

INDIA FOCUS



I have an unwavering belief that the biggest change can be brought about by collective effort

NARENDRA MODI,
PM Narendra Modi

#OperationKaveri moving steadily forward as around 3000 have reached India now

S JAISHANKAR,
External Affairs Minister



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International trade in rupee is closer to reality now, says minister Goyal



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, addressing at the release of Foreign Trade Policy 2023

International trade transactions would start in the Indian rupee soon as several banks in various countries are opening special "vostro accounts" with Indian banks, said India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

Last year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the finance ministry asked the top management of banks and representatives of trade bodies to push export and import transactions in the domestic currency. The idea was to get banks in India to connect with their foreign counterparts for opening special rupee vostro accounts to facilitate

cross-border trade in the Indian currency (INR) rather than the US dollar, the usual mode. This mechanism is expected to benefit traders on either side of the transaction as they can directly trade in the rupee and save on currency conversion spreads.

The RBI has so far approved 60 requests to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) of correspondent banks from 18 countries, including Singapore, the UK, and New Zealand.

On April 22, Goyal told reporters in Rajkot: "We will soon start seeing operationalisation of this rupee trading in international trade with several countries."

According to a recent news report, Union Bank of India was the first lender in India to open a SRVA through its corresponding bank in Malaysia – India International Bank of Malaysia. This means that trade between India and Malaysia can now be settled in the rupee, in addition to the current modes of settlement in other currencies. In a statement, Union Bank said “this measure is aimed at facilitating the growth of global trade and to support the interests of the global trading community in the Indian rupee”.

What is the SRVA arrangement?

A vostro account is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former’s domestic currency. Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to clients. It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets and serve international clients without having to be physically present abroad.

The SRVA is an additional arrangement to the existing system that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complementary system. For perspective, freely convertible currencies refer to currencies permitted by rules and regulations of the country concerned to be converted to major reserve currencies (like the US dollar or pound sterling) and for which a fairly active market exists for dealings against major currencies. The existing systems thus require maintaining balances and position in such currencies.

How does it function?

The framework entails three important components: invoicing, exchange rate and settlement. Invoicing entails that all exports and imports must be denominated and invoiced in INR. The exchange rate between the currencies of the trading partner countries would be market-determined. To conclude, the final settlement also takes place in the INR. The authorised domestic dealer banks (those authorised to deal in foreign currencies) are required to open SRVA accounts for correspondent banks of the partner trading country. Domestic importers are required to make payment (in INR) into the SRVA account of the correspondent bank against the invoices for supply of goods or services from the overseas seller/supplier. Similarly, domestic exporters are to be paid the export proceeds (in INR) from the balances in the designated account of the correspondent bank of the partner country.

As for availing an advance against exports, it would be the responsibility of the domestic bank to accord foremost priority to ensuring that the

available funds are used to meet existing payment obligations, that is, from the already executed export orders or export payments in the pipeline. All reporting of cross-border transactions are to be done in accordance with the extant guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

What is the eligibility criteria of banks?

Banks from partner countries are required to approach an authorised domestic dealer bank for opening the SRVA. The domestic bank would then seek approval from the apex banking regulator providing details of the arrangement.

It would be the responsibility of the domestic banks to ensure that the correspondent bank is not from a country mentioned in the updated

Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Public Statement on High Risk & Non-Co-operative jurisdictions. Domestic banks must also put forth for perusal, financial parameters pertaining to the corresponding bank.

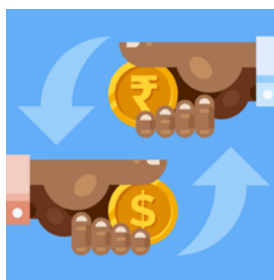
Authorised banks can open multiple SRV accounts for different banks from the same country. Further, balances in the account can be repatriated in freely convertible currency and/or currency of the beneficiary partner country depending on the underlying transaction, that is, for which the account was credited.

What is its purpose?

The Economic Survey (2022-23) had argued that the framework could largely reduce the “net demand for foreign exchange, the US dollar in particular, for the settlement of current account related trade flows”. It added that the framework would also reduce the need for holding foreign exchange reserves and dependence on foreign currencies, making

the country less vulnerable to external shocks. Indian exporters could get advance payments in INR from overseas clients and in the long-term promote INR as an international currency once the rupee settlement mechanism gains traction, the survey argued.

