

Bengal announces formation of new Industrial Promotional Board

Making it easier to invest in West Bengal through a single window clearance system, the state government today announced the formation of a new industrial development promotional board.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said they have taken a decision to bring all types of industries under one roof which will address all related issues.

The board will report to the chief minister after its weekly meeting and will have secretaries of finance, commerce and industry, MSME, IT, food processing, fisheries, Tourism, energy, etc as members.

Apart from the state chief secretary, Finance and Industry Minister Amit Mitra will also be a part of the board.

All industrial issues related to land and special exemption will be dealt with by the board through its website, Banerjee said.

The state already has the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation but this new body will be bigger.

Banerjee said this board will help small and medium scale enterprises to invest in the state in different sectors.

The state's annual Global Business Summit will be held from January 19 to 20 next year at the Milan Mela grounds for which they will invite President Pranab Mukherjee.

From 2018 onwards, the summit will be held in Raha that's international convention center which will be ready by then.

Banerjee said they have asked the state IT department to prepare a plan for building a center of excellence in cyber security in the city.

She also said that a port is coming up in Tajpur while another two ports - one for shipbuilding and another as a regular port - are being built in Kulpi.

On the issue of youngsters from West Bengal facing the prospect of losing their jobs if a bill to prevent Indian companies from hiring IT professionals on H-1B and

L1 work visas is passed in the American Senate, the CM said they will try to help such youngsters who want to come back to the state.

She said they are preparing a plan of action in this regard and assured all government help to those who might lose jobs.