



## INDIA NEWSLETTER

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### **Larger outsourcing contracts may boost IT revenues in FY19**

The twin trends of outsourcing larger technology contracts and Fortune 1000 companies awarding work that was earlier done internally to its vendors have led analysts and information technology executives to suggest that the sector could grow faster in the year starting 1 April. These trends are the third positive development for India's \$167 billion information technology (IT) outsourcing sector, after the first six months of the current fiscal saw IT firms adding more employees and raising salaries of some of them by as much as 40%. The ability of IT companies to offer solutions through mobility and data crunching platforms that allows their clients, from Citigroup Inc. to Walmart Inc., to do their business more efficiently saw the technology vendors generating more revenue from stand-alone deals signed in 2018 than ever before.

The largest IT services companies, including TCS, Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp., Infosys Ltd and Wipro Ltd, shared this optimism when they briefed analysts at an event organized by outsourcing research firm HFS Research in New York on 12 and 13 December.

### **India remains fastest growing economy ahead of China despite ups, downs**

India remained ahead of China to retain the tag world's fastest growing large economy withstanding several ups and downs, spike in oil prices and global trade war like situation during 2018. Indian economy's roller-coaster ride during the year gone by was best captured by the GDP growth. In the first quarter of 2018-19 ending June 30, it grew at an impressive 8.2 per cent, after 7.7 per cent in the first three months of the year. Then it slipped to 7.1 per cent in the next quarter ending September 30. Fitch Ratings slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2 per cent for

the current fiscal, from 7.8 per cent projected in September, citing higher financing cost and reduced credit availability.

According to Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar, the focus of the government in 2019 will be to expedite reforms with a view to accelerate growth. Experts, however, expect that moderating growth can force the government to spend more before the next general elections and that could lead to fiscal pressures. Global factors such as sudden zoom in crude prices (which are now easing), strengthening US dollar, slowing growth in the wake of US-China trade war and the US Federal Reserve hiking interest rate for the fourth time in a year did take the toll on India's economy.

### **Government has launched several initiatives recently to promote research in Higher Educational Institutions**

Ministry of Human Resource Development and its organizations like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are undertaking various research projects in the different Higher Educational Institutions. Department of Science & Technology and Department of Biotechnology also provide funding support to higher educational institutions for various research projects. These research projects are both domestic and also with international collaboration. As informed by the UGC, it has released a sum of Rs. 82.35 crores to 819 projects under the Major Research Project Scheme from 2016-17 to 2018-19 (till December 2018). UGC is actively involved in promoting research through international collaborations through important initiatives like UK India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI), Israel Science Foundation (ISF), Indo Norway Cooperation Programme (NCP), Indo German Programme (IGP), 21st Century Knowledge Initiative with United States of America. They aim at joint research projects

with collaboration between Indian institutions and foreign institutions. In the last one year, around Rs. 46 crores is spent on 83 joint research projects.

### **India's GDP expected to grow at 7.3 pc in 2018-19**

India's GDP is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in the fiscal year 2018-19, and 7.5 per cent in the following two years, the World Bank has forecast, attributing it to an upswing in consumption and investment. The bank said India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world. "India's growth outlook is still robust. India is still the fastest growing major economy," World Bank Prospects Group Director Ayhan Kose told PTI in an interview. In India, the growth has accelerated, driven by an upswing in consumption, and investment growth has firmed as the effects of temporary factors wane, the World Bank said in its latest report.

Domestic demand has strengthened as the benefits of structural reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST) harmonisation and bank recapitalisation take effect. According to the report, India's GDP is forecast to grow by 7.3 per cent in FY2018/19 and 7.5 per cent thereafter, in line with June forecasts.

### **India's largest startup ecosystem inaugurated in Kerala**

India got its largest startup ecosystem Sunday when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated here a 1.8-lakh-square-foot facility housing incubation set-ups across a string of segments in modern technology. The Integrated Startup Complex under the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) includes the ultra modern facilities of Maker Village that promotes hardware startups, the BioNest that promotes medical technologies, BRINC which is the country's first international accelerator for hardware startups; BRIC which aids developing solutions for cancer diagnosis and care, and a Centre of Excellence set up by industry majors such as UNITY. Overall the

Kerala Government is working for the state to have a total area of 2.3 crore sq ft of IT space (up from 1.3 crore sq ft last year). The opening of the new complex at the Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ) is a major step towards achieving the objective, Vijayan said in his speech at KINFRA Hi Tech Park, Kalamassery.

