

EBG organises high profile meetings



18 August 2011, interactive session with India's youngest and most dynamic Minister, Shri Sachin Pilot, Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology at New Delhi. Shri Pilot spoke on "Innovation in Telecom".



15 September 2011, 15 September 2011 - India's most prominent economic policymaker and close advisor to the Prime Minister of India Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission addressed the EBG forum at New Delhi on "Managing high growth and inflation: Improving Government delivery mechanisms". This was followed by an excellent interactive session with the participants.

Macroeconomic Indicators: India

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

	2011-12	
	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Full Year (Apr-Mar)
Overall GDP growth (%)	7.7	8.2
Agriculture (%)	3.9	3
Industry (%)	5.1	7.1
Services (%)	10	10

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP)

	2011-12
	Q1 (Apr-Jun)
General Index (%)	6.8
Mining (%)	1.0
Manufacturing (%)	7.5
Electricity (%)	8.2

EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES (INFRASTRUCTURE)

	2011-12	
	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Jul
Overall (%)	5	7.8
Coal (%)	0.2	2.4
Crude oil (%)	9.5	1.4
Natural gas (%)	(10.2)	(8.2)
Refinery products (%)	5.3	3.9
Fertilizers (%)	1.1	(1.6)
Finished steel (%)	7.8	15.5
Cement (%)	(0.9)	10.6
Electricity (%)	8.3	13

WPI INFLATION

	2011-12	
	Q1 (Apr-Jun)	Jul
All commodities (%)	9.6	9.2
Primary articles (%)	13.4	11.3
Food articles (%)	9.1	8.2
Fuel and Power (%)	12.7	12
Manufactured products (%)	7.2	7.5

TAX COLLECTION

	2011-12	
	(Apr-Jul)	Growth (%)
Direct taxes (US\$ Bn)	6.4	26.6
Indirect taxes (US\$ Bn)	28	27.1

FOREIGN TRADE

	2011-12	
	(Apr-Jul)	Growth (%)
Exports (US\$ Bn)	108.3	54
Imports (US\$ Bn)	151	40
Trade Surplus/ (Deficit) (US\$ Bn)	(42.7)	(13.8)

*Estimates

Courtesy: BMR Advisors

News from the EU Delegation

As every year, the summer period brought some personnel changes at the EU Delegation. Edouard Bourcieu has returned to Brussels at the end of his posting and has been replaced by Francisco Peiro, who joins us from Brussels. Francisco – or Paco, as he is usually known – was previously working in DG Trade on trade policy issues affecting key EU industrial sectors, including the long-running Airbus/Boeing disputes with the US, and before that was in DG Competition. He will take over the issues followed by Edouard, notably in the area of Services and Investment.

Recent months have seen a flurry of bilateral meetings on trade issues between the EU and India, notably the Sub-Committee on Trade and the Joint Working Group on TBT/SPS issues in July and the Joint Working Group on Textiles in September. These meetings typically allow the two sides to take stock of progress achieved in addressing existing trade irritants and to highlight any concerns on potential new problems in the bilateral relationship. For example, in the telecoms sector, the EU used the Sub-Committee both to recognise the extent to which India has taken on board EU concerns on licensing policy – even if not all of our concerns have yet been fully addressed – and at the same time to flag up concerns that the future telecom equipment manufacturing policy, presently under preparation by the Department of Telecommunications, could potentially hold back development of the sector and create new market access barriers to EU exports.

The two Joint Working Groups, meanwhile, allowed for a more detailed exchange of views on current topics. The atmosphere in the working group on Textiles was certainly helped by India's recent decision to lift export quotas on raw cotton. The agenda

of the working group on SPS and TBT issues was rather more heavy, given that both sides have well-established concerns with the regulatory measures of the other.

For the EU to make the most of its regular inter-actions with Gol counterparts on this regular bread-and-butter work on current market access and regulatory irritants, it is clear that we need a good flow of information and an active dialogue with all relevant EU stakeholders. Dialogue with the business community is essential to understand the impact of particular measures on the interests of EU companies, both importers and investors, and to be able to take business stakeholders' views into account in the formulation of EU positions. We are always open to views that EBG members – and EBG sectoral committees – wish to contribute at country-level. The current exercise underway to prepare an updated set of EBG position papers is an opportunity to reinforce interactions that should not be wasted.

