Aero India airshow and aviation exhibition organized by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to be held in Bengaluru, India from 20th-24th February, 2019.

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India jumps eight places to 36th spot in US Chamber's global IP index

For the second year in a row, India has maintained the upward trajectory in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index ranking. In the latest edition of the International IP Index, India's rank moved up to 36 among 50 economies - jumping 8 places - as against 44 in 2018. India's overall score in the 7th edition of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center's (GIPC's) annual International IP Index has increased substantially to 16.22, against 12.03 in the 6th edition. The latest report, Inspiring Tomorrow, analyses the IP climate in 50 world economies, based on 45 indicators critical to an innovation-led economy.

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India successfully launches com satellite GSAT-31

India's latest communication satellite GSAT-31 was successfully launched from a space port in French Guiana island. It is being viewed as a boost to the country's direct-to-home television services, ATM connectivity to VSATs, stock exchange, digital satellite news gathering and e-governance. The launch vessel Ariane 5 VA-247 lifted off from Kourou Launch Base, French Guiana carrying GSAT-31 India's Department of Space said in a statement. In the days ahead, scientists will undertake phase-wise orbit-raising manoeuvres to place the satellite in Geostationary Orbit using its on-board propulsion system.

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Canadian pension fund to invest 200 million USD in Kerala infrastructure board

Canda's biggest public pension fund is in advanced talks to invest about $200 million in Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB) proposed masala bonds. The high-profile investment will be a big boost to the state's innovative fund to finance critical and large infrastructure projects. "The modalities will be finalised at a meeting with the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) by the end of this month. They'll subscribe the masala bonds to be issued by the KIIFB," said Sanjeev Kaushik, KIIFB Deputy Managing Director and Finance Principal Secretary (Resources).

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Brookfield eyes stake in Jio's tower, fibre assets

Canadian alternative asset manager Brookfield Asset Management is in early-stage discussions to pick up a controlling stake in Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd's telecom tower and fibre business valued at over $15 billion. If a deal goes through, this would be the second transaction between Brookfield and a company led by billionaire Mukesh Ambani. In September 2018, VCCircle reported that an infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) sponsored by Brookfield was in talks to acquire a 1,400-km gas pipeline owned by a privately held company of Ambani.

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India in third position in list of LEED green buildings

After China and Canada, India is ranked third with more than 899 LEED-certified projects totaling more than 24.81 million gross square meters of space, as per the US Green Building Council (USGBC) ranking. The list ranks countries and regions in terms of cumulative LEED-certified gross square meters as of December 31, 2018 and represents 7,797 certified projects totaling more than 210 million gross square meters of space. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the world's most widely used green building program with 96,275 registered and certified projects in more than 167 countries and territories.

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IKEA looking at omni-channel presence in India

Swedish home furnishings major IKEA said it plans to have an omni-channel presence in India going forward, reiterating its long-term commitment to the country. Last year, the company opened its first store in Hyderabad, spread over 13 acres of land and has a built up area of 4 lakh sq ft. "We are long term committed to India. We are planning to have omni-channel presence here. We will have three formats -- big stores, online and smaller stores here," IKEA India CEO Peter Betzel said. The company will be opening big stores in India, starting with a store in Mumbai this year, followed by one in Bengaluru in spring-2021 and then in Delhi-NCR, Betzel said.

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Google extends chip-making efforts to design hub Bengaluru

Google is first amongst the handful of big internet platform companies for developing their own chips with a team established in Bengaluru, India. The company is planning to expand its program to designing its devices internally. Google had 13 job postings for roles related to chips in Bengaluru, according to a recent check of the company's careers website. The team working on such designs in India could grow to 80 people by 2019 end, according to one of the executives of Google.

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Zomato raises 40 Mn from US-based Glade Brooke Private investors

Food-tech startup Zomato Media Pvt. Ltd has raised $40 million in fresh funding from US investor Glade Brooke Private investors. The fresh funding is a part of the Series I round, where Zomato raised $210 million from existing investor Ant Financial in October last year. Zomato was valued at $2 billion after the last round of funding. Zomato is in talks to raise $500 million-$1 billion in a new financing round from Chinese private equity major Primavera Capital and existing investor Alibaba's payment affiliate.

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Why PE funds, limited partners are increasingly looking at co-investments in India

The perception of India as an investment destination has significantly improved with the roll-out of big-ticket reforms like the Goods and Services Tax and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Major reforms related to foreign direct investment in sectors such as defence, construction, insurance, pension, broadcasting, single-brand retail and civil aviation have helped, too. These reforms reiterate the government's commitment to streamlining the regulatory environment and making it easier to do business in the country.

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MSME exports cross USD 147 Billion in 2017-18

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Giriraj Singh said that the value of MSME related products' exportedduring 2017-18 has reached USD 147 Billion, as per the information received from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS). He also informed that the Government has taken several measures to enhance exports by MSMEs. These include efforts made under Make in India Programme, Promotion of Ease of Doing Business, improved availability of credit through MUDRA, Stand up India, schemes such as 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme' (MEIS) and 'Service Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS).

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