



INDIA NEWSLETTER

May 2018

**Embassy of India
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Czech Republic**

www.eoiprague.in

INFORMAL SUMMIT BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA MAY (21, 2018)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin held their first informal Summit in the city of Sochi in the Russian Federation on May 21, 2018. The Summit provided an occasion for both leaders to deepen their friendship and to exchange views on international and regional issues, in keeping with the tradition of high level political exchanges between India and Russia. The two leaders agreed that the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia is an important factor for global peace and stability. They shared the view that India and Russia have an important role to play in contributing to an open and equitable world order. The two leaders held in depth discussions on major international issues. They agreed on the importance of building a multipolar world order. They decided to intensify consultation and coordination with each other, including on the Indo-Pacific Region. Prime Minister Modi and President Putin also agreed to continue working together through multilateral organisations such as the United Nations, SCO, BRICS and G-20. Both leaders agreed to institute a Strategic Economic Dialogue between NITI Aayog of India and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, to identify greater synergy in trade and investment. They noted with satisfaction the expanding cooperation in the energy sector and, in this regard, welcomed the arrival of the first consignment of LNG under a long-term agreement between Gazprom and GAIL, next month.



INAUGURATION OF IORA-RCSTT COORDINATION CENTRE ON MEDICINAL PLANTS AT CSIR-CIMAP

The Indian Ocean Rim Association - Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (IORA-RCSTT) Coordination Centre was inaugurated on 7 May 2018 at the

Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) campus of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Lucknow. The establishment of the Centre follows the signing of an MoU between CSIR-CIMAP and the Tehran based IORA-RCSTT on 24 February 2018 in Tehran. The Centre will be a useful platform not only to disseminate knowledge of the myriad use and benefits of medicinal plants among the IORA member states, but also help them commercialize their available resources optimally. By institutionalizing the cooperation in this field, the three-fold objective of technical cooperation, technology transfer and commercialization is expected to be met to the benefit of the IORA member states. The establishment of the Centre is funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, which would also be sponsoring its activities and Work Plan over the next five years.



THIRD ROUND OF THE INDIA-US MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE

The third round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue was held on 30 April-01 May, 2018 in Goa. The Indian delegation was led jointly by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (D&ISA), Shri Munu Mahawar, Joint Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs and Smt. Richa Misra, Joint Secretary (Navy), Ministry of Defence. Mr. David Helvey, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs and Mr. Daniel Rosenblum, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs led the US side. During the Dialogue, the two sides discussed developments in the maritime domain in the Indo-Pacific Region and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation. They also reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during the previous Maritime Security Dialogues. The next round of the Dialogue will be held in the US on mutually convenient dates.

EVENTS REPORT

Maharashtra Pledges To Beat Air Pollution With Electric Cars:

To mark the beginning of World Environment Day celebrations in India, Maharashtra on May 31 launched its Electric Vehicle Policy and flagged off 10 electric vehicles in Mumbai. Reason being, to reduce air pollution and climate change. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis along with dignitaries - UN Environment Head Erik Solheim, Union Environment Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan, Maharashtra Minister Chandrakant Patil launched e-vehicles, and an electric car charging station and signed some Memorandum of Understanding for various initiatives at Mantralaya, Mumbai.

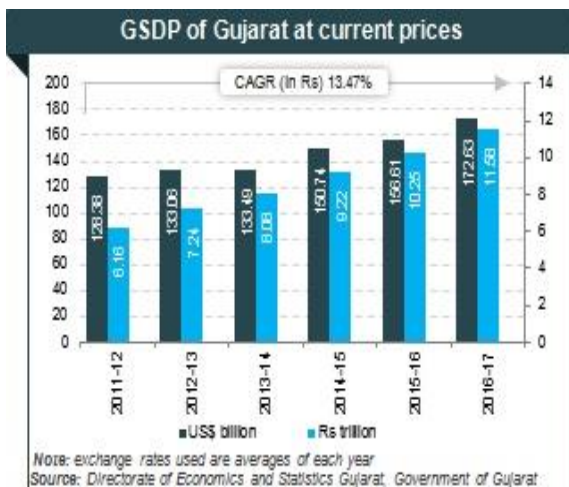
Maneka Gandhi launched NARI Portal for women empowerment.

in order to provide easy access to information on women welfare schemes, the Indian Government has launched an online portal NARI alongside e-Samvad for interaction with NGOs. The NARI portal contains information about 350 government schemes divided into seven different categories viz. health, education, employment, housing and shelter, decision making, social support and addressing violence. The portal will enable women to get information on issues affecting their lives. One can log on to <http://www.nari.nic.in> for easy access of information on schemes initiated not only by the central government but also all the governments of state as well. The user can also access information, tips and advices on topics covering Safety, Adoption, Health & Nutrition and Direct Benefit.



