



INDIA NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Embassy of India
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Prague 170 00
Czech Republic

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Visit of External Affairs Minister to Nepal to attend the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministerial Meeting (August 10-11, 2017)

August 10, 2017



External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj was in Nepal on a 2-day visit to attend the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministerial Meeting on 10-11 August 2017. This is EAM's 6th visit to Nepal and the first high level visit since the new government has assumed office in Nepal in June 2017. On the first day of her visit, EAM called on Hon'ble President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. During her call on the President, EAM recalled the successful visit of Hon'ble President to India earlier this year, which further strengthened our age old ties. The two sides discussed ways to enhance cultural linkages and people-to-people contacts between our two countries. In her meeting with PM Deuba, EAM highlighted frequent and intensive high level exchanges as a reflection of our deepening relationship. EAM said that the Government of India was looking forward to the State visit of PM Deuba to India. The two sides discussed an expanded bilateral agenda reflecting the updated national priorities of Nepal. Progress in the reconstruction activities and cooperation in hydro power sector also came up for discussion. Both sides agreed that there are immense possibilities for cooperation in the sectors of infrastructure, connectivity and energy. In the evening, EAM attended the inaugural session of 15th BIMSTEC Ministerial

Meeting along with other counterparts from BIMSTEC nations. All Heads of Delegations made a joint call on PM Deuba at the end of the session.

Official visit of Dr. Anwar Gargash, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the UAE to India (August 09-10, 2017)

August 10, 2017

During his official visit to India, Dr. Anwar Gargash, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs held delegation-level talks with Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri M.J. Akbar on 9 August. Dr. Gargash separately met with the National Security Adviser. He also met with External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar. Dr Gargash was accompanied by Mr. Mohammed Sharaf, Assistant Minister of Economy and other senior officials in the Government of the UAE. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest pertaining to bilateral, regional and international affairs. The talks were held in constructive and friendly spirit. MOS Shri M.J. Akbar expressed his satisfaction over the follow up of important decisions taken during the recent high-level bilateral visits which are contributing to building a mutually beneficial comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries. He thanked UAE for contributing significantly to India's energy security, being a key supplier of crude oil to us. The two sides reviewed the progress made in achieving the target set for UAE investments in India. MOS Shri M.J. Akbar expressed satisfaction over the signing of the MOU on the framework for facilitating the participation of UAE Institutional Investors in National Infrastructure Investment Fund, with Abu Dhabi Investment Authority agreeing to contribute towards the NIIF Master Fund. Dr Gargash conveyed appreciation for the contribution of the Indian community in UAE in the development of their host country which has been an important anchor of our excellent bilateral engagement. On regional issues, Dr Gargash briefed his Indian interlocutors about the situation in the Gulf region. He was briefed about India's position that peace and security in the Gulf are of

paramount importance for the continued progress and prosperity of the region. Terrorism, violent extremism and religious intolerance pose grave threat not only to the regional stability but also to the global peace and order. India is of the view that parties should resolve their differences through a process of constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiations.

Embassy of India, Prague celebrated the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence Day

August 15, 2017

Embassy of India, Prague celebrated the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence Day at its premises on August 15. Ambassador of India, H.E. Mr. Krishan Kumar hoisted the national flag at 9.00 hrs. It was followed by the collective singing of the National Anthem and reading of message of the President of India by the Ambassador. More than 200 Indian community members and friends of India participated in the event.



Indian Pavilion in Exhibition, Brno

August 19, 2017



STYL KABO

MAKE IN INDIA



Embassy of India, Prague organized a Buyer- Seller Meet for an Indian textile companies at the Styl Kabo Exhibition that was held at Brno, Czech Republic from 19-21 August 2017. Ten companies from Tiruppur Exporters Association participated in the exhibition. Ambassador of India H.E Mr Krishan Kumar, and Mr Jiri Kulis CEO, BVV trade inaugurated Indian Pavilion at the Styl Kabo Exhibition, Brno on August 19, 2017.

