



January, 2022.



PART I: INDIAN ECONOMY

News Features

1. Indian Union Budget 2022-23: The Union Budget of 2022-23 was presented by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs on February 1, 2022. Infrastructure emerged as the top-most priority for the Indian government. The finance minister said that the Budget for 2022-2023 will lay the foundation for economic growth through public investment as Asia's third-largest economy emerges from a pandemic-induced slump.

Key Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23:

- India's economic growth is predicted to be the highest among all large economies, at 9.2%.
- Under the productivity-linked incentive scheme (PLI scheme), 6 mn new jobs will be created in 14 different industries.
- PLI Schemes have the potential to generate an additional Rs. 30,00,000 crore (US\$ 401.24 Bn) in revenue.
- The 'One Station-One Product' concept will be adopted in the railway sector to assist local businesses and supply chains.
- The Indian Government wants to promote a digital economy, fin-tech, technology-enabled development, energy transition, and climate action.
- The Budget encourages growth with the following priorities: PM Gati Shakti, Inclusive Development, Productivity Enhancement and Investments, Sunrise opportunities, Energy Transition, Climate Action, and Financing of Investments as India enters Amrit Kaal, the 25-year countdown to India's 100th independence anniversary.
- Green Bonds will be issued by the government to raise funds for green infrastructure. The proceeds will be used to fund public-sector programs that reduce the economy's carbon intensity.
- The Indian Government is pushing the blending of fuel by levying additional differential excise duty on unblended fuel.
- The Indian Government plans to rely on a virtuous cycle starting from private investment, and the help of public capital investment to crowd-in private investment.

For more details on The Indian Union Budget of 2022-23, you may like to download attachment or use the given hyperlink.



2. India Government to launch Brand India Campaign to boost exports:

With outbound shipments expected to exceed \$400 Bn in Financial Year 2022, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India plans to begin the Brand India Campaign to boost service and product exports to new markets. This effort will function as an "Umbrella Campaign" for boosting India's exports of goods and services. The campaign's initial focus will be on India's exports in certain areas such as gems and jewelry, textiles, plantation products (tea, coffee, spices), education, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and engineering. It would primarily be concerned with quality, heritage, technology, value, and innovation. Mr. Piyush Goyal, the Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry, recently assessed the state of the India Brand Equity Foundation's Brand India Campaign (IBEF). IBEF is a trust established by the Department of Commerce with the primary goal of promoting and raising international awareness of the "Made in India" label in international markets, as well as facilitating the spread of knowledge about Indian products and services. Focused export-oriented messaging to both buyers and consumers; new prospective markets; Indian talent, tradition, and modernity; and promotional activities through digital platforms and international events would all be part of the campaign strategy. Apart from the construction of a unified logo identity, a Branding Steering Committee will be formed for the goal of developing branding creatives (films, TVCs, print ads, digital banners).



3. Indian Cabinet approves infusion of US\$ 200+ mn in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):

The Indian Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved (20th January) a Rs.1500 crore (US\$ 201.6 million) equity investment in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**. This equity infusion will contribute to the creation of roughly 10200 jobs per year and the reduction of approximately 7.49 mn tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions per year. The Government of India's further equity infusion will enable IREDA: (i) to lend roughly Rs.12000 crores (US\$ 1.612 Bn) to the RE industry; (ii) to ease the debt requirement of RE for increased capacity of approximately 3500-4000 MW; (iii) to increase its net value, which will assist it in obtaining greater RE finance and so contribute more to the Government of India's RE targets. To enhance lending and borrowing activities, the capital-to-risk-weighted-assets ratio (CRAR) must be improved. IREDA was established in 1987 as a micro ratna (Category-1) firm under the administrative authority of MNRE to serve as a specialized non-banking funding agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) industry.

CCEA approves equity infusion of (US\$ 201.6 million) in (IREDA)

- Will enable IREDA to lend **Rs. 12000 crore (US\$ 1.612 bn)** to the RE sector
- Will enhance its **net worth** which will help it in additional RE financing
- Will improve the capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio to facilitate its lending and borrowing operations

Benefits

- Employment generation of approximately **10,200 job-years**
- Emission reduction of approximately **749 Million Tonnes CO2 equivalent per year**

