

Foreword

Every state requires a clear vision of what should be achieved in a given period of time and how it is to be achieved. The Vision of the state should incorporate the aspirations of its people for a better future. To elaborate and further, the report on India Vision 2020 states that “*a vision is neither a prediction of what will actually occur, nor simply a wish list of desirable but unattainable ends. Rather, it is a statement of what we believe is possible for our nation to achieve, provided we are able to fully mobilize all our available resources, generate the requisite will and make the required effort*”.

A vision for Karnataka is a useful starting point and foundation for contemplating future possibilities and its destiny as a state. It also serves to identify and delineate the broad outlines of policy and strategy by which the state can emerge as a more prosperous and equitable society in the coming years. Most importantly, an inclusive and shared vision can bring together the people of the state into achieving “unity of minds, unity of purpose and unity in action.”

A state vision assumes importance in this context in understanding the shared goals of its people, bringing about alignment and focus in their combined efforts and realizing optimal synergies in action. Time has come for the State to plan and work for a future that is inclusive, that is modern, that is global and yet rooted in the best of traditional values. It is also necessary to plan for the collective efforts which are required to realize this vision. This exercise requires an analysis of the preceding development trajectory of the state, an identification of goals to be achieved in the years to come as well as the recognition of anticipated challenges that need to be overcome.

I am happy therefore that the Karnataka State Planning Board has prepared the state’s vision document which has been adopted as the state’s Vision 2020. The core elements of our vision have been identified as (i) ensuring the safety and security of all citizens and the upholding of peace and communal harmony in the state; (ii) eliminating poverty and deprivation at all levels and achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; (iii) enhancing human capabilities to promote equitable growth covering all sections of people and regions of the state; (iv) making Karnataka a globally competitive and leading state amongst Indian states and (v) institutionalizing good governance across the state through enhanced transparency, accountability and participation. The document

postulates specific goals and recommends twelve comprehensive transformations which need to be translated into meaningful interventions by the State Government through partnership with all stakeholders.

I congratulate the State Planning Board on bringing out Vision 2020 and seek the co-operation of all to help in achieving the goals and recommendations made in the Document.

The way forward is to initiate steps to realize the comprehensive vision for Karnataka. It is now essential to focus on designing and implementing strategies in order to achieve the long term measurable and tangible goals mentioned in the Vision Document.

September, 2009



(B.S. Yeddyurappa)
Chief Minister

Preface

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the State Planning Board, to present a Document of the state, “Karnataka – A Vision for Development – 2020.” This Document looks at the principal issues that require attention for the broad-based and inclusive growth and prosperity of the State.

The State Planning Board had undertaken, in 2007, the task of preparing a Vision Document for the long term development of Karnataka. The state government also constituted a Vision Group under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Chief Minister, with eminent persons from various fields as its members, to assist the state in finalizing the Vision Document and to guide the Government with innovative ideas and strategies to make Karnataka a model state both in terms of development and governance.

The Vision Document is an attempt to chart out a long term development plan for the state of Karnataka. It is structured in three parts viz; The first section presents a profile of the various dimensions of Karnataka’s development including its demography, economy, human development, sectoral composition of GSDP and other parameters. The second part analyses the development imperatives for the state in the light of its achievements till date and the impending challenges. The final section of the document unfolds the vision for the state and the key transformations which will enable the state to achieve the various aspects of the Vision. The document examines the development path traversed by the state and explains why a transformation of the development model is required: (i) the state has remained close to country’s average and has not been able to break free from the “*middle-of-the-pack*” status and be among the leading states in key development indicators; (ii) economic growth has not resulted adequately in reducing poverty; and (iii) there is a misalignment of employment and output across sectors, leading to disparities.

The Vision Document advocates a time bound strategy for eradication of poverty, removal of disparities, up gradation of basic infrastructure and promoting social and economic equality. It defines goals in certain important variables governing economic development, human resource development and the quality of life to be achieved by the year 2020. However it is not enough to define and determine goals. The goals and objectives need to be backed by strategies for translating the macro objectives into micro level interventions which need to be adopted in our planning and budgeting exercise.

The Vision Document has identified the following key transformations which should determine future policy initiatives -

- Increase **rural incomes** through greater viability of agriculture and allied activities
- Focus on **job-oriented growth** through concomitant **skill development** of the workforce

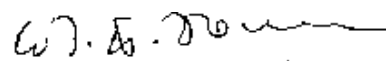
- Develop the state as a vibrant **knowledge society**
- Improve access and availability of **quality healthcare** for all
- Achieve a sustainable and orderly process of **industrialisation** and **urbanisation**
- Enhance opportunities and **empower women** across economic, social and political spheres
- Bridge the gap between **socially backward and vulnerable groups** and the rest of the people
- Improve **energy availability** and **develop infrastructure** to boost productive potential of economy
- Preserve and promote Karnataka's rich cultural **heritage**
- Ensure sustainability of the state's **environment and natural resources**
- Build and sustain **Bangalore's global leadership** in science & technology and knowledge based industries
- **Improve governance** through wider participation and deep democratic **decentralisation**

The above twelve key transformations have been identified after detailed sectoral reviews wherein the key issues and challenges of each sector have been studied in detail along with review of existing policies on the basis of intensive consultations with departments of the State Government and with subject experts. The document also indicates the goals which are to be achieved within the time frame 2020.

The draft of the Vision Document has been hosted on the website of the State Planning Board for facilitating public consultation and the Document has been finalized after incorporating all relevant suggestions and comments.

On behalf of the State Planning Board, I thank the members of the Vision Group who have guided the State in the finalization of the document. The Vision Document has been approved by the Cabinet and is now the state's Vision.

The next step is to take action to achieve the transformations and to realize the goals indicated in the document. In order to do this the Government has constituted six Mission Groups for working out the implementation strategy within a stipulated time frame.



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