Earlier in September, the EU Delegation and a group of EU Member State Commercial Counsellors met with a number of EBG members in Mumbai. This formed part of an outreach exercise to EU business stakeholders as well as a number of Gol regulatory bodies in the city. An interaction with members of the EBG Banking and Insurance Committee formed part of the programme. This generated a very rich discussion that provided valuable insights on business stakeholder perspectives in the sector.



Courtesy:
Delegation of the European Union to India

Appointments

New EU Member State Officials

Mr. Jeroen Vlutters, Embassy of Netherlands

Ms Frances Hooper, First Secretary,
British High Commission

Mr Mohit Bansal, Senior Trade Advisor,
British High Commission

Mr Michal Byczkowski, Embassy of Poland

Mr Jean-René Cougard, Embassy of France

Ms Diana Mickeviciené, Minister Counsellor, Lithuania

Ministers of State with Independent Charge



Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan, is the new Minister of State for Environment and Forests with independent charge. She enters the Union Ministry after more than a decade. Natarajan, 57, was the earlier Minister of State in the Civil Aviation and Parliamentary Affairs Ministries in the United Front government. She is a lawyer by profession and the Congress spokesperson.

RBI Governor Subbarao gets 2-year extension



The government gave a two-year extension to Reserve Bank Governor D Subbarao to ensure continuity of India's monetary policy at a time when the whole world is reeling under the fallout of the downgrade of the sovereign rating of the US.

Are You Ready for India?

Courtesy: Ranjit Shastri, MD, X-PM Ltd.



A few months ago, X-PM conducted a round table discussion with a group of eminent business leaders in India, including the heads of MNCs, Indian business groups and private equity firms. While each participant had a unique perspective on the challenges of doing business in India, there was little debate on the following key points:

1. While demand is booming in India, competition among suppliers is fierce.
2. There are many challenges, including poor infrastructure, high employee attrition, a dearth of world-class managers, business cycles and regulatory issues.
3. To succeed in India, one needs to get into the details of the local market, including costs, pricing, demographics, legal environment, government regulations and the character of the people with whom you do business.

Clearly, there is much optimism about the country's future, tempered with the knowledge that it's never easy to do business in India. Entering an attractive market does not guarantee success, and companies that do succeed in India often do so after an initial failure.

There's no doubt that new entrants in the Indian market will have to pay particular attention to the competition – not just local Indian companies (often backed by foreign investors), but also the many MNCs that are now investing heavily in India. New entrants will therefore have to be even better organized than their predecessors to ensure that they are truly ready to enter India, and they need to be mentally prepared for an initial failure. The existing players in India are perhaps more ready for newcomers than newcomers are for India.

X-PM too is a new entrant in India, and recognizes the challenges of doing business here. We are committed to helping our global clients execute in the incredibly complex and competitive Indian environment. Our pool of seasoned C-level executives includes over 350 interim CEOs, COOs, CFOs and CTOs, all of whom are available for deployment to solve specific business problems, not as consultants but as hands on managers. Whether you need to acquire a business, improve performance, tackle a crisis or just need a temporary leader, we have the resources and solutions to help you execute flawlessly.

Ranjit Shastri is the MD of X-PM Ltd., the Indian JV of Paris-based X-PM Transition Partners. For a transcript of the round table discussion, you may contact him at rshastri@x-pm.com.

EBG forthcoming Events

- Interactive session with Dr. Subir Gokarn Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India on "Managing High Growth and inflation" at Mumbai on 3rd Oct 2011 at the Trident Hotel.
- EBG Bangalore Chapter Activity – Innovation Position Paper Presentation on 13th Oct in Delhi.
- Social Networking Event at the Garden of Five Senses on Oct 14th 2011, New Delhi.
- Interactive session with high profile personality at New Delhi in Nov 2011.
- EBG Black Tie Ball in Bangalore on 19th November 2011.
- Release of EBG Position Paper by high Profile EU dignitary in Nov 2011, New Delhi.
- Monthly Networking Event at Olive Beach, New Delhi.
- EBG –BLBA Energy Event New Delhi, Nov 2011.
- EBG pre-budget meeting with Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance Government of India in Nov 2011.
- EBG Xmas Dinner at Hotel Taj Man Singh on 9th Dec 2011.

