

15 September 2012

Bilateral Events ...

IIFT, SMU jointly hosts conference on 'Resource Scarcities in a Rapidly Changing World'

Monday, September 10, 2012

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and Singapore Management University (SMU) jointly organized International Trade Conference on "Resource Scarcities in a Rapidly Changing World" on 7th September 2012 at SMU Administration Building, Singapore.

Mr Sunny Verghese, Group MD, Olam International delivered the Keynote address on the theme "Food Price Inflation: Cyclical or Structural". Mr Sunny Verghese wherein he discussed about the increasing population and demands of people and need for matching them by managing efficient supply and reducing wastage. He also discussed about the concept of conversion from 3Fs to 4Fs namely Food, Fibre, Feed + Fuel. He discussed about the effect of Meat Consumption on Grains by multiplier effect and its subsequent effect on water consumption by multiplier effect. He also talked about decreasing water levels in China and India and other parts of the world and its impact on grain and meat production. As a solution, he suggested drip irrigation— every drop for every crop and reducing (Cont on P. 8)



P Chidambaram, Union Finance Minister

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Finance ministry readies 5-point action plan to boost economy

12 Sep, 2012, 06.04AM IST, ET Bureau

The finance ministry has readied a five-point action plan that includes tough decisions on fuel subsidies to lift the overall investment sentiment, a key government official said on Tuesday.

The move comes amid heightened expectations of reforms in the next few days as the embattled government tries to dispel economic gloom. "The government is committed for now to address five critical priority areas," Arvind Mayaram, secretary in the department of economic affairs, said at a FICCI seminar on Tuesday. "We intend to take steps to correct the fiscal deficit."



Arvind Mayaram said the finmin has prepared a list of projects in road and petroleum sectors involving an investment of over Rs 1,50,000 crore

Quoting from finance minister P Chidambaram's first statement after taking over on August 6 that correction in fiscal deficit would also mean some hardship, Mayaram said it was time to be prepared for it.

"It (fiscal correction) will not happen in one day," he said. "This is very clear because correction of fiscal deficit will also mean a little hardship and that hardship will have to be across the board.... As the FM said the pain of correction will be felt by everyone, so I think, we need to be prepared for that." The government has been dithering on raising diesel and cooking gas prices for the fear of political backlash, mostly from its own key ally-Trinamool Congress. The delay has imposed heavy losses on state-run companies that added up to over 45,000 crore at the end of the first quarter. The finance ministry has already exhausted most of the Rs 43,000 crore provided for fuel subsidies in clearing dues of the last financial year. Mayaram conceded that the government may find it difficult to meet its fiscal deficit target of 5.1% of GDP for the current fiscal, though it would attempt to keep it "somewhere near it" but added measures taken to contain fiscal deficit will temper high inflation and also give room to the central bank to cut policy rates. "I think they (RBI) would be more amenable to growth once they know government is moving in that direction (fiscal consolidation)," he said.

No rash action in Voda case

TNN | Sep 4, 2012, 04.24AM IST

Finance minister P Chidambaram on Monday ruled out any "rash" action in the Rs 12,000-crore Vodafone



tax dispute and other similar cases, in a move that will provide further comfort to nervous investors. After a meeting with the country's top tax officials, Chidambaram said the government will wait for the recommendations of the committee under Parthasarathi Shome on indirect transfer of assets by foreign companies before taking a call. Asked if the government had issued instructions to officers since the law now empowered them to raise a demand, the minister said, "We have not given any instructions. Nothing will happen. Wherever there is litigation, litigation is there. Wherever replies have been given, replies will be considered. No special instruction has been given."

The FM said officers need to study the amendments to the Income Tax Act, the Supreme Court judgment in the Vodafone case as well as the attorney general's opinion before initiating any move. "All these have to be studied. They (assessing officers) are not going to act rashly. These are not small amounts on which you can take a rash decision," he said.

There are around a dozen cases where the revenue department has questioned the logic of not paying taxes in India. Pranab Mukherjee's move to amend the Income Tax Act retrospectively from 1962 to tax transactions involving foreign companies in India has come under strong criticism and Vodafone, which had won a case in Supreme Court, even threatened to initiate arbitration proceedings, prompting the government to initiate a review of the tax law and go slow on serving a fresh notice on the British telecom giant.

