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## HIGHLIGHTS



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## ▶ MAIN

# Australian Delegation headed by Foreign Affairs Minister, Ms. Julie Bishop meets with Dr. Mahesh Sharma

PIB, New Delhi, April 13, 2015



Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Julie Bishop meets India's Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) Dr. Mahesh Sharma, in New Delhi today, to formally announce the opening of a three-month Rama-Katha exhibition at National Gallery of Australia in Canberra from May 22, 2015

An Australian Delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, Ms. Julie Bishop met the Union Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge), Tourism (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma in New Delhi. Senior officials of the Ministry of Culture were also present in the meeting. Both sides discussed measures and steps to be taken to promote further the relations especially cultural relations between the two countries.

Highlighting the importance of relations between India and Australia, Ms. Bishop said that an agreement on promotion of Arts and Culture were signed between the two countries during the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to Australia last year. It was also decided to hold a Festival of India in Australia in 2015, which is a significant step and needs to be taken forward, she added.

Appreciating the interest taken by Australia in the Festival of India, Dr. Mahesh Sharma informed that discussions between the officials of two countries are at an advanced stage and the dates of the festival are expected to be finalized soon. It was also requested that Australia may provide venues for the Festival free of cost, which the Australian side agreed to take up favourably.

Ms. Bishop also appreciated the contemporary art of India and requested that it be given a prominent place in the Festival of India. She also said that Air India enjoys a very good reputation in Australia and requested for direct Air India flights to cities like Melbourne and Sidney.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma informed that soft launch of the Festival of India in Australia will take place next month in Canberra with the opening of an exhibition of National Museum at the National Gallery of Australia in May 2010. The National Museum of Ministry of Culture is lending 101 miniature paintings depicting Rama -Katha or the stories of Rama for an exhibition. The exhibition is acclaimed to be one of the most rich exhibitions on the theme of Ramayana depicted through miniature paintings, belonging to the period 17th to 19th centuries.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma also promised that India will share its contemporary art with Australia and the strong cricket ties between the two countries also need to be highlighted. He also agreed to look into the request for direct Air India flights to cities of Australia favourably.

A sample copy of the miniature paintings on Rama-Katha was presented to Ms Bishop by Dr. Mahesh Sharma.

## Delegation Led by Mr. Colin Barnett Premier of Western Australia, Calls on the Minister of State for Agriculture Sh. Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya at Krishi Bhawan

PIB, New Delhi, April 09, 2015

Delegation led by Mr. Colin Barnett Premier of Western Australia called on the Minister of State for Agriculture Sh. Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi today. During the discussion with the delegation from Australia, Sh. Kundariya mentioned about Australia's high efficient agriculture sector with expertise and technology to support agricultural productivity across a range of areas.

Sh. Kundariya said that Australia has been importing a number of agriculture commodities from other countries of the world and India is in a position to export cake of soyabeans, soyabeans cashewnuts, chickpeas, coconut, coconut oil, ginger, grapes, groundnuts, lentils, oranges and vegetables. He urged to consider importing these commodities from India.

Sh. Kundariya said that India would like to collaborate with Australia in the areas of logistics, in particular cold chains and warehousing, agriculture processing in particular horticulture and fisheries and productivity enhancement.

The Australia team invited the officials from Minister of Agriculture to visit Australia and study the model of working for storage of food grains, logistic. They emphasized on research and technologies on increasing productivity in Agriculture.



The Premier of Western, Australia, Mr. Colin Barnett meeting the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Smt Smriti Irani, in New Delhi



## Govt notifies 49% foreign investment cap in pension sector

Livemint: April 28, 2015

**New Delhi:** Paving the way for greater role of foreign funds in the national pension system, the government on Monday notified the higher foreign investment of 49% in the pension sector. The ceiling will be a composite cap for foreign direct investment and foreign portfolio investment.

Foreign investors will be allowed to pick up a 26% stake in pension funds under the automatic route. But for a higher stake they will have to seek the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), said a department of industrial policy and promotion press note.

The passage of the insurance laws (amendment) bill in Parliament that allows a higher 49% foreign investment limit had facilitated the higher foreign investment limit in the pension sector. This is because of a provision in the Pension Funds Regulatory and Development Authority Act that had linked the foreign investment ceiling in the pension sector with that of the insurance sector.



## Print media consumption grew 3% in 2014

Business Standard: April 01, 2015



**New Delhi:** The Media Research Users Council (MRUC) and the Readership Study Council of India (RSCI) have issued the top line data of the latest Indian Readership Survey (IRS), which showed that in 2014 media consumption grew 3.12 per cent over 2013.

The print media consumption grew at 6.54 per cent, with Dainik Jagran retaining its spot as the leading publication in terms of average individual

readership (AIR) of 16,631,000. The pecking order of the top three publications remained unchanged, with Hindustan at number two (AIR: 14,746,000) followed by Dainik Bhaskar at number three (AIR: 13,830,000). The Times of India (AIR: 7,590,000) moved down a spot to number eight, was replaced by Amar Ujala (AIR: 7,808,000), which stood at number seven.

The dailies dominated the list of top-read publications in the country, with all the top 10 spots occupied by them in 2014. Among the English dailies, The Times on India continued to lead the lot, and has managed to widen the gap between it and its closest competitor Hindustan Times (AIR: 4,515,000). In 2013, the gap between the two was

2,919,000, while in 2014, this gap increased to 3,075,000 AIR. The only English daily to see a drop in readership in 2014 was the Deccan Herald from 458,000 in 2013 to 442,000 in 2014.

The Malayala Manorama continued its grip on the number 1 spot among vernacular dailies, with a readership of 8,803,000 in 2014, followed by the Daily Thanthi at 8,283,000. While the Matrubhumi did see a marginal dip in readership (6,020,000 in 2014 against 6,136,000 in 2013), it continued to hold the third spot.

Telangana has been added as a separate state and a full sample of 238,000 has been considered at an all-India level. This includes 162,000 urban households and 75,000 rural households.



## Railways' revenue earnings up by 12.16 per cent during financial year 2014-15

PIB, April 10, 2015



**New Delhi:** The total approximate earnings of Indian Railways on originating basis during the financial year 2014-15 (1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015) were Rs. 157880.50 crore compared to Rs. 140761.27 crore during the same period last year, registering an increase of 12.16 per cent.

The total approximate earnings from goods during fiscal 2014-15 were Rs. 107074.79 crore compared to Rs. 94955.89 crore during the same period last year, registering an increase of 12.76 per cent.

The total approximate revenue earnings from passengers during the financial year 2014-15 were Rs. 42866.33 crore compared to Rs. 37478.34 crore during the same period last year, registering an increase of 14.38 per cent.

The total approximate revenue earnings from other coaching amounted to Rs.4035.56 crore during fiscal 2014-15 compared to Rs. 3818.03 crore during the same period last year, registering an increase of 5.70 per cent.

