



Focus Sector:  
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## Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)- Virtual Business Platform

The screenshot displays the CII Virtual Business Platform interface, organized into several service categories:

- BUSINESS SERVICES:** Includes B2B Zone (Business leads, Buyers, Sellers and Partnership requests at one place), CII (Global B2B e-Commerce Marketplace of CII Your gateway to Global Supply Chain), Global Tender Services (Access 5,000 Business opportunities daily from 150 countries), and Finance Facilitation Center (Credit facility by 18+ partnering banks and NBFCs).
- NETWORKING SERVICES:** Includes CII Directory of members (Get direct access to over 8800+ members of CII), Communities (Sectoral groups and communities for networking and relevant discussions), and e-Events (Post event networking with the delegates of CII events. Also watch recordings of complete event).
- KNOWLEDGE SERVICES:** Includes Master Classes (Learn new business skills with CII Online Master Classes conducted by industry experts), Publication (Access CII publications, research reports and case studies released by CII from time to time), Presentations (Exclusive access to the presentations delivered by Industrial leaders), and CII e-Events (View recordings of the CII conferences and seminars and get latest industry developments and insights).
- INFO TRACKER SERVICES:** Includes Investment Tracker (Get regular alerts on the investments announced by the companies in India), Government Notifications (Never miss any notification issued by state and central government), Schemes for SMEs (View all the schemes launched by state and central governments for SMEs), and Policy Updates (Up to date coverage on latest policy announcements by the state and central governments).

more information on: [www.mycii.in](http://www.mycii.in)

## Invest India-Business Immunity Platform

The logo for the Invest India Business Immunity Platform features the Invest India emblem (a stylized sun with rays) to the left of the text "INVEST INDIA .GOV.IN". Below this, the words "BUSINESS IMMUNITY PLATFORM" are written in large, bold, blue and white letters. At the bottom, the tagline "United against COVID-19" is displayed in a smaller font. The entire graphic is set against a green background with a yellow border.

Invest India Business Immunity Platform is 100% operational and actively keeping corporates across the world informed of the daily developments on all fronts in matters relating to the management of COVID-19.

more information on:  
[www.investindia.gov.in/bip](http://www.investindia.gov.in/bip)

## NEWS FLASH

**1** India became the second largest aquaculture producer in the world and fourth largest sea food exporter in 2018-19. The country is also the fourth largest producer of agrochemicals, has the largest livestock population of around 31 per cent of world's livestock and largest land area under irrigation.

**2** Minister for Food Processing Industries, Ms Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme as a part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". The Scheme would generate total investment of Rs 35,000 crore (US\$ 4.97 billion) and generate 9 lakh skilled and semi-skilled employment and benefit 8 lakh units through access to information, training, better exposure, and formalization.

**3** Minister of Defence, Mr Rajnath Singh in the presence of Minister of State for Defence, Mr Shripad Y Naik launched a new web portal for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC)

for power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

**4** Government of India has launched Drug Discovery Hackathon, a first of its kind National initiative for supporting drug discovery process, which will attract participation from professionals, faculty, researchers and students from varied fields like Computer Science, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Medical Sciences, Basic Sciences, and Biotechnology.

**5** Private equity (PE) investments registered a 12 per cent increase in the first half of 2020 to US\$ 18.8 billion (across 341 deals), driven by a string of deals struck by Reliance Industries' Jio Platforms.

**6** According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), bank credit and deposits witnessed a growth of 6.18 per cent and 11 per cent to Rs 102.45 lakh crore (US\$ 1.45 trillion) and Rs 138.67 lakh crore (US\$ 1.96 trillion), respectively, in the fortnight ended June 19, 2020.

**7** The number of e-Services has increased from 2,463 in 2014 to 3,858 till May 2020 and daily average electronic transactions have increased from 66 lakh in 2014 to 16.3 crore in 2020.

**8** Indian Railways manufactured 1.91 lakh personal protective equipment (PPE) gowns, 66.4 kilolitre (kl) sanitizer, and 7.33 lakh masks till June 24, 2020.

**9** NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Transport Forum (ITF) plans to launch the "Decarbonising Transport in India" project, with the intention to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.

**10** Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and IBM India introduced the SkillsBuild Reignite and the SkillsBuild Innovation Camp to help job seekers and entrepreneurs reinvent their careers and businesses.

**11** Power Finance Corporation (PFC), India's leading NBFC in power sector and a central PSU under Ministry of Power, sanctioned loans of more than Rs 1 lakh crore (US\$ 14.19 billion) in financial year 2019-20.