### **India pips Japan to be second largest global steel producer**

India has surged past Japan to become the second largest steel producer in the world with expansion in output backed by a sound growth in demand. According to World Steel Association, India produced 96.92 million tonnes of crude steel during the first eleven months of 2018 compared to 92.39 million tonnes during the same period of 2017, representing a growth of 4.9 per cent. India's apparent steel use per capita for finished steel products stood at 66.2 kilogram (kg), way below the world average of 212.3 kg in 2017, which suggests that India has a huge unrealised potential for steel demand growth, he added. According to the association, India also likely to become second largest nation in steel use by the end of 2019 as the steel demand is expected to grow by 7.3 per cent. The Indian steel industry, after recovering from the twin shocks of demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST) reform, is one of the few bright spots for the world's steel industry which is projected to enter a sluggish growth era.

### **Govt plans to launch a national centre for artificial intelligence by July**

The Central government, in its quest to simplify governance, is planning to launch a national centre for artificial intelligence. The centre is expected to be operational by July and work has begun for the launch. To be known as the National Artificial Intelligence Centre, the unit will be part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

(MeitY), and will work in collaboration with other entities of the department such as the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), senior government officials said. To be known as the National Artificial Intelligence Centre, the unit will be part of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and will work in collaboration with other entities of the department such as the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Centre for Development

According to sources in the government, a centre like this could cost ~400-450 crore. The decision to set up the centre, government officials said, was taken based on reports from panels that were set up last year. The decision to set up the centre, government officials said, was taken based on reports from panels that were set up last year. The panels evaluated the use of AI for citizens, setting up a data platform, skilling and reskilling, research and development, and examining the challenges involving legal, regulatory, ethical and cybersecurity aspects.

## BILATERAL RELATIONS

The Honor'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi meeting with the Honor'ble Czech Prime Minister Mr Andrej Babis at the 9th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, 2019 on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Gandhinagar. Talks focused on trade, technology & investment; cooperation in defence, high-tech manufacturing, heavy engineering, automotive industry & civil aviation.



The Indian Ambassador to the Czech Republic and family with the Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš in India on 23rd January.

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TENDERS

Central Public Procurement Portal

<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>,

<http://www.worldoffoindia.com>

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

More details on Tenders in India are available at the following Embassy link: [http://www.eoiprague.gov.in/tenders\\_detail.php?year=2018](http://www.eoiprague.gov.in/tenders_detail.php?year=2018)



An interview of the Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic, H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, as published in the Pravo newspaper magazine of 18 January, 2019 with Headlines: The Indian Ambassador fell in love with Prague.

India celebrated its 69th anniversary of Republic Day on Saturday, January 26, 2019. On this occasion, a function was being held at 1000 hrs in the Embassy of India. Ambassador of India, Smt. Narinder Chauhan hoisted the Indian national flag followed by collective singing of the nation anthem, reading of Message of the President of India.



The Ambassador of India H.E. Mrs Narinder Chauhan with the Indian community, friends and well-wishers during the Republic Day celebrations at the Chancery in Prague on the morning of 26 January, 2019

## Indická velvyslankyně si Prahu zamilovala

ROZHOVOR

Získali jsme pozvání z ambasády Indické republiky v České republice. Naši hostitelkou byla sama indická velvyslankyně Narinder Chauhan. Během rozhovoru jsme se dozvěděli, co společného mají indický a český státní znak, čím ji potěšili čeští studenti během návštěvy indického prezidenta v Praze nebo jaké destinace v Indii by doporučila našim turistům.



