

INNOVATE  
KARNATAKA

Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T



Govt. of Karnataka

K-tech

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY

2020-2025





**B.S. YEDIYURAPPA**  
Chief Minister

*B.S. Yediyurappa*  
(B.S. YEDIYURAPPA)

## FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Karnataka IT Policy 2020-2025. The vision of this policy is to ensure Karnataka retains its leadership position in Innovation and Technology and propels sustainable and holistic economic development across the State through strategic policy interventions.

Karnataka has been the destination of choice for IT/ITeS leaders, and was ranked the top State in India, in the recently announced Innovation Index 2019, by NITI Aayog. It is our constant endeavor to continue enabling an environment of opportunities and provide key benefits for innovation to thrive in. Thereby, this policy aims to increase the contribution of IT across the State and drive the national goal of India becoming a trillion-dollar digital economy.

It will be heartening for you to note that, the policy gives thrust to creation of investment & employment opportunities with specific focus on Beyond Bengaluru. This is intended at fostering a holistic digital economic growth across the State.

I also acknowledge the importance of empowering information technology to bring in the next wave of solutions to foster 'Ease of Living'. Therefore, the policy also seeks to promote leadership across key emerging technologies.

I thank all the stakeholders who actively participated and offered their feedback for policy drafting.

I welcome leaders of the IT industry, large, medium, small, micro and all entrepreneurs to take advantage of this policy and set up base in Karnataka and help propel the growth story both at the State as well as the National level.



**Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N**  
Deputy Chief Minister



**(Dr. Ashwath Narayan C.N)**

## FOREWORD

Karnataka has always been at the forefront of driving technology-lead revolutions. It is a matter of immense pride that Karnataka has remained the leader on Global and National Indices related to Entrepreneurship, Information Technology and Innovation. Karnataka is the first State in the country to have a dedicated IT Policy way back in the year 1997.

The new Karnataka IT Policy 2020-2025, in the same spirit, aims at providing the requisite impetus for accelerated growth of the IT industry across the state and particularly beyond Bengaluru. Department of Electronics , IT, Bt and S&T, after detailed deliberation with stakeholders across the spectrum has finalized this policy. It seeks to offer Government support across areas of Infrastructure Development, Market Development, Ecosystem Engagement, Talent Development and Ease of Doing Business Enhancement. Another thrust area of the policy is to encourage adoption of new age innovation emerging technologies and R&D.

I hope the incentives and offerings provided under the policy encourage the stakeholders to bring in the next wave of revolution within the IT industry.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>1. Introduction</b>                                                         | 4  |
| 1.1 Industry Overview – India                                                  | 5  |
| 1.2 Industry Overview – Karnataka                                              | 6  |
| 1.3 Critical Infrastructure supporting the State’s IT Industry                 | 6  |
| <hr/>                                                                          |    |
| <b>2. Evolution of Karnataka’s IT Industry</b>                                 | 7  |
| 2.1 Key Highlights of the State and the IT Industry Ecosystem                  | 8  |
| <hr/>                                                                          |    |
| <b>3. Key Initiatives of Karnataka IT Policies</b>                             | 9  |
| 3.1 Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)                         | 9  |
| 3.2 K-Tech Innovation Ecosystem                                                | 11 |
| 3.3 Centres of Excellence (CoEs)                                               | 11 |
| 3.4 K-tech Technology Business Incubators (TBIs)                               | 12 |
| 3.5.a. International Institutes of Information Technology<br>Bengaluru(IIIT-B) | 13 |
| 3.5.b. Indian Institutes of Information Technology                             | 13 |
| 3.6 Karnataka Unit for International Co-operation (KUIC)                       | 13 |
| 3.7 Bengaluru Tech Summit                                                      | 13 |
| 3.8 Karnataka Innovation Authority - Regulatory Sandbox                        | 13 |
| <hr/>                                                                          |    |
| <b>4. IT Policy 2020 - 2025</b>                                                | 14 |
| 4.1 Vision                                                                     | 15 |
| 4.2 Goals                                                                      | 16 |
| 4.3 Strategies                                                                 | 17 |
| 4.4 Key tenets of strategies                                                   | 17 |
| 4.5 Incentives and offerings                                                   | 19 |
| <hr/>                                                                          |    |
| 4.5.1 Infrastructure Development                                               | 19 |
| 4.5.1.1 Information Technology Hubs/ Clusters                                  | 19 |
| 4.5.1.2 Co-working Spaces/ Plug and Play Infrastructure                        | 20 |

|                                                                                                   |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 4.5.1.3 Lease/ Rental Reimbursement                                                               | 21        |
| 4.5.1.4 Mega Projects/ Enterprises                                                                | 21        |
| 4.5.1.5 Exemption on Stamp Duty                                                                   | 22        |
| 4.5.1.6 Power Tariff Concession                                                                   | 22        |
| 4.5.1.7 FSI, FAR                                                                                  | 22        |
| <b>4.5.2. Market Development</b>                                                                  | <b>23</b> |
| 4.5.2.1 Public Procurement for IT Services, Hardware & Software Products & Cloud related Services | 23        |
| 4.5.2.2 Quality Certification Cost Reimbursement                                                  | 23        |
| 4.5.2.3 Marketing Cost Reimbursement                                                              | 23        |
| 4.5.2.4 Global Alliances                                                                          | 24        |
| 4.5.2.5 Reimbursements of PF/ESI                                                                  | 24        |
| 4.5.2.6 Patents Cost Reimbursement                                                                | 24        |
| 4.5.2.7 IT and Emerging Technology Events                                                         | 25        |
| <b>4.5.3. Ecosystem Engagement</b>                                                                | <b>25</b> |
| 4.5.3.1 Returning NRI encouragement scheme                                                        | 25        |
| 4.5.3.2 Open Data                                                                                 | 25        |
| 4.5.3.3 R&D Support                                                                               | 26        |
| 4.5.3.4 Regulatory Sandbox Enablement                                                             | 26        |
| 4.5.3.5 Awards & Recognition                                                                      | 26        |
| <b>4.5.4. Talent Development</b>                                                                  | <b>26</b> |
| 4.5.4.1 National Apprenticeship Training Scheme                                                   | 27        |
| 4.5.4.2 Yuva Yuga Program                                                                         | 27        |
| 4.5.4.3 Industry Partnership to facilitate Virtual Incubation & Mentorship                        | 27        |
| 4.5.4.4 Finishing School for creating future ready workforce                                      | 27        |

|                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 4.5.5. Ease of Doing Business Enhancement                                                                                                         | 27 |
| 4.5.5.1 Single Window Agency                                                                                                                      | 28 |
| 4.5.5.2 Exemption of IT/ ITeS/ Knowledge/Startup entities from the applicability of Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1946 | 28 |
| 4.5.5.3 Essential Services                                                                                                                        | 28 |
| 4.5.5.4 Self-Certification                                                                                                                        | 28 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 5. Eligibility Criteria, Policy Validity and Sanction Process                                                                                     | 29 |
| 5.1 Eligibility Criteria to avail Fiscal Incentives                                                                                               | 29 |
| 5.2 Validity of the Policy                                                                                                                        | 30 |
| 5.3 Sanction Process                                                                                                                              | 30 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 6. Applicability of Incentives for eligible IT/ITeS Entities                                                                                      | 31 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 7. Definitions                                                                                                                                    | 35 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                             |    |
| 8. Glossary                                                                                                                                       | 45 |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                             |    |

# 01 INTRODUCTION

Government of Karnataka (GoK) has formulated Karnataka's IT Policy for the period 2020-2025 with a focus on the continued development of infrastructure, markets, ecosystem, talent and ease of doing business to support the growth of the IT industry. Further, the COVID-19 outbreak necessitates a shift in the outlook and operations of many industries including the Information Technology (IT)/ Information Technology-enabled Services (ITeS) industry. Therefore, the current scenario presents opportunities and challenges, which need to be considered, while Karnataka leads the way in India's journey towards becoming a trillion-dollar digital economy.

Hence, the IT Policy focuses on two salient themes:

## A. Beyond Bengaluru:

The IT policy will enable a distributed IT/ITeS model that facilitates growth through industrial development and employment generation Beyond Bengaluru (outside Zone 3<sup>1</sup> as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy). Enablement of the new model shall

encompass a shift to distributed workplaces, disintegrated workflows and increased focus on Business Continuity Planning (BCP) in the COVID-19 era. This shall be made feasible by supporting enhanced connectivity and adequate telecommunications, Beyond Bengaluru, through respective infrastructure providers.

## B. Innovation:

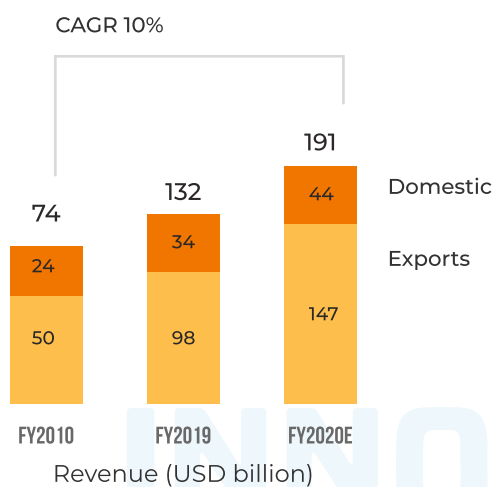
The State shall endeavor to retain its reputation as the 'destination of choice' for leading IT/ITeS Multi-National Companies (MNCs) and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). Also, the State shall strive to further strengthen its position as the country's 'Innovation Hub' through initiatives such as sector-specific CoEs, the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission which will focus on Innovation & Startups, Acceleration Program and Talent Acceleration. The emphasis will be on building a thriving innovation ecosystem, establishing a network of robust infrastructure and further enabling the State's workforce.

