



INDIA NEWSLETTER

December 2018



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India's GDP grows at 8.2 per cent in 2018-19 Q1

India's economy grew at an impressive 8.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2018-19 financial year ending June 30 on the back of a strong core performance and a healthy base. This jump ahead of national elections next year would help bolster the government amid a debate over its economic record versus that of its predecessor following the release of back-series data recently. This will also be factored in by the monetary policy committee at its next review scheduled for October 3-5. Key Highlights: This is the highest growth in two years and strongest since the first quarter of 2016. Sectors which registered growth of over 7 per cent include manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services construction and public administration, defence and other services. The growth in the agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, Trade, hotels, transport, ..

India will be our largest R&D base in next 3 years.

Premium smartphone maker OnePlus is betting on the engineering talent pool in the country to drive innovation and expects India to become its largest research and development (R&D) base in the next three years. The company, which has recently set up its R&D centre in Hyderabad, has similar facilities in Shenzhen, Taiwan and the US. It has about 700 people globally working in its R&D teams. The idea is to have a long-term approach, bringing the best of talent and training them and have them work with us over the long term.... We anticipate that India will be our largest R&D base in three or more years, OnePlus co-founder and CEO Pete Lau told PTI.

He added that the company is engaging with the top engineering colleges like IITs to scout for talent. The India R&D team has under 100 people currently. The focus, Lau said, is on using software and technologies like artificial intelligence to make a global impact. Lau highlighted that there is "significant untapped potential" in the Indian market as the premium segment accounts for about 4-5 per cent of the overall smartphone shipment. According to

research firm IDC, smartphone shipments in India touched an all-time high of 42.6 million units in July-September 2018 quarter, registering a year-on-year growth of 9.1 per cent.

IndiGrid launches roadshows to raise fresh capital up to ₹3,000 crore

IndiGrid currently owns 10 independent revenue-generating elements. India Grid Trust (IndiGrid), an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) sponsored by Sterlite Power Grid Ventures Ltd, has started roadshows to raise ₹2,500-3,000 crore in fresh capital, said three people aware of the development. IndiGrid currently owns 10 independent revenue-generating assets, including eight transmission lines of 1,936 circuit km and two substations of 6,000 MVA capacity. InvITs are trusts that manage income-generating infrastructure assets, offering investors regular yields and a liquid way to invest in infrastructure projects. In September, IndiGrid had bought Patran Transmission Co. Ltd, its first third-party acquisition, for ₹232 crore. The acquisition was done through internal accruals and a debt issuance of ₹250 crore. In 2017, it had acquired three power transmission assets from Sterlite Power for ₹1,490 crore.

The Government of India and ADB sign a \$31 Million Loan Agreement to develop Tourism and boost Jobs in Tamil Nadu

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed in New Delhi a Loan Agreement for \$31 million to build-up the State Tourism Industry and boost visitor arrivals. The signatories to the tranche 4 loan for Infrastructure Development Investment Program for Tourism (IDIPT) were Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary (Fund Bank and ADB), Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, who signed for the Government of India, and Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama, Country Director for ADB in India, who signed for ADB. After signing the agreement, Mr Khare said that the Project is expected to improve the tourism infrastructure in Tamil Nadu and also help the State in preserving the natural and cultural heritage. The activities under the project would also boost economic opportunities for the local people, he added. This will be achieved through

developing and preserving sites of natural and cultural heritage, and building connectivity, capacity, and infrastructure around State tourist sites.

India's exports on the rise

India's exports clocked highest growth in last 6 years. Sector specific interventions, focused export promotion initiatives, greater transparency and quick resolution of issues have led to an impressive export growth of 14.76% in 2017-18 (Oct-Sept) over previous year. The Department of Commerce is making all efforts to diversify India's export basket region wise and commodity wise. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) are a means of correcting India's balance of trade. With the USA bilateral negotiations are on and with China, India has held three inter-ministerial delegations in June, August and November 2018 led by the Department of Commerce to pursue market access issues with Ministry of Commerce China (MOFCOM). General Administration of Custom China (GACC) has approved total 24 Indian rice mills for exporting non-basmati rice to China and the first consignment of 100 tonnes of white rice (5% broken) was shipped on 28.09.2018 and 30.09.2018. In October 2018 another 23 tonnes of rice was exported to China followed by 260 tonnes in November 2018.

Several steps have been taken to promote quality education in the country - Shri Prakash Javadekar

Union Minister for HRD Shri Prakash Javadekar has said that the government is committed to increase quality education in the country right from primary education to higher education. Mr Javadekar was speaking at the national Conference on 'Positioning India on the Global Education Map' in New Delhi today. In higher education, we have taken tremendous steps to improve college education, for this we are making accreditation process more scientific and tough. Government wants to increase the strength of NBA and NAAC so that more number of institutions can be accredited, the Minister added. The Union Minister said that teacher is the most important component to increase quality education in the colleges and universities. He said that attendance should increase in the

classroom because of teacher's skills not because of the infrastructure of the college. He further said that we are lacking good teachers in the institutions because good people are not becoming teachers. Graded autonomy is another major step of the government to boost quality education in the country, the Minister said. Shri Javadekar explained that the universities will remain within the ambit of UGC but will have the freedom to start new courses, off campus centers, skill development courses, research parks and any other new academic programs. They will also have the freedom to hire foreign faculty, enroll foreign students, give incentive based emoluments to the faculty, enter into academic collaborations and run open distance learning programmes.

