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G En bref

TIC :

- Le programme PLI pour soutenir la fabrication indigène d'ordinateurs, tablettes, et serveurs a été approuvé avec un budget de 830 M€
- Le gouvernement indien a annoncé de nouvelles réglementations pour les réseaux sociaux, ainsi que pour les services de streaming (OTT) et les médias en ligne
- Le groupe TATA forme un consortium avec Kotak Mahindra Bank, HDFC Bank, Airtel, Mastercard et PayU pour répondre à l'appel d'offres pour obtenir une licence de payement numérique "New Umbrella Entity"
- Une nouvelle étude de la société américaine Recorded Future affirme qu'un groupe financé par la Chine serait à l'origine de cyberattaques visant le réseau électrique indien

TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS:

- Lancement de la National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) et de plusieurs autres initiatives numériques pour améliorer la gouvernance municipale.
- Huawei affirme que l'Inde n'a pas une attitude négative vis-à-vis de l'entreprise et que Huawei est prêt à contribuer au programme indien de PLI visant à accoître la production local d'équipements télécoms.

Revue de presse

1. TIC

Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive Scheme for IT Hardware

Press Information Bureau, 24/02/2021

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for IT Hardware. The scheme proposes production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the value chain of IT Hardware. The Target Segments under the proposed Scheme include Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One PCs and Servers.

The Scheme shall, extend an incentive of 4% to 2% / 1% on net incremental sales (over base year i.e. 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four (4) years.

The scheme is likely to benefit 5 major global players and 10 domestic champions in the field of IT Hardware manufacturing including Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One PCs, and Servers. This is an important segment to promote manufacturing under AtmaNirbhar Bharat as there is huge import reliance for these items at present.

Financial Implications:
The total cost of the proposed scheme is approximately Rs.7,350 crore over 4 years, which includes an incentive outlay of Rs.7,325 crore and administrative charges of Rs.25 crore.

Benefits:
The scheme will enhance the development of electronics ecosystem in the country. India will be well positioned as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) on account of integration with global value chains, thereby becoming a destination for IT Hardware exports.

The scheme has an employment generation potential of over 1,80,000 (direct and indirect) over 4 years.
The Scheme will provide impetus to Domestic Value Addition for IT Hardware which is expected to rise to 20% - 25% by 2025.

Background:
The vision of National Policy on Electronics 2019 notified on 25.02.2019 is to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.

Currently, the laptop and tablet demand in India is largely met through imports valued at USD 4.21 billion and USD 0.41 billion respectively in 2019-20. The market for IT Hardware is dominated by 6-7 companies globally which account for about 70% of the world's market share. These companies are able to exploit large economies of scale to compete in global markets. It is imperative that these companies expand their operations in India and make it a major destination for manufacturing of IT Hardware.
Given the current global scenario, the world of manufacturing is undergoing a paradigm shift. Manufacturing companies across the globe are looking to diversify their manufacturing locations to mitigate the risk involved in depending on a single market.

Draft rules: Social media firms to reveal first originator of message, OTT to self-regulate, digital media to have grievance officer

Tech Desk, 25/02/2021

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY) has announced its draft Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, for social media platforms, OTT players & digital media Thursday, with significant recommendations including asking social media companies to give out the originator of a message or tweet as the case may be.

“We have not framed any new law. We have framed these rules under the existing IT Act,” MeITY minister Ravi

Shankar Prasad during a press conference announcing these rules. “We are trusting the platforms to follow these regulations,” he said. “The focus of this guideline is on self-regulation.”

The Rules will come in effect from the date of their publication in the gazette, except for the additional due diligence for significant social media intermediaries, which shall come in effect three months after publication of these Rules.

The rules also made a distinction between a significant social media intermediary and a regular social media intermediary. The government is yet to define the user size to determine who will constitute a significant social media intermediary, though the minister indicated players with more than 50 lakh users will be considered.

Social media companies and redressal
The government wants social media companies to have a mechanism to address complaints from users. It wants social media intermediaries to have the following:

- **Chief Compliance Officer** who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and Rules.
- **Nodal Contact Person** for 24×7 coordination with law enforcement agencies.
- **Resident Grievance Officer** who shall perform the functions mentioned under Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

The government says it is empowering the users of social media and other intermediaries. It wants companies to have a chief compliance officer for significant social media companies as well. The rules call for social media companies to publish a monthly compliance report as well.

