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#### PDRC welcomes the High Commissioner of India.



On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the High Commissioner of India to T & T and his team were welcomed by the Chairman of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation Dr. Allen Sammy as they visited Gandhi Village in Debe. His Excellency was warmly greeted by local residents as they gave the history of the Indian indentureship and the impact it had on their lives and how it shaped their future. The short programme took place at the Gandhi temple and was attended by Senator Jayanti Lutchmedialas as well as Councillors of the PDRC. Mr. Dwarika Persad, a resident of the area, gave his account of growing up with his Indian father who lived in a much simpler and happier time. H.E. Arun Kumar Sahu assured the residents of Gandhi Village that the Mission is always ready and willing to assist. He spoke about Mahatma Gandhi's plight for non-violence and urged the community to practice these teachings in everyday life; mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

#### PLI scheme likely to boost India's manufacturing output.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which is aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing and exports, is expected to increase the country's production by \$520 billion in the next five years. Addressing a webinar on PLI scheme, organized by Department of Industry and International Trade (DPIIT) and NITI Aayog, through video conference, Mr. Modi said the government is continuously carrying out reforms to boost domestic manufacturing. In this year's Budget, about ₹2 lakh crore was earmarked for the PLI scheme for the next five years and "there is an expectation that the scheme would result in increasing the production by about \$520 billion in the next five years", he said.

#### Read more:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pli-scheme>

### Collaboration with private sector to create 21st Century's defence sector.



### How e-commerce exports can enable Indian MSMEs to win in global markets



Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India said that the role of the private sector has increased in Indian defence manufacturing over the years. Today India is working to further increase its capacity and capability in the sector. "The 21st century defence sector cannot stand without private sector partnership," he added. Addressing the virtual session 'Budget Announcements: 2021-22, Galvanizing Efforts for Aatmanirbhar Bharat', organized by the Ministry of Defence, jointly with FICCI and other industry chambers, Mr Modi said that to promote the Indian private sector, the government is giving more impetus on Ease of Doing Business. "We have taken a number of measures, including delicensing, deregulation, export promotion, foreign investment liberalization, in the defence sector. We are working ahead and focusing on transparency, predictability and ease of doing business," he added. Elaborating on the recent Union Budget, Mr Modi said that this year's budget gives focus on increased private sector participation. There is a dedicated fund earmarked to boost the domestic procurement in the defence budget. "I would urge the private sector to come forward with not just manufacturing capabilities but also with design and development," he said. Highlighting the importance of MSMEs, Mr Modi said that they act as a backbone of the defence manufacturing and the reforms that are introduced will give more independence to MSMEs to expand further. Commenting on the negative list of 101 defence items announced by the government, Mr Modi said that he feels that this is a positive list under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat program. "This is a positive list that will increase our manufacturing capacities, generate new employment, reduce dependence on imports, and will give a guarantee to the products being manufactured in India to be consumed in India," he emphasized.

#### **Read more:**

<https://ficci.in/pressrelease-page.asp?nid=4084>

The correlation between economic growth and global trade is undisputed. This explains the impetus placed on trade across the world, with each country looking to increase its share in global exports. MSMEs in India currently contribute to over a third of the GDP today while accounting for about half of the country's exports. The government has been focused on increasing the MSME share of overall exports. It will help small businesses benefit from the opportunities that cross-border trade offers, allowing them to scale operations exponentially and support the growth of our economy. Removing barriers and making exports easier is especially important at a time when millions of Indian businesses are emerging from the impact of an unprecedented pandemic. The sheer size of the global market, the breadth of opportunity, and the headroom to scale have made exports an attractive business opportunity for Indian manufacturers and business-owners for decades. However, supply chain complexities, initial investments, cross-border payments and uncertainty of demand have often meant that the exports business is not for everyone. As a result, Indian businesses, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have traditionally limited their aspirations with respect to exports. In the last few years, however, the wider availability of the internet and evolution of technology have brought in a transformation to the exports business. Today, e-commerce exports have lowered the entry barrier for Indian MSMEs to enter, experiment and win in global markets. Imagine, an Ayurvedic supplement manufacturer selling directly to customers in the UK or schools in the US purchasing 'Made in India' STEM toys and make it part of their curriculum.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.theprint-valuedad-initiative>

