

VIBRANT GUJARAT GLOBAL SUMMIT 2019

18-20 January
Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat



The summit provides a fantastic platform for brainstorming on agendas of global socio-economic development, in addition to being a facilitator for knowledge sharing and forging effective partnerships.



India Canada Biz Digest

Delivering news impacting Indo-Canadian economic relations

Issued by the High Commission of India, Ottawa

Week of 5th - 11th December 2018

Intel India sees big growth from data centre business

Intel India sees huge growth from the data centre business in India as adoption of cloud and AI, among businesses, on the rise. The global revenue from data centre is about \$6 billion growing at the rate of 26 per cent year-on-year. India is already one of the largest markets for Intel. The company recently opened its second largest design centre in Bengaluru at an investment of USD 153 million. In the last 20 years, the company has invested close to USD 4 billion in India. The company engages with both the government and enterprises. Partnership with government includes USD 630 million worth National Supercomputer Mission, which aids the Centre for Development and Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in technology support.

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Green Climate Fund signs \$100 million pact for India's rooftop solar

The \$250 million rooftop solar project, to be executed by Tata Cleantech Capital, will receive GCF support through NABARD. The agreement between GCF and NABARD was recently signed at an event held on the sidelines of the United Nations' Climate Change Conference. The project aims to enable access to long-term affordable financing for solar rooftop installation projects in the commercial, industrial and residential housing sectors in India, including in vulnerable communities. The GCF supported programme will provide long-term and affordable financing for the construction of 250 MW of rooftop solar capacity in India and thereby reduce emissions by 5.2 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent over 20 years.

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EU welcomes India's increasing global role

The EU welcomed India's increasing role and responsibility on the global stage through its "ambitious foreign policy" and fast growing economy. The bloc underlined the importance of the strategic partnership between the EU and India based on shared values of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, commitment to the rules-based global order, effective multilateralism and sustainable development. The partnership between the EU and India should benefit from an improved business environment in India, enhanced and fair market access, alignment with international standards and practices, enforcement of intellectual property rights and investment protection.

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World Bank Praises India's Renewable Energy Success

The World Bank praised India's success in renewable energy auctions that delivered record-setting low prices for solar power and said the number of countries with strong policy frameworks for sustainable energy more than tripled -- from 17 to 59 -- in the eight years till 2017. Many of the world's largest energy-consuming countries significantly improved their renewable energy regulations since 2010, said the World Bank's report -- Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE) 2018 -- charting global progress on sustainable energy policies. Progress was even more marked in energy efficiency, with the percentage of countries establishing advanced policy frameworks growing more than 10-fold between 2010 and 2017.

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India to see an investment of USD 300 billion in energy in the coming decade

India will see an investment of about USD 300 billion over the next decade in setting up of refineries, oil and gas pipelines and expansion of city gas distribution network as it builds infrastructure to cope with the massive demand surge. India is also building the world's largest oil refinery in Maharashtra at a cost of USD 40 billion, with USD 3 billion being spent on laying gas pipelines to connect the eastern part of the country to the gas grid. City gas distribution network that supplies CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households is also being expanded to cover 70 per cent of the population in the next 2-3 years.

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Microsoft Kaizala onboards over 1,000 organisations in India

Microsoft announced that its enterprise social network app Kaizala is now helping over 1,000 government and private businesses in India improve workplace productivity and streamline growth. Kaizala, with Cloud scale and enterprise security, is enabling organisations to achieve more by empowering employees, engaging customers and enhancing workplace productivity. Kaizala is a chat-based communication and data management tool. It is an enterprise ready, compliant and secure chat app, offering organisations easy and simple way to share data for insightful decision making and gives employees an easy-to-use solution for efficient collaboration and improved productivity

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Generic Medicines and Vaccines: India's Pharma Exports and the Role It Plays

India is currently among the biggest providers of generic medicines in the world, and it accounts for 20 percent of the volume of global generic drugs exports. What works in India's favour is the talented pool of scientists, researchers, and engineers, who develop innovative solutions for healthcare at a cost base that is significantly lower than that of many other countries worldwide. India stands among the biggest suppliers in the world. The recombinant Hepatitis B injection saw its price dropped to less than US\$ 1 from US\$ 23 per dose when an Indian manufacturer developed the vaccination. Today, India is a primary supplier of the vaccination to numerous countries as well as to UNICEF.

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Easier retail norms likely for ease of doing business in India

The government plans to ease regulations to promote retail trade in the country in a bid to take India into top 50 in the World Bank's global Ease of Doing Business ranking. Towards this, the country is looking at a national policy for retail, special retail trade zones on the lines of Special Economic Zones, and enacting a 365-days working policy. India jumped 23 points in the World Bank index to 77th place this year, becoming the top-ranked country in South Asia for the first time and third among the BRICS nations. A national policy for retail was also deliberated on as at present only three states — Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra — have formal policies.

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India's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to create the world's largest online-to-offline new commerce platform

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has announced that the company is working on creating the world's largest online-to-offline new commerce platform that would integrate the power of Reliance Retail's physical marketplace with Jio's infrastructure and services. In order to boost this ecommerce venture's last-mile connectivity, the company plans to utilise the telco's 5,100-plus smaller Jio Point stores in more than 5,000 cities and towns. Reliance Retail would set up ecommerce kiosks in the Jio Point stores from where store executives will help consumers place orders

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Indian Ports Association launches 'PCS 1x' to increase ease of doing business

The Indian Ports Association (IPA) has launched the port community system 'PCS1x', a cloud-based technology that offers services like notification, work-flow and track and trace. It is estimated that this feature alone will reduce up to 2 days in the life of a transaction. This system will enable trade to have an improved communication with the customs as they have also embarked on an Application Programming Interface (API) based architecture, thereby enabling real time interaction. The platform offers value added services such as notification engine, work-flow, mobile application, track and trace, better user interface, better security features, improved inclusion by offering dashboard for those with no IT capability.

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STATBOX

India's first engine less train 'Train 18' was designed and developed in a record time of 20 months.

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