

December, 2020.





PART I: INDIAN ECONOMY

News Features

Launch of Economic Diplomacy Website: External Affairs 1. Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched (16 Dec) Ministry of External Affairs website on Economic Diplomacy (www.indbiz.gov.in). The website showcases India's economic, sectoral and State-wise strengths that make for an attractive economic partnership. It aims to provide critical and relevant information on major economic indicators, central and state government policy updates as well as the latest business news and trade data. The website includes information on global mineral resource endowments, opportunities for agricultural exports and employment abroad for Indian nationals and businesses. The economic and policy profiles of Indian States and Union Territories along with the plethora of economic engagement opportunities they offer have been highlighted in extensive detail. The website will serve as a two-way funnel connecting Indian nationals, businesses and the States globally for enhancing exports, exploring employment and attracting foreign industry and business to India, especially the States. The website serves to connect interested investors to relevant agencies in India such as Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for agricultural exports from India, Indian Trade Portal for trade with India, and Invest India for inward investment respectively.



(More info: http://indbiz.gov.in/about-us/)

2. Conference on "Targeting US\$ 5 Trillion Atma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) Economy by boosting MSMEs": As a lead up to the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (Diaspora Day) Convention 2021, Ministry of External Affairs organised a dialogue with Diaspora business leaders and



CEOs on the above theme (10 Dec). The Conference was co-Chaired by Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. V. Muraleedharan, and Minister of MSME and for Road Transport & Highways, Mr. Nitin Gadkari. The Conference brought together prominent Diaspora business leaders and CEOs of MSME companies across sectors from around the world, discussing the current and future opportunities to boost Indian economy. MSMEs contribute 30% to the total Indian GDP, 48% of Indian exports and employ 11 crore workers. Government of India is providing special incentives to MSMEs, such as special loans along with 15% equity to successful MSMEs. With India being the fastest growing economy in the world and focusing on four aspects; water, power, transport and communication, this makes it an appropriate time to invest in India. Additionally, the availability of raw-materials and young manpower contribute to the Ease of Doing Business, hence explaining India's jump from 77 to 63 in the World Bank's 2020 'Ease of Doing Business' rankings.



(More info: https://www.ibef.org/industry/msme.aspx)

3. New Indian Parliament Building: PM Narendra Modi laid (10 Dec) PM Modi lays foundation stone the foundation stone of the new Parliament building of India. The project is an intrinsic part of the vision of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) and will be a landmark opportunity to build a Peoples' Parliament for the first time after independence, one which will match the needs and aspirations of 'New India' that the start of the construction of Parliament House of India is one of the most important stages of our democratic traditions. The new Parliament building will be located at Sansad Marg in the national capital, will have a triangular shape and is expected to be completed by the 75th anniversary of India's independence in 2022.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679673)

4. IIT-2020 Global Summit: One of the world's largest Global virtual Summits was organised by PanIIT USA (4 Dec). PanIIT is an official association of all Indian Institute of Technology alumni residing in the USA and representing under one umbrella an alumni network of the most recognizable symbol of India's intellectual excellence, achievement and leadership. The IIT Global Summit focuses on issues such as the global economy, technology, innovation, health, habitat conservation and universal education. The theme of this year's summit was 'The Future is Now'. PM Narendra Modi, addressing the IIT 2020 Global Summit virtually, said that the Government is fully committed to the principle of "Reform, Perform, Transform". He stressed that even in the testing times of COVID-19, India has got record investment and much of this investment has come in the tech sector. He further said that the post Covid-19 order will be about: Re-learning, re-thinking, re-innovating and re-inventing. He said that this will ensure 'Ease of Living' and positively impact the poor as well as marginalised.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1678473)

5. PM Modi's participation in Climate Ambition Summit 2020: Cohosted by the UN, France and UK and in partnership with Chile and Italy, the Climate Ambition Summit (12 Dec) gathered together world leaders to make new commitments to tackle climate change and deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement, on the 5th anniversary of its adoption. The event was held amid signs that the world is off-track to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, and that a carbon-free economy is long overdue. PM Narendra Modi in his video address, said that India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but will exceed them beyond expectations. In his address the PM said that India has reduced its emission intensity by 21 % over 2005 levels. PM Modi further said that between 2014 and 2020, India's solar power capacity has grown from 2.63 (GW) to 36 (GW).



