

City sees huge demand for office space in 2nd quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bangalore has witnessed highest demand for vacant offices spaces during September quarter, according to a report by Cushman & Wakefield (C&W). The average demand in India's eight major cities rose by 19 per cent at 6.7 million square feet (sq ft), although same weakened in the National Capital Region on hopes of further drop in rentals.

"Bangalore witnessed highest demand in the quarter with 2.3 million sq ft followed by Mumbai at 1.2 million sq ft and Chennai at 0.98 million sq ft," the report said. The report said total supply during last quarter was much more than demand and was estimated at about 15.9 million sq ft. "The gap between supply and demand increased to over 130 per cent (from 50 per cent) in last quarter, increasing average vacancy across major cities in India to 17 per cent from previous quarter's 13-18," it said. It observed that rentals in three-month period declined by up to 13 per cent in these cities.

Premier Ltd rolls out Rio

MUMBAI, DHNS: Making a re-entry into the passenger vehicle market, Premier Limited on Wednesday, launched diesel-driven compact sports utility vehicle (SUV) Rio.

The five-seater Rio is powered by Premier's 1489 cc turbo diesel engine based on Peugeot technology delivering close to 65 BHP with a fuel efficiency of 16 km per litre.

Briefing reporters Premier Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Maitreya Doshi said "The vehicle, based on a Daihatsu model, will be assembled at Premier's Pune plant with components sourced from Chinese company Zotye through a component supply agreement."

Three variants

There will be three variants of Rio with the base model priced at Rs 5.25 lakh and the deluxe model having a price tag of Rs 6 lakh (ex-showroom, Pune).

While all the models are equipped with central locking system, power steering and front power windows, the higher variants will have additional features like anti-lock breaking system and alloy wheels.

Premier (formerly known as Premier Automobile Ltd) will commence delivery of Rio in December and the first cars are expected hit dealer showrooms in the first week of November.

Companies taking to web analytics in big way

L Subramani

BANGALORE: While online media was used in the past as mere indication of business presence, it has been viewed in recent times as best way of learning about customers and turning that knowledge into decisions.

If availability of tools such as Google Analytics are any evidence, the trend towards web analytics is catching up now like

never before. According to Nabler Web Solutions Founder & CEO Seby Kallarakkal companies find online medium as best means of interacting with their customers and see the need to understand their attitude towards their product or brand. City-based Nabler provides end-to-end web analytics services to companies in India, US and Europe. Besides using existing tools like Google Ana-

lytics, Nabler has also developed its own sets of analytical tools to accurately measure, collect, analyse and report internet data for the companies. Most of the tools are automated to make the process easy.

Specialised service

Though begun as online advertisement company in 2005, Kallarakkal saw the scope for providing a specialised web ana-

lytics service as he received more enquiries. "By nature we were an analytics company than a creative one, so shifting our focus on to analytics as service was not difficult," he said.

Providing business insights based on online data is one of the services Nabler does for its clientele.

For start-ups and those trying to set up web operations, the company helps choose

tools, convert business objectives into metrics and set up automated mechanism for them.

Kallarakkal said web analytics services are specifically sought by corporate houses and digital advertisers who want to understand effectiveness of their activities online. Currently, the company is serving 15 companies and has analysed about 80 websites.

FM mum on roll-out of GST by April 2010

Says govt is committed to introduce it on schedule

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, on Wednesday, was non-committal on the introduction of Goods & Services Tax (GST), by the schedule date (April 2010).

Briefing reporters after inaugurating the meeting with Finance Secretaries & Finance Commissioners of States he said "We are committed to introduce GST. We are working for its implementation."

Asked when GST would be implemented he did not make any comment saying "we are working on it." He indicated a meeting of State Finance Ministers would be convened some time in November to discuss issues relating to GST. He had convened a meeting of the State Finance Ministers on the GST issues on October 27. But the meeting was cancelled at the last minute. He said Asim Das-

gupta, Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (ECSFM), had been holding talks with various states on wide range of issues relating to the GST.

