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STATE GOVERNMENT

Kempegowda International Airport Rolls Out Paperless Check-In

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BENGALURU: Flying out of the city has often been termed as a worry, with the much-anticipated traffic to the long queues at the check-in counters. On July 22, The Kempegowda International Airport launched a part of their Digi Yatra project, with Early Go Live. Partnered with Vistara Airlines, the airport launched its self-boarding biometric platform, Vision box, and One ID. The installation allows passengers to seamlessly breeze through the airport with a paperless programme.

“BIAL is excited to roll out Digi Yatra-based biometric technology that has the potential to make the passenger experience at the BLR Airport seamless, secure and enjoyable. As the gateway to a new India, the BLR Airport would like to be a frontrunner amongst next-generation airport operations,” said Hari Marar, MD & CEO at Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL).

The project, which will be completed in the early half of 2020, is expected to be the largest deployment of an end-to-end paperless biometric program in Asia, with over 350 passenger touch-points at Terminal 1 of the airport. The first glimpse of the new installation was captured with passengers flying on Vistara Airlines, Vistara's Departure Control System with the technology in-store has made the process effortless from entry to the boarding gate. All Vistara flights are expected to be integrated into the biometric boarding process at the airport by October.

Passengers are required to enrol their identity and biometric data along with their flight details. The biometric checks in the airport will authenticate and verify the passenger at every point. Maintaining the standard of privacy, passenger's data will be deleted shortly after the completion of the flight. Over the next few months, this process is expected to be integrated with check-in/bag drop in order to include other airlines as well. “We will continue to invest in cutting-edge technologies to stay ahead of the curve, while we are laying our foundation for the future, keeping today's need in consideration.” said Vistara's Chief Information and Innovation Officer, Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh.

Source: Indian Express, July 24, 2019

Bengaluru Fast Leaving Other Cities Behind

From being a traditional tech hub, the city has evolved into a home for well-rounded, future-ready enterprises.

It's the pensioners' paradise that turned into a global hi-tech city. But now Bengaluru's forging even further ahead and, in many ways, leaving bigger Indian megalopolises like Delhi-NCR and Greater Mumbai in the dust.

Take a look at where venture capital money's heading. From January till now, Bengaluru-based companies amassed \$405 million in VC investments from 100 deals, according to deal-tracker Venture Intelligence. During the same time, Delhi NCR got \$239 million from 67 deals, while Mumbai received \$208 million from 48 deals.

Was this a flash in the pan? Nope. The same pattern's been repeating over the last five years with Bengaluru pulling ahead each year. In 2018, Bengaluru firms raked in \$581 million from 176 deals while Delhi-NCR got \$415 million from 110 deals and Mumbai trailed with \$373 million from 101 deals, Chennai-based Venture Intelligence says. In fact, says Arun Natarajan, Venture Capital's founder-and-managing director: "If you use VC as a filter, Bengaluru's head-and-shoulders above any other city. Every quarter, almost boringly, it's Bengaluru in front, NCR-Delhi and Mumbai a far-behind number two and three."

Start-up hub

What's made traffic-clogged Bengaluru, a city bursting at the seams with nearly 12 million people (its population was four million in the mid-1980s when the first tech companies like Texas Instruments arrived), a haven for industries of the future? Bengaluru's long been India's hi-tech hub, but it's grown way beyond software services.

Today, it's a magnet for start-ups of all kinds thanks to its wide talent pool. Nasscom estimates there are 7,700 start-ups India-wide and it's reckoned over 30 per cent are Bengaluru-based.

One industry far from software services is electric vehicles. Bengaluru's got a fleet of automakers targeting that market like scooter-maker Ather Energy, EV-motorbike manufacturer Emflux and Altgreen, which made the electric Tata Ace and the Piaggio Ape. And, crucially, there's Micelio, a fund floated by former Infosys CEO SD Shibulal's family office investing exclusively in electric mobility.

It's reckoned almost 100 firms are making EVs or EV-components in and around Bengaluru. Other city-based firms, like Ola, also have big e-mobility plans. "Bengaluru's now a start-up and tech-innovation hotbed especially for e-mobility which is the industry's future," says industry consultant Deepesh Rathore, who shifted to Bengaluru because of the EV cluster.

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Bengaluru's also drawn international automotive firms, which are including increasing amounts of

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Source The Hindu Businessline, July 25, 2019

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

**Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Government of India
New Delhi**

July 2, 2019

Creation of PAN-India market for Farm Produce

The Government has launched National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Scheme on 14th April, 2016 with the objective of creating online transparent competitive bidding system to facilitate farmers with remunerative prices for their produce. So far, 585 wholesale regulated markets of 16 States and 02 Union Territories (UTs) have been integrated with e-NAM platform. Till 25.06.2019, a total of 1,64,47,924 farmers have been registered under this scheme. Already trade transactions having total volume of 2,57,92,311.76 MT with total value of Rs.70784.23 crore, have been recorded on e-NAM platform till 25.06.2019.

