



REPUBLIC DAY ADDRESS



BY

HONOURABLE

SRI VAJUBHAI VALA

GOVERNOR OF KARNATAKA

26TH JANUARY 2020

I extend my greetings to the people of Karnataka on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day.

This is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to strive hard for the development of our country. It is also an opportune time, especially in the context of the Fundamental Duties Campaign being organized across the country, to focus on our duties as citizens.

Karnataka has been implementing effective measures to maintain law and order in the State. Police are being equipped with latest technologies and practices for prevention as well as expeditious investigation of crimes. Mahatma Gandhiji believed that the day a woman can walk freely at

midnight on the roads, that day we can say that India achieved independence. To ensure that a safe climate is created for women, our men and boys must be educated in such a way that they learn to treat women and girls with respect. I hope that a pioneering State like Karnataka, which stood third in the recently released **“Good Governance Index”** rankings, will set a stellar example for the rest of the country.

In August 2019, many districts in Karnataka faced a difficult time due to heavy rainfall, the likes of which was not seen in the **last 118 years**, and floods caused due to high discharge of water from the dams in the Upper Krishna and Bhima basins. The intense spells of very heavy rains continued during September and October. As a consequence, untold misery was caused to people; properties, crops and public infrastructure suffered from extensive damage.

The State Government's response has been swift and well-coordinated with around **seven lakh** people being evacuated to safe places by the joint rescue teams comprising of central and state agencies. Timely relief of Rs. 10,000 each has been paid to the **2.07 lakh** affected families directly into their bank accounts. Financial assistance of Rs.5 lakh for severe house damage and Rs.50,000 for partially damaged houses has been sanctioned to facilitate re-construction and repairs of houses. These are much higher than NDRF norms, and the additional requirement of funds has been met by the State Government.

A large number of individuals and organizations have also extended their assistance either in monetary form or in kind during this calamity. I thank them for their generous support.

I am happy to state that according to the **“2019 edition of India State Forest Report”**,

Karnataka stands first among the major states in increasing its forest cover. During 2019-20 up to end of October-2019, **41,325 hectares** of plantation have been raised by planting **2.82 crore** seedlings.

A new scheme "**Watershed Development to Prevent Drought**" is being implemented in selected 100 drought-hit and low ground water level talukas by converging "**Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act**" and "**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**".

Farmers continue to be the backbone of our nation. The State is committed to their welfare, and is extending an additional financial assistance of Rs.4,000 per annum in 2 installments to the eligible farm families in addition to financial assistance of Rs.6,000 per annum under the "**Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**" of the Central Government. Thus, every year all

eligible farmers will get Rs.10,000/- directly into their accounts.

Government has implemented crop loan waiver scheme in 2019-20 for outstanding loans up to Rs.1,00,000 per family for farmers in co-operative banks and overdue loans up to Rs.2,00,000 per family for farmers in Commercial Banks. This will be completed by March, 2020. About 21 lakh farmers have benefitted from this measure.

In order to expand the coverage of area under assured irrigation facilities, the progress of works of Upper Krishna Project Stage-III has been expedited. Administrative approval has also been accorded to 20 other Projects including 12 tank filling projects at a total estimated cost of around Rs.5,500 crore.

The State stands second in the Country as an investment destination by attracting investment of **Rs. 59,574 crore** during 2019. For an overall Industrial Development in the State and to attract more investments in the region of Northern Karnataka, "**Invest Karnataka Conference**" will be organized in Hubballi during February, 2020.

'Karnataka Innovation Authority' has been set up in November, 2019. It will have powers to exempt or relax provisions of any law so as to promote innovation. To this end, a **'Vision Group for Startups'** has also been set up.

Karnataka is at the forefront in the country in renewable energy with cumulative installed capacity of 14,121 MW, which is 49% of all installed capacity. I am happy to announce that "**Ultra Mega Solar Park**" of 2050 MW in Pavagada is fully commissioned.

To ensure better connectivity, Government has approved improvement of 10,000 kms of highways under "**State Highway Development Programme**". Work on first phase of **3692 km** has already been commenced.

To reduce traffic congestion in Bengaluru, Government has approved widening and improvement of 156 km of alternate roads in and around Bengaluru.

The Government of Karnataka has accorded approval for implementation of Bengaluru suburban rail network of 148 kms, at an estimated cost of **Rs. 18,621 crore**.

Government of Karnataka is in the process of installing 92 electric vehicles charging stations in Bengaluru during the current year to give a fillip to the use of EV vehicles in Bengaluru.

e-office initiative has been implemented in the Government Secretariat and in all major departments of the state and important district offices from 1/1/2020. The State Government has also recently launched the publication of e-gazette.

During the current financial year, about **16 lakh** students in Pre-Matric and about **9 lakh** students in Post-Matric will be provided Scholarship through "**Integrated State Scholarship portal**".

The "**Hyderabad Karnataka Region Development Board**" has now been renamed as "**Kalyana-Karnataka Region Development Board**". During the year 2019-20, an allocation of Rs.1500 crore has been provided to this Board. Approval has been given for additional Rs 1000 crore. Kalaburagi Airport, the first airport in the Kalyan-Karnataka region has been operationalised on 22.11.2019. The long-pending

demand for establishing an IIT at Raichur has been fulfilled.

The Government of India and the State Government have approved the proposal for establishment of new medical colleges at Chikkamagaluru, Yadagiri and Haveri. The State Government has also approved the establishment of new medical college in Chikkaballapura. As a result of this, a total of 600 additional seats will be available.

For 2019-20, under SCSP/TSP sub plans, **Rs.30,445 crore** have been approved for the overall development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Our country has great potential. While preserving our heritage, culture and traditions, we should discard outdated notions and superstitions, and work hard for the progress of

our nation with scientific temper, integrity and dedication. On this day, while remembering the sacrifices and contributions of countless men and women who strove for our independence and the re-building of our nation, let's pledge to follow in their footsteps with utmost humility and sincerity.

Jai Hind Jai Karnataka Bharth Matha Ki Jai
