

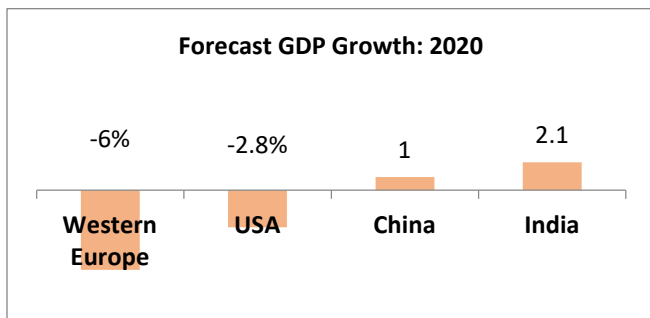
COVID 19: Realigning Global Business Strategies

The last few months have seen unprecedented changes on the world healthcare and business scenario. Governments all across the globe are grappling to contain the impact of COVID 19 on lives and livelihood. Countries and International Financial Institutions are coming together to fight this menacing virus which has taken thousands of lives and affected business worldwide.

Healthcare has been the top priority till now. But as we move ahead to find solutions to contain the spread, economies have slowed down significantly and the economic costs are rising day by day.

The coming years will witness a never seen before changes in the way businesses are done. The massive disruption of supply chain with production bases concentrated in one or two countries have upset the business plans and production facilities of Industry worldwide. Growth rates are expected to decline this year and beyond. There are various permutations and combinations on the growth scenario appearing everyday with different assumptions on when the fight against the virus will succeed. Some agencies and experts are expecting a V-shaped recovery; some U-shaped, some L-shaped and some W-shaped.

In this evolving scenario, India is expected to still have a positive growth, though much less than expected earlier, with a decisive and proactive Government.



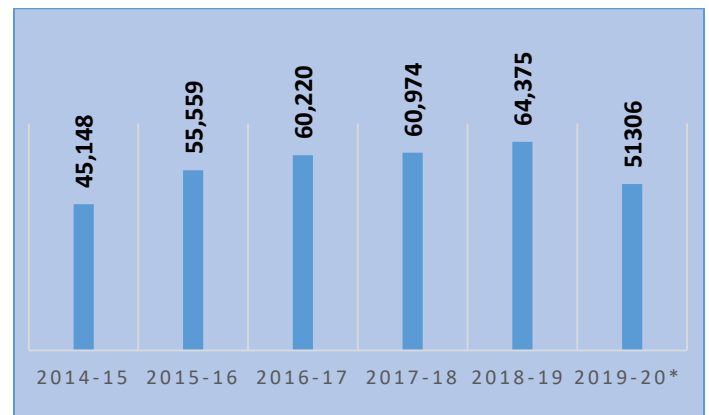
Source: Economic Intelligence Unit
 Note: Europe is for those countries in G-20.

As more and more businesses look for stability in their supply chains and production processes, diversification of their investments has become critical. The guiding principles will of course be competitiveness and efficiency besides political stability and large markets. Availability of other factors of production at competitive costs will continue to remain critical in the business decisions.

These were in fact the main consideration over the years which prompted businesses to direct investments to a handful of countries. But with the changing dynamics of the global economy, the businesses have started having a fresh look at their investment decisions to make their activities relatively immune to such unexpected and disruptive developments.

