

Generation of Black Money in the Country



NEW DELHI. The Government had commissioned a study, inter alia, on estimation of unaccounted income and wealth inside and outside the country, which was conducted by National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM). One of the terms of reference of the study was - "To identify important sectors of

economy in which unaccounted money is generated and examine causes and conditions that result in generation of unaccounted money". Reports received from these Institutes are under examination of the Government. There is no official estimation regarding the amount of black money generated in the country. Varying estimations of the amount of black money have been reported by different persons/institutions. Such estimations are based upon

different sets of facts, data, methods, assumptions etc, leading to varying inferences. However, sectoral analysis of seizure of valuables and admission of undisclosed income in the searches conducted by the Income Tax Department in the last three financial years indicates that the main sectors in this regard are real estate, trading and manufacturing, contractors, gems and jewellery, services etc

(Read Details on Page 4)

Increase In Service Tax Rate from 12% to 14%

NEW DELHI. In the Union Budget, 2015, an increase in the rate of Service Tax from 12% to 14% had been proposed from a date to be notified. The Finance Bill, 2015 has since been enacted and the Central Government has notified 1st June, 2015 as the date from which the rate of 14% would become applicable. The provisions levying Education Cess and Secondary and Higher

Education Cess would also cease to have effect from same date i.e. 1st June, 2015, as the same would be subsumed in the service tax rate of 14%. Certain other changes have also been notified with effect from 1st June, 2015. However, the date of giving effect to the provisions relating to imposition of a Swachh Bharat cess on all or any taxable service will be done in due course.



Your Website Can Be The Best Marketing Tool

NEW DELHI. Over the period of time the internet traffic has grown manifold. As the awareness of internet increases, websites are becoming most preferred marketing tools for various businesses as it provides a deeper penetration of business. The projected increase of Internet traffic between 2014 and 2015 alone is 200 exabytes, which is

greater than the total amount of Internet Protocol traffic generated globally in 2010. By 2015, there will be nearly 3 billion Internet users -- more than 40 percent of the world's projected population. These figures exemplify, that awareness of internet is increases and more and more businesses are also going online.

(More Detail On Page 6)

Framework For Revival & Rehabilitation of MSMEs



NEW DELHI. The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has notified a Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of MSMEs, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 9 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006.

In India, the existing mechanism for addressing revival, rehabilitation and exit of small enterprises is very weak. The most recent Doing Business (DB) Report, a joint

project of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, ranks India 137 out of the 189 economies for resolving insolvencies. It notes that resolving insolvency takes 4.3 years on average and costs 9.0% of the debtor's estate, with the most likely outcome being that the company will be sold as piecemeal sale.

Pending a detailed revision of the legal framework for resolving insolvency/bankruptcy, there is a felt need

for special dispensation for revival and exit of MSMEs. The MSMEs facing insolvency/bankruptcy need to be provided legal opportunities to revive their units. This could be through a scheme for re-organization and rehabilitation, which balances the interests of the creditors and debtors.

Curbing The Illegal Mining of Iron-Ore & Bauxite

As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 state governments have been empowered to make rules for prevention of illegal mining and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, matters relating to regulation and control of illegal mining, etc are all matters which lie in the domain of state governments.

(Details on Page 11)

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Uniformity In Prices of Drugs

Under DPCO, 2013, ceiling prices fixed and notified in generic name of medicines are applicable to all brands of the same medicines as specified in Schedule-I of the said order. No person is authorized to sell any scheduled formulation (medicine) to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified by the NPPA. In respect of medicines not under price control, manufacturers are allowed to increase maximum retail price (MRP) by 10% annually.



The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy (NPPP) was notified on 7th December, 2012 with the objective to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of drugs so as to ensure availability of required medicines -"essential medicines" at reasonable prices even while providing sufficient opportunity for innovation and competition to support the growth of pharma industry thereby meeting the goals of employment and shared economic well-being for all. It aims to bring the prices of essential medicines, as listed under National List of Essential Medicines-2011, under price control.

The Department of Pharmaceuticals has notified the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy -2012 under which the prices of National List of Essential Medicines-2011 are to be controlled & regulated on the basis of Simple Average Price of all the brands having market share (on the basis of Moving Annual Turnover) more than and equal to 1% of the total market turnover of that medicine.

Reining in of Quacks and Sale of Fake Drugs

The Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, prohibits a person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on a State Medical Register to practice medicine in the State. Punishment of imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine which may extend to Rs.1,000/- or both is also prescribed.

For popularizing and promoting generic drugs in the country, the Government through its agency - BPPI has been publicizing through print media to generate awareness among general public about the advantages of generic medicines and availability of generic medicines from Jan Aushadhi Stores.

Further, under NHM up to 5% funding over and above the normal allocation of the States is also provided as an incentive for those States that implement policy and systems to provide free generic medicines to all in public health facilities.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) in its regulations namely the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 under Clause 1.5 has prescribed as under:

"Use of Generic names of drugs: Every physician should, as far as possible, prescribe drugs with generic names and he/she shall ensure that there is a rational prescription and use of drugs."



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Jan Aushadhi Scheme

Government Plans to Open 1000 New Medical more under this scheme

The Government proposes to soon open 1000 more stores under the 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' to make available quality generic medicines at affordable prices through these special outlets. Speaking at a function organised by the Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) a facilitation network to build the corporate social responsibility (CSR) space in India, at New Delhi, the Union Minister of State, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Shri Hansraj G.

Ahir said that these stores will be opened for the underprivileged who would be provided medicines at a price of 60-70% less than the market price. The Minister said that his Ministry is working on opening 1000 stores under the 'Jan Aushadhi Scheme' on a single day. He said that the stores will be renamed, rebranded and will increasingly involve B. Pharma and M. Pharma qualified unemployed populace.

India's Dependence on Imports For Bulk Drugs & APIs



As per the Boston Consulting Group Report of 2013 import of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) during the year 2013 was approximately US \$ 3.5 billion of which a large share was from China. The Government had constituted a High Level Committee known as the Katoch Committee on 08.10.2013 to study and identify the APIs of critical importance and to work out a package of interventions/concessions required to build domestic production capabilities and to examine the cost implications. The Katoch Committee has inter-alia recommended establishment of Mega Parks for APIs with common facilities such as

common Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Testing facilities, Captive Power Plants/ assured power supply by state systems, Common Utilities/ Services such as storage, testing laboratories, IPR management, designing, etc., maintained by a separate Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV); a scheme for extending financial assistance to states to acquire land and also for setting up common facilities, revival of public sector units for starting the manufacturing of selected and very essential critical drugs (e.g., penicillins, paracetamol etc.); financial investment from the Government for development of clusters which may be in the form of a professionally

managed dedicated equity fund for the promotion of manufacture of APIS and extending fiscal benefits to creation of the entire community cluster infrastructure and individual unit infrastructure; extension of fiscal and financial benefits to promote the bulk drugs sector; promoting stronger industry-academia interaction, synergizing R&D promotion efforts by various govt. agencies, incentivising scientists, duty exemptions for capital goods imports.

