# **Top-Down Cheer For Bottom-Up Innovation**

Open and supportive managements are helping ideas to bubble up from the bottom, and this in-house innovation surge is not restricted to the technology sector

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nnovations are springing out of the inbox, leading to disruptions across sectors. Digital idea exchange platforms, innovation contests and \_cross-functional brainstorming sessions are helping employees don the innovator's hat. Encouraged by recognition and rewards, employees — cutting across ages, levels of seniority and industrial sectors - are working towards developing a new or improved solution or product. Here's the story of some:

PwC's Concept Cradle: Annual innovation contests prompt employees of PwC, a network of affiliated professional services firms across 100 countries, to offer out-ofthe-box solutions, which can be deployed to meet client needs.

The Aha! Moment: Client interactions often spark an idea. Such interactions led the consultancy team at PwC India to realise that while cloud technology enables companies to connect with their customers via mobile apps, the going isn't easy and costs can escalate. Vijay Kannan, a senior-level consultant in his mid-forties, and his team developed the 'Digital Foundation Platform (DFP)' through which a mobile app can be updated at a faster pace. App users don't have to wait for months for a newer version. "After the launch of their first app, corporates often run into roadblocks. A typical development cycle can take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months," says Kannan.

DFP was one of the five ideas selected at the India level in the 'Global Innovation Challenge' contest for 2015-16. Kannan got a chance to compete with innovators from other PwC-affiliated firms and found a place in the top 30 global list. DFP has been piloted with one of PwC's clients in India and the plan

is to utilise PwC's world-wide network to take it to the global market. Another recent innovation, the webbased platform Prudence developed by the forensic practice team, has been deployed in-house. It enables clients to keep track of PwC's progress during due-diligence mandates of third parties.

unta Says Eureka: Vedanta, the diversified group engaged in mining and exploration, recently launched 'Eureka', a web-based

employee idea exchange platform to incubate in-house innovation. The company has a Rs 200-crore corpus to fund select ideas. Value In Waste: With 'zero waste' in mind, Eliakim Tshiningayamwe, a technical manager from a group company in Namibia, proposed making use of stockpiles of marginal ore, a waste product. "The target is to process marginal ore and recover zinc, which would boost profits. Eureka helps in collaboration between R&D and process teams across locations," says Tshiningayamwe. The company has introduced a quarterly chairman's award — a trophy and citation for the best innovation and an

annual award. 'Sustainability is at the heart of our business. High-efficiency technology and safe practices ensure maximum recovery as well as zero waste. Eureka helps create the discourse on this," says Ajay Kumar

slag and conversion of fly ash into geo-pol-Until recently, the hierarchical manufacturing and service sector in India frowned upon a bottom-up approach towards innovation. A more open culture in the tech sector enabled Infosys, Wipro, HCL and others to nurture in-house innovation. But now the engine of internal crowd-sourcing of disruptions is revving up in non-tech

sectors as well.

include recovery of cobalt and copper from

One may not easily associate innovation with a law firm, but Nishith Desai Associates (NDA) has set up a 'disruptive practic es group' which tracks futuristic trends such as drones or driverless cars. Thus it is forearmed with sound perspective and can deliver innovative solutions to its cli ents, besides achieving leadership in new practice areas. "Emerging technology orings with it new legal and tax problems requiring innovative solutions. A clear assertive statement based on in-depth research from our law firm on the legality of Bitcoins stopped the RBI from barring them," says Prateek Bagaria, a 28-year-old legal associate with the firm.

