



December 2018

Dear Friends,

As 2018 draws to a close and we all start the holiday season, I am happy to bring to you this last issue of “India Economic News” for this year.

We have been trying to expand our engagement with the Dutch Caribbean. The Hon’ble Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath of Curaçao, a person of Indian origin, recently visited the Netherlands in November. I met with the Hon’ble Prime Minister and we also utilized his visit to introduce leading Indian companies in the Netherlands - HCL, TCS and Sun Pharma to him. The companies briefed him about their global operations. Hon’ble Prime Minister in turn informed them about opportunities for investment in Curacao and invited them to visit Curacao to explore business opportunities.

We can look back on the year 2018 as a highly fulfilling year in terms of bilateral economic interactions. To recap, the highlights of the year were:

- A Seminar on Prospects for Indo-Dutch Cooperation in the area of Science & Technology on March 26 at the High Tech Campus in Eindhoven. The English version of the AWTI Advisory Letter on Dutch-Indian Collaboration in Science, Technology and Innovation was released at the event.
- The historical visit of Prime Minister Mark Rutte to India on May 24 this year, accompanied by four Cabinet Ministers as well as the Mayor of The Hague and a delegation of more than 130 companies, the largest ever trade delegations to visit India. Briefing session prior to the visit and a de-briefing session post the visit was organized for the Trade Delegation by the Embassy.
- Visit to the Netherlands by the CEO of the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for briefing Dutch companies, including pension funds, on the opportunities for investment in India.
- Visit of Indian Minister for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), Shripad Yesso Naik to the Netherlands from September 1-4, 2018, to attend the Fourth International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) and a special Seminar organized by the Indian Embassy on “India-

Netherlands collaboration in Healthcare, including Ayurveda” which was addressed by the Dutch Minister for Medical Care and Sport Bruno Bruins.

- Visit to the Netherlands by Minister for Food Processing Industries, Mrs. Harsimrat Kaur Badal from September 5-6, 2018, and meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture Carola Schouten.
- A ‘Smart Cities Mission’ led by the Director for Smart Cities Mission in India and CEOs of Smart Cities of Agra, Karnal and Dharamshala from September 10-13, 2018.
- Visit by Mr. M.K. Das, Principal Secretary, Industries and Mines Department, Government of Gujarat to promote the Vibrant Gujarat Summit.
- Annual NIBM of the Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NICCT) attended by myself and Mayor of Rotterdam.
- International Yoga Day on Sunday, June 17, at the prestigious Museumplein, Amsterdam was inaugurated by Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, Ms. Cora van Nieuwenhuizen and spiritual guru His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

I look forward to a further deepening of the bilateral relationship in 2019.

Plans on the anvil currently are an interaction with Dutch companies in the Food and Agri Sector in December; Dutch participation in the Vibrant Gujarat Summit which will be held in India from 18-20 January; Netherlands being the Partner Country for the 25th Department of Science & Technology (DST) – Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Technology Summit and; India’s participation in the Vakantiebeurs in Utrecht in January.

The Republic Day of India will also be celebrated at 1000 hours at India House in Wassenaar with a flag hoisting event and Open House.

With best wishes for the coming holiday season and a Happy New Year 2019,

Venu Rajamony
Ambassador of India to the Netherlands

India Improves Rank by 23 Positions in Ease of Doing Business

India stood 77th in World Bank's Doing Business Report (DBR) 2019, recording a jump of 23 positions from its previous ranking....

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India one of World Bank's top reformers: Officials

India has emerged as one of World Bank's top performers for two consecutive years, as the country's ranking on the Ease of Doing Business Index has improved more than 50 places in just two years.

[Read more](#)

Growth in India firming up, projected to accelerate further, says World Bank

Indian economy is expected to grow 7.3 per cent in FY19 and 7.5 per cent in the coming two years, driven by increased private spending and export growth, according to the World Bank.