These recommendations are being examined for formulation of a Policy for Promotion of Manufacturing of Bulk Drugs.

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Budgetary Allocated Funds for AYUSH

NEW DELHI. The Government of India formulated the programmes and operational measures for promotion of AYUSH medical practices like Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy through Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission

For Ministry of AYUSH a total Budgetary provision of Rs.1214 crore has been earmarked for the current financial year 2015-16. Out of the above Rs.1008 crore are earmarked for Plan and Rs.206 crore are earmarked for Non-Plan. Out of the Plan Budget Rs.690 crore is earmarked for Central Sector Schemes and Rs.318 crore for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The above outlay is

proposed to be distributed amongst various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes of the Ministry. The amount will be spent in accordance with the guidelines stipulated in the scheme documents, General Financial Rules and keeping in view instructions issued by the Government of India, from time to time.

More provision is likely to be needed in case of Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Ayush Mission'(NAM) under Promotion of AYUSH, which was approved and notified on 29.9.2014 as the States/UTs are gearing up to absorb the funds for development and promotion of AYUSH.

HARMONISING WORKPLACE

● Mr. Nilesh Pendarkar

Lean is increasingly being recognized as a strategic resource for effective change in organizations. Lean thinking, when implemented correctly, requires effective ergonomics. Effective ergonomics is a necessary part of sustainable organization. Lean analysis helps make potential ergonomics challenges visible so that these issues may be tackled properly, thus helping in harmonizing workplace. It would also be proper to assert that ergonomics and lean manufacturing could go together to make sure that their respective goals and aims are achieved.

Keeping people and thus ergonomics, at the heart of the lean philosophy helps assure that the company is not creating new wastes by overburdening the workers. Unfortunately, when a company decides to go lean, ergonomics concepts are often not at the forefront of the thought process. This seems surprising, considering that motion study an element of ergonomics, is essential in lean concepts. More importantly, by strategically keeping the worker at the centre of the process, companies can also experience improved quality along with ergonomic and lean benefits. To fully understand lean manufacturing and ergonomics, one must understand lean and ergonomics as well as the intersection between the two. The Japanese term for what American companies usually categories as waste is 'muda' and it is defined as "anything other than the minimum amount of equipment, space and worker's time, which are absolutely essential to add value to the product".



The different types of waste include:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Motion that does not add value | 3. Floor space |
| 2. Movements to transport material | Manual effort |
| Time to rework, repair or scrap. | |

The presence of all these wastes in a system has a negative impact on lead-time, cost and quality. The waste of unnecessary motion is particularly related to ergonomics. Excess motion consists of bending, twisting, lifting, reaching and walking. These often become health and safety issues and should be dealt with as soon as they are recognized.

Many practitioners and teachers of lean thinking add another type of waste: the under-utilisation of the 'workers' talent'. Eliminating this waste from the system means encouraging and making constructive use of creativity of the people actually doing the work as well as assuring that workers are adding value to the product rather than doing 'make-work' activities

ERGONOMICS PRINCIPLES

Ergonomics principles and guidelines are extremely useful in the prevention of operator fatigue and stress, leading to potential work-related musculoskeletal and neurovascular disorders. Ergonomics is often referred to as a discipline taking into account human factors affecting or influencing manufacturing. It

Mainly focuses on the human body, its capacity and limits. Thus, it is often considered as a full-scale scientific discipline that tries to understand interactions between humans and other significant elements of a system,

Usually the working environment. Ergonomics as a profession, aims at optimizing well-being and total system performance of human beings working in a particular environment.

WORK STATION DESIGN

Pull production is a basic tenet of lean manufacturing. In a pull environment, downstream activities, such as assembly, signal their needs to upstream activities, such as material handling. The same principles apply to a lean workstation; operators pull parts and access tools when and where they need them on a just-in-time basis. At first glance, lean workstations may appear to be similar to traditional

workstations, but they are inherently different. Lean workstations should focus on critical operator issues and concerns such as safety, ergonomics, finding tools quickly etc. A lean workstation puts all the assembly materials required at the operator's fingertips. They are strategically positioned for assemblers' ease. In addition, a lean workstation must be 'takt time-centered'. Takt time is a common lean manufacturing term that refers to a reference number that is used to match the rate of production to the rate at which customers require finished units. Takt time is determined by dividing the total available production time per shift by the customer demand per shift. It must be comfortable for the operator and should include the tools necessary to complete the current task safely. Workstations can be function independent and lean, but some of the effort is lost if the other workstations, processes and facility layout are not in sync.

INTEGRATING ERGONOMICS WITH LEAN IMPLEMENTATION

Ergonomics and lean manufacturing are interrelated disciplines. Companies and firms that aim at maximizing productivity should take the initiative to adopt and implement ergonomics and lean manufacturing strategies and processes.

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ERGONOMICS AND LEAN MANUFACTURING Offers

Lean manufacturing is a management principle or approach that principally targets the improvement in competitiveness and profitability of a business. The main concern of lean manufacturing is to eliminate or scrap unnecessary and wasteful behaviour and practices of work personnel. Thus, it can be said that lean manufacturing and ergonomics go hand in hand. The two work disciplines and principles could greatly and undoubtedly complement each other. Ergonomics involve the design, assessment and evaluation of activities, tasks, workloads or jobs, products, working environments and work systems. For its part, lean manufacturing involves approaches or business strategies that

attempt to maximize productivity in the workplace by reducing, if not totally eliminating, unnecessary and unproductive tasks, activities and working behaviors. Experts estimate

that improvements brought about by adhering to ergonomics can bring in lean manufacturing results or save production time by as much as 25 percent to 40 per cent on an average. There are five specific branches of ergonomics that can specifically bring in desired and productive results when integrated with lean manufacturing.

1. Worker selection : Ergonomics suggest that to achieve a major streamlining initiative or lean manufacturing effort, companies should adopt top-down approach. That means to be able to eliminate and prevent wasteful and unproductive practices and behavior in the office; they should hire personnel who would apparently be able to contribute to maximized productivity.

2. Man-machine allocation : Allocation in ergonomics and lean manufacturing means the division of work between personnel and machines or manufacturing equipment. To be

able to achieve this ergonomics goal, management should carefully plan and assign the use of specific manufacturing machines to certain personnel. Through this, both workers and equipment are not worn out, thereby, increasing productivity

3. Anthropometry : Anthropometrics focuses on the human capacity. This branch concentrates and deals with the weight, dimension and strengths of the personnel's physical body. By doing so, production will not be interrupted and smooth pacing of manufacturing is attained. Workers who are physically not strong will be assigned to handle work and equipment that they can surely handle, hire stronger workers will be given jobs using machines that fit their physical capacity

4. Biomechanics : Biomechanics deals with the human body, wherein human movement and its mechanical forces are closely studied. In biology,

motions and movements of the human body burn energy. Conserving body energy and allocating them for activities that will benefit production, give a boost to manufacturing.