Though there were some initial opposition from traders in few local mandis, respective local APMC authorities have promoted e-NAM through various approaches such as creation of awareness, training and motivation to stakeholders and regulatory changes to address the issues of traders for smooth implementation of e-NAM.

As per second India Meteorological Department (IMD) Long Range Forecast, released on 31.05.2019, rainfall over the country as a whole for the year 2019 South-West Monsoon Season (June to September) is likely to be NORMAL (96% to 104% of the Long Period Average).

Government is promoting inter-state trade and inter mandi trade through e-NAM platform. States have been advised to strengthen quality assaying facilities in e-NAM mandis for proper quality testing of commodities, e-trading, online payment facility. Mobile application has been enhanced for ease of transaction and e-trading. Close monitoring of the progress through meeting at various levels and visits of the officers to e-NAM mandis is carried out. The Central Government is providing free software and assistance for related hardware including quality assaying equipment and creation of infrastructure like cleaning, grading, sorting, packaging and compost unit etc. Under the scheme, various training & awareness programmes are conducted for farmers, traders and other stakeholders for successful implementation of e-NAM.

This information was given in a written reply by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in Lok Sabha today.

**Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Government of India
New Delhi**

July 2, 2019

**Commerce & Industry Ministry to work with Agriculture Ministry to
Double Farmers' Income: Piyush Goyal**

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal, has called for a Mass Movement to strengthen the cooperative sector in agriculture. Speaking at the curtain raiser event of India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) in New Delhi today, Commerce & Industry Minister stressed the need for both Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture to work in close coordination to tap the true potential of the cooperative sector.

Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of State for Agriculture, Kailash Choudhary, Secretary of Agriculture, Sanjay Agarwal and other senior officials of Ministry of Agriculture were present on this occasion.

Piyush Goyal underlined the need to make farmers and agriculture-based industries self-reliant. He said that in the three consultations held with the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, after the formation of this Government, both Ministries have committed to establish a framework to double farm exports from Rs 2.75 lakh crore to about Rs 7 lakh crore by 2024-2025. Piyush Goyal also announced that a Cooperative Sector Export Promotion Forum will be established as an exchange platform for the cooperatives in India.

Recalling the contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in consolidating the cooperative movement of farmers, Piyush Goyal said that agriculture is the priority sector for the Government and it is committed to double the income of the farmers by 2022.

Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal said that IICTF is a unique concept and opportunity which will take the mass movement of farm cooperatives to an international level.

On this occasion, the Commerce & Industry Minister along with Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar and Minister of State for Agriculture, Kailash Choudhary, unveiled the logo and released the brochure of IICTF to be held from 11-13 October 2019 in New Delhi. The Commerce & Industry Minister also informed that tribal cooperatives will be provided special concessions in the Trade Fair.

ECONOMIC AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs Industry
New Delhi**

July 26, 2019

IBBI amends Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons Regulations, 2016 and Liquidation Process Regulations, 2016

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 today.

The salient amendments affected by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 are:

(a) The amendments specify the process for withdrawal of applications before constitution of committee of creditors (CoC), after constitution of CoC but before issue of invitation for expression of interest, and after issue of invitation for expression of interest.

(b) The amendments require that while approving a resolution plan or deciding to liquidate the corporate debtor, the CoC may:

- (i) approve a plan providing for contribution for meeting the liquidation costs,
- (ii) recommend sale of the corporate debtor or sale of business of the corporate debtor as a going concern, and
- (iii) fix, in consultation with the RP, the fee payable to the liquidator, if an order for liquidation is passed by the Adjudicating Authority.

The salient amendments affected by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 are:

- (i) The amendments specify the process for (i) sale of corporate debtor as going concern, and (ii) sale of business of corporate debtor as going concern under liquidation. These also provide that where a corporate debtor is sold as a going concern, the liquidation process shall be closed without dissolution of the corporate debtor.

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(ii) The amendments require completion of liquidation process within one year of its commencement, notwithstanding pendency of applications for avoidance transactions. These provide a model timeline for each task in the liquidation process. It also specifies a maximum time of 90 days from the order of liquidation for completion of compromise or arrangement, if any, proposed by the stakeholders under

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs Industry
New Delhi**

July 24, 2019

IBBI amends Insolvency Professionals Regulations, 2016 and Model Bye-Laws and Governing Board of Insolvency Professional Agencies Regulations, 2016

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board India (IBBI) notified regulations related to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Professionals) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Model Bye-Laws and Governing Board of Insolvency Professional Agencies) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019.

