



INDIA NEWSLETTER

September 2018



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Amazon's plan to reach 500 million Indians: Speak their language

In order to attract customers in India who don't speak English, Amazon has made its local website and apps available in Hindi. Around 10 per cent of India's population know English, while Hindi is spoken by over 500 million people. It is currently the second largest e-commerce player in India and sees the country as its next big market. It has around 150 million registered users in India and expects that the next 100 million users will be in vernacular language, according to Mr Kishore Thota, Director of Customer Experience and Marketing, Amazon India. Amazon is planning to add more Indian languages if its first experiment with Hindi is successful. It already provides customer support in six Indian languages.

8.2% GDP growth an outcome of reforms taken by Govt:

The 8.2 per cent economic growth in the first quarter of 2018-19 is an outcome of key reforms like GST and liberalisation of FDI norms initiated by the government, CII said Tuesday. According to the chamber, increase in private investment and enhanced government spending will help India garner a GDP growth of 7.3-7.7 per cent for the ongoing financial year.

Mittal noted that GST, reforms in Ease of Doing Business, FDI, labour, agriculture, and many other initiatives aimed at improving the overall investment climate and productivity have begun to show impact. "These have collectively contributed to the robust GDP figures that we saw for June quarter 2018-19. At 8.2 per cent it is a significant improvement over the 5.6 per cent registered a year back," said the CII President. According to him, the reforms have also led to increased demand leading to better capacity utilisation and higher growth of industry, which again is reflected in manufacturing growth at an impressive 13 per cent plus in the first quarter.

India to construct 100 airports worth USD 60 billion, says Prabhu

India plans to construct 100 new airports with an investment of close to USD 60 billion (about Rs 4.2 lakh crore) in the next 10-15 years, Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu said on September 5th. Amid the country's domestic aviation sector recording double-digit growth for more than three years on the back of rising demand, the government is working on ways to bolster the infrastructure for the sector. "We have plans for 100 new airports to be built in India in the next 10 to 15 years with investments of almost close to USD 60 billion," the minister said at a conference.

India, US must boost bilateral trade to US\$ 500-600 bn: Prabhu

India seeks US partnership to boost various sectors and grow the bilateral trade to USD 500-600 billion from USD 125 billion currently, with a good strategy under a stipulated time, commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu said on September 6th. "The US-India bilateral trade is declining for various reasons and we should not be happy with bilateral trade of USD 125 billion. We must set a clear-cut target of USD 500-600 billion in a stipulated time period. We are willing to come out with complete strategy and am sure that the companies from both country's will benefit," Prabhu said. Speaking at a US-India Business Council event, Prabhu said that we can resolve some issues through talks. India offers lot of opportunities in sectors including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, start-ups and make "India-US partnership greater again" in line with President Trump's call of Let's make US great again.

Exports up 19.21% in August; trade deficit at US\$ 17.4 bn

India's exports grew by 19.21 per cent to USD 27.84 billion in August on account of healthy performance by sectors such as petroleum.

"Export trade during August 2018 recorded at USD 27.84 billion, a positive growth of 19.21 per cent. Exports excluding Petroleum also reported a positive growth of 17.43 per cent," Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said in a tweet on September 12th. Merchandise imports too rose by 25.41 per cent in August to USD 45.24 billion due to the rising crude oil prices, leaving a trade deficit of USD 17.4 billion. In July, trade deficit soared to a near five-year high of USD 18.02 billion. During April-August this fiscal, the exports recorded a growth of 16.13 per cent, while the imports during the first five months of this fiscal grew by 17.34 per cent.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: August 2018

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in April-August 2018-19* are estimated to be USD 221.83 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 20.70 per cent over the same period last year. Overall imports in April-August 2018-19* are estimated to be USD 269.54 Billion, exhibiting a positive growth of 21.01 per cent over the same period last year.

