



**INDIA NEWSLETTER**

**March 2018**

**Embassy of India**  
**Milady Horákové 93/60**  
**Prague 170 00**  
**Czech Republic**

**[www.eoiprague.in](http://www.eoiprague.in)**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIA

### **FOURTH INDIA-EUROPE 29 BUSINESS FORUM, NEW DELHI (MARCH 5-6, 2018)**

The fourth India-Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF) took place in New Delhi from 5-6 March 2018. The Forum was established in 2014 by Ministry of External Affairs in cooperation with Federation of Indian Chambers and Commerce (FICCI) to provide an institutionalized platform for promoting business exchanges between India and the twenty nine countries of Central Europe region. While the Forum is primarily meant to promote Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings, it receives significant participation by Government officials. The theme of IE29BF 2018 was 'Synergising Economic Vision for Expanded Relations'. The focus sectors for the Forum were "Industry 4.0 : Defining India-Europe 29 Cooperation through Developing Innovation Eco-system in Hi-Tech Manufacturing and Skilling & transforming Human Capital in India", "Promoting E-Governance through ICT technology & inviting Europe 29 Expertise for digitalization of Healthcare sector in India" and "Collaborating to develop 100 Smart Cities in India : Innovative urban transport solutions and clean technologies to define India-Europe 29 future partnership". For IE29BF 2018, Czech Republic was the 'Focus Country'. Eighteen other European countries participated in the Forum. The Forum received 180 business delegates and officials from European countries and 200 business delegates from India.



### **15TH MEETING OF INDIA-US JOINT WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER TERRORISM**

The 15th meeting of the India-US Counterterrorism Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi on March 27, 2018 and was led by Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary Shri Mahaveer Singhvi and the State Department's Principal Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Alina L. Romanowski. The Indian and the U.S. delegations achieved important progress on counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries.

The Working Group reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective regions including cross border terrorism in the South Asian region. Both sides committed to strengthening information sharing on some of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups and individuals and exchanged views on efforts to counter the financing and

operations of regional and global terrorist organizations. The two sides discussed international efforts to counter threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

## EVENTS REPORT

### **International Solar Alliance Conference, New Delhi (11 March)**

On 11 March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance in New Delhi during which the participating States adopted the Delhi Solar Agenda. The conference was attended by French President Emmanuel Macron, besides 21 Heads of State and Heads of Government, 6 Vice Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers, 19 Ministers as Heads of Delegation in addition to many other ministers who were accompanying the Heads of State and Heads of Government, 10 heads of multilateral banks and top representatives from UN agencies also attended the Conference. The International Solar Alliance initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 30 November 2015 by PM Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande. The ISA has become the first treaty-based international and inter-governmental organization to be headquartered in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his inaugural address inter-alia announced India's commitment to extend nearly US\$ 1.4 billion worth of lines of credit which will cover 27 projects in 15 countries. This initiative has been widely welcomed by the International Solar Alliance Founding States and the beneficiary countries. This is indeed one of the largest commitment to financing solar energy projects around the world.



### **Signing of Headquarters Agreement between India and International Solar Alliance**

The Headquarters Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was signed in New Delhi on 26th March 2018 by Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd) and Shri Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General.

Government of India shall provide support of INR 125 crore to ISA for creating corpus, building infrastructure and recurring expenditure over five years duration from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

### **Working Mechanism on Consultation & Coordination for India - China Border Affairs**

The 11th round of the Working Mechanism on Consultation & Coordination for India-China Border Affairs was held in New Delhi on 22 March 2018. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Pranay Verma, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs, while the Chinese delegation was led by Mr Yi Xianliang, Director General, Department of Boundary & Oceanic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

The discussions were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both sides exchanged views on ways to improve border management. We underlined that maintenance of peace

and tranquility in the India-China border areas is an important pre-requisite for further development of bilateral relations between the two countries. Both sides also agreed to explore the possibility of strengthening cooperation through exchange of visits and institutionalised dialogue mechanisms in order to promote better understanding and cooperation between the two defense forces.

