



सत्यमेव जयते
Consulate General of India
Perth

INDIA BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2017

Indian Economy:

Indian economy to be 5th largest in 2018: World Economic League Table



India's economy is expected to overtake Britain and France to become the world's fifth largest in dollar terms in 2018 and third largest in 2032, the World Economic League Table (WELT) said. It would be the first time when the Indian economy will overtake the UK and France in real money dollar terms, the ninth edition of the report released by London-based Centre for Economics and Business Research showed. The world economic league table has forecast for 192 countries up to the year 2032. The report said the Indian economy has been larger than that of the majority of Western economies for most of history.

Read More:

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/indian-economy-to-be-5th-largest-in-2018-world-economic-league-table-2470101.html>

India likely to be \$6.5-7 trillion economy by 2030: PM-EAC chairman Bibek Debroy



India is expected to be a \$6.5-7 trillion economy by 2030, and at the current exchange rate it would touch \$10 trillion by 2035-40, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Bibek Debroy said. "In the year 2030, India's national income will be around USD 6.5-7 trillion. If exchange rate remains what it is today then by 2035-40, India will be \$10 trillion economy.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-likely-to-be-6-5-7-trn-economy-by-2030-pm-eac-chairman-bibek-debroy-117122100456_1.html

Economic growth may touch 7% in 2018: ASSOCHAM report



India's economic growth may touch 7 per cent next year as the government's policies tilt towards the country's stress-ridden rural landscape in the penultimate year before the 2019 general elections, according to a report. "Against GDP growth of 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of 2017-18, the economic expansion may reach the crucial 7 per cent mark by the end of September 2018 quarter, while inflation may range between 4 to 5.5 per cent towards the second half of the next calendar year with the monsoon being a key imponderable," said ASSOCHAM in its Year-Ahead Outlook.

Read More:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/economic-growth-may-touch-7-in-2018-asso-cham-report/story-e610xfp2eeC20sKQBROOPN.html>

India Ranks 60th Most Innovative Country on Global Innovation Index-2017

India ranks 60th out of 127 countries on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017 as compared to 66th rank on GI 2016. In order to make India an innovation-driven economy, the NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a mega initiative "India Innovation Index".

Read More:

<http://www.india.com/business/india-60th-most-innovative-country-in-global-innovation-index-2017-2771348/>

Indian economy in 2017, an interactive timeline: A year divided in equal halves by GST



Indian economy in 2017, an interactive timeline: A year divided in equal halves by GST (Image: PTI)

The year 2017 is a historic year as it is divided into two equal halves: The pre-GST era and the post-GST era, when at the stroke of midnight on June 30 and July 1, the Goods and Service Tax (GST) - the biggest tax reform since independence was launched after a 14-year-long struggle. India, for the first time, made it to the top 100 of World Bank's Ease of Doing index, followed by a surprise Moody's sovereign rating upgrade from Baa2 from Baa3.

Read More:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/indian-economy-in-2017-an-interactive-timeline-a-year-divided-in-equal-halves-by-gst/991896/>

More Than 30 Crore Accounts Opened Under PMJDY till December 6

A total of 30.71 crore accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), including 18.05 crore accounts opened in rural/semi-urban areas as of December 6, 2017. The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is National Mission for Financial Inclusion that ensures access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Read More:

<http://www.india.com/business/pradhan-mantri-jan-dhan-yojana-more-than-30-crore-accounts-opened-under-till-december-6-says-government-2775964/>

India can exceed its climate goals while maintaining GDP of 6-7%: report

Not only can India meet its national climate change goals promised under the Paris Climate Agreement, but can potentially exceed them while maintaining an annual gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6-7%, said a report released "Pathways For Meeting India's Climate Goals", by the World Resources Institute (WRI), an international research organization, and the Open Climate Network (OCN). The WRI study said that India can reduce its greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 by effectively implementing and further enhancing five current climate and energy policies.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/qaOHF7q5ZUT61UU78tGrJK/India-can-exceed-its-climate-goals-while-maintaining-GDP-of.html>

Total collection under GST for the month of December 2017 has been Rs. 80,808 crores till 25th December 2017

The total collection under GST for the month of December 2017 has been Rs. 80,808 crores till 25 December 2017. 99.01 lakh taxpayers have been registered under GST so far till 25 December, of which 16.60 lakh are composition dealers which are required to file returns every quarter. 53.06 lakh returns have been filed for the month of November till 25th December.

