India, Bhutan review development partnership; sign Rs 4,000-crore LoC agreement

THIMPHU, AUG 01: India and Bhutan reviewed the progress of New Delhi-supported development projects in the Himalayan nation during a high-level talk, as the two sides signed a concessional line of credit agreement worth Rs 4,000 crore and expanded cooperation in the health sector.Geographic Reference

The fifth India-Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his Bhutanese counterpart Dasho Pema Lektup Dorji on Thursday, focused on the implementation of projects under Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan, the Indian Embassy in Bhutan said in a social media post.

The two sides reviewed the progress and implementation of India-supported projects across diverse sectors, it said.

Bhutan appreciated India's significant support and its contribution to the country's socio-economic development, the mission said.

The two foreign secretaries also virtually inaugurated the Thimphu Ecological Park and the Olakha Park, developed under the "Green Infrastructure and Open Spaces in Thimphu" project funded by India as part of bilateral economic development.

An agreement for a concessional line of credit of Rs 4,000 crore (Nu 40 billion) was exchanged between the Export-Import Bank of India and Bhutan's Ministry of Finance to support development initiatives in the country, the embassy said.

two sides also exchanged a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in health education and research between the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Bhutan's Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences, it said.Business & Corporate Law

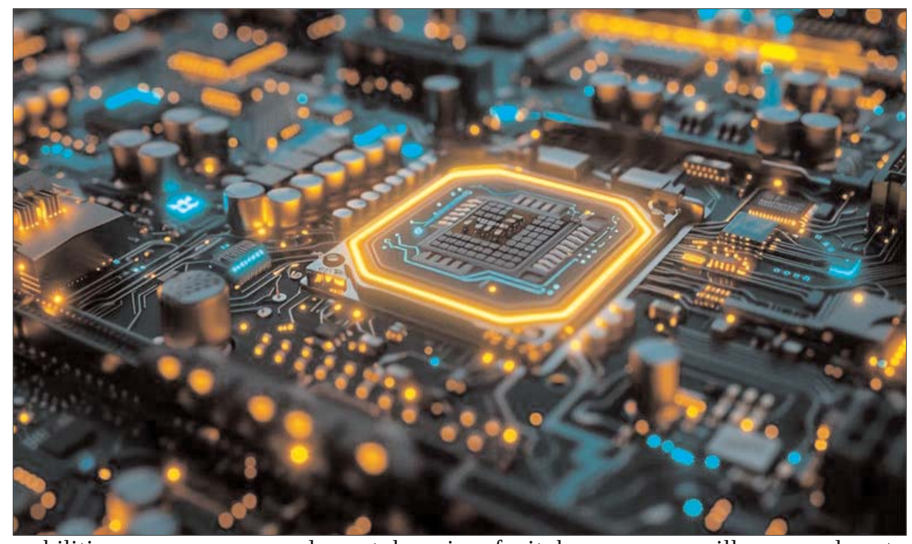
As part of India's support for Bhutan's green mobility initiatives, 45 electric vehicles were handed over to the Royal Government of Bhutan.

India is Bhutan's largest development partner and has been extending financial and technical assistance for infrastructure, connectivity, education, health and capacity-building projects over the decades.

New Delhi has committed support for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan as part of its long-standing development partnership with the neighbouring Himalayan kingdom. (PTI)

Companies from US, Europe, Japan among those keen to join India's chip making ecosystem: Official

NEW DELHI, AUG 01: Companies based in the US, Europe, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have shown interest in India's semiconductor manufacturing programme Semicon 2.0, a senior official of the Electronics and IT ministry said on Friday.



Speaking on the sidelines of a workshop on semiconductor design at IIT Delhi organised by ICEA, India Semiconductor Mission CEO and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) Amitesh Kumar Sinha said that companies from across the globe will participate in the Semicon India event in September, where they will explore partnerships and opportunities in the country.

"Japan, US, European companies, Singaporean companies. I can also give specific names of European companies. Germany, Netherlands, a lot of Malaysian companies, Singaporean companies. They are all very interested," Sinha said.

