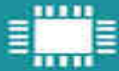




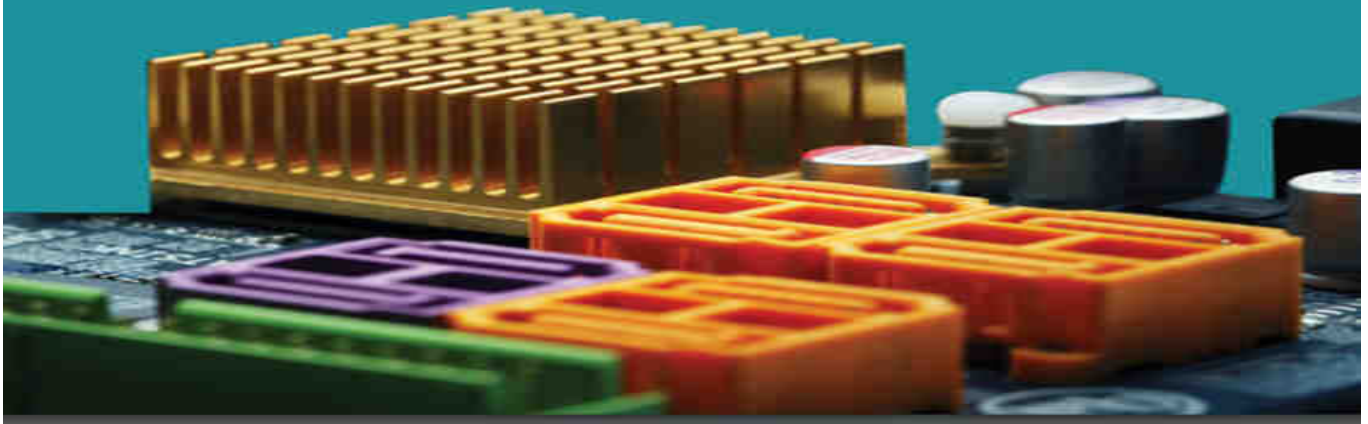
INDIA NEWSLETTER

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Focus Sector

ELECTRONIC SYSTEM DESIGN & MANUFACTURING



Find Inside:



Government of Tripura
State Economic Profile

LittleGuru



INDIA INVESTMENT GRID



Tourism



Exhibitions

News Flash

1 India's merchandise exports stood at US\$ 30.21 billion in April 2021, an increase of 197.03%, as against US\$ 10.17 billion in April 2020. In April 2021, the value of non-petroleum exports was US\$ 26.85 billion, registering a positive growth of 200.62% over US\$ 8.93 billion in April 2020 and a positive growth of 19.44% over US\$ 22.48 billion in April 2019. The value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in April 2021 was US\$ 23.51 billion, registering a positive growth of 164.28% over US\$ 8.90 billion in April 2020 and a positive growth of 19.89% over US\$ 19.61 billion in April 2019.

2 According to ISMA, India's sugar output has reached 29.91 million tonne in April 2021. Mills have signed contracts for shipments of 5.4 to 5.5 million tonne of sugar so far. A total of 3.5 million tonne has been exported, with another 1 million tonne planned to be completed by the end of the month, according to the study.

3 Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) developed singlecrystal blades technology for helicopter engine application. It is part of a program taken up by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premium laboratory of DRDO, to develop five sets (300 in number) of single crystal high pressure turbine (HPT) blades using a nickel-based super alloy.

4 Ericsson announced that network revenues increased YoY in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and India, owing to continued investments in LTE, primarily in India, and 5G traction, mainly in Australia. Currency-adjusted revenues for the "Southeast Asia, Oceania, and India" markets segment expanded 21% year on year in the first quarter of 2021, according to the Swedish telecom giant.

5 According to a survey, India reported 22 initial public offerings worth over US\$ 2.5 billion in the first three months of 2021, indicating 'high momentum' in the country's capital markets, which is expected to continue in the current quarter.

6 India's natural gas production is expected to increase by 52% at 122 million standard cubic metres per day by 2024 driven by increased production from state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Ltd.-BP.

7 Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) delivered more than 1,57,000 CNG cars in FY21, the most it has ever sold in a fiscal. In 2019-20, the automaker delivered 1,06,444 CNG vehicles. The Alto, Celerio, Wagon-R, S-PRESSO, Eeco, Ertiga, Tour S, and Super Carry are among MSI's factory-fitted CNG vehicles.

