

India is the 6th largest economy: Irani

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/ Smriti Irani, Minister for Textiles, Government of India, said that India was considered as one of the 'Fragile Five', along with Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia in 2014. Now in 2018, India is the 6th largest economy surpassing France. In 2019, India is expected to surpass United Kingdom.

The 117th Annual Session of Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry was held today.

She observed that in the Indian economy, agriculture grows side by side with the industry. In Q1 2018-19, Agriculture grew at the rate of 8.2%, while Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing grew at 5.3%. Manufacturing grew at the rate of 13.5% in this quarter, while corporate sector grew at more than 17%, construction at 8.7%. Production of cement increased by 14.2%, steel consumption grew by 8.4%. Sale of consumer vehicles increased at the rate of 51%.

On rural rejuvenation, she spoke about Suraksha Bima Yojana, an insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakhs for Rs 1 per month. She also referred to Mudra Yojana to cater to the banking needs of the rural industries. She expressed satisfaction, 70% of those benefited by Mudra Yojana are women.

Haier India launches free Phase Detector Service

KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/ Haier announced the launch of 'Phase Detector Service'. In a bid to strengthen the promise of quality service offerings to its consumers, Haier India has launched a Free Phase Detector Service for customers across India.

As part of this initiative, Haier customers can get the electrical phases of their appliances examined absolutely free of cost whenever Haier engineers visit their place for installations or repairs. This value added service is introduced keeping in mind the electrical grounding issue that most Indian households face today which is a potential risk for them.

Eric Braganza, President, Haier Appliances (India) said, "At Haier, our customers play a very crucial role and ensuring their satisfaction is our foremost priority. Our new Phase Detector Service is an industry first initiative, which is highly customer-centric and tailored made for the Indian market. Our customer relationship is an ongoing process and service is a critical part of that journey. The newly launched service is yet another step in the direction of creating a great customer experience journey and become a service differentiator in the industry." (EOIC)

Customised service, updated packages needed to woo young visitors to Kerala: Experts

KOCHI, SEPT 29 /--/ Kerala's tourism warrants renewed approach that promotes customised service as well as night life besides technology and packages that are updated with times so as to woo back young visitors to the state, experts said Saturday.

Digital media and even artificial intelligence are proving to be key requirements for tourism promotion to get newer audiences across the globe and God's Own Country can't be an exception, speakers told a seminar at the Kerala Travel Mart (KTM) here.

All the same, "over-tourism" should not disturb the normal routine of the hosts even as Kerala needs to explore the scope of non-conventional hospitality such as home stay and bread-and-breakfast, they noted.

The seminar 'Changing Trends in Travel and Tourism' was organised as part of September 27-30 KTM that aims to boost the state's tourism prospects. Joint Secretary of Union Ministry of Tourism, Suman Billa highlighted 'commodification' as an urgent requirement of tourism in



Ramesh Agarwal, President, MCCI presenting a memento to Smriti Irani, Union Minister of Textiles. (L) Vishal Jhajharia, Senior Vice President, MCCI-Arjit Ganguly

where recovery rate range around 98-99%.

The minister stressed on the factual recognition of the burden of NFAs, as lending was done to non-viable projects. She focused on the need for better Governance, Transparency, Fiscal Discipline. She pointed out that GST had been the hallmark of cooperative federalism and political consensus, which has brought one of the 6th largest economies on a single track of development.

On Fiscal Discipline, she said that in the last 4 years, the number of

assesses increased by 64.6%. She also mentioned about the increasing FDI from \$ 1.3 billion in 2015-16 to \$ 6.2 billion in 2018-19, which is going to infrastructure. She dwelt upon the Government's resolve to strengthen the infra projects by bringing in more FDI, to the tune of Rs. 5.7 trillion. On Textile sector, she assured that MCCI would be called for a discussion on the issues very soon. Earlier, in his presidential address, Ramesh Agarwal, Outgoing President of the Chamber said that India has now become the 6th largest

economy in the world, according to a World Bank report, which has stated that India's GDP stands at USD 2.59 Trillion. The economy crossing the 8% mark now largely depends on how effectively the various policies, especially those related to structural and infrastructure reforms are implemented. He also hoped that the focus on demand and job creation through spending on rural and labour-intensive infrastructure space is likely to support growth next fiscal, and push demand in the consumer sectors.



