

PART**1**

BJP KARNATAKA
Legislative Assembly Elections 2008

RESOLVE FOR A PROSPEROUS KARNATAKA

The people's mandate in 2004 was for a BJP-led non-Congress Government. However, the shameless opportunism of Congress and the betrayal by JD(S) have forced mid-term elections on the state.

The four-year misrule of the UPA government has resulted in unbearable rise in prices, terrorism causing fear amongst the people, misery of farmers leading to suicides and an anti-Karnataka-Kannada policy by the Centre. The JD(S) is for ever plotting to exploit any fractured verdict for its selfish political ends. The recent statements made by that party's leaders can only damage Karnataka's interests.

The two budgets presented by Shri. B.S. Yediyurappa as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister had given shape to several programmes for

the welfare of the poor, the farmers, agricultural workers, women, youth, scheduled castes and tribes, backward classes and minorities and charted a new path of development for the state. In the limited period available, the BJP showed remarkable achievements.

Our visionary leader, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was responsible to secure India a place of pride in the comity of nations. Vajpayee's model of governance, centred on economic and human development, serves as the ideal model for Karnataka's progress.

A clear mandate is the foundation for a stable government, people-friendly leadership and responsive administration. People are disgusted with kichdi governments and are looking forward to a government with a clear majority.

Our sincere appeal is **Give BJP a clear majority, give us an opportunity to make Karnataka a fully developed state.**

The BJP Manifesto is a road map, a pledge to make Karnataka a model state in India.

1.1 PROMISE BACKED BY PERFORMANCE

Primacy to Basic needs

The most important problem faced by the people today is the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities. The Congress party is squarely

responsible for this price rise. The poor in particular are deeply distressed. The top priority for BJP is therefore to provide for the basic need of food.

The BJP guarantees the Right to Food as a necessary ingredient of the Right to Live.

Education, Health, Housing and Peace and Social Justice will also be treated as rights to which all citizens are entitled and we will endeavor to fulfil these rights.

For the poor

In spite of the steep increase in the cost of living, only those with an income of less than Rs.11,800/- per year are considered poor! This leaves out a large section of people with low income, denying them to access to the basic needs of life.

We propose to recognise families with annual income upto Rs.30,000/- as 'extremely poor' and those with annual income above Rs.30000/- and upto Rs.60,000/- as 'poor'.

These families (including unorganized workers such as autorickshaw drivers, coffee estate labourers and daily wage earners in cities) will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Food grains at subsidised price. (Rice at Rs. 2/- per kg to extremely poor families).

- Community Health Insurance scheme to cover surgeries, accidents and other hospitalised services.
- Assistance to women upto Rs.1,000/- for each hospitalised delivery.(including private hospitals)
- Bhagya Lakshmi scheme: Enhancing maturity value to Rs.1.00 lakh from the present Rs.34,000/- when the girl attains the age of 18 years.
- 'Kanya Dana' scheme - assistance for mass marriages.
- Pension of Rs.400/- per month to helpless divorced women and widows with children.
- Allowance of Rs. 400 per month for physically handicapped.
- Waiver of loans under housing schemes like Ashraya, Indira Awas etc., Future loan amount to be increased to Rs.40,000/-
- Provision of sites and houses to siteless and houseless families during the next 5 years(15 lakh houses).
- **Cyber Cafe in every village** : Fruits of I.T. must reach every village. This will be made possible by providing in each village;

- A Community Hall, a Colour TV and a Computer (with internet). This would provide Benefits like:
 - a) Education and Entertainment,
 - b) Information on agriculture, weather, prices etc,
 - c) Communication with government and others,
 - d) Centre for social and cultural activities,

For Farmers

- Free power to farmers having irrigation pumpsets upto 10 H.P.(about 16 lakhs).
- Interest rate of 3% on crop loans to farmers borrowing from nationalised banks and RRBs. Weavers, fishermen and artisans also to be provided loans at 3%. Differential of interest rates to be reimbursed to banks by the state government.
- To create a revolving fund of Rs. 500 crores for agricultural support price.
- Payment of production assistance of Rs.2/- per liter of milk directly to the milk producers.
- Measures to provide support price to sericulture.

- Formulation of land acquisition policy to ensure right price to farmers' lands and transparent acquisition procedures.
- Removal of restrictions on conversion and sale of agricultural lands.

For Women

- Free education to girls upto degree class.
- Seed capital for women self help groups to be raised to Rs. 10,000 from Rs.5,000. Loans to SHGs at 6% interest.
- Provision of a mobile telephone to SHGs, mahila mandals & youth clubs.