Discussion paper

Further, Dasgupta has said that the ECSFM would soon release a Discussion Paper on the proposed GST to get reaction from the stake holders like trade, industry and public at large.

As part of exercise to expedite the process of introduction of GST, the ECSFM has constituted a 16-member Working Committee to evolve framework as well as drafts for constitutional amendment for the purpose of allowing states to levy Service Tax for introducing GST. The Committee is also mandated to prepare draft for model legislation on GST for the Centre and the states.

DH News Service



PAISA VASOOL: Actress Neha Dhupia (left) with SSTL President & CEO Vsevolod Rozanov in Bangalore on Wednesday. **DH PHOTO**

MTS offers calls at half-a-paise

BANGALORE: Sistema Shyam Teleservices Limited (SSTL), on Wednesday, launched its telephony services in Karnataka under its Mobile Telephony Service brand MTS. Karnataka is the eighth circle the firm has launched its services in 18 months since inception. It plans to enter three more circles by the end of 2009 (making it 11).

MTS is the first mobile operator to offer half-a-paise per second tariff on promotional basis in the State and will cover 11 districts, while claiming to provide full rural connectivity for villages with a population of 5,000 and above.

Taking advantage of its CDMA technology, MTS also launched its high-speed mobile data services — MBlaze — and said it hopes to penetrate the

broadband market and become one of the leaders. MBlaze will be available in Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore and Belgaum initially and 16 other Indian cities by end of November.

Briefing reporters MTS Chief Operating Officer (Karnataka circle) Suresh S Kumar said "the company has identified 10,993 outlets and 153 distributors across the State to sell the product," adding that they have also appointed 11 corporate SME partners to cater to the SME market, besides partnering with 250 outlets of modern trade stores"

Breaking the trend in CDMA market, the firm, for the first time has provided customers with the option of purchasing up to 10 different models of phones from the open market,

besides four of its own under MTS brand. Other brands on whose handsets the SIM would work include Samsung, Spice, Micromax et al. The handsets would be priced between Rs 1,500 to Rs 25,000. Further, MTS will launch a smartphone — Ivory — from manufacturers of Microsoft Xbox under its brand in a few months with an exclusive feature (in the organised market) of live television on mobile phones.

Meanwhile, SSTL, a joint venture between Russian firm Sistema (73.71 per cent) and Shyam Group (23.79 per cent) revealed that total investment for the project is US\$1.4 billion and an additional investment of US\$4 billion is in the pipeline for coming few years.

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AP makes most of Brand B'lore at Nasscom Expo

Subrahmanyan Viswanath

BANGALORE: This is a tale of India's two southern cities — Bangalore and Hyderabad — that is a never ending epic. Their battle to beat one another in wooing business and investments into their own homestead is long drawn.

Ever since IT became the in-thing both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are competing to woo investments. Bangalore, as Silicon Capital and Hy-

derabad styling as Cyberabad, are courting global IT majors to set up shop in their capital city. The contest spilling over to building and completion of international airport, fly-overs, et al. Over the years, Andhra Pradesh pavilion has been regular feature in States section at City's annual flagship IT event — BangaloreIT.in showcasing that state's strides in IT. The Nasscom Product Conclave & Expo 2009, that ended on Wednesday, was no different. Once again vying with Karnata-

ka and Bangalore for attention of biggies in IT business, in the leader's own turf, was the AP pavilion at Nasscom Expo showcasing eight software product companies — Myriad Star IT Solutions, SETU Software Systems Pvt Ltd, Posidex Technologies (P) Ltd, Transgraph Consulting Pvt Ltd, Out-Box Edutainment Pvt Ltd, Win-nou System & Services (P) Ltd, SatNav Technologies Pvt Ltd & 3i Infotech Ltd.

Speaking to *Deccan Herald*, Hyderabad Software Ex-

porters Association (Hysea) Executive Director Brig (Retd) K Hari Kumar gushed what better City than Bangalore, country's hallowed IT haven, to showcase the strides Hyderabad-based companies are making in product space. "It's for first time we are bringing them to an event like Nasscom in product segment out of Andhra Pradesh," he said adding the response was excellent with companies receiving expected visibility and business interest. Hysea, in association with Andhra Pradesh

government has taken up several initiatives to promote software product companies through appropriate infrastructure support and intervention.

