

Nagpur has the potential to emerge as a global city



DR BHIMARAYA METRI
DIRECTOR OF IIMN

Being located at the centre point of India, Nagpur has all the potential to emerge as a global city. Hyderabad was a small city. The then chief minister Chandrababu Naidu dreamed of a big picture for Hyderabad. He brought in a lot of reforms, bought in Cyberabad and Indian School of Business (ISB). He converted Hyderabad into a global city, competing with the likes of Bengaluru and Pune.

Nagpur has all the potential that Hyderabad was not having at that time. As far as education is concerned, Nagpur has a variety of talents. Nagpur has PDKV, there are research centres, whether it is in the field of citrus or cotton. It has NEERI, VNIT and central government institutions like IIM, AIIMS, National Law University, IIIT.

So, Nagpur is a great talent hub and the future belongs to perpetual learners, lifelong learners. So, keeping all these in mind, Nagpur has a lot of potential to nurture and reshape the talent available in the country. I believe Nagpur can be a global city provided we see the big picture and have great plans

for the next five to ten years.

In the last few years, the centre of gravity of Maharashtra has shifted from west to Vidarbha. The kind of development the region has witnessed over the last few years is unbelievable.

At the risk of exaggerating, I would say such development never happened in the last 50-60 years. Today, the environment is very conducive politically, whether it is State or Centre, for Nagpur to emerge as a major city.

Connectivity plays a significant role in the development of a city. This is

another factor that goes in favour of Nagpur because of its geographical location. Just 90 minutes are good enough to fly to any major city of the country. So, it has all the potential to attract a large number of companies.

An innovation and research park would act like a magnet to attract many companies to Nagpur. Also, the city needs to come up with a lifelong learning institute on the lines of one set up in Singapore. In the future, people won't remain in the same field for long. Also, skill has a shelf life. One has to re-skill and up-skill to be relevant in today's time. Learning has become a lifelong process.

We need a lifelong learning institute for those who want to change their professions because of some disruption or another. Nagpur has an abundance of talent. If we have a lifelong learning institute it will go a long way in enhancing the avail-

able talent, attracting new talent and also companies.

Another sector where Nagpur can emerge on top is health care. As compared to the population, Nagpur has a large number of doctors. Now, AIIMS is there and also pharmaceutical companies like Lupin. The medical profession is going to be the 'sunrise' industry in future.

There is a 15-member team in Bengaluru — including Mohandas Pai and other influential persons — working on how to take Bengaluru to the next level. In Nagpur also we need like-minded people to come together and dream big for the city.

A report by Oxford Economics has put Nagpur as the fifth fastest-growing city of the world. So, I think nobody can stop Nagpur from becoming a global city.

*As told to
Sandeep Dabhekar*

