



## INDIA NEWSLETTER March 2019



### Embassy of India celebrates ITEC Day

<b>INDEX:</b>	
<b>India Economic News</b>	<b>pg 02</b>
<b>Government of India Tenders</b>	<b>pg 06</b>
<b>Bilateral Relations</b>	<b>pg 06</b>
<b>Forthcoming Events</b>	<b>pg 08</b>
<b>Trade Fairs in India</b>	<b>pg 09</b>
<b>Useful Links</b>	<b>pg 10</b>

Embassy of India  
Djordja Radojlovica 7a  
Belgrade, 11040 (Serbia)  
Tel: +381-11/2666-520  
Email: [comsecc\\_bg@eunet.rs](mailto:comsecc_bg@eunet.rs)  
Web: [www.eoibelgrade.gov.in](http://www.eoibelgrade.gov.in)  
iPhone: [www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/iphone](http://www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/iphone)  
Android: [www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/android](http://www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/android)



## India Economic News

### **Deals worth US\$ 28-billion FDI in food processing expected in 2019**

Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal expects more than \$28 billion worth of foreign direct investments (FDI) in the food processing sector in 2019. To reach that level, the Ministry is eyeing the next edition of its flagship investment show World Food India, set to take place in November, 2019.



At the first edition of World Food India 2017, investment proposals of more than \$14 billion were made of which ground has been broken for projects worth \$11 billion. So for 2019 the Ministry is targeting to at least double the figure.

In 2014, FDI in the sector amounted to \$500 million, after numerous efforts the figure was brought up to \$905 million in the last financial year. At present, 100 per cent FDI in food processing sector is allowed through automatic route. In 2016, the Centre allowed 100 per cent FDI through approval route for retail trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and produced in India.

### **ADB to extend US\$ 750-million loan to push railways' electrification drive**

The Indian Railways will raise a \$750-million loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to finance part of its electrification drive.



The national transporter has lined up an electrification drive covering 28,000 km in the next three financial years — 7,000 km in 2019-20 and 10,500 km each in 2020-21 and 2021-22. This will entail an expenditure of \$6-7 billion. The ADB loan will be used for electrifying around 3,378 km, involving at least 16 sub-projects in 13 states.

In March last year the ADB and the Indian Railways signed a loan agreement for availing the third tranche of \$120 million in a multi-tranche financing facility of \$500 million for developing five projects. This included Daund-

Gulbarga Doubling (224 km), Sambalpur-Titlagarh Doubling (182 km), Raipur-Titlagarh Doubling (203 km), Hospet-Tinaighat Doubling (201 km) and Pune-Wadi Guntakal Electrification (641 km). The current loan of \$750 million will be used for new electrification projects only.

ADB-funded electrification works are expected to create around 4,500 additional jobs annually. Based on an estimate, at least 24,100 million passenger gross tonnage km (GTKM) and 32,200 million freight GTKM may be provided annually by electric traction on the newly electrified routes funded by the ADB.

The move for 100 per cent electrification of Indian tracks is expected to save at least Rs 13,000 crore on the national transporter's fuel bill. Despite carrying 65 % of all freight and 51 % of the passenger load of the Indian Railways, electric traction accounts for only 36 % of the energy bill, with diesel accounting for the balance.

**India's goods, services export to touch about USD 540 bn this fiscal**

India's merchandise and services export would touch USD 540-billion mark this fiscal, stated Indian Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu.



Exports are growing at a healthy pace and shipments of goods would reach over USD 330 billion. Similarly, services exports are expected to touch about USD 200 billion. During April-February 2018-19, the goods exports grew by 8.85 % to USD 298.47 billion.

**Basmati rice exports likely to grow by 4-5% in FY20**



India's exports of basmati rice is expected to witness 4-5 % during 2019-20, following increase in average realisations, strong demand from Iran and steady increase in paddy prices since last three years. According to a ICRA report the Indian basmati rice industry is likely to touch record high exports of around Rs 30,000 crore in FY19, compared to the previous high of Rs 29,300 crore in FY14.