For Scheduled caste, Tribe, Backward Class and Minorities

- Adequate funds for welfare of SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities and an effective monitoring system for implementation of programmes.
- Increase in food charges in student hostels Rs.500/- to Rs.750/- per student per month.

For Youth

- Set up a State Youth Council and formulate a Youth Policy.
- **Jobs for Youth** : Skill development programmes for unemployed young men and women with a stipend of Rs. 1500 per month.

- Encouragement to sports; recognition of sports persons who have won awards at national level.

Education Health

- Provision of quality education and health services for all.
- Maintain Karnataka's pre-eminent position in science and technology including Information and Bio Technology.

1.2 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Power

- Doubling power production to 10,000 MW during the next 5 years.
- Encouragement to private investors.
- Separate Rural Grids to improve power supply to rural areas.

Water and Irrigation

- Providing safe and adequate drinking water to all towns and villages as per prescribed standards.
- Effective utilization of Karnataka's share of water under Krishna and Cauvery basins.
- Kalasa Banduri drinking water project to be pursued vigorously.

Roads and other connectivity

- Master plan and setting up an appropriate authority to provide good quality road connectivity throughout the state during the next 5 years. (Rs.25,000 crores)
- Exerting pressure on Central Government for development of Railways, Airports and Ports.

Tourism

- Developing a Master Plan to develop Karnataka as the leading Tourism State during the next 5 years.

Industrial Development

- Measures to improve industrial climate in the state.
- Considering regional advantages in the state, promotion of special industrial zones for Steel, Cement, Food Processing, IT & BT.

Urban Development

- Plans to develop towns and cities with necessary infrastructure and civic amenities.
- **Making Bangalore a World Class City**
 - Directly elected Mayor.
 - Metropolitan Planning Council.

- Metropolitan Transport & Traffic Authority.
- Projects to upgrade infrastructure roads, water, sewerage, transport etc.
- Action Plan to improve environment-greenery, lakes, pollution control.

Security

- Formulate Security Policy for the state to contain terrorism and naxalism.
- Strategies to deal effectively with crime, maintain law and order, provide protection to citizens.

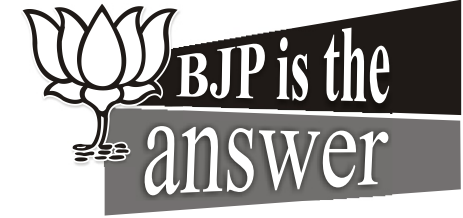
Governance & Correcting Regional Imbalances

- Measures to improve efficiency, reduce corruption and speed up delivery of services.
- Strengthening Lok Ayukta.
- Involving non-governmental organizations in monitoring implementation of government programmes.
- Exert pressure on Central Government to confer special status to Hyderabad Karnataka region under Art.371 on the lines of Telengana and Vidharbha regions.
- Implementation of Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa Committee Report to redress regional imbalances.

- Issue of Multi-Purpose Identity Card.

Kannada Language and Culture

- Measures to protect Kannada Language and Culture.
- As per the Constitutional provisions, protection of cattle and prevention of cow slaughter.
- Encouragement to charitable organizations running institutions such as orphanages, old age homes, hostels for poor etc. (Rs.100 crores per year)
- Classical language status for Kannada: Exert pressure on Central Government.
- Construction of memorial to Dr.Rajkumar.



The vision of BJP is to create a prosperous Karnataka where people belonging to all sections of society including women, scheduled castes and tribes, and minorities have access to the basic needs of life and opportunities for employment to live with dignity. And to make Karnataka the foremost state in India.

Clear Mandate to BJP

for

Prosperous Karnataka

PART

2

CLEAR MANDATE FOR TOTAL DEVELOPMENT

In this background, the people of our state must keep JD(S) and Congress away from power and bless the BJP with a clear mandate and provide it an opportunity to develop Karnataka as a frontline state in the country.

BJP, during its limited opportunity to share office during the 20 months, has demonstrated political will to provide good governance.

- These two Budgets, presented by **Shri B.S. Yediyurappa**, as Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister have been hailed by the people of Karnataka. In fact, the Government of India did not hesitate to adopt our scheme relating to waiver of loans to farmers.
- These two, Budgets apart from providing all time high grants for basic infrastructure, education, healthcare, included several new programmes

for the upliftment of the poor, for the first time in the state.

- Karnataka was the first state in India to provide farmers with loans at a low interest rate of 4 percent per annum. The farmers loans upto Rs. 25,000 have been waived.
- Lottery and sale of Arrack, were abolished bringing relief to lakhs of women and poor families.
- Gender Budget was presented for the first time in the country in Karnataka.

With all the limitations of the coalition polity, BJP tried its best to contribute to the progress of the State. We assure the people that with a clear mandate, BJP will provide a stable government and work in the best interests of all sections of society, without discrimination, for around development of the state during the next 5 years.

