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Newsletter

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India to seek ease of workers' movement at WTO
Faced with new issues of ecommerce and investment entering multilateral trade negotiations, India will counter with its own push and demand for easier movement of professionals across countries at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) next month.

India will, for the first time, organise a seminar at WTO to revive other countries' interest in improving workforce mobility in the wake of rising protectionism, a top official told ET. "We're organising a workshop on Mode 4 of services to bring in the key proponents and opponents of the subject," the official said.

Movement of natural persons is one of the four ways through which services can be supplied internationally. Called 'Mode 4' in trade parlance, it includes natural persons such as independent professionals and contributes 1-2% of services trade globally, according to WTO.

Mode 4 is recognised by WTO as a means of supplying services. However, it does not concern persons seeking access to the employment market in the host country nor does it affect measures regarding citizenship, residence or employment on a permanent basis.

"Such a workshop is happening for the first time as movement of professionals is our core interest and this will help us in strategising for future," the official added.

The workshop, which was in the works for almost four years, will begin on October 10. Brazil, Argentina and Peru have supported India's proposal for the event.

STOCKTAKING EXERCISE

The commerce department is discussing India's stand on various issues at WTO with officials from departments of industrial policy and promotion, telecom, information technology, fisheries, food and agriculture.

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(Source: Economic Times, New Delhi)

Business-friendly policies, digital push boost retail FDI, says report
Government policies promoting ease of doing business, changing consumer behaviour due to digital influence, and revamped retail strategies have spurred foreign inflows into retail and wholesale trade, a report said.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), FDI in retail and wholesale trade nearly doubled to USD 4.4 billion in 2017-18, from USD 2.7 billion in 2016-17. (Reuters)

Government policies promoting ease of doing business, changing consumer behaviour due to digital influence, and revamped retail strategies have spurred foreign inflows into retail and wholesale trade, a report said. The government's proactive approach has been appreciated by global retailers who were sitting on the fence to invest into India, but have now taken a serious look, the joint report by Deloitte and Retailers Association of India (RAI) on foreign direct investment (FDI), launched at the Retail CFO Summit said.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), FDI in retail and wholesale trade nearly doubled to USD 4.4 billion in 2017-18, from USD 2.7 billion in 2016-17. The report expects the quantum of foreign investments flowing into the country to increase further "given the increasingly favourable macroeconomic environment in India and the government's consistent focus on making the business environment more conducive".

Quoting the UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2017, the report said, 20 per cent of the global executives favoured India as the host destination for investments during 2017-19, ranking the nation third after the US and China. The digital revolution is a main contributor to a paradigm shift in consumer behavioural patterns, according to the report, resulting in revamping of strategies formulated by retailers and the complete supply chain.

Increasing number of new retailers are rampantly turning digital in nature and are operating with vastly different business models than their more entrenched counterparts, it added. "Growth is largely driven around convenience for the consumer, which has helped e-commerce and online sales," Anil Talreja, partner, Deloitte India, told PTI.

Consumers especially of the age profile of under 32, are significantly driving progress and changing shopping habits, according to him. Listing out the challenges faced by the sector, Talreja said stumbling support sectors like infrastructure, and supply chain that are still not as advanced, and the rule of 30 per cent local sourcing, which requires companies to change their operating model, are the major roadblocks. It can be noted that the country's retail sector is expected to grow to USD 1.1 trillion by 2020, registering a CAGR of 8.79 per cent between 2000 and 2020.

(Source: Financial Express, New Delhi)

Battery Maker Eyes India's $300 Billion Lithium-Ion Market

(Bloomberg) -- Amara Raja Batteries Ltd., India's second-biggest traditional battery maker by value, will build a lithium-ion assembly plant as it seeks to grab a slice of the market for electric vehicle power packs that is set to grow to $300 billion by 2030.

The battery maker is in the process of building a 100 megawatt-hour assembly plant in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and the company is working closely with the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai, Chief Executive Officer S. Vijayanand said in an interview in New Delhi.

