



January, 2021.



PART I: INDIAN ECONOMY

News Features

1. Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention: The 16th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held in virtual format (09 Jan), with the theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat". PM Narendra Modi highlighted the role of the Indian diaspora in strengthening the identity of Brand India. He mentioned that in his discussions with various Heads of States, he always felt pride in the overseas Indians when they are praised for their contribution as doctors, paramedics and as general citizens. He also noted the contribution of the overseas Indian's in India's fight against COVID. He said that much of the credit of the world's trust in India, its food, fashion, family values and business values goes to overseas Indians. President Chandrikapersad Santokhi from Suriname delivered the keynote address and Indian President Ram Nath Kovind delivered the valedictory address at the Convention.

(More Info: <https://pbdindia.gov.in/en>; https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-inaugurates-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-convention/)



2. 72nd Republic Day of India: Addressing the Nation (26 Jan) on the occasion of 72nd Republic Day of India, President Ram Nath Kovind stated that India's effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic would not have been possible without our Constitutional value of 'Fraternity'. President made mention of the contributions by country's farmers, scientists, armed forces and the Indian diaspora abroad to India's development. He also took pride in the fact that India is called as "pharmacy of the world" for supplying medicines to numerous countries to contain sufferings across the globe. He noted that Indian democracy is vibrant and its commitment to good governance and transparency is stronger than ever before.

(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1692289>)



3. Economic Survey 2021: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2021 in Indian Parliament (29 Jan). It forecast India's economy to contract 7.7% in 2020-21, before witnessing a sharp recovery of 10-12% in 2021-22. It is expected that the economy will grow at its trend growth rate of 6.5% in 2022-23 and 7% in 2023-24, aided by structural reforms.



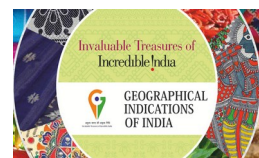
(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1693232>)

4. Highlights of Union Budget 2021-22 : Presenting the Union Budget for 2021-22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the Budget proposals for this financial year rest on six pillars — health and well-being; physical and financial capital and infrastructure; inclusive development for aspirational India; reinvigorating human capital; innovation and R&D; and 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'. Fiscal deficit stands at 9.5% of the GDP, and is estimated to be 6.8% in 2021-22. Significant announcements were made including a slew of hikes in customs duty to benefit Make in India, proposal to disinvest two more PSBs and a General Insurance company, and numerous infrastructure pledges for States. Budget was hailed as a growth-oriented, progressive Budget in the time of Covid and beyond. It was the nation's first 'Digital Budget', tackling challenges of the unprecedented contraction triggered by the global pandemic. An allocation of USD 4.8 bn for vaccine was made, with further scope for funding on a need basis. Covaxin and Covishield are currently the two vaccines being administered throughout the country in the largest global vaccine roll-out programme. The recovery rate was around 98%.



(More info: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/>)

5. India Tags Geographical Indications (GI) products: Indian Govt has catalogued and registered 370 GI products so far (20 Jan), offering the world to take advantage of this 'Vocal for Local' programme, as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat 3.0' (Self Reliant India). Consumers can now buy these Indian GI products with confidence and enjoy the unique Indian geographical characteristics and qualities.



(More Info: https://www.ibef.org/uploads/GI-Brochure-Low_Res_2020.pdf)

6. Tesla coming to India in '2021': Tesla, the US clean energy and electric vehicle company, will 'launch operations' in India in 2021. This was stated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkar, addressing "The Indian Express Idea Exchange" programme. He highlighted the country's drive for electric cars and said several Indian businesses were collaborating on electric vehicles that could be more affordable, but technically as advanced as the Tesla. According to Minister, Tesla would commence operations first with sales and then maybe look at assembly and manufacturing, based on the response to the cars.



(More info: <https://www.ibef.org/news/mr-nitin-gadkari-confirms-tesla-coming-to-india-in-early-2021>)

7. Electric vehicle market in India expected to hit new records:

According to a report by India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA), the electric vehicle (EV) segment in India is anticipated to reach over 63 mn units mark per year by 2027. According to the results of the study, which covers the current scenario and projection of the country's EV, EV battery and public charging infrastructure industry, the demand for batteries will also increase significantly over the same period. The EV market is expected to expand at a CAGR of 44% between 2020 and 2027 and annual demand for batteries is expected to increase by 32% to reach 50 GWh by 2027, with 40 plus GWh for lithium-ion batteries. Estimated potential of the battery industry in 2019 is US\$ 580 mn and is expected to increase to US\$ 14.9 bn by 2027.