The law firm helped shape the Bitcoin policy in 2013. It also enabled FII investments in Bitcoin companies in India by providing investment-structuring solutions and is now assisting this sector to develop a self-regulatory regime. NDA recently helped the government to set up an investment structure for the \$6-billion National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, considered to be a first of its kind in the world. At Marico, an FMCG company, 'Mar-

Val', a multi-pronged module ranging from jam sessions to niche think tanks, in one instance led to a packaging design innovation. "Periodical thematic innovation jam ses-

sions bring ideas to the table from our employees across the globe. The winners are selected by an Innovation Council, says Ashutosh Telang, chief HR officer. Over the last two years, the jam ses

sions have resulted in over 2,000 ideas. Companies having realized the value of em-

plovee-sourced innovation are supporting these initiatives. "We treat our innovators as 'special people' regardless of the commercial success of certain ideas," says NDA founder Nishith Desai.

Shyamal Mukherjee, strategy leader at PwC India, says, "Innovation is critical means of staying in the game. It will have a significant impact on the way we do business over the next few years.

## **Blackstone JV** to put \$750m into office space market

Avik Das & Boby Kurian TNN

Bengaluru: The world's largest private equity manager Blackstone's Indian real estate joint venture Embassy Office Parks will invest \$750 million, or around Rs 5,000 crore, in the next three years as technology services boost office space absorption in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Pune.

The equal joint venture between Blackstone and property developer Embassy Group will build an additional 16.5 million sqft of office supply across these four cities, mostly through debt-financing, Mike Holland, CEO, Embassy Office Parks, told TOI. Robust demand and supply constraints have seen vacancy levels dipping to just 4.1% in Bengaluru and 5% in Pune. This stands in stark contrasts to Delhi and Mumbai where vacancies are at 32% and 19.5% respectively amid a supply glut, data showed.

The investment will be over the next 3 yrs as tech services boost office space absorption in cities like B'luru, H'bad, **Chennai and Pune** 

Embassy Office Parks currently operates a leased portfolio of 20 million sq ft and plans to almost double this in the next three to five years, making it probably the biggest ongoing capex programme in Indian commercial real estate. More than 2.3 lakh people mostly from MNCs and wellfunded Indian startups work from the company's current office portfolio at present.

"The big landlords will want to optimize their returns in markets like Bengaluru, Pune and Chennai which has tight inventories leading to a run-up in rentals," Holland said. "Bengaluru is maintaining the momentum after record absorption last year, while Chennai and Pune will benefit from limited upcoming supplies," he added. MNC occupiers will have their eyes on Hyderabad which has the biggest upcoming supply among the four above mentioned cities

# Rel Jio claims existing telcos choking its calls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Users of Reliances have complained about network congestion, while making calls to non-Jio numbers, the company has said. In most cases such calls take three-to-four attempts to connect, and in some cases they do not connect at all.

The company has said incumbent telecom operatorsmainly Airtel, Vodafone and Idea—are not providing sufficient number of points of interconnects (PoIs) to get the calls through. PoIs help connect and terminate calls from one telecom operator to another. "There are over 1.8 crore failed calls per day to these networks," a Jio spokesperson said, adding, "less than

However, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has denied any role in choking the network of Reliance Jio and has claimed that it has been given interconnection facility for 1.5 crore customers. COAI also claimed that

#### 1.8CR FAILED **CALLS A DAY'**

Reliance Jio has 30 lakh custo-

mers, up from 15 lakh disclosed by parent Reliance Industries, while announcing its

quarterly results on July 15. "We understand from various reports that Reliance Jio has 3 million users on its network. Our member operators have given them sufficient number of ports to support up to 15 million users. We await the launch

ces," Rajan S Mathews, DG of COAI, said. Airtel, Vodafone and Idea didn't answer to a questionnaire sent by TOI. A spokesperson for Reli-

ance Jio refuted COAI's contention. "It is grossly incorrect to suggest that sufficient number of ports have been given to support 15 million users. This is reflected in the experience in the field where over 65% of calls to networks of the top-three operators are failing today," he said. "The continued denial and delay in the provision of PoIs by the dominant incumbent telecom service providers is unlawful, and actionable for appropriate legal action, as prescribed in the licence agreement/applicable regulations," Jio has said in a complaint to telecom

## No VAT payable by Subway on franchise fees in Maha: HC Upholds That There Was No Trademark Sale

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Franchise and royalty fees received by Subway Systems India, a group company of the international fast food chain, cannot be subject to value-added tax (VAT) in Maharashtra, according to a recent order of the Bombay high court.

