

Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council,

Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly,

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka,

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Council,

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly,

Hon'ble Ministers and

Hon'ble Members of the Karnataka Legislature,

1. I heartily welcome all of you to this Joint Session of the Karnataka Legislature.
2. My Government's commitment to the welfare and development of the poor, the weak and the disadvantaged is well known. During the last 4 years my Government has taken strong, decisive & sustainable steps to

promote the development of an inclusive society where all sections of society have equitable access to opportunities and resources.

3. Despite challenges posed by court orders in the Cauvery and Mahadayi water disputes, my Government has stood firmly with the people of the State in protecting the land, water and language of the State and remains committed to securing the rightful share of the people of Karnataka in the Cauvery, Krishna and Mahadayi river waters. My Government has been successful in maintaining peace in the State and sporadic incidents of violence were firmly dealt with.
4. With a view to strengthen the anti-corruption and vigilance machinery so as to provide responsive, transparent and accountable administration, my Government has set up an autonomous Anti-Corruption Bureau. In a short time, the Anti Corruption Bureau disposed 2294 out of 3401 petitions received; registered 153 cases including 100 trap

cases, 32 raids and 21 searches. ACB offices, with requisite human resources and other facilities, are functioning in all districts. Additionally, my Government has set up Vigilance Cells in all departments. During the last one year, my Government has permitted prosecution of many cases for offences relating to corruption.

5. My Government took several measures towards strengthening and modernizing the Police Department. Under police modernization, 72 Police Stations, 5 police training schools, 10 police out-posts, 13 barracks, 87 non-residential buildings and 72 other works are completed at a cost of Rs.475 crore. During 2015-16, 282 Police Sub-Inspectors and 5653 Police Constables were recruited. Besides, recruitment of 8585 additional police personnel has been initiated during the current year.
6. My Government has taken several new welfare measures for police personnel

working in difficult conditions. Their allowances have been increased from Rs.100 to Rs.2100 per month. A time-bound promotion scheme for Police Constables, Head Constables and ASIs is initiated. Other measures include starting 46 canteens, construction of 2782 quarters and initiation of construction of 4016 quarters at a cost of Rs.822 crore.

7. My Government's commitment to the development of the Hyderabad-Karnataka region and its people is exemplified in the steps taken for effective implementation of Article 371 (J) of the Constitution, and the Special Development Plan for implementation of the Dr. Nanjundappa Committee report for redressal of regional imbalances. Towards this end, Rs.1000 crore and Rs. 3000 crore is earmarked for Hyderabad-Karnataka Region Development Board and Special Development Plan respectively this year. To further mitigate the imbalance, under the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation

in Appointment for Hyderabad-Karnataka Region) Order, 2013, 50,301 posts in departments and public sector undertakings have been reserved for the local people of the region. Of these, 12,326 have been filled from among the working staff and 13,135 posts have been filled through direct recruitment.

8. The unprecedented and consecutive droughts for the last 6 years in Karnataka have seriously disrupted the livelihood of farmers. 139 Talukas were declared as drought-affected during Kharif season of the current year and 160 talukas during Rabi. My Government has been prompt in effectively managing the successive droughts through timely distribution of input subsidy, intensification of employment-generation programmes, providing fodder to cattle and ensuring supply of drinking water to villages and towns. Rs. 1195 crores has been released since April 2016 for drought relief and additional support measures for drought mitigation.

9. Long-term sustainability of agriculture is possible only through drought-proofing with special emphasis on water conservation and watershed management. Measures undertaken by my Government include creation of 1 lakh farm-ponds and construction of 2450 shade nets/poly-houses under Krishi Bhagya scheme, drip and sprinkler irrigation units to use water efficiently in an area of over 3 lakh hectares, and development of 58,586 hectares of watershed in the current year. Karnataka, over the years, has developed 63 lakh hectares of watershed out of 129 lakh hectares of rain-fed area. Besides, my Government, during the last 4 years, has completed 921 tank-filling projects at an investment of Rs. 3924 crores. Keeping in mind the rapid depletion of the ground-water table we have initiated positive steps such as construction of bandaras, check-dams, pick-ups, barrages and rain-water harvesting, so as to arrest the flow of water.