[Read more](#)

India targeting 40% of power generation from non-fossil fuel by 2030: PM

India is targeting to meet 40 per cent of its electricity needs through renewable sources by 2030 in order to reduce its reliance on coal, according to a statement by Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, at the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

[Read more](#)

PM inaugurates road, waterway projects in Varanasi, hails growth of next generation transport infra

Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, has launched a series of transport projects including highways and a multi-modal terminal on the river Ganga in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in order to promote next generation transport infrastructure in India.

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India at centre stage of global energy affairs: IEA

Backed by Government of India's policies, India is moving to the centre stage of global energy affairs as a leading consumer, according to Mr Fatih Birol, Executive Director, International Energy Agency (IEA).

[Read more](#)

Government approves new telecom policy, eyes USD 100 bn investments, 4 million new jobs

The National Digital Communications Policy (NDCP) has been approved by the Government of India with the objective of attracting US\$ 100 billion in investments, improving broadband connectivity and generating four million jobs in the telecom sector.

[Read more](#)

New agriculture export policy to double farmer's income: Suresh Prabhu

The new Agriculture Export Policy of India will help in doubling the farmers' income in the country, according to Mr Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India.

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Government okays norms for \$ 68.42 mln 'Operation Greens' scheme for onion, potato and tomato

The Government of India has approved the guidelines for 'Operation Green' programme to boost production and processing of onion, tomato and potato, to check their price volatility, with a cost Rs 500 crore (US\$ 68.42 million).

[Read more](#)

Telecom industry to rollout one million WiFi hotspots in the country by December 2019, says Minister

India's telecommunication industry will rollout one million Wi-Fi hotspots in the country by December 2019 to digitally empower the nation, according to Mr

Manoj Sinha, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways.

[Read more](#)

Government removes double taxation on VNOs

The Government of India has removed double taxation on virtual network operators (VNO), entities which can resell telecom services, in order to improve ease of doing business.

[Read more](#)

5G rollout may be US\$ 10 billion opportunity for Indian IT firms

The rollout of 5G wireless technology in India is expected to bring US\$ 10 billion business globally to Indian information technology (IT) services firms in the next six years.

[Read more](#)

Medical technology sector may hit US\$ 9.6 bn in 2022: Report

India's medical technology sector is expected to reach US\$ 9.6 billion by 2022 from US\$ 5.7 billion in 2017, according to a report released by PwC.

[Read more](#)

FDI in food processing touches USD 1-bn mark this year: Badal

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India's food processing sector has surpassed US\$ 1 billion mark during the current year, according to Ms Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India.

[Read more](#)

Indian tourists among world's highest spenders abroad: data

Indian tourists' spending is estimated to increase from US\$ 23 billion in 2018 to US\$ 45 billion by 2022, making them one of the highest spenders globally, according to the report by Colliers International.

[Read more](#)

India ER&D market to grow to USD 42 bn by FY22: Report

India's Engineering, Research & Development (ER&D) sector is projected to increase to US\$ 42 billion by FY22; driven by rise of new-age technologies; according to Impact of Digital on ER&D report by Nasscom, Strategy& and PWC.

[Read more](#)

India continues to be world's largest BPM base, generated US\$ 32.5 bn revenue: Nasscom

India retained its position as world's largest Business Process Management (BPM) base with revenue of US\$ 32.5 billion in FY18, according to the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM).

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

13th edition of Agro Tech

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the 13th edition of Agro Tech from 1– 4 December 2018 in Chandigarh, India. This event is being organised by CII under the theme “Technology in Agriculture: Growing Farmer Wealth”. Agro Tech is CII’s flagship initiative in the field of agro technology and an international business fair that attracts participation globally, besides large-scale involvement of the Indian agri & farming sector. You may more details here: <http://www.agrotech-india.com/>



The Times of India - Global Sports Show 2018

The Times of India Group will be organizing the Global Sports Show 2018 on 13th, 14th & 15th December 2018 at Mumbai. The theme of the event will be “Enhancing India’s Sports Ecosystem”.