Subway India enters into franchise agreements with third party restaurants (ie, franchisees), permitting them to operate sandwich shops by displaying the trademark 'Subway'. In return, Subway India receives a one-time franchise fee paid on signing of the agreement and weekly royalty payments linked with the restaurant's turnover.

Maharashtra state excise authorities sought to impose VAT on such income on the grounds that Subway India had transferred the 'right to use' its trademark to the franchisees. Subway India's contention was that the franchise agreements did not result in a sale' or transfer of the 'right

### FAST FOOD, EDU CHAINS TO BENEFIT

The HC upheld that Subway India could not be subject to VAT because there was no transfer of 'right to use'

> Rights of the franchisee to display the name 'Subway' or use the dress code ended on termination of agreement

Franchisees did not enjoy any exclusivity as other outlets could be set up in the same area

tion filed by the company, challenging the constitutional validity of VAT levy, was pending before the high court, the company was served showcause notices aggregating to a VAT demand of Rs 5.3 crore for the years 2006 to 2009.

get the right to sub-franchise the business ➤ The HC's ruling is

expected to benefit fast food & educational chains in Maharashtra

Franchisees also did not



to use' the trademark. The company was already paying service tax on income received under the agreements.

Even while the writ peti-

"This favourable order, setting aside imposition of VAT, will also help other simien subject to both service tax and VAT liability. Apart from fast food chains, educational and vocational institutions popularly operate under a franchise model," says Nihal Kothari, executive director at Khaitan and Co, a law firm which represented Subway.

"Bombay high court has laid down the principles for making a distinction between a 'permissive use' and 'transfer of right to use',"

## भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Bid No.: 1000017734 Authority of India, Sr. Manager (Engg-Civil)-I, Vadodara Airport invites digitally signed percentage rate E- Tender for the work of "Engineering Consultancy for Construction of ATC Aerodrome Vadodara." The rough stimated cost of the Project **22.39 Crores** और कंसल्टेंसी का का रू. 44.78/- लाख है। इंजीनियरिंग कंसल्टेंसी क कार्य पुरा करने की अवधि 03 (तीन) माह है ऑनलाईन निविदा बिक्री की अंतिम तिथि नि **06.09.2016** है। अधिक जानकारी हेत भा. दि प्रा. की वेबसाईट <u>www.aai.aero</u> एवंम www.airportsindia.org.in देखें । आगे क



NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER NIT No./Name of Work:

स्पष्टिकरण/शुध्दिपत्र अगर कोई होगा तो, केवल भा. वि. प्रा. की वेबसाईट पर रखा जाएगा ।

UPSO-II / LPG-O / PT / HR Haldwani / 16-17 Hot Repair of LPG Cylinders Ex-Haldwani BF

due on 19.09.2016 1100 Hrs. NIT No./Name of Work: UPSO II / LPG-O / PT / HR Haridwar / 16-17

Hot Repair of LPG Cylinders Ex Haridwar BP due on 19.09.2016 1100 Hrs.

NIT No./Name of Work: UPSO-II / LPG-O / PT / HR SHAHJAHANPUR/16-17 Hot Repair of LPG Cylinders Ex

Shahjahanpur BP due on 19.09.2016 1100 Hrs. Tender download Starts on

19.08.2016 at 1100 Hrs. Last Date and time for submission 19.09.2016 upto 1100 Hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Technical** 

Contact Person: Dalip Rangwani Sr. Manager (LPG-Opera Tel. No.: 0120-2425970 E-Mail: daliprangwani@indianoil.ir

Bid: 20.09.2016 at 1130 Hrs

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No./Name of Work: UPSO-II / LPG / PT / HLG / HRD

2016-17

Contract for Handling of LPG Cylinders, Cartage, Housekeeping and Miscellaneous jobs at Indane Bottling Plant, Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Tender download Starts on Last Date and time for submission

19.09.2016 upto 1100 Hrs.