2.1 FAILURE OF U.P.A. GOVERNMENT

Price rise

The prices which were stable till 2004, started going up with the advent of the UPA government. Prices of food grains, edible oils, energy, steel, cement have sky rocketed. During the last four years, the price of cement increased from Rs.125 to 280 per bag, steel from Rs. 20,000 per tonne to 52,000. Petrol which was Rs. 38 per liter is Rs.52 now ! There is also shortage in the supply of cooking Gas.

Increased Terrorism and growing Naxalism

NDA had enacted POTA and kept terrorism under check. The UPA, by withdrawing POTA and adopting a weak policy has only encouraged extremists and terrorists. Terrorism has invaded even a peace loving state like Karnataka.

Development at standstill

Vajapeyiji's programmes of National Highways were stopped abruptly by the new dispensation of UPA for no reason and now it is unable to re-start the programmes. 'Swajala Dhara' (village drinking water scheme) education and healthcare programmes have been changed and grants have been reduced for these schemes.

2.2 PRESIDENT'S RULE IN KARNATAKA - STATE IS LIMPING

The BJP as a partner in the coalition government, implemented several development and welfare programmes. Under the President's Rule, funds to the tune of Rs. 1600 crores provided in the 2007-08 budget have lapsed unspent. Shri Yediyurappa had increased the state revenues from Rs. 36,000 crores to Rs 52,000 crores without levying additional taxes. But the whole effort seems to have been rendered waste by the inaction of the state apparatus under the President's Rule.

PART

3

THE NEW PATH

Although Karnataka is known as a progressive state, there are many things yet to be achieved. On India's development map, Karnataka does not figure at the top under any indicator. We are 6th in per capita income, 7th in Human Resource Development and 8th in literacy level. We can only be called a moderately developed state.

Our state is rich in natural and human resources. Our task is to harness these resources, put the state on the rapid development track, provide good quality of life to our people and take Karnataka to the top position in India. This is BJP's vision.

To achieve this ambitious goal, we recognize the following rights of the people.

Right to Food

Right to Health

Right to Education

Right to Housing

Right to Peace and Social Justice

3.1 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Human resource development starts with the child. BJP is committed to providing the facilities every child must enjoy.

- Healthy child hood.
- Quality Education.
- Abolition of child labour.
- Prevention of child trafficking.
- Protection from HIV / AIDS / Polio and such other diseases.
- "Bhagyalakshmi" Scheme for a female child, enhancement of maturity value from Rs. 34,000 to Rs. 1,00,000.

3.2 EDUCATION

Education is the basis of progress. There is a need to reshape the educational policy to meet the challenges of modern society.

- Total literacy with in three years.
- Primary education in Kannada/ mother tongue, thereafter, facilities to learn English, Hindi and Computer skills.

- Midday meals in schools to be made more nutritive and healthy.
- Providing necessary infrastructure in all schools including facilities of toilets.
- More hostels for SC, ST and Backward classes at Taluk level.
- Progressive reduction of teacher - student ratio in schools to enhance the quality of education.
- More opportunities for vocational education.
- Pre university level student counseling centers to be established at district centres.
- Education fund to provide easy loans for students pursuing higher education.
- Free education to women up to degree class.
- More autonomy to universities.
- Interests of students of the state to be protected in admission to professional courses.
- Deserving private schools to be brought under grant - in- aid.
- Establishment of Sanskrit University.
- Setting up Education Tribunals.

3.3 HEALTH CARE

- The aim is to provide good quality healthcare at affordable cost to everyone.

- Community Health Insurance will be provided to those upto Rs.60,000 annual income. Treatment for accident victims, emergency surgery, heart, kidney ailments, Cancer, Aids etc will be covered.
- Protection from epidemics through immunization.
- Effective steps to reduce birth rate, infant mortality and maternal mortality.
- Assistance to women upto Rs. 1,000 for each hospitalised delivery.(including private)
- Encouragement to medical systems like ayurveda, nature cure & yoga.
- Measures to improve the quality of all medical and paramedical educational institutions.
- Primary Health Centers at hobli level to be upgraded to Community Health Centers with 30 bed facilities.
- Stringent measures to curb spurious and substandard medicines.
- Life saving drugs to be exempted from taxes.
- Round the clock services of mobile healthcare units at taluk level and along hihgways.
- Telemedicine system at PHC level.

- Free eye camps and providing spectacles to senior citizens.