EXPORTS (including re-exports) Exports in August 2018 were US \$ 27.84 Billion, as compared to US \$ 23.36 Billion in August 2017, exhibiting a positive growth of 19.21 per cent. In Rupee terms, exports were Rs. 1,93,624.74 Crore in August 2018, as compared to Rs. 1,49,398.90 Crore in August 2017, registering a positive growth of 29.60 per cent. Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in August 2018 were US \$ 20.70 Billion, as compared to US \$ 17.78 Billion in August 2017, exhibiting a positive growth of 16.45 per cent.

IMPORTS Imports in August 2018 were US \$ 45.24 Billion (Rs 3,14,597.54 Crore), which was 25.41 per cent higher in Dollar terms and 36.34 per cent higher in Rupee terms over imports of US \$ 36.07 Billion (Rs. 2,30,737.96 Crore) in August 2017.

OVERALL TRADE BALANCE: Taking

merchandise and services together, overall trade deficit for April-August 2018-19* is estimated at US \$ 47.72 Billion as compared to US \$ 38.95 Billion in April-August 2017-18.

Czech Republic eyes 1 lakh footfalls from India by 2019-20

The Czech Republic, popularly referred as the 'land of stories', is expecting to welcome more than one lakh Indian visitors by 2019-20. In 2017, 85,680 Indians visited the Czech Republic, according to data of the Czech Tourist Authority. "We have experienced significant rise in the volume of Indian visitors since 2012 and 2013. Looking at the current growth trend, we expect to host more than one lakh Indian travellers in our country by 2019-20," CzechTourism India head Arzan Khambatta told PTI here.

He said Indians often combine the Czech Republic, which is an affordable premium destination, with other central European countries like Austria, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia as part of their travel itinerary for an average length of three to four days. Mostly, Indians visit the capital city of Prague, part of the popular Central Europe 'Golden Triangle' that also includes Vienna and Budapest, he said.

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

At the invitation of the President of the Czech Republic, His Excellency Miloš Zeman, the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, paid a State Visit to the Czech Republic from 6 to 9 September 2018.

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind receives Ceremonial Welcome at Prague Castle during his State Visit to Czech Republic September 07, 2018.



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

Delegation Level Talks at Prague Castle - September 07, 2018



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind meets Andrej Babis, Prime Minister of Czech Republic in Prague - September 07, 2018



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind delivers his address at India-Czech Republic Business Event in Prague - September 07, 2018



Gala lunch organized by the President of the Czech Republic, H.E. Mr. Miloš Zeman, in honor of H.E. Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India, and Mrs. Savita Kovind Vladislav Hall of the Prague Castle



The President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, at the India Community Reception September, 2018



Strahov Monastery of Prague and its library which holds over 3000 manuscripts and incunabula and 200 thousands volumes of old books including 9th century Book of Gospels printed on parchment.



The bilateral talks were held in a warm, cordial and positive atmosphere, reflecting the long-standing and friendly bilateral relationship between the Czech Republic and the Republic of India based on jointly shared values of peace, stability, democracy, freedom and rule of law.

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visited ELI Beamlines ,High Energy Laser Beams Research Facility of Czech Academy of Sciences in which Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is also involved in frontier scientific research.



The Ambassador of India in Prague, Mrs Narinder Chauhan, meets with the hono'ble State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Miroslav Stasek on 17 September.



THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA'S STATE VISIT TO PRAGUE

the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, visited

H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of the Republic of India to the Czech Republic met H.E. Mr. Lubomír Zaorálek, Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the Parliament of

Czech Republic on 20 September 2018. Both sides discussed current state of bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interest and expressed satisfaction with the results of the recent Presidential visit from India



The summer festival in Liberec on 28 September. Komunitní středisko Kontakt Liberec, p.o. and Cpic Liberec. Indian and Chinese communities presented their country and culture with generous support of the India Embassy in Prague.