The total approximate numbers of passengers booked during the financial year 2014-15 were 8227.99 million compared to 8425.09 million during the same period last year, showing a decrease of 2.34 per cent. In the suburban and non-suburban sectors, the numbers of passengers booked during fiscal 2014-15 were 4503.97 million and 3724.02 million compared to 4549.62 million and 3875.47 million registering a decrease of 1.00 per cent and 3.91 per cent respectively during the same period last year.

## RBI allows companies to issue rupee bonds abroad

Business Standard : April 08, 2015

**Mumbai:** Allowing companies to issue rupee-denominated bonds abroad will address both pricing and currency risks, while opening a window for rupee-denominated instruments to trade abroad.

The move follows robust demand for rupee-denominated bonds issued by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"It will bring more liquidity and funds and since these are raised in the rupee, no hedging volatility is involved," said Rajeev Talwar, executive director of real estate major DLF.

Even large companies struggle to raise funds from the local debt market, mainly due to the short tenure of bonds (up to three years) and big investors like Life Insurance Corporation of India insisting on triple-A ratings. "There is no depth in the local debt markets," said Seshagiri Rao, joint managing director, JSW Group. "The equity markets get many tax incentives and India should extend these to the debt market. It's important for infrastructure and companies setting up large projects to have access to long-tenure loans; a



thriving bond market will help companies."

Analysts say many foreign investors have shown interest in high-yielding Indian debt. The enthusiastic response to IFC and ADB's offshore bonds has now encouraged RBI to push companies into tapping the rupee bond market abroad. In November last year, IFC sold Rs 1,000 crore worth of offshore 10-year Indian currency bonds at nearly two per cent below the benchmark 10-year government bond. In August, ADB raised Rs 300

crore from an offshore rupee-linked bond issue, to be settled in dollars.

By allowing companies to issue rupee debt from abroad, RBI could help contain India's foreign currency-denominated external debt obligation and reduce systemic risks from Indian companies' large unhedged forex exposure.

Analysts say demand for such bonds would depend on hedging options. To spur hedging of forex exposure and enhancing the liquidity of the currency options market, RBI has proposed to permit exporters and importers to write covered options on the basis of actual contracted exposure. Only companies with underlying transactions can write such options. This will also hedge forex exposure automatically.

"The move will also increase the options market liquidity, lacking depth due to lack of counterparty availability. It is also expected that once exporters and importers both start writing options, there will be enough counter-parties to make this voluminous enough to get the critical mass," said Prabal Banerjee, president, international finance, Essar group.

## Economy gathers pace: India can grow at 8%, say IMF, World Bank

Hindustan Times: April 15, 2015

**Washington:** The Modi government's economic initiatives continue to excite global bodies, with both the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund painting a rosy picture for India.

The World Bank said GDP is expected to accelerate to 7.2% in 2014-15, to 7.6% in 2015-16 and 8.0% in 2017-18. The IMF said India will overtake China as the fastest-growing emerging economy in 2015-16 by clocking a 7.5% growth rate on back of

policy initiatives, pick-up in investments and lower oil prices. China is expected to grow 6.8% in 2015-16. IMF also said it sees no reason why India cannot achieve 8%, 9% or an even higher growth rate, going forward.

"The Indian economy has taken strong strides towards higher and more inclusive growth," the World Bank said in a report on South Asia economies. "Recent economic activity has been on

an upturn — growth has accelerated, inflation has declined, current account deficit has narrowed, and external buffers have been replenished."

The bank credited its projection to "an ambitious reform agenda", which, it said, "which, if fully implemented, can unlock investments and boost growth."

## Australia Extends Support to Ganga Rejuvenation Plan

PIB, New Delhi, 18 March 2015



The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Australia, Ms. Julie Bishop calling on Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sushri Uma Bharti, in New Delhi

Australia has promised its full support to Ganga Rejuvenation plan. This was communicated by Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Julie Bishop when she called on Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti here today. Ms. Bishop said her country will be too happy to extend all technological support to India for its mission to clean Ganga. She said her country has developed a "Score card" to measure and control effluent discharge into the rivers which will be very useful for India in its efforts to clean Ganga. Welcoming the offer, Sushri Bharti said this will be very helpful for us to formulate proper guidelines for polluting industries.

Both the leaders also discussed the possibilities of bilateral co-operation in sectors like water flow forecasting, recharging of ground water, mapping of ground water storage and inter-linking of rivers. The visiting dignitary also extended an invitation to Sushri Bharti to visit Australia.

## DMRC plans to export rakes for Queensland and Sydney Metros

IBEF: March 30, 2015



**New Delhi:** The sustained indigenisation efforts of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) have helped them to achieve the milestone of manufacturing 90 per cent of Delhi Metro coaches in the country and it is now planning to export rakes to Queensland and Sydney Metros in Australia.

"Delhi Metro's initiatives to indigenise manufacturing is in consonance with the 'Make in India' initiative of the central government and the establishment of three Metro coach manufacturing units in India to cater to the requirements of Metro market is a very positive development," said Mr Mangu Singh, Managing Director, DMRC.

The contract conditions mandating indigenisation have resulted in major coach manufacturing companies setting up production facilities in India. The contract mandates a cap on upper limit of 25 per cent for production abroad while the balance

is to be necessarily manufactured in India either through tie-ups or a wholly-owned subsidiary. Manufacturing units set up to supply coaches to DMRC are now engaged in manufacturing of rakes that will be exported to Australia for Queensland and Sydney Metros.

Three Metro coach manufacturing units have already been established in Savli (Gujarat), Bengaluru (Karnataka) and Sricity (Tamil Nadu).

Besides manufacturing coaches, eighteen major sub systems of these coaches have also been indigenised. This has led to establishment of ancillary industry and skilled man power development in house.

Window glasses, battery boxes, brake blocks, bogie frames, vacuum circuit breakers, propulsion among others are also being manufactured in India.

## PM launches MUDRA Bank to fund small businesses

Business Standard: April 09, 2015

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched Micro Unit Development and Refinance Agency, or MUDRA to fund and promote microfinance institutions (MFIs), which would in turn provide loans to small and vulnerable sections of the businesses. Modi said these businesses would provide almost 10 times jobs to what was being generated by big companies.

MUDRA will have an initial corpus of Rs 20,000 crore and a credit guarantee corpus of Rs 3,000 crore. The initial corpus would be provided by banks from their priority sector lending shortfall.

To be a Non-banking financial company (NBFC) and a part of Sidbi, MUDRA will later take the form of a bank through a Bill, which the government will present in Parliament within the next one year, according to financial services secretary Hasmukh Adhia. With this, the long-awaited Bill on MFIs would not come and some of its provisions would be incorporated in the Bill on MUDRA, Adhia added. "It will also put in place entire mechanism as to how much interest rate can be charged for micro sector," he said. The issue had become quite contentious after the MFI sector had faced tough time, particularly in Andhra Pradesh when the state government tightened the noose on MFIs for recovery of loans in the wake of over-indebtedness of the loanees.



