



Tiranga

Building bonds

EMBASSY OF INDIA
DOHA, QATAR

Quarterly Newsletter / Issue - 8

January 2012

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Published by:

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Doha, Qatar.

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Design & Layout:

TRANS MEDIA
INTERNATIONAL W.L.L.

www.transmediaintl.com

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Visit of Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry to India



The Minister of Energy and Industry, Dr. Mohamed bin Saleh al Sada visited New Delhi on October 27, 2011 and met Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Jaipal Reddy. Talks covered means of enhancing cooperation in both upstream and downstream areas.

Visit of Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Jaipal Reddy to Qatar

A 6-member official delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy visited Doha to attend the 20th World Petroleum Conference from December 4 – 8, 2011. The Chairman and Managing Directors of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Oil India Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Engineers India Limited (EIL) and PLL also accompanied the official delegation. Shri Jaipal Reddy inaugurated an exhibition on India themed "Ahead with India: Partnership in Knowledge and Investment" at the conference venue and held several bilateral meetings including one with Qatar's Minister of Energy and Industry, Dr. Mohamed bin Saleh al Sada.



Visit of National Security Advisor of India to Qatar



Shri Shiv Shankar Menon, National Security Advisor of India visited Doha on December 4, 2011 and had a meeting with Qatari Prime Minister, Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabor Al Thani. The discussions focused on means of strengthening bilateral cooperation with particular emphasis on developing modalities for cooperation in security related issues. Both sides also exchanged views on situation in the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He also met with Qatar's

Minister of State for Interior, Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalid Al Thani and Chief of State Security Bureau Mohammed Al Misnad.

Visit of Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed to Qatar

Shri E. Ahamed, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs led the India delegation to the 4th forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). He addressed the Ministerial Session of UNAOC on December 12 and spoke about India's heritage as a centre of cultural confluence and tolerance and unity in diversity. During his visit, he met with Deputy Premier and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah. The Minister also inaugurated the State Bank of India's Qatar Financial Centre Branch which has been permitted to commence wholesale operations in Doha.



INDIA - FOREIGN RELATIONS

During the month of November 2011, Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh participated in some major international events viz. the G-20 summit in France, the 17th SAARC Conference in Maldives and the 9th India-ASEAN summit in Indonesia. He also held bilateral meetings with various Heads of State/Government, who came to attend these conferences.

Prime Minister attending G-20 summit in Cannes, France



Prime Minister attending 17th SAARC Conference in Maldives



Prime Minister attending 9th ASEAN-India summit in Bali, Indonesia



FII investment limit in government securities, bonds hiked



The Finance Ministry decided to increase the investment limit of Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in government securities and corporate bonds by \$5 billion as the current limit for this year has almost been exhausted.

Now, an FII can invest up to \$15 billion in government securities, and for the corporate bonds the cap has been enhanced to \$20 billion.

The changes are likely to enhance capital flows and investments at lower cost. Indian corporates also have enough room to borrow through the External Commercial Borrowing route where the cap is \$30 billion, of which, so far, this year's borrowings have touched \$21 billion.

In September, the government had relaxed norms for FIIs investment in long-term infrastructure bonds, reducing the residual maturity period to one year for investments of up to \$5 billion. Though the government had raised investment limit of FIIs in long-term infrastructure bonds from \$5 billion to \$25 billion in the 2011-12 Budget, investments under this scheme had a minimum residual maturity of five years and were subject to a minimum lock-in period of three years.

Exports up 36 per cent in September while imports grew 17 per cent



India's exports grew by 36.3% in September 2011, demonstrating impressive growth despite a slowdown in US and Europe. Exports came in at \$24.8 billion compared to \$18.2 billion in the year-ago period. Imports also grew by 17.2% coming in at \$34.5 billion.

Commerce Secretary Rahul Khullar has said that total exports in the current fiscal may reach \$290-300 billion. Engineering goods, petroleum products growing by 103% and 53%, respectively, led the growth in exports.



India's Internet users top 100 m in Sept



A survey on Internet usage has found that India's Internet users crossed 100 million in September 2011, a growth of 13 per cent against last year.

At this rate of growth, the country is poised to touch 121 million users by December 2011.

The survey was conducted by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB. It looked at users in urban and rural India.

The study has found that among the active Internet users in urban India - 89 per cent of the 28 million active users in 30 cities used the Internet primarily for e-mail, followed by 71 per cent for social networking and visiting Web sites.

Global investors bet \$1 billion on India's Internet, mobile start-ups



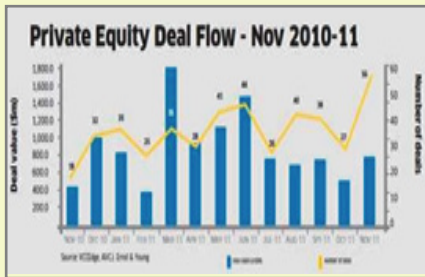
Global investors have placed a billion dollar bet on India's Internet and mobile start-ups during 2011, reposing confidence in the fast-growing base of digital consumers in the country. Marquee venture capital and private equity investors made aggressive investments in start-ups - most of which are less than five-year old - as they backed the story of rising disposable income and Internet penetration.

These investors have already ploughed more than \$900 million between January and November, while deals worth another \$250 million could be clinched by December-end, said an Aventus Capital report titled 'India Goes Digital'. The boutique investment bank, with work expertise in internet and technology, said the domestic e-commerce market would quadruple to \$24 billion by 2015.

Online retail, or e-tailing, will lead the internet consumer story catching up with online travel, classifieds and advertising which dominate the digital consumer industry in India right now. E-tailing will develop into a \$12 billion-strong business, accounting for half of the total e-commerce market in the next four years.

