

31 October 2016

SIDELINES

Happy Deepawali



Women MPs of Singapore donning the colours of Deepawali

Singapore celebrates Diwali with this beautiful themed train



Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines visited Singapore



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TOP NEWS

India one of the most open economies today: PM Modi at BRICS summit

PTI | Benaolim | Updated: October 16, 2016 4:57 pm

Asserting that results of the reforms undertaken by his government were visible, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the country has transformed into "one of the most open economies" in the world with a strong growth rate. "We have undertaken substantial reforms in the past two years to streamline and simplify governance, especially in doing business. The results are clearly visible," Modi told the Brics Business Council as part of the eighth summit of the five-nation grouping here.

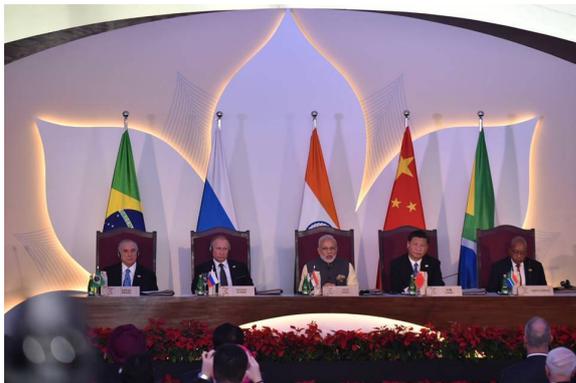
"We have moved up in almost all global indices that measure such performances. We have transformed India into one of the most open economies in the world today. Growth is strong and we are taking steps to keep the momentum going," the Prime Minister said.

The Modi government has undertaken a slew of reforms like passing the indirect taxation legislation on goods and services tax which seeks to make the country a single market, passing the Bankruptcy Code which will help troubled/failed companies find an exit, and through flagship programmes on the administrative front like the 'Make in India' and the 'Digital India' initiatives.

All this has had India's ranking in ease of doing business go up by multiple notches in a year to 39 as per the latest ranking by the World Bank.

The government has also been consistently raising caps on foreign holding in domestic companies in a slew of sensitive sectors like defence insurance and defence. According to Finance Ministry, as many as 90 per cent of the key economic sectors where FDI is allowed are on the automatic route, which help foreign companies save lots of time to start their operations. Even though the June quarter growth slowed to 7.1 per cent from 7.6 per cent in the previous quarter, Asia's third largest economy continues to be the fastest growing one in the world and policymakers are expecting the GDP expansion for the current fiscal year to come in at 7.6 per cent and accelerate further in coming years to 8 per cent going forward.

Modi said there were a slew of "matching priorities" between the business council and that of his administration, including dismantling trade barriers, promoting skills development, establishing manufacturing supply chains and infrastructure development. On achievement of BRICS, Modi said the footprint of intra-BRICS engagement has expanded over time to include large areas of economic activity. "The scope of our partnership today stretches from agriculture to industry and innovation; trade to tourism; environment to energy; films to



football; skill development to smart cities; and from fighting corruption and money laundering to securing our societies,” he said. He said the establishment of New Development Bank and the Contingency Reserve Arrangement are “indeed signature achievements”. “In a world of new security challenges and continuing economic uncertainties, BRICS stands as a beacon of peace potential and promise,” he said.

The Prime Minister said the process of institution building in BRICS must continue to remain a focus area. “The institutions that we build must support the development of our countries and regions. They should enable greater flexibility and freedom, and offer wider choices in responding to our developmental priorities,” he said.

He further said, “We look forward to translating into reality the idea of a BRICS Credit Rating Agency.”

The Prime Minister said there was also a clear need to build norms, create structures and pool our capacities to stop tax evasion, and fight against black money and corruption.

“Our agencies must also build mechanisms of information sharing to bring to justice the tax offenders and money launderers. BRICS should push for empowering the global governance institutions to reflect today’s reality,” he said.

Modi said transforming the quantum and quality of trade and investment should be a priority.

“In 2015, intra-BRICS trade stood at about USD 250 billion. We should set ourselves a target to double this number to USD five hundred billion by 2020. “This requires businesses and industry in all five countries to scale up their engagement. And, for governments to facilitate this process to the fullest. Our agreement on a tax and custom cooperation framework is a good start,” he said.

He said the BRICS New Development Bank must

play an active role to support this objective.

“Our cooperation must grab this opportunity to transform the basic structure of our economies.

“In the world we inhabit today, security and counter-terrorism cooperation is necessary if we are to secure the lives of our citizens,” he said.

India named world's third-largest startup base behind US and UK

<http://www.forbesindia.com/article/special/india-named-worlds-thirdlargest-startup-base-behind-us-and-uk/44613/1>

Despite the sluggish global economy and a slow-down in venture capital funding, India has managed to retain its startup growth story intact. Home to about 4,750 technology startups, India ranked as the third-largest startup base in the world behind the US (about 52,000 startups) and UK (about 4,900 startups), according to the Indian startup report 2016 released by Nasscom and consulting firm Zinnov on Wednesday. With a total funding of approximately \$4 billion, close to 650 startups were funded so far during



the year. The report further added that the number of startups in the country is likely to more than double its base to 10,500 startups by 2020, employing over 210,000 people. While Bengaluru, NCR and Mumbai maintained its dominant positions as the major startup hubs in the country, areas such as health-tech, fin-tech, and edu-tech were the key sectors for investors to park their funds, the Nasscom study noted.