The event has been designed with an enhanced and strategically aligned curricula, which comprises of an all-encompassing exhibitor category, focused conferences, workshops and a live action zone for sports enthusiasts to participate in a bevy of activities. As special features to GSS 2018, there will also be a dedicated Sports Start Up, Tech & Innovation Zone, Focused Hosted Buyer Meets and a Charity Dinner which will be inclusive of a Felicitation Ceremony to acknowledge the top contributors to Sports in India. The event will cater to a B2B, B2G (Business to Government) as well as the B2C segment, and will bring together top brands, corporates, associations, federations, policy makers, sports management companies and leading stakeholders who are a part of the sports value chain, under one roof, to help India realize the dream of becoming a truly international sports nation with world class infrastructure. Additional information can be seen at: <https://10times.com/gsbs-mumbai>.



INDUSFOOD-II Trade Fair

Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), one of the apex trade and investment organizations in India, will be organizing second edition of INDUSFOOD on 14-15 January 2019 at the India Exposition Mart, Greater Noida. INDUSFOOD, an initiative to promote India as a strong supplier of food products processed and manufactured in India to the world, will provide a platform to Importers and Wholesalers to source directly from the best suppliers of India without any mediator to achieve both quality and reliability. Details of the event can be accessed at: www.indusfood.co.in



4th Indian Steel Expo 2019

The 4th Indian Steel Expo 2019 will be held from January 22-24, 2019, at Mumbai. This is being organized by the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). This exposition will provide a unique opportunity for steel producers and technology companies to showcase their equipment, latest technology and best practices. The event will also include a Reverse Buyer Seller Meeting (RBSM) in which more than 300 buyers from Africa, CIS, Middle East and other regions will be invited. The organizers would be willing to provide hospitality to visiting buyers in the form of economy class air tickets, hotel accommodation, local transport etc. Details of the event can be accessed at the URL: www.indianstelexpo.in.



Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet 2019

The Government of the State of Tamil Nadu will be organising the 2nd edition of Global Investors Meet (GIM) at Chennai on Jan 23 and 24, 2019. Additional information can be obtained from: Mr. M. Velmurugan, Executive Vice-Chairman, Tamil Nadu Industrial Guidance Bureau, Chennai (evcguidance@gmail.com; tngim2019@gmail.com)



OTM-Travel Show

Fairest Media Ltd is organising a travel trade show in India called OTM at Mumbai from 23rd to 25th January, 2019 at Bombay Exhibition Centre. OTM is not only the largest travel trade show in India, but it has emerged as the leading travel trade show

in Asia Pacific, with participation of more than 1,000 satisfied exhibitors from 50+ countries. For more information please visit the website: www.otm.co.in

19th Edition of Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet under the banner of INDIASOFT

Indian ICT companies will present a world of ICT innovations, products, and services at the 19th edition of INDIASOFT 2019 from 4th - 5th February, 2019 at Hyderabad, India. The event is being organized by Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Further information about INDIASOFT 2019 can be found on the website www.indiasoft.org and may like to directly contact Mr. D K Sareen (Executive Director), Electronics and Computer Software, Export Promotion Council (ESC), 155, Okhla, Phase III,

New Delhi - 110 016, India Tel: 91-11-47480000, Fax: 91-11-26853412 and email: indiasoft@escindia.com.

Chemtech World Expo 2019

CHEMTECH World Expo 2019 will be held from February 20-23, 2019, at Mumbai. The event will create a common platform to bring the entire ecosystem of the chemicals manufacturing and the allied services providing sectors for 27th time in India. Concurrent events include EPC World Expo, Industry Automation & Control World Expo, Bio Pharma, Pumps Valves & Fittings World Expo; and international conferences on Refining & Petrochemicals and Specialty Chemicals.

<http://www.chemtech-online.com/events.html>



'Human Resource Development for Health Research' (HRD Scheme)



स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH



The Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India is administering a Scheme for 'Human Resource Development for Health Research' (HRD Scheme) which is intended to create a pool of talented health research personnel in the country by upgrading skills of faculty of medical colleges by specialized training in priority areas of health research. The scheme also has a separate component specifically for emerging young scientists and Non-resident Indians (NRIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) serving

abroad in health research activities so that they can come back to India for undertaking research in identified areas.

