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Address by the President of India on the eve of the Republic Day of India 2016

PIB, New Delhi, January 25, 2016



The President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Chief Guest of Republic Day, President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande at the saluting dais, at Rajpath, on the occasion of the 67th Republic Day Parade 2016, in New Delhi on January 26, 2016. The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Manohar Parrikar and the Minister of State for Planning (Independent Charge) and Defence, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh are also seen.

On the eve of the sixty-seventh Republic Day of our nation, I extend my warm greetings to all of you in India and abroad. I convey my special greetings to members of our Armed Forces, Para-military Forces and Internal Security Forces. I pay my tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives in defending India's territorial integrity and in upholding the rule of law.

On twenty-sixth January 1950, our Republic was born. On this day, we gave ourselves the Constitution of India. This day saw the culmination of heroic struggle of an extraordinary generation of leaders who overcame colonialism to establish the world's largest democracy. They pulled together India's amazing diversity to build national unity, which has brought us so far. The enduring democratic institutions they established have given us the gift of continuity on the path of progress. India is a rising power, a country fast emerging as a global leader in science, technology, innovation and start-ups, and whose economic success is the envy of the world.

The year 2015 has been a year of challenges. During this year, the global economy remained subdued. Unpredictability ruled the commodity markets. Uncertainty marked the institutional responses. In such troubled environment, no one nation could be an oasis

of growth. India's economy also had to face the blowback. Weak investor sentiments led to withdrawal of funds from emerging markets including India putting pressure on the Indian rupee. Our exports suffered. Our manufacturing sector is yet to recover fully.

In 2015, we were also denied the bounty of nature. While large parts of India were affected by severe drought, other areas reeled under devastating floods. Unusual weather conditions impacted our agricultural production. Rural employment and income levels suffered.

We can call out these challenges because we are aware of them. There is a great virtue in acknowledging a problem and resolving to address it. India is building and implementing strategies to solve these problems. This year, with an estimated growth rate of 7.3 percent, India is poised to become the fastest growing large economy. Contraction in global oil prices has helped maintain external sector stability and control domestic prices. Despite occasional setbacks, industrial performance this year has been strong.

Aadhaar, with its present reach of 96 crore people, is helping in direct transfer of benefits, plugging leakages and improving transparency. Over 19 crore bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is the

single largest exercise in the world at financial inclusion. The Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana aims to create model villages. The Digital India programme is an effort to bridge the digital divide. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana targets farmer's welfare. Increased spending on programmes like MGNREGA is aimed at enhancing employment generation to rejuvenate the rural economy.

The Make-in-India campaign will boost manufacturing by facilitating easy conduct of business and improving competitiveness of domestic industry. The Start-up India programme will foster innovation and encourage new-age entrepreneurship. The National Skill Development Mission envisages skilling 300 million youth by 2022.

There will be, amongst us, occasional doubters and baiters. Let us continue to complain; to demand; to rebel. This too is a virtue of democracy. But let us also applaud what our democracy has achieved. With investments in infrastructure, manufacturing, health, education, science and technology, we are positioning

ourselves well for achieving a higher growth rate which will in the next ten to fifteen years help us eliminate poverty.

Reverence for the past is one of the essential ingredients of nationalism. Our finest inheritance, the institutions of democracy, ensure to all citizens justice, equality, and gender and economic equity. When grim instances of violence hit at these established values which are at the core of our nationhood, it is time to take note. We must guard ourselves against the forces of violence, intolerance and unreason.

For revitalizing the forces of growth, we need reforms and progressive legislation. It is the bounden duty of the law makers to ensure that such legislation is enacted after due discussion and debate. A spirit of accommodation, cooperation and consensus-building should be the preferred mode of decision-making. Delays in decision-making and implementation can only harm the process of development.



A bird's eye view of Rajpath, on the occasion of the 67th Republic Day Parade 2016, in New Delhi on January 26, 2016.



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi paying homage at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, on the occasion of the 67th Republic Day Parade 2016, in New Delhi on January 26, 2016.

President of India's message on the eve of National Day of Australia

PIB, New Delhi, January 25, 2016



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has extended his greetings and felicitations to the Government and people of Australia on the eve of their National Day (January 26, 2016). In his message to H.E. Gen. the Hon'ble Sir Peter Cosgrove AK-MC (Retd.), the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, the President has said, "On behalf of the Government, the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency and to the people of Australia on the occasion of your National Day.

It is a matter of satisfaction that India's ties with Australia have grown in strength over recent years in a wide range of areas of our common interest. We look forward to sustaining this momentum to the mutual benefit of our peoples. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and happiness. I take this opportunity to convey, through you, my best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Australia".

PM launches Start-Up India movement, unveils action plan for encouraging Start-Ups

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Start-up India initiative in New Delhi. The launch by the Prime Minister this evening, was preceded by a day-long workshop on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

The Prime Minister visited a virtual exhibition and interacted with Start-up entrepreneurs. 10 outstanding Start-up innovators shared their thoughts and experiences before the Prime Minister delivered his address. He said that when he had launched the Start-up India Initiative on 15th August, the announcement had virtually gone unnoticed, but it had registered with people.

He said successful start-ups are usually created by those who are driven by an idea, or an urge to solve a problem that people face. He said making money is not the primary objective, but is often a by-product. He said Start-up innovators are often driven by a sense of compassion for others.

The Prime Minister said he wishes to turn the youth of India from job-seekers to job-creators. He said if a Start-up can offer employment to even five people, it would be doing a great service to the nation. He mentioned some areas where youth innovators should focus, including crop wastage, and cyber security.

The Prime Minister unveiled the highlights of the Start-up Action Plan. He said a dedicated Start-up fund worth Rs. 10,000 crore will be created for funding of Start-ups.

He said Start-ups will be exempted from paying income tax on their profit for the first three years. He said the Government is working on a simple exit policy for Start-ups. He also said the

Government is working towards fast-tracking of Start-up patent applications. He announced an eighty percent exemption in patent fee for Start-up businesses, and said a self-certification based compliance system for Start-ups would be introduced for 9 labour and environment laws. He said the Atal Innovation Mission will be launched to give a boost to innovation.



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the launch of Start-Up India, Stand-Up India programme, in New Delhi on January 16, 2016. The Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley and the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry (Independent Charge), Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman are also seen.

Excerpts of PM's speech at Economic Times Global Business Summit

Business Standard, Mumbai, December 07, 2015

We live in a globally connected world. Actions of one country affect another. Such actions are not only based on trade and investment but also in matters of pollution and environment. A poet had said that no man is an island. It can be said that no country can live alone. It is often said that all politics is local. To me, all economics is global. Indeed the distinction between domestic affairs and foreign affairs is increasingly losing relevance. For a country in the modern day, it is not sufficient that its economic policies should only address its domestic priorities. To me, India's policies must be such that they make a positive contribution to the rest of the world.