“Technology startups are creating a new identity for India. Our startup report is a testimony to the potential of the startup landscape and the scope of growth and opportunity that India presents,” said R Chandrashekhar, president, Nasscom, in a statement. The number of tech startups in India is expected to cross 4,750 startups by the end of 2016, a growth of 12 percent year-on-year. According to the study, about 1,400 new startups

are expected in 2016, adding that incubators and accelerators are playing a key role in strengthening the startup community. There has been a 40 percent increase in the number of active incubators and accelerators in 2016, with over 140 active incubators, helping entrepreneurs experiment with new ideas by offering them functional expertise and resources. Over 30 new academic incubators have been established under the government's 'Start-up India Stand-up India' initiative this year. Tier-II-III cities have established 66 percent of the new incubators, the report noted.

"Make in India", "Skill India" and "Digital India" Positive signals of new Transformation

Press Information Bureau: October 26, 2016

New Delhi: Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that digital and mobile tools have been leading to paradigm shifts in the M&E sector. The growth of varied platforms such as 4G, broadband, mobile technologies, digital media has enabled the M&E sector to move towards "Convergence across platforms and content". The Government of India's "Make in India", "Skill India" and "Digital India" campaigns were clearly positive signals of the new transformation including GST which is expected to be a game changer for the M&E sector. Shri Naidu stated this while delivering the keynote address at the inaugural function of the 5th Edition of CII Big Picture Summit at New Delhi today. The theme of this year's Summit is 'Embracing Disruption to Stay Competitive'.

Regarding opportunities in the skill sector for the M&E industry, Shri Naidu said that the Government is fully aware of the acute shortage of professionals across different segments. He mentioned that he would like the industry to give its recommendations on the steps to be taken to match demand and supply as well as the recommendations emerging from the discussions at the summit for the different sessions focusing on skill assessment and needs.

On the issue of growth prospects for the industry, Shri Naidu said that as part of the national policy, the Government would work with the industry to develop infrastructure to get the right talent at the appropriate sectors. The M&E sector in India had always been a very liberal media market and a number of initiatives had been taken including opening up and liberalizing FDI in the broadcast

sector.

For the initiatives in the film sector, Shri Naidu said there is a huge opportunity to make India lead in the world as film shooting location and digital media hub for the world. Our films, actors, content, technology were expanding footprint to new and emerging global markets, and the aim of the Government was to make this transition smooth by creating an enabling regulatory environment. The Co-production agreements with other countries has ensured the projection and branding of India's soft power.

On the issue of the theme of the Conference "Embracing Disruption to Stay Competitive", the Minister said that this process had substantially altered the business models across the world. The Indian M&E industry needed to outline a firm roadmap to ensure the convergence of networks, devices and content, the core elements of the digital entertainment process. Shri Naidu referred to the Government's Digital India and Smart City initiative that were going to have a major impact on increasing the penetration of Internet to Tier-II and Tier-III cities. He also referred to the potential of smartphones in facilitating a critical role for consumers' professional and personal lives. The Government's initiatives and private sector participation was necessary to ensure the optimal use of the potential of the digital ecosystem.

DIPP notifies 100 per cent FDI in more financial services

IBEF: October 26, 2016

New Delhi: The Government of India has liberalised its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), by allowing 100 per cent FDI in other financial services carried out by NBFCs, which is expected to attract more foreign capital into the country. Other financial services include activities regulated by financial sector regulator like the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities And Exchange Board Of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), National Housing Bank (NHB), or any other financial sector regulator as may be notified by the government in this regard, as stated by the Department Of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP). The investment would, however, be subject to sector conditions such as minimum

capitalisation norms specified by the regulator or government agency concerned. Under the current rules, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through automatic route for 18 specified NBFC activities, including merchant banking, stock broking, credit rating, housing finance and rural credit.

Govt pitches for tie-ups among energy players

Livemint: October 19, 2016

New Delhi: Determined to make a success of the auction of 67 small oil and gas blocks on offer, the oil ministry is set to organise a match-making meeting on Wednesday, bringing together private equity investors, financial institutions, oil field service providers and bidders who have shown an interest in the assets. The government is going the extra mile to facilitate tie-ups among the major players to ensure that investments flow into these blocks at a time global energy firms are cutting on capital spending because of sustained bearishness in oil and gas prices.

The offer, which was to be originally concluded on 31 October, has been extended to 21 November to make sure those who have shown interest in the road shows in September and October get enough time to study geological data and finalise their bids, said an official, requesting anonymity. The blocks are estimated to hold over 625 million barrels of 'in-place' oil and oil equivalent gas, spread over 1,500 sq. km. The blocks with many hydrocarbon discoveries are offered under liberal contractual terms.

