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India Inc Promises Big Money, Centre Offers Backing to State

On Day 1 of investors' meet, FinMin Jaitley says Karnataka can outpace nation in growth

by Anil Gajji

Bengaluru: Invest Karnataka 2016, the state government's investment jamboree, lived up to some of the hype surrounding it on day one of the meet. As a galaxy of industry bigwigs and Union Ministers descended on Bangalore Palace Grounds for Wednesday's inaugural, a clutch of big-ticket investments too were announced. Bengaluru's notorious traffic too found mention with business czars appealing to Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari for help.

The meet saw a blurring of political divisions as several Union ministers graced the event, organised by a Congress-ruled government. While Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the three-day event, Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu, Fertilisers and Chemicals Minister H N Ananth Kumar and Gadkari offered help to build infrastructure.

Karnataka and its growth story was the highlight of the event as Jaitley said the state had the potential to grow 2-3 per cent faster than the country. "Given its rich natural resources, a first rate talent pool and inclination of people to learn and innovate, the state should be growing faster than India. I am sure it will," Jaitley said.

Gadkari offered ₹1 lakh crore to develop roads and ports over two years, while Kumar promised a urea manufacturing unit and institutes — Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology and National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research — in Karnataka.

Industry titans too spelt out multi-crore rupee plans for Karnataka — Gautam Adani announced a ₹21,000-crore in investments, while auto components major Bosch rolled out a ₹1,000-crore expansion plan. Anil Ambani, Sajjan Jindal and Kumar Mangalam Birla also lined up mega investment plans.

MORE: P2 & 3



Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flanked by industrialists Kumar Mangalam Birla and Ratan Tata at Invest Karnataka 2016 in Bengaluru on Wednesday | NAGESH POUALI

INDIA INC AND THE GOVT

Gautam Adani commits ₹21,000 cr in power plants and development of Tanadi port

Sajjan Jindal: Jindal Mittal Group to invest ₹2000 cr in telecom, apparel and retail sectors
 JSW Steel promises ₹35,000 cr more investments in state
 State links pact for Japan investment in township, commit 500 acres for urea plant

Airbus plans global aerospace centre

INDIA INC AND THE GOVT

Without the munificence of the Karnataka government, I don't think Infosys could have existed

— N R Narayana Murthy, Infosys co-founder

We want Karnataka to be a \$700 billion economy by 2035

— Siddaramaiah, CM

MINI SUBURBAN RAIL ON TRACK

A smaller and cheaper version of the suburban rail connecting the outskirts to Bengaluru that would augment the Metro rail network has been proposed by Bengaluru Development Minister K J George. It will connect Tumakuru to Yeshwantpur, Whitefield to Byappanahalli and Mandya to Kengeri.

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INVESTORS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT SOLAR PRICING

Bengaluru: Solar energy producers on Wednesday expressed concern over the aggressive pricing of solar power, which had them wondering about generating profits. Taking part in a panel discussion in the energy sector, Glen Recani, CMD, AWE Acciona Energy, said that though they have been involved in generating solar and wind power in Karnataka, the aggressive bidding had made them wary.

D.C. 04/02/16
 AS INVESTMENT IS

lacking in power generation, the state government has planned to attract investors in the energy sector by offering treated sewage water to thermal plants set up close to Bengaluru. The demand for power in urban areas is huge and power is transmitted from Udipi and Raichur thermal power plants, increasing the cost. A power generation unit close to Bengaluru will help in getting quality power, said a senior official. If investors are willing to set up thermal plants close to major load guzzlers like Bengaluru, they can use treated sewage water at a lesser cost for cooling. The cost of water can either be included in the tariff or other forms of expenditure, said Mr M.K. Shankaralinge Gowda, Chairman, KERC.

The Hindu Pg no 05 RH 04/02/2016

Piped gas for 35k houses in 2017

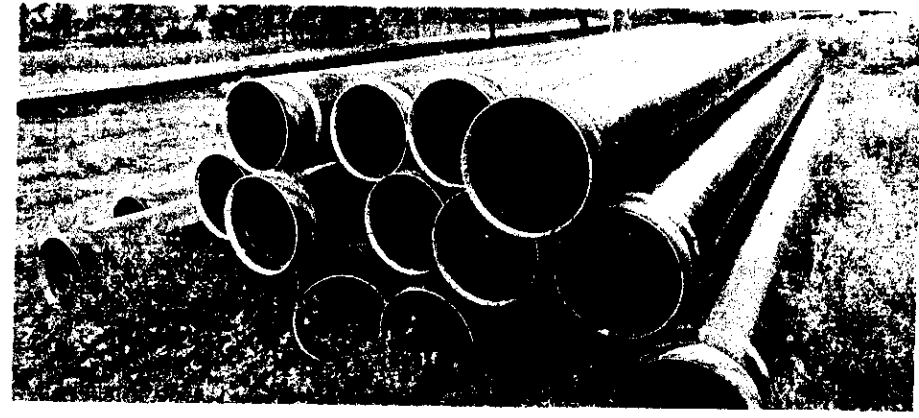
Mohit M. Rao
BENGALURU

By early next year, nearly 35,000 households in the city will have access to piped gas supply, says Pankaj Kumar Pal, Chief Executive Officer, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL).