"There's incubation work going on because we are at a beginning stage both from the market-demand and product-development perspective," Vijayanand said. "We are very focused on building solutions for the early stage of electrification of vehicles and work with the OEM programs at the same time."

In India, where about 3 million fossil fuel-powered passenger vehicles sell annually, automakers including Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Tata Motors Ltd. and Ashok Leyland Ltd. are making EVs. Overseas companies such as Hyundai Motor Co. and Suzuki Motor Corp. are considering entering the new segment as the government plans to have green vehicles comprise about a third of its fleet by 2030. However, the shift will be gradual as India needs to push for EVs in a consistent manner over a long period of time and ensure that automobile jobs stay unaffected, according to government think-tank NITI Aayog.

E-Rickshaw Growth

The country's EV policy should be geared toward two-wheelers, three-wheelers and public transportation as it has a relatively low rate of car ownership, planning body NITI Aayog said in June. The government also needs to support the creation of charging infrastructure.

Amara Raja expects the market for supplying batteries to e-rickshaws, small privately-owned three-wheeler taxis, to grow at a compounded rate of about 20 percent over the next five years. The new lithium ion pack assembly is expected to generate business by the end of this financial year, ending March 2019, he said.

"Currently there's no lithium-ion battery cell production plant in India. Amara Raja will still have to import cells from manufacturers like LG Chem and Panasonic to assemble the packs," said Ali Izadi-Najafabadi, head of intelligent mobility at Bloomberg NEF. "It's target annual assembly volume is small. This suggests Amara Raja is primarily interested in winning demand from the second phase of the FAME scheme which is expected to subsidize a limited number of electric buses and three-wheelers."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will this week announce the second phase of the country's Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) program, the Press Trust of India reported. The 55 billion-rupee ($765 million) program seeks to give incentives for adoption of EVs.

By 2040, more than half of all new car sales in the world and a third of the planet's automobile fleet -- equal to 559 million vehicles -- will be electric, according to a global outlook published in May by Bloomberg New Energy Finance. BNEF expects EVs to comprise about 7 percent of vehicle sales in India by 2030 and 27 percent in 2040.

(Updates with global electric vehicles sales projections in the last paragraph.)

--With assistance from Anindya Upadhyay and Candice Zachariahs.

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(Source: Bloomberg)

PM launches universal health insurance programme Ayushman Bharat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 September officially launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY) under the Ayushman Bharat vision to provide accessible and affordable healthcare to the common man.

Announcing the launch of the universal health insurance programme during a function at Ranchi, Jharkhand, the prime minister said the implementation of vision Ayushman Bharat will ensure that each and every citizen receives his due share of health care.

“With Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan AarogyaYojana - the government is taking healthcare protection to a new aspirational level. This is the “world’s largest government funded healthcare program” targeting more than 500 million beneficiaries,” an official release stated.

Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY) will provide a cover of up to Rs5 lakh per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

An estimated 107.4 million vulnerable families (approximately 500 million beneficiaries) will be eligible for these benefits.

PMJAY will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

PMJAY will help reduce catastrophic expenditure for hospitalisations, which impoverishes people and will help mitigate the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.

Entitled families will be able to use quality health services they need without facing financial hardships.

When fully implemented, PMJAY will become the world’s largest fully government-financed health protection scheme. It is a visionary step towards advancing the agenda of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Ayushman Bharat is a progression towards promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative aspects of universal healthcare through access to health and wellness centers (HWCs) at the primary level and provision of financial protection for accessing curative care at the secondary and tertiary levels through engagement with both public and private sector.

It adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising two inter-related components - creation of 1,50,000 health and wellness centres which will bring health care closer to the homes of the people.

These centres will provide comprehensive primary health care (CPHC), covering both maternal and child health services and non-communicable diseases, including free essential drugs and diagnostic services. The prime minister launched the first health and wellness centre at Jangla, Bijapur, Chhatisgarh on 14 April 2018.

The second component is the Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY), which provides health protection cover to poor and vulnerable families for secondary and tertiary care.