(More info: <https://www.ibef.org/news/electric-vehicle-market-in-india-expected-to-hit-63-lakh-units-per-annum-mark-by-2027-iesa>)



8. Indian Pharmaceuticals – A Formula for Success:

India is a prominent and rapidly growing presence in global pharmaceuticals. It is the largest provider of generic medicines globally, occupying 20% share in global supply by volume, and also supplying 62% of global demand for vaccines. India ranks 3rd worldwide for production by volume and 14th by value. India is the largest vaccine producer in the world. Being the largest generic drugs exporter. India has more than 2,000 WHO-GMP approved Pharma Plants and 253 European Directorate of Quality Medicines (EDQM) approved plants with modern state of the art technology. India is the source of 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic categories and manufactures more than 500 different Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs). The API industry is ranked 3rd largest in the world contributing 57% of APIs to prequalified list of the WHO. The country is home to more than 3,000 pharma companies with a strong network of over 10,500 manufacturing facilities.

(More info: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/pharmaceuticals>)



9. India's merchandise exports shows positive figures:

India's merchandise exports surged 6.16% year-on-year in Jan, sustaining recovery for the second month from a contraction seen in Nov, giving credence to expectations of further economic recovery. Data released by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) showed that shipments of items like fruits and vegetables, engineering goods, electronic products and pharmaceuticals helped exports to scale \$27.45 bn in Jan. Import growth, too, remained in positive zone at \$42 bn though pace of growth moderated to 2% after a 7.6% growth in Dec.

(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698184>)



10. World's Largest COVID-19 Vaccination programme launched in India:

PM Narendra Modi launched (16 Jan) the pan-India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing. This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. Paying compliments to the associated scientists with the development of the vaccines, PM said that within such a short time, not one but two Made-in-India vaccines were launched. He termed the Indian



response to corona as one of self-confidence and self-reliance. The launch of 'Vaccine Maitri' (Vaccine Friendship) in Jan has been a landmark in Indian diplomacy. In accordance with the Prime Minister's commitment to deploy India's vaccine production and delivery capacity for the benefit of all humanity, vaccines have been delivered to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, UAE, Brazil, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman, Egypt, Algeria, Kuwait, South Africa, Barbados and Dominica. A limited quantity of vaccines has initially been supplied as grant assistance and on contract.

(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1689021>)



11. Global Virtual Initiatives of PM: PM Modi held a video-conference with (i) German Chancellor Angela Merkel (06 Jan). The two leaders discussed key issues including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, regional and global issues, particularly India-EU relations. Year 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between India and Germany and the 20th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership; (ii) Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi (28 Jan); (iii) PM of UK on (05 Jan); (iv) PM addressed the virtual Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 (25 Jan); and (v) the World Economic Forum's virtual Davos Agenda Summit (28 Jan).

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



12. Major Decisions by Indian Cabinet in Jan 2021: These included procurement of 73 LCA Tamas Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 Trainer aircraft at the cost of INR 45,696 crore (approx USD 600 million). Light Combat Aircraft Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4+ generation fighter aircraft. The manufacturing of Light Combat Aircraft by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, HAL will give a further push to Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India) initiative and boost indigenization of defence production. The programme will act as a catalyst for transforming the Indian aerospace manufacturing ecosystem into a vibrant self-sustaining ecosystem.

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



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:

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) and National Statistical Office of India (NSO), India's real GDP in the current FY 2020-21 is seen contracting by

7.7 % from a growth rate of 4.2 % in 2019-20. The contraction in the economy is mainly on account of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Expectations that the country's GDP would record growth in the Q3 and Q4 of 2020-21 are getting stronger on account of various reforms undertaken by the Govt in the last ten months (Source: PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

(More info: <https://www.mospi.gov.in/> or https://mospi.gov.in/documents/213904/416359//PRESS_NOTE-Q2_2020-211606480008567.pdf/f2b98a11-a06d-8b6f-6f37-621f33ca8f25 or <https://www.phdcci.in>)

