

Ralph Lauren may Walk the India Ramp with AB Fashion

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New Delhi: Premium US lifestyle products company Ralph Lauren is in an advanced stage of negotiations with Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail for an Indian debut through the franchisee route, providing further evidence of the South Asian nation's rising affordability quotient for luxury.

The first store for the New York-based fashion giant, which was founded 50 years ago, is likely to open in the Emporio at Chanakyapuri in New Delhi's diplomatic enclave, according to one of the three people aware of the development. The property earmarked to be Ralph Lauren's beachhead in India is owned by realty major DLF.

"The Aditya Birla Group is in an advance stage of discussions with Ralph Lauren, and the store should be

up in the next 7-8 months," said a second person aware of the talks. Ralph Lauren designs, markets, and distributes apparel, accessories, fragrances, and home furnishings. The company's products are sold under a wide range of brands, and its operations include



retails, product licenses, and wholesale supplies.

According to a 2016 report by in-

dustry body ASSOCHAM, luxury goods market in this nation of 1.2 billion people will likely expand 25% year-on-year.

An email sent to Ralph Lauren's global base in New York remained unanswered until the publication of this report. An Aditya Birla Fashion Retail spokesperson declined to comment saying, "We do not comment on market rumours". An email sent to Emporio Mall also remained unanswered.

Private Cos Can Choose Swachh Bharat Projects Online Now

A marketplace will help COS connect with urban local bodies for CSR initiatives under Swachh Bharat programme

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New Delhi: Now companies can go Swachh Bharat shopping. Looking at increasing the participation of the private sector in its flagship programmes, the Narendra Modi government is opening a marketplace to put up all the cleanliness projects it wants help with.

The Ministry of Urban Development is roping in industry groupings including Confederation of Indian Industry, Ficci and ASSOCHAM to link up with companies looking to spend their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget. The industry associations will help the government in connecting private companies with urban local bodies that are spearheading Swachh Bharat initiatives. The interactive marketplace developed by the ministry lists out projects in need of investments. Companies can choose these projects by connecting with the urban local bodies. At present, the private sector is not aligned with the needs of the Cleanliness Mission. So, while companies have the money and the government needs funds, they are not connected seamlessly.

ANIRBAN BORA



In 2014-15, 52 public sector units and 409 private organisations in India collectively spent ₹6,338 crore on CSR activities through 1,790 projects. Of this amount, the contribu-

KEY PROJECTS

Projects will include building of household, public and community toilets, waste management infra

tion to Swachh Bharat Kosh was ₹15.5 crore, or 0.25%.

"Companies prefer to fund projects and get them executed through a third party rather than connect with the urban local body."

a senior urban development ministry official told ET. "It is usually the impression the private sector has that urban local body means delayed decision-making. The companies are often not aware of the exact project plans of ULBs under the mission and are not aligned with the immediate demands. The marketplace is aimed at changing this." Projects in the marketplace would include construction of household, public and community toilets, waste management infrastructure and information, education and communication initiatives.

The marketplace received a good response from PSUs. In the first phase, it listed 145 projects of which only 14 have completed transactions. About 51 companies showed interest, most of them government-owned.

Industry greets CM

Dehradun: The apex industry body, ASSOCHAM, has congratulated Trivendra Singh Rawat who was sworn in as Uttarakhand Chief Minister today. "As the BJP returned to power in the state with a thumping triumph, we at ASSOCHAM are fully confident that Uttarakhand will reach new heights of socio-economic development under the able guidance and leadership of Trivendra Singh Rawat," said ASSOCHAM national secretary general DS Rawat. TNS

यूपी की नई सरकार के लिए चुनौतियों का अंबार

उत्तर प्रदेश और मध्य प्रदेश में भाजपा की सरकार होने से बुंदेलखंड में दूर करनी होगी पानी की समस्या

■ नई दिल्ली।

यूपी में आदित्यनाथ योगी के नेतृत्व में बनी नई सरकार के सामने एक नहीं कई चुनौतियां मुंह बाए खड़ी हैं। इन चुनौतियों में बिजली की समस्या दूर करने, गन्ना किसानों का बकाया दिलाने और बुंदेलखंड में जल समस्या दूर करने जैसे मुद्दे शामिल हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश की नई सरकार के समक्ष बिजली आपूर्ति की

गुणवत्ता में सुधार तथा गन्ना किसानों के बकाये का भुगतान प्रमुख चुनौती होगी। उद्योग मंडल एसोचैम ने यह बात कही है।

एसोचैम ने कहा, 'नई राज्य सरकार की शीर्ष प्राथमिकता बिजली आपूर्ति की गुणवत्ता तथा मात्रा में उल्लेखनीय सुधार करने की होगी।' उसने कहा कि नई सरकार को तत्काल राज्य बिजली इकाई की सेहत को सुधारना होगा, जिससे ग्रामीण



और शहरी क्षेत्रों में बिजली की बेहतर आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित की जा

गन्ना किसानों के बकाए को निपटाने की भी होगी चुनौती कृषि प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र पर भी देना होगा खास ध्यान, बढ़ाना होगा बिजली उत्पादन

सके।

इसके अलावा एसोचैम ने

कहा कि नई सरकार को कृषि प्रसंस्करण क्षेत्र पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए, क्योंकि राज्य में इसकी व्यापक क्षमता है।

उद्योग मंडल ने कहा कि भाजपा अब उत्तर प्रदेश के और मध्य प्रदेश दोनों में सत्ता में है। ऐसे में पानी का गंभीर संकट झेल रहे बुंदेलखंड इलाके की स्थिति में सुधार के लिए दोनों राज्यों के बीच बेहतर संयोजन हो सकेगा। ■ भाषा

एसोचैम को उम्मीद, यूपी का होगा विकास

लखनऊ। उद्योगों के संगठन एसोसिएटेड चैंबर्स ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्ट्री ऑफ इंडिया (एसोचैम) ने प्रदेश के 21वें मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ में विश्वास व्यक्त करते हुए उम्मीद जताई है कि उनके नेतृत्व में प्रदेश आर्थिक वृद्धि और औद्योगिक विकास के रास्ते पर आगे बढ़ेगा। एसोचैम के महासचिव डीएस रावत ने रविवार को उन्हें मुबारकबाद देते हुए सुझाव दिया है कि एमएसएमई सेक्टर को आसान लोन देकर सूबे में रोजगार बढ़ाया जा सकता है।