Read More:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1514167>

15,183 villages electrified in the country out of remaining 18,452, as on 30th November, 2017: Shri R.K. Singh

Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, informed that as on 1st April, 2015, there were 18,452 un-electrified villages in the country and as on 30th November, 2017, 15,183 villages have been electrified and 1052 villages have been found uninhabited. All un-electrified villages are targeted for electrification by 1st May, 2018.

Read More:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174527>

Rail station development plan to get a makeover



The Ministry of Railways is set to approach the Cabinet in January to overhaul the Rs 1-lakh-crore station redevelopment plan that would increase the lease period for a developer to 99 years. Google plans to expand Google Station to various cities across the country. It currently offers public Wi-Fi at 227 Indian railway stations.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rail-station-development-plan-to-get-a-makeover-117122700029_1.html

Govt exploring opportunities to make India USD 1 trillion digital economy



The government will explore new opportunities in various sectors like providing BPO service from home, digital healthcare and agriculture to achieve the target of making the country a USD 1 trillion economy.

Read More:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/govt-exploring-opportunities-to-make-india-usd-1-trillion-digital-economy/articleshow/62074301.cms>

Investments:

153 IPOs hit Indian mkt; USD 11.6 bn raised in 2017: Report

153 initial public offers hit the Indian stock market this year, raising USD 11.6 billion, according to an EY report that says activity "looks good" for 2018 as well. The fourth quarter (October-December) of this year saw 22 IPOs hitting the market, an increase of 47 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q- O-Q) in terms of number of deals. "India's BSE, NSE and junior markets recorded a 74 per cent increase in deal numbers in 2017 compared with 2016, with 153 IPOs raising USD 11.6 billion".

Read More:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/153-ipos-hit-indian-mkt-usd-11-6-bn-raised-in-2017-report/articleshow/62183734.cms>

Food processing sector to attract USD 18 bn in 4 yrs: Govt



India's food processing industry could attract an investment of USD 18 billion in the next four years as this sector provides great business opportunity with an annual growth rate of over 8 per cent, a top government official said. The government received an investment commitment of USD 12.5 billion in the food processing sector during the World Food India event held last month.

Read More:

<https://retail.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/food-entertainment/grocery/food-processing-sector-to-attract-usd-18-bn-in-4-yrs-govt/62180926>

After 2 years India is top EM destination for foreign flows



India has garnered the biggest share of foreign flows into emerging markets (EM) in 2017 after a gap of two years. According to Bloomberg data, overseas funds net purchased equities worth \$8.2 billion from Indian markets, roughly half of the inflows received by all the key emerging markets (EMs) put together. Strong inflows from overseas funds coupled with good buying by home-grown mutual funds have helped Indian markets scale new heights during 2017. The benchmark Sensex has climbed 34 per cent in dollar terms during 2017 to become one of the best performing global markets.

Read More:

<http://www.rediff.com/business/report/after-2-years-india-is-top-em-destination-for-foreign-flows/20171225.htm>

2017: A record breaking year for the domestic MF Industry

India's mutual fund industry witnessed an incredible journey in 2017. The sector, crowded with over 40 players, added as much as assets in a single year as it could manage during the first two decades of its existence. The year saw the industry break previous records it had set during the 2006-07 Bull Run.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/2017-a-record-breaking-year-for-the-domestic-mf-industry-117121800896_1.html

India Inc sews deals worth \$60 billion in 2017 with big M&As

India Inc is looking at a huge M&A tally of over \$60 billion (about Rs 4 lakh crore) for 2017, helped by some marquee domestic deals and rich valuations for various private equity investments.