Mukherjee's move had generated severe criticism from across the globe with even the British chancellor of exchequer George Osborne and US treasury secretary Timothy Geithner expressing concern.

Since Mukherjee demitted office to contest the presidential polls on June 26, the government has been trying hard to reverse several of his tax policies, starting with the general anti-avoidance

rules (GAAR). While the Shome committee has submitted its draft report, Chidambaram said the government will only take a view after the final recommendations are submitted, which could be towards the end of the month.

The panel had suggested that the implementation of GAAR be deferred by three years and the law be amended to change the rules for taxing securities transactions. Chidambaram said a call on the timing of the amendments will be taken only after the final report is received. He reiterated that the government was keen to ensure a stable tax regime, which provided clarity and was non-adversarial.

PRESS RELEASE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1st September, 2012

The Government had constituted an Expert Committee on General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) to undertake stakeholder consultations and finalise the GAAR guidelines as well as a roadmap for implementation.

The Committee, chaired by Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, has submitted its draft report after analysis of the GAAR provisions and noting the concerns expressed by various shareholders. The draft report has recommended certain amendments in the Income-tax Act, 1961; guidelines to be prescribed under the Income-tax Rules, 1962; circular to clarify GAAR provisions along with illustrations; and other measures to improve tax administration specifically oriented towards GAAR matters.

The report of the Committee has been uploaded on the Finance Ministry website (<http://finmin.nic.in>) for comments from stakeholders and the general public.

The comments and suggestions on the draft report may be submitted by 15th September, 2012 at the email address (jstpl2@nic.in) or by post at the following address with "Comments on GAAR Committee" written on the envelope.

Joint Secretary (Tax Policy & Legislation-II),
Room No.152, North Block
Central Board of Direct Taxes
Department of Revenue
Ministry of Finance
North Block, New Delhi – 110001.

CBDT unveils guidelines for advance pricing arrangements

The Economic Times: August 31, 2012

India has allowed multinationals to ascertain in advance their potential tax liability relating to transactions with their Indian arms, a mechanism that can help address the frequent transfer pricing disputes.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes, the apex direct taxes body, has announced the guidelines for advance pricing arrangements (APAs), marking a shift from aggressive approach that resulted in tax demand of over one lakh crore rupees on transfer pricing cases in the last two financial years. "The notification of the rules, which were much awaited, will provide greater clarity to taxpayers on the APA programme," said Vijay Iyer, Partner & Transfer Pricing Leader, Ernst & Young. Transfer pricing refers to the pricing of assets, tangible and intangible, services, and funds transferred within an organisation in a cross border transaction to which tax administrations usually apply stringent rules to prevent transfer of income from high tax jurisdiction to low tax jurisdictions.

An APA agreement between a taxpayer and the tax authorities will set out in advance the method of determining the transfer pricing for transactions between a subsidiary and parent.

Once the company enters into such an agreement, it is absolved from the future litigation and also lot of compliance procedures. "The pre-filing consultation meeting with the CBDT would be one of the key items in the APA application process, and it is good to see that the taxpayers can get a first-hand feel of the CBDT's thoughts on proposed transactions which the taxpayers plan to enter into with their associated enterprises," Iyer said.

The APA regime, as per the guidelines, will comprise unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral programmes. The rules will help provide certainty about their tax liability to multinationals who complained against aggressive stance of tax authorities in transfer pricing cases. The directorate of transfer Pricing had detected mispricing of Rs. 67,768 crore in 2010-11 and Rs 43,531 crore in 2011-12, according to the finance ministry data. The finance ministry has already set up an APA directorate that will allow MNCs to avail the facility right away.

"The APA team would include "experts" in economics, statistics, law or any other field as nominated by director general of income tax. This will surely complement the efforts of taxpayers & Revenue in concluding APAs," said Rahul Mitra, leader, transfer pricing, PwC India. The APA regime was announced in the budget and but the framework for entering into these arrangements had to be established.