“If there are complaints against the dignity of users, particularly woman that exploits their private parts of individuals or nudity or in sexual acts, impersonation, etc, you will be required to remove that within 24 hours,” Prasad said.

Track originator of a message The rules also call for tracking of the ‘first originator’ of a message and apply to a significant social media intermediary. It also wants the significant social media intermediary to have a physical contact address in India published on its website or mobile app or both. For players like WhatsApp, which are end-to-end encrypted, this could mean they will be forced to break encryption in India in order to comply.

The government says while it is not interested in the content of the message, they wish to know who started the ‘mischief’. It wants social media platforms to disclose the first originator of the mischievous tweet or message as the case may be. This will be required in matters related to security and sovereignty of India, public order, or with regard to rape or any other sexually explicit material.

The rules also say that “users who wish to verify their accounts voluntarily shall be provided an appropriate mechanism to verify their accounts and provided with demonstrable and visible mark of verification.”

OTT content platforms, digital media
The government has called for a grievance redressal system for OTT platforms and digital news media portals as well. The government is also asking OTT platforms and digital news media to self-regulate and wants a mechanism for addressing any grievances.
While films have a censor board, OTT platforms will require to self-classify their movies and content based on age. The content will have to be classified based on age appropriateness. The government wants the OTT players to classify films based on 13+, 16+ and those for adults and clarified it is not bringing any kind of censorship to these platforms.

There has to be a mechanism of parental lock and ensuring compliance with the same. Platforms like Netflix already have an option for a parental lock. For publishers of news on digital media, they will be “required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media,” according to the government. It also wants a three-level grievance redressal mechanism. This will include self-regulation by the publishers; self-regulation by the self-regulating bodies of the publishers and oversight mechanism.

The government wants digital media to appoint a Grievance Redressal Officer based in India who shall be responsible for the redressal of grievances received by it. The officer shall take decision on every grievance received by it within 15 days.

There maybe one or more self-regulatory bodies of publishers. According to the rules, this body "shall be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, a High Court or independent eminent person and have not more than six members."

The body will have to register with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This body will oversee the adherence by the publisher to the Code of Ethics and address grievances that have not be been resolved by the publisher within 15 days. Further, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting shall formulate an oversight mechanism. It shall publish a charter for self-regulating bodies, including Codes of Practices and establish an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances.

Exclusive: Tata Group takes over SBI bid for NUE licence from RBI

ET Bureau, 27/02/2021

The Tata Group has taken over State Bank of India's bid for a New Umbrella Entity (NUE) payments licence, after the state-run lender's bid was flagged by the finance ministry for potential competition risk.

India's largest conglomerate will promote the entity through its subsidiary Ferbine Pvt. Ltd and is expected to hold the majority stake. Bharti Airtel unit Airtel Digital is buying 10% in Ferbine while HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank have already picked up 9.9% each in the venture. Mastercard and Nasper-backed PayU are also part of the consortium.

Super App Plan

ET was the first to report in its edition on October 14 that Tata Sons had initiated preliminary talks with the Reserve Bank of India on its plans to set up a pan-India retail payments entity.

According to the central bank's framework, licensed NUEs can own and operate a private payment network like UPI (Unified Payments Interface) with powers similar to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

All public sector institutions—SBI, Bank of Baroda and NABARD—that were earlier part of the consortium have now completely backed out after the finance ministry flagged the deal citing competition risk to NPCI. According to senior industry sources, the government doesn't want public sector entities competing with flagship Government of India projects run by NPCI, including RuPay and UPI.

Tata Sons, HDFC Bank, SBI, BoB, PayU and Mastercard did not respond to ET's emailed queries.

An NUE licence will go a long way in helping Tata Group strengthen its foray into new-age financial services while also setting the groundwork for its consumer ' Super App' that has been in the works to take on Amazon and Reliance for a share of India's online retail market.

"For Tata, SBI-BoB exiting the consortium couldn't come at a more opportune time. The NUE licence is expected to be a larger play on its whole expansion plan in the financial services arena. This will work in tandem with its game plan to develop a super app and potentially secure a bank licence if and when the RBI opens the gates for corporates," said an official in the know. "Tata Capital and Tata Consultancy Services could also lend back-end support in the venture."