4. TCS world's second most valuable IT brand, Infosys fastest-growing:

According to Brand Finance (independent brand valuation consultancy), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has become the world's 2nd most valuable brand in the information technology (IT) services sector, while Accenture remains the world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand. According to the brand valuation consultancy's newest Global 500 IT Services Ranking study, Infosys has emerged as the fastest growing IT services brand, with a 52% increase in brand value since last year and an 80% increase since 2020 to US\$ 12.8 Bn, putting it in third place. TCS and Infosys have moved IBM from second to fourth place. IBM's brand value is now US\$ 10.6 Bn, down 34% from last year and 50% since 2020. IBM lost almost US\$ 19 Bn in sales as a result of the transaction, and its brand value suffered as a result. Apart from TCS and Infosys, four more Indian firms are listed among the top 25 IT services brands: Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th), and L&T Infotech (22nd). TCS's US\$ 16.8 bn valuations were boosted by its business performance and good relationships, according to the research. Over the last year, TCS increased its brand worth by US\$ 1.84 Bn (12.5%) to US\$ 16.78 Bn. This expansion can be ascribed to the company's brand investments. Since 2020, the average growth of Indian brands that have appeared in the Brand Finance IT Services ranking has been 51%, whereas the average contraction of US brands has been 7%. Most of these mentioned Indian companies have also offices and strong presence in Ireland.



5. Global Engagements of India's Prime Minister: PM participated at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda: PM Modi delivered (17th January) 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda via video conference. He said that India is tackling another wave of the pandemic with caution and moving ahead in the economic sphere with many hopeful results. During Corona time, India saved many lives by exporting essential medicines and vaccines with keeping in view its vision of 'One Earth, One Health'. He stated that India is the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer and is considered the 'pharmacy of the world'. PM added that today, India is providing a record number of software engineers. More than 5 mn software developers are working in India. India has the third-largest number of unicorns today with over 10,000 start-ups registered during the last six months. He affirmed that India is committed to becoming the world's reliable partner in global supply chains and is making way for free trade agreements with many countries. India's capabilities in innovation, technology adaptation and entrepreneurship spirit make India an ideal global partner. And "That's why, this is the best time to invest in India", he said.



6. PM Modi Interacted with Start-ups: Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted (15th Jan) with Start-ups via video conferencing. The Startups gave presentations to the Indian PM on six themes viz. Growing from Roots; Nudging the DNA; From Local to Global; Technology of Future; Building Champions in Manufacturing; and Sustainable Development. More than 150 startups were divided into six working groups for these presentations. For each theme, there were presentations by two Startup representatives, who spoke on behalf of all the startups selected for that particular theme. Speaking after the presentations of the startup, PM Modi recalled the concept of the current decade as the 'techade' of India. He listed three important aspects of the massive changes that the government is making in this decade to strengthen the innovation, entrepreneurship, and start-up ecosystem: (i) liberate entrepreneurship and innovation from the web of government processes, bureaucratic silos; (ii) create an institutional mechanism to promote innovation; (iii) hand-hold young innovators and young enterprises. PM Modi informed that startups of India are working with 55 separate industries and the number of startups has increased from less than 500 five years ago to more than 60000 today. He stated that last year, 42 unicorns came up in India. These companies worth thousands of millions of rupees/dollars are the hallmark of self-reliant and self-confident India.



7. PM Modi inaugurated the launch of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore': Via video conference (20th January), PM Modi delivered the keynote address at the national launch ceremony of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore'. The program presented the Brahma Kumaris' yearly endeavors dedicated to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which include more than 30 campaigns and over 15000 programs and events. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav means Festival of Independence. Swarnim Bharat ki Ore means towards Golden India. The program is "Azadi ka Amrit to Golden India". During the event, PM Modi announced seven Brahma Kumaris activities. My India, Healthy India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Self-Reliant Farmers, Women: Flag Bearers of India, Power of Peace Bus Campaign, Andekha Bharat Cycle Rally, United India Motor Bike Campaign, and green initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is among them. The Brahma Kumaris is a global spiritual movement dedicated to personal change and global renewal. Brahma Kumaris was founded in India in 1937 and has since spread to over 130 nations. The celebration marks the 53rd Ascension Anniversary of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma, the Founding Father of the Brahma Kumaris.



8. Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme: India has rolled out the red carpet for global chipmakers with 760 Bn rupees (\$10.2 Bn) in incentives as PM Modi makes a push to establish the country as a high-tech production hub. The program was approved (15th December) by Indian PM's cabinet and began accepting applicants on January 1 as India, like many other countries, intensifies efforts to bolster domestic supplies of the critical industrial component. Semiconductors are at the heart of all electronic products and constitute a significant share in the Bill of Material (BOM). The Indian National Policy on Electronics 2019 aims to position India