**Accelerating Growth of New India's Innovations (AGNi) is an initiative that aims to support the ongoing efforts to boost India's innovation ecosystem. It provides a platform for innovators to bring their market-ready products and solutions of the industry, thereby propelling India into a new era of inclusive economic growth. For more information kindly visit:**

**[www.agnii.gov.in](http://www.agnii.gov.in)**

## NEWS ARTICLES

### **India ranks 34th in JLL's Global Realty Transparency Index: The Economic Times**

India's Global Real Estate Transparency Index ranking has improved by one notch to 34 on the back of regulatory reforms, better market data and green initiatives, according to property consultant JLL. India was ranked 35th in the index during 2018 bi-annual survey, while the country was at 36th position in 2016 and 39th in 2014.

The country's real estate market is currently placed in the 'semi-transparent' zone.

The United Kingdom (UK) ranks

first in the list of 99 countries, followed by the United States, Australia, France, Canada, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Ireland, Sweden and Germany.

Mainland China is at 32nd position, Chinese Taipei at 23rd, Sri Lanka is at 65th position while Pakistan is at 73rd.

Top 10 countries are categorised as highly transparent, while those in the 11th position to 33rd are termed as transparent.

"The country ranks 34th globally on the index, with higher levels of transparency observed in India due to regulatory reforms, enhanced market data and sustainability initiatives," JLL India said in a statement.

This improvement is led by the progress in the country's REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) framework attracting greater interest from institutional investors.

The structural reforms such as the Real Estate Regulation and Development Act 2016 (RERA), GST, Benami Transaction Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 2016, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code and digitisation of land records have brought about greater transparency in what was an erstwhile largely unregulated sector a few years back, JLL said.

This is the 11th edition of the Global Real Estate Transparency Index. It covers



99 countries and territories and 163 city regions.

This latest survey has been extended to quantify 210 separate elements of transparency, with additional coverage on sustainability and resilience, health and wellness, proptech and alternatives sectors.

## **BP to invest \$70 million in India's Green Growth Equity Fund: The Livemint**

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UK-based energy major The British Petroleum Company plc (BP) on Tuesday said it will invest \$70 million into the Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF) in India. The fund, established in 2018, is focused on identifying, investing and supporting growth in zero-carbon and low-carbon energy solutions in the country.

"With a commitment of \$70 million, BP will, upon investment later this year, become a limited partner in GGEF and have representation on its advisory committee, as well as the rights to co-invest in projects alongside GGEF," BP said in a press statement.

GGEF already includes investments from the Government of India, through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), and the UK Government, through the Department for International

Development (DfID).

It expects to reach about \$700 million commitment at final close and grow further through leveraged capital options.

"Our investment in GGEF is aligned with our strategy of investing in integrated low-carbon energy, using innovative partnerships and business models. It provides a unique platform for BP to accelerate its ambition in India and to co-invest in a variety of zero- and low-carbon energy solutions in the country," said Dev Sanyal, BP group's executive vice president for gas and low-carbon energy.

Earlier this year, BP announced its ambition to become a net zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero.

As part of this ambition, one of its 10 aims is to increase the proportion of investments into non-oil and gas businesses.

"Our investment in GGEF will aim to rapidly scale-up commercially viable low-carbon solutions. The portfolio and scale of investments made by GGEF—be it in solar power, mobility solutions or sustainable infrastructure management—is extraordinary," said Sashi Mukundan, president, BP India, and senior vice president, BP group.

## **Unacademy acquires PrepLadder for US\$ 50 million: IBEF**

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Unacademy, Facebook-backed online learning platform, acquired ed-tech start-up

PrepLadder for US\$ 50 million. PrepLadder is a Chandigarh-based start-up that mainly offers preparatory help with medical entrance exams.

This acquisition highlights the choice of investors in the ed-tech start-ups in current times. Venture capital has increased to US\$ 795 million in the first six months of 2020 from US\$ 108 million in the year-ago period.

This is expected to improve Unacademy's presence in medical entrance examination category such as NEET PG and FMGE. It has also acquired Kreatryx and took over the custodianship of CodeChef recently, as a part of its inorganic growth strategy.

PrepLadder was founded in 2016 and specialises in medical examinations and provides access to education services and preparation material for exams such as NEET PG, AIIMS PG, NEET SS, and FMGE. It was founded by Mr Deepanshu Goyal, Mr Vitul Goyal, and Mr Sahil Goyal and has an active userbase to have over 85,000.