5. Physiology : Lastly, physiology deals with the anatomy of the human body. Designations and assignments of machines are done by first considering the physical structure of the workers' body. This time, it is not focussed on certain body groups like muscles or energy requirements, but the whole body system, from physical to mental aspects.

About the writer Mr Nilesh Pendarkar is an Industrial Engineer with 15 years of experience in providing Industrial Engineering Consultancy to corporates from diversified background, is also director various corporate Globally.

Amendments To The Electricity Act



NEW DELHI. The Union Cabinet has approved the proposals for amendment in Electricity Act, 2003 on 10th December, 2014 as contained in the Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2014. The Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19th December, 2014. This was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy and the committee has submitted its report to the Parliament on 7th May, 2015. This was stated by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today.

The Minister further stated that the amendments proposed in Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014 seeks to end the monopoly of power distribution companies by segregating the carriage (distribution sector/network) from the content (electricity supply business) in the power sector by introducing multiple supply licensees so as to bring in further competition and efficiency in the distribution sector by giving choice to the consumers, the Minister added.



National Smart Grid Mission

Government has approved the National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM) -an institutional mechanism for planning, monitoring and implementation of policies and programs related to Smart Grid activities. The total outlay for NSGM activities for 12th Plan is Rs 980 crore with a budgetary support of Rs 338 crore.

NSGM has three tier structure:

1. Apex level, NSGM has a Governing Council headed by the Minister of Power. Role of Governing Council is to approve all policies and programme for smart grid implementation.

2. Second level, the NSGM has an Empowered Committee headed by Secretary (Power). Members of the Empowered Committee are Joint Secretary level officers of concerned Ministries and departments. Role of Empowered Committee is to provide policy input to Governing Council and approve, monitor, review specific smart grid projects, guidelines / procedures etc.

3. In a supportive role, NSGM has a Technical Committee headed by Chairperson (CEA). Members of the Technical Committee are Director level officers of concerned Ministries & departments, representatives from industries and academia. Role of Technical Committee is to support the Empowered Committee on technical aspect, standards development, technology selection guidelines etc.

Generation of Black Money in the Country

NEW DELHI. The Government has taken effective measures to curb the menace of black money. Such measures include (i) introduction of a comprehensive new law in the ongoing Budget Session 2015, specifically to deal with black money stashed abroad - The Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets (Imposition of Tax) Bill, 2015 - inter alia, providing for stringent penalties (equal to three times the amount of tax payable) and prosecutions (rigorous imprisonment upto ten years with fine) in this regard; (ii) constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) in May 2014, Chaired and Vice-Chaired by two former judges of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, inter alia, to deal with issues relating to black money stashed abroad; (iii) while focusing upon non-intrusive measures, due emphasis on enforcement measures in high impact cases with a view to prosecute the offenders at the earliest possible for credible deterrence against tax evasion; (iv) strengthening and streamlining the information collection and enforcement mechanism, inter alia, through extensive use of information technology, capacity building etc: (v) joining the global efforts to combat cross-border tax evasion and tax fraud and to promote international tax compliance, including supporting the implementation of a uniform global standard on Automatic Exchange of Information on a fully reciprocal basis facilitating exchange of information regarding persons hiding their money in offshore financial centers and tax havens; (vi) renegotiation of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements with other countries to bring the Article on Exchange of Information to International Standards and expanding India's treaty network by signing new DTAA's and Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) with many tax

jurisdictions to facilitate the exchange of information and to bring transparency; (vii) Proactively engaging with foreign governments for exchange of information under the provisions of DTAA's/TIEAs/Multilateral Convention; (viii) exploring non-government sources to obtain information regarding undisclosed foreign assets; (ix) effectively utilizing the information received from treaty partners to combat tax evasion and avoidance.

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New Ammonia-Urea Complex at Namrup in Assam on Public Private Partnership (PPP) Basis

NEW DELHI. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, last month gave its approval for setting up of a new Ammonia-Urea Complex of 8.64 Lakh Metric Tonnes annual capacity with an estimated investment of Rs. 4500 crore at Namrup in Assam on Public Private Partnership (PPP) route by a Joint Venture (JV). In the proposed JV, a PSU of Department of Fertilizers namely Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Government of Assam and Oil India Limited (another PSU) shall have 11%, 11% and 26% equity holding respectively and balance 52% by private/public sector entity(ies) which would be inducted through a competitive bidding process. The annual

consumption of Urea in the country is approx. 310 LMT, out of which 230 LMT is produced indigenously and rest is imported.

With this, India is likely to start export of urea. Govt. would save about Rs. 600 crore annually due to reduction in cost of production and import substitution.

To enhance the production of urea indigenously, Govt. has earlier approved the revival of Talcher (Odisha) & Ramagundam (Telangna) units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) by PSUs through 'nomination route' and Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) & Gorakhpur unit of FCIL through 'bidding route'. These four units will produce about 52 lakh MT of urea

annually. The setting up of a new Ammonia-Urea Complex will meet the growing demand of urea of North-East, Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand. It will also ease the pressure on infrastructure due to long distance transportation of Urea from Western and Central Regions and thereby saving in govt. subsidy on freight. It will accelerate the economic development of the region. The proposed plant will open new avenues for the people of the North-East.

Financial restructuring of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd :

The Cabinet approved the financial restructuring of BVFCL by waiving off entire cumulative interest (Rs. 774.61 crore as on 31.03.2015) till date accrued on GOI loans & a loan of Rs. 21.96 crore and conversion of GOI loans of Rs. 594.71 crore as interest free loan. This enables BVFCL to participate as equity partners and leverage in operation of existing plant during the interim period of commencement of new plants.

