

Prelim Bits 17-11-2018

ExseedSAT - 1

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- It is a CubeSat mission by the Indian private space company Exseed Space.
- It is going to be launched by SpaceX, a private aerospace company, from California satellite launch pad.
- ExseedSAT is about to make history, as it will be the first Indian Private entity satellite to be launched by SpaceX.
- It will be launched on board SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- The satellite with a communication payload, will provide a major boost to ham radio operators in the country.
- It will be placed in a sun-synchronous low-earth orbit.
- It is expected to have a life of 2 years, depending up on how long the battery lasts and when the satellite de-orbits naturally.

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India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)

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- IIFCL is a wholly-owned Government of India company set up in 2006.
- It has been registered as a NBFC-ND-IFC with RBI since September 2013.
- It provides long term finance to viable infrastructure projects - Both Greenfield and Brownfield projects.
- It provides refinance to banks and other eligible financial institutions for their loans to infrastructure projects.

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- The sectors eligible for financial assistance from IIFCL are as per the harmonized list of Infrastructure Sub-Sectors as approved by the Government and RBI.

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- It broadly includes transportation, energy, water, sanitation, communication, social and commercial infrastructure.

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- **Recent Development** - Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Government of India has recently signed \$300 million Loan Agreement to support lending by IIFCL.

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NBFC-ND-IFC

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- RBI has classified Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in to 4 categories.

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- They are Asset Finance Companies, Loan companies and Investment Companies and Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFCs).

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- An IFC is defined as Non-Deposit taking NBFC (NBFC-ND) that fulfils following criteria,

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1. A minimum of 75% of its total assets should be deployed in infrastructure loans,

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2. Net owned funds of Rs. 300 crore or above,

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3. Minimum credit rating 'A' or equivalent of CRISIL, FITCH, CARE, ICRA or equivalent rating by any other accrediting rating agencies and

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4. CRAR (Capital to Risk Weighted Assets ratio) of 15 % with a minimum Tier I capital of 10 percent.

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Maternity Incentive Scheme

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- Maternity Benefit Act was amended in 2017 to increase paid maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks for all women employees in establishments employing 10 or more people.

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- The implementation of the act was good in public sectors, but it was poor for those with private sector or contract jobs.

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- In a bid to encourage private employers, Ministry of Labour and Employment is working on an incentive scheme.

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- Accordingly, the government would bear the cost of maternity leave wages for 7 weeks for women workers with a wage ceiling up to Rs.15,000 per month.

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- The ministry is in the process of obtaining budgetary approvals.

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Aadi Mahotsav

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- It is a national tribal festival organised by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.

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- The theme of the festival - “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Culture, Craft, Cuisine and Commerce”.

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- It features exhibition -cum-sale of tribal handicrafts, art, paintings, fabric, jewellery and much more through 100 stalls.

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Source: PIB, The Hindu

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