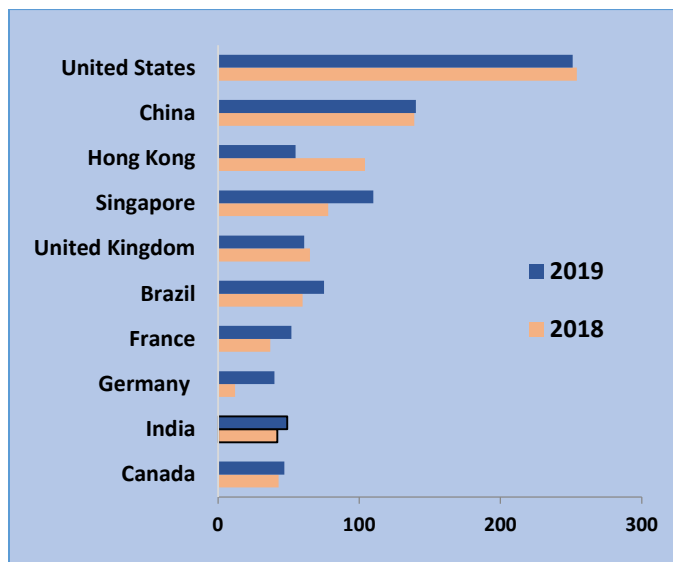
For foreign investors looking for alternative investment locations, India with a strong, stable, decisive and proactive government, offers tremendous opportunities. Availability of relatively low priced skilled labour, huge domestic market, competitive taxation rates, young aspiring population, a large democracy, thriving financial markets and booming entrepreneurial culture have been attracting large investments from countries across the globe.

FDI Inflows into India



Source: DPIIT; *data till 2019 Dec ; (US \$ million)

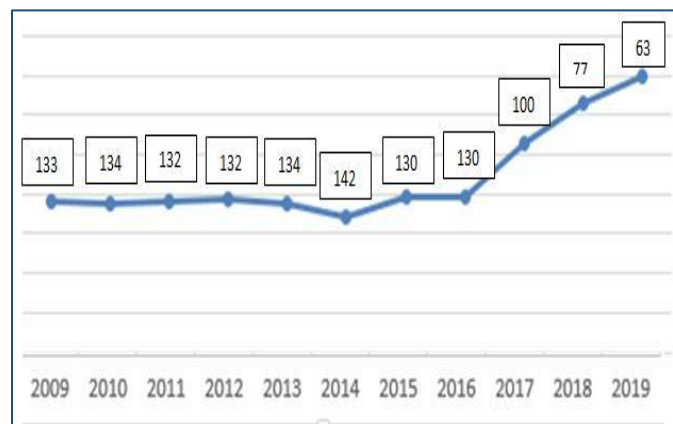
With FDI inflows maintaining a healthy growth, India is amongst the top host countries for FDI in the world.



Source: UNCTAD (US \$ billion)

This has been possible as India continues to initiate business friendly policies and has moved up in the World Bank overall Ease of Doing Business ranking.

India's ranking in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business



The government is constantly reviewing the investment facilitation policies and taking all measures to create enabling business environment including contract enforcement, labour laws, land reforms and faster project clearances. This has improved India's ranking on various parameters.

Parameters	2019 Rank	2020 Rank
Starting a business	137	136
Dealing with construction permits	52	27
Getting Electricity	24	22
Registering Property	166	154
Getting credit	22	25
Protecting minority investors	7	13
Paying taxes	121	115
Trading across borders	80	68
Enforcing contracts	163	163
Resolving insolvency	108	52

Source: World Bank

Potential Sectors for Investments:

Food Processing: By 2030, Indian annual household consumption is expected to treble, making India 5th largest consumer. Food processing sector has been assigned priority status for bank credit. With 60 Agri Export Zones (AEZ) across the country, 100 % FDI under automatic route is permitted.

Electric Vehicles: The Government of India expects automobile sector to attract US\$ 8-10 billion in local and foreign investments by 2023. 30% of all vehicles on the road to be electric by 2030 from less than 1 per cent today. Also, 100% FDI is permitted under the automatic route.

E-Commerce: The Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow to US\$ 200 billion by 2026. However, FDI is mainly permitted for undertaking B2B activities and only a single brand retail trader.

Renewables: India is ranked third in EY Renewable Energy Country Attractive Index 2019. Upto 100% FDI allowed under the automatic route for renewable energy generation and distribution projects subject to provisions of The Electricity Act, 2003.