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1680298)

6. World's Largest Renewable Energy Park: PM Modi officially inaugurated (15 Dec) the construction of a mega-park that will be the world's largest renewable energy park. The Hybrid Renewable Energy Park in the district of Kutch in Gujarat will produce 30 GW of renewable energy and will contribute the largest amount of energy to the country's grid. The park will be constructed on 72,600 hectares of land, the size of Singapore. It will have a dedicated hybrid park zone for wind and solar energy storage and an exclusive zone for wind power generation. It will account for a large percentage of India's ambitious target of generating 175 GW in renewable energy by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030. Currently, the country's renewable energy capacity, including hydropower and projects under development, is around 190 GW. PM Modi also announced that the project will help the world's second-most populous country reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by up to 50 mn tonnes per year.



(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1680411)

7. 'Invest India' Wins UN Investment Promotion Award 2020: The UNCTAD has declared Invest India, the National Investment Promotion Agency of India, as a winner of the 2020 UN Investment Promotion Award. The award ceremony took place at UNCTAD Headquarters (7 Dec) in Geneva. The award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements and best practices of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) across the globe. The evaluation was based on UNCTAD's assessment of work undertaken by 180 Investment Promotion Agencies. UNCTAD highlighted good practices followed by Invest India, such as the Business Immunity Platform, Exclusive Investment Forum webinar series, its social media engagement and focus COVID response teams (such as business reconstruction, stakeholder outreach and supplier outreach) created as a response to the pandemic, in its publications.





(More info: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1678902)

8. Other Virtual Initiatives of PM: (i) India-Uzbekistan Summit with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (11 Dec); (ii) India-Bangladesh Summit with Bangladesh PM Sheikh Haisna (17 Dec) at which a "Bangabandhu Bapu" Digital Exhibition about the legacies of Gandhiji and Bangbanadhu was launched digitally; the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link was inaugurated; and 7 MoUs were signed; (iii) PM co-chaired the India-Vietnam Summit (21 Dec) with Vietnam PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc. A 'Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People' was adopted.

All you need to know about Government's Make in India initiative

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

9. World Bank Signs \$500 mn Project to Develop Green Highways in India: Project worth \$500 mn was signed (22 Dec) by the Govt of India and the World Bank to build safe and green national highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The Green National Highways Corridors Project will support Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) construct 783 km of highways in various geographies by integrating safe and green technology designs such as local and marginal materials, industrial byproducts, and other bio-engineering solutions. The project will help reduce GHG emissions in the construction and maintenance of highways. The National Highways of India carry about 40 % of road traffic.



(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1682770)

10. India to export indigenous Akash missile system: Under the Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), India is growing in its capabilities of manufacturing wide variety of Defence platforms and missiles. Akash is a Surface to Air Missile with a range of 25 kms and 96% indigenisation. The missile was inducted in 2014 in IAF and in 2015 in Indian Army. The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces. Besides Akash, there is interest coming in other major platforms like Coastal Surveillance System, Radars and Air platforms. Government of India intends to focus on exporting high value defence platforms, to achieve target of 5 Bn USD of defence export and improve strategic relations with friendly foreign countries.



(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1684667)

- **11. Major Decisions by Indian Cabinet:** Following were major Cabinet decisions on economic policies taken during Dec 2021:
- i) Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana to boost employment: Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) will boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase. Under this scheme, Government of India will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st Oct 2020 and upto 30th Jun 2021 in the form of EPF contribution.

(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679336)

ii) Auction of Spectrum: Department of Telecommunications can conduct spectrum auction for providing commercial mobile services. The auction will be for spectrum in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz and 2500 MHz frequency bands. Spectrum will be offered for assignment for validity period of 20 years.

