

**BEL OFS got an enthusiastic participation both from retail and the non-retail investors including domestic institutional investors and foreign institutional investors; BEL Issue got over-subscribed by 367 % in Retail Category and 234% in Non-retail Category; Government of India is likely to get the receipt of Rs. 1670 crore (approx.) from BEL OFS issue.**

The Government of India proposed to disinvest 5% of paid-up equity capital-out of its shareholding of 74.41% in BEL through Offer for Sale (OFS) mechanism. BEL is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence and is engaged in manufacturing of the state of the art equipments in the field such as communication, radars, naval systems etc.

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**Entrepreneurship Education to get a big boost: 15 lakh youth to get online and experiential learning on Entrepreneurship Education**

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (SDE) and Wadhvani Operating Foundation (WOF) signed here today two Agreements for effectuating an earlier understanding

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## President of India's message on the eve of national day of Estonia

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has extended his greetings and felicitations to the Government and people of the Republic of Estonia on the eve of their National Day (February 24, 2017)

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## President of India inaugurates international conference on 'Bharat Bodh'

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' (Idea of Bharat) organized by the Indira Gandhi National Open University and Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal today (February 23, 2017) in New Delhi.

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## Press release: Housing starts hit 9-year high

The number of new build homes that have started to be built continued to rise last year to the highest level since 2007, figures released today (23 February 2017) show.

The [latest house building data](#) shows that 153,370 new homes were started in the year to December, up 5% on the previous year.

More than 140,500 homes were completed in the year to December 2016.

Meanwhile, figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show first-time buyer lending totalled 338,900 loans in 2016, up 8% on last year.

Housing and Planning Minister Gavin Barwell said:

We've got the country building again with the highest number of housing starts for 9 years. However, we know there's more to be

done to build more homes in the places that people want to live.

Our housing white paper sets out an ambitious set of proposals to deliver more land, speed up build out, diversify the housing market, and support people who need help now.

The figures also show strong growth across the country with Islington and Manchester experiencing high levels of starts in the year to December 2016, with an annual increase of 296% and 323% respectively.

Reforms in the recently published [housing white paper](#) set out the government's bold new plans to fix the broken housing market and build more homes across England.

The 4 key aspects of the paper set out new measures to ensure the housing market works for everyone, and help local authorities, developers and SME builders get building.

Building more homes is an absolute priority, which is why the government plans to invest £25 billion in housing over the Spending Review.

£1.4 billion of funding has been released for Affordable Housing, and restrictions on funding have been relaxed so providers can build a range of homes including for Affordable Rent and Rent to Buy which help people save for a deposit before they buy.

The [House building: December quarter 2016 England statistics](#) record the number of new build homes completed and started during the quarter October to December. It uses data sourced from building control officers at local authorities, the National House Building Council and independent inspectors.

According to the [Council of Mortgage Lenders](#), the number of first-time buyers in December 2016 is up 8% year on year.