Taxpayers need to file an annual compliance report every year within a month from the date of filing the Income Tax Return. The Income tax Officer has to complete the audit of this report within six months from the date of filing. Experts are, however, wary about tax authorities assuming significant powers and say effectiveness of APAs would depend on the attitude of the officials. "Success of APA would depend on how the authorities negotiating the APA would deal with the applicant especially during the pre-filing meeting and also in the initial period of filing an APA", said Mudigonda Vishweshwar, Senior Director, Deloitte in India.

Tax experts have also feel some check is needed on the powers of tax authorities to amend or cancel agreements. "The CBDT has assumed wide powers to amend the agreement including right to cancel etc. This is uncalled for and in the event it's a bilateral agreement we have to recognize that just as tax treaty cannot be amended unilaterally, a bilateral and multilateral APA cannot be altered without the foreign governments approval," said Mukesh Bhutani, chairman, BMR Advisors.

RBI relaxes ECB norms for infrastructure companies

Source: PTI

Giving a boost to infrastructure sector funding, the Reserve Bank of India, on Tuesday, relaxed the external commercial borrowings (ECB) norms to help companies raise more funds from overseas markets. The RBI has allowed companies engaged in the infrastructure sector to raise bridge finance from overseas markets under the automatic route.

"On a review, it has been decided to allow refinancing of such bridge finance (if in the nature of buyers'/suppliers' credit) availed of, with an ECB under the automatic route," the central bank said in a notification. **(Cont on P. 5)**

PRESS RELEASE

(Ministry of Commerce, 31 August, New Delhi)

INDIA ASEAN PLEDGE TO CONCLUDE SERVICES AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS BY DECEMBER ANAND SHARMA TASKS NEGOTIATORS TO INCLUDE PRODUCT SPECIFIC RULES OF ORIGIN IN FTA

At the 10th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultations in Siem Reap, Cambodia today, Union Minister for Commerce, Industry & Textiles, Shri Anand Sharma, and the ASEAN Economic Ministers reviewed the impressive growth in total trade since the signing of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. Since 2011, bilateral trade has increased by 43% to reach USD 79.8 billion making India the 6th largest trading partner of ASEAN. The Ministers tasked the Senior Officials to start review of the implementation of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement including the possibility for a package of Product-Specific Rules of Origin to further facilitate trade between both the regions.

The Ministers agreed to intensify negotiations towards conclusion of the ASEAN-India Trade in Services and Investment Agreement. This would facilitate the beginning of ASEAN-India discussions on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which would bring together a market of more than 50% of the world's population and 30% of the world's GDP. India would be hosting a meeting of the Working Group on Services and Investment in the second half of September 2012 so as to conclude negotiation before the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in December in New Delhi.

The Ministers discussed their participation at the Second ASEAN-India Business Fair (AIBF) from December 18-20, Cambodia, as ASEAN Chair, confirmed its participation and assured that the ASEAN Member States look forward to a successful AIBF back to back with the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit. The Ministers discussed preparations for the Commemorative Summit and related events such as the ASEAN-India Car Rally and the INS Sudarshini expedition to ASEAN countries. Shri Sharma invited his counterparts to the flag down ceremony of the Car Rally at Guwahati on December 17, 2012. Shri Sharma also had bilateral meeting with his counterpart from Myanmar and discussed various means and ways to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation. They also discussed expansion of items under border trades. Myanmar welcomed investments from India in the fields of agriculture, mining, oil and gas, infrastructure development, etc. The Ministers to take the discussions further during Shri Sharma's visit to Myanmar later this year.

Sebi may seek basis of IPO price bands

<http://m.timesofindia.com/business/india-business/Sebi-may-look-for-basis-of-IPO-price-bands/articleshow/16229042.cms>

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) may soon ask companies and merchant bankers to limit any business transactions among them to the bare minimum and to provide investors with a detailed analysis of how they discover the IPO price range. The proposed steps are aimed at safeguarding the investors' interest and ring-fencing the initial public offer (IPO) market from possible over-pricing of the public offers through a nexus between the company promoters and merchant bankers, a senior official said. Sebi has already made it mandatory for the merchant bankers to provide a track-record of the offers managed by them, while it has also an-

nounced steps like stricter eligibility criteria for tapping the capital markets through IPOs.

