

Dear Press and Media community (160+ recipients in Bcc):

GITP wishes you and your loved ones a great New Year 2016 ahead!

We are grateful to your support to us throughout 2015 as a result of which a number of significant IT-related achievements came about, and we look forward to your continued collaboration in 2016 to achieve even greater things to enable Goans to prosper in Goa through IT and related industries.

The recently released Goa IT Policy 2015 and the variety of incentives offered therein by the Govt. of Goa is a significant milestone towards promoting IT industry in the state. Even though a lot more was expected from this long-overdue IT Policy, GITP believes it is a respectable start which can be refined and revised further based on industry feedback and evolving scenarios. The new policy should now enable the Govt officials, who till recently were expressing inability to pursue industry due to the missing IT Policy, to proactively approach the industry and invite them to invest in Goa. **We insist that the Goa Govt participates in every major investment summit/event that promotes business in India, starting with the "Make In India" week happening next month. As a responsible group GITP continues to extend its active collaboration to the Goa Govt in such promotions besides on a number of other fronts to ensure that this IT Policy does not remain just on paper but is used to produce real, time-bound results.**

GITP welcomes the emphasis given by the Govt in the new IT Policy to job creation for locals in Goa. We also appreciate the clause that offers incentives to IT units that already exist as well as set up anywhere within the state and not necessarily in certain notified areas. This should prevent congestion that has been observed in other cities. The true success of this policy depends on its effective implementation by the Goa Govt. in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders. Given the existing archaic governmental processes and red-tapism which have been suffocating IT Startups in Goa so far, it is crucial that the processes required to dispense the newly promised financial incentives are streamlined and preferably made available online, and should not cause additional administrative overheads to companies.

The IT industry should realize that among others the biggest incentive to setup base in Goa is the educated manpower that is generated annually in the state, coupled with the 10,000+ experienced IT professionals of Goan origin working in the Indian and global IT and related industries. Technologically skilled Goans have so far migrated to various parts of the country and the world excelling in their respective fields. Goans carry a special bond with their home state which keeps them yearning to live and work in Goa. The IT industry should look forward to tapping this motivation and set up their development centers in Goa.

Regards,

Goa IT Professionals

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