"As we strengthen our position as a market leader in the test prep market, bringing PrepLadder on board will play a strategic role for Unacademy in the medical entrance examinations category. PrepLadder is doing great work in its field and we hope they go into more markets and continue this work," said Mr Gaurav Munjal, founder and CEO, Unacademy.

Mr Deepanshu Goyal, co-Founder, PrepLadder said, "We are extremely happy to be a part of the largest learning platform in

India. Unacademy and PrepLadder are working towards the common goal of making quality education accessible to all. We believe that the synergies between both products will truly create a mark in the industry."

In February 2020, Unacademy raised US\$ 110 million from social networking giant Facebook and US private equity firm General Atlantic at a post-money valuation of US\$ 510 million.



[www.startuparticle.com](http://www.startuparticle.com)

The round saw participation from existing investors including Sequoia India, Nexus Venture Partners, Steadview Capital and Blume Ventures, apart from investments by Flipkart chief executive Mr Kalyan Krishnamurthy and Udaan cofounder Mr Sujeet Kumar in their individual capacities.

Unacademy has witnessed an increase of 100 per cent in its paid subscriber base given the emphasis on online learning. It also witnessed an increase in the average daily watch time across its platforms, with monthly watch time minutes at an all-time high of over 1 billion.

During the period, over 525,000 learners attempted various mock tests on the platform for competitive examinations such as UPSC, NEET-PG, and CAT, among others.

Online learning platforms have gained a large audience because of the lockdown imposed due to coronavirus pandemic.

## India Signs \$750 Million Agreement With World Bank For Emergency Response Programme for Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises: The Business Standard

The World Bank and the Government of India signed the \$750 million agreement for the MSME Emergency Response Programme to support increased flow of finance into the hands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), severely impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response Programme will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of some 1.5 million viable MSMEs to help them withstand the impact of the current shock and protect millions of jobs. This is the first step among a broader set of reforms that are needed to propel the MSME sector over time.

The agreement was signed by Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Junaid Ahmad, Country Director (India) on behalf of the World Bank. Khare said that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the MSME sector leading to loss of livelihoods and jobs.

The Government of India is focused on ensuring that the abundant financial sector liquidity

available flow to NBFCs, and that banks which have turned extremely risk averse, continue taking exposures in the economy by lending to NBFCs. This project will support the Government in providing targeted guarantees to incentivize NBFCs and banks to continue lending to viable MSMEs to help sustain them through the crisis.

## Global PE firms eye India's auto components sector: IBEF

op private equity (PE) firms such as Temasek, Blackstone, Goldman Sachs, Samara Capital, and Baring Private Equity Asia are actively exploring investment opportunities in India's auto parts manufacturing sector. These firms are convinced that India's auto parts industry has long-term potential to provide to the local markets and overseas. Thus, companies are focusing on investing on the low market valuations of most of these auto parts vendors due to COVID-related uncertainties to purchase minority or controlling stakes. These firms are looking for makers of parts for internal combustion engine vehicles, and electric mobility.

According to some sources, the PE firms have approached some companies based in the automotive hubs of Chennai and Pune in the past few months.

The auto component manufacturers have been facing financial stress due to drastic decrease in vehicle sales since FY19, worsened by the lockdown since March-end. This situation has left promoters with an urgent

need of funds to ramp up production and invest for the future but due to weak demand and depressed valuations, options have been limited. Banks and other financial institutions are also been careful of extending credit due to fear of loans turning bad. Some promoters are worried about taking on fresh debt, making PE investments a more viable option.

"The current fiscal will be a tough one for the auto sector since sales were down by almost 18 per cent last fiscal. Also, most promoters have invested heavily because of the upgrade to Bharat Stage VI norms. So, most of them will need partners who can guide them on investment and acquisitions in the long term as well as provide capital in the short and medium term," said the first person connected with deals.

According to a survey of the top 300 auto parts makers by ratings agency Crisil, combined revenues of the sector are likely to drop 16 per cent this fiscal due to the coronavirus-induced economic slowdown. EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization of these companies is expected to drop 30-35 per cent in FY21.

"Possibly for the first time in over a decade, we are seeing demand from OEMs, exports and the aftermarket in the red this fiscal, in addition to demand slowdown for two consecutive years," said Mr Anuj Sethi, analyst, Crisil.

According to another source, promoters of auto component companies are also looking for opportunities outside India,

especially in electric mobility, and the presence of a global PE investor on board is likely to help in arranging capital and other aspects of managing operations overseas.