The fields were earlier returned to the government by state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp. for unviable administered price of gas that prevailed. To sweeten the offer, the government has permitted free pricing of gas as well as freedom to sell the fuel to any customer without government intervention.

This is a departure from the practice of the authorities setting a list of priority industries such as fertilizers, liquified petroleum gas, power and condensed natural gas for allocation of gas from fields auctioned under the previous licensing policy.

The present auction of hydrocarbon resources, the first since 2010, is a litmus test for the government, keen to increase fuel production and reduce India's import dependence from 77% to 67% by 2022.

"Many potential investors who attended road

shows have expressed interest in larger blocks as those on offer are small and marginal ones. We will be offering larger ones once the current exercise is concluded," said the official quoted above. Upstream oil and gas regulator, the Director General of Hydrocarbons Atanu Chakraborty told Mint in an interview on 30 September that rules are being framed for offering India's entire unexplored sedimentary basins in one go to investors, who could choose the assets they want under the new open acreage policy approved by the cabinet in March.

"The basis of that is the national data repository (NDR), which is in a very advanced stage of completion. Now we are entirely focused on making the auction of discovered small fields a success. It will yield a lot of learning too. This campaign has all the components of the new hydrocarbon exploration licensing policy (HELP)--it offers a unified licence for all forms of hydrocarbons, free pricing, market access and revenue sharing terms. The Indian market is a fast growing one and any investor with a long-term view should come to India now," said Chakraborty. HELP, also approved by the union cabinet in March, forms the basis for all future auctions of large hydrocarbon blocks.

Growing up: Rule changes help India's oil market act its size

Reuters

Freed from a layer of fusty bureaucracy, India's state refiners are helping the country evolve an oil market that reflects its status as both the world's fastest growing major economy and oil consumer. Changes to import rules mean officials from India's state-owned oil refiners no longer have to stand in the corridors of the Oil Ministry waiting for government bureaucrats to approve their spot imports. They can now strike deals in as little as two hours, resulting in savings for consumers and lower costs for the companies.

This freedom allows state refiners, which control two-thirds of India's 4.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of processing capacity, to compete on a more level playing field with less-regulated private refiners like Reliance Industries Ltd, and is encouraging investment in infrastructure. "Earlier, I was required to reconcile my crude requirements with the availability of government officials. Now, I can float a tender whenever I want," said A. K. Sahoo, head of finance at Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd.

"There is definitely a saving in crude cost and needs to borrow for working capital requirements."

B.K. Namdeo, head of refineries at state-run Hindustan Petroleum Corp, said the new system that was introduced in April has improved pricing efficiency by allowing him to react faster to changes in market conditions.

"State refiners will definitely be getting some monetary gains because of short duration tenders," said Tushar Tarun Bansal, a director at Singapore-based consultancy Ivy Global Energy.

The state refiners hope that the improved flexibility will boost refining profit margins toward the levels of private firms. State-run refiners have historically reported margins of \$6 to \$10 per barrel versus almost \$15 for firms like Reliance.

In a sign of that growing confidence, Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) plans to spend \$6.75 billion through 2022 to boost refining capacity by 62 percent to meet rising fuel demand.

FOREIGN INTEREST

Helped by the loosened rules and surging fuel demand, foreign investors are seeking opportunities in an economy growing at 8 percent annually and where the population is set to overtake China's within a decade.

A group led by Russian oil major Rosneft and European commodity trading giant Trafigura are buying a stake in private refiner Essar Oil in a \$13 billion deal.

Other foreign firms are keen to get in on the action. British oil major BP plans to open fuel stations in India, joining European rival Royal Dutch Shell in the fight to supply a fuel market that needs to feed the demand of some 20 million new motor bikes that hit the road every month.

Allowing state refiners the freedom to make oil import decisions supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's drive to improve India's ease of doing business. The state refiners are still pushing ahead with plans to open offices in Singapore, Asia's main oil trading centre, with Indian Oil Corp, BPCL and Hindustan set to expand in the city-state as a way to keep closer tabs on the market and react quickly to changes.

Centre approves 4 FDI proposals

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/centre-approves-4-fdi-proposals/article9252303.ece>

The Centre has approved four foreign direct in-

vestment proposals worth ₹2,060 crore which includes ones from Sharekhan Ltd, IBM India, IFC FIG and Diavikas Capital.

The decisions are based on the recommendations of Foreign Investment Promotion Board September 26, according to a Finance Ministry release.

Of the four proposals, only the one made by Sharekhan Ltd involves infusion of funds into India. The government has approved Sharekhan's proposal to acquire up to 100 per cent of the share capital in the company other than the shares held by Human Value Developers Private Ltd, BNP Paribas SA France and/or one or more of BNP's French subsidiaries.

Approval was also given to IBM India's proposal to merge its wholly owned subsidiaries — Telelogic India Private Ltd, Unica Sofittech Systems India Private Ltd and Bigfix Software (India) Private Ltd (all dormant companies) — into its another wholly-owned subsidiary, Sterling Commerce Solutions Private Ltd, which is an investing company.