Besides, a proposal is already underway to ask the promoters and merchant bankers to provide a capital protection guarantee for a certain period to part of shares allotted to retail investors in IPOs through a mandatory 'safety net' provision. Sebi is considering further IPO reforms as part of its efforts to revive this segment as a preferred investment route for retail investors, which used to be the case till a few years ago, but the situation has changed after a dismal post-IPO performance of many companies in recent years, the regulatory official said.

While investigating certain cases of public offer-related irregularities, Sebi came across instances of some promoters and merchant bankers together manipulating the public offers, as well as the post-listing share trades.

Cont from P.3. Under the earlier provision, the companies were required to take permission of the RBI for raising bridge finance, which is a kind of interim arrangement for short-term credit.

Capital goods

The RBI through a separate notification, has also allowed companies in the infrastructure sector to raise ECB up to a maximum period of five years for importing capital goods. Under the new norms, trade credit should not be for a period of less than 15 months and also not in the nature of short-term rollover finance. Earlier, the companies could raise ECBs for a period ranging from one year to three years. The RBI notification further said that the all-inclusive costs, which include arranger fee, upfront fee, management fee among others, of such borrowing should not be over 3.5 % of six months Libor. The credit facility would be available up to \$20 million per transaction for import of capital goods as classified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The RBI has also relaxed the ECB norms for repayment of rupee loans within the overall ceiling of \$20 billion. As per the RBI notification, the permissible limit of ECB has been increased from 50 per cent to 75% of the average foreign exchange earnings realised during the past three financial years or 50 per cent of the highest forex earning in a year. The limit of the maximum ECB which can be availed of by an individual or group company under the scheme has been pegged at \$3 billion.

Easier investment norms for insurance cos on the anvil



The Hindu, NEW DELHI, September 5, 2012

After detailed deliberations with public sector bank chiefs, mutual funds, industry leaders

and his taxmen as part of his efforts to draw up a roadmap for shoring up the sagging economy and revert to a higher growth path, Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, held a meeting with public sector insurance companies to devise a strategy for attracting a larger flow of their long-term funds into the infrastructure sector. With the chiefs of the public sector insurance entities pressing for easing of investment norms to enable higher earnings on premium collection, the Finance Ministry is likely to look into the changes in investment guidelines that would be required to attract more funds for infrastructure development, considering the proposed \$1 trillion that would be required for the sector during the XII Plan (2012-17). Interacting with reporters after the meeting, Financial Services Secretary D. K. Mittal said that while the issue of channelising insurance funds into productive sectors, particularly infrastructure, was discussed, no decision was taken and another meeting would be held soon. "For that [greater flow of insurance funds into infrastructure], what changes are to be made in the regulations by the Central Government or by the Income Tax Department..everything has been looked at," Mr. Mittal said while stressing that the meeting was to understand the problems of the insurance companies. "This meeting was basically for understanding, as a part of a series of meetings that FM is holding with different groups, what we can do to prop up the economy," he said. Under the current investment norms, life insurance companies are permitted to invest up to a maximum of 50 per cent of their funds in government securities, 15 per cent in infrastructure bonds and the balance 35 per cent in other investment grade corporate bonds and equities. With the life insurers' investment corpus estimated at about Rs.13 lakh crore, only about 20% of this quantum gets routed to the infrastructure sector. As per the existing guidelines of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), insurance companies are allowed to invest only in the highest credit rated category of 'AAA' or 'AA' debt paper. Indicating the need for an easing of norms in this regard, IRDA Chairman J. Harinarayan said: "There is a need to revisit investment norms for insurance companies..Will look at revising investment regulations"