ICRA expects the momentum of the current fiscal to percolate into 2019-20, as well with expectation of 4-5 % in exports. The fact that EU contributed around 8 % of the exports till FY18, allowed for the loss to be compensated by exports to the Middle Eastern countries. Continuing the momentum from FY18, India has already exported basmati rice worth Rs 24,919 crore (3.37 million tonne) in the 10 month of FY19, which is 17 percent

higher than Rs 21,319 crore (3.28 million tonne) in the corresponding period in the previous fiscal.

As per Icra, the average export realisations have firmed up to Rs 74,053 per tonne in the first 10 months of FY19, against Rs 64,997 per tonne in 10 months of FY18.

### Sugar output up 6% at 27.4 MT



Sugar production rose by 6 % to 27.4 MT till March 15 of the current marketing year ending September 2019, helped by higher output in Maharashtra and Karnataka where mills started their operations early. During 2018-19 sugar season, 527 sugar mills were in operation and they have produced 27.4 MT of sugar till March 15, 2019.

Sugar production in Maharashtra till March 15 was 10.0 MT as against 9.4 MT in the year-ago period. In Uttar Pradesh, production was almost flat at 8.42 MT compared with 8.44 MT in the corresponding period of the 2017-18 marketing year. Sugar production in Karnataka stood at 4.3 MT as against 3.5 MT.

### India's coffee exports rise 13 % in first 2-months of 2019

Coffee shipments from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter, rose 13.26 % to 48,330 tonnes during the first two months of this calendar year, according to Coffee Board. The country had exported 42,670 tonnes in the year-ago period. India ships both robusta and Arabica varieties, besides instant coffee.



As per the Board's latest data, the shipment of Robusta coffee jumped 28.42 % to 34,090 tonnes during January-February 2019, from 26,545 tonnes in the same period last year. Similarly, the export of Arabica coffee increased by 14.39 % to 11,156 tonnes, from 9,752 tonnes in the said period. However, the export of Instant coffee showed a decline as volumes remained at 3,047 tonnes during January-February of 2019, when compared with 5,704 tonnes in the year-ago period.

Italy, Germany and Russia were the major export destinations for Indian coffee during the period. Some of the major exporting companies include CCL Products India, Tata Coffee, Olam Agro and Coffee Day Global Ltd. Coffee production is pegged higher at 319,500 tonnes for 2018-19 crop year (October-September), as against the final

output of 316,000 tonnes achieved last year.

### IT services sector may register growth up to 9% in FY20

The information technology services sector is estimated to clock a growth of up to 9 % in the fiscal year 2019-20. The growth will be at par with the 9.1 % growth achieved by the sector in FY19, according to industry lobby Nasscom.



Domestic rating agency Icria said the sector will clock a 7-9 % growth in USD in FY20 mainly on demand for digital solutions. The traditional mainstay of banking and financial services will experience some weakness on low interest rates, focus on cost optimisation and managing discretionary spending, it said, adding that insurance companies are supporting the growth.

Firming oil prices will lead to some discretionary spends by energy firms on digital spends and give the IT firms some good news, while retail is also showing improvement in the first nine months of FY19.

### Coal production at 638 MT during Apr-Feb

The coal output grew 8 per cent year-on-year to 638.46 million tonne (MT) in the April 2018-February 2019 period of the current financial year. The coal production was 591.42 MT during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.



Coal India Ltd (CIL), whose production target was fixed at 610 MT for the current financial year, produced 527.70 MT during April-February 2018-19. It was 6.6 % higher as compared with 495.08 MT during the corresponding period of the previous year.

The coal production by state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Ltd during April-February 2018-19 was 57.94 MT as compared with 54.64 MT in the year-ago period, showing a growth of 6%. The company's coal production target was fixed at 65 MT for 2018-19.

Coal production target of captive mines was fixed at 40 MT for the current fiscal. The coal production from captive mines during the period was 44.41 MT as against 33.76 MT a year ago, a rise of 31.6 %.