10. Crop insurance reduces vulnerabilities of farmers to vagaries of nature. My Government has enrolled 10.5 lakh farmers under crop insurance in the kharif season, earmarking Rs.675 crores for this purpose. For the first time in the country, an innovative Mobile App has been developed to conduct crop-cutting experiments for timely settlement of claims. For the kharif crop, insurance settlement and payment to farmers has already begun.
11. Due to persistent drought, my Government has waived interest on overdue agricultural loans for 2.25 lakh farmers who will pay the principal amount before 31.3.2017. Several market interventions have been initiated to rescue farmers from hardship caused due to prevalent low agricultural commodity prices. These include procurement of onions at Minimum Support Price at a cost of 65.43 crores, procurement of coconut at Minimum Support Price at a cost of Rs.155 crores, turdal procurement with a bonus of Rs.450

per quintal above Minimum Support Price and procurement of paddy with bonus of Rs.100 per quintal above Minimum Support Price.

12. My Government has brought in path-breaking reforms in agricultural marketing. Karnataka is applauded as a leader in this field and the Government of India has adopted the Karnataka model for its national agricultural marketing programme. 156 agricultural produce markets are transacting online through the unified Karnataka platform. These reforms have enhanced transparency and increased competition resulting in better price realization to farmers.
13. Horticulture is another focus area for my Government. 57 Farmer Producers' Organizations were registered as companies and each company was provided with a maximum of Rs.25 lakh as working capital and a maximum of Rs.1 crore subsidy to

create basic infrastructure. This has brought in collective strength, enabling farmers' direct access to markets and increasing their bargaining ability. An area of 7436 hectares was expanded under horticulture utilizing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.

14. Animal Husbandry and Fisheries contributes significantly to the income of farmers and to the State's economy. Administration of 645 lakh doses of vaccines prevented the outbreak of any major infectious disease during the year. 3.62 lakh families received animal insurance facilities with 70% subsidy on insurance premium. An assistance of Rs.5 lakhs each was provided to over 200 Shepherd's Co-operative Societies. Rs.10 crores was distributed to sheep and goat owners as ex-gratia payment towards accidental death of animals. Milk subsidy has been enhanced from Rs.4 to Rs.5 per litre during the year to benefit 8.61 lakh dairy farmers.

15. To support fishermen during the year, measures undertaken include release of over Rs.65 crore towards diesel subsidy to fishing boats benefitting 3451 boat owners.
16. My Government had promised to invest Rs.50,000 crores for irrigation in 5 years so as to develop irrigation potential in the State, particularly in the Upper Krishna Basin. During the last 4 years, Rs. 42,540 crores was provided to major and medium irrigation projects. Visveswaraya Jala Nigam Ltd., a new corporation, has been formed for implementation of the Yettinahole and the Upper Bhadra Projects. 27 major and medium irrigation dams are being rehabilitated under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Programme with the assistance of the World Bank at a cost of Rs.276 crores. I am happy to inform this august House that the Central Water Commission has conferred on the State an Award of Excellence for Almatti and Narayanpura dam rehabilitation and improvement activities.

17. Besides planting about 8 crore seedlings and providing free LPG connections to families living in and near sensitive forest areas, my Government has doubled the scale of compensation for damage caused to crops, and enhanced it for permanent and partial disability caused to people by wild animals. Comprehensive development of Madivala, Hennur and Puttenahalli lakes has been taken up in Bengaluru.
18. My Government continues to strive for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. During the current year, we have provided Rs.19,543 crores towards development programmes for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population. On the occasion of the 125th birthday of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, 125 new residential schools and 100 new post-matric hostels have also been sanctioned. My Government also intends to celebrate Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary

as Gnana Darshana Day with a Global Conference.

19. The Development Corporations set up for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including the newly constituted Bhovi and Tanda Development Corporations, have been provided with Rs.1475 crores for extending assistance to 30,000 beneficiaries. Under the Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 2.5 lakh houses have been provided to houseless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families. More than Rs.1000 crores has been spent for providing infrastructure facilities like road and drainage to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe colonies. Under the Forest Rights Act, 12,722 Scheduled Tribe Forest Dwellers have been granted possession rights.
20. To provide quality education to students from Backward classes, pre-matric scholarships have been provided to 12 lakh students, post-

matric scholarship to 4.5 lakh students, and fee reimbursement to 10.6 lakh students.