Govt OK's 21 Rs 2,410 cr FDI proposals

The Indian express, New Delhi, Tue Sep 11 2012

The government today said it has cleared 21 foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals worth Rs 2,410 crore, including eight from the pharmaceutical sector. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in its meeting held on August 24 had approved 21 FDI proposals, which include 8 proposals worth Rs 1,842.55 crore relating FDI in brownfield pharmaceutical sector, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The board, headed by Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Arvind Mayaram, cleared the proposal of Pfizer Ltd for "induction of foreign equity in an operating-cum-investing company to carry out the business in pharmaceutical sector" to the tune of Rs 800 crore. Also Sterlite Networks, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, plan to bring in FDI worth Rs 500 crore for telecom business was cleared. Further, Mumbai based Arch Pharmedlabs' proposal for inducting Rs 372 crore of foreign investment for manufacture and sale of active pharmaceutical ingredients has been approved. FIPB also approved the proposal of The Wall Street Journal for change in the foreign collaborator by way of overseas merger within group companies.

Besides, nod was given to D B Corp to increase the foreign equity participation "to carry out the business of publication of newspapers including the business of developing, editing, publishing, printing, distributing and marketing newspapers and other publications and FM radio business," the statement said.

The statement further said the eight pharma proposals cleared by the board are subject to certain conditions. These pharma companies would be required to maintain for the next five years the quantitative level of NLEM (National List of Essential Medicines) drugs production annually at the time of induction of foreign investment. Besides, the Research & Development expenses annually incurred by

(*Cont on P. 7*)

Five Indian firms among world's most innovative

IANS, Washington, September 07, 2012

Five Indian companies including Larsen & Toubro, Hindustan Unilever and Infosys are ranked on Forbes magazine's list of The World's Most Innovative Companies topped by four US companies.

Larsen & Toubro with an annual sales growth of 19% is ranked ninth in the world followed by Hindustan Unilever (12) with 11.4%. Infosys (19) comes third with 12.7 percent growth thanks to what the US business magazine called a lower "innovation premium."

This measures the difference between the value of the company's existing businesses and its expected future innovations. Companies must also have \$10 billion in market capitalization and spend at least one percent of their asset base on research and development. Tata Consultancy Services (29) with 19.5% was fourth among Indian companies with Sun Pharmaceutical Industries (38) with a 14.6% growth bringing up the rear.

Four US companies - Cloud computing king Salesforce.com, drug major Alexion Pharmaceuticals, internet retail giant Amazon.com and open source software leader Red Hat took the top four places.

Forbes said its analyses show at least three key things that the innovative companies do to create and sustain an innovation premium. These were: How well companies leverage people, process, and philosophies, differentiates the best in class from the next in class when it comes to keeping innovation alive and delivering an innovation premium year after year. Forbes also featured SD Shibulal, co-founder and CEO of Infosys (#19 this year; #15 last), calling him "both observer and experimenter." In his 30 years at Infosys Shibulal says "there is nothing that I have not done."

He was the first sales person, has done account management, launched its internet consulting practice, is a network expert, helped design and launch its first ecommerce application, and has been the head of both delivery and sales, the magazine noted. To get a new perspective, Shibulal took a five year sabbatical to work for another firm, Sun Microsystems, Forbes said. He's also known as an experimenter and "gadget freak" and revered as a "gizmo guru." Forbes said it had found that successful leaders personally understand how innovation happens and they try to imprint their behaviours as processes and philosophies within their organization.

Cont from P. 6.the investee company at the highest level in the three preceding years to the induction of foreign investment will be maintained in value terms annually over the next five years post induction of FDI, the statement added.

Other proposals which have been approved are those of Sutures India, Bangalore (Rs 200 crore), B Braun Singapore, Singapore (Rs 248.40 crore), Stelence Pharmscience, Bangalore (Rs 100 crore) and Zim Laboratories, Nagpur (Rs 50.44 crore). India allows FDI in most of the sectors through automatic route, but approval of FIPB is required in certain sensitive sectors, like telecom. FDI inflows in the country in 2011-12 was USD 36.50 billion.

'India growing faster than many nations'

The Indian Express, New Delhi , Tue Sep 04 2012

At 5.5 per cent, India's GDP growth is better than many countries in the current environment of global economic slowdown though the focus should be on how the current turbulent times are sailed through, advisory firm KPMG India's top executive has said.