(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1681043)

Revision in guidelines for providing Direct to Home (DTH) Services: Under this, license for the DTH will be issued for a period of 20 years in place of present 10 years. Cap of 49% FDI in the existing DTH guidelines will be aligned with the extant Government (DPIIT's) policy on FDI as amended from time to time, among others.

(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1682976)

Industrial Corridor nodes at Krishnapatnam & Tumakuru and Multi Modal Logistics Hub & Multi Modal Transport Hub at Greater Noida: Construction is approved of various trunk infrastructure components for (a) Krishnapatnam Industrial Area in Andhra Pradesh with an estimated cost of USD 290 mn; (b) Tumakuru Industrial Area in Karnataka with an estimated cost of IUSD 230 mn; (c) Multi Modal Logistics Hub (MMLH) and Multi Modal Transport Hub (MMTH) at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh with an estimated cost of USD 524 mn. The objective of Industrial Corridor Programme is to create greenfield industrial cities with sustainable, 'plug n play', ICT enabled utilities to facilitate the manufacturing investments into the country.

(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1684629)

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 (MOSPI)

India's GDP latest news:

According to The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and National Statistical Office of India (NSO), India's economy is estimated to contract by a record 7.7% in 2020-21 ravaged by the impact of the Covid-19 induced lockdown, with the crucial services and manufacturing sectors taking a massive hit, the farm segment expected to remain the only bright spot. This will be the first contraction in over four decades since the 5.2% fall recorded in 1979-80. This is also the the record contraction since annual GDP data began to be published in 1951-52.

 $(More\ info:\ \underline{https://www.mospi.gov.in/}\ or\ \underline{https://mospi.gov.in/documents/213904/416359//PRESS_NOTE-Q2_2020-211606480008567.pdf/f2b98a11-a06d-8b6f-6f37-621f33ca8f25)$

Foreign Trade

I. Merchandise Trade				
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion)	Docombox		Anr Doo	
(Provisional)	December		Apr-Dec	
Exports (including re-exports)				
2019-20	27.11	238.27		
2020-21	27.15		200.80	
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	0.14	-15.73		
Imports				
2019-20	39.59	364.18		
2020-21	42.59	258.27		
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	7.56	-29.08		
Trade balance				
2019-20	-12.49		-125.91	
2020-21	-15.44		-57.47	
I.	I. Trade in Services			
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion)	Nov 2020 Apr-Nov 20		Apr. Nov. 2020, 21	
(Provisional)			Ahi-MOA 2020-51	
Exports (Receipts)	17.08		130.37	
Imports (Payments)	10.	12	74.68	
Trade balance	6.96 55.69			

Source: RBI Press Release, dated 15th January 2020. (https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1688833)

Industry

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) India's industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), contracts 1.9% year-on-year (y-o-y) in the month of Nov. The country's industrial output had grown by 2.1% in Nov 2019 and 4.2% (revised) in Oct 2020, the government data showed. During Apr-Nov period of the fiscal year 2020-21, the industrial production contracted 15.5% as against a 0.3 % growth in the year ago period. Mining and manufacturing output shrank by 7.3% and 1.7%, while electricity output grew by 3.5 % in Nov 2020, the data from MoSPI showed.

(More info: https://www.mospi.gov.in/)

Inflation

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined to 4.59% in Dec last year as vegetable prices plunged sharply. As per government data, the inflation rate in Nov 2020 stood at 6.93%. This is the lowest point in retail inflation since Mar last year, when it was pegged at 5.84 %, marking a return to the comfort range of 2-6 % prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India for the first time in nine months. India's wholesale price based inflation WPI eases in Dec to 1.22% as compared to 1.55% in Nov, 2020.

