

Dear brothers and sisters,

1. On the auspicious occasion of the 75th Republic Day, I extend heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir. On this very day in 1950, our great nation adopted the Constitution embracing the ideals of a democratic republic. Today, on this sacred occasion, I pay tribute to the brave souls, freedom fighters, and policymakers whose sacrifices and vision paved the way for building this great nation of ours.
2. I pay homage to the Bravehearts of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Armed Forces, and Central Armed Police Forces who laid down their lives in safeguarding the unity and integrity of the nation. I salute the courageous soldiers, who are guarding our borders in the snow-clad mountains and dense forests, whose sacrifices, valor, and unwavering determination have ensured the pride of our beloved tricolor.
3. This great Republic has been strengthened by the collective hard work and toil of farmers,

soldiers, women, scientists, teachers, doctors, engineers, laborers, artisans, artists, and indigenous communities. Its foundation is based on the sacrifices of our forefathers and policymakers, who prepared a strong structure of governance committed to ensure social justice, liberty, dignity and equality. The past decade has been a decade of realizing their dreams, and in the next 25 years, we aim to build a developed India by fulfilling the aspirations of future generations.

4. Today, India has risen to be the world's fifth-largest economic power. Several communities neglected since independence, have found a voice, touched by development that is inclusive. Serving as a beacon and guide to a world that has been going through difficult times, India is paving the way for the well-being and prosperity of entire humanity with the spirit of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*" and the resilient image of a self-confident India is now reverberating in Jammu and Kashmir. The dream of a free life and social equality has been realized. We have made sincere efforts to build a modern Jammu and

Kashmir, which represents the ambition of the common man. A Jammu and Kashmir, where policies are framed with the ideals and values of humanity, where merit is valued, and an environment of peace and tranquility prevails. A Jammu and Kashmir, which offers endless opportunities to youth, women, farmers, and workers, where the aspirations of society are taller than mightiest hills, where a poor man can dream big and the entire government machinery works with dedication to make his dreams come true.

5. Dear brothers and sisters, new hopes have taken roots in urban and rural areas. Drawing inspiration from a culture that obliges us to establish a stable, vibrant and dynamic society, our sincere efforts are focused towards fulfilling the aspirations of people. Rapid socio-economic development tells the tale of a long journey and our moments of accomplishments. Today, Jammu and Kashmir is full of self-confidence and we are determined to fulfill the expectations of common man.

कोदण्ड-कोटि पर स्वर्ग लिये चलता हूँ,
कर-गत दुर्लभ अपवर्ग किये चलता हूँ,
आलोक-विशिख से वेध जगा जन-जन को,
सजता हूँ नूतन शिखा जला जीवन को,
जड़ को उड़ने की पाँख दिये देता हूँ,
चेतन के मन को आँख दिये देता हूँ,
स्वर को कराल हुंकार बना देता हूँ,
यौवन को भीषण ज्वार बना देता हूँ,
शुरों के दृग अंगार बना देता हूँ,
हिम्मत को ही तलवार बना देता हूँ,
हिम्मत को ही तलवार बना देता हूँ।

6. Over a period of just four years, overcoming countless challenges, we have built a new Jammu and Kashmir standing tall and self-reliant. Our first resolution for the year 2024 is to lay the foundation of a new society for the new generation, which is energized with new skills, modern knowledge and a plethora of resources, together contributing in rapid progress of the country.
7. The successful conclusion of the G20 summit, on the one hand familiarized the entire world with the economic strength, business

capabilities, cultural prosperity, and tourism possibilities of Jammu and Kashmir and on the other, dealt a resounding blow to terrorists and enemies of humanity. We will not rest until we strike the last nail in the coffin of terror ecosystem and the proxy war of the neighboring country. We have made sincere efforts to revive the traditional wisdom, values of thousands year old civilization, strengthen inclusive cultural ecosystem, promotion of cultural assets along with economic growth for industrial society.

8. Under the leadership of our Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the '*Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra*' campaign has reached the doorsteps of beneficiaries to ensure 100% saturation of flagship schemes. Today marks the last day of this yatra, and I am pleased to note that Jammu and Kashmir has maintained its tradition of being at the forefront in such campaigns throughout the country. Almost 4 million people from the Union territory participated in this Yatra, setting a new record.

9. Dear brothers and sisters, the real strength of our democracy lies at the grassroots. The administration was fully prepared to conduct timely elections in all Panchayats and urban local bodies, however owing to constitutional obligations to extend reservation and rationalization, the process has been slightly delayed. I assure everyone that under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a strong three-tier Panchayati Raj system has been established in Jammu and Kashmir, and we are committed to empower local government institutions and strengthen grassroots governance.