V Indii žije přes 1,3 miliardy lidí, je to druhá nejlidnatější země světa a co do rozlohy však najdete i v Praze. Pochopitelně jde o indickou ambasádu se sídlem v pražské ulici Milady Horákové. Do areálu Pražského hradu je to odtud patnáct minut chůze, na Staroměstské náměstí dvacet.

„Mám velké štěstí, že si mohu prohlížet pražské památky. Během vánočních trhů jsem denně chodila na Staré Město, dokonce i když byla zima a přišlo.“ usmívá se velvyslankyně Narinder Chauhan, která pracovníce procestovala bez nadsázky celý svět: působila v Japonsku, Kanadě, Belgii, Thajsku i Srbsku. Na stůl od indické hostitelky dostávají čaj a také barfi, tradiční sladkosti z mléka a cizmové mouky. Můžeme začít.

**Pani velvyslankyně, máte v kanceláři něco osobního, co si berete vždy sebou?**  
Vždy musím mít v kanceláři fotografii Mahátmy Gándhího, otce mého národa. Jeho narozeniny se slaví po celém světě. Z říjen, datum Gándhího narození, je totiž zároveň Mezinárodním dnem menšičů. Letos oslavíme 150 let od jeho narození a k tomu výročí se budou vydávat pamětní známky, a to nejen v Indii, ale i v České republice.

**Je ještě něco dalšího, podobně osobního?**  
Důležitá je pro mě také indická vlajka a její symbolika: bílá barva zná mír, ta zelená zemědělství a prosperitu a oranžová obět našich zakladatelů (Indie získala nezávislost na Veliké Británii v roce 1947, pozn. red.). Ve středu vlajky můžete vidět dharna čákrú (ta reprezentuje právo, zákon – pozn. red.). Dharna čákrú mimochodem najdete také na indickém státním znaku, kde je



Czech Republic was partner country at Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, January 2019.

More than 50 Czech companies including Škoda Auto, Škoda Power, Home Credit, Bonatrans were represented at the Czech pavilion at Gandhinagar from 18. to 20, January 2019. A large business delegation was led by Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Andrej Babiš, accompanied by Minister of Industry and Trade Marta Nováková and other senior representatives of the political and business scene of the Czech Republic. Also a seminar on bilateral relations between India and the Czech Republic, entitled "The Czech Republic - Perspective Technological Partner of India on the Path to Common Prosperity".



Czech Prime Minister Babis inaugurated a Center for European Studies at Symbiosis University in Pune.



Czech Prime Minister Babis visited Czech car maker SKODA AUTO and Volkswagen Group India on January 19, 2019 and inaugurated a new technology centre at its Chakan manufacturing plant in Pune as part of its 2.0 India project.

**ITPO'S FAIRS IN PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI**

1	26th Convergence India and IoT Expo 2018 (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	March 7-9, 2019	Technologies related to Telecom, Broadcast, Cable and Satellite TV, Cloud & Big Data, IoT,	Mr. S.R. Sahoo General Manager Tel: 91-11-23371965 Fax: 91-11-23370257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in, hodbdd@itpo.gov.in
2	Aahar	March, 2019	Food, Beverages, Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in
3	Aajeevika	Feb/March, 2019	Rural Artisan/ Self Help Groups, Small and Medium Enterprises	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011- 23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in

***More information available at:***

[www.indiatrdefair.com](http://www.indiatrdefair.com)

[www.cii.in/CII\\_Events.aspx](http://www.cii.in/CII_Events.aspx)

[www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp](http://www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp)

[www.assochem.org/events/index.php](http://www.assochem.org/events/index.php)

[www.fieo.org/view\\_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0](http://www.fieo.org/view_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0)

[www.biztradeshows.com/india/](http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/)

## **1 USEFUL LINKS**

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**The National Portal of India** <http://india.gov.in>

**2 THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA** <HTTP://MEA.GOV.IN/>

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**India Public Diplomacy** [www.indiandiplomacy.in](http://www.indiandiplomacy.in)

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

**India In Business** <http://indiainbusiness.nic.in>

**Incredible India** [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)

**India Brand Equity Foundation** [www.ibef.org](http://www.ibef.org)

**India Trade Promotion Organization** [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)

**PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry** [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in)