India long-term destination for foreign investors; rupee volatility, crude shocks mere blips, says Fairfax's founder Prem Watsa

India is a long-term destination for foreign investors and rupee volatility and crude shocks are "mere blips on the radar" which will not affect the capital, said investment giant Fairfax's founder and CEO Prem Watsa. In an exclusive conversation, Watsa said that Fairfax's $5 billion India bet will only increase given the country's policies to enable ease of doing business. The second edition of the Invest India Conference kicked off in Toronto with focus on deepening Indo-Canada business ties. Led by Prem Watsa, the summit brought together more than 430 delegates from India and Canada.

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India's share in Asia-Pacific's GDP rises to 17.3% from 14.6% in 2000: ADB

India's share in the GDP of Asia and Pacific region has increased to 17.3 per cent in 2017 from 14.6 per cent in 2000, a ADB report said Monday. As per the ADB's report on 'Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2018', the Asia and Pacific region accounts for more than two-fifths of the share of global GDP in PPP (Purchasing Power Parity) terms. Asia and the Pacific's growing share of global output, which increased from 30.1 per cent to 42.6 per cent during the review period, came at the expense of the global shares of North America, Europe, South America, and the rest of the world, which declined by 6.8, 4.7, 1.3, and 0.3 percentage points, respectively.

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Canada okays import of Indian pineapple, mandarin.

Canada has agreed to allow imports of pineapple and mandarin from India. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency conveyed its approval on August 9, stating that general phytosanitary requirements would apply, apart from some specifics. In an advisory to Indian exporters, U K Vats, general manager of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Apeda) has asked that they "strictly adhere with the required conditions". Pineapple imports into Canada have been increasing consistently over the years. It was 127,000 tonnes in calendar year 2017, from 118,210 tonnes the previous year. The quantity of mandarin import was not clear but the value was C$257.2 million in 2016, from all parts of the world.

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India will become a 10 trillion dollar economy before 2035: Union Minister Suresh Prabhu

The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu has said that today's India is a growing India and that phenomenal changes have been brought about in both social and economic sector reforms at the same time, under the leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Noting the 8.3% growth in GDP in the last quarter, the Minister said that this is going to be consolidated, going forward. He said that India will become a 5 trillion dollar economy in seven years, and certainly a 10 trillion dollar economy by 2035, and that the Government has prepared a multi-sectoral strategy for the same.
German electronics giant Blaupunkt to invest $300 million in India on TV business

German consumer electronics maker Blaupunkt will invest around $300 million in television business in India in next 3 to 5 years along with its India partner, said a top company official. The investment would be made by Blaupunkt and Trigur Electronics jointly on marketing/branding and manufacturing at Trigur's plant in Sonipat, Haryana. "We have plans to invest $300 million in next 3 to 5 years. This would be together with our local partner (Trigur Electronics)," Blaupunkt Managing Director Andrzej Cebart said. During IFA Berlin 2018 Trade Show last month, Blaupunkt officially announced to foray into the Indian market.

Indian Insurance industry to touch USD 280 bn by FY20: Study

The Indian insurance industry is expected to grow to USD 280 billion by 2019-20 aided by the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat and increasing awareness about need for protection, according to an ASSOCHAM-APAS study. Insurance penetration in the country reached 3.7 per cent in 2017 from 2.71 per cent in 2001. Gross premium increased from USD 49 billion in 2011-12 to reach USD 72 billion in 2017-18, it said. Push by the government and the regulator has helped increase the penetration of the insurance, as spread of schemes have also increased. Several factors such as growing middle class, young population and increasing awareness towards the need for protection.

7 Indian organisations selected for Microsoft’s AI for Earth

Tech giant Microsoft Tuesday said seven Indian organisations as part of its USD 50 million 'AI for Earth' programme that aims to help build sustainability solutions for the environment based on new-age technologies like artificial intelligence and cloud computing. With this, India now has the third largest concentration of 'AI for Earth' grantees after the US and Canada. The seven recipients -- which includes names like India Institute of Science and Symbiosis Institute of Technology -- will receive access to Microsoft Azure Cloud and AI computing resources along with technology training on these tools and additional support. "In every country around the world, we are facing unprecedented environmental challenges."

Mutual Funds' asset base in India reaches all-time high of US $ 347.70 billion

Mutual funds' asset base touched a record US $ 347.70 billion in August-end, a surge of 8.41 per cent over the previous month, on the back of robust inflow in liquid funds and strong participation from retail investors. According to Amfi data, the asset under management (AUM) of the industry, comprising 42 players, was US $ 320.54 billion at the end of July. The total asset base of all the fund houses put together was US $ 278.84 billion in August last year. The monthly rise in the asset base is mainly due to the industry body's investor awareness campaign and strong participation from retail investors, Amfi chief executive N S Venkatesh said.