Visit of high level delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan to India (August 20-24, 2017)

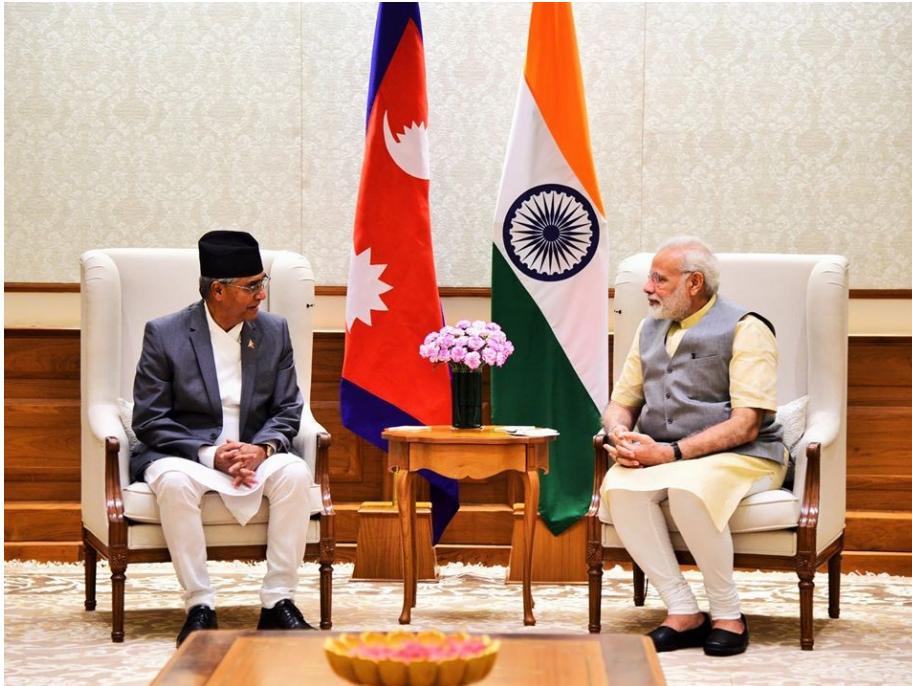
August 19, 2017



A high level delegation from Uzbekistan, led by H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, visited India on 20-24 August 2017. The delegation included H.E. Mr. Elyor Ganiev, Minister for Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan, senior representatives from the Government of Uzbekistan, and Chairmen and representatives from several Government Associations and Corporations. The visit of the delegation from Uzbekistan was taking place following the recent discussions between PM and H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Astana on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of States meeting. Both leaders had decided to further strengthen and expand bilateral cooperation in all areas, particularly trade and economic. The Uzbek delegation leader and members had a series of meetings and interactions planned for the next four days. H.E. Mr. Kamilov and EAM held talks on 22 August. India and Uzbekistan have close and friendly relations based on centuries of historical and cultural linkages. This relationship was elevated to Strategic Partnership during the visit of late President Islam Karimov in 2011. PM visited Uzbekistan in 2015 and 2016. MOS (MJA) visited Uzbekistan last year to pay respects to late President Karimov. This year India is celebrating 25 years of establishment of diplomatic relations with Uzbekistan.

State Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India (August 23-27, 2017)

August 21, 2017



Rt. Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal, accompanied by his spouse Dr. Arzu Deuba, was on a State Visit to India from 23-27 August 2017 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. This was his first visit abroad after assuming the office of Prime Minister of Nepal in June 2017. During the visit, Prime Minister of Nepal called on Rashtrapati and Vice President of India and held talks with Prime Minister of India. The External Affairs Minister and other Ministers called on the Prime Minister of Nepal. Apart from official engagements in New Delhi, the Prime Minister of Nepal visited Hyderabad, Tirupati and Bodh Gaya. In recent years, India-Nepal partnership has witnessed significant growth in all areas of cooperation. The visit provided an opportunity to both the sides for holding wide-ranging discussions on issues of mutual interest, and advancing age old, special ties of friendship between our two countries.