As part of a larger financial services play, Tata Group Chairman N. Chandrasekaran had last year announced plans to build a super app under Tata Digital. The venture would be open architecture with a strong payment engine offering hosts of e-commerce choices and financial products among others.

The new app is expected to help Tata compete with the growing dominance of Reliance and Amazon, among others, in the country's online retail market. Tata already operates an e-commerce platform Tata CLiQ, online grocery store StarQuik and online electronics platform Croma through its digital subsidiary Tata Digital.

The Tata Group will now face stiff competition for the coveted NUE licence from consortiums led by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Group and Amazon, which are in advanced stages of presenting their NUE plans to RBI, as reported first by ET. A fourth consortium backed by Paytm is also in the fray.

According to an official in the know, the central bank may not hand out more than two NUE licences. "It will also be interesting to see how RBI addresses the conflict-of-interest risks as most applicants are also stakeholders in NPCI," the person cited above said.

Both HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank are among the largest retail banks in India processing a significant chunk of the country's digital payments. According to NPCI data, HDFC Bank in January processed 206 million UPI remits whereas Kotak Mahindra processed 77 million. Airtel already runs a payments bank and hopes to become a small finance bank in the future. While Mastercard has been a mainstay in India's digital payments ecosystem through its card network, Naspers-backed PayU is a payment gateway that competes with BillDesk and CCAvenue, which are part of Amazon-ICICI Bank and Reliance-Facebook consortiums, respectively.

RBI is of the view that NUEs will help the central bank to achieve its stated objective of "derisking" India's burgeoning retail payments ecosystem where NPCI currently holds a dominant position. The central bank has laid the onus on prospective applicants to identify solutions they want to commercially create.

China Appears to Warn India: Push Too Hard and the Lights Could Go Out

New York Times, 28/02/2021

Early last summer, Chinese and Indian troops clashed in a surprise border battle in the remote Galwan Valley, bashing each other to death with rocks and clubs.

Four months later and more than 1,500 miles away in Mumbai, India, trains shut down and the stock market closed as the power went out in a city of 20 million people. Hospitals had to switch to emergency generators to keep ventilators running amid a coronavirus outbreak that was among India's worst.

Now, a new study lends weight to the idea that those two events may well have been connected — as part of a broad Chinese cybercampaign against India's power grid, timed to send a message that if India pressed its claims too hard, the lights could go out across the country.

The study shows that as the standoff continued in the Himalayas, taking at least two dozen lives, Chinese malware was flowing into the control systems that manage electric supply across India, along with a high-voltage transmission substation and a coal-fired power plant.

The flow of malware was pieced together by Recorded Future, a Somerville, Mass. company that studies the use of the internet by state actors. It found that most of the malware was never activated. And because Recorded Future could not get inside India's power systems, it could not examine the details of the code itself, which was placed in strategic power-distribution systems across the country. While it has notified Indian authorities, so far they are not reporting what they have found.

Stuart Solomon, Recorded Future's chief operating officer, said that the Chinese state-sponsored group, which the firm named Red Echo, "has been seen to systematically utilize advanced cyberintrusion techniques to quietly gain a foothold in nearly a dozen critical nodes across the Indian power generation and transmission infrastructure."

The discovery raises the question about whether an outage that struck on Oct. 13 in Mumbai, one of the country's busiest business hubs, was meant as a message from Beijing about what might happen if India pushed its border claims too vigorously.

News reports at the time quoted Indian officials as saying that the cause was a Chinese-origin cyberattack on a nearby electricity load-management center. Authorities began a formal investigation, which is due to report in the coming weeks. Since then, Indian officials have gone silent about the Chinese code, whether it set off the Mumbai blackout and the evidence provided to them by Recorded Future that many elements of the nation's electric grid were the target of a sophisticated Chinese hacking effort.

It is possible the Indians are still searching for the code. But acknowledging its insertion, one former Indian diplomat noted, could complicate the diplomacy in recent days between China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, and his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, in an effort to ease the border tensions.

The investigators who wrote the Recorded Future study, said that "the alleged link between the outage and the discovery of the unspecified malware" in the system

"remains unsubstantiated." But they noted that "additional evidence suggested the coordinated targeting of the Indian load dispatch centers," which balance the electrical demands across regions of the country.

