



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

**06-02-2019
Wednesday**

**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 in the Council,
Honourable Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly,
Honourable Ministers and
Honourable Members of the Karnataka Legislature,**

1. I extend a warm and hearty welcome to all of you to the Joint Session of the Karnataka Legislature. I wish you all a very happy new year. I hope that this session will witness meaningful discussions on various issues and challenges confronting the State and will result

in well-thought out and constructive suggestions to improve implementation of schemes and service delivery.

2. It is a matter of concern that 100 talukas during Kharif, 2018 and 156 talukas during Rabi, 2018 are affected by drought. My Government has initiated timely measures to ensure drinking water supply, fodder availability and creation of employment in these talukas. We have released funds to the districts to tackle any eventualities. 8.11 lakh fodder mini kits have been distributed free of cost to farmers for growing green fodder, as a preventive measure to tackle fodder scarcity. Around 30 lakh tonnes of green fodder is expected from this program.
3. In the prevailing drought conditions, creation of employment in rural areas is a must to provide livelihood to the affected population. More than 812 lakh person days have been created in 2018-19 up to 31st January, 2019

under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), providing employment to 18.56 lakh families. Work will be provided for 150 days for every job card holder in the drought affected talukas.

4. My Government is well aware that a long term action plan should be in place to tackle distress due to prolonged and recurring drought conditions. We will continue to promote micro-irrigation systems and rain water harvesting to ensure conservation of water resources. We also intend to accelerate reforms in agricultural practices through initiatives like zero budget natural farming and adoption of Israeli model. A special Mission directorate has been established to implement Israeli technology based farming.
5. My Government has initiated the "Hasiru Karnataka" campaign in order to increase green cover in the State. The campaign aims to plant saplings with people's participation.

Preparatory activities are underway with a goal to plant 652 lakh saplings during 2019 monsoon season. The Karnataka River Conservation program is being implemented to increase water inflows into our rivers. 666 vacant posts in various cadres in the Forest department are being filled up during 2018-19 to strengthen forest protection and conservation. 3,085 additional posts of forest officers and staff have been sanctioned, and recruitment will be done in a phased manner.

6. My Government has started the implementation of the new crop loan waiver scheme in right earnest. Rs. 1611 crore has been released to 3.28 lakh farmers' crop loans towards loan waiver up to 31st January, 2019. The implementation of the scheme is being accelerated with an aim to cover all eligible crop loans in co-operative institutions and commercial banks.

7. Agricultural Market reforms of Karnataka have helped farmers in realising 38% more income. The online and unified market platform has so far transacted 5.48 crore metric tonnes of agricultural commodities worth approximately Rs.1.21 lakh crore. My Government is now setting up facilities like irradiation units to enhance the life of agricultural commodities and value added services such as cleaning, grading and packing for the benefit of farmers.
8. The State holds a prime position in the production of silk. About 1.30 lakh farmer families and 7 thousand reeler families are dependent on silk industry. Our focus is on infusion of new technologies and creation of supporting infrastructure. As the industry faced fall in cocoon prices during 2018-19, protection price for cocoon has been introduced to safeguard the interest of farmers.

9. Karnataka State has a 320 km long coastal line along with 5.93 lakh hectares of inland water resources, and has vast scope for development of fisheries. The total fish production of the State is around 6 lakh tonnes. My Government is conscious of the fact that the fisheries sector has tremendous scope to create employment and generate incomes and has high export potential. Suitable policies and programmes will be formulated and implemented to further advance fisheries development in the State. Ten cold storage units are being set up under "Mathsya Jopasane Yojane" to enable preservation of fish.
10. There is a huge scope to increase the productivity and production of horticulture crops. During the current year, assistance is provided to eligible farmers for expansion of area under horticulture crops by 42,000 hectares; 51.49 lakh grafts and seedlings have been distributed. Around Rs. 60 crore has

been spent to take up high value horticulture crops in polyhouses.

11. My Government has ensured that amounts in arrears to be paid to the farmers by sugar factories which was as high as Rs.2135 crore in the month of April, 2018 has been brought down to around Rs.5 crore at the end of January 2019. Necessary steps have been initiated to ensure payment of the balance amount. Directions have been issued to all sugar factories to pay the cane price as per Fair and Remunerative Price in one instalment during the present season.
12. My Government is pleased to state that the Central Water Commission (CWC) has given its consent for the preparation of a detailed project report for the "Mekedatu" balancing reservoir cum drinking water project. Tender is being finalised for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) automation and Geographic Information System(GIS) work

amounting to Rs.1050 crore under Narayanpura left bank canal of Upper Krishna project for better monitoring. The progress of works under the Yettinahole comprehensive drinking water project and Upper Bhadra project are being accelerated.