The number of deals more than doubled to 66 in the first 11 months with investors rushing to board the digital consumer story.

Private equity investments spike up in November



In a complete contrast to the activity in October 2011, PE investment activity improved significantly during November 2011 with the highest number of deals this year. Real estate, hospitality and construction (RHC) sector received the highest value of investments - on the back of three large transactions during the month.

Technology received the maximum number of investments as the investors seem to be attracted towards the start-up/early-stage investments in this space. Of the total 10 deals in the technology sector, eight were start-up/early-stage investments.

Three funds announced successful fund closures. Eight funds also announced plans to raise close to \$3 billion in new funds. Exits continued the momentum on the non-IPO side with six such exits. There was no PE-backed IPO during November 2011.

With 56 deals, November recorded the maximum number of deals in a month during 2011 - more than double compared to October 2011. The aggregate value of investments during this month was \$690 million, an increase of 53% compared with previous month. The investment activity during November 2011 was also significantly higher compared with the corresponding period last year.

In terms of number of deals, technology sector recorded the highest investment activity with 10 deals. RHC ranked second in the league with seven transactions during the month. Overall, the activity in the month was fairly broad, with fair representation of deals in consumer products, industrial products and financial services sector



FMCG biggies L'Oreal, Ferrero, Kraft Cadbury, Del Monte and Procter & Gamble to localise products



Consumer goods makers such as L'Oreal, Ferrero, Kraft Cadbury, Del Monte and Procter & Gamble are making more products locally to cash in on growing consumer demand.

With sales of certain brands crossing a critical level, these companies are moving with great urgency to make the most of lower production costs, save on import costs, and make their products more competitive and widely available in the booming Indian consumer market.

The Indian FMCG market is estimated to grow to \$100 billion by 2025 from \$12 billion in 2011, according to market research firm Nielsen's report, Consumer 360. The report has identified four key trends that will drive consumption: premiumisation, consumers switching from commodity to brands, from indulgence to regular consumption, and acceptability.

Coca-Cola to invest \$2 billion in 5 years



Coca-Cola and its bottling partners will invest \$2 billion, in India over five years starting 2012, making it the single largest investment of the world's largest soft drinks maker in one phase since it re-entered the country 18 years back.

The move, once again puts the spotlight on how critical growth in emerging markets like India is for multinational firms dealing with slowdown or stagnant sales in the US and European markets. "India has passed a certain threshold for the Coca-Cola system; we see this market as a determining factor in our growth story," said Ahmet C Bozer, Coca-Cola's president, Eurasia and Africa Group, who announced the big-ticket investment.

"If we continue to do the right things each day, it would not surprise me if India becomes one of the top five markets for the company globally by the end of this decade," he said. Atul Singh, president & CEO, Coca-Cola India and South West Asia, said the new investments will be infused across infrastructure development, brand building, sustainability programmes, innovation, marketing and distribution expansion.

Shri Gulzar conferred with Award

Oscar award winner, writer and poet, Shri Gulzar visited Doha on October 5 – 7, 2011 for receiving an International Urdu award conferred by a local organization Majlis Farogh-e-Urdu Adab and for participation in their annual Mushaira. A reception was organized by the Charge de Affaires, Shri Sanjiv Kohli, in the Embassy in the honour of Shri Gulzar, Dr. Gopi Chand Narang and other visiting Urdu poets from India.



EcoQ Conference

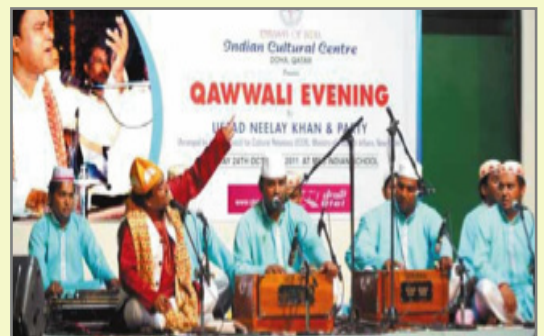


The First Qatar International Environment Protection and Sustainable Energy Exhibition and Conference (ecoQ) was organized in Doha from October 16 – 19, 2011. Embassy of India in association with the Institution of Engineers (India) Qatar Chapter participated in the exhibition with a view to promote the image of India as an environmen-

tally conscious destination among the international community.

Qawwali Concert

A nine-member Qawwali group led by Qawwal Ustad Neelay Khan sent by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations performed at a special event organized by the Embassy of India in Doha on October 24, 2011.



CITY PALACE - UDAIPUR



Udaipur City Palace is one of the architectural marvels of Rajasthan, located peacefully on the banks of Lake Pichola. This majestic City Palace is the most-visited tourist attraction of Udaipur and often distinguished as the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Initially, Maharana Udai Singh built this superb wonder, but the present form of the Palace is the result of subsequent additions by his successors.

City Palace boasts of the wonderful blend of Medieval, European and Chinese Architecture. The Palace has various towers, domes and arches, which add to the flavor of heritage site. Towering on the banks of Pichola Lake, City Palace is truly a feast to the eyes. City Palace is a marvelous assortment of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens. Encircled by fortifications, this imposing Palace is wholly built in granite and marble.

City Palace comprises 11 wonderful palaces, which were built by different rulers still they resemble each other. With the sheer glimpse of unique paintings, antique furniture and exquisite glass mirror & ornamental tiles work of these palaces, you will get amazed. Manak Mahal (Ruby Palace) has figures of crystal and porcelain.

- Location : On the banks of Lake Pichola
- Built in : Started in 1559 - till 18th century
- How to reach : One can easily reach Udaipur City Palace either by taking local buses, tongas, auto-rickshaws and taxis from the city