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STATE GOVERNMENT

Tech Skills, Friendly Policies Make Karnataka Top Investment Destination: Kumaraswamy

Karnataka has emerged a business-friendly destination because of the thriving ecosystem, said Karnataka Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.

Speaking at the Aero India 2019, Kumaraswamy said Karnataka with highly skilled and talented workforce, great technical expertise, relentless innovation backed by business-friendly policies has become the most sought-after destination in the country.

"Karnataka has been at the forefront of India's march towards economic growth. Karnataka's GSDP was Rs. 12 lakh crore in 2018-19 and the State's economy is expected to grow at 9.6 per cent during 2018-19," he said.

A congenial economic environment has been created in the State to boost investor confidence. For the third year in a row, Karnataka has been ranked first in the country as the most attractive State for investments. "Karnataka has regained its glory of being a business proactive State by ensuring 98 per cent compliance to provisions of Business Reforms Action Plan," the chief minister said.

He added that "Karnataka believes in futuristic modern and digital technologies to improve productivity and ensure competitiveness. We are determined and focussed in our efforts to make Karnataka, particularly Bengaluru, as the hub of next-gen technologies." The State is one of the leading high-tech industrialised States in the country and the undisputed leader in aerospace and Defence.

Aerospace SEZ

He said the country's first aerospace SEZ has been made operational at Belagavi and is poised to grow into a global centre with access to a quality ecosystem."

Karnataka has been the first to develop a Hi-Tech, Defence and Aerospace Park for Aerospace Component, IT and Defence Industries. Now with the aim to make Karnataka as one of the leading MRO hubs in Asia, MRO centres at BIAL and Mysuru are being set up, which will provide full aircraft base maintenance services. A Defence Manufacturing Cluster at Mangaluru is also being planned, he said.

The industry-driven aerospace park located at Devanahalli where the international airport is based, will act as a catalyst of growth by making world-class skilled professionals available for the aerospace and Defence sector.

Source: Businessline February 21, 2019

To Speed Up Suburban Rail, Railways to Offer Land Worth Rs. 6k Crore on Rs. 1 Lease

Here is some good news for Bangaloreans, who have been hoping to get a suburban rail on the lines of the one in Mumbai. The State government and Railway Ministry on Friday sorted out the hurdles that came in the way of the two decade-old ambitious project.

At a meeting jointly chaired by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru, the State and Centre arrived at a consensus to expedite the project.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr. Goyal said the Railways has agreed to give land worth Rs. 6,000 crore on a token lease of Rs. 1 for the project. "The land will be given on a token lease of Rs. 1, which is outside the suburban policy. I have to go back and change the suburban policy. So, it is actually free of charge," the Minister said.

According to an official release, this will reduce the cost of the project by about Rs. 6,700 crore (nearly 30%).

Pointing out that the State government had in January put 19 conditions for implementation of the project, the Union Minister said these conditions were acting as roadblocks. "However, all issues have been resolved now. We have (Centre) also changed the Suburban Railway policy amending the State and the Central funding from the ratio of 80:20 to 50:50," he said.

"I am happy that the Chief Minister has agreed to the Railways' proposal that it will be through-and-through 160 km line that we have planned. It will have 70 km of elevated rail line. There will be 12 inter-changes," he explained.

"The plan drawn up is of international standard. At some point there will be three levels. There will be road, metro and Railways. It is a world class project we are bringing to a world class city. The State Cabinet has to approve it now," the Railway Minister said.

Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said he was grateful for the speedy decisions taken by the Union Minister, said all issues had been sorted out now.

The project had figured in the Union budget for the current fiscal and was approved by the State government. The feasibility study report was approved by Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES).

The project is expected to be completed within six years from the time of approval by the State government.

According to a release, the State government has now agreed to share the cost of two line-doubling projects — Baiyappanahalli-Hosur and Yeshwantpur-Banaswadi-Hosur.

Vande Bharat Express

Mr. Goyal said the high-speed train Vande Bharat Express is likely to be introduced between Bengaluru and Chennai; and between Bengaluru and Mangaluru. Currently, a Vande Bharat Express runs between Delhi and Varanasi.

Source: Businessline February 4, 2019

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

February 7, 2019

Inter State Trade On E-NAM Platform Gain Momentum

Inter State trade of agricultural produce in wholesale mandis through National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform is gathering pace with the latest transaction taking place at Madhya Pradesh Mandsaur e-NAM mandi, which sold coriander to Ramganj mandi of Rajasthan. Similarly, inter state transaction is taking place at Maharashtra's Akola e-NAM mandi, which sold green gram to Nokha mandi of Rajasthan. Recently, the first Inter State transaction in tomatoes has been carried out between trader of Bareilly e-NAM APMC of Uttar Pradesh and farmer of Haldwani e-NAM APMC of Uttarakhand, followed by similar trade in groundnut between farmers of Gadwal mandi in Telangana and Trader of Kumool mandi in Andhra Pradesh.