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Curbing the Illegal Mining of Iron-Ore and Bauxite



NEW DELHI. The Ministry of Mines in co-ordination with State Governments has taken the following steps to curb and check illegal mining in the Country:

(i) Regular monitoring of framing of rules by the State Governments to control illegal mining as per Section 23C of MMDR Act (so far 20 States have framed the rules under section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 to curb illegal mining);

(ii) Regular monitoring of setting up of Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 23 States have reported to have constituted the Task Forces);

(iii) Regular monitoring of setting up State Co-ordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities (13 State Governments have set up a Co-ordination-cum-Empowered Committee);

(iv) Regular follow up with State Governments to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells etc;

(v) A Central Co-ordination-cum-Empowered Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009 and reconstituted on 20.10.2011 holds quarterly meetings to consider all mining related issues, including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining;

(vi) Ministry of Railways have instituted a mechanism on 16.4.2010 to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings;

(vii) D/o Revenue (Customs) has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on iron ore exports with the State Governments;

(viii) Ministry of Shipping has directed all major Ports in the country to streamline the verification procedures for movement of iron ore, and to check whether royalty has been paid for the consignment;

(ix) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockists, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals; and

(x) Indian Bureau Mines has constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries

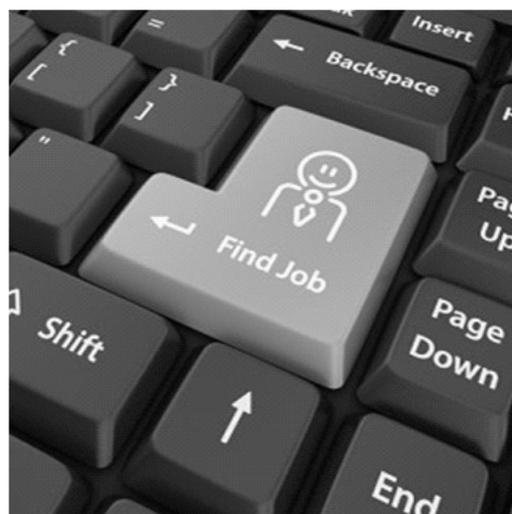
Extension of completion date of NATRIP Project

NEW DELHI. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved extension of the date of completion of the present timeline by three years that is from 31st December 2014 to 31st December 2017 of the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP).

Contribution of MSMEs to GDP

On the basis of the data on GDP published by Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) and final results of the latest Census (Fourth Census), conducted (with base reference year 2006-07), wherein the data was collected till 2009 and results published in 2011-12, the estimated contribution of manufacturing MSME sector to GDP during 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 & 2012-13 are 7.52%, 7.45%, 7.39%, 7.27%

& 7.04% respectively, as per the revised methodology suggested by CSO, MoSPI. Government is aware of the problems being faced by the MSME sector in the country which relate to credit, infrastructure, technology, marketing, skill development etc. The Government strengthens and develops MSMEs in the country through implementation of various schemes / programmes relating to credit, infrastructure development, technology upgradation, marketing, entrepreneurship & skill development etc. The major schemes include Credit Guarantee Scheme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme, Cluster Development Programme, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Programme and Performance & Credit Rating Scheme.



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Use of New Power Technology

An Advanced Ultra Super Critical Technology R&D Project has been approved by Government at a cost of Rs.1500 Crore involving BHEL, NTPC and Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) for enhanced efficiency of thermal generation. The objective of the scheme is to achieve higher efficiency, reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and reduce coal

consumption for coal based power plants. This was stated by Sh. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today. The R&D work for the programme is carried out under the overall supervision of the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India for certain pre-project R&D activities.

10 Stranded Gas Based Power Plants Successfully Bid Through Transparent Reverse E-Auction

NEW DELHI. The Government is delighted to announce the revival of 10 stranded gas based power generation plants who have successfully bid through a most transparent and competitive reverse e-auction process for generating 5.05 billion units of electricity which will be supplied at or below Rs 4.70 per unit to the purchaser Discom during the peak summer months from 1st June 2015 to 30th Sept 2015. This will involve government support of Rs. 723.99 crore from the Power System Development Fund.

The grid connected gas based power generation capacity in the country is 24,150 MW. Of this, a capacity of 14,305 MW had no



supply of domestic gas and is completely stranded. These comprise 29 plants of which 9 plants are yet to be commissioned. All these plants were eligible to participate in the auction process held today.

In the auction process, 14 plants with a cumulative installed capacity of 8,109 MW participated in the Technical Bid round and all were declared as Technically Qualified. The auction was meant to determine the plants which were seeking lowest per unit support for sale of power to Discoms, while utilizing fully 10 MMSCMD of imported RLNG.

Bidding started at 25% PLF and after 5 rounds reached a level of 35% PLF where the reverse e-auction for per unit PSDF support started. The reverse e-auction for the Stranded Gas based Plants was conducted under the newly approved Scheme for Utilization of Stranded Gas Based Generation Capacity.

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takes its own time to mature. So various promotional companies, which guarantees ranking or guarantees leads for you business, use your own business acumen, if such companies are really talking sense or it's just a fad.

The #1 mistake people make is rushing! Take your time, slow down, read various articles many available on web, think about how they apply to your website, and then proceed.

RIGHT SEARCH KEYWORD FOR SEARCH ENGINE: This can be another challenging work : select a relevant keyword, is the most important step of the complete SEO promotion plans. A details discussion with the SEO experts should be

Once you have a professional website and you are ready with your web promotions program site looks good to humans, the next step is to try to make it look good to the search engines, so you get the coveted high ranking. This involves choosing the right keywords and adjusting your page title, meta tags and first paragraph to showcase them. This is where most webmasters screw up. They choose the wrong keywords because they don't spend enough time thinking about how people are going to try to find them.

that guaranteed top ranking on search engine, such promotional advertisement can be like booby traps. Companies also promise top ranking in 48 hrs or in a week is another scam that you may fall for, and regret later. Free SEO, always avoid with newbie's and companies unheard of as this again leads to providing access of your website to a third party that you are not aware and content or the websites can be held as hostage, failing to pay. SEO experts are mushrooming as millions of articles are available online for such so called "SEO PROFESSIONAL" to read and start marketing themselves. Sadly but fact, most of the business owner do fall in for such companies and regret later not only for the money lost, but also the time given with such companies with hopes of getting in top search results.

Do note, nothing is guaranteed and everything

SEO optimized leased websites This is one the safest investment for web promotion

Leased website can be a Lreadymade websites that provides most of the information relevant to the products and services that your business offers. The concept of leased website is still in the budding stage, as most of the business owners fail to understand the concept of leased website for business promotion on web. But with time, this can be one of the safest investments of web promotions, mainly for business owners who are looking for top rankings in searching results on search engines for search keywords relevant to their business of services & products.

A Safest Investment For Search Engine Promotion: Leased websites can be one of the safest investments for business owners where they have nothing to lose or minimum risk of your investments. The main objective of an investment made on SEO promotional programs is to get top ranking for business relevant search keywords on search engine, mainly GOOGLE. Such objective can easily be assured, while you make investment on leased website.

A leased website can be like you leaflet/brochures that you print for business promotion, with a main objective of establishing a brand name that helps in generating leads. You might have developed a website. Furthermore leased website is a website that you buy off the shelf after seeing all the search results for business relevant keywords.

Leased Cost Of Websites: Cost of a leased website is also comparatively low, as you don't have to pay for the domain registration, hosting, website development and maintenance. But you only pay after seeing the search results on search engines with top ranking in search results. Cost such websites varies depending on the rank of search keywords and number of keywords ranked in top for various search results.

