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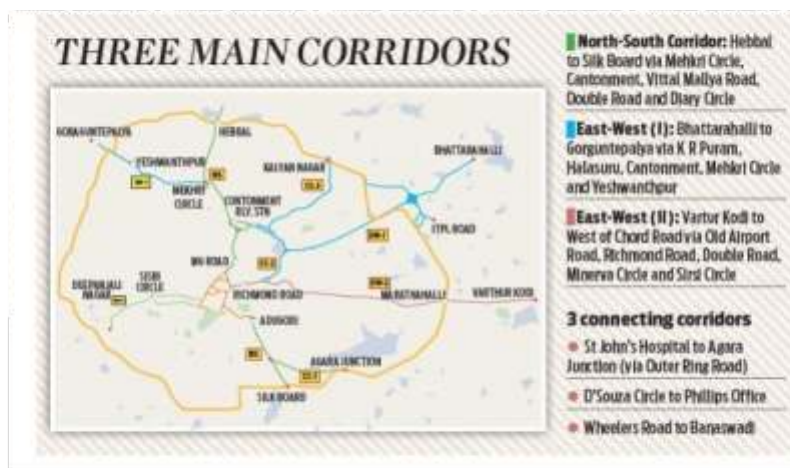
## STATE GOVERNMENT

### Elevated Corridor Will Run 102 Km, Have 6 Corridors

The feasibility report finalised for the Elevated Corridor Project looks at covering a distance of 102 km with six corridors — three main and three connecting ones. These details were finalised at a marathon meeting at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday in the presence of all the civic stakeholders. The report will be presented to the Chief Minister on Thursday for the final seal of approval.

The proposed elevated corridors along with the long-planned Peripheral Ring Road are proposed as the answers to decongest the city's choked roads.

The elevated corridor is estimated to cost anywhere between `25,000 crore and `26,000 crore including land acquisition cost and is expected to be in place by 2025-2026. The Public Works Department (PWD) will implement it through the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL).



Speaking to The New Indian Express, K B Rathnakar Reddy, consultant for KRDCL which prepared the report, said, "As of now, one crore daily trips are undertaken in vehicles by the 1.2 crore population in the city. A trip refers to any distance travelled from one point to another by private vehicles or public transport. According to the BDA Master Plan 2031, the population will double by then. The number of trips undertaken by Bangaloreans will then shoot up to two crores a day. It is absolutely vital to have this corridor in place by then so that public transport can run smoothly

Elaborating on the plan, Reddy said each of the corridors will have four lanes with two shoulders (additional space provided for two-wheelers to pass through, which can also be used as space for parking in case of breakdowns). The project was mooted a year ago.

"If approved, tenders can be called for next month. Work will begin in 2019 and we are suggesting a deadline of five to six years from then," he said. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd has also suggested having its future Metro lines at the second level while the road will be at the first level at two points. It is being done presently for the R V Road-Bommasandra Line of Phase-II.

Source: Indian Express, November 29, 2018

## Bengaluru Offers Highest Salaries In India: Study

If you want a pay hike, consider relocating to [Bengaluru](#). Those who work in the Garden City get the highest salaries in the country, especially professionals in the hardware, networking, software and consumer sectors, a [study](#) by LinkedIn reveals. The city is followed by Mumbai and Delhi, says a report in the Times of India.

The most lucrative earners are not techies but those with hardware and networking jobs who get Rs 15 lakh per annum. Software jobs fetch about Rs 12 lakh and consumer jobs Rs 9 lakh, the report says. The weighted average compensation was the highest in [Bengaluru](#) at Rs 12 lakh. The city is followed by Mumbai and Delhi at Rs 9 lakh each. While the weighted average pay in Hyderabad is about Rs 8.5 lakh, Chennai is at the bottom in the list of five [highest paying cities](#) with only Rs 6 lakh per annum.

The [hardware jobs](#), especially those related to chip design and advanced networking, fetch the fattest salaries. Salaries have increased manifold in the area of very-large-scale integration (VLSI), which deals with creation of integrated circuit by combining lakhs of devices into a single chip, says Shivananda Koteswar, head of design R&D at semiconductor tools company Synopsys India.