13. My Government has introduced a simplified on-line facility for affidavit based land conversion under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act. Digilocker facility has been provided to citizens to enable them to preserve certificates in electronic mode. Survey of 11,577 villages has been completed under the "Podi muktha Abhiyana".
14. Karnataka is one of the pioneering states in introducing Arogya Karnataka for universal health coverage. The Arogya Karnataka scheme of the State is now being implemented under the co-branded name, "Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka". Under the scheme, Below Poverty Line (BPL) families can

avail cashless treatment for notified secondary and tertiary care services up to 100 % of Government package rates, within the overall limit of Rs. 5 lakh per family per annum. Above Poverty Line (APL) families can avail cashless services up to 30% of the approved Government package rates on a co-payment basis, within the limit of Rs. 1.5 lakh per family per annum. 1,22,822 people have benefited from the scheme up to 31st January 2019. My Government intends to upgrade health sub-centres to Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs) over a period of seven years to provide better primary health care services in rural areas.

15. For providing good quality treatment to poor patients, new 450 bedded hospitals have been taken up for construction at Gadaga, Koppala, Chamarajanagara and Hassana. Construction of Super Speciality Hospitals at Karnataka Institute of Medical Science (KIMS), Hubballi and Vijayanagara Institute of Medical

Science (VIMS), Ballari, and Trauma Care Centres at Mysuru and Kalaburagi is on the verge of completion, and these facilities will be commissioned shortly.

16. My Government is committed to provide potable drinking water to all villages in the State. Preparation of Detailed project report for "Jaladhare" scheme, with an estimated cost of Rs.53,000 crore, has been taken up to ensure drinking water supply of 85 Litres Per Capita per Day(LPCD) in rural areas from surface water sources. Around 16,000 pure drinking water supply plants have been established in rural areas, covering 1.80 crore persons.

17. My Government is pleased to state that the rural areas of Karnataka State have been declared "Open Defecation Free" on 19th November 2018 on the occasion of World Toilet Day, way ahead of the national target date of 2nd October, 2019. My Government

is committed to better solid and liquid waste management in rural Karnataka. A "State Sanitation Policy" will be formulated soon for this purpose.

18. My Government attaches greatest priority to effective implementation of schemes focusing on the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities. 1135 Residential Schools and 4817 hostels are being run by the Departments enabling around 6 lakh children to pursue quality education. Construction of 152 Residential Schools and 427 hostels have been taken up at a total project cost about Rs.4000 crore. New programmes like Samrudhi, Unnathi and Airavatha for encouraging entrepreneurship of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes have been taken up under which 15,650 beneficiaries are being assisted to the tune of Rs. 650 crore. Under "Ganga Kalyana" scheme, irrigation pump sets belonging to the above-mentioned categories are being

energised on priority. Rs 29,208 crore has been earmarked for the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes under various programmes being implemented by different departments.

19. My Government is sensitive to the fact that street vendors and small vendors find it difficult to access loan facilities from commercial banks, and are therefore deprived of necessary working capital to maintain and grow their businesses. "Badavara Bandhu" scheme is being implemented through District Co-operative Central (DCC) banks and Urban Co-operative banks to provide loan facilities to all such vendors in a phased manner.
20. An Aadhaar-enabled platform has been developed for direct transfer of grants to the bank accounts of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes like Ksheera Siri for direct transfer of incentive amounts to the accounts of milk producers and a common scholarship

portal for disbursement of scholarships. The use of this application will be extended to cover all welfare schemes in a phased manner.

21. My Government has provided Rs.3007 crore for the Special development plan and Rs.1000 crore for the development of Hyderabad-Karnataka region in the current year.
22. My Government has completed construction of 2.5 lakh houses till 31st of January during the current year. Steps have been taken up for construction to provide housing to economically weaker sections in Bengaluru city and other urban areas.
23. In today's competitive environment, it is imperative to equip students who pursue education in Government schools with adequate skills, for them to compete and excel not only at State level but also at the global level. Hence, my Government is committed to start English medium in Government schools

so that bright minds from poorer sections of society are not dis-advantaged due to lack of knowledge of English. However, the primacy of Kannada will not be compromised. My Government has sanctioned and released funds for a project cost of Rs. 450 crore for upgrading the infrastructure in Government schools.

24. My Government has spent Rs. 95 crore towards fee concession to 3.00 lakh girl students for encouraging them to pursue higher education in Pre-University, Degree and Post-Graduation Courses and sanctioned around Rs. 750 crore for creating infrastructure in Government First Grade Colleges and Engineering Colleges with a view to improve the quality of Higher Education.

25. Under the "Arivu" scheme, the Karnataka Minorities development corporation has sanctioned education loans of around Rs.70 crore till the end of December, 2018 to 21,731

students belonging to minorities, pursuing professional courses. Rs.290 crore has been sanctioned for 14.55 lakh students belonging to minorities under various scholarship schemes.