The health and wellness centres will play a critical role in creating awareness about PMJAY, screening for non-communicable diseases, follow-up of hospitalisation cases among others.

The 71st round of National Sample Survey has found that:

· 85.9 per cent of rural households and 82 per cent of urban households have no access to healthcare insurance/assurance;

· More than 17 per cent of Indian population spend at least 10 per cent of household budgets for health services; and

· Catastrophic healthcare related expenditure pushes families into debt, with more than 24 per cent households in rural India and 18 per ent population in urban area have met their healthcare expenses through some sort of borrowings.

PMJAY primarily targets the poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families as per the latest Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data for both rural and urban areas as well as the active families under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY).

Approximately 107.4 million identified families (approximately 500 million beneficiaries) will be entitled to get the benefits. There is no cap on family size and age as well as restriction on pre-existing conditions.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana offers hospitalisation cover - from inpatient care to post hospitalisation care.

The objectives of the Yojana are to reduce out of pocket hospitalisation expenses, fulfil unmet needs and improve access of identified families to quality inpatient care and day care surgeries.

The Yojana will provide a coverage up to Rs5,00,000 per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation through a network of Empanelled Health Care Providers (EHCP).

The EHCP network will provide cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiaries at the both public and private hospitals.

The services will include 1,350 procedures covering pre and post hospitalisation, diagnostics, medicines etc.

The Yojana beneficiaries will be able to move across states and access services throughout the country through the provider network seamlessly.

The scheme has been formulated with stakeholder inputs taken from all states and UTs through the national conclaves, sectoral working groups, intensive field exercises and piloting of key modules.

The scheme is principle-based rather than rule-based, allowing states enough flexibility in terms of packages, procedures, scheme design, entitlements as well as other guidelines while ensuring that key benefits of portability and fraud detection are ensured at a national level.

States have the option to use an existing trust/society or set up a new trust/society to implement the scheme as State Health Agency and will be free to choose the modalities for implementation.

States can implement the scheme through an insurance company or directly through the trust/society/implementation support agency or a mixed approach.

30 states and UTs have signed the MoU and have started working on implementation of the mission.

Pilot launch of the scheme has started. The focus of the pilot launch of the mission is to test and enhance the developed IT systems and streamline the state preparedness for a comprehensive launch.

The pilot been done in around 22 states / UTs (Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Goa, Maharashtra among others).

The pilot launch is taking place in specific hospitals to test the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS) and Transaction Management System (TMS) systems.

The pilot launch involves over 1,280 hospitals.

The scheme is creating a cadre of certified frontline health service professionals called Pradhan Mantri Aarogya Mitras (PMAMs) who will be primary point of facilitation for the beneficiaries to avail treatment at the hospital and thus, act as a support system to streamline health service delivery.

Training has already been conducted in across 20 states and around 3,519 Aarogya Mitras have been trained so far. Training programmes for state, district and PMAMs have been conducted in 27 states.

A total of around 3,936 personnel have been trained at state, district and PMAM levels.

So far 15,686 applications for hospital empanelment have been received.

(**Source: B-Domain, New Delhi**)

Indian insurance industry to touch $280bn by FY20, Modi government's Ayushman Bharat to aid growth

The Indian insurance industry is expected to grow to USD 280 billion by 2019-20 aided by the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat and increasing awareness about need for protection, according to an Assocham-APAS study.

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Insurance penetration in the country reached 3.7 per cent in 2017 from 2.71 per cent in 2001.

Gross premium increased from Rs 3.2 lakh crore (USD 49 billion) in 2011-12 to reach Rs 5 lakh crore (USD72 billion) in 2017-18, it said.

"Push by the government and the regulator has helped increase the penetration of the insurance, as spread of schemes have also increased. Several factors such as growing middle class, young population and increasing awareness towards the need for protection and retirement planning would enable the growth further," the study said.

It said, Ayushman Bharat, the ambitious scheme of the government, covering 100 million poor and vulnerable families with a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family of tertiary care and hospitalisation will be a game changer for the insurance industry, as it would have a great multiplier impact on a host of allied sectors and create lakhs of new jobs.