8 A total of 19 companies have filed their application under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for IT Hardware which was notified on 03.03.2021. The scheme was open for filing applications till 30.04.2021. Incentives are applicable under the scheme from 01.04.2021.

9 Ecoex, an Indian based plastic credit certificate trading platform, has completed transactions totalling 5000 MTs of recycled plastic waste since inception. Ecoex is India's first plastic credit certificate trading platform.

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Government Initiatives for Business Development



The India Investment Grid (IIG) is an online portal developed by Invest India- the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency and the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, to showcase investible opportunities across the public and private sectors in India. IIG serves as a platform to connect potential investors to project promoters through a dynamic interactive platform. Through IIG, promoters can access a global platform to showcase their projects to investors from around the globe, while investors can search preferred investment opportunities, and connect with the project promoters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

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News Articles

Solar PLI scheme to benefit 8-13 pc of incremental panels demand till FY30: Report, IBEF

According to India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), the solar production-linked insurance (PLI) scheme will support 8-13% of photovoltaic energy plant requirements until 2029-30 and will help grow 20 gigawatts (GW) of energy in the next five years.

As per Ind-Ra estimates the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) allocation of funds worth US\$ 612.54 million to the solar module manufacturing industry would gain sales of 20 GW from capacity built under the PLI scheme over the five-year implementation period.

It added it will happen considering complete localization (or up to 30 GW in case of 65% localisation).

It also involves the approval of the PLI project, which will result in 4-6 GW of annual revenue from the commissioning of the beneficiary manufacturing facilities over the next five years.

The scheme could enable India to add an additional 8-12 GW of annual solar cell/module manufacturing capacity. PLI would gain sales up to 50% of the production capacity set up by the winning bidder. This report is based on a base PLI rate of US\$ 0.031 per watt power and all-new (greenfield) expansion.

If the plants gain greater module efficiency and temperature coefficient than the minimum requirement defined in the notification, the capacity to benefit from the scheme may be reduced further from the stated 20 GW level.

As per the report, India has set a goal of achieving 280 GW of solar power plants installed by FY30. Approximately 240 GW of this is in the pipeline or has yet to be implemented. It means that, aside from improving domestic manufacturing capacity, only 8-13% of this planned requirement will benefit directly from the PLI scheme until FY30 (assuming localisation is between 65 and 100%).

The report added that the overall extension in timelines for commissioning of solar power generation developments is limited to six months,

according to an MNRE notification dated March 30, 2021. Solar power developers are also on an edge, as they must complete projects before April 1, 2022, when the 25% / 40% basic customs duty takes effect for solar cells and modules, respectively.

Given the time required for domestic manufacturing capacities to be established, these capacities would still have to be built using imported modules.

Government of India and European Investment Bank sign finance contract for second tranche of EUR 150 million for Pune Metro Rail project: PIB

The Government of India (GoI) and European Investment Bank (EIB) here today signed the finance contract for second tranche of US\$ 182.30 million for Pune Metro Rail project through a virtual signing ceremony. The signing ceremony was held in the presence of H.E. Mr. Francisco Andre, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Portugal and H.E. Mr. Werner Hoyer, President EIB. Mr. K. Rajaraman, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, signed the loan on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Christian Kettel Thomsen, Vice-President, signed the loan on behalf of EIB.

EIB had approved the total loan of US\$ 729.20 million to fund the Pune Metro Rail project. The Finance Contract for first tranche of US\$ 243.07 million was signed between GoI and EIB on 22.7.2019. The project aims to provide efficient, safe, economic and pollution-free Mass Rapid Transit System in densely populated area in the city of Pune served with heterogeneous traffic options.

The financing from EIB will help to fund construction and operation of Corridor 1 (North-South) - Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) to Swargate and Corridor 2 (West-East) -Vanaz (Kothrud) to Ramvadi, totalling about 31.25 kilometres (km) and related purchase of a related fleet of metro cars. Further, the project will serve large population which consisting working class in providing urban mobility for their livelihood. The

Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (MAHAMETRO) is the implementing agency for this project.

FMCG Industry Record 9.4% Growth In Jan-March, Rural Continue To Perform And Metro Cities Recover: Business World

The Indian FMCG industry has recorded a 9.4 per cent growth in the January-March quarter of 2021, helped by a consumption-led growth and value growth by increased prices of products, especially of staples, said data analytics firm Nielsen.

The rural market continued to perform with strong growth of 14.6 per cent during the period and the metro markets have registered a positive growth after two quarters.

Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry sales growth from the traditional trade channels jumped to double digits, while growth in e-commerce normalised down to single digits in the January-March quarter.

'FMCG industry in India has built growth momentum by growing at 9.4 per cent in the quarter ending March 2021 after growing at 7.3 per cent in the previous quarter (October-December 2020), over the same quarter of the previous year,' said FMCG Snapshot for Q1 2021 released by NielsenIQ's Retail Intelligence team.

Commenting on it, NielsenIQ South Asia Lead Diptanshu Ray said: 'This is backed up by staples, essential non-foods and indulgence categories.' However, he also cautions that the beginning of the second quarter may bring some new dimensions, as the situation is dynamic across the country.

'Now that lockdowns have resurfaced, and with last-mile delivery boost up, the e-commerce channel will continue to be dynamic,' it said.

According to the report, the metro cities have registered a positive growth of 2.2 per cent in the January-March quarter after two-quarters of the declining trend versus the year-ago period.

'Rural markets continue to further build on the growth momentum - growing at 14.6 per cent in the Mar quarter after a 14.2 per cent growth it posted in the Dec quarter,' it said. Moreover, Nielsen expects a good expected monsoon this season, making it the third consecutive year of rural rejoice.

This had a boost up effect on the earnings of agrarian households and kept rural sentiments upbeat.

Besides, rural centric schemes as bigger outlay for MGNREGA, rise in wages and increase in MSP of key crops have been instrumental in keeping FMCG consumption in rural markets buoyant.

'We also saw the Large and medium-sized companies bouncing back in Rural India,' it added.

While talking about the consumption growth during the January-March quarter, Nielsen said it was uniform for both foods and non-foods Foods basket got a boost from the pricing uptick - mainly in staples categories like Edible Oils and Packaged Tea.

Consumption growth witnessed for certain categories in non-staple Foods categories as well such as Biscuits, Coffee, Cheese, Ketchup because of increased in-home consumption.

'There are green shoots of personal care categories' growth coming back while Snacking and Impulse Foods basket maintained growth trajectory,' it said. On the other hand, the Non-Foods categories basket saw a dip in average pricing.

'This is due to the increased contribution of larger packs in the consumer basket and rise in consumer promotions in Essential Home Care and Personal Care categories,' it said.

IIP enters positive territory after two months, grows 22.4% in March: PTI

Industrial production growth entered positive territory after a gap of two months with a record 22.4 per cent rise in March this year, mainly due to the low-base effect and good show by manufacturing, mining and power sectors.

The manufacturing sector — which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) — grew by 25.8 per cent in March 2021, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

The mining sector output too grew 6.1 per cent in March, while power generation increased by 22.5 per cent. Industrial production had plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the COVID-19 outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020. With the resumption of economic activities, factory output posted a rise of one per cent in September. The IIP had grown by 4.5 per cent in October. In November 2020, the factory output fell 1.6 per cent, and it again entered the positive territory by growing 2.2 per cent in December 2020.

The IIP had recorded a contraction of 0.9 per cent in January and 3.4 per cent in February this year. The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections on March 25, 2020.

With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data reporting, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had said in a statement issued in November.

The ministry had also given a disclaimer that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the data for the months preceding the COVID-19 outbreak.

The manufacturing sector had recorded a contraction of 22.8 per cent in March 2020. Mining sector output too fell by 1.3 per cent in the same month last year. The electricity generation had declined by 8.2 per cent in March 2020.

The output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, grew by 41.9 per cent in March 2021, as against a contraction of 38.3 per cent a year ago.

Consumer durables manufacturing increased by 54.9 per cent in the month under review, compared to a 36.8 per cent decline in March 2020. Consumer non-durable goods production grew 27.5 per cent in March this year, compared to a contraction of 22.3 per cent in the year-ago period.

During 2020-21, the IIP contracted 8.6 per cent as against 0.8 per cent contraction in 2019-20.

India records 22 IPOs worth over US\$ 2.5 billion in January-March period: IBEF

According to a survey, India reported 22 initial public offerings worth over US\$ 2.5 billion in the first three months of 2021, indicating 'high momentum' in the country's capital markets, which is expected to continue in the current quarter.

Consumer goods and retail, diversified industrial products, automotive and transportation were the most significant sectors in terms of IPOs in the first quarter of 2021, according to a study released on Wednesday by leading consultancy EY India. The initial public offerings (IPOs) include both the primary and SME (Small and Medium Enterprise) sectors.