The salient amendments effected by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Professionals) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 are:

- a. An insolvency professional shall not accept or undertake any assignment as interim resolution professional, resolution professional, liquidator, bankruptcy trustee, authorised representative or in any other role under the Insolvency and bankruptcy Code, 2016 unless he holds an 'Authorisation for Assignment' issued by his Insolvency Professional Agency. This is effective from 1st January, 2020.
- b. An insolvency professional shall not engage in any employment when he holds an Authorisation for Assignment or when he is undertaking an assignment. This would enable an individual to seek registration as an insolvency professional even when he is in employment. He must, however, discontinue employment when he wishes to have an Authorisation for Assignment. He may surrender Authorisation for Assignment when he wishes to take up employment.
- c. Where an insolvency professional has conducted a corporate insolvency resolution process, he and his relatives shall not accept any employment, other than an employment secured through open competitive recruitment, with, or render professional services, other than services under the Code to a creditor having more than ten percent voting power, the successful resolution applicant, the corporate debtor or any of their related parties, until a period of one year has elapsed from the date of his cessation from such process.

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Issue of Certificate of Origin

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

MEMBERS	Rs.60 per Certificate of Origin
NON - MEMBERS	Rs.120 per Certificate of Origin

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.bcic.in

FINANCE

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

July 5, 2019

India's 10- point 'Vision for the Decade' flagged in Budget 2019-20

"Indian economy will become a 3 trillion dollar economy in the current year and is on the path of achieving the Prime Minister's vision of a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2024-25", said Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget 2019-20 in Parliament today. It took over 55 years for the Indian economy to reach 1 trillion dollar and in the last 5 years, the government has added 1 trillion dollar to reach about 2.7 trillion dollar. India is now the sixth largest economy in the world, up from 11th position five years ago, she added.

Beginning her speech on a high note, the Finance Minister termed the recently concluded General Election as an election charged with brimming hope and desire among the citizens of the country for a bright and stable New India. These elections were a stamp of their approval of a performing Government, a Government whose signature was in the last mile delivery, she added.

Finance Minister stated that between 2014-19, the Government provided a rejuvenated Centre-State dynamic, cooperative federalism, GST Council, a strident commitment to fiscal discipline and set the ball rolling for a New India, planned and assisted by the NITI Aayog. In the last five years, the Government initiated many big reforms in particular, in indirect taxation, bankruptcy, real estate and those in the social sector improving common man's life. She added that the last mile delivery stood out and the unknown citizen in the nooks of our country stood out with evidence. The Government has shown by its deeds that the principle of "Reform, Perform, Transform" can succeed.

Setting pace for the vision for India in the next decade, the Finance Minister stated that mega programmes and services which were initiated and delivered during the last 5 years will now be further accelerated. The Government plans to simplify procedures, incentivize performance, reduce red-tape and make the best use of technology to achieve the desired goals. "Gone are the days of policy paralysis and license-quota-control regimes. India Inc. are India's job-creators. They are the nation's wealth-creators", she said while emphasizing the substantial role of India's private industry in growing our economy.

Citing its genesis in the Interim Budget 2019-20 presented in February 2019, the Finance Minister flagged ten points of the Government's 'Vision for the Decade':

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-
- Building physical and social infrastructure;
- Digital India reaching every sector of the economy;
- Pollution free India with green Mother Earth and Blue Skies;
- Make in India with particular emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, Defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices;
- Water, water management, clean Rivers;
- Blue Economy;
- Space programmes. Gaganyaan, Chandrayan and Satellite programmes;
- Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables;

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

July 27, 2019

GST Rate on all Electric Vehicles Reduced from 12% To 5%

Effective From 1st August, 2019

The 36th GST Council Meeting was held here today Via Video Conference under the chairmanship of Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Thakur besides Revenue Secretary Shri Ajay Bhushan Pandey and other senior officials of the Ministry of Finance. The Council has recommended the following:

- A. GST rate related changes on supply of goods and services
 - i. The GST rate on all electric vehicles be reduced from 12% to 5%.
 - ii. The GST rate on charger or charging stations for Electric vehicles be reduced from 18% to 5%.
 - iii. Hiring of electric buses (of carrying capacity of more than 12 passengers) by local authorities be exempted from GST.
 - iv. These changes shall become effective from 1st August, 2019.
- B. Changes in GST law:
 - 1. Last date for filing of intimation, in FORM GST CMP-02, for availing the option of payment of tax under notification No. 2/2019-Central Tax (Rate) dated 07.03.2019 (by exclusive supplier of services), to be extended from 31.07.2019 to 30.09.2019.
 - 2. The last date for furnishing statement containing the details of the self-assessed tax in FORM GST CMP-08 for the quarter April, 2019 to June, 2019 (by taxpayers under composition scheme), to be extended from 31.07.2019 to 31.08.2019.

LABOUR / COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
New Delhi**

July 31, 2019

Commerce & Industry Minister Addresses Interactive Session on Emerging Opportunities to Expand India's Exports

An interactive session was organized in New Delhi today by the Commerce & Industry Ministry on emerging opportunities to enlarge India's exports to US and China.

During the inauguration of the interactive session, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Som Parkash, urged exporters to take this window of opportunity that has opened up due to tariff escalation between the US and China. Further Som Parkash said that manufacturers must build capacity and make the most of the opportunity that is now available to the country to enlarge its exports to both the US and China.