Talking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of Invest Karnataka on Wednesday, Mr. Pal said the target of laying 105 km of pipelines was almost met in the past one year. "In the coming year, we will lay around 500 km of pipelines," he said.

The project will see the IT City join Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Surat, Ahmedabad, Indore, Kanpur and others in having CNG piped to their homes.

The plan for Bengaluru — for which GAIL is the only supplier — is to lay more than 2,000 km of pipelines criss-crossing the city within five years. "By then, we expect 50



per cent of the households to have shifted from LPG cylinders to piped gas. In the 25-year duration of the project, we expect to see the whole of Bengaluru get a gas connection," said Mr. Pal.

However, until the network is established, people in some areas can still get access to CNG through a 'Mega Station' being set up at Summanahalli Beggar's Colony. The gas will be transported through 'cas-

cahades' — a series of inter-connected cylinders.

Power plants on hold

Two years ago, when the Dabhol-to-Bengaluru pipeline was commissioned, the State government had drawn up plans to use the gas for the proposed 350MW Bidadi power plant. The Gas Transportation Agreement with GAIL had stated that the State was to pay Rs. 226 crore a

year as transmission charges since October 2015. However, Karnataka Power Corporation Limited sought to renegotiate the contract.

Mr. Pal said, "We have decided to wait as the Bidadi project has been dragged to court (by a failed bidder)."

GAIL, meanwhile, received no response from the State for a request to 'retrofit' the shuttered Yelahanka diesel power plant to use CNG.

BEL HOUSEHOLDS TO GET GAS FIRST

At present, the piped gas consumption in the city is 'negligible'. The BEL Colony of 1,200 households will become the first layout to be reliant on Compressed Natural Gas pumped from Dabhol in Maharashtra.

LAND FOR CNG STATIONS

Apart from the pipeline network, GAIL is seeking land in the city to establish CNG stations, primarily to cater to automobiles. While Delhi has more than 300 stations catering to 7 lakh vehicles, Bengaluru can expect 35 stations in the next three years, said Mr. Pal.

"The cost of retrofitting petrol or diesel vehicles is just around Rs. 30,000 and the payback is within seven months. Unlike Delhi, where the court has mandated public transport system to shift to CNG, we expect motorists here to voluntarily move to a greener form of fuel," he said.

energy projects. Farmers are worried about losing land and this hampers investments in renewable power. "The new policy would be a win-win situation for both and I'm sure it would be a model for the country," Kumar added.

Kumar said the inspiration for the policy came following the successful launch of work on the 2000 MW solar park at Pavagada in Tumakuru district, said to be the world biggest. The farmers here have volunteered to give up their land on lease after the government decided to earmark 300 MW for them by encouraging them to set up small plants with a capacity of 1MW to 3MW on their land.

Good news for farmers: Farmers would also be given the option of forming a group and leasing their land to solar power developers through the government for setting up solar farms. The government would not only protect the land ownership of such farmers, but also ensure they get ents through cheques, he said.

Similarly, the process of converting the land-use pattern would be simplified for solar plant developers by providing a deemed conversion facility soon after they buy the land. Deputy commissioners of districts will be given powers to grant deemed conversion if solar plants are in the range of 50-100 acres. Also, he said the government plans to come up with revised a policy to encourage individuals and companies to set up grid-connected rooftop solar units and promote wind energy.

