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## STATE GOVERNMENT

### Karnataka to Set Up Industrial Clusters to Foster Innovations

Karnataka has identified nine districts to establish industrial clusters to foster innovations and product diversification, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy has said.

Addressing the 19th edition of IMTEX exhibition, and 21st edition of Tooltech organised by Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), the Chief Minister said that apart industrial clusters, the government is planning to host manufacturing and assembling facilities in smaller cities.

"Karnataka has always been an industry-friendly State and will continue to be so in future. Our government has been striving to make the State an investment destination. The government has begun the process of identifying large swathes of farmland in rural areas to set up industrial units," he added.

Expanding network

On decongesting Bengaluru, the Chief Minister said, "We intend to expand our industrial development network and intend to tap the large talent pool available in the tier-II and III cities."

In his address, P Ramadas, President IMTMA said Machine tools are considered a strategic industry segment. Industry cannot achieve a high level of excellence without the machine tools segment being very strong, he said.

#### Expo highlight

In his welcome address, Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman, Exhibitions — IMTMA, said, "IMTEX shows industry in a different light and is an expression of showing a new India and what its industry is capable of."

State Revenue Minister RV Deshpande said, "Karnataka has always laid out a red carpet to investors wanting to do business in the State. The State has a pro-industry policy, which has helped industries to thrive."

Industries Minister KJ George said the State has been in the forefront of many ventures such as setting up the world's largest solar park, launching booster kit for start-ups, setting up an exclusive machine tool park etc.

He called upon the manufacturing industry to do their business in the State, including their capacity expansions.

**Source Business Line: January 24, 2019**

### Major City Infrastructure Projects Likely To Start By Soon

**BENGALURU:** The city will soon witness infrastructural developments as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to invite tenders for Detailed Project Report (DPR), for projects worth Rs 2,500 crore, that were announced in 2018-19 state budget.

The projects include white topping of sub-arterial roads, development of 40 lakes, development of 100km stretch of roads in Corporation limits, construction of grade separators in eight junctions, development of 150 km stretch of water drains, development of 250 km stretch of footpaths, development of roads in 110 villages, and the development of 14 roads by providing alternative connectivity to ITPL and a multi-storey parking in Gandhi Bazaar.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Special Commissioner (Projects), BBMP, said, "We will soon float tenders for DPR for all the projects that were announced in the current year budget. This may take around three months, and we can expect the project to start by December this year."

**Source: Indian Express: January 31, 2019**

## Issue of Visa Recommendation Letter

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**Contact : Mr. Prithvi  
Secretary**



Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce

No. 3/4, 3rd Floor, C Block, Unity Buildings, JC Road, Bangalore - 560 002

| Phone (91) (080) 22223321, 24-25 Fax: (91) (080) 22232233 | Website : [www.bbic.in](http://www.bbic.in)

### Government to Invest Rs 8,015 Crore to Better Bengaluru Infrastructure

In a display of its commitment to the overall development of Bengaluru, the JD(S)-Congress coalition cabinet made a special allocation for Bengaluru city

**BENGALURU:** In a display of its commitment to the overall development of Bengaluru, the JD(S)-Congress coalition cabinet on Wednesday made a special allocation for Bengaluru city.

Calling it an 'investment' under the Chief Minister's Nava Bengaluru scheme, Rs 8,015 crore has been approved to be spent over the next two years to better infrastructure in the city.

This is excluding the Rs 2,500 crore allocation announced by former CM Siddaramaiah in his vote on accounts for 2018-19 for the city specifically.

The Rs 8,015 crore is over and above the allocations already made for BBMP, BDA, BWSSB, BMRCL or other infrastructure projects in the city such as elevated corridors or the Peripheral Ring Road.

"Bengaluru is the pride of the state and its development is our priority. The cabinet has approved Rs 8,015 crore for a period of three years, (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, this year included)," Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Krishna Byregowda said while briefing the media about cabinet decisions.

