

## **The Hindu**

### **Karnataka tweaks Aerospace Policy generate over 10,000 jobs**

Karnataka Cabinet has approved amendments to the Karnataka Aerospace Policy 2013-23 to make the state a favourable destination for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) investments.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meet, State Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister TB Jayachandra said, “The amendment pertains to providing special incentives for the development of the MRO sector to complement the incentives provided in the Civil Aviation Policy and also provide incentives for the first two MROs in the state on case-to-case basis.”

The policy also offers incentives for an exclusive defence park. A fully integrated defence and aerospace infrastructure facility is also planned in Bengaluru.

“This is being planned in view of the Centre opening up the defence production sector through exclusive defence parks. The state plans to tap huge investments in the sector,” he said.

For the development of MRO centres in the state, the state government had earlier planned the cluster approach, making Bengaluru the hub. In the amended policy, the state government is planning south cluster (Bengaluru, Mysuru, Managaluru and Tumkuru).

#### **Tumkuru hub**

Tumkuru is an emerging hub where HAL is building its helicopter plant at Gubbi. Bangalore Aerospace Park at Devanahalli and MRO centres at BIAL and Mysore, and a defence manufacturing cluster at Managaluru are also being planned.

The amendments have been made in view of the 33 project proposals received at ‘Invest Karnataka’ meet held early this year. The proposals are to the tune of 14,520 crore with the potential to generate over 10,000 jobs.

Jayachandra said state government is determined to demolish all buildings, including massive malls and apartment blocks, built on major

storm water drains in Bengaluru. It also includes massive apartment block built by Prestige Developers in Bellandur area.

The demolition drive by the BBMP to clear encroachments on storm water drains during recent rains had come under criticism as people alleged that while homes of the poor were being demolished, large buildings belonging to the rich and influential builders were spared.

“We will demolish all buildings illegally built on such drains, be it a massive apartment blocks, malls or an ordinary house,” he said.