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A CONCLAVE FOR KARNATAKA'S FUTURE

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THE PRESENTATIONS

AGRICULTURE & ALLIED SECTORS

Ensure that farmers get MSP for produce

Dr T N Prakash Kammardi,
Chairman, Agriculture Price Commission, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru

THERE is a need to have an experimental approach to develop each sector and allied sectors in Karnataka, and also a legal approach to ensure minimum selling prices (MSP) for agricultural commodities.

About 80 per cent of commodities in the state are sold below the MSP, which is fixed by the state for the benefit of farmers. Most of farmers' income is from commodities. The act looks for several commodities do not even cover the cost of production.

There should be positive action if someone buys below the MSP. In the days of globalisation and liberalisation, the government should ensure farmers get their due.

It is a peculiar situation in the state. We have been on the forefront of innovation in farms. We were the first to open up with a comprehensive agricultural policy in 1964 and the first to introduce IT and BT in agriculture, thanks to the then Chief Minister R H Patil.

Should the investors in agriculture be the state and agricultural universities, or private companies farmers? The fact that the agriculture universities are grossly under the control of the government is worrisome. We are doing a lot in the area of organic farming, but what we need is a combination of both government and private investors.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Simplifying ease of doing biz will help

Kishore Aiya,
Sr Vice President, Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce

SIMPLIFYING the ability to do business can attract more investments in Karnataka, which can lead to creation of the state to a higher income society to improve the state's position. Data indicates that Karnataka's services sector continues to thrive and remains a dominant contributor to the economy. A huge opportunity exists for promotion of MSMEs while the state continues to be an attractive destination for investments.

Vision Karnataka should represent growth strategies on various fronts. Primarily the model agency handling the new project proposals in the state must be restructured to make it a Single Window Agency.

On the energy front, the focus should be implemented in a proactive manner so that the benefits of competition and innovation are achieved by the consumers. The state should aim at becoming a 'Smart Energy State'. Improve energy efficiency in the end-use sectors by considering models and structures, encouraging energy service companies, increasing the electricity supply in rural areas. To make the state self-sufficient in terms of energy, the government should think of having long-term Power Purchase Agreements.

On the infrastructure development front, the state should ensure accessibility of all the job-centric locations enabling faster set-ting up of industries.

ETHICAL EXCELLENCE

Incorporate law in STEM education

Professor B Vachala Rao,
Vice-Chancellor, National Law School of India University

WHILE every academician agrees to the indispensability of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, the amalgamation of law into STEM should be the subject's name in vain.

Law has to follow technology and be updated. Law has to protect new inventions and discoveries. Hence, a collaboration of law and science and technology is the need of the hour. The state has done this as it has established a government law university. We should work towards a more humane society. Education is not about high marks but about formation of minds. I will appeal to the Chief minister to have the Preamble of the Constitution and the Fundamental Duties of the citizens to the Constitution to be displayed in all schools and also they recite the National anthem.

With institutions like the Indian Institute of Science and the IIM-B and many other centres of excellence, Bengaluru is an ideal tourist capital. People living in the outskirts of the city need to understand consequences of living there.

We need to work towards new domain of excellence and strive for global excellence. Back in 1999, when GE-JFW was conceived there were no takers for idea of excellence but now we have a number of excellence centres coming up in the city. Bengaluru needs to understand the significance of living in Bengaluru.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Create jobs to check migration from villages

Professor G Raghuram,
Director, Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru

THE state has witnessed comprehensive development in many areas over the years with its infrastructure. However, the digital should have a focus for a better future.

One of the main challenges Karnataka has in the near future is lack of opportunities in the two cities. Unemployment in rural areas is forcing youngsters to Bengaluru where they have to live in poor conditions.

Jobs have to be created in non-farming rural population, which the development of the two cities would have. Bengaluru already houses a population of more than a crore and a reliable proportion of them have to live. This is not a plan of better urban infrastructure. So, easy and speedy transportation and an affordable public rail plan for cities in order to stop the forcing rural migration and will ensure integration of rural population to urban areas.

Connectivity through various means will be key to the progress of the state which should be looked upon. Only two cities in Karnataka — Bengaluru and Mangaluru — have international flights operations from their airports. It is the state's need to improve upon to be from Belgaum, Hubballi and Kalaburagi. Rail connectivity is also important and it is good to have a bullet train between Bengaluru and Chennai. Also, there is a need to improve the connectivity between Bengaluru and Mysuru.

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Improve condition of govt schools in state

Professor Chandan Gowda,
Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

DESPITE the fabulous social welfare schemes of the state to very large level. It is necessary more are planned in order to help the government bring better policies in future. Many existing schemes to underperform. One of the reasons that the state could do more, but has been unable to do so is because of the lack of capacity in the state.

The two core education schemes, namely Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Right to Education (RTE) are implemented poorly in the state. There are many issues in the state that are not even anything of the culture or policy of the state.

The attempt by the state government to offer an incentive of Rs 1 lakh to the top 10 per cent of students in the first class (10th) to the right direction but has been poorly implemented. It also calls for steps to be taken to ensure that students in underperforming rural areas have the chance to participate in the scheme. Similarly, the Ashraya scheme for the urban poor is also a step in the right direction but has been poorly implemented. There is a need to collaborate with the private and the non-profit sectors.