Multiple projects of lake development, storm water drain maintenance and restructuring, white topping of roads, will be taken up under the Nava Bengaluru scheme.

With the government clearing the decks for the project, the BMRCL can now give momentum to the project by taking up the same with the Central government.

The approval includes seeking funds from Central government under the equity sharing joint venture model envisaged in the Metro Policy 2017 and taking up land acquisition and shifting of utilities.

**Source: Indian Express: January 30, 2019**

#### BCIC INFORMATION DIGEST



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### **'Metro Line to KR Puram Karnataka Governments Green Signal**

The existing depot at Baiyappanahalli meant for Phase-1 East-West line will be assigned to Phase-2A ORR line

**BENGALURU:** The state government has given administrative approval for implementation of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) Metro line from Central Silk Board Junction to KR Puram at a revised estimated cost of Rs 5,994.90 crore. If all goes as per plan, the train should be operational by December 2023. Pre-project

activities may be over by March 2020. This route will be a part of the Phase-2A of Metro project.

Earlier, the estimated cost of the project was Rs 4,202 crore. The estimated land cost has escalated to Rs 559.10 crore from Rs 173.33 crore (change of 223 per cent), which is the prime reason for an increase in the overall estimated cost.

The land cost has increased on account of a larger requirement of private lands for stations and due to higher guidance value.

Also, land requirement for the project is much higher than the estimation in the DPR, to facilitate integration with BMTC services with a six-metre service road at 12 stations out of total 13 stations. This will also serve a fire service road.

The existing depot at Baiyappanahalli meant for Phase-1 East-West line will be assigned to Phase-2A ORR line. A new depot at Kadugodi will be established to service the extended East-West line up to Whitefield. As a result, the cost of the new depot at Kadugodi will be assigned to Phase-2A.

As the East-West line from Kengeri to Whitefield is going to be a longer Metro line with 42 kilometres length and likely to get the highest ridership, the capacity at Kadugodi depot has to be much larger than what was envisaged earlier.

With the government clearing the decks for the project, the BMRCL can now give momentum to the project by taking up the same with the Central government.

The approval includes seeking funds from Central government under the equity sharing joint venture model envisaged in the Metro Policy 2017 and taking up land acquisition and shifting of utilities.

**Source: Indian Express: January 29, 2019**

### **From April, take new access road to Kempegowda International Airport**

The MAR will be widened to 10 lanes (five in each direction) from the existing four to cater to the increasing vehicular traffic expected at KIA in future.

BENGALURU: From April 1, all vehicles to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) will be diverted along a new upcoming road that is being built parallel to the present Main Access Road (MAR), said Hari Marar, the Chief Executive Officer of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL). The existing MAR, which leads directly from the highway to KIA, will be closed for widening works from April.

The MAR will be widened to 10 lanes (five in each direction) from the existing four to cater to the increasing vehicular traffic expected at KIA in future. "Traffic will be diverted to the Southern Access Road. When coming to the airport, vehicles need to take a right and then a left at the first roundabout to use this new road to reach KIA," he said. Marar said, "Work on the new Southern Access Road is on and it will be made operational by April 1, 2019."

The Trumpet interchange will be expanded, with two lanes on either side to and from the City, he said. To manage the increasing cargo traffic at the airport, the North Cargo Road will be widened to four lanes. "In future, all the cargo will be shifted to the Eastern side of the airport to relieve congestion caused by it," he said.

The airport will be spread across 4,000 acres of land as per the Master Plan (2017-2021) BIAL has readied. "All the developments are designed to ensure that provisions are made for seamless plug-in of the upcoming Metro line to the airport, when ready," he said. BIAL had begun making profits from 2009, Marar said. "Except for the first nine months after we started the airport, we have made profits," he added.