Speaking at the interactive session Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, said that in order to achieve the target of USD 5 trillion economy India's exports will have to contribute at least USD one trillion. Piyush Goyal urged manufacturers and exporters to come forward with data and details which directly and indirectly add to the cost of the products that are being exported like cess paid on coal, electricity and royalty paid on mines. All this adds up to the cost of the export product per unit basis, he added. Commerce and Industry Minister said that the Ministry is working on making India's export products competitive and simplifying rules and regulations for easy availability of export credit.

Commerce and Industry Minister urged the EXIM community to flag issues regarding availability of land, labour, common effluent treatment plants, cluster development and logistics support required in ports, airports and customs to the Ministry so that it is able to iron out the issues impeding India's exports and facilitate the exporters to take maximum benefit from the tariff escalation between the US and China.

The Department of Commerce took the initiative to identify and share with Indian exporters and other stakeholders, specific lines where the US would lose competitiveness in China and India has an export potential, and encouraged them to seize this opportunity. Several B2B meetings with Chinese buyers were facilitated through the Indian Embassy in Beijing in addition to inviting Chinese grape buyers to visit Indian grape farms and related units, under the aegis of APEDA.

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Speaking at the interactive session Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, said that in order to achieve the target of USD 5 trillion economy India's exports will have to contribute at least USD one trillion. Piyush Goyal urged manufacturers and exporters to come forward with data and details which directly and indirectly add to the cost of the products that are being exported like cess paid on coal, electricity and royalty paid on mines. All this adds up to the cost of the export product per unit basis, he added. Commerce and Industry Minister said that the Ministry is working on making India's export products competitive and simplifying rules and regulations for easy availability of export credit.

Commerce and Industry Minister urged the EXIM community to flag issues regarding availability of land, labour, common effluent treatment plants, cluster development and logistics support required in ports, airports and customs to the Ministry so that it is able to iron out the issues impeding India's exports and facilitate the exporters to take maximum benefit from the tariff escalation between the US and China.

The Department of Commerce took the initiative to identify and share with Indian exporters and other stakeholders, specific lines where the US would lose competitiveness in China and India has an export potential, and encouraged them to seize this opportunity. Several B2B meetings with Chinese buyers were facilitated through the Indian Embassy in Beijing in addition to inviting Chinese grape buyers to visit Indian grape farms and related units, under the aegis of APEDA.

A section of the industry has opined that some of the conditions like requirements of local experience,

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
New Delhi**

July 24, 2019

India Ranked 52nd in Global Innovation Index-2019

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal, launched the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 in New Delhi, today. India jumped five places to improve its position from 57th last year to 52nd in 2019.

Speaking on this occasion Commerce and Industry Minister first congratulated all those involved in the process and said that India has made a significant progress to 52nd rank in the GI-2019 and now the culture of innovation is coming to the centre-stage. He said that India will continue its efforts to reach upwards of top 50 ranks in the GI that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi set a goal. He further said that India will not rest on past laurels until it achieves its target of positioning itself among the top 25 countries of the Global Innovation Index. To achieve this ranking he urged all stakeholders to work in mission mode.

Piyush Goyal urged the R&D institutions, universities and private sector to transform the country into a hub of innovation. The Commerce and Industry Ministry requested the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to factor in India's rural innovation as part of the innovation index in future.

Commerce and Industry Minister in his address said that the improvement in the rankings should inspire Indians to help marginalized and under privileged section of society and R&D must provide sustainable solutions to the problems that India is facing at present like rising pollution levels in cities, water crises faced in different parts of the country, depleting natural resources, issues of climate change and solving problems of food wastage. All these problems that the country is facing should be solve through innovative ideas. The Commerce and Industry Minister further added that India must be a responsive country and work in mission mode by engaging with academia, private sector and government agencies to improve the quality of citizens' lives even in the remotest parts of the country.

Referring to GI theme of this year which is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, Piyush Goyal said that Government of India is focusing on not just curative but preventive healthcare where wellness becomes a part of society.

The GI rankings are published every year by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and GI Knowledge Partners. This is the 12th edition of the GI rankings of 129 economies based on 80 indicators ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.

Switzerland remains number one is the GI index followed by Sweden, the United States of America, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark, Singapore, Germany and Israel.

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
New Delhi**

July 31, 2019

Index of Eight Core Industries (Base: 2011-12=100) June, 2019

1. The summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries (base: 2011-12)
2. The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 131.4 in June, 2019, which was 0.2 per cent higher as compared to the index of June, 2018. Its cumulative growth during April to June, 2019-20 was 3.5 per cent.

Coal

3. Coal production (weight: 10.33 per cent) increased by 3.2 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 2.7 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over corresponding period of the previous year.

Crude Oil

4. Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98 per cent) declined by 6.8 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 6.8 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Natural Gas

5. The Natural Gas production (weight: 6.88 per cent) declined by 2.1 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 0.9 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Refinery Products

6. Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04 per cent) declined by 9.3 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 2.4 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Fertilizers

7. Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 1.5 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index declined by 1.1 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over the corresponding period of previous year.

