



Public Affairs Forum of India

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PRESS RELEASE

Karnataka To Focus on Five Key Sectors for Ease of Doing Business Focus on Skilling of Workforce to Ensure Investments Can Help Boost Employment

Karnataka: Partner State at PAFI 7th National Forum 2020

New Delhi, October 22, 2020: "Karnataka is already the hub for IT & ITes service which is in line with government's recently introduced IT policy 2020-25. We should help increase Karnataka's share in India's goal of a \$5 Trillion digital economy and to achieve this goal, **Karnataka is working on strengthening skills of our workforce, so that industry can get quality skilled workforce easily**", according to **Mr B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister of Karnataka** who was speaking at a special session of PAFI 7th National Forum today. Karnataka is the partner state at PAFI's 7th National Forum 2020.

Mr. Yediyurappa, said that the state is taking stringent measures to ensure that the economic growth of the state is sustained. He said the government of Karnataka is focussing on building on the new Industrial policy and the Industrial Facilitation Act to get projects of the ground fast.

He also added, "In 2020, Karnataka has attracted investments worth Rs 1.38 lakh crore, highest in India, which would create 70,000 direct jobs in the state".

Mr Jagadish Shettar, Minister for Large and Medium Industries said, "Our government has launched new industry policy 2020-25 to build a prosperous Karnataka and create jobs for the youth. The government is to create 20 lakh jobs in various sectors". Mr Shettar said that the government is ensuring the labour norms are being made easier and the state would welcome. **He said the five sectors where focus is being given are automobiles, aerospace, IOT, biotech and artificial intelligence.**

Mr Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary- Commerce & Industry, Govt. of Karnataka said, "Karnataka has been able to help the industries to not only revive but also implement policies in order to protect the people, workers and to ensure economic revival and growth. COVID has been a forum for the government for focussing at the policies which have been there from a long period of time". Mr Gupta also said that the state is working towards building close linkages with companies in many high technology sectors to ensure that skills are developed to meet the needs of industry.

He also added, "We are also looking at the deeper integration with the global value chain, localising the supply chain around Karnataka. We are closely working with industries including electronics, toys, pharma, textile, agriculture implements, fast moving consumer goods among other industries to harness their potential to support the economic growth of the country".



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Talking about the crucial role of state of Karnataka in the US-India Corridor **Ms Nisha Biswal, President, USIBC & Senior Vice President, South Asia, US Chamber of Commerce** said, “State of Karnataka is not only advancing the knowledge economy or service sector but has become a leading harbinger of opportunity that India seeks to capitalise on, post pandemic. USIBC welcomes the opportunity to flow greater investments into the US-India corridor and in particular the state of Karnataka”.

In his opening remarks, **Mr Ajay Khanna, Forum Chairman & Co-Founder, PAFI & Chief Strategic & Public Affairs Group Ombudsperson, Jubilant Bhartia Group** said, “We are delighted to have Karnataka as our partner state. This is the first time we have a partner state at this forum”.

Mr Rahul Sharma, Past President & Founding Member, PAFI & Managing Director, APCO Worldwide, India gave the welcome address at the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) 7th National Forum 2020 started with the theme “**Building Trust, Charting Growth**” on October 22, 2020. **Mr Ishteyaque Amjad, President, PAFI & Vice President – Public Affairs, Communications & Sustainability, Coca-Cola, India & South West Asia** in his closing remarks thanked Karnataka for being the partner state.

About Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI):

Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), the only platform for corporate/public affairs practitioners in the country, has completed 11 years of work in the field of Public Affairs, Advocacy & Public policy. PAFI has representation from large and medium-sized transnational, Indian and foreign companies. For more information, visit: www.pafi.in.
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