(More info: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1687967)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

According to Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), FDI equity inflow in India stood at US\$ 500.12 bn between Apr 2000 and Sep 2020, indicating that Government's effort to improve ease of doing business and relaxing FDI norms has yielded results. FDI equity inflows in India stood at US\$ 30 bn in 2020-21 (between Apr 2020 and Sep 2020). Data for 2020-21 indicates that computer software and hardware sector attracted the highest FDI equity inflows of US\$ 17.55 bn, followed by the service sector at US\$ 2.25 bn, trading at US\$ 949 mn and chemicals (other than fertilisers) at US\$ 437 mn. In 2020-21 (between Apr 2020 and Sep 2020), India received the maximum FDI equity inflows from Singapore (US\$ 8.30 bn), followed by the US (US\$ 7.12 bn), Cayman Islands (US\$ 2.10 bn), Mauritius (US\$ 2.0 bn), the Netherlands (US\$ 1.49 bn) and the UK (US\$ 1.35 bn).

(More info: https://www.ibef.org/economy/foreign-direct-investment.aspx)

PART II: INDIA-IRELAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

1. Embassy Provincial Outreach Programmes: Focus continued on exploring economic opportunities out of challenges. These were also occasions to interact with frontline health workers in major municipal Hospitals offering excellent services during the pandemic. During the month, Ambassador visited Galway, Kerry, Cavan and Drogheda Counties: (i) County Galway (08 Dec): Ambassador met with Mayor of Galway City Cllr Mike Cubbard as well as representatives of Galway Chamber of Commerce - President J.P. Gilmartin and CEO Kenny Deery. Discussions focused on post-COVID economic opportunities, especially in the med-tech and pharmaceutical industry, and hiring of Indian skilled workforce. He also met with Indian Community Support Group members in Galway who have been superbly assisting the local Indian community during challenging pandemic times. Business site visit was made to Sahajanand Medical Technologies Ireland Ltd (SMT) European HQ in Galway. The Indian firm develops and manufactures minimally invasive coronary stent systems in India, undertakes R&D on cardiac stents and heart valves, as well as supplies medical devices to around 60 countries across Europe, Asia, Middle East, North Africa and Latin America. Ambassador visited University Hospital Galway (UHG) and paid tribute to Indian and other health workers. He expressed hope that vaccine would soon significantly ameliorate the current situation; (ii) County Kerry (17 Dec): Ambassador met with representatives of Kerry County Council: Mayor Cllr Patrick Connor-Scarteen, CEO Moira Murrell; representative of Killarney Chamber of Tourism & Commerce: and Regional Manager of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Pat Dawson. Tourism, IT, ecological issues and agri-tech were identified as areas of possible cooperation. Ambassador also visited the University Hospital Kerry and paid tribute to front-line staff; (iii) County Cavan (24 Dec): Ambassador met with key members of Indian community, to assure of all Embassy support and render consular-related advice; and (iv) Drogheda (31 Dec): Interaction was held with key healthcare community professionals for exploring healthcare and med-tech collaboration, post Covid.



Ambassador with GM of University Hospital Kerry, Fearghal Grimes



Ambassador with Mayor of Galway City Cllr Mike Cubbard



Ambassador with With Kerry Co. Mayor Cllr Patrick Connor Scarteen

2. Official-level meetings: Ambassador had constructive, in-person meeting with Lord Mayor of Dublin, Hazel Chu (15 Dec). Discussion was centred on building stronger institutional partnership with Dublin City Council for promotion of bilateral business, culture and community integration. Lord Mayor Chu expressed strong commitment for advancing community integration projects, including expediting approval for installation of bust of Mahatma Gandhi at a prominent venue in Dublin.



3. Business-level meetings: In view of fluctuating Covid restrictions, most meetings were held online, with limited physical interactions. A strong message was sent out to key business interlocutors that India stood ready to export ventilators, PPEs, masks, test kits, etc and to cooperate with key countries, including Ireland, in vaccine trial and related training programmes. Lists of Indian exporters of test kits were circulated to HSE, Dept of Health and other potential Irish importers.





4. Embassy participation in 4th PBD Conference 'Forging Media and Entertainment Partnerships to showcase India@75': Ahead of the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, also known as the Indian Diaspora Day, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), organised (22 Dec) virtual conference, in promotion of Indian culture abroad and shaping global perception of India, challenges and opportunities arising therein. The virtual event gathered prominent members of the Indian diaspora in the field of media and entertainment. Virtual event was attended by Embassy officials, with constructive take-aways.



