



## POLICY UPDATE

- India launched the National Investment Fund (NIF). All proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Undertakings will be channelized into NIF. NIF will be maintained outside the Consolidated Fund of India and will be professionally managed to provide sustainable returns without depleting the corpus. UTI Asset Management Company Pvt. Ltd, SBI Funds Management Pvt. Ltd and LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Company Ltd have been appointed as fund managers. *More...*
- The Government of India gave its approval for the National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement, 2007. The Policy aims at striking a balance between the need for land for developmental activities and protecting the interest of land-owners and other affected parties. *More...*
- Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh in his telephonic conversation with US President Mr. George Bush mentioned that India remains committed to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round at an early date and that the draft texts in circulation can be the basis for discussions towards an agreed outcome on Agriculture and Industrial Tariffs. He emphasized that India is comfortable with most of the elements of these texts. *More...*

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- India can sustain 10% economic growth and it can be spread more evenly across the country according to a survey by Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The survey identified labour reforms, infrastructure as major challenges for the country to sustain the growth rate. *More...*
- The total value of equity deals by Indian corporates including strategic mergers and acquisitions and private equity has surpassed \$61.07 billion in the first nine months of 2007 according to advisory firm Grant Thornton. *More...*
- India is the second most-attractive location for global foreign direct investment after China according to UNCTAD's World Investment Report. India's ranking in inward FDI performance index improved to 113 in 2006 from 121 in 2005. *More...*
- India's share in the global foreign exchange market turnover has grown to 0.9% in 2007 from just 0.3% in 2004. This is the fastest increase in market share for any country in the world according to Switzerland based Bank for International Settlement (BIS). *More...*
- Assets under management of all the 32 mutual funds in India amount to \$120.60 billion led by Reliance Mutual fund according to Association of Mutual Funds of India. *More...*

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- The US Food and Drug Administration announced its GIVE (Generic Initiative for Value and Efficiency) initiative to put in place a more streamlined and modernized generic drug approval process which is expected to give a boost to the export plans of Indian drug companies. [More...](#)
- India's organized retail market is growing at 30-40% a year with an estimated investment of \$5.08 billion by December 2008 according to management consultancy firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers. [More...](#)
- The Indian e-commerce market is expected to touch \$2.33 billion by the end of 2007-08 with increased contribution from the non metros according to survey by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Indian Market Research Bureau (IMRB). [More...](#)

### Corporate News:

- National Aviation Company of India, the company formed after the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines and the Export-Import Bank of the US reached an agreement to assist the aviation company get a financial package of \$1.23 billion to buy 17 aircrafts from Boeing Company and four spare engines from General Electric Company to meet its growing passenger demand. [More...](#)
- Jet Airways India Ltd has executed a purchase agreement with the US Boeing Company for acquisition of 20 Boeing 737-800 series aircraft in order to maintain and expand the company's international and domestic operations. [More...](#)
- India's general insurance company, New India Assurance (NIA) has appointed US based Boston Consulting Group for guiding it on a transformation exercise that will include business as well as organizational restructuring. [More...](#)
- India's ICICI Venture Funds Management Ltd is floating \$2 billion real estate fund with tenure of ten years and is planning to operate in the entire value chain of real estate business. [More...](#)
- Reliance retail entered into an exclusive marketing and distribution deal with Apple, maker of iPods and Mac computers for setting up standalone istores making Reliance the first big corporate house to tie up with Apple for distribution anywhere in the world. [More...](#)
- Redhawk Investments Group, a US based company will set up \$350 million techno-township near the city of Hyderabad in India in partnership with Dreamland Infrastructure, a local company. [More...](#)
- US-Based Bessemer Venture Partners has earmarked \$350 million for Indian investments especially in companies that benefit from rise in consumer spending, infrastructural development and intellectual property-based opportunities. [More...](#)

### Visits and Events

- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Virbhadra Singh led a delegation to New York and Washington DC from Oct 8-11, 2007 to attract investment in hydro-power, biotechnology, information technology and other areas in the state of Himachal Pradesh. The delegation attended industry meetings organized by the U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC).
- Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Bhupinder Singh Hooda led an industry delegation to New York, Washington, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco from Oct 8-15, 2007. The delegation met investment bankers at New York, held discussions at World Bank, and had meetings with industry representatives during their visit.