The detailed guidelines regarding eligibility criteria, financial components including the formats of application are available on www.dhr.gov.in.

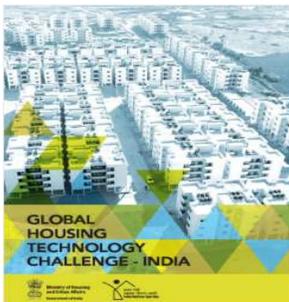
For further details, Dr. Kavitha Rajsekar, Scientist-D, email id kavitha.rajsekar@nic.in, Phone Number +009123736085 may be contacted.

https://dhr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Advertisement%20Application%20HRD%20Scheme_1.pdf

The Global Housing Technology Challenge (India)

The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri announced the intent to launch a Global Housing Technology Challenge, at an event at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, the 11th of February 2018. Mr. Puri spoke about the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which was launched in June 2015, and its goal of providing affordable and quality houses to over 12 million families by 2022.

He acknowledged that to meet this ambitious goal, one of the key strategies would be to employ innovative technologies that could allow for speedier and cost-effective construction of homes while ensuring safety, sustainability, livability and scalability. He stressed on the importance of partnerships and invited experts and technologies from around the world to participate in the challenge process. The challenge is being detailed out currently and is expected to launch shortly. Further information can be seen at: <https://smartnet.niua.org/content/11dc220f-6421-4184-94a1-17604e0af7c1>



8th IESS Show at Chennai 14-16 March 2019

The 8th edition of INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING SOURCING SHOW – (IESS 2019) will be held from 14 – 16 March 2019 at Chennai. For complete show details, please visit <https://www.iesshow.in>.

Embassy Events

Former Agriculture & Defense Minister of India Mr. Sharad Pawar visits the Netherlands



Former Agriculture & Defense Minister of India Mr. Sharad Pawar visited the Netherlands on October 17 along with a delegation from Vasantdada Sugar Institute Pune comprising of delegates from sugar industries & institutions.

[Photos of the event](#)

Ambassador Venu Rajamony inaugurates the 2-week long India Dans Festival at Korzo Theater



Ambassador Venu Rajamony inaugurated the 2-week long India Dans Festival at Korzo Theater on October 19. The festival featured top performers from India - Malavika Sarukkai whose innovative choreography of Thari - The Loom was the highlight of the India Dans Festival and sponsored by ICCR. Also featured Rukmini Vijayakumar Kathak duo Hari & Chethana & well known Dutch artistes Lavinia Meijer.

[Photos of the event](#)

Carnatic music vocalist & renowned playback singer P. Unnikrishnan performs in The Netherlands



The carnatic music vocalist & renowned playback singer P. Unnikrishnan performed at the Laya School of Dance & Arts The Hague on October 20. Ambassador Venu Rajamony & his spouse and the Sri Lankan Ambassador H.E. Mr. Adam Sadiq attended the concert.

[Photos of the event](#)

Diwali Celebrations in The Netherlands



Ambassador Venu Rajamony was the Chief Guest at the Diwali celebrations organized by different community organizations in The Netherlands from November 4-19 in the cities of [Amstelveen](#), [Utrecht](#), [Eindhoven](#) & [Delft](#).

[Photos of the event](#)

Ambassador meets the Prime Minister of Curaçao Eugene Rhuggenaath



On November 22, Ambassador Venu Rajamony called on Prime Minister Eugene Rhuggenaath of Curaçao in The Hague. The Embassy also organized a meeting with representatives of prominent Indian companies in the Netherlands - HCL, TCS, Sun Pharma on possibility investments and business in Curaçao .

[Photos of the Curaçao PM](#)

Gurpurab Celebrations in The Hague



Ambassador Venu Rajamony attended the Gurpurab celebrations at the Gurudwara Singh Sabha The Hague on November 25 and participated in Guru Ka Langar.

[Photos of the event](#)