<sup>1</sup> Zones throughout the policy are classified as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy



## 1.1 Industry Overview – India:

The IT/ ITeS industry enfolds within itself, a broad spectrum of solutions, both hardware and software, which enable organizations to drive new age ideas by utilizing the power of data. The IT and ITeS industry in India, has emerged as a critical sector, steering India's leadership position in the global landscape in terms of employment and economic value creation. The IT/ ITeS industry revenue in India has shown a growth (CAGR) of ~10% as shown below:



Source : NASSCOM

India is now a global leader with 55% market share in the IT (and Business Process Management (BPM) service) industry worldwide. Indian IT & ITeS firms have over 1000 international delivery Centres in 80 countries across the globe. The nation holds the reputation of being the Digital Capabilities Hub of the world, with close to 75% of global digital talent, available in the country<sup>2</sup>.

### MARKET SIZE<sup>3</sup>

Exports from the industry increased to USD 147 billion in FY20 while domestic revenues (including hardware) advanced to USD 44 billion. Revenue from the digital segment is expected to comprise 38% of the forecasted USD 350 billion industry revenue by 2025<sup>4</sup>.

### INVESTMENTS/ DEVELOPMENTS

The Indian computer software and hardware industry has attracted additive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow worth USD 44.91 billion between April 2000 to March 2020, according to data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Leading Indian IT firms have been diversifying their offerings and demonstrating pioneering ideas across sectors such as Natural Language Processing (NLP), Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence (AI), thereby creating standout offerings.

<sup>2</sup> Data published by DPIIT, MeITY, Gol

<sup>3</sup> Data published by DPIIT, MeITY, Gol

<sup>4</sup> Data published by DPIIT

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## 1.2 Industry Overview – Karnataka:

Karnataka was one of the first States to announce an IT Policy in the year 1997. This policy gave an impetus to the growth of the IT industry in the State.

The IT industry has emerged as one of the largest employment-generating industry in the State. Karnataka is now the IT hub of India and its capital, Bengaluru, is the fourth largest technology cluster in the world. The State is India's largest software exporter, with electronic and computer software exports, with software and service export totaling US\$ 77.80 billion in 2018-19<sup>5</sup>.

Bengaluru continues to be an attractive destination for talent with around 80% of Fortune 500 companies having their Global Innovation Centres here. The State plans to develop and upgrade eight clusters around Bengaluru with an investment of USD 348.4 million in the coming years<sup>6</sup>. The upcoming cities of Mangaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi and Hubballi-Dharwad are also emerging as attractive destinations for the IT/ ITeS Industry.

## 1.3 Critical Infrastructure supporting the State's IT Industry:

### CONNECTIVITY

The State has two international airports namely Kempegowda International Airport, the 3rd largest airport in India, in terms of air-traffic, and the Mangaluru International Airport, both providing global connectivity to the State. Additionally, there are five regional airports (Hubballi, Belagavi, Mysuru, Gulbarga and Bidar) in Karnataka. The New Mangaluru port is the 9th major port in India.

GoK, in its efforts to build the infrastructure to boost productivity potential of the industries, has been strengthening the connectivity with various new airports, metro rail and other projects across the State such as the Bengaluru - Mumbai Economic Corridor and Chennai - Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

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<sup>5</sup> Data published by MeITy and DPIIT

<sup>7</sup> Data published by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Energy, GoI

<sup>6</sup> Data published by MeITy and DPIIT, GoI

### INSTALLED POWER CAPACITY:

Among all the primary Indian States, Karnataka was the only one to implement power sector reforms. The State had an installed power generation capacity of 29,824.81 MW, as of March 2020<sup>7</sup> and the State Government has been instrumental in developing the power sector with increased focus to cater to the needs of the industry.

### SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

Karnataka, with around 52 universities, ranks fifth among the Indian States and Union Territories, in terms of number of universities<sup>i</sup>. The State has also made immense progress in building its health infrastructure with a wide network of health care centres providing health services both in urban and rural areas.



## 02 EVOLUTION OF KARNATAKA'S IT INDUSTRY

The IT Revolution in Karnataka started with the establishment of the MNC 'Texas Instruments' in 1984. Acknowledging the importance of dedicated telecom infrastructure and connectivity, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) established its first Earth Station at Bengaluru in 1992. In 1978, KEONICS, in collaboration with KIADB, established Electronic City on 332 acres of land. Giving further impetus to the growth of IT, country's first extended facility of the International gateway and network operations centre was established at STPI in Electronics City. All these factors catalyzed the growth of the IT sector with 13 software exporting companies in 1992 to more than 5500 companies at present. Hosting almost a third of India's software technology park units, Karnataka is the country's largest software technology hub.

IT activity in Karnataka has largely been concentrated in Bengaluru. In recent years however, GoK has actively focused on spurring this growth, Beyond Bengaluru as well and this policy further emphasizes these efforts. The upcoming cities of Mangaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi and Hubballi-Dharwad (Beyond Bengaluru) are now foreseeing a greater investment and employment potential, with greater thrust on education and infrastructure.

Karnataka has around 52 universities, 5235 pre-university colleges, 535 technical institutions, 234 engineering colleges and 299 polytechnics, 57 medical colleges and 38 dental colleges spread through various Zones across the State<sup>8</sup>.

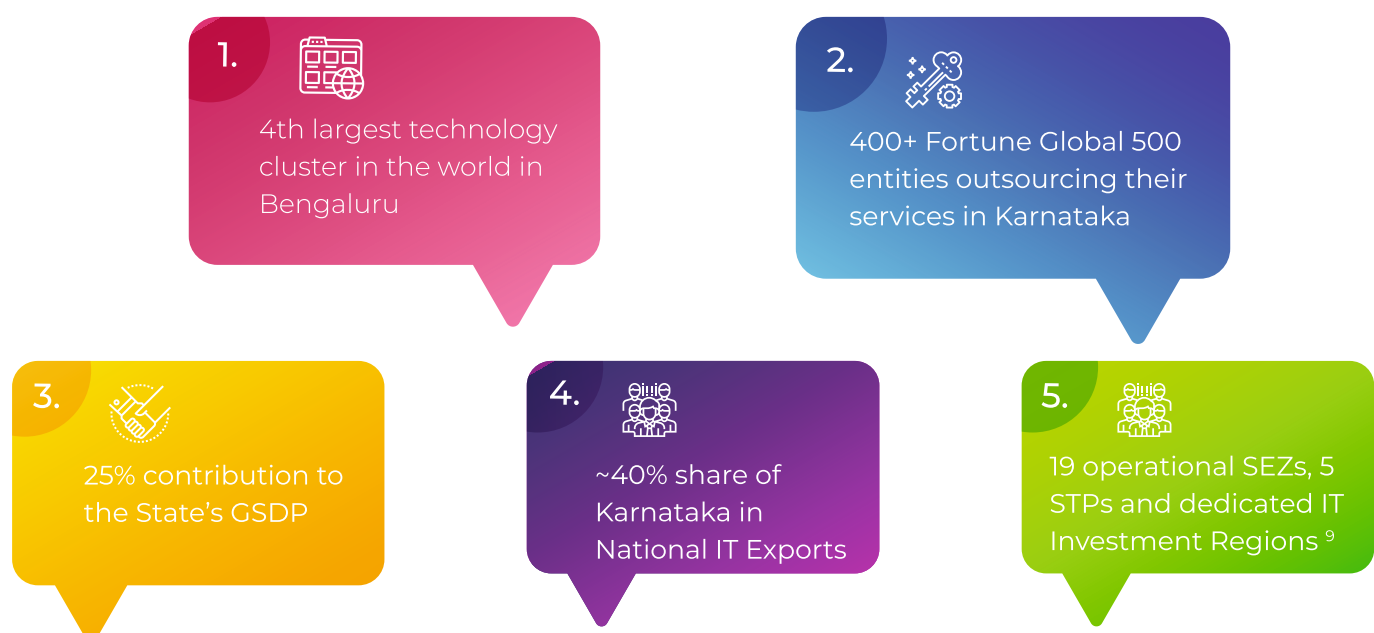
<sup>8</sup> Economic Survey of Karnataka 2018-19

## IT ADOPTION ACROSS SECTORS

Organizations across sectors need to leverage IT, emerging technologies like Blockchain Technology, AI, Big Data & IoT, data enablement technologies and the forthcoming 5G technology. IT and emerging technologies are pervasive in nature and have the potential to transform economic, social, business and technological models in ways which were previously unimaginable. Therefore, it is imperative for any industry to harness the potential of IT in order to gain a competitive advantage.