Steel

8. Steel production (weight: 17.92 per cent) increased by 6.9 per cent in June, 2019 over June, 2018. Its cumulative index increased by 13.7 per cent during April to June, 2019-20 over the corresponding period of previous year.

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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.

We hereby request you to kindly utilize this unique service offered by the Chamber. The Secretariat has been strengthened effectively to provide you the Certificate within the shortest time keeping in mind your utmost requirement and convenience.

We therefore earnestly request you to avail this facility and also give us an opportunity to serve you and interact on a regular basis.

For Members we charge Rs.60/- per certificate

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

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
New Delhi**

July 22, 2019

Strengthening of MSMEs

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) implements various schemes for benefit of MSMEs in all parts of India. These include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Micro and Small Enterprises- Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), Scheme for Promotion of MSMEs in North Eastern Region and Sikkim, Tool Rooms and Technology Centers, Mission Solar Charkha (MSC), Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Procurement and Marketing Support Scheme, Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP), Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Upgradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS).

For Financial Year 2018-19, Government allocated Rs. 6552.61 Crore to the Ministry of MSME. The allocation for Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which is a credit linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth, was increased from Rs. 1072.90 Crore (Actual Expenditure) in 2017-18 to Rs. 2118.80 Crore in 2018-19. A new scheme, Interest Subvention for Incremental Credit to MSMEs, was also introduced in the Budget 2018-19 for which allocation of Rs. 275 Crore was made.

During the financial year 2018-19: (i) 73,427 projects have been supported under the PMEGP; (ii) 17 Common Facility Centres and 11 Infrastructure Development Projects have been completed under Cluster Development Programme; (iii) 14,155 units have been benefitted with a subsidy of Rs.980.44 Crore under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme; (iv) 4,35,520 Credit Guarantee Proposals have been approved under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and (v) 1,26,902 MSEs have been benefitted under Public Procurement Policy.

BCIC INFORMATION DIGEST



	Mechanical Data (Width x Height)	Advertisement Tariff (Monthly)	
Full Page	18 cm x 26 cm	Back cover (Colour)	Rs. 7,500/-
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Book Size	21 cm x 29.7 cm	Back inside Cover (Colour)	Rs. 5,000/-

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
New Delhi**

July 22, 2019

MSME Sector Contributes Significantly to Indian Economy

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Sector contributes significantly to the Indian Economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Exports and Employment generation.

As per the information received from the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), the Share of MSME Gross Value Added (GVA) in total GVA during 2016-17 was 31.8%.

As per the information received from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) the Share of MSME related Products in total Export from India during 2018-19 is 48.10%.

As per 73rd Round of National Sample Survey (NSS), conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation during the period 2015-16, the estimated number of workers in unincorporated non-agriculture MSMEs in the country are 11.10 crore.

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP,) the estimated employment generated (number of persons) in micro enterprises during the years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are 3.58 lakhs, 3.23 lakhs, 4.08 lakhs, 3.87 lakhs and 5.87 lakhs, respectively.

The Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) was launched by the Government of India to make available collateral-free credit to the micro and small enterprise sector. The number and amount of Guarantees approved under the CGTMSE during the last 2 years is given below:

Year	No. of Credit Facilities Approved (in lakhs)	Amount of Guarantees Approved (in Rs. crore)
2017-18	2.63	19065.91
2018-19	4.36	30168.57

**Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Power
Government of India
New Delhi**

July 18, 2019

Power Minister approves proposal for early regulatory approval of transmission schemes identified for 66.5 GW Renewable Energy projects

In a major decision to fast track the deployment of Renewable Energy (RE) in India, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy (IC) and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri RK Singh has approved a proposal for early regulatory approval by Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) for transmission schemes identified for 66.5 GW National Renewable Energy Mission projects.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Power has issued the following order -

As a part of the steps necessary to fulfil the commitment made by India under the Nationally Determined Contribution pursuant to the Paris Agreement on Environment, Government of India have decided to set up 175 GW of RE capacities in the country by the year 2022. As of May 2019 about 80 GW of RE generation has already been commissioned and the balance 95 GW has to come up in the next 3 Years. In order to achieve above targets, MNRE in consultation with CEA and Central Transmission Utility (CTU) has identified transmission schemes for around 66.5 GW of RE generation, comprising around 28 GW under Phase-I and around 38.5 GW under Phase-II as part of National Renewable Energy Mission of setting up of 175GW of RE capacity.