"Just two years ago, their salaries were three times their years of experience, today it is 4.5 to 5 times the experience," Koteswar was quoted as saying in the report.

The [highest paying](#) designations in the countries are director of engineering, chief operating officer, executive director, vice president sales and senior program manager, the report further says.

"In India's competitive jobs market, LinkedIn Salary will help create salary transparency and empower our members with reliable data on what companies are paying today, what kind of compensation packages to expect, and how salaries vary as per industries and educational qualifications," LinkedIn India product head Ajay Datta was quoted by Times of India as saying.

**Source: Indian Express, November 22, 2018**

### BCIC INFORMATION DIGEST



	Mechanical Data (Width x Height)	Advertisement Tariff (Monthly)	
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## City's Longest Subway to Link Cantonment, Metro Stops

The city will get its longest pedestrian subway measuring 275 metres providing access to passengers between Cantonment railway station and the proposed Metro station in Bamboo Bazaar.

For the first time, BMRCL has made accessibility-related infrastructure part of the main project in Reach 6 of Phase 2. The tender for design and construction of 2.88 km underground structures between Shivajinagar and Tannery Road stations includes the 275-metre long, 6-metre wide subway. The cost of the entire work is estimated at Rs 1,105.42 crore.

The subway would not have been needed had Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) stuck to the original alignment with the Cantonment Metro station right opposite of the railway station. However, officials had cited several technical and safety complications to change the station site to Madina Grounds, which is also supposed to save BMRCL Rs 1,000 crore.

At present, the pedestrian subway at KSR Railway Station from platform number 1 to 7, is said to be the longest, though its length is no more than 100 metres. Metro tunnels are usually built about 20 metres under the ground. Asked about the depth of the subway, sources said the details will be known after the evaluation of the detailed design consultation reports.

"The technical aspects of the tender are under evaluation stage, following which it may take about two months for evaluation of the financial bids. Details of the subway will be clear once the contract is awarded," the source said.

Lack of integration still troubles Metro passengers at several stations, including City Railway, Nagasandra, Dasarahalli and Yeshwantpur stations.

Activist Sanjeev Dyamannavar noted that the incorporation of the subway work in the design stage of the Metro project is a welcome measure. "This is the result of the protest against shifting of the station and demand for integration between railway and Metro stations. BMRCL should follow this at KR Puram and Whitefield as well," he said.

**Source: Deccan Herald: November 27, 2018**

### Issue of Certificate of Origin

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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.80/- per certificate**

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

### State Government Wants Rs 500 Crore for KIAL Metro Project

The State Government has demanded Rs 500 crore from the Central Government to implement the connectivity line of the Kempegowda International Airport. According to sources in Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the company is facing a deficit of Rs.1000 crore for the implementation of this line.

An official informed about the incidents, said, "The scheme is to assist the central government with the assistance of Rs 500 crore and seek out loans from other sources of Rs 500 crore."

"BMRCL needs Rs 3,400 crore to complete the ongoing projects, efforts have been made to secure loans from different agencies."

Source: News Karnataka, November 2018

## 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 <a href="mailto:visaletters@bcic.org.in">visaletters@bcic.org.in</a>
NON - MEMBERS	Rs.360 per Letter (Introduction Letter of any BCIC member is mandatory)	

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## **Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) Signs \$75 Million Loan to Improve Urban Services in 4 Karnataka Towns**

Government of India and the Asian Development Bank signed a \$75 million loan here today to provide 24 x7 water supply in Karnataka's four coastal towns of Kundapura, Mangalore Puttur and Udupi and improve sanitation infrastructure for Mangalore town.

The signatories to the tranche 2 loan agreement of Karnataka Integrated Urban Water Management Investment Program were Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Mr. Sabyasachi Mitra, Deputy Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, who signed for ADB.

The Program, approved by ADB Board in 2014, aims to improve urban water resource management in selected river basins in Karnataka through modernization and expansion of urban water supply and sanitation infrastructure and strengthening institutions to improve water use efficiency, water resource planning, monitoring and service delivery. The \$75 million tranche 1 loan is helping strengthen urban water supply and sanitation services in three other towns of the State - Byadagi, Davangere, and Harihar.