With a strong first quarter, the IPO market is expected to remain bullish in Q2 2021, according to the study, which also states that India ranks ninth globally in terms of IPOs year-to-date in 2021. In the first quarter of this year, 22 IPOs raised US\$ 2,570.44 million, including five in the SME room.

The largest IPO in the first quarter was Indian Railway Finance Corp's IPO, which raised US\$ 634 million. In the first quarter of 2021, there were 17 initial public offerings (IPOs) on the key exchanges (BSE and NSE), compared to 1 IPO in the first quarter 2020 and 10 IPOs in the fourth quarter of 2020, a 1,600% jump over Q1 2020 and a 70% increase over in the fourth quarter 2020.

There were 5 IPOs in the SME category in the first quarter of this year, compared to 11 and 9 IPOs in the first quarters of 2020 and last year, respectively.

Mr. Sandip Khetan, Partner and National Leader of Financial Accounting Advisory Services (FAAS) at EY India said, "In India's capital markets, there is a lot of movement. Huge amounts of dry powder awaiting investment, as well as companies looking to list in India or abroad, are driving a lot of activity." He added, "Companies with solid, scalable, and technology-driven business models continue to be rewarded by the markets."

According to the survey, over 20 companies have filed their Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHPs) in the IPO pipeline, and more than 30 PE-backed companies are preparing exits. InvITs worth nearly US\$ 5 billion are in the development.

Forum for Indian Science Diplomacy

IIT Guwahati researchers develop membrane to remove micro-plastics from seawater

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) researchers have developed a microfiltration process to remove micro-plastics from seawater. Micro-plastics – plastic pieces smaller than one-fifth of an inch – are now found in almost all oceans and marine animals. The IIT Guwahati team has, for the first time, shown efficient removal of micro-plastics from synthetic seawater using hollow fibre microfiltration (HF-MF) membranes. Hollow fibre membranes are already used extensively in daily life applications such as RO pre-treatment, industrial water/wastewater, juice processing, and other biotech applications, including in dialysis membranes used for kidney ailments. The hollow fibres are made of many kinds of materials and the ones used by the IITG team was made of polypropylene and a silk protein called sericin. Micro-plastics ingested by human beings can disrupt hormones, leading to infertility, and cause nervous system problems, and even cancer. Some advantages of hollow fibre membrane technology that make it promising for pre-treatment of seawater include simplicity of installation and use, cost effectiveness, no need for power supply, no generation of waste, and operability under low water pressure.

Alternative for Conventional Lithium-ion Batteries

A team from IIT Hyderabad has developed a 5V Dual Carbon Battery utilizing self-standing carbon fiber mats as both electrodes (cathode and anode). This new model avoids the requirement of toxic, costly, and heavy transition metals and is environmentally benign. It may cut down the overall battery cost by 20-25%. The use of carbon as electrode active material as well as current collector replacing heavy metals brings in the aspects of lightness and flexibility. The fabricated 5.0 voltage (nominal voltage 4.6 V) cell provides an energy density of 100-watt hour per kilogram approximately and can be

extended up to 150-watt hour per kilogram with further modifications. The research team believes these cells may find potential uses in high voltage applications, sophisticated battery-run medical devices, regenerative braking systems in electric vehicles, and stationary grids.

NITI Aayog Launches Programme for Science-based Deep-Tech Startups

In a major push towards deep technology and driving the country to become a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched AIM-PRIME (programme for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), a programme to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India. AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this programme which will be implemented by Venture Centre - a non-profit technology business incubator hosted by CSIR-NCL. The first cohort of the programme is open to technology developers (early-stage deep tech start-ups, and scientists/engineers/ clinicians) with strong science-based deep tech business ideas. The programme is also open to CEOs and Senior incubation managers of AIM Funded Atal Incubation Centres that are supporting deep tech entrepreneurs. The programme is catalyzed by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor, and the Pune Knowledge Cluster. Details on the AIM-PRIME programme are available at:

<https://aim.gov.in/primeprogram.php>



Focus Sector

Electronics System Design & Manufacturing

India witnessed a substantial spike in demand for electronic products in the last few years; this is mainly attributed to India's position as second-largest mobile phone manufacturer worldwide and surge in internet penetration rate. The Government of India attributes high priority to electronics hardware manufacturing, as it is one of the crucial pillars of Make in India, Digital India and Start-up India programmes.

The Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) sector plays a vital role in the government's goal of generating US\$ 1 trillion of economic value from the digital economy by 2025. With various government initiatives aiming to boost domestic manufacturing, India has already started witnessing initial movement with increased production and assembly activities across products such as mobile phones and other consumer electronics.

Market size:

- Electronics market has witnessed a growth in demand with market size increasing from US\$ 145 billion in FY16 to US\$ 215 billion in FY19—the market witnessed a growth of 14% CAGR from 2016-19.

- In FY20, imports accounted for US\$ 50 billion, wherein China and Hong Kong accounted for ~US\$ 28 billion, or ~57% of India's total electronic imports.

- Between April 2020 and December 2020, exports of electronic goods stood at US\$ 8.77 billion.

- In India, smartphone shipments reached 150 million units and 5G smartphone shipments crossed 4 million in 2020, driven by high consumer demand post-lockdown.

- The Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) is broadly segregated into—electronics system and electronics design.

- Electronics design segment, growing at 20.1%, was 22% of the ESDM market size in FY19; it is anticipated to be 27% of the ESDM market size in FY25.

- In FY20, the production value of mobile devices reached US\$ 30 billion from US\$ 3 billion in FY15.

- The consumer electronics and appliances industry in India is expected to become the fifth largest in the world by 2025.

Investments:

- According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, from April 2000 to September 2020, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows stood at US\$ 2,941.91 million.

The following are some recent investments and key developments in the Indian electronics and ESDM sector:

- The government has set a target to get ~ US\$ 2.4 billion investments in the electronics manufacturing segment by 2021-22.

- In January 2021, Panasonic

Life Solutions India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Panasonic Corporation, announced that it will invest ~ US\$ 82.34 million to set up a new electrical appliances manufacturing facility in Sri City, Andhra Pradesh.

- On February 16, 2021, Amazon announced that it will commence manufacturing of electronics products from India with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn in Chennai, later in the year. The device manufacturing programme will be able to produce 'Fire TV Stick' devices in large quantities every year, catering to demands of customers in India.

- In January 2021, boAt, a earphones and smart wearable manufacturer, received an investment of US\$ 100 million from Warburg Pincus, a key private equity firm.

- In December 2020, Lenovo announced its plan to start manufacturing tablets in India and expand its laptop manufacturing by 10x. The company is also expecting to grow by 25-30% in the current fiscal year, due to increase in demand from the education segment and large enterprises.

- On November 26, 2020, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MEITY) and IBM India Pvt Ltd. collaborated to create an education and skilling ecosystem for the next-generation of innovators through the Common Services Centre Academy.

- In October 2020, Tata Group

announced plans to invest US\$ 673.20 million to set up an Apple phone component plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu.

Government Initiatives:

- The key government initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Digital India' improved the country's EoDB. In 2021-22, the total budget allocation towards the 'Digital India' programme is US\$ 936.19 million.