Infrastructure: The sector has planned investment of \$1.4 trillion in the next five years and construction industry in value terms is expected to record a CAGR of 15.7% to reach \$ 738.5 bn by 2022. Government has planned

several projects to attract investment - 100 smart cities; five industrial corridors; 25 railway stations re-development besides 3,500 km line addition; 6 mega ports and 65,000 km of roads and highways are to be constructed under Bharatmala Pariyojana by 2022.

100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route for urban infrastructures and there is no lock-in period foreign investors are permitted to exit from the project after development of trunk infrastructure.

Real Estate: Real estate sector in India is expected to reach a market size of US\$ 1 trillion by 2030 from US\$ 120 billion in 2017. FDI of up to 100 per cent is permitted for townships and settlements development projects.

Defence Manufacturing: The sector has a potential of US\$1 trn by 2025. India permits 100% FDI in defence sector: upto 49% under automatic route; FDI above 49%, through Government route where it is likely to result in access to modern technology.

Mining & Metals: With barely 20% of its reserves mined, India presents considerable opportunities for future discoveries of sub-surface deposits. 100 per cent FDI is allowed in the mining and steel sector & 100 per cent FDI via automatic route in coal mining space.

Digitalization: The revenue from Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT and BPM) industry in India is estimated to reach \$ 350 bn by 2025. Sector has \$100 bn worth of digital transactions potential in 2020. Up to 100% FDI is allowed in Data processing, Software development and Computer consultancy services; Software supply services; Business and management consultancy services, Market research services, Technical testing and Analysis services, under automatic route.

Healthcare: The Government has launched major initiatives for the healthcare sector in India, majorly the Ayushman Bharat scheme for which over US\$ 900 mn. have been allocated. 100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route for Greenfield projects. And 100% FDI for insurance intermediaries.

Telecommunications: The National Digital Communications Policy 2018 has envisaged attracting investments worth US\$ 100 billion in the telecommunications sector by 2022. FDI upto 49% under automatic route and beyond 49% upto 100% under the

Government route is permitted. However, FDI in this sector is subject to licensing by the Department of Telecommunications and security clearance.

These are big positives for companies working to re-strategize their business plans post pandemic. There is a receptive Government proactively working with all stakeholders and initiating required steps to create facilitating business environment.

We feel that in this evolving scenario, India will be the Investment Destination of the world.

Taxation Matters

Income Tax

I. SC holds the clause (f) to section 43B to be constitutionally valid

The Hon'ble court while reversing the judgment of Hon'ble Calcutta High Court observed that the footprints of Section 43B are traced back from 1983, when the legislature conceptualized the idea of such a provision in the statute. The intent of introduction of the provision was to curb the practices of evasion of statutory liabilities and other liabilities for the welfare of employees. Further, the scope of the provision has been continuously been expanded to include cess, bonus or commission payable by employer, interest on loans payable to financial institutions, scheduled banks etc., payment in lieu of leave encashment by the employer and repayment of dues to the railways.

The Hon'ble Court envisaged that in the event of non-payment of leave encashment by the employer, it will lead to the double benefit advance deduction from tax liability without any burden of actual payment and the benefit of refusal to pay as and when occasion arose. This is the mischief that the clause (f) of section 43B seeks to subjugate. Thus, holding the clause (f) to section 43B to be Constitutional.

[Union of India vs Exide Industries Limited & Anr.in CA No. 3545/2009 dated 24.04.2020]

II. Allahabad HC: Where partners of firm were identifiable and separately assessed to tax and they had shown sufficient income in their returns which has been accepted by department, no addition could be made in hands of firm as unexplained credits