On whether MUDRA would regulate the NBFC (MFI), Adhia said, "That decision would be taken when the Bill will be framed." He added the government was yet to take a call on whether MUDRA would be transformed into a universal bank.

"The government can decide to make it a policy bank like NHB (National Housing Bank) or it can decide to make it a universal bank," he said.

Speaking about the broad contours of the proposed Bill, he said: "It will define what is going to be MFI. What is our definition of MFI. It will try and put in some process of registering new MFIs with MUDRA Bank." It will also define functioning and objective of MUDRA Bank, Adhia said.

During the launch, the Prime Minister said the MUDRA scheme was aimed at "funding the unfunded". He said India's small entrepreneurs were used to exploitation at the hands of money lenders so far, but MUDRA would instill new confidence in them.

Small businesses can avail loan up to Rs 50,000; businesses that are a little bigger could avail loan of up to Rs 5 lakh; the highest bracket of loans available to the MSME sector would be up to Rs 10 lakh.

For further financing, the MSME sector affiliated entrepreneurs would be given a 'MUDRA card', which could provide further credit of up to Rs 20,000.

MUDRA would also partner with state, regional level co-ordinators to provide finance to the last-mile financiers of small and micro business enterprises. The idea of MUDRA Bank was first envisaged in Budget 2015-16.



## Textiles Minister lays foundation stone for Apparel and Garment Making Centre in Arunachal Pradesh

PIB, April 17, 2015

**New Delhi:** Minister of State for Textiles (I/C), Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, laid the foundation stone for an Apparel & Garment Making Centre at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh today, in the presence of Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju and Minister of Textile & Handicrafts of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Tapang Taloh.

The Centre is being set up as part of a landmark initiative announced by the Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in Nagaland, on 1st December, 2014. The Prime Minister had announced that an Apparel and Garment Making Centre shall be constructed in all North Eastern states. Work on such a Centre for Nagaland has already begun, after the foundation stone was laid by the Union Textiles Minister, on 24th February, 2015. Shri Gangwar laid the foundation stone for an Apparel and Garment Making Centre in Manipur on 24th March, 2015 and in Sikkim on 25th March, 2015. Each Apparel and Garment Making Centre set up under the initiative is estimated to generate direct employment for 1,200 people.

Each state will have one centre with three units, each having 100 machines. For local entrepreneurs with requisite background, required facilities to start a unit will be provided in 'plug and play' mode. Once such entrepreneurs get established, they can set up their own units, allowing the facility to be provided to new entrepreneurs.

The initiative comes under the North East Region Textile Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) of the Ministry of Textiles. NERTPS is an umbrella scheme for the development of various segments of textiles, i.e. silk, handlooms, handicrafts and apparels & garments. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs. 1038.10 crore in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Shri Ninong Ering, MP, Arunachal East Parliamentary Constituency; Shri Kaling Moyong, MLA, 38 - Pasighat, East Assembly Constituency and Dr. S. K. Panda, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India were also present on the occasion.



## India among top five markets for Japanese auto majors

PIB, New Delhi, March 25, 2015



**Chennai:** There's something about India as a market that's enticing the behemoths of automobiles. And they're coming in hordes. The country now ranks among the top markets for Japanese automobile companies like Suzuki, Yamaha, Honda and Toyota among others.

Although thanks to Maruti Suzuki's market leadership in the car segment, India has been topping Suzuki's global markets both in terms of volumes as well as revenues, now the situation is being replicated by other Japanese biggies like Yamaha, Honda and Toyota as India moves up the global pecking order. The Indian market now ranks among the top five markets globally for almost all

the top Japanese automobile brands.

Take Honda Cars India, the four-wheeler local subsidiary of Honda Motor Corp. Thanks to some top-gear growth in the last two years, India now ranks as Honda's fourth biggest market by volumes. Said Jnaneswar Sen, senior vice-president, marketing & sales, Honda Cars India: "India ranks after the top three markets of US, China and Japan globally thanks to our good growth run for the past two years. HCI clocked 41% growth 2014-15 selling 1.89 lakh units up from 1.34 lakh units the year before. In 2013-14, we clocked a growth of 83% year-on-year. Leaving out the luxury cars, Honda is the fastest growing car brand in India. Our current market share in India is over 7%." Honda's top-gear run has prompted the Japanese car maker to expand capacity at its second plant in Rajasthan from 1.2 lakh units to 1.8 lakh units. "Our target is to sell 3 lakh units in India by 2016-17."

Ditto for fellow Japanese brand Yamaha which now pegs India just after its global top market Indonesia. Said Roy Kurian, VP-marketing and sales, Yamaha Motor India: "India will become Yamaha's second largest volume market after Indonesia by year-end though there will be quite a large gap between the

No1 and No2 markets. Earlier Vietnam used to be our second largest market but that is now expected to slide to No3 in the pecking order." Yamaha is already adding another 1.8 million units (in phases) thanks to its new plant in Chennai. Along with its existing plant in Surajpur, the fresh capacity will take Yamaha's total two-wheeler production in India to nearly 3 million units.

For Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Thailand, Indonesia and India comprise the trioka of "significant markets" in the Asia Pacific region. "India stands pretty tall in Toyota's gameplan and is the third market after China and US in terms of importance," said Shekar Viswanathan, vice-chairman and whole-time director, Toyota Kirloskar Motor.

Even relative newcomers like Nissan are stepping on the gas for some India action. Said Arun Malhotra, MD, Nissan Motor India: "India is one of the largest hubs for the investment that the Renault-Nissan Alliance has envisaged for a very competitive market like India. Our manufacturing facility is the largest that the Alliance has developed so far across the world with a production capacity 480,000 units. India is the first, among other growth markets across the world where Datsun made a world debut."

## India to become fifth largest market in the world in infrastructure projects

The TOI: April 27, 2015



**Mumbai:** The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, (RICS) research report says India is all set to become fifth largest market in the world in infrastructure projects, up from 5.3 per cent in 2015 to 9.8 per cent in 2030.

The report "Our Changing World: Let's be ready", calls for action in six areas support the profession and the sector in preparing for the challenges and opportunities. The report examines how global social and economic changes will require new skills, business models and responses to developing technologies over the next 15 years.

"Real estate and construction sector in India is continuously evolving at a rapid pace. All stakeholders of this profession need to come together to attract high quality talent in this sector - something which we see as being critical in

meeting long term growth." Sachin Sandhir, Global MD - Emerging Business, RICS, said.

It added that professionals in the built environment sector must take concerted action to prepare for the unprecedented global change the sector will face up to 2030.

The report draws on the views and perspectives of stakeholders from diverse specialisms and geographies across the surveying profession, globally. It captures the insights and expectations of what they project the most pertinent issues on the horizon will be leading to 2030. Through workshops, public forums and one-on-one interviews, more than 400 people from Asia, North America, South America, Europe and Africa shared their outlook of what the future may look like.

