

### **India, Australia ink deal on uranium exports, to boost defence ties**

India and Australia on September 5 inked a long-awaited civil nuclear agreement to enable Australia to export uranium to India and also agreed to step up their political, security and defence cooperation as visiting Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott held talks with his counterpart Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

Abbott, the first head of state to pay a bilateral visit under the new NDA government, also brought with him two Chola period artefacts that were stolen from temples in Tamil Nadu. The return of the Nataraja and Ardhanarishwara statues from the 11th century AD were appreciated by Modi.



The Australian prime minister said the civil nuclear energy agreement was inked as “Australia trusts India to do the right things in this area as it has done the right thing in every area since its independence 70 years ago” and “that is why we are happy to trust India with a uranium treaty”.

Addressing a joint media interaction with Modi after both sides inked four agreements, including in water resources and sports, Abbott said both countries would work to strengthen their trade relations and also focus on areas like energy, food and education.

Modi termed the inking of the civil nuclear agreement as “a historic milestone in our relationship” and reflection of a “new level of mutual trust and confidence” in bilateral ties.

He said the agreement would support India’s efforts to fuel its growth with clean energy and minimize the carbon footprint of its growth.

Modi said he and Abbott have decided to enhance their political dialogue and increase their security and defence cooperation.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

### **India, Japan to elevate strategic partnership**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said relations with Japan were of the “highest priority” for his government and announced a slew of initiatives, including turning the strategic partnership into a “special” partnership and a fast-track channel for Japanese investors.



He said the two countries have decided to expand cooperation in advanced technology, science and technology, people to people exchanges, educational exchanges, non-proliferation, UN reforms, space security, cyber security and in regional forums of the region such as East Asia Summit.

Modi said India and Japan were the two oldest democracies in Asia and among its three biggest economies.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **India Inc lauds Modi's Japan visit**

India Inc applauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Japan tour, from where he has announced major initiatives like turning the bilateral strategic partnership into a "special" partnership and a fast-track channel for Japanese investors.

Currently, around 1,000 Japanese companies are operating in India in nearly 70 infrastructure projects, among which is the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor where Japan has so far invested \$4.5 billion.



*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **PM's Japan visit may push bilateral trade to \$50 bn by FY20: PHD Chamber**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan will induce Japanese companies to invest more in India, and bilateral trade is likely to swell to \$50 billion by 2019-2020, PHD Chamber of Commerce said.

The industry body has projected that the bilateral trade between India and Japan is poised to accelerate to \$50 billion by 2019-2020, with Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe working to further cement ties.



*Source: Press Trust of India*

## **Taiwanese autopart manufacturers keen to invest in India**

India may not have diplomatic ties with Taiwan, but Taiwanese automobile parts' manufacturers have shown interest in investing in India for making the country a hub for the sector to meet domestic and export demand.

"We are interested in setting up joint ventures (JVs) for manufacturing automobile parts and other accessories like plastics, rubber, machinery and tools which are used in the industry."



The interest shown by Taiwan-based manufacturers can be gauged from the fact that the Indian automobile market is expected to become the world's third largest by 2020, according to estimates by J.D. Power and Ernst & Young. According to these estimates, quoted in the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020, India's share of the global passenger vehicle market will jump from four percent in 2010-11 to eight in 2020.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **Fish and fish products export grew 3-fold in 5 years**

Buoyed by the introduction of an exotic shrimp variety, the volume of fish and fish product exports grew more than three-fold in the five-year period between 2009-10 and 2013-14.

India is currently the second largest producer of fish. It is also world No.2 in aquaculture production as well as in inland capture fisheries.



The fisheries sector is a source of livelihood for over 14.49 million people engaged fully, partially or in subsidiary activities related to the sector. Besides, an equal population is engaged in ancillary activities in fisheries and aquaculture.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **Nepal, India sign Power Trade Agreement**

Nepal and India signed a landmark Power Trade Agreement (PTA) in New Delhi, which is expected to boost the energy ties between the two energy-starved nations.

The two-day meeting ended here on a positive note with the energy secretaries from both countries signing the agreement, an official source told IANS.



*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **India to be third largest steel maker by next year**

India would become the third largest steel maker, with an installed capacity exceeding 110 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) by next year when the ongoing expansion projects of SAIL and some private steel makers come on stream. This is in line with the Narendra Modi-led NDA government's target of achieving steel-making capacity of 300 mtpa to make India the second largest producer of steel in the world by 2025, overtaking US, Japan and European Union.



*Source: The Times of India*

## Net FDI inflows on track to top \$30 bn this fiscal: Nomura

Foreign direct investment inflows to India are expected to gain further momentum and net FDI inflows to the country could cross \$30 billion mark this fiscal year driven by improved investor sentiment, a Nomura report says.