21. The welfare and development of minorities is central to my Government's vision. Scholarships to over 13 lakh minority students, hostels for over 10,000 students, 4 Morarji Desai Residential schools and 8 Morarji Desai pre-university colleges were sanctioned by my Government. The new Haj Bhavan in Bengaluru has started serving the Haj pilgrims. Comprehensive computerization and second survey of Wakf properties is under progress.
22. My Government's central priority is the welfare of women and children. To provide crucial early childhood care and education 1400 new anganwadis have been opened this year, taking the total number of anganwadis to 66,000. This year, a special drive has been taken up to construct 11,500 anganwadi toilets. Under "Ksheera Bhagya", over 38 lakh children between 6 months and 6 years are

provided 150 ml. of full-cream milk 3 times a week. My Government, with a view to combat malnutrition, has launched the pilot phase of the “Maathru Poorna” programme to provide a hot cooked meal to poor pregnant women and lactating mothers for 300 days in a year, thus improving nutritional levels and health of both mother and child.

23. Even after withdrawal of central funding to Mahila Samakhya, my Government has supported the programme towards empowerment of girls and women besides supporting the formation of 30 Stree Shakti district federations of Self Help Groups.
24. I am happy to state that my Government won the National Award for Best State in the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. We have not only increased the grant for individual aids and appliances for physically challenged persons from Rs.10,000 to Rs.15,000, but also the annual grant for the District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre from

Rs.28 lakh to Rs.36 lakh. My Government is proud to have won the National Award for Best State in the implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007.

25. My Government has strived to realise the constitutional right to education under the Directive Principles of State Policy with the motto: “Every child in school and learning well.” Towards this outcome, my Government provides incentives like free text books to 62.59 lakh students, free uniform to 47.45 lakh students, free bicycles to 4.92 lakh students in Class 8, and mid-day meals along with milk to 61.5 lakh students which, during this year, includes supply of fortified rice. My Government is committed to improve learning outcomes of children in schools and towards this end various initiatives were launched. These include “Students Motivation Programme” in 2 districts, “Maths Learning Programme” in 12 districts, “Technology-Assisted Learning Programme” to bring ICT

in teaching-learning process, and supplementary teaching for basic numeracy and literacy in 3 districts, at times in partnership with reputed civil society organizations. Through “Shikshana Kirana”, a student achievement tracking system, weaker students are assessed and provided supplementary teaching during vacations to achieve appropriate competencies.

26. During the last 3 years, 4.5 lakh children from poor families have been admitted to private unaided schools under the Right to Education Act and my Government is reimbursing the fees for their education.
27. At 26.6%, Karnataka has one of the highest Gross Enrolment Rates in higher education. To enhance the quality of learning in the higher education system, with my Government’s encouragement, 71 colleges have obtained NAAC accreditation in the current year. My Government has taken active steps for starting the

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics in Bengaluru in collaboration with the London School of Economics. My Government is strengthening the Higher Education Academy by providing infrastructure so as to impart training with global standards to teachers. A Comprehensive Education Policy is initiated to make Karnataka the hub of research, innovation and knowledge.

28. My Government has given high priority to strengthening primary health care. We are firmly committed to reduce Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate and increase institutional deliveries. Towards this end, various measures including filling up vacant posts, opening generic pharmacies in all talukas and district hospitals, and ensuring compulsory ambulance services are being emphasized. The State Government has started opening dialysis units in taluka hospitals, and Intensive Care Units with blood component separation facilities in all district hospitals.

29. The Suvarna Arogya Trust is rolling out the “Indira Suraksha Scheme” for dependent family members of farmers who have committed suicide, and the cochlear implant scheme to provide free treatment to children having severe deafness. For the first time in the country, the Good Samaritan Act has been promulgated to promote timely assistance to victims of accidents and to ensure that those who help the victims are not harassed. Canteens in district and taluka hospitals are being established to provide food at reasonable rates to patients and hospital staff.
30. Opening of new Medical Colleges at Kalaburagi, Gadaga, Koppala, Karawara, Kodagu and Chamarajnagara has resulted in 900 additional MBBS seats for the State. Four new operation theatres and 198 additional beds have been set up at the Indira Gandhi Childrens’ Hospital.

31. In the past 3 years, 2708 additional beds have been provided in Government teaching and super-speciality hospitals. In the current year, a unit of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research will become functional in Mysuru. Upgradation of the Kidwai Cancer Institute of Bengaluru including installation of Linear Acceleration Equipments and Robotic Equipments will be completed.
32. My Government has brought in effective legislation to further strengthen the Panchayati Raj institutions. For implementation of this law necessary rules are being framed. Among the 60 rules identified for this purpose 30 rules have been notified.
33. My Government has ushered in people-friendly governance by establishing “Bapuji Seva Kendras” in Grama Panchayats to provide 100 services, including issue of RTCs,

No Objection Certificates, licenses and tax assessment statements to citizens.