10. Dear brothers and sisters, over the past few years, the dreams of millions of youths have been fulfilled. On the eve of Republic Day, economic assistance of Rs. 1384 crores has been provided to 94,680 young entrepreneurs of Jammu and Kashmir, who as job creators will contribute significantly in strengthening our economy. Starting from the financial year 2021-22 until now, opportunities for self-employment have been provided to 8.34 lakh youths. Merit-based recruitment has been ensured for 31,830 positions in the

Government, and recruitment process for 12,264 new positions is underway. 882 compassionate appointments cases have been approved last year, providing an opportunity for a dignified life to the families of brave martyrs and those affected by the untimely loss of primary breadwinners.

11. Some path-breaking initiatives have been taken to further the interests of farmers, leading to unprecedented improvement in their incomes. Agriculture and allied sectors are now being viewed as sustainable sources of livelihood. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Program, 29 projects are being implemented on ground at a cost of Rs. 5,013 crores, to ensure comprehensive development of this sector. This plan is expected to bring monumental changes in the lives of 13 lakh farmer families. An investment of Rs. 28,000 crores shall be made in GSDP, generating employment opportunities for an additional three lakh people. In 72 years, the capacity of CAA (Controlled Atmosphere Storage) was developed to the tune of only 1.35 lakh metric tons. Within the short period of just three years, an additional capacity of 2.44 lakh

metric tons of cold storage has been generated with substantial investment. Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented in all 20 districts and efforts are underway to implement the scheme in the horticulture sector. In order to ensure economic security for farmer families, a total of 14.83 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been distributed so far. The yellow revolution has provided a new source of income for farmers in Kashmir. There has been an increase of 11,000 hectares of area under vegetable cultivation in the Union territory and three new agricultural products, Sulai Honey, Bhaderwah Rajmash, and Mushkbudji, have received GI tags.

12. To ensure fair prices for the farm produce of Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 23 *mandis* have been integrated with e-NAM. Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Rs. 2852 crores have been deposited directly into the bank accounts of 12.68 lakh eligible farmers. The progressive farmers and youth are being connected with new technologies in the agriculture sector. Under the PM Kusum Yojana, 9000 solar agricultural pumps are

being provided to farmers for alternate energy. We are actively working towards the goal of doubling milk production by 2027 through the Jammu and Kashmir Dairy Mission, benefitting 6.6 lakh farmers. A farmer is the soul of our society. They are our pride, our glory and people must respect them as a key of our existence. This shall be the resolution for our new society.

13. Industrial revolution is sweeping across Jammu and Kashmir. Investment proposals of Rs. 90,182 crores have been received so far, which will directly provide employment opportunities to more than four lakh people. After 2019, industrial investment of more than Rs. 12,000 crore has either been realized on the ground or is in the pipeline. 46 new industrial estates are being developed to fulfill the goal of 'Made in Jammu and Kashmir'.
14. To provide new identity to the products of Jammu and Kashmir on the global handicraft map, GI tagging has been approved for 9 crafts, and the process for GI registration of 11 other products is underway. A leading e-commerce company has developed a robust

web portal that will make handicrafts of Jammu and Kashmir available in the global market. The lithium mines at Reasi will create new opportunities for investment, employment, adding another dynamic dimension to the economic journey of Jammu and Kashmir.

15. Jammu and Kashmir is one of the fastest-growing States/UTs in the country. This is testified by the fact that in the previous financial year, there was a recorded growth rate of 35% in GST revenue collection, which is higher than the national average. In the current financial year, excise revenue collection has witnessed a growth rate of 29.46% so far and stamp revenue collection has recorded a growth rate of 11%.
16. In order to secure the future of workers in the unorganized sector, more than 34 lakh laborers have been registered on the e-Shram portal and efforts are underway to extend the benefits of Prime Minister's Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana to all workers in this sector. More than 1.15 lakh workers have been registered under this scheme so far.

17. Artisans and Weavers are being encouraged to take advantage of the Weavers Mudra Scheme and strengthen the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 2300 cooperatives have benefitted under the financial support for Artisan/Weaver Cooperatives Scheme during the past two years. With the objective of linking PACS electronically with District Central Cooperative Banks, and in order to bring about transparency in credit provided to farmers and members of cooperatives, 537 PACS have been approved by the Government of India. There should be an approved PAC in every Panchayat that operates inclusively and encompasses all sections of society; the administration is fully committed to realise this goal.
18. Path-breaking changes have been made in education sector to effectively, efficiently and comprehensively implement the National Education Policy. We are hopeful, the collective action will lay the foundations of a knowledge economy. New generations are being provided opportunities to learn next generation technology through initiatives such

as College on Wheels, entrepreneurship programs, promotion of startup culture and engineering kitchens.