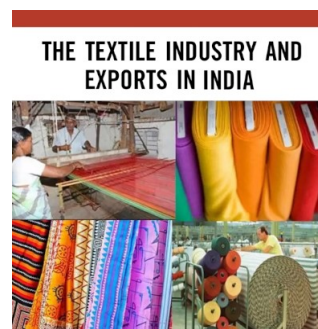


as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and envisions the creation of a vibrant semiconductor chip design ecosystem in the country. With an exceptional talent pool of 20% of the world's semiconductor design engineers and thousands of chips designed by them every year in the country, India is poised for growth to achieve self-reliance and technology leadership in the semiconductor design sector. The Indian Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has announced [the Design Linked Incentive \(DLI\) Scheme](#) to offset the disabilities in the domestic industry involved in semiconductor design in order to not only move up in value-chain but also strengthen the semiconductor chip design ecosystem in the country. CDAC is responsible for the implementation of the DLI Scheme as a Nodal Agency. The Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme aims to offer financial incentives as well as design infrastructure support across various stages of development and deployment of semiconductor design(s) for Integrated Circuits (ICs), Chipsets, System on Chips (SoCs), Systems & IP Cores and semiconductor linked design(s) over a period of 5 years. Following the Indian Cabinet's approval of the US\$ 10.2 Bn incentive scheme for semiconductors, it has been reported that American chipmaker Intel is planning on setting up a manufacturing facility in India.



9. Investment/Trade Opportunities

➤ **Indian Textile sector:** India is among the world's largest producers of Textiles and Apparel. The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes 5% to the country's GDP, 7% of industry output in value terms, and 12% of the country's export earnings. India is the 6th largest exporter of textiles and apparel in the world. India is one of the largest producers of cotton and jute in the world. India is also the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world and 95% of the world's hand-woven fabric comes from India. The Indian technical textiles segment is estimated at \$16 Bn, approximately 6% of the global market. The textiles and apparel industry in India is the 2nd largest employer in the country providing direct employment to 45 mn people and 100 mn people in allied industries. India has also become the 2nd largest manufacturer of Personal Protection Equipment (PPP) in the world. In terms of export, Indian textile sector exports increased by 41% in April- December 2021 as compared to last year. The textile industry has consistently maintained a trade surplus, with exports far outnumbering imports. Textile exports in India slowed in Financial Year 2020-21 due to pandemic that disrupted the supply chain and demand. However, hints of improvement can be seen in 2021-22. Textiles and apparel, including handicrafts, exports totalled US\$ 29.8 Bn from April to December 2021, up from US\$ 21.2 Bn in the same period last year. This translates to a robust 41% increase over the previous year. Growth indicates that the economy is moving into transformation direction. Textile sector exports (Textiles & Apparel including Handicrafts) climbed by 14.6% from Apr. to Dec. 2021 as compared to April to December 2019. The government has set a target of US\$ 44 Bn for Textiles and Apparel, including Handicrafts, with about 68% of the annual objective already met. The last quarter of the fiscal year is always busier than the previous quarters. The sector is optimistic that targets will be met. To discover more on the Indian textile sector you may click the given hyperlink.

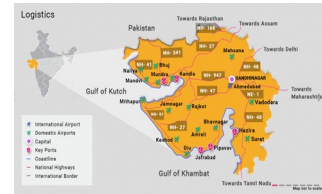


(More Info: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/sector/textiles-apparel>)

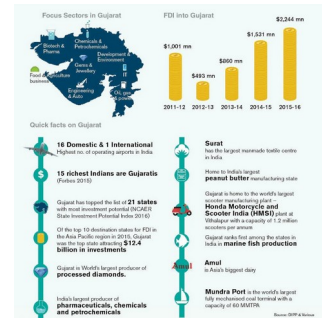
➤ **Indian States (Gujarat):** Gujarat, the state of India, is located on the country's western coast, on the Arabian Sea. It encompasses the entire Kathiawar Peninsula (Saurashtra) as well as the surrounding area on the mainland. The coastline of Gujarat is 992 miles (1,596 km) long, and no part of the state is more than 100 miles (160 km) from the sea. The capital Gandhinagar, on the outskirts of the north-central city of Ahmadabad (Ahmedabad—the former capital), is the largest city in the state, and one of the most important textile centers in India. It was in Ahmadabad that Mohandas Karamchand (Mahatma) Gandhi built his Sabarmati ashram (Sanskrit: ashrama, "retreat" or "hermitage") as a headquarter for his campaigns against British rule.



➤ Historically, the Indian state Gujarat has always been the go-to state for foreign investors. Gujarat has successfully received the maximum foreign investment in the last three consecutive years when the global economy was really struggling. Gujarat achieved 240% more foreign direct investment (FDI) during fiscal 2020 compared to the previous year and continued the growth path in the next fiscal when the state's FDI jumped 3.8 times over Financial Year 2020. More specifically, in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, the state received a grand total of \$30 Bn in FDI, thereby accounting for an impressive 37% of all FDI to India in that time period (followed by Maharashtra with 27% and Karnataka with 13%).



