The Conference will provide an interactive platform for brainstorming and sharing new ideas and case studies with respect to flood and drought management, hydrology, e-flows, inter-basin water transfers, climate change, intelligent decision support systems and storage projects.

India to spend USD 2 billion on Renewable Energy Parks

In a renewed push to cut dependence on fossil fuels, the Indian government wants state-run companies to build massive clean energy parks at a cost of around USD 2 billion each. The proposed ultra mega renewable energy power parks (UMREPP) of 2,000 megawatts each will help developers achieve economies of scale and further bring down solar and wind power tariffs. Setting up such parks will bolster India's image as a clean energy champion at a time the world is grappling with concerns related to climate change. Clean energy projects now account for more than a fifth of India's installed power generation capacity. "Various public sector undertakings have been urged to set up mega renewable energy plants in major states in collaboration with state governments through special purpose vehicle mechanism (SPV)," said Anand Kumar, Secretary in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

“A Gift From India”: UN Headquarters gets solar panels on its roof

The United Nations Office in New York has installed solar panels on its roof to power the building’s energy needs. The solar panels, gifted to the human rights body by India, can generate power up to 50 Kilowatt (KW). Alongside the solar panels, a green roof is also placed in the United Nations headquarters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his recent visit to Russia said that as part of India’s aspiration to generate 175 Gigawatt (GW) of clean energy by 2022, the country is focusing on solar power in a big way. He also said that India could become a hub of solar power battery manufacturing. India has also been a front runner in advancing the Paris Agreement on climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, each country needs to determine, plan and regularly report on the contribution that it undertakes to reduce global warming.

Indian government eases rules for patents filed by women, government departments, patent protection abroad

The Indian government has simplified the rules for patents filed by small entities, women and government entities and incentivised Indian companies who apply for patents abroad. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified the rules further to amend the Patents Rules, 2003 and expedited the examination of patents if the applicant is a startup, small entity, an institution established by a Central or State Act, which is owned or controlled by the government, an institution wholly or substantially financed by the government. The department has also incentivised Indian companies to file patents abroad. It has done away with fee required to be paid for electronic international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and the transmission through the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

IC-IMPACTS welcomes new network partner, the University of Victoria

The University of Victoria and IC-IMPACTS signed an affiliated network agreement, marking a new partnership to advance student and faculty collaborations between Canada and India. This agreement is the beginning of a partnership to jointly develop Canada-India bilateral projects and start ups with a high Technology Readiness Level (TRL), leading to increased training of graduate, doctoral and post-doctoral students. Dr. Nemy Banthia, CEO and Scientific Director, IC-IMPACTS and Prof Jamie Cassels, President and Vice-Chancellor, UVic, signed for each institution. The event took place at the University of Victoria campus in Victoria, BC. IC-IMPACTS and the University of Victoria will work together in promoting student-led leadership workshops, summer institutes, and technology demonstration projects in India and Canada.

"India to spend USD 2 billion on Renewable Energy Parks" Read More

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BlackBerry Ltd. will provide artificial intelligence (AI) technology to Jaguar Land Rover in a deal that further positions the Canadian software giant as a prime tech supplier for the luxury automaker. The technology for JLR’s next-generation vehicles will include predictive software maintenance and cybersecurity threat protection, Waterloo, Ont.-based BlackBerry said. BlackBerry will also supply consulting services and technology to help the automaker uncover security threats in software from other suppliers. BlackBerry said the agreement with JLR, owned since 2008 by India’s Tata Motors, is an important step in its quest to become a leading supplier of the secure, consolidated control systems it says will be necessary in connected and autonomous vehicles.

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV) will launch its BS-VI-compliant trucks and buses during the first quarter of 2020 as the truck and bus manufacturing arm of Germany's Daimler AG hopes that BS-VI fuel will be made available from February next year. The company also announced that its Oragadam manufacturing operations near Chennai, India will become a hub for the export of BS- VI trucks and buses. Satyakam Arya, MD and CEO, DICV said the transition to BS-VI norms in India opened up more opportunities for the Chennai plant to export fully-built vehicles, engines and parts. It is likely to start export of Oragadam factory-built vehicles and parts from next year of 2021. It will initially export to Mexico, Chile and New Zealand and will explore the possibilities for export to Europe later.

India’s Mahindra Group commits to double its investments in the US

Mahindra Group will invest another USD 1 billion in the U.S. over the next few years. "Mahindra has already invested USD 1 billion in the U.S. market and we are committed to doubling our investments here over the next few years. We are proud to reaffirm our commitment to creating American jobs and meaningfully contribute to the local economies and communities in which we operate," said Anand Mahindra, Chairman, Mahindra Group while unveiling a new office in Washington D.C. This year, Mahindra Group marks its 25th year of conducting business in the U.S. Its companies in the U.S. span a diverse array of industries, including automotive manufacturing, farm equipment production, IT services, sustainable transportation, multipurpose aircraft development and equipment financing services.

USA’s Blackstone to buy 50 per cent of Indiabulls’ stake in office assets for USD 616 million

Alternative investment firm Blackstone Group Inc has agreed to acquire the 50 per cent stake it didn’t already own in Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd’s office assets for USD 616 million. US-based Blackstone will buy the Indian company’s stake in their joint ventures - Indiabulls Properties Pvt. Ltd and Indiabulls Real Estate Company Pvt. Ltd, Yashita Buildcon Ltd and Ashkit Properties Ltd. The private equity firm had last year bought a 50 per cent stake in two units of Indiabulls Real Estate. The deal included Indiabulls Finance Centre and One Indiabulls Centre in Mumbai, two key commercial properties in the country’s financial capital. Blackstone, which has one of the biggest portfolios of commercial real estate in India, has been actively buying out office buildings in the country.

Innolia Energy to set up integrated solar, lithium battery, EV assembly unit in India

Innolia Energy, a US-based company, has announced the launch of phase one of the USD 31.6 million integrated solar, lithium ion battery and electric vehicle assembly facility in Telangana, India. The company plans to make a phased investment in the project to manufacture solar modules, assemble lithium batteries and electric vehicles. "As a company promoted by entrepreneurs based in the US who have been serving companies with our technology solutions. This integrated facility is a natural extension," Arvind Reddy, CEO, Innolia Energy said. The company plans to set up a facility for 300 MW and become an integrated facility for customisable solution provider for solar panels, lithium battery for two and three-wheelers and EV products manufacturing under a single roof.

Apple gets to bite into Indian retail with the new FDI norms

Apple was possibly in preparation mode for its Indian retail journey when the Union Cabinet in India recently passed two critical decisions that could remove long-standing policy hurdles for the Cupertino-based tech giant. The Cabinet decision to ease sourcing norms will benefit not just Apple, but other foreign single brand retailers, too, such as Swedish furnishing major Ikea, which is already in India. There was another Cabinet approval that will make Apple's retail foray a reality. The second approval was for 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route in contract manufacturing. Since Apple products iPhone, iPad, Macintosh, iPod, and others are made by contract manufacturers such as Foxconn and Wistron, the company believes the two Cabinet approvals together have removed all the policy hurdles on its road to India, according to sources.

STATBOX

India is poised to be the third largest aviation market globally by 2020

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