"Whether it (GDP growth) is 5-5.5 per cent or 7-8 per cent, the most important part is that the country is still growing. If you look at the rest of the world...India is still growing at 5 to 5.5 per cent, its a slower growth but its a growth," KPMG India Chief Operating Officer Akhil Bansal said on the sidelines of AIMA PSU Summit here today.

India's economic growth slipped to 5.5 per cent during April-June of 2012-13, the lowest Q1 performance in a decade, because of falling activity in manufacturing, mining and quarrying. World's largest economy, the US, grew at 1.5 per cent in 2011 (versus 3.1 per cent in 2010) while, Germany's GDP grew at 3 per cent (3.7 per cent in 2010) He said the focus should be on how this turbulent journey is sailed through. On maintaining sustainability for the PSUs in the wake of global economic

and domestic slowdown, Bansal said from the economic perspective, there is no difference for the public sector or the private sector. "Public sector being large organisations, they carry little more responsibility than the private sector...its more important to maintain survival during this turbulent time for the public sector", Bansal said. However, he said more collaboration between the PSUs and the private sector will accelerate the de-

Rural spend outstrips urban: Crisil

The Hindu, CHENNAI, August 29, 2012

Time to stop worrying over Eurozone troubles and start seeing the silver lining right here in India. Rural spending has finally outpaced urban consumption, for the first time in nearly 25 years, mainly due to a strong increase in income and non-farming opportunities, according to a recent report released by rating agency Crisil.

Between 2009-10 and 2011-12, spending by rural India was Rs.3.75 lakh crore – much higher than the Rs.2.9 lakh crore spent by their urban counterparts. "From 2004-05 to 2009-10, rural construction jobs rose by over 80 per cent, indicating an increase in non-farm jobs. In addition to this, the intra-state rural-urban migration rose, thereby increasing the remittances sent to rural India which boosted consumption as well," said the report, quoting National Sample Survey Organisation data. According to the study, the increase was also due to a rise in household income due to government-initiated employment generation schemes. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment was pointed out as being responsible for fuelling employment in nearly 27 per cent of rural households. However, underneath the silver lining, Crisil warns that rural boom must be sustained to remain as an important source of demand. "It is critical to substitute short-term income boosters, such as government job schemes, with durable job opportunities. This is vital in light of the pressure on public finances – which would make it difficult to hike spending on similar schemes in the future," said the report.

India is world leader in concentrated solar heating, says Ministry

The Hindu Business Line: August 22, 2012



With some 80 different applications of concentrated solar heating in practice in the country, India is the world leader in CSH, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has said.

When you speak of solar energy, you think mainly of solar panels and electricity flowing from them. Then you would think of appliances such as solar water heaters and solar lamps. But the big use of solar energy lies in directly using the sun's heat for use in industry. Lots of manufacturing units require just low-to-medium temperature heat, up to 250 degrees Celsius, mostly for drying stuff. Today, this heating is done by burning fuel oil, coal or biomass. Here is where India scores, both in terms of potential and also applications developed, says the Ministry. "India is leading the world with around 80 CSH applications," it has said in a background note to UNDP-GEF sponsored project for nurturing CSH technologies in India. Without going into details of the 80 applications, the Ministry has noted that the predominant use of concentrated solar heating is in "institutional cooking".

In India, the current CSH market is about 2,000-3,000 square metres a year (of the concentrated area), says MNRE. The Global Environment Fund project will complement MNRE's efforts of CSH technology, awareness, capacity, market and financial barriers and increase CSH sales to 15,000 square metres by 2016. Direct emission reductions from the demonstration and replication projects

during the 5-year project duration will be 39,200 tonnes of carbon-dioxide equivalent. Over the economic lifetime of 20 years for the project supported CSH applications, cumulative direct emission reductions will be 315,000 tonnes of CO₂, the Ministry says.