Bird Automotive

Bird Automotive are the dealers for BMW Vehicles in Delhi & NCR, UP & Uttarkhand. With 2 Showrooms already operational at Gurgaon, Bird Automotive is poised to inaugurate a new Retail point called 'M-Café' at the premium Ambience Mall, Vasant Kunj in end-September, 2011

Bird Automotive, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon is a 3000 sq ft Sales Facility which follows the free flowing BMW Studio Design Concept and can display 2 vehicles at one time. Placed at the entrance of Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, this Studio is much frequented by persons who find it easy to combine their interests. Significantly, this facility inaugurated the BMW Retail Business in India at start of Sales in April 2007.

Bird Automotive 4S Facility, Gurgaon – Inaugurated in September, 2010, this is the largest dealership facility in the luxury car segment in India.” Spread over 110,000 sq ft, it has a sophisticated showroom integrated with advanced after-sales service and in all combining Sales, Service, Spare parts and Business Systems to ensure that customers receive best-in-class Purchase and Ownership experience. The design of the showroom is based upon Reception at the Car (RATC) and Urban Street Display concept which is a Signature BMW layout with a Consultation Lounge and Sales Desk close to the display area. The showroom displays 9 vehicles in an urban street display style. The workshop has 14 service bays and 3 diagnostic bays that can service 60 cars per day.

The 3rd milestone for Bird Automotive will be the M-Café in Delhi. This 3000 sq ft Showroom will establish the automobile café concept in India and which has so far been very popular in Europe. Branded after the M series vehicles of BMW, even though the M-Café is so called, it will have display and sales of other BMW vehicles as well. The BMW M Series is a high-performance version of select BMW vehicles developed by the in-house division of BMW – ‘BMW M’. These cars are sold with coupe, sedan and convertible body styles.

Bird Automotive has brought to Delhi & NCR the BMW standards of Sales and Service at par with other BMW dealerships worldwide.

The full retail operation is headed by Mr. Gaurav Bhatia, Director, Bird Automotive. A pass-out of Modern School, Barakhambah Road, New Delhi and having studied Business Management at University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, Mr. Bhatia has lent a fresh perspective to the business and looks forward to taking it to new heights.

Bird Automotive employs over 150 people in Gurgaon and provides its staff intense training at BMW’s training centers in Singapore, Malaysia and Germany.

For more information please visit www.bmw-birdautomotive.in or www.bird.in

Courtesy: Bird Group

Culture

ISTITUTO ITALIANO di CULTURA, NEW DELHI

The Istituto Italiano di Cultura also promotes food as part of Italian Culture. Its Cafeteria, located in the quiet lawns and outsourced to the popular Diva Restaurant, uses the finest ingredients and serves authentic Italian dishes. Several culinary activities are organized here from time to time to promote the varied and rich traditions of Italian cooking, also promote food as part of Italian Culture.

Venice International Film Festival:

Contact for more details: Italian Embassy Cultural Centre
T: +91-11-26871901 | E: iicnewdelhi@esteri.it

THE CIRCLE OF MAKING I & THE CIRCLE OF MAKING II

Istituto Italiano di Cultura, New Delhi in collaboration with Devi Art Foundation, Art Heritage Gallery, Nature Morte and Sandy Starkman is presenting THE CIRCLE OF MAKING I & THE CIRCLE OF MAKING II a retrospective of the works by TARSHITO, Curator: Laila Tyabji and Curator: Amal Allana, Date: 11th October – 27th November, 2011

Foyer and Exhibition Hall,
Istituto Italiano di Cultura, New Delhi
50-E, Chandragupta Marg (Entry from Nyaya Marg)
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi – 110021

Shridharani Gallery, Art Heritage
Triveni Laka Sangam,
Tansen Marg, New Delhi - 110001

Mercedes Benz to start driving academy in India



Mercedes-Benz

The Indian unit of the German auto giant Mercedes Benz announced its plans to establish a performance driving academy to train drivers in the first quarter of next year. The academy will come up at the Buddh International Circuit, Noida, the venue for the first ever Indian Formula 1 grand prix to be held on October 30, 2011. Mercedes Benz has become an official automobile partner for event. As per memorandum of understanding signed with Jaypee Sports International, Mercedes will be providing standby safety cars during the event.