The government approved the Rs 1.27 lakh-crore Semicon 2.0 programme to accelerate domestic semiconductor design and manufacturing capabilities.

Sinha said that guidelines for the scheme will be out in about two weeks.

He said that a lot of foreign semiconductor firms will showcase their products and technology at the Semicon India event.

We see that it is a good platform for technology tagging because both the parties will be in front of each other. They may look into some kind of collaboration also," he said.

Sinha further said that the government has enhanced focus on chip design as it carries 50 per cent in the entire semiconductor value chain.

"It (chip design) is the lowest hanging fruit because only 20 per cent of our people work in it across the globe. If we give them an enabling provision, like we have given in this programme, then they can make a fabless product company.

There is a lot of benefit from their creation. They will use our fab (chip plants). They will also use our OSAT and the whole ecosystem," Sinha said.

A fabless company designs its own semiconductors, but get them produced through third-party chip makers.

Sinha said that most of the companies will eventually come to India and some will come due to FOMO (fear of missing out).

When asked if the government is in discussions with Hynix Semiconductor, given there is a shortage of memory supplies, Sinha said that there are discussions with most of the players, including the Korean memory chip maker.

"We have asked them to come. The cost of manufacturing will come down here. Memory prices are at an all-time high. Countries are also having a lot of dialogue with their local companies, whether it is a Korean company or a US company," Sinha said. (PTI)

Bloomberg delays decision on adding Indian government bonds to global index

NEW DELHI, AUG 01: Bloomberg Index Services Limited (BISL) has deferred a decision on including Indian government bonds in the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index, saying recent market reforms need more time to become firmly established before a final decision is taken.

In an official update on its ongoing review, BISL said the Indian government bond market has made "meaningful progress" towards meeting the standards required for inclusion, but added that market participants want to see the recent changes become part of regular market practice.

"BISL believes the Indian government bond market continues to make meaningful progress toward meeting the global standards expected for inclusion," the update said.

The index provider noted that since publishing the results of its consultation earlier this year, it has continued discussions with investors, regulators, custodians and other stakeholders, who have broadly recognised the progress made in improving accessibility to India's government bond market.

According to the update, electronic trading capabilities for Indian government bonds have continued to expand, with automated trading platforms now supporting execution across several major investor regions. It also highlighted India's recent decision to remove withholding tax and capital gains tax for eligible foreign investors in government bonds, calling it "a significant enhancement to the market's post-trade framework by reducing operational complexity and improving settlement efficiency."

However, BISL said feedback from market participants suggests that these reforms should become more firmly established before any decision on index inclusion is taken. "Many market participants would like to see these enhancements become more firmly established in day-to-day market practice before a decision is made on index inclusion," it said.

The update added that while automated trading capabilities continue to expand, respondents said implementation has not yet been completed across all major investor regions. Investors also want to see further evidence that recent market reforms translate into more efficient operational workflows, including improvements to account opening and onboarding processes for foreign investors.

BISL said the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index is a flagship benchmark for global investment-grade fixed income markets and underpins a wide range of investment products worldwide. "As the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index serves as a flagship benchmark... BISL believes it is appropriate that any inclusion decision be supported not only by regulatory and market structure reforms, but also by demonstrated operational efficiency across the diverse range of investors that track and benchmark against the index," the update said.

BISL said it believes "additional time is warranted" for the recent market enhancements to be fully reflected in day-to-day market practice before making a decision on India's inclusion. It added that it will continue engaging with market participants and provide a further update as the review progresses.

Bikanervala opens first outlet in Jammu

JAMMU, AUG 01: Bikanervala, India's most popular brand of Traditional Indian Sweets, has opened its first outlet in Jammu at Canal Road, Opposite Bakshi Nagar Bridge, Akhnoor Road, Jammu.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Arun Gupta, president, Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), Jammu as chief guest.

