

November, 2020.





PART I: INDIAN ECONOMY

News Features

1. 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State: PM Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation at the 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State (10 Nov), held in virtual format and chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin. In his address, PM Modi reiterated India's firm commitment towards strengthening connectivity in the region. He highlighted the imperative of a reformed multilateralism to meet the expectation of a world suffering from the social and financial after-effects of the pandemic. India, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, beginning from 1 Jan 2021, will focus on the theme of 'reformed multilateralism' to bring about desirable changes in global governance. PM mentioned that Indian soldiers participated in about 50 UN peacekeeping missions during the pandemic and Indian pharma industry supplied essential medicines to more than 150 countries. He also elaborated on Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) in the post-pandemic world, a force multiplier for the global economy & economic progress of SCO region.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1671756)

2. Other virtual initiatives of PM: (i) PM Modi attended India-Italy Virtual Summit (06 Nov) and reviewed various aspects of cooperation with his Italian counterpart. 15 MoUs/Agreements in various sectors such as energy, fisheries, ship building, design etc. were signed coinciding with the Summit; (ii) India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit (19 Nov), the first stand-alone Summit meeting between the two countries in the past two decades focused on areas including financial technology, green financing, space applications, digital innovations and start-ups. PM Modi also invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure; (iii) At 17th ASEAN-India Summit (12 Nov), PM Modi underlined ASEAN's centrality in India's Act East Policy and its vision for the Indo-Pacific; (iv) At the 12th BRICS Summit (17 Nov) hosted by Russia, PM Modi outlined Indian approach to enhance intra-BRICS

cooperation during Indian Presidency of the BRICS in 2021; (v) At the 15th G20 Summit convened by Saudi Arabia (21-22 Nov), PM Modi called for decisive action by G20, not limited to economic recovery, jobs and trade, but to focus on preserving Planet Earth noting that all of us are trustees of humanity's future. He emphasized for a new Global Index for the post-Corona world that comprises four key elements: creation of a vast Talent Pool, ensuring that Technology reaches all segments of society, Transparency in systems of governance and dealing with Mother Earth with a spirit of <u>Trusteeship</u>. He further highlighted that India is not only meeting Paris Agreement targets, but will be exceeding them. It was also decided during the Summit that India will take over the G20 Presidency in 2023; (vi) PM Modi and PM of Bhutan jointly inaugurated (20 Nov) RuPay Card Phase-II in Bhutan via virtual platform. Phase-II of RuPay cards will allow Bhutanese card holders to access the RuPay network in India. Phase-I had enabled visitors from India to access ATMs and Point of Sale terminals across Bhutan. This is an important step forward in enhancing global acceptability of Indian fintech products. During the month, PM Modi had telephonic conversations with US President-elect Joe Biden, UK PM Boris Johnson and WHO DG Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

(More info: https://mea.gov.in/)

RE-Invest 2020: The 3rd Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy RE-INVEST 2020 3. Investors Meet & Expo, was organised in virtual format by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) (26 Nov). The 3-day event was inaugurated by PM Modi, with the theme 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition' aiming to accelerate the worldwide effort to scale up development and deployment of renewable energy and connecting the investment community with Indian energy stakeholders. manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators. RE-INVEST 2020 was attended by over 75 international Ministerial delegations, over 1000 global industry leaders, and 50,000 delegates. PM Modi expressed happiness that in the renewable energy sector, within a short time the progress from megawatts to gigawatts in generation capacity and "One Sun, One World, One Grid" are becoming a reality. India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world today and is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676128)

Announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) Package 3.0: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced (12 Nov) Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0, a new initiative announced to support the Indian economy in fight against COVID-19. The package aims at providing investment support to multiple sectors of the economy; boosting employment growth within the country and fostering self-sufficiency within all sectors of the economy. The 3rd stimulus package has been specifically designed to increase employment opportunities, support multiple sectors through Production-Linked Incentives (PLIs) as well as extension of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to non-MSMEs as well. 10 new champion sectors are to be covered under the PLI Scheme to boost the competitiveness of domestic manufacturing.



