urgently to alleviate the sufferings of the people.
26. In the wake of drought situation, as per SDRF guidelines, my Government has disbursed input subsidy of Rs.617 crore to 32.50 lakh drought affected farmers as first installment of crop damage compensation up to Rs.2000/- as per eligibility.

This time we have brought complete transparency regarding compensation. It has come to the notice of my Government that there has been widespread malpractice in the compensations and input subsidies given in previous years. Many cases have come to the notice of the Government that ineligible farmers have been compensated without compensation to eligible farmers. Apart from this, we have directly paid Rs.219.70 crore to the bank accounts of 274637 farmers who were affected by nete disease to thoor dal. In addition to the support price fixed by the Central Government for dry coconut, my Government has taken steps to give Rs.1500 per quintal. Crop compensation of Rs.591.26 crore has been settled by insurance companies for 8.10 lakh farmers affected by crop sowing failure.

27. Be it drought relief or guarantee schemes, my Government is working on these by perceiving them as the rights of the people. We are verifying each one and crediting directly to the farmer's accounts through Parihara Tantramsha portal.
28. Taluk Level Task Force Committees under the Chairmanship of MLAs have been constituted to oversee immediate drought relief measures such as ensuring drinking water, fodder availability etc. Till the end of January, 394 task force meetings have been held under the chairmanship of legislators regarding drought. 226 District Disaster Management Authority meetings have been held. This information says

that my government is committed to alleviating the suffering of the people.

29. Karnataka is popularly known as “One State Many Worlds” both naturally and culturally. Beautiful coastline, picturesque Sahyadri range, historical places in the plains, flow of many rivers, immense amount of mineral wealth like gold are present in this magnificent land. There is an immense level of diversity including agriculture, forestry, wildlife wealth. Ours is a State that is dazzled by these. It has been 50 years since this State was named Karnataka. On November 1, 1973, Mysore State was renamed as Karnataka. In commemoration of the same, Karnataka Sambharam-50 is being celebrated this year.
30. Survival and growth of Kannada language is a matter of life and death for us. We will not tolerate any attack on our language and culture. My government is committed to preserve and develop our mother tongue and the Karnataka culture advocated by Basavanna, Kuvempu etc. at any cost. ‘Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act-2022’ is framed for the holistic development of Kannada language and it will be implemented shortly.
31. For the benefit of the people, we have decided and made a law that 60% of the name plates should be in Kannada and have taken steps to implement it.

32. Under MGNREGA in 2023-24, 50.22 lakh workers belonging to 27.87 lakh families have availed employment. By the end of December-2023 an expenditure of Rs.4981.98 crore have been made out of which Rs.3350.85 crore have been paid as wages to workers. In the wake of drought, the central government has been urged to provide guarantee employment for 150 days instead of 100 days under the NREGA scheme and my Government is expecting its implementation.
33. My Government plans to provide tap water connection to all households in rural areas by 2024 through Jal Jeevan Mission for drinking water supply in rural areas of the state.
34. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana 214.170 kms of length is completed against physical targeted length of 780.00 kms and an amount of Rs.206.80 crore has been achieved against the financial target of Rs.825.00 crore.
35. During 2023-24 under SCSP/TSP Rs.34,580.38 crore has been allocated towards the comprehensive development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and is being implemented through adequate schemes.
36. Rs.960 crore is allocated in 2023-24 to construct own buildings to the KREIS schools and SC/ST hostels which are functioning in rented buildings. Construction of 23 new hostel buildings and 23 KREIS Schools of Social Welfare Department has been completed.

37. Under Chief Minister Koushalya Karnataka scheme, 75,299 candidates have been trained and 11,599 candidates have been placed.
38. Construction of tunnel road is intended to reduce the traffic congestion in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike area. Accordingly, a feasibility report is being prepared.
39. Bengaluru Metro Phase-2, Reach-5 New Line, from Ragigudda to Central Silk board over a length of 19.15 km, out of which 3.3 km length in 16 stations will be constructed in double decker model. Presently, 98% progress is achieved and programmed to commission by July 2024.
40. Bengaluru Metro Rail Project Phase-2A from Central Silk Board to Krishnarajpur 19.75 kms and Phase-2B Krishnarajapur to Kempegowda International Airport works are in progress and planned to be completed by June-2026.
41. Cauvery Water Supply Phase-5, consisting of supply of 775 MLD additional drinking water to 110 village areas included in the BBMP, is intended to be commissioned in March 2024.
42. Along with efficient implementation of Shakti Yojane, my government is procuring new buses for state transport and providing them for public transportation. For the past few years, the governments have not provided even a single new

bus or filled a single post. But in just eight months my government has procured 1150 new buses and provided them to various transport corporations and filled more than 1550 vacancies and deployed them to serve the people.