The investment program is supporting four coastal towns in Karnataka to provide continuous piped water supply to people, and promote efficient and sustainable use of water. It will also adopt information technology based smart water management system and undertake community awareness programs on water conservation and demand management, said Mr. Khare.

Apart from providing continuous piped water supply and improved sanitation services to nearly one million people, the Program is helping the urban local bodies to become efficient and responsive urban water utility service provider, said Mr. Mitra.

The provision of performance-based construct and operate contract (PBCOC) modality, piloted by ADB in another urban project in the state, will help ensure the sustainable water service delivery through the optimal risk allocation between the public sector and private water operator.

The project finances will be used to augment water treatment production capacity by about 16 MLD, lay about 90 kilometers of new water transmission lines and feeder mains, construct 29 overhead tanks and four ground-level service reservoirs and establish town level supervisory control and data acquisition system to strengthen the centralized supervision and control of water flow and water pressure. Other outputs include 1,300 km long distribution network and provision of about 140,000 household connections with new meters. In Mangalore, about 11 km of pumping mains will be installed to rehabilitate the sewerage system.

## AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare  
New Delhi

November 14 2018

### NCDC's New Scheme to Promote Young Entrepreneurs in Cooperatives

To cater to the needs and aspirations of the youth, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has come up with a youth-friendly scheme 'Yuva Sahakar-Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme' for attracting them to cooperative business ventures.

"NCDC has created a dedicated fund with liberal features enabling youth to avail the scheme," Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh said at the launch of the scheme.

The Central Government has been encouraging 'Start-Ups' for ease of doing business, non-conventional opportunities are emerging and are being encouraged. The conducive environment is being leveraged by private and corporate sectors and 'Hub Start-ups' are being promoted. The newly launched scheme would encourage cooperatives to venture into new and innovative areas.

The scheme will be linked to Rs 1000 crore 'Cooperative Start-up and Innovation Fund (CSIF)' created by the NCDC. It would have more incentives for cooperatives of North Eastern region, Aspirational Districts and cooperatives with women or SC or ST or PwD members. The funding for the project will be up to 80% of the project cost for these special categories as against 70% for others. The scheme envisages 2% less than the applicable rate of interest on term loan for the project cost up to Rs 3 crore including 2 years moratorium on payment of principal. All types of cooperatives in operation for at least one year are eligible.

The Minister explained that this scheme is expected to meet the needs of today's youth. He added that NCDC, being the most preferred financial institution in the world of cooperatives, has embarked on Sahakar 22, a Mission for Doubling Farmers' Income by 2022.

The Minister while complimenting the NCDC on its remarkable performance since 2014 stated that the NCDC had an excellent track record and would provide the required handholding for making the scheme a success.

The NCDC has the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organisation functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector. It supports cooperatives in diverse fields apart from agriculture and allied sectors. It is an ISO 9001:2015 compliant organisation and has a distinctive edge of competitive financing. It has extended financial assistance of Rs 63702.61 crore during 2014-2018 (as on November 13), 220% more than Rs 19850.6 during 2010-14.

Union Agriculture Secretary Mr Sanjay Agarwal and NCDC MD Shri Sundeep Kumar Nayak were also present at the launch.

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

**November 15 2018**

**Work Begins on Five New Themes Targeted by The Union Agriculture  
Ministry for Development of Agriculture**

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said that Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University has begun work on five new themes targeted by Union Agriculture Ministry for the development of agriculture sector. These include "har khet ko pani", increase the production of pulses, soil health, doubling farmers' income and more crop per drop. He informed that in two years, positive results have started to appear. Major works include irrigation through solar power and single phase pumps, seed production of pulse crops, soil testing in farmers' fields through six mobile soil testing laboratories, food processing to double the income of farmers, mushroom production, honey production, research on reduction of post-harvest losses and efficient irrigation system.

