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India Has The Promise To Be A Hi-Tech Producer Of Semiconductors: PSMCs Frank Huang



"India has the promise to be a hi-tech producer of semiconductors and reduce the country's dependency on imports on the back of growing demand for more electronics and hi-tech products" said Frank Huang, chairman of the Taiwanese giant Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC).

Huang was in India to sign the definitive agreement with the Tata group. "The agreement will work towards fulfilling Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision to make India semiconductor ready" he said.

PSMC has its largest semiconductor capacities in Taiwan and outside of Taiwan, India will be one of our major suppliers, he said.

Huang said PSMC finds the partnership with Tatas a perfect match. " Most semiconductor giants rarely license their technology.

In terms of the cost structure, capabilities, government support offered, India and Tatas are the perfect fit for us, he said

PSMC had been hunting for a suitable company in India after the PMO asked the Taiwanese company to shortlist a partner in February.

"We had several rounds of discussions with many potential companies. But we found an ideal partner in Tatas," Huang said.

PSMC will provide design and construction support to build India's first AI-enabled state-of-the-art greenfield Fab in Gujarat, license a broad portfolio of technologies and provide engineering support to successfully transfer licensed technologies to the Gujarat Fab.

NFR Expands Network, Introduces New Initiatives To Promote Tourism

According to the NFR, these efforts are designed to attract both domestic and international tourists to explore the rich cultural and natural beauty of the region.

"One of the key initiatives adopted by NFR towards promoting tourism is the introduction of tourist trains with Vistadome coaches," stated NFR's official press release.



So far, five trains equipped with Vistadome coaches have been introduced in the Northeast. According to NFR, this has allowed passengers to enjoy scenic views while travelling to places like Haflong, Badarpur, Jorhat, Agartala, Naharlagun, and the Dooars area of North Bengal.

The NFR also mentioned, "Narrow Gauge Vistadome coaches have also been introduced in the iconic joyride trains of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR), a UNESCO World Heritage site, thereby adding feathers to its cap in ensuring an unforgettable experience." In addition to Vistadome coaches,

NFR has launched 'Bharat Gaurav' trains to showcase India's cultural heritage and scenic landscapes. A 14-coach rake has been allotted for this purpose. To further enhance the experience for tourists, NFR has improved facilities at various stations by providing new retiring rooms, executive lounges, and rail coach restaurants.

Beyond station facilities, NFR has also developed a scenic tourist hub at the Brahmaputra riverfront near the Bogibeel Bridge in Dibrugarh.

This hub offers river cruises and features a floating restaurant. NFR is also connecting key tourist destinations by running special festival trains and offering block bookings for tourist groups.

Through these initiatives, NFR says they are committed to making the Northeast region more accessible and attractive for tourists. As NFR stated, "These efforts exemplify its dedication to making the Northeast region an accessible and attractive destination for tourists all across the world."

Jaishankar Meets UN Chief, Discusses Pact For Future, Climate Action



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday met United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. During the meeting, the talks focused on the Pact for the Future, reforming multilateralism, artificial intelligence, climate action, and concerns in West Asia and Ukraine.

Sharing a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Always a pleasure to speak with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres."

Discussed the Pact for the Future, reforming multilateralism, AI, climate action, West Asia and Ukraine."Under the Swiggy Skills initiative, its delivery partner platform will be integrated with Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), providing access to online skill development courses, certifications, and training modules to Swiggy's workforce.

UNGA recently adopted Summit of the Future pact, covering a broad range of themes, including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

Meanwhile, the External Affairs Minister also met his several counterparts on the sidelines of UNGA. In a series of posts, Jaishankar shared pictures with his several counterparts and discussed about enhancing bilateral cooperation.

"Happy to meet FM Tanja Fajon of Slovenia today on the sidelines of UNGA79. Spoke about India's increasing cooperation with the Mediterranean region," Jaishankar wrote on X.

"A warm first meeting with FM Badr Abdelatty of Egypt today at UNGA79. Discussed the steady progress in our bilateral ties and exchanged views on developments in the region," a post by Jaishankar read. Another post said, "Delighted to meet FM Nasser Bourita of Morocco today at UNGA79. We talked bilateral cooperation and our shared goal of reformed multilateralism."

"Nice to meet DPM and FM Ervin Ibrahimovic of Montenegro today on the sidelines of UNGA79. Our conversation focussed on advancing cooperation in business, health and tourism," Jaishankar wrote on X.

The EAM also posted about his meeting with his Swedish counterpart. "A good first meeting with my Swedish counterpart Maria Stenergard in New York today. Spoke about deepening our bilateral relationship in fields of sustainable development, investments and skilled workers' mobility. Exchanged perspectives on Ukraine and Indo - Pacific," Jaishankar wrote.

