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Vala's address highlights investment measures

He says govt. has initiated action to announce a new industrial policy for attracting more investments and new technology

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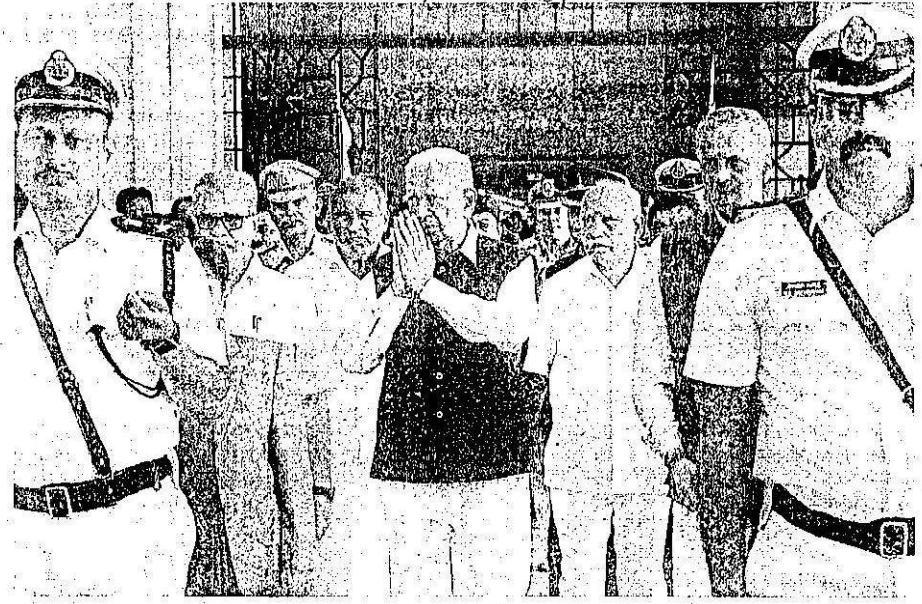
Governor Vajubhai Vala on Monday said the government has announced a slew of measures for improving the investment climate in the State and would soon bring out a new industrial policy and set up a bio-incubator to nurture and support startups in areas of biopharma.

He also said another policy would be announced soon to promote standalone and grid-connected solar-powered agricultural pumps.

In his 20-page address in Hindi to the joint session of the State legislature, Mr. Vala said Karnataka ranked second in the country as an investment destination, attracting investments of ₹71,745 crore up to November 2019. The government has initiated action to announce a new industrial policy for attracting more investments, new technology, and generation of jobs, with focus on comprehensive industrial development in tier II and tier III cities.

The bio-incubator to nurture and support startups is to be set up in collaboration with Manipal Academy for Higher Education.

The government has already



Official start: Governor Vajubhai Vala arriving to address a joint session of the State legislature at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. -K. MURALI KUMAR

dy announced a new textile and garment policy for the development of the textile and ready-made sector. It has also set up the Karnataka Innovation Authority to further strengthen the innovation ecosystem.

Social welfare

Speaking about the social welfare initiatives of the government, he said it had enhanced the monthly remuneration to Accredited Social Health Activists from ₹3,500 to 4,000 with effect from November 2019 and had also released a one-time payment of ₹3,000 as an incentive for having transferred data to the RCH software application. The monthly honorarium of anganwadi workers has been increased from ₹8,000 to ₹10,000, and that of anganwadi helpers raised from ₹4,000 to ₹5,250.

He pointed out that Karnataka stood first in the country in increasing forest cover and reducing maternal deaths. The State is the second-largest milk producer in the country, and a sum of ₹691 crore was released for payment of incentive of ₹5 per litre of milk to nearly nine lakh dairy farmers till the end of December 2019.

The Governor also said that 276 Karnataka public schools have been started from class 1 to 12 by integrating nearby primary, high schools and PU colleges, with the objective of enhancing quality of education. The novel concept of "water ball" was introduced in schools to prevent dehydration in students, he said.

Pro-CAA resolution in Assembly next month?

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The BJP government is expected to move a resolution in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) after a special discussion on the Constitution on March 2 and 3 during the Assembly session, senior sources in the party said on Monday.

The resolution is expected to be moved towards the end of the special discussion. It is expected to trigger resistance from both the Congress and the JD(S).

Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri said that a special discussion on the Constitution of India would be held next month to commemorate

the 70th year of the adoption of the Constitution. Though the Speaker expressed hope that the discussion would focus on the Constitution and that legislators would take part in it by rising above party politics, there are apprehensions in some legislators that CAA and the National Register of Citizens may figure in the debate.

Already, the BJP-ruled Gujarat has passed a resolution congratulating Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for securing the passage of CAA amid opposition from the Congress. Several States ruled by other parties have passed anti-CAA resolutions.

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