Read More:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-inc-sews-deals-worth-60-billion-in-2017-with-big-mas/articleshow/62280671.cms>

China's LONGi plans solar equipment manufacturing facility in India



LONGi Green Energy Technology Co. Ltd may become the first Chinese company to set up a solar equipment manufacturing facility in India. The plan to set up a factory in India by LONGi, the world's largest monocrystalline solar wafer maker, comes in response to Indian government's proposal to make it mandatory for firms to have local manufacturing capability to bid for the world's largest solar tender of 20 gigawatts (GW). Monocrystalline silicon is more efficient and expensive as compared to the multicrystalline silicon, widely used globally in setting up solar power projects.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/oIBK2RcB4f5G75kTGR9J8l/Chinas-LONGi-plans-solar-equipment-manufacturing-facility-i.html>

CPPIB keen on investing more in India, says Mark Machin

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) wants to invest more in India in asset classes such as private credit and private equity, the pension fund's president and chief executive officer Mark Machin said.

The Toronto-based pension fund invests across classes such as public equities, private equity and credit, infrastructure and real estate. As of 30 September, CPPIB had net assets of C\$328.2 billion.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/O0OSDz8oajQIZGpKRiJfxK/CPPIB-keen-on-investing-more-in-India-says-Mark-Machin.html>

Exports / Imports:

Gems & jewellery exports up 50%

Data compiled by the apex industry body, the Gems and Jewellery Exports Promotion Council (GJEPC), show net exports of gems and jewellery shot up to \$2.78 billion (Rs 18,002 crore) in November 2017 from \$1.77 billion (Rs 12,001 crore) during the same month last year.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/gems-jewellery-exports-up-50-117122800048_1.html

Indian shrimp exports set to double to US\$7 bn by 2022: Crisil



In fiscal 2016, India became the biggest exporter of shrimps, pipping Vietnam by just \$100 million.

Country's shrimp exports is likely to double from USD 3.8 billion to USD 7 billion by 2022 due to strong demand, high quality, improved product mix and an increase in aquaculture area in several states, a report said.

Read More:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-shrimp-exports-set-to-double-to-7-bn-by-2022-crisil/articleshow/62056343.cms>

India's plastics export poised to cross USD 8 bn mark in FY18

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) is confident that India's plastics exports will cross USD 8 billion mark due to the positive growth trend. "The current trend in India's plastic exports seems highly encouraging and we are confident of crossing plastics exports to cross USD 8 billion mark in FY18 showing a 6 per cent increase from USD 7.56 billion in FY17.

Read More:

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9348522_India-s-plastics-export-poised-to-cross-USD-8-bn-mark-in-FY18\\$storyes](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9348522_India-s-plastics-export-poised-to-cross-USD-8-bn-mark-in-FY18$storyes)

Industry:

37% of the Indian workforce will be in new job roles by 2022: report



Demographic changes will have the highest impact on the future of jobs by 2022. Photo: Mint

By 2022, 37% of the Indian workforce would be employed in new job roles, according to the Future of Jobs report commissioned jointly by Ficci-Nasscom with EY. The report provides insights into the future of jobs and vision of change for the job market in India by 2022. According to the report, exponential technologies in advanced markets are expected to improve productivity by 15-20% in the next five years, while 60-65% of the Indian workforce in the IT-BPM sector would be deployed in jobs that have radically changed skill sets, followed by 55-60% in BFSI and 50-55% in the automotive sector.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/MPeM6J7o0BIXwdNNg2qQK/37-of-the-Indian-workforce-will-be-in-new-job-roles-by-2022.html>

Renewable Energy:

A Total of 1085 Small Hydro Power Projects, with aggregate capacity of 4399.355 MW capacity set up upto November 2017: Shri R.K. Singh

Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh, presented status of small hydro power projects in the country, He informed that 1085 small hydro power projects with aggregate capacity of 4399.355 MW capacity have been set up upto November 2017.