According to the Bureau for International (BIS) Settlements’ Triennial Central Bank Survey 2022, the US dollar was the most dominant vehicle currency accounting for 88% of all trades. The INR accounted for 1.6%. ■



Union Bank of India was reportedly the first lender in India to open a SRVA through its corresponding bank in Malaysia

– India International Bank of Malaysia

Written using agency reports

RBI issued a detailed circular on SRVA, which can be viewed at https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/FS_Notification.aspx?Id=12358&fn=5&Mode=0

India's new space policy eyes larger pie in \$360-bn space economy



Written with agency reports

The Government of India recently approved the Indian Space Policy 2023 to capture a larger share in the \$360-billion space economy. The policy also seeks to institutionalise private sector participation in the space sector. This will pave the way for the country to achieve its vision of becoming a \$50-billion space economy by 2025 from \$7.6 billion in 2021.

The New Space Policy of 2023 was approved by the Cabinet on April 7. The 11-page document details the activities that the commercial space sector can undertake and delineates the roles of three key government agencies.

The Indian Space Policy-2023 – approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi – also delineated the roles and responsibilities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), space sector PSU NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

Science & Tech Minister Jitendra Singh said the policy would allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities

ISRO's major focus will be on research and development of advanced space technologies.

The policy quoted PM Modi saying: "Technology is the most powerful weapon the government has to utilise, for good governance, transparency, and accountability. There should be no 'space' between common man and space technology."

The Ministry of Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said the policy would offer clarity in the role of the components set up in the recent past. It would also allow the private sector to take part in end-to-end space activities that include building satel-

lites, rockets and launch vehicles, data collection and dissemination.

New policy emphasis PM's vision

The government unleashed reforms in the space domain in 2020, opening the doors for enhanced participation of non-governmental entities to carry out end-to-end activities. The aim was to provide a level playing field for all and encourage innovation. Subsequent to these reforms, the government wanted to provide regulatory

certainty to space activities, in order to create a thriving space ecosystem. The Indian Space Policy is an overarching, composite and dynamic framework to implement the reform vision.

According to the policy document, the PM believes that the optimal utilisation of space technologies can revolutionise delivery of governance services and boost developmental efforts. Modi sees outer space as an avenue to inspire scientific curiosity among the youth and to encourage them to look towards academic pursuits in STEM. Above all, he maintains that the space sector has the potential to incubate a vibrant ecosystem of startups and private industries.

The "Vision" section of the new space policy says India hopes to augment its space capabilities by tapping into the potential of the private sector which has historically played a minor role in India's space programme. The country wants to augment space capabilities; enable, encourage and develop a flourishing commercial presence in space; use space as a driver of technology development and derived benefits in allied areas; pursue international relations, and create an ecosystem for effective implementation of space applications among all stakeholders. These aims are meant to bolster the nation's socio-economic development and security, protect environment and lives, pursue peaceful exploration of outer space, stimulate public awareness and scientific quest.

Strategy

In pursuance of the vision set out for the space sector, the government seeks to pursue a holistic approach by encouraging and promoting greater private sector participation in the entire value chain of the space economy, including in the creation of space and ground-based assets.

Thus, Indian consumers of space technology or services (such as communication, remote sensing, data-services, launch-services), whether from public or private sectors, would be free to directly procure them from any source, whether private or public.

Apart from encouraging advanced research

& development, the government also wants to provide public goods and services using space technology, create a stable and predictable regulatory framework to provide a level playing field to non-government entities in the space sector through IN-SPACe.

The government decided to open up ISRO infrastructure and facilities for private industry through a business friendly mechanism. Access to ISRO facilities pertaining to testing, tracking and telemetry, launchpads and laboratories would also enable the private space industry to climb the value chain.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath told PTI that the policy would focus on increasing the participation of the private players in the space sector. The INSPACe, created recently, would be the interface between Indian Space Research Organisation and non-governmental entities, Somanath said.

ISRO would not do any operational and production work for the space sector and would focus its energies on developing new technologies, new systems and research and development, he said.

The operational part of ISRO's missions will be moved to the NewSpace India Limited, a public sector undertaking under the Department of Space.