According to the Japanese brokerage firm, net FDI inflows is on track to top \$30 billion and this would reduce India's external sector vulnerability .



Net FDI into India rose sharply to \$11.5 billion in the first four months of FY15 (April-July) from \$8.4 billion over the same period in FY14, the report said.

*Source: Business Standard*

## Cabinet approves financial support for project exports

The Union Cabinet approved financial support to the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) for overseas project exports by increasing the authorised corpus of the NEIA Trust to Rs.4,000 crore with the risk underwriting capacity up to 20 times the actual corpus.

The cabinet meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



An official release said the proposal will increase the capacity of the NEIA Trust to underwrite more large size projects “in difficult countries with reasonably significant Indian content”.

It also said “project exports” would lead to sustained export earning income and help in creation of jobs for foreign exchange earnings.

“Budgetary support to NEIA has been Rs.956 crore. This will be augmented through further budget support,” the release said.

The NEIA was set up in 2006 as a public trust by the commerce and industry ministry to promote project exports from India.

The NEIA also supports project exports which have long credit period for repayment and which are beyond the underwriting capacity of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC).

Project Exports, in essence, connotes setting up of projects overseas as construction and/or engineering projects.

It also involves the export of engineering consultancy or other engineering services/goods complement as desired by the project owner.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*



## Government targets \$340 bn exports this fiscal

The new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) that will be effective from 2014-2019 is going to be “different” from the previous ones, minister of state (independent charge) for commerce and industry Nirmala Sitharaman said today.

The government has set a target of achieving total exports worth \$500 billion in this fiscal, with merchandise and services exports reaching \$340 billion and \$160 billion respectively.



Source: Business Standard

## Indian auto industry can touch \$300 bn mark by 2026

Revenues of the Indian auto industry can rise 5-fold to hit the \$300 billion mark, and volumes can log in over 3-fold increase to around 76 million units by 2026, according to a report.

It is estimated that the Indian auto industry will grow to 75.8 million units by FY 2026 as compared to 21.5 million units in FY14.



Source: Press Trust of India

## South Africa shows interest in India's agriculture, food processing sectors

Aiming to boost bilateral trade between the two countries, South Africa evinced interest in food processing and agriculture sectors in India.

In the first ever 'South Africa Week', the country showcased the technologies related to food processing and agriculture sector.



The weeklong seminar commenced in Mumbai from September 9-10, 2014 and then moved to Gurgaon on September 11-12, 2014.

Source: Press Trust of India

## India's drug industry to touch \$48 billion by 2018

India's drugs and pharmaceuticals industry is likely to post total sales of Rs.2.91 trillion (\$47.88 billion) by 2018, with an average yearly growth of at least 14%, aided by a rapidly growing domestic market and the newly emerging export opportunity as patents of at least a dozen blockbuster drugs in the US expire in the next three years.



Source: Mint

## **FICCI projects economy will grow at 5.6**

India's GDP will grow at 5.6 percent during 2014-15 and economic activity is expected to continue with this momentum in the second half of the current fiscal, FICCI said on September 14.

"The new government guided by the objective of restoring growth and governance has given very positive policy signals in its first 100 days. We see the confidence amongst investors slowly returning and hope that going ahead, the momentum on implementation front will build up," said the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) latest Economic Outlook Survey.



*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **India has potential to become knowledge based economy: ADB**

India has the potential to become a leading knowledge based economy with its youth population and growing information technology though it should overcome some barriers in this regard, Manila based funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report released on September 13.

"India, with its youthful population and thriving information and communication technology (ICT) industry, can become a leading knowledge-driven economy as long as regulatory, education, and infrastructure barriers are overcome," ADB said in its report 'Innovative Asia : Advancing the Knowledge-Based Economy'.

The report said pro-poor technologies, growing investment in ICT, advantage in audio-visual services as an outsourcing hub for animation and other skill-intensive industries are few of the promising areas for India.

*Source: Press Trust of India*



Asian Development Bank

## **India expecting big announcements from Xi's visit: Sitharaman**

India is expecting significant announcements from China in the area of bilateral business during the forthcoming visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in New Delhi this month, Commerce and industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

She also said she expects China to invest in setting up manufacturing units in the country to bridge the widening trade deficit and create jobs in the country.



The MoU on Cooperation on Industrial Parks India is expected to facilitate more Chinese investment in India and help bridge the ballooning trade deficit, which stands at \$35 billion a year. The bilateral trade totalled \$65.47 billion last year.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **Modi-Xi talks set agenda to further India-China economic ties**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after his talks with President Xi Jinping on September 18 said a new chapter in India-China economic ties has opened with Beijing assuring greater access for Indian goods and capital while also committing an investment of \$20-billion over the next five years.