Read More:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1514461>

Solar power industry welcomes govt move to set drone regulations

The solar power industry, particularly firms involved in the operation & maintenance (O&M) of solar plants, have welcomed a statement by minister of state for civil aviation, Jayant Sinha, that the government will come out with regulations for operating drones within two months.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/e4uyPXeQNdPVwHML8ZUPMJ/Solar-power-industry-welcomes-govt-move-to-set-drone-regulat.html>

EESL initiatives save 3,700 kWh energy

State-owned Energy Efficiency Services (EESL) said its initiatives have cumulatively led to energy savings of over 3,700 crore kWh and a reduction of 3 crore tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, at the One Planet Summit in Paris, singled out the work done by the PSU in the space of Energy Efficiency and called out EESL as a Star Performer, the public sector company said in a statement. He highlighted that through the concentrated efforts of the government to push energy efficiency, the expansion of LED bulbs and tube lights will have, by mid-2019, save up to 20 GW of electricity capacity, that would otherwise have been generated from coal.

Read More:

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9317719_EESL-initiatives-save-3-700-kWh-energy\\$storyes](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9317719_EESL-initiatives-save-3-700-kWh-energy$storyes)

Replacing coal plants with renewables will help save Rs 54000 crore

The country can save up to Rs 54,000 crore in power costs and reduce air pollution by replacing expensive coal plants with renewables, according to a new analysis by Greenpeace India.

Read More:

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9342474_-Replacing-coal-plants-with-renewables-will-help-save-Rs-54000\\$storyes](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9342474_-Replacing-coal-plants-with-renewables-will-help-save-Rs-54000$storyes)

Automobile:

Auto sales see all-round growth, up 24% in November



All segments of the automobile industry showed double-digit sales growth in November, thanks to the demonetization-led low base of November 2016. Passenger vehicles (PVs), usually the star performer, grew 14 per cent, lowest among all segments. Data issued by Siam shows sale of PVs (cars, vans and utility vehicles) grew 14.3 per cent to 275,417 vehicles. Two-wheelers grew 23 per cent. Total two-wheeler sales in November rose 23.5 per cent to 15,35,277 units from a year before.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/november-automobile-sales-up-24-on-low-base-117121100749_1.html

Centre approves electric vehicle-based public transportation for 11 cities

In a fillip to India's Electric Vehicle (EV) Mission 2030, the ministry of heavy industries has announced the introduction of electric vehicles in the public transportation systems of 11 cities. The shortlisted cities

are Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Jaipur, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Indore, Kolkata, Jammu and Guwahati.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/ICsEzXTjxhmbEVRHJxcF7I/Centre-approves-electric-vehiclebased-public-transportation.html>

Auto industry will completely change in next 4 years: Pawan Goenka

Pawan Goenka, managing director, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), says in line with its global peers, the auto industry in India is set to witness major disruptions by the turn of the decade, in the form of electric vehicles (EVs), shared mobility, stricter emission, and safety standards.

Read More:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/auto-industry-will-completely-change-in-next-4-years-pawan-goenka>

Driving the future: This startup is already powering India's electric vehicle dream



GMW SmartAuto is almost as powerful as a diesel auto-rickshaw. Its high power motor can go up to a maximum speed of 55kmph and can take a load of 500kg.

Elon Musk may still be contemplating about entering the Indian market and car makers like Maruti Suzuki, Honda, Ford, and others talk about having their first electric car in India by around 2020, but a Hyderabad-based startup has raced ahead. Gayam Motor Works (GMW) is not making a sedan, SUV or a sports car, but what it has been able to achieve in a short span of time with limited resources is nothing short of being remarkable.

Read More:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/features/driving-the-future-this-startup-is-already-powering-indias-electric-vehicle-dream-gayam-motor-works-gmw-limitless/articleshow/62262487.cms>

E-commerce / Information Technology:

E-commerce market may cross \$50 bn mark in 2018: Study

The digital commerce market in the country is expected to cross USD 50 billion in value by the end of 2018 from the current level of USD 38.5 billion, on the back of a growing internet population and increased online shoppers, says a recent study.

Read More:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/e-commerce-market-may-cross-50-bn-mark-in-2018-study/articleshow/62240404.cms>

Internet penetration in India set to surge, big opportunity for firms: Omidyar report

Increasing mobile-phone penetration and declining data costs will add 500 million new internet users in India over the five years, creating opportunities for new businesses to serve this demography, private equity and venture capital firm Omidyar Network said in report.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/FIBiDL9tDI4ip2LWq71vSM/Internet-penetration-in-India-set-to-surge-big-opportunity.html>

Around 356 mobile charger factories to be set up in India by 2025: ICA



Indian mobile phone industry expects that the government push to encourage production of battery chargers will lead to setting up of 356 factories that can generate 8 lakh jobs in the country by 2025, says the industry body Indian Cellular Association.