43. My government has been recruiting for government jobs in various departments within a short period of its existence. Already more than 16000 youth have been appointed to various government departments and are undergoing training. Apart from this, the recruitment for more than 14000 posts is going on at various levels. My government is also implementing an Act to bring complete transparency in recruitment and to punish the culprits severely.

44. Indira Canteen-2 scheme has been formulated with a view to eliminate the hunger of students, labourers, working class people. In phase 2 - 188 new canteens with new menu are being launched in new towns and local bodies where no canteens have been constructed. Their construction work is already in progress.

45. 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.10357.91 crore and creation of irrigation potential to an extent of 31,117.98 acres (12593 Ha) have been achieved by the end of December 2023.

46. Good road network plays a very crucial role in the overall development of the State. My Government has taken up improvements of State Highways and Major District Roads and other roads, construction of bridges through various programmes with State grant and external aid to build good quality road network.
47. State Level Single Window Clearance Committee approved 165 Investment Projects, wherein, Rs.45,325 crore investments will be made and will create employment opportunities to 42,292 people.
48. The Department of Tourism has formulated a blueprint for Karnataka Tourism to implement the schemes from the new policy. Plans are being formulated and implemented to create educational, historical and cultural, commercial and professional awareness through tourism. A tourism policy and agenda will soon be announced, including effective measures to promote school children's educational trips to zoos, forest tours and adventure tourism etc.
49. Free drinking water and free electricity facilities have been provided to government primary and secondary schools and pre-university colleges across the state.
50. Egg/Banana fruit/chikki is given 2 days in a week to the students studying from class 1 to 10 in Government and

Aided schools across the State, under Midday Meal Scheme. A grant of Rs.280.00 crore is allocated for this purpose.

51. Arrangements have been made to display a photo of the preamble of the 'Indian Constitution' in all the schools of the State and to read the preamble during daily prayers.
52. In the interest of health of students, actions have been taken to construct additional toilets in 5,775 Government Schools and 150 Government Pre-University Colleges in association with NREGA.
53. Vishwa Guru Basavanna is accredited with bringing about a socio-religious revolution by instilling self-confidence in people who were marginalized and oppressed in society on the basis of caste. It is a matter of great pride that Basavanna, the leader of the Vachana movement, who advocated the principle of equal distribution of labor and wealth and introduced the model of parliamentary system to the world through Anubhava Mantapa, has been declared the "Cultural Leader" of the State. People like Basavanna, Allama Prabhu, who formed a movement against Manuvada and sowed the dream of equality, need to be our inspiration again and again in our actual life.
54. To facilitate regional rapid transit and connectivity in Karnataka State, operations of Shimoga Airport has

commenced from 31.08.2023. Vijayapur Airport will be completed and operational in 2024. Hassan and Raichur airport construction works will be completed within the stipulated time.

55. Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project has been taken up under Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project in collaboration with Government of Karnataka and Railway Departments. Civil works of Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara (25 km) corridor in this project are in progress. The tender for civil works of Heilalige - Rajanukunte (46.24 km) corridor has been finalized and the work will begin soon.
56. 62 Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools in the State have been upgraded to Integrated Schools from 6th to 12th standard and the strength in 50 Morarji Desai Residential Schools have been doubled by which innumerable students are getting benefitted for better and quality education.
57. Karnataka is far ahead of other states in startup rankings. The state is also now a global innovation hub.
58. Karnataka is recognized as the 4th largest technology cluster in the world. Over 400 of the fortune 500 companies are located here. Many multi-nationals have their R&D centres and Global Capability centres in Bengaluru. The State is contributing over 40% of India's IT exports and over 33% of

the Biotechnology exports. The State's Bio economy is valued at about \$25 billion, which is about 33% of India's Bio economy.

59. During Kharif 2023-24 season, under the State Government's supply of seeds program, 3.52 lakh quintals of certified/quality seeds have been distributed to 9.08 lakh beneficiaries. During 2023-24 Rabi/Summer upto 19.12.2023, 2.39 lakh quintals of seeds were distributed to 3.75 lakh farmers.
60. During 2023-24 an amount of Rs.102.84 crore is released for implementation of Micro-Irrigation scheme and an amount of Rs.89.51 crore has been spent for installation of micro irrigation units in 48,000 farmers fields by covering an area of 49,000 hectares.
61. Steps have been taken to setup Jayadeva Institute's Regional Heart Disease Center in Hubli.
62. Actions have been taken to set up Hub & Spoke model at BMCRI, MMCRI, KIMS Hubli, VIMS Bellary, GIMS Gulbarga and RIMS Raichur with Nimhans Support.
63. During 2023-24, it is targetted to complete 3 lakh houses under various housing schemes. Till January 2024, totally 1.70 lakh

houses have been completed and a total of Rs.2337.34 crore has been spent.