So far 21 e-NAM mandis of eight States namely Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh had joined hands to start inter-State trade on e-NAM. Apart from Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh, inter State trade also happened between Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, Rajasthan & Gujarat, Maharashtra & Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan.

136 inter-State transactions & 14 commodities which include vegetables, pulses, cereals, oilseeds, spices etc. have been traded under inter-state trade through e-NAM platform in a short span of time. Rajasthan is the first State to start inter-State trade with more than one State, establishing trade link with Gujarat, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh through e-NAM. Volume of inter-State trade is also picking up as farmers & traders are gaining confidence in the system. Initially started with 25 commodities, e-trade facilities have been provided on 124 commodities with tradable parameters on e-NAM portal. Through inter State trade, farmers get better market access, more buyers/ traders & realise better prices for their produce. This online platform will prove to be a giant leap in reforming the agriculture market in India. Initially, trade on e-NAM started inside the individual e-NAM mandi, with farmers and traders of that mandi. After persuasive efforts by the Government inter-mandi trade on e-NAM platform started within the State. Now inter-mandi trade within e-NAM States is happening in 196 mandis of 10 e-NAM States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand.

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Issue of Visa Recommendation Letter

Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) has been successfully offering the following services to its Members / Non - Members at a very nominal fee for more than three decades. Since BCIC has excellent working relationships with all the High Commission/Trade Offices, it is needless to mention that our recommendation has its own credibility that would expedite the process of Visa issuance.

MEMBERS	Rs.240 per Letter	Please send in your request to the mail ID visaletters@bcic.org.in
NON - MEMBERS	Rs.360 per Letter (Introduction Letter of any BCIC member is mandatory)	

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

**Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Food Processing Industries**

February 6, 2019

**Cabinet Approves Introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology,
Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019 in the Parliament**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019.

The objective of the bill is to confer the status of Institutions of National Importance to National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Haryana, and the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Benefits:

The legislation would provide for functional autonomy to the institutes to design and develop courses, undertake research activities and leverage enhanced status in their academic pursuits, so that they become world class institutes. The institutes would implement the reservation policy of the Government and would also undertake special outreach activities for the benefits of concerned stakeholders. It would enable the institutes to provide world class teaching and research experience by adopting innovative practices.

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

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ECONOMIC AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs

February 19, 2019

Union Cabinet Approves Promulgation of the Companies (Second Amendment) Ordinance 2019

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Promulgation of the Companies (Second Amendment) Ordinance 2019 and for replacement of the said Ordinance in Parliament by a replacement Bill.

It is based on the recommendations of the Committee to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013, so as to fill critical gaps in the corporate governance & compliance framework as enshrined in the Companies Act 2013, while simultaneously extending greater Ease of Doing Business to law abiding corporates. This will incentivize compliance of law while simultaneously meting out exemplary punishment for serious violations.

Details:

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2018 later renamed as the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2019) was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20th December, 2018 and was considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on 4th January, 2019. The Bill was transmitted to the Rajya Sabha but it could not be considered and passed in the Upper House in the Winter Session or in the Budget Session.

A total of 29 sections were amended and 2 new sections were inserted through the earlier ordinances, which were promulgated on 2nd November, 2018 (Ordinance 9 of 2018) and on 12th January, 2019 (Ordinance 3 of 2019).

The amendments have been brought in to address the need to impose civil liability for technical & procedural defaults of a minor nature & to plug gaps in the corporate governance & enforcement framework covering a wide range of issues such as:

- a. Re-categorization of 16 minor offences as purely civil defaults which will de-clog special courts.
- b. Transfer of certain routine functions from NCLT to the central government such as dealing with applications for change of financial year and conversion from public to private companies.
- c. Making non-maintenance of registered office and non-reporting of commencement of business grounds for striking of from register of companies.

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BCIC INFORMATION DIGEST



	Mechanical Data (Width x Height)	Advertisement Tariff (Monthly)	
Full Page	18 cm x 26 cm	Back cover (Colour)	Rs. 7,500/-
Half Page	18 cm x 13 cm	Inside front cover Colour	Rs. 5,000/-
Book Size	21 cm x 29.7 cm	Back inside Cover (Colour)	Rs. 5,000/-

FINANCE

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

February 6, 2019

**Cabinet Approves Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and
Indirect Tax Ombudsman**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman.

