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HIGHLIGHTS



Annual Supplement to Foreign Trade Policy(FTP) **Expected in third Week** of April MORE [+]

Measurement comes naturally to private sector: Bill Gates MORE [+]

Wood Worth MORE [+]

Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas to be held in Sydney

This year's convention will be held from 10 to 12 November 2013

Embassy, Australia, 30 May 2013



The Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi announces the date and venue of the 7th Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, in New Delhi on May 30, 2013.

In a joint announcement via video link from New Delhi and Sydney, Hon. Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi, and Premier of NSW, Hon. Barry O'Farrell, respectively, declared the 2013 Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) Convention will be held in Sydney from 10 to 12 November this year.

Shri Vayalar Ravi noted that the objective of the event is to reach out to those members of the community who have been unable to participate in the annual PBD in India, and to provide a platform for them Indian community in Australia and the Pacific to contribute to the relationship between countries of the region and India.

Shri Vayalar Ravi also remarked that the PBD has been celebrated in India on 9th January each year since 2003 to mark the contributions of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. Mr O'Farrell noted the significance of the date of PBD (marking Gandhi's return to India from South Africa in 1915) and in his remarks said that Mahatma Gandhi was a "universal icon", and not just an Indian one.

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University Festival on India Embassy, 13 May 2013



The Consul General of India, Mr Arun K Goel, visited Brisbane on 13-15 May for the Official Opening of "Encounters: India." The festival is an extravaganza of over 100 events organised by the Griffith University and included traditional and popular forms of music, dance, art, film, drama, literature and language, religion and philosophy, design, fashion and cuisine. The festival is organised by Griffith University every two to three years to celebrate the multi-dimensional and multi-cultural nature of music and arts in Australia promoting cultural exchanges between performers and institutions from different countries. This year, India was the theme of Encounters.

Visit to Study Construction **Technologies**

Embassy, 3 May 2013



Mr. V.K. Ebrahim Kunju, Hon. Minister for Works, Government of Kerala led a six-member delegation from 1 - 3 May 2013 to meet project developers Sydney to study their technologies and methodologies used in construction of roads and bridges, in connection with Kerala's road development programmes.

Continued from page ▶ 01

Regional Pravasi Bhartiya Divas to be held in Sydney

"Sydney is the perfect location for this conference as it is Australia's financial and cultural capital", he said.

Regional PBDs are organised by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs with the collaboration of the host Government, the Indian Mission, Prominent Overseas Indians and Organisations catering to the needs of the Indian Diaspora. Participation in the event is expected from all States and Territories of Australia and from neighbouring countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Manila, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Fiji and the Pacific Islands. This convention is not only for the Indian community, but for all persons who are interested in plugging into India's growing relationship with Australia and other Pacific countries. About a

thousand people are expected to participate. The conference programme will feature discussions on different aspects of India's relationship with Australia and countries of the region including resources, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, skills and education, languages, women in business and culture.

Speakers at the event will include Ministers and prominent dignitaries from Australia and India, prominent members of the Indian community, Australian and Indian business representatives and academicians and media persons. Details regarding the registration, venue and accommodation/logistics will be made available soon.

President inaugurates the India Water Week 2013

Says available water must be managed judiciously to meet the twin burdens of population growth and economic development

PIB, New Delhi, 08 April 2013



The Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat released the National Water Policy Document 2012 and presented its first copy to the President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, at the inauguration of the 2nd India Water Week 2013, in New Delhi on April 08, 2013.

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the India Water Week 2013 with the theme 'Efficient Water Management: Challenges and Opportunities' organized by the Ministry of Water Resources. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the theme for this year holds significance in today's context.

The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee lighting the lamp to inaugurate the 2nd India Water Week – 2013, in New Delhi on April 08, 2013. The Union Minister for Water Resources, Shri Harish Rawat is also seen.

He said that the severe drought in some parts of the country, particularly Maharashtra, is a matter of grave concern. He added that the increasing occurrence of droughts and floods in India has underlined the need to find solutions to improve the management of water resources.

The President said that the available water must be managed judiciously to meet the twin burdens of population growth and economic development. He stated that conservation, balanced distribution and reclamation of used water are essential cogs in the wheel of water management. He said that our efforts must be directed at mitigating the regional imbalance in water availability. He said that we must strive to achieve equity in the allocation of water between urban and rural areas. He added that water conservation should be accorded the high priority that it deserves.

The President expressed the hope that the India Water Week 2013 would be able to provide meaningful solutions and guide our approach to water management. He said that he also expected the Water Expo 2013 to showcase exciting technological possibilities for sustaining this vital natural resource.

On the occasion, Union Minister of Water Resources released the National Water Policy Document 2012 and presented its first copy to the President.

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EU, Australia, Canada may follow India's Patent Law

PIB, New Delhi, 04 April 2013

India's strong stance on minor drug innovations could reverberate in national parliaments and courthouses of the developed world as Australia, the EU and Canada get ready to discuss and ban patent protection for frivolous improvements. A top Australian government body asked for changes in its patent laws relating to drugs saying that the indiscriminate grant of patents to incremental innovations should be checked and that an independent review should be set up to vet these

proposals. A draft report on the possible changes was released by IP Australia, the government body. Canadian lawyers and health industry officials are discussing tighter standards and taking comfort from the Indian law and the Supreme Court ruling denying patent protection to Glivec of Novartis. India was one of the first few countries to introduce a specific clause such as Section 3(d) way back in 1995 when it passed the product patent legislation. This section forces the

patent applicant to prove the medical or therapeutic efficacy of any incremental innovation for which it is seeking a patent. The law came into effect from 2005 and Novartis filed the case against the Indian government in 2006. Though the final decision on Novartis came only on Monday, the provisions of the Indian law was well known in international IP and pharmaceutical circles and countries and courts have been modifying their stance since then.

Foreign tourists in groups to get collective landing permits

PIB, New Delhi, 24 April 2013



The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism, Shri K. Chiranjeevi inaugurating the new campus of Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, at Noida on 23 April 2013.