### 2.1 Key Highlights of the State and the IT Industry Ecosystem:

Karnataka has developed many policies to support the IT industry. The Millennium BPO Policy 2002 is responsible for developing an investor-friendly environment for the BPO industry in the State and generating large-scale employment opportunities, especially Beyond Bengaluru. The Millennium BPO Policy of the State was adequately supported by the India BPO Promotion Scheme (IBPS) under STPI, with a sustained focus on employment generation Beyond Bengaluru. Karnataka was the first state to set up a Council of Science and Technology (1975) and the Department of Science and Technology (1980). In addition to the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, the State set up the Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services (KBITS, now called as Karnataka Innovation & Technology Society (KITS)) and The Board for IT Education Standards (BITES) in 2000. The International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B), with a mission to provide higher technical education and engage in research, was also set up in 1998.





## 03 KEY INITIATIVES OF KARNATAKA IT POLICIES

### 3.1 Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS)

KITS plays a critical role in the growth and development of IT and allied knowledge-based industry in Karnataka. The organization strives towards building the brand equity of the State as the most preferred destination in India for investment in the IT industry.

KITS assists the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T (Department) in implementing Government's policies, programmes and schemes, administering incentives, concessions and other policy offerings, organizing events such as trade shows,

conferences, etc. and undertaking all allied promotional activities that help in developing these industries in the State. KITS is also responsible for facilitation and handholding of all new industry-related investments. KITS has undertaken multiple steps and initiatives to propel the growth of the State's IT & Biotech industry.



# K-tech ECOSYSTEM

COLLABORATE TO CO - CREATE CO - INNOVATE CO - INVENT



KARNATAKA, INDIA

**58**  
CENTRES  
ACROSS  
KARNATAKA

**47**

INNOVATION HUBS

**6**

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

**5**

TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS  
INCUBATORS

### 3.2 K-Tech Innovation Ecosystem:

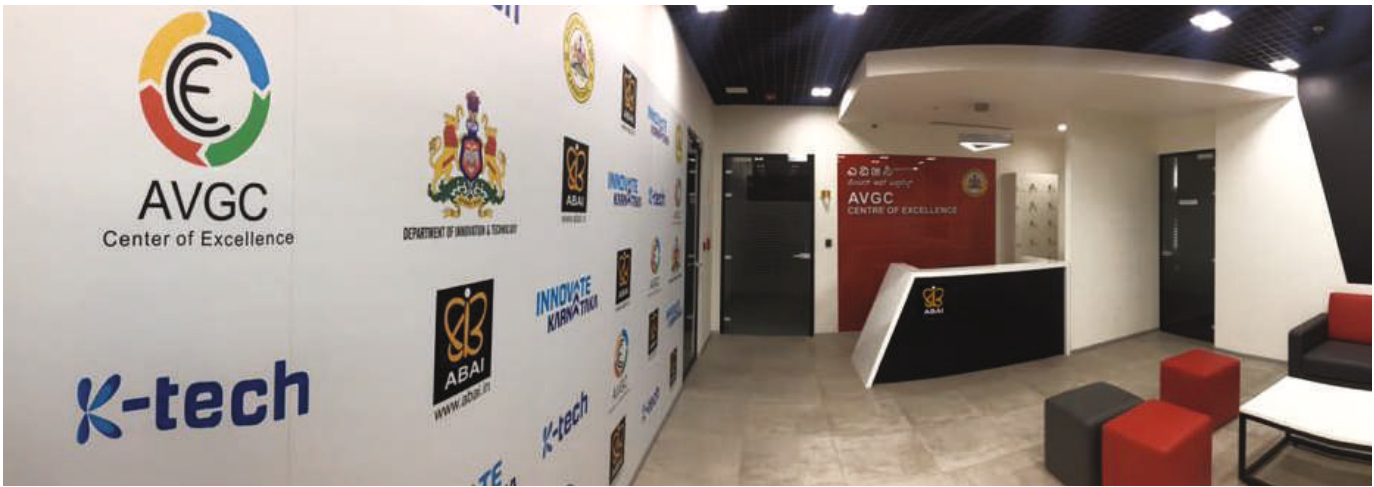
The Department has created K-Tech Innovation Hubs across the State, including the Centres of Excellence. This ecosystem spans across 58 institutions in 24 Districts across the State. K-Tech Innovation Hubs, powered by IKP, exist in Belagavi, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Shimoga and Bengaluru (Jalahalli Metro Station). K-Tech Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) are operational in five locations across the State. K-Tech New Age Innovation Network (NAIN) exists in 24 districts. Over 1.25 lakh square feet (sq. ft.) of Incubation Space has been created in collaboration with Industry Associations and Academia.



### 3.3 Centres of Excellence (CoEs):

To actively engage with Industry and promote emerging technologies, the Department has established Centres of Excellence in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Machine Learning, Robotics, IOT, Cyber Security, AVGC, Aerospace & Defence and others. These Centres have been set up in association with Industry Association and Academic Institutions. Thought leadership, capacity building and innovation are expected to come out of these centres.

|                                                                                           |                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| K-Tech Centre of Excellence in Aerospace and Defence                                      | K-Tech Centre of Excellence on IoT                             |
| K-Tech Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security                                             | K-Tech Centre of Excellence for Agri-innovation                |
| K-Tech Centre of Excellence in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Sector | K-Tech Centre of Excellence in Machine Intelligence & Robotics |
| K-Tech Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science                  | K-Tech Semiconductor Fabless Centre of Excellence              |



### 3.4 K-tech Technology Business Incubators (TBIs):

The Department has set up TBIs in collaboration with leading academic institutions having strong R&D capabilities. This collaboration is aimed at fostering innovation, by utilizing talent, expertise and infrastructure already available with the host institution.

| # | TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR        | NICHE AREA                                                                     |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | K-Tech TBI by IISc – CeNSE           | Nano Science & Engineering                                                     |
| 2 | K-Tech TBI by IISc – CPDM            | Product Design and Manufacturing                                               |
| 3 | K-Tech TBI by M.S.Ramaiah University | IoT, Robotics and Intelligent Systems and Electronic System Development (ESDM) |
| 4 | K-Tech TBI by C-CAMP (BT)            | Life Science and Biotechnology                                                 |
| 5 | K-Tech TBI by Manipal University     | BioPharma for Health, Biotechnology driven Diagnostics and Biomedical Devices  |



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### 3.5.a. International Institutes of Information Technology Bengaluru (IIIT-B):

IIIT-Bengaluru is a world class, higher education institute, setup by Government of Karnataka with the objective of fostering new age research and development in the IT sector. This institute focusses on high quality education and leads the wave of entrepreneurship and innovation in this domain.

### 3.5.b. Indian Institutes of Information Technology:

Govt in collaboration with GoK has set up Indian Institutes of Information Technology in Dharwad and Raichur, on Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

### 3.6 Karnataka Unit for International Co-operation (KUIC):

As the Department's strategic unit – KUIC prepares the broad strategy for annual foreign visits, curates joint international programs and tracks their development. All activities of KUIC are under the Framework for Innovation Engagements – comprising of the following five pillars viz Government to Government (G2G) engagements (such as sister-cities, MoUs., etc.), Technology sharing/co-operation on skilling, Trade promotion, Startups/Soft landing and Collaborations between academic institutions/ R&D. The Department has created a system of Global Innovation Alliances (GIAs) with countries leading in innovation and technology.

### 3.7 Bengaluru Tech Summit:

The Department annually organizes the flagship event 'BENGALURU TECH SUMMIT (BTS)'. This event has always been a strategic platform for industries, technologies, and use cases worldwide to understand and to leverage the latest technical innovations and technical repercussions on our businesses and daily lives.