Many of you are aware of the contribution India can make to the global economy at a time of economic stagnation in many parts. For the last four quarters, India has been the fastest growing large economy in the world. In 2014-15, India contributed 7.4% of global GDP in purchasing power terms. But it contributed 12.5% of global growth. Thus its contribution to growth is 68% higher than its share of the global economy. FDI in India has increased by 39% in the last 18 months, at a time when global FDI has fallen.

But a country's contribution goes beyond economics. Protecting our planet from climate change is one of the most important tasks for this generation. If one country reduces its environmental footprint, it creates benefits

for all others. It is for this reason that in the COP 21 Summit, India made far reaching commitments towards the larger welfare of the planet. In history, every country that has grown has increased its per capita emissions footprint. We are committed to re-writing that history. We are committed to reducing the emission intensity of our GDP by 33% by 2030 even while growing at a fast pace. For a country which is already at a very low base of per capita emission, this is a very ambitious target. We have committed that by 2030, 40% of our electric power capacity will be from non-fossil fuel. We have also committed to building an additional carbon sink of over 2.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. This will be done by creating additional forest cover by 2030. This commitment is from a country with a very low per capita land availability. We have

taken the lead in launching an international solar alliance, involving 121 countries falling between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. This initiative will help many developing countries, from Africa to South America, to take advantage of developments in renewable energy around the world.

Let me now return to the three policy objectives I mentioned. I will start with the performance of Indian economy. Economists talk about GDP growth, inflation, investment, and the fiscal deficit as key economic parameters. Since this Government took office, growth has increased and inflation has decreased. Foreign investment has increased and the fiscal deficit has decreased. And despite a slow-down in global trade, the balance of payments deficit has also decreased.



India second largest fruit producer in world

TOI, New Delhi, January 19, 2016



The green revolution of the 1960s and 1970s ended chronic food deficits and while cereals still command the attention of policy makers, fruit production has surged impressively, making India the second largest global producer behind China.

Annual growth in horticulture has seen fruit production grow faster than vegetables though the latter constitute the largest segment of this sector of agriculture. The stellar performance of fruits has attracted attention of statisticians with the agriculture ministry's 'horticultural statistics at a glance 2015' noting that India was making its presence felt as the second largest producer of vegetables and fruit.

"Grapes occupy the premier position in exports with 107.3 thousand tonnes valued at Rs 1,086 crore in 2014-15. Other fruits which attained significant

position in exports are banana and mango," the handbook said.

Robust growth of horticulture indicates a growing demand within the country too. There is scope for further growth as while India lies second in the list of major fruit producing countries featuring China, the US, Brazil, Spain, Mexico, Italy, Indonesia, the Philippines and Turkey, its productivity lags most of these countries.

India's success in horticulture lies in small towns and districts. In 2012-13, Chittoor and Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, Baramula in Jammu and Kashmir, Nalgonda in Telangana, Sagar and Shahdol in Madhya Pradesh, Darjeeling in West Bengal and Pune, Aurangabad, Jalgaon and Sangli in Maharashtra shone on India's fruit map.

Double digit growth continues for passenger vehicles

Business Standard, New Delhi, January 11, 2016

Auto companies have reported double digit sales growth of 10.46% in December sales of passenger vehicles, helped by new launches and relatively lower cost of ownership due to declining fuel prices.

According to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the industry sold 230,960 passenger vehicles-cars, utility vehicles and vans in December. The double digit growth for last three months, helped by festive demand, has led to a growth of 9.05% in April-December period of the current financial year.

"Positive consumer sentiments, new launches and increasing disposable incomes are driving up car sales. The cost of ownership has been stable for petrol vehicles while for diesel vehicles it has come down marginally", said Sugato Sen, deputy director general, SIAM.

In the last several months, the growth in sale of passenger vehicles is being led by strong volume growth from two top players — Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai. Ford and Renault have also shown strong volume growth.

Two-wheelers continue to remain under a pressure, posting a volume decline of 3.10% in the month of December. Within the two wheeler segment, sales of motorcycle saw a deeper cut of 6% due to weakness in rural markets. Scooters grew by about 3% in December.

"The auto industry will close this year with good growth in passenger cars, commercial vehicles as well as scooters. However, passenger vehicles sales growth in January-March quarter will be lower than the festive season and also people will gradually shift from diesel vehicles to petrol vehicles because of lot of uncertainties in diesel regulation", said Abdul Majeed, a partner Price Waterhouse and an auto expert. Sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicles

continue to post high double digit growth. For December, sales have increased over 19%. Replacement demand and uptick in mining and construction activity are helping demand for larger commercial vehicles.

Even light commercial vehicles posted a growth of 5.57% in December. LCVs, used for intra city transport of goods and passengers, had shown decline in recent months. However, SIAM expects the LCV sales for current financial year to remain flat. In the April-December period, LCV sales have declined by 3.42%.

"With continued high level of NPA's, financing scenario did not recover completely in FY16, as financiers continue to concentrate on loan collections. The recovery in consumption demand is delayed", SIAM said.



PM's interaction through PRAGATI

PIB, New Delhi, January 29, 2016



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, chaired his ninth interaction through PRAGATI – the ICT-based, multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.

Taking strong exception at complaints and grievances from people, related to the customs and excise sector, the Prime Minister asked for strict action against responsible officials. He urged all Secretaries whose departments have extensive public dealing, to set up a system for top-level

monitoring of grievances immediately.

In course of his review, the Prime Minister reviewed the progress of vital infrastructure projects in the road, railway, coal, power and renewable energy sectors, spread over several states, including Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Rajasthan.

Among the significant projects reviewed were the

Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link, the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) and the Jal Marg Vikas Project from Allahabad to Haldia.

The Prime Minister reviewed the progress of the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).

The Prime Minister reviewed the implementation of the National Old Age Pension Scheme, and emphasized the need to ensure that beneficiaries receive the payment on time.

Bajaj Auto to enter 12 new export markets by March end

Livemint, New Delhi, January 07, 2016



Bajaj Auto Ltd, India's largest exporter of motorcycles and three wheelers, will enter a dozen new export markets by end of March, a top company official said in an interview.

The maker of Pulsar and Avenger motorcycle brands has reported a decline in exports volume in the last few months because of political and economic uncertainties in some of its export markets, particularly in oil-producing emerging markets. Bajaj plans to maintain its leadership in the export market by expanding into newer markets— a plan that some analysts are skeptical about given the current stress on emerging market economies and their currencies.

Rakesh Sharma, president of international business at Bajaj Auto, said the company is executing an

aggressive expansion plan to get into newer countries. This, coupled with the recent market share gains, will hold the firm in good stead and minimize the impact of any macroeconomic headwinds.