With a view to encourage foreign tourist arrivals, the government has decided to provide collective landing permits. According to the revised procedure, foreign tourists in groups of four or more arriving by air or sea and sponsored by Indian travel agencies approved by the Ministry of Tourism and with a pre-drawn itinerary may be granted collective landing permit for a period not exceeding 60 days, with multiple entry facilities to enable them to visit neighbouring countries. In order to use this facility the tourists or travel agencies need to mandatorily fill up an application online.

A complete list of members along with printed visa application and their itinerary need to be submitted by the tourists or travel agencies to the Foreigner's Regional Registration Office at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Calicut, Goa and Lucknow, 72 hours in advance. The tourists or travel agencies shall also give an undertaking to conduct the group as per the itinerary and extend a further assurance that no individual would be allowed to drop out from the group at any place. It may be recalled that Prime Minister's Office has been monitoring the progress of visa simplification.

Union Tourism Minister Shri K Chiranjeevi met the Union Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde recently in this context, when he was assured that Ministry of Home Affairs would simplify visa procedures further. Union Tourism Minister Shri K Chiranjeevi has welcomed the new initiative. In a statement he said, "This was a move forward and would go a long way towards boosting group travel to India, and would also give a boost to the tourism industry in the country."

02 ► NEWSMAKERS

NRI deposits rise 37 per cent on high domestic interest rates

The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai, 10 April 2013



Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are keeping faith on the returns their banks back home are giving them. In the first eleven months of FY13, NRI deposits in Indian banks rose 37 per cent (by \$13.379 billion against \$9.733 billion last year).

The NRI deposit accretion was solely in the non-resident (external) rupee account or NRE account. In the reporting period, NRE deposits soared by a whopping 161 per cent at \$15.271 billion (against \$5.854 billion last year). NRIs may be pouring money into the NRE deposits because they fetch handsome returns. Another reason why NRIs may be parking money in NRE deposits is with the view that the rupee will appreciate down the line, thereby enabling them to make gains at the time when the deposit matures, said a senior public sector bank official.

IL&FS gets Rs 71-cr overseas contract

The Hindu Business Line, Hyderabad, 23 April 2013



IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Ltd have received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from IPTF, Fujairah, FZC, for oil pipeline work at Port of Fujairah. The Rs 71.4-crore project will be executed on an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis. The scope of work consists of laying six pipelines of diameters ranging from 30 inch to 16 inch from the IPTF terminal at Fujairah to the Port of Fujairah for evacuation of white oil and black oil products. The project completion time is 12 months from the commencement date.

Production units in India are best in the world, say car manufacturers

The Times of India, Chennai, 21 March 2013

Multinational automotive plants in India rank among the top across the world in terms of their productivity and quality. Top auto MNCs such as Hyundai, Toyota and Suzuki rank their Indian production facilities right on top of their global pecking order. Despite fighting it out with factories in much larger markets - including the US and China - some of these plants fare better making cars at upwards of 98-99 per cent efficiency.

Hyundai Motor India (HMI) has two plants in its Sriperumbudur facility near Chennai. The newer, second plant actually ranks number one in terms of productivity and quality according to Bo Shin Seo, CEO & MD, Hyundai Motor India (HMI). "Hyundai has plants in China, Russia, Brazil, the US (Alabama), Turkey and Czech Republic and in terms of operational average productivity ratio we are number one," he added. HMI's second plant makes two models and routinely hits average productivity ratio of upwards of 99.7 per cent.

Hyundai is not the only MNC to hit top spot with its Indian factory. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) which has invested around Rs 4700 crore to build two plants at its facility near Bangalore. Like HMI, TKM's plants too rank right up there among Toyota's global pecking order. "In the last three years we have had an internal shipping quality audit wherein a global team comes and checks vehicles randomly at the shipping yard for defects. On that basis, they have come to conclusion that TKM plants are the number one alongside Toyota's China and Thailand facilities," stated Shekar Vishwanathan, Vice Chairman, TKM.



India comprises just short of half of Suzuki's global sales volumes and commands around 25 per cent of its total sales revenue, said a Maruti executive. Maruti Suzuki plans to add another 250,000 units this year, with its new factory in Manesar at a cost of Rs 2100 crore. That plus the proposed Rs 4000 crore Gujarat plant - which will add another 250,000 unit capacity by 2015 - will take Maruti's total production numbers to two million units a year. Already Maruti's India sales are more than what the Japanese company sells in its home market in Japan.

Indian-origin Kartar Lalwani wins the Healthcare Businessman of the Year Award 2013

IBEF, New Delhi, 01 April 2013



Indian-origin entrepreneur Kartar Lalvani has been awarded the Healthcare Businessman of the Year Award 2013 at the Asian Business Awards ceremony held in London. Lalwani, the founder-chairman of Vitabiotics, the UK's largest

supplier of minerals and vitamin supplements to the retail trade, received the honour from UK's Home Secretary Theresa May at a ceremony held recently.

The Asian Business Awards applauded Lalvani, a chemist by training, for "creating Vitabiotics in the 1970s and overseeing the company's remarkable growth to become the UK's largest supplier of minerals and vitamin supplements to the retail trade." "The company is at the forefront of scientific developments in key sectors, including nutrition and women's health, and exports to over 100 countries," it further said

British Prime Minister David Cameron appreciated the work done by Asian businessmen in the UK, adding that awards "will be an opportunity to celebrate the enormous contribution that the Asian community makes to the UK economy."

Abu Dhabi based Etihad Airways inks wet lease pact with Jet Airways

The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai, 10 April 2013

Jet Airways, India's second largest airline by market share, has leased a wide body aircraft along with 60 of its cabin crew to Abu Dhabi based Etihad Airways, a move that indicates a burgeoning partnership, even before the two airlines ink an equity

In aviation parlance, a wet lease of an aircraft is an arrangement whereby the lessor, in this instance Jet, provides crew, maintenance and aircraft for a consideration. In turn the lessor takes on the responsibility for supplying and operating the aircraft.

The cabin crew will be trained by Etihad in Mumbai over the next three months. This is the second such collaborative agreement between the two carriers who are engaged in protracted discussions for over three months for an equity partnership and a strategic alliance. Jet had earlier announced a sale and lease back of Jet's Heathrow-London slots for \$70 million in February to Etihad. Confirming this, Jet CEO Nikos Kardassis said the crew was surplus with Jet as it has withdrawn flights to its European hub in Brussels originating from Chennai.