Post-facto approval was given by the Centre for Telelogic India Private Ltd, a subsidiary of IBM India, to act as an investee company holding investments in IBM Business Consulting Services Private Ltd till its merger into Sterling India.

IFC FIG Investment Company I's proposal to purchase 3,646,937 equity shares of Bandhan Financial Services Ltd from International Finance Corporation, constituting 2.85 per cent of the paid up equity share capital of Bandhan Financial Services Ltd was also approved. DiaVikas Capital Private Ltd's proposal for buy-back of all the shares from the resident shareholders thereby increasing the foreign shareholding in the company to 100 per cent also received the government's approval.



BANKING/FINANCE

RBI spells out rules for start-ups to raise ECBs

Business Standard: October 28, 2016

Mumbai: To support financing for start-ups, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday issued rules permitting these to raise external commercial borrowings (ECBs). In a statement, RBI said the borrowing per start-up was capped at \$3 million per financial year. It could be either in rupees or a convertible foreign currency or a combination of both.

The money could be used for any expenditure of the borrower's business.

The statement also said the funds so raised would have a three-year maturity and could be raised through loans as well as convertible and non-convertible debentures.

RBI said, "Startups can tap lenders and investors only from countries that are members of the Financial Action Task Force."

If the funds were in rupees, the non-resident lender would provide it through swaps or outright sale through domestic banks.

RBI also advised start-ups raising money through ECB to have a risk-management policy as these would be exposed to currency risks because of exchange-rate movements.



Brazil embraces "Make in India": Perto/Digicon opens its first ATM machine plant in India

Economic Times: October 20, 2016

New Delhi: Just as the the VIII BRICS Summit came to a closure, Brazil inaugurated its first "Make in India" initiative. The Brazilian Perto S. A., a Digicon Group company, a high technology and IT company and the world's leading manufacturer of Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) and Cash Dispenser Machines (CDMs), inaugurated its first plant in India, in the Mahindra World City in Jaipur on Wednesday.

"As we launch the Perto factory in Jaipur, we undoubtedly take another significant step towards a solid commercial and investment relationship, based on high technological content and added value, setting a model to be followed", said Brazilian Ambassador Tovar da Silva Nunes at the inauguration. Rajasthan Minister of Industries Gajendra Singh Khimsar, founder of Group Perto/Digicon, Joseph Elbling; the CEO of the group, Thomas J. Elbling and the CEO of Perto India, Roberto Baur were also present on the occasion.

The factory in Rajasthan, which has international regional export potential, was entirely built with green field direct investments, on a 100,000 square metre plot. According to Perto's research, the potential for the Indian Market is estimated at over 500,000 ATMs. India today has only 195,000 ATMs, only 40 per cent of its potential.

The manufacturing facility in Rajasthan required an initial investment worth \$3.1 crore, that may exceed \$6.5 crore. The investment is expected to generate direct employment for highly skilled and skilled labour, and generate demand for local quality services and suppliers.

"The VIII BRICS Summit and its related events in the economic area set the tone for the new trade and investment relations between Brazil and India. Without neglecting traditional sectors of Indian economy, the investment represents a new look ahead, with diversification of actions. The mutually beneficial partnership is getting out of the treaties, agreements and projects and landing on the factory floor," according to Ambassador Nunes.

Volvo's India R&D centre develops trucks for world

Business Standard: October 20, 2016

New Delhi: Bengaluru is gaining a distinct identity on the global map of Swedish bus and truck maker Volvo. About 800 engineers, mostly Indians, are busy developing a truck the company's Bengaluru research & development (R&D) centre that will be sold only outside India. India is the third biggest R&D centre for Volvo after Sweden and France in headcount. "We design global trucks in India. A lot of R&D work on truck technology is done here. We are very proud that India is involved in a big way there. Volvo also has an IT wing that has 1,500 people doing global IT work for the Volvo group. There is also an accounting team of 300-400 people," said Kamal Bali, managing director, Volvo India. The R&D centre, started with 100 engineers seven years ago, can add 200 more. Volvo India forms only four or five per cent of the group's global revenue of \$42 billion, but Bali said India is much more important than this turnover. The Indian R&D team has a global responsibility to develop value segment trucks. For any value truck that is to be designed or improved, the responsibility lies with the Indian team and the product will be owned by the Indian side. "Concept to design to execution is done by the Indian team. Of course, they may take some help when it comes to engines. But, they are leading the show. Some of the products this team will do will never be sold in India," said Bali. The Indian centre has successfully developed the Pro 8000 heavy-duty truck platform that was also launched in India (with Volvo's JV partner Eicher) and in Indonesia and Thailand

a couple of years ago. The next mandate is medium duty truck (10-15 tonnes) exclusively for the overseas market. "It will go into production next year," said Bali.

Italy-based Bonfiglioli to expand manufacturing capacity in India

Business Standard: October 19, 2016

Chennai: Italy-based Bonfiglioli, which makes gearboxes, gear motors and inverters for the industrial automation and renewable energy sectors, is planning to expand capacity in India with an investment of about Rs 85 crore, by February 2018.