Speaking on the occasion of the first convocation ceremony of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar) he stated that the Modi government has granted a lot of support to strengthen this University. Horticulture and Forestry College, Centre of Excellence on Embryo transfer & indigenous breed, a new centre for beekeeping, modern processing center for jaggery production etc are important steps in this direction. Apart from this, a center for Sahiwal breed in Bettiah, training centre by National Cooperative Development Corporation, seed storage and sale centre by National Seeds Corporation, fish production by cage culture in all KVKs are also proposed. Shri Singh said that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has launched four new projects to accelerate the 'Lab to Farm' programme for all-round development of agriculture. In order to increasing the connectivity of farmers with scientists, technical assessment, evaluation, training and capacity building, the government has initiated the Farmer First program.

Considering the importance of capacity development for entrepreneurship in rural youth, Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) program has been started and in order to create new opportunities of employment generation for the youth in agriculture and to prevent their migrations, Attracting and Retaining of Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) has been started. The Minister said that under the "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" program, agricultural experts of agricultural universities and ICAR have been given the responsibility of a village in order to create awareness among farmers about scientific farming. The Minister hoped that the university is soon counted among the leading universities of the country and the seeds & technologies developed here bring prosperity to the farmers of Bihar and the country thereby doubling their income.



## ECONOMIC AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Company Affairs  
New Delhi

November 2 2018

### President Gives Assent to Promulgation of The Companies Amendment (Ordinance), 2018

The recommendation of the Union Cabinet for promulgation of the Companies Amendment (Ordinance), 2018 has been assented to by the President of India. The Ordinance, which has been promulgated today is based on the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Government to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013.

**The twin objectives of the Ordinance are promotion of Ease of Doing Business along with better corporate compliance. The main amendments are as under;**

- i. Shifting of jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences from the special courts to in-house adjudication, which is expected to reduce the case load of Special Courts by over 60%, thereby enabling them to concentrate on serious corporate offences. With this amendment the scope of in-house adjudication has gone up from 18 Sections at present to 34 Sections of the Act.
- ii. The penalty for small companies and one person companies has been reduced to half of that applicable to normal companies.
- iii. Instituting a transparent and technology driven in-house adjudication mechanism on an online platform and publication of the orders on the website.
- iv. Strengthening in-house adjudication mechanism by necessitating a concomitant order for making good the default at the time of levying penalty, to achieve the ultimate aim of achieving better compliance.
- v. Declogging the NCLT by:
  - a. enlarging the pecuniary jurisdiction of Regional Director by enhancing the limit up to Rs. 25 Lakh as against earlier limit of Rs. 5Lakh under Section 441 of the Act;
  - b. vesting in the Central Government the power to approve the alteration in the financial year of a company under section 2(41); and
  - c. vesting the Central Government the power to approve cases of conversion of public companies into private companies.
- vi. Recommendations related to corporate compliance and corporate governance include re-introduction of declaration of commencement of business provision to better tackle the menace of 'shell companies'; greater disclosures with respect to public deposits; greater accountability with respect to filing documents related to creation, modification and satisfaction of charges; non-maintenance of registered office to trigger de-registration process; and holding of directorships beyond permissible limits to trigger disqualification of such directors.

## FINANCE

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

**November 8, 2018**

### **No Let-Up in Sanction Of GST Refunds**

There are concerns being raised about growing pendency of GST Refunds. Exporters are reassured that there is no let-up in the sanction of GST refunds. The disposal rate is consistently improving month-on-month. As on 31st October, 2018, total GST refunds to the tune of Rs 82,775 crore have been disposed by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the State authorities out of the total refund claims of Rs 88,175 crore received so far. Thus, the disposal rate of 93.8 % has been achieved as on 31.10.2018. The pending GST refund claims amounting to Rs. 5,400 crore are being expeditiously processed so as to provide relief to eligible exporters. Refund claims without any deficiency are being cleared expeditiously.

In case of IGST refunds, about 93.27 % (Rs 42,935 crore) of the total IGST refund claims (Rs. 46,032 crore) transmitted to Customs from GSTN as on 31st October, 2018 have already been disposed. The remaining claims amounting to Rs. 3,096 crore are held-up on account of various deficiencies which have been communicated to exporters for remedial action.

