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STATE GOVERNMENT

Bangalore Development Authority to rework its Master Plan 2031

BDA's Master Plan aims to put in place a regulatory framework that will give direction to the growth and development of the city for the next 15 years.

BENGALURU: A staggering 13,046 objections and suggestions from the public to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on its draft Revised Master Plan 2031, made Deputy Chief Minister and BDA Chairman G Parameshwara suggest three months ago that the Plan could be revisited. The Authority has now sent a proposal to the government, seeking its permission to rework the Master Plan. However, the government has asked BDA to get its proposal first okayed by the BDA Board.

BDA's Master Plan aims to put in place a regulatory framework that will give direction to the growth and development of the city for the next 15 years. RMP 2015 continues to be in force now.

A senior BDA official told The New Indian Express, "Due to the huge volume of objections and suggestions received for our Master Plan, we have decided to revise it."

The BDA recently sought permission from the government for the same. "The state has now asked us to get it okayed at our Board meeting. It will take place in the first week of January," he said. The comprehensive and exhaustive RMP using GIS mapping was made public on November 25, 2017. The original deadline for the final plan was March 2017. Almost a year has passed since the plan was made public. Meanwhile, it has passed through a rough patch.

Thousands of objections, seven public consultation meetings, Assembly elections in May, a committee set up to examine each of the objections, formation of another committee to re-examine the objections, an NGO challenging in court the authority of the BDA to frame the Master Plan for the city and serious allegations by the Opposition BJP, ensured the plan could not progress as planned.

Source Indian Express December 26, 2018

Bengaluru to Get 52 New Suburban Stations

For enhancing suburban services, two dedicated tracks have also been proposed along the suburban rail network exclusively for suburban services

BENGALURU: Here is good news for city commuters. The proposed suburban train will add more number of stations to the railway network of 161 kilometres in the city. The feasibility report conducted by Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) has identified four corridors such as Kengeri-Whitefield, Bengaluru City-Rajanukunte, Nelamangala-Baiyappanahalli and Heelalige-Devanahalli, which have 29 stations currently.

Apart from the existing 29 stations, 52 new stations have been proposed along the corridors in the RITES report. Among these stations, 17 stations will have interchange facilities with five stations having Rail-Rail interchange and 12 stations having Rail-Metro interchange.

For enhancing suburban services, two dedicated tracks have also been proposed along the suburban rail network exclusively for suburban services. The proposed system will be a broad gauge, and the frequency of trains will be high. A different fare structure with Automatic Fare Collection System has also been proposed

While the 35km Kengeri-Whitefield corridor has 11 stations currently, it's been proposed to add eight more stations (total 19), which translates to a station at every 1.8km. The second corridor (Bengaluru City-Rajanukunte) running 27km has six stations, and there is a proposal to add seven more (total 13) stations. This corridor will have a station every 2km. The 39km third corridor (Nelamangala-Baiyappanahalli) has five stations, and it is proposed to add 16 stations along the corridor (total 21), which will ensure a station every 1.8km. In the Heelalige-Devanahalli corridor, which is 60km in length and has seven stations currently, 21 stations are proposed to be added (total 28) to make it a station for every 2.2km.

Out of 81 stations, 10 typical stations of different categories have been identified for planning and intermodal integration. However, for the draft report, four stations have been considered. The Kengeri-Whitefield corridor will have Rail-Metro interchange at Kengeri station, the Kengeri-Whitefield and Bengaluru City-Rajanukunte corridor will have two types of interchanges such as Rail-Rail and Rail-Metro at Bengaluru City Station. Bengaluru City-Rajanukunte and Nelamangala-Baiyappanahalli corridors will meet at Lottegollahalli station interchange.

Source Indian Express December 24, 2018

Joint Venture Formed For Suburban Rail

The Registrar of Companies has given its formal written consent for the setting up of a joint venture company to implement the dedicated suburban rail corridor for the city

BENGALURU: The Registrar of Companies has given its formal written consent for the setting up of a joint venture company to implement the dedicated suburban rail corridor for the city.

"The move was approved on November 26. As per the new shareholding pattern of the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises (K-RIDE), the state will hold 51% ownership while the Railways will hold 49% share," a top railway official said.

The Railways has already released its share of Rs 2.45 crore towards funding the JV, he added. This newly reconstituted JV will set up the Special Purpose Vehicle which will build the suburban rail for the city.

A top railway official said it would take nearly ten years for the entire suburban rail network to be instituted, while RITES has suggested a six to seven-year period to complete it

Source Indian Express December 1, 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 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

Karnataka Passes Bill to Simplify GST Payment, Filing of Returns

The Karnataka Assembly passed an amendment to the Karnataka Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 on Friday.