26. Karnataka continues to be the leader in Information Technology and Biotechnology, thanks to the early initiatives taken by the Government to give a boost to emerging technologies. Karnataka has recently been rated as a top performing State in the Start-up ranking framework by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Government of India. Bengaluru's start-up ecosystem, currently valued at about \$ 19 Billion, is being nurtured by both Government and large industry players. By 2025, the number of start-ups in the State is likely to touch 20,000. Karnataka is also collaborating with several leading start-up ecosystems in the world such as USA, UK, Israel, France and Japan, and has set up

58 K-Tech (Karnataka-Technology) innovation centres, a majority of which are in tier-2 cities, to incubate startups.

27. Karnataka continues to stand at first place in the country in 2018 in attracting investments. To further give an impetus to industrial development, approval has been accorded to 1,958 projects under the Industrial Policy 2014-19, with an investment of Rs 3.49 lakh crore and potential to create employment opportunities to 10.28 lakh people. My Government is implementing the "Compete with China" Scheme to develop industrial clusters in nine districts, each cluster focusing on its specific strength.

28. My Government aims to train our youth in the latest technologies to enable them to access employment opportunities. An ambitious plan to train 2.50 lakh persons through vocational training institutions is being implemented in 2018-19.

29. My Government is pleased to announce that the Kalaburagi and Bidar airports will commence operations during 2019. Trial runs have already been completed in Kalaburagi. 2,816 km of major district roads are being taken up for improvement. A detailed project report is under preparation for taking up phase-4 of State Highway Development Project for the improvement of 7,800 km of state highways and major district roads at an estimated cost of Rs.10,000 crore. Administrative approval has been given for 178 road and 35 bridge projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 206 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund -24 (RIDF) scheme.

30. My Government has achieved the provision of electricity connection to almost all households in Karnataka by 31st December, 2018. In line with the State's objective to augment the availability of power, 465 Megawatt of capacity has been added in 2018-19 from renewable

and captive sources of generation. To strengthen, the transmission network, 15 new sub-stations and 215 circuit kilometers of transmission line have been added to the network. To strengthen the distribution network, 55,422 distribution transformers have been installed.

31. Providing sustainable urban transport options in Bengaluru city is on the top of the agenda of my Government. A special purpose vehicle is being established with Ministry of Railways to augment suburban rail connectivity in Bengaluru. The Metro phase-2B to link Nagavara metro station to Kempegowda International Airport would be taken up on top priority. Intelligent Traffic Management System for the core part of Bangalore city is being taken up.
32. An online automatic building plan approval system has been started in 26 Urban Local Bodies and it will be extended to all Urban

Local Bodies in Karnataka, shortly. Work has been started on the establishment of command and control centers to integrate all the online services of the urban local bodies in five Smart Cities, i.e. Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Davanagere, Belagavi and Tumakuru.

33. The State Road Transport Corporations have been performing yeoman service in connecting people and places. In addition to induction of new buses, new infrastructure like depots and bus terminals are being constructed and intelligent transport systems including passenger information system and Point Of Sale (POS) for non-cash transaction are being implemented to enhance passenger convenience and comfort. Concessional bus passes have been issued by State Road Transport Corporations to 15.53 lakh students including free bus passes to 3.98 lakh students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes.

34. My Government has taken effective steps to ensure law and order in the State. A unified emergency response system with single emergency number for all kinds of emergencies and distress calls is being implemented by the State under the name "Emergency Response Support System" as a part of the nation-wide program.
35. Karnataka Police is in the forefront in the use of technology in policing activities. My Government is introducing Automated Challaning System and Digital Field Traffic Violation Reports (DFTVR) tabs to reduce processing and disposal time in cases of traffic violations, and to make our roads safer. Cyber forensic centres are being established in districts and Police Commissionerates so as to equip the police with the latest technologies and practices to deal with incidents of cyber crime.

36. My Government attaches utmost importance to the safety of women and girls. Nirbhaya Centres are being established in all Police Commissionerates. One additional Sessions Court in all districts and one additional Civil Court in Bengaluru city have been designated as special Courts to try the cases registered under atrocities against women and children. My Government is also launching women's help line-181 to provide 24x7, immediate response to women in distress.
37. For the last several years, the Government has complied with all the requirements of the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act by consistently maintaining revenue surplus, keeping the fiscal deficit below 3% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and ensuring that the total liabilities remain within 25% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the State. The State aims to continue with the progress achieved this year too, with own

revenue receipts of major taxes more or less as per the budgeted targets.

38. Karnataka is known for its progressive policies and successful implementation of development programmes. Many States have emulated the innovative programmes launched by us. This august gathering has the responsibility to steer the State towards greater progress. I seek the cooperation of all members in ensuring enlightened discussions and debates during the session. We, the team Karnataka, must set our sights higher and aspire to be among the best in the world.

Jai Hind
Jai Karnataka

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