Bonfiglioli Transmissions Pvt Ltd, the India-based subsidiary of the company, is targeting to reach Rs 1,000 crore turnover by 2020, from a revenue of around Rs 650 crore, posted last fiscal. "India is the second largest base for our company, after Italy and over years, its importance has been increasing," said Sonia Bonfiglioli, chairman of the Bonfiglioli Group.

At present, the company has manufacturing facilities near Chennai -- one in Thirumudivakkam and another one in Mannur, near Sriperumbudur. The Thirumudivakkam facility produces gearboxes and gear motors for mobile machinery and wind turbines, while the Mannur facility manufactures products for industrial solutions across several segments. The Thirumudivakkam facility has a capacity to produce 75,000 units and the Mannur unit has a capacity to produce 400,000 units. Plans are to take this up to 100,000 units and 550,000 units respectively, with the expansion. The Thirumudivakkam factory will be expanded with a new facility of 1,40,000 sq ft with an investment of around Rs 75 crore to house assembly lines, R&D and test labs, by February, 2018. With the wind energy, infrastructure sectors poised to see better growth, the company expects to increase its market presence in the country, while it will also export to Middle East and other regions, said Kennady V Kaippally, country manager, Mobile and Wind solutions business unit, in India. For the industrial solutions business, a new facility will be set up at Chakan, at Pune, with 45,000 sq ft, to serve customers from a wide range of sectors, including food, packaging, cement, steel, pharmaceutical, textile and others. This facility, with an investment of around Rs 10 crore, will be completed by March, 2017.

Gamma Group to invest Rs 3000 crore in Kerala in five years

Economic Times: October 19, 2016

Kochi: In a significant initiative, the UAE-based Gamma Group of Companies would invest Rs 3000 crore in the infrastructure, health and education sectors of Kerala.

The slew of projects that the Group has identified in and around Kochi include townships, malls, schools, hotels, residential apartments and villas. The investment, to be made through the Indian arm of the company called Kool Home Builders (KHB), will be pumped in to the state over a period of 5 years. The largest project of the company would be a 30-acre township with a million square feet of built up area. Affordable housing units, shopping mall, a health mall and a hotel are the main components of the project. "The entire project would cost Rs 1000 crore", said Abdul Lahir Hassan, Founder Chairman of the Gamma Group. Hassan, a Non Resident Keralite based at Dubai, has interests in real estate, IT, infrastructure and education. His company has a turnover of Rs 1000 crore at present and his business is spread across UAE. He has been in UAE for three decades and specialises in Government contracts. "Ours is a zero-debt Group as per policy and principle", he said. KHB's ongoing project in Kerala is the Platynum Mall and Luxury Hotel project in Kochi. The project will be managed by the New Delhi based Starlit Suites and Luxury Resorts. KHB has also entered into a JV with Identity for a luxury apartment project. "The project will have 28 units and would require a total investment of Rs 55 crore", said K M Vincent, president, Kool Home Builders. Gamma Group, which runs a series of global schools across UAE plans to set up a similar institution in Kerala. The company has not finalised the name of the institution. Two villa projects in the suburbs of Kochi and a IT SEZ near the international airport in the city are also in the pipeline. The promoters said that the projects that they plan would provide jobs to at least 2000 people, directly and indirectly.

Temasek-owned Fullerton India raises Rs 500 crore in masala bonds

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/temasek-owned-fullerton-india-raises-rs-500-crore-masala-bonds-700111>

Fullerton India Credit Company Limited, the wholly-owned subsidiary of Fullerton Financial

Holdings Pte. Ltd., Singapore, raised Rs 500 crore in masala bonds, becoming the first non-banking finance company (NBFC) to do so. Fullerton Financial Holdings is owned by Singapore government's investment company, Temasek Holdings Pte. Ltd.

The masala bonds carry a fixed annual coupon rate of 8.12 percent and have a 37-month tenure. The bonds will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Fullerton India joins Indian public sector company NTPC and mortgage lender HDFC in issuing masala bonds in the recent past. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated debt instruments issued outside India.

"This is a landmark transaction and enables Fullerton India to tap and develop a new source of funding. The issue matches our asset profile and finances our future growth plans," Shantanu Mitra, managing director, Fullerton India, said in a statement.

Fullerton India has 527 branches and is engaged in providing loans to small and medium enterprises, vehicle loans, home loans, personal loans and lending to the rural self-employed.

ST Telemedia acquires majority stake in Indian data centres

<https://thestack.com/data-centre/2016/10/26/st-telemedia-acquires-majority-stake-in-indian-data-centres/>

Singapore Technologies Telemedia has completed a joint venture with Indian communications conglomerate Tata, giving ST Telemedia 74% of Tata's India and Singapore data centre business. ST Telemedia has acquired Tata Communications' 14 colocation data centres in India and three in Singapore, with Tata remaining as a significant shareholder, retaining 26% of the business.