The approval comes in the wake of alternative complaint redressal mechanisms chosen by public and the institution of Ombudsman could not prove to be more effective than regular existing parallel channels of grievance redressal, both the institutions of Income-Tax Ombudsman as well as Indirect Tax Ombudsman have been abolished.

Background:

The Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman was created in the year 2003 to deal with grievances of public related to settlement of complaints relating to Income Tax. However, the Institution of Ombudsman failed to achieve its objectives. It was observed that institution of new complaints have in turn fallen to single digits. Also, tax payers started preferring alternate methods of grievance redressal like CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System), AaykarSevaKendras etc. further, it was also decided in 2011 to close vacant offices of Indirect Tax Ombudsman.

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

February 23, 2019

CBIC Constitutes 3 Working Groups to Study and Recommend Measures to Facilitate Trade, Promote Exports and Improve Compliance

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has constituted three Working Groups to study and recommend measures to facilitate trade, promote exports and improve compliance.

The Working Groups will focus on:-

- improving the legislative structure of customs tariff and update it to suit the emerging and future needs of the economy and industry. Special focus would be given to create a comprehensive export tariff structure to enhance India's export competitiveness
- export promotion and facilitation with emphasis on boosting exports through e-commerce, addressing the trade facilitation barriers faced in India's export markets and improving the quality of logistics services for exporters.
- enhancing compliance, plugging loopholes to improve revenue collection on customs and curb IGST refund frauds

The groups will consult the stakeholders extensively, including the Export Promotion Councils and relevant wings of the Ministry of Commerce and industry.

The Groups will submit their report within a period of two months.

"The recommendations of the Groups, which will be taken-up for the implementation on priority, would further enhance the ease of doing business and export competitiveness. CBIC will be using advanced data analytics tools for augmenting revenue and curbing frauds", said Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

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

February 1, 2019

Budget Summary: Interim Budget 2019-20

Interim Budget 2019-20 was presented in Parliament today by the Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs, Railways & Coal, Shri Piyush Goyal. Besides having a major Scheme for the farmers, it provides tax sops and sets the Developmental Agenda for the years to come.

A New Deal for 12 Crore Small and Marginal farmers with direct income support, a path breaking Pension initiative for 10 Crore unorganized sector workers, exempting income up to Rs 5 lakhs from Income Tax, reforms in stamp duty, highest ever budgetary allocation of Rs 3 lakh crore for Defence, record allocation of funds at Rs 58,166 crore for North Eastern Areas, a new AIIMS for Haryana, single window clearance for Indian film makers at par with foreigners and higher budgetary allocations for Education, Health, Infrastructure and for the welfare of weaker sections including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, a Separate Department of Fisheries for welfare of 1.5 crore fisherman are some of the major highlights of the Interim Budget 2019-20.

Tax Benefits

Individual taxpayers having taxable annual income up to Rs.5 lakhs will not be required to pay any income tax. The Finance Minister said that persons having gross income up to Rs. 6.50 lakhs are not required to pay any income tax if they make investments in provident funds, specified savings and insurance etc. Additional deductions such as interest on home loan up to Rs. 2 lakh, interest on education loans, National Pension Scheme contributions, medical insurance and medical expenditure on senior citizens etc, are also provided for in the Interim Budget 2019-20. Thus tax benefit of Rs. 18,500 crore is proposed to be provided to an estimated 3 crore middle class and small taxpayers comprising self employed, small business, small traders, salary earners, pensioners and senior citizens.

For salaried persons, Standard Deduction is being raised from the current Rs.40,000 to Rs.50,000. This will provide additional tax benefit of Rs. 4,700 crore to more than 3 crore salary earners and pensioners.

Exemption on levy of income tax on notional rent on a second self-occupied house is also now proposed. Currently, income tax on notional rent is payable if one has more than one self-occupied house.

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TDS threshold on interest earned on bank/post office deposits is being raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs.40,000. TDS threshold for deduction of tax on rent is proposed to be increased from Rs. 1,80,000 to Rs.2,40,000 for providing relief to small taxpayers.

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LABOUR / COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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

February 4, 2019

FDI Policy on E-Commerce

In order to ensure due compliance of the FDI policy on e-Commerce, Press Note 2 (2018) has been issued. It puts in place certain conditions. These conditions include:

- i. An entity having equity participation by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, or having control on its inventory by e-commerce marketplace entity or its group companies, will not be permitted to sell its products on the platform run by such marketplace entity.
- ii. e-Commerce marketplace entity will not mandate any seller to sell any product exclusively on its platform only.

This Press Note is effective from February 01, 2019.