"We enter into a wet lease agreement with Etihad for one A330-200. Since we stopped the Chennai-Brussels flight, we



have excess qualified A330 cabin crew based in Chennai. We will use this crew for the wet lease operation with Etihad," Kardassis texted in response to ET's query over the issue.

The wet leasing of the crew is the just the beginning. India provides low cost and trained manpower with ability to deliver higher productivity to the Middle East (ME) carriers and it is a vital component of their business model. Given the size of their (ME carriers) expansion, sourcing manpower from India/South Asia will increase significantly in the near term, according to Kapil Kaul, CEO, South Asia, Centre for Asia-Pacific Aviation. He added that Jet has always very successfully managed to sub-lease their wide body aircraft as and when required. "Etihad will continue to provide strategic support to Jet," said Kaul.

Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.4 per cent during 2013-14: PMEAC

IBEF, New Delhi, 24 April 2013

The improvement in performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors is expected to boost the economic growth rate to 6.4 per cent in 2013-14 from 5 per cent during 2012-13, according to Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Panel.

"Economy will grow at higher rate from now. We projected growth rate of 6.4 per cent in the current fiscal," said Mr C Rangarajan, Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC), during the release of the Economic Review for 2012-13.

The improvement in the growth rate in the current fiscal, will be due to better performance of agriculture, industry and services sectors, he added.

The agriculture sector is expected to grow at 3.5 per cent in 2013-14 as compared to 1.8 per cent during previous fiscal. The industry and services sectors are expected to grow at 4.9 per cent (3.1 per cent in 2012-13) and 7.7 per cent (6.6 per cent in 2012-13) respectively.

The policy and administrative actions such as the recently constituted Cabinet Committee on Investment can help overcome obstacles in the speedy execution of projects. The existing rates of investment should enable us to grow at 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent over the short term, a return to higher levels of savings and investment can take India back to the very high levels of growth, said Mr Rangarajan.

If India grows at 8 - 9 per cent per annum, "We will graduate to the level of a middle income country by 2025," he added.



The PMEAC has projected higher inbound foreign direct investment (FDI) at US\$36 billion during 2013-14. The net FDI inflow in 2012-13 was US\$18 billion (US\$26 billion inbound and US\$8 billion outbound). Outbound FDI is also expected to increase; resulting in net FDI inflow of US\$24 billion in 2013-14, highlighted the PMEAC.

India's mobile services market to touch Rs 1.2 lakh cr this year: Gartner

The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai, 23 April 2013



India's mobile services market will touch Rs 1.2 lakh crore (Rs 1.2 trillion) in 2013, an 8 per cent rise from Rs 1.1 lakh crore in 2012.

Mobile connections will grow to 770 million this year, an 11 per cent increase from 712 million connections last year, according to a report by research and analysis firm Gartner.

"The mobile market in India will continue to face challenges if the average revenue per user (ARPU) does not grow significantly," said Shalini Verma, principal research analyst at Gartner.

"If the prevailing conditions do not change in the Indian telecom market, India will account for 12 per cent worldwide mobile connections, but just 2 per cent of worldwide mobile services revenue (in constant dollar) in 2013. India has a phenomenal pent up demand for mobile broadband and local mobile applications that solve the everyday problems for consumers. Smaller mobile broadband plans using a sachet-style usage pattern appeal to Indian consumers," she added.

Public sector units spent US\$8.5 b on IT in FY12: Zinnov

The Hindu Business Line, Mumbai, 16 April 2013



Public sector units (PSUs) spent US\$8.5 billion in FY12 on IT, more than 2 per cent of their total revenues. It was higher compared with other verticals, mainly the energy and banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) verticals, according to a study by market research firm Zinnov.

"IT is viewed to be a major cost reduction enabler in many PSUs, given the automation of processes and integrated IT set-ups. Today, PSUs are looking at IT to analyse customer information efficiently and develop targeted and customised offerings for customers," said Praveen Bhadada, Director (Market Expansion) at Zinnov. The investment in technology is shaping the growth of the PSUs. Government companies are investing in technology to help address the challenges they faced in the early years of transition towards establishing a transparent and accountable organisation, reducing cost of production and enhancing productivity and customer reach. The PSUs will post a turnover of more than US\$1 trillion by 2020. A large part of this will be invested in IT including cloud, big data and mobility.

Outbound tourism market from India grows: Four emerging trends

The Economic Times , New Delhi, 15 April 2013

Foreign tourist boards are gearing up to meet the growing number of Indians who are travelling abroad and splurging. Starting direct flights is the first step.

Never mind the sluggish economy and poor sentiments, there's good news from the world of travel and tourism. India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing outbound market and in absolute numbers it is second only to China. The number of Indians travelling overseas is set to rise from around 15 million to 50 million by 2020, according to Tourism Australia.

This will mean a big growth in spending overseas. According to a recently released Amadeus-Frost & Sullivan tourism industry report, Indians travelling to Asia-Pacific alone spent \$13.3 billion in 2011. This figure is set to zoom to \$91 billion by 2030, making Indians

the second-biggest spenders, after China, in the world on overseas travel. Not surprisingly, the world is taking note. Tourism Australia hopes to get 300,000 Indian tourists by 2020. South Africa Tourism Board too says India has become one of the key tourism generating nations for their country. Indian tourist arrivals to Thailand crossed the one million mark for the first time in 2012.

Thai Airways have recently started direct flights between Delhi and Phuket and Mumbai and Phuket to cater to the surging demand from Indians looking for wedding destinations and holidays.

According to the Amadeus-Frost & Sullivan report, a high 43 per cent of leisure travellers from India say visiting friends and relatives (VFR) was the main reason behind their overseas travel.

India Inc's average IT budget to cross US\$12 mn

Business Standard, Mumbai, 10 April 2013



India is one of the fastest-growing IT services markets in the world, with three-quarters of large Indian enterprises planning to increase IT spending in 2013, with an average IT budget of \$12.2 million. According to Gartner, Indian service providers have an opportunity to capitalise on planned increases in IT spending among Indian enterprises in 2013.

Between June and September of 2012, Gartner surveyed 1,523 large enterprises (those with more than 1,000 employees) to determine their IT spending plans. Within the survey, 153 respondents were in India.