"PE firms always look at the long-term potential and India is the only market expected to grow in the next decade as markets like China and US had already slowed before the pandemic. Most PE firms have also realized that current valuations make these companies quite lucrative and promoters also need capital. We expect consolidation in the component industry in the next two years," said another source.

Though, there has been no official announcement from any of the companies.

## **Amazon injects fresh capital of Rs 2,300 crore in India marketplace unit to meet demand surge: FE Bureau**

Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, who was on a visit to India earlier this year, announced an additional \$1 billion of investment in the country taking the company's total India investment commitment to \$6 billion.

Amazon has infused a fresh Rs 2,310 crore in India marketplace entity Amazon Seller Services. The investment was routed via Singapore-based Amazon Corporate Holdings and Mauritius-based Amazon.com.incs, documents sourced from business intelligence platform Tofler

showed.

In February, Amazon had pumped in Rs 2,208 crore in capital in the entity. Amazon Seller Services received Rs 3,400 crore from its US parent in October 2019. In June last year, Amazon injected Rs 2,800 crore in the company. The e-commerce major infused about Rs 7,250 crore in its India marketplace in three tranches in 2018.

The fresh capital infusion comes at a time when Amazon has ramped up hiring in the country to meet the surge in consumer demand. As coronavirus cases are surging in the country, consumers are increasingly resorting to online shopping to meet their consumption needs. After e-commerce firms resumed full operations in the country, companies registered a spike in consumer search for products like electronic items, home appliances, casual wear and other work-from-home enablers.

Akshay Prabhu, director, customer service at Amazon India, had last month said that the firm estimates "customer traffic to scale up over the next six months with the onset of Indian and global holiday seasons". Amazon recently also concluded a seven-day sale. Additionally, the company has initiated programmes to expand the network of sellers like 'local shops on Amazon' in the country amidst rise in competition with the entry of JioMart.



# FOCUS SECTOR

## Banking

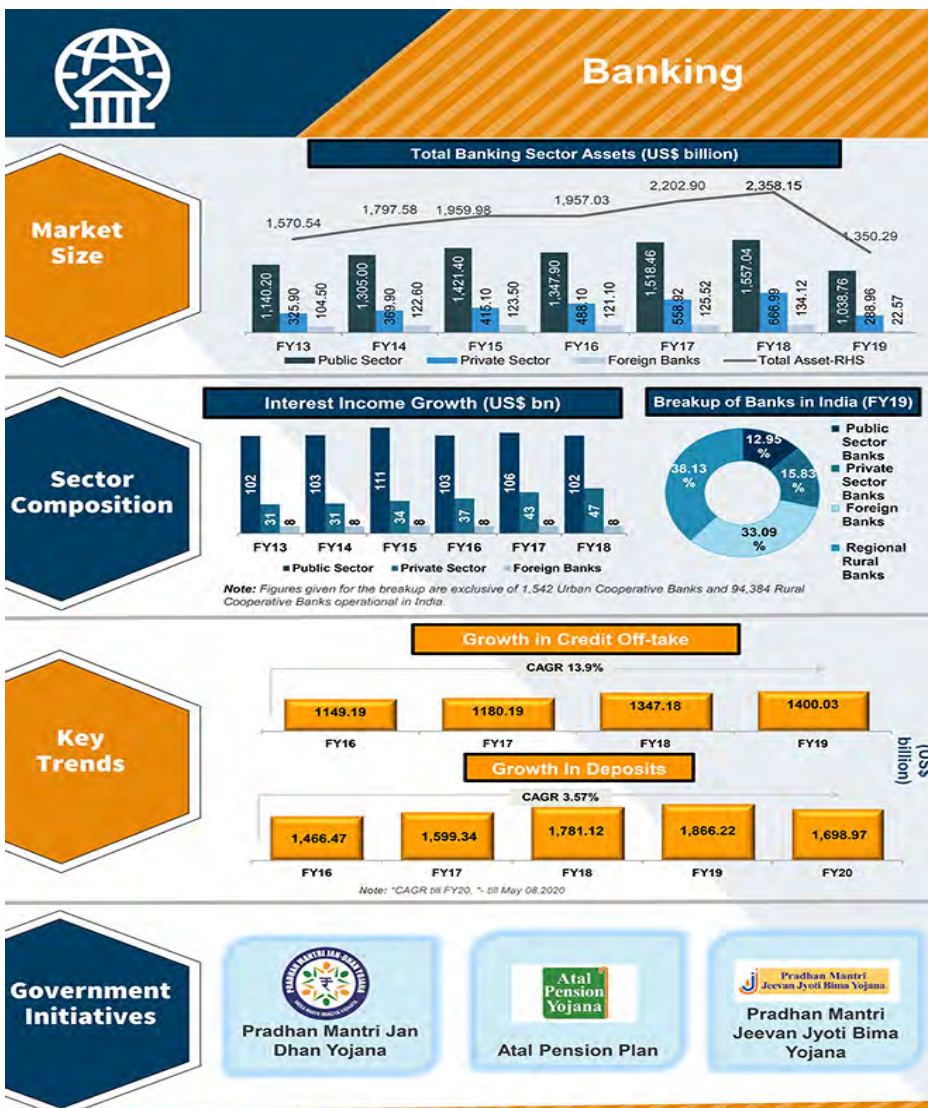
As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's banking sector is sufficiently capitalised and well-regulated. The financial and economic conditions in the country are far superior to any other country in the world. Credit, market and liquidity risk studies suggest that Indian banks are generally resilient and have withstood the global downturn well.