Kolkata headquartered Neptune Holidays Pvt Ltd, won the most prestigious award in the tourism sector. The National Tourism Award 2016-17 under category of best domestic tour operator promoting and selling tourism products in North East Region including Sikkim, Chandernagore, Prakash Bhatter, Director, Neptune Holidays received the award, that was handed over by Hon'ble MoS for Tourism, GoI, Mr. K. J. Alphonso in the presence of Ms. Rashmi Verma Tourism Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, GoI on 27th September 2018 at an elaborate ceremony in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. Mr. Bhatter expressed his delight and happiness on his organization being the recipient of the coveted award, as he feels that it will give them the impetus to better their track record and help them in their rapid growth as well. -EOI Photo

Khadi India in Leh to help in countering Chinese goods

NEW DELHI SEPT 29 /--/ Leh, a bustling tourist town in Jammu and Kashmir, has got a helping hand from the Khadi India to counter the dominance of Chinese goods in its market.

A top official of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) said the Khadi India has been in discussion with the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) to help artisans and craftsmen in Leh, the erstwhile Capital of Himalayan Kingdom of

Ladakh, to overcome the infiltration of Chinese goods. KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said the Khadi India was committed to cooperate with the LAHDC so that traditional art and craft of Leh regains its lost glory.

He said the KVIC was exploring all means to reach to the remotest corner of the country and during a four-day tour to Jammu and Kashmir, he visited Leh and held discussion with Dorjee Mutup, the Chief Executive Councilor of LAHDC on

September 27 for starting Khadi developmental activities at the outmost hilly hamlets there.

A KVIC statement said a first-ever district-level Khadi exhibition was also inaugurated to establish the Gandhian tool of self-reliance in the hilly land of Buddha. "I had long and fruitful discussion with Chief Executive of the LAHDC Dorjee Mutup and his council colleagues at Leh for starting Khadi developmental activities," Saxena said.



There is scope for collaborative work on this matter, he said. Cherian Philip, who heads the Nava Kerala mission aimed at rebuilding Kerala after last month's floods and is a former KTDC chairperson, said absence of a night life has been a constant complaint from tourists in Kerala. "Even a place like Dubai with its conservative ethos today has its people enjoying their time in various ways after sunset," he noted, while also stressing on waste management.

Unless we go for such entertainment that doesn't harm our culture, Kerala's tourism has no future. Goa and even Chennai may overtake us, not to speak of Sri Lanka or Singapore outside India, he said.

Tourism Director, Bela Kiran said tourists of late are less patient to read details and know about a place. "We must serve them with digital technology," he said. "Also we must include more focal spots on the itinerary Malabar (northern Kerala), for instance, has a lot of potential."

Travel Entrepreneurs P K Anish Kumar suggested focusing on social media publicity, while Sejo Jose spoke of the increasing role of mobile phones in tourism.

UKD receives investment proposals worth Rs 74k-cr

DEHRADUNN, SEPT 29 /--/

Investment proposals worth Rs 74,000 crore have been received by the Uttarakhand government and memorandum of understanding (MoUs) to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore signed with firms ahead of an investors' summit to be held here next month, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said Friday. Attributing the huge volume of investments coming to the state to a sustained campaign conducted by his government to generate interest among entrepreneurs, the chief minister said it was much more than what was initially expected.

"MoUs worth Rs 40,000 crore only were expected initially but the road shows held by the state government in the last few months and the investors' summit elicited a great response from entrepreneurs. The result is that till now investment proposals worth Rs 74,000 crore in the state have been received and MoUs to the tune of Rs 90,000 crore have been signed," Rawat said at a programme to unveil nine

policies prepared by different departments to boost investments in the state. "Destination Uttarakhand: Investors Summit 2018", to be held here on October 7-8, will herald the beginning of a new era for the state in terms of investments, he said.