As the gestation period of RE projects is much shorter in comparison to the implementation period of the transmission facilities, and significant quantum of RE capacity targeted to be tendered out in the current financial year, it is necessary that the present system of transmission planning and implementation for RE projects need to be carried out in Mission Mode. The transmission activities need to be started much ahead of the generation so that both of them are completed in matching time-frame to achieve the target set by Govt. of India. Thus, in the said background, it has been decided by the Government to accord the identified transmission schemes for aforementioned 66.5 GW of RE generation, comprising around 28 GW under Phase-I and 38.5 GW under Phase-II as "Projects of National Importance". Accordingly, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 107 of the Electricity Act, 2003 hereby issues following directions to the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission in respect of these projects of national importance:-

- i. To accord Regulatory approval for the transmission system associated with 12.5 GW of RE capacity in Phase-I for which CTU has already applied to CERC for regulatory approval.
- ii. To give regulatory approval expeditiously, for balance 15.5 GW under phase-I and 38.5 GW under phase-II on submission of the application by CTU for the regulatory approval.
- iii. Prior requirement of Long Term Access (LTA) applications and associated Bank Guarantees, to be deferred for the interim period till the RE project is awarded to successful bidder, for taking up the implementation of associated transmission systems for balance RE Capacity under 66.5 GW of RE. It is however, clarified that the due regulatory procedure of LTA and Connectivity will be followed by the successful bidder.

**Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Labour & Employment
Government of India
New Delhi**

July 10, 2019

**Cabinet Approves Code On Occupational Safety, Health and Working
Conditions Bill, 2019**

In the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas' and 'Sabka Vishwas', the NDA Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been continuously working for the benefit of people from various walks of life. With this objective, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved for introduction of the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Bill, 2019 in the Parliament. This proposal would enhance the coverage of the safety, health and working conditions provisions manifold as compared to the present scenario. The decision will enhance the coverage of the safety, health and working conditions provisions manifold as compared to the present scenario.

The New Code has been drafted after amalgamation, simplification and rationalisation of the relevant provisions of the 13 Central Labour Acts:

- The Factories Act, 1948;
- The Mines Act, 1952; The Dock Workers (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1986;
- The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996;
- The Plantations Labour Act, 1951;
- The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970;
- The Inter-State Migrant workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979;
- The Working Journalist and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service and Misc. Provision) Act, 1955;
- The Working Journalist (Fixation of rates of wages) Act, 1958;
- The Motor Transport Workers Act, 1961;
- Sales Promotion Employees (Condition of Service) Act, 1976;
- The Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966; and
- The Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers Act, 1981. After the enactment of the Code, all these Acts being subsumed in the Code will be repealed.

Benefits

Safety, Health, welfare and improved Working Conditions are pre-requisite for well-being of the worker and also for economic growth of the country as healthy workforce of the country would be more productive and occurrence of less accidents and unforeseen incidents would be economically beneficial to the employers also. With the ultimate aim of extending the safety and healthy working conditions to all workforce of the country, the Code enhances the ambit of provisions of safety, health, welfare and working conditions from existing about 9 major sectors to all establishments having 10 or more employees.

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Labour & Employment
New Delhi**

July 30, 2019

Lok Sabha Passes the Code on Wages Bill, 2019

The Lok Sabha passed The Code on Wages Bill, 2019. While opening the discussion for consideration and passing of the Bill, Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar said that it is a historic Bill which aims to transform the old and obsolete labour laws into more accountable and transparent ones which is need of the hour. As many as 17 present labour laws are more than 50 years old and some of them even belong to pre-independence era.

Among the four Acts being subsumed in The Code on Wages Bill, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936 belongs to pre-independence era and The Minimum Wages Act 1948 is also 71 years old. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 and The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 are also being subsumed in the Code.

He further said that wide consultations were held with trade unions, employers and State governments and tripartite consultations were held on 10th March, 2015 and 13th April, 2015. A draft of Wage Code was made available in public domain through Ministry's website. Many persons gave their valuable suggestions. The Bill was introduced in last Lok Sabha on 10 August, 2017 and was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee which submitted its Report on 18th December 2018. Out of 24 recommendations made by standing committee, 17 were accepted by government.

He further said that the Code ensures minimum wages along with timely payment of wages to all the employees and workers. Many unorganized sector workers like agricultural workers, painters, persons working in restaurants and dhabas, chowkidars etc. who were out of the ambit of minimum wages will get legislative protection of minimum wages after the bill becomes an Act. It has been ensured in the bill that employees getting monthly salary shall get the salary by 7th of next month, those working on weekly basis shall get the salary on last day of the week and daily wagers should get it on the same day. He expressed hope that The Code on Wages will prove to be a milestone and give respectable life to 50 crore unorganized sector workers. The Minister responded to the debate in detail and thanked all the respected members for cooperation in passing the Bill.

The salient features of the Code are as following:

The Code on Wage universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling. At present, the provisions of both Minimum Wages Act and Payment of Wages Act apply on workers below a particular wage ceiling working in Scheduled Employments only. This would ensure "Right to Sustenance" for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage from existing about 40% to 100% workforce. This would ensure that every worker gets minimum wage which will also be accompanied by increase in the purchasing power of the

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**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
New Delhi**

July 31, 2019

Rajya Sabha passes Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill 2019

Shri Gadkari says the Bill will provide an Efficient, Safe and Corruption Free Transport System in the Country

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed by Rajya Sabha today. Speaking on the occasion Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways and MSME thanked the Members of the House and said that this was a matter of great happiness for him. He said the much needed amendments will improve road safety, facilitate citizens in their dealings with transport departments, strengthen rural transport, public transport and last mile connectivity through automation, computerization and online services. The Minister reiterated that the Bill would, in no way, encroach upon the powers and authorities of the states. He said the Bill would rather empower the states. He added that the Bill will provide an efficient, safe and corruption free transport system in the country.