34. To strengthen developmental planning process in our villages, my Government has launched “Namma Grama Namma Yojane”. In the current year, 5971 out of 6022 Grama Panchayats have completed their planning exercise through community participation. The Ward and Grama Sabhas have prepared a vision plan for the next 5 years which includes 21 lakh activities.
35. To provide pure drinking water to villages, my Government has commissioned 8500 pure drinking water units at the end of 2016 which cater to over 1 crore rural population. Another 1000 pure drinking water units will be commissioned by March 2017.
36. My Government has achieved a revolutionary transformation in promoting Open Defecation Free villages. As at the end of 2016, my Government has completed construction of more than 26 lakhs toilets in rural areas.

4954 villages in 1035 Grama Panchayats, 26 talukas and 5 districts, have been declared as Open Defecation Free. During the current year, it is proposed to declare 3000 more villages in 500 Grama Panchayats, 20 talukas and 2 districts as Open Defecation Free.

37. My Government has secured approval for increasing rural employment generation from 6 crores to 10 crores man-days. In view of the delay in releasing of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme funds from Government of India, my Government has released Rs.900 crores for payment of wages.
38. My Government will take up development works in 150 villages with over 50% Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population under the Chief Minister's Model Village Project. Under Grama Vikasa Yojane, my Government has released Rs.475 crores out of an allocation of Rs.750 crores for the comprehensive development of 939 villages.

39. My Government has been at the forefront to bring the delivery of services such as issue of different certificates, sanction of pensions and issue of RTCs closer to the people. These are now being provided through Grama Panchayats. Online services such as offering donations and room reservations in prominent temples of the Endowment Department are now done through “Bengaluru One”.
40. My Government has been striving to make Karnataka hunger-free. To enrich our flagship “Anna Bhagya” scheme that serves over 1 crore families identified as priority households, iron-fortified salt and vitamin A & D fortified palm oil are being supplied this year. 1 kg. of pulses is added to the entitlement of all priority and Antyodaya households, who will receive it at 50% subsidy from February 2017. Issue of new ration cards is being brought under “Sakala” and a time limit of 7 working days is being fixed for the issue of new cards.

41. Making Karnataka hut-free has been a major goal of my Government. Against a target of constructing 3 lakh houses every year, we have constructed 10.42 lakh houses since 2013-14 with 1.93 lakh houses in the current year. My Government has set a target of constructing 6 lakh new houses and the selection of beneficiaries is under progress. In urban areas, 16,522 houses are being constructed along with infrastructure facilities in 98 slum areas at a cost of Rs.893 crores.
42. My Government is committed to increasing the power generation capacity in the State with a special emphasis on renewable sources. The establishment of 2000 MW solar park in Pavagada Taluka, Tumkur district is under rapid progress. Under the “Decentralised Distributed Generation” scheme, action has been taken to establish solar projects in 60 backward talukas and land-owning farmers have been encouraged

to take up solar projects with 306 MW of generation capacity allotted.

43. The “Niranthara Jyothi Yojane” for providing reliable power supply to rural areas and assured hours of power supply for irrigation in 129 talukas is expected to be completed shortly. Advisory committees have been formed in 159 Assembly Constituencies to resolve issues between consumers and ESCOMs.
44. My Government has laid special emphasis on development of rail network and airports in the State. Preliminary work for construction of 2nd runway and 2nd terminal building of the Kempegowda International Airport is in progress. Upgradation of existing airports at Belagavi & Hubballi is being done by Airports Authority of India and construction work on Kalaburagi Airport has commenced. We are implementing a large number of railway projects on a cost-sharing basis with the Indian Railways, in addition

to providing free land. Of the 10 major railway projects underway in the state, Ramanagara-Mysuru, Hasana-Bengaluru, Bidar-Kalaburagi, Bagalakote-Kajjidoni section of Bagalakote-Kudachi and Rail Coach Factory at Yadagiri are expected to be completed during the current year.

45. We have laid special emphasis on upgrading road network in the State. In the last 3 years, improvement of 8927 km. of State Highways and 17,163 km. of Major District Roads, and construction of 1992 km. and 786 km. of cement concrete roads in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Colonies respectively have been undertaken. In the current year, my Government will upgrade 717 km. of State Highways and 3570 kms. of Major District Roads under different programmes. We will also develop 2795 km. of State Highways and 1520 km. of Major District Roads at a cost of Rs.3500 crores under State Highway Development Project-Phase 3 programme.