(More info: https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1672321)

5. India's AI Supercomputer Param Siddhi: Param Siddhi, the high performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer, jointly developed by Dept of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has achieved global ranking of 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world. The AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry, astrophysics, drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting for flood prone metro cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati. This will accelerate R&D in war against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and is a boon for Indian masses and for Startups and MSMEs in particular.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1673715)

6. Pharma exports in India **15%**: soar The country's pharmaceuticals exports are on course to cross US\$ 23 bn for the first time this fiscal year after rising 14.85% YOY at US\$ 11.78 bn in the first half. The growth is driven by drug formulations and biologicals, whose shipment grew a record 21.85% year-on-year to US\$ 8.99 bn in the Apr-Sep period as countries around the world turned to India to meet a rise in demand in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic that in many parts of the world lockdowns production disruptions. triagered and pharmaceuticals market is the 3rd largest in terms of volume and the 13th largest in terms of value. It has established itself as a global manufacturing and research hub. The Indian pharmaceuticals market is dominated by generic drugs which constitute nearly 70% of the market, whereas over the counter (OTC) medicines and patented drugs make up to 21% and 9 %, respectively.



(More info: https://www.ibef.org/news/pharma-exports-soar-15-in-first-half-of-fy21)

7. Growth of agricultural machinery export: India has developed as a net agri-machinery exporter to some of the advanced countries such as the US, UK, Germany and Italy. Addressing Second Virtual Exhibition on Agriculture and Farm machinery, FarmMech 2020, organized by EEPC India (23 Nov), Vice Chairman of the Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India, Arun Garodia, said that tractors are the largest component of the country's agri-machinery exports accounting for 66% of shipments. The global demand for agricultural machinery is expected to hit US\$ 279.5 bn by 2025, increasing from 2018 to 2025 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.5%. India exported agri-machinery worth US\$ 782.93 mn to the UK, North America, Eastern Europe, the EU, (Ireland), Africa, ASEAN, and SAARC in 2019-2020, accounting for 76.41% of such exports. India is one of the largest manufacturers of farm equipment such as tractors, harvesters and tillers, accounting for nearly one-third of the overall global tractor production.



 $(More\ info:\ https://www.ibef.org/news/india-net-exporter-of-agrimachinery-equipment-to-some-advanced-countries-eepc)$

8. Indian Government Raises Ethanol Procurement Prices For Oil Marketing Companies: The Indian Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved fixing higher ethanol price derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for the forthcoming sugar season 2020-21 during Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2020-21 from 01 Dec 2020 to 30 Nov 2021. All distilleries will be able to take benefit of the scheme and large number of them are expected to supply ethanol for the EBP programme. Remunerative price to ethanol suppliers will help in reduction of cane farmer's arrears, in the process contributing to minimizing difficulty of sugarcane farmers. India Government has been implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme wherein OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. This programme has been extended to whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands with effect from 1st Apr. 2019 to promote the use of alternative and environment friendly fuels.



(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1668399)

Main Economic Indicators

Gross Domestic Product – GDP					
Fiscal Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20		
Real GDP (% change, YoY)	7.0%	6.1%	4.2%		
GDP (current US\$) - India	2653	2713	2875		

Source: Indian National Statistical Office (NSO) and Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

India's GDP latest news:

According to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review and National Statistical Office of India, "The YOY India's GDP contracted 7.5 % in the Jul-Sep period, as the economy rebounded from a record slump of 23.9 % in the previous quarter due to slowdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Data confirms the economy's first technical recession - which is two consecutive quarters of GDP contraction - since 1996, when the country began quarterly records. Moody's projects India's GDP at 10.8% for 2021-22: Broad-based demand revival and a low base in 2020 will support strong GDP growth of in fiscal 2022. These improving business conditions will increase rated issuers' earnings, which Moody's expects to return to prepandemic levels by the end of Mar 2022. A combination of higher earnings and reduced capital spending will support leveraging over the next 12-18 months. However, the overall recovery will remain fragile as a continuous rise in new infections may hurt consumer demand and recovery. The rating agency further stated that conditions will improve for Indian corporates in 2021 as economy revives. Financially strong companies will maintain good access to funding, while speculative-grade issuers will face challenges. The Reserve Bank of India has predicted that Indian economy stopped shrinking in the Oct-Dec guarter projecting a GDP growth of 0.1 % in Q3 and 0.7 % in Q4 Jan-Mar 2021. The central bank also revised its estimate for economic contraction during FY21 to 7.5 % from the earlier assessment of 9.5 %.