Bilateral News

Cont from P.1 IIFT, SMU jointly hosts conference on 'Resource Scarcities in a Rapidly Changing World'

post-harvest losses. The keynote speaker was followed by two panel discussions in which saw the participation of experts from McKinsey & Co, Noble Group, Tata Group, Platts, Standard Chartered Bank, Institute of Water Policy and Singapore Management University. The first panel for the day included speakers like Mr.Kasi, V B, Regional Director, Noble Resources Pte.Ltd (as moderator);Mr. AbahOfon, Agriculture Analyst, Standard Chartered Bank and Prof Dennis Wichelns, Director, Institute of Water Policy, Singapore. They discussed about the need to ensure Food and Water Security, specifically in present times when the inventory of many grains is not enough to feed the world for more than two months. The speakers thus emphasized on the need to improve supply chain, storage facilities; increase productivity in a sustainable manner and to reducing wastage. The second and the last panel for the day had experts like Mr. K V Rao, Managing Director, Trust Energy Resources Pte Ltd. (A TATA POWER COMPANY) - Moderator, Mr.Kaushik Das, Partner, McKinsey &Co ,Singapore Pte Ltd, Ms Shailaja Nair, Managing Editor, Asia Central Editing Desk at Platts, Mr. Samuel Owen, Adjunct Faculty, SMU, Mr. Pinaki Das, Managing Director, Gold Matrix Resources Pte Ltd and the focus of the discussion was Energy and Natural Resources Supply. They talked about various factors that have impacted commodity markets, speculation being one of them. They also discussed the increasing investments in the commodities in the recent past, and need to further increase these investments. Also, alternate sources of energy like shale gas and their feasibility to become the main source of energy were also discussed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS >>>> INDIA

India-Asia Pacific Pharma Business Meet

Date: 26-28 September, 2012

Venue: Hyderabad, India

Organizer: Pharmexcil (set up by Ministry of Commerce, Government of India)

Contact Person:

Mr. Raghuvveer Kini (Executive Director)

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council

Email: info@pharmexcil.com Website: www.pharmexcil.com

Details: The Council proposes to invite about 5 (five) major importers/distributors, Govt. procurement agencies, associations / journalists and 1 or 2 officials from FDA/Health Ministry who are taking care of drug registrations from Singapore. With the financial assistance from Govt. of India, Pharmexcil will be sponsoring the visits of these invitees by bearing the cost of travel by economy class & local hospitality during the conference.

Chemical Meet 2012 (12th Reverse Buyer Seller Meet)

Date: 4-6 October, 2012

Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, India

Organizer: CHEMEXCIL

Contact Person:

Ms. Smita Samant (Executive Director)

CHEMEXCIL

Email: balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in

Details: the Council would like to invite two/three member delegation from Singapore in respect of the following products for the Chemical Meet: Dyes & Dye Intermediate, Inorganic & Organic Chemicals Industry, Specialty Chemicals viz., Leather Chemicals, Oil Field, Chemicals Industry, Construction Chemicals & Textile Auxiliaries. The Council would be extending to and fro air fare by economy class as well as complete local hospitality (excluding liquor, laundry services, telephone calls and other expenditure) for the delegates visiting the Reverse Buyer Seller Meet.

Auto Ancillary Show

Date: 18-21 October, 2012

Venue: Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, India

Organizer: India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)

Contact Person:

Mr. D.K. Nangia (Regional Manager)

Email: itpo@itpomumbai.com Website: www.autoancillaryshow.com

Details: The show, along with its accompanying activities, is a cost – effective opportunity for component manufacturers & technology suppliers to showcase new products / technologies, interact with & understand the new requirements of clients, network with automobile manufacturers / vendors, meet new clients and buyers, enter into technology tie-ups, joint ventures etc.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS >>>> SINGAPORE

Promotional Road Show in Singapore for the 2nd India-ASEAN Business Fair & Conclave

Date : 27-28 September, 2012

Contact Person : Mr. George Abraham (Resident Representative, FICCI) at George@gagrp.com

Details: India is hosting the 2nd India-ASEAN Business Fair & Business Conclave as a precursor to the historic SEAN-India Commemorative Summit being held to mark completion of 20 years of Dialogue Level Partnership and 10 years of Summit Level Partnership between India and ASEAN. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & industry (FICCI) is organising the event as the lead agency. The details of the IABF are available on the website www.india-aseanbusinessfair.com