Somanath said India's share in the global space

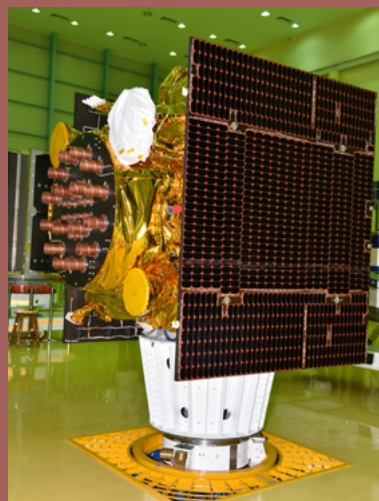
economy was less than 2% at present and the space policy will help it increase substantially to 10%. "This is a historic moment as the cabinet has approved the Indian Space Policy 2023. It will pave the way forward with much-required clarity in space reforms and augment private industry participation to drive the space economy opportunity for the country," Lt Gen A K Bhatt (retd), Director General Indian Space Association, told PTI.

Bhatt said the private sector had been waiting for the policy for a while and the announcement came as a pleasant surprise.

"We keenly await and look forward to going through the details of the policy. We would like to thank the Prime Minister for his visionary leadership with a special focus on long-due reforms in the Indian space sector," Bhatt added. ■

EYE ON THE SKY

- India contributes 2% of global market share
- Potential to capture 9% of global market share by 2030
- US global market share 40% and UK's 7%
- Global space economy \$386 bn (in 2021): India at \$7.6 bn



ISRO's PSLV-C55 successfully deploys 2 Singapore satellites into orbit

Written using agency reports

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully placed two Singaporean satellites, TeLEOS-2 and Lumelite-4, in orbit using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle on April 22.

The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 2.19pm. The mission marked the 57th flight of PSLV and the 16th mission using the PSLV Core Alone configuration, the lightest version of the launch vehicle as it has four core stages and no strap-on boosters to provide an added thrust, Isro said.

Both satellites were from Singapore.

TeLEOS-2 is a Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite and it was the primary satellite, which was developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering.

The satellite is used to support the satellite imagery requirements of various agencies within the Government of Singapore. TeLEOS-2 carries a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) payload. It will provide all-weather day and night coverage, and be capable of imaging at 1m full-polarimetric resolution.

Lumelite-4 is a nano-satellite co-developed by the Institute for Infocomm Research (I2R) of A*STAR and Satellite Technology and Research Centre (STAR) of the National University of Singapore. It is an advanced 12U satellite developed for the technological demonstra-

tion of the High-Performance Space-borne VHF Data Exchange System (VDES). Using the VDES communication payload developed by I2R and STAR's scalable satellite bus platform, it aims to augment Singapore's e-navigation maritime safety and benefit the global shipping community. ■

Tatas, Singapore Airlines seek CCI nod for Vistara-Air India merger

Written using agency reports

Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines have sought the Competition Commission of India (CCI)'s approval for the merger of full-service carriers Air India and Vistara, according to media reports.

While Tata Sons owns Air India, Vistara is a venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. The notice for the merger was filed jointly by Tata Sons, Singapore Airlines, Air India and Tata SIA Airlines (Vistara).

The Air India-Vistara merger is part of the consolidation of airlines under the Tata umbrella. After the merger, which is likely to be completed in 2023-24, the combined entity will retain the Air India brand, while the Vistara brand will be retired. Singapore Airlines will hold a 25.1% in the merged airline.

In November, the two sides announced a plan to merge the airlines to drive synergies and drive market share in the Indian civil aviation market.

As a part of the merger deal, SIA has decided to invest Rs 2,059 crore in the expanded share capital of Air India for 25.1%. The Tata group will hold the remaining stake. The parties hope to conclude the deal by March 2024. ■



As a part of the merger deal, SIA has decided to invest

Rs 20.59 billion

in the expanded share capital of Air India for

25.1%

Education ministry, Singapore tie up to build skilling into curriculum

Written using agency reports

India and Singapore will work together to prepare a workforce that is future-ready.

India's Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed a workshop – Future of Work: Skill Architecture and Governance Models of India and Singapore – recently in Bhubaneswar, Odhisha. Simon Wong, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore



Isro's PSLV-C55 lifts off from the Sriharikota spaceport with satellites from Singapore



Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan addressed the workshop on Future of Work with Simon Wong, High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to India; Melissa Khoo, Deputy Secretary of Higher Education and Skills, Ministry of Education Singapore

to India; and Melissa Khoo, Deputy Secretary (Higher Education and Skills, Ministry of Education Singapore, were part of the plenary session.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan expressed his pleasure to be present among the delegation of educationists and students at the workshop being organised on the sidelines of the G20 3rd EDWG meeting. He said that skills development and knowledge collaboration was an important element of the strategic partnership. There was immense scope for India and Singapore to work together to achieve mutual priorities, particularly towards preparing a future-ready workforce. "In the next quarter century, 25% of the global working population will come from India. Until and unless we skill, re-skill and up-skill our young demography and prepare them for the future of work, we cannot fulfil global responsibilities," he said.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has placed equal importance on education and skilling.