3.4 DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

- The aim is to provide safe drinking water to all habitations in urban and rural areas of the state.
- Effective utilization of water resources.
- Measures to prevent pollution of water sources.
- Safety measures to prevent fluorosis and other water borne diseases.
- Promote water conservation measures such as rain water harvesting, recharging of wells and recycling of water.
- Measures to improve sanitation and promote awareness through Sthree Shakthi and Self Help groups.
- Underground drainage system to be introduced in a phased manner in all towns.

3.5 WOMEN'S WELFARE

BJP is committed to provide opportunities to women to lead a dignified life and participate in decision-making process in all the governmental and local bodies.

- Free education to all women till degree class.
- Self - help and sthree-shakti institutions to be strengthened. The seed capital will be increased to Rs. 10,000 from 5,000.

- Women to be involved in health, education and social awareness programmes; they will be imparted vocational training.
- Financial assistance to voluntary organizations to build working women's hostels.
- Effective legislation for protection of women against harassment at working places.
- Incentives and guidance for women entrepreneurs.
- Appointment of women police staff to prevent atrocities on women and establishment of more all - women police stations.
- Assistance to mahila mandals and yuvathi mandals for constructive activities.
- Assistance for 'Sthree Shakti Bhavans in all taluka centers.
- Incentives for widow remarriage and intercaste marriages.
- Anganavadi workers and teachers to get more facilities.
- Payment of allowance of Rs.400 per month to poor divorced women till they remarry.
- Maternity leave for government officials to be extended to four months from 3 months.

- 33 percent of the individual oriented facilities in the SC/ST, Minorities and Backward Classes Development Corporations to be provided to women.

3.6 YOUTH WELFARE

The aim is to promote effective participation of youth in national reconstruction activities.

- Establishment of 'State Yuva Parishat' on the lines of "National Youth Council" formed by the NDA Government at Centre.
- Formulation of State Youth Policy.
- Scope of 'State Yuva Parishat' would include the following;
 - ✦ Employment Information Centres and employment training programmes.
 - ✦ Awareness programmes on clean environment and health. including diseases like Leprosy, AIDS, Polio, Malaria etc.,
 - ✦ Encouraging Sports and Cultural activities.
 - ✦ Career guidance for education and employment at pre- university education level.
 - ✦ Training for competitive tests and examinations.

- ✦ Felicitation of patriots, paying tributes to soldiers who sacrifice their lives.
- ✦ Creating awareness against social exploitation.
- ✦ Encouragement to vocational expertise by way of awards.
- ✦ Financial assistance to one best Yuvaka Mandal and Yuvathi Mandal in each Panchayat area every year.
- ✦ Jobs for youth - skill development /certification programmes on a large scale for young men and women. Rs 1500/- per month allowance during training period.

3.7 SOCIAL WELFARE

We are totally committed to the welfare of SCs/STs, minorities and other backward sections. The former NDA government at the Centre and we in the State coalition government, have implemented a number of programmes for their welfare. We further propose to implement the following programmes:

- Waiver of loans under Ashraya housing scheme.
- Funds under special component plan meant for SC/STs not to be diverted and the full amount to be spent through a single window system.
- Rules for issuing caste certificates to be simplified, and made valid for ten years.

- Improving management of SC/ST hostels. Enhancing allocation for food, from Rs.500 to Rs.750 per student per month.
- Valmiki Community Halls will be constructed in the districts where Valmiki population is high.
- Housing to be provided for the houseless. Self employment programme assistance, to the jobless on the basis of eligibility.
- Atrocities on SC/ST population will be dealt with severely by establishing vigilance cells which include peoples representatives at district level.
- Action to fill up back log vacancies on priority.
- Internal reservations among SC/STs to be reviewed.
- Awareness camps to highlight the rights of SCs/STs and the programmes meant for them.
- Special training for competitive exams.
- Funds for Banjara Welfare.
- More funds for backward class welfare.
- Backward class hostels to be improved.
- Encouragement for girls education.

Minority Welfare

- Financial assistance to set up training centres to promote self-employment.

- Measures to improve quality of education in Urdu schools and to appoint Kannada teachers.
- Urdu knowing Anganwadi worker to be appointed wherever required.

Welfare of the Physically Challenged

- Government will provide assistance for life insurance and health insurance to physically challenged.
- The nature and level of disability will be entered in the identity card
- Disabled will be given due representation in government employment
- A State level committee will oversee the implementation of the rights of the physically challenged.
- Provision of accessible infrastructure facilities in all public offices, schools, hospitals, etc.

Senior Citizens

- Opening Geriatrics wing in district hospitals to attend to treatment of senior citizens.
- Suitable concession for bus travel.

Labour Welfare

- Welfare programmes for workers in unorganized sector such as, autorikshaw

drivers, garment workers transport employees etc.