The academy will be the fourth one after Germany, US and China. It will come up by January-March next. There is also good news for Mercedes Benz car buyers as they hold a chance to drive on Buddha International Circuit track, once the race gets over. The tickets for Indian Grand Prix will be available at Mercedes Benz showrooms for next 45 days.

Audi India launches new Q5 at lower price

Luxury car maker Audi India launched a new version of its sports utility vehicle Q5, priced at Rs 35.13 lakh (ex-showroom, Mumbai) lower than the existing range. The new version, powered by a 2.0 litre engine, will hit the roads from October this year.

“The Audi Q5 2.0 TDI q is perfectly equipped to further strengthen our leadership position in the luxury SUV segment. As the Audi Q5 already has a broad fan base in India, this attractive price will now make this premium experience accessible to a wider customer base,” Audi India Head Michael Perschke said in a statement.

The existing version of the Q5 is available between Rs 39.06 lakh and Rs 45.12 lakh (ex-showroom, Maharashtra).



FinnAir to expand its network to more Indian cities



Terming India as a “priority destination”, Nordic carrier FinnAir said that in addition to Delhi, it would soon link more cities directly with Finland.

Important cities like Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad are under consideration for starting FinnAir services, said Kari Stolbow, Director, Indian Sub-continent, FinnAir.

Meanwhile, FinnAir Cargo will launch services between Mumbai and Helsinki in co-operation with Nordic Global Airlines from September 16, 2011 this year.

Vodafone Launches Facebook Phone In India



The second largest mobile operator Vodafone launched a Facebook-integrated phone ‘Vodafone Blue’, in the Indian market which allows its customers to access Facebook free of cost for a year. The phone has

been built by TCL, which also makes phones under the Alcatel brand, in association with Facebook, and runs a proprietary Operating System. The new phone, targeted at the youth and priced Rs 4,950, has a designated ‘f’ button that lets the customer to upload pictures, visit profiles, update status, and chat on the Facebook. The phone has a 2.4-inch screen, a QWERTY keypad and works on 2.5 G Edge network.

Skoda Mission L to launch in India by 2011 end

Skoda Auto a subsidiary of the largest European car maker Volkswagen, is all set to launch its much hyped sedan model – Mission L – in the Indian market by the end of this calendar year. The popular model was displayed at the on-going Auto Show in Frankfurt where it has been receiving a great response from the car enthusiasts and visitors.

Unlike most of the other global cars of the world, the Skoda Mission L will first hit the Indian roads and then will move towards the popular markets like Europe, China and Russia, where it will be launched in year 2012. According to the company, the Mission L model will soon hit the Indian roads, as it is in its final stage of development.



The Inflation Conundrum and Green GDP



In a continuing bid to battle the raging inflation, Reserve Bank of India has yet again raised the interest rates for the twelfth time in past eighteen months. Recent increase in fuel prices is a testament to the spiraling inflation, while the government helplessly watches and policy makers struggle to make sense of it. The Central Bank has begun to take the much overdue action through interest rate hikes and is now firmly continuing to bring the situation under control.

On returning to India in 2009, I heard loud claims of a sustained double-digit GDP growth. We were on the right path with at least a 9% growth rate if not more. Despite the much-glorified GDP growth, poverty sadly remains high as inflation is eating into the real income of millions, something our planners incessantly ignored and hoped would fade away.

There is only one durable solution to tackle the problem, measuring growth through Green GDP and creating a sustainable growth framework. The Indian growth story has to transform into a productivity led growth, which makes efficient and effective use of scarce resources.