19. National-level discussions and follow-ups on the initiatives taken by Jammu and Kashmir, such as, Design Your Degree, College on Wheels, Entrepreneurship in Education is encouraging and gives us a hope that we will soon earn the rightful place in education sector. Research activities are being carried out in 30 colleges, and the education system has been infused with new capability of meeting the current global needs through skill development courses in 56 colleges. The capacity of polytechnic colleges is being augmented with 600 additional seats.

20. More than 15,000 schools have introduced pre-primary education. To develop scientific temper in the new generation, 1.21 lakh students from Classes 9 to 12 have been enrolled in vocational courses. In order to fulfill the commitment to universal education, 46,000 out-of-school children have been identified, enrolled in various schools and mainstreamed. Under the Pradhan Mantri

Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana, approval has been granted for the upgradation of 233 schools in the first phase.

21. Dear brothers and sisters, in the field of road and rail infrastructure, Jammu and Kashmir is scaling new horizons and the dream of railway connectivity from Kashmir to Kanyakumari shall be fulfilled this year. Work on the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and the Akhnoor-Poonch road is progressing at breakneck speed. In the last year, 16 new bridges were constructed for improvement in connectivity. Under the Prime Minister's Development Programme, construction of 21 tunnels, 39 flyovers, 26 bypasses, and 2 ring roads for Jammu and Srinagar cities, is underway. Considering data of the 2001 census, all rural settlements have been connected under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, and work is underway to provide connectivity to the remaining villages figuring in the 2011 census data. To improve rural connectivity, 83 new road and bridge projects have been approved at a cost of Rs. 913 crores under NABARD during the current financial year. Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department

has been constructing an average of 15 kilometers of road length, on a daily basis, for the past four years.

22. Digital revolution has provided new momentum to the development of Jammu and Kashmir and also contributed to the cause of transparent and corruption-free administration in the Union territory. As a stark contrast to pre-2019, when only 60 services were available through the online mode, now, more than 1,000 public services are being made available online. 485 e-services have been integrated with the Rapid Assessment System, and feedback has been received from 7.5 million citizens. To ensure the timely delivery of services, 300 online services have been linked with the auto-appeal system. Jammu and Kashmir recorded 74 crore 42 lakh e-transactions in the previous year, averaging over 2 million electronic transactions registered daily, which is higher than many developed states. Aadhaar-seeding has been ensured for all beneficiaries of welfare schemes, enabling direct transfer of funds to their accounts. During the current fiscal year, Rs. 2,754 crores have been transferred

directly into the accounts of 65 lakh beneficiaries. The government has formulated a comprehensive AI strategy with a focus on areas like healthcare, agriculture, mobility, education, and law enforcement.

23. The Government is ensuring a proper shelter along-with access to all basic facilities for every poor family. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin, 3.37 lakh houses have been sanctioned against a target of 3.41 lakh houses, and construction of 1.73 lakh houses has been completed. Land is being provided to all landless beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

24. Planned development of residential infrastructure in satellite cities is underway, with mass housing colonies and new townships being established in Kot Bhalwal, Chatterhama, and Gund Aksa. Under the Smart City Mission, Jammu and Srinagar have completed 191 projects at a cost of Rs. 3,987 crores. Currently, 70 projects are under execution with an estimated cost of Rs. 3,228 crores. Midnight New Year celebrations at Lal Chowk by locals and tourists from across the

country, is testimony to positive wind, peace, ambition of common man and growing economic might of smart cities of Jammu and Kashmir. Efforts for smart mobility, digital governance, and sustainable development have made Jammu and Srinagar a new model of urban transformation, fostering healthy competition for quality living in smaller towns.

25. To fulfill the commitment of providing clean tap water to every household, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, more than 14 lakh houses have been successfully connected with piped water connections. Achieving approximately 75% coverage in this regard, Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the ranking of 'High Achievers' at the national level.
26. Infrastructural up-gradation of health sector has resulted in unprecedented improvements in public health services. With more than 4,000 new health infrastructure facilities developed, including two AIIMS and two State Cancer Institutes, we have crossed significant milestones in the field of healthcare. Seven new medical colleges are now functional. To eliminate regional disparities, 120 health

infrastructure projects have been completed in all 20 districts, at a cost of Rs. 881 crores. An additional 2000 seats have been added in the field of medical education and the capacity of MBBS seats has been increased from 500 to 1300.

