

## Daily Economic News Summary: 30 April 2015

### 1. Rising Business Interest from Japan

Source: **Economic Times**

A strong wind is blowing across India's startup ecosystem from the east. While venture capital giant Softbank Capital has been closing landmark funding deals with India's largest consumer interest companies, a good number of Japanese-led firms are making their way here as well, eager to be part of India's growth story.

Tokyo based Beenos Partners has backed prominent startups, including ShopClues and Citrus Pay, while Singapore-based Rebright Partners announced a \$20 million fund for India this week. Other seed stage investors such as IMJ Investment Partners and M&S Partners are moving fast to bet on the country's most lucrative sectors as well.

*"We are interested in India-only services, as well as startups which want to go abroad. We can help with global expansions in Southeast Asia, Japan, US and China, because of our presence there"* said Hiro Mashita, founder and director of M&S Partners on a visit to Bengaluru last week.

### 2. Japanese Cos to invest \$3 Billion in India

Source: **Economic Times**

Japan announced that its business enterprises would invest \$3 billion in India in near future as part of efforts to double Japanese FDI in India and proposed to set up a joint working group between the Ministry of External Affairs and its Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) on civil nuclear cooperation.

An India-Japan negotiation for civil nuclear deal was struck on Tokyo's insistence for a no-test clause in the proposed deal. This infers that the deal will be abrogated as and when India conducts nuclear test. Japan is also not comfortable with the fact that India is not a signatory to the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty.

### **3. Singapore to soon unveils new initiative for Indian Biz**

Source: **The Daily Pioneer** ([Link](#))

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) has said that it will soon launch a key initiative to help companies coming from India to the island nation and present more business value to members.

SICCI said it will also continue to be pro-active in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship amongst Indian businesses in Singapore. *“Steps are taken to increase assistance to small and medium enterprises through a rejuvenated ‘Trade Match’ services to help link SICCI members and companies in Singapore with suitable businesses partners locally and overseas,”* the SICCI said.

### **4. Govt to create single industrial relations law**

Source: **Live Mint** ([Link](#))

The Union labor ministry has drafted a new legislation that merges three central labour laws into one, in an attempt to encourage compliance and improve the ease of doing business. The Labor Code on Industrial Relations Bill, 2015, proposes to combine Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Trade Unions Act, 1926, and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. The ministry has written to all stakeholders, including trade unions and industry, seeking their response before finalizing the bill.

The bill shall “consolidate and amend the law relating to registration of trade unions, conditions of employment, investigation and settlement of disputes and the matters related therewith or incidental thereto,” said the draft of the bill sent to the stakeholders.

### **5. Govt plans Bharat Mala, a 5000 km road network**

Source: **Times of India** ([Link](#))

The government is proposing to build about 5,000 km of road network all along the borders and coastal areas under a new scheme to be called "Bharat Mala". If former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's scheme of building Golden Quadrilateral gave a fillip to the highway construction in the country, the new plan will connect all untouched areas in the hinterland to push development and economic activities. Construction of the huge network would need at least Rs 50,000 crore, road ministry sources said.

According to sources, Rajasthan is likely to get a maximum of about 1,000 km road network under this programme while Tamil Nadu and Odisha will also get substantial portion.

The roads will provide connectivity from Gujarat in the west to Mizoram in the northeast and across all other major states.

## **6. Cabinet nod for 100 Smart Cities**

Source: **Times of India** ([Link](#))

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved Modi government's two flagship schemes - 100 smart cities and urban rejuvenation programme for 500 towns and cities. The idea is to recast the urban landscape and to make such areas more livable and inclusive, besides driving economic growth. The government cleared a total central outlay of Rs 98,000 crore to execute these schemes in the next five years.

Work is to be undertaken for smaller cities and towns with one lakh or more population under a new scheme named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee - Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). Centre will spend Rs 50,000 crore for this scheme. This will be the new scheme in place of JNNURM named after India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru during UPA rule.

## **7. Mukesh Ambani richest Indian again, moves ahead of Dilip Shanghvi**

Source: **Hindustan Times** ([Link](#))

According to a 'real-time' update provided by Forbes, Shanghvi slipped to the second position with a networth of \$19.3 billion among the richest Indian billionaires, while Ambani returned to the top. On the global list, Ambani was ranked 46th, while Shanghvi was 48th -- the only two Indians among the top-50.

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani on Monday regained his position as the world's richest Indian with a net worth of \$19.6 billion, as pharma tycoon Dilip Shanghvi slipped to the second place after remaining on the top for about seven weeks.

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