Foreign Trade

I. Merchandise Trade		
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion) (Provisional)	Jan '21	Apr '20 -Jan '21
Exports (including re-exports)		
2019-20	25.85	264.13
2020-21	27.45	228.25
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	6.16	-13.58
Imports		
2019-20	41.15	405.33
2020-21	41.99	300.26
% Growth 2020-21/2019-20	2.03	-25.92
Trade balance		
2019-20	-15.30	-141.21
2020-21	-14.54	-72.01
II. Trade in Services		
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion) (Provisional)	Dec 2020	Apr-Dec 2020-21
Exports (Receipts)	18.72	149.09
Imports (Payments)	11.50	86.18
Trade balance	7.22	62.91

Source: RBI Press Release, dated 15th January 2020. (<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1698184>)

Industry

India's industrial output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grew 1.04 % year-on-year in Dec, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The country's industrial output contracted 2.10 % in Nov, while it grew 4.19 % in Oct, the data showed. For the month of Dec 2020, the quick estimate of index of industrial production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stood at 135.9. The indices of industrial production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for Dec stood at 115.1, 137.5 and 158.0 respectively. These quick estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP. Industrial output was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown imposed to spread the curb of infections. IIP declined for five consecutive months from Apr to Aug in FY 2021-21, before returning to positive territory in Sep and Oct.

(More info: <http://mospi.nic.in/sites/default/files/iip/iipdec20.pdf>)

Inflation

Retail inflation, calculated on the basis of Consumer Price Index, declined to 4.06 % in Jan from 4.59 % in Dec last year as food prices eased significantly, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). This is the second month in a row when retail inflation has remained within the tolerance range mandated by the Reserve Bank of India, which has an upper limit of 6 % and a lower limit of 2 %. In its last meeting, the monetary policy committee (MPC) had retained policy repo rate at 4 %, while maintaining an accommodative stance.

(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1697432>)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

FDI into India rose by 13 % in 2020, boosted by interest in the digital sector. As per 'Investment Trends Monitor' Report of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), while fund flows "declined most strongly" in major economies such as the UK, the US and Russia due to the Covid-19 pandemic, India and China "bucked the trend". As per the Report, global FDI collapsed in 2020 by 42 % to an estimated \$859 bn from \$1.5 trln in 2019. Such a low level was last seen in the 1990s and is more than 30 % below the investment though that followed the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. The decline in FDI inflows was concentrated in developed countries, where fund flows fell by 69 % to an estimated \$229 bn.

According to Dept 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 Govt'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://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI_Fact_sheet_September_20.pdf)

PART II: INDIA-IRELAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

1. Virtual celebration of 72nd Republic Day (RD) of India: On account of Level-5 Covid lockdown, Embassy celebrated 72nd RD in virtual mode. The function was live telecast on Embassy's FB. Special video messages were played of Hazel Chu, Lord Mayor of Dublin; Bertie Ahern, Former PM; Eamon Ryan, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, & Transport; and Frank Feighan, Minister of State for Health, Wellbeing and National Drugs Strategy. Event included a discussion of Ambassador with Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on the topic "Faith in Medical Science-Covid Vaccine Roll-Out" as means of vaccine awareness. Additionally, cultural performances by diverse community groups and children also featured in the programme. As a curtain raiser, Embassy organised a series of events through social media, viz., Mono Acting Competition, Quiz Competition, Short Visual (video) Storytelling on "My Exciting Tourist Adventure in India" and Essay Competition on "Emerging Role of Indian Women: Bringing Sustainability to Society".



2. New leadership of Ireland-India Business Association (IIBA): IIBA organized (28 Jan) an online business networking event for business representatives from Ireland and India, to introduce their leadership team. Liam Lynch of KPMG and Deepak Chaudhari of TCS took over as the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador thanked the outgoing Chair, Nilakanthi Ford, for steering IIBA towards enhanced bilateral business opportunities during her tenure (2014-21). At the same time, he promised the new team Embassy's full support in their ventures towards common goal of enhancement of India-Ireland business ties.



3. India - Ireland Women Entrepreneurs Conclave: A webinar on opportunities for business collaborations between women entrepreneurs from India and Ireland was organised (28 Jan) by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Ladies Organisation (FICCI-FLO) in partnership with Network Ireland. It was part of FICCI FLO's 'Women of 7 Continents (W7)' Initiative which aims to create a worldwide forum for exchange of information, experience, visibility, and connectivity among women business owners and professionals, setting the stage for new opportunities and joint ventures. Ambassador of India to Ireland, Sandeep Kumar, and Ambassador of Ireland to India, Brendan Ward, were the Joint Chief Guests. Jahnabi Phookan, FLO National President and Aisling O'Neill, President, Network Ireland were other prominent participants. Several women entrepreneurs shared real-time business experiences, as lessons learnt. Addressing the event, Ambassador Kumar referenced successful business stories of women business leaders from Ireland and India. He committed full Embassy support for women enterprises, a key element in bilateral relationship.