With economic relations on top of the agenda for the talks between the two leaders, the prime minister said he was particularly happy that China had agreed for the setting up of two industrial parks in India and look into how the issue of trade deficit can be addressed.

India-China bilateral merchandise trade stood at \$65.88 billion in 2013. While India's exports to China were valued at \$14.50 billion, its imports were much larger at \$51.37 billion, resulting in a large trade deficit.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## **India will always stand by Vietnam: President**

India has always stood by Vietnam and will continue to do so, President Pranab Mukherjee said on September 17, and expressed confidence their strategic partnership will steadily augment and they will provide stability and growth to the region and the world. The president, reading out a statement on his state visit to Vietnam, said he was "greatly moved" by his experiences during his stay.

"The people of India, irrespective of differences in political conviction or affiliation remain strong votaries of friendship with Vietnam,"



Mukherjee said he was certain that as "two of the fastest growing economies of Asia", they will provide "stability and growth" to the region and the world.

*Source: Indo-Asian News Service*

## Modi calls for greater cooperation with Bangladesh in energy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 19 called for greater cooperation between India and Bangladesh in the areas of energy, power, infrastructure and tourism.



Source: Indo-Asian News Service

## Road sector set for big changes in 2 years: Gadkari

In a bid to boost infrastructure development, the government plans to build 30 km of roads a day, remove hurdles facing Rs 1.5 lakh crore projects and bring a new Motor Vehicles bill, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said.



Source: Press Trust of India

## Govt to help MSMEs access bank loans at cheaper rates: Mishra

The MSME Ministry is in talks with public sector banks to extend loans to micro, small and medium enterprises at base rate to help the sector access vast capital from financial institutions at lower costs, Union Minister Kalraj Mishra said.

Besides, he said the government plans to open 500 district-level incubation centres across the country to train youth to become entrepreneurs and revitalise the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.



Source: Press Trust of India

## Inflation dips to near 5-year low

Wholesale price inflation tumbled to an almost five-year low of 3.74% in August as food items witnessed moderate increases and petrol turned cheaper, showed official data on September 15.





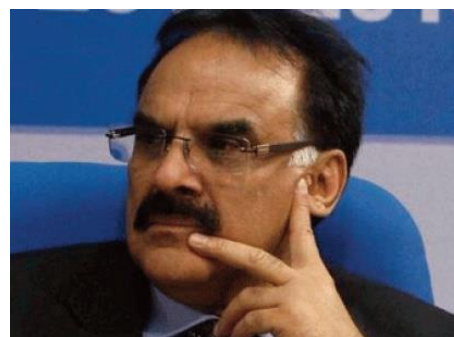
Retail inflation eased to 7.8% in August against 7.96% in July, but was still higher than the record low of 7.46% in May. The government also revised up the headline WPI inflation for June to 5.66% from 5.43% announced earlier.

*Source: The Financial Express*

## **India's GDP to rebound to over 7% in 2-3 years: Mayaram**

India is following economic growth inducing policies and is confident that the GDP will rebound to over 7% in 2-3 years, Finance Secretary Arvind Mayaram said while emphasising that business confidence is back.

Making an intervention during the G20 Deputies Meeting, Mayaram said the Indian Government announced a slew of policy reforms and Budget reflected this in full measure.



"From 4.7% growth in the last fiscal, the Indian economy grew by 5.7% in Q1 of the current financial year 2014-15. Business confidence is back and even though still tentative, growth in industrial sector, specially manufacturing, is showing an uptick.

"We are confident that by pursuing growth inducing policies, the Government would contribute fully to going back to a +7% growth within two to three years," he said.

*Source: Press Trust of India*

## **Modi to meet Obama on Sept 29 to expand US-India partnership**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet President Barack Obama at the White House on September 29-30 during which the two leaders would discuss a wide range of issues of mutual interest to expand and deepen the US-India strategic partnership.

The fact that the meeting will be spread over two days reflects the importance the US attaches to bilateral ties, a top official said.

"They will discuss ways to accelerate economic growth, bolster security cooperation, and collaborate in activities that bring long-term benefits to both countries and the world," he said.



*Source: Business Line*

## Corporates upbeat on Modi's US visit, expect tangible outcomes

India Inc is optimistic about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming US visit, with 77% of corporates eyeing tangible outcomes from meetings with President Barack Obama and a boost to bilateral trade from current level of \$150 billion, says an Assocham survey.



The survey covered 261 corporate heads and was conducted in the second-third week of September, ahead of the visit.

"With the US accounting for over 60% of India's software exports of \$100 billion and the merchandise exports and imports totaling about \$62 billion, along with the two-way foreign direct investment and the portfolio, the India-US annual commercial engagement is well above \$150 billion.

"With these cumulative figures, the US is India's largest economic partner holding a greater potential for further scaleup," the industry body said.

*Source: Business Standard*