

NEWS ALERT

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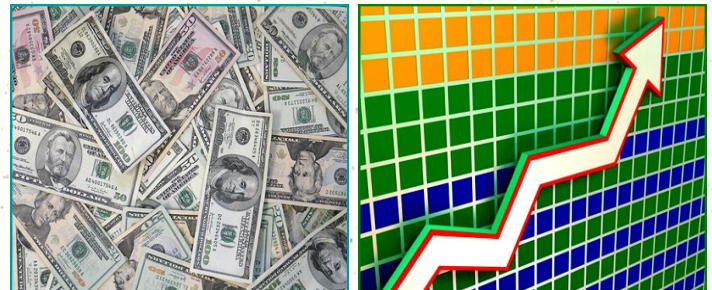


STATE TO POOL PENSION FUNDS FOR CORE WORK

The finance ministry plans to set up a state-sponsored fund to pool the resources of pension schemes and retirement plans to invest in the credit-starved infrastructure sector. Such a fund with diverse avenues for investment could reduce the risk of investing in long-term infrastructure projects, while enhancing the flow of funds to core sector projects. The proposal, being worked out jointly by the finance ministry and the Planning Commission, suggests liberal investment norms for this to allow it to invest in a larger pool of instruments. The fund will be allowed to invest only in infrastructure projects executed through the PPP. The finance ministry has already prepared a list of PPP sectors that would be eligible for such funding.

MAHARATNA STATUS FOR ONGC, NTPC, SOON

The government on Tuesday said it is in the process of granting the **MAHARATNA** status to four state-run firms — ONGC, SAIL, NTPC and IOC. The tag will allow them to take investment decisions of up to Rs 5,000 crore, independent of the government, minister of state for heavy industries and public enterprises Arun Yadav informed the Rajya Sabha. Yadav said that the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has received proposals for the grant of Maharatna status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The four firms fulfill all the criteria, comprising a three-year track record of annual net profits of over Rs 5,000 crore, net worth of more than Rs 15,000 crore and turnover of more than Rs 25,000 crore, besides being listed on stock exchanges.



India attracted foreign direct investment of \$1.21 billion in March, 2010, around 38% lower than that in the same month last year, an official said on Monday. The FDI in March, 2009, was \$1.95 billion. For the whole fiscal 2009-10 FDI fell to \$25.89 billion from \$27.30 billion in 2008-09, the official said, adding that overseas investment lowered due to slowdown.