Date & Time of Opening of Technica Bid: 20.09.2016 at 1130 Hrs.

Due Date and Time: upto 14.09.2016 at 11:00 Hrs.

Contact Person: Chief Manager (LPG-Ops), UPSO-II Tel. No.: 0120-2538455

E-Mail: sunilprasad@indianoil.in PL. NOTE: The above Tender/s are e Tenders. The above relidens are tenders. The corrigendum, if required to be issued, shall be issued in electronic Form only. Please visit website: https://iocletenders.gov.in for downloading of tender documents.



# WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED

43

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2<sup>nd</sup> EXTENSION OF TIME

Ref. NIT No.: WBSEDCL/PIDD/2016-17/01 Dated: 15.06.2016 (Tender ID: 2016\_WBSED\_76644\_1) originally published in this newspaper on 18.06.2016 & EOT on 28.07.2016. Bid Submission Date has been further extended for execution of Civil Construction with allied activities and Hydro-Mechanical work with design, ering, supply and delivery, fabrication, erection, testing and commission f all Hydro-Mechanical equipment related to Rammam Intermediate Sta lydro-Electric Project (2 x 6 MW) in Darjeeling District of West Bengal up 30.08.2016, 15.00 hrs. on https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in. For ar query, contact: (033) 2334-5853/5821/5072 or wbsedclhpc@gmail.com

INNOVATION INDEX

Russia

India

South Africa

Switzerland



#### MUMBAI URBAN TRANSPORT PROJECT (RAIL COMPONENT) **INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

TENDER NOTICE No. MRVC/W/104/ADH-GMN/2016/2 DATED 12.08.2016 Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd., 2nd floor, Station Building, Churchgate,

Mumbai 400 020 invites bids under single stage one packet system for the work of "Andheri - Virar section: Execution of Track works in connection with provision of stabling lines at Goregaon, Vasai Road in Andheri to Virar Section including supply of track fitings and Ballast, raising of pathways at Goregaon, Vasai Road and Virar, water supply arrangement at Virar under MUTP-II project." Estimated value: ₹4,08,67,156/- Bid security: ₹8,18,000/- Cost of tender form:-₹10,000/-. Tender form sale from 22.08.2016 onwards till 20.09.2016, Bid submission last date 20.09.2016 (15.00 Hrs.) and opened 20.09.2016 15.30 Hrs.). A pre-bid meeting will be held on 06.09.2016 at 11:00 hrs. in MRVC office. Amendments / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the website only, person: Dy. Chief Project Manager–III, Tel no.022-22007270(MTNL), 22670(Rly), Fax: 022-22096972.



South Eastern Railway

# **HEADQUARTERS**

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम **Employees' State Insurance Corporation** PANCHDEEP BHAWAN, C.I.G. MARG, NEW DELHI-110 002

### **ADMISSION NOTICE**

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION OF 'WARDS OF INSURED PERSONS' (IPs) IN UG COURSE (MBBS) IN ESIC MEDICAL **COLLEGES FOR ACADEMIC SESSION 2016-17** 

Applications are invited from 'Wards of Insured Persons' (IPs) under ESI Scheme for admission to UG course (MBBS) in ESIC Medical Colleges under 'Insured Persons Quota' (erstwhile ESIC Management Quota) for academic session 2016-17 as per admission policy and procedure approved by the Central Government.

Candidates who have qualified in National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UG)-2016 [NEET (UG) I/II - 2016] are eligible to apply (For details the candidate may refer to the Information Bulletin of the NEET-2016 available on www.aipmt.nic.in). Other eligibility conditions may be seen in the detailed Admission Notice. Provisional list of eligible candidates called for counseling will be posted on the ESIC web site - www.esic.nic.in.