The assessee-firm's case was selected for scrutiny and assessment was made under section 143(3) in which credits in names of different partners were made. The Hon'ble Court observed that the partners had shown

agricultural income in their personal returns of past years which had been accepted by department as such. Further, partners were all identifiable and separately assessed to tax. In the light of these facts the source of investment having been explained, no addition of unexplained credits could be made in hands of firm. If at all the Assessing Officer was not satisfied with the explanations, addition could have been considered in hands of partners and not in hands of firm. **[Kesharwani Sheetalaya Sahsaon vs CIT in ITA 17/2007 dated 24.04.2020 Allahabad High Court]**

III. **ITAT Delhi held that in absence of any segregation value of land and building of the premises in the sale deed, the depreciation claim on entire value is allowable under Section 32 of the Act**

ITAT held that in case the assessee bank does not have any segregation value of land and building of the premises and it has paid composite price. Further, there is no segregation in the value of land and building in the sale deed as well, the depreciation claim on entire value paid as consideration is allowable under section 32 of the Act. The ITAT further observed that if bifurcation given in sale deed, then the depreciation will be allowed on building portion only.

[National Housing Bank vs Dy. CIT, ITA No. 477/Del/2017 dated 10.02.2020 (Delhi- Trib.)]

International Taxation & Transfer Pricing

I. **Madras High Court held Non Resident consultancy payments for 'proposed' foreign business acquisition to be Fees for Technical Services under the Income Tax Act, 1961**

The assessee made an application under section 195 for TDS exemption on payments to Non Resident law firm as per the legal services agreement dated September, 2010 for services rendered in Indonesia and the same was rejected by AO. Further, a revision petition under section 264 was made which was also rejected. The Hon'ble Court rejects assessee's stand that since the payment was made for legal services procured for a future business to be carried on in Indonesia and therefore it constituted payment "for the purpose of making or earning any income from any source outside India" as envisaged in exception carved out in Sec. 9(1)(vii)(b). The Hon'ble Court found force in Revenue's stand that the services rendered have no nexus with the generation of income abroad, by the assessee, since it does not have any business activities / source existing in

Indonesia. Further the court remarked that "there was a mere proposal for acquiring the insurance business" and clarifies that "If the service utilized by the petitioner abroad was for preexisting business in Indonesia, the petitioner could have legitimately" taken benefit of exception carved in Sec. 9(1)(vii)(b). Thus, in the light of the above facts the Hon'ble Court holds that services rendered by a Non-Resident Indonesian Law Firm in respect of the proposed acquisition of an Indonesian Insurance company by assessee an Indian co. constitutes 'consultancy services' and hence taxable as FTS u/s. 9(1)(vii)(b) of the Income-tax Act.

[Shriram Capital Limited vs. DIT (WP No. 4965/2011) dated 13.03.2020 – Madras High Court]

Goods and Services Tax

I. **Jharkhand High Court: Issuance of Show Cause Notice/initiation of proceedings pre requisite for determination of interest liability u/s 50**

HC held that interest liability u/s 50 of CGST Act, 2017 cannot be determined without initiating any adjudication process either u/s 73 or 74 of the CGST Act in the event of an assessee raising dispute towards liability of interest. Perusing Section 73(1), it infers that if tax has not been paid/short paid, a notice is required to be served by the Proper Officer on the assessee not only requiring him to show cause as to why tax be not recovered from it, but also specifying in the notice the interest payable u/s 50 recoverable along with penalty. If an assessee has allegedly delayed in filing his return, but discharges the liability of only tax on his own ascertainment and does not discharge the liability of interest, the only recourse available to the Proper Officer would be to initiate proceedings u/s 73(1) of the CGST Act. It refers to SC ruling in Godavari Commodities Ltd. & recent Madras HC ruling in Daejung Moparts Pvt. Ltd. The Court holds that garnishee proceedings u/s 79 by issuing notice to the petitioner's Banker cannot be initiated for recovery of interest without adjudicating the liability of interest, when the same is admittedly disputed by the assessee.