- **5. Embassy's ongoing response to COVID-19**: In view of change in Covid-19 restrictions level (24 Dec) from Level 3 to Level 5 (top most), Embassy continued to be open for emergency services for Indian nationals. At same time, it maintained its support structures/helpline and Community Support Groups in all key cities. Embassy's social media platforms were used effectively to disseminate relevant advisories and programmes.
- **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. Limited in-house services were also rendered, strictly by appointments.

Bilateral Trade

The analysis of data available for the period Jan-Nov 2020 showed that total bilateral trade stood at Euro 810 mn. India's exports to Ireland were Euro 483 mn and India's imports from Ireland worth Euro 327 mn. Balance of trade was Euro 156 mn in favor of India.

*2019 was a record year

Year/Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jan-Nov 2020
Ireland's Exports to India	€ 296	€ 353	€ 327	€480 (+46.80%)	€327 (-24.32%)
Ireland's Imports from India	€ 544	€ 683	€ 560	€636 (+13.57%)	€483 (-18.31%)
Total Trade	€ 840	€1036	€ 887	*€1116 (+25.82%)	€810 (-20.85%)

PART III: UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events, fairs and conferences in India				
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State	
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) - Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India	15th edition of IMME 2020 - India's	02 Dec - 01 Feb	CII Virtual platform Event link: http://www.immeindia.in/index.php	
Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)	Launching of the virtual platform of the Apparel Products to exhibit garments made by Indian apparel exporters round the year where brands and buyers from across the world can visit and place their orders.	20 Jan 2021	https://www.aepcindia.com/node	
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.php	
The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC) set up and sponsored by Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India	India's Biggest Trade Event of Indian Silk and Silk Blend Products 8th & 9th edition of India International Silk Fair cum RBSM together with Buyer Seller Meets on Virtual Portal		Event link: https://virtualindiansilkfair.in/	
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: https://wsds.teriin.org/	
Ministry of Defence in India	Aero India 2021 India Aero India Virtual Exhibition	03-07 Feb 2021	Event link: https://aeroindia.gov.in/	
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)		25 Feb – 24 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.ietfindia.in/	
Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry	21 st edition of its annual flagship event – INDIASOFT 2021: International IT Exhibition & Conference	9-12 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.indiasoft.org/	
1 '	11 th edition of India Chem 2021 The largest event of Chemicals and Petrochemical Industry in India	17-19 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.indiachem.in/	
2 ^{8th} Convergence India 6th Smart Cities India 2021 Expo	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 the Government of India and MS Foundation- organization in service for the well being and overall development of the Manufacturing Sector in India	IMS 2020- India Manufacturing Show "India's Premier Industrial Exhibition for MSME and Heavy industries"	27-29 Sep 2021	Event link: http://www.indiamanufacturingshow.com/ ims2020/index.php	

Events, fairs, conferences organised in December in India				
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State	
Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI)	Mega "Virtual Buyers-Sellers Meet on Ceramic & Vitrified Tiles"		Interested companies may please be advised to complete 'Registration Form' at link: https://indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/pdf/Registration_Form_2020.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 "PARTNERSHIPS FOR LIVES, LIVELIHOOD AND GROWTH"	15-18 Dec 2020	Event link: https://www.ciihive.in/SignUp.aspx?EventId=PARTNERSHP	

	Upcoming events, fairs and conferences in Dublin			
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State	
Embassy of India, Dublin	72 nd Republic Day of India	26 Jan 2021	Embassy of India, Dublin - Virtual platform Event link: https://www.facebook.com/IndiainIreland	
(FICCI) Ladies Organization (FLO), women's wing of the apex industry body and Network Ireland	Webinar on India & Ireland Women Entrepreneurs Conclave - virtual meeting	28 Jan 2021	Event link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NvyVPLVkLII&feature=youtu.be	
IIBA - Ireland India Business Association	Webinar on India & Ireland business and trade relationship and promotion of new IIBA Chairman Mr. Liam Lynch, KPMG and Vice-President Mr. Deepak Chaudhari, TCS	28 Jan 2021	More info on link: https://www.iiba.ie/	

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