"Indian companies' IT priorities in 2013 are the cloud (particularly infrastructure as a service [laaS]), virtualisation, data center consolidation and IT modernisation," said Arup Roy, Research Director at Gartner. He further said: "Approximately 10 per cent of spending in 2012 was allocated to external services; and 14 per cent of this was on cloud related

initiatives. Similar ratios are expected in 2013. There is a greater inclination towards private cloud contracts, more than in any other market this year."

About 30 per cent of large Indian companies said that control of IT budgets is shifting toward business units, including marketing, the CFO office and lines of business. As budget control shifts occur, when all budgets become IT budgets, service providers must take a multipronged approach and not target only ClOs.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals Increases by About Three Per cent

PIB, New Delhi, 08 April 2013

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) showed a growth of 2.8 per cent in March 2013 over March 2012. The growth rate in Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism in Rupee terms in March 2013 over March 2012 was 21 per cent.

FEES FROM TOURISM IN RUPEE TERMS AND US\$ TERMS

- FEEs during the month of March 2013 were Rs. 9,491 crore as compared to Rs.7,843 crore in March 2012 and Rs.5,522 crore in March 2011.
- FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of March 2013 were US\$1.75 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$1.56 billion during the month of March 2012 and US\$1.23 billion in March 2011.
- The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in March 2013 over March 2012 was 11.9 per cent as compared to the growth of 27.1 per cent in March 2012 over March 2011.

Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of FTAs on the basis of data received from major ports and FEEs from tourism on the basis of data received from Reserve Bank of India.

MOU between NTPC and MOP

PIB, New Delhi, 02 April 2013



Indian electric utilities company, NTPC and Ministry of Power have signed MoU 2013-14. Shri Arup Roy Choudhury CMD, NTPC and Shri P. Uma Shankar, Secretary, signed Power, MoU on behalf of their respective organisations. As per the MoU, NTPC shall strive to generate 242 BU during the year. During the year, NTPC also plans to produce 4

MMTPA coal from its own captive mines and envisages fresh capacity addition of 1875 MW. Milestones related to other ongoing projects and mines of NTPC are also part of MoU. Other parameters related to financial performance, human resource, CSR & sustainability and R&D in line with guidelines of Department of Public Enterprises are also part of the signed MoU.

Ministry of Power shall support NTPC in the areas related to Commercial, Fuel Security and Ash Utilisation and land acquisition.

During the financial year 2012-13, NTPC has added 4170 MW which is the highest ever capacity addition by NTPC in any financial year. The total commercial capacity of NTPC has become 34820 MW and the total commissioned capacity of NTPC Group becomes 41184 MW.

Annual Supplement to Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) expected in third week of April

PIB, New Delhi, 02 April 2013

The Finance Minister in his budget speech had assured that full support will be provided for exports in the backdrop of growing current account deficit. In this context, the Commerce Minister has held a series of consultations with FICCI, CII, Export Promotion Councils and FIEO and a meeting of the Board of Trade was convened on 22 March 2013. Thereafter, detailed consultations have been held between Commerce Ministry and Finance Ministry on drawing the contours of a package to be announced as part of the Foreign Trade Policy.

The Commerce Minister and Finance Minister have discussed the matter at length on 23 March 2013 with all key officials of both ministries and have held a second round of discussions in Durban on the margins of the BRICS Summit. The discussions between the two departments have been extremely constructive and are now in final stages. It is expected that the annual supplement to the FTP would be announced by the third week of April and address both the immediate and medium-term concerns of exports and to give a fillip to India's exports.



The Union Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram and the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma

Honda plans to export diesel components from India

IBEF, New Delhi, 23 April 2013



Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) plans to export diesel engine components to Asian and European markets from India. HCIL will also launch 3-4 new models with diesel engines to increase its sales.

"We will export diesel engine components to Europe and South East Asian markets from India. This fiscal, the target is Rs 500 crore against Rs 332 crore registered in 2012-13," said Mr Jnaneswar Sen, SVP, HCIL, during the launch of the new sedan, Amaze. The four new compact SUV models are expected to be launced in the next 2-3 years, with 1.5 or 1.6 litre diesel engines along with petrol variant, according to Mr Sen.

The new Rajasthan plant built with an investment worth Rs 2,500 crore will double the capacity of the company in India to 240,000 units. The plant is expected to become operational by mid-2014.

Yamaha opens fifth global R&D centre in India

Business Standard, New Delhi, 10 April 2013

Japanese two-wheeler major Yamaha Motor Company (YMC) announced the establishment of Yamaha Motor Research & Development India (YMRI) at its Greater Noida facility. The company is looking at leveraging India as a procurement hub to source components for its two-wheeler operations globally. India would be the fourth regional procurement hub for Yamaha worldwide after China, Japan and the ASEAN.

Yuh Motoyama, Senior General Manager, engineering section (motorcycle business operations), said, "The research and development (R&D) unit is an integrated development centre, the second such for Yamaha globally. The vendor base in India is strong and costcompetitive and the potential to source parts from here for our operations globally is very promising." YMC had inaugurated its first integrated development centre in ASEAN in Thailand last year.

Toshikazu Kobayashi, managing director, YMRI, said, "Our aim is to develop the lowestcost model and parts in the world. Our aim is to develop a low-cost bike at around US\$500 for both the domestic as well as exports markets."

He, however, declined to specify a timeline for launching the product in the Indian market. Yamaha's move is a part of its strategy to expand its footprint in the mass commuter segment in the country.



India and Tanzania signed pact to explore mineral wealth

IBEF, New Delhi, 08 April 2013

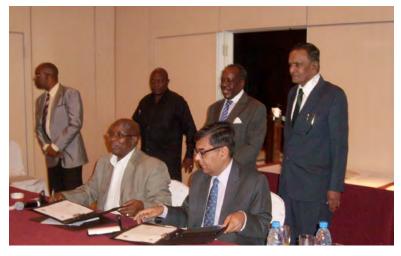
India and Tanzania have signed an initial pact for forging an alliance to explore mineral wealth in the African nation.

"Tanzania has huge mineral resources which are yet to be fully developed. I believe there is a possibility of joint venture for Indian companies with mining entities in Tanzania," said Mr Beni Prasad Verma, Union Steel Minister, Government of India in an official release.