The deal is valued at \$170 million USD.

When the deal was announced, Tata said in a statement that it would retain a stake in the data centre business, but that the deal with ST Telemedia would allow Tata to focus on the development of IP, cloud and unified communications services, which it intends to offer as a part of its advanced managed services portfolio.

Managing Director and CEO of Tata Communications, Vinod Kumar said, "This new joint venture partnership will now allow us to hone our strategic focus on advanced services within the data centre that enable digital transformation for our customers, in addition

to infrastructure services. Our new partnership also gives us the opportunity to redeploy capital behind other areas of our business, to further broaden the portfolio of services we can offer to meet our customers' current and future requirements."

Prior to this sale, Tata owned and managed approximately one million square feet of data centre space worldwide. ST Telemedia's acquisition of the India and Singapore data centre business will help the company expand its footprint in the growing data centre markets in India and China.

Tata is not exiting the data centre business entirely, maintaining a significant share of the ST Telemedia business as part of the joint venture, and with no announcement of plans to sell the other 27 data centres that it currently owns worldwide.

India to become 3rd largest aviation market by 2026: IATA

Economic Times: October 19, 2016

New Delhi: India will become the third largest aviation market in the world by displacing the UK in 2026, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said in a passenger forecast issued today.

The 20-year forecast also says that China will displace the US as the world's largest aviation market (defined by traffic to, from and within the country) around 2029.

"... the biggest driver of demand will be the Asia-Pacific region, which is expected to be the source of more than half the new passengers over the next 20 years. China will displace the US as the world's largest aviation market (defined by traffic to, from and within the country) around 2029. India will displace the UK for third place in 2026, while Indonesia enters the top ten at the expense of Italy," said the IATA forecast.

India is currently the ninth largest aviation market in the world in terms of passengers.

Growth will also increasingly be driven within developing markets. Over the past decade the developing world's share of total passenger traffic has risen from 24% to nearly 40%, and this trend is set to continue, it further said.

The aviation body also expects air passengers to double in 2035 to 7.2 billion from 3.8 billion air travelers in 2016.

The prediction is based on a 3.7% annual Compound Average Growth Rate (CAGR) noted in

Cont on P. 10



Andhra Pradesh, Singapore's MAS pact for financial services

Press Trust of India | Amaravati October 22, 2016

Andhra Pradesh government today signed an agreement with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to promote innovation in financial services in their respective markets. Under the FinTech Cooperation Agreement, MAS and the state government will explore joint innovation projects on technologies such as digital payments and block-chain, collaborate on development of education programmes and curricula on fintech (financial technologies), an official release said.

The Singapore's central bank (MAS) and the Andhra Pradesh government have also agreed to discuss emerging FinTech trends and exchange views on regulatory issues related to innovations in financial services.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu at his residence in Undavalli.

MAS Chief FinTech Officer, Sopnendu Mohanty and Information Technology Adviser to Chief Minister J A Chowdary were also present on the occasion. "This agreement will pave way for greater FinTech collaboration between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh. We are looking to create a market place in India for FinTech solutions developed in Singapore," Mohanty said.

Chowdary said, the agreement would enable creation of a niche, first-of-its-kind ecosystem in Visakhapatnam that was emerging as the 'FinTech Valley of India'. "The knowledge exchange between the startups in Singapore and Visakhapatnam will not only create high-quality job opportunities in FinTech but also help provide market access for implementation in both countries," he added.

Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines visited Singapore

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Mr. Piyush Goyal was in Singapore on 22 October 2016. He interacted with CEOs over a lunch



meeting and with entrepreneurs, fund managers, venture companies and startups at the High Commission later in the afternoon.

Cont from P. 8..

the release of the latest update to the association's 20-Year Air Passenger Forecast, IATA said.

"People want to fly. Demand for air travel over the next two decades is set to double. Enabling people and nations to trade, explore, and share the benefits of innovation and economic prosperity makes our world a better place," Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO was quoted in the release.

and its continued relevance as a community node," she said.

"It is thus apt that the IHC, an icon of the Indian community in Singapore, is working with residents, partners and stakeholders to present this exhibition," Loh added.

Singapore celebrates Diwali with this beautiful themed train .. Cont from P. 1



Exhibition showcasing history of Indians launched in Singapore

PTI | Singapore October 22, 2016

An exhibition on 200-year-old history of Indians showcasing early days of cattle traders, laundry men and brick-makers has been launched here.

Trade and industry minister S Iswaran yesterday launched the exhibition at the Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) in the "Little India" precinct.

The exhibition, "Once Upon a Time in Little India", details the lives of early South Asian migrants, who came to call precinct their home.

The exhibition has over 100 new artefacts including items belonging to the Hindu temples and mosques in Little India as well as old photographs dating back as far as the 1890s.

This juxtaposition of historic artefacts and contemporary works portrays Little India as a precinct not only steeped in history, but also as a culturally rich district maintaining its relevance into the future, said IHC.

Trudy Loh, Director of Heritage Institutions at the National Heritage Board said, "Little India is a precinct so steeped in history, but despite its transformation across the years, it has firmly remained as a focal point for Singapore's Indian community."

