



World Food India (WFI) 2019, under the aegis of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, facilitates partnerships between Indian and international businesses. WFI will be the largest gathering of investors, manufacturers, producers, food processors, policy makers and organizations from the global food ecosystem.



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Canada's Brookfield Asset Management consolidates in India with two deals

Hotels, gas pipeline, real estate. Canadian investment firm Brookfield Asset Management seems to be on a deal-making spree in India. Last week, an investment trust led by Brookfield bought RIL's East West Pipeline for USD 1.87 billion followed by USD 580 million deal to acquire five assets Hotel Leela Venture. Two announcements in two weeks could be a coincidence as both were in the works and it can take 8-9 months to close a deal. "They are optimistic about India, and see value," says the CEO of a large infrastructure fund. It is not just Brookfield, but almost all sovereign funds from West Asia, Singapore as well as Canadian pension funds such as CPPIB and CDPQ have been buying operating projects and investing on infrastructure in India.

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India's Internet Economy poised to touch USD 266 billion mark in 2020

The rise of the Internet in the last decade has brought about new business models and market segments that have revolutionized the way in which companies operate today. The nation's digital economy is poised to undergo explosive growth due to the proliferation of devices, and the Internet economy is predicted to touch the USD 266 billion mark in 2020, accounting for nearly seven per cent of the country's GDP. The last decade has seen India embracing technology faster than ever with digital solutions making inroads into all walks of life and reaching more and more Indians each year. With the Internet boom, online retail is one sector that is benefitting the most as it is poised to soon emerge as one of the fastest-growing industries in India.

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Well positioned to invest big in India : Fairfax Financial Holdings

Prem Watsa, chief executive officer (CEO) of Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings, believes India is on a sustainable economic growth trajectory, driven by favourable business policies. "We are well-positioned to invest large sums of money in India," the famed investor has said in a letter to the shareholders of Fairfax Financial Holdings. Watsa-led Fairfax India has continued to make investments in India. At the end of 2018, Fairfax India had investments in nine companies across the country. Its investment portfolio includes IIFL Holdings, Fairchem Specialty, BIAL, Sanmar Chemicals Group, National Collateral Management Services, Catholic Syrian Bank, Saurashtra Freight and the National Stock Exchange.

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Amazon India and Flipkart compete to tap into India's fast-growing online insurance market worth USD 5.1 billion

E-commerce giants Amazon India and Flipkart are preparing to tap into India's fast-growing online insurance market valued at USD 5.1 billion, after electronics, fashion and groceries. Both the companies will provide standalone insurance products and also weave it into their various verticals. "Amazon and Flipkart both have travel and ticketing vertical on their platform. They can provide travel insurance as part of the package. Similarly, they can provide theft and damage insurance for high-value electronics. They will soon start selling general and life insurance. To grow this business, Amazon may enter into deals with multiple firms, while Flipkart is also on the lookout for insurance companies to work with.

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Airbnb set to invest in India's OYO to expand footprint

As it looks to strengthen its hotel booking business, global accommodation-sharing site Airbnb is reportedly in discussions to invest around USD 100-200 million in SoftBank-backed Indian hotel chain OYO. The acquisition is seen as a move by Airbnb to get a share of the hotel-booking business to attract a wider variety of travellers ahead of its planned initial public offering. "We see robust growth, especially in the domestic market. Domestic travel grew 78% just in the last year. That's the future opportunity. Out of the total addressable market of India, three-fourths is domestic travel. Our trend is heading in that direction," Nathan Blecharczyk, Airbnb's co-founder and chief strategy officer said. In India, OYO is currently available across 259 cities with 8,700 buildings and 173,000 rooms. Globally, the company is present in over 500 cities and 10 countries.

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Automakers invested around USD 491 million in Indian start-ups in 2018

Automobile manufacturers have invested around USD 491 million in 2018 in Indian automobile industry start-ups, led by Essel Green Mobility's investment of USD 300 million into Bengaluru-based on-demand AC bus service provider Zipgo, according to market intelligence firm Venture Intelligence. There were 13 investments during the year. In 2018, Taiwanese two-wheeler manufacturer Kwang Yang Motor, known as Kymco, invested USD 65 million in Gurugram-based electric two-wheeler maker Twenty Two Motors, while auto major Mahindra and Mahindra invested USD 40 million in self-drive car company Zoomcar. Toyota Tsusho Corporation, the trading arm of Toyota Group, invested around USD 30 million in Droom Technology, the operator of India's largest online automobile marketplace

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India set to receive USD 28 billion FDI in food processing sector in 2019

Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal expects more than USD 28 billion worth of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the food processing sector in 2019. The ministry is eyeing the next edition of its flagship investment show World Food India, set to take place in November, 2019, to reach that level. "At the first edition of World Food India last year, we had investment proposals of more than USD 14 billion, of which ground has been broken for projects worth USD 11 billion. So, next year, we are targeting to at least double the figure, as investments," Badal said. Of the 11 companies that had signed agreements, eight have started on-ground investments. These are set to open more than hundred outlets shortly, she added.

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US sportswear major Under Armour plans to enter India

Under Armour, the Baltimore, US-headquartered sportswear maker, is to set up its first branded store in India. Under Armour is now at an advanced stage of talks with several prospective franchise partners. Globally, it is the fourth largest sportswear firm by revenue. Nike, Adidas, Puma, and Reebok are other top sportswear companies from abroad which have been present in the Indian market for over a decade. "For two months, we have been working on finalising our franchise and distribution partners. We are also setting up the India team" said Tushar Goculdas, managing director for Under Armour in India. Goculdas says while Under Armour would be placed as a premium brand, balancing the price proposition and profitability would not be a problem.

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Microsoft adopts Artificial Intelligence to drive digital transformation in India

Microsoft empowers digital transformation for the current era of an intelligent collective including every person and every organization on the planet. Microsoft in India offers its global cloud services from its well-established local data centers to nurture digital transformation across Indian businesses comprised of start-ups or government organizations. The company's AI strategy in the country is based on certain impressions that drive digital transformation and propel the boundaries to novel innovative limits. Also, the company takes full charge of AI's role in social impact, overcoming the issue of skill gap, creating more job opportunities and psychological imprints of it.

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Indian logistics market seen growing 10.5% a year, to reach USD 215 billion by 2020

The market size of the logistics sector in India is seen to be climbing to USD 215 billion by 2020, logging 10.5 per cent compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) over 2017. The logistics sector earned the 'infrastructure' status in 2017 when its market size was estimated at USD 160 billion. A study by the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) pegs annual investments in the logistics sector to reach USD 500 billion by 2025. Between 2018 and 2020, the warehousing segment is poised to receive investments worth USD 7.29 billion. The logistics and warehousing sector will get a fillip with the foray of Hiranandani Group, pledging USD 360 million on two projects in 2019.

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