Representations have been received to defer the implementation of Press Note 2. The FDI policy on e-Commerce, first pronounced through Press Note 2 of 2000, permitted 100% FDI in B2B e-commerce activities. With a view to provide clarity to the extant policy and after extensive stakeholder consultations, guidelines for FDI on the e-commerce were issued vide Press Note 3 (2016). To provide further clarity to FDI policy on e-commerce, Press Note 2 (2018) was issued.

Stakeholder consultations on creating a framework for National Policy on e-Commerce with representatives from Government Ministries, Departments, Reserve Bank of India, industry bodies, e-commerce companies, telecom companies, IT companies and payment companies have been held. Issues regarding the e-commerce sector are regularly reviewed by the Government.

The e-commerce sector is expected to keep growing in future because of a number of reasons. The FDI policy on e-commerce has remained unchanged. Better enforcement of this policy will contribute significantly to growth of this sector over medium and long term.

LABOUR / Press Information Bureau **INDUSTRY**
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

February 4, 2019

Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme

In order to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness, the Central Government has been implementing a Scheme called the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme under the Foreign Trade Policy for manufacturer exporters with or without supporting manufacturer(s), merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s) and service providers.

Under the Scheme, EPCG Authorizations are issued with actual user condition and import validity of 24 months to import capital goods (except those specified in negative list) for pre-production, production and post-production at zero customs duty, and subject to fulfilment of specific Export Obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes and cess saved on capital goods, to be fulfilled in 6 years from date of issue of Authorization. In addition, the Authorization holder is required to fulfil Average Export Obligation achieved by him in the preceding three licensing years for the same and similar products. However, if minimum 75% of specific Export Obligation and 100% of Average Export Obligation is fulfilled within half the original export obligation period, remaining export obligation can be condoned. Further, in case of indigenous sourcing of capital goods and for exports of Green Technology products, specific EO is only 75%. For Units located in North East Region and Jammu & Kashmir, specific EO is only 25%. Presently, capital goods imported for physical exports are also exempt from IGST and Compensation Cess up to 31.03.2019.

The number of defaulters reported in the last three years is 1347 nos. in 2015-16; 1122 nos. in 2016-17 and 1031 nos. in 2017-18. The Regional Authorities have taken penal action under the Foreign Trade (Development & regulation Act), 1992 by issuing show cause notices and passing adjudication orders for recovery of customs duty along with interest.

LABOUR / EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY
Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

February 19, 2019

Suresh Prabhu Clears Proposal To Encourage Investments In Start-Ups

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu has cleared a proposal aiming at simplifying the process of exemptions for Start-ups under Section 56 (2) (viib) of Income Tax Act. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will be issuing a gazette notification today to this effect.

In order to catalyse entrepreneurship by enabling angel investments to innovators across all sections of society and all sectors of economy, a Gazette notification in partial modification of Gazette Notification number G.S.R 364 (E) dated April 11, 2018 was issued on 16.02.19. However, concerns were expressed regarding taxation of angel investments and there were issues that needed to be addressed to ensure availability of capital to Start-ups.

The Minister took up these issues with concerned officials and a roundtable was organized on 4th February, 2019 under the chairmanship of Secretary DPIIT with Start-ups, angel investors, and other stakeholders with a view to discuss the new measures undertaken by the Department to address the Angel Tax issue and understand the mechanism to deal with it institutionally.

With this notification, the definition of Start-ups will be expanded. Now an entity will be considered as a Start-ups upto a period of ten years from the date of incorporation and registration in place of the earlier duration of 7 years. Similarly, an entity will continue to be recognised as a Start-ups, if its turnover for any of the financial years since incorporation and registration has not exceeded Rs. 100 crore in place of Rs. 25 crore earlier.

A Start-ups will be eligible for exemption under Section 56 (2) (viib) of Income Tax Act, if it is a private limited company recognized by DPIIT and is not investing in any of the following assets:

- i. building or land appurtenant thereto, being a residential house, other than that used by the Start-ups for the purposes of renting or held by it as stock-in-trade, in the ordinary course of business;
- ii. land or building, or both, not being a residential house, other than that occupied by the Start-ups for its business or used by it for purposes of renting or held by it as stock-in-trade, in the ordinary course of business;

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LABOUR / **Press Information Bureau** / INDUSTRY
Government of India
Cabinet

February 28, 2019

Cabinet Approves National Policy On Software Products - 2019

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products - 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.

Major impact

The Software product ecosystem is characterized by innovations, Intellectual Property (IP) creation and large value addition increase in productivity, which has the potential to significantly boost revenues and exports in the sector, create substantive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in emerging technologies and leverage opportunities available under the Digital India Programme, thus, leading to a boost in inclusive and sustainable growth.