46. Karnataka continues to lead the country in the Information Technology and Bio-Technology sectors, which are growing at a rate of 10% to 12% a year and creating new avenues for employment. With the launching of the new Start-up Policy the State has retained its lead as one of the Start-up Capitals of the world. Over 4000 start-ups have received investments of over \$ 1 billion over the past 2 years.
47. The World Economic Forum recently rated Bengaluru as the world's most dynamic city. Public transport and scientific traffic management are essential to address the traffic problem. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation is poised to complete 42.38 km. of Phase-1 of Bengaluru Metro by April 2017. The works under Phase-2 are being executed at a fast pace. My Government is pro-active to introduce Suburban Rail for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area in collaboration with the Ministry of Railways. Recently, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding

with the Ministry of Railways for Suburban Rail Works.

48. During the current and next year, various road and other infrastructure works worth Rs.7300 crores will be taken up in Bengaluru. The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board will provide Cauvery water to 110 villages newly added to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.
49. In other cities and towns, 11 water supply projects worth Rs.427 crores are commissioned. In 18 towns, water supply works costing Rs.1279 crores under AMRUT scheme are being taken up, besides commissioning 17 underground drainage projects at a cost of Rs.542 crores during the current year.
50. My Government has approved “Nagarothana Scheme” Phase-3 for Small & Medium towns at a cost of Rs.2836 crores during the current year.

51. As per the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Karnataka is the number one State in terms of investment intentions; investment intentions of Rs.1,49,587 crores are received during 2016. Invest Karnataka Forum has been registered as a non-profit company. The Aerospace Policy 2013-23 has been amended to attract industrial investments from the Global Aerospace Industry.
52. My Government successfully organized the largest ever Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2017 in association with the Ministry of External Affairs at Bengaluru, wherein over 7200 delegates, including 2000 overseas delegates participated. My Government has also unveiled the Non-Resident Indian Policy to direct investments to Karnataka and ensure the welfare of overseas Kannadigas.
53. To retain skilled human resources, 4 Centres of Excellence will be established at sub-

centres of the Government Tool Room and Training Centre at Bengaluru, Kalaburagi, Dandeli and Mysuru in association with M/s Siemens. The Karnataka Small Scale Industries Development Corporation is taking steps to establish new industrial estates at Sarathi, Chikkahosahalli, Muttugadahalli, Ullarthikaval, Kudapura & Hireshakunahalli.

54. Karnataka's road transport and metropolitan transport companies are among the best in the country, earning recognition and awards at national and international levels. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has won 164 awards since inception and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation has won 100 awards. Recently, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation has also bagged the National e-governance award for its Mysuru Intelligent Transport System project. Over the last 3 years, the Road Transport Corporations

have inducted 3533 new buses, constructed 21 new depots and 21 new bus-stands, and appointed 6262 employees.

55. To reduce traffic by incentivizing public transport, 1793 city buses have been introduced in 41 cities during the last 3 years. During the current year, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation has implemented Intelligent Transport System with Electronic Ticketing Machines and GPS based Vehicle Tracking units.
56. My Government has taken up a drive to re-claim encroached Government lands in Bengaluru and has recovered 4700 acres during the last 3 years. My Government has established a Special Court for land-grabbing cases in Bengaluru and 22 new family courts. By the end of November 2016 nearly 21 lakh cases were settled before Lok Adalats. During 2016, 22 District Judges and 119 Civil Judges were also appointed.

57. To encourage sports, my Government is providing Synthetic Athletic Track facility in 13 stadia, a multi-purpose indoor stadium in Belagavi and a modern velodrome for cycling in Vijayapura, and upgrading the Bengaluru Hockey stadium.
58. Of late, there have been many changes in the structure of centrally sponsored schemes involving allocation to the State, sharing pattern and components of the schemes. Although such changes would have affected the schemes at the ground level, my Government has ensured that they continue to be implemented smoothly including by giving advance release from the State Government.
59. To conclude, my Government is determined to hasten the march of Karnataka towards a progressive and inclusive society. A society based on principles, not only of equity and justice, but also of compassion and tolerance.

I call upon the members of this house to remember the glorious history and tradition of Karnataka and work towards the bright future that awaits her.

Jai Hind
Jai Karnataka

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