### State Visit of President of the French Republic to India (March 9-12, 2018)

President of the Republic of France, H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron accompanied by Mrs. Brigitte Marie-Claude Macron were on a State Visit to India from 9-12 March, 2018 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The last visit of the French President to India was in January, 2016, when the French President was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations. The Indian Prime Minister last visited France in June 2017, immediately after President Macron was elected President. The visit of President Macron was aimed at strengthening the economic, political and strategic dimensions of the bilateral engagement.

## STATE PROFILE

### Delhi



#### 1.1.1 FACTFILE

**Capital:**New Delhi

**Geographical Area (sq km):**1,483

**State Language:**English, Hindi, Punjabi, Bihari and Haryanvi

**Literacy Rate:**86.2 per cent

#### • Key

**Industries:**Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI), Agri and processed food, construction and real estate, IT

Delhi is the capital of the Republic of India and also a state for administrative purposes called as NCT(National Capital Territory). It is one of the largest metropolises in the country. Delhi shares its borders with the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. It is the centre of

international politics, trade, culture and literature in India. Delhi is one of the fastest growing states of the country. At current prices, the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Delhi was US\$ 96.5 billion in 2016-17. Delhi has an attractive real estate market and is a preferred tourist destination. Owing to its location, connectivity and rich cultural history, Delhi has always been a prime tourist attraction of the country.

#### Key Sectors:

- National Capital Region (NCR) is India's biggest milk market. The organised milk market in the region, estimated at five million litres per day, is growing at 6-8 per cent annually.
- Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reduced the minimum area requirement for farmhouses to 1 acre from 2.5 acres earlier. The revised norm offers owners of an estimated 2,700 farmhouses in the city the opportunity to downsize and monetise their surplus property.
- As per the new Industrial Policy for Delhi 2010-21, the Government is keen on developing and promoting the hi-tech, sophisticated, knowledge-based IT and ITeS industries in the state. For this, the Government has planned to set up 'Centre of Excellence' to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the sectors.



### WORLD'S LARGEST SOLAR PARK TO COME UP IN GUJARAT

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani approved setting up a 5000 MW capacity solar park at the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), which would be the largest such entity in the world after its completion. The proposed solar power generation project would be set up in 11,000 hectares of land with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore, said an official release. The project will contribute significantly in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of producing 175 gigawatt of electricity through renewable energy sources by 2022, said Rupani. The chief minister exuded confidence that the solar park would not only provide employment to over 20,000 people, but also open new manufacturing avenues for the entire supply chain in and around the Dholera International City.



## ITPO'S FAIRS IN PRAGATI MAIDAN , NEW DELHI

Sl. No.	Name of the Fair	Dates	Products	Contact Person
1	Smart City Expo (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	May, 2018	Infrastructure development, materials & technologies for green building technologies, green & autonomous transport and water technologies	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in
2	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
3	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
4	Stationery & Office Automation Fair & Corporate Gift 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
5	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
6	India Wellness Expo (In Association with M/s.	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



***More information available at:***

[www.indiatradefair.com](http://www.indiatradefair.com)

[www.cii.in/CII\\_Events.aspx](http://www.cii.in/CII_Events.aspx)

[www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp](http://www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp)

[www.assochem.org/events/index.php](http://www.assochem.org/events/index.php)

[www.fieo.org/view\\_detail.php?lang=0&id=0.22&evetype=0](http://www.fieo.org/view_detail.php?lang=0&id=0.22&evetype=0)

[www.biztradeshows.com/india/](http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/)

## **2 USEFUL LINKS**

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

## **3 THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** [HTTP://MEA.GOV.IN/](http://mea.gov.in/)

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**India Public Diplomacy** [www.indiandiplomacy.in](http://www.indiandiplomacy.in)

**Invest India** [www.investindia.gov.in](http://www.investindia.gov.in)

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

**Incredible India** [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)

**India Brand Equity Foundation** [www.ibef.org](http://www.ibef.org)

**India Trade Promotion Organization** [www.indiatradefair.com](http://www.indiatradefair.com)

**EXIM Bank** <http://eximbankindia.com>

**The Confederation of Indian Industry** [www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

**Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry** [www.ficci.com](http://www.ficci.com)

**Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India** [www.assochem.org](http://www.assochem.org)

**The Federation of Indian Export Organizations** [www.fieo.org](http://www.fieo.org)

**PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry** [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)