Expenditure involved

Initially, an outlay of Rs.1500 Crore is involved to implement the programmes/ schemes envisaged under this policy over the period of 7 years. Rs1500 Crore is divided into Software Product Development Fund (SPDF) and Research & Innovation fund.

Implementation strategy and targets

The Policy will lead to the formulation of several schemes, initiatives, projects and measures for the development of Software products sector in the country as per the roadmap envisaged therein.

To achieve the vision of NPSP-2019, the Policy has the following five Missions:

- I. To promote the creation of a sustainable Indian software product industry, driven by intellectual property (IP), leading to a ten-fold increase in India share of the Global Software product market by 2025.
- II. To nurture 10,000 technology startups in software product industry, including 1000 such technology startups in Tier-II and Tier-III towns & cities and generating direct and in-direct employment for 3.5 million people by 2025.
- III. To create a talent pool for software product industry through (i) up-skilling of 1,000,000 IT professionals, (ii) motivating 100,000 school and college students and (iii) generating 10,000 specialized professionals that can provide leadership.
- IV. To build a cluster-based innovation driven ecosystem by developing 20 sectoral and strategically located software product development clusters having integrated ICT infrastructure, marketing, incubation, R&D/testbeds and mentoring support.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Policy on Software Products- 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.

Major impact

The Software product ecosystem is characterized by innovations, Intellectual Property (IP) creation and large value addition increase in productivity, which has the potential to significantly boost revenues and exports in the sector, create substantive employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in emerging technologies and leverage opportunities available under the Digital India Programme, thus, leading to a boost in inclusive and sustainable growth.

Expenditure involved

Initially, an outlay of Rs.1500 Crore is involved to implement the programmes/ schemes envisaged under this policy over the period of 7 years. Rs1500 Crore is divided into Software Product

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

LABOUR / Press Information Bureau **INDUSTRY**
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

February 28, 2019

Promulgation of Ordinance for Amendment to the SEZ Act, 2005

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved promulgation of an Ordinance to amend the definition of "person", as defined in sub-section (v) of section 2 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 (28 of 2005) to include a trust, to enable the setting up of a unit in a Special Economic Zone by a trust, as also to provide flexibility to the Central Government to include in this definition of a person, any entity that the Central Government may notify from time to time.

Impact:

The present provision of the SEZs Act, 2005 do not permit 'trusts' to set up units in SEZs. The amendment will enable a trust to be considered for grant of permission to set up a unit in SEZs. The amendment will also provide flexibility to the Central Government to include in this definition of a person, any entity that the Central Government may notify from time to time. This will facilitate investments in Special Economic Zones.

LABOUR / GOVERNMENT / INDUSTRY
Press Information Bureau
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

February 19, 2019

Commerce Minister Launches 'SWAYATT' on GeM

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, launched SWAYATT in New Delhi today. SWAYATT is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM). This will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace the national procurement portal.

On this occasion, Commerce Minister also dedicated GeM Start-up Runway-an initiative of GeM in association with Start-up India to facilitate Start-ups registered with Start-up India to access the public procurement market and sell innovative products and services to government buyers.

Suresh Prabhu also felicitated a few successful entrepreneurs from Women Self Help Groups, Start-ups and MSMEs in GeM.

Speaking on the occasion Commerce Minister said, Suresh Prabhu appreciated the achievements of GeM reaching out and empowering these diverse groups and reiterated the need to support and strengthen such initiatives and enterprises which constitute the backbone of the Indian economy. He also appreciated the event for impressively showcasing many such successful efforts of SHGs, Start-ups, Women enterprises, MSMEs partnering GeM.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, C.R. Chaudhary, released a movie on GeM SWAYATT and expressed hope that the national launch of SWAYATT would further seek to promote inclusiveness by catapulting various categories of sellers and service providers, take proactive steps to facilitate the training and registrations of such specific category of manufacturers and sellers, develop women entrepreneurship and encourage participation of MSME sector and Start-ups in public procurement.

CEO GeM, Radha Chauhan, introduced the concept of SWAYATT and Start-up Runway.

The event which was web cast LIVE across the country, witnessed enthusiastic participation from all over India including policy makers, social activists, artisans, women entrepreneurs, and start-ups who will work to ensure market linkages for these sections in public procurement.

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Women Self Help Groups, Start-ups, and Government Organization had exhibited 24 stalls at the venue. The event partners included various Ministries like Women & Child Development, Electronics & IT, MSME, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Rural Development and Skill Development apart from industry associations financial institutions, autonomous bodies like NSIC, KVIC, CCIC and

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