Describing the development of hill areas as the priority of the state government, he said investments in solar energy, food processing, herbal, organic, Ayush and tourism sectors in which entrepreneurs have shown great interest will primarily benefit the people of hill areas. The nine policies unveiled Friday to encourage investments include Mega Industrial Investment & Employment Promotion Policy 2018, Uttarakhand Solar Energy Policy, Uttarakhand Ayush Policy 2018, Biotechnology Policy 2018-23, Power Generation from Pural and other types of Biomass Policy 2018, Uttarakhand Aroma Policy 2018, for establishment of Optical Fiber and Mobile Tower Guidelines Policy, Uttarakhand Electric Vehicle Manufacturing E.V Usage Promotion and Related Services



Infrastructure Policy 2018 and Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2018. Local people will be given projects up to 5MW on priority as per Uttarakhand Solar Energy Policy, Power Generation from Pural and other types of Biomass Policy 2018 will be important for the livelihood of people of hill areas, Rawat said. The chief minister said the policies were formulated incorporating suggestions made by entrepreneurs and business leaders at the road shows and after an in-depth study of the investment promotion policies of other states. (PTI)

Apollo-SBI Card launched

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KOLKATA, SEPT 29 /--/

SBI Card and Apollo Hospitals Group announced their partnership to launch the Apollo SBI Card - a first of its kind co-branded credit card in the healthcare segment. Designed to meet the complete healthcare needs of members of the family, the Apollo SBI Card is a pioneering product that offers an unmatched value proposition to consumers in the health and wellness space.

Apollo SBI cardholders receive complimentary OneApollo membership through which they can enjoy exclusive discounts and savings of upto 10% on health check-ups, diagnostic services, pharmacy products, physiotherapy etc. Through this membership cardholders can avail complimentary services such as consultations, dental screening, home sample collection, counselling with diabetic educator or an dedicated relationship manager at Apollo Cradle etc. Cardholders can avail savings and benefits of up to Rs 40,000 through the OneApollo membership.



(L to R): Dinesh Khara, MD - Global Banking & Subsidiaries, SBI; Rajnish Kumar, Chairman, SBI, Shobana Kamineni, Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospital Enterprise and Hardayal Prasad, MD & CEO, SBI Card at Apollo SBI Card launch event. -EOI Photo

Chairman, SBI said, "SBI Card has been on a consistent growth path over last few years. Its customer centric business approach and focus on delivering innovative, market leading products have ensured rapid growth and made it one of the largest card issuers in India. The tie up with Apollo will enable us to bring a unique value proposition to consumers in the country's expanding healthcare and wellness

segment. SBI and Apollo are both leading brands trusted by millions of consumers and this association will help drive growth for SBI Card while offering Indian consumers an exceptional payment product that maximises value on health and wellness spends" Hardayal Prasad, MD & CEO, SBI Card said. "We are delighted to partner with Apollo to introduce the Apollo SBI Card, the country's first cobrand

credit card in healthcare segment. Increasing health consciousness and focus on overall wellness is a growing trend among Indian consumers across ages, making Health and Wellness one of the fastest growing segments at present. With the launch of Apollo SBI Card, we are pleased to bring our consumers a powerful, comprehensive product that takes care of their healthcare needs at all stages of their lifecycle."

Weather Report			
	MinTemp.	MaxTemp.	Weather
Gangtok			
30-Sep, 2018	17.0	23.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	17.0	22.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	17.0	22.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	21.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Gyalshing			
30-Sep, 2018	17.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	17.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	16.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Mangan			
30-Sep, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	19.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	27.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Namchi			
30-Sep, 2018	18.0	26.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	18.0	25.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	18.0	24.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	24.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Tadong			
30-Sep, 2018	19.0	30.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	19.0	29.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
03-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
04-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
05-Oct, 2018	18.0	28.0	Rain or Thundershowers
Darjeeling			
30-Sep, 2018	14.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
01-Oct, 2018	14.0	19.0	Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers
02-Oct, 2018	15.0	19.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
03-Oct, 2018	14.0	18.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of moderate rain or Thunderstorm
04-Oct, 2018	14.0	18.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm
05-Oct, 2018	14.0	18.0	Partly cloudy sky with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm

Source: IMD