"By end of fiscal 2016, we should enter a dozen new export markets," said Sharma, declining to give further details. This will help the firm report a growth of 13-15% in export volumes over the next 3-4 years, he added. Exports, which account for more than four out of 10 motorcycles made by the company, have been under pressure lately. In the eight months from April to November, Bajaj's motorcycles exports dropped 3.7% to 1.04 million units from a year earlier, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers or Siam. Even in December, exports fell

12% to 145,000 units, Bajaj said in a statement on 4 January.

Sharma attributed this to factors including shortage of foreign exchange and currency devaluation in emerging markets such as Egypt and Nigeria in Africa. Africa accounts for 45% of Bajaj Auto's total exports. A fall in commodity prices has led to a lower inflow of foreign currency into these markets, which, in turn, is preventing dealers from stocking up.

The value of the currency in a number of these markets has also fallen sharply. Currencies in Argentina, Mexico, Columbia—some of the key markets for Bajaj—have fallen by 32%, 11%, 18%, respectively, according to Bloomberg.

But Sharma maintains that the company has a leadership position in most of the markets it has a presence in and this has helped the company maintain its prices in these markets.

"Whatever work we have done in the past years in terms of building the channel and after sales and service is paying off now," said Sharma adding that Bajaj Auto has managed to retain the retail price in these markets to a great extent despite weakness in the currencies.

Analysts however, are not as bullish and expect export volumes to remain under pressure, which will also have an adverse impact on margins.

Considering that currencies in other emerging markets have fallen more sharply than the Indian rupee, the benefits of a depreciated Indian rupee will be erased for the company, said an analyst at a brokerage declining to be identified.

The Indian rupee has weakened 5.5% against the dollar in the nine months to December.

"Three months back, the management had guided for a 2 million export volume (including three wheelers) targets for fiscal 2016. Given the current macro-economic scenario, they won't be able to do more than 1.8 million units," said the analyst cited above. While the March quarter may look good for the company because of a low base from last year, in absolute sense, the volumes are unlikely to advance, he added.

Nitesh Sharma, an analyst at Philip Capital India Pvt. Ltd added that while entry into newer markets will help the firm de-risk itself geographically, volumes will remain under pressure.

Since the start of the financial year, Bajaj Auto stock has gained 24%, while the Sensex has slipped 8.94%. On, Bajaj Auto fell 0.46% to Rs.2,485.50 on BSE, while the exchange's benchmark Sensex fell 0.68% to 25,406.33 points.

Food regulator FSSAI issues new rules for ensuring quality imports

ET, New Delhi, January 15, 2016

India's food regulator issued new rules for importing products, seeking to address concerns over the entry of sub-standard items and simplify the process by setting shelf-life norms and relaxing labelling guidelines.

No food article will be allowed unless it has 60% of its shelf life remaining when it is cleared from customs, according to the new rules.

Companies must register with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and possess a valid import-export code, apart from an FBO licence to import food. This is a new clause in the regulations, which were uploaded on the website of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2016, will come into force when they are notified by publication in the Official Gazette, the FSSAI said.

The regulator addressed two key issues raised by the food industry by easing labelling requirements and introducing a redressal procedure. "Any food importer aggrieved by one or more of the

following orders of the authorised officer may file a review application to the review officer against such order," according to the provisions uploaded.

Importers will be allowed to affix a single, non-detachable sticker to rectify labelling errors related to the name and address of the importer, the FSSAI logo and licence number and the symbols for nonvegetarian and vegetarian food items. The earlier rules didn't allow such errors to be corrected.

The FSSAI, which banned Nestle's Maggi noodles in June, had blocked consignments of Starbucks and chocolate brands such as Mars, Godiva, Guylian and Lindt on the grounds that they did not have India-specific labelling.

According to the authority, the new regulations - except the packaging and labelling requirements - will also apply to export consignments from India that are rejected by foreign countries and returned.



Pharma exports to developed nations become easier as government scraps 'No Objection Certificate' rule

ET, New Delhi, January 25, 2016



The Modi government's ease-of-doing business drive is set to benefit India's drug manufacturers, especially companies such as Sun Pharmaceuticals, Wockhardt, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Cipla, which export their products to highly regulated developed countries.

The government has scrapped the requirement of obtaining a 'No Objection Certificate' from the health ministry for drugs exported to developed countries including the US, Canada, Japan and Australia and the European Union.

Clearance of consignments often takes long on account of delays by regulatory agencies in granting approvals. As per the relaxation, the waiver has been given to drugs, medical devices and cosmetics meant for export to developed countries with effect from January 1.

"These are highly regulated markets and they do sufficient scrutiny before importing from us. Since our exporters take due approvals from the importing countries, this additional document is not required anymore," said an official privy to the development.

About 55% of India's pharma exports valued at Rs 98,000 crore go to these regulated markets. The move is in line with the recommendations of a Directorate General of Foreign Trade report in 2014 on trading across borders to improve the ease of doing business in India, which asked all agencies to review whether NOCs and clearances issued by them are still required.

"If the clearance/NOC is still relevant and necessary, then to see whether the process of submission of application for grant of NOC and its processing and

approval can be made online and integrated with the single-window system of CBEC, so that human interface and delay could be avoided/minimised," the report noted.

India's ranking on the 'trading across borders' criterion in the World Bank's Doing Business index has been unchanged at 133 (among 189 countries) for the past two years. This norm measures the time and cost associated with documentary compliance, border compliance and domestic transport while exporting or importing a shipment of goods.

Taking a cue from the DGFT report, the government last year reduced the number of documents required for exports and imports to three each.

"This is a move towards ease of doing business as it will reduce time gaps while taking approvals," the official said.

Spirit of India Run by Mr. Pat Farmer, an Ultra Marathon Runner from Australia

PIB, New Delhi, January 25, 2016



The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India along with State Tourism departments of the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Chandigarh are supporting 'Spirit of India Run' by Mr. Pat Farmer, an ultra Marathon Runner from Australia. Mr. Pat Farmer will run over 4000 km in 60 days starting from Kanyakumari and finishing in Kashmir. He will initiate his run on January 26th, 2016 celebrating India's Republic Day and Australia Day.

Mr. Farmer is a multiple world record holder for endurance running and has run from the North Pole to the South Pole, and across Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, the Middle East and North America. He has served 8 years as a Member of Australia's Parliament, with 3 years as Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Science and Training. Pat has raised millions of dollars for worthy causes during his 20 year running career.

Mr. Farmer's 'Spirit of India Run' is aimed at cementing relations between India and Australia; encourage tourism and personal relationships with a view to create awareness of India as a

'Must Experience' destination for travellers from Australia; and support causes and charity which in the current endeavour is to raise funds for education of girl child. 'Spirit of India Run' by Mr. Pat Farmer is also supported by Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Federation of Hotels & Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI), Hotel Association of India and Indian Heritage Hotels Association etc.

Mr. Pat Farmer proposes to run from Kanyakumari to Srinagar and would be accompanied by a television crew which would cover the entire run and prepare a documentary that would be screened multiple times on Australia's TV Network. Mr. Farmer proposes to start the Run on January 26, 2016 and finish the run at Srinagar on March 30, 2016.