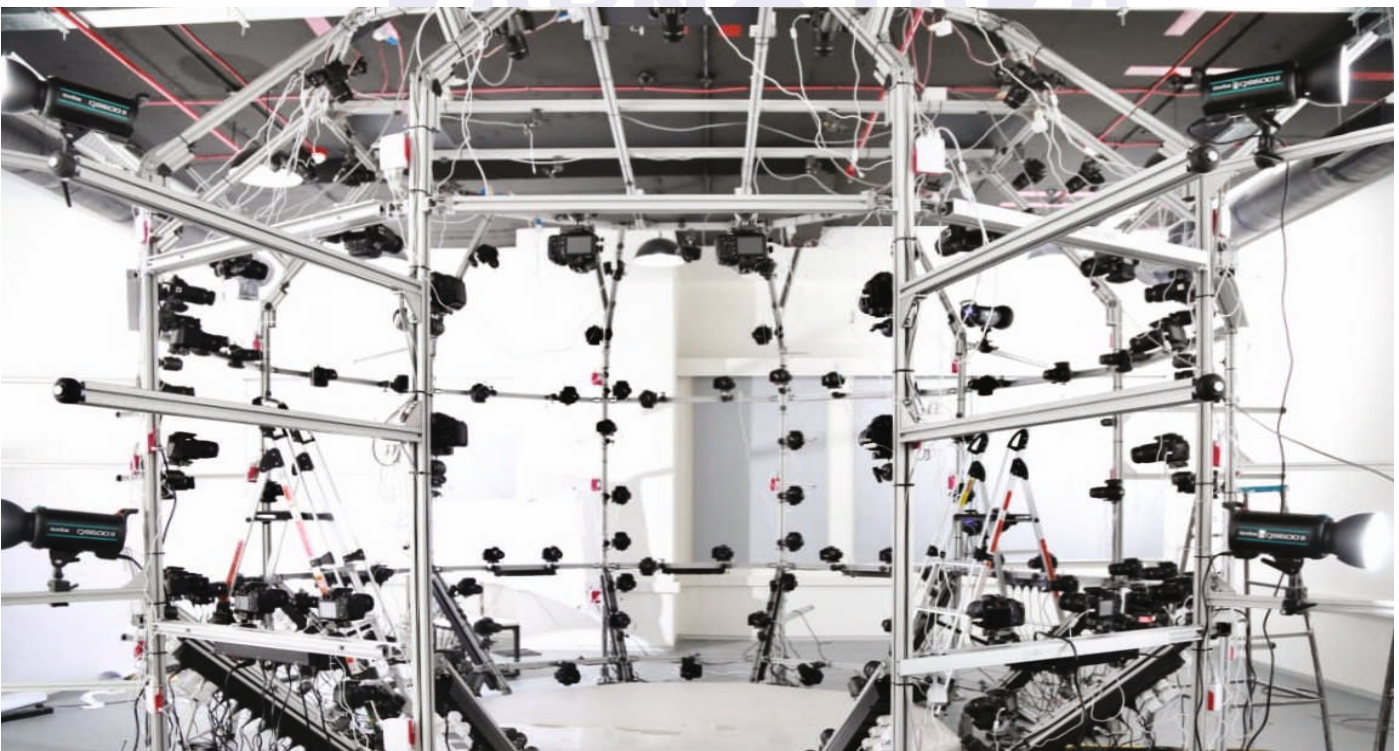


### 3.8 Karnataka Innovation Authority - Regulatory Sandbox:

Karnataka Innovation Authority (KIA) Act provides for establishment of an authority to promote & regulate Innovative Technologies in Karnataka. Under it, a Regulatory Sandbox is defined as “the permission to conduct innovations within the time allotted with such exemptions or modifications from any law, along with conditions as may be prescribed under this Act, under which any participant may conduct innovations and offer goods or services to the public.”

## 04 IT POLICY (2020-2025)

Karnataka is on a mission to promote faster and inclusive growth. Government of Karnataka recognizes the prominence of IT and hence this policy focuses on attracting investments and employment across the State along with driving growth through incentives and facilitating adoption of latest technologies.



# VISION

To ensure Karnataka retains its leadership position in innovation and technology and paces towards sustainable and holistic economic development across the State through strategic policy interventions.



## GOALS

- ▶▶▶ To enable the State's IT industry to contribute ~30% to India's goal of becoming a trillion-dollar digital economy.
- ▶▶▶ To achieve generation of 60+ Lakh direct and indirect employment in the State during the policy period.
- ▶▶▶ To boost the IT penetration & innovation in the State holistically and strengthen the ecosystem in new regions.
- ▶▶▶ To enable a remote, distributed labour force beyond Bengaluru, required for the IT industry; and
- ▶▶▶ To evolve a State Cyber Security policy to employ the necessary Data Protection safeguards and create and sustain a safe and resilient ecosystem.

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## 4.3 Strategies

### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT | TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Enhance infrastructure facilities to provide impetus to local industry and encourage investments and growth beyond Bengaluru.

Accelerate skill enhancement and nurture the talent pool by strengthening existing initiatives and introducing strategic skill interventions for emerging technologies.

### MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Facilitate and enable development of a thriving market for IT/ITeS entities by easing norms for public procurement, hosting IT and emerging technology events, specifically beyond Bengaluru.

### EASE OF DOING BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT

Facilitate and handhold IT/ ITeS industry entities to help streamline procedures & enhance the overall experience of doing business in the State; put in place supportive mechanisms for better facilitation of incentives and other policy benefits thereby attract investments and growth.

### ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

Promote innovation and encourage growth of upcoming industries by promoting investment, global alliances, R&D support and IP creation.

## 4.4 KEY TENETS OF STRATEGIES

The COVID-19 era has demonstrated the resilience of IT entities in the State to successfully operate from different locations, beyond physical offices. The concept of 'Work from Home' (WfH) or 'Work from Anywhere' has brought forth distributed workplaces enabled through remote collaboration.

- The pandemic has also induced a disintegration of workflow processes leading to reimagined labour laws that incorporate the new norms. GoK strives to enable allied policies for these new requirements.
- GoK, through the IT policy for the State, plans to evolve a distributed IT & ITeS model that will allow distributed workforce in multiple smaller towns beyond Bengaluru, facilitating with service providers for adequate telecom infrastructure.
- COVID-19 has also tested the IT industry's Business Continuity Planning (BCP) readiness. Global and domestic organizations are now preparing themselves with

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BCP becoming a clear focus for them. GoK, through the IT policy, demonstrates its commitment to support BCP for the industry.

- **Karnataka Digital Economy Mission** is being setup in association with Industry. This will provide insights on technology landscape, policy inputs, frameworks and guidelines to promote & support Digital (IT, ESDM, Innovation and Allied) Industry growth and Investments in Karnataka. The five focus verticals of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission would include Software Products and Services including GCCs, Innovation & Startups, ESDM, Beyond Bengaluru and Talent Accelerator.

The Core Objectives of Karnataka Digital Economy Mission will be as follows:

- To promote and support Digital (IT, ESDM, Innovation and Allied) Industry growth and Investments in Karnataka;
  - To supplement and support the activities of Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T for Investment Promotion in the State's Technology Industry;
  - To provide handholding services and assist in preparation of Technology-sector specific investment reports for respective stakeholders;
  - To sponsor and support specific studies which would target identified Technology opportunities relevant for investment in Karnataka;
  - To follow up and provide feedback to the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T and other relevant Departments regarding policy initiatives relevant for facilitating further investments in Karnataka;
  - To build global linkages and assist the Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T in its promotional efforts globally with structured programs, business meetings and sectoral information;
  - To Act like Bridge between Industry and the Government for promoting the technology Industry in Karnataka; and
  - To build the brand equity of the State and enhance its leadership position across all key segments.
- **Beyond Bengaluru:** Upcoming cities in Karnataka like Mysuru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Belagavi and Mangaluru have potential competitive advantages in terms of relatively low-cost structures and rapid urbanization in comparison to the saturated metros across comparative States. GoK, in collaboration with Industry partners and associations, envisages to build a

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strong brand across its growing cities Beyond Bengaluru through strategic growth plans and policy interventions. The initiatives enlisted here with have been aimed to channelize holistic growth in the State.

- **Cyber Security Policy:** In the digital age, with an increased dependence on digital transactions and interactions, it has become imperative to have active and stringent safeguards in place. GoK intends to evolve a Cyber Security policy, in recognition of the above to ensure that Data can be protected, and associated risks may be mitigated effectively.

## | 4.5 Incentives & Offerings

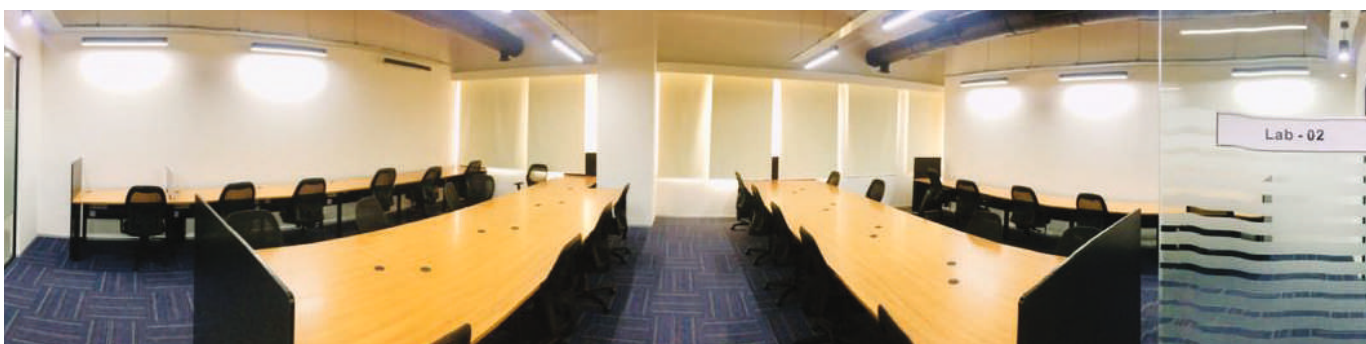
The Incentives and Offerings mentioned in this section are applicable to the IT/ITES entities categorized based on investment size which are as follows:

1. IT/ITeS Entities with investment upto INR 250 crores
2. IT/ITeS Entities with investment above INR 250 crores

The eligibility of an entity to avail the incentives and offerings detailed below shall be read along with Section 5 and 6.