## India makes transformation from a country worried about its “brain-drain,” to a country that thinks of “brain-gain.”

PIB, New Delhi, April 23, 2015

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today said India had made the transformation from a country worried about its “brain-drain,” to a country that thinks of “brain-gain.” Inaugurating the first Global Exhibition on Services in New Delhi today, the Prime Minister said India should assess its “service” capabilities in the global perspective. He said India had vast potential to meet the skilled manpower needs of the entire world, and called for a careful mapping of global needs, which India could fulfil over the next decade.

Stating that Human Resource is India’s biggest asset, the Prime Minister said India’s development journey should focus on the 65 percent of its population which is below the age of 35. He said

that as the world looked for skilled manpower, India had the capability to become a crucial provider of this resource.

The Prime Minister mentioned sectors such as nursing, high-end financial services, arbitration, tourism, music and vegetarian cooking as examples of what India had to offer to the world, besides the already established IT and other core sectors.

Union Ministers Shri Kalraj Mishra, Shri J P Nadda, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Harsh Vardhan, Smt. Smriti Irani and Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman were present on the occasion.



## PM launches book on “Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages”

PIB, New Delhi, April 06, 2015



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today said a Nation’s maritime strength is a vital input for its emergence as a global economic power. He was speaking at a function in New Delhi, for the release of the book Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages. The Prime Minister

referred to his recent visit to nations in the Indian Ocean. He described this as an effort to revitalize relations with the countries with whom India shares a common ocean. The Prime Minister said historically, India has been a strong maritime power, which gave her economic strength.

The book is a depiction and transcription of “Malam Ni Pothis” – a collection of Gujarati manuscripts which describe the pre-modern navigation technology of Gujarat. The book describes expeditions undertaken by the Malams (navigators) of Kutch. The original Pothis are dated from the 17th to 19th century.

The book, Pre-Modern Kutchi Navigation Techniques and Voyages, has been transcribed and edited by Mr. Ashok B. Rajeshirke. It is a

collaborative effort by the National Museum, New Delhi, and the Darshak Itihas Nidhi – a Foundation for Research and Studies in History.

The Prime Minister complimented all those involved with the preparation of the book, and said such efforts are an essential part of every culture which is conscious of its history. The Prime Minister said India has usually not been a history-conscious society, and therefore, many great accomplishments of the past have remained anonymous. He said in today’s age of patents and IPRs, it was vital for India to be conscious of its history and culture.

The Union Minister for Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma, and the Chairman, Darshak Itihas Nidhi, Shri Hasmukh Shah, were present on the occasion.

## Marriott set to open 52 hotels in 4-5 years

Business Standard: April 10, 2015

**Mumbai:** Marriott International Inc, one of the world’s largest hotel chains, is set to add 52 properties in India over the next five years to cater to the burgeoning demand for quality hotel stay.

Through its partners, the US-based company is adding 10,000 rooms to its existing 7,000 rooms. Arne M Sorenson, president and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Marriott International, said: “Today, 57 per cent of our guests in India are Indians compared to 35 per cent five-to-six years ago. Today, we have 28 properties in India, but we would like to have a few hundred. We see many more opportunities. The past few years have been tough, but there is enormous potential to grow here”. Sorenson was in the city to officially open Mumbai’s second JW Marriott. Marriott has one of the biggest basket of brands amongst the large hotel chains of the company’s 19 global brands, seven are already present in India. To complement JW Marriott and Ritz Carlton, there are plans to bring BVLGARI, its most expensive brand, to the Indian market.

“We only have half-a-dozen BVLGARI properties around the world and one is coming up in the Maldives. These are smaller properties compared to, say, a Ritz Carlton. There are four-five cities in

India which can support a true luxury brand such as BVLGARI,” added Sorenson. In the past five to six years, Marriott has added five brands to its kitty. These brands, which include Moxy and Autograph Collection, form a part of the Lifestyle Collection. According to Sorenson, some of these brands have a better prospect in India than China. “In China, they still follow traditional luxury. That is why India has a better position to host such lifestyle brands,” added Sorenson.

One of the other brands that will get a boost is the upmarket brand Fairfield. With one property operational in Bengaluru, 15 more are under development. Against the management route followed by the company in all its brands, Marriott has invested \$30 million to set up Fairfield properties, which will be built through a joint venture with SAMHI Hotels. Marriott controls 26 per cent of stake in the joint venture.

In addition, premium brand Ritz Carlton, which has one operational property in Bengaluru, has two properties (one each in Mumbai and Delhi) under development. Courtyard by Marriott has 12 operational properties and 18 are under development. Five years ago, Marriott had declared plans to have 100 properties by 2015

with an intermediate target of reaching 41 properties by 2013.

Sorenson agrees there has been a delay. “In a city like Mumbai, it takes 70-100 permits to open a new property compared to six in Singapore. This leads to cost overruns and delays,” added Sorenson. Marriott is not the only company which is running behind schedule. Starwood, Hilton, Intercontinental, Jumeirah, Four Seasons and Hyatt, to name a few, are unable to keep pace with their earlier announcements.





## Dr Harsh Vardhan announces imminent drug research breakthroughs

PIB, April 13, 2015



**New Delhi:** Says, "Swasth Bharat Abiyan" to be Boosted by "Enablers" for Pharma R&D"

Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan, announced that the Indian pharmaceuticals sector would soon be showcasing 'candidate drugs' for malaria, osteoporosis and diabetes. He said with further R&D, important breakthroughs could be on the horizon for effective panacea for these conditions.

Speaking after a visit to the Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) a wing of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in Lucknow today, he remarked that Indian R&D efforts in government laboratories like CSIR-CDRI, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad), CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB, Kolkata), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM, Jammu), CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh) and CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL, Pune) have a track record in making drugs for Kala Azar, Filariasis, Leprosy and Tuberculosis available at affordable rates to the common man.

The "candidate drugs" are currently undergoing clinical trials. He further announced that simultaneously, CSIR-CDRI is carrying out Investigational New Drug (IND) studies on lead molecules for fracture-healing, cancers, thrombosis, malaria and hyperglycemia.

The Minister said, "I am confident that the drug laboratories under CSIR are capable of backing up the Swasth Bharat Mission. Our scientists are focusing on both infectious and life-style diseases. We are developing next generation drugs, biologics, biosimilars, gene therapeutics, stem cell therapeutics, personalised medicine and multifunctional nanomedicine.

Recently, CSIR-IMTECH, Chandigarh has developed a clot specific streptokinase. CSIR-IIIM, Jammu

has discovered natural product-based potential medicine for rheumatoid arthritis. CSIR-IICB, Kolkata has developed an herbal extract for the treatment of benign prostate hyperplasia.

"I am certain that India has the potential of becoming a global pharmaceutical powerhouse and is in the process of putting some key enablers in place. These include giving the right incentives for R&D, forging alliances with the private sector and keeping an open mind on suggestions for fiscal relief to the private sector so that its role in R&D is enhanced," the Minister said.

He said that in recent months he has visited a number of CSIR laboratories and is convinced that they have the competencies for new drug discovery and development including clinical trials, and has played a major role over the last six decades in the growth of pharmaceutical industry and education in India.