"The Indian insurance industry is expected to grow to USD 280 billion by FY2020 with the government's flagship Ayushman Bharat and other growth drivers like rising disposable incomes, presence of global players and easing of the regulatory regime, helping penetration of the insurance culture in the country," the study noted.

The private sector companies which presently hold close to 48 per cent market share in the general insurance and 29 per cent in the life insurance will see a big growth in the opportunities.

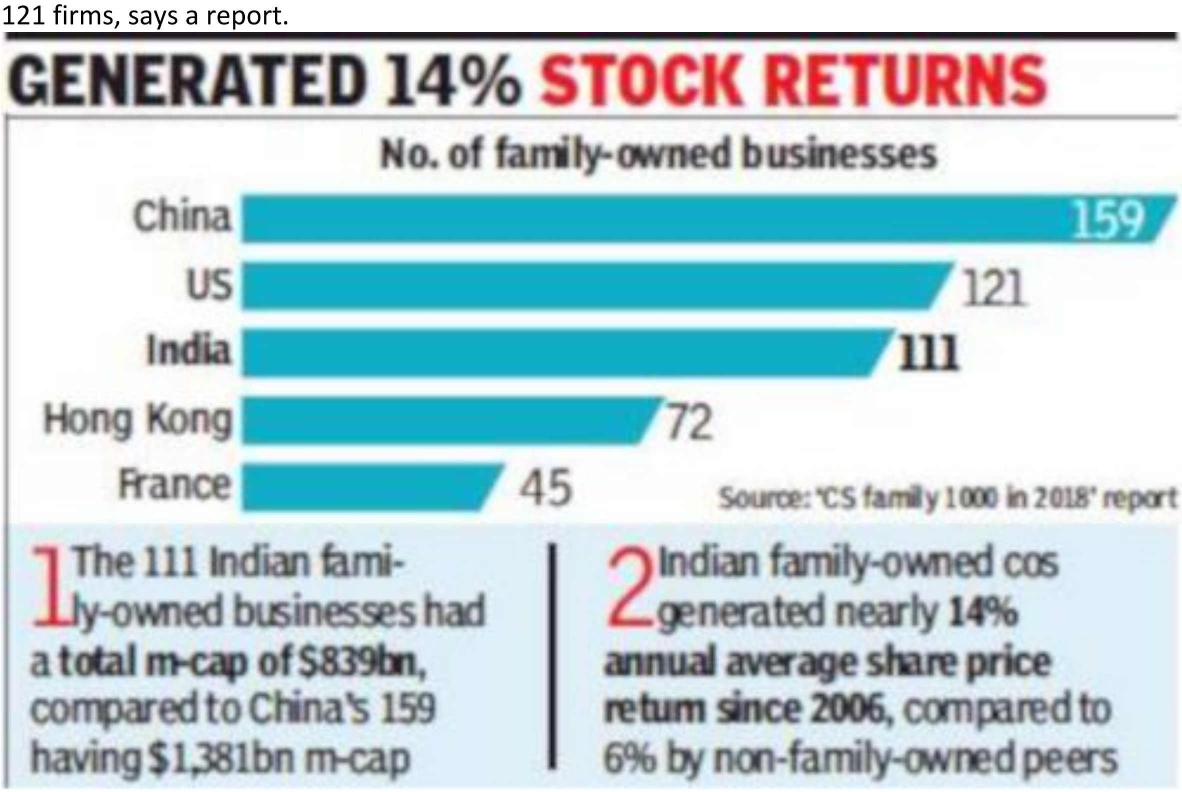
The medium-term outlook for the life insurance industry remains robust, with solid premium growth forecast over the next five years to 2023, it said.

"An effective implementation of the (Ayushman Bharat) scheme will help the entire healthcare and allied sectors like pharmaceutical, diagnostics, medical devices, data management, insurance hospitality TPAs, quality accreditation and human resource management with the help of information and communication technologies across the value chain," said the study conducted by industry chamber Assocham and research firm APAS.