5th round of Foreign and Security Policy Consultations between India and the European Union

August 25, 2017



The 5th round of Foreign and Security Policy Consultations between India and the European Union were held on August 25 in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by Smt. Ruchi Ghanashyam, Secretary (West), while the EU side by Mr. Jean-Christophe Belliard, Deputy Secretary-General for Political Affairs, European External Action Service. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of India-EU Strategic Partnership and discussed ways to further deepen cooperation in political, economic and security areas. Strongly condemning the recent terror attacks in Barcelona, India and the EU called for enhancing cooperation to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. They also discussed cyber security and maritime threats. The two sides exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest and reiterated their respective commitments to promoting and protecting a rules-based international order. The two sides reviewed economic cooperation calling for greater investment and trade flows between India and the EU. The EU is one of India's largest trading partners with bilateral trade in goods standing at USD 85 billion in 2016. The EU is also the largest destination for Indian exports and a key source of investment and cutting edge technologies. India received around USD 80 billion FDI flows from Europe during 2000-16 constituting approximately 25% of the total FDI inflows into the country during the period. Secretary [West] welcomed the

establishment of European Investment Bank in India, stating that its investment especially in urban mobility and renewable energy projects would support India-EU collaboration in the Smart City sector. She appreciated the ongoing participation of European Union and EU companies in Make In India, Digital India, Start-up India, Swachh Bharat and Namami Gange programmes and called for their deeper engagement in these flagship development priorities. The European side highlighted the ongoing work in India-EU water partnership. Noting that over 50,000 Indian students were presently studying in various Universities in Europe, DSG Belliard expressed the EU's desire to make its scholarship programmes such as ERAMUS even more popular in the country. The talks also focussed on deepening collaborations in research and technology partnership. Both sides concurred that the International Solar Alliance presented new opportunities to further strengthen India-EU clean energy and climate partnership. The EU expressed its desire to support initiatives of ISA including through the European Investment Bank. They also expressed their interest to leverage the ISA platform in collaboration with India for developing renewable energy capacities in solar rich countries. The comprehensive discussions, held in a cordial atmosphere, underscored the strong foundations of the India-EU Strategic Partnership. The bilateral engagement laid the grounds for the forthcoming India-EU Summit to be held in India later in the year.

Festival of Ayurveda in Prague

August 26-27



Second Festival of Ayurveda was held in Prague, from August 26-27, 2017 at Atrium venue, Prague 3. The University of Ayurveda, Prague, which is headed by the Dr Govind Rajput and the Czech Association of Ayurveda were the organizers. Scholars of Ayurveda from the Czech Republic, England, France, India and Slovakia came together for the two-day program. Vice-Mayor of Prague 3, David Gregor attended the inauguration ceremony of the festival, which was supported by the Embassy of India, Prague.

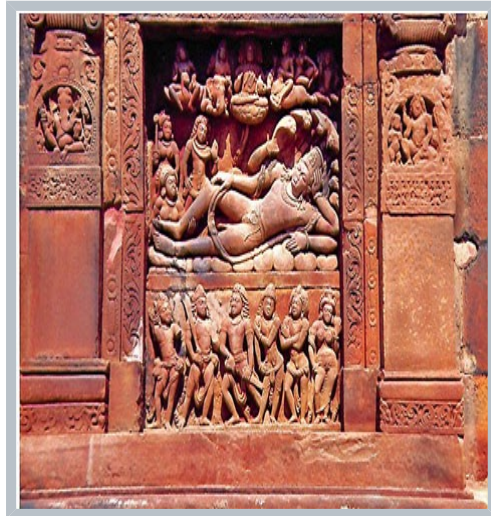
**FOCUS**

Gods of Zero and Infinity

If you travel to the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, and visit a place called Deo-garh, which literally means citadel of the gods, you will find the ruins of a Hindu temple, one of the oldest, at least 1500 years old, built by the kings of the Gupta dynasty. On its walls, there is the image of a man reclining on the coils of a serpent with many hoods, surrounded by his wife and many warriors and sages. Its clearly inspired by a scene from the royal court. But it is clearly a celestial scene, visualisation of the moment when the world was created.