'Spirit of India Run' will commence in front of Gandhi Mandapam, Kanyakumari at 0615 hrs. on January 26, 2016 and the Run will be flagged off by the District Collector of Kanyakumari District. Mr. Pat Farmer will run on an average 70-80 Km., daily through the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir and cover a distance of 4600 km.

PM inaugurates Sikkim Organic Festival 2016

PIB, Sikkim, January 18, 2016

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016, and addressed the Plenary Session of the National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, at Gangtok in Sikkim.

Five presentations on reports of different groups of State Agriculture Ministers, Agriculture Production Commissioners and Agriculture Secretaries were made to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister digitally launched the logo of "Sikkim Organic." He launched three new Orchid species developed in Sikkim.

The Prime Minister handed over to the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Chamling, two commendations for its journey towards total organic farming. He also handed over commendations for two districts of Sikkim for achieving 100 percent coverage of soil health cards. In his address, the Prime Minister paid homage to former Governor of Sikkim, Shri Rama Rao. He praised Sikkim Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling for his vision of welfare for farmers and tribes. He credited this vision for the development that the State is witnessing. He said the welfare and development issues raised by the Chief Minister would be looked into by the Union Government.

The Prime Minister said he is in Sikkim as the guest of the farmers of the State. He said the deliberations during the Conference had set the tone for a new holistic vision for the country's agriculture. He said all States could pick up the relevant parts from the presentations, which he said, should be remembered as "Sikkim Declaration."

The Prime Minister described Sikkim as an example of resolve despite difficulties and struggle, towards organic agriculture. He said the whole world had recognised this effort of the farmers of Sikkim. He said the winds of this organic effort would now spread across the country.

The Prime Minister recalled the recent CoP-21 meeting in Paris, where the idea of "back to basics" had been raised forcefully. He said Sikkim has already achieved that feat of living in harmony with nature, and is therefore a model of development which also protects nature.

The Prime Minister complimented Sikkim for Gangtok being rated as the 10th cleanest city in a survey conducted by the Government of India. The Prime Minister exhorted States to identify a district, or even a block, to convert to

a 100 percent organic area. This he said, would catalyse the process in other parts of the State. Referring to the recently announced crop insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Prime Minister said the scheme had instilled confidence among farmers, and efforts should be made to increase coverage of insurance.

The Prime Minister said farmers have to be motivated for schemes such as soil health card. He said a network of soil laboratories should come up across the country, and even school labs could be used during summer holiday months for this purpose.

The Prime Minister said there was need for special products such as Kisan Mobile Phone, which catered to the special needs and requirements of farmers. He said perhaps Start-ups could take a lead in this direction.

He reiterated his suggestion for a small amount of fruit juice to be mixed with aerated drinks. He said organic exports would receive a huge boost with the building of an airport in Sikkim. He said the vision behind rural roads was also to connect agricultural produce with markets. He said tree plantation and animal husbandry should also become an integral part of farming activities.

The Prime Minister suggested that a digital online platform of progressive farmers should be developed in each State.



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visiting the organic product exhibition, in Gangtok on January 19, 2016. The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling is also seen.

PM Inaugurates National Conference of Dalit Entrepreneurs

PIB, New Delhi, December 29, 2015



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the National Conference of Dalit Entrepreneurs at Vigyan Bhawan, organized by the Dalit Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister recalled one of his “Mann Ki Baat” programmes, where he had exhorted people to talk not just about their rights, but also about their duties. The Prime Minister said that this gathering of Dalit Entrepreneurs is one which has not just talked about their duties, but has successfully fulfilled duties.

Paying tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Prime Minister said that while Dr. Ambedkar is widely hailed as the architect of our Constitution, he was also a great economist. He spoke of Dr. Ambedkar’s vision of industrialization in India, saying that Dalits, who had no land of their own, could only progress through industrialization.

The Prime Minister said financial inclusion is at the core of the Union Government’s focus, which is to create job-creators, not job-seekers. In this context, he mentioned the loans being given under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. He also mentioned the Venture Capital Fund for First Generation Entrepreneurs.

The Prime Minister assured the Dalit Entrepreneurs that the Government is working for their benefit. He said the successes of the members of the gathering, could inspire anyone who faces adversity.

The Prime Minister presented five business excellence awards to Dalit entrepreneurs. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, was present on the occasion.

PM Modi and French President travel to Gurgaon by metro, for the foundation stone laying ceremony of International Solar Alliance Headquarters

PIB, New Delhi, January 25, 2016

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and the President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande, travelled by metro train from Delhi to Gurgaon, for the foundation stone laying ceremony of the International Solar Alliance.

In his address at the event, the Prime Minister recalled how the world has been thinking of how to tackle the challenge of climate change. He mentioned that on the sidelines of the CoP 21 meeting in Paris, two significant initiatives were taken. One of these was “Mission Innovation” which aims to make clean energy more easily accessible for people through innovations in technology. The other was the International Solar Alliance, which aims at bringing together countries with abundant sunshine, to harness the power of the sun.

The Prime Minister said the International Solar Alliance will work as a lifeline for people facing the brunt of climate change. In this context, he mentioned small island nations facing the threat of rising sea levels.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the International Solar Alliance will be an independent organisation, just like the United Nations



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visiting the organic product exhibition, in Gangtok The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the President of France, Mr. Francois Hollande laying the foundation stone of International Solar Alliance HQ, in Gurgaon on January 25, 2016. The Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy, Shri Piyush Goyal and other dignitaries are also seen. on January 19, 2016. The Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling is also seen.

PM presents National Bravery Awards to children

PIB, New Delhi, January 24, 2016

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, presented the National Bravery Awards to 25 children. Congratulating the award winners and their parents, the Prime Minister said that the presence of mind, quick thinking, selfless determination, and sensitivity for fellow human beings in distress were the most important elements of the acts of bravery performed by these children.

The Prime Minister added that for the award winners, this act of bravery should not become an end in itself. He said life must continue to evolve, and the children should continue to develop their career, and continue to serve society to the best of their abilities. He said that the book – Life progression of ICCW National Bravery Awardees – which he had released, touched upon these aspects. The Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Gandhi, was

present on the occasion. The National Bravery Award Scheme was initiated by the ICCW – Indian Council for Child Welfare – to give due recognition to the children who distinguish themselves by

performing outstanding deeds of bravery and meritorious service and to inspire other children to emulate their examples.



NIITTech wins Rs 220 crore contract from UK's Ofcom

BS, Bengaluru, January 12, 2016

Mid tier IT services firm NIIT Technologies has won Rs 220 crore deal from UK's communications regulator OfCom to manage its infrastructure and application systems over six years.