The Bill has been passed with three Government amendments and will need to go back to Lok Sabha. The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill on the 23rd of July 2019.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is based on the recommendations of the Group of Transport Ministers (GoM) of States constituted by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to address the issue of road safety and to improve the facilitation of the citizens while dealing with transport departments. The GoM was headed by Shri. Yoonus Khan, the then Transport Minister of Rajasthan, and had 18 State Transport Ministers from different political parties as members. On the basis of recommendations of the GoM and other pressing requirements, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways introduced the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016. This, along with amendments, was passed by Lok Sabha on 10th April, 2017. The Bill as passed by Lok Sabha was introduced in Rajya Sabha and was referred to the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha on 08.08.2017. The Select Committee presented its report to the Parliament on 22nd December, 2017. The Bill was pending in the Rajya Sabha and lapsed with the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha.

The amendments in the Bill mainly focus on issues relating to improving road safety, citizens' facilitation while dealing with the transport department, strengthening rural transport, last mile connectivity and public transport, automation and computerization and enabling online services. Some of the important areas of amendment are as follows:

Road Safety

In the area of road safety, the Bill proposes to increase penalties to act as deterrent against traffic violations. Stricter provisions are being proposed in respect of offences like juvenile driving, drunken driving, driving without licence, dangerous driving, over-speeding, overloading etc. Stricter provisions for helmets have been introduced along with provisions for electronic detection of violations. Penalty regarding motor vehicles is to be increased by 10 % every year..

**Proposed Amendments in Various Penalties under Motor Vehicles (Amendment)
Bill – 2019**

Section		Old Provision / Penalty	New Proposed Provision / Minimum Penalties
177	General	Rs 100	Rs 500
New 177A	Rules of road regulation violation	Rs 100	Rs 500
178	Travel without ticket	RS 200	Rs 500
179	Disobedience of orders of authorities	Rs 500	Rs 2000
180	Unauthorized use of vehicles without licence	Rs 1000	Rs 5000
181	Driving without licence	Rs 500	Rs 5000
182	Driving despite disqualification	Rs 500	Rs 10,000
182 B	Oversize vehicles	New	Rs 5000
183	Over speeding	Rs 400	Rs 1000 for LMV Rs 2000 for Medium passenger vehicle
184	Dangerous driving penalty	Rs 1000	Upto Rs 5000
185	Drunken driving	Rs 2000	Rs 10,000
189	Speeding / Racing	Rs 500	Rs 5,000

192 A	Vehicle without permit	upto Rs 5000	Upto Rs 10,000
193	Aggregators (violations of licencing conditions)	New	Rs 25,000 to Rs 1,00,000
194	Overloading	Rs 2000 and Rs 1000 per extra tonne	Rs 20,000 and Rs 2000 per extra tonne
194 A	Overloading of passengers		Rs 1000 per extra passenger
194 B	Seat belt	Rs 100	Rs 1000
194 C	Overloading of two wheelers	Rs 100	Rs 2000, Disqualification for 3 months for licence
194 D	Helmets	Rs 100	Rs 1000 Disqualification for 3 months for licence
194 E	Not providing way for emergency vehicles	New	Rs 10,000
196	Driving Without Insurance	RS 1000	Rs 2000
199	Offences by Juveniles	New	Guardian / owner shall be deemed to be guilty. Rs 25,000 with 3 yrs imprisonment. For Juvenile to be tried under JJ Act. Registration of

			Motor Vehicle to be cancelled
206	Power of Officers to impound documents		Suspension of driving licenses u/s 183, 184, 185, 189, 190, 194C, 194D, 194E
210 B	Offences committed by enforcing authorities		Twice the penalty under the relevant section

Vehicle Fitness

The Bill mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles. This would reduce corruption in the transport department while improving the road worthiness of the vehicle. Penalty has been provided for deliberate violation of safety/environmental regulations as well as body builders and spare part suppliers. The process for testing and certification for automobiles is proposed to be regulated more effectively. The testing agencies issuing automobile approvals have been brought under the ambit of the Act and standards will be set for motor vehicle testing institutes. The Bill also provides for compulsory recall of defective vehicles and power to examine irregularities of vehicle companies.

Recall of Vehicles

The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users. The manufacturer of the recalled vehicle will be required to: (i) reimburse the buyers for the full cost of the vehicle, or (ii) replace the defective vehicle with another vehicle with similar or better specifications.