➤ Gujarat does not rest on the laurels of its oil and auto industry, boasting levels of economic diversity that speak to its large influx of foreign investment during Covid-19. The state accounts for roughly 90% of all diamond cutting and polishing globally, and is one of the world's leading denim producers. Gujarat is also a key food processing hub (home to Amul, a behemoth in global milk production), as well as one of India's leading pharmaceutical manufacturers, accounting for 33% of the country's sector turnover. Lastly, Gujarat's base metal industries have also taken off, with an emphasis on steel, iron, zinc, copper, aluminum and lithium.



➤ It is, however, the state's thriving, albeit fairly new, IT and business process management sector that is standing out in 2021. Of the \$30 Bn in FDI inflows that Gujarat welcomed in the last financial year, almost 94% went to the computer hardware and software sector.

Some of key facts to attract investment into Gujarat state:

- Gujarat ranked 1st in Logistics in the country according to the National Logistics Index 2019
- 2nd largest producer of crude oil (onshore)
- 4th largest producer of natural gas
- Gujarat ranked 1st in Export Preparedness Index 2020
- Ranked 3rd in National Council of Applied Economic Research's State Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI) in 2018.
- The State has 42 ports (including 1 major port and 41 non-major ports)
- The State also has 17 operational airports (including 1 international airport)
- Gujarat has the better business and investment opportunities. There are currently 20 operational Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 8 notified Special Investment Regions (SIR) and 202 Industrial Estates in Gujarat. Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) provides further impetus for industrial growth in Gujarat as 38% of the corridor lies in the state.
- Gujarat's current operational capacity for generation of power from wind energy sources stands at 8,561.8 MW as against 7,541.5 MW in Financial Year 2020. At 1,468.4 MW, Gujarat created the highest wind power capacity the previous fiscal as well.



(More info: <https://www.investindia.gov.in/state/gujarat>)

Note: Embassy of India, Dublin, would be happy to facilitate any interaction, as desired, between the Indian and Irish industry.

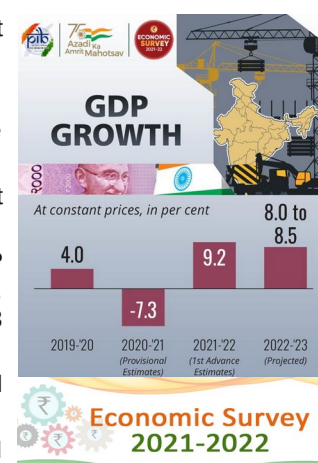
Main Economic Indicators

Gross Domestic Product – GDP				
Fiscal Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22*Est.
Real GDP (% change, YoY)	6.5 %	4.0 %	- 7.3 %	9.2 %

(More Info: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=IN>)

The highlights of Indian Economy are as follows:

- Indian economy estimated to grow by 9.2 % in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 % in 2020-21.
- GDP projected to grow by 8-8.5 % in real terms in 2022-23.
- The year ahead poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in good position to provide support for economy's revival.
- Projection comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 % and 7.5 % respectively for 2022-23.
- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9 % in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 % in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3 years.
- Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9 %; industry by 11.8 % and services sector by 8.2 % in 2021-22.
- Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.



India's Foreign Trade (January 2021):

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in Jan. 2022* are estimated to be USD 61.41 Bn, exhibiting a positive growth of 36.76 % over the same period last year and a positive growth of 38.90 % over Jan. 2020. Overall imports in Jan. 2022* are estimated to be USD 67.76 Bn, exhibiting a slower rate of growth of 30.54 % over the same period last year and a positive growth of 30.19 % over Jan. 2020.

Table 1: Trade during January 2022.*

		January 2022 (USD Billion)	January 2021 (USD Billion)	January 2020 (USD Billion)	Growth vis-à-vis January 2021 (%)	Growth vis-à-vis January 2020 (%)
Merchandise	Exports	34.50	27.54	25.85	25.28	33.45
	Imports	51.93	42.03	41.15	23.54	26.19
	Trade Balance	-17.42	-14.49	-15.30	-20.23	-13.91
Services*	Exports	26.91	17.37	18.36	54.95	46.57
	Imports	15.83	9.88	10.90	60.32	45.33
	Net of Services	11.07	7.49	7.46	47.86	48.38
Overall (Merchandise+ Services)*	Exports	61.41	44.90	44.21	36.76	38.90
	Imports	67.76	51.91	52.05	30.54	30.19
	Trade Balance	-6.35	-7.00	-7.83	9.30	18.92

* Note: The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for December 2021. The data for January 2022 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. (ii) Data for 2019, 2020 and April to September 2021 are revised on pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data.

India's overall exports (Merchandise and Services combined) in Apr.-Jan. 2021-22* are estimated to be USD 545.71 Bn, exhibiting a positive growth of 37.68 % over the same period last year and a positive growth of 23.29 % over Apr.-Jan. 2019-20. Overall imports in Apr.-Jan. 2021-22* are estimated to be USD 616.91 Bn, exhibiting a positive growth of 54.35 % over the same period last year and a positive growth of 20.15 % over Apr.-Jan. 2019-20.