A professional website that you develop for your business can cost you any from Rs 15,000 to no upper limits. Post development of the websites, you have to invest major times and money on promoting your website, where there is no guarantee of listing, but you still have to pay to SEO professionals.

MAIL MARKETING : Does it really work?

Mail marketing, this did work a decade back, but as the internet traffic grew, promotional mail are more like spam mail that can lead to negative branding of your products on web. Email marketing can be a waste of budget as most of such mail are read as spam mails and are deleted before its read. Various web promotions companies do suggest email marking as one of the cheapest means of web promotions tool and billing are done as various package where every mail is charged.

Businesses use email marketing as an affordable and often effective advertising tool. However, before employing this technique you should make yourself aware of the disadvantages and misconceptions that exist. For example, though many people believe email marketing is free, starting any marketing campaign from scratch (even an electronic one) will cost your company money. Several factors can hinder your effectiveness, and, in some cases, email marketing can even work against your business.

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Do your research before hiring anyone to do web promotion for you

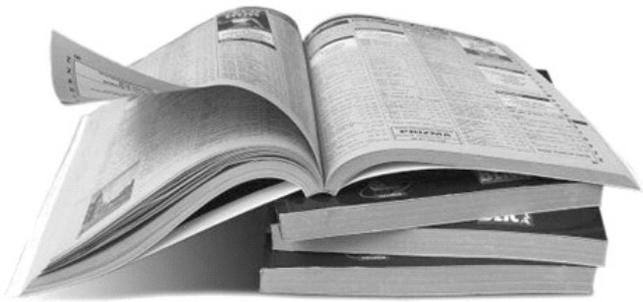
Corporate business owners, at times outsources web promotion to various companies that claim to get top ranking in Google search results or generate business leads. people may be more comfortable hiring a consultant to do site tweaking and search engine registration. Even so, it's important to understand the basics before doing so; there are a lot of snake-oil salesmen out there, and a little knowledge is an effective "bull\$hit detector". For example, if someone promises to put you on page 1 of the search engines, run away as fast as

you can! Getting on page 1 for relevant keywords takes hard work and patience, and is not something that any reputable consultant will ever promise (a common scam is promising you page 1 results and delivering them -- for irrelevant or hyper-specific phrases that will never generate any meaningful traffic). It's important to understand what you're buying, so take your time, read around the site, and get an education before you hire someone (and before you ask, I don't do this kind of consulting, I simply don't have the time!)

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For Turnkey web Promotion Programs & Leased Websites for business promotion

Think Twice, Before You subscribe to Any FREE online business profile listing directory.

As the saying goes nothing sells like free, so does many online business directories have based their business model on this catch, this provide more benefits to directory service owner rather than business owner with a free profile. Before you subscribe to any free business listing always think "WHY WILL ANY ONE OFFER FREE SERVICE" or this can be just a start where you can start paying indirectly in terms of getting you clients diverted OR your free business profiles being used as a tool for other business owner in same business category, that you have been listed free. Business directories that have dual business model of free and paid business listing are the ones that you should think twice before



subscribing to free business model. Free business models, always has limited information displayed as compared to the paid listing, this can create a negative branding among your customers, when he finds more information on your competitors (PAID) profile as compared to your business profile, though you competitor may actually have a weaker brand as compared to you. Most important, if the business profile does not has a link back to your website (in case you have a website), this again can have a reverse impact, so insist your listing provider to have you link on your business profile and not just the name of your website.

Always study closely the online contact us page existing on you free business profile page. Try to submit information on the online contact us page on your business profile and check your inbox---does the information submitted on the contact us page reaches Your in box (email), if not then contact the directory service provider and raise this issue or get yourself de listed from the services. Your never know where the information has gone, has it gone to your competitor that have paid for the business profile...??????

If the information submitted on the contact us page of your free listed business profile reaches your in-box(email) Then there is no harm in getting your free listing on the directory, If not it's a serious issue and you can inquire from the providers or GET YOURSELF DE-LISTED FROM THE DIRECTORY, as customers could be getting diverted.

E-commerce has emerged as India's new sun-rise industry and is set to cross business worth \$16 billion by the end of 2015, a joint study by ASSOCHAM-Deloitte said.

E-commerce market anticipated to be \$16 billion in India in 2015

Over the last two decades, rising internet and mobile phone penetration has changed the way we communicate and do business. Brick & Mortar replaced by online stores. It is, at present, heavily leaning

on the internet and mobile phone revolution to fundamentally alter the way businesses reach their customers. The Uncovering Innovation' study reveals that the digital commerce market in India has grown steadily from \$4.4 billion in 2010 to \$13.6 billion in 2014 and likely to touch \$16 billion by the end of 2015 on the back of growing internet population and increased online shoppers.

It said online travel accounts for nearly 61% of e-commerce business while e-tailing contributes about 29%.



LINK SUBMISSION PROGRAMS : How worthy it can be?

This is another much talked web promotion program, which is suggested by various consultants and SEO professional. There also has been lot of scams related to work from home business that involved link submission programs. There are various link submission sites and software's available that can automatically submit your website links to various directories and the whole

process hardly takes any time as it's all automated. So the point is, if it takes minimum of effort and time for a webmaster to submit their website links to 100's or it can be 1000's of directories-everyone can do it and if everyone can do it How worthy it can be? It can just be a time waste and anticipated hope that may never fulfill your objective of web promotions.



Building an Online E-Commerce Stores

Getting a low cost solution mostly from free lancers, at times can be fatal for businesses opting to go online with an E-comm store. Selection of a secured platforms and an appropriate host is most crucial for any application that's online, not only ecommerce store but also corporate website. Generally there are many free ecommerce scripts available that free lancer work on various and this at times can be fatal, as these scripts are flooded with bugs and security breaches. While selecting the developer/company you can always raise few queries like the script being used, platform of the ecommerce software and host(most important). The hosting prices of the

ecommerce stores also let you decide the quality of host. Many hosting companies offer huge space, unlimited bandwidth and a very low prices, always avoid such companies. The best company for you can be a company that has its own server, own team of developers who can provide support for both software and hosting. Many companies are just reseller of hosting companies and such server is over loaded server where the performance of your ecommerce website can be sacrificed. Over loaded server are like public transport services but you would opt for a private cab for a safe time bound journey. Post sales support should also be considered by you when you shortlist your developers.