"Such a pleasure to meet FM Luminita Odobescu of Romania. Took stock of our growing bilateral engagements in tourism, defence and mobility. Exchanged perspectives on Ukraine," the post on X said.

Techwave And IQGeo Forge Strategic Partnership To Transform Telecom And Utility Sectors

Techwave, an IT and engineering services provider, is pleased to reveal a strategic partnership with IQGeo, a provider of innovative geospatial software solutions. This collaboration is set to enhance both companies' capabilities in delivering cutting-edge solutions tailored for the telecom and utility sectors. Together, they aim to drive advancements in network planning, deployment, and optimization, ensuring clients benefit from improved efficiency and effectiveness in their operations. This partnership marks a significant step forward in leveraging technology to meet the evolving needs of these critical industries.



As a Certified Design Partner, Techwave now has access to IQGeo's Professional edition of the Network Manager Telecom software, along with a fiber dataset for training, testing, and demonstrations. This partnership will enable Techwave to design and plan fiber networks with greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness, bringing substantial value to its clients.

The partnership promises to reduce fiber planning and design time by up to 90%, allowing for faster project completion and quicker network deployments.

By replacing manual processes with digital workflows, Techwave will significantly reduce man-hours while optimizing productivity. The software also facilitates seamless collaboration between office and field teams, eliminating file transfers and manual updates, further accelerating the design process and improving payment schedules for contractors.

In addition, the partnership offers access to IQGeo's global support services, ensuring swift technical issue resolution and minimizing downtime. This strategic collaboration strengthens Techwave's ability to deliver high-performance solutions and promotes better cooperation with clients, ensuring unified efforts in expanding fiber networks and optimizing operations across the telecom and utility sectors.

The IDBI Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra had filed a CBI complaint against the accused for "illegally diverting" bank loans and causing loss to these lenders, the ED said in a statement. The bank "fraud" is estimated to be about Rs 27,000 crore.

Speaking on the partnership, Chris White, Vice President – Global Competency, Techwave said, “We are excited to establish a new partnership with IQGeo that will mark a significant milestone as we continue to strengthen our capabilities to deliver engineering services to our clients across the globe. We believe this partnership will provide significant value as our respective companies share a common objective to drive growth in the telecom, fiber and utility industries. IQGeo's proven platform capabilities and global reach are closely aligned to meet our strategic objectives and provide our delivery teams with the necessary solutions to design, deploy, and maintain world class networks.”

Huge Leadership Churn At OpenAI As Firm Mulls Shifting So For-Profit Model



OpenAI is witnessing a major leadership churn as the company is mulling to shift its business model to for-profit one.

Mira Murati, the ChatGPT maker's Chief Technology Officer of OpenAI has announced that she's leaving the firm. She made this announcement on X, where she told people she needed some time for her personal projects.

OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman replied to her post thanking her for her valuable work and input, adding that they will share more about plans soon.

Murati has been with OpenAI since its founding over six years ago and had filled in briefly as CEO in November as an interim stop during a period of change at the top.

As the CTO, Murati regularly appears with Altman in unveiling new technologies. For instance, she appeared at the presentation of OpenAI's new GPT-4o model, which can carry realistic voice conversations.

Not only Murati, OpenAI's Research Chief Bob McGrew and Vice President of Research Barret Zoph are stepping down as well. Interestingly, Murati and other two executives are leaving at a time when the company is mulling to change its operating structure.

According to a report in Reuters, OpenAI is planning to restructure its core business into a for-profit corporation. If this happens, it will no longer be controlled by a no profit board. OpenAI's CEO, Sam Altman will be receiving equity for the first time if the plan goes through, the Reuters report said.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk- Founder of Tesla, criticized OpenAI's CEO, Altman on these high profile exits, taking a dig at its plan to change into a for profit corporation.

OpenAI has seen several high profile exits in recent months. This month, a co-founder, John Schulman, quit to join an emerging competitor Anthropic, while another co-founder, Greg Brockman, is taking time off. Earlier this year, chief scientist Ilya Sutskever also quit.

Accenture Results Indicate Better Times For Indian IT Firms Ahead

Accenture's fourth quarter performance indicates better days ahead for Indian IT services companies like Wipro, Infosys & LTI Mindtree.

Uptick in consulting business apart from green shoots in discretionary spending augur well for the overall IT industry globally.



“The growth in Accenture’s consulting business is a positive sign for Wipro, while the improved growth in CMT, manufacturing, health and public services and technology services is a positive sign for Indian IT services firms. With a potential rise in discretionary spending and an increasing adoption of Gen AI in CY25E, Indian IT companies are well-positioned to reap the benefits,” brokerage firm, Mirae Asset Capital Markets wrote in a note.