Table 2: Trade during April-January 2021-22.*

		April-January 2021-22 (USD Billion)	April-January 2020-21 (USD Billion)	April-January 2019-20 (USD Billion)	Growth vis-à-vis April-January 2020-21 (%)	Growth vis-à-vis April-January 2019-20 (%)
Merchandise	Exports	335.88	228.92	264.13	46.73	27.17
	Imports	495.75	304.79	405.33	62.65	22.31
	Trade Balance	-159.87	-75.87	-141.21	-110.71	-13.21
Services*	Exports	209.83	167.45	178.49	25.31	17.56
	Imports	121.16	94.88	108.13	27.69	12.05
	Net of Services	88.67	72.57	70.36	22.19	26.03
Overall (Merchandise+ Services)*	Exports	545.71	396.37	442.62	37.68	23.29
	Imports	616.91	399.67	513.47	54.35	20.15
	Trade Balance	-71.19	-3.30	-70.85	-2056.86	-0.48

* **Note:** The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for December 2021. The data for January 2022 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. (ii) Data for 2019, 2020 and April to September 2021 are revised on pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data.

Merchandise exports for the period Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 was USD 335.88 Bn as against USD 228.92 Bn during the period Apr.-Jan. 2020-21, registering a positive growth of 46.73 %. As compared to Apr.-Jan. 2019-20, exports in Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 exhibited a positive growth of 27.17 %.

Merchandise imports for the period Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 was USD 495.75 Bn as against USD 304.79 Bn during the period Apr.-Jan. 2020-21, registering a positive growth of 62.65 %. Imports in Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 have registered a positive growth of 22.31 % in comparison to Apr.-Jan. 2019-20.

The merchandise trade balance for Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 was estimated at USD (-) 159.87 Bn as against USD (-) 75.87 Bn in Apr.-Jan. 2020-21, which is a decline of (-) 110.71 %. As compared to Apr.-Jan. 2019-20 (USD (-) 141.21 Bn), trade balance in Apr.-Jan. 2021-22 exhibited a negative growth of (-) 13.21 %.

(More Info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1798469>)

Services Trade:

(More Info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1798469>)

Services Trade		
Exports & Imports: (US \$ billion) (Provisional)	December '21	Apr - Dec '21
Exports (Receipts)	25.31	182.92
Imports (Payments)	14.89	105.32
Trade balance	10.42	77.60

Industry

India's industrial production growth slowed to 0.4% in the month of Dec. 2021, according to the data released by the Indian ministry of statistics and program implementation (MoSPI). As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the manufacturing sector's output contracted by 0.1 % in December 2021. In December 2021, the mining output climbed 2.6%, and power generation increased by 2.8%. India's industrial production had grown by 2.2% in December 2020. During April-December this fiscal, India's industrial production grew 15.2% against 13.3% contraction in the same period last year. Industrial production has been hit due to the coronavirus pandemic since March 2020, when it had contracted 18.7%. It shrank 57.3% in April 2020 due to a decline in economic activities in the wake of lock-down imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus infections. For the month of December 2021, the Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 stands at 138.0. The Indices of Industrial Production for the Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity sectors for the month of December 2021 stand at 120.3, 138.8 and 162.5 respectively. These Quick Estimates will undergo revision in subsequent releases as per the revision policy of IIP. As per Use-based classification, the indices stand at 133.7 for

Primary Goods, 91.4 for Capital Goods, 150.7 for Intermediate Goods, and 153.5 for Infrastructure/ Construction Goods for the month of December 2021. Further, the indices for Consumer durables and Consumer non-durables stand at 121.5 and 160.2 respectively for the month of Dec. 2021.

(More info: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1797666>)

Inflation

The Data released by the Indian Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) shows retail inflation rose to 6.01 % in Jan. on an annual basis and breached the RBI's upper tolerance level, mainly due to higher prices of certain food items. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation was 5.66 % in Dec. 2021 and 4.06 % in Jan. 2021. As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in India, the inflation in the food basket was 5.43 % in Jan. 2022 as against 4.05 % in the preceding month. The Reserve Bank, which mainly factors in the CPI-based inflation, has been tasked by the government to keep the inflation at 4 %, with a margin of 2 % on either side.

