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The summit focusses on synergies between water security, economic prosperity and technology to deliver water solutions while bringing the collective intelligence of pertinent stakeholders and visionary speakers in an effort to catalyze collaboration between the public & private water technology providers and other industrial end-users.



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Indian economy to grow at 7.3% in 2019: IMF

India is projected to grow at 7.3 per cent in 2019 and 7.5 per cent in 2020, supported by the continued recovery of investment and robust consumption, thus remaining the fastest growing major economy of the world, according to the IMF. Growth in India, the report said, is expected to stabilise at just under 7 per cent over the medium term, based on continued implementation of structural reforms and easing of infrastructure bottlenecks. Important steps have been taken in the country to strengthen financial sector balance sheets, including through accelerated resolution of non-performing assets under a simplified bankruptcy framework, it noted. The World Economic Outlook believes that in India, continued implementation of structural and financial sector reforms with efforts to reduce public debt remain essential to secure the economy's growth prospects.

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India's domestic air passenger traffic records double-digit growth in Feb 2019

India registered double-digit growth in domestic air passenger traffic for the 54th consecutive month in February 2019, The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said. "India is one of the fastest-growing domestic aviation markets in the world. A generally solid economic backdrop combined with continued growth in the number of airport pairs have all contributed to this sustained growth performance," it said. "While overall economic confidence appears to be softening, aviation continues to deliver solid results, helping to sustain global commerce and the movement of people," IATA Director General and CEO Alexandre de Juniac said. India's domestic market posted the fastest full-year domestic growth rate for the fourth consecutive year, with an 18.6 per cent annual demand increase.

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India's cloud market to cross USD 7 billion by 2022

Growing adoption of Big data, analytics, artificial intelligence and Internet of Things is expected to push cloud market in India to grow 3-fold to USD 7.1 billion by 2022, a report by Nasscom said. The report titled 'Cloud Next Wave of Growth in India', prepared with Google Cloud and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP, said cloud spending in 2018 was estimated to be about six per cent of the total IT spending. Indian infrastructure as a service (IaaS) spending was estimated to be about USD 1 billion in 2018, and is forecast to grow at 25 per cent per annum to reach USD 2.4 billion in 2022. Factors that can drive the IaaS uptake in India are improved infrastructure, economic benefits, increased innovation, vibrant startup and connected ecosystem, the report said. Globally, the cloud spending on IT is growing at 16.5 per cent (CAGR) and is expected to touch USD 345 billion by 2022.

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Microsoft to collaborate with Indian Railways for healthcare services

Tech giant Microsoft said Indian Railways will use its 'Kaizala' solution to connect employees across the country with quality healthcare facilities. Microsoft had launched Kaizala, a productivity app - designed for the Indian market to enable large group communications and work management. "Microsoft Kaizala app will enable serving and retired railway employees to avail healthcare services of 125 railway and 133 private recognised hospitals. The Kaizala group, managed by doctors from South Central Railways will be complemented with focused groups of doctors, paramedical staff and nurses," Microsoft said. On registering for the healthcare services, Indian Railway employees will be able to search on Kaizala, nearest hospitals and doctors, list of empanelled diagnostic centres and health units.

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General Atlantic to invest USD 100 million in India's Rubicon Research

US-based growth equity investor General Atlantic is investing USD 100 million in Mumbai-based contract research and drug delivery company Rubicon Research Pvt. Ltd. "General Atlantic is committing up to USD 100 million of primary capital and has acquired the stake held by Rubicon's existing private equity shareholders. All other existing shareholders continue to maintain their shareholding in the company," Rubicon said. With the investment from General Atlantic, Rubicon intends to focus on accelerating the development and delivery of its proprietary drug delivery technologies. Rubicon currently has several commercial products in the global market and a pipeline of over 60 products in development or under review. It holds more than 50 issued patents in drug delivery technologies.

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Hyundai unveils BlueLink connectivity in India

South Korean carmaker set to roll out the 'BlueLink' connectivity feature in India that will allow users to interact with their cars using voice, while enabling them to remotely switch on/off the car or its AC. This feature will be first introduced in its upcoming compact SUV Venue. "BlueLink is Hyundai's global technology which will be introduced in the Indian market with 33 features, of which 10 would be India-specific features such as a panic button, for most practical and holistic connectivity. This will herald a new era of smart connected cars in India," Ji Hong Baek, managing director, Hyundai Motor India Engineering, said. The feature is powered by an "inbuilt and tamper-proof device" with a Vodafone-Idea eSim and a cloud-based voice recognition platform. The 'interactive voice recognition' has been developed specifically for customers from different regions in India.

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Radisson Hotel Group plans to double India portfolio by 2022

Global hospitality firm Radisson Hotel Group said it is planning to double its portfolio of hotels in India to 200 by 2022. It has 94 properties operational with 49 in pipeline at present. India is a very important market for us. It is the biggest single country within our portfolio. There is a lot of growth in India. It is a very high growth potential market," Radisson Hotel Group President Asia Pacific Katerina Giannouka said. The company's mid and up-scale brands include Country Inn and Suites by Radisson, Park Inn by Radisson and recently launched Radisson Collection. Other brands operated by the group are Radisson Blu, Radisson Red and Park Plaza. In India, it has 5 brands and will be launching its first Radisson Red hotel targeted at the millennials, in the next 12 months. The company sees potential for the brand in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Delhi NCR.

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ThoughtSpot announces USD 25 million investment in India to accelerate development of AI and ML platform

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are transforming every business, in every industry, across the globe. ThoughtSpot announced plans to invest USD 25 million in its engineering center in Bangalore, India. The funds will be used to innovate the company's industry leading search and AI-driven analytics platform and continue to recruit talent from top Indian universities. ThoughtSpot will also begin business operations in India to bring augmented analytics to enterprises throughout the region. India has become a major global hub for analytics and AI professionals, providing a significant opportunity for companies who can tap into this talent pool to keep up with the pace of innovation in the industry. With the new funding, ThoughtSpot will be able to expand its rapidly growing AI engineering center in Bangalore, India.

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Walt Disney kicks off Fox merger in India with movie studio division

The integration of the Indian units of Walt Disney Company and 21st Century Fox has begun after the completion of the USD 71 billion acquisition of the latter. Walt Disney had announced last month that it had full control of a number of 21st Century Fox entities, including the company's entire movie studio division, its 30 per cent stake in streaming service Hulu, and the Fox Television group, including Star India. The coming together of Star and Disney's various units, including films, television, and digital, will see the emergence of a powerful media and entertainment conglomerate in the country. The two majors are merging one division at a time. While Disney is yet to launch a video streaming service of its own in India, the company is expected to get a huge leg-up with Hotstar becoming a part of the merged entity.

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L'Oréal eyeing acquisitions in India's cosmetics market

The local arm of the world's largest cosmetics company, L'Oréal, is scouting for acquisitions in the skin and make-up market in India as it seeks to capitalize on the country's rising demand for beauty products. "L'Oréal is eyeing companies with a range of make-up and skin care products to fill gaps in its existing portfolio, which comprises Garnier, Maybelline, NYX and L'Oréal Professional," Amit Jain, who took over as the managing director of the French company's India business last year, said in an interview. As of 2018, India's beauty and personal care market stood at USD 14 billion. Coloured cosmetics is expected to grow at an annual average growth rate of 17.4% through 2022, and skincare is estimated to grow at 10.4%. Overall, the market for beauty and personal care products will grow at 10% during the same period.

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