Stating that the Eastern tunnel connectivity to the airport will be put in place, Marar said that because of the reduction in User Development Fee to be paid by passengers, its profits from aeronautical tariff will suffer a dip. "At present, our aeronautical vs non-aeronautical profit is in the ratio of 70:30. It will soon change to 60:40 or even to 55:45," he said

**Source: Indian Express: January 11, 2019**

## **BBMP and KPCL to Set Up Waste-to-Energy Plant**

**The BBMP will soon conduct a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in the matter and the project is likely to take off by 2020**

BENGALURU: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has decided to establish its own waste-to-energy plant in Bidadi with Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), for which the former recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the latter.

The Palike estimates that the 500-tonne capacity plant will cost Rs 200 crore and will be established in a portion of the 50-acre land owned by KPCL. According to the MoU, the BBMP will supply refused derived fuel (RDF) to generate energy each day.

The urban body — which already has the mayor's grants from 2018-2019 BBMP budget — will seek 35 per cent subsidy from the union government and 25 per cent subsidy from the state government. KPCL will spend the remaining amount.

The BBMP will soon conduct a Detailed Project Report (DPR) in the matter and the project is likely to take off by 2020.

Sarfraz Khan, joint commissioner, Solid Waste Management (SWM), said, "The MoU has already been signed. We will start conducting a DPR for the project. By having more waste-to-energy plants we can systematically treat the waste produced. Bengaluru produces about 4,000-4,500 tonnes of mixed waste each day. While we can easily manage 2,000 tonnes of waste by generating energy, the remaining can be sent to the waste treatment plant," he said.

Meanwhile, BBMP will issue a work order to the French Company 3WAYSTE on January 16 to setup a waste-to-energy plant in Chikkanagamangala. Palike will not pay the tipping fee for the disposal of mixed waste at the plant, which will be set up in the next six months. 3WAYSTE will also convert waste to compost and fertilisers for 30 years. BBMP, in its guidelines for the sale of electricity, has set a condition that the company should sell the electricity produced at the plant to KPCL at Rs 7.08/KWH for a fixed period. The company will also earn Rs 2,500 per tonne from selling compost to the Agriculture Department. The plant — that should have been operational by December 2018 — was delayed owing to approval and clearance from various government institutions

**Source: Indian Express: January 9, 2019**

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
New Delhi

January 23, 2019

### Start of Online Inter-State Trade Through E-NAM Portal

The e-NAM platform has reached an inflection point by initiation of inter-state trade in January 2019. The start of online inter-state trade through the e-NAM portal this month is a landmark achievement in e-NAM history and its strengthening in future will definitely add a new chapter to Agricultural marketing in the Indian context. The first inter-State trade on e-Nam between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana has been carried out on 19.01.2019 between farmer from Gadwal mandi in Telangana State, who sold 8.46 quintal of groundnut to, a trader in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh through the e-NAM portal. This has been followed by another trade between these two mandis across both States.

Launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 14th April, 2016 in 21 Mandis across 8 States with pilot trading of 24 Commodities, the e-NAM portal has integrated 585 Regulated Markets on the common e-market platform in 16 States and 2 Union Territories with trading in 124 commodities. The e-NAM platform is a pan-India electronic trading (e-trading) portal to network the existing physical regulated wholesale market (known as APMC market) through a virtual platform to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. e-NAM platform promotes better marketing opportunities for the farmers to sell their produce through online, competitive and transparent price discovery system and online payment facility. Already 2.29 crore MT trade with value of more than Rs.60,000 crore has been recorded on e-NAM platform.

Initially, trade on e-NAM started inside the individual e-NAM mandi, with involvement of farmers and traders of that mandi. After persuasive efforts by the Government of India, inter-mandi trade on e-NAM platform started within the State. Now inter-mandi trade within e-NAM States is happening in 10 States.

The next logical step in this process was the initiation of Inter-State trade and after coordination by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, the same has started between the farmers & traders of States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand followed by that between Andhra Pradesh and Telengana. The very first Inter State transaction on e-NAM in India has been recorded between trader of Bareilly e-NAM APMC of Uttar Pradesh and farmer of Haldwani e-NAM APMC of Uttarakhand for trade in tomatoes. Similarly, the inter-State transactions in potatoes, brinjal, cauliflower, raddish, peas, carrot and cabbage etc. have been carried out successively between several e-NAM mandis of Uttarakhand &

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### Issue of Certificate of Origin

As you are all aware, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) has been authorized by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to issue the Certificate of Origin to exporters for the products manufactured in India. This Certificate is an integral part of the export document.

