

INAUGURATION OF 78 TH ANNUAL SESSION OF  
INDIAN ROAD CONGRESS

Hon'ble Chief Minister's Speech

03-11-2017 / 11-00 A M / Gayathri Vihar, Palace Grounds.

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Shri Nitin Gadkari,  
Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport,  
Highways and Shipping,

Shri D.V.Sadananda Gowda,  
Hon'ble Union Minister for Statistics and  
Programme Implementation,

Dr H. C. Mahadevappa  
Minister for Public works, Ports and  
Inland water Transport,

Dr C. N. Ashwath Narayan,  
Legislator, Malleswaram Constituency,  
My Cabinet Collegis,

Shri Manoj Kumarji,  
Director General (Road Development) and  
Special Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways,

Shri N.K.Pradhanji  
President,  
Indian Road Congress,

Shri S.K.Nirmalji  
Secretary General,  
Indian Road Congress,

Shri M.Lakshminarayan,  
Additional Chief Secretary to the Government,  
Department of Public works, Ports and  
Inland water Transport,

Dignitaries on the Dais and off the Dais

Media Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am very much delighted to be a part of the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual session of Indian Road Congress, which is being organized by the Indian Road Congress, in association with the Government of Karnataka.
2. After a span of 12 years, the Government of Karnataka, again, associating itself with the Indian Road Congress to host this Annual session at Bengaluru.
3. I am very much pleased to learn that as many as 3000 delegates from India and abroad are attending this session.
4. The India Roads Congress is one of the oldest and most important representative technical body of highway engineering in India.
5. The growth of highway engineering as a profession owes much to the Indian Road Congress, which has completed Eighty three years of its existence.
6. The Indian Road Congress has provided stewardship over the construction, maintenance and preservation of the Nation's highways, bridges and tunnels.
7. It is conducting research and providing technical assistance to State and local agencies in an effort to improve safety, mobility and livability, besides, encouraging innovation technologies for the well-being of people.

8. The development of roads in the country has been significantly influenced by the timely and wise counsel given by the Indian Road Congress.
9. A safe and efficient Land transportation system is an essential element of sustainable regional or national economy.
10. Roads have been and continue to be the backbone of the land transportation network that provides the accessibility for the required mobility to support economic growth and promote social activities.
11. As more and more advanced and speedy modes of transportation are developed over time, and as the economic activities of the human society grow in pace and sophistication, the role of roads have multiplied and their importance have increased.
12. At the same time, the potential adverse impacts of road development have also grown in magnitude, especially in the area of safety of road users and pedestrians. The Highway Engineers have more responsibility to construct safe corridor for road users.
13. India has witnessed tremendous growth in the infrastructure sector especially in Airway, Highway, Railway and Seaway Sectors in the last two decades.

14. One cannot even imagine the status of road network in the pre-independent and the early post-independent era.
15. But, in last two decades, much has been happened in India. Our country has not merely been projected as a growth engine, but also, expecting to surpass economy of the developed countries in the coming years. However, this can be realized through development of world class infrastructure in the country.
16. Our Government has initiated number of infrastructural development activities in Bengaluru and other parts of the State. It has given top priority for providing rural and urban connectivity.
17. The Public Works Department and allied departments like Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project and Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited, are striving hard to improve the infrastructure in the State.
18. A special purpose vehicle established to implement Public Private Public Projects is taking care of the State's infrastructural needs.
19. The Karnataka State Highway Implementation Project, with the assistance of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, and State Highway Development Programme are acting as catalysts for development of infrastructure in the State.

20. Our Government has established a dedicated Planning and Road Asset Management Centre for scientifically preparing annual work programmes keeping in mind the existing road conditions.
21. This Centre has been provided with the state-of-the-art equipment and software. A separate Quality Assurance Zone headed by the Chief Engineer is also established to ensure quality in construction.
22. In last five years, length of National Highways in State has increased multi-fold and many upgradation works have been initiated through the Ministry and the National Highway Authority of India.
23. The improvement of State Road networks through various infrastructural departments have undertaken augmentation of road carriage-way to higher level of service namely, single lane to two-lane and on to four-lane, depending upon the importance.
24. The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited has undertaken up-gradation of State Highways for a length of 1055 Kms, of which a length of 601 Kms have been completed already under World Bank's Co-finance assistance.
25. The Works are being executed through the various models like **Build Operate and Transfer**, **Build Own Operate and Transfer**, **Build Own Lease and Transfer** as well as Hybrid and Co-Financing Models and also with the State Budget.

26. The Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project has taken up up-gradation works with the financial assistance of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (The World Bank) and the Asian Development Bank. The total length of improvement is about 2,385 Km at the cost of Rs 23.52 Billion.
27. In the last four and a half Years the achievement of our Government in road sector is significant. We have improved 10,926 Km of State Highway by spending of Rs 10,969 Crore and 21,101 Km of Major District Roads at a cost of Rs 8,434 Crore.
28. I am glad to inform you that 1854 kms of new National Highways have been upgraded and the Union Government has given approval in principle for the upgradation of 6,433 kms of the State Highways as National Highways. This will result in an augmentation of 8,287 km of new National Highway network in the State.
29. The Construction of Cement Concrete Roads as many as 2771 kms in Scheduled Castes Colonies and 1268 Kms in Scheduled Tribes Colonies incurring an expenditure of Rs 3,008 Crore under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan is a feather in the cap of our Government.

30. We have completed 2,478 Km rural roads and construction of 329 bridges at a cost of Rs 1,252 Crore with the assistance of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund Scheme of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
31. Improvement of Devanahalli-Vijayapura-Kolar Road covering a length of 49 kms at a cost of Rs 148 Crore and through Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited under Public Private Partnership ( PPP ), Design Build Finance Operate and Transfer (DBFOT), Viability Gap Funding ( VGF ) Model is under progress.
32. Construction and Reconstruction of 150 bridges on Major District Roads and 173 bridges on State Highways have been completed at a total cost of Rs 402 Crore, besides, 195 bridges have been built through Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited at a cost of Rs 1295.58 Crore.
33. I hope the thought provoking deliberations at this session would come out with concrete proposals for improving the road infrastructure and I wish the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual session Indian Road Congress, a grand success.

Thanking you one and all !

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