Read More:

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/around-356-mobile-charger-factories-to-be-set-up-in-india-by-2025-ica-2465131.html>

Mobile app forewarning of livestock diseases launched

Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched a mobile application which can forewarn farmers about diseases affecting the livestock and will also provide information about clinical samples for diagnosis in the case of an epidemic. The app Livestock Disease Forewarning (LDF) has been developed by ICAR-National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI).

Read More:

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/9356303_Mobile-app-forewarning-of-livestock-diseases-launched\\$stories](http://www.ptinews.com/news/9356303_Mobile-app-forewarning-of-livestock-diseases-launched$stories)

TCS wins record \$2.25 billion Nielsen outsourcing contract



TCS CEO Rajesh Gopinathan. Under the \$2.25 billion outsourcing contract, TCS is assured of \$320 million in business from Nielsen every year, beginning 2017 through 2020, \$186 million in annual revenue from 2021 through 2024 and \$139.5 million in 2025. Photo: Aniruddha Chowdhury/Mint

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) has won a \$2.25 billion outsourcing contract, the largest ever bagged by an Indian information technology firm, from television ratings measurement company Nielsen. The deal marks the renewal of TCS's engagement with Nielsen, which first awarded a \$1.2 billion, 10-year contract to the Mumbai-based company in 2007. In 2013, the deal size was more than doubled to \$2.5 billion and extended by three more years until 2020.

MEGA DEALS

Notable billion-dollar transactions by IT outsourcing firms in recent years.

	IT vendor	Client	Deal size (in \$ billion)
Dec 2017	TCS	Nielsen	2.25
Feb 2016	HCL	Volvo	1.8
Feb 2015	HP	Deutsche Bank	> 1.5
Jul 2014	Wipro	Atco	1.1

Source: Mint research

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/U5FMVImU1kFy9tZaMHYU9M/TCS-wins-record-225-billion-Nielsen-outsourcing-contract.html>

Retail:

Online retail industry grows 23% to US\$ 17.8 billion: report



In 2017, the growth in e-commerce was driven primarily by Flipkart and Amazon, which now together account for a majority of online retail. Photo: iStockphoto

The expansion of online retail is likely to accelerate next year, with the market projected to increase by as much as 60% to \$28-30 billion in GMV, according to RedSeer estimates. Online retail grew by 23% to \$17.8 billion in 2017, up from \$14.5 billion in gross merchandise value (GMV) last year.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/L3FaecLqkboxHe0G5d8dxJ/Online-retail-industry-grows-23-to-178-billion-report.html>

DIPP approves 2 FDI proposals in retail sector



The department of industrial policy and promotion (DIPP) on Tuesday approved two FDI proposals in the retail sector, including that of Damro Furniture worth over Rs400 crore. Supr Infotech Solutions will carry out food product retail trading of milk and other daily need products. The firm proposes to invest Rs10.85 crore.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/J2VC2ut3yXsmr9GgzXtASP/DIPP-approves-2-FDI-proposals-in-retail-sector.html>

Education:

Government Set Up Educational Institutions Under the National AYUSH Mission

Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) for development and promotion of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in the country.

Read More:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1513817>

Health:

Medical tourism value in India to touch USD 9 bn by 2020: Govt

The government has said that the value of medical tourism in India is likely to reach a whopping USD 9 billion by 2020 as compared to the USD 3 billion in 2015.

Read More:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/travel/medical-tourism-value-in-india-to-touch-usd-9-bn-by-2020-govt/articleshow/62124646.cms>

Cloudnine to open 10 hospitals over next 2 years



Cloudnine Hospitals, a leading maternity hospital chain, plans to open 10 new facilities over the next two years with an investment of Rs100 crore each year, managing director Rohit M.A. said.