Ashok Aggarwal, Director, Bikanervala Foods Pvt Ltd, shared the story of the Brand Bikanervala which traces its beginnings to 1905 when the journey began with a small sweet shop named Bikaner Namkeen Bhandar in Bikaner's historic Kote Gate area, established by Lal Chand Agarwal. Building on this success, two brothers from the family expanded the business to Delhi's Chandni Chowk in 1950, introducing generations-old family recipes to the capital. Their authentic flavours-especially Rasgollas, Bikaneri Bhujia and Kaju Katli-soon became household favourites. Today, Bikanervala operates 270+ outlets across India and has an international presence in the USA, Canada, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Singapore and Nepal. The opening of its first outlet in Jammu, Anurag Sharma, COO, Bikanervala Foods Pvt Ltd, expressed his excitement, stating: "We are delighted to announce the launch of our first outlet in Jammu. Jammu is an important market for us and this expansion reflects our commitment to bringing authentic Indian flavours closer to our customers."

The outlet is spread over 4,000+ sq. ft and offers 100+ fully air-conditioned seating capacity, along with a dedicated party hall.Opinion Column Access

The Jammu outlet represents a significant milestone in the brand's expansion journey, bringing authentic Indian flavours to the region and during 2026-27, the company plans to add 50+ new outlets and launch the brand in Australia and Europe, in addition to further domestic expansion across Karnataka & Jharkhand.

The handout further stated that on an average, Bikanervala restaurants welcome a staggering 1 crore+ customers every month.

Sony unveils next-generation BRAVIA 9II & BRAVIA 7II with True RGB Technology

JAMMU, AUG 01: Sony's latest innovation in premium home entertainment, the BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II televisions powered by revolutionary True RGB Technology, was unveiled today at Shivanghi Electronics, Marble Market, Jammu. The launch was led by Mr. Shashank Aggarwal, Managing Director, Shivanghi Electronics, in the presence of Mr Sunny Magotra ASM J&K, Sony India, along with customers, technology enthusiasts and well-wishers.

The newly introduced BRAVIA series is powered by Sony's advanced RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro, delivering exceptional colour accuracy, enhanced brightness, deeper blacks and a truly immersive cinematic experience. Equipped with the powerful AI Cognitive Processor XR, Acoustic Multi-Audio+ technology, Google TV and future-ready Gemini integration, the BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II redefine premium television viewing for Indian consumers. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shashank Aggarwal said, "We are delighted to introduce Sony's most advanced BRAVIA televisions to customers in Jammu. These cutting-edge models reflect Sony's commitment to innovation, and we are proud to bring this next-generation viewing experience to our patrons."

With a relationship spanning more than three decades with Sony, Shivanghi Electronics has earned the confidence of customers by consistently delivering authentic Sony products backed by reliable service and customer support. The Sony-exclusive showroom offers an engaging retail environment where visitors can experience Sony's latest innovations across televisions, cameras, audio products, PlayStation gaming, headphones, accessories and other premium consumer electronics under one roof.

The launch reaffirmed Sony's commitment to bringing world-class technology closer to consumers while further strengthening Shivanghi Electronics' position as Jammu's preferred destination for premium Sony products.

Meet Orgaheal: An Organic Nutraceutical Brand Focused on Clean Everyday Nutrition

RAJASTHAN, AUG 01: As Indian consumers become increasingly mindful of what they eat and the ingredients they consume every day, conversations around nutrition are gradually shifting beyond labels and marketing claims towards transparency, quality, and informed decision-making. Growing awareness around preventive wellness, clean-label products, and certified organic ingredients has encouraged many consumers to evaluate not only what they consume, but also how those products are sourced, formulated, and tested before becoming part of their daily routine.

This shift reflects a broader transformation taking place across India's health and wellness ecosystem. Consumers today have greater access to information, enabling them to research ingredients, compare certifications, understand product labels, and make choices based on quality and credibility. As a result, nutrition brands are increasingly expected to provide greater clarity around their sourcing practices, formulation processes, and quality standards. The changing consumer mindset is also influencing India's organic food and wellness sectors. While convenience and availability remain important, ingredient integrity, responsible sourcing, and transparent communication are becoming increasingly significant in purchasing decisions.