Earlier, addressing scientists at the CSIR-CDRI auditorium here, he made it clear that the Prime Minister is committed to making India one of the world's leading destinations for end-to-end drug discovery and innovation by 2020. "Strengthening of the R&D ecosystem is the priority," he added.

He also emphasized that the people of India are expecting that CSIR laboratories would be able to produce therapeutic and preventive measures for re-emerged infectious diseases like Dengue, Chikunguniya, Encephalitis, Swine Flu as well as conditions like Cancer, Diabetes, Osteoporosis, Hypertension, Depression and Ulcers. The Minister thanked representatives of the pharmaceutical private sector who were present on the occasion for supporting CSIR labs in bringing the products from the laboratory to the market.

Today, India ranks third in terms of volume of production with 10 percent share of the global market by volume and 14th largest by value. India is

often dubbed the "Pharmacy of Developing World".

Dr Harsh Vardhan however pointed out that India still has a long way to go in Pharma R&D. Moreover, in India pharma needs to move from a phase of manufacturing to innovation. He expressed concern over the fact that currently, new drug R&D in India is mostly an affair of government organisations.

"I request industry representatives to collaborate with CSIR laboratories in new drug R&D. The Prime Minister has given a call for Make in India. We need to generate millions of jobs in a couple of years because this country has a youth bulge. Seamless partnership will help develop products and technologies for the benefit of the common man," he pointed out. In this context licensing of a new botanical product CDR4744F004 for osteoporosis and Centubridine (Local anaesthetic), a new antithrombotic compound S007-867 and anti-stroke chemotype of Ashwagandha (NMITLI118RT+) are steps in right direction, the minister said.

He announced that Government would soon set up the Biopharma Industry Incubator (BII) under the umbrella of CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow. It would strive to build a new generation of enterprises in the health care sector. The S&T Ministry is also considering setting up Government Laboratory Practices (GLP)-certified labs in CSIR-CDRI for complete range of Investigational New Drug (IND) studies. He said the step would foster new drug development as well as shore up the financial bottom line of the laboratory.

Further, the Minister announced the formation of a National Centre for Laboratory Animals in the CSIR-CDRI new campus conforming to national and international guidelines. The new institution would serve as a referral centre for lab animal breeding and experimentation for new drug development.

## In Hannover, Modi paints India as attractive investment destination

The ET: April 15, 2015



**Hannover:** If the response to an event that showcased the cultural diversity of Indian states at the world's biggest industrial fair here were a benchmark, then Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Germany can be declared a huge success.

CEOs of giant German engineering companies and Chancellor Angela Merkel loved it and the claps and cheers resounded for long. But, apart from that, there is a long road to traverse even as Modi made a fervent pitch for India. "We want to accelerate economic growth and provide jobs to our youth," he told German businessmen.

Modi said his contingent had 14 states, 120 CEOs and 320 companies from India participating in the fair, Hanover Messe, underscoring the significance India is giving to business with Germany.

Touting "Make in India" as a new national movement that covers society and business, he said the country is an attractive destination and that his government will make it easy to reach and a place where there will be no negative

surprises. "There will be no surprise element," he told the audience that had Merkel, Siemens AG chief J Kaiser, Daimler's CEO Dieter Zetsche and Volkswagen's Martin Winterkorn among others.

"We've moved with speed, created confidence at home and abroad and will protect your intellectual property rights," the PM told his audience. The country's tax system would be more "predicable", he said and also talked about "new financial instruments" to fund India's growth.

"Every CEO who has tried to turnaround knows how challenging and difficult it is get people come on the same side," he said in an attempt to highlight how he has changed business sentiment overnight.

"The will to change is there and it is moving with speed and in the right direction," he said. But the Germans were looking for something more from the Indian government: a free trade agreement with the European Union that will benefit German companies to do trade in India, a suggestion that

many in the government and in business in India unwilling to agree, with talk of reworking existing FTAs.

Modi's last line, as he opened the industrial fair along with Merkel, was imploring businessmen from both sides, "When the shutter comes down at the fair, I hope many new doors would have opened".

### Why Germany is big for India

1. Germany is the 8th largest foreign investor in India. Its foreign direct investments in India during January November 2014 was valued at \$995 million. More than 1600 German collaborations with Indian entities and around 600 Indo-German joint ventures are currently in operation.

2. Trade between the two countries was valued around 16 billion euros. Germany is India's largest trading partner in the EU and one of the top ten global trading partners.

## Twenty four airports identified for domestic cargo terminals

PIB, April 28, 2015

**New Delhi:** Twentyfour airports at Tier-II/III (non-metro) cities have been identified where Common User Domestic Cargo Terminal (CUDCT) is proposed to be established by carrying out cargo feasibility study and minor modifications in the old/redundant passenger terminal buildings.

Keeping in view the requirements, time to time cargo feasibility is conducted based on which basic infrastructure is provided. Moreover, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to utilise old/redundant passenger buildings with minor modifications such as civil/electrical works or by creating a new facility for International cargo operations. AAI has already established Common User Domestic Air Cargo Terminals at Coimbatore, Jaipur and Lucknow airports.

This information was given by Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.





## Extension of e-Tourist Visa scheme to 31 more countries

PIB, April 30, 2015

**News Delhi:** Government of India has launched e-Tourist Visa (old Name: Tourist Visa on arrival enabled by Electronic Travel Authorisation) on November 27, 2014 to 45 countries from nine designated Indian Airports.

This facility is being extended to 31 more countries from May 01, 2015. The new countries included in e-Tourist Visa scheme are Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Cayman Island, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador,

Estonia, France, Georgia, Grenada, Haiti, HolySee (Vatican), Honduras, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St.Kitts & Nevis and Seychelles.

With the above addition, the total number of countries under the scheme will go upto 76. The scheme will be extended to more countries in a phased manner. The Government is committed to extend the scheme to 150 countries by the end of this financial year.

## Vodafone invested Rs 450 crore in Bihar, Rajasthan & Jharkhand in FY15

The ET: April 22, 2015



**News Delhi:** Vodafone India, the country's second-largest GSM service provider, has invested Rs 450 crore in Rajasthan and Bihar & Jharkhand telecom circles in the year ended March 31 to expand its cellular network and bolster retail and distribution presence.

The Indian unit of the UK's Vodafone Group Plc has invested Rs 250 crore in Bihar & Jharkhand telecom circle, and Rs 200 crore in Rajasthan, the company said in separate statements on Tuesday.

Vodafone added more than 1,250 new cell sites across Bihar & Jharkhand telecom circle last fiscal. It now has over 8,700 2G sites in the circle, covering 33,500 towns and villages, or over 79% of the region's population. It also increased the number

of exclusive retail outlets in the circle to more than 415.

In Rajasthan, the telecom major launched 59 brand outlets last fiscal to take its stores count to 670, which it claims is the largest among mobile operator. Vodafone claims it now covers 90% population of the state.