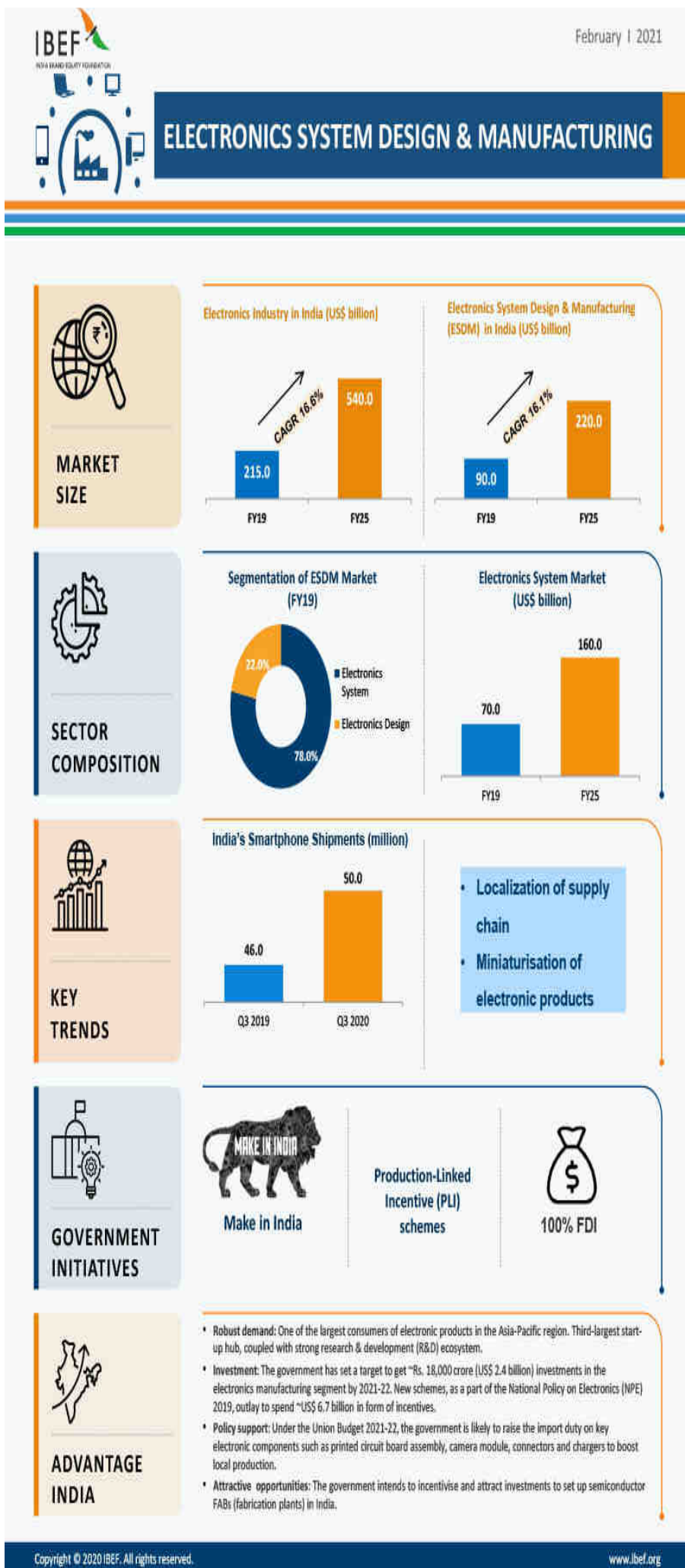
- In January 2021, the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) proposed a RoDTEP rate of 2% on smartphones, 2.4% on featurephones, 2% on tablets/laptops, 3.4% on battery chargers and 1.48% on battery packs.

- In December 2020, the Government of India issued expression of interest (EoI) to set up or expand the existing semiconductor wafer/ device fabrication (FAB) facilities in the country or acquire semiconductor FABs overseas.

- As per the Union Budget 2020-21, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been allocated ~US \$ 920 million. In the allocated budget, revenue expenditure allocation is ~US\$ 870 million and capital expenditure allocation is US\$ 50 million.

- The Government of India has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route in the ESDM sector. In case of electronics items for defence, FDI up to 49% is allowed under automatic route and beyond 49%, government approval is required.

- As per Union Budget 2021-22, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has been allocated US\$ 1.33 billion.





Indian State Economic Profile

Tripura

Tripura, one of the northeast states, share borders on the north, west, south, and southeast by Bangladesh, and in the east, it shares border with Assam and Mizoram.

The state has favourable climatic conditions for cultivation of various fruit and horticultural crops. It is rich in natural resources such as natural gas, rubber, tea, and medicinal plants.

The state is also rich in natural gas deposits, glass sands, limestone, plastic clay, and hard rock. With its pleasant climate and scenic landscape, Tripura is a favoured tourist destination. The state offers tourist attractions such as historical Hindu and Buddhist sites, temples, rivers, and rock carvings. In 2019, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in the state was recorded to be 154,405.

The state has favourable climatic conditions for cultivating various fruit and horticultural crops including rice, jackfruit, pineapple, potato, sugarcane, chilli, and natural rubber. Rice is the major crop of the state and is cultivated

in 91% of the cropped area. The state has a wide variety of medical plants having 266 medicinal plants, 379 species of trees, 581 herbs, 320 shrubs and 165 climbers.

Tripura attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow worth US\$ 0.43 million between October 2019 and September 2020 according to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Tripura has 87.22% literacy rate, higher than the national average rate, making it an ideal destination for knowledge sectors.

As of November 2020, Tripura had a total installed power generation capacity of 756.46 MW, of which 185.51 MW was under state utilities, 566.54 MW was under central and 4.41 MW was under the private sector.

The state has a wide range of fiscal and policy incentives for businesses under the Tripura Industrial Investment Promotion Incentive Scheme, 2017. Developing infrastructure,

improved rail and air connectivity, and establishment of trade routes have facilitated trade.