(More info: <https://mospi.gov.in/documents/213904/416359//CPI%20Press%20Release%20January%2020221644840475488.pdf/cc38fb8b-48b2-24a8-9ae0-534b4016fdf9>)

FDI

Foreign Direct Investment inflows (FDI) have shown a continuous increase from US\$ 45.15 Bn in 2014-15 to US\$ 81.97 Bn in 2020-21. During the last 5 financial years, FDI inflows worth US\$ 339.55 Bn have been reported to India. The financial year-wise details are as under:

To promote FDI, the Indian Government has put in place an investor-friendly policy, wherein most sectors are open for 100% FDI under the automatic route. Further, the policy on FDI is reviewed on an ongoing basis, to ensure that India remains an attractive & investor-friendly destination. Changes are made in the policy after having consultations with stakeholders including apex industry chambers, Associations, representatives of industries/groups, and other organizations. The Indian government has recently undertaken a number of reforms across sectors. In the last year alone, reforms in the FDI policy have been undertaken in sectors such as Insurance, Defence, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Telecom, etc.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India		
Financial Year	Total FDI Inflow	FPI inflows (net)
2017-18	60,974	22,165
2018-19	62,001	(-) 2,225
2019-20	74,390	552
2020-21	81,973	38,725

Foreign Direct Investment inflows serve to augment domestic investments, promote industrial development and employment generation across sectors and ancillary industries. Further, such investments bring international best practices and the latest technologies which facilitate skill development, export promotion, and improvement of the overall competitiveness of the economy leading to overall economic growth and development in the country. India registered its highest-ever annual FDI inflow of US\$ 81.97 Bn (provisional figures) in the financial year 2020-21. These trends in India's FDI are an endorsement of its status as a preferred investment destination amongst global investors.

India's FDI policy reforms during 2021:

➤ In terms of top investor countries, 'Singapore' is at the apex with 29%, followed by the U.S.A (23%) and Mauritius (9%) for the F.Y. 2020-21. 'Computer Software & Hardware' has emerged as the top sector during F.Y. 2020-21 with around 44% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%) respectively. Gujarat is the top recipient state during the F.Y. 2020-21 with 37% share of the total FDI Equity inflows followed by Maharashtra (27%) and Karnataka (13%).

➤ According to the 2021 UN World Investment Report, India was the 5th largest recipient of foreign investment globally in 2020, attracting inflows of USD 64 Bn last year. This represents growth of over 25% compared to its 2019 figures, despite the global impact of COVID-19. The growth of investment into India in recent years can be attributed to various factors, including easing of Indian foreign investment regulation. Foreign investment in Indian companies across the majority of sectors is now possible without the need for prior regulatory approval. Further, previous restrictions on investment into a number of sectors have been relaxed.

PART II: INDIA-IRELAND ECONOMIC RELATIONS:

1. Embassy Outreach Programme: During the month, Ambassador held a series of interactions and meetings with Irish political leaders, high officials of the Dept. of Foreign Affairs and the resident Ambassadors in Ireland; leaders and members of the Indian and Irish community, representatives of different sector of industry and economy, political, cultural, religious, sport, and other institutions. Details of a few important meetings (held in person or virtual mode) are summarized below:

(i) (13th January) **Virtual meeting with Mr. Mark Griffin, Secretary-General of the Irish Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications.** Department of the Environment, Climate, and Communications is responsible for the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors and regulates, protects, and develops the natural resources of Ireland. The meeting was held in a virtual mode in view of observance of Covid protocols. Discussions centered on institutional collaboration, environment, climate change, and challenges in the post-pandemic future between India and Ireland.

(ii) (13th January) **Courtesy call on Ms. Alison Gilliland, the Lord Mayor of Dublin City.** Ambassador of India to Ireland Mr. Akhilesh Mishra called on the Lord Mayor of Dublin City, Ms. Alison Gilliland on 13th January 2022. The meeting was held to build a stronger institutional partnership with the Dublin City Council for the promotion of bilateral business, culture, and community integration. Lord Mayor Ms. Alison Gilliland expressed a strong commitment to advancing community integration projects.

(iii) (19th January) **Virtual meeting with Mr. Leo Clancy, Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Ireland.** Ambassador Mr. Akhilesh Mishra held a virtual meeting with Mr. Leo Clancy, Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Ireland on 19th January 2022. Enterprise Ireland is the state agency that helps Irish companies to start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. Discussions centered around measures to enhance bilateral trade, the megatrends that drive the relationship, ongoing challenges, and creative solutions under the new norm.

(iv) (20th January) **Virtual Meeting with representatives of Amneal Ireland Limited:** Ambassador Mr. Akhilesh Mishra held a virtual meeting with Mr. McDermott, V.P. Operation, and Mr. Kuldeep Joshi, Senior Director Quality on 20th January 2022. Amneal Ireland Limited is an India-US company, which is one of the largest manufacturers of generic drugs globally, based on Cahir Road in Cashel, Co. Tipperary. The company was founded in 2002 by Chirag and Chintu Patel (Indian origin). Discussions in the meeting focused on business opportunities and challenges in the time of Covid, the company's future expansion plans in the region.