64. Karnataka Slum Development Board has declared 2835 slums. In order to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers, basic amenities along with the Housing schemes are undertaken by the Board. At present the Board is implementing Pradhana Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-AHP) for construction of 1,80,253 houses.
65. In Kalyana-Karnataka Region Development Board, during the year 2023-24, Rs.3000.00 crore has been provided to the Board. Under this plan, action plan for 5468 works has been approved out of which 1287 works are completed by the end of November-2023 and the remaining works are under different stages of completion.
66. Rs.1611.05 crore have been allocated to the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department for the year 2023-24. A total of 389 institutions including 134 post-matric hostels and 119 ashram schools are run under this department. Under State and Central schemes, incentive/scholarships is given to Scheduled Tribes students who have passed in first attempt in pre-matric, matric and post-matric courses.
67. New measures like e-FIR, e-challan, Feedback System (Lokaschandana), Social Media Monitoring Cell, Cyber Crime

Cell in all police stations, Prominent Display Boards, e-Beat are implemented.

68. Food grains have been distributed to 44,03,651 beneficiaries out of 10,84,794 Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards and 3,94,30,492 beneficiaries of 1,16,69,242 priority (PHH) House Hold ration cards in the State. A total of 1,27,54,036 Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority House Hold ration cards are available in which food security has been provided to a total of 4,38,34,143 beneficiaries.
69. Reporters and photographers working in the State are issued with Accreditation Cards to facilitate them to participate without any hindrance in various government functions/programs. Department has issued smart cards to these journalists for free travel across the State in KSRTC buses.
70. The journalists in the Kannada Media are being given the TSR Memorial Journalism Award, the Mohare Hanamantaraya Journalism Award, Development Journalism Award and Environmental Journalism Award every year by the department. A monthly assistance of Rs.12000/- is being given to the retired journalists in distress and Rs.6000/- to the wife or husband of the deceased beneficiary.

71. The Anemia Muktha Poushtika Karnataka Scheme was launched last year with an aim to screen all children in Anganwadis, Schools, Colleges along with screening of pregnant women, postnatal mothers and women in reproductive age group for Hemoglobin (Hb). Under the scheme over 10 lakh persons have been screened. Appropriate treatment is being initiated for those identified with Anemia.
72. For the first time, as part of the free dialysis services to all, Single Use Dialyzer has been introduced. The program is now being expanded from 168 centers to 219 centers with 800 units and with a provision to provide 7.2 lakh dialysis cycles annually.
73. To manage cardiac emergencies a program has been launched in 15 districts in coordination with Sri Jayadeva Heart Institute. Under this, 1,01,340 ECGs were taken from April to December, of which 1,550 heart patients were treated at tertiary level in Jayadeva Hospitals.
74. My Government will continue to strive for providing high quality primary health care at the ground level. Provision of specialist services through hub-spoke models and active participation of private institutions in the health sector will be further strengthened.

75. 2635 Hostels, Ashrama Schools and Morarji Desai Residential Schools are being run by the Backward Classes Department. Totally 2,29,461 students are given admissions to these institutions.
76. Government of Karnataka is implementing various programmes for the all round development of youth and sports persons. In the 19th Asian Games-2023 held in Hangzhou, China from 23-09-2023 to 08-10-2023, eight athletes from Karnataka have won 09 medals, bringing laurels to the country and the State. These athletes have been honoured and a total cash prize of Rs.175.00 lakhs has been distributed to them.
77. Incentive amounting to Rs.757.97 crore to 8.65 lakh milk producers in the State have been deposited to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer.
78. A number of programs are being implemented by the Forest Department to increase the forest and tree cover in the State with more emphasis on conservation and development of forest areas.
79. My Government has the desire to implement every aspiration of the Constitution literally. We have intensified our efforts to protect and uphold the Constitution, protect human rights

and establish the desires of the Constitution. Necessary laws are being framed to improve the law and justice system.

80. My Government has decided in principle to establish 100 new Village Courts in the State as part of the ambition to bring justice to the doorsteps of the rural people of the State under Article 39A of the Constitution of India with regard to equal justice and free legal aid to ensure maintenance of the legal system on the basis of equal opportunity for access to justice by the State as an initiative to take the justice system to the doorsteps of the poor, rural people.

81. As per our Constitution there are restrictions on the use of religion, caste etc. in elections. We should ensure that all our action and activities are in accordance with the Constitution. We all need to be determined and protect the Constitutional institutions so that they are not weakened or misused for any reason. For us the Constitution is the national religion. We have to take a firm pledge that if we protect the Constitution, the Constitution will protect us.

82. Karnataka is a model state in the country. Many progressive schemes implemented here are models for various states. Many of the members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council have held high positions at the national level and enhanced the glory of the State. I believe that many of the

members present here are qualified to further enhance this reputation. The cooperation of people's representatives is essential to take the projects of the Karnataka government to the national level and to reach the people's minds. In this regard, let us all work together to solve the problems of common people. Let's make Karnataka a prosperous state and a garden of peace for all communities.

JAI HIND

JAI KARNATAKA