27. Our efforts to improve the electricity sector have begun to yield unprecedented results. Four major Hydropower Projects – Pakal Dul, Ratle, Kiru, and Kwar - are under execution at rapid pace. For the first time since independence, Gurez Valley in northern Kashmir has been connected to the electricity grid. In the past year, a record capacity of 2964 MVA in the distribution sector and 2955 MVA in the transmission sector has been added. The process of installing smart pre-paid meters is underway in mission mode and there has been successful reduction of 15% in metered area losses. I urge all citizens to support the administration in strengthening the electricity infrastructure. All citizens should pay their bills on time, fulfilling their Constitutional duties towards the nation.

28. Tourism is a way of life for Jammu and Kashmir and reflects elevated spiritual experiences that contribute massively to the local economy. This paradise on earth witnessed a record influx of Rs. 2.11 crore tourists during the year 2023, and the G20 Summit held in Srinagar in May, 2023 led to a 2.5 times increase in the arrival of foreign tourists. Apart from popular tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam, there is a significant influx of tourists in offbeat destinations, contributing to the strengthening of the local economy. In places like Shiv Khori, 2 million tourists visited last year, 1.05 million in Mansar-Surinsar, 1 million in Patnitop, 1 million in Dudhpathri, and 0.15 million in Lolab. After granting industry status to the tourism sector, investment in this sector has seen enormous growth. These initiatives testify the comprehensive development and progress of various sectors in Jammu and Kashmir, contributing to the well-being of its residents and the overall prosperity of the region.
29. Pilgrimage to Shri Amarnath Ji and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, with the highest number of

devotees, showcases the deep spiritual connection of our holy places with the entire nation. Apart from off-beat tourism destinations, revival of tourism in border areas has strengthened the local economy. Last year, over 10 lakh tourists utilized the Gulmarg Gondola, generating revenue of over Rs. 100 crores. Shooting permission has been granted to more than 300 films, web series, and music videos. The International Film Festival of India held in Goa last November was a major attraction for film producers and directors from around the world, showcasing Jammu and Kashmir as a prime film-making destination.

30. I especially want to congratulate the youth of Jammu and Kashmir for setting new records in research and innovation. The Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade has granted recognition to 656 start-ups and in the past year, youth of Jammu & Kashmir have registered 297 new innovations and 134 patents. Apart from excellence in innovation, our youth are scripting new success stories in

the field of sports. Para-archer Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar have changed the history of the game with their perseverance and dedication. Their stories have inspired an entire generation to conquer new heights. Last year, more than 65 lakh young people had the opportunity to participate in various sports disciplines. Four National-level events were organized under the *Khelo India* Scheme, in which 122 teams from across the country participated. After three decades, international tournaments have started, and Jammu has positioned itself as a premier sports destination in the country.

31. Modern sports infrastructure has been developed for the bright future of young athletes. A sports village equipped with all facilities is being developed in Nagrota. All 60 stadiums in the Union territory have been made ready with all amenities and resources for night matches. So far, 93 Khelo India Centers have been established in all 20 districts.

32. Jammu & Kashmir administration is fully committed to the resettlement and welfare of minority communities and Kashmiri Pandit families. Last year, new housing infrastructure with all essential facilities was inaugurated for PM Package employees in Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, and Shopian. During the current fiscal year, construction of a total of 3,000 houses will be completed. All pending promotions have been approved, and promotions from non-gazetted to gazetted categories have been approved in the shortest possible time, as a first. I assure you all that we are making every effort towards ensuring that every citizen lives a life of prosperity in a dignified and honorable manner. In Kashmir Valley, all PM Package and minority community employees have been stationed at secure locations. Nodal officers have been appointed in every district and Raj Bhavan to address their security and other issues.

