

Briefs: India expects telecom investment surge

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India said Wednesday it expected foreign direct investment in the telecom sector to more than double this year.

Communications and IT Minister Dayanidhi Maran told reporters that liberalization in FDI rules would pay off to the tune of an increase of more than 100 percent over the \$8 billion in investments pledged by foreign companies in 2005.

Maran painted an overall rosy picture of India's IT industry Wednesday at the opening of a technology conference, Press Trust India said.

The minister said that anticipated robust growth of the consumer-electronics sector bodes well for the semiconductor and manufacturing sectors and that the government would actively promote continued growth of those industries.

In addition, he said, India would continue to review the Information Technology Act with respect to data protection, computer crime and privacy.

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