### | 4.5.1 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The IT infrastructure is one of the key drivers of an economy and it typically bears the most tangible evidence of a State's progress. GoK is committed to bolster continued success of Zone 3 and envisions to accelerate the development of other zones in the State. In order to achieve inclusive growth, this policy aims to focus on augmenting the State's infrastructure.



#### 4.5.1.1 Information Technology Hubs / Clusters

To decongest Bengaluru and help promote and provide adequate opportunities outside Zone 3, GoK aims at encouraging IT Hubs/Clusters in Zones 1 and 2.

| CATEGORY           | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT Hubs / Clusters | <p>Financial support of upto 20% of Fixed Investment for Infrastructure (excluding the cost of land), subject to a ceiling of INR 3 Crores, whichever is lower.</p> <p>This shall be applicable for a minimum occupancy rate of 60% by IT/ ITeS entities (applicable in case of IT Hub/Cluster space being occupied by IT/ITeS entities) or for a minimum employment generation of 500 in the IT/ITeS industry (applicable in case of IT Hub/Cluster space being occupied by the entity itself), subject to the approval and recommendations from State Level Committees (SLSWCC/ SHLCC) for all IT Hubs/ Clusters setup outside Zone 3.</p> |

#### 4.5.1.2 Co-working Spaces / Plug and Play Infrastructure

Plug and Play models play an important role for any business by providing opportunities to operate effectively, provide greater networking opportunities, greater flexibility in working spaces and operational infrastructure. Therefore, GoK strives to encourage plug & play spaces.

| CATEGORY                                         | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Co-working Spaces / Plug and Play Infrastructure | <p>Financial support of upto 33% of the Fixed Investment for Infrastructure (excluding the cost of land), with a ceiling of INR 2 Crores, whichever is lower.</p> <p>This shall be applicable for a minimum built-up area of the co-working space being 15000 sq. ft. and a minimum occupancy rate of 60% by IT/ ITeS entities or for a minimum occupancy by 300 professionals in the IT/ITeS industry, subject to the approval and recommendations from State Level Committees (SLSWCC/ SHLCC) for all co-working spaces setup outside Zone 3.</p> |



### 4.5.1.3 Lease/ Rental Reimbursement

To ease accessibility of land/ office space infrastructure and assist in agile establishment of business operations, GoK shall offer various incentives for IT/ ITeS Entities who plan to establish operations outside Zone 3.

**Lease/ Rental Reimbursement:** IT/ITeS entities, setup outside Zone 3, taking space on lease or rent for their operations will be provided reimbursements in either of the below two modes. This incentive will be applicable for spaces taken on lease or rent only during the policy period:

| CATEGORY         | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ITeS entities | Reimbursement at the rate of INR 10/- per sq. ft. will be provided for IT/ITeS entities setup outside Zone 3 up to a maximum amount of INR 3 lakhs overall, for a period of 1 year, applicable once during the policy period.  |
|                  | Reimbursement at the rate of INR 1000/- per seat, will be provided for IT/ITeS entities, setup outside Zone 3 up to a maximum amount of INR 6 lakhs overall, for a period of 1 year, applicable once during the policy period. |

### 4.5.1.4 Mega Projects/ Enterprises

Mega Enterprises, projects with an investment in fixed assets above INR 250 crores, shall be eligible for tailor-made package of incentives. This may be over and above the benefits provided under this IT Policy for IT industry and will be considered by the Government on a case to case basis.

| CATEGORY                                                                            | INCENTIVE                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mega Enterprises (projects with an investment in fixed assets above INR 250 crores) | Tailor-made package of incentives on a case to case basis as considered by the Government. |

#### 4.5.1.5 Exemption on Stamp Duty

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS Entities | IT/ ITeS Entities shall be entitled to an exemption of 75% in Mysuru, Hubballi, Dharwad and Mangaluru, and 100% for all other Zones except Zone 3 as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy. |

#### 4.5.1.6 Power Tariff Concession

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS Entities | Applicability of Industrial Power Tariff instead of Commercial Power Tariff for IT/ ITeS industry in the State subject to KERC Orders. |

#### 4.5.1.7 FSI, FAR

To provide built-up space at affordable rates, FSI and FAR over the base FSI, FAR is offered to IT/ ITeS industry, as per the prevailing Zonal Regulations.

## 4.5.2. MARKET DEVELOPMENT

GoK, through this policy, intends to drive organizations to improve cost efficiencies, by providing incentives to invest in innovation and encourage adoption of new technologies. GoK also recognizes its responsibility to provide impetus to upcoming industry capabilities and enhance & boost the ecosystem through various initiatives to promote and improve use of IT in key economic sectors.

### 4.5.2.1 Public Procurement for IT Services, Hardware & Software Products and Cloud related Services

The Government will endeavor to streamline its public procurement of IT Services, Hardware & Software Products and Cloud related Services to facilitate greater ease of doing business.

### 4.5.2.2 Quality Certification Cost Reimbursement

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS entities | 50% reimbursement of cost of quality certification fee with an overall ceiling of INR 6 Lakhs (with maximum of 3 industry standard quality certifications) for IT/ ITeS Entities, setup outside Zone 3. |

### 4.5.2.3 Marketing Cost Reimbursement

GoK shall provide reimbursements of 30% of the actual costs including travel incurred in international marketing through trade show/ exhibition participation for IT/ITeS Entities, outside Zone 3. This incentive will be subject to a maximum of INR 5 Lakhs per entity and can be availed once during the policy period. IT/ITeS Entities will be assisted in market development by way of setting up virtual and physical exhibition centers. Common branding and promotion will be encouraged.

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS entities | 30% of actual cost incurred including travel for international marketing through trade show/exhibition participation, up to INR 5 lakhs per entity for IT/ ITeS Entities, outside Zone 3 and can be availed once during the policy period. |

#### 4.5.2.4 Global Alliances

GoK will extend State's global alliances under the GIA program to key cities outside Zone 3 across State's priority sectors, based on identified mutual shared areas of interest. The focus shall be on enhancing international connects, mentorship and driving investments in the IT/ITeS industry, outside Zone 3.

#### 4.5.2.5 Reimbursements of PF/ESI

Employment data will be verified through Provident Fund/ Employees State Insurance Departments.

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS entities | Reimbursement of PF/ESI for all IT/ITeS entities outside Zone 3, at the rate of INR 2000 per employee per month for 2 years for all new employment(only applicable for technical manpower) created, subject to condition that the employment is for continuous period of 2 years. |

#### 4.5.2.6 Patents Cost Reimbursement

The cost of filing and securing patents will be reimbursed subject to a limit of INR 2 lakhs for domestic patent awarded and INR 10 lakhs for international patent awarded to IT/ ITeS Entities in the State.

| CATEGORY          | INCENTIVE                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| IT/ ITeS Entities | INR 2 lakhs for Domestic Patents       |
|                   | INR 10 lakhs for International Patents |

#### 4.5.2.7 IT and Emerging Technology Events

GoK shall encourage IT and emerging technologies related events in cities, outside Zone 3. These events shall allow IT/ITeS entities, students and other relevant stakeholders, a platform to network, learn about the latest trends in the industry, share knowledge and gain access to marketing and financing opportunities.

### 4.5.3. ECOSYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

Bengaluru is currently home to various GCCs employing a large base of direct workforce. Karnataka aims to sustain its leadership position and evolve an ecosystem development strategy that will help build its brand, showcase the inherent strength, policy resilience and engagement with the ecosystem.

#### 4.5.3.1 Returning NRI encouragement scheme

The Government intends to provide opportunities, incentives and support to its Non-Resident Indians & Non-Resident Kannadigas (NRKs) through the Karnataka NRI policy. The NRI encouragement scheme intends to provide outstanding Indian entrepreneurs, researchers, industrialists, who have established themselves overseas with the opportunities and incentives to relocate their research, innovation and operations back to Karnataka as per the Karnataka NRI policy with the additional facilitation from the Department.

#### 4.5.3.2 Open Data

An Open data initiative is typically aimed to provide an opportunity to not only update and improve access to information that is already open and/or public but also to allow provisions for the availability and collection of new data sets and records. It is also aimed at transparency and enablement of the innovation ecosystem and other focused entities to address public issues by finding solutions using the information from various State Departments. GoK's Open Data initiative would be in line with the

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Government of India's National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP), 2012 and the Open Government Data (OGD) platform (<https://data.gov.in/>).

#### 4.5.3.3 R&D Support

| CATEGORY                                                                        | INCENTIVE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IT/ITeS Entities<br>(not applicable to Indian subsidiaries of foreign entities) | For R&D projects driven by domestic IT/ITeS entities (not applicable to Indian subsidiaries of foreign entities) in the domain of emerging and 5G technologies, matching grants (in collaboration with industry) of up to a maximum of 33% of the total project R&D cost, or up to INR 1 crore, whichever is lower. These grants may be availed by an entity, once, over the policy period. |

#### 4.5.3.4 Regulatory Sandbox Enablement

To encourage innovations in different areas in the State, Karnataka Innovation Authority has been established under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, which has a mechanism for the creation of 'Regulatory Sandboxes' in Karnataka, in order to bring new and emerging technologies under a legal framework until appropriate law is enacted. As a result, this will enable introduction of new technologies in the State.