Indian banking industry has recently witnessed the roll out of innovative banking models like payments and small finance banks. RBI's new measures may go a long way in helping the restructuring of the domestic banking industry.

The digital payments system in India has evolved the most among 25 countries with India's Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) being the only system at level five in the Faster Payments Innovation Index (FPII).

The Indian banking system consists of 20 public sector banks, 22 private sector banks, 44 foreign banks, 44 regional rural banks, 1,542 urban cooperative banks and 94,384 rural cooperative banks in addition to cooperative credit institutions. As on January 31, 2020, the total number of ATMs in India increased to 210,263 and is further expected to increase to 407,000 by 2021.

Asset of public sector banks stood at Rs 72.59 lakh crore (US\$ 1,038.76 billion) in FY19. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign



exchange reserve stood at approximately US\$ 490.04 billion as on May 22, 2020.

During FY16-FY20, credit off-take grew at a CAGR of 13.93 per cent. As of FY20, total credit extended surged to US\$ 1,936.29 billion.

During FY16-FY20, deposits grew at a CAGR of 6.81 per cent and reached US\$ 1.90 trillion by FY20. Credit to non-food industries increased 3.3 per cent y-o-y, reaching Rs 89.1 billion (US \$ 1.26 trillion) on February 28, 2020 and Rs 100.80 lakh crore (US\$ 1.42 trillion) on March 13,

2020.

Indian banks are increasingly focusing on adopting integrated approach to risk management. The NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) of commercial banks has recorded a recovery of Rs 400,000 crore (US\$ 57.23 billion) in FY19, which is highest in the last four years.

Rising income is expected to enhance the need for banking services in rural areas, and therefore, drive the growth of the sector. Deposits under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan



Yojana (PMJDY) increased to Rs 1.28 lakh crore (US\$ 18.16 billion) during the week ended April 8, 2020. As of November 2019, there were a total of 19 million subscribers under Atal Pension Yojna.

**Market Size:**

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**Investments:**

- In 2019, banking and financial services witnessed 32 M&A (merger and acquisition) activities worth US\$ 1.72 billion.

- In March 2020, State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest lender, raised US\$ 100 million in green bonds through private placement.

- In February 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for continuation of the process of recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) by providing minimum regulatory capital to RRBs for another year beyond 2019-20 – till 2020-21 to those RRBs which are unable to maintain minimum Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9 per cent as per the regulatory norms prescribed by RBI.

- The total equity funding of microfinance sector grew at 42 y-o-y to Rs 14,206 crore (US\$ 2.03 billion) in 2018-19.

- Allahabad Bank's board approved the merger with Indian bank for the consolidation of 10 state-run banks into the large-scale lenders.

- In August 2019, the Government announced major mergers of public sector banks, which included United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce to be merged with Punjab National Bank, Allahabad Bank to be amalgamated with Indian Bank and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank to be consolidated with Union Bank of India.

**Government Initiatives:**

- As per Union Budget 2019-20, the Government proposed fully automated GST refund module and an electronic invoice system that will eliminate the need for a separate e-way bill.

- Under the Budget 2019-20, Government proposed Rs 70,000 crore (US\$ 10.2 billion) to the public sector banks.