- Suitable action to redress of the problems of contract and daily wages employees.
- Insist on the appointment of Kannadigas in Group 'D' posts in Central Government public undertakings in the state.
- Family welfare fund for auto drivers. Compensation for accidents to be enhanced to Rs. 1 Lakh from Rs. 50,000/-.

Welfare of Ex-servicemen

- Suitable assistance for employment, housing and children's education.
- Enhancing compensation for families of ex-servicemen, who die in action.
- Establishing a Veera Soudha in each district; assistance to ex-servicemen, organizations at district level.

3.8 EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

Ten year plan to expand employment opportunities. The following areas have been specifically identified.

- Skill development / certification programmes in various trades; allowance of Rs.1500 per trainee per month.

- Urban facilities in Rural Areas, village and township development programmes. to provide roads, housing, schools etc.
- **Tourism** : Tremendous potential to generate employment.
- Emphasis on vocational education.
- Promote all applications for jobs through on-line process and cut down application fee.

3.9 RURAL DEVELOPMENT

65 percent of state's population living in rural areas are dependent on agriculture and allied activities. But agriculture does not provide employment throughout the year. This has resulted in migration to cities. It will be our endeavor to create employment opportunities in rural areas and strengthen Panchayat Raj institutions.

Our focus will be on

- Development of rural infrastructure during next 5 years - roads, water, power and communication.
- Improving finances of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The 3rd Finance Commission was appointed by the last coalition government to suggest ways and means to improve the financial conditions of local bodies.

- Plans to extend Business Process Outsourcing (Call centers) to semi- urban and rural areas - will generate employment.
- Cyber Cafe in every village:

Community Halls / Common utility centers in each village will be provided with color TV and computer with internet connection. This will serve educational and entertainment needs of villagers, provide information on agricultural and other matters and faster communication facilities. Local people will be trained in computer literacy. This will also expand employment opportunities.

3.10 AGRICULTURE

A majority of our people depend on agriculture but our farmers are in distress. Recognizing this, in the state budget 2007-08 presented by our then Deputy Chief Minister, farmers' loans were waived and the interest rates for new loans were restricted to 4% per annum. We propose to extend the concessional interest on loans borrowed by our farmers from nationalized banks and the RRBs. The difference in rate of interest will be paid by the Government directly to the banks.

New Measures

- Extension of 3% interest on loans borrowed by farmers

- Free power for use of irrigation pumpsets of less than 10 hp. (around 14 lakh)

Reforms in Land use

The land use in Karnataka is regulated under three Acts, namely, Land Revenue Act, Land Reforms Act and Town and Country Planning Act. Provisions relating to conversion and sale of agricultural land are anti farmer and not in keeping with the needs of a developing society. They have resulted in corruption and hardship to the farmer. We therefore propose to free the farmer on these restrictions by:

- a) Deleting the provision requiring permission for conversion of agricultural land for non agricultural purpose under the Karnataka Land Revenue act.
- b) Deleting the provisions placing restrictions on sale of agricultural land under the Karnataka Land Reforms act.

Urban Land use : Land use in urban areas will be regulated strictly in accordance with the regulations under the Master Plan of each city.

Protection against fall of prices of Agriculture Commodities : Onion, potato, tomato, chilli and other crops are fast perishing and the farmers lose heavily whenever there is a fall in prices of these commodities.

The middle-man takes undue advantage of the helplessness of the farmers.

To prevent this eventuality, we propose:

- Agriculture Revolving Fund with Rs. 500 crores for support prices of agriculture produce.
- Cold storages and processing units.
- Agricultural Products Exchanges with a view to get the maximum price.
- Provide loans at lower interest rates, under agreement of purchase of the produce.
- Effective implementation of crop insurance scheme.
- Subsidy for purchase of tractor & trailers.
- Quality electricity supply to irrigation pumpsets.
- Extend Drip irrigation concession to the entire state.
- Special attention to sugarcane. Higher support price.

Horticulture

- Priority to marketing facilities including processing unit and cold storages.
- Encouragement to Coconut, Areca and Cashew. Institutionalizing the support price system.

- Problems of small growers of coffee, tea, coca, cardamom, pepper, tobacco and rubber to be addressed.
- Encouragement to export of flowers, fruits, vegetables and their seed production.

Sericulture

- Measures to improve sericulture farming and support price provision.

3.11 DAIRY AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

- Production assistance of Rs.2 per liter of milk directly to the milk producers
- Nutritious animal feeds at low cost.
- Development of highly productive breeds.
- Services of veterinary doctors and livestock inspectors to be extended to more areas.
- Protection of cattle and prevention of cow slaughter, as per the Constitutional provisions.

3.12 FISHERIES

Formulation of comprehensive Fisheries Development policy.