The release further highlighted that a Letter of Intent (LoI) for strengthening cooperation in the area of steel and mining has also been signed at Der es Salaam in presence of Mr Verma and Mr Sospeter Muhongo, Minister of Energy, Tanzania.

The Lol would serve as a step in the direction of strengthening ties and promoting bilateral relations between the two countries in the mineral sector, according to Mr Verma.

The objective of LoI is to facilitate exchange of technical know-how and to encourage investment opportunities in India and Tanzania in the iron and steel related businesses.



The Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Shri D.R.S. Chaudhary and the Permanent Secretary (Energy & Minerals), United Republic of Tanzania, Mr. E.C. Maswi signing a Letter of Intent in presence of the Union Steel Minister, Shri Beni Prasad Verma and the Minister of Energy and Minerals, United Republic of Tanzania,

India to be third largest aviation market by 2020

PIB, Bangalore, 28 March 2013



The High Commissioner of Australia in India, Mr Patrick Suckling meeting the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri Ajit Singh, in New Delhi on April 12, 2013.

Speaking at a function in the capital on the occasion of Aviation Day, the Minister for Civil Aviation, Shri Ajit Singh said that India would be the third largest aviation market by 2020. Addressing senior representatives of the aviation industry, Shri Ajit Singh informed that studies suggest, the country's airports would be handling 336 million domestic and 85 million international passengers with projected investment to the tune of US\$120 billion by 2020.

The minister reminded the gathering that recently he took a decision to liberalise the process for airlines to acquire aircraft by doing away with the Aircraft Acquisition Committee. He added that the government has also taken steps to liberalise and grant traffic rights to Indian carriers to fly to new destinations around the globe.

Aviation sector brings enormous benefits to communities and economies around

the globe. It is a key enabler of economic growth, social development and tourism providing connectivity and access to markets globally. Air transport currently supports 56.6 million jobs and over US\$2.2 trillion of Global GDP.

India is among the countries witnessing highest growth in air passenger traffic. Its airport infrastructure is undergoing modernisation with the installation of state-of-the-art facilities. New Greenfield airports are under construction and security, surveillance and air traffic navigation systems have been modernized. India, a growing Asian economy, is amongst the fastest growing and currently the ninth largest aviation market handling 121 million domestic and 41 million international passengers. Today, more than 85 international airlines operate to India and five Indian carriers connect over 40

Infosys wins accolade as one of the top companies to intern in the UK



The National Council for Work Experience (NCWE) Awards 2013, which are in their tenth year of recognising and rewarding employers, who provide high quality internships to students and graduates, has awarded this accolade to Infosys, according to a company statement.

The Infosys InStep programme, which was commenced in 2009, offers students a three-month placement in India, has won the Work Placement of the Year crown in the category for best large organisation (more than 250 employees) with short-term placements of up to three months. The judges praised Infosys for providing cultural diversity opportunities and commended the three-tier support system and for putting considerable consideration into engaging students over the longer term despite it being a short-term placement.

McCarthy, Head of Human Resources, in EMEA for Infosys, said: "The Infosys InStep programme is designed to provide a forum for cultural exchange and helps bring fresh ideas into the company. As well as raising awareness of the Infosys brand among future leaders, we hope to prepare the young generation for the global marketplace in which they will forge their careers."

India to boost its bilateral trade with Germany

IBEF, New Delhi, 10 April 2013

Dr Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, is keen on enhancing trade and investment ties with Germany. According to Dr Singh India will continue to take steps to boost domestic investments, attract foreign investors and spur the economy back to its long-term potential of eight per cent growth.

Dr Singh is looking forward to Chancellor Angela Merkel's support for an early conclusion of a balanced India-EU broad-based trade and investment agreement, the PM said before boarding the flight for Berlin for the second India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultation (IGC). He is accompanied by Ministers of New and Renewable Energy, Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Commerce, Industry and Textiles, External Affairs, and Human Resource Development.

Germany is considered a key partner for India in areas such as infrastructure, manufacturing, science and technology, higher education, vocational training and clean and renewable energy. Germany is India's largest economic partner in Europe and one of the key global partners for trade, investment and technology. Indo-German bilateral trade had recorded an increase of 18.4 per cent and reached €18.37 billion in 2011. However, due to global economic slowdown, bilateral trade witnessed a dip of 5.5 per cent in 2012.

Dr Singh, on his visit to Germany plans to explain to the German leadership, the steps and reform process that have been taken up by the Indian Government in order to improve the investment climate and make India a favourable destination for investors.

"I will also propose that Europe keep its door open to Indian investors and professionals," Dr Singh said. He added that Germany plays a key role in the global economy, particular in



The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh meeting the President of Germany, Mr. Joachim Gauck, in Berlin on April 12, 2013

stability and growth of the Euro zone, which has an important bearing on the Indian economy. "At a time of persisting global economic weakness and uncertainty, I look forward to discussing these issues with Chancellor Merkel."

Dr Singh also plans to meet President of Germany Joachim Gauck and participate in the closing ceremony of the 'Days of India in Germany,' which was organised to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Germany.

Hero MotoCorp starts operations in Africa, Latin America

Business Standard, New Delhi, 02 April 2013

The country's largest two-wheeler maker, Hero MotoCorp, said it has commenced operations in Africa, Latin and Central America. Pawan Munjal, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Hero MotoCorp, said, "We have started dispatches to our new international markets in Central and Latin America and Africa. Our first consignments of two-wheelers have already been shipped to Peru in Latin America, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras in Central America and to Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast in Africa."

The company is set to dispatch the first lot of two-wheelers to Kenya later this month. It has already appointed new distributors and channel partners in these markets, where retail sales of the Hero two-wheelers is likely to commence in the first quarter of this financial year. Hero motorcycles to be sold in these markets include a mix of models from the 100cc and 125cc range. Hero MotoCorp has earmarked Rs 1100 crore as capital expenditure for the current financial year. It includes an investment of about Rs 600 crore on the company's upcoming fourth plant and global parts centre at Neemrana, and Rs 100-150

crore on a state-of-the-art integrated R&D centre at Kukas (near Jaipur in Rajasthan).