[Mahadeo Construction Co. Vs. Union of India]

II. **Karnataka AAAR: Disallows credit on facility installation, i.e. chiller, CCTV, surveillance system, DG set etc. to mall developer**

Karnataka AAAR has upheld AAR order, which held that the appellant, a developer of shopping mall, is

ineligible of the credit of the taxes paid on the procurement and installation of chiller, air handling unit, Indoor/Outdoor Surveillance System, PHE, CCTV, etc. u/s 17(5) of CGST Act, 2017. Applying principles of statutory interpretation, the Authority explains that the word 'or' used in clause (d) of Section 17(5) can be read as 'and' since it appears to be the intention of legislature to allow ITC on construction of plant and/or machinery. It rejects appellant's plea that installations qualify as 'plant' or 'machinery', while stating that the appellant has not submitted any information as to how these items are getting embedded to the earth since the criteria for terming such items as 'plant and machinery' is that they have to be fixed to the earth either by foundation or structural support. As regards lift, Escalator, Travellator, the Authority finds that the appellant will not be able to avail ITC of taxes paid on procurements where the appellant is not doing the installation of lifts, escalators and travellators despite the fact that these qualify as 'plant and machinery'. As regards Water Treatment Plant, Sewage Treatment Plant, DG Set, Transformer, it holds that the same become part of civil structure of immovable property which is specifically excluded from definition of "Plant and machinery", hence ineligible for credit. Disregarding appellant's reliance upon the order of Orissa HC in case of Safari Retreats, it observes that the order has not attained finality as it has been appealed by the Chief Commissioner of Central Tax and is pending before SC.

[In case of Tarun Realtors Pvt Ltd]

III. **Rajasthan AAR: "Water Charges" collected from RWA 'directly linked' to society maintenance, liable to GST**

Rajasthan AAR noted that the applicant provides services to society in two parts (i) maintenance services (other than supply of water) and (ii) supply of water. It observes that, applicant purchases water tankers from vendors and subsequently supplies it in same form without any processing on water purchased. It remarks that as a general practice across trade and market, maintenance services are inclusive of supply of water while claiming that water received by society is used for multiple purposes and stored in common underground tank maintained by society. The Authority explicates that the applicant is trying to split the contract into two parts to avoid

the GST to facilitate society (RWA) in order to keep maintenance charges paid by residents below Rs. 7500 per month per member. Moreover, it reasons that water charges collected from individual residents are on the basis of size of flat instead of per tanker of water which is similar to collection of maintenance charges collected by the RWA. Therefore, it holds that both the contracts are directly linked with each other as there is no case of direct supply of water by the applicant to individual residents of the society, therefore applicant is required to pay applicable GST.

[In the matter of Latest Developers advisory ltd]

IV. **Karnataka AAR: Supply of 'purified drinking water' to public in 'empty unsealed cans' not exempt**

AAR held that supply of purified water to general public in empty unsealed cans is not exempt under Entry no. 99 of Notification No. 2/2017-Central Tax (Rate). Applicant entered into an agreement with local panchayats /municipalities for supply of purified water to urban under-served people across various metro cities by installing Community Water System. It interprets the term 'and' used in said Entry and infers that "word 'and' used before the 'water sold in sealed container' in the Sl. No. 99 of Notification is disjunctive in nature". It explains that the said term lays down that it is another type of water excluded from said entry along with aerated water, mineral water, purified water, distilled water, medicinal water, ionic water, batter water, demineralized water. The Authority concludes that supply of purified water whether in sealed container or unsealed container is not entitled for GST exemption.

[In case of Water Health India Pvt Ltd]

News Roundup

Economy

[Panel submits Rs 111 lakh crore plan to revive economy](#) (Hindustan Times)

A task force headed by economic affairs secretary Atanu Chakraborty on Wednesday, April 29 has forecast an investment need of ₹111 lakh crore over the next five years to build infrastructure projects and drive economic growth.