- Construction and maintenance of jetties, cold storages and ice plants, housing for fishermen, fisheries roads, simplification of accident insurance rules, encouraging inland fisheries.

- Diesel subsidy and concessions for mechanised boats.
- Power supply at concessional rates to ice plants and cold storages.
- Increasing subsidised loans to poor fishermen to Rs.10,000.

3.13 CO-OPERATION

- Small farmers in rural and semi-urban areas are dependent on cooperative societies for loans. To facilitate low interest rates and easy loans, the present three tier system of agriculture refinancing system will be reduced to two- tier.
- Responsibility to co-operative societies to oversee the regular payment of salaries to their employees.
- Strengthening democratic principles and enabling co-operative institutions to compete with private sector.
- Encourage co-operative societies auditing by chartered accountants.

3.14 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION & FORESTS

The goal is to achieve sustainable development

Environment Protection

- Action to prevent encroachments and pollution of water sources.

- Environment protection to be included as a subject for study in High Schools.
- Encouragement to cleaner production techniques.
- Action to discourage use of plastic.
- Support to Environment protection activities by NGOs.
- Priority to air pollution prevention.
- Encouragement for production of bio diesel and bio-energy. Support to growing crops like Jatropa, Pongamia, Mahua, and Neem.
- Support to production of energy from urban waste through Nanotechnology and other means.

Forest Development

- Encouragement to Social Forestry.
- Maintain ecological balance by developing multi-culture plantations in place of mono-culture of Acacia or Eucalyptus.
- Encouragement to growing medicinal plants.
- In accordance with the unanimous resolution of the state Legislature, long standing cultivators living in forest lands will be protected.
- We are committed to comprehensive forest development and forest protection.

3.15 URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Urbanisation is a growing phenomenon About 35 percent of the state's population lives in urban areas and by 2020 this will increase to 45 percent. We are, therefore, committed to improve the living standards of the urban population. The following measures will be taken to improve urban amenities.

- Safe and adequate drinking water.
- Sanitation and underground drainage.
- Quality roads and footpaths.
- Street lamps to every road.
- Improvment of waste disposal system.
- Competitive public transport system providing opportunities to private sector.

Programmes for Urban Poor

There is increase in the number of urban poor in the state alongside urbanization. We are committed to eradicate urban poverty by way of:

- Improving education and healthcare facilities.
- Housing facilities.
- Providing employment opportunities through vocational training facilities.

Housing

- Plans to provide affordable housing facilities to all weaker sections including slum dwellers in next 5 years.
- Provision of basic amenities in slum areas.
- Land use conversion rules will be simplified.

Urban Governance

- Decentralization of administrative and financial authority to urban local bodies.
- Direct election to the post of Mayor in corporation cities.
- Ward committees will be established for better citizen participation.
- E-governance for better services.
- Simplification of property tax system.
- Improve security system for protection of citizens.
- Constitution of Citizen Advisory Committees, including experts for better administration and performance monitoring.

3.16 BANGALORE : A NEW VISION

Bangalore has now become Greater Bangalore. From 226 Sq km. it has grown to 800 Sq km and its population is now more than 6 million Globally,

Bangalore has gained in importance as the IT capital of India. The growth has also generated problems:

- Vehicular traffic has increased manifold.
- Road infrastructure is insufficient.
- Water supply is inadequate.
- Drainage system is deficient.
- Environment is being polluted.
- Urban poor lack access to minimum facilities.

Bangalore is under pressure to retain its 'Global City' status. It is not enough to invite investors; the human resource talents must also be nurtured. Our intellectual capital is our strength.

Bangalore has the potential to become No. 1 City in India and an internationally prominent metropolis. To make this possible, we need to adopt a new urban planning model, upgrade our infrastructure, improve the social facilities and create a better environment for good quality of life. In other words, we must re-invent Bangalore.

First and foremost, Bangalore needs good city leadership. We therefore propose that the Mayor must be directly elected by the people, for a period of 5 years. The Mayor will have executive powers and he/she will be directly responsible to the citizens. Commissioner will be selected from among professionals once in three years.

Bangalore requires a plan with a vision not only for the city but the entire metropolitan region covering 8,000 sq. kms. A Metropolitan Planning Council comprising elected representatives and experts will be constituted to plan and co-ordinate various activities in the region.

The administration will be decentralised with a view to improving service delivery and promoting citizen participation. Development programmes will be under taken under Public-Private public partnership, including vehicle parking facilities in different parts of the city.

A Metropolitan Transport Authority will be setup to address the ever growing transport and traffic problems of city, with powers to plan and regulate transport activities.

Keeping the future water requirements view, the possibility of tapping water from Hemavathi will be explored.

Action will be taken to strengthen law enforcement and reduce crime in the city.