The mobile major had recently revealed last fiscal's investments in several circles, including Mumbai where it spent Rs 1,000 crore. Vodafone also invested Rs 661.33 crore in the Kolkata and Rest of Bengal circle, Rs 480 crore investment in Uttar Pradesh East and Rs 150 crore in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana circle.

## E-commerce dominates PE deals in India's technology sector: report

Livemint: April 27, 2015

**News Delhi:** E-commerce has become the most attractive space for private equity (PE) investment in India, leading to deals worth a record \$11.5 billion in the entire technology sector last year, says a report by Grant Thornton and Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA) released on Friday.

There were also about 400 mergers and acquisitions in the technology sector, and e-commerce accounted for 75% of the total value of such deals, up from 30% in 2012, says the report.

"A large part of the total deal value consists of big ticket e-commerce PE investments along with large cross-border acquisitions by leading IT majors," the report said. The trend continues in 2015.

"While all sub-segments within e-commerce have garnered investor interest in terms of number of deals, e-tailers such as Flipkart and Snapdeal, with their multiple products and brands, have driven big-ticket investments constituting 68% of the total deal value in 2014," the report said.

"India, from being merely a technology adapter or importer, is now becoming creator for technology enabled disruptive solutions. There is a clear desire and confidence that Indians can create unique solutions for the local market and also compete actively in the global market," said Harish H.V., partner, Grant Thornton India LLP. "What started as an inflow of investments into e-commerce shopping portals like Snapdeal, Flipkart in 2014, transformed into a full-fledged focused strategy with aggregators like Ola, Quikr, Foodpanda, which secured multi-million dollar investments at billion-dollar valuations," he said. Eighty percent of PE investments were under \$10 million deals.

"With a stabilizing capital market, stable government and hopes of new reforms, we expect heightened interest from global investors in the Indian economy in the coming year," said Arvind Mathur, president, IVCA.

Top PE deals in 2014 included Morgan Stanley Investment Management, GIC, Accel Partners, DST Global Solutions Ltd, Iconiq Capital and Sofina Capital investing \$1 billion in Flipkart Online Services Pvt. Ltd.

Baillie Gifford and Co., Greenoaks Capital, Steadview Capital, T. Rowe Price Associates, and Qatar Investment Authority and existing investors infused another \$700 million in Flipkart.

Softbank Corp. invested \$627 million in Snapdeal, and Capital Square Partners, CX Partners and others acquired 100% of Aditya Birla Minacs Worldwide for \$260 million.



## Infosys acquires m-commerce platform for \$120 million

The TOI: April 27, 2015

**Bengaluru/Chennai:** Infosys has made a second big acquisition in a little over two months, marking a significant change in the company's approach to M&As under CEO Vishal Sikka. It has acquired US-based digital experience provider Kallidus (which does business under the name Skava) for \$120 million (Rs 756 crore). The acquisition is an all-cash deal that includes retention bonus and a deferred component.

Kallidus (Skava), founded by former Microsoft employees Arish Ali and Sudha K V, delivers a cloud-hosted platform for mobile websites, apps and other digital shopping experiences across mobile, tablet,

desktop and other channels to large retail clients. The company has a development centre in Coimbatore. "Infosys has traditionally been M&A shy. They are building momentum by doing such smaller acquisitions, embedding M&A as part of the organisation DNA in its transformation journey," said Harish H V, partner in consultancy firm Grant Thornton.

In February, Infosys acquired US-based automation technology company Panaya for \$200 million (over Rs 1,200 crore) with a valuation that was six times the multiple of Panaya's revenues. The M&A momentum has come following

Sikka's appointment of former SAP colleague Ritika Suri as the M&A head in December. Infosys's largest buyout happened in 2012 when it acquired Zurich-based consulting firm Lodestone for \$345 million. Under Sikka, Infosys is actively scouting for startups to bring a differentiated proposition to its service offerings. The company has also just invested \$2 million in air quality monitoring startup Airviz for a minority stake. The venture was spun out of Carnegie Mellon University.

Airviz Speck uses patent-pending technology from Carnegie Mellon University that helps individuals

identify health hazards related to air quality. Infosys's investment was made out of the \$500 million Innovation Fund that it established last year to invest in startups working in areas like artificial intelligence, automation, internet of things, collaboration and design technologies. The company made its first investment from that fund recently when it put \$15 million into a spin-off of DreamWorks Animation.



## Online hotel booking set to become \$1.8 bn industry in 2016

Livemint: April 16, 2015



**New Delhi:** Online hotel booking is set to zoom with increasing Internet penetration. It is likely to more than double to \$1.8 billion by 2016 with over eight million Indians booking their hotel rooms on Internet, said a new Google Inc. report on Wednesday. India has about 300 million Internet users, according to the data compiled by the Internet and Mobile Association of India.

"Consumer confidence to do online hotel bookings is on the rise in India, with an estimated 8.4 million Indians likely to book hotels online by 2016. The online hotel booking industry will be worth \$1.8 billion from the current \$0.8 billion," the report said.

The report, compiled by Google India, is based on Google search trends in India between 2011 and 2014, and offline interviews with 3,716 travellers in the age group of 18-54 covering 12 cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mysore, Kochi and Hyderabad.

There is a "significant headroom for growth in the sector", with the ease of access to information and details online propelling consumer confidence to book hotels online, the report said. While only 29% of the users book hotels online at present, 83% of users who research for hotels online are comfortable transacting online and do an online transaction once a month, the report said. It further said that more women (about 50%) research and book hotels online compared to men (41%).

"The research findings reveal the high growth potential for online hotel bookings in India," said Vikas Agnihotri, industry director, Google India. "While the overall user base of people looking for information on hotels online was very high, the conversion is still happening offline. We hope the report will provide meaningful insight to the industry to overcome the gaps that exists in their offerings and grow the sector to its full potential."

Users in the age group of 35-44 are the most savvy and mobile phones have emerged as the preferred choice of device for accessing the Internet. On Google search, hotel searches from mobile saw 30-fold growth from 2011 to 2014. "This was validated in the offline research, where over 27% respondents said they use mobile phones to search and book hotels on the Internet and over 56% of users who book hotels online

have a travel app installed," the report said.

Indian travellers are increasingly preferring short trips of less than five days. Sixty-four percent of respondents said they prefer short trips while opting for two or more trips a year. Budget accommodation has emerged as the most popular option for travellers in India with 49% users choosing them. Google said 32% users book economy hotels and 19% users book luxury hotels.

Thirty-seven percent respondents said they prefer to travel with friends, as opposed to 31% who said they prefer family members as the travel companions. Online payment continues to be a challenge with two-third of Indian travellers preferring to pay offline; half of them pay directly at the hotel. Safety and security of the online transactions, and trust in online hotel offerings came out to be the top deterrents.

"Complicated terms and conditions, concerns about online cancellation policies, better rates and discounts available offline as well as offline personalised services were some as the other reasons for users to still book hotels offline," the report said. Ahead of the summer holiday season, Google plans to organize the Great Indian Travel Festival on the lines of Great Online Shopping Festival for nine days from 18-26 April.