The minister said the joint workshop between India and Singapore will focus on leveraging the expertise and knowledge of Singapore and facilitate mutual sharing of experiences for addressing obstacles to skilling and further transforming the Indian skills ecosystem. ■



pate in the inaugural edition of the ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, officials said.

The harbor phase of the exercise was held at the Changi Naval Base on May 2 to 4, while the sea phase was conducted from May 7 to 8 in the South China Sea.

The ships, during their port call at Singapore, will also participate in the International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC) being hosted by Singapore, said the Navy. ■

Manufacturing PMI hits 4-month high in April

Written using agency reports

India's manufacturing activities in April expanded at their fastest pace in four months, showed the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing. The growth was driven by robust demands and encouraging outlook.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 57.2 in April from 56.4 in the previous month, the best

Indian warships in Singapore for ASEAN-India exercise

Written using agency reports

INS Delhi, India's first indigenously built guided missile destroyer, and INS Satpura, an indigenously built guided missile stealth frigate, reached Singapore on May 1 to partici-

performance in the calendar year 2023. A survey print above 50 indicates expansion in manufacturing, and below marks contraction.

“Several indices pointed to more favourable operating conditions across India’s manufacturing industry in April. Factory orders and production rose at the strongest rates in 2023 so far, companies stepped up input purchasing owing to stock-replenishment efforts,” said the survey by S&P Global. ■

MHI releases SOPs under PLI auto scheme to testing agencies

Written using agency reports

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has released the standard operating procedures (SOPs) under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Auto scheme to testing agencies. The applicants can now submit their applications for testing and certification of AAT products (both OEMs and components), which will help them qualify for incentives under the PLI Auto scheme.

The Union Minister of Heavy Industries, Mahendra Nath Pandey, said the ministry was trying to align itself with the Prime Minister's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and these SOPs would not only help to achieve that but would also help to increase the manufacturing foothold.

The PLI scheme proposes financial incentives to boost domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive technology (AAT) products and attract investments in the automotive manufacturing value chain.

The MHI, on November 9, 2021, notified the categories of 19 AAT vehicles and 103 AAT components to be covered under the scheme. These components are either advanced or latest-technology automotive components, those for which the supply chain is nonexistent in India, or both.



Mahendra Nath Pandey,
Union Minister of
Heavy Industries

According to the guidelines, applicants must achieve a DVA of 50% to claim incentives under the scheme. The auto

companies and component makers are required to calculate and present the DVA across their supply chain and present these details to the testing agencies. This is being done to promote the Make in India campaign and boost domestic manufacturing of advanced automotive products. ■

Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) rose by 3.6 %

Written using agency reports

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 3.6% (provisional) in March 2023 as compared to the Index of March 2022, according to the government's data.

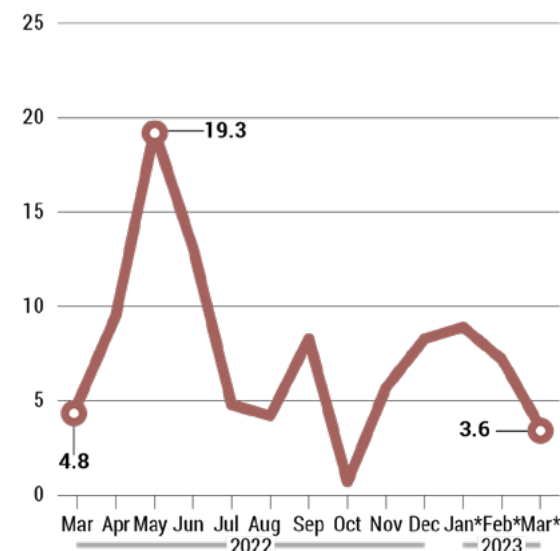
The production of coal, fertilisers, steel, natural gas and refinery products increased in March 2023 over the corresponding month of last year.

ICI measures combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries – coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.