For Hindus, the world is created when Narayana awakes.

Narayana is the god reclining on the serpent with multiple-hoods. When he is in dreamless slumber, the world does not exist. When he awakens, the world comes into being. Narayana is thus a visual representation of human consciousness, which awakening heralds the creation of our world.



An idol of Vishnu at Dasavatara temple at Deo Garh,

What is interesting is the serpent on whose coils Narayana reclines. Its name is: Adi-Ananta-Sesha, which literally means Primal-Limitless-Residue, which is numerically visualised as One-Infinity-Zero. For with consciousness, we become aware of the first moment of beginnings, of limitless possibilities, and of nothingness that existed before the first moment.

The Hindu worldview has always been obsessed with infinity (everything-ness) and zero (nothingness) and with the number one (the beginning). More than Hindu, it is the Indic worldview, the substratum of thought which gave rise to three major ideas: Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism, all of which speak of rebirth, cyclical time, and a world where there are no boundaries. Buddhism came up with ideas such as nirvana (oblivion) and shunya (which literally means zero). Jainism spoke of a world of endless possibilities (an-ekanta-vada). This is in stark contrast to the Greek worldview where the world begins as chaos until the gods create order. And with order comes definitions, boundaries, certainty, and predictability. It is also different from the Abrahamic worldview where God creates the world out of nothingness and the world he creates in seven days has a definite expiry date: the Apocalypse. The Greek and Abrahamic worldviews inform what we call the Western worldview today that is obsessed with organisation, and is terrified of disorder, and unpredictability, something Indians are used to and rather comfortable with, even thriving in it.

The story goes that when Alexander, the Great, after having conquered Persia, visited India, he met a sage on the banks of the river Indus, who he referred to as a gymno-sophist or naked wise man, in Greek. This sage sat on a rock and spent all day staring at the sky. Alexander asked him what he was doing and the sage replied, "Experiencing nothingness." The sage asked Alexander what was he doing. Alexander replied, "I am conquering the world." Both laughed. Each one thought the other was a fool. For Alexander, the sage was wasting his one and only life doing nothing. For the sage, Alexander was wasting his time trying to conquer a world that has no limits, with a sense of urgency that made no sense when one lives infinite lives. Belief in one life, which is the hallmark of Greek worldview, and later Abrahamic, results us in valuing achievements. But belief in rebirth, hence infinite lives, which is the hallmark of Indic worldview, makes achievements meaningless, and puts the focus on wisdom and understanding. When the denominator of life is one, the world is different from when the denominator of life is infinity.

India's philosophical obsession with infinity and zero led to mathematicians not just conceptualising the idea of zero, but also giving it a form (a dot), and finally using it in a decimal system. This happened around the same time that the Gupta kings built the temple in Deogarh. The mathematician Brahmagupta, 638 AD, is associated with giving form to the number zero, and formulating the first rules with its usage. The rise of the decimal system enabled the writing of vast numbers, of huge value, a practice that has been traced to even Vedic texts written around 1000 BCE, values that are not seen in any other parts of the world.



Alexander (the great) while on his quest to conquer the whole world came to the last remaining bit. There he met a Gymnosophist (the naked wise man).