Road Safety Board

The Bill provides for a National Road Safety Board, to be created by the central government through a notification. The Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including standards of motor vehicles, registration and licensing of vehicles, standards for road safety, and promotion of new vehicle technology.

Protection of Good Samaritan

To help road accident victims, Good Samaritan guidelines have been incorporated in the Bill. The Bill defines a Good Samaritan as a person who renders emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a victim at the scene of an accident, and provides rules to prevent harassment of such a person.

Cashless Treatment during Golden Hour

The Bill provides for a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour.

Third Party Insurance

The Bill has included the driver's attendant in 3rd Party insurance. There will be no cap on liability of insurers. There will be a 10 time increase in insurance compensation, from Rs 50, 000 to Rs 5 lakh. Claim process has been simplified. Insurance firms have to pay claims within a month, if the victim's family agree to accept Rs 5 lakh compensation. The Bill also increases the minimum compensation for hit and run cases from Rs 25,000 to two lakh rupees in case of death, and from Rs 12,500 to Rs 50,000 in case of grievous injury.

Motor Vehicle Accident Fund

The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India. It will be utilised for: treatment of persons injured in road accidents as per the golden hour scheme, compensation to representatives of a person who died in a hit and run accident, compensation to a person grievously hurt in a hit and run accident, and compensation to any other persons as prescribed by the central government. This Fund will be credited through: payment of a nature notified by the central government, a grant or loan made by the central government, balance of the Solatium Fund (existing fund under the Act to provide compensation for hit and run accidents), or any other source as prescribed the central government.

Improving Services using e-Governance

Improving delivery of services to the stakeholders using e-Governance is one of the major focuses of this Bill. This includes

Provision for online driving licenses.

The Bill provides for online Learners Licence with mandatory online identity verification. Driving test will be computerized to avoid fake D.L. The Bill will bring transparency in RTO offices. Commercial licenses will be valid upto five instead of three years. Application for renewal can be made one year prior to or after licence lapses. Driver Training Schools will be opened so that more efficient drivers may be available.

Process of Vehicle Registration

To improve the registration process for new vehicles, registration at the end of the dealer is being enabled and restrictions have been imposed on temporary registration. The Minister has however said that state transport departments can inspect the vehicles at dealers end.

To bring harmony of the registration and licensing process, it is proposed to create National Register for Driving Licence and National Register for Vehicle registration through “Vahan” & “Sarathi” platforms. This will facilitate uniformity of the process across the country.

Drivers Training

The driving training process has been strengthened enabling faster issuance of transport licenses. This will help in reducing the shortage of commercial drivers in the country. More and more drivers training schools and vehicle fitness centres will be opened

To facilitate transport solutions for Divyang, the bottlenecks have been removed in respect of grant of driving licenses as well as alterations in the vehicles to make it fit for their use .

Reforms in Transportation System

Development of integrated Transport System will be possible from the **National Transportation Policy**. This will also enhance the powers of the State Governments, provide better last mile connectivity, rural transport etc.

Taxi aggregators:

The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). The Bill provides guidelines for Aggregators. At present there are no rules in many states for regulating aggregators, taxis etc.

Reforms in Driving Licences

The Bill provides for online Learners Licence. Provision of online identity verification Aadhar Card has been made mandatory for making Driving Licences and driving test of the applicant will be computerized to avoid fake D.L. The Bill will bring transparency in RTO offices. Commercial licenses will be valid upto five instead of three years. Application for renewal can be made one year prior to or after licence lapses. Driver Training Schools will be opened so that more efficient driver may be available.

Simplification in the process of vehicle registration

The vehicle owners may register their vehicle anywhere in the state and process of registration will be done by dealers. Differently abled persons will get facilities for registration of vehicles. Checking of fitness of vehicles will be computerised and laws for

scrapping of old vehicle. Now since the National Register is in place, transfer of vehicle from one city to another will be easier and the stolen vehicles will not get registered.

Reforms in Transportation System

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Recall of vehicles: The Bill allows the central government to order for recall of motor vehicles if a defect in the vehicle may cause damage to the environment, or the driver, or other road users. The manufacturer of the recalled vehicle will be required to: (i) reimburse the buyers for the full cost of the vehicle, or (ii) replace the defective vehicle with another vehicle with similar or better specifications.

National Transportation Policy: The central government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments. The Policy will: (i) establish a planning framework for road transport, (ii) develop a framework for grant of permits, and (iii) specify priorities for the transport system, among other things.

Offences and penalties: The Bill increases penalties for several offences under the Act. For example, the maximum penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs has been increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000. If a vehicle manufacturer fails to comply with motor vehicle standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to Rs 100 crore, or imprisonment of up to one year, or both. If a contractor fails to comply with road design standards, the penalty will be a fine of up to one lakh rupees. The central government may increase fines mentioned under the Act every year by up to 10%.

Taxi aggregators: The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state Further, they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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) 22223221, 24-25 | Fax: (91) (080) 22232233 | Website : www.bic.in