#### 4.5.3.5 Awards & Recognition

GoK shall award and recognize IT/ITeS Entities established outside Zone 3 under various categories such as contribution in areas of innovation, employment generation, leading CSR initiatives, among others.

### 4.5.4. TALENT DEVELOPMENT

GoK recognizes and strives to meet the expectations through its initiatives towards talent enhancement. This shall be done with the help of linkages with multiple stakeholders including the academia and industries and rolling out and/or augmenting existing industry readiness programs.

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#### 4.5.4.1 National Apprenticeship Training Scheme

In 2016, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) was launched by MSDE, GoI, furtherance to the Apprenticeship Act, 1961, to promote apprenticeship and thereby increase engagement of the apprentices. The apprenticeship includes “on-the-job” training and “basic training” at workplace in the industry.

#### 4.5.4.2 Yuva Yuga Program

YUVA YUGA scheme has been designed for reskilling and skill upgradation of workforce which is affected by the change and evolution in technology. It has been envisioned that the program would focus on NSQF Level 5 & above.

#### 4.5.4.3 Industry Partnership to facilitate Virtual Incubation & Mentorship

GoK in collaboration with industry associations, shall provide virtual incubation & mentorship for budding IT entrepreneurs based outside Zone 3. This shall provide access to leading mentors and incubation facilities to budding entrepreneurs and encourage them to set up new IT/ITeS entities.

#### 4.5.4.4 Finishing School for creating future ready workforce

GoK shall encourage creation of future ready workforce through Finishing Schools (with courses, fellowships, training and internship opportunities) for IT graduate students from Karnataka in order to Impart industry-oriented skill-upgrading training; Enhance employability; Train & mentor students/faculty from different districts of Karnataka; Nurture the local talent and create an ecosystem of entrepreneurship and growth; and Create research environment that foster excellent R&D in host institutions.

### 4.5.5. EASE OF DOING BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT

Responsible and rapid market development can be achieved in an environment that provides significant balance between access to finance and stability of the financial system at the same time. The need for providing required information and access to finances also lies in the hands of Government. This support shall not only provide encouragement, boost and handhold but also result in improving productivity of growing enterprises.

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#### 4.5.5.1 Single Window Agency

GoK has authorized Karnataka Udyog Mitra (KUM), Department of Commerce & Industries to act as the Single Window Agency for clearance of IT/ ITeS proposals. KUM will not only facilitate all regulatory approvals for the IT/ITeS Entities but also facilitate processing of benefits through online portal.

#### 4.5.5.2 Exemption of IT/ ITeS/ Knowledge/ Startup entities from the applicability of Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1946

The State Government will exempt IT/ ITeS entities from the applicability of Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1946, for a period of 5 years<sup>10</sup>, with appropriate clause for protection of women employees and prevention of sexual harassment in work place.

#### 4.5.5.3 Essential Services

IT/ ITeS/ /BPO/ KPO / other Knowledge based Industries will be treated at par with public utilities, to exempt them, on a case-to-case basis, from the disruptive effects of general strikes and bandhs.

#### 4.5.5.4 Self-Certification

IT/ITeS Entities will be permitted to file self-certifications, in the prescribed formats under the applicable acts and rules as per the prevailing notification<sup>ii</sup> issued by Labour Department, Government of Karnataka.

#### Other GoK Facilitation:

- GoK will promote and facilitate women working in the night shifts for 3-shift operations subject to respective IT/ ITeS units taking necessary & prescribed precautions with respect to safety & security in addition to providing welfare, health and transport amenities as prescribed under applicable labour laws and obtaining the necessary approvals from the competent authority under the Karnataka Shops & Commercial Establishment Act, 1961 and Rules of the Factories Act, 1948 and other rules, there under as the case may be; and
- Exemption benefits will be provided to White Category IT/ITeS Entities as per the categorization of industries released by Karnataka Pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, from time to time.

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<sup>11</sup> Notification dated 25th May 2019





## 05 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, POLICY VALIDITY & SANCTION PROCESS

### 5.1 Eligibility Criteria to avail Fiscal Incentives

To avail the policy incentives and concessions, an Entity must be registered with KITS, Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T as an IT/ ITeS Entity, details of which will be published in the Operational Guidelines to this policy. The eligibility criteria will be applicable during the policy period.

#### a. Nature of Business:

**The entity shall be engaged in one of the following businesses-**

- Information Technology (IT) involving the development, maintenance, and use of computer systems, hardware, software, and networks for the processing and distribution of data;
- IT enabled services covering the entire spectrum of operations which exploit information technology for improving efficiency of an organization as defined further under the “Definitions” section, Section 7 (9);
- All legal Entities operating in the IT and ITeS industry, as per “Definitions” section, Section 7 (9 and 10); and
- Any other IT/ ITeS verticals/ products covered under the National Information Technology Policy and related notifications as issued by Govt.

## b. Location:

The entity must have registered office in Karnataka as per the Companies Act, 2013 or the Entity should be registered as per the Karnataka Shops & Commercial Establishment Act, 1961.

## c. Employment:

The entity employs at least 50 (fifty) per cent of its total qualified workforce in Karnataka, which shall not include contract employees.

## 5.2 Validity of the Policy

This Policy is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of its notification or till a new policy is announced.

## 5.3 Sanction Process






Various incentives, concessions and/ or subsidies will be granted to eligible entities from time to time through an Approval Committee.

**Approval Committee:** The Approval Committee, chaired by the Managing Director, KITS, will consist of industry representatives and subject experts apart from the officials of KITS. This committee will meet at least once in 3 months to consider all eligible applications as well as any other related issues, unless required to do so earlier. The decision of the Approval Committee will be deemed final while sanctioning the eligible amount for Incentives/Concessions. If required, a separate Sub-Committee to evaluate specific incentives may be constituted from within the members of the Approval Committee.






## 06 APPLICABILITY OF INCENTIVES FOR ELIGIBLE IT/ITES ENTITIES

| SR.NO.          | CATEGORY                                       | INCENTIVE / BENEFIT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ELIGIBLE IT/ITES ENTITIES (INVESTMENT UP TO INR 250 CRORE) | ELIGIBLE IT/ITES ENTITIES (INVESTMENT ABOVE INR 250 CRORE) |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 4.5.1.1 | IT Hubs / Clusters                             | <p>Financial support of upto 20% of Fixed Investment for Infrastructure (excluding the cost of land), subject to a ceiling of INR 3 Crores, whichever is lower.</p> <p>This shall be applicable for a minimum occupancy rate of 60% by IT/ ITeS entities (applicable in case of IT Hub/Cluster space being occupied by IT/ITeS entities) or for a minimum employment generation of 500 in the IT/ITeS industry (applicable in case of IT Hub/Cluster space being occupied by the entity itself), subject to the approval and recommendations from State Level Committees (SLSWCC/ SHLCC) for all IT Hubs/ Clusters setup outside Zone 3.</p> | ✓                                                          | ✓                                                          |
| Section 4.5.1.2 | Co-Working Spaces/Plug and Play Infrastructure | <p>Financial support of upto 33% of the Fixed Investment for Infrastructure (excluding the cost of land), with a ceiling of INR 2 Crores, whichever is lower.</p> <p>This shall be applicable for a</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | ✓                                                          | ✓                                                          |

|                 |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 |                              | <p>minimum built-up area of the co-working space being 15000 sq. ft. and a minimum occupancy rate of 60% by IT/ ITeS entities or for a minimum occupancy by 300 professionals in the IT/ITeS industry, subject to the approval and recommendations from State Level Committees (SLSWCC/ SHLCC) for all co-working spaces setup outside Zone 3.</p> |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
| Section 4.5.1.3 | Lease / Rental Reimbursement | <p>Reimbursement at the rate of INR 10/- per sq. ft. will be provided for IT/ITeS entities setup outside Zone 3 up to a maximum amount of INR 3 lakhs overall, for a period of 1 year, applicable once during the policy period.</p>                                                                                                               |    |                                                                                       |
| Section 4.5.1.3 | Lease / Rental Reimbursement | <p>Reimbursement at the rate of INR 1000/- per seat, will be provided for IT/ITeS entities, setup outside Zone 3 up to a maximum amount of INR 6 lakhs overall, for a period of 1 year, applicable once during the policy period.</p>                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                       |
| Section 4.5.1.4 | Mega Projects/ Enterprises   | <p>Tailor-made package of incentives on a case to case basis as considered by the Government.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                       |  |
| Section 4.5.1.5 | Stamp Duty Exemption         | <p>IT/ ITeS Entities shall be entitled to an exemption of 75% in Mysuru, Hubballi, Dharwad and Mangaluru, and 100% for all other Zones except Zone 3 as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy.</p>                                                                                                                                        |  |  |

|                 |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 4.5.1.6 | Power Tariff Concession             | Applicability of Industrial power tariff instead of Commercial power tariff for IT/ ITeS industry in the State subject to KERC Order.                                                                                                                                                                                             |    |    |
| Section 4.5.2.2 | Quality Certification Reimbursement | 50% reimbursement of cost of quality certification fee with an overall ceiling of INR 6 Lakhs (with maximum of 3 industry standard quality certifications) for IT/ ITeS Entities setup outside Zone 3.                                                                                                                            |    |                                                                                       |
| Section 4.5.2.3 | Marketing Cost Reimbursement        | 30% of actual cost incurred including travel for international marketing through trade show/ exhibition participation, up to INR 5 lakhs per entity for IT/ ITeS Entities, outside Zone 3 and can be availed once during the policy period.                                                                                       |   |                                                                                       |
| Section 4.5.2.5 | PF/ESI Reimbursement                | Reimbursement of Provident Fund (PF) / Employees State Insurance (ESI) for all IT/ITeS Entities outside Zone 3, at the rate of INR 2000 per employee per month for 2 years for all new employment (only applicable for technical manpower) created, subject to condition that the employment is for continuous period of 2 years. |  |  |

|                 |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 4.5.2.6 | Patents Cost Reimbursement | Patents Cost Reimbursement for IT/ITeS entities (Patent awarded)<br>INR 2 lakhs for Domestic<br>INR 10 lakhs for International                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |                                                                                     |
| Section 4.5.3.3 | R&D Support                | For R&D projects driven by domestic IT/ITeS entities (not applicable to Indian subsidiaries of foreign entities), in the domain of emerging and 5G technologies, matching grants (in collaboration with industry) of up to a maximum of 33% of the total project R&D cost, or upto INR 1 crore, whichever is lower. These grants may be availed by an entity, once, over the policy period. |  |  |