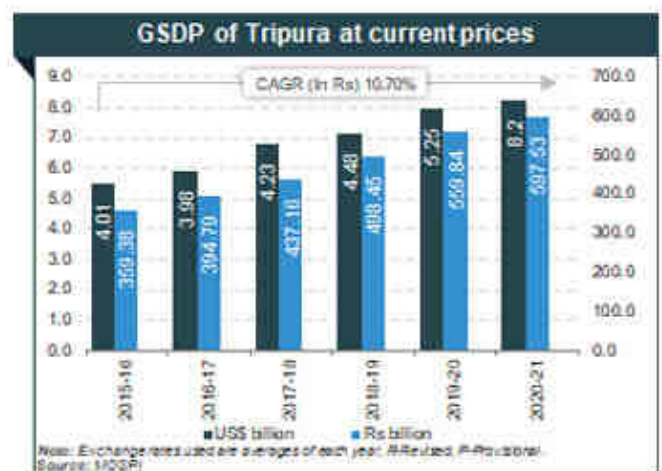
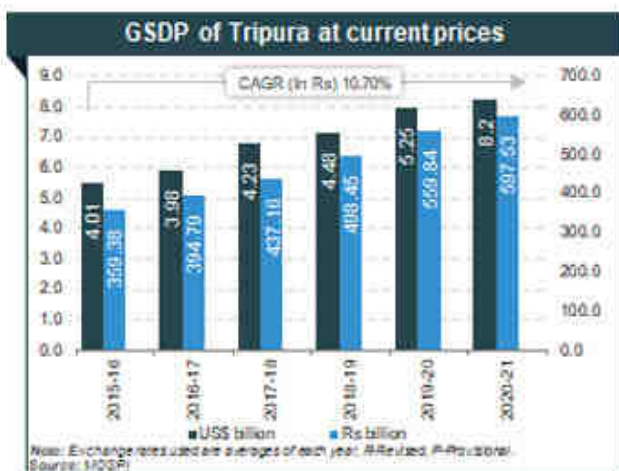
Key Sectors:

- The agro-climatic conditions in the state are favourable for growing various fruits and horticultural crops. Tripura's pineapples and oranges are known for their unique flavour and organic nature.

- As per the third advance estimate of 2019-20, the total fruit production in the state is 562.46 thousand MT, vegetables is 811.67 thousand MT, plantation is 50.39 thousand MT and spices is 33.15 thousand MT.

- Tripura has developed a horticulture action plan for 2020-21, with estimated capital outlay of Rs. 123.54 crore (US\$177 million). The main objective of this annual plan is to increase the production and productivity of various horticulture crops in the state.

- Tea grown in Tripura is known for its good blending qualities. Organic tea and green tea production have been undertaken by some of the tea estates in the state. Tea production is a growing industry in Tripura and provides a considerable scope for investment.



Indian Trade Fairs/ Webinars

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Deoparbat, Kaziranga-Assam



Agnigarh, Tezpur-Assam

Termed as the land of “Blue Hills and Red River” Assam is the gateway to the north eastern states and has been aptly described as the sentinel of Northeast India. Seven Indian States and two countries Bhutan and Bangladesh, surround Assam which is also close to India’s international borders with China and Myanmar.

Assam is surrounded by hills, major rivers such as Brahmaputra & Barak and its tributaries, thick forest, tea gardens which enhances the scenic beauty of Assam. Infact the mighty Brahmaputra river of Assam is the only male river in the country.

The state is dotted with monuments of 600 years old Ahom dynasty; the longest ruling single dynasty in Indian history. It was one among the very few dynasties that could not be conquered by the Mughals. Assam is the home to various ethnic tribes and groups, each having its own cultural heritage and unique features in its socio-cultural life including customs, religious belief, language, culture, way-of-life, food, songs, festivals including Bihu, Baishagu, Rongker & Chomangkan Festival, Bishu, Baikho, Ali-Aye-Ligang, Me-Dum-Me-Phi, Ambubachi Mela and many more.

Assam is a home to Five National Parks and 18 Wildlife sanctuaries, the highest concentration in India, are host to 25 percent of India’s floristic wealth and enormous faunal diversity. The famous Kaziranga National Park is located in

the Golaghat district of Assam is home to largest population of world’s one horned rhino species, Wild Asiatic Water Buffalo and Eastern Swamp Deer, wild elephants as well as Migratory birds. This National Park has also the highest density of tigers. Manas National Park, also a world heritage site, is a constituent unit of the Eastern Himalayan Bio-Diversity Region; one of the two biodiversity “Hot Spot” in the country. The mystery of the birds’ suicide at Jatinga Dima Hasao District, is a subject of interest of all nature lovers and researchers.