The Arab sea-merchants who frequented the coasts of India, and who dominated the rich spice and textile trade then (before the European sea-farers took over in the 16th century) saw value in this system and took it with them to Arabia. The Arab mathematician Khwarizimi suggested use of a little circle for zero. This circle was called 'sifr' which means 'empty', which eventually became 'zero'. Zero



Indian Mathematician, Brahmagupta

travelled from Arabia through Persia and Mesopotamia to Europe during the Crusades. In Spain, Fibonacci found it useful to do equations without using the abacus. Italian government was suspicious of this Arabic numbering system and so outlawed it. But the merchants used it secretly, which is why 'sifr' became 'cipher', meaning 'code'. It comes as a shock to many people that the modern use of the

number zero is less than thousand years old, and that it became popular less than 500 years ago. Had it not been for the arrival of zero, neither would the Cartesian coordinate system nor calculus have developed in the 16th century. Zero enabled people to conceptualize large numbers and helped in book keeping and accounting. In the 20th century, came the binary system which forms the foundation of modern computing. All because some wild Indian sages conceptualised the universe and their gods in terms of zero and infinity.



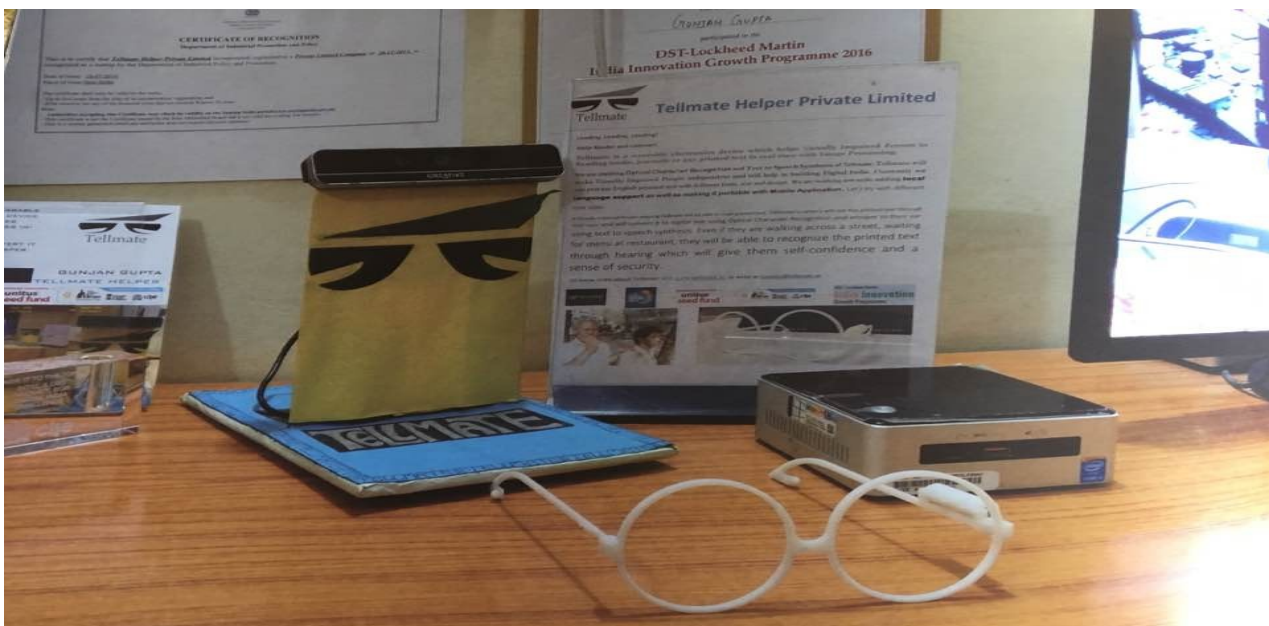
Third Eye

As part of his undergraduate studies in Electronics and Communication, Gunjan Gupta was working on a project at Idea Labs, in Nirma University, Ahmedabad, and spent time at Andhajan Mandal (Blind People Association). As he studied the daily routine of visually impaired people and interacted with them, he became aware of their pain points, and was surprised to know that while they received assistance to read, they were helpless when it came to processing visual information in terms of a moving vehicle or an obstruction like a stone or a ditch. This restricted movement hindered their autonomy.