(More info: https://www.ibef.org/news/conditions-to-improve-for-india-inc-in-2021-as-economy-revives-moodys)

Foreign Trade

I. Merchandise Trade						
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion)	Nevember		Apr-Nov			
(Provisional)	November	November				
Exports (including re-exports)						
2019-20	25.77		211.17			
2020-21	23.52		173.66			
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	-8.74	-17.76				
Imports	Imports					
2019-20	38.52	324.59				
2020-21	33.39	215.69				
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	-13.32	-33.55				
Trade balance						
2019-20	-12.75		-113.42			
2020-21	-9.87		-42.03			
II.	Trade in Services					
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion)	Oct 2020 Apr-Oct 202		Apr. Oct 2020 21			
(Provisional)			Apr-Oct 2020-21			
Exports (Receipts)	16.58		114.15			
Imports (Payments)	9.	53	65.61			
Trade balance	7.06 48.5		48.54			

Source: RBI Press Release, dated 15th December 2020. (https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1680830)

Industry

According to Indian Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data India's industrial output rose for the second straight month after six months of contraction. The Index of Industrial Production rose by 3.6% in Oct 2020 over last year. Industrial production rose by 0.5% in Sep compared to 0.2% estimated earlier. The previous high was in Feb, when IIP rose 5.2 %. Factory output had grown 0.48 per cent in Sept, the first time it did so after Feb. India imposed a nationwide lockdown in Mar to contain the spread of Covid-19 and the restrictions were gradually lifted May onward. However, independent economists called for caution in interpreting the strength of the recovery based on Oct data. ICRA expects IIP to slip back into a mild contraction in Nov.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Total FDI inflows into India during the second quarter of financial year 2020-21 (Jul - Sep 2020) have been US\$ 28,102 mn, out of which FDI equity inflows were US\$ 23,441 mn. This takes the FDI equity inflows during the financial year 2020-21 up to Sept 2020 to US\$ 30,004 mn which is 15% more than the corresponding period of 2019-20. Aug, 2020 has been the significant month when US\$ 17,487 mn FDI equity inflows were reported in the country. Among the sectors, services sector has received maximum FDI equity inflows, during Apr, 2000 to Sept, 2020; followed by Computer Software & Hardware, and Telecommunications.

Inflation

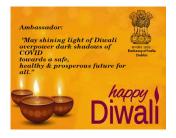
According to Consumer Price Index (CPI) data released by the Indian Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, India's wholesale inflation rose for the fourth consecutive month and firmed up to a nine-month high of 1.55% in Nov driven by manufactured items.