## Ola raises US\$ 300 million from Hyundai, Kia

Hyundai Motor Group and Kia Motors together invested \$300 million in India's ride-hailing giant Ola, marking their biggest combined investment. The round is part of a strategic partnership under which the companies will jointly work toward creating mobility solutions for global markets.



This investment shows Hyundai's continued interest in the cab-hailing space. The Korean automotive firm invested \$250 million in the Southeast Asian cab-hailing company Grab about four months ago. As for Ola, this partnership with Hyundai and Kia will see the three companies extensively collaborate on developing fleet and mobility solutions; building India-specific electric vehicles and infrastructure, among others.

The strategic collaboration also means these companies will co-create solutions to operate and manage fleet vehicles, marking the group's first foray into the industry, as they expand operations from automobile manufacturing and sales to "total fleet solutions." This partnership is not only going to benefit consumers, but Ola's drivers as well. It will offer Ola drivers financial services, including lease and installment payments.

## Government of India Tenders:

The Government of India Tender Information System  
<http://tenders.gov.in>

Central Public Procurement Portal  
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/ap>

More details on Indian Tenders are available at:  
[www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/pages.php?id=59](http://www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/pages.php?id=59)

## Bilateral Events:

**Embassy of India marks ITEC day 2018.** Ambassador hosted a reception on 19th March 2019 at the Embassy residence to mark the day of the Indian Economic-Technical Cooperation (ITEC) program.



The reception was attended by State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr Nemanja Stevanovic, representatives of the Serbian Government ministries, the Post of Serbia, media, as well as a large number of participants of the ITEC program.



Ambassador presented the ITEC program which has an important goal of transfer of knowledge and emphasized that it represents an important pillar of bilateral cooperation with Serbia. Within the ITEC program, friendly countries are provided with free training courses in India for various technical and professional professions. Serbia has been a partner of the Indian ITEC program since 2008 and so far more than 156 experts from Serbia have attended courses in various fields.

**Preparation for next round of India-Serbia Joint Economic Committee.** On 25th March 2019, Ambassador called on Mr Nemanja Stevanovic State Secretary in the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mrs Jagoda Lazarevic Adviser to the Minister at the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunication to discuss holding the next round of India-Serbia Joint Economic Committee.

**Bapu@150 celebrations:** As part of worldwide celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Ambassador delivered on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 a speech on Gandhi at the Center for Asian and Far East Studies, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade.



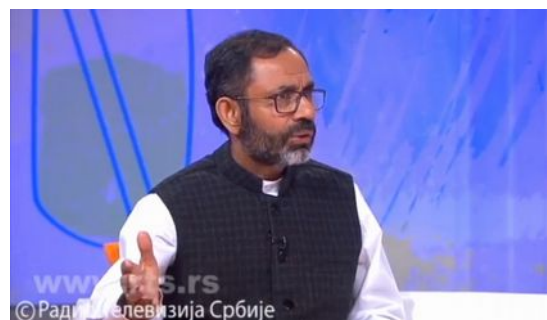
On 27<sup>th</sup> March Ambassador held a presentation on [Bapu@150](#) at the Faculty of Geography, University of Belgrade.



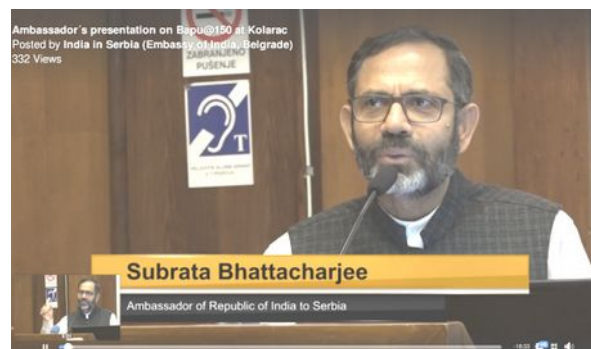
Ambassador was interviewed by N1 TV station on the activities and marking of 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019,



The following day Ambassador also made an appearance on the Radio Television of Serbia (RTS) to talk about [Bapu@150](#)



Later in the day Ambassador held a presentation on [Bapu@150](#) at a



Symposium on the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi organized at the Kolarac Endowment, Belgrade.