According to the WHO, there are 285 million visually impaired people globally. India has 62.6 million of them. With a keen desire to address the handicap faced by the visually impaired, Gunjan picked this as his final year project, and worked on it at the Idea Labs in his college. He created a prototype and submitted it. But soon after graduation, he found himself a high paying job as a software developer. However, fate had other plans, Gunjan soon quit his job to pursue social entrepreneurship. His strong desire to help the visually impaired resulted in the Tellmate, a wearable vision device (glasses) which converts images to digital text using optical character recognition (OCR) and converts text into audio and transmits it to user via hearing aids. Also, called

the “Third Eye”. Tellmate helps the visually impaired to walk around unfamiliar places by helping them avoid obstacles and read books, newspapers, hoardings, or any text thereby boosting their self confidence giving them a sense of security. At present the prototype is being tested on 600 visually impaired students and employees at the Blind People Association, Ahmedabad to test precision and accuracy of the device. Tellmate hopes to start selling the product commercially by the end of 2017.

Currently, Tellmate is able to read printed English text and provide output in English only. Gunjan plans to adding other Indian languages so that the device can have greater reach. Gujan is also working on making the device portable by developing a mobile app and connecting it with the wearable glasses. Future plans include adding navigational support, whereby on verbal instructions Tellmate would figure out the route to be taken and suggest choice of mode of transportation.



ITPO's Fairs in Pragati Maidan , New Delhi

Sl. No.	Name of the Event	Dates	Products	Contact Information
1	Electricity India (in association with FICCI) , Delhi	Dates yet to be decided	Green energy, solar energy, wind energy, electricity generation/distribution related products	Vikas Malhotra General Manager Ttel: 991-11-23371868 EEmail: vikas@itpo.gov.in
2	Telecom India (in association with FICCI) Delhi	Dates yet to be decided	Mobile phones & accessories, telecommunication equipment & parts, Switches & Switchgears, Antennas, wifi	Mr. Vikas Malhotra General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371868 E-mail: vikas@itpo.gov.in
3	Aahar- The International Food & Hospitality Fair, Mumbai	October 11-14, 2017	Food , Beverages , Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	Mr. J. Gunasekaran General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371829 Fax: 9111-2337191 E-mail: sekaran@itpo.gov.in
4	India International Security Expo, Delhi	October 2017	Security & safety equipment systems, including fire & industrial safety etc.	Mr. A.K. Vashisht General Manager Tel: 91-11-2337851 E-mail: avashisht@itpo.gov.in

5	India International Trade Fair, Delhi	14-27 November 2017	Multi-Products	Mr. J. Gunasekaran General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371829 Fax: 91-11-23371916 E-mail: sekaran@itpo.gov.in
6	East Himalayan Expo, Gangtok (Sikkim)	December 2017	Multi-Products	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in
7	New Delhi World Book Fair	Jan/ Feb. 2018	Books, Periodicals, Journals, Publications etc.	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378929/98 10189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
8	Nakshatra Delhi	Jan./Feb. 2018	Holistic products, Astrology, Numerology, Yoga	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Event	Dates	Products	Contact Information
9	India International Leather Fair, Chennai	01-03 February, 2018	Leather & Leather Products, Chemicals Machinery & Accessories.	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378929 /9810189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
10	Tex-Styles India, Delhi	Feb/March 2018	Textile items, Cotton yarns, fabrics & Home Furnishings	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378929 /9810189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
11	India International Leather Fair, Kolkata	Feb./ March 2018	Leather & Leather Products, Chemicals Machinery & Accessories.	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378929 /9810189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Event	Dates	Products	Contact Information
12	Tex-Styles India, Kolkata	Feb/March 2018	textile items-Cotton yarns, fabrics & Home Furnishings	Mr. Jayanta Das General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378929/ 9810189400 Fax: 91-11-23371673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in
13	Aahar-The International Food & Hospitality Fair, Delhi	March 2018	Food , Beverages Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	Mr. J. Gunasekaran General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371829 Fax: 91-11-23371916 E-mail: sekaran@itpo.gov.in

More information available at:

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www.biztradeshows.com/india/

Useful Links

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

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India <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
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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