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Business Briefs: India Launching Plans to Beat the Heat



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India Launching Plans to Beat the Heat

Building on adaptation commitments made at the [Paris climate talks](#) in December, India is launching the first regional early warning systems and preparedness plans in South Asia to [protect highly vulnerable communities from deadly heat waves](#) intensified by climate change, according to the NRDC. India's new heat action plans in the Nagpur region of Maharashtra and the Bhubaneswar coastal region of Odisha expand on work initiated in the city of Ahmedabad, and were developed after India suffered a devastating heat wave that killed more than 2,300 people in 2015. The comprehensive plans help reduce harm from heat waves by initiating an early warning system for residents, providing preparation and training to medical and community workers, opening cooling centers, building public awareness of heat-related health risks, and coordinating inter-agency emergency response efforts. "India is showing the world that, as we work together to fight climate change, we can take smart steps right now to shield millions of people from killer heat waves," said **Anjali Jaiswal**, the **India Initiative** director at NRDC.

ASEI Announces New Board

The American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin has announced its new board of directors. Rakesh Patel takes over for Subba Gopavarapu as president. Gopavarapu will remain on as a board member. Aaron Ghumman was nominated as vice president and Kupp Sridhar was named treasurer. The nominated board members included Sam Ladva, by virtue of being elected as president of the ASEI SoCal chapter; Aastha Verma, by being elected as president of ASEI NCC chapter; Prakash Patel, having been elected as president of the ASEI Michigan chapter; Piyush Malik, being elected president of the ASEI Silicon Valley chapter; Krish Krishnamurthy, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Gunjan Bagla, Ashok Madan, Tim Madhanagopal, Jwalant Lakhia and Baveesh Joshi.

Commercial Bank of California Receives Perfect Score

Irvine, Calif.-based Commercial Bank of California, one of the nation's highest capitalized banks, received a five-star rating from BauerFinancial Inc. in the research firm's most recent analysis of U.S. banks and credit unions. The rating is based on financial data provided to the federal government and it reflects the financial stability of each institution. "At Commercial Bank of California, we strive to provide the most personalized banking services to each of our customers, and we can only do that if we are on solid financial ground," said president and CEO Ash Patel. "Commercial Bank of California was built by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs. Whether we are being relied on to provide capital for a merger, acquisition or start-up, our clients trust us to deliver exemplary financial services, and this 'superior' rating by BauerFinancial validates that trust." The bank has branches in Irvine and Brea, is in the process of merging with the Brentwood-based National Bank of California.

Tata Starbucks to Introduce Teavana in India

Tata Starbucks Pvt. Ltd., a joint venture of Tata Global Beverages Ltd. and Starbucks Corp., plans to introduce tea retail chain Teavana as it looks at developing the Indian business to rival some of its largest operations globally. Starbucks will also bring all its resources and learning around the digital and mobile ecosystem that it has built in the U.S. to accelerate the growth rate in India. Since its launch in 2012, Tata Starbucks has set up 80 stores in six Indian cities, as of November 2015. The company plans to open 500 stores in China every year for the next five years, the Wall Street Journal reported in January. "The potential for retail businesses in India is huge. Besides the top eight cities, there are over 40 cities with a

one million population and then another 400 towns that are part of the rising middle-class consumption story," said Anand Ramanathan, director at consultancy KPMG India.

Lions Club of Little India Project Meeting

The Lions Club of Little India held their project meeting at the newly opened restaurant Wok N Tandoor in Artesia. Former Cypress Mayor Dr. Prakash Narain and Artesia Mayor Pro-Tem Ali S. Taj were guests of honor. The program began with flag salutation by president Amrit Bhandari followed by a welcome address by chairman Dilip Butani. Lion Dilip Butani gave an account of club's progress and activities and projects in last 13 years. Lion Ajay Khetani spoke about the club's current projects. Narain complimented the club for the various projects and activities and praised the great efforts of club members in implementing the same. Taj also spoke highly about the projects of the club and said that the club was doing a great service to the community.

HCL to Launch IoT Incubation Center with Microsoft

HCL Technologies announced the launch of an Internet of Things Incubation Center in Redmond, Wash., designed to leverage Microsoft Azure IoT Suite to accelerate enterprise IoT adoption. The center will build vertical solutions focused on two key growth areas: industrial/manufacturing and life sciences/healthcare, with use cases around industrial automation, remote patient monitoring and fleet management, among others. "Innovation in today's world requires invention and execution. The ability to rapidly prototype and bring solutions to market is a key to enterprise success in a hyper-innovative global environment," said executive VP and head of IoT WoRKS Business Unit at HCL Sukamal Banerjee. "Industrial IoT is slated to be the next big productivity and revenue generation lever for enterprises worldwide. We are confident that our collaboration in this space will create some truly innovative and actionable Industrial IoT solutions which are scalable, cost-effective and focused on user experience."

MedGenome Announces \$10 Million Commitment to GenomeAsia

MedGenome, a genomic diagnostics and research services company, announced it would contribute \$10 million to the GenomeAsia 100K consortium as a founding member. MedGenome operates one of the largest privately owned NGS labs in India. MedGenome's participation in GenomeAsia 100K will enable global research and scientific understanding by contributing towards building ethno-centric reference genomes for South Asia. It will assist with collection of genomic, clinical and familial data from the region. "We are excited to join GenomeAsia 100K that has a unique opportunity to make an impact not just to South Asians but to healthy living globally," said chief of global products and services Dr. Kartik Kumaramangalam. Added founder and CEO Sam Santhosh, "This is the only large population sequencing initiative that is a consortium of for-profit companies and academia. Combining academic rigor with the aggressive timelines and execution focus of for-profit companies will ensure the success of this consortium."