The discovery is the latest example of how the conspicuous placement of malware in an adversary's electric grid or other critical infrastructure has become the newest form of both aggression and deterrence — a warning that if things are pushed too far, millions could suffer.

"I think the signaling is being done" by China to indicate "that we can and we have the capability to do this in times of a crisis," said retired Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, a cyberexpert who oversaw India's borders with Pakistan and China. "It's like sending a warning to India that this capability exists with us."

Both India and China maintain medium-size nuclear arsenals, which have traditionally been seen as the ultimate deterrent. But neither side believes that the other would risk a nuclear exchange in response to bloody disputes over the Line of Actual Control, an ill-defined border demarcation where long-running disputes have escalated into deadly conflicts by increasingly nationalistic governments.

Cyberattacks give them another option — less devastating than a nuclear attack, but capable of giving a country a strategic and psychological edge. Russia was a pioneer in using this technique when it turned the power off twice in Ukraine several years ago.

And the United States has engaged in similar signaling. After the Department of Homeland Security announced publicly that the American power grid was littered with code inserted by Russian hackers, the United States put code into Russia's grid in a warning to President Vladimir V. Putin.

Now the Biden administration is promising that within weeks it will respond to another intrusion — it will not yet call it an attack — from Russia, one that penetrated at least nine government agencies and more than 100 corporations.

So far, the evidence suggests that the SolarWinds hack, named for the company that made network-management software that was hijacked to insert the code, was chiefly about stealing information. But it also created the capability for far more destructive attacks — and among the companies that downloaded the Russian code were several American utilities. They maintain that the incursions were managed, and that there was no risk to their operations.

Until recent years, China's focus had been on information theft. But Beijing has been increasingly active in placing code into infrastructure systems, knowing that when it is discovered, the fear of an attack can be as powerful a tool as an attack itself.

In the Indian case, Recorded Future sent its findings to India's Computer Emergency Response Team, or CERT-In, a kind of investigative and early-warning agency most nations maintain to keep track of threats to critical infrastructure. Twice the center has acknowledged receipt of the information, but said nothing about whether it, too, found the code in the electric grid.

Repeated inquiries by The New York Times to the center and several of its officials over the past two weeks yielded no comment.

The Chinese government, which did not respond to questions about the code in the Indian grid, could argue that India started the cyberaggression. In India, a patchwork of state-backed hackers were caught using coronavirus-themed phishing emails to target Chinese organizations in Wuhan last February. A Chinese security company, 360 Security Technology, accused state-backed Indian hackers of targeting hospitals and medical research organizations with phishing emails, in an espionage campaign.

Four months later, as tensions rose between the two countries on the border, Chinese hackers unleashed a swarm of 40,300 hacking attempts on India's technology and banking infrastructure in the incursions were so-called denial-of-service attacks that knocked these systems offline; others were phishing attacks, according to the

police in the Indian state of Maharashtra, home to Mumbai.

By December, security experts at the Cyber Peace Foundation, an Indian nonprofit that follows hacking efforts, reported a new wave of Chinese attacks, in which hackers sent phishing emails to Indians related to the Indian holidays in October and November. Researchers tied the attacks to domains registered in China's Guangdong and Henan Provinces, to an organization called Fang Xiao Qing. The aim, the foundation said, was to obtain a beachhead in Indians' devices, possibly for future attacks.

"One of the intentions seems to be power projection," said Vineet Kumar, the president of the Cyber Peace Foundation.

The foundation has also documented a surge of malware directed at India's power sector, from petroleum refineries to a nuclear power plant, since last year. Because it is impossible for the foundation or Recorded Future to examine the code, it is unclear whether they are looking at the same attacks, but the timing is the same.

Yet except for the Mumbai blackout, the attacks have not disrupted the provision of energy, officials said.

And even there, officials have gone quiet after initially determining that the code was most likely Chinese.

Yashasvi Yadav, a police official in charge of Maharashtra's cyberintelligence unit, said authorities found "suspicious activity" that suggested the intervention of a state actor. But Mr. Yadav declined to elaborate, saying the investigation's full report would be released in early March. Nitin Raut, a state government minister quoted in local reports in November blaming sabotage for the Mumbai outage, did not respond to questions about the blackout.

Military experts in India have renewed calls for the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to replace the Chinese-made hardware for India's power sector and its critical rail system.