33. After a long wait of decades, refugees from West Pakistan residing in Jammu, Samba and Kathua will be given land ownership rights. Apart from families coming from West Pakistan, refugees who have been victims of discrimination in Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb for decades, are now recognized as citizens of this great nation and they are being provided equal rights and legal privileges.
34. Dear brothers and sisters, after a long wait, the tribal community in Jammu and Kashmir has been mainstreamed. 700 mini sheep farms are being developed in various districts of the Union territory. To ensure quality education of the new generation of tribal community, 25 hostels are being constructed, and initiatives such as livelihood units, skill development, and professional coaching are providing new opportunities to tribal youth. Last fiscal year, there was a manifold increase in scholarships for the tribal community. An

allocation of Rs. 32.50 crores, covering an additional 46,000 students, was approved. In the current fiscal year, the allocation was increased to Rs. 52 crores, and scholarships are being directly transferred to the bank accounts of students, with the Government ensuring that no eligible student is left out of this scheme, with 1.90 lakh students benefitting from these scholarships. After a two decade wait, forest rights have been granted to the tribal community and efforts have been made to provide facilities to tribal brothers and sisters that hitherto were beyond imagination. Road connectivity, power supply, drinking water, healthcare, and education have been given special attention, ensuring that the tribal society in the Union territory has the opportunity to live a dignified life. Transportation facilities are being provided to migratory tribal families, a provision that did not exist before 2019. In the previous season, arrangements were made for the movement of 12,497 families and 1.56 lakh livestock.

Prime Minister's Van Dhan Vikas Yojana has been implemented to empower tribal mothers and sisters both socially and economically.

35. I have always emphasized that transformation of Jammu and Kashmir can only be achieved by empowering the tribal community. Some nefarious elements with vested interests attempted to provoke the sentiments of the Gujjar Bakarwal brothers regarding reservations. I want to assure the entire community that under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi we shall strive continuously to provide you with all facilities, including reservations to improve your standard of living and making you self-reliant. Those who are attempting to mislead our Gujjar Bakarwal brothers are enemies of the nation's unity and integrity.

36. The only 'Dharma' of administration is the welfare of poor. I firmly believe that by ensuring the upliftment and development of

the last person standing in the last queue, we can make the progress truly inclusive. Robust scrutiny of all pension schemes for senior citizens has been ensured. For the welfare of differently-abled persons, we have taken many steps to make them self-reliant and contributors in journey of development. Utmost priority has been accorded to the nutrition of children and women. Information of 8.06 lakh beneficiaries is uploaded on the nutrition tracker for their continuous health monitoring. Initiatives like "Laadli Beti" and the "State Marriage Assistance Scheme" are restoring honor and respect to women in the society.

37. Efforts to empower rural women have brought about significant changes in their lives. Over seven lakh women are associated with 87,541 self-help groups. Training has been provided to around three lakh women farmers. Approximately 3,000 agriculture and animal husbandry assistants have been appointed to

provide last-mile support to farmers. Women farmers have established nearly two lakh agriculture nutrition gardens to meet the nutritional needs of their families. The Rural Livelihood Mission has started 10,000 micro-startups in the past one year. Advanced training has been provided to 5,000 women entrepreneurs from self-help groups to scale up their businesses.

38. Dear brothers and sisters, I have full faith in the ability of our youth and we are committed to create conducive environment and help them to achieve long-term goals and new dreams. The pace of inclusive development in Jammu and Kashmir is unprecedented. We are determined to strengthen it further with a strong partnership with people. Our biggest challenge today is drug abuse among the youth and we must come together to tackle it. For sustainable development, our society has to be united, courageous and disciplined to fight against those who are promoting,

justifying or condoning terrorism. We need to foil the efforts of terror ecosystem which is trying to draw sustenance and support from individuals or groups. We must isolate such elements who are using double standards to justify terror acts.

39. I assure every citizen that this government, with firm resolve, will pursue incredible opportunities for everyone so they can shape their own destiny, and discover new aspirations.

40. Our culture says, "*Sa Gha Veero Na Rishyati*" - a brave person never perishes. I call upon every generation to come together and support us in building the Jammu and Kashmir of your dreams. Let us build a Jammu and Kashmir where youth get equal opportunities, where women-led development paves the pathways for unprecedented economic growth and social stability. Let us move into a new future with unity, peace and commitment

to write a new destiny of Jammu and Kashmir.

कर्तव्य के पुनीत पथ को
हमने स्वेद से सींचा है,
कभी-कभी अपने अश्रु और
प्राणों का अर्घ्य भी दिया है
किन्तु अपनी ध्येय यात्रा में
हम कभी रुके नहीं हैं,
किसी चुनौती के सम्मुख,
कभी झुके नहीं हैं,
आग्नेय परीक्षा की इस घड़ी में
आइए, अर्जुन की तरह उद्घोष करें,
नदैन्यंन पलायनम।

Speak with me in one voice, one spirit -

*Bharat Mata ki jai, Bharat Mata ki jai,
Bharat Mata ki jai.*

*Vande Mataram, Vande Mataram, Vande
Mataram!*

Jai Hind, Jai Hind, Jai Hind !