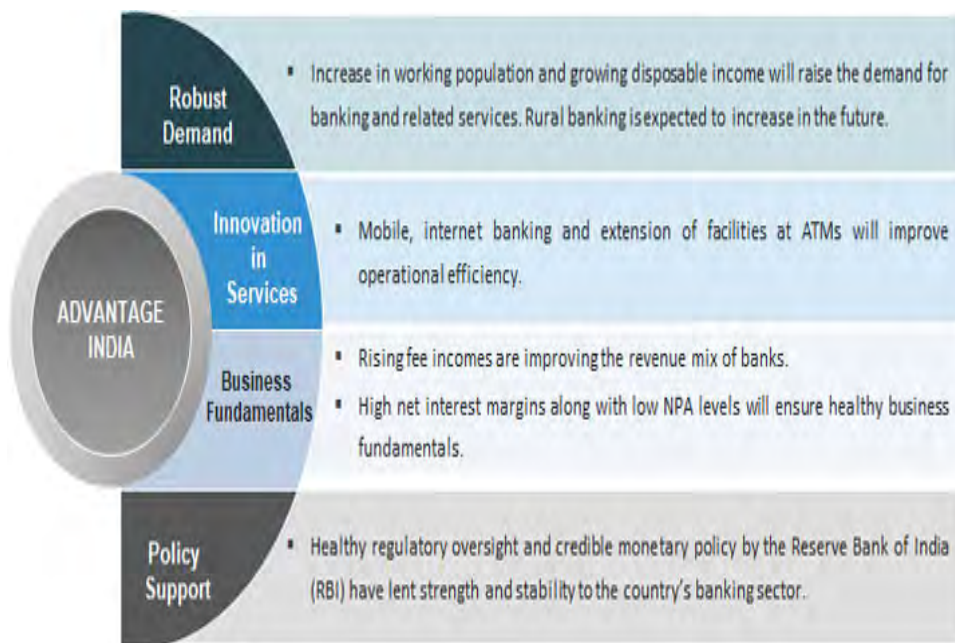
- Government smoothly carried out consolidation, reducing the number of Public Sector Banks by eight.

**Achievements:**

- As on March 31, 2019, the number of debit and credit cards issued were 925 million and 47 million, respectively.

- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded 1.25 billion transactions in March 2020, valued at Rs 2.06 lakh crore (US\$ 29.22 billion).

- Deposits under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) increased to Rs 1.28 lakh crore (US\$ 18.16 billion) during the week ended April 8, 2020.





# INDIAN STATE ECONOMIC PROFILE

## MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya is located in the Northeast of India. The state shares its border on the north and east with Assam and on the south and west with Bangladesh.

Meghalaya, with an average annual rainfall of 1,150 cm, receives the highest amount of rainfall in the country. The diverse range of soil types, including red-loamy and laterite, support various agricultural crops like rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and mesta. The state has achieved success in the cultivation of non-traditional crops like tea, cashew nut, oilseeds, tomato, mushroom, wheat, etc. During 2018-19, the state produced 331.67 thousand tonnes of fruits and 74.26 thousand tonnes of spices.

As of February 2020, Meghalaya had a total installed power generation capacity of 608.53 MW, comprising 354.53 MW from state utilities, 13.92 MW from private utilities and 240.08 MW from central utilities. Of the total installed power generation capacity, 401.77 MW was

contributed by hydropower, 160.31 MW by thermal power and 46.45 MW by renewable power.

Meghalaya, with abundant deposits of coal, limestone, kaolin feldspar, quartz, granite, industrial clay and uranium and a small deposit base of sillimanite, bauxite, base metals and apatite has great industrial potential.

Meghalaya, one of the most picturesque states in the country, has two National Parks and three wildlife sanctuaries. It offers many adventure tourism opportunities like mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking & trekking, water sports, etc.

Passenger traffic at Barapani during 2018-19 reached 12,482. Aircraft movement at the airport during 2018-19 stood at 551. Passenger traffic and aircraft movement at Barapani airport stood at 24,654 and 585, respectively, during April-January 2019-20.