[RBI cuts reverse repo rate by 25 bps to 3.75%: Key points](#) (The Times of India)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das on April 17, addressed the media amid the ongoing

coronavirus crisis. Key points: Under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF), reverse repo rate (rate at which RBI borrows funds from banks) reduced by 25 basis points (bps) to 3.75%; repo rate- rate at which RBI lends money to banks -- unchanged (4.40%) as the decision is taken by the MPC.

[Forex kitty grows \\$3bn to \\$480bn on rising \\$, gold](#) (The Times of India)

India's forex reserves rose by \$3 billion during the week ended April 17 to \$479.6 billion.

[RBI Governor expects a V-shaped recovery for India in 2021-22](#) (The Economic Times)

The Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das expects a sharp V-shaped recovery for India as projected by the IMF in 2021-22.

[India's Foreign Trade Policy extended by one year with some changes](#) (Business Today)

India's Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) ending March 31 has been extended by another year. The existing sops will thus continue till March 31, 2021.

[India Inc's overseas investment rises marginally to \\$2.7 billion in March](#) (The Economic Times)

India Inc's overseas investment has risen marginally to \$2.7 billion in March compared to February's \$2.4 billion amid the Covid-19 pandemic that has brought global economy to standstill.

[Donation to PM CARES Fund to be fully exempted section 80G of I-T Act](#) (The Times of India)

Anyone contributing to PM CARES Fund (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief Emergency Situation Situations Fund) will get full benefit under the Income Tax Act.

[Walling off China: India changes FDI policy to block threat of takeovers](#) (The Times of India)

In a decision fraught with geopolitical and economic ramifications, the government on Saturday, April 18 amended its foreign direct investment (FDI) policy to put a blanket ban on investments through the automatic route by entities from countries that share a border with India.

[Cabinet approves Rs 15k crore for Covid-19 emergency fund](#) (Hindustan Times)

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved on Wednesday, April 22 investments to

the tune of ₹15,000 crore for 'India Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness Package' to mount an urgent response for containing the spread of the virus in the country.

[Combating Covid-19: Centre releases Rs 17,287 crore to states](#) (Financial Express)

A day after many chief ministers flagged lack of resources at their disposal to fight the coronavirus outbreak in a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre on Friday, April 3 released Rs 17,287 crore to states for their disaster mitigation programmes and as revenue deficit grants.

[Centre releases Rs 14,103 cr GST compensation to states; more to be released soon](#) (The Economic Times)

In a bid to provide further relief to states amid the coronavirus outbreak, the finance ministry has released about Rs 34,000 crore in two phases to states as compensation for their revenue loss in the goods and services tax (GST) regime.

[COVID-19 has deal-making plunging 31% to \\$18.7 bn in Q1: Report](#) (The Economic Times)

The COVID-19 pandemic has walloped inbound investments (down 64 per cent) in the first quarter of 2020, pulling down the overall deal-making activities by over 31 per cent to USD 18.7 billion despite a good show by domestic and outbound activities, says a report.

[India Inc's overseas borrowing touches all-time high of \\$45 billion in FY20](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

According to RBI data, Indian corporates raised around \$45 billion in the form of external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) between April 2019 and February 2020.

Sectoral

Agriculture & Allied activities

[Agriculture ministry issues 17-point guidelines to boost safe farm operations during lockdown](#) (The Times of India)

Syncing its advisories with exemptions given to farmers during lockdown period, the agriculture ministry has issued 17-point guidelines for prevention of Covid-19 spread during crop harvesting/, threshing and sowing operations, and extended validity of various tests reports on approval of tractors and farm machineries till December 31.

Banking & Finance

['Arogya Sanjeevani' insurance policy to cover Covid-19](#) (The Times of India)

The standard health insurance policy "Arogya Sanjeevani" for all 29 general/health insurance companies will now cover hospitalisation under Covid-19, said Irdai.