Locatorbiz.com

An online directory service that offers total solution on web. This business directory does' not provide free listing. It offers various subscription packages for business owners & can opt for the best to suits their business & promotions. As mentioned, it offers total solution that includes free domain name, free hosting, free website that serves basic needs of a starter business & also high-end needs of established business looking to higher branding & footprints. The webmasters of locatorbiz.com does not believe in developing quantity but in quality, applies to both(traffic and subscribers). **Most important, this service also provides LEASED WEBSITES** that can be a low risk investments for business promotion on web through search engine. The profile on this directory service lists your detail business profile with your corporate brochure. User friend customer interface for you to manage all data. This directory service is quite different from rest of other directory services, as it does not provide free listing that leads to junk data. When people pay for listing they always keep the information updated. For details Email to sales@locatorbiz.com

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Ministry of HRD Statement on IIT Madras Matter

A news item regarding action taken by IIT, Madras against the Students Group, viz., Ambedkar-Periyar Study Circle, has appeared in some newspapers. The action has been taken by IIT, Madras as per the guidelines of the Institute, Ministry of Human Resource Development had nothing to do with this except for forwarding the complaint received to Director, IIT, Madras for comments. IIT, Madras has taken action as per their own procedure and Institute's guidelines. IITs being autonomous institutions, they are competent to handle matters within their guidelines and procedure. The matter has been clarified by IIT, Madras through a media statement dated May 29th, 2015.

NSDC: Efforts For Skill Development

NSDC has been working to enhance capacity of private training providers through provision of loan, grant and equity funding. NSDC has developed a wide network for skilling with 207 NSDC approved training partners, 2,904 operational NSDC partner centres, including 676 mobile centres with coverage across 28 states and 5 UTs in 471 districts across India. In the last year, the NSDC ecosystem had trained 24,12,862 people in skill training programmes.

Skilling India -Creation of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Skill development and entrepreneurship efforts across the country have been highly fragmented so far. Recognizing the need and urgency of quickly coordinating the efforts of all concerned stakeholders, to achieve its vision of a 'Skilled India' the Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was created on 31st July, 2014 which was later made into a full fledged Ministry of Skill Development and

Entrepreneurship on 9th Nov, 2014. National Skill Development Agency (NSDA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and 33 Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) were brought under the Ministry of Skill Development. Overall approximately 58,72,800 people were trained by Central Ministries/Departments in the financial year 2014-15.



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Skill Development of Domestic Workers

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy has said that the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), under this Ministry is a demand driven scheme for skill development where targets are determined based on assessment of skill demand and the 'Skill Gap Studies', feedback from Central Ministries/Departments, State Governments and Sector Skill Councils. Domestic Workers are unorganized and scattered coming mainly from lower economic and social sections. In this regard, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) had commissioned a study on skill gaps in the Domestic Work sector which maps out demand and supply in the sector across various regions in the country including metro cities and tier-1 cities.

Opening of University in South Kashmir

NEW DELHI. As per the provisions of the Constitution, Education as a subject is on the Concurrent List (List III) of the Seventh Schedule. Hence setting up new universities and other institutions is the responsibility of both the state as well as Central Government. The Central government has already opened two Central Universities in Jammu & Kashmir; one in Jammu and the second in Kashmir. As of now there is no plan to further open any new Central University in South Kashmir or in Jammu & Kashmir.

However, recognizing the needs of higher education, the Central Government has launched the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), which seeks to expand the institutional base by creating additional capacity in existing institutions and establish new institutions in order to correct regional imbalances and

provide access to quality education in unserved and underserved areas.

Based on the State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) submitted by the state of Jammu & Kashmir under RUSA, the Central Government has approved setting up of two universities by clustering of colleges at Srinagar and Jammu. In addition, two new professional colleges at Kathua and Ganderbal; up gradation of existing colleges to model degree colleges at Shopian, Samba and Ganderbal; infrastructure grants to the University of Jammu and University of Kashmir; infrastructure grants to 22 colleges; and support for vocationalisation of higher education in 20 colleges have also been approved under RUSA.

This information was given by the Union Human Resource Development Minister, Smt. Smriti Irani in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha question.

MSME-Samsung Digital Academy Will offer young students a skill development course

NEW DELHI. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Samsung India signed an agreement on 13th May 2015 to open MSME-Samsung Digital Academy, to offer young students a skill development course based on the Tizen OS Platform. As per the MoU signed by Mr. Amarendra Sinha, Development Commissioner, MSME and Mr. HW Bang, Senior Vice President Samsung India Electronics, the company will offer the Digital Academy course in collaboration with the Ministry and will seek to train youth on developing apps that run on the Tizen OS across a multitude of devices such as smart phones, televisions and tablets. The trained youth will have the opportunity to find placement in various appliances manufacturing organizations including Samsung.

As per the Minister, MSME Sector employs maximum number of people in India next to agriculture. To

meet skilled manpower requirement in the sector, the Ministry of MSME is committed to create industry responsive manpower by giving thrust on employable skills and vocational training in partnership with Industry. Addressing media person Mr.



HC Hong, President & CEO Samsung India Electronics said "India is increasingly emerging as a key player in the development of next generation technology ecosystems. We are pleased that through our collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, Samsung Digital Academy will also contribute to India's skill development mission from a digital perspective. In its first phases the Samsung Digital Academy will be rolled

out across the 10 MSME-Samsung Technical Schools which have been set up by Samsung and MSME Ministry following an MoU in August 2014. Each of these schools will run a four week long course in batches of 30 students. The course

curriculum is a mix of theory and lab-based training and the course will cover topics such as an introduction to the Tizen platform, the Tizen app development process testing and debugging device Application Programme Interface

(APIs) as well as packaging and installation of designed apps on various devices. Students will also be trained on how to migrate existing apps on to the Tizen platform. Tizen is an open and adaptable platform offering multi-application capability across a wide range of devices, including smart phones, tablets and TVs. Samsung's first Tizen based smart phones- the Samsung Z1, was launched in India earlier this year.



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ITRC will make 50 Thousand students skilled MoU signed with NSDC

INDORE. National level training organization ITRC will trained over 50 thousand students to make them skilled in next 10 years. These

students will get training in the field of Telecom, Retail, Automobiles, Media Entertainment and Gems & Jewellery. NSDC has assigned

an important responsibility to ITRC in this regard. So far more than a Lakh students are already well placed after receiving training from ITRC's various centers situated across the country and abroad including Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Fiji and Nigeria. ITRC is operating over 850 Centers across the world.

ITRC Plans to deploy virtual class rooms has world class infrastructure, top class faculty and other facilities. organization has a wide pool of subject specialists and experts related to various trades.

ITRC provides on job on field training with the help of virtual classes. ITRC is empanelled by NSDC as its training partner and also got listed for Government of India's "Skill India" and "Digital India". Read More details on industrialnews.in



MD & CEO of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Mr. Dilip Chenoy handing over training partner certificate to the chairman of ITRC CA Mr. Rizwan Khan at Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, New Delhi

Welfare of Economically Challenged People

The following new schemes for the welfare of Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) have been launched in 2014-15 with the approval of the competent authority:-

- (i) Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loan for Overseas Studies for Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).
- (ii) Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for the Economically Backward Class Students (Centrally Sponsored Scheme).