"The issue is we still haven't been able to get rid of our dependence on foreign hardware and foreign software," General Hooda said.

Indian government authorities have said a review is underway of India's information technology contracts, including with Chinese companies. But the reality is that ripping out existing infrastructure is expensive and difficult.

2. Télécommunications

National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) & Several Digital Initiatives Launched For Transforming Urban Governance

Press Information Bureau, 23/02/2021

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS, I/C, Housing and Urban Affairs has stated that National Urban Digital Mission will create the ideal space to harness immense synergies from the domain of urban and technology towards creating a citizen-centric governance that reflects Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'minimum government and maximum governance'. Speaking at the launch of National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) and other initiatives here today, he said that Ministry has to work with and support all ULBs, from the largest to the smallest, to deliver on the promise of serving all citizens andthis is what sabkasaath - sabkavikas - sabkavishwas means for urban India today: enhancing the capacity of every city and town to serve citizens, build partnerships, and solve local problems locally.

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics and IT, who graced the event with virtual presence, said that the cities will become smarter only if digital technology is properly leveraged. He added that an important message of this launch is that convergence is integral to good governance through a digital mode. He added that this convergence will not be among beneficiaries of the scheme but those departments who are responsible for convergence. He further said that the goal of Digital India can be achieved through technology which is homegrown, developmental, low cost and inclusive.

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, here today. The event was attended by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, MoHUA & Shri A.P.Sawhney, Secretary, MeitY and other officers of the Central and State Governments were also present at the launch. Several other digital initiativesof MoHUA vis. India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website, and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched. These initiatives are among the ongoing efforts of both Ministries to realise the Prime Minister's vision of Digital India and AtmaNirbhar Bharat, by making cities more self-reliant and enabled to meet the needs of and provide services to their citizens.

National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM)

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) will create a shared digital infrastructure for urban India, working across the three pillars of people, process, and platform to provide holistic support to cities and towns. It will institutionalise a citizen-centric and ecosystem-driven approach to urban governance and service delivery in 2022 cities by 2022, and across all cities and towns in India by 2024.

NUDM will create a shared digital infrastructure that can consolidate and cross-leverage the various digital initiatives of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, enabling cities and towns across India to benefit from holistic and diverse forms of support, in keeping with their needs and local challenges.

NUDM is citizen-centric, ecosystem-driven, and principles-based in both design and implementation. NUDM has articulated a set of governing principles, and inherits the technology design principles of the National Urban Innovation Stack (NUIS), whose strategy and approach was released by MoHUA in February, 2019. The principles in turn give rise to standards, specifications, and certifications, across the three pillars of people, process, and platforms.

India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)

The India Urban Data Exchange has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. IUDX serves as a seamless interface for data providers and data users, including ULBs, to share, request, and access datasets related to cities, urban governance, and urban service delivery. IUDX is an open-source software platform which facilitates the secure, authenticated, and managed exchange of data amongst various data platforms, 3rd party authenticated and authorised applications, and other sources. As the number of cities on IUDX expands, this will scale up to uniform and seamless sharing between data producers and data consumers across urban India. IUDX is designed to address the problem of data silos, both within and across cities. Cities generate large volumes of data, which are recorded by a wide range of entities, both within government and across industry, academia, and civil society. The combination of these datasets can enable rapid innovation, as well as a better understanding of and planning for urban needs and challenges. IUDX creates a secure and reliable channel for data producers or owners to share their data, with complete control over what is shared and with whom, in order to enable sharing while addressing security and privacy protections by design.

SmartCode Platform: SmartCode is a platform that enables all ecosystem stakeholders to contribute to a repository of open-source code for various solutions and applications for urban governance. It is designed to address the challenges that ULBs face in the development and deployment of digital applications to address urban challenges, by enabling cities to take advantage of existing codes and customising them to suit local needs, rather than having to develop new solutions from scratch. As a repository of open-source software, the source code available on the platform will be free to use without any licensing or subscription fees, thus limiting costs to those involved with customising the code and developing a locally-relevant solution.

