

Minutes of Meeting

Date, Time and Venue	Saturday, May 9, 2020 via video conference
Participants	<p>Mr. Satej Patil, Honourable Minister of State for IT, GoM Mr. SVR Srinivas, Principal Secretary IT, GoM Mr. Vinayak Pachalag</p> <p>SEAP Ashwin Megha Vidyadhar Purandare S. Ramprasad Prashant KS Swapnil Deshpande Nitin Deshpande Sameer Soman Vinita Gera Vrushali Kulkarni</p>
Discussion in Brief	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEAP team welcomed Mr. Satej Patil, Honourable Minister of State for IT, GoM, Mr. SVR Srinivas, Principal Secretary IT, GoM and Mr. Vinayak Pachalag. ○ Introduction to SEAP and participants was done. ○ Overview of various Government initiatives and programs related to Health and IT was given by Honourable MoS IT. ○ Honourable MoS IT encouraged SEAP team to put forth their challenges and assured to resolve them at various levels. ○ Current situation and post COVID-19 scenario was discussed. ○ Opportunities for IT industry were discussed, and how this situation can turn out to be beneficial to hire people from remote locations with the possibility of diverse employees joining the work force. ○ Few challenges raised from SEAP team were discussed and Honourable MoS IT & IT Secretary suggested current actions by GoM & measures to overcome it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Challenges faced regarding permission to manage the operations. ▪ Shop & Establishment Act to be reviewed - especially from the point of view of law related to leaves. GoM is already reviewing this act. ▪ COVID-19 Positive cases in office: Industry needs more clarity and guidance on steps to take in the post COVID-19 situation, especially if someone is detected positive at workplace. GoM is working on SOPs related to this. ▪ The current situation prevents organizations from laying off people, however there are genuine non-performance or other challenges due to which companies need to release people. Industry needs support / clarity on how to comply with the law while releasing non-performers or employees due to disciplinary issues, etc. ▪ SEAP proposed a separate IT committee to be formed for Maharashtra, which should have representation from the central government officials (STPI, SEZ, Customs, IT, DGFT), state government (DIC, MIDC, MPCB) and local bodies (Municipal corporation) and also the Industry bodies. This will ensure a greater inclusiveness of all types of IT industries (start-up, MSMEs & large organisations) to ensure hurdles are removed and an eco-system is well developed. ▪ Honourable Chief Minister Shri Uddhav Thackeray is personally administering the IT ministry and keen to interact and get inputs from Industry for the growth of IT within the 	

state. Honourable Minister of State IT, Mr. Satej Patil suggested to have a discussion with him post COVID-19 to present the ideas on growth of IT in the state.

- The current IT policy provides property tax at residential rate. This is available for units in PMC but the units in major hub like Hinjewadi do not get this benefit. Similar is the case for electricity duty benefit for SEZ units who do not get electricity meter in their name. We should define an easy way to avail government benefits.
- SEAP reiterated the need of 'single window system' to avail incentives in the upcoming IT policy.
- Pune being the leader in IT exports in the state should have representation wherever possible like drafting of the IT policy and also part of the high-power committee to pursue the interests of the small, mid-size IT units along with large size organization in Pune.
- Maharashtra is second largest exporter of IT software (after Karnataka). It would be strategic to have a separate IT ministry. This will further boost IT exports and enhance cooperation between Industry bodies & Government.
- Implementation of *Arogya Setu App* has been made mandatory for people returning to work. However, there are concerns around privacy and fears on surveillance are getting raised within the employee workforce. Also, as private organizations, the companies are finding it difficult to "mandate" employees to install the app on their personal devices. We need guidance from Government on how to support community care while supporting personal privacy.
- SEAP requested Honourable MoS IT to share the clarity on the guidelines for returning to normalcy. SEAP can assist in the feasibility of the guidelines.
- SEAP also requested Honourable MoS IT, to conduct webinar for their members, which he has agreed to. The date, time & subject of the Webinar to be discussed in coming days.
- Honourable MoS IT also assured to have representation from IT industry in all the decisions related to industry. He further assured they will also facilitate the communication with central government on issues related to Industry (DoT, OSP etc)
- SEAP thanked Honourable MoS IT for his time and for addressing various issues. SEAP is eager to support any initiative for IT industry with the assistance of its members.
- Honourable MoS IT agreed for SEAP to publish news about the interaction via the social channels of SEAP and of the participants.

Action Item

No.	Action Item	Owner
1.	Labour Law - to specify the expected relaxation	SEAP
2.	Shop and Establishment Act - to suggest changes	
3.	Implementation of Aarogya Setu App – share the concerns and challenges	
4.	To schedule webinar for SEAP members with Mr. Satej Patil, Honourable Minister of State IT as per his availability	
5.	To share expectations in post COVID-19 era for small and medium scale organisations	