

PRESS RELEASE

Minister-President of Baden-Württemberg leads a major business delegation to India

The Embassy of India accords a warm welcome to the Minister President of Baden- Württemberg, Mr. Winfried Kretschmann leading a major business delegation to India from January 22-27, 2017. The 100+ member delegation led by the Minister-President consists of a large number of companies and is one of the largest delegation in recent times from a German state to India. Mr. Kretschmann is accompanied by the State Transport Minister Mr. Winfried Hermann and State Economy Minister Ms. Nicole Hoffmeister

2. Baden Württemberg is a partner state of Maharashtra and its capital Stuttgart has a twin-city status with Mumbai. The city of Karlsruhe has a sister-city relationship with Pune. Thus the delegation would visit **Mumbai** and **Pune** as well as **Bengaluru** where the delegation is due to participate at the Machine Tools Exhibition IMTEX.

3. Baden Württemberg is amongst Germany's most wealthy states with high employment and is home to a large number of big companies including SAP, Bosch, Porsche and Daimler. The *Mittlestand* or family owned mid-size company is the foundation of the economy of Baden Württemberg. Already a large number of *Mittlestand* companies from the state are in India. They are looking for opportunities in mobility, manufacturing, digital economy, smart cities, water, renewable energy and the like. There are ten companies from Baden Württemberg who have joined the ***Make in India Mittlestand (MIIM)*** programme run by the Embassy of India for new companies to invest in India.

4. Baden Württemberg is a leading German industrial state whose engagement with India is of special significance. The fact that Mr. Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President is leading a delegation to India within the first year after his re-election manifests the importance which the state attaches to India. A surge in FDI, expansion of trade, greater engagement among universities and an expansion of the areas of cooperation between businesses of Baden Württemberg and of India are the significant outcomes likely from this visit.