Moving the amendment in the Assembly, Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy said the amendment would simplify the return filing system and payment of GST.

Council recommendation

"When the GST Council recommended the changes, the Assembly was not in session and an Ordinance was promulgated," he said. The Bill will replace the Ordinance, he added.

The Centre had amended the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017. Since Goods and Services Tax is a uniform taxation system, all the States and Union Territories had to follow suit.

Procurement Bill

The Assembly also passed amendments to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill 2018.

Kumaraswamy, piloting the Bill, said, "It is considered necessary to amend the Bill to omit provisions relating to e-procurement, tender bulletin and tender bulletin officer; and to set up and maintain a Karnataka Public Procurements e-portal accessible to the public."

The amendment is also to redefine the words, tender and tendered document; to omit certain exception applicable to goods or services which are which are procured from certain departments of government, public sector undertakings and statutory boards. The Bill also is to facilitate procurement through government e-market place (GeM).

Source: Business Line December 15, 2018

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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Karnataka Simplifies Land Conversion For Industries

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved further simplification of land conversion for industrial use.

"As per the new simplified procedure, industries can now apply online via single window mechanism through the Revenue Department," Krishna Byre Gowda, Karnataka Law and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister told reporters after the Cabinet meet.

In the new procedure, the revenue department is expected to clear the land conversion file within a month of filing. "If the permission for land conversion is not granted within a month, it will be deemed as permitted," said Gowda.

Earlier, middlemen prevented landowners from getting their due from land conversion and caused inordinate delays for industries. The land conversion process then took one to two years.

Incentives to film makers

The State Cabinet also cleared the Tourism Department's proposal to incentivise film makers, who use Karnataka's tourist locations or spots.

"If a film maker shoots in Karnataka, depending on the location and duration of the location shown on screen, incentives will be given on point basis, which will be a transparent exercise. Incentives range from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crore for both standard and big budget films," Gowda said.

This offer is for all language films and is exclusively for the promotion of Karnataka's tourist destinations.

Source: Business Line December 06, 2018

BCIC INFORMATION DIGEST



| | Mechanical Data (Width x Height) | Advertisement Tariff (Monthly) | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
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| 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/- |

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

Press Information Bureau
Cabinet
New Delhi

December 6, 2018

Cabinet Approves Agriculture Export Policy, 2018

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Agriculture Export Policy, 2018. The Cabinet has also approved the proposal for establishment of Monitoring Framework at Centre with Commerce as the nodal Department with representation from various line Ministries/Departments and Agencies and representatives of concerned State Governments, to oversee the implementation of Agriculture Export Policy.

The Government has come out with a policy to double farmers' income by 2022. Exports of agricultural products would play a pivotal role in achieving this goal. In order to provide an impetus to agricultural exports, the Government has come out with a comprehensive "Agriculture Export Policy" aimed at doubling the agricultural exports and integrating Indian farmers and agricultural products with the global value chains. The Agriculture Export Policy has the following vision:

"Harness export potential of Indian agriculture, through suitable policy instruments, to make India global power in agriculture and raise farmers' income."

Objectives:

Objectives of the Agriculture Export Policy are as under:

- To double agricultural exports from present ~US\$ 30+ Billion to ~US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.
- To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value and value added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.

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| | |
|-------------|--|
| Strategic | Policy measures |
| | Infrastructure and logistics support |
| | Holistic approach to boost exports |
| | Greater involvement of State Governments in agri exports |
| | Focus on Clusters |
| | Promoting value-added exports |
| Operational | Attract private investments into production and processing |
| | Establishment of strong quality regimen |
| | Research & Development |
| | Miscellaneous |

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

December 7, 2018

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council Approves India's Proposal to Observe an International Year of Millets in 2023

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh has said that the 160th session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council, currently underway in Rome, approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023. On behalf of all countrymen the minister conveyed his gratitude to the countries who voiced their support.

He added that this will enhance global awareness to bring back these nutri-cereals to the plate, for food and nutrition security and hence increase production for resilience to challenges posed globally by climate change.

The Minister said that in the Modi regime, India's prowess in agriculture diplomacy has grown. This international endorsement comes in the backdrop of India celebrating 2018 as the National Year of Millets for promoting cultivation and consumption of these nutri-cereals.

This is further supported by increase in Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of millets. Millets consists of Jowar, Bajra, Ragi and minor millets together termed as nutri-cereals. The MSP of Jowar has been increased to Rs 2450 per quintal from Rs 1725, Bajra to Rs 1950 from Rs 1425 and Ragi to Rs 2897 from Rs 1900 per quintal from 2018-19. Through the Department of Food and Public Distribution, State Governments are allowed to procure jowar, bajra, maize and ragi from farmers at MSP.