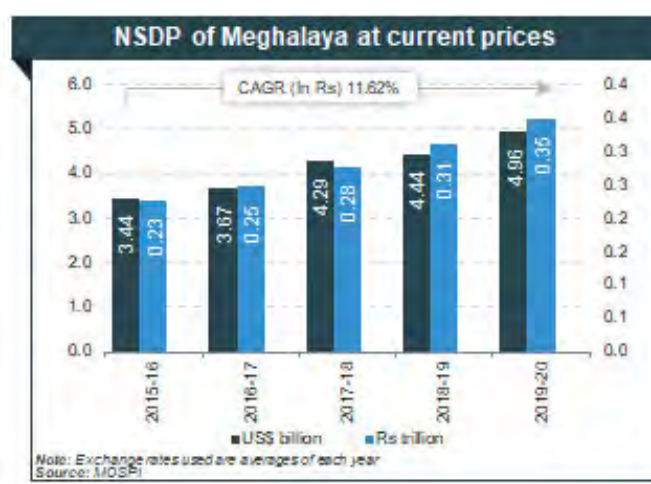
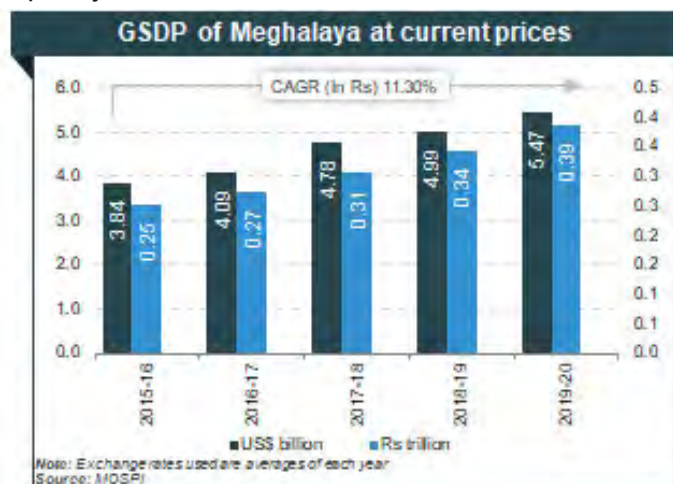
According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and

Internal Trade (DPIIT), cumulative FDI inflows to the North-eastern states, during April 2000 to September 2019, stood at US\$ 122 million.

Total merchandise exports from Meghalaya were US\$ 51.09 million in FY19. Merchandise exports during April-December 2019 reached US\$ 31.22 million.

### Key Sectors :

- Turmeric produced is considered to be one of the best in the world as it contains 7.5 per cent of curcumin.
- As per State Budget 2019-20, there are two hydro projects currently under implementation - Lakroh SHP (1.5MW) and Ganol HEP (3x7.5 MW) in which Lakroh has been completed and Ganol is expected to be commissioned by 2020.
- The state also has tremendous potential for tourism. Number of tourists visiting Meghalaya increased from 839,363 in 2016 to 1,002,907 in 2017.
- Coal and limestone production in Meghalaya stood at 1.39 million tonnes and 6.68 million tonnes, respectively, in 2018-19.





# INDIAN TRADE FAIRS

## INTERESTED IN VISITING A TRADE SHOW IN INDIA?

In case your company is interested in visiting a tradeshow/B2B event in India, be it one listed here or another one that came to your attention, get in contact with us via [comm1.vienna@mea.gov.in](mailto:comm1.vienna@mea.gov.in) to get more information about possible assistance/subsidies.



## DATE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

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 Communications | Broadcast & Media  
 IoT India | EmbeddedTech India | Mobile India  
 Fintech India | Gamethon India

**6<sup>th</sup> Smart Cities India 2021 Expo**  
*Developing Smart Cities for our Citizens*  
 Smart ICT | Building India | Clean India  
 Solar India | Transport India | Water India

**Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India | 24-26 March 2021**

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**With H E Mr Jaideep Mazumdar,**  
**Ambassador of India to Austria**  
**Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 3 PM**

**REGISTER BEFORE JULY 28, 2020**

In case of any query contact to Mr Vishvaditya  
 ☎ 8586877982 ✉ [vishvaditya@fieo.org](mailto:vishvaditya@fieo.org)



**H E Mr Jaideep Mazumdar**

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  [www.fieo.org](http://www.fieo.org)

# TOURISM

## Manipur



**Khongjom War Memorial, Manipur**

Manipur is strategically located in the North-eastern corner of India bordering Myanmar. The state serves as a corridor for India to the South East Asian countries and offers immense possibilities for growth of tourism and regional business. Adorned with a variety of breathtaking locations, the state is indeed a paradise on Earth where Mother Nature has been extra generous in her bounty. Least touched and least discovered, Manipur is a promising tourist destination for adventure and nature lovers alike.

The state has a rich cultural past dating back to centuries. It is the birthplace of Raas Lila- a renowned form of classical dance which was created by Maharaja Bhagyachandra. Manipur is also the birthplace of Modern Polo and the locals call this game 'Sagol Kangjei'. It is a land of festivals and almost every month the people of Manipur get together to celebrate various festivals which reflects its rich culture, traditions and religious practices.