In the case of RFD-01A (ITC Refund) claims, out of the total refund claims of Rs. 42,145 crore the pendency as on 31st October, 2018 is Rs 159 Crore with the Centre and Rs 2,146 crore with the States. Provisional/Final Order has been issued in case of refunds amounting to Rs. 34,602 Crore. In claims amounting to Rs. 5,239 Crore, deficiency memos have been issued by respective GST authorities.

Efforts are being made continuously to clear all the pending refund claims, where ever requisite information is provided and found eligible. Co-operation of the exporter community is solicited to ensure that they respond to the deficiency memos and errors communicated by Centre and State GST as well as Customs Authorities and also exercise due diligence while filing GSTR 1 and GSTR 3B

**LABOUR / COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY / SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

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

**November 16, 2018**

**Clarification Regarding Maternity Leave Incentive Scheme**

In a section of media, there have been some reports about Maternity Leave Incentive Scheme. In this regard, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has clarified the following:

**Background-**

(i) The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 applies to establishments employing 10 or more than 10 persons in Factories, Mines, Plantation, Shops & Establishments and other entities. The main purpose of this Act is to regulate the employment of women in certain establishments for certain period before and after child birth and to provide maternity benefit and certain other benefits. The Act was amended through the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 2017 which, inter alia, has increased the paid maternity leave to women employees from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

ii. While the implementation of the provision is good in Public Sector, there are reports that it is not good in Private Sector and in contract jobs. There is also a wide perception that private entities are not encouraging women employees because if they are employed, they may have to provide maternity benefit to them, particularly 26 weeks of paid holiday. In addition, the Ministry of Labour & Employment is also getting complaints from various quarters that when the employers come to know that their women employee is in the family way or applies for maternity leave, the contracts are terminated on some flimsy grounds. There have been several representations before the Labour Ministry on how the extended maternity leave has become a deterrent for female employees who are asked to quit or retrenched on flimsy grounds before they go on maternity leave.

iii. Therefore, the Ministry of Labour & Employment is working on an incentive scheme wherein 7 weeks' wages would be reimbursed to employers who employ women workers with wage ceiling upto Rs. 15000/- and provide the maternity benefit of 26 weeks paid leave, subject to certain conditions. It is estimated that approximately an amount of Rs. 400 crores would be the financial implication for Government of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment for implementing the proposed incentive scheme.

**Major Impact:** The proposed Scheme, if approved and implemented shall ensure the women in this country an equal access to employment and other approved benefits alongwith adequate safety and secure environment. Also, the women shall continue to bear the major share of household work as well as child care. The work places will be more and more responsive to the family needs of the working women.

**Current Stage of the Proposal:**

There are some media reports that this Scheme has been approved/notified. However, it is clarified that Ministry of Labour & Employment is in the process of obtaining necessary budgetary grant and approvals of Competent Authorities. The reports that it will be funded from Labour Welfare Cess, is also incorrect, as no such cess exists under this Ministry.

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

**November 19, 2018**

**SEZ Policy Report Submitted to Commerce Minister**

The Baba Kalyani led committee constituted by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to study the existing SEZ policy of India submitted its report to the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, in New Delhi today.

The objectives of the committee were to evaluate the SEZ policy and make it WTO compatible, suggest measures for maximizing utilisation of vacant land in SEZs, suggest changes in the SEZ policy based on international experience and merge the SEZ policy with other Government schemes like coastal economic zones, Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor, national industrial manufacturing zones and food and textiles parks.

While submitting the report to the Commerce Minister, Baba Kalyani, Chairman, Bharat Forge Ltd., said that if India is going to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025 then the current environment of manufacturing competitiveness and services has to undergo a basic paradigm shift. The success seen by services sector like IT and ITES has to be promoted in other services sector like health care, financial services, legal, repair and design services.