In addition, the FAO Council also approved India's membership to the Executive Board of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for 2020 and 2021 for which the Minister expressed his deepest gratitude to other member countries for their support.

ECONOMIC & CORPORATE AFFAIRS

**Press Information Bureau
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
New Delhi**

December 21, 2018

New Settlement Rules of SEBI

SEBI has introduced the SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 that have been notified on 30.11.2018 and will come into effect from 01.01.2019. On the date of commencement of these Regulations the existing SEBI (Settlement of Administrative and Civil Proceedings) Regulations, 2014 shall stand repealed.

In pursuit of the objectives of SEBI (to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of and to regulate the securities market), as new challenges arise it is important to have a convergence or integration of the quasi-judicial processes within SEBI with the alternate dispute resolution process, to bring forth a more effective harmonized scheme to operate without any conflict and delay. The SEBI (Settlement of Administrative and Civil Proceedings) Regulations, 2014 introduced a mathematical and transparent system of calculating the settlement amount. However, over a period of time it was noticed that there was a need for revision due to changes in securities laws, new products and increase in settlement amounts.

SEBI constituted a High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Retd. Justice A. R. Dave (Supreme Court of India) to examine the SEBI (Settlement of Administrative and Civil Proceedings) Regulations, 2014 and comprehensively re-work the regulations after taking into account developments in domestic and foreign jurisdictions. The SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 provide a more effective mechanism, the essential concomitants of a legal proceeding, without compromising on deterrence or providing equitable remedies to the affected investors.

The Settlement process is an alternative enforcement process that is beneficial to the alleged defaulter, investors and the regulator. Settlement allows the enforcement proceedings to be finalized at the earliest without a long drawn litigation while ensuring that the investors' rights are protected. The SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018 inter alia provide the following:-

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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.60/- per certificate

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

FINANCE

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

December 3, 2018

Status of GST Refunds

Total GST refunds to the tune of Rs 91,149 crores have been disposed by CBIC and State authorities out of the total refund claims of Rs 97,202 crores received so far. Thus, the disposal rate of 93.77 per cent has been achieved. The pending GST refund claims amounting to Rs 6,053 crores are being expeditiously processed so as to provide relief to eligible claimants. Refund claims without any deficiency are being cleared expeditiously.

In case of IGST refunds, about 95 % (Rs 48,455 crores) of the total IGST refund claims (Rs. 50,928 crore) transmitted to Customs from GSTN as on 28.11.2018 have already been disposed. The remaining claims amounting to Rs. 2,473 crores are held up on account of various deficiencies which have been communicated to exporters for remedial action.

In the case of RFD-01A (ITC Refunds plus other refunds) claims, out of the total refund claims of Rs. 46,274 crores received in the jurisdictional tax offices, the pendency as on 03.12.2018 is Rs. 902 crores with Centre and Rs 2,678 crore with States. Provisional/final order has been issued in case of refunds amounting to Rs. 37,406 crores. In claims amounting to Rs. 5,288 crore, deficiency memos have been issued by respective GST authorities and action will be taken after receipt of replies from the claimants.

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 returns as well as Shipping Bills.

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

December 18, 2018

Task Force to Review Direct Tax Legislation

The Government had constituted a Task Force to draft a New Direct Tax Law vide Officer Order in F.No. 370149/230/2017 dated 22.11.2017 under the Convenorship of Shri Arbind Modi, the then Member (Legislation), CBDT with original term of six months for submission of report to the Government which was extended by a period of three months.

However, on superannuation of Shri Arbind Modi, the Task Force has been reconstituted vide Office Order in F.NO. 370149/230/2017 dated 26.11.2018 with the following Members:

- i. Shri Akhilesh Ranjan, Member (Legislation), CBDT-Convener;
- ii. Shri Girish Ahuja, practicing Chartered Accountant and non-official Director State Bank of India;
- iii. Shri Rajiv Memani, Chairman & Regional Managing Partner of E&Y;
- iv. Shri Mukesh Patel, Practicing Tax Advocate, Ahmedabad;
- v. Ms Mansi Kedia, Consultant, ICRIER, New Delhi
- vi. Shri G. C. Srivastava, Retd. IRS (1971 Batch) and Advocate.

The terms of reference of the Task Force remains unchanged and is to draft an appropriate direct tax legislation keeping in view:

- the direct tax system prevalent in various countries;
- the international best practices;
- the economic needs for the country and;
- any other matter connected thereto.

The task force is required to submit its report to the Government by February 28, 2019.

This was stated by Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Minister of State for Finance in a Written Reply to a Question in Rajya Sabha today.

