

Procurement should be transparent, investor-friendly: World Bank official

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World Bank launches professional diploma course in public procurement

Bengaluru, January 11:

The World Bank has stressed on strengthening the public procurement system by training government staff and ushering in a regulatory body for public procurement.

Public procurement is the buying of goods and services on behalf of government organisations.

The World Bank launched a specialised course in public procurement called Professional Diploma in Public Procurement (PDPP) in association the Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM).

Lack of standardisation

Speaking at the launch of professional course, Kalesh Kumar, Capacity Building – Coordinator, Procurement Global Practice, World Bank-India, said public procurements in India needs to usher in transparency and an investor-friendly regime.

In India few government organisations – PowerGrid Corporation and BHEL, have introduced public procurement systems that are on par with the best in the world.

“But what is missing in India is standardisation. The public procurement differs from State to State, and this might discourage investors,” said Kumar.

Taking into consideration the existing systems in India, the World Bank is working with IIMM to strengthen the public procurement ecosystem in both public and private sectors.

“We are keen on building the capacity of public procurement officials in both the public and private sectors.

“We have similar association in other countries. In India, the procurement expenses accounts for 20-25 per cent of the GDP. Now with FDI in retail and economic reforms, it is imperative to professionalise and standardise public procurement,” he explained. Speaking on the occasion Kavitha Kestur, Chief Vigilance Officer, BEML, said that the PDPP is an opportunity to provide the best to the professionals of Supply Chain Management (SCM) and Materials Management.

The target group of the PDPP programme is the procurement professionals, who are working in the Government sector.

Programme objective

Graduates in any discipline and Diploma in Engineering, Pharmacy, Hotel Management or Hospital Management, are also eligible to undertake the programme. The diploma will be issued by IIMM empowered by World Bank.

The World Bank’s PDPP programme is designed to build a strong foundation in public procurement and endeavours procurement practitioners in India to understand the process and best practices in public procurement followed by the Centre and State governments.

“The programme will enable those who are aspiring for a career in public procurement to acquire in-depth knowledge of the entire gamut,” said D Subramani, Branch Chairman-IIMM, Bengaluru.

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