

# **CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA** **SAN FRANCISCO**

## **MONTHLY COMMERCIAL REPORT AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2016**

### **Important Commercial News - Aug/Sep 2016**

#### **1. SBI partners Oracle to support Digital India**

State Bank of India and tech giant Oracle have partnered for corporate India's largest volunteering programme to bring 'digital fluency' among underprivileged school students. Under the programme - D-Change - both the organisations will deploy resources, including staff and equipment, to train students in the basics of information, communication and technology (ICT) tools.

#### **2. Apple reaffirms India retail store plans as iPhone sales stay strong**

Apple Inc.'s chief executive Tim Cook has reaffirmed the iPhone-maker's plans to open its own retail stores in India, which he described as one of its fastest-growing markets. "We're looking forward to opening retail stores in India down the road, and we see huge potential for that vibrant country," said Cook on Wednesday. He had visited India in May 2016.

The increasingly saturated Chinese smartphone market has shifted the Cupertino, California-based Apple's focus to India as its next source of growth. India iPhone sales jumped 51% in the first nine months of Apple's current business year.

#### **3. US firm Lockheed Martin offers to build F-16s in India on assured order from IAF**

US aerospace firm Lockheed Martin is in talks with the government to build the latest version of F-16 warplanes in India, a company official said on Thursday. The firm has offered to move its only production line for the fighter jets from Fort Worth, Texas to India from where F-16s could be exported. Lockheed's national executive (India) Abhay Paranjape, however, clarified that the establishing the production line here was conditional on assured orders from Indian Air Force.

#### **4. India, US Export-Import Bank in talks on \$8-9 billion nuclear loan**

India is negotiating with US Export-Import Bank for an \$8-9 billion loan to finance six Westinghouse Electric nuclear reactors, two sources familiar with the talks said, although a lending freeze at the trade agency threatens progress. The mega-project, the result of warming US-India ties in recent years, could open up billions of dollars of further investment in India's nuclear power sector, which was for decades shut out of the global market.

#### **5. India explores options after US wins WTO solar dispute**

India is looking at new ways to support domestic solar manufacturing after the US won a dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the country's local content rules.

On Friday, the WTO Appellate Body issued a report upholding the US challenge to the domestic content requirements under India's National Solar Mission for solar cells and modules. The Appellate Body affirmed an earlier WTO panel report that sustained the US claim that the requirements discriminated against American-made and other imported solar products, in breach of international trade rules.

#### **6. Integration of Private Sector into Policy Making Process Highlighted During U.S.-India CEO Forum**

The event was held in the first week of September. Participants in the Forum generated a list of recommendations that were discussed both during the CEO forum itself and later that

afternoon during the Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. During the commercial track of the S&CD, the U.S. and Indian governments agreed to act on a number of CEO recommendations, including facilitating financing for infrastructure and energy projects, developing India's smart cities, enhancing digital infrastructure, improving ease of doing business, and supporting small businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs.

### **Trade Enquiries**

Here are some of the trade enquiries that this post received during these months and they have been attended to appropriately.

Slogan Ceramic	Ceramic Items
Golden International	Spices, Food products
Sujatha Sales and Services Pvt. Ltd.	Handicrafts, Silver products
Uthayam Coir Export	Cocopeat and Coir rope
Palc India	Apparel
Anvin Overseas	Spices
ALS Exports	Hosiery, Knitted, Woven Garments
Sara International	Jute, cotton, canvas bags
Goldi Green	Solar panels
Annathaexports	Food products

Sources:

1. <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-export-import-bank-in-talks-on-8-9-billion-nuclear-loan/articleshow/54460129.cms>
2. <http://renewables.seenews.com/news/india-explores-options-after-us-wins-wto-solar-dispute-540125>
3. <http://ajed.assembly.ca.gov/sites/ajed.assembly.ca.gov/files/Final%20California-India%20Trade%20Fast%20Facts%20February%202015.pdf>
4. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2016/09/integration-private-sector-policy-making-process-highlighted-during-us-india-ceo>