(v) (21st January) **Virtual meeting with Ms. Brenda Romero, CEO, Romero Games.** Ambassador Mr. Akhilesh Mishra held a virtual meeting with Ms. Brenda Romero, CEO, Romero Games. Romero Games is an independent and multi-award-winning AAA video game studio based in Galway, Ireland, and Ms. Brenda is a BAFTA award-winning game director, entrepreneur, artist, and Fulbright award recipient. During the meeting it was stated that the gaming industry in the world is constantly growing with the increasing per capita income, growing interest, and the rising number of dual-income households, augmenting the transformation of the global market. With the increasing usage of smartphones and consoles and cloud penetration, this sector shows high potential growth in the future. Ireland as a global technology hub and India as a recognized unicorn & IT startup hub with a pool of skilled and talented IT experts and developers can certainly find contact points and a mutual interest that can result in future cooperation and investments.

(vi) (24th January) **Virtual meeting with Shannon Group plc and Ireland India Council (IIC) representatives:** Ambassador Mr. Akhilesh Mishra held a virtual meeting with Mr. Pádraig Ó Céidigh, Chairperson-Designate and Ms. Mary Considine, CEO of Shannon Group, Mr. Prashant Shukla, Chairman, and Mr. Damian Nee Co-Chair of Ireland India Council (IIC). Shannon Group plc is the umbrella organization for a group of four commercially driven businesses that are focused on delivering economic benefits for the Shannon/Limerick area, the West of Ireland, and the wider national economy. Ireland-India Council (IIC) is one of the leading organizations in Ireland working to strengthen the existing relationship and promote understanding among the Irish Indian Communities, business leaders, universities, and institutions of Ireland and India. The council brings together present and future leaders, intellectuals, and diplomats from India and Ireland. It was a virtual brainstorming session with high dignitaries that delivered different ideas and suggested future projects which aim to enhance bilateral, trade and cultural relationships between India and Ireland.

(vii) (24th January) **Virtual meeting with Senator Malcolm Byrne, Fianna Fail Senator (Cultural and Educational Panel):** Ambassador Mr. Akhilesh Mishra held a virtual meeting with Senator Malcolm Byrne and Fianna Fail Senator (Cultural and Educational Panel) on 24th January 2022. Mr. Malcolm Byrne has been a Senator since April 2020 and serves as Fianna Fáil's Spokesperson on Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science. The meeting focused on collaboration between two countries in the fields of Higher Education, Research, Innovation, and Science, students exchange, and joint programs between institutions.

(viii) (17th January) **Visit to Limerick:** As part of the **Embassy's Provincial Outreach Programme** Ambassador visited the County of Limerick with a focus on economic promotion. He met Mr. Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick. Interactions with the dynamic Indian community in the area were an integral part of the outreach programme.



Ambassador in virtual meeting with representatives of Amneal Ireland Limited



Ambassador in virtual meeting with Shannon Group plc and Ireland India Council (IIC) representatives



Ambassador with Senator Malcolm Byrne



Ambassador with his wife and Cllr. Daniel Butler, Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

2. Virtual webinar & meeting with the Higher Education Working Group of Asia Matters:

A Virtual interaction was organized on 18th January 2022 by Asia Matters in Ireland in partnership with the Embassy of India, Dublin. Asia Matters is Ireland's Asia think-tank, an independent and nonpolitical group. It is a member-driven knowledge, and connectivity hub for Asia business and partnerships committed to building dynamic business links and informed understanding between Asia, the EU, and Ireland to grow and drive economic growth. Asia Matters provides key thought leadership and networking events on core business sectors including IFS, ICT, Agri-Food, FDI & Location Competitiveness, Higher Education, and Tourism. As one of the key speakers, Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra participated in a virtual Interaction together with Martin Murray, Executive Director, Asia Matters, several other members of the Higher Education Working Group of Asia Matters; Ms. Sheena Duffy, a Senior Manager at the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and other representatives of higher education in Ireland. The agenda of the meeting was opportunities for the India-Ireland Partnership in Higher Education, institutional business, and collaboration aimed at building dynamic business links and informed understanding between Asia, the EU, and Ireland to drive economic growth.