As a strategic partner, NIIT Technologies will implement a dedicated service delivery model

and new service management processes and tools. Key services will include the service desk, data centre services, application management and project management, the firm said in a statement. Investors received the news positively with NIIT's stock rising to Rs 558, up Rs 14.75 or 2.72% on the BSE as at 11.35 am.

"We are confident that we will be able to deliver value to Ofcom through our strong understanding and proven capabilities in the application and infrastructure management services domain," said Satya Samal, EVP and Europe Head, NIIT Technologies in a statement.

Persistent Systems to double Hyderabad workforce by 2017 via campus hirings

ET, Hyderabad, January 01, 2016



Pune headquartered IT services company Persistent SystemsBSE 0.90 % is looking to expand its Hyderabad operations over the next two years, nearly doubling its workforce. The company which has partnered with Telangana Academy of Skill and Knowledge (TASK) has also rolled out a teaching partnership with engineering colleges in the city.

"Some of our senior staff will give back to the industry by way of teaching stints in engineering colleges and we will start with Hyderabad for this programme. This will be aligned to our hiring plans. In the next two years, we plan on being 1000-plus employees in the city from around 600 now," said Sameer Bendre, chief people officer at Persistent System who is in charge of talent acquisition and development initiatives for the company.

While IT hiring has been flat over the last few years and campus placements have slowed down, the company with a current market cap of Rs 5,194 crore plans on hiring most of its additional workforce through the channel. "We have moved to a new campus to accommodate the numbers and the focus will be on enterprise level digital technology," said Bendre. The company had made three acquisitions in 2015, the latest being digital content management firm Akumina in November. "We will continue to grow in the Social Mobile Analytics and Cloud space and new acquisitions coming up," added Bendre. Persistent had also launched a US\$ 10 million venture capital fund in February 2015 to back early stage start-ups.

CarTrade raises Rs 950 crore investment from Temasek and others

Livemint, Mumbai, January 14, 2016

Online auto classifieds company MXC solutions Pvt. Ltd that operates as Cartrade.com said it has raised Rs.950 crore in a funding round led by Singapore-based investment firm Temasek and March Capital, with participation from existing investor Warburg Pincus. The company had raised \$30 million in 2014 from a group of investors that included Tiger Global, Warburg and Canaan Partners.

The company that was founded in 2009 by Vinay Sanghi is looking to use the funds to expand its offerings for users and dealers. The company will be looking at a few more acquisitions to strengthen its position in the market. The company operated only on the space of used cars until in November 2015 it acquired Carwale to enter into the new cars segment.

"CarTrade has developed a unique and a world class platform for transacting in new and used vehicles. A leader in its segment, it has steadily expanded its offerings across India and has an extremely strong network dealer partners with a rapidly growing user base," said Sumant Mandal, managing director, March Capital.

The company has partnered with over 10,000 new and used car dealer partners. It lists more than 225,000 used cars for sale and auctions over 250,000 vehicles to the wholesale market every year. The company competes with other private equity and venture capital-backed firms like Jaipur-based Cardekho.com (Girnar Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd), Droom Technology Pvt. Ltd and Truebil (Paix Technology Pvt Ltd).



8 Indian startups make it to Google's Launchpad Accelerator in US

BS, Bengaluru, January 19, 2016

Eight Indian startups have been selected for the first-ever Launchpad Accelerator programme by Google that began in the Silicon Valley on . These include urban laundry service Doormint, food technology startup Holachef, self-drive car rental aggregator JustRide, home rental network Nestaway, workplace discovery platform Super, media technology platform Murmur, English-language learning platform English Dost and video-sharing startup FranklyMe.

Seven startups from Indonesia have also made it to the programme. Launchpad Accelerator is a six-month acceleration programme that includes mentorship and access to Google Product Managers, a startup package of seed funding and Google product credits. The startups will be eligible for a two-week all-expense-paid training programme at the Google headquarters in Silicon Valley.

According to Google, the accelerator programme is specifically targeted at companies that already have a product and are primed to scale. Currently, only mobile app startups in Brazil, India, and

Indonesia are eligible for selection.

The selection process included submission of applications, which were evaluated by Google. Selected startups were asked to take part in a one-hour video conference or a face-to-face interview with a Google team member.

The startups were intimated about their

selections about 20 days ago. According to Nestaway co-founder Deepak Dhar, the initial mentoring phase has already commenced. From Nestaway, chief executive officer Amarendra Sahu and chief technology officer Smruti Ranjan Parida are currently attending the two-week training programme at the Silicon Valley.



ShopClues gets fresh fund, valuation rises to US\$ 1.1 bn

BS, Bengaluru, January 13, 2016



Shopclues, the e-commerce marketplace focused on budget customers in Tier-II and Tier-III cities said its valuation rose to \$1.1 billion, making it a 'Unicorn' (companies valued at \$1 billion or more). The valuation is on the basis of fresh funds the company raised from Singapore government's GIC and its existing investors Tiger Global and Nexus Venture Partners. According to sources, the company is said to have raised about \$150 million in the current round. Shopclues said this would be the last fund raising before its public issue next year.

The Gurgaon-based firm had raised \$100 million in January 2015 from Tiger Global at a valuation of \$500 million.

The capital raised in the fresh funds would be used to roll out new products to enable small and medium enterprises to digitise their business and to further entrench itself as the e-commerce operating system on the cloud, Shopclues stated. ShopClues will also strengthen its branding activities and acquire smaller companies.

"We are confident that ShopClues' merchant-first mindset and solid management team will enable the company to expand its reach, especially in the Tier-II and Tier-III cities, bringing its unique value proposition to more consumers and merchants," said GIC's head of Asia Equities Research, Ravi Balasubramanian.

The four-year-old company's gross merchandise

value has grown four-fold since January 2015, when it raised \$100 million from Tiger Global. ShopClues, which currently ships 3.5 million items a month, says it gets 100 million visits a month.

The e-commerce platform expects to turn profitable by the first half of 2017. The company has about 350,000 merchants on its platform.

ShopClues gets about 70 per cent of its traffic and transactions from mobile phones with repeat rates at 50 per cent. Its largest category is home and kitchen, followed by lifestyle. The company ships about 80,000 units per day.

With ShopClues joining the unicorn club, the e-commerce battle is set to get fiercer in India as the sector is anticipating a year of major consolidations. The other Indian startups in the multi-billion dollar club include e-retailers Flipkart, Snapdeal and Paytm, online classifieds firm Quikr, cab aggregator Ola, food technology start-up Zomato, mobile ad network platform InMobi and analytics firm MuSigma.