Facilities for Differently Abled Children in Schools

The Government of India is assisting States/UTs to implement the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as a programme for universalizing elementary education for all children in the 6-14 years age group. SSA provides Rs.3000/- per child per annum for the interventions related to education of children with special needs (CWSNs).

New Scheme for Women

NEW DELHI. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy has said that to cater to the needs of potential women entrepreneurs, who may not have adequate educational background and skills, the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development Organization (MSME-DO), has introduced process/product oriented Entrepreneurship Develop-



Mr. Rudy

ment Programmes (EDPs) in areas like TV repairing, printed circuit boards, leather goods, screen printing etc. There are also several other schemes of the government like Income Generating Scheme, implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development, which provides assistance for setting up training-cum-income generating activities for needy women to make them economically independent.



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- Student Resume Management for Placement cell of the Institute
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Education 2030

Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all is the 4th Sustainable Development Goal as part of the new SDGs to be finalized by the UN in September 2015. The WEF expressed its vision to



transform lives through education recognizing the important role of education as a main driver of development and re-affirmed education as a public good, a fundamental human right and essential for peace, tolerance, human fulfillment and sustainable development.

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Government Plans To Develop Himalayan Circuit To Boost Tourism

NEW DELHI. Last Month, The Union Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma held consultations with the Members of Parliament (MPs) from J&K, HP and Uttarakhand in New Delhi to discuss modalities for developing the Himalayan Circuit. 73 percent of the Himalayas lie within Indian territory and India can utilize this unique advantage to boost the growth of tourism in the Himalayan Circuit. Tourism contributes foreign exchange in a big way to the exchequer

of India and it contributes 6.8 percent of the GDP share in India. Government has allocated Rs 120 crore for the development of the Himalayan circuit and the amount can be effectively utilized for drawing up a road map which will be decided after consultations with the MPs concerned. The Government aims to enhance the India's share in global tourism to 1 percent from the current level of about 0.64 percent. The Himalayan Circuit has been identified under the new Swadesh Darshan Scheme of the Union Ministry of Tourism for promoting tourism.

Special Scheme for hilly areas to encourage Tourism

Under the Scheme of Swadesh Darshan of Ministry of Tourism, an amount of Rs. 50 crore has already been sanctioned under the North-east Circuit for a project in Arunachal Pradesh i.e., Bhalukpong - Bomdila - Tawang.

Under the scheme Swadesh Darshan, five circuits have been identified for development: North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit and Krishna Circuit

Under the scheme PRASAD, initially twelve cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kedarnath, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.



Growth In FTA, sends positive sign for the Future of Indian Hospitality and Tourism Industry & Attracts FDIs

The Indian tourism and hospitality industry has emerged as one of the key drivers of growth among the services sector in India. This happens to be a sun rise industry in India with a bright future, up-ahead. Furthermore this can leverage growth in employment, propel the inflow of foreign exchange and most important provide an uplift of the economic status of local communities.

In last three years, the number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) has grown at a brisk pace in India, despite the global recession. In the year 2014 (JAN-DEC) the cumulative FTA recorded 7.46 and the Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in terms of US dollar recorded a growth of 7.1% as compared to 5.9% in 2013 (JAN-DEC). FTAs during the Month of December 2014 were Rs 120,083 crore (US\$ 19.02 billion) as compared to FTAs of Rs 107,671 crore (US\$ 17.05 million) during January-December 2013 over the corresponding period of 2012. There has been a growth of 6.8% December 2014 over December 2013.

Hospitality, a major segment of tourism, has grown

by 10-15 per cent on the back of better consumer sentiment with the change of Government. As demand is going up occupancies are improving.

This sector is now among the top 15 sectors in India that has attracted FDI (Foreign Direct Investment). During the period April 2000-February 2015, this sector attracted around US\$ 7,862.08 million of FDI, according to the data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). This growth statistic has influenced investors globally to invest in the hospitality sector in India.

Looking into the growth momentum and the potential of this sector in India, The government also is focused to make India a global tourism hub. This is exemplified by various schemes and fund allocation by the government to promote tourism and hospitality Industry in India. The government has also enhanced facilities provided for tourist. Announcement by Mr Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, to extend Visa on Arrival Facility (VOA) to 150 countries in stages from the current 43, is a big step to promote tourism.

Global Travel & Tourism Spending on Growth Momentum

Global travel and tourism spending continues to rise slowly in step with overall economic performance. Business travel spending reached \$1.1 trillion USD in 2013 and is expected to advance by 8.6% in 2015. Growth will be led by expansion in emerging markets such as China, India, and Brazil. Advanced economies will also strongly contribute as economic growth improves and pent-up demand is released. Meanwhile, muted advances in travel supply will

begin to put upward pressure on rates, particularly in high-demand travel markets.

Air Fair Price Rise Anticipated to Growth : Optimism in India is a key drive for anticipated rise of airfare . The key markets setting the tempo for price growth in APAC include China, Japan, India and Australia. The anticipated air price growth in India should be the strongest in Asia Pacific in 2015, growing 4.4% on the heels of the recent elections and prospects for market

reforms that could lead to greater levels of business activity and a higher volume of business travel. We expect price on airfare in China to moderate in 2015, growing just under 1% after two years of 4-5% gains. This trend is driven by a slowing domestic economy as well as more competition from high-speed rail between regional city pairs. Recent reforms and the liberalization of GDSs in China will also help to promote competition and temper airfare increases.

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Internet Penetration and Mobile Devices Leverage Growth in Online Business of Travel Industry

India has about 300 million Internet users, according to the data compiled by the Internet and Mobile Association of India. As we witness an exponential growth of internet couple with smartphone users, the travel industry has evolved and just like any other business the ir is a paradigm shift with focus on mobile. Online Traffic and transaction from mobile is on growth momentum mainly due to deeper penetration of internet and the falling prices of smartphones. As per statistic of cleartrip, Mobile accounts for 20% flights, 25% of hotels and 50% of train bookings. Further more Cleartrip anticipates getting 50% of its traffic from mobile and by July 2015, half of the transactions would come

through mobile.

PhoCusWright estimates that by 2015, mobile will account for one-quarter of U.S. online travel sales, driving \$US40 billion in revenue. In Europe mobile will account for one fifth of bookings by 2015. Google search, hotel searches from mobile saw 30-fold growth from 2011 to 2014.

With increased awareness, confidence of a consumer 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. As per research reports, the online hotel booking industry will be worth \$1.8 billion from the current \$0.8 billion.