Hysea, started in 1991, by 15 individuals, has, in last three years been hosting competition for start-ups, established and firms developing socially relevant products and awarding them. If first year saw modest 11 in fray, second year it rose to 57 and last year hit a century at 111.

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We've no retailing right for gas, says Reliance Industries

New Delhi: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), on Wednesday, told the Supreme Court that after government formulated gas utilization policy, the company lost its marketing right over the natural gas from Krishna-Godavari Basin-6.

RIL Advocate Harish Salve appearing on the fifth day before a bench of Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan, Justice R V Raveendran and Justice P Stah-sivam said "Now I will have to ask whether I can give gas to some company."

Under the product sharing contract, the fixation of price of gas was taken over, now after the gas utilisation policy, the government has withdrawn the right to market gas from Reliance Industries, said Salve.

Salve also said the dispute between the Ambani brothers over the gas from RIL to RNRL could not be relegated for arbitration under the company law. "It can not be relegated to dis-

'NTPC won't suffer if it buys costly gas'

NTPC Ltd will not lose any money even if it was to get natural gas at prices higher than those committed by Reliance Industries five years ago, the Power Ministry has told the Committee on Public Undertakings, reports *PTI* from New Delhi. "In the event gas is not supplied to NTPC at the rate of US\$2.34 per mmmBtu, the burden of extra price of gas would be passed on to the consumer as fuel cost is a pass through as per regulations for fixing tariff under Electricity Act, 2003," COPU quoted the ministry's submission to it.

pute resolution procedure for a suitable arrangement," Salve said countering the earlier suggestion by the court for referring the matter for arbitration.

The Supreme Court said the dispute over price of gas seemed to be between RNRL and government, but not between RIL and RNRL. "Why did you file an appeal?" asked Justice Raveendran to Salve.

Salve answered "I am aggrieved. The high court order says MOU is binding on us. We

challenged it on principle." When the court asked whether it would supply gas at \$3.24 to NTPC, Salve said it might if the government approved the price after a decision was given in favour of the public sector power producer by the court.

Then the court asked would it be supplying gas to RNRL at the same price, he said only if the government approved the proposal of it.

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High tax bites into Puravankara's profits

BANGALORE: Puravankara Projects, on Wednesday, reported a consolidated net profit for quarter ended 30 September 2009 of Rs 60.86 crore, 21 per cent higher than Rs 50.47 crore earned in the corresponding quarter last year.

Growth in company's operating profits in the September quarter, however, had jumped up by 87 per cent to Rs 87.98 crore, but provision for high tax in the quarter (Rs 30.30 crore against Rs 86 lakh), drastically lowered the post-tax profit.

Puravankara Projects Director Ravi Ramu explained that tax was high because of Rs 40 crore net profit from the sale of land and also because some of the properties developed by the company did not have any tax benefit to claim.

The company's revenue for quarter at Rs 226.39 crores in the September quarter was 62 per cent higher than previous year's Rs 139.37 crore. The consolidated net profit for the half year ended 30 September 2009

was Rs 71.10 crores on an income of Rs. 282.36.

"The net profit margin for the quarter ended 30 September 2009 was 27 per cent on the back of a robust gross profit margin of over 45 per cent," Ramu said.

During the quarter Provident Housing, the 100 per cent affordable housing subsidiary of Puravankara Projects Limited, has launched its first two projects totaling 5,534 homes covering an area of 5.69 million sft. The company sold over 1,200 apartments in these two projects.

Puravankara Chairman & Managing Director, Ravi Puravankara said: "We have witnessed a distinct improvement in the market environment during this quarter and indications are that this trend will continue in the foreseeable future. Our market positioning is currently such that the medium to long-term prospects of the Group look particularly bright."