## NTT Communications to invest Rs 620 crore on new data centre in Mumbai

The ET: April 20, 2015

**New Delhi:** Tokyo-based communications technology bellwether NTT Communications plans to invest \$100 million (about Rs 620 crore) in developing a new data centre in Mumbai through its subsidiary Netmagic Solutions, a top executive at Netmagic said.

NTT acquired Netmagic, a managed services provider, in 2012. NTT that offers voice and video solutions, besides network services, holds 74% stake in Netmagic, which is growing at around 35% annually. "The new data centre coming up in Q3 2015 will be spread across 3 lakh square feet and host up to 3,000 server racks with 20-28 MW energy capacity," said Sharad Sanghi, managing director and chief executive at Netmagic.

NTT has chosen Mumbai over other locations for the data centre since the city hosts the

headquarters of several corporate houses, which the company expects could be a big business driver. This will be NTT's ninth data centre in India. "We are investing \$100 million in the new data centre that will operate through a carrier-neutral business model. Netmagic has got some anchor bookings and hope to get more customers as we move along," Sanghi said.

With a robust managed services portfolio in the country, NTT is eyeing India for its business needs. After enhancing the data centre portfolio, NTT is likely to announce global cloud services by the year end to facilitate multinational companies. With competition in the cloud market, both domestic and international, growing, global giants such as Microsoft, Amazon, Google and IBM have drawn up aggressive plans to open data centres in India.

Last September, Microsoft announced it would be opening data centres in India by the end of 2015. During his India visit last year, Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said cloud business in India itself is going to be a \$2-trillion opportunity.

As of now, Singapore and Hong Kong have an upper hand over India due to infrastructure readiness, low-cost bandwidth and power availability. According to Netmagic, the new data centre will have four different fibre pathways. The company, however, refused to divulge more details and added that the Mumbai data centre customers will include global cloud service providers, and banking and finance companies. NTT is also planning to expand its data centre base to Hyderabad and Pune as it sees new business demand coming its way amid the government's ambitious 'Digital India' initiative.



## Dr. Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar: The man behind the idea of modern Indian nation

PIB, Dilip Mandal, April 14, 2015



April 14, 2015 will kick off celebrations of Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary. Though Dr. Ambedkar's stature and image is growing larger with time, his prominence as India's foremost advocate of Dalit empowerment often does not do much justice to several sterling aspects of the man's multi-faceted personality.

Dr. Ambedkar was an economist par excellence and his work in this field had laid the foundation for the country's central bank, Reserve Bank of India. He planned India's first river valley project to generate power and irrigation facilities. As the chairman of the drafting committee of the Indian Constitution he was its chief architect. He had also drafted the far-reaching Hindu code bill to liberate vast majority of women and finally resigned from union cabinet when this bill was not passed by the Parliament.

However, Dr. Ambedkar's greatest and least known contribution was to be able to stretch the idea of the nation-state to include India's vast diversity of people, cultures and their differing aspirations. For him, nation is a philosophical entity with shared dreams as its central theme.

Academicians and scholars across India & the World are increasingly recognising Dr. Ambedkar's role as the nation builder of modern Indian State. Dr. Ambedkar had written eloquently on his idea of nation and this is documented in Writings & Speeches of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, published by Ambedkar Foundation, a central government sponsored body to carry on the work of Babasaheb and also by the education department of Government of Maharashtra.

Dr. Ambedkar's idea of nation is not only of a political or geographical entity,

having a map and a flag. He didn't subscribe to the popular definition of nation something as "large group of people living in one area with their own government, language, traditions, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary)." For him idea of nation has to have a philosophical and spiritual connotation with welfare, equity and fraternity as central themes. While explaining his idea of nation he had quoted French philosopher Ernest Renan saying that "A nation is a living soul, a spiritual principle. Two things, which in truth are but one, constitute the soul, this spiritual principle. One is in the past, the other in the present. One is the common possession of a rich heritage of memories; the other is the actual consent, the desire to live together, the will to preserve worthily the undivided inheritance which has been handed down. The nation, like the individual, is the outcome of a long past of efforts, and sacrifices, and devotion...A heroic past, great men, glory, these form the social capital, upon which a national idea may be founded."

Babasaheb, in his entire life tried to achieve this cherished goal of nationhood. For him, at that point of time in history, India was a nation in the making. He argued with another towering personality of his times, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on this issue. That great debate is now part of our national consciousness.

Any evaluation of Dr. Ambedkar's contribution should keep this philosophical and spiritual framework he had in mind for the sub continent. In his seminal but undelivered speech known as 'The Annihilation of Caste' he deliberated that a casteless society is prerequisite for a strong nation. Keeping this idea in the mind he led many social movements like Mahad Satyagraha for equal right to drink water from a public tank, temple entry rights movement and movement to burn the Manusmriti. He had warned that without having social and economic equality, our nation may face existential crisis. While concluding the debate in the constituent assembly, as chairperson of drafting committee, Babasaheb had said that, "On the 26th January, 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which is Assembly has to laboriously built up."

It was to resolve these contradictions that Dr. Ambedkar laboured hard to push the idea of affirmative action for the deprived sections of the society and women. It sprang from his steadfast belief that there could not be sustainable liberty without equality and fraternity.

**"How can people divided into several thousands of castes be a nation,"** he said.

Forefathers of Indian constitution had agreed to Babasaheb's view on the need to have reservations for oppressed classes. If we go through the constituent assembly debates, we can notice that there were practically no conflicting views on the issue of equal rights and affirmative action. In the case of the Hindu code bill prepared by Babasaheb, Dr. Ambedkar's view to have equal rights for women in the family was later endorsed by the Parliament. Though in the initial phase there was resistance to this bill and sensing this baba sahib had resigned from the position of the law minister. For Babasaheb had famously said, "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

As Earnest Renan had rightly said that a nation must forget the bad memories of the past and cherish the dream of a shared future, the constituent assembly of India passed that test of having social equality and fraternity with flying colours. That's the legacy we have, when we remember the great son of India, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar.

Lets all celebrate this year remembering the dream Babasaheb had for a great nation, called India.



# MADHYA PRADESH

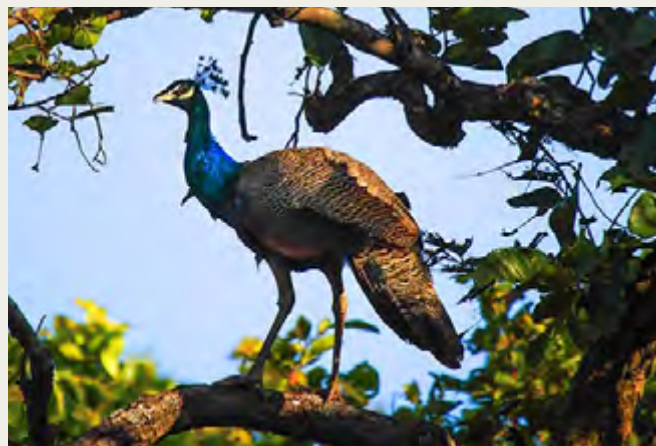
## Bandhavgarh National Park: Home of the Bengal Tiger

A glimpse is all it takes to bring home the truth about the wildness of the beasts that call this forest as its home. Bandhavgarh National Park which is most popular for its wild Bengal Tiger is the best place for forest safaris.