(Source: Financial Express, New Delhi)

India ranks third on family-owned business list

India ranks third globally in terms of number of family-owned businesses with 111 companies having a total market capitalisation of $839 billion. India closely follows China with 159 firms and the US with 121 firms, says a report.



According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' study, published by the Research Institute (CSRI), in terms of number of family-owned businesses within the non-Japan Asian region, the list is dominated by China, India and Hong Kong. These three jurisdictions together account for around 65 per cent of the non-Japan Asian section of CSRI's database, and have a combined market capitalisation of $2.8 trillion (or 71 per cent) of the market share.

Korea came in fourth place, with 43 companies ($434-billion market capitalisation), followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, each with 26 companies. The report covered 11 markets in the non-Japan Asian region, which continue to dominate and represent a 53 per cent share of the universe, with a total market capitalisation of over $4 trillion.

The report further noted that in 2017 alone, non-Japan-Asia-based family-owned companies generated 25.6 per cent greater cash flow return on investment (CFROI) than their non-family owned counterparts, and delivered a 4.2 per cent out performance in annual average share price return since 2006.

Credit Suisse head analyst (thematic investments) and the report's lead author Eugene Klerk said, "This year, we find family-owned businesses are continuing to outperform their peers in every region, every sector, whatever their size. We believe this is down to the longer-term outlook of family-owned businesses relying less on external funding and investing more in research and development."

Indian family-owned companies generated a 13.9 per cent annual average share price return since 2006, compared to 6 per cent recorded by their non-family-owned peers, the report said. Further, out of the top 50 most profitable companies globally, 24 were from Asia, with a total market capitalisation of $748 billion. The list included 12 Indian family-owned companies with a total market capitalisation of $192 billion.

Additionally, in non-Japan Asia, more than 50 per cent of the top 30 best performing companies are from India, followed by one third from China. Malaysia occupies third place with three companies, while Korea and Indonesia each have one, the report added.

(Source: Times of India, New Delhi)

Big opportunity for scientists, engineers, techies: Germany plans to lower hurdles for skilled workers from abroad

Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government is working on a new immigration law to tackle labour shortages in Germany by attracting skilled workers from countries outside the European Union.

Germany already has one of the most liberal immigration systems, making it the second-most popular country for immigrants after the United States, according to the OECD.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government is working on a new immigration law to tackle labour shortages in Germany by attracting skilled workers from countries outside the European Union. Here are the key points of a position paper agreed by senior officials from the Labour, Economy and Interior ministries.

WHAT IMMIGRATION RULES EXIST?

Germany already has one of the most liberal immigration systems, making it the second-most popular country for immigrants after the United States, according to the OECD. As citizens from other European Union countries enjoy free labour movement in the bloc, Germany's new law mainly aims to relax the rules for professionals from outside Europe. Germany has a “blue card” system in place that makes it easier for companies to hire foreign academics and professionals with an annual salary of at least 50,800 euros ($59,300). For understaffed professions, where authorities see a special need for foreign workers, there is a lower threshold of 39,600 euros. Those professions include doctors, scientists, mathematicians, engineers and IT specialists.

WHAT CHANGES ARE PLANNED?

The three coalition parties have agreed in the outline of their new immigration law that companies will be allowed to recruit workers in all professions, regardless of the official list of sectors suffering labour shortages. The paper also proposes that the government will no longer insist that companies give preference to German citizens in filling vacancies before looking for non-EU foreigners.

In addition, foreign graduates and workers with vocational training will have an opportunity to come to Germany to look for a job within a certain period of time if they meet certain qualification and language requirements. They will not have access to social welfare benefits during that period but will be allowed to work in jobs for which they are overqualified so they can earn some money, the paper added. Qualification recognition procedures in Germany will become faster and easier, the paper said, adding that the government is planning an advertising campaign in selected countries.

WHY IS THE NEW LAW CONTROVERSIAL?