CVS tax scheme which has been subject to lot of public comment will be reviewed and the law amended, if need be, to put in place a people friendly property tax system.

An action plan will be proposed to improve environment and reduce pollution.

The revenue pockets within the metropolitan area would be provided all civic amenities. A comprehensive plan will be drawn upto provide educational, health, housing and employment facilities to the urban-poor.

3.17 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Power

Karnataka was the first state to produce hydroelectric power in Asia. But now the state is experiencing severe power shortage. Our percapita consumption of power is almost half of those of Maharastra and Gujarat. Shortage of power is affecting growth rate in industry, commerce and agriculture. Our aim is to double the production of power to 10,000 megawatts during the course of next five years.

Our other plans are

- Encourage private participation in power production.
- Reduce transmission and distribution losses.
- Promotion of renewable energy sources.
- Exclusive Power Generation Unit for Bangalore

3.18 TOURISM

Our beautiful beaches, Sahyadri mountains, valleys, waterfalls, resorts, hill stations, rivers, palaces, historical forts, religious centers, folklore, provide

immense scope to attract tourists-national and international. A huge amount of Rs. 148 crore was provided in the state budget for tourism development during the 20 months, when we were part of the government. It is possible to bring about a Tourism Revolution in the state.

Future plans

- Provision of good and affordable tourist facilities.
- Good roads to tourism spots.
- Security to tourists.
- Production of good information literature and appointment of knowledgeable guides.
- Encourage regional specialties.
- Enabling 5 lakh employment opportunities, direct and indirect.

3.19 DRINKING WATER AND IRRIGATION

One of the major achievements of our party as partners in the last coalition government was completion of several irrigation projects. However, several villages, towns and cities are experiencing water scarcity. Some important irrigation projects are suffering due to inter-state disputes.

In this background, we propose to:

- Provide safe drinking water to all rural and urban areas.

- Take measures for utilizing our irrigation capacity fully.
- Utilize our share of water in Krishna and Cauvery basins.
- Network the westward rivers for efficient water management so that the coastal fresh water requirements for drinking, irrigation, and fisheries are met.
- Renovation of irrigation canals for efficient utilization.
- Complete Kalasa-Banduri project implementation.
- Improvement and completion of canal distribution network in all command areas.
- Suitable policy and steps for integrated water resources management.
- Formation of water resources regulation authority.
- Promotion of water users associations and federations at all levels.

Minor Irrigation

- Rejuvenation of tanks, reservoirs and Kalyanis for minor irrigation.
- Ground water recharge to prevent depletion of ground water.

- Strengthening water user associations for efficient water management.

3.20 ROAD NETWORKING

In today's world good roads are a sign of civilized progress. Our aim is to expand the road network and improve the quality of roads.

- A master plan will be prepared to develop a time bound programme of networking roads between districts and State Capital, Taluks and Districts, Villages and Taluks.
- Formation of ring roads in cities wherever required.
- Encourage private participation in road development, including toll roads.
- Involve local residents in acquiring land for widening existing roads.
- Encourage healthy competition by allowing private buses along the nationalised routes, wherever necessary.
- Provide rest houses, along National and State Highways. Toilets and Bathroom facilities to women passengers in particular.
- Measures to reduce vehicular air pollution, encourage use of LPG/CNG fuel, and bio-fuels.

- Improve railway network- pressure on central government.
- Intra-state aviation development-encouragement to private sector.

3.21 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Towards knowledge society

The State is proud of our scientists who have placed Karnataka in the forefront of the scientific field internationally.

- The government has a role to inspire the scientific community and take the research from “lab to land”. The benefit of research should reach the farmers.
- Promotion of E-Governance system in the functioning of the government departments so as to have transparency and speed in administration.
- Every panchayat and municipality will become an e-seva center where information about different public services can be accessed.
- Technology parks will be established in all districts.
- Knowledge workers and skilled technicians will be produced in good number to cater to the knowledge based Industries.

3.22 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The aim is to create an enabling environment for industry to flourish in the state and take Karnataka to the top position in industrial development in the country.

The obstacles to rapid industrial progress are:

- Lack of adequate infrastructure.
- Uncertainty and inadequacy of electric supply.
- Delay in clearances.

Measures to promote industrial growth

- Increase the pace of infrastructure provision.
- Plans to rejuvenate small-scale industries. During our 20 months in government, the small industry's subsidy dues have been fully disbursed.
- Captive power plants of industries to be exempted from taxes.
- Karnataka to be further developed as a center of IT/BT, pharmaceutical and electronic industries.
- Encouragement to NRIs and Non Resident Kannadigas to invest in the state.
- Based on regional advantages in the state, promotion of special industrial zones for-steel, cement, food-processing. IT and BT.