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Approval for Permitting 100% equity divestment after 2 years of construction completion for all BOT projects

One time fund infusion to revive and physically complete languishing BOT Projects

In order to provide a renewed thrust to the highway sector and to bring the private sector back on board, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two major policy initiatives aimed at improving the availability of equity in the market on the one hand, while on the other has authorized the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to intervene in languishing projects suffering from lack of funds.

I. EXIT POLICY :

The CCEA approved a comprehensive Exit Policy framework that now permits concessionaires/developers to divest 100 percent equity, two years after completion of construction. It is relevant to note here that during the last few years, PPP projects have not been able to attract bids; one of the primary reasons being lack of availability of equity in the market among qualified bidders. This would help unlock equity from completed projects making it potentially available for investment into new projects. This decision will also harmonise conditions uniformly across all concessions signed prior to 2009 with the policy framework for post 2009 contracts which permit divestment of equity upto 100 percent, two years after completion of construction.

There are 80 such Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) projects awarded prior to 2009 that have been completed and the locked in equity in these projects



works out to approximately Rs. 4500 crore. Once this is unlocked and is re-invested in new projects this could support 1500 kms of new highways on PPP mode, thus help in reviving the response to BOT (T) projects.

II. FUND INFUSION TO SALVAGE LANGUISHING PROJECTS:

Out of the ongoing 240 PPP Projects, some are languishing due to delays on account of land acquisition, grant of statutory clearances, local issues and shortage of construction materials etc. In conjunction with several other measures being taken to revive such stalled projects, CCEA today approved a

special intervention for the projects that are in the advanced stage of completion but are stuck due to either lack of additional equity or lender's inability to disburse further. NHAI has been authorized to provide funds to such projects from within its overall budget/corpus on a loan basis at a pre-determined rate of return. This loan is to be recovered along with interest as the first charge from the toll receipts immediately after completion of construction.

NHAI has been directed to develop a robust mechanism to determine eligibility of the project as also the extent of funds required to complete projects, in time-bound manner. It is expected that about 16 such projects languishing in various part of the country where public is facing difficulty on account of incomplete works will benefit from this decision. This will also add momentum to the overall growth of the highways sector in India which is already on the path of revival.

Increase in Awarding of Highway Projects : The highway projects awarded during 2013-14 and 2014-15 are 3621 km and 7972 km respectively. It has been planned to award about 8500 km per year to meet the construction of 30 km highway per day during the next two years. The target for award for the year 2015-16 is about 10000 km.

This information was given by Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways, Shri Pon Radhakrishnan in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

New Airports for Increased Air Traffic



Government of India (GoI) has granted "in principle" approval for setting up of 15 Greenfield airports in the country namely, Mopa in Goa, Navi Mumbai, Shirdi and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Hasan and Shimoga in Karnataka, Kannur and Aranmula in Kerala, Durgapur in West Bengal, Dabra in Madhya Pradesh, Pakyong in Sikkim, Karaikal in Puducherry and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh. Further, GoI has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG) with a view to achieve

better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of RDG issued by the Government. Presently, airlines are operating to/from 76 airports in the country including major cities.

Introduction of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

as an eligible financial instrument / structure under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to allow the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) as an eligible financial instrument / structure under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999.

The approval is expected to enable foreign investment inflows into the completed rent yielding real estate projects, which is, as of now, prohibited under the FEMA Regulations.

As a result of this decision, entities registered and regulated under the SEBI (REITs) Regulations 2014 will be able to access foreign



investments which as of now are prohibited under the FEMA Regulations. The intent of introducing the instrumentality of REITs is to reduce pressure on the banking system to which the real estate sector looks for funds, free up existing funds of Banks and to encourage construction activities. REITs while attracting long term finance from foreign and domestic sources including NRIs would make available fresh equity to the sector.

Loan for Low Cost Houses

Reserve Bank of India vide circular DBR.BP.BC.No. 74/08.12.015/2014-15 dated March 5, 2015 on "Housing Loans: Review of Instructions" has allowed banks to add stamp duty, registration and other documentation charges to the cost of the house/dwelling unit for the purpose of calculating Loan to Value (LTV) ratio, in cases where the cost of the house/dwelling unit does not exceed Rs. 10 lakh. This has been done with a view to encourage availability of affordable housing to borrowers from economically.

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ONGC to Bring Smaller Fracking Companies in Texas to India

NEW DELHI. The Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply today that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) carries out frack jobs in nearly 120-140 wells per year by utilizing their existing equipments. To meet the additional work plan, ONGC is in the process of acquiring more fracking units for enhancing its in-house fracturing capacity. In addition, ONGC has organized road show at Calgary in April 2015 to attract foreign companies to India to meet immediate additional fracking demand.

Rs. 33,900 Crore Bidding on Transmission Lines

NEW DELHI. With a view to encourage participation of Private sector in building the Transmission capacity in India, Govt. of India had notified 14 power transmission schemes worth Rs. 33,900 crore during 2014-15. Nine schemes worth Rs. 12,272 crore schemes were notified in July 2014 and further 5 more transmission schemes worth Rs. 21,659 crore were notified in February 2015. All these projects had been allocated to the Bid Process Coordinator (BPC) namely RECTPCL and PFCCL for carrying out bidding under Tariff based competitive bidding (TBCB) route. The bid process is underway by both the BPCs. These transmission schemes includes 765 kV and 400 kV transmission system strengthening schemes in the Northern, Western, Southern, North Eastern Regions & would facilitate transfer of Power from new Hydro electric projects in Bhutan and the generation linked projects in Chhattisgarh and Odisha etc.

Intellectual Property System

NEW DELHI. India continues to be placed on the Priority Watch List under the US Special 301 on account of USA's assessment of Indian IPR protection being inadequate. The Special 301 Report issued by the United States under their Trade Act of 1974 is a unilateral measure to create pressure on countries to enhance IPR protection beyond the TRIPS agreement. Under the WTO regime, any dispute between two countries needs to be referred to the Dispute Settlement Body of the WTO and unilateral actions are not tenable under this regime. Special 301 which is an extra territorial application of the domestic law of a country is inconsistent with the established norms of the WTO.

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Mobile Number Portability defer for two months



NEW DELHI. The Government has approved recommendations of TRAI on Full Mobile Number Portability (MNP) on 3rd November, 2014. The same was to be implemented within a period of 6 months.

Various steps were taken for implementation of Full

MNP. TRAI has also issued a regulation on 25th February, 2015 for the same. This regulation prescribed the elaborated process/steps for implementation of Full MNP in actual scenario when the number is to be ported. Detailed discussions were held with stakeholders to

address various technical complexities emerged while implementing the Full MNP in the networks.

The various operators have already put in place hardware and software in their system required for implementation of Full MNP. Internal testing by these operators is in advanced stage. The detailed final testing is schedule to commence shortly and is likely to be completed in two months for most of the operators.

In view of above, the Government has decided to extend the date of implementation of the full MNP in the networks by two months.

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