FORTHCOMING EVENT

Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India along with CII and MECON is organizing a **Conclave on Capital Goods for Steel Sector: Manufacture in India on 23rd October 2018 at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The main objective of the Conclave is to identify the needs of the Steel industry and explore the opportunities available for steel plant equipment manufacturing companies and spare parts producers to develop indigenous capacity. Mr. Chaudhary Birender Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Steel, Govt. of India; Mr. Anant Gangaram Geete, Minister of Heavy Industry and Public Sector Enterprises, Govt. of India; Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India; Mr. Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister, Govt. of Odisha; Mr. Vishnu Deo Sai, Minister confirmed their participation.

Aptech, a Global Learning Solutions company, has launched 'Learn Live', an instructor led training programme in a virtual environment, designed to reach large number of people because of the training model and cost effectiveness. All a learner needs is a Laptop or a computer with speakers and a high speed internet connection. Aptech Ltd. commenced its education and training business in 1986 and has trained over 7 million students worldwide. Aptech has presence in more than 40 emerging countries through its two main streams of businesses - Individual Training and Enterprise Business. As a leader in career education, it has over 1300 centres of learning across the world. Under Individual Training, Aptech offers career and professional training through its retail brands: Arena Animation & Maya Academy of Advanced Cinematics (both in animation & multimedia), Aptech Learning (IT, Aviation & Hospitality, Banking & Finance, Hardware & Networking, and English Language Training), Lakmé Academy powered by Aptech and Aptech Montana

International Preschool, and Aptech Global Training (International training). The Learn Live programme can be taken up by Individuals, Government employees, or by Colleges and Universities, who wish to conduct specialized programmes, but do not wish to invest in infrastructure and trainers. To start with, Aptech is offering just over a dozen programmes, but can customize programmes to meet client needs keeping in view our wide area of expertise.

Re-invest Summit 2018 The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India is organising the 2nd Global RE-INVEST India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo from 3-5 October 2018 at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, National Capital Region of Delhi. The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will host the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries. India today is the world's largest clean energy market, with exponentially increasing demand and supply and proactive policy support, including 100% foreign investment in renewable energy development. RE-INVEST is a global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables. It showcases India's clean energy market and the Government's efforts to scale up capacity to meet the national energy demand in socially, economically and ecologically sustainable ways. The 2nd Global RE-INVEST will build upon the success of RE-INVEST 2015 and provide an international forum to established players as well as new segments of investors and entrepreneurs to engage, ideate and innovate.

14th FICCI Higher Education Summit The Summit is going to be held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from 30th October, 2018 - 01st November, 2018. Global Higher Education Summit and Exhibition provides the attendees with the opportunity to witness deliberations on policy roadmap and other topical issues in higher education, explore partnerships opportunities, establish new contacts

and promote their brand amongst higher education professionals and other stakeholders, and augment their brand value by taking advantage of multiple promotional opportunities.

Vibrant Gujarat Summit Government of Gujarat, in partnership with FICCI is organizing a Vibrant Gujarat Start-up & Technology Summit 2018 on 11- 13 October, 2018 at Exhibition Centre, Helipad Ground, Opp. Sachivalay, Nr. GH-4, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The objective of the Summit is to showcase the forces driving India's, and Gujarat's, Start-up revolution and to strengthen the start-up ecosystem. The program would comprise of talks by inspirational speakers, networking with business leaders/experts, interaction with Global Accelerators, display of Proof of Ideas, Mentoring/Evaluation, Funding options, validate and understand Next Generation changes, Grand Challenges, an Exhibition, etc. The three days event will provide an excellent opportunity to start-ups and stakeholders to connect with the best and brightest minds to explore how to fuel their business growth.

ITPO'S FAIRS IN PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI

1	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
2	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
3	India International Trade Fair	14-27 November, 2018	Multi-Products	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in
4	New Delhi World Book Fair	Jan.2019	Books, Periodicals, Journals, Publications etc.	Mr. Jayanta Das, Sr. General Manager Tel: 011- 23378929/1673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
5	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
6	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, Digital Homes, Mobile devices, Film and Radio, Content Creation, Management and Delivery, etc.	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in , hodbdd@itpo.gov.in
7	Aahar	March, 2019	Food, Beverages, Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	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.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.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