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FOREWORD



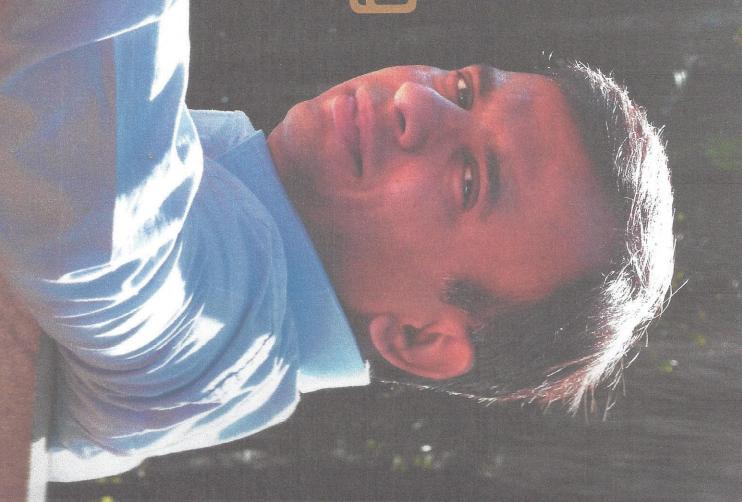
This is a unique coffee table book that highlights the aspiration and energy of the youth of Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka is proud to be associated with Vijay Karnataka in placing this book before discerning citizens across India.

It is our bounden duty and responsibility to promote young talent not because they are the future, but because they are very much the present. They are the present who have ingenious ideas to solve the gargantuan problems that confront us. A government that does not recognise the power of the young is a comatose government. It is this thought that drove our government to formulate the first ever policy for the state's youth and also celebrate the spirit of the visionary Sri Vivekananda during the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Karnataka State Youth Policy is a symbol of investment in our future. It reveals what a state is envisioning for its youth & its own future. The main strategy: REACH, ENGAGE & EMPOWER youth & provide opportunities for their CONTRIBUTION which will lead to the DEVELOPMENT of the self and the State. For any plan to be successful, the first step is to reach the beneficiaries. Realizing this, the Youth Policy has given utmost importance for reaching youth through programmes like Yuva Abhiyaan, Youth Network and Youth Portal. A key structure to ensure this crucial step will be the Youth Empowerment centers at all Districts and at all Grama Panchayats in rural areas and at every ward in urban areas to engage with the youth.

I have had a chance to go through the contents of this book and many profiles presented here are truly inspiring stories to say the least. It gave me a warm reassurance that there will always be safe pairs of hands to secure the good of Karnataka. I congratulate all the youth profiled here and wish them greater success in their endeavours. I am sure they'll further spread the true spirit of YUVA GARJANE through this book.

GIRISH JOIS





YUVA GARJANE

Girish, who was the son of a village school teacher, always had great ambitions. His father wanted him to become an engineer, so Girish became one, and then got a job "In those days, I was being paid Rs 1500," he says. "After working for 3 years, my salary doubled to Rs 3000." Then, he switched to a software company, and later to Volkswagon in Germany. That did not satisfy him. "I was earning a salary of 25,000 Euros," he says now. "But, everybody works for money. I felt I must achieve something far greater."

So, he quit Volkswagon and started his own company. "I had a feeling that I should connect India with Germany," he continues. "With this in mind, I started a company that designed the interiors of an airplane in 2006 in Germany. What started with a small capital investment has now grown big and is able to do a business of 15 crores."

Girish did not return home to his own country. Instead, he recruited people from back home and brought them out to Germany, in an attempt to raise the living standards of his home town, Shimoga. "I have brought quite a few Kannadigas to Europe and employed them in my work," he says. "After working for 1-2 years, they jumped to other jobs. But I feel glad that I could bring people out of India and give them these opportunities."