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

December 18, 2018

Development of New Return Filing System by GSTN

GSTN will focus on the development of new return filing, further improving the user interface, and Business Intelligence and Analytics. While the new return is yet to be notified, GSTN has started development of the components in which major changes are not expected. Improvement in User Interface on the basis of feedback is a continuous process. Few important initiatives/improvements made for better User experience are: -

- Questionnaire for filing GSTR-3B to avoid errors by taxpayers.
- Option to generate pre-populated Challan by the system to avoid depositing Cash in wrong Head by the taxpayers.
- Introduction of one click Nil return filing.
- Suggested utilisation of ITC informed to the taxpayer for discharging tax liability.
- Contextual help for GST transactions like Registration, Returns, Payment, etc.

GSTN has started work on BI & Analytics. Different scenarios of BI have been identified on which work is going on such as Persona based Analysis, Predictive Analysis, Fraud/Anomaly Detection, Statistical Scoring, 360 degree view taxpayers, Circular Trading & Network Analysis etc. Further, GSTN has started sharing data with tax authorities on the following:

- a. Mis-match between figures reported in GSTR-1 & GSTR-3B.
- b. Mis-match between figures reported GSTR-3B and that computed by the system in GSTR-2A.
- c. Taxpayers who have generated e-way bill but not filed tax returns.

Comparison of GSTR-1 & GSTR-3B for liability analysis, GSTR-2A & GSTR-3B for comparison of ITC being claimed by taxpayers, and analysis regarding taxpayers who have generated e-way bill but not filed tax returns is being done and the reports generated are shared with tax authorities for taking appropriate action.

MONETARY POLICY STATEMENT 2018 -19

प्रेस प्रकाशनी PRESS RELEASE



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Website : www.rbi.org.in

ई-मेल email: helpdoc@rbi.org.in

संचार विभाग, केंद्रीय कार्यालय, एस.बी.एस.मार्ग, मुंबई-400001

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, Central Office, S.B.S.Marg, Mumbai-400001

फोन/Phone: 022- 22610835 फैक्स/Fax: 91 22 22660358

December 5, 2018

Meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee for the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2018-19

The Monetary Policy Committee has decided to continue the practice of a three-day meeting format for the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19 commencing on February 5, 2019. Therefore, the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19 will be issued on February 7, 2019.

Press Release: 2018-2019/1295

Jose J. Kattoor
Chief General Manager

LABOUR / COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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

December 11, 2018

Vision of a New India - USD 5 Trillion Economy**VISION OF A NEW INDIA:**

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry is creating an action-oriented plan which will highlight specific sector level interventions to bolster India's march towards becoming a USD 5 trillion economy before 2025. The focused plans will be on boosting services sector contribution to USD 3 trillion, manufacturing to USD 1 trillion and Agriculture to USD 1 trillion.

The Ministry has created a corpus of USD 1 billion to boost 12 champion sectors in services and it is working on releasing the New Industrial Policy keeping in mind the demands of the future. Further all efforts of both the Department of Commerce and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion have been towards achieving the goal of India becoming USD 5 trillion economy.

Massive growth of Start-ups:

Start-up India is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to build a strong ecosystem that is conducive for the growth of start-up businesses, to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities. The Government through this initiative aims to empower start-ups to grow through innovation and design.

The number of DIPP recognised start-ups touched 14,545 in November 18 as compared to 4610 on October 2017 generating total employment for 130,424 persons.

Several programmes have been undertaken since the launch of the initiative on 16th of January, 2016 by Prime Minister, to transform India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.

The 19-Point Start-up India Action Plan envisages several incubation centres, easier patent filing, tax exemptions, ease of setting-up of business, a Rs. 10,000 crore corpus

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Some of the achievements of the Start-up India action plan are (i) simplification and handholding for compliance regime based on self-certification, rolling out of mobile app and portal, setting up of Start-up India hub, legal support and fast-tracking patent examination at lower costs, relaxed norms of public procurement for start-ups and faster exit for start-ups, (ii) providing funding support through fund of funds with a corpus of

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

December 20, 2018

Key Initiatives for Industrial Development Post GST and Demonetisation

Government is continuously taking steps to facilitate industrial development in the country though no specific year-wise targets for industrial development are assigned. Key initiatives include Make in India under which thrust sectors have been identified to provide a push to manufacturing and Start-up India to strengthen the start-up ecosystem. The Ease of Doing Business initiative aims to create a conducive environment by streamlining existing regulations and processes and eliminating unnecessary requirements and procedures.

Foreign Direct Investment policy and procedures have been simplified and liberalised progressively. Measures for the micro small and medium enterprises include Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Cluster Development Programme, Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme and Credit Guarantee scheme.

The government has also implemented special packages for leather and footwear, textile and food processing sector etc. Further, the Government has notified schemes for the North Eastern Region & Himalayan States to boost industrial development in these regions. State/UT- wise details of targets for industrial development and achievements are not centrally maintained.