Industry honchos, government vow to power State's growth

Stable, good governance needed to attract funds, says Jaitley

BENGALURU: Invest Karnataka - 2016, the global investors' meet, got off to a rousing start on Wednesday with captains of industry as well as the Central Government pledging to boost investment in the development of the State.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who declared the three-day meet open at Bangalore Palace by switching on a robot, said with quality human resource and being a hub of innovation,

Meet meet

- JSW Group to invest Rs 35,000 cr in expanding its steel plant at Hosapete over next 5 years
- Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group to establish Innovation & Space Research centre at Whitefield
- Birla Group to invest Rs 5,000 cr on expansion of its cement plant at Malkhed, Kalaburagi and Rs 1,000 cr on plantation farming at Harihar
- Adani Group to invest Rs 11,500 cr on capacity expansion of its Udupi Thermal plant from 1,200 MW to 1,600 MW
- Wipro proposes to expand its Bengaluru facility and hire 25,000 IT professionals
- State govt keeps MoUs signed on Day 1 under wraps
- Industry giants N R Narayana Murthy and Azeem Premji request state govt to improve Bengaluru infrastructure

Karnataka has the potential to record at least two to three per cent faster growth than the national average. Having carved out a niche for itself in the IT sector, the State government should now focus on bringing in large manufacturing industries which have the potential to create a large number of jobs.

he suggested. Merely organising investors' meets will not get the required investments. "The States with a consistent track record of a stable and clean administration, good governance, stable policies and easy availability of land and natural resources become the primary destinations," he added.

Technology helps smooth conduct of investors' meet

BENGALURU: Technology ensured that this year's investment summit at Palace Grounds was managed better than the ones during previous two editions of Global Investors Meet.

Three huge LED screens at the main hall during the inaugural session of the three-day summit helped audience view HD quality visuals behind the dais rather than the grainy images on television panels used during the previous editions.

The five seminar halls also had LED screens flashing presentations by speakers. Acoustics were also much better this time. Screens were also installed outside seminar halls to provide a teaser.

Delegates were issued passes with bar codes which were

scanned at the entrance and at the seminar.

The government also utilised the digitally-enhanced user platform by launching a mobile app ahead of the summit. Officials said around 3,500 people had downloaded the app that provides information on investment opportunities in the State.

For the first time, social media space was also utilised. The Invest Karnataka Twitter handle was launched to provide regular updates.

However, the response was not on expected lines with the handle getting only around 900 followers.

The proximity of the venue to the heart of the city also helped ensured access.

DH News Service

Adani Group to invest Rs. 11,500 cr. on Udupi thermal power plant

NALESH PRAHLLI BENGALURU

Adani Group has proposed to invest Rs. 11,500 crore for expanding the capacity of Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL) from 1,200 MW to 1,600 MW. The group has also proposed to invest Rs. 2,000 crore on developing the Tadadi port in Uttara Kannada district.

At the 'Invest Karnataka 2016' here on Wednesday, Gautam Adani, founder-chairman of Adani Group, said the expansion would cater to 20 million households, up from the current 9 million households. The ex-

pansion of the thermal power plant would generate an additional 600 jobs, he said.

The investment climate in Karnataka had been very conducive across the sectors where the company had its presence, Mr. Adani said, and added, "We are investing Rs. 11,500 crore for increasing the capacity of Udupi Power Corporation to 1,600 MW."

To give a thrust to its renewable energy sector, the group had proposed to invest Rs. 700 crore on setting up a 1,000 MW solar plant in Karnataka, he said. "We are intended to develop Tadadi port by spending Rs. 2,000 crore," he said.

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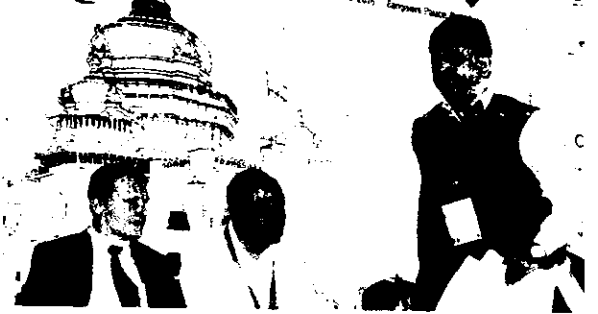


PHOTO: V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

MINISTER TURNS UP LATE

Minister for Power D.K. Shivakumar turned up more than an hour late to a session on 'Opportunities and strengths of the energy sector'. The hall was brimming at the scheduled start of the event, and the speakers, including German Consul General Jorn Rohde, had taken their seats on time. However, Mr. Shivakumar, who was present during the inauguration ceremony, turned up an hour late.

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The Adani Group is investing Rs 11,500 cr in capacity expansion of its 1,200-MW Udupi thermal plant, to produce an additional 1,600 MW. This will entail additional investment for expansion of the Mangaluru port. The Tadri port in Uttara Kannada will be modernised for Rs 2,000 cr, while solar energy generation capacity will be increased by 1,000 MW with an investment of Rs 7,000 cr. We plan to expand the vegetable oil refinery in Mangaluru to touch an annual capacity of four lakh metric tonnes.



GAUTAM ADANI,
Founder Chairman, Adani Group