

PRESS RELEASE

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“INDIA MUST HAVE ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON WASTAGE OF FOOD” SAYS SMT.HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL INAUGURATING AAHAR 2017

AAHAR 2017 Unveils Strength of Food & Hospitality Industries

“There is a huge export and employment generation potential in India’s food processing sector as the government has been making all possible efforts to empower this sunrise sector where 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) is allowed in marketing of food items manufactured locally. The Minister said that India’s food market is the sixth largest with immense potential for value addition and investment as it is one of the largest producers of food grains besides, second in the production of fruits and vegetables and first in milk production. There is an urgent need to stop the wastage of raw agri- produce as well as value - added food items estimated around 40 per cent of the total agri- produce in the country. We must have a zero – tolerance policy to stop the wastage of food especially when the country has responsibility to cater the need of over 1.2 billion population apart from fulfilling its export objective . There is a need to curtail and minimize wastage at all stages in food processing chain by development of infrastructure for storage , transportation and processing of agro-food produce. There is a continued emphasis of creation of world class infrastructure for growth of food processing sector through Mega Food Parks , integrated cold chain , and updating of the industry so that wastage of raw agri- products can be controlled. The country can become a ‘food factory’ for the world in future” pointed out by the Hon’ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, inaugurating the 32nd edition of AAHAR- the International Food and Hospitality Fair (March 07-11, 2017) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, today.

In her inaugural speech, the Minister complimented the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and its associates for hosting the premier B2B event on a very large scale. She mentioned that the government wants to position India on global food map. She informed that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries would take decision on allowing non- food items in FDI in food retailing before November 2017 especially when the World Food India 2017 would be hosted in New Delhi. She indicated that accommodating a large number of exhibitors, World Food India would be planned with AAHAR after redevelopment plan of Pragati Maidan.

Present on the occasion H.E. Mr. Edgar Vasquez, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, Govt. of Peru, and H.E. Ms. Ewa Lech, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Republic of Poland, Mr. L.C. Goyal, CMD, ITPO and Mr. Rajneesh, Executive Director, ITPO. H.E. Ambassador of Peru in India Mr. Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendez was also present on the occasion.

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In his key note address, Shri L.C. Goyal, CMD, ITPO expressed his satisfaction over the trade mark event of ITPO as well as an enhanced response of foreign exhibitors. He assured all stakeholders of the exhibition industry that ITPO would continue to host events as per schedule even during its re-development plan of a world class 'Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre' Pragati Maidan. He remarked that there is no hurdle and everything is on a right-track with regard to re-development plan of a world class 'Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre' of Pragati Maidan. ITPO would continue to hold the events at Pragati Maidan using state-of-the-art class hangers. Acknowledging continued support all the associates of AAHAR, he pointed out that this mega event is a finest example of 'team work' especially when the number of associates has increase from five to seven.

While speaking on the occasion, H.E. Ms. Ewa Lech, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Republic of Poland said that AAHAR is an important event to highlight food & hospitality sector in Asia-region. The presence of Poland in AAHAR 2017 aims to strengthen the bilateral trade relation between the two traditional partners.

H.E. Mr. Edgar Vasquez, the Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade, Govt. of Peru indicated that participation of Peru in the exhibition is a strong signal for further consolidating trade relations as there are great similarities in Indian and Peruvian markets. The Govt. of Peru is in the process of starting trade negotiations with the Indian Government in diverse sectors. Apart from opening new avenue of bilateral trade and investment, India can become the Gateway for Peruvian products.

In his welcome speech, Shri Rajneesh, ED, ITPO highlighted the salient features of the fair. He informed that the foreign exhibitors are participating from USA, China, Canada, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Poland, Turkey, Bulgaria, Spain, Oman, Korea, Sweden, Thailand, UAE, Peru and Lebanon.

The fair has been organised by the ITPO with support of the Ministry of Food Processing and Industries, Government of India APEDA along with other apex bodies such as AIFPA, ARCHII, HOTERMAI, FHSAI and FIFI for the fair.

Aahar 2017 (March 7-11) is open from 10.00 am. to 6.00 pm. for business visitors, while the general public can visit the fair from 2.00 pm. to 6.00 pm., on March 11, 2017.