[Top NBFCs tap overseas market to raise \\$430 million](#) (The Economic Times)

In an industry that appears to have lately painted itself into a corner, credentialed names in India's non-bank lending - Cholamandalam Finance, Mahindra Finance, PNB Housing - are able to find bulge-bracket backers overseas at a time when funds have largely locked themselves out of the emerging markets.

[China's central bank takes 1% stake in HDFC](#) (The Times of India)

China's central bank has acquired 1% stake in the country's largest mortgage company HDFC, according to shareholding disclosures made by the corporation.

[RBI's bond refinance cap at 10% of a single issuer](#) (The Times of India)

To ensure that the cheap refinance it provides to banks is not cornered by large corporates, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened rules for the targeted long-term repo-lending operations (TLTROs) under which it provides liquidity support to lenders.

[RBI raises WMA limit to ₹2-lakh crore in H1 FY21](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

To tide over the situation arising from the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the Government of India, has revised the limit for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the remaining part of the first half of FY21 (April 2020 to September 2020) to ₹2-lakh crore.

[Sebi eases valuation norms for debt papers due to covid-19](#) (Mint)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Thursday, April 23 eased the valuation policies for debt mutual funds to allow valuation agencies to take a call of not terming a paper as default if the delay in payment of interest or extension in maturity is because of the covid-19-related lockdown.

[Franklin suspends 6 more schemes](#) (The Times of India)

Franklin Templeton MF, the troubled fund house that was forced to close six of its debt funds due to extreme liquidity in the market, has suspended another six fund of funds (FoF) schemes managed by it with total assets of about Rs 933 crore.

[RBI opens a Rs 50,000 crore special funding line for MFs](#) (The Times of India)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday, April 27 provided a special facility with an initial corpus of Rs 50,000 crore for mutual funds to borrow from it using the banking channel.

Aviation

[Airlines, allied sectors likely see revenues losses of over Rs 1100 core: IATA analysis](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

Indian airlines and allied sectors could be staring at revenue losses to the tune of Rs 1122.1 crore as there is a degrowth of 47 per cent change in passenger demand on a year-on-year (YoY).

Defence

[India now 3rd-biggest military spender in world: Think-tank](#) (The Times of India)

India has for the first time emerged among the top three nations in the world in terms of military expenditure, though the US spends more than 10 times and China almost four times its defence budget.

Digitalization

[Digital payments zoom 31 per cent to touch ₹4,116 crore in FY20](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

In what can be seen as a significant impact of the government's agenda to encourage digital payments, total transactions through these channels touched ₹4,116.74 crore in FY20, according to the Centre's Digidhan Dashboard.

Ecommerce

[Facebook-Jio deal may see more foreign e-commerce firms flock to India](#) (Business Standard)

Some recent regulatory developments may have precipitated the Facebook-Jio deal. Going forward, this may increasingly prompt foreign e-commerce operators to consider setting up base in India, say legal and tax experts.

Energy

[First time in history, oil futures sell at below \\$0 in US](#) (The Times of India)

Oil futures collapsed to below zero for the first time ever as the deepening economic turmoil caused by the coronavirus crisis left traders desperate to avoid taking delivery of physical crude. In an unprecedented day of trading, the price for the May contracts wiped out all value, breaking every low for oil prices since 1946.

Health

[Covid-19: NPPA notifies medical devices as drugs to cap their prices](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has dispelled all fears over Covid-19 causing disruption in supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

[India lifts curbs on exports of 13 active pharmaceutical ingredients](#) (Business Standard)

Amid growing pressure from countries like the US and easing supplies from China, India on Monday, April 6 lifted the curbs on exports of 13 active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and their formulations.

[Up to 7 years' jail for attack on health workers: Ordinance](#) (The Times of India)

Amid several reports of attacks on healthcare personnel engaged in treating and tracking Covid-19 cases across the country, the cabinet on Wednesday, April 22 approved an ordinance making acts of violence against doctors and frontline personnel a cognisable and non-bailable offence punishable with prison terms of up to seven years.