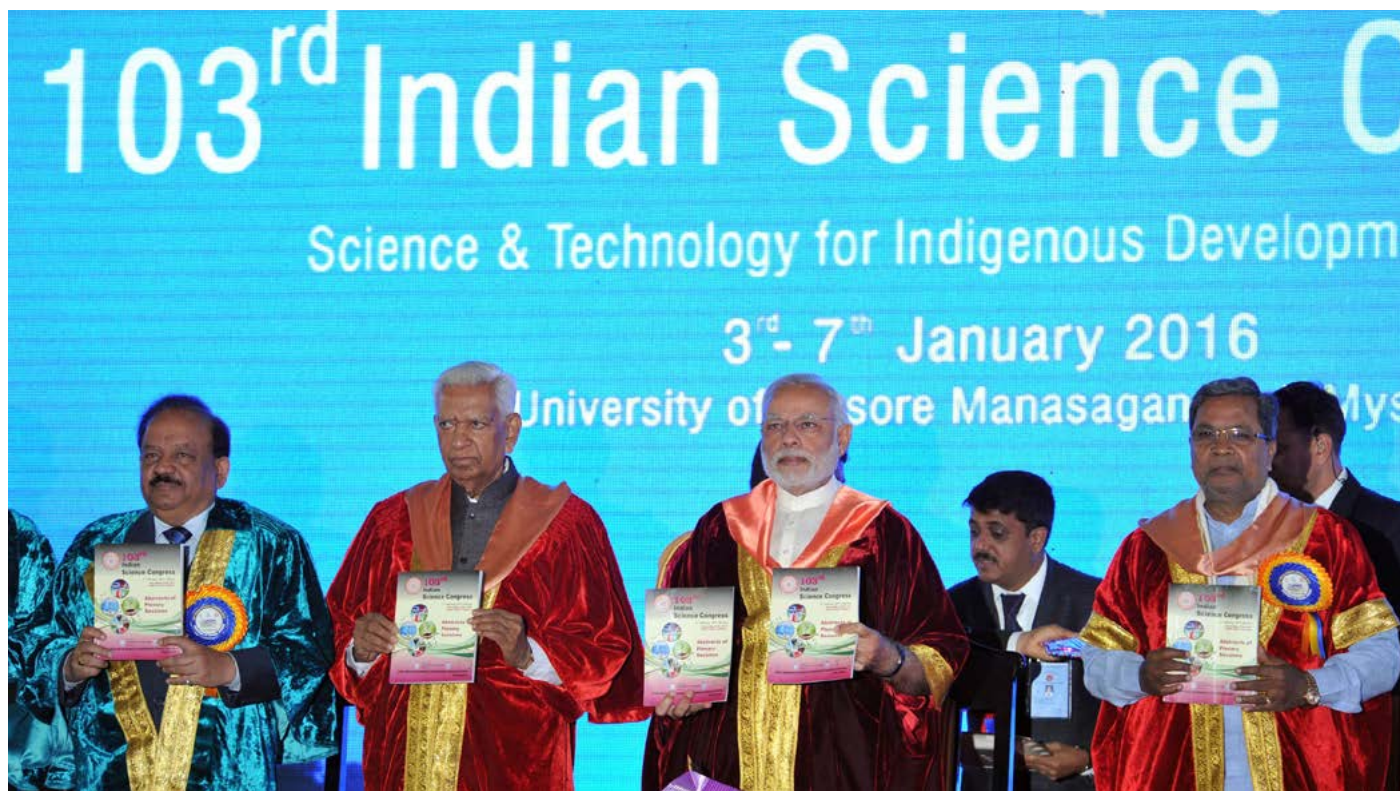
"This investment will enable us to double our focus on digitising our merchants' businesses so that they scale to fully leverage the opportunity online commerce provides them," said Sanjay Sethi, CEO and co-founder, ShopClues.

The company was founded in 2011 by Silicon Valley-based entrepreneurs Sandeep Aggarwal, his wife Radhika Aggarwal, and Sanjay Sethi. With the current valuation, the company has become the first Indian unicorn led by a female entrepreneur.

"We are confident that our capital efficiency and execution will make this our last fund raise before we become profitable with the eventual IPO in 2017," said Radhika Aggarwal, who is also the chief business officer at ShopClues.

Technology Vision 2035 – Putting Science to Use

PIB, New Delhi, January 14, 2016



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi at the inauguration ceremony of the 103rd Session of Indian Science Congress, in Mysuru on January 03, 2016. The Governor of Karnataka, Shri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala and other dignitaries are also seen

The Prime Minister unveiled the 'Technology Vision Document 2035' while inaugurating the 103rd Indian Science Congress on 3rd January 2016.

The document foresees the Indians of 2035, and technologies required for fulfilling their needs. It is not a visualization of technologies that will be available in 2035, but a vision of where our country and its citizens should be in 2035 and how technology should bring this vision to fruition.

The document is dedicated to late Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the former President of India.

The Prime Minister in his foreword to the document hoped that the 12 Sectoral Technology roadmaps being prepared by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, (TIFAC), which is also the author of this 'Technology Vision 2035' document, would excite our scientists and decision makers. He also said "India will be the country of young for the next few decades. It is imperative that every youth blossoms to his/her full potential and that the potential is fully tapped for the benefit of the nation. This in turn requires that needs of our children and youth for nutrition, health, knowledge, skill, connectivity and identity are met. Sh. Narendra Modi had called upon the intelligentsia, Universities and think tanks to actively work for fulfilling the vision". After unveiling this document, in his speech Sh. Modi said that his government intends to integrate Science & Technology into choices it makes and strategies that it pursues.

The 12 identified sectors of Vision Document are:

- Education
- Medical Sciences & Healthcare
- Food and Agriculture
- Water
- Energy

- Environment
- Habitat
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Manufacturing
- Materials
- Information and Communication Technology

Roadmaps, when prepared, will be presented to the Government of India and they would lead for further adoption of technologies in those sectors. The document says that as technology is for empowering individual citizens, it will empower the country as well.

The Aim of this 'Technology Vision Document 2035' is to ensure the Security, Enhancing of Prosperity, and Enhancing Identity of every Indian, which is stated in the document as "Our Aspiration" or "Vision Statement" in all languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. The Vision documents also identifies twelve (12) prerogatives- (six for meeting individual needs and six for the collective needs) that should be available to each and every Indian. These are:

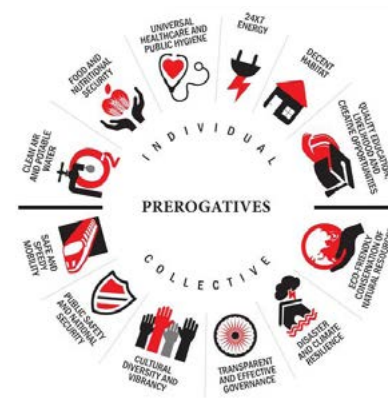
Individual Prerogatives:-

- Clean air and potable water
- Food and nutritional security
- Universal healthcare and public hygiene
- 24x7 energy
- Decent habitat
- Quality education, livelihood and creative opportunities

Collective Prerogatives:-

- Safe and speedy mobility
- Public safety and national security
- Cultural diversity and vibrancy

- Transparent and effective governance
- Disaster and climate resilience
- Eco-friendly conservation of natural resources



Assurance of these prerogatives, according to the Vision document, is the core of technology vision for India. For assuring these prerogatives, technologies are mapped as: 1) those readily deployable, 2) those that needs to be moved from Lab to Field, 3) those that require targeted Research and 4) those that are still in Imagination. The last of these category of technologies could come about as a result of curiosity driven or paradigm- shattering 'Blue-sky' Research like on Internet of Things, Wearable Technology, Synthetic Biology, Brain computer Interface, Bio-printing and regenerative medicine. Precision agriculture and robotic farming, vertical farming, interactive foods, autonomous vehicles, Bioluminescence, 3D printing of buildings, earthquake prediction, weather modification technologies, green mining etc are some other such technologies expected that would go a long way in sustainably fulfilling the needs of the present and future generations of mankind.