Read More:

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/YNSdYMS5rOMMLJYPcaRMK/Cloudnine-to-open-10-hospitals-over-next-2-years.html>

Aviation / Defense:

Aerospace industry eyes biz worth Rs 12,500 crores



Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) offered the aerospace vendors that feed its aircraft assembly lines a tantalising glimpse of major business opportunities ahead, adding up to some Rs 12,500 crore. HAL Chairman T Suvarna Raju told the company's vendors in Bengaluru that they would soon participate in building 100 trainer aircraft the indigenously designed Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40). In addition, the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), of which the Indian Air Force is committed to buying 187 pieces, is nearing certification.

Read More:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/aerospace-industry-eyes-biz-worth-rs-12-500-cr-117121300054_1.html

Indian aviation market will surpass US and China in 15-20 years: Jayant Sinha



In 2014, the country had about 75 operational airports and through the regional connectivity scheme 'Udaan', the government added 25 more airports to the aviation network this year.

India's aviation market would surpass the US and China by crossing a billion passenger trips per year in the next

10 to 15 years, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said.

Read More:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/indian-aviation-market-will-surpass-us-and-china-in-15-20-years-jayant-sinha/articleshow/61968849.cms>

Indian Air Force, Army to Buy 15 Light Combat Helicopters



The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Army (IA) are expected to purchase 15 indigenously built and designed Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Indian Ministry of Defense (MoD) cleared the purchase of 16 LCHs for the IAF and the Indian Army Air Corps (AAC) as part of a limited series production order in November 2016. The AAC has committed to buying 114 and the IAF 65 light helicopter gunships.

Read More:

<https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/indian-air-force-army-to-buy-15-light-combat-helicopter/>

Tourism:

14.4% growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals in Nov, 2017 over Nov, 2016

Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI). 56.2% growth in foreign Tourist Arrivals on e-Tourist visa in November, 2017 over November, 2016.

Read More:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174256>

President of India dedicates to the people four projects of the Andhra Pradesh Govt



The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, dedicated to the people of Andhra Pradesh four projects of the State Government at a function held at Velagapudi, Andhra Pradesh.

The Projects were Andhra Pradesh Fibregrid Project, Andhra Pradesh Surveillance Project, Drone Project; and Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) system. The President focused on the 24/7 hyper-connected world and the online presence of the government.

More than 1 crore households, 50,000 schools and educational institutions, all government offices, more than 5,000 government hospitals and health centres and all panchayat offices in Andhra Pradesh will start getting Internet and rent-free telephone and cable TV from next December. The Andhra Pradesh State Fiber net Limited (APSFL), which is implementing the AP Fibre Grid project, will provide three services at tariffs starting as low as Rs 149 for 5 GB at 15 MBPS speed and 250 TV channels and a free telephone connection. The APSFL, now the country's largest state government-owned telecommunication company, has already laid more than 23,000 km of the required 55,000 km of optical fibre cables in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The President was happy to note that the Andhra Pradesh Government is planning to use drones for providing Real Time Information for Governance. He stated that this will have multiple benefits – in security and policing, mining, urban development, raising agricultural productivity, measuring forest cover, anticipating natural and other disasters so on. This is a model for other states to follow.

Andhra Pradesh and Western Australia concluded a Sister State Agreement in last December and identified four priority areas for economic engagement; mining and mining services, agriculture and fisheries, energy production and distribution, and higher and vocational education and training.

Read More: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174906>

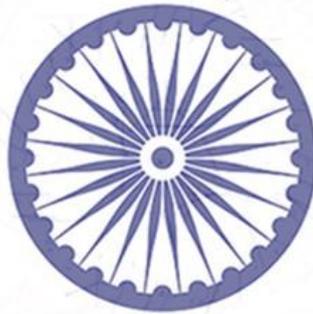
Upcoming Event

Invite: India's Republic Day Celebrations



The Consulate General of India
cordially invites all Indian Nationals, Persons of Indian Origin and Friends of India to a Flag
Hoisting Ceremony to mark the

69th Republic Day of India



on
Friday, January 26, 2018 at 09.00 am
at
Consulate General of India
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