The maximum amount reimbursed to a single entity under various incentives, excluding financial support extended under Section 4.5.1.1 and Section 4.5.1.2, would be capped at INR 2 Crores for a single year and INR 10 Crores during the entire policy period.

All the incentives, except Patent Reimbursement Incentive, will be applicable from the date of registration of the IT/ ITeS entity. For the Patent Reimbursement Incentive, patent applications filed during the policy period will be considered.



## 07 DEFINITIONS

**1. Beyond Bengaluru:** Used to describe cities / areas in Karnataka outside Zone 3 (as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy).

**2. Co-working Space:** A co-working space is a provision in which several workers from distinctive companies share an office space, allowing cost savings and accommodation through the use of common infrastructure, such as equipment, utilities, and receptionist and custodial services, among others. A co-working space should have at least 15000 sq. ft. of area, with all the amenities required for smooth functioning. It should be located well within the city limits with good access to the transport system. The premises may be owned, leased or rented for a period of at least seven years, and should have commitment to operation for

at least five years. Also, the facility should have at least 60 percent of the total area created for workspace and be allocated to IT/ITeS entities only.

**3. Emerging Technologies:** Emerging technologies are new technologies whose development or practical applications, or both are still largely inherent, such that they are emerging into eminence from a background of nonexistence or ambiguity. Emerging technologies are often anticipated as capable of changing the status quo.

**4. Entity:** Private Limited Company (as per the Companies Act 2013), a Registered Partnership Firm (under the Partnership Act, 1932) or Limited Liability Partnership (under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008).

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## 5. Floor Space Index (FSI) / Floor Area Ratio (FAR):

FSI or FAR means the ratio between the area of a covered floor (Built up Area) to the area of that plot (land) on which a building stands.

## 6. Information Technology (IT):

Information Technology (IT) is defined as the technology involving the development, maintenance, and use of computer systems, hardware, software, and networks for the processing and distribution of data.

**7. Innovation Regulatory Sandbox:** An innovation regulatory sandbox is a regulatory approach, customarily epitomized in writing and published, that allows conscious, time-bound testing of innovations under a regulator's oversight.

**8. IT enabled Services (ITeS):** Information Technology that enables the business by improving the quality of service is IT enabled services. IT enabled services covers the entire spectrum of operations which exploit information technology for improving efficiency of an organisation.

### This will include:

- a. Call centres;
- b. Medical transcriptions;
- c. Back Office Operation/ Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)/ Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO);
- d. Cloud service providers;
- e. Data processing;
- f. Engineering and design;
- g. Remote maintenance;

h. Legal and other databases;

i. Website development and maintenance services;

j. Geographic information system services;

k. Revenue accounting and other ancillary operations;

l. Insurance claim processing;

m. Web/ Digital content development/ computer graphics/ animation/ ERP/ Software and application development;

n. Financial and accounting processing;

o. Human resource & payroll processing services;

p. IT enabled banking, non-banking services including insurance, pension, asset management and market related services; and

q. Depository and security registration and dematerialization services; and other knowledge- based industries.

**9. IT/ITeS Entities:** All legal entities operating under the IT and ITeS industry ambit.

**10. IT Hubs/Clusters:** An IT Hub/Cluster is a project with at least 25,000 sq. ft. of allocated space, having all the amenities required for smooth functioning. It should be located well within the city limits with good access to the transport system. The premises may be owned or leased out for a period of at least ten years and should have commitment to operation of facility at least for seven years. Also, the facility should have at least 50% of the total area created for the workspace and be allocated to IT/ITeS entities only.



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**11. Mega Projects / Enterprises :** Mega projects/ enterprises are projects with an investment in fixed assets above INR 250 crores.

**12. National Institutes:** National or Central institutes are institutes established by the Government of India and supported by national agencies such as CSIR, ICAR, MoHFW, DBT, DST, ICMR, DAE, MoE etc.

**13. Reimbursement:** Compensation given by the State/ public body/ organisation for a defined expense by giving them an amount equal to what was agreed upon.

**14. Stamp Duty:** Stamp duty is a duty levied on the legal recognition of certain documents.

**15. Startup:** As defined in the prevailing Karnataka Startup Policy.

**16. Subsidy:** Subsidy is a sum of money granted by the state or a public body to help an industry or business to keep the price of a commodity or service low.

**17. Virtual Incubation and Mentorship:**

Virtual incubation and mentorship is used to describe provision of remote incubation and mentorship services (usually through digital media), eliminating the need for physical visits/ occupancy of infrastructure by the participants.

**18. Zone:** The taluks in Karnataka are classified into zones to ensure a strong industrial base with equitable allocation of funds. The State is classified into three Zones namely Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3 as per the prevailing Karnataka Industrial Policy.

**19. 5G Technology:** 5G is the fifth-generation cellular network technology, also called the digital cellular network in which the service area covered by providers is divided into small geographical areas called cells. Communication shall be enabled by radio waves over a common pool of frequencies.