4. Webinar with Community Support Groups (CSG) across Ireland: Embassy organised a webinar (12 Jan) with members of CSGs, set up in all major cities in Ireland, to assess the evolving situation and to brief on vaccine development in India. The CSGs have continued to provide exceptional services to the Indian community during entire pandemic period. Ambassador expressed highest appreciation for exceptional assistance rendered by CSG members. Embassy team answered queries relating to visas, Covid restrictions, flights to India, etc.



5. 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 vaccine ventilators, PPEs, masks, test kits, etc and to cooperate with key countries, including Ireland. As part of India's Vaccine Maitree (Vaccine Friendship) programme, India has made an offer to Ireland of the indigenously manufactured Covid vaccines – Covaxin and Covshield.



6. Embassy's ongoing response to COVID-19 and 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 rendered, strictly by appointments. Despite top-level Covid-19 restrictions, Embassy continued to be open for emergency and essential services for Indian nationals. At same time, it maintained its support structures, helplines and CSGs in all key cities. Embassy's social media platforms were used effectively to disseminate relevant advisories and programmes.



Bilateral Trade

The analysis of data available for the period Jan-Dec 2020 showed that total bilateral trade stood at Euro 890 mn. India's exports to Ireland were Euro 524 mn and India's imports from Ireland worth Euro 366 mn. Balance of trade was Euro 158 mn in favor of India.

*2019 was a record year

Year/Period	2016	2017	2018	2019	Jan-Dec 2020
Ireland's Exports to India	€ 296	€ 353	€ 327	€480 (+46.80%)	€366 (-23.75%)
Ireland's Imports from India	€ 544	€ 683	€ 560	€636 (+13.57%)	€524 (-17.57%)
Total Trade	€ 840	€1036	€ 887	*€1116 (+25.82%)	€890 (-20.23%)

PART III: UPCOMING EVENTS

Events, fairs, conferences organised in month of January 2021 in India			
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State
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	Event link: 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 - IJS 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 8 th & 9 th edition of India International Silk Fair cum RBSM together with Buyer Seller Meets on Virtual Portal	31 Jan – 31 Mar 2021	Event link: https://virtualindiansilkgfair.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/
The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in association with Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India	»INDIA YARN EXPO« - A Virtual Trade Fair connecting Buyers/Sellers from India and Europe and encouraging global businesses promotion	15-20 Feb 2021	For further coordination, you may contact Mr Jyotiprakash Pal, Regional Head-ICC Email link: jyotiprakash.pal@indianchamber.net

Upcoming events, fairs and conferences in India			
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State
Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	IETF 2021 - 24 th edition of International Engineering & Technology Fair	25 Feb – 24 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.ietfindia.in/
Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India and its Public Sector Undertaking Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) along with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)	Global Bio India 2021	01-03 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.globalbioindia.com/
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/
Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India and (FICCI)	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/
India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) & Exhibitions India Group	28 th Convergence India 2021 expo and 6 th Smart Cities India 2021 expo	24 - 26 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.smartcitiesindia.com/ Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India
IMC chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mumbai	The IMC India Calling Conference - focus on two sectors Smart Infrastructure and Green Technology – Mobility and Sustainability.	12 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.imcnet.org/

TPCI, in association with the Indian Department of Commerce	IndusFood', recognized as India's largest F&B Export Promotion Trade Fair	20-21 Mar 2021	Event link: https://indusfood.co.in/
The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) with support of the Government of India	The India Toy Fair 2021 Indian Toys and Games manufacturers	27 Feb-2 Mar 2021	Event link: https://www.theindiatoyfair.in/
Ministry of Textiles in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)	9 th Edition of the series i.e., "Technotex 2021"	17-19 Mar 2021	Event link: www.technotexindia.in
Bus & Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI)	BOCI organises biennial event Prawaas: The Bus & Car show focusing on Public Transport. 'Prawaas' is a common word in Indian languages which means 'The Travel'.	05-07 Aug 2021	Event link: http://www.prawaas.com/
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

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



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