New Smart Cities Website ver. 2.0 and GMIS

In order to better connect with people on the Smart Cities Missions efforts and achievements, and to make it easier for ULBs and citizens to access resources related to their work, the Smart Cities Mission website has been redesigned to serve as a single stop for all Smart Cities initiatives. The Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) is integrated with this website. The website creates a single window hub for Smart Cities Mission. A portal that works as a gateway to all the platforms and initiatives launched under the Mission. The website, through a seamless and a unified interface, aggregates all mission related information/initiatives from the various platforms and show automated mission updates catering

to the needs of a public user. The website has been developed to be used as a highly effective communication and outreach tool.

An update on the Smart Cities Mission
Since its launch in 2015, the Smart Cities Mission has made significant strides in its efforts to ensure that the benefits of technology reach all citizens. Over the last year, the Mission has seen accelerated project implementation with Smart Cities focusing on grounding and completion of projects. Of the total committed investments of ₹2,05,018 crore as per approved Smart Cities Plans, as on 21.02.2021, Smart Cities under the Mission have tendered 5,445 projects worth ₹1,72,425 crore (84% of total), issued work orders to 4,687 projects worth ₹1,38,068 crore (67% of total) and completed 2,255 projects worth ₹36,652 crore (18% of total).

Further, 50+ smart cities have transformed their ICCCs into COVID-19 war rooms to enable collaboration with various government departments dealing with COVID response. Integrated dashboards were developed in a number of smart cities to enable effective decision-making, monitoring of COVID hotspots and medical infrastructure, tracking movement of goods and services, and managing lockdown.

Other initiatives have reached beyond the 100 Smart Cities. Outcome and performance assessment frameworks to measure quality of life and city performance were rolled out in 114 Cities via the Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index. Over 31 lakh citizens were engaged through the Citizen Perception Survey.

The Urban Learning and Internship Program (TULIP) aims to match opportunities in ULBs with learning needs of fresh graduates. Over 280 ULBs have posted over 14,240 internships; so far, 932 students are undergoing internships, and 195 students have completed their internships.

To further make cities sustainable and resilient, The ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) was rolled out in 100 Smart Cities to help cities look at urban planning and governance from a climate change lens, with a second round of annual assessment currently underway. A Climate Centre for Cities (C3) has been established in NIUA. A number of national challenges like India Cycles4Change Challenge, Streets for People Challenge, Nurturing Neighbourhoods challenge have been implemented as well.

India has no negative attitude towards Huawei; ready to contribute in PLI scheme, says APAC VP Jay Chen

Press Trust of India, 26/02/2021

New Delhi: Chinese telecom gear maker Huawei on Thursday said India has no negative attitude towards the company and there is no decision to block it from participating in 5G till date. Huawei Asia Pacific vice president Jay Chen during a virtual session of Mobile World Congress 2021 told reporters that the company can contribute to the production linked incentive scheme recently announced by the Indian government to boost telecom equipment manufacturing in the country.

"Until now, they (Indian government) have no negative attitude or decision to block Huawei for 5G. Of Course, 5G trials in India are very late. It looks like it will be launched now. Huawei is working with partners and engaging with the Indian government. We are confident that the government will take the right decision for India," Chen said.

According to a Parliamentary Panel report tabled in Lok Sabha this month, The Department of Telecom is keeping a close watch on the 5G development around the world and would take appropriate decisions after evaluation of all the pros and cons on the 5G ecosystem, including social, economic and security considerations.

The DoT secretary has told the panel that the department has not banned any company, however, it has issued orders based on representation from Indian telecom gear makers that public sector telecom firms should not buy equipment from vendors of any country that prevents Indian companies from supplying products.

Chen said Huawei can participate in the recently announced PLI scheme. Under the plan, companies will be given an incentive for manufacturing telecom gears in India. The incentive will be based on annual incremental production for a period of five years.
"Manufacturing in India is a very important and right strategy for India to further grow. We believe Huawei can

also bring some contribution to this (PLI) scheme. It is Huawei's obligation and responsibility because we have long term partnerships and strategy in India," Chen said.
He also said that 2020 was uncertain for Chinese players in the Indian market.

"However, we never changed our strategy towards India. We continue to have a solid belief in this market and in cooperation with the Indian industry. For the past 20 years, we have served with great harmony and cooperation and hope so for continued collaboration between India, the industry and Huawei. This is our belief, very simple and clear," Chen said.
Huawei will continue to cooperate and build partnerships in India, he added.
"So, no matter what happens, we will continue to support the country. Our long-term strategy for the Indian market will never change," Chen said.

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