## India- an investment opportunity for its clean energy transition.



India is actually a red-hot investment opportunity for its clean energy transition, top US official John Kerry said as he praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his commitment to addressing the challenge posed by climate change, which the Biden Administration believes poses an existential threat to humanity. Kerry, the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, said he intends to work "very, very closely" with Indian leadership including Prime Minister Modi and External Minister S Jaishankar. "We believe India can be one of the most critical transitional countries in this entire endeavour. I am confident that just as we have worked very closely on any number of issues in these last years, our two nations -- the world's two biggest democracies -- have a great deal to gain from joining hands in our global leadership and confronting the climate crisis to meet this moment," he said. "India is actually a red-hot investment opportunity for its clean energy transition," Kerry, the first official on climate to be inside the US National Security Council, said in his address to the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021. Looking forward to visiting India soon, Kerry said that the prime minister has made a very important contribution to this dialogue. Needless to say, India is deeply committed to this challenge and it has been for a considerable number of years, he said. "You are indisputably a world leader in the deployment of renewable energy and your leadership of the International Solar Alliance, which Minister Jaishankar referred to, is absolutely critical for not just India, but for other dynamic, growing economies in the world," Kerry said. Prime Minister Modi's announcement of a target of 450 gigawatts of renewables by 2030 is a strong, terrific example of how to power a growing economy with clean energy, and it's going to be one of the most important contributions because India today is already the third largest emitter in the world behind the United States and China, he said.

### **Read more:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/india-is-a-red-hot-investment-opportunity>

## India to open up its Geo-spatial sector.



The Ministry of Science and Technology released new guidelines for the Geo-spatial sector in India, which deregulates existing protocol and liberalizes the sector to a more competitive field. Geospatial data is data about objects, events, or phenomena that have a location on the surface of the earth. The location may be static in the short-term, like the location of a road, an earthquake event, malnutrition among children, or dynamic like a moving vehicle or pedestrian, the spread of an infectious disease. Geospatial data combines location information, attribute information (the characteristics of the object, event, or phenomena concerned), and often also temporal information or the time at which the location and attributes exist. Geo-spatial data usually involves information of public interest such as roads, localities, rail lines, water bodies, and public amenities. The past decade has seen an increase in the use of geo-spatial data in daily life with various apps such as food delivery apps like Swiggy or Zomato, e-commerce like Amazon or even weather apps. What is the present policy on geo-spatial data? There are strict restrictions on the collection, storage, use, sale, dissemination of geo-spatial data and mapping under the current regime. The policy had not been renewed in decades and has been driven by internal as well as external security concerns. Why has the government deregulated geo-spatial data? This system of acquiring licenses or permission, and the red tape involved, can take months, delaying projects, especially those that are in mission mode – for both Indian companies as well as government agencies. The deregulation eliminates the requirement of permissions as well as scrutiny, even for security concerns. Indian companies now can self-attest, conforming to government guidelines without actually having to be monitored by a government agency.

### **Read more:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-india-is-opening-up-the-geo-spatial-sector-7190149/>