"This demonstrates how a precinct is but a space like any other without its inhabitants. In the case of Little India, its lasting legacy through the years speaks of the strong bonds and spirit of its people,





Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India



प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस
PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS
7-9 जनवरी 2017 - बंगलुरु, कर्नाटक
7-9 January 2017- Bengaluru, Karnataka
प्रवासी भारतीय - संबंधों के नए आयाम
Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora



युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention **7 to 9 January 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka**

Ministry of External Affairs and Government of Karnataka invite Non-Resident Indians and Persons of Indian Origin to the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD) 7 to 9 January 2017, Bengaluru.

Theme: "Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora"

Highlights of the PBD Convention

Youth PBD - 7 January

- Connecting with Young Overseas Indians.
- Inauguration by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Interact with Young PIOs and NRIs from all across the world.
- Interact with Young Resident Indians.
- Sessions on Start-ups Innovations which have social impact; and Start-up Ecosystem in Karnataka.

PBD Convention - 8-9 January

- Sessions on issues of significance to Indian Diaspora.
- Key note Address by Prime Minister.
- Chief Ministers will address delegates.
- President will confer Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards.
- Interactive Sessions with Overseas Indians.

Key Features of Convention

- Exhibition Showcasing Flagship Programmes, policies; corporate sectors.
- Special Sessions 7 & 10 January: Karnataka's investment potential & Start-up Ecosystem.
- Lunch and Dinner arranged for delegates.
- Indian Handicrafts and Cultural Bazaar.
- Optional: Industrial Visits on 7 & 10 January organized by Karnataka Govt.
- Optional: Local Sight Seeing tours organized by Karnataka Tourism on payment.
- Cultural programmes on 7 & 8 January evening.

For Programme and Registration visit: pbdindia.gov.in
Last Date for Registration : 7 December 2016
Special Rates for Young PIOs and NRIs and Group Registrations

In India's Growth Story, You Write the Next Chapter

The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit Trust established by Government of India which enables Overseas Indians to contribute to social and development projects in India. The Trust is exempt from the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010. The Trust is chaired by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs. Other Board members are prominent Overseas Indians, Eminent Resident Indians and Senior Government of India officials.

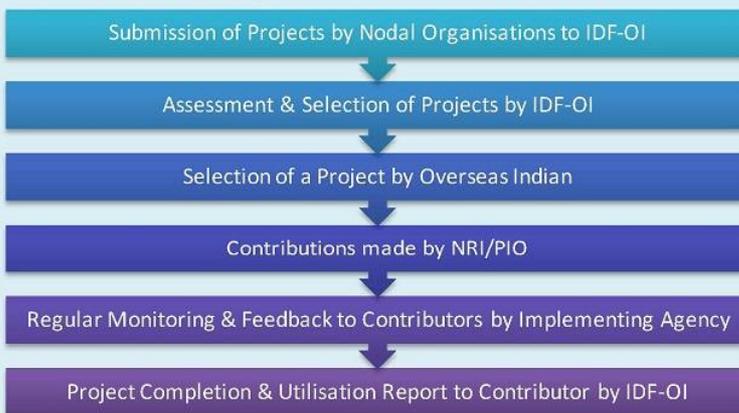


India Development Foundation
of Overseas Indians

Inviting Overseas Indians to Contribute to:

- Swachh Bharat Mission
- Clean Ganga Mission
- State Govt Projects

How We Work



Contribute to Projects in

Education, Sanitation, Women's Empowerment, Healthcare, and Sustainable Livelihood

Projects available in

Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Sikkim, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, and Odisha

Engage With Us

- You can Fund One Unit or Several Units of any Project as an individual or as an association.
- IDF-OI does not charge any Administrative Cost from Contributions Received.
- Detailed Project Information: www.idfoi.org



"Although, the Indian Diaspora is a very heterogeneous group, there is a common factor which binds them - their desire to maintain their connection with their homeland and to contribute to the social and development efforts in India. We are seeking to strengthen and deepen our relationship through IDF-OI."

Smt. Sushma Swaraj
Hon'ble Minister of External
Affairs &
Chairperson, IDF-OI

Send your Contribution to
'India Development Foundation of
Overseas Indians'
State Bank of India,
Central Secretariat Branch,
North Block, New Delhi 110001
A/C no. 33819721882;
IFSC code SBIN0000625;
MICR 110002014

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

927, Ministry of External Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chanakypuri, New Delhi- 110021

Website: www.idfoi.org Contact: +91 11 26881052/24676210; Email: ceo.idf@mea.gov.in

FORTHCOMING EVENTS >>>> INDIA

I. Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2016

Date: 8-11 November, 2016

Venue: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Organizer: The Institute of Urban Transport (India) under the aegis of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India

Contact : Ms Reena Arora Srivastava, tel 91-11-66578700 ; email umi@iutindia.org

Details: The Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference and Expo is an annual event with the overarching theme which runs across all the aspects of urban mobility. UMI is mandated by the National Urban Transport Policy of the Government of India, 2006 (NUTP). The objective of UMI is to bring together urban transport professionals and officials in the country as well as international experts to enable them to share views and to share their experiences.