STATE PROFILE

GUJARAT



FACTFILE

Capital: Gandhinagar

Geographical Area (sq km): 196,063

State Language: Gujarati, Hindi and English

Literacy Rate: 78.03 per cent

Key Industries: Agro and food processing, Dairy, Chemicals and petrochemicals, Textiles and apparels, Engineering and auto, Gems and jewellery, Oil and gas, Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology, IT, Minerals, Ports, power and Tourism

Gujarat is located on the western coast of India and has the longest coastline of 1,600 km among all states in the country. The state shares its borders with Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and the Union Territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The Arabian Sea borders the state both to the west and the south-west. Gujarat is one of the leading industrialised states in India. Gujarat is considered the petroleum capital of India due to presence of large refining capacity set up by private and public sector companies. The state is the world's largest producer of processed diamonds, accounting for 72 per cent of the world's processed diamond share and 80 per cent of India's diamond exports. With a contribution of 65 to 70 per cent to India's denim production, Gujarat is the largest manufacturer of denim in the country and the third largest in the world.

Key Sectors:

- During 2016-17, state held 218 agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) and there were 218 main yards and 182 sub-market yards operational in the state.
- The state government has announced plans for the setting up of brown and green field projects to facilitate environment friendly processing standards in the textile units of the state.
- As per state budget 2017-18, Government of Gujarat announced plans to invest US\$ 4.25 billion in 2018-19 under planned and non-planned expenditure for the education sector to improve education infrastructure.
- Eight out of 10 diamonds in the world are polished in Surat.
- During 2017-18, Kandla port handled maximum cargo amongst major ports, estimated at 90.99 million tonne.

INDIAN ECONOMY

Indian Railways to deploy drones to monitor projects

Drones will now monitor railway projects, aid in crowd management and oversee maintenance work across its zones, railway officials said today. Cameras (UAV/NETRA) will be used for various railway activities especially project monitoring and maintenance of tracks and other railway infrastructure, the national transporter said in a statement. “Directions have been given to Zonal Railways to procure such cameras. This is in-line with Railways’ desire to use technology to enhance safety and efficiency in train operations”, it said. Unmanned aerial vehicles or drones shall be deployed to undertake monitoring activities of relief and rescue operation, project monitoring, progress of important works, conditions of track and inspection related activities, the statement said. A drone is essentially a flying robot which can be remotely handled through software-controlled flight plans embedded in its systems working in conjunction with GPS. Government agencies have been using it extensively for defence, surveillance and emergency operations, in the event of natural disasters.



ITPO'S FAIRS IN PRAGATI MAIDAN , NEW DELHI

Sl. No.	Name of the Fair	Dates	Products	Contact Person
1	India Intl. Footwear Fair	Aug.3-5, 2018	Leather & leather products, Footwear, Accessories, Chemicals, Machinery etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in
2	Delhi Book Fair	Aug.2018	Books, Publications, Journals etc.	Mr. D.K. Jain, General Manager Tel: 011-23371671/1529 E-mail: dkj@itpo.gov.in
3	Stationery & Office Automation Fair &	Aug.2018	All Education, Office Stationery items & Gifts	Mr. D.K. Jain, General Manager Tel: 011-23371671/1529 E-mail: dkj@itpo.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Fair	Dates	Products	Contact Person
	Corporate Gift Fair			
4	MSME Forum Exhibition	Aug.2018	Start Up Expo and Laghu Udyog Vyapar	Mr. S.R. Sahoo, General Manager Tel: 23371965/0257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in, hodbdd@itpo.gov.in
5	India Wellness Expo (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	Aug.2018	Health India Expo, Biotech India Expo, Organic India Expo	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in
6	India International Security Expo	Oct.5-7, 2018	Security & safety equipment systems, including fire & industrial safety etc.	Mr. A.K. Vashisht General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378511 Fax: 91-11-23379338 E-mail: avashist@itpo.gov.in
7	Tex-Styles India	Oct. 2018	Textile items – Cotton yarns, Fabrics & Home furnishing	Mr. Jayanta Das, Sr. General Manager Tel: 011- 23378929/1673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
8	India International Trade Fair	14-27 November, 2018	Multi-Products	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>

2 THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

[HTTP://MEA.GOV.IN/](http://MEA.GOV.IN/)

India Public Diplomacy www.indiadiplomacy.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.indiatradefair.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