Handloom Sector

The policy is to encourage Handloom sector in keeping with local requirements of makes like Ilkal, Guledgudda, Gadag, Molakalmuru, Tiptur, Anekal, Udupi etc. the skills of our weavers to be protected under Geographical Indicators (1997 Registration Act) to prevent patenting their specialties by other countries.

Redressal of Weavers' problems

- Regional specialties will be encouraged to produce value added products of consumer demand, and setting up of weavers parks.
- Support to handloom products.
- Subsidies will be released regularly.
- Assistance to weavers in Healthcare, housing, education and workshed facilities.
- Group insurance will be provided to weavers.
- Loans at 4% interest.

3.23 LANGUAGE, ART AND CULTURE

Kannada as a Classical Language

Kannada has a history of 2000 years. While the Government of India has recognised Tamil language as a Classical Language, Kannada has not been given that status. We will exert pressure on the Centre to grant classical language status to Kannada.

Steps to promote language and culture

- Use of Kannada as official language at all levels.
- Kalabhavan and auditoria facilities in all districts where the artistes can exhibit their talents round the year.
- Construction of Memorial to Dr. Rajkumar.
- Encourage local artists and technicians.
- Monthly pension to aged artists.
- Efforts to protect the Folklore of the state.
- Priority to protect Hampi and its ancient monuments.
- Encouragement to Kannada activities beyond the state borders. Kannada Bhavans in Talukas in border areas.
- Action on report of committee under Mukyamantri Chandru.

Films

- All facilities will be extended to Kannada films shot in Karnataka.
- Suitable reforms in tax exemptions to Kannada films.

Review of charitable and religious endowment act

- Hindu Charitable and Religious Endowment Act has several inconsistencies. To protect the autonomous status of the religious endowments, the Act will be ammended suitably.
- Assistance to revive rural temples.
- Aradhana Scheme will be strengthened. Resurrection of temples by involving local people.
- Grants to temples will be increased form Rs.500 per month to Rs.1000 per month.

3.24 CORRECTING OF REGIONAL IMBALANCES

- The present Karnataka state was formed in 1956 with regions from Old Mysore Hyderabad-Karnataka, Bombay-Karnataka, Madras Presidency and Kodagu. Even after 5 decades, the state suffers from regional disparities. BJP is committed to improve the economic prosperity of all the regions in the state.
- We will exert bring pressure on the Centre to accord special status to Hyderabad-Karnataka region under Article 371 of Constitution of India on the lines of Telangana and Vidarbha regions.
- Dr.D.M.Nanjundappa committee Report on Regional Imbalances was kept in cold storage

by the previous Congress party led Government. It was Shri.B.S.Yeddyurappa, as Deputy Chief Minister who in his budget provided the required funds to implement the recommendations of report and proposed a special Development Plan. We are committed to the full implementations of these recommendations and correcting the regional imbalances.

- Measures to improve governance in backward regions.

3.25 RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT

We need resources to implement our development plans. BJP demonstrated its capability to mobilize resources during the 20 month period it was part of the coalition government when B.S. Yeddyurappa held the Finance Portfolio.

Plans to augment resources

- Maximize collections under Commercial Taxes, Excise, Transport and Stamps Registration by plugging loopholes for evasion.
- Examine possibility of further reforms under VAT
- Review of user charges for various services where there is scope for additional revenue.
- Cost cutting measures and improving project management.

3.26 GOVERNANCE REFORMS

Political power is an opportunity to serve people. Good governance depends on how government institutions are run.

Reforms measures

- De-centralization of powers to local bodies, this will reduce the burden on the people to visit state headquarters.
- Re-engineering the bureaucracy.
- Strengthening Lokayukta.
- Speedy justice by Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms.
- Set up evening courts in all Taluk places.
- Construction of Suvarna Soudha in Belgaum.
- E-governance.

Multi purpose identity cards

Government provides a number of services particularly to the poor and weaker sections. Individuals are required to establish their identity for various purposes such as opening a bank account, securing a passport, driving license etc. To simplify the process of identification, it is proposed to issue a Multi Purpose Identity Card to all citizens of the state.

Contents : The Identity Card will denote name, gender, age, qualification, birth marks, Blood group,

address, caste (for SC/ST and backward class identification).

Benefits

- To confirm the identity of a person.
- Age proof
- To avail facilities provided by Govt.
- Easy documentation for purposes of securing loan, insurance and other financial transactions,
- Protection against fraud
- Help to Police to in crime detection.
- Authentic information to employers.
- Caste certification.



**ABSOLUTE MAJORITY TO BJP
TOTAL DEVELOPMENT
OF
KARNATAKA**