ESIC shall conduct Centralized Counseling for admission to UG Course(MBBS) in Delhi, for its Medical Colleges located in the States of Haryana; West Bengal; Tamil Nadu & Karnataka for ESIC Management Quota seats.

	lentative Calendar of events is as below			
	1.	Last date of receipt of application at ESIC Hqrs.	1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2016 upto 5.00 pm (Thursday)	
	2.	Display of list of provisionally eligible candidates for counseling	7 <sup>th</sup> September, 2016 (Wednesday)	
	3.	1 <sup>st</sup> Counseling & allocation of college and deposit of fee	14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> September,2016 (Wednesday & Thursday)	
	4.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Counseling, if required	22 <sup>nd</sup> September, 2016 (Thursday)	

Detailed Admission Notice is available on ESIC website, i.e. www.esic.nic.in.

It is further informed that:

- a. The number of seats to be allotted is provisional.
- b. Applicants are requested to check the website on regular basis for further information/instructions.

DMC (ME-II) For Director General



COMP

# इंजीनियर्स ENGINEERS या लिमिटेड INDIA LIMITED

DOMESTIC NOTICE FOR INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR COMPOSITE WORKS FOR FIT OUT OF DATA CENTER COMPLEX AT HYDERABAD FOR STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)

ers India Limited (EIL), on behalf of State Bank of India (SBI) invites e-bids from bidders for the following works:				
Name of Work	Bidding Document on website	Bid Due Date / Time		
OSITE WORKS FOR FIT OUT OF DATA TER COMPLEX (BIDDING DOCUMENT .: UKM/A877-000-PK-TN-7090/1000)	22.08.2016 to19.09.2016	19.09.2016 Up to 1200 Hrs.(IST)		
etailed IFB & Bidding Document with contact details can be viewed and				

The detailed IFB & Bidding Document with contact details can be viewed and downloaded from EIL's website: http://tenders.eil.co.in or from e- tender website and the state of http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the websites only and will not be published in newspaper Bidders should regularly visit the above websites to keep th hemselves updated. AGM(C&P), EIL, Gurgaon

#### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KARNATAKA, SURATHKAL Srinivasnagar Post - 575 025, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka No TEQIP-II/ NITK /NCBs/2116 Date: 17.08.2016

INVITATION FOR BIDS (NCB)

**National Competitive Bidding (Goods)** 1) The Government of India has received a Credit 4685-IN from the International

Development Association and a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme [TEQIP]-Phase II project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Bids is issued.

2) The National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of (i) HPC Cluster - (TEQIP-II/NITK/201) 3) Interested Bidders may obtain further information if any required in this regard from The Office of TEQIP-II, National Institute of Technology Karnataka Surathkal, Srinivasnagar Post - 575 025, Dakshina Kannada Karnataka, India, or visit the

Sd/- Registrar

### **SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

nstitute website: www.nitk.ac.in

Chief Commercial Manager / Passenger Marketing, MMC, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Western Wing, Chennai - 600 003. Tender Notice No.C.625/PRS/E-TENDERING/01 Date: 16.08.2016 Sub: Development & Implementation of 'e-Procurement System in works contract on Indian Railway - Pre requisites.

Chief Commercial Manager / Passenger Marketing of Southern Railway will switcl over to e-tenders with effect from **31.08.2016** It is hereby informed that the following pre-requisites are to be obtained to participate in e-tenders of Chief Commercial Manager / Passenger Marketing, by the

rospective Tenderers / Bidders: The Tenderers / Bidders require a 'Class III Digital Signature' with Company name from any Certifying Agency (CA) authorized by Controller of Certifying

They have to submit online request for registration sufficiently in advance to ge themselves registered on IREPS (Works) (http://ireps.gov.in) portal in order to participate in e-tendering in works contracts.