**Business meetings:** During March 2018, Ambassador met top management of some of the largest Serbian companies to discuss possibilities of improving trade and investment relations between the two countries and assessed the potential areas of interest for Indian companies. On 1st March Ambassador visited the Embassy Techzones IT Park build by the Indian Embassy Group in the town of Indjija. On March 6, Ambassador visited Nis and met Mr Igor Spasic Director of the Serbian company Blok Signal which is owned by Indian Excel Industries. On 22nd March Ambassador met Prof. Darko Trifunovic member of the Serbian Institute of National and International Security.

**E-Visa to Serbian nationals:** The online e-Visa is an electronic authorization that allows citizens of Serbia to travel to and within India. Electronic Visa was extended to Serbia in February 2016 for tourism purpose. However, w.e.f. 01 April 2017 the scope has been expanded and now e-Visa allows its holder to visit India for tourism, business and medical purposes. Applicants may visit the official e-Visa website <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html> or for further guidance call Indian Embassy, Belgrade at telephone number 011-2667990 or email: [infobg@eunet.rs](mailto:infobg@eunet.rs)

## Forthcoming Events

**India International Knit Fair 2019.** The Indian Apparel Export Promotion Council in collaboration with Tirupur Exporters' Association is organising the 46th India International Knit Fair from

5 – 17 May 2019 at IKFA Complex, Tirupur, India. The India International Knit Fair has emerged as one among the most reputed Knitwear Trade Fair in the World. The Best of the brand leaders, stores, wholesalers, Importers have already identified Tirupur as one of the major sources for consumer requirements. Knit Wear Sector in India grabs Major chunk of this share in India's Textile Exports. The fair aims to showcase the end to end products pertaining to the Knitwear Segment. More details about the event are available at: [www.indiaknitfair.com/](http://www.indiaknitfair.com/)

**iPHEX 2019.** The Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL), set up by the Indian Ministry of Commerce & Industry, is organizing the International Exhibition for Pharma and Healthcare - iPHEX 2019 from 10-12 June 2019 in Gandhinagar. iPHEX 2019 is a leading pharma sector exhibition which brings together global drugs, pharmaceutical and health-care industry representatives – all under one roof with the aim of showcasing Indian pharmaceutical products and technologies. IPHEX 2019 will include API's and Intermediates, formulations, custom manufacturing, Bio-similars, Ayush, nutraceuticals, surgical & diagnostics, health-care services, medical tourism and more. PHARMEXCIL is providing select delegates with to and fro economy class airfare and accommodation hospitality. Prospective business delegates



are requested to apply by registering online [https://iphex-india.com/hostedbuyer/hosted\\_buyer\\_agreement](https://iphex-india.com/hostedbuyer/hosted_buyer_agreement).

**Ayush Natural World Expo.** International Business Summit & Herbal or Natural Products Expo for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy (AYUSH) & Traditional Medicine Agro-Food, Health, Beauty, Tourism, Organics, Wellness, etc. is being organized from 19 - 21 Sep 2019, in Bengaluru, India. India is home to over 8000 medicinal plants found in the Himalayan region, around its coastline, deserts and rainforest eco-system. Ayurveda has a unique therapy called Panchkarma which is beneficial for preventive/promotive health & also for treatment of many chronic lifestyle disorders. Yoga is widely recognized & practiced in Asia, Europe , US and other regions. Ayush Natural World Expo offers an excellent opportunity to meet this growing consciousness for a healthy lifestyle. More details about the event are available at: <http://ayushnatural.com>

## Trade Fairs in India

**International Beauty & Spa Expo**  
06 - 07 May 2019, New Delhi  
[www.beautyandspaexpo.com](http://www.beautyandspaexpo.com)

**YogShala Expo**  
10 - 12 May 2019, New Delhi  
<http://www.theyogshalaexpo.com>

**India International Knit Fair**  
15-17 May 2019, Tirupur  
<http://indiaknitfair.com>

**India Buildtech**  
5-7 June 2019, New Delhi  
<https://buildtechindia.com/>

**IPHEX 2019.**  
10-12 June 2019, June  
<http://iphex-india.com>

**Heimtextil India (HD)**  
13-15 June 2019, New Delhi  
<https://heimtextil-india.in.messefrankfurt.com/newdelhi/en.html>