II. Bio Asia

Date: 6-8 February, 2017

Venue: Hyderabad International Convention Center (HICC) , Hyderabad

Organizer: The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations [FABA] & Government of Telangana

Contact : www.2017.bioasia.in

Details: BioAsia, over the years, has built a formidable reputation with the key stakeholders and is now considered one of the pre-eminent meetings in Asia witnessing participation of about 1800 delegates and 2000 visitors from over 50 Countries every year.

III. Make in Odisha Conclave

Date: 30 November - 02 December, 2016

Venue: Bhubaneswar

Organizer: Gov of Odisha, Dept of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Gov of India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Contact : www.2017.bioasia.in

Details: The key objective of the Conclave is to showcase the manufacturing prowess of the state and the investment opportunities across the focus sectors. The Conclave will have focused sectoral seminars on Agro & Food Processing, Electronics Manufacturing & IT, Chemicals, Petrochemicals & Plastics, Defence Manufacturing, skill Development, Smart City, Tourism and Textiles & Apparel

Notifications

Securities and Exchange Board of India

Investments by FPIs in REITs, Invlts, AIFs and corporate bonds under default

http://www.sebi.gov.in/cms/sebi_data/attachdocs/1458041859179.pdf

Investments by FPIs in Government securities

http://www.sebi.gov.in/cms/sebi_data/attachdocs/1459256641568.pdf

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Companies (Incorporation) Third Amendment Rules, 2016

http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/CompaniesThridAmendmentRules_28072016.pdf

Reserve Bank of India

Establishment of Branch Office (BO)/ Liaison Office (LO)/ Project Office (PO) in India by foreign entities - procedural guidelines

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10398&Mode=0>

Foreign Exchange Management (Manner of Receipt and Payment) Regulations, 2016

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10392&Mode=0>

Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) Regulations, 2016

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10371&Mode=0>

Investment by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) in Government Securities

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10313&Mode=0>

Ministry of Finance

Clarification regarding Acquisition & Transfer of Immovable Property in India by Foreign Nationals

http://finmin.nic.in/press_room/2014/clarification_Acquist_Transfer_Property_foreignnationals.pdf

ISRO aiming for world record, planning to put 83 satellites on single rocket

The India Express



Indian space agency ISRO is aiming for a world record by putting into orbit 83 satellites — two Indian and 81 foreign — on a single rocket in early 2017, a top official of Antrix Corporation said. He said the company's order book stands at Rs 500 crore while negotiations are on for launch order for another Rs 500 crore.

"During the first quarter of 2017 we plan to launch a single rocket carrying 83 satellites. Most foreign satellites are nano satellites," Rakesh Sasibhushan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Antrix Corporation told IANS.

Antrix Corporation is the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

He said all the 83 satellites will be put in a single orbit and hence there will not be any switching off and on of the rocket.

The major challenge for the proposed mission is to hold the rocket in the same orbit till all the satellites are ejected.

He said ISRO will use its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle XL (PSLV-XL) rocket variant for the record launch. For ISRO, launch of multiple satellites at one go is not a new thing as it has done it several times in the past.

Issue No 201, 31 October 2016

FAQs on Foreign Investments In India

The fortnightly FAQs will broadly cover the following areas

- I. Foreign Direct Investment
- II. Foreign Technology Collaboration Agreement
- III. Foreign Portfolio Investment
- IV. Investment in Government Securities and Corporate debt
- V. Foreign Venture Capital Investment
- VI. Investment by QFIs

I. Foreign Direct Investment

Q. What are the guidelines for transfer of existing shares from non-residents to residents or residents to non-residents?

Ans. The term 'transfer' is defined under FEMA as including "sale, purchase, acquisition, mortgage, pledge, gift, loan or any other form of transfer of right, possession or lien" {Section 2 (ze) of FEMA, 1999}.

The following share transfers are allowed without the prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India

A. Transfer of shares from a Non Resident to Resident under the FDI scheme where the pricing guidelines under FEMA, 1999 are not met provided that :-

i. The original and resultant investment are in line with the extant FDI policy and FEMA regulations in terms of sectoral caps, conditionalities (such as minimum capitalization, etc.), reporting requirements, documentation, etc.;

ii. The pricing for the transaction is compliant with the specific/explicit, extant and relevant SEBI regulations / guidelines (such as IPO, Book building, block deals, delisting, exit, open offer/ substantial acquisition / SEBI SAST, buy back); and

iii. Chartered Accountants Certificate to the effect that compliance with the relevant SEBI regulations / guidelines as indicated above is attached to the form FC-TRS to be filed with the AD bank. **To be continued...**

Source: RBI

For Feedback & Comments, please contact:

**Mr. Pradyumn Tripathi, First Secretary (Commerce),
High Commission of India,
31 Grange Road, Singapore- 239702.**

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URL : www.hcisingapore.gov.in