

# Speech of Capt Ganesh Karnik @ PBD 2010 New Delhi

SPEECH OF CAPT. GANESH KARNIK, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, NRI FORUM, KARNATAKA, ON **9TH JANUARY 2010** IN KARNATAKA STATE SESSION AT PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CONVENTION HELD IN VIGYAN BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

Respected dignitaries, Delegates from all over the world, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Press,

At the outset let me extend a very warm welcome to everyone present here. It also gives me immense pleasure to extend greetings and best wishes to every one assembled here on behalf of people of Karnataka. I take this opportunity to place on record our sincere thanks to the organizers for having given us this opportunity to share a few thoughts about my beloved State Karnataka, 'One State with Many Opportunities'.

The State Government under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri B.S.Yedyurappa, is committed to achieve all-round development of Karnataka State. It has been his sincere endeavor since he took over as the Chief Minister of our State to usher in a new era of development with his policy initiatives,

Karnataka is the eighth largest state, both in terms of area and population. Although historically Karnataka had been primarily an agricultural state with rich natural resources it is now better known world over as an IT & BT hub. Karnataka has become the knowledge and technical capital of the country. The State enjoys excellent climatic conditions and has good Rail, Road and Air connectivity

The State has been a pioneer in industry and also had the distinction of building a strong and vibrant industrial base, which combined the strengths of a large public sector presence with the State wide distribution of large, medium and small scale Units. Good labour relations have helped the State to achieve pre-eminence on the industrial map. The concentration of I.T. related industries, bio-technology, BPOs and IPOs combined with strong research and development institutions and a large pool of trained and skilled manpower have ensured for Karnataka a sustainable competitive edge in the country's Industrial Scenario. The government has been consistently pursuing progressive industrial policies to meet the changing needs of the State's economy and industry. Many central enterprises like BEML, BHEL, HAL, DRDO, ISRO, CFTRI, MRPL wheel & Axle plant, BEL & ITI were established in Karnataka many decades ago. All the leading IT Companies in the world such as Infosys, Wipro, TCS, Oracle, Dell, IBM, Bicon, Microsoft, & Accenture, have a large presence in the State. There is

a strong Indian Diaspora in the software, technology and research industries as well as in the management industry.

The State has a chain of quality educational institutions of international repute which have made our country proud by their contributions, and also have made our state a “Destination for Higher Education” for students, not only from our country even from abroad.

The new industrial policy of the state envisages tremendous investment potential in the areas of quality Infrastructure, Power Sector, IT and BT, Education, Real Estate, Automobile Sector, Textile and in the areas of agriculture and its allied products.

One of India’s fastest growing states, Karnataka offers numerous opportunities to the foreign investors and the following major areas have been identified for investments in Karnataka : Energy, ports, aviation, express ways, metro, healthcare services, tourism, quality professional education, infrastructure development, IT and BT sector, research and scientific pursuit.

The Government of Karnataka as one of its policy initiatives, set up ‘Non-Resident Indian Forum, Karnataka’ to act as single point of reference to address issues concerning interests of a large Diaspora spread all over the world. The Forum with its website [www.nriforumkarnataka.org](http://www.nriforumkarnataka.org) is providing information on socio-economic activities of Karnataka State and its development. The NRI Forum is facilitating investors among NRIs in setting up their ventures in the State. The main aim of NRI Forum is to be assisting NRIs in their many requirements in India as well as abroad. The NRI Forum also hopes to draw up on the knowledge reservoir of Diaspora spread over the world for its development of the State. In close association with the knowledge and Skill Commission of the State and Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs we propose to establish ‘Migration Facilitation Centers’ in few important places like Bangalore, Mangalore and Hubli with an aim to provide pre-immigration assistance to large young population seeking employment abroad. Since its inception, NRI Forum has been receiving a number of representation relating to issues like tracing of missing person abroad, cheating committed by the recruiting agents, illegal recruitment, providing assistance to set up industrial units, solar projects, tourism projects in the state, repatriation of the stranded, providing educational facilities to the children of NRIs, land disputes, introduction of more flights, etc. All the representations received are meticulously examined, and followed up with the concerned authorities in the State Government/Government of India or abroad.

The workshop and training for vocational education under skill up gradation scheme is being considered in association with knowledge and skill Commission and Labour Ministry all over the state. Skill Up gradation Programme focuses on upgrading the skill of young workforce to meet the challenges in the overseas

employment market. The programme aims to bring knowledge, functional expertise, and a practical approach to building core competence levels among job seekers.

The NRI Forum also proposes to request Non-Resident Indians to be of assistance in our efforts to improve the quality of life in the interior rural parts of Karnataka. In this regard, I would like to make an appeal to all of you to join us in our efforts by partnering in School Adoption Scheme, Adoption of Health Centers, Adoption of Temples and Adoption of Villages.

I also take this opportunity to thank our NRIs who have contributed generously to the victims of recent flood affected areas in Karnataka.

We assure you all that the State Government is investor friendly and will deliver things to your level of expectations. The State Government is also holding 'Global Investor's Meet 2010' during June 3-4, 2010. With these words, I extend warm welcome to you all to come, explore and experience Karnataka.

\*JAI HIND\*