Labour unions and opposition parties such as the leftist Die Linke or the far-right Alternative for Germany say firms should improve pay and conditions for locals instead of increasing labour market competition through higher immigration. Other opposition parties such as the business-friendly Free Democrats say the new immigration law does not go far enough. They say the recognition of foreign professional qualifications is likely to remain too bureaucratic.

(Source: Financial Express, New Delhi)

India sees $100 bn investment in digital communication space by 2022

The government today (26 September) approved the National Digital Communications Policy -2018, which aims to provide universal broadband services to connect, propel and secure the country. The Digital Communications policy seeks to ensure universal broadband connectivity at 50 Mbps to every citizen, 1 Gbps connectivity to all gram panchayats and connectivity to all uncovered areas, generating investments to the tune of $100 billion in the digital communications space by 2022.

The union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Digital Communications Policy-2018 (NDCP-2018) and the re-designation of the Telecom Commission as the `Digital Communications Commission’.

The NDCP-2018 envisions supporting India's transition to a digitally empowered economy and society by fulfilling the information and communications needs of citizens and enterprises by establishment of a ubiquitous, resilient and affordable digital communications infrastructure and services.

The ‘customer focused’ and ‘application driven’ NDCP-2018 is expected to lead to new ideas and innovations, after the launch of advanced technology such as 5G, IOT, M2M, etc, which shall govern the telecom sector of India.

The key objectives of the policy are:

Providing broadband connectivity for all;

Creating 4 million additional jobs in the digital communications sector;

Enhancing the contribution of the digital economy to India's GDP to 8 per cent from 6 per cent in 2017;

Propelling India to the top 50 nations in the ICT development index from 134 in 2017;

Enhancing India's contribution to global value chains; and

Ensuring digital sovereignty.

These objectives are to be achieved by 2022.

Towards this, the government proposes to train one million persons for building New Age Skill and expand IoT ecosystem to 5 billion connected devices.

It is proposed to establish a comprehensive data protection regime for digital communications that safeguards the privacy, autonomy and choice of individuals.

The government will facilitate India's effective participation in the global digital economy, enforce accountability through appropriate institutional mechanisms to assure citizens of safe and secure digital communications infrastructure and services.

To achieve these, the policy advocates the establishment of a National Digital Grid by creating a National Fibre Authority and the creation of Common Service Ducts and utility corridors in all new city and highway road projects.

The policy envisages a collaborative institutional mechanism between centre, states and local bodies for common rights of way, standardisation of costs and timelines, removal of barriers to approvals and facilitating development of open access next generation networks.

(Source: Domain-b, New Delhi)

271 million people moved out of poverty in India in 10 years: UN report

India has made momentous progress in reducing multidimensional poverty with its incidence almost halving between 2005-6 and 2015-16, climbing down to 27.5 per cent from 54.7 per cent, according to estimates from the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

The poverty rate here has nearly halved, falling from around 55 per cent to around 28 per cent over the 10-year period.

India has made momentous progress in reducing multidimensional poverty with its incidence almost halving between 2005-6 and 2015-16, climbing down to 27.5 per cent from 54.7 per cent, according to estimates from the 2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). "In India, the first country for which progress over time has been estimated, 271 million people moved out of poverty between 2005-06 and 2015-16. The poverty rate here has nearly halved, falling from around 55 per cent to around 28 per cent over the 10-year period," said the estimates released by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

Among South Asian countries, only Maldives has a lower headcount ratio than India at 1.9 per cent, with Nepal (35.3), Bangladesh (41.1), and Pakistan (43.9) having higher incidences of multidimensional poverty. According to a UNDP statement, though the traditionally disadvantaged groups – across states, castes, religions, and ages -are still the poorest, they have also experienced the biggest reductions in MPI through the decade, showing that they have been “catching up”.

It said this is in line with global trends, where deeper progress among the poorest groups is reflected in the global MPI being cut by half. The release said that pockets of poverty are found across India, but multidimensional poverty is particularly acute — and significant — in the four states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. These accounted for 196 million MPI poor people — more than half of all MPI poor in India.