3. Virtual workshop and Webinar for Indian Exporters " Targeting Irish and EU companies":

Embassy in collaboration with Sluamor hosted (20th January) a Virtual workshop and Webinar to support Indian Exporters. Sluamor is an e-tendering platform helping buyers and suppliers connect with each other and do business together over the same platform. The platform also provides a large database and training support for buyers & suppliers to achieve their goals. The webinar was specifically set up to help Indian companies wanting to target more businesses in Ireland and other parts of Europe. Key speakers and hosts at the event were: Sluamor CEO- Ross McCarthy, Tanya Thompson - Chief Software Architect, His Excellency Akhilesh Mishra-Ambassador of India to Ireland. During the webinar, the following was covered: Mr. Ross and Ambassador gave a profile of the Irish economy and other EU markets. Tanya demonstrated how Sluamor could be used to empower Indian companies to Identify new sales leads across Ireland and the EU, using the circa 1M data records of real businesses and deals which Sluamor aggregates in their market research data. Identify new potential partners for trade across the EU. The event was an interactive session with Q/A mode. It was a great opportunity for businesses from India to interact with the host and to explore the new export channels in Ireland and the EU.



4. Embassy's Consular Services:

During the month, 224 passports, 101 visas, and 101 Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) were issued. The Embassy maintained its support structures, helplines, and Community Support Groups in all key cities across the country, to provide assistance to the Indian community.



Note: To avoid overload of the content, all other business and cultural programs, meetings, and events organized by the Embassy that are not mentioned here, within our bulletin, can be followed over our social platforms.

Bilateral Trade

For the period January-December 2021, total bilateral trade stood at Euro 1362 mn. India's exports to Ireland were worth Euro 839 mn and India's imports worth 523 mn. The balance of trade was 316 mn in favor of India. *Record year.

Trade data shows positive trends and the start of normalization of trading in post-Covid time. [The analysis of data available for the period January-December 2020 showed that total bilateral trade stood was Euro 890 mn. India's exports to Ireland were Euro 524 mn and India's imports from Ireland were Euro 366 mn. The balance of trade was Euro 158 mn in favor of India.]

Year/Period	2018	2019	Jan - Dec '20	Jan - Dec '21
Ireland's Exports to India	€ 327	€480	€366	€523 (42.89 %)
Ireland's Imports from India	€ 560	€636	€522	€839 (60.67 %)
Total Trade	€ 887	€1116	€888	*€1362 (53.34 %)

(Amount in EUR Million)

PART III: UPCOMING EVENTS

Events, fairs and conferences held in period Jan-Mar 2022 in India			
Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State
The Government of Gujarat, India	Trade Show – The 10 th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022 - Towards a Sustainable & Aatmanirbhar Bharat	10-12 Jan 2022	Link: https://www.vibrantgujarat.com/home Fair Buyer Registration: https://www.vibrantgujarat.com/page/registration
Under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, as a part of export promotion programme, CAPEXIL	India International Ceramic & Building Material Fair with B2B (Virtual) IICBMF	08-11 Mar 2022	Event link: http://events.pragatie.com/ceramic-fair-2022/ Registration link: https://www.pragatie.com/auth/register/capexil-iicbmf-2022#registrationForm
EPCH is an apex organization of trade and industry for promotion of handicrafts and is credited with organizing Asia's largest Handicrafts & Gifts Show	53 rd IHGF Delhi Fair (Spring) 2022	(02-06 Mar 2022) New date: 30 Mar-3 Apr 2022	Please note: Physical (in person event) at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR Event link: https://www.ihgfdelhifair.in/
Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), 2022 is India's apex trade promotion organization mandated to promote India's electronics, telecom and IT exports to global markets	22 nd edition of the Show - INDIASOFT 2022	23-24 Mar 2022	Event link / For further details / clarifications, Mr Vikrant Saxena, Sr. Manager, ESC may be contacted on Email: indiasoft@escindia.com Link: https://www.indiaiotworld.com
Exhibition India Group in partnership with India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), Department of Commerce	29 th Convergence India EXPO 2022	23-25 Mar 2022	Event link: https://www.convergenceindia.org/register-now.aspx
Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI	WINGS INDIA 2022 - Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation)	24-27 Mar 2022	Event link: https://www.wings-india.co.in/

Upcoming or just recently organized events, fairs, and conferences in India

Organizer	Event / Tender	Date	City/State
Bus & Car Operators Confederation of India (BOCI)	3.0. Prawaas, "Prawaas 2022 – India International Bus & Car Travel Show". This 3 Day event will attract who's who of the Bus & Car sector from the public and private sector. The objective of Prawaas is to develop unified vision	Rescheduled of Prawaas 3.0 (24-26 Feb 2022) New date: 4-6 Aug 2022	Event link: http://www.prawaas.com/index.php

	that will facilitate safe, smart and sustainable integrated public transport solutions.		
Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt of India	36th edition of B2B expo, "AAHAR - The International Food and Hospitality Fair"	26-30 Apr 2022	Link: https://indiatradefair.com/aahardelhi/
Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS) along with Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO). FICCI is the co-organiser	INDIA STONEMART 2022 International Stone Industry Exhibition	10-13 Nov 2022	Event link: https://www.stonemart-india.in/



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