Here, the king of the forest is not the lion but the majestic Bengal Tiger, one of the mysterious animals of the cat family. A skilled hunter, a silent stalker and holding sway at the top of food chain at Bandhavgarh National forest, catching the predator in action is a dream come true for most of travel aficionados. Nowhere can one get a sighting of the Bengal Tiger like the forest located in Madhya Pradesh, the heart of India.

### GLORY OF THE INDIAN FOREST

Located in the north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh at the central part of India, the Bandhavgarh National Park is home to more than 22 species of mammals and 250 species of birds. Predators include the Asiatic Jackal, Bengal Fox, Sloth Bear, Ratel, Gray Mongoose, Striped Hyena, Jungle Cat, Leopard and the Bengal Tiger. A delight for wildlife photographs and adventure tourists, the jeep safari in the park is one of its famous highlights. Open Jeep Safari is the best way to explore the flora & fauna of the national park and visitors can witness untamed nature and unspoiled landscape with vegetation ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest Jeep Safaris can be done twice a day. The Morning Shift which starts early at the time of Sunrise up to 04 hrs & the afternoon one starts in between 02 PM to 03 PM up to sunset, which are the best times to witness the wildlife. However, with Tiger Tour, being the star attraction, the best way to venture near the big cat is on the back of the elephant. The elephant safari is really a rewarding experience, where visitors follow the footsteps of the royal tigers sitting safely on the back of the elephant.



### GETTING THERE

The nearest Airport for Bandhavgarh National Park is Jabalpur and Khajuraho. Jabalpur is just 200 Kms / 04 Hrs Drive and Khajuraho is 250 Kms or 05 Hrs Drive from Bandhavgarh. One can get regular flights for Jabalpur & Khajuraho from all major airports of India.

Best time to visit: Bandhavgarh National Park is best seen during winters which is October to March. Most of the tourists visit the park between November and March, primarily because it is easier to spot the tigers when game is plenty thanks to the rejuvenating monsoon rains.

**For more information:** Department of Tourism, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Paryatan Bhawan, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal - 462 003.

Website: [www.mptourism.com](http://www.mptourism.com), E-mail: [info@mptourism.com](mailto:info@mptourism.com), Fax: +91-755-2779476/2774289

Hotel Booking Tel.: +91-755-2778383, Transport Booking Tel.: +91-755-2775572



## INDIA CHRONICLE | EXPO CALENDAR

**GREEN POWER 2015**

India's power sector has a significant impact on the country's socio-economic development, human welfare and climate change of the country. The Indian economy has experienced unprecedented economic growth over the last decade. Today, India is the ninth largest economy in the world, driven by a real GDP growth of 8.7% in the last 5 years. This high order of sustained economic growth is placing enormous demand on its energy resources. The demand and supply imbalance in energy is pervasive across all sources requiring serious efforts by Government of India to augment energy supplies as India faces possible severe energy supply constraints.

BE Summits' launch of "Green India Energy Summit" looks at the close connections between businesses, policymakers, academia and research in the areas of energy and sustainability. This summit is a great opportunity to explore and address key issues together with figures who are sector leaders and experts in their fields. By bringing together communities they help transform knowledge and ideas into economically viable products or services that help to mitigate climate change and demand and supply imbalance.

Date: 25 - 26 JUN 2015

Venue: Hotel Palladium, Mumbai, India

Website: [www.greenindiasummit.com](http://www.greenindiasummit.com)

**FICCI HEAL 2014: "INDIA'S HEALTHCARE: TIME FOR PARADIGM SHIFT"**

India's population by 2028 as projected by United Nations will reach 1.45 billion making it the world's most populous nation surpassing China. If India were to leverage its demographic dividend, then it is imperative that it nurtures a healthier population.

Traditionally, we have been focusing on curative care, which has had limited success for specific diseases like tuberculosis, polio etc. However, with rising disposable incomes, changes in lifestyle and increasing population, the disease patterns have changed. While we are still struggling with the communicable diseases, the disease burden of non-communicable diseases has increased to 60%.

The changing pattern of diseases with increasing number of people suffering from combinations of communicable and non-communicable diseases demands increased focus on all types (promotive, preventive, diagnostic, curative, rehabilitative and palliative) of healthcare at various levels (primary, secondary and tertiary) in both, rural and urban areas ensuring continuity of care. This would require a complete paradigm shift in the health policy structure and functional guidelines.

Date: 31 AUG - 01 SEP 2015

Venue: FICCI, New Delhi, India

Website: [www.ficci-heal.com](http://www.ficci-heal.com)

**GREEN CEMENTECH 2015**

14 - 15 MAY 2015

HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, HALL NO. 3, NOVOTEL & HICC COMPLEX, (NEAR HITEC CITY), P.O BAG 1101, HYDERABAD, TELANGANA, INDIA

[www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

**POWER-GEN INDIA & CENTRAL ASIA**

14 - 16 MAY 2015

PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI, INDIA

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

**FAMDENT SHOW MUMBAI**

04 - 07 JUN 2015

BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTRE, W.E. HIGHWAY, GOREGAON (E), MUMBAI, INDIA

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

**AP-TEC 2015**

05 - 07 JUN 2015

CENTRAL TOBACCO RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BHASKARNAGAR, RAJAHMUNDRY, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

[www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

**IHEXPO 2013**

05 - 07 JUN 2015

CENTRAL TOBACCO RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BHASKARNAGAR, RAJAHMUNDRY, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

[www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

**GREEN POWER 2015**

02 - 03 JUL 2015

HOTEL ITC GRAND CHOLA, KAVERI 1 - 3, NO.63, MOUNT ROAD, GUINDY, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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

**RAINSAT 2015**

08 - 10 JUL 2015

SATHYABAMA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

[www.rainsat2015.com](http://www.rainsat2015.com)

**IIGF 2015**

13 - 15 JUL 2015

PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI, INDIA

[indiaapparelfair.com](http://indiaapparelfair.com)

**HGH INDIA 2015**

14 - 16 JUL 2015

BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTRE, W.E. HIGHWAY, GOREGAON (E), MUMBAI, INDIA

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

**AGROPRODMASH 2015**

05 - 09 OCT 2015

EXPOCENTRE FAIRGROUNDS, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

[www.agroprodmash-expo.ru](http://www.agroprodmash-expo.ru)

**GLOBAL INVESTOR MEET 2015**

09 - 10 SEP 2015

CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

[tamilnadugim.com](http://tamilnadugim.com)

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