Gujarat is the best place for startups

Gujarat topped the first ever startup ranking of states by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, ahead of states such as Karnataka, known for their startup culture. A total of 27 states and three union territories participated in the exercise. The DIPPI consulted stakeholders of the startup ecosystem and came up with seven key reform areas as the basis of the ranking. An online portal was launched to help states submit their initiatives across the reform areas. The "top performers" include Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha and Rajasthan, while states such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana were put in the "leaders" category.

Manufacturing sector posts strong sales growth in Q2

Manufacturing sector, particularly textile and iron and steel segments, maintained its pace of sales growth in the second quarter of 2018-19 as compared to the year-ago period, the RBI stated. Demand condition in the manufacturing sector "maintained its pace in the September quarter 2018-19 as reflected in strong sales growth (year-on-year)", as per the RBI analysis of 2,700 listed private sector non-financial companies. "The manufacturing sector sales growth was mainly supported by robust demand conditions in chemical and chemical products, iron and steel, and petroleum products industries coupled with significant improvement recorded by textile industry," the RBI said. The central bank said

heavy moderation was seen in the sales growth of motor vehicles and other transport equipment, driven in part by a large adverse base effect, and pharmaceutical and medicine industries. The RBI said companies in manufacturing sector posted a net profit of Rs 47,100 crore in the reported quarter, up 29.4 per cent from the same period last year. The data is based on abridged financial results of 1,734 companies in the manufacturing sector.

Khelo India Scheme to achieve mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports

The revamped Khelo India Scheme was launched during the financial year 2017-18 with a view to achieving the twin objectives of mass participation and promotion of excellence in sports. The vision of the revamped Khelo India is to infuse sports culture and achieve sporting excellence in the country. The mission as stated in the revamped scheme is to encourage sports for all thus allowing the population across gender and all age groups to harness the power of sports through its cross-cutting influence, namely, holistic development of children & youth, community development, social integration, gender equality, healthy lifestyle, national pride and economic opportunities related to sports development. Under the Khelo India the identified sports talents will be given the option to join SAI National Sports Academies, State Sports Academies or Sports Academies established by private sector. Grants-in-aid will be provided for establishment, operation and maintenance of sports academies in respect of identified disciplines to Sports Authority of India, State Governments or to private sector or sports person under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode for facilitating and supplementing Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) programme (for 8 years).

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TENDERS

Central Public Procurement Portal
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>,
<http://www.worldoffooindia.com>

The Government of India Tender information System <http://tenders.gov.in/>

More details on Tenders in India are available at the following Embassy link:
http://www.eoiprague.gov.in/tenders_detail.php?year=2018

BILATERAL RELATIONS

H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Czech Republic called on H.E. Mr. Jaroslav Kubera, President of the Senate of the Czech Republic on 11 December, 2018. Both sides reviewed progress in the bilateral relations and agreed on the need to give a further fillip to the historic ties to the mutual benefit of both the countries. India-Czech relations are excellent, marked by strong cooperation both bilaterally and multilaterally. In recent years, economic and technological cooperation has been on the rise marked by increasing two way investment, trade and the increasing presence of Czech tech companies in India.



The Embassy of India in Prague organized the 'Satya Vaarta' – People's experience on Gandhiji's influence on their life, on Thursday, 6 December, 2018 as part of the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of India in her Address welcomed H.E. Mr. Daniel

Herman, former Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic, eminent Indologists, representatives from Ayurveda University and members of Indian community for attending the 'Satya Vaarta'. Ambassador thanked the Government of the Czech Republic for agreeing to release the commemorative stamps on Mahatma Gandhi in 2019, and informed the audience about the activities that Embassy plans to organize as part of the commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi which includes Gandhi Anthology, Online Quiz, Global Cycling event, Planting of Trees on World Environment Day, Khadi as an Idea and not merely a Garment, and Charkha Start Up Competition etc. His Excellency Mr. Daniel Herman, former Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic was the guest speaker and he expressed his views on Mahatma Gandhi and how he is influenced by the great personality of Gandhi. He remarked that Gandhi's views are relevant even in the 21st century and all the differences should be resolved through non-violent means for better future.



The Embassy of India in Prague in association with the Indian Community organized Gurupurab Prakash Utsav of **Guru Nanak Devji on Sunday, 9 December, 2018** in the Embassy premises as part of the activities to commemorate the 550th Birth

Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Devji. H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador informed the Indian Community about the Resolution passed by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 22 November, 2018 to celebrate the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji throughout the country and across the globe.