PART II: INDIA-IRELAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

- 1. Embassy's ongoing response to COVID-19: During the month of Nov. in view of upgradation of Covid-19 restrictions from Level 3 to Level 5 (top most), Embassy was constrained to conduct majority of its acitivities through virtual modes (business interviews, talks, webinars). No provincial outreach visits could be organised. The Embassy continued to be open for emergency services for Indian nationals. the same time, it maintained its structures/helpline and Community Support Groups in all major cities of Ireland for providing assistance to the Indian community. Embassy's social media platforms were used effectively to disseminate relevant Embassy/Govt of India advisories and programmes in various fields.
- 11th Indian Film Festival of Ireland (IFFI) 2020: 11th edition of 2. IFFI 2020 was held in virtual mode (20-23 Nov). The IFFI is an annual event, founded by Siraj Zaidi, the Festival Director, that curates Indian films from different regions of India, introducing Irish audience to the global appeal and popularity of Indian cinema. Addressing the Festival, Ambassador applauded the amazing vision conceptualizing a very versatile program that called for compelling viewing. "In this challenging time of Covid, people and cultural diversity can be connected and fortified through the potent medium of films", was his message.
- 3. Celebration of Diwali, 'Festival of Lights': Diwali, the major Indian festival, was celebrated (14 Nov) in virtual mode on account of the pandemic restrictions, by various Indian Associations and student societies in various Universities throughout Ireland. Despite the lockdown, the spirit of Diwali was not diminished, signifying triumph of good over evil, light over darkness, hope over despair. Ambassador sent out a strong message reinforcing that the shining light of Diwali would overpower the dark shadows of COVID towards a safe, healthy and prosperous future for all.
- **4. Ayurveda Day:** On occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day (13 Nov) Embassy organised an essay competition titled "How I have benefited from Ayurveda during Covid", an Ayurveda Quiz and a Zoom Conference with renowned practitioner Dr. Donn Brennan on the benefits of Ayurveda. Various Ayurveda practitioners and beneficiaries shared video messages over social media, giving their personal experiences with Ayurveda. It was emphasized that Ayurveda is mainly herbal, safe and evidence based, transcending





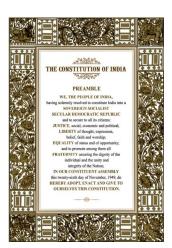




geographical and religious boundaries and is fast becoming the "green way of life". The commercial endeavour will be to increase the market of Ayurveda/herbal products in Europe and Ireland in future, especially given the benefits in the time of pandemic.



5. Constitution Day of India 2020: Constitution Day, also known as National Law Day, is celebrated in India (26 Nov) every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. (Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on 26 Nov 1949, which came into effect on 26 Jan 1950). To mark 71st anniversary, Embassy hosted a virtual Webinar event with theme "Constitutional Values and Fundamental Principles: Relevance in Contemporary Times and in Co-relation to Pandemic Challenges", in which Ambassador had discussion with several student leaders and prominent members of the academia and culture. Discussions centered around upholding of Constitution and democratic values, building of democratic links between India & Ireland, as well as delivering message of equality, women's and children's rights.



6. Consular services: The Consular Section of the Embassy continued to provide services, mostly through post, in line with HSE protocols. 229 passports, 33 visas and 115 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cards were issued during the month through postal means. Limited in-house services were also rendered, by appointments.

Bilateral Trade

The analysis of data available for the period Jan-Oct 2020 showed that total bilateral trade stood at Euro 725 mn. India's exports to Ireland were Euro 439 mn and India's imports from Ireland worth Euro 286 mn. Balance of trade was Euro 153 mn in favor of India.

*2019 was a record year

Year/Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jan-Oct 2020
Ireland's Exports to India	€ 296	€ 353	€ 327	€480 (+46.80%)	€286 (-21.49%)
Ireland's Imports from India	€ 544	€ 683	€ 560	€636 (+13.57%)	€439 (-17.26%)
Total Trade	€ 840	€1036	€ 887	*€1116 (+25.82%)	*€725 (-18.98%)

PART III: UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events, fairs and conferences in India				
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State	
Confederation	15th edition of	02 Dec - 01 Feb	CII Virtual platform	
of Indian	IMME 2020 -	2020 / 2021	Event link: http://www.immeindia.in/index.php	
Industry (CII) -	India's Largest			
Department of	and Focussed			
Commerce,	Mining			
Ministry of	Exhibition			