The state is endowed with more than 600 tea gardens which gives soothing view to the eyes as one travels down to upper Assam. Around 20 tea gardens in Assam have developed and maintained golf courses within the garden area and a few have polo fields. The Jorhat Gymkhana Club is the oldest golf course in Asia and the third oldest in the World.

The mighty river Brahmaputra decors the geography of the state and one can take a Cruise along this river with first class facilities experiencing wildlife, tradition, adventure tourism on its way. “MV Mahabaahu” a Cruise amongst the Top Ten River Cruise of the World, is of great pride for Assam. Assam is blessed with the world’s largest inhabited river island Majuli, which has several satras vaishnavite monasteries, some dating back to the 16th centuries; as well as the world’s smallest riverine island in the world namely Umananda Temple which was built in the 17th Century dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Places to visit:

Guwahati

Lying on the southern fringes of the mighty Brahmaputra river, Guwahati, the largest city of Assam, holds spirituality and adventure at its heart. Home to the much revered Kamakhya Temple, dedicated to mother goddess Kamakhya, an incarnation of Goddess Sati, the 8th-century temple attracts devotees throughout the year. Apart from temples, river cruising in the feisty Brahmaputra is a magical experience, with rock climbing at the Elephant Rocks in Morigaon, about 78 km away, coming a close second.

Kaziranga

One of the greatest wildlife emblems of the country, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kaziranga National Park, is famed as a home to two-thirds of the world's population of the rare one-horned rhinoceros. With the mighty Brahmaputra river lapping at the fringes, the park encompasses wetlands, forests and grasslands, which shelter a sizeable population of tigers as well. Moreover, the park is an abode of world-famous snakes - the rock python, the reticulated python and the king cobra, the longest venomous snake. While eastern swamp

deer and wild water buffalo are common sights, if you're lucky, you can also spot a herd of elephants making their way grandly through the park. The park is surrounded by ancient temples, pristine waterfalls and lush tea estates.

Jorhat

Spread across a lush green landscape dotted with imperial bungalows that exude colonial charm, Jorhat, the second-largest city of Assam, is an eclectic mix of cultures, diverse tribal communities, vibrant festivals and bustling markets. A major hub for exquisite Assamese jewellery, Jorhat has several renowned craftsmen who have been practicing their art for generations. The city is popular for pure gold jewellery made in Ahom (Assamese) style, and is a little dull in its shine. The gold jewellery is filled with lac, in which gemstones are embedded with the help of gold leaf.

Tezpur

Lush green tea gardens, picturesque landscapes and endless paddy fields framed by the snow-clad Himalayas, all come together to make the beautiful city of Tezpur one of the most explored tourist destinations in Assam. Fringed by the feisty Brahmaputra river, Tezpur, in Sonitpur district, is considered to be Assam's oldest city. Straddling the state of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, Tezpur is surrounded by some of the most exquisite scenic sites in India.

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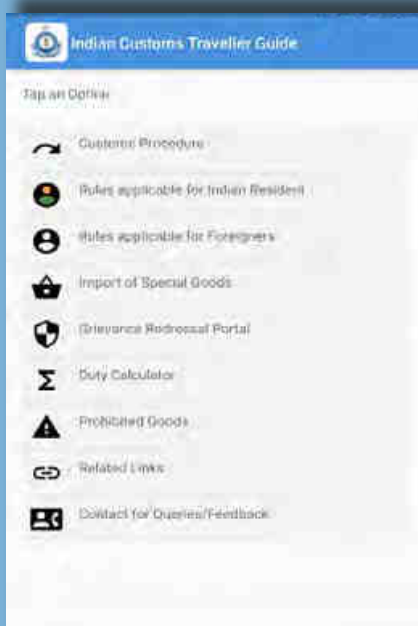
Guide for Travellers- Baggage Rules



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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STUDENTS WELFARE OFFICER

- Mr. Rishi Tripathi, Third Secretary in this Embassy has been designated as Officer to look after welfare of Indian Students in Austria and Montenegro.
- His contact details are: 0043 1 505 866 and ccl.vienna@mea.gov.in

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