But there was also progress. Jharkhand made the biggest strides among all states in reducing multidimensional poverty, with Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland only slightly behind. Delhi, Kerala and Goa have the lowest incidence of multidimensional poverty.

Across nearly every state, poor nutrition is the largest contributor to multidimensional poverty. Not having a household member with at least six years of education is the second largest contributor. Insufficient access to clean water and child mortality contribute least. Relatively fewer people living in poverty experience deprivations in school attendance – a significant gain.

The MPI looks beyond income to understand how people experience poverty in multiple and simultaneous ways. It identifies how people are being left behind across three key dimensions: health, education and living standards, and 10 indicators – nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, sanitation, cooking fuel, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets. The 2018 report, which is now closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, cover almost three-quarters of the world’s population. Despite the massive gains made in reducing multidimensional poverty, 364 million Indians continue to experience acute deprivations in health, nutrition, schooling and sanitation.

Globally, around 1.3 billion people live in multidimensional poverty, which is almost a quarter of the population of the 104 countries for which the 2018 MPI is calculated. Of these 1.3 billion, almost half — 46 per cent — are thought to be living in severe poverty and are deprived in at least half of the dimensions covered in the MPI. “Although the level of poverty – particularly in children — is staggering so is the progress that can be made in tackling it. In India alone some 271 million have escaped multidimensional poverty in just 10 years,” said Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator.

(Source: Financial Express, New Delhi)

90 Percent of Indian Business Travelers Feel Motivated To Get More Work Done When Traveling For Business

The Hyatt Place Business Traveler Survey Provides Insight Into The Mindset Of Business Travelers, Including What Motivates Them And What They Learn During Their Travels

September 05, 2018 // Franchising.com // MUMBAI - The Hyatt Place brand recently released findings from a Business Traveler Survey, which was conducted online by The Harris Poll and consisted of more than 1,300 adults across India, the United States and China who have traveled for business in the last 12 months (international business travelers), to gain a greater understanding of how business travel can deliver both personal and professional growth on the road. As corporate travel continues to grow rapidly, the online survey sheds light on the evolving preferences and behaviors of modern business Travelers in India.

The survey highlights how business Travelers in India make the most of travel time and appreciate on-the-road perks. It puts forth that 91 percent view business travel as a time to re-energise both professionally and personally, and 90 percent of Indian business Travelers feel motivated to get more work done when Traveling for business – indicating that perhaps hotels should make it a priority to ensure provision of facilities that uplift their professional as well as personal experiences.

The Hyatt Place Business Traveller Survey provides insight into the mindset of these frequent flyers, including what motivates them and what they learn during their travels. Thriving in a fast-paced, competitive business environment, 95 percent of Indian business Travelers are motivated to advance their career and most take business travel very seriously. The motivation of India's workforce towards their career is reflected in the fact that 72 percent of Indian business Travelers feel pressured to work longer hours when Traveling for business, and 90 percent feel motivated to get more work done when Traveling for business.

Ninety percent of Indian business Travelers say business travel has taught them skills they can use to solve challenges in their personal life. When planning personal travel, 76 percent of Indian business Travelers make use of shortcuts learned while on business travel when planning their personal vacations. In addition to these benefits, 95 percent say business travel helps them to communicate successfully with different types of people.

Commenting on the survey findings, Sunjae Sharma, Vice President India Operations, Hyatt said, "With the recent economic boom, corporate travel is no longer a discreet phenomenon as an increasing number of business Travelers are Traveling to newer geographies for their professional needs. They are more motivated than ever by personal ambition and desire for recognition, as well as seeking opportunities to grow. When they travel, they are looking for hotel experiences that offer convenience, comfort and connectivity to stay productive. Hyatt Place hotels are designed keeping in mind the requirements of these independent-minded and hard-working professionals, with the purpose of making their journey easier, more productive and successful."

While on the road, business Travelers are often multitasking and working in different environments, which can lead them to appreciating on-the road perks. Conference calls become a casual occasion sometimes, with 30 percent of Indian business Travelers stating that dialing-in in their pajamas is a major perk of trips that require hotel stays. Interestingly, their attention to health and fitness doesn't waver, with 41 percent of Indian business Travelers saying they exercise about the same or more, when on the road when Traveling for business than they do at home.