The Government of India has set a target of creating 100 million jobs and achieving 25% of GDP from the manufacturing sector by 2022, as part of its flagship 'Make in India' programme. Furthermore, the Government plans to increase manufacturing value to USD 1.2 trillion by 2025. While these are ambitious plans to propel India into a growth trajectory, it requires evaluation of existing policy frameworks to catalyse manufacturing sector growth. At the same time, policy needs to be compiled with the relevant WTO regulations.

In his interaction with the committee Suresh Prabhu said that the suggestions of the committee are very constructive and the Commerce Ministry will immediately begin formal consultations with the Finance Ministry and other Ministries so that implementation of the committee's recommendations may be done without any delay.

## 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.

<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**



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

**November 19, 2018**

**Commerce Minister Releases Report on Industrial Park Rating System**

The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, released the report prepared by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, on Industrial Park Rating System. Speaking on this occasion, Commerce Minister said that manufacturing has emerged as one of the high growth sectors in India and it has moved 23 places up in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EODB-2019) and achieved rank 77 out of 190 countries. In order to ensure that India moves into the top 50 countries in Ease of Doing Business the Ministry has undertaken this exercise in studying infrastructure across states and in 3354 industrial clusters in order to assess quality of infrastructure in industrial parks.

Suresh Prabhu stated that this will be a useful tool for policy makers and investors at the click of a button. 3000 parks are on the database and the industrial parks have been rated on 4 points: internal infrastructure, external infrastructure, business services and facilities and environment, safety management.

To optimise resource utilisation and enhance the efficiency of the manufacturing sector, DIPP launched the Industrial Information System (IIS), a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas and clusters across the country in May 2017. The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information including availability of raw material – agriculture, horticulture, minerals, natural resources, distance from key logistic nodes, layers of terrain and urban infrastructure.

Over the last one year, State Governments and Industrial Development Corporations have actively used the portal and nominated over 200 parks for their assessment along the above parameters.

IPRS is proposed to be translated into an annual exercise covering all the parks across India. Coverage would be widened and updated to bring in deeper qualitative assessment feedback, bring in technological intervention and develop it as a tool that helps effectively for demand driven and need based interventions both by policy makers and investors.

On this occasion Secretary DIPP, Ramesh Abhishek, Country Director of Asian Development Bank, Kenichi Yokoyama and other senior officials were present.

**Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship  
New Delhi**

**November 28, 2018**

**A.M. Naik appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation**

Shri A.M. Naik has been appointed as Chairman of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Currently Shri Naik is the Group Chairman of India's biggest engineering and construction conglomerate – Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T). He is one of the most respected management professionals in the country. His years of successful stewardship have resulted in building L&T as one of the strongest global businesses.

Making the announcement, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said that Shri Naik epitomizes core values of a successful leader - strength, innovation, ingenuity, knowledge and foresight – values that are imperative to the success of any development initiative in today's economy. His standing in the community of industrial leaders will strongly enhance the industry connect. His vast experience will take NSDC to greater heights. Shri Pradhan said "I am confident that this organization under his leadership, apart from its engagement in executing skilling modules, should also be a think tank providing direction and necessary guidance for creating a demand based skilling ecosystem in the country."

Commenting on his appointment, Mr. A.M. Naik said, "NSDC has developed a unique model combining skill development with strong industry partnerships. I am pleased at this opportunity to contribute towards our common vision of a high skill, high value added economy that offers opportunity to all."

The appointment of Mr. Naik as Chairman of NSDC underscores the importance attached by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to skill development. As the Prime Minister has repeatedly stressed 'skilling brings a sense of self confidence to the poor. Matching job creation with industry demand is the key to end unemployment. It is envisaged that in the future, India will be the biggest supplier of workforce to the world.'

Shri Naik was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's 3rd highest civilian award in 2009 for his outstanding contribution to the economic growth of the country.

NSDC is a unique public-private-partnership, working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. The organisation provides funding to build scalable and profitable vocational training initiatives. It also develops appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives. NSDC supports short-term skill training through a wide network of training providers and district nodal skill centres called Pradhan MantriKaushal Kendra (PMKK). Besides, the organisation is involved in re-skilling and also in catering to the skilled manpower requirement of overseas markets, most notably that of Japan (under TTP) and UAE.