Tenderers are advised to equip themselves with a computer with Windows O.S. (Windows 7.0 or higher), Internet Explorer, Java & Broad Band connection for **Deputy Chief Commercial Manager / Passenger Marketing** 

### MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, CHANDIGARH E-BID NOTICE

Tender Reference No. MCC/E.E. R-I/2016/

Online e-Bids/offers are invited on license fee basis on behalf of Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh from the firms/agencies/contractors/companies Joint ventures/Consortium from throughout India for Operation and Management of following paid parkings in the Municipal Limits of Chandigarh in a single lot initially for three years, extendable upto Five years for 25 no. of paid parking lots as per detail given in the tender document.

- Period of availability of tender online shall be from 19.08.2016. Last date and time for online submission of bids shall be 14/09/2016 upto
- iii) Pre bid meeting will be held on 29.08.2016 in the committee room at 11.00 A.Mo the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh. Interested bidders may participate iv) Date and time of opening of technical bid 16/09/2016 up to 3.00 P.M. The tender documents can be downloaded from the website http://Chandigarh.gov.ir
- or http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep or detail terms and conditions refer to website http://Chandigarh.gov.in or http://etenders.chd.nic.in/nicgep For any difficulty regarding tender, bidder can contact on phone no 0172-5021617 in

Executive Engineer R-Municipal Corporation Chandigarh

## CBEC to meet e-tailers on GST roll-out concerns

@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) will chair a meeting this week with e-commerce companies over their apprehensions about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and to fine-tune and improve the law. While e-tailers have bro-

adly welcomed the government's effort to implement the GST, clauses such as tax at source, which would impact small scale sellers and increase compliance burden, have been bothering these companies.

According to the tax head of a top e-commerce firm, major pain points also include filing tax forms before buying goods more than Rs 5,000 in select states. The companies are

vernment to do away with these rules in the final GST law. "The government's intent to

bring GST is welcome but some clauses seem to have not been looked at carefully. We have already provided feedback on major pain points for us and the meeting is expected to deliberate further on these

### **PAIN POINTS**

issues. If these clauses remain in the final law, then a lot of infrastructure spends will be allocated to comply with the norms which we would ideally like to invest in developing the market," the person quoted earlier said.

According to this executive, consumers buying goods over Rs 5,000 have to fill a tax form first before receiving the goods.

## I-T dept won't question registered valuer's report

report from a registered valuer will not be questioned by the income tax department for disclosures made under the domestic black money compliance scheme, the CBDT clarified on Thursday.

New Delhi: The valuation

"The valuer is expected to furnish a true and correct valuation report in accordance with accepted principles of valuation. In case of any misrepresentation, appropriate action as per law shall be taken against the registered valuer," said the fifth set of FAQs.

sentations from stakeholders to provide an option to value the immovable property on

domestic black money compliance scheme the basis of the registered value. "After due consideration, the rules have been amended to provide that where acquisition of an immovable proper-

ty is evidenced by a registered

The clarification is

for disclosures

made under the

deed, an option shall be available with the declarant to declare the fair market value of CBDT had received represuch property by applying the cost inflation index to stamp duty value of property," the FAQs said. AGENCIES

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST

ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004, ISO 27001:2013, OHSAS 18001:2007 CERTIFIED **SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

Online E-Tenders in two bid system (Technical and Price bids) are invited by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Navi Mumbai from expereinced and eligible tenderers for Hiring of two nos. pilot Launches on time charter to JNPT. Tender document and other details can be downloaded from 19.08.2016 to 19.09.2016 from Central Public Procurement Portal's e-procurement module (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app) or JNPT Website www.jnport.gov.in then click on "Tenders – JNPT Tenders" LINK for accessing the site. The completed tenders will be accepted up to 1500 Hrs on 19.09.2016 through e-procurement process only. DEPUTY CONSERVATOR