These initiatives are in line with Hero MotoCorp's vision of reaching a total of 10-million unit volumes in a few years' time, and garnering a million units -10 per cent of that — from international business. The company currently registers around 2.5 per cent of its volumes from sales in overseas markets. To meet this objective, the company has already shortlisted as many as 30 countries across Latin America, Central America, Africa and South-east Asia. Colombia is the only country in Latin America where Hero MotoCorp is currently exporting. The other international markets where Hero two-wheelers are sold include Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.



Indian, Chinese varsities sign agreement

The Hindu, Beijing, 04 April 2013

To tap into the changing world of women's fashion and taste in cosmetics, drug-maker Elder Pharmaceuticals has forged its maiden joint venture with Japanese firm Kose Corporation.

"It is a completely different area for us," Elder Pharma Joint Managing Director Alok Saxena told Business Line, adding that Elder would make the specialised cosmetics at its Paonta Sahib plant, in Himachal Pradesh. Elder has in the past followed the strategy of in-licencing products from foreign companies.

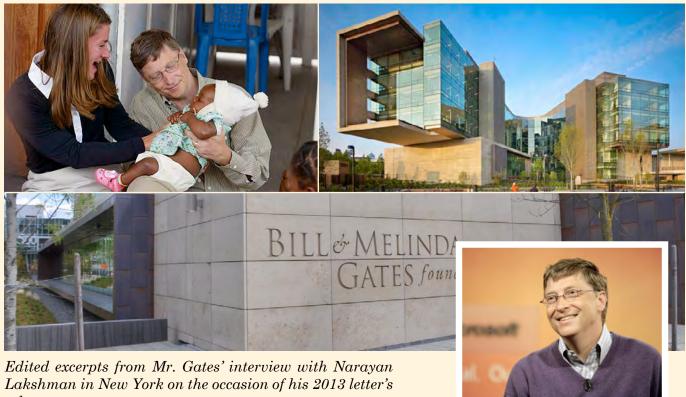
The departure this time to form a joint-venture format was because of the huge opportunity in the domestic market, he said.

The product portfolio includes skincare and body care products, he said, adding that they were over-the-counter (OTC) products. The Japanese firm will hold 60 per cent equity in the venture, and Elder the remaining 40 per cent.

The reason the cosmetic tie-up happened with the Rs 1,350-crore Elder Pharma and not its healthcare arm, was because the Japanese company needed specialised manufacturing, something the pharma company was familiar with, he said. The cosmetics, to be made locally, will be in the market in three months, he added.

Measurement comes naturally to private sector: **Bill Gates**

Naravan Lakshman, 01 February 2013



release:

On the letter

Since I've got a pretty broad readership this is a chance to share my views. I just tend to be more optimistic than a lot of observers nowadays. I'd say that's really because I see the data and the innovation coming along. I think it's valuable for people to see progress because otherwise they become cynical, whether it's about the world in general or their aid budgets, or corruption.

So the big thing... is measurement, something that comes naturally to the private sector, because they have to have a theory about how their business works... Governments and philanthropy haven't done as much measurement and the good news is that measurement is easier to do in a world of satellite photos, cell phones, cheap software and databases. Gathering information is going to be easier now... and so we can identify where something is going very well. For example polio eradication we can tell whether the vaccine team goes where they are supposed to go. We can tell whether the map is missing a village or not. The benefit of that attitude is that we will get more value out of these programmes and address what is often been the Achilles Heel of these programmes, the delivery piece that just doesn't reach intended recipients.

INDIA - AID RECIPIENT OR DONOR?

You can be an aid recipient and donor at the same time. India does modest donorthings today. It is still a meaningful aid recipient in absolute but as percentage of the government's overall budget I would say it is fairly modest. The impact of the aid is slightly more than what our figures would suggest though.

Speaking for ourselves, a lot of what we are able to do – and this comes back to the measurement [question] - is hire what we call strategy units in. We are able to hire analytical-type personnel, create the right tools and salary structures for them and connect them up with a government activity like vaccination coverage or spending or getting contraception out and make sure that the increased government investment is actually being used appropriately.

In India, it is still about money but it is more about execution, whether it is in education, which is not a big area for us, or health, which is a big area. The quality of execution is a limiting factor. Kerala achieved great health results not so much by putting a lot more money in than in other places; or if you look at the improvements in Bihar in the last four years, they used some of their NRHM money but that really was about measurement and quality of execution.

So I think we and other donors still have a role to play for, I would say, ten years or so. The Republic of Korea is the only country that has gone all the way from being huge aid recipient to being a huge donor.

PINPOINTING CHALLENGES IN INDIA'S POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Some of them are basic: does grain for the poor get diverted corruptly? Do teachers show up in classrooms? Are health-worker jobs filled? Are they properly trained? Why don't kids get vaccinated? We should be able to register them digitally and follow up digitally. In Bihar that is what we are starting to see. We did it in the pilot districts and then the government spread it out to the other districts.

Every year health in India gets better but we should be impatient that they haven't adopted some of the new vaccines yet. Rotavirus, pneumococcal virus, that's in the years ahead and could save so many Indian lives. The execution is uneven – 40 per cent of the world's un-vaccinated kids are Indian and that's not even accounting for the fact that they don't have those vaccines in their programmes. I'm an optimist about this the right partnerships, work, care and budget increases appear to be on their way. So every year the improvement can be pretty dramatic, particularly in the North because it is coming off of low levels.

THE GIVING PLEDGE

Up until this year the GP was entirely focused on people living in the U.S., since we had 92 people of great wealth, over \$1 billion, who pledged to give the majority away during their lifetimes or through their wills. Just this year we are recruiting internationally and we will announce our group in February... So we are interested but it will be a long time before there are as many non-U.S. GP members as U.S. members, even though there are more international billionaires than U.S. billionaires. There are wonderful, giving people, such as Azim Premji in India, but it's just less of a tradition.

Hopefully it is a growing tradition and everybody who joins encourages more people to join, to think about philanthropy, doing it younger, and get more engaged in it. It's not a passive thing that you

The question is what should be added and should we wait for some consensus on everything that should be added. I'm a believer that we should at least get these eight in place. They have certain clarity because they focus on the poorest. Many other issues don't easily work through the United Nations consensus process. The action items are more telling rich countries what to do. If China and the U.S. can't agree bilaterally on climate issues, then is it easier to get 193 countries to agree?