TENDER NOTICES >>>> INDIA

Tender invitation for supply of Ash Fusion Temperature Determinator

Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited, URL : www.etender.ongc.co.in

Closing Date : 24th September, 2012

Tender invitation for purchase of Kelly Spinners and Hydraulic Power casing tong & Hyd. Power Unit (Electric driven)

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation limited (ONGC), URL : www.etender.ongc.co.in

Closing Date : 8th October, 2012

Tender invitation for

- **Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Micro Milling Machine**
- **Supply, Erection, Commissioning and prove out of Cementing Station for Cementing of Curved Optical Components**
- **Supply, Installation and Commissioning Manufacturing Defect Analyser**

Opto Electronics Factory, Ministry of Defence, URL : www.tenders.gov.in

Closing Date : 15th October, 2012

Tender invitation for for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Truck Mounted Wire-line Winches

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation limited (ONGC), URL : www.etender.ongc.co.in

Closing Date : 19th October, 2012

Exim Bank raises Rs 1,120 cr in Singapore market

The Hindu Business Line: September 11, 2012

Mumbai: Export-Import Bank of India has raised Singapore \$250 million (around Rs 1,118 crore) through five-year bonds. The coupon on the bonds, which have been issued at par, is 3.375 per cent. This is the longest tenor of publicly listed Singapore dollar bonds by an Indian entity so far. According to David Rasquinha, Executive Director, Exim Bank, the resources will be utilised to support export transactions, government-backed lines of credit, trade credit, and to fund overseas acquisitions by Indian corporates. Of Exim Bank's loan book of about \$11 billion, about half is in the form of foreign currency loans, said Rasquinha. The Singapore \$250 million bond issue is part of Exim Bank's umbrella \$2.5 billion medium term note programme.

Strongly Subscribed

According to Rajiv Nayar, Head of Capital Markets Origination at Citi India, Exim Bank's inaugural five-year S\$250 million bond was strongly subscribed by several regional asset managers and private banks, resulting in tight pricing of 3.375 per cent.

Isro's 100th mission: PSLV-C21 puts 2 foreign satellites in orbit

TNN / Sep 9, 2012, 10.18AM IST

INDIA CREATES SPACE HISTORY WITH PSLV-C21



The Indian space odyssey crossed a historic landmark on Sunday when a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C21) put in orbit two foreign satellites.

It marked the 100th space mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) which started the journey in 1975 with the launch of its first satellite 'Aryabhata.'

Among those who watched the majestic rocket lift off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, 100km north of Chennai, was Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

At the end of a 51-hour countdown that started on Friday, PSLV-C21 lifted off at 9.53am. After 17 minutes and 49 seconds, it injected the first satellite, the French SPOT-6, into orbit. Soon, the second satellite, the Japanese Proiteres was put in orbit. There were, however, some anxious moments when the trajectory on the giant screens at the mission control room showed the rocket's blip deviate slightly midflight, which appeared to have been corrected later.

Scientists cheered and shook hands as the mission was pronounced a success and the Prime Minister congratulated the scientists.

Useful Links:

Government of India's website	www.india.gov.in
Ministry of External Affairs (ITP Division)	www.indiainbusiness.nic.in
High Commission of India	www.hcsingapore.gov.in
Investment Commission of India	http://investmentcommission.in
Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion	http://dipp.nic.in
Reserve Bank of India	www.rbi.org.in
Ministry of Corporate Affairs	www.mca.gov.in
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	http://commerce.nic.in
Ministry of Finance	http://finmin.nic.in
Matters relating to Excise & Customs	www.cbec.gov.in
Matters relating to Income tax	http://incometaxindia.gov.in
Directorate General of Foreign Trade	http://dgft.delhi.nic.in
National Centre for Trade Information	www.ncti-india.com
India Brand Equity Foundation	www.ibef.org

Industry/Trade Organizations

Trade related Exhibition & Events	www.indiatradefair.com
Confederation of Indian Industry	www.cii.in
Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry	www.ficci.com
Federation of Indian Export Organizations	www.fieo.com
EEPC India (Export Promotion Council)	www.eepcindia.org

Sourcing of Products

www.indiamart.com
www.indianyellowpages.com
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