Technology facilitates sustained productive growth and significantly reduces waste of scarce valuable resources. Virtualization of environments enables to get it right the first time, hence optimizing productivity from minimal use of resources. Adopting technology can also help revamp the country's outdated education infrastructure through virtually expanding the reach of scarce resources such as educators and content to a wider audience, which will affect the employability of millions thereby reducing the alarmingly high unemployment rate of 9%.

The mobile phone revolution in India is a good example of how technology can help the country. Within a decade since it began, more than half the population is connected, which has added to the productivity of the country. Virtual technologies will have an equally profound impact in helping overcome the supply bottlenecks that are clogging country's progress.

India's expectations are high and though the journey is long, there is hope for a bright future; but to achieve our aspiration we have to embrace a Green productive approach now before we carelessly squander our precious resources.

Courtesy: Andy Kalambi, President, Dassault Systemes

India wants emission targets under Kyoto Protocol to continue

At the Major Economies Forum meeting currently underway in Washington, India and other developing countries reiterated that an agreement on a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol must precede discussions on a "legally binding agreement" which includes all countries.

This position restated by environment minister Jayanthi Natarajan at the recent informal ministerial consultation in Pretoria put to rest rumours rife since the BASIC meeting in Brazil, that India was not keen on preserving the Kyoto Protocol.

India's prioritising the continuation of emission reduction targets for developed countries under the Kyoto Protocol

at the meeting of the 17 major economies, which account for the bulk of global emissions, is significant. India has consistently maintained that a decision on the legal form can't be taken till the contents of the outcome have been agreed to. The Minister reiterated this position at Pretoria, "substance is much more important. At this stage, we do not have to discuss the nature of a legally binding agreement."

In the present circumstance, it is difficult for India to show flexibility on this issue. Post Cancun, a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol has been countered with a legally-binding agreement in the Convention. Given India's national interests, the suggested trade-off is an uneven bargain.

The Networked Society



We at Ericsson believe that we are on the brink of a networked society. The Networked Society is the next reality after the Information Society that we are living in today. Being connected, using applications and social networking has become an everyday thing. Over the coming decades, technology advancement and infrastructure evolution will change the way we live, the way we work, the way markets function and the way societies act. In the Networked Society, everything that benefits from a connection will have one.

Ericsson envisions that by 2020 we will have a world of 50 billion connected devices. In this society, old barriers to learning, participation and economics will be broken down and we will see new models, services and solutions to meet the global challenges we face. In the Networked Society, information and communications technology (ICT) will converge into a universal information infrastructure driven by the combined forces of mobility, broadband and cloud services.

We will increasingly find that technology is an input, not an outcome, to bring about huge changes in the way we share and care about our fellow human beings.

Ericsson India is contributing in moving closer to this global vision. With the success of 3G, mobile broadband is set to

grow in India. Supporting the development of the Networked Society vision, we successfully conducted 'The Accelerate Mobile Broadband (AMBB)' campaign with 3 customers in over sixteen locations all over the country.

Ericsson came up with a report called 'The Networked Society City Index' in May 2011 to identify the development of ICT-enabled benefits to cities. This was a comprehensive study of 26 indicators, analyzing 25 cities around the world. The selection covered large cities, with an emphasis on geographical and economic diversity. ICT leadership aspects had also been considered. The aim was to create a broader discussion about the efficiency and innovation gains that ICT provides and to stimulate cross-sector dialog on successful strategies for realizing these benefits. The index and its component dimensions capture this ambition and identify the ways in which ICT enables triple-bottom-line development – social, economic and environmental – across society. We proudly witnessed two Indian cities – Delhi and Mumbai being featured in the top 20 list.

We can see that connected world is just the beginning. Connections are bringing us closer, closer to each other and closer to a truly Networked Society.

Courtesy: Ericsson India Pvt. Ltd.



1950

The start of Formula 1

1960

Jo Siffert accidentally sprays champagne

1967

Dan Gurney makes champagne spraying a tradition

2000

G.H. MUMM starts a long-term partnership with Formula 1

2011

India revs up for Formula 1 and an exceptional story