IBC

[Lockdown period not to be counted for liquidation process related tasks timelines](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

The insolvency regulator IBBI has now ruled that the 40-day nationwide lockdown imposed by the Centre in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak will not be counted for the purpose of computation of timeline for any tasks under liquidation process.

Infrastructure

[Nitin Gadkari asks states and UTs to speed up road construction](#) (Business Standard)

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday, April 28 asked states and Union Territories (UTs) to expedite land acquisitions and utilise funds worth Rs 25,000 crore allocated for the purpose to regain the momentum in road constructions.

IT & Telecom

[Government notifies three incentives schemes worth Rs 48,000 crore for electronics manufacturing push](#) (The Economic Times)

The ministry of electronics and IT has notified the three schemes to push electronics manufacturing with incentives totalling upwards of Rs. 48,000 crore which were cleared by the Cabinet late last month.

[India's electronics manufacturing can gain from China's loss, says Prasad](#) (Business Standard)

China's loss could be India's gain in the ongoing pandemic, according to Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ravi Shankar Prasad, who held a videoconference with state information technology (IT) ministers on Tuesday, April 28. Prasad said India has the opportunity to promote electronics manufacturing and urged states to work towards attracting investments.

Metals and Mining

[Gold shines bright in FY20 clocking 30% returns](#) (Financial Express)

Gold has emerged as the best performing asset class of FY2020 as it delivered 29.7% during the year. The Covid-19 pandemic and trade war prior to that took the wind out of the risky assets.

Start-ups

[Start-ups got \\$4 bn from Chinese investors in 5 years](#) (Financial Express)

Indian start-ups have received an estimated \$4 billion in funding from China-based technology investors in the five years ended March 2020. As many as 18 of 30 unicorns in the segment are Chinese-funded, according to a report by Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations.

States

[States' borrowing to rise up to ₹6.4-lakh crore in FY21: ICRA](#) (The Hindu Business Line)

[Odisha, Maharashtra eye loans from rich PSUs instead of market](#) (Financial Express)

[Delhi govt to use pvt discom subsidies to clear dues of state-run power stations](#) (Financial Express)

[Several states extend working hours from 8 to 12 hours in factories](#) (The Economic Times)

International News

[US supports firms weighing India as alternative to China](#) (The Economic Times)

India could emerge as an alternative investment destination for US companies doing business in China in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, a view that the US government's Department of State is supporting.

[10% global GDP needed to tide over Covid-19 crisis: UN](#) (Hindustan Times)

The Covid-19 crisis is likely to have a profound and negative effect on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change because of which a post-crisis coordination mechanism is vital to ensure that all countries have adequate fiscal space to recover, the March 2020 report of the United Nations stated.

[ADB warns global cost of coronavirus could top \\$4 trillion](#) (The Economic Times)

The coronavirus pandemic could cost the global economy \$4.1 trillion as it ravages United States, Europe and other major economies, the Asian Development Bank warned on Friday, April 3.

[International trade to fall up to 32% in 2020: WTO](#) (The Times of India)

Global trade growth is expected to plummet by up to a third in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, the World Trade Organization said on Wednesday, April 8, warning that the numbers would be "ugly".

[G20 suspends debt payments for poor nations till 2020 end](#) (The Economic Times)

G20 finance ministers have endorsed a plan to counter the Covid-19 pandemic, including the suspension of debt service payments for the world's poorest countries till end of 2020.

['Google tax' could draw reprisal, US cautions India](#) (The Economic Times)

India's 6% equalisation levy on foreign online advertising platforms may impede its overseas trade and increase the risk of retaliation from countries where Indian companies are doing business, the US has cautioned.

[Brics states to create \\$15 billion fund to aid, rebuild Covid-battered economies](#) (Hindustan Times)

The members of the Brics (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) grouping on Tuesday, April 28 decided to create a special fund of \$15 billion to rebuild their economies and to overcome the impact of the global Covid-19 pandemics.

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