Commerce and Industry, Government of India	(Mining Equipment Manufacturers, Technology, Components & Parts, Attachments, Software, Oil & Lubes, Tyres, MOD's)		
The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, an apex body for promotion of exports of gems and jewellery, from India, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India	India International Jewellery Show - IIJS Virtual 2.0	08 – 12 Jan 2021	Event link: https://registration.gjepc.org/international_user_registration.p hp
The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)	World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 Theme: 'Redefining Our Common Future: Safe and Secure Environment for All'.	10-12 Feb 2021	Event link: http://wsds.teriin.org/
Chemicals and Petrochemicals , Government of India and Federation of Indian		17-19 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.indiachem.in/
2 ^{8th} Convergence India	India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) & Exhibitions India Group	24 - 26 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.smartcitiesindia.com/ Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
Organised under: "Make in India" major national programme of	IMS 2020- India Manufacturing Show "India's Premier Industrial	27-29 Sep 2021	Bengaluru, India Event link: http://www.indiamanufacturingshow.com/ims2020/index.php

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Eve	ents, fairs, cor	nferences organ	ised in November / December in India
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State
Export		04 – 09 Nov 2020	Event link: https://ihgfdelhifair.in/
Promotion	DELHI FAIR	01 001101 2020	Event link for registration:
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Handicrafts	(Mega		MuTJAzEc2EbRoH
(EPCH)	Handicrafts		
(=: 5::)	Virtual Fair)		
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PHD Chamber	6th India Farm	04-06 Nov 2020	Event link:
of Commerce	2 Fork Virtual -		https://phdccivirtualmeet.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/F
and Industry-	Exhibition		arm2fork-Virtual-Brochure2020.pdf
India	Conference		·
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	Sustainable		
	Agri-Business		
Confederation	Leadership	18-20 Nov 2020	Event link:
of Indian	forum ASIA		https://www.cii.in/EventsDetails.aspx?enc=eo18/j+aJMWXC
Industry (CII)	HEALTH 2020		XiMZZAdo5eidW5ky1DXTlUMpSKaR3k=
	theme:		
	'Resetting		
	Healthcare' on		
	a digital		
	platform		
Federation of	India	18 - 20 Nov 2020	Event link: http://www.iiew2020.com/form.html
Indian Export	International		(Virtual Sourcing Expo)
Organisations	Engineering		
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The Federation	Global-Virtual	23 - 26 Nov 2020	Event links: www.vhhe.in
of Indian	Healthcare &		
Chambers of	Hygiene Expo		
Commerce &	(G-VHHE)		
Industry	India's largest		
(FICCI)	Virtual		
	Exhibition &		
	Conference on Healthcare and		
	Hygiene Sector		
Confederation	CII Goa Web	26 - 27 Nov 2020	Event link for registration:
of Indian	Based	LO - ZI INOV ZUZU	https://www.cii.in/OnlineRegistration.aspx?
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Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Footwear & Design Development Institute (FDDI) Chamber for Import, Export & Health,	Virtual Exhibition & Conference on Footwear & Leather products - Virtual Footwear & Leather Expo 2020 (VFLE) The 7 th Annual TTI: Travel & Tourism India	30 Nov - 06 Dec 2020 03-05 Dec 2020	Event link for registration: https://registrations.ficci.com/vfleex/attendee-registration.asp Event link: http://www.ttindiaexpo.com
Government of	(TTI)		
Indian Chambers of	FICCI ANNUAL EXPO 2020 India's first & one of its kind Annual Virtual Expo on Manufacturing & Services Sector	11 Dec 2020	Event contact person in this event regard is Mr. Sudhanshu Gupta (E-mail: sudhanshu.gupta@ficci.com) Event link: http://www.ficciexpo.in/
Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)		02-18 Dec 2020	Interested companies may please be advised to complete 'Registration Form' at link: https://indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/pdf/Registration_Form_2 020.pdf and submit at Email for free registration: internationaldivision@tpci.in
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	CII Partnership Summit - Digital Platform- CII's Annual Flagship Event - The theme of the Partnership Summit this year is "PARTNERSHI PS FOR LIVES, LIVELIHOOD AND GROWTH"	15-18 Dec 2020	Event link: https://www.ciihive.in/SignUp.aspx? EventId=PARTNERSHP

Compiled by KRISTIJAN STANCIN , MARKETING EXEC., EMBASSY OF INDIA, DUBLIN (IRELAND)







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