DH News Service

Government mulls aid to people moving class action suits

NEW DELHI, PTI: Taking lessons from Satyam episode, the Centre is looking at making provisions in the Companies Bill for compensating aggrieved retail investors fighting class action suits against fraud-hit compa-

nies. "Within the company law framework, we don't have a system of compensation (for people filing class action suits against a company)... that is the major lacuna we are trying to address in the Bill (Companies

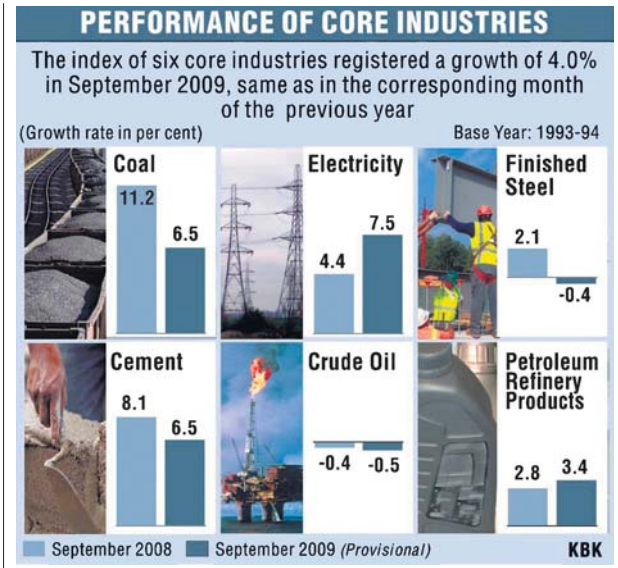
Bill 2009)," Corporate Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid said here on Wednesday.

As per the provisions of the proposed bill, re-introduced in the Lok Sabha in August, shareholder associations can take le-

gal action in case of company fraud, and also take part in investor protection activities and class action suits.

"Specifically we are enabling the moving of class actions. I think this will be considered in

more details. The problem with any class action is that the facility should be there. People should be enabled to move against defaulters," Khurshid said after a conference on class action suits.



Core sectors growth dips to 4 pc in Sept

NEW DELHI: Core infrastructure sector after posting a healthy growth rate of 7.1 per cent in August recorded a poor 4 per cent expansion in September this year.

However, cumulatively the index of six core industries having a combined weight of 26.7 per cent in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) posted a growth rate of 5 per cent during the first six months of the current fiscal (April-September, 2009) against 3.4 per cent during the corresponding period of the previous year.

Petroleum refinery production registered a growth of 3.4 per cent in September 2009 compared to growth of 2.8 per cent in the same month last year. Coal production grew by 11.6 per cent compared to an

increase of 8 per cent during the same period of 2008-09.

Electricity generation registered a growth of 7.5 per cent in September 2009 compared to a growth rate of 4.4 per cent in September 2008. Cement production registered a growth of 6.5 per cent in September 2009 compared to 8.1 per cent in same month last year.

Cement Production grew by 12.3 per cent during April-September 2009-10 compared to an increase of 5.5 per cent during the same period of 2008-09. Finished steel production (weight of 5.13 per cent in the IIP) grew by 3 per cent during April-September 2009-10 compared to an increase of 3.3 per cent in the same period of 2008-09.

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Hitachi offers cloud services for firms

BANGALORE: Hitachi Data Systems, on Tuesday, announced the availability of its cloud services with a specific target on enterprise and service providers.

Dubbed 'Agile Cloud Services', Hitachi's offering is said to be comprehensive and simple, integrating block, file and content into a single virtualised pool.

Briefing reporters, Hitachi Data Systems Chief Strategist (File & Content Services) Miklos Sandorfi said this makes it easier for enterprises and service providers to bring all their IT resources into cloud environment and provision it to their users.

"Our platform can be used for both external and internal clouds and would cover all our product portfolio," he added.

The Hitachi Content Platform (HCP) which was an-

nounced as part of the company's cloud offering, provides security, reliability and multi-tenancy for cloud infrastructure. The platform's significant aspect is the support extended to host of protocols and third party technologies, eliminating need to refresh legacy systems to fit into cloud environment.