The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Overall Growth Rates

(On Y-o-Y basis in %)



*Provisional, YoY is calculated over the corresponding month of previous year

Final growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries for December 2022 was revised to 8.3% from its provisional level of 7.4%. The cumulative growth rate of ICI during 2022-23 reported 7.6% (provisional) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. ■

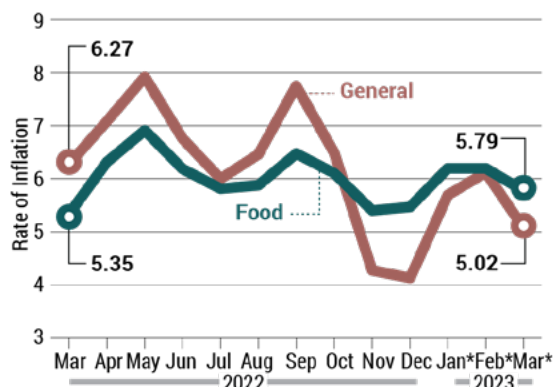
Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers rose by 0.6% in March

Written using agency reports

All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for March 2023 increased by 0.6 points and stood at 133.3. On a 1-month percentage change, it increased by 0.45% with respect to the previous month compared to an increase of 0.80% recorded between

Y-o-Y Inflation based on CPI-IW

(Food and General %)



corresponding months a year ago.

The Labour Bureau, part of the Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers every month on the basis of retail prices collected from 317 markets spread over 88 industrially important centres in the country. The index is compiled for 88 centres and all India and is released on the last working day of the succeeding month.

The maximum upward pressure in the current index came from the fuel & light group contributing 0.25 percentage points to the total change.

Year-on-year inflation for the month stood at 5.79% compared to 6.16% for the previous month and 5.35% during the corresponding month a year before. Similarly, food inflation stood at 5.02% against 6.13% of the previous month and 6.27% during the corresponding month a year ago. ■

Credit guarantee scheme revamped with additional capital to support MSME

Written using agency reports

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched a revamped Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) Scheme with an additional corpus of Rs 9,000 crore to give further boost to the MSME sector in India.

The scheme's objective is availability of bank credit without the hassles of collaterals and third-party guarantees would be a major source of support to the first generation entrepreneurs to realise their dream of setting up a unit of their own micro and small enterprises. Keeping this objective in view, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS) to strengthen the credit delivery system and facilitate flow of credit to the MSE sector. To operationalise the scheme, Government of India and SIDBI set up the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). Union Minister for

MSME Narayan Rane launched the revamped CGTMSE Scheme in Mumbai recently.

The Department's Secretary, BB Swain, apprised that CGTMSE was also collaborating with various state governments for enhanced guarantee coverage for MSEs in the respective states. ■

GST revenue collection in April 2023 is highest ever

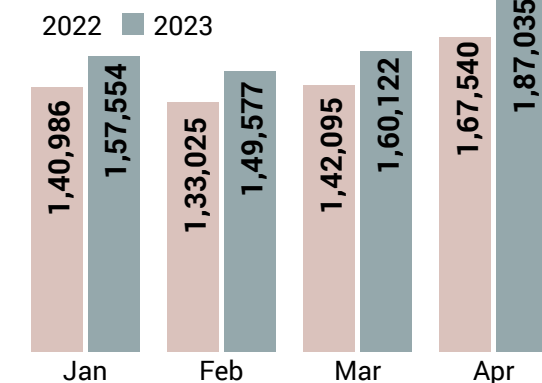
Written using agency reports

The goods and services tax (GST) revenue collection in April 2023 is the highest ever, at over Rs 1.87 trillion, rising 12% than the revenues collected in April 2022.

"Great news for the Indian economy! Rising tax collection despite lower tax rates shows the success of how GST has increased integration and compliance," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

The gross GST revenue collected in April 2023 was Rs 1.87 trillion of which CGST was Rs 384 billion, SGST was Rs 474 billion, IGST was Rs 891 billion and cess was Rs 120 billion.

The government has settled Rs 458.6 billion to CGST and Rs 379.59 billion to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of Centre and the states in April 2023 after regular settlement was Rs 843 billion for CGST and Rs 853.7 billion for SGST.

Trends in GST**Monthly gross GST revenues during the current year**

Gautam Mahanti, Business Head, IRIS Tax Tech, said in a statement, "The record-breaking GST collection of Rs 1.87 trillion in April 2023 is a clear indication of the positive impact of e-invoicing and strengthened compliance regulations, coupled with India's thriving economy. As anticipated, the 12% growth from the previous year in April 2022 (Rs 1.67 trillion) is attributed to the rise in e-way bills generated in March 2023, which witnessed a 16% growth from the same period last year. With the addition of new taxpayers and the government's focus on digitisation and transparency, we anticipate that the collections will surpass Rs 2 trillion in the upcoming financial year." ■

Indirect tax collections in 2022-23 stood at Rs 13.82 trillion

Written using agency reports

Final revenue achievement in total indirect tax collections for 2022-23 stood at Rs 13.82 trillion against Rs 12.89 trillion in 2021-22, an increase of 7.23%.