A diverse population that inhabits the state makes it apt to be called a mini India. The people of Manipur include Meitei, Nagas, Kuki-Chin-Mizos, Gorkhas, Muslims and other colourful communities which have lived in complete harmony for centuries. These are the people whose folklore, myths and legends, dances, indigenous games and martial arts,

exotic handlooms and handicrafts are invested with the mystique of nature and an indefatigable feeling of happiness or excitement about life.

The state has a travel friendly climate that makes anytime of the year favourable for visitors. The nine mountain ranges that surround the state prevent the cold winds from the north from reaching the valley and also act as a barrier to cyclonic storms from the Bay of Bengal. The state experiences an amiable climate throughout the year though winters can be sometimes very cold. The maximum temperature in the summer months is 32 °C (90 °F). In winter the temperature often falls below 0 °C (32 °F), bringing frost. January is the coldest month in the state, and the warmest is July.

### Places to visit:

#### Kangla Fort

The seat of Manipur's power till 1891, the historical embodiment of Manipuri Rulers and the people of Manipur, Kangla has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Manipur. The old Govindajee temple, outer and inner moat and other relics are perfect reflections of the rich art and architectural heritage of Manipur.

#### Nupi Lal Memorial Complex

The complex is a tribute to the courageous



Manipuri women, who sacrificed their lives fighting for justice against the British on 12th December, 1939.

### Manipur State Museum

The interesting Museum near the Polo Ground has a fairly good collection and display of Manipur’s tribal heritage and a collection of portraits of Manipur’s former rulers. Particularly interesting are the costumes, arms & ammunitions, relics and historical documents on display.

### Khongjom War Memorial

Khongjom War Memorial Located 36 kms. from Imphal on the Indo-Myanmar road has an important historical significance. It was here that Major General Paona Brajabashi, one of the great warriors of Manipur proved his valour against the superior might of the invading British Army in 1891. The hillock defence of the motherland, is reminiscent of the past heroic deeds of Manipuri warriors. A war memorial has been constructed atop Kheba hill. Khongjom Day is observed every year on 23rd April here.

### Dzuko Valley

It is a truly mesmerising green valley and easily

the most picturesque place in Senapati District located bordering Nagaland. It is famous for the rare terrestrial lily called “Dzuko Lily” and the enchanting snow clad valley during January & February. The highest peak of Manipur “Mount Iso” is also located behind this valley.

### Red Hill (Lokpaching)

Red Hill is a hillock about 16 kms. from Imphal on Tiddim Road (NH – 150). It is a thrilling spot where the British and the Japanese fought a fierce battle during World War II. War Veterans had constructed “India Peace Memorial” a monument in memory of Japanese soldiers who died in the battle. It is a place of pilgrimage for Japanese tourists.

### Moreh Border Town

This is a busy commercial town on the Indo-Myanmar border, located at a distance of 110 kms. from Imphal. A shopping paradise for shoppers, sundry products ranging from electronics to daily consumable are available in plenty. This place holds importance for visiting tourists not only for being a border town but also for providing a unique opportunity for experiencing the different cultures, lifestyles of Myanmar through the neighbouring border town of Tamu which is only 5 kms. away across the border. There are numerous hotels providing accommodation at affordable prices for a comfortable stay at Moreh.

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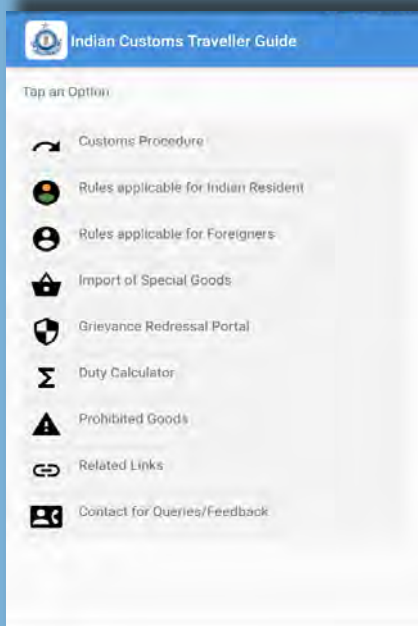
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The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has launched mobile app "Indian Customs- Guide to Travellers" for dissemination of information about Customs Baggage Rules, 2016.

The application has been launched to inform traders, exporters and importers about Customs Baggage Rules, 2016.

It has been developed by Bengaluru Customs and is available on Android Play store, Apple Store and Windows Store.



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# Guide to travellers APP





# INDIAN MOVIE EVENING AT THE EMBASSY

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- Mrs. Neerupma S. Kararha, Second Secretary in this Embassy has been designated as Officer to look after welfare of Indian Students in Austria and Montenegro.
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