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**For Members we charge Rs.60/- per certificate**

**For Non Members we charge Rs.120/- per certificate**

## ECONOMIC AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
New Delhi

January 3, 2019

### **Two Years of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC): Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Arun Jaitley**

The Congress left behind the legacy of an anachronistic system of resolving commercial insolvency. The Companies Act had a provision of winding up a company if it is unable to pay its debt. Additionally, the Congress Government had enacted the SICA in the decade of 1980s for rehabilitation of sick companies. This applied to companies whose net worth has become negative. The law proved to be an utter failure. Law carried out rehabilitation, several sick companies got a protective iron curtain against creditors. The Debt Recovery Tribunal was created to enable banks to recover every dues diligently. But these have not proved to be highly efficient mechanism for recovering debt. For non-corporate insolvencies the Provincial Insolvency Act was applicable. This was a rusted piece of legislation, ineffective and had faded away because of disuse.

The NDA Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has enacted the SARFAESI Law which proved to be much better than the earlier mechanism. In the year 2000, the NPAs had sky-rocketed into double digits. Both the SARFESI Law and the prudent interest rate management by the RBI helped in bringing the NPAs down. Subsequently, between 2008 to 2014, Banks lent indiscriminately. This lead to a very high percentage of NPAs which was highlighted by the Asset Quality Reviews of the RBI. This led to a prompt action by the Government. An Expert Committee was appointed, which submitted its Report in 2015 recommending the IBC. Immediately, a Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha and referred to a Joint Committee of Parliament. The Parliamentary Committee displayed its wisdom and submitted a report recommending some changes in the Legislation. The IBC was approved by both Houses of Parliament in May, 2016. This was the quickest Economic legislative change that I have seen being made by Parliament. The NCLT was immediately constituted, the Insolvency Bankruptcy Board of India was established and the regulations were framed. By the end of 2016 corporate insolvency cases were being received by the NCLT.

### **THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR**

The early harvest through the IBC process has been extremely satisfactory. It has changed the debtor-creditor relationship. The creditor no longer chases the debtor. In fact, it is otherwise. Upon constitution of the NCLT and the implementation of IBC its functionality had revealed the need for improvements in the law. Two legislative intervention since then have taken place.

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**FINANCE**

**Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Finance  
New Delhi**

**January 23, 2019**

**Cabinet Approves Creation of National Bench Of the Goods and Services  
Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT)**

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the creation of National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

The National Bench of the Appellate Tribunal shall be situated at New Delhi. GSTAT shall be presided over by the President and shall consist of one Technical Member (Centre) and one Technical Member (State).

The creation of the National Bench of the GSTAT would amount to one time expenditure of Rs.92.50 lakh while the recurring expenditure would be Rs.6.86 crore per annum.

**Details:**

Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal is the forum of second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum of dispute resolution between Centre and States. The appeals against the orders in first appeals issued by the Appellate Authorities under the Central and State GST Acts lie before the GST Appellate Tribunal, which is common under the Central as well as State GST Acts. Being a common forum, GST Appellate Tribunal will ensure that there is uniformity in redressal of disputes arising under GST, and therefore, in implementation of GST across the country.

Chapter XVIII of the CGST Act provides for the Appeal and Review Mechanism for dispute resolution under the GST Regime. Section 109 of this Chapter under CGST Act empowers the Central Government to constitute, on the recommendation of Council, by notification, with effect from such date as may be specified therein, an Appellate Tribunal known as the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by the Appellate Authority or the Revisional Authority.

**Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Finance  
New Delhi**

**January 21, 2019**

**Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Clarifies Regarding Issue of Prosecution Notices**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has stated that certain news items that appeared in a section of media regarding enmasse issue of prosecution notices to small companies for TDS default are completely misleading and full of factual inaccuracies. CBDT clarified that Mumbai Income Tax TDS office has issued prosecution Show Cause Notices only in a limited number of big cases where more than Rs. 5 lakh of tax was collected as TDS from employees etc. and yet the same was not deposited with the Income Tax Department in time.

CBDT said that some defaulter companies and vested interests are deliberately misleading the media to thwart action against themselves. Having deducted tax from employees and other taxpayers and not depositing the same in time in the Government Treasury is an offence punishable under the law. It also affects the interest of the employees from whose salary the tax has been deducted by the unscrupulous employers who have not deposited the same in time in the Government Treasury. If the TDS is not deposited in time, the employee would be ineligible for claiming credit of the tax deducted when he files his own return.

CBDT stated that in last one month, only in 50 big cases prosecution notices have been issued by Mumbai IT TDS office. Out of these, in 80% of the cases the TDS tax default is above Rs. 10 lakh and in 10 % cases, TDS default is between Rs. 5 to Rs.10 lakh. In the remaining 10% cases, TDS default is of more than Rs. 1 crore as detected in the survey. Prosecutions have also recently been launched against 4 big business houses where more than Rs 50 Crore of tax was collected by them from the tax payers and yet not deposited with the Government in time. But such legal and rightful action is being unfortunately projected in the media by the vested interests as if the Department is going overboard to harass small employers.

It would be pertinent to note that in a country of 130 Crore people where around 6 Crore returns are filed every year, only a total of 1400 prosecutions have been filed so far for various offences under the Income Tax Act during this financial year. This, by any stretch of imagination, cannot be termed as mass harassment by the income tax department. Therefore, to say that prosecution notices enmasse have been sent to taxpayers for minor defaults is completely incorrect and misleading, the CBDT added.

## LABOUR / COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
New Delhi

January 7, 2019

### Two New Skill Development Schemes Approved

Two new Skill Development Schemes have been approved namely (i) Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP); and (ii) Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE). The details of the two schemes are as under:

(i) **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP)**

The Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood (SANKALP) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a project of total size US Dollar 675 million, including World Bank assistance of US Dollar 500 million, in two tranches of US Dollar 250 million each, with a six-year implementation schedule. At present, the first tranche has been approved for implementation. Accordingly, the Loan Agreement of US 250 Million Dollar for the project was signed between Government of India and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on 13th December, 2017 which came into effect from 19th January, 2018. SANKALP is a project to reform the skill development landscape, strengthen institutions at Central and State levels, enable greater decentralization of skill development governance, and improve industry connect of skill development programs. The main objectives of the project are:

- (a) Creating convergence among all skill training activities, both State-led and Government of India funded, at the state level;
- (b) Improving quality of skill development programs through enablers such as building a pool of quality trainers and assessors, developing model curriculum and content, and standardizing assessment and certification;
- (c) Establishing robust monitoring and evaluation system for skill training programs;
- (d) Providing access to skill training opportunities to the disadvantaged sections; and
- (e) Creating industry led and demand driven skill training capacity.

(ii) **Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE)**

Skills Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) project is a World Bank assisted-Government of India project with the objective of improving the relevance and efficiency of skills training provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and apprenticeships. The financial agreement was signed between Government of India and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) on 19th December, 2017 and the closing date of the project is November, 2022. It is a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) with a budget outlay of INR 2200

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<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Rs.60 per Certificate of Origin</b>
<b>NON - MEMBERS</b>	<b>Rs.120 per Certificate of Origin</b>

**Contact : Mr. Prithvi**  
Secretary



Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce  
No. 3/4, 3rd Floor, C Block, Unity Buildings, JC Road, Bangalore - 560 002  
| Phone (91) (080) 22233321, 24-25 | Fax: (91) (080) 22232233 | Website : [www.bcic.in](http://www.bcic.in)