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ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯ ಹೆಸರು : NAME OF THE NEWS PAPER: CC Kannada ದಿನಾಂಕ : DATE: 4/9/2020

State targets 60 lakh jobs with new IT policy

Govt says it will focus beyond Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka unveiled its new IT policy 2020-25 on Thursday, with the government aiming to generate over 60 lakh direct and indirect jobs in the sector and "retain its leadership position... through strategic policy interventions."

Under the policy, Karnataka wants to contribute about 30% to India's goal of becoming a trillion dollar digital economy, Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan, the state's IT/BT minister, said.

The policy, which has received the Cabinet nod, also looks to shift the focus beyond Bengaluru. The government wants to "enable a remote, distributed labour force beyond Bengaluru required for the IT industry," the policy states.

As part of the policy, a State

Cyber Security Policy will be formulated to "employ the necessary data protection safeguards and create and sustain a safe and resilient ecosystem," Narayan said.

According to the minister, the IT sector in Karnataka is one of largest employment-generating industries with 80% of global IT firms that have India operations and R&D centres based out of the state. The new policy replaces one that covered a period of 2014-19.

The policy promises infrastructure development "to provide impetus to local industry and encourage investments and growth beyond Bengaluru," the government said. Similarly, the policy will look at market development for IT/ITeS

companies by easing public procurement norms and hosting events "specifically beyond Bengaluru".

The Cabinet also approved special incentives for the Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) sector, with which the government expects over Rs 5,000 crore in investments.

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IT POLICY, FROM PAGE 1

The government will slash 25% of the land price (up to 50 acres)

for investments in ESDM outside Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts. A similar capital investment subsidy of 20% will be given on plant and machinery cost. Other sops include 100% reimbursement on stamp duty, registration and land conversion charges, power tariff subsidy of Rs 1 per unit for five years, 1% of annual turnover for five years as production-linked incentive among others.

Asked to comment on taking IT beyond Bengaluru, industry veteran V Balakrishnan, ex-CFO of Infosys, said the move hadn't succeeded. "All this is just on paper and they talk about it every year," he said.

"Take Mysuru, for example, which is a classic failure. It was the ideal candidate for infrastructure development. Youngsters want an ecosystem that has malls, pubs and nightlife. The government could have provided this ecosystem in Mysuru."