### India's job market continues to improve.



The job market continues to improve sequentially across the country and job postings in some industries have improved, with some doing even better than the pre-Covid levels, led by IT, agro-based sectors, according to a report. In comparison to January 2020, job postings in some industries have improved, according to Monster Employment Index, by Monster.com - a Qness Company. Agro-based industries and media and entertainment have grown by 15 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, in January 2021 compared to the same time last year. Telecom and ISP (internet service provider) job postings have become stable, indicating a 0 per cent change compared to January 2020. However, telecom roles have witnessed a 13 per cent increase in postings in the last three months, it added. Jobs in the IT industry - hardware, software - reflected significant demand this month with month-on-month growth of 6 per cent in job postings, seen mostly in Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. Further, a constant increase in job postings for the home appliances industry is noticed, with 9 per cent growth in postings in January 2021, compared to December 2020. While the job postings for the home appliances industry are at 18 per cent decline year-on-year in January 2021, the same has improved compared to the previous index (December 2021 vs December 2020), which was down at 25 per cent, it noted. As per the report, industries that have witnessed maximum growth in job postings compared to the previous month are home appliances (9 per cent), agro-based industries (7 per cent), IT - Hardware, Software (6 per cent), banking and financial services, insurance (6 per cent) and chemicals, plastic, rubber, paints, fertilizer and pesticides (5 per cent). Industries such as advertising, market research, public relations (PR), production and manufacturing and engineering, cement, construction, iron and steel have also witnessed month-on-month growth of 4 per cent each.

#### **Read more:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/multimedia/jobs/job-market-continues-to-improve-led-by-it-agro-based-industries>

### IIT Kharagpur develops solar-powered pest control system.



A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has developed an energy-efficient pest controlling device for smaller agricultural tracts owned by marginal farmers. The team has built a self-propelled boom-type sprayer that can be operated using solar energy while safely guided through the crops in smaller tracts of land. According to the team, which has also filed a patent, the semi-automated device is aimed at increasing field capacity and uniformity in liquid spraying, and also to reduce drudgery to the operator and dependency on fossil fuels for carrying out spraying in cropped areas. "The system comprises a propelling unit fitted with a liquid storage tank, a DC motor operated pump to pressurize the liquid to be sprayed. Multiple numbers of spray nozzles are mounted on a boom fitted to the front of the machine to cover wider width at a time. "A set of solar-powered battery acts as the power source of the DC motor to propel the spraying unit as well as for running the pump. Unlike a knapsack sprayer, the liquid storage tank is of bigger capacity, and it is carried on a solar-powered three-wheeler trolley," said Hifjur Raheman, professor at IIT Kharagpur. "As compared to conventional knapsack sprayers, the developed sprayer has a higher field capacity and more uniformity of spraying with less drudgery to the operator. It can be easily operated in the field using solar energy with a maximum speed of 2 km/hr and can cover a width of 1.5 meters at a time with a field efficiency of 81 pc," therefore saving time, human and chemicals. Raheman explained that prevention of pests and diseases during different growth stages of crops is an important process to increase its yield. "For larger tracts of farmlands, tractor-mounted sprayers are used, while manually operated knapsack sprayer is used for smaller tracts.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/national/itt-researchers>

### **B2B E-commerce In 2021: Accelerating Digital India.**



With the emergence of COVID-19 vaccines, the global economy is regaining its hunger for growth, and Indian manufacturers cannot afford to lose the opportunity to build back better. Time is precious and Indian manufacturers, both OEMs and MSMEs, have to seize the opportunity with speed and agility. Our manufacturing enterprises will have to focus on 3As to accelerate economic growth: affordability, accessibility, and availability. While B2C e-commerce will ensure accessibility to the last person standing, B2B e-commerce will enable manufacturers to ensure availability and affordability of goods by optimizing the supply chain. Digital twinning of the manufacturing supply chain. Indian manufacturers will have to prioritize solving the legacy problems that surfaced through the COVID-19 experience. Major issues include reducing logistics costs and reducing the turnaround time of programmable tasks. B2B e-commerce firms can enable Indian OEMs and MSMEs to solve these problems through the digital twinning of the supply chain. Manufacturers can replicate the entire manufacturing supply chain ecosystem in a virtual environment and ensure higher pandemic-proofing levels by making several supply chain processes conducive to work-from-home and remote working models. As recovery accelerates in 2021, restoring the demand generation for MSMEs to pre-COVID-19 levels will be crucial. This year B2B e-