But we need climate goals. When we can get them, how we can get them, what form they are done in – I'm not an expert on that. But I know that we should keep these MDGs intact and only add a limited number. Everybody sees the MDGs were successful so every sin of mankind that people care about, somebody is writing an MDG and hoping to get, for example, wheelchairs for everybody, no smoking,

But in the future that won't be necessary, so those health resources go elsewhere. So we save all of that for all time and we are using all this money to actually build functional health system. It is not just polio vertically. This is a bit of a change. In Nigeria, you have to get routine immunisation, so the \$6 billion is part of that. In Pakistan and Afghanistan you have to get routine immunisation, and that is the base. That is why this polio money will help the President of Nigeria save a million lives, just in his country alone. It's kind of mind-blowing but it's very do-able - those are the figures. Even though it looks like it doesn't pencil up, it does. We can send you a report on that.

Yes, the focus also remains with diseases such as malaria. We spend a million a year on that. It happens that we spend a bit more on polio than anything else, then vaccine delivery, HIV and malaria. The difference is not gigantic and we have never reduced the amount we spend on those diseases. None of these diseases has decreased enough for us to cut back on our spending. Our funding of the vaccine, drug or delivery has not reduced.

Remember, we do more upstream research funding than most people. Most governments fund downstream delivery, which is great. We partner with that and put money into global funding. But where we are fairly unique is funding the creation of a new vaccine. Actually the U.S. government is big in that area but other than the U.S. government there is no one that is really big in funding upstream more, other than us.



should do through your will. It should be an enjoyable thing that you do with the same skills that helped you make the money. That's our view and we will see how it goes.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

I'm a huge believer in the view, that we should take the current goals and update them. We're working on exactly that. There's a meeting in Botswana in a couple of weeks and we will put forth some ideas. I was pretty clear that we would get child mortality down to six million and that the goal for 2013 should be three million. We can do it. With maternal mortality we should get another 50 per cent reduction. That's not easy, but that's do-able. With education goal we should put a quality metric in and not just state, "Everyone is attending." We should have some level of literacy that they have to attain, that's a refinement. The sanitation goal - the way progress is measured is not good. We need to work on that.

I think it is clear that you can take the eight goals and come up with a great next set.

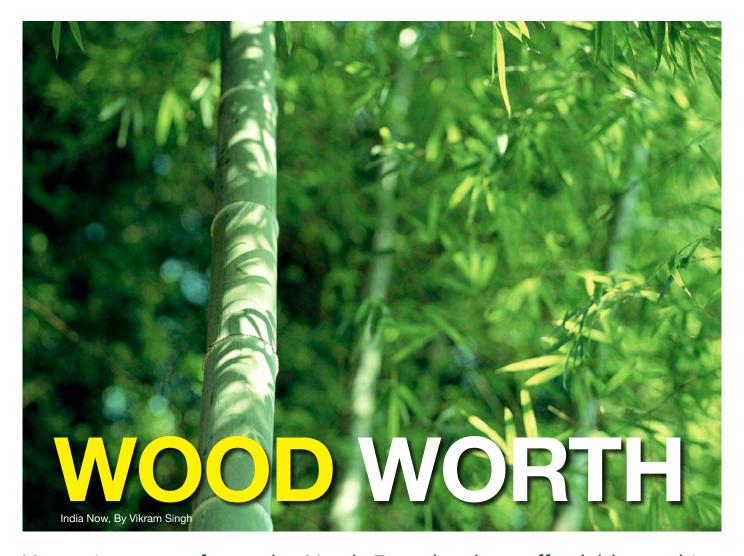
and human rights. But I do think there was a benefit to the ones that we picked so I hope we don't add too many more.

FOUNDATION PRIORITIES IN HEALTH

On our health programmes, we are reasonably analytical in terms of dollars per disability-adjusted life that you have saved. Polio in the present year is not a bargain because you have 250 cases and spending has been \$1 billion per year for the last six years. We could get done early and spend less but that is what we are raising. The reason why that pays off is that if you stop spending then polio will spread back. The only reason you have 250 cases is that you are spending \$1 billion a year. If you drop down to \$500 million or \$200 million then you will have some hundreds of thousands of polio cases. In other words you have wasted your money. You will also have disillusionment that will cost global health a lot. If you succeed, you will never have to vaccinate again, and places like South America are still doing yearly campaigns. They do a good job and they have to continue.

MEASURING EDUCATION QUALITY

Embarrassingly the countries that are best at measuring future performance through education are developing countries in Asia - or they were developing. Singapore, ROK, Hong Kong and China - they measure their teachers better than here. And they get much better results for much less money. There are countries worse than the U.S., such as South Africa, Mexico and Brazil is certainly not much better. In terms of equity and future economic performance - if you don't run a good teacher personnel system, you're not serious. Yet often, politically, the status quo is highly defended by the teachers' unions. Mexico was sort of extreme. The government wasn't allowed to know how many teachers there were. They just had to write the cheque. Nieto is trying to change that, but talk about a bad system! This was a bad system captured by the guild in the most ultimate way. The U.S. has some of that but nothing like Mexico. Getting change where you measure and you make sure that people are performing - that makes people really nervous. Even good teachers get a little nervous as you bring this in. We have personnel system reform and we have technology.



Young innovator from the North East develops affordable machine that processes bamboo at 25 times the speed of manual processing.

Bamboo is everywhere in India—it holds up scaffoldings, wedding tents, roofs and welcome arches. Bamboo furniture adorns urban homes as well as corporate waiting rooms. Its pulp makes paper and rayon, while bamboo chips, glued into boards, make for excellent building material. Bamboo grows to an average height of 35 feet but all of it is not used. At least five feet are snipped off from the tip and the base. But that is not all, once harvested, each bamboo pole must be processed. It involves removing the hard nodes or rings every few inches along the length of the pole.

This is a must to smoothen the surface of the pole. The surface of bamboo is naturally coated with protective silica, giving it its sheen. The silica must also be filed away in order to prepare its surface for texturing and for receiving paint. Processing bamboo is a tedious, manual task. Using a short local machete, called the dow, workers in the North East hack away the protruding nodes of the bamboo, and rub the silica away with rough hand tools. However, their

imprecise and irregular methods are crude and extremely time-consuming.