The report also said that there is a gradual upswing in the demand environment.

“Strong bookings in managed services and an increasing demand for GenAI will present opportunities for Indian IT services companies,” it added.

Accenture on Thursday posted a strong set of Q4 results, rekindling hopes of recovery in the global IT services industry.

In Q4FY24 (the August-ending quarter), Accenture reported better-than-expected consensus revenue growth of 5% YoY in constant currency (CC) terms at \$16.4 billion.

This revenue growth was supported by 7% rise in managed services. Consulting business grew 3% in year-on-year term, which came after five consecutive quarters of decline.

Total new bookings of the global IT firm grew 24% YoY to \$20.1bn, led by a strong 41.4% rise in managed services bookings.

“It is worth noting that the deal signings for most of Indian IT services companies also remained strong during the quarter, and we expect many Indian IT services firms are likely to report strong deal TCVs in Q2 of current financial year,” the report said.

Outdated Fleet And Seats, Supply Woes Hobble Air India's Turnaround



NEW DELHI/SYDNEY, Sept 27 (Reuters) - Two years after Tata Group took control of Air India in a \$2.4 billion deal, re-kitting an ageing fleet amid parts shortages and persistent flight delays stand in the way of the former state-owned carrier's intent to become "a world class airline".

Global shortages are hurting plans for most airlines, but the problem is "more acute" for Air India, CEO Campbell Wilson said, as India's flag carrier is nearing the halfway mark of a five-year turnaround plan but starting a generation behind rivals like Dubai's Emirates and Qatar Airways.

"Our product is obviously a lot more dated. These aircraft haven't had a product refresh since they were delivered in sort of 2010, 2011. And so it's more of an acute need for us," CEO Wilson said in an interview in Sydney. "If we've got legacy seats and legacy in-flight entertainment systems, we're operating with one arm tied behind our back," he said.

The challenges are the biggest at the premium end of the plane as Air India looks to lure high-spending travellers, added Wilson, a former Singapore Airlines

Air India has already placed mammoth orders to upgrade its fleet and just this month kicked off a \$400 million plan to refit old planes to drive its transformation.

The carrier's restructuring after decades of decay under state ownership is being watched by manufacturers and lessors, as well as investors in Singapore Airlines (SIAL.SI), opens new tab - which is set to own a 25% stake in the Indian carrier from November and has agreed to invest an additional up to \$600 million in the turnaround.

"Air India ... has a long way to go before being closer to international standards for which it needs to complete the process of re-kitting with new and retrofitted aircraft," Singapore-based independent aviation analyst Brendan Sobie said.

BSES Launches 'Tatkal'; Same-Day Electricity Connections To Power Up Delhi's Festive Celebrations

New Delhi: BSES on Thursday launched 'Tatkal', which will offer same-day temporary electricity connections for events like Durga Puja, Diwali Melas, Ramlilas, and weddings.



The consumers will be able to obtain a temporary connection within 24 hours by applying via BSES Website, Mobile App, WhatsApp, or at Customer Care/Digi Seva Centers.

The initiative aims to enhance the festive spirit and also contribute to efforts to reduce air pollution, as per the official release of BSES.

BSES's 'Tatkal' connections will provide a sustainable alternative to diesel generators, significantly reducing noise and air pollution. These temporary connections are also hassle-free, cost-effective and safe.

"Festivals are a time of joy and unity, and we believe nothing should dampen that spirit. Our 'Tatkal' service ensures that celebrations are brighter and the environment less polluted. By leveraging our advanced IT systems and streamlined processes, we are making same-day connections a reality, directly contributing to Delhi's fight against pollution," said a BSES official.

The 'Tatkal' connection can be obtained by applying on the official website of BSES. The consumer can also apply through WhatsApp by contacting BRPL (8800919123) and BYPL (8745999808). They can also visit BSES Customer Care Center or Digi Seva Kendra.

Payments can be made through online platforms, ensuring a hassle-free and contactless experience. This initiative drastically cuts down the waiting period from up to seven days to just a few hours. Understanding the critical importance of a reliable power supply during festivities, BSES has placed its operations and maintenance teams on high alert. Proactive measures have been implemented to ensure that all events proceed without any electrical interruptions, adding an extra layer of assurance for organizers and attendees alike.

"By reducing dependence on diesel generators, the 'Tatkal' service significantly lowers harmful emissions. This initiative underscores BSES's commitment to environmental stewardship and aligns with the broader goals of the GRAP to improve air quality during a critical period," the press release stated.