On 4th December, Ambassador visited Nuclear Research Institute of CR and held further discussions on the ongoing initiatives for bilateral cooperation in Civil Nuclear Energy.

A 3-member AEPC delegation led by Mr HKL Magu, Chairman visited CR from 3-4 December and met the Deputy Trade and Industry Minister. The delegation also held fruitful discussions with Chambers of Commerce, Association of Textile and Czech cos. Ambassador joined the meetings and called for utilisation of immense opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade in the textile/apparel sector.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

The Federation of Trade and Industry Saurashtra is organizing **6th Edition of SVUM 2019 International Trade Show at Rajkot Gujarat India, Date 11th to 15th February 2019**. This show will serve as first biggest initiative for the Development of all stakeholders, who will come under one roof to explore possibilities of international business opportunities which includes government, industry, investor, consumer and International buyers. Also Brain

storming sessions for delegates & country representatives about to start new manufacturing facilities in your country, generate employment & reduce the import is going to be on schedule.

The IEEMA, Indian Eletrical and Eletronics Manufacturers Association is organizing **DistribuElec** - International Exposition on Hi Tec Power Distribution from **4th-6th February 2019 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai**. The association member companies have contributed to more than 95% of power equipment installed in India and have a combined turnover of \$ 45 Billion. DistribuElec 2019 is a uniquely designed concept to bring Utility, Consumer, Electrical Operational Technology (OT) and Information Technology (IT) on same platform to empower all stakeholders. It is India's only exposition on Power Distribution showcasing products, technologies and services from 220V till 33kV in traditional electrical equipment like transformers, cables, capacitors, switchgears, meters, insulators, conductors and new age technologies in distribution automation & control systems, energy efficiency, demand response, advanced metering, communications technologies, cyber security, electrical fire safety and more.

India is organizing **Travel Trade Show OTM Mumbai from 23rd – 25th January 2019** at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India. The Indian travel market is the second fastest growing outbound travel market in the world, and is expected to grow at a double digit CAGR to hit 50 million outbound travellers by 2020.

OTM is the leading travel trade show in the Asia-Pacific – with 1000+ exhibitors from over 50 countries and 25 states. Gain access to 15,000+ trade visitors and 800+ buyers from across all industry sectors, supported by our strong hosted buyer program. This year's OTM's unique offerings are Cine Locales, an interactive session with premier film and TV producers attended by 30+ top producers, Destination Weddings, the interactive sessions on wedding planning with marquee wedding planners of India, Travel Technology Track 2018, panel discussion on technology trends in travel, Online Meeting Diary, On-the-spot Speed Networking Session, where 800+ qualified buyer meet exclusively with exhibitors in a speed networking hour-long session and Travel Blogger Session, interaction with travel bloggers – an increasingly important community for promoting your destination.

The 5th edition of **India-Europe 29 Business Forum is tentatively scheduled to be held on 27-28 February 2019** at New Delhi. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), has been organizing the annual India-Europe 29 Business Forum since 2014. The 2019 edition of the Forum is aimed at at strengthening India's engagement with Central Europe through two-way trade and investment by providing an institutionalized platform to present opportunities that need to be realized in each other's markets. It is encouraging to see that the relations between India and the Czech Republic are growing rapidly and the IE29 should reflect the current momentum, the rising opportunities, and challenges on the two sides.

ITPO'S FAIRS IN PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI

1	Nakshatra - Held concurrently with World Book Fair	Jan.2019	Holistic products, Astrology, Numerology, Yoga etc.	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11- 23378929/9810189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in	
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2	26th Convergence India and IoT Expo 2018 (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	March 7-9, 2019	Technologies related to Telecom, Broadcast, Cable and Satellite TV, Cloud & Big Data, IoT,	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in, hodbdd@itpo.gov.in	
3	Aahar	March, 2019	Food, Beverages, Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in	
4	Aajeevika	Feb/March, 2019	Rural Artisan/ Self Help Groups, Small and Medium Enterprises	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in	

More information available at:

www.indiatradefair.com

www.cii.in/CII_Events.aspx

www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp

www.assochem.org/events/index.php

www.fieo.org/view_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0

www.biztradeshows.com/india/

1 USEFUL LINKS

The National Portal of India <http://india.gov.in>

India Public Diplomacy www.indiandiplomacy.in

Invest India www.investindia.gov.in

India In Business <http://indiainbusiness.nic.in>

Incredible India www.incredibleindia.org

India Brand Equity Foundation www.ibef.org

India Trade Promotion Organization www.indiatrdefair.com

EXIM Bank <http://eximbankindia.com>

The Confederation of Indian Industry www.cii.in

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry www.ficci.com

Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India www.assochem.org

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations www.fieo.org

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry www.phdcci.in