A key reason certified organic nutrition continues to resonate with many consumers is the assurance it offers around two growing concerns: ingredient integrity and cultivation practices. As public awareness around pesticide residues in food and genetically modified ingredients continues to increase, recognised organic certification has become an important reference point for consumers seeking greater confidence in the products they choose. Rather than relying solely on marketing claims, many consumers are increasingly looking for recognised standards that provide greater transparency around how ingredients are grown and verified. Against this backdrop of changing consumer expectations, the nutraceutical industry is evolving beyond product claims towards greater emphasis on ingredient integrity, quality assurance, and responsible manufacturing.

Trust today is increasingly shaped by the ability of brands to communicate clearly about their sourcing practices, formulation philosophy, certification standards, and quality.

It is within this changing landscape that Orgaheal has positioned itself as an organic nutraceutical brand focused on certified organic supplements and clean everyday nutrition.

Rather than responding to short-term wellness trends, the company says its approach centres on carefully selected organic ingredients, straightforward formulations, and transparency throughout product development.

According to the company, Orgaheal was established with the belief that nutrition should begin with ingredient quality rather than complicated marketing claims. Its philosophy focuses on certified organic sourcing, responsible formulation practices, and clear communication that helps consumers understand what they are choosing.

The company says its commitment extends beyond meeting recognised organic requirements in India. Alongside India's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) framework, Orgaheal also aligns its ingredient sourcing with USDA Organic standards, reflecting an additional emphasis on internationally recognised organic practices. According to the company, this approach supports its broader objective of offering consumers greater confidence through recognised certification and transparent quality standards rather than promotional messaging alone. WorldNews Section

Instead of positioning nutrition as a quick solution, Orgaheal emphasises consistency, responsible sourcing, and quality verification throughout product development. The company believes long-term consumer trust is earned through reliability rather than marketing claims.

SEBI bars ZEEL for 2 months, Subhash Chandra, Punit Goenka for 1 year in Hyderabad land pledge case

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: SEBI has prohibited Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) from the securities market for two months and its Chairman Emeritus Subhash Chandra and MD & CEO Punit Goenka for one year over unauthorised pledge of the company's Hyderabad land to secure loans availed by promoter-linked Essel Group entities.

Additionally, the regulator imposed a total penalty of Rs 1.48 crore on them, according to a 150-page final order passed late on Friday.

Individually, the regulator imposed penalties of Rs 30 lakh on ZEEL, Rs 60 lakh on Chandra, and Rs 58 lakh on Goenka.

The case relates to the execution of a Deposit and Declaration Agreement (D&A) on December 27, 2018, under which the original title deeds of ZEEL's Hyderabad property were handed over to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IHFL) as security for loans taken by Essel Home and other borrowing entities linked to the Essel Group.

SEBI noted that the deployment of ZEEL's property constituted a related-party transaction and the company failed to obtain prior approval from its audit committee, thereby violating LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) regulations.

The regulator further observed that ZEEL failed to make necessary disclosures in its financial statements despite Goenka and Chandra having knowledge that the Hyderabad land had been deployed as security and the title deeds remained with the lender until June 2020.

In its findings against Chandra, Sebi said he misused his position as chairman by handing over the original title deeds of ZEEL's Hyderabad property to IHFL after falsely representing that the action had the approval of ZEEL's management.

"Noticee No.3 being the chairman of ZEEL, misused his position and authority in ZEEL and handed over the original title deeds of the asset (Hyderabad Land) of ZEEL to IHFL by falsely declaring that the said action had the approval of the management of ZEEL. Through such actions, the noticee put the material asset of ZEEL at risk for his personal benefit," Sebi said in its order.

It further said the true nature of the transaction was never disclosed and was instead portrayed as a case of misplaced documents, despite becoming the subject of litigation and arbitration.