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Only 3.6% unemployment in Karnataka, BSY tells Modi

Seeks Rs 4,300 cr for OFC network in govt offices

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has managed to maintain "one of the lowest" unemployment rates in India at 3.6%, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa told Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

Yediyurappa said this during the sixth governing council meeting of the NITI Aayog chaired by Modi. The chief minister attended the meeting, accompanied by senior officials, virtually.

During the meeting, Yediyurappa said Karnataka's fiscal indicators were within the limits prescribed under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, despite the Covid-induced economic stress.

"The prime minister was briefed about the initiatives taken by the state for industrial development, such as the new industrial policy 2020-2025, affidavit-based clearance system, steps taken to promote exports, MoUs with e-commerce players, like Amazon and Flipkart, to boost marketing of local products," a statement from the chief minister's office (CMO) said.

Yediyurappa listed out various pro-farmer initiatives of his government, such as setting up a task force to promote integrated farming, the establishment of single-point farmer contact centres and a scientific marketing intelligence cell to help increase farmers' income.

The state government plans



Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa attends the meeting of the NITI Aayog, virtually, in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO

to create an online marketing platform for surplus fruits and vegetables under the Atma Nirbhar scheme, Yediyurappa said.

Karnataka also has the highest number of hospitals - 3,409 - enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Modicare), Yediyurappa said, adding that the government will focus on improving nutrition indicators in 67 taluks across 16 districts.

During the meeting, Yediyurappa appealed to Modi to declare the Upper Bhadra and

Upper Krishna Projects as national projects. He also sought approvals for six proposals worth Rs 6,673 crore to modernise canals.

The state government also urged Modi to set up a mechanism to fast-track disposal of cases in courts as many infrastructure projects were stuck due to environmental protests, the CMO said in the statement.

The Centre was asked to fund Rs 4,300 crore to create an optical fibre network covering all government offices in the state.