To illustrate such mapping here is the table of categorization of various technologies for meeting the need of 'Clean air and Potable Water':

TABLE 1

ADVANCED CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGIES	●	●	●
ALTERNATE FUEL BASED TRANSPORTATION	●	●	●
NOVEL PROPULSION TECHNOLOGIES	●	●	●
GREEN MANUFACTURING	●	●	●
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM	●	●	●
LOW DUST CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGIES	●	●	●
REAL TIME DENSE SPATIAL AIR QUALITY MONITORING	●	●	●
REAL TIME AQUIFER MONITORING INCLUDING SALINITY INGRESS	●	●	●
INSTANT PORTABLE WATER QUALITY TESTING	●	●	●
AFFORDABLE DESALINATION TECHNOLOGY	●	●	●
MEMBRANE BASED WASTE WATER TREATMENT	●	●	●
AFFORDABLE DE-SILTING OF WATER BODIES	●	●	●
TECHNOLOGY FOR RUN-OFF CONTROL	●	●	●
SCALABLE POINT-OF-USE WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY	●	●	●
DEW HARVESTING	●	●	●
IN-SITU WATER PURIFICATION IN PIPELINE	●	●	●
SELF HEALING PIPELINES	●	●	●

The vision document also makes a mention of three critical essential prerequisites or Transversal Technologies i.e., materials, manufacturing, and Information and Communication technology (ICT) to provide the foundation upon which all other technologies would be constructed.

The document also talks of required infrastructure which it says primarily include relevant knowledge institutions besides ports, highways, airports, railways, cold chains, etc. Among the essential prerequisites, it also mentions fundamental research in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology and other allied sciences.

The document dwells upon the grand challenges in the field of Technologies which, it says, we should resolve as a nation. The challenges are:

- Guaranteeing nutritional security and eliminating female and child anaemia
- Ensuring quantity and quality of water in all rivers and aquatic bodies
- Providing learner centric, language neutral and holistic education to all
- Developing commercially viable decentralized and distributed energy for all
- Making India non-fossil fuel based

- Securing critical resources commensurate with the size of our country
- Ensuring universal eco-friendly waste management
- Taking the railway to Leh and Tawang
- Understanding national climate patterns and adapting to them
- Ensuring location independent electoral and financial empowerment

There has also been a raging debate on the Social Impact of technology and the choice between capital intensive and manpower intensive. Capital intensive technology, especially in India with abundant human resources, has been projected as detrimental to the use of 'Manpower' as it is argued that it would reduce jobs. The Vision Document seeks to bust this myth by arguing in favor of judicious policy and conscious planning in employing technology to impart new skills to the manpower and fulfill needs of the society. It visualizes technology as a great leveler rather than as an enhancer of social stratification.

In order to overcome these challenges, the Vision Document 2035 envisages a rational assessment of the capabilities and constraints of the Indian Technological Landscape. It categorizes technologies into a six-fold classification from an Indian perspective which is as follows:

- Technology Leadership – niche technologies in which we have core competencies, skilled manpower, infrastructure and a traditional knowledge base eg., Nuclear Energy, Space Science.
- Technology Independence – strategic technologies that we would have to develop on our own as they may not be obtainable from elsewhere eg., Defence sector.
- Technology Innovation – linking disparate technologies together or making a breakthrough in one technology and applying it to another eg., solar cells patterned on chlorophyll based synthetic pathway are a potent future source of renewable energy.
- Technology Adoption – obtain technologies from elsewhere, modify them according to local needs and reduce dependence on other sources eg., foreign collaboration in the sectors of rainwater harvesting, agri-biotech, desalination, energy efficient buildings.
- Technology Constraints – areas where technology is threatening and problematic i.e. having a negative

social or environmental impact because of serious legal and ethical issues eg., Genetically Modified(GM) Crops.

The Vision Document, in a separate section, gives a 'Call to Action' to all the key stakeholders. It brings to notice that for long term sustainability of India's technological prowess, it is important that:

- Technical Education Institutions engage in advanced research on a large scale leading to path-breaking innovations.
- Government enhances its financial support from the current 1% to the long-envisaged 2% of the GDP.
- The number of full-time equivalent Scientists in the core research sector should increase.
- Private Sector Participation and Investment in evolving technologies that is readily deployable and is translatable from lab to field thereby increasing efficiency in terms of technology and economic returns.

Academia-Intelligentsia-Industry connect is established via idea exchange, innovative curricula design, based on the needs of the industry, industry-sponsored student internships and research fellowships inter alia.

Creation of an Research Ecosystem so as to achieve the translation of research to technology product/process by integrating students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

The document also identifies three key activities as a part of the 'Call to Action'. The first being knowledge creation. It says that India cannot afford not to be in the forefront of the knowledge revolution, either applied or pure. The second activity that cannot be reflected, it says is ecosystem design for innovation and development. The document again interestingly says that the primary responsibility for ecosystem design must necessarily rests with government authorities. A third key activity that it mentions is technology deployment with launching certain national missions involving specific targets, defined timelines requiring only a few carefully defined identified players.

While this Vision document walks towards the future taking into consideration the country as a whole, the technology roadmap of each sector would provide of outlining future technology trends, R&D directives, pointers for research, anticipated challenges and policy imperatives pertaining to each sector.



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi felicitating the Nobel laureates at the inauguration ceremony of the 103rd Session of Indian Science Congress, in Mysuru on January 03, 2016. The Governor of Karnataka, Shri Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala and other dignitaries are also seen.



HIMACHAL PRADESH

JEWELLED INSPIRATIONS OF THE BUDDHA

One of the world's oldest religions, Buddhism has, over time, left an inspirational trail from India to Sri Lanka, from Cambodia to Tibet. There are also several branches of Buddhism and it was Tibetan Buddhism (Lamism) which found a home in the Himalayan regions of India. It was first introduced to Himachal Pradesh by its founder Guru Padmasambhava, who came to its Rewalsar Lake to meditate here. One of the most evocative aspects of Buddhism is its fabulous heritage of creative outpourings, richly evidenced by its paintings, sculpture, architecture and even dance and drama. Himachal Pradesh is a rich repository of this priceless heritage. From the moonscape vistas of Lahaul and Spiti to the tribal regions of Kinnaur, from the Shimla Hills to the Kullu Valley, the visitor will encounter centuries-old frescoes, sculpted caves, stupas and numerous art forms, religious literature and rooms with ancient relics and scriptures of deep antiquity.