Despite the often hectic schedules, many Indian business Travelers make time during their corporate travels to ensure they are re-energised in their personal lives as well. The survey findings indicate that this time away from home is also invested in some self-indulgence, with 61 percent of Indian business Travelers exploring the region by experiencing the local cuisine and 33 percent admitting to binge watching TV.

Business Travelers are Traveling with purpose – whether that's making a sale, making a pitch or building new relationships. However, it is noteworthy that 84 percent of business Travelers in India say they are likely to feel relaxed about having some alone time on the road.

Combining style, innovation and 24/7 conveniences, the Hyatt Place brand creates a seamless stay with modern comforts for the business Travelers. Hyatt Place hotels in India include Hyatt Place Gurgaon/Udyog Vihar, Hyatt Place Pune/Hinjawadi and Hyatt Place Hyderabad/Banjara Hills, all of which are strategically placed in business hubs that make guests' journeys easier, more productive and successful. When business Travelers want to add in an element of leisure to their trips, they can rely on the Hyatt Place brand, which is extended in places like Hampi and Rameswaram as well.

For more information about Hyatt Place hotels in India, please visit www.hyatt.com/promo/hyatt-place-india-hotels.

The term "Hyatt" is used in this release to refer to Hyatt Hotels Corporation and/or one or more of its affiliates.

About Hyatt Place

Hyatt Place, a brand of Hyatt Hotels Corporation, combines style, innovation and 24/7 convenience to create a seamless stay with modern comforts. There are more than 312 Hyatt Place locations in Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Germany, Honduras, India, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Thailand, The Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States. For more information, please visit hyattplace.com. Join the conversation on Facebook and Instagram, and tag photos with #HyattPlace and #WhySettle.

About Hyatt Hotels Corporation

Hyatt Hotels Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, is a leading global hospitality company with a portfolio of 14 premier brands. As of June 30, 2018, the Company's portfolio included more than 750 properties in more than 55 countries across six continents. The Company's purpose to care for people so they can be their best informs its business decisions and growth strategy and is intended to attract and retain top colleagues, build relationships with guests and create value for shareholders. The Company's subsidiaries develop, own, operate, manage, franchise, license or provide services to hotels, resorts, branded residences, vacation ownership properties, and fitness and spa locations, including under the Park Hyatt®, Miraval®, Grand Hyatt®, Hyatt Regency®, Hyatt®, Andaz®, Hyatt Centric®, The Unbound Collection by Hyatt®, Hyatt Place®, Hyatt House®, Hyatt Ziva™, Hyatt Zilara™, Hyatt Residence Club® and exhale® brand names. For more information, please visit www.hyatt.com.

About The Business Traveler Survey

The International Business Traveler survey was conducted online by The Harris Poll, on behalf of Hyatt, among adults over the age of 18 in the U.S. (n=290), China (n=423) and India (n=677) who had embarked on at least one business trip within the past 12 months. The U.S. survey was conducted from December 15-19, 2017; and the surveys for India and China were conducted between February 9-13, 2018.

These online survey not based on a probability sample, and therefore, no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated. For complete survey methodologies, including weighting variables and subgroup sample sizes, please contact Simone Loretan at simone.loretan@hyatt.com

(Source: Hyatt Place)

BUSINESS INFO

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have pleasure in bringing to your notice information regarding bids invited by **Shipping Corporation of India** on behalf of **Administration of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli** for operation of Catamaran/ Ferry service.

For further details, please visit the website mentioned in the notice below:

	Shipping Corporation of India
1	**Shipping Corporation of India** on behalf of **Administration of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli** invites Expression of Interest for Operating Catamaran/ Ferry Service between Daman & Diu. Other details including Tender documents may be downloaded from the website http://www.shipindia.com/ at link http://www.shipindia.com/procurement/tenders-floated.aspx. Last date for bid submission is 11.10.2018 up to 05.00 pm.