On the GST side, the average gross monthly collection for the year 2022-23 stood at Rs 1.51 trillion and monthly GST revenue collections exceeded Rs 1.4 trillion for 12 months in a row. The numbers were disclosed during Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's review meeting with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC). The review meeting was attended by the Revenue Secretary; Chairman, CBIC, and Members of CBIC.



Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman chaired a review meeting with Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC). The review meeting was attended by Sanjay Malhotra, Revenue Secretary; Vivek Johri, Chairman, CBIC, and Members of CBIC

During the meeting variety of work areas including trade facilitation, taxpayer services, grievance redressal of the trade; finalisation of disciplinary cases and infrastructure projects, and progress of the upcoming Palasamudram campus of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), were reviewed.

The Finance Minister emphasised the need for continuously improving taxpayer services. She also directed CBIC to introduce its automated GST return scrutiny and to implement an action plan to increase the taxpayer base through enhanced use of technology. ■

India catching up to Singapore as top business environment

Written using agency reports

Singapore continues to be the top country in a global ranking of best business environments for the next 5 years, according to a report.

The country has held the position for 15 years,

ANI reported, quoting the report published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) last week. Canada and Denmark were ranked joint second, with the US and Switzerland occupying fourth and fifth place places, respectively, in the EIU's Business Environment Ranking (BER).

India, Vietnam, Thailand, Belgium, Sweden, and Costa Rica made the biggest improvements over the past year in their business environments, whereas China, Bahrain, Chile and Slovakia deteriorated the most.

The scores for India show that doing business in the country is becoming easier. India moved up six spots globally and climbed from 14th in 2018-22 to 10th in 2023-27, among the 17 economies in the Asian region that was in the survey.

The BER measures the attractiveness of the business environment in 82 countries on a quarterly basis, using a standard analytical framework with 91 indicators. The model examines 11 categories, such as political and macroeconomic environments, market opportunities, policy towards private enterprise and competition, taxes, financing and labour market. Each category contains a number of indicators that are assessed by the EIU for the past five years and the next five.

The latest ranking, for Q2 of 2023, shows that North America and Western Europe continue to be the best places in the world to do business. Asia ranks third, ahead of Eastern Europe, while Latin America marginally outperforms the Middle East and Africa (MEA).

India's improvement was mostly attributable to gains in its scores for foreign trade and exchange controls, infrastructure and technological readiness. India's highest-scoring category is market opportunities, helped by the large and growing domestic market. The country has also benefited from global geopolitical trends. A strong, stable economy and access to a large labour supply form the basis of its appeal to investors. In addition, policy reforms are making it easier to do business in India, and the researchers at the EIU said major improvements in areas such as infrastructure, taxation and trade regulation would boost investment.

Another factor playing to India's advantage is its generally youthful demographic which promises good availability of labour. EIU forecasts India's working-age population to expand by almost 100 million in the period to 2030, pushing it comfortably past 1 billion. India's median age of 28.4 years compares favourably. The rise in population creates an additional incentive for the government to develop the manufacturing sector to absorb additional workers. ■



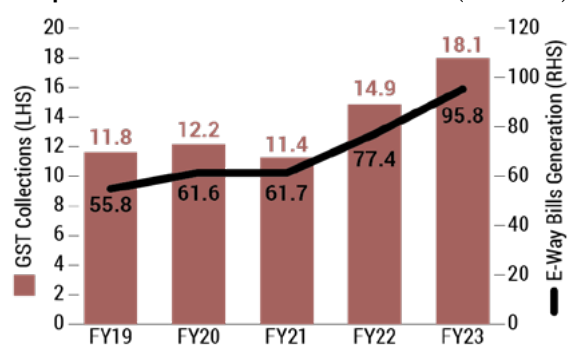
Favourable winds for india

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered the global growth forecast for 2023 to 2.7% from 2.8% estimated in January. Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said she did not expect major downgrades, although the final number had not been determined. "That's the good news." She said inflation remained "stubborn" and central banks should continue to press for price stability. The IMF also

said advanced economies were likely to see an "especially pronounced" growth slowdown with GDP at 1.3% in 2023, from 2.7% in 2022. Emerging and developing economies would grow 3.9% in 2023 from 4% in 2022, with major contributions from India and China. It said India's growth in 2023 was projected at 5.9%. In this context, here are some macro numbers that India can bank on for a growth trajectory:

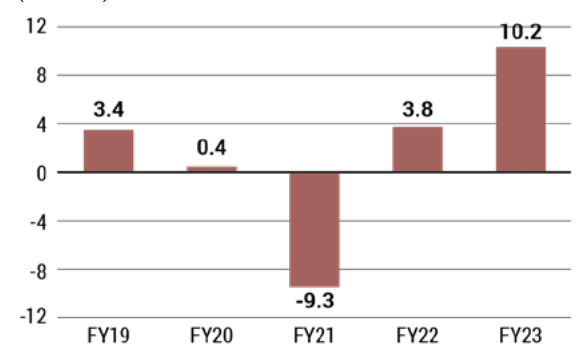
Consumption Indicators Healthy

GST Collections & E-Way Bills Generation Outperform in FY23



Source: CEIC

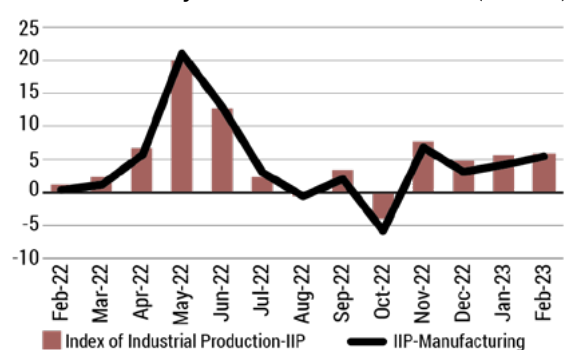
Petroleum Consumption Rebounds in FY23



Source: CEIC

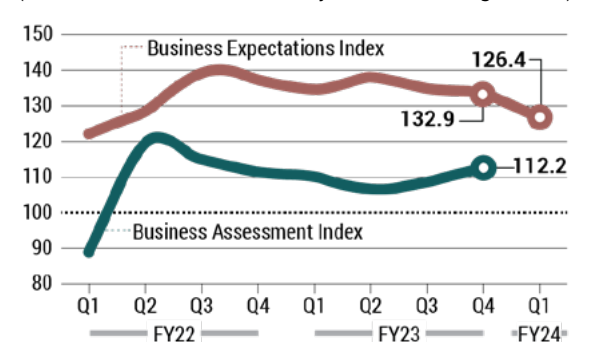
Industrial Activity Resilient; Business Expectations Ease

IIP Growth Stays on Track



Source: CEIC; Note: Figures for May & June are high due to base-effect

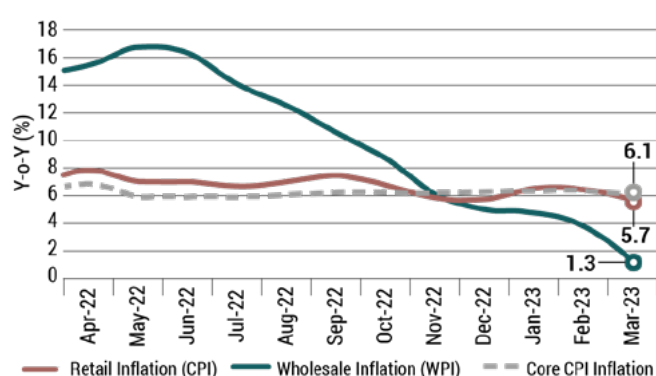
Business Expectations for Q1 FY24 Ease Slightly



Source: CEIC

Inflationary Pressures Ease

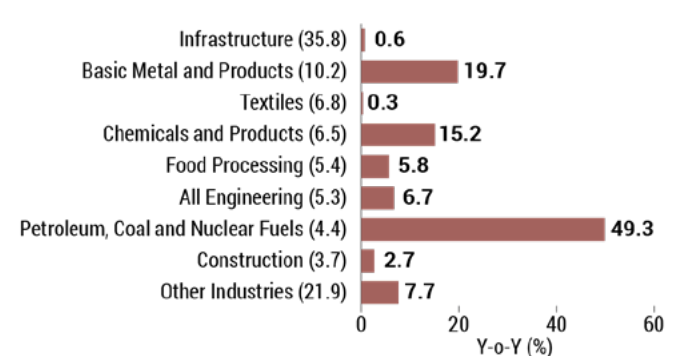
Retail & Wholesale Inflation Trends Lower



Source: CEIC & CareEdge

Bank Credit Growth Healthy

Credit Growth Across Industries



Source: RBI; Note: Figures in brackets represent share in total industrial credit.