20. Zonal Classification as per Karnataka Industrial Policy 2020-25:

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS       | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1          | ZONE 2       | ZONE 3         |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1      | Bengaluru(U)    | 5                   |                 |              | Anekal         |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Bengaluru(N)   |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Bengaluru(S)   |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Yelahanka      |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Bengaluru(E)   |
| 2      | Bengaluru(R)    | 4                   |                 |              | Devanahalli    |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Doddaballapura |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Hoskote        |
|        |                 |                     |                 |              | Nelamangala    |
| 3      | Ramanagara      | 5                   |                 | Magadi       |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Ramanagara   |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Channapatna  |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Kanakapura   |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Harohalli    |                |
| 4      | Chitradurga     | 6                   | Holalkere       | Hiriyur      |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Chitradurga  |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Challakere   |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Hosadurga    |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Molkalmuru   |                |
| 5      | Davanagere      | 6                   | Channagiri      | Davanagere   |                |
|        |                 |                     | Jagalur         | Harihar      |                |
|        |                 |                     | Honnali         | Nyamati      |                |
| 6      | Chikkaballapura | 7                   | Gudibande       | Chintamani   |                |
|        |                 |                     | Bagepalli       | Gowribidanur |                |
|        |                 |                     | Chikkaballapura | Siddlaghatta |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Cheluru      |                |
| 7      | Kolar           | 6                   | Srinivasapura   | Bangarpet    |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | KGF          |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Kolar        |                |
|        |                 |                     |                 | Malur        |                |
|        |                 |                     | Mulbagal        |              |                |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS        | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1              | ZONE 2        | ZONE 3 |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------|
| 8      | Shivamogga       | 7                   | Soraba              | Sagar         |        |
|        |                  |                     | Hosanagara          | Thirthahalli  |        |
|        |                  |                     | Shikaripura         | Shivamogga    |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Bhadravathi   |        |
| 9      | Tumakuru         | 10                  | Madhugiri           | Turuvekere    |        |
|        |                  |                     | Koratagere          | Sira          |        |
|        |                  |                     | Gubbi               | Tiptur        |        |
|        |                  |                     | Pavagada            | Kunigal       |        |
|        |                  |                     | Chikkanayakanahalli | Tumakur       |        |
| 10     | Chamarajanagar   | 5                   | Yelandur            |               |        |
|        |                  |                     | Gundlupet           |               |        |
|        |                  |                     | Hanur               |               |        |
|        |                  |                     | Chamarajanagar      |               |        |
|        |                  |                     | Kollegal            |               |        |
| 11     | Chickamagalur    | 9                   |                     | Kadur         |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Mudigere      |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Tarikere      |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Chickamagalur |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Ajjampur      |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Shringeri     |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Koppa         |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | NR Pura       |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Kalasa        |        |
| 12     | Dakshina Kannada | 9                   |                     | Bantwal       |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Sulya         |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Belthangadi   |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Puttur        |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Mulki         |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Ullal         |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Moodbidri     |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Kadaba        |        |
| 13     | Hassan           | 9                   | Arakalgud           | Alur          |        |
|        |                  |                     | Belur               | C R Patna     |        |
|        |                  |                     | Arasikere           | Shantigrama   |        |
|        |                  |                     |                     | Hassan        |        |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1      | ZONE 2        | ZONE 3 |
|--------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|---------------|--------|
|        |           |                     |             | H N Pura      |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Saklespura    |        |
| 14     | Kodagu    | 5                   | Madikeri    |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Somwarpet   |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Virajpet    |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Ponnampete  |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Kushalnagar |               |        |
| 15     | Mandya    | 7                   |             | Srirangapatna |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Pandavapura   |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Mandya        |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Maddur        |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Nagamangala   |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Malavalli     |        |
|        |           |                     |             | K R Pet       |        |
| 16     | Mysuru    | 9                   |             | Hunsur        |        |
|        |           |                     |             | K R Nagara    |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Mysuru        |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Nanjangud     |        |
|        |           |                     |             | T N Pura      |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Periyapatna   |        |
|        |           |                     |             | HD Kote       |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Saraguru      |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Saligrama     |        |
| 17     | Udupi     | 7                   |             | Karkala       |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Bhramhavara   |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Udupi         |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Kundapura     |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Kapu          |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Hebri         |        |
|        |           |                     |             | Baindur       |        |
| 18     | Bagalkote | 10                  | Bilagi      |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Badami      |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Mudhol      |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Jamkhandi   |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Hunagund    |               |        |
|        |           |                     | Guledgudda  |               |        |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS  | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1             | ZONE 2 | ZONE 3 |
|--------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
|        |            |                     | Rabakavi-Banahatti |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Terdal             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Ilkal              |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Bagalkote          |        |        |
| 19     | Belagavi   | 15                  | Bailhongal         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Soundathi          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Chikkodi           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Raibag             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Khanapur           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Ramdurg            |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Hukkeri            |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Athani             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Gokak              |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Nippani            |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kagavadi           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Mudalgi            |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Yaragatti          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kittur             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Belagavi           |        |        |
| 20     | Vijayapura | 13                  | Sindgi             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Indi               |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Muddebihal         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | B Bagewadi         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Alamela            |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Babaleshwar        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Nidagundi          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Tikota             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Chedachana         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kolhar             |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Devarahipparagi    |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Talikote           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Vijayapura         |        |        |
| 21     | Dharwada   | 8                   | Navalgund          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kalghatagi         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kundaghol          |        |        |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS      | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1       | ZONE 2 | ZONE 3 |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
|        |                |                     | Annigeri     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Alnavar      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Hubballi (R) |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Dharwada     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Hubballi(U)  |        |        |
| 22     | Gadag          | 7                   | Mundargi     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Nargund      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Ron          |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Shrirahatti  |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Gajaendragad |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Lakshmeshwar |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Gadag        |        |        |
| 23     | Haveri         | 8                   | Savanur      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Shiggaon     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Hirekurur    |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Hanagal      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Ranebennur   |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Byadagi      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Rattihalli   |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Haveri       |        |        |
| 24     | Uttara Kannada | 12                  | Honnavar     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Sirsi        |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Mundagod     |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Yellapura    |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Siddapura    |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Haliyal      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Joida        |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Bhatkal      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Ankola       |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Kumta        |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Dandeli      |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Karwar       |        |        |
| 25     | Bellary        | 11                  | H B Halli    |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Hadagalli    |        |        |
|        |                |                     | Kudligi      |        |        |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS  | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1          | ZONE 2 | ZONE 3 |
|--------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
|        |            |                     | Hosepet         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Sandur          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Siraguppa       |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Harappana Halli |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kurogod         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kottur          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kampli          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Bellary         |        |        |
| 26     | Bidar      | 8                   | Bhalki          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Humnabad        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Basava Kalyana  |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Aurad           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Chitaguppa      |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Hulusur         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kamala Nagar    |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Bidar           |        |        |
| 27     | Kalaburagi | 11                  | Afzalpur        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Aland           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Jewargi         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Sedam           |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Chittapur       |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Chincholi       |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kalagi          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kamalapur       |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Yedrami         |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Shahabad        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Kalaburagi      |        |        |
| 28     | Yadgir     | 6                   | Yadgir          |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Shahapur        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Shorapur        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Hunasagi        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Vadagera        |        |        |
|        |            |                     | Gurumitkal      |        |        |

| SI.NO. | DISTRICTS    | TOTAL NO. OF TALUKS | ZONE 1     | ZONE 2    | ZONE 3   |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 29     | Koppal       | 7                   | Kushtagi   |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Yelburga   |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Gangavathi |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Kukkunur   |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Karatagi   |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Kanakagiri |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Koppal     |           |          |
| 30     | Raichur      | 7                   | Sindhanur  |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Manvi      |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Lingasugur |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Devadurga  |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Maski      |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Siravara   |           |          |
|        |              |                     | Raichur    |           |          |
|        | <b>Total</b> | <b>239</b>          | <b>152</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>9</b> |

INNOVATE  
KARNATAKA



## 08 GLOSSARY

| ABBREVIATION                                 | DEFINITION                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AI                                           | Artificial Intelligence                                                                        |
| AP                                           | Acceleration Program                                                                           |
| BPM                                          | Business Process Management                                                                    |
| BPO                                          | Business Process Outsourcing                                                                   |
| Bt                                           | Bio-technology                                                                                 |
| BTS                                          | Bengaluru Tech Summit                                                                          |
| COE                                          | Centre of Excellence                                                                           |
| CSIR                                         | Council of Scientific & Industrial Research                                                    |
| CSR                                          | Corporate Social Responsibility                                                                |
| DAE                                          | Department of Atomic Energy, GoI                                                               |
| Dept. of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T (Dept.) | Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, GoK |
| DBT                                          | Department of Biotechnology, GoI                                                               |
| DIM                                          | Digital Investment Mission                                                                     |
| DLSWCC                                       | District Level Single Window Clearance Committee                                               |
| DPIIT                                        | Department for Promotion of Industry and International Trade, GoI                              |
| DST                                          | Department of Science & Technology, GoI                                                        |

|         |                                                             |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ESI     | Employee's State Insurance                                  |
| FAR     | Floor Area Ratio                                            |
| FSI     | Floor Space Index                                           |
| GoI     | Government of India                                         |
| GoK     | Government of Karnataka                                     |
| GSDP    | Gross State Domestic Product                                |
| IBPS    | India BPO Promotion Scheme                                  |
| ICAR    | Indian Council of Agricultural Research                     |
| ICMR    | Indian Council of Medical Research                          |
| IIIT    | International Institute of Information Technology           |
| IoT     | Internet of Things                                          |
| IP      | Intellectual Property                                       |
| IT      | Information Technology                                      |
| ITeS    | Information Technology enabled Services                     |
| KEONICS | Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Limited |
| KERC    | Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission                 |
| KIADB   | Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board                |
| KBITS   | Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services |
| KIH     | Karnataka Innovation Hub                                    |

|        |                                                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| KITS   | Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society             |
| KPO    | Knowledge Process Outsourcing                           |
| KTM    | Karnataka Technology Mission                            |
| MeitY  | Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Gol |
| MoE    | Ministry of Education, Gol                              |
| MoHFW  | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Gol              |
| MSDE   | Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Gol |
| MSMEs  | Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises                     |
| NAPS   | National Apprenticeship Training Scheme                 |
| NRI    | Non-Resident Indian                                     |
| NSQF   | National Skills Qualifications Framework                |
| PF     | Provident Fund                                          |
| R&D    | Research & Development                                  |
| SEZ    | Special Economic Zone                                   |
| SHLCC  | State High Level Clearance Committee                    |
| SLSWCC | State Level Single Window Clearance Committee           |
| STPI   | Software Technology Parks of India                      |
| S&T    | Science & Technology                                    |
| TA     | Talent Accelerator                                      |



Dr. E. V. RAMANA REDDY, IAS  
Additional Chief Secretary

“The incentives and offerings have been curated with the intention of providing requisite support to all aspects of the IT/ ITeS ecosystem in the State. Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T has carefully leveraged inputs from key stakeholders gathered over multiple rounds of deliberations. In the present scenario, you would be happy to note that the policy’s focus is on ‘Beyond Bengaluru’. I hope this policy further bolsters the State’s IT industry and spurs greater innovation.”

# INNOVATE KARNATAKA



Smt. MEENA NAGARAJ C. N, IAS  
Managing Director

“Karnataka has always been a pioneer in championing the growth of the IT/ ITeS industry. The State’s IT Policy 2020-25 provides an accelerated boost to these efforts. Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T has laid out a strong, clear vision for the policy. I firmly believe this policy will propel the growth of the State’s IT/ ITeS industry to greater heights.”



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## **DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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### **Government of Karnataka**

Gate 5, 6th Floor, M.S. Building, Bangalore -560001

Phone : +91 8022280562 ; +91 8022265943

Email : [itbtsec@karnataka.gov.in](mailto:itbtsec@karnataka.gov.in)

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Website : <https://itbst.karnataka.gov.in/>