

My vision of a world class city

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My vision of world class city would include a lot of socio-economic, political, and environmental factors. My vision is an ordinary one with a sound infrastructure, adequate water supply, enough electricity production to meet majority of the demands, employment for all. However progressing to such an extent is worthwhile only if the development is sustainable else the beauty will be short lived. I would, like to define my vision as a long term vision, say 50 years hence. Also I assume my city to have an average population size (not too small and not too large) and an industry based economy.

Starting with the base of the economy, my “world class city” would have a network of extensive roadways both intercity as well as intra-city that would encourage trade and commerce in favor of our economic development. Considering the high level of expenses, I would prefer this development to occur on sharing basis. Contracts for the highways or high traffic roads (with a higher profit incentive) can be given to the private firms whereas development of intra-city roads (with low expected profit) should be taken up by the govt. This would preserve the incentive to quality roads.

Considering an average population size, good roads would lead to high traffic which poses a problem for the ecosystem. Hence it would be beneficial to work on the public transport system. A good and reliable public transport system will not only help reduce the road traffic but also reduce fuel consumption, leading to less pollution and helping in striking a balance with the environment. Green projects such metro would be extended. This will be accompanied with increased CNG bus and mini bus services that’ll make metro more approachable. The development of these projects would also lead to generation of employment in the economy and lead to higher GDP growth.

Another important factor would be the “school and hospital infrastructure”. According to my vision, a city must have at least one school (public or private) in every district with all the proper teaching tools and quality teaching standards. My World Class City will not only have hospitals in every 2-3 km radius but will also have all the equipments and qualified Doctors and staff.

Now a city cannot be complete without “power”. Power needed for the running of various industries, for various offices, and power as a fundamental right to its citizens for comfortable living. In my view the high demand for energy in association with sustainable development can only be met by Nuclear power. It is the sector with highest efficiency (output to input ratio) and minimum pollution levels. Even the nuclear waste can be safely disposed and recycled (or will be 50 years hence!!!). Though it has a high fixed cost but its variable cost is lower than or

comparable to the rest of the sources. Therefore my world class city will have sufficient “green” energy consumption.

Another important aspect of a dream city without which the above sectors or normal daily life cannot progress, is water. As per my vision I see potable water reaching all the households, offices, schools, etc and clean water reaching all the factories. Not just this, my city would have clean water resources. Now however fancy it sounds, this is not at all impossible. In fact this brings me to the next aspect of my city: the waste management sector.

I propose my city to have a separate Waste Management Ministry under the constitution. Waste management is totally a technology driven sector, which means – “it’ll progress when technology advances”. Making it a separate segment under the ministry will not only divert more attention towards it but also encourage research and development by allocating adequate funds. Having proper Treatment Technology, will help in the conservation of water, by increasing the scope of recycling of water. Not only this, it will also take care of the nuclear waste and other wastes from various industries leaked out into the air, water and land. With proper policies such as, a complete ‘NO’ to untreated sewage disposal, strict laws to back them up, clean environment along with a sustainable growth will be a part of my dream city.

In the end, all these steps taken would be futile if not accountable and not maintained. In fact my vision does not end just here, it would go on to have an organized real-estate, green roads, awareness among the masses, poverty alleviation, educated masses and so on. Corruption is also an important deciding factor. All the capital and resources are no good if not put to use efficiently, which is only possible through targeted policies, which are enforced through law. Hence institutions like “the legal system”, “the political system” need to represent a “benevolent social planner”. And inefficiencies such as corruption, terrorism, etc, need to be eliminated.