**India International Fashion Jewellery & Accessories Show (IIFJAS)**  
06 - 09 Jul 2019, Mumbai  
<https://iifjs.com>

**Fabrics & Accessories Trade Show** 15-17 Jul 2019 , New Delhi  
<http://www.fnashow.in/>

**India International Footwear Fair**  
1-3 Aug 2019 , New Delhi  
<http://indiatradefair.com/footwear-fair/>

**GARTEX 2019**  
10-12 August 2019, New Delhi  
<https://www.gartexindia.com/>

**Furniture & Furnishing Fair**  
23-26 August 2019, Mumbai  
<http://infairs.in/events.aspx>

**Annapoorna World of Food**  
29 - 31 Aug 2019, Mumbai  
[www.worldoffoodindia.com](http://www.worldoffoodindia.com)

**Chocotea Expo**  
29-31 August 2019, Mumbai  
<https://www.chocoteaexpo.com>

**Ayush Natural World Expo**  
19 - 21 Sep 2019, Bengaluru  
<http://ayushnatural.com/>

**Electronica India**  
25-27 Sep 2019 , Greater Noida  
<https://electronica-india.com/index.html>

**India International Travel Mart Mumbai (IITM)**  
27 - 29 Sep 2019, Mumbai  
<http://iitmindia.com/>

### India Auto Show (IAS)

3-5 Oct 2019, Mumbai

<http://www.india-auto-show.in/>

### India Mobile Congress (IMC)

14-16 Oct 2019, New Delhi

<https://www.indiamobilecongress.com/>

### Indian Handicrafts & Gifts Fair - Autumn

16-20 Oct 2019 , Greater Noida

<https://epch.in>

### Broadcast India Show

17-19 Oct 2019, Mumbai

[www.broadcastindiashow.com/home](http://www.broadcastindiashow.com/home)

### World Assembly on Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy (WAAYN)

07 - 10 Nov 2019 Greater Noida

<https://indiaexpomart.com/event/world-assembly-on-ayurveda-yoga-naturopathy/>

### India International Trade Fair (IITF Delhi)

14 - 27 Nov 2019, New Delhi

<http://indiatradefair.com/iitf>

### India International Furniture Fair (IIFF)

21-23 Nov 2019, Mumbai

<https://www.iiffmumbai.com/>

### World of Wines & Spirits Delhi

22-24 Nov 2019, New Delhi

<https://www.wows-ex.com/events/world-of-wine-spirits-delhi>

### Ayush India Expo

21 - 23 Dec 2019, Ahmedabad

<http://ayushindiaexpo.com>

### Indian Ceramics

3-5 March 2020, Gandhinagar

<https://www.indian-ceramics.com/>

### Panacea Natural Products Expo India

05 - 07 Mar 2020, Mumbai

<http://www.naturalproductsexpoindia.com>

### 4<sup>th</sup> Global Exhibition on Services (GES)

<http://www.gesindia.in/>

## Useful Links

The National Portal of India

<http://india.gov.in>

Ministry of External Affairs

<http://mea.gov.in/>

Invest India

[www.investindia.gov.in](http://www.investindia.gov.in)

Incredible India

[www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)

ITPO [www.indiatradefair.com](http://www.indiatradefair.com)

EXIM Bank

<http://eximbankindia.com>

The Confederation of Indian Industry

[www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

Federation of Indian Chambers of

Commerce & Industry [www.ficci.com](http://www.ficci.com)

Associated Chambers of Commerce &

Industry of India [www.assochem.org](http://www.assochem.org)

The Federation of Indian Export

Organizations [www.fieo.org](http://www.fieo.org)

The Indian Chamber of Commerce

[www.indianchamber.org](http://www.indianchamber.org)

PHD Chambers of Commerce & Industry

[www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)

National Institution for Transforming

India (Niti Ayog) <http://niti.gov.in/>