LAHAUL & SPITI: Tabo Monastery The legendary Tabo Monastery is not only the Spiti Valley's oldest gumpa it's also renowned the world over for its fabulous range of vibrant murals and stucco sculptures— dating back over 1000 years. Also known as the 'Ajanta of the Himalayas', Tabo is today a national historic treasure of India. Rinpoche Rinchen Zangpo, teacher and translator, established the monastery in 996 CE. The complex has nine shrines, 23 chortens (reliquaries) and an extensive library filled with a treasure trove of ancient texts. Tabo is not only India's, but also the Himalayan region's oldest continuously functioning Buddhist monastery.

Ki Monastery Accessible from district headquarters Kaza, the Ki monastery offers fantastic views of the Spiti valley from its lofty perch. In July you will

witness the traditional chaam dances at its massive three-day Ki Cham Festival. His Holiness the Dali Lama presided over the Kalchakra Ceremony in 2000

Lhalung Monastery The gold work of the 10th century Lhalung monastery is one of its most riveting features. Located by the Lingti River it's almost as important a gumpa as Tabo. Lhalung's reigning deity is believed to be the highest in importance of all Buddhist deities residing in the valley. Just outside the gumpa stands the sacred willow tree, believed to have been planted by Rinchen Zangpo Rinpoche.

Dhankar Monastery Located at the confluence of the Spiti and Pin rivers the fortified Dhankar Gumpa offers grandstand views of Spiti's beautiful vistas. Don't miss the vibrant sculptures (especially of Vairochana—the Dhayan Buddha), and frescoes within. In November, traditional chham dances are performed by the monks at the Guktor Festival in November.

Guru Ghantal Monastery Also known as Ghandola, the Guru Ghantal Monastery is the oldest in Lahaul district. Nestled by the bank of the Chandra River, it features wooden sculptures of Guru Padmasambhava and Brajeshwari Devi, along with those of several lamas. In mid-June the gumpa comes alive with the colourful Ghantal Festival.

KINNAUR REGION: Nako Monastery The beautiful environs of Naka Lake, in the tribal enclaves of Himachal's Kinnaur region, are the setting of the Nako Monastery complex with its four temples. The major attractions are its precious collection of original murals and the much venerated footprints

of Guru Padmasambhava. Nako Gumpa lies close to the Indo-China border.

KANGRA REGION: Dharamsala Tsuglagkhang Complex From the world over devotees and visitors converge on the home of the Tibetan spiritual leader. Mcelodganj / Dharamsala's, Tsuglagkhang Complex is a vibrant hub of activity, visitors await a darshan here of His Holiness (if he's in town), resident monks can be seen conducting the daily rituals of prayer and meditation. At all times it seems to be abuzz with large gatherings of this hill retreat's Tibetan community. Its principle shrine—the Tsuglagkhang Temple, features a three-metre high gilded statue of Sakyamuni Buddha. At the Namgyal Gumpa monk's study and train, while the beautiful Kalchakra Temple features stunning murals of the 722 deities of the mandala.

KULLU REGION: Rewalsar Nyingmapa Monastery Rewalsar Lake, where Guru Padmasambhava meditated, is marked by a serene pagoda-shaped Tibetan monastery. Two new monasteries — Drikung Kadyud Gumpa and Tso-Pema Ogyen Heru-kai Nyingmapa Gumpa have also come up nearby.

SHIMLA HILLS: Jonang Monastery In Sanjauli, on the outskirts of Shimla, lies the Jonang Monastery. Founded in 1963 by Lama Jinpa (head of the Gelug School) it was eventually handed over to His Holiness, the 9th Kalka Jetsun Dharma (head of the Jonanpa—the 9th reincarnation of the Taranatha)—and therefore the leading principal of the Jonang sect and of Mongolian Buddhism. This is India's only monastery of this order.

GETTING THERE

Chandigarh, Shimla, Bhuntar (Kullu region) and Gaggal (Kangra region) are the nearest airports for Himachal. Shimla and Bhuntar and Gaggal offer seasonal flights from Delhi. Nearest railheads are Chandigarh, Kalka, Pathankot and Una.

For more information: Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC), The Mall, Shimla -171001, **Tel:** 0177-2652561, 2658302, **Website:** www.hptdc.nic.in/contact.htm HPTDC The Mall, Manali -175131, **Tel:** 01902-253531 HPTDC Chanderlok Building 36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001, **Tel:** 011-23325320, 23324764

INDIA CHRONICLE | EXPO CALENDAR



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MATERIALS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

International Conference on Materials Science & Technology (ICMTech -2016) is a four-day international event organised by International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM), University of Delhi and VBRI Press during 01 - 04 March, 2016 at the Conference Centre, University of Delhi, India. The goal of conference is to provide a global platform for high-tech materials and their manufacturing activities in India. The researchers and engineers coming from academia and industries will be interacted for the advancements of this sector through step towards 'Make in India' campaign.

- Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology
- Biomaterials and Biodevices
- Energy and Harvesting Materials
- Optical, Electronic and Magnetic Materials
- Structural Materials
- Computational Materials
- Composite and Ceramic Materials
- Constructional and Engineering Materials
- Environmental and Green Materials

Date: **01-04 Mar 2016**

Venue: Conference Center, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India

Website: vbripress.com

INDIAN SALON CONGRESS

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www.coaltrans.com



SHIPPING, MARINE & PORTS WORLD EXPO

Shipping, Marine & Ports World Expo is a 3 day event being held from 3rd March to the 5th March 2016 at the Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) in Mumbai, India. This event showcases products like ideal platform for the members of the shipping, maritime, ports and trade fraternity for interacting with a cross section of users and service providers across the Globe etc. in the Computer Hardware & Software, Electronics & Electrical Goods, Research & Development, Logistics & Transportation, Marine & Boat industries.

The Dredging and Port Construction industry perspective depends on two factors namely - the Government initiatives and the Investor funding approach, although both may appear to be interlinked in reality it is not. As the former initiative is based on

the Government Policies, Guidelines keeping in view the Government agenda and Political promises that were made to the citizens of the Nation, unlike the later which is based on the balanced revenue – cost model, wherein the investor will concentrate to have a higher revenue than the cost. Perhaps it is a notion that the investors are driven by Government initiatives, whereas the investors are driven by the demand and supply model to work in the hassle free environment.

One of the great poets of Tamil who always strived for the unity of the nation prophesied that river of the north to be interlinked to the rivers of the South that was echoed by then People's President of India.

Date: 03-05 Mar 2016

Venue: Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre, Mumbai, India

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