



Industry News

1. Giving relief to the industry reeling under the impact of slowdown, the Government reduced by two per cent rates of excise duty and service tax. While the general excise duty has been reduced from 10 per cent to 8 per cent, the rate of service tax cut from 12 per cent to 10 per cent.

www.tfpjonline.com

Subodhkant Sahai, Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, inaugurated the first mega food park in western India on February 28. The food park will have shared processing facilities for seasonal fruits and vegetables, washing, sorting and grading services, besides storage and packaging facilities.

www.tfpjonline.com

After the launch of baked snack Saffola Zest, FMCG major Marico is all set to launch branded rice under its umbrella brand Saffola. Saffola Rice is claimed by the company as a premium quality of rice that will help consumers manage and control their weight.

www.foodforumindia.com

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World News

The global fast food chain major McDonald's Corp plans to invest USD 120 million to open 40 new stores in Russia by 2009-end. The company claims that the country remains one of its most dynamic markets despite the economic downturn, according to a top company official.

A vending machine that makes pizza is set to hit the streets in Italy. The bright-red "Let's Pizza" machine uses infra-red rays and technology to knead flour and water into dough, spread it with tomato sauce and a choice of topping, and cook it -- all in less than three minutes. But pizza chefs are not impressed.

www.reuters.com (March 26, 2009)

Association News

NRAI has partnered once again with Images for the Food Forum which was held on 19th & 20th March 2009 at Renaissance Hotel, Mumbai. It was a two-day magnum opus of the Indian food industry with conferences, exhibition and awards. NRAI had a special 4 hours programme titled "Annual Conclave of the National Restaurant Association of India" which was anchored by Mr. Vikram Bakshi and Mr. Samir Kuckreja