For years, Imli Toshi Namo, a resident of Nagaland had observed the workers process the bamboo. In the best of circumstances, they can process about 100 feet of bamboo per working day. That's about five or six poles a day. Imli grew up in Nagaland, roaming the sprawling bamboo plantations and observing the grass being harvested and processed, before it was shaped into furniture or items of handicraft.

He was always struck by the enormity of the human labour that went into cutting away its nodes, filing away its surface and removing the silica. After graduating in Geology, he spent years thinking of a way to reduce the drudgery of the bamboo workers and helping them multiply their yield. By 2006, he had designed Arulepsa, the prototype of an integrated, precision-controlled, bamboo processing machine. Arulepsa processes five feet of highly finished bamboo per minute. That translates to 300 feet an hour, or 2,400

feet per working day of eight hours. That's nearly 25 times the output of manual processing. "Even then, the finished bamboo that Arulepsa produces is far more uniform, better finished, well-planed and surfaced," says Imli.

India is the second richest bamboo resource country in the world, next only to China. According to the Forest Survey of India, the North Eastern states of India have bountiful bamboo reserves. Although they cover only eight per cent of the country's land area, the states together hold twothirds of its bamboo that grows over more than three million acres. Currently, the global market size of bamboo products is worth US\$10 billion. According to the government's National Bamboo Mission (NBM), India's share of this market is a billion US dollars, but by 2030, it can grow ten-fold. Apart from the most obvious use as scaffolding, bamboo is used for making paper, rayon and bamboo boards.

Imli, 30, has been making machines and devising solutions for as long as he can

remember. His innovative spirit has earned him the moniker 'serial innovator'. Although he had made the first prototype in 2006 and improved it a year later, Imli has so far been able to sell only one such machine. And that too, to a local government body. "It is not that the machine is not good enough or doesn't do the needful. I have not yet been able to find an industrial house that will manufacture my machine for the market," says a thoughtful Imli.

The prototype and its improvement cost him a total of INR 300,000 (US\$6,725). He had funding from the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) and the National Bamboo Mission (NBM). When I met him at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi recently, Imli was poring over machinery catalogues. He told me he was ordering a range of machines to set up his own unit for producing Arulepsa. Imli was in New Delhi, participating in an innovation exhibition organised by the NIF and at the invitation of President Pratibha Patil.

Since then, he has ferried the machines to his workshop in Dimapur, Nagaland. Imli says the first of the new machines should roll out by August this year. He is thinking of pricing them at INR 80,000 (US\$1,800)

"That's not much, considering the substantial savings a company will make using Arulepsa", says Imli. According to him, the buyers of his machine are potentially all furniture manufactures and producers of handicraft products. In the North East itself, he should be able to sell a sizeable number of his machines, but he says he has business enquiries from nearly seven states including faraway Andhra Pradesh.

"The highlight of the machine lies in using a single versatile wood processing platform for seamlessly processing bamboo. The precision in work is achieved by deploying the dedicated control centre and a user friendly four way joystick", says Prof Anil K Gupta, Chairman of the National Innovation Foundation. The electrically operated machine weighs 75 kg. NIF was among the first to help Imli through its Micro Venture Investment Fund. It has also taken Imli's innovation to various forums, showcasing him and his work. "NIF has really helped me take Arulepsa from an idea in my head to a working machine

on the ground. I have also been exposed to new opportunities through the fund," acknowledges Imli.

In the four years since having made Arulepsa, Imli hasn't been resting. Among his many innovations is one that is currently keeping him extremely busy. It is called the Solar Farm Produce Dehydrator and has really caught the fancy of officials and villagers alike. In the high moisture North Eastern states of India, keeping farm produce dry is an arduous task. Most people dry their ginger, chilli and fish either in a smoke stack or out in the sun. Imli's Solar Farm Produce Dehydrator is a simple contraption that uses specially treated polyurethane sheets in an innovative design.

In spite of his struggles and challenges, Imli's spirit is indomitable and his mind relentlessly innovative. While he waits for his prototype to turn into an entire line of machines for sale, he spends his time working on new ideas. For sure, making furniture and items of handicraft from bamboo will soon become a lot easier, thanks to Imli Toshi.



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WORLD CHILDREN EXPO

Upload PhotoWorld Children Expo is one of the prime trade shows in India, dedicated exclusively to the healthcare, consumer goods and entertainment sector for kids. The show provides extensive business networking opportunities for participating corporate houses and several renowned brands, including Disney, Space Toons and Cartoon Network take part at the show on a regular basis. The line of items put on exhibit here is extensive too and ranges right from holistic healthcare items, film and animation tools, gaming devices and specialty toys, to board games, food and beverages, furniture items and informative textbooks and magazines.

HIGHLIGHTS

The chief highlights of the World Children Expo are:

- The Technology Trigger..
- Retailing to the Child Consumer.
- Content creation For Children.
- Discussions on the healthcare and education industry for children.
- More than 100 kid's brands are showcased during the event.

Date: 17 - 19 May 2013

Venue: Ambience Mall Convention Centre, Gurgaon, India

Website:www.worldchildrenexpo.com



APCON 2013

APCON 2013 is a signature SCM event where seasoned practitioners from across the region meet and discuss ways of addressing these challenges. It seeks to bring together professionals from different parts of India, Asia-Pacific region and rest of the world. With participation from a wide range of industries and academia, public and private sectors of industry - APCON 2013 expects to serve as a springboard for collaboration, an idea-exchange which can in turn, fuel innovation. That is why the theme of the conference 'Unleashing Innovation in the Value chain' is apt. By focusing the attention of SCM professionals on both the challenges and the opportunities ahead of them, the conference will enable participants to learn from each other, network, find answers to shared issues and take home practical ideas that will benefit their organizations.

Date:16 May-17 May 2013

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Bengaluru, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

Website: apcon2013.com

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www.indiaautoexpo.in

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30 May - 01 June 2013 BOMBAY EXHIBITION CENTER(BEC) MUMBAI, INDIA www.palmexpo.in