Launch of One District One Product (ODOP) at Mustafa Centre, Singapore

The High Commission of India partnered with the Mustafa Centre – one of the biggest shopping centre in Singapore – on April 24, 2023, for the promotion of the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme, a special Government of India initiative aimed at identifying, promoting and branding a product from each district of the country.

The occasion was also marked by the promotion of Indian millets, this being the International Year of Millets. H.E. Mr P Kumaran, High Commissioner of India to Singapore, and Mr Mustaq Ahmad, Co-Founder and MD of Mustafa Centre, inaugurated the event. Several ODOP products and millet-based products were showcased at the event to increase the outreach of



India's rich and diverse ODOP and agricultural products. ■

HSBC's India Day



H. E. Mr P Kumaran, India's High Commissioner to Singapore, was the guest of honour at HSBC's Wealth and Personal Banking – India Day, an event that was held in Singapore on April 18, 2023. He delivered the keynote address, which focussed on India's growth story, to a group of HSBC's Indian diaspora clients.

The High Commissioner highlighted

the emerging opportunities in India, and the areas identified as growth engines by the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable. He also spoke about the contribution of the Indian diaspora to Singapore's economy and how there has been a strengthening of the bonds of friendship between the two countries. ■

Register on www.singaporeindiahackathon.com and get IDEATING!

Click here to access the link



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- The winner of Singapore India Hackathon start-up track will receive an automatic entry into the Singapore Fintech Festival Hackathon and a chance to win SGD 50,000.
- Winning Team Founder gets an automatic-invite to speak at the iconic Founders Peak Stage at Singapore FinTech Festival 2023.
- Top 3 startups get fast tracked into TiE Stars Mentoring Program with TiE Singapore and a pathway to TiE Singapore Angel Fund.
- The 6 finalists will compete in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 14-15th July and will be paid travel allowance and stipend.

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Demo Day 16-17 July
Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India

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Forthcoming Events In India

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INDIA FOCUS

ISSUE: 325
MAY 2023
HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, SINGAPORE

I. 17th INDIAN FASHION JEWELLERY & ACCESSORIES SHOW (IFJAS)

Date & Venue: June 26-28, 2023,
India Expo Centre & Mart,
Greater Noida
Organizer: Export Promotion Council for
Handicrafts (EPCH)
Contact: rajesh.singh@epch.com

Details: Indian Fashion Jewellery & Accessories Show reflects the rich legacy of traditional Indian workmanship blended with innovative designs. At IFJAS, buyers will have the opportunity to discover the finest in Indian craftsmanship. The artistic finish of the products will showcase a harmony of modern designs, contemporary colours and product development.

Website: <https://ifjas.in/>

II. International Conference on Chemicals and Petrochemicals

Date & Venue: May 24, 2023,
Hyatt Regency, New Delhi
Organizer: Confederation of Indian
Industries (CII)
Contact: Ms Ashneet Gahlawat,
ashneet.gahlawat@cii.in

Details: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC), Government of India, and under the aegis of B2o India, is organising a conference on chemicals and petrochemicals with the theme "Sustainable Transitions Through Greentech & Digitalization".
Website: <https://www.tradeindia.com/tradeshows/120553/conference-on-chemicals-petrochemicals-2023.html>

III. TTF Series - Upcoming Shows

Date & Venue: July, August and
September 2023;
various places
Organizer: TTF India
Contact: contact@fairfest.in

Details: The TTF Series, India's oldest and largest travel trade show network, will conduct three shows soon. TTF Kolkata, TTF Ahmedabad and TTF Hyderabad will take place in July, August and September, respectively. Kolkata, which is the gateway to the eastern India travel market, is the perfect city to host the TTF right before the Durga Puja holidays; Ahmedabad, being the second biggest hub of western India, attracts more than 7,000 B2B visitors to the show every year; and Hyderabad

Location	Dates
TTF Kolkata	14, 15, 16 July 2023
TTF Ahmedabad/ Gandhinagar	23, 24, 25 August 2023
TTF Hyderabad	9 & 10 September 2023
TTF Delhi & BLTM	29 & 30 September 2023
OTM Mumbai	08, 09, 10 February 2024
TTF Bengaluru	16, 17, 18 February 2024
TTF Chennai	15, 16, 17 March 2024

is a major hub that can be used to tap into the pent-up demand from the south Indian market.

Website: <http://www.ttfotm.com/>

For feedback & comments, please contact:

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URL: www.hcisingapore.gov.in