He said with demand for storing unstructured data among businesses growing organisations may find cloud to be a right kind of solution. Since the platform is dynamic, we charge them according to the utilisation which can be managed through a single software across the devices, he said adding data protection capability would be ideal for small and medium businesses, who do not have necessary infrastructure for back up.

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Correction

The title for Fitch report, carried on October 27 on Page 15, should have read *Rating down-*

grades on banks have halved in September quarter than rendered erroneously otherwise.

Short term E-Tender Notification (Two cover system)

No. EE/PWD/CTA:BUILDING/07/2009-10 Dated : 26-10-2009

1) E-Tender Ref. - KPWD/2009-10/WORK_INDENT 1601

Tenders are invited on behalf Governor of Karnataka from Class-I Contractors for the following works through e-Procurement portal for two cover system.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender in RS	E.M.D. in Rs.
1.	Construction of Government Polytechnic College Building Chitradurga	51448307.66	771725-00

Eligible Contractors may participate in tender through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam

Last Date & time for Tender Queries / Clarifications : 17-11-2009 Time : 17.30
 Last Date & time for receipt of tenders : 20-11-2009 Time : 16.00
 Date & time for Opening of Technical Bid : 25-11-2009 Time : 11.00
 Date & time for Opening of Financial Bid : 30-11-2009 Time : 11.00

For further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline No.0802248567
 Sd / Executive Engineer, Public Works,
 Ports and Inland Water Transport Department, Division, Chitradurga.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು, ಲೋ.ಬಂ. ಮತ್ತು ಒ.ಜ.ಸಾ.ಇ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕೋಡಿ
 ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ.ಲೋ.ಬಂ. ಮತ್ತು ಒ.ಜ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಚಿ.ವಿ./ಡಿ.ಎಂ.ಗಂ.ನುತ್ರಿ/ಸುವರ್ಣ/09-10/2816 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28-10-2009

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ನುತ್ರಿಕಾರರರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಕ್ರಮಾಂತರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು :** (1) Improvements to Mangasuli Laxmeshwar S.H.-73 in Km No. 87.00 to 97.00 and 118.00 to 122.67 in Gokak Taluka of Belgaum District under Head of Account 5054 - Suvarna Raste Vikas Yojane. ನುತ್ರಿಗೆ ಇಚ್ಛೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ರೂ. 104.16 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200000.00, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ. 5000.00, ನುತ್ರಿಗೆ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ) 6 ತಿಂಗಳು, ವರ್ಷ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ. KPWD/2009-10/WORK_INDENT 1806. (2) Improvements to Sankeshwar Sangam road S.H.-44 in Km No. 63.00 to 74.00 in Gokak Tq of Belgaum Dist under 5054 - R & B Suvarna Raste Vikas Yojane. ನುತ್ರಿಗೆ ಇಚ್ಛೆ ವ್ಯಕ್ತ ರೂ. 104.16 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200000.00, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ರೂ. 5000.00, ನುತ್ರಿಗೆ ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ) 6 ತಿಂಗಳು, ವರ್ಷ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ. KPWD/2009-10/WORK_INDENT 1809.

ನುತ್ರಿ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ನಿಗದಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರಲಿವೆ.

ಅರ್ಜಿಪಣಿ - ಸಂದೇಶ ಮತ್ತು ವಿವರಣೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05-11-2009 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)
 ನುತ್ರಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09-11-2009 (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)
 ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 11-11-2009 (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)
 ಹಣಕಾಸು ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13-11-2009 (ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)

ಮಾಲ್ಕೋನಿಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಾಗಿ www.kpwd.gov.in ನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸಲು ಅಥವಾ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಚಿಕ್ಕೋಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೆಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು, ಲೋ.ಬಂ. ಮತ್ತು ಒ.ಜ.ಸಾ.ಇ. ಚಿಕ್ಕೋಡಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಕ.ವಾ.ಪೆ.ಪಿ.