



India will overtake China in 2016: Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs sees India embarking on a new growth cycle, aided by healthier macroeconomic numbers, structural reforms by the Government and higher investments.

This would help make India the fastest growing major economy in calendar year 2016, overtaking China for the first time, the investment bank said.

Goldman Sachs expects India to grow at 6.3% in calendar 2015, 6.8% in 2016 and at 7% or more till 2018. China's growth rate in 2016 is expected to slow to 6.7% from 7% in 2015.

Source: Mint



Nuclear cooperation, defence high on Modi-Putin talks agenda

Nuclear cooperation, including for a "cascade" of nuclear reactors, would be high on the agenda of talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during their summit meeting in New Delhi.

Around 20 agreements are to be inked during the 15th Annual India-Russia Summit between Putin and Modi.

Besides, India and Russia are set to agree on a "cascade of nuclear units" and Moscow is awaiting the naming of the areas where they would be build.

"Nuclear cooperation is item number one on the agenda" of the bilateral talks, the ambassador said.

Russia would also offer India more fields to scout for hydrocarbons. India's ONGC Videsh Ltd. is already scouting oil in the Sakhalin-1 field.

Putin is arriving with a 15-member strong team of business honchos and his visit would see talks between the Russian businesspersons and Indian corporate leaders, including Reliance and L & T.



Source: Indo-Asian News Service

Govt eases FDI rules for construction sector

The government on December 3 notified easier FDI rules for construction sector, where 100% overseas investment is permitted, which will allow overseas investors to exit a project even before its completion.

A press note issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has clarified that the three-year lock-in will no longer apply and under normal circumstances, an investor can exit on completion of the project or even after the development of trunk infrastructure, such as construction of roads, water supply and drainage.



The exit clause was seen as one of the key deterrents for overseas investors to invest in the Indian construction market.

The Government was keen to ease the rules for building townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction development projects as these are sectors with huge employment potential and boost demand for steel and cement.

The Press Note, based on a Cabinet decision, has also reduced the minimum capital requirement to \$5 million, which has to be brought in within six months of commencement of the project.

Source: The Times of India

Trade portal launched to better utilise free trade pacts

To facilitate exports and ensure better use of Free Trade Agreements by exporters, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on December 8 launched an Indian Trade Portal providing information on preferential tariffs, rules of origin and technical barriers to trade faced by Indian exporters in such markets.



India has signed a number of FTAs with various countries and blocs over the last few years, but exporters have not been able to utilise them well because of lack of knowledge about what such agreements offered.

The portal developed by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), which will also maintains it, will provide important data for use of exporters and importers in a user friendly manner and this will contribute to ease of doing business.

"The portal will also facilitate exports and will help Indian exporters to utilise the free trade agreements (FTAs)," it added.

India has signed FTAs with about 20 countries while it is negotiating such agreements with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the EU.

Source: Indo-Asian News Service

India successfully test fires its heaviest rocket

India on December 18 moved forward in rocket technology with the successful flight testing of its heaviest next generation rocket and the crew module.

The Rs.155 crore mission has twin purposes. The main purpose is to test the rocket's atmospheric flight stability with around four tonne luggage.

The second and incidental objective is to study the re-entry characteristics of the crew module-called Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment - its aero braking and validation of its end-to-end parachute system.

At the mission control centre there was no control on ISRO's scientists happiness at the success.

Speaking about the mission, ISRO's Chairman K. Radhakrishan said: "India started development of the rocket a decade ago and today completed the first experimental flight.

Source: Indo-Asian News Service



Narendra Modi tops global leaders' list: Harvard Study

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the number one global leader when it comes to citizens approving the development strategy of their respective countries, says a study by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Modi, with 87.8% approval for his policies, comfortably pipped US President Barack Obama who is ranked 20th with 44.8%. The report is based on a survey of citizens across 30 nations on 10 influential leaders having a global impact.



Source: The Economic Times

GDP likely to grow 5.5 percent in 2015: Mid-year review

India's economy is likely to grow at around 5.5 percent in the current fiscal year, the Finance Ministry said in mid-year review tabled in Parliament on December 19.



In the first six months of 2014-15, economy grew at an annual 5.5 percent, the report said.

The Indian economy logged 5.3 percent growth in the second quarter of this fiscal, against 5.7 percent in the first quarter.

Source: Indo-Asian News Service

India remains attractive investment destination: Survey

India remains one of the most preferred investment destinations for global investors while domestic companies expect stable economic conditions in the near term, says a survey.

Leading consultancy EY said that Indian businesses expect stable economic conditions in the near term, both on the global and domestic front. Such a scenario augurs well for the country's M&A landscape, it added.

"India continues to retain its attraction for global investors and remains amongst the top three preferred destinations for investment," EY said today.



Source: Press Trust of India

India exports first warship; delivers patrol vessel to Mauritius

By delivering an offshore patrol vessel to Mauritius, India on December 20 exported its first warship.

"This is the first time that the export barrier has been breached. This would be the first among the long line of ships that we hope to export to various parts of the world," Minister of State for Defence Rao Inderjit Singh said during the warship handing over ceremony.

Built by defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata, the \$58.5 million 'CGS Barracuda' measures 74.10 m in length.

It is capable of moving at a maximum speed of 22 knots with an approximate displacement of 1350 tonnes. Describing it as a red-letter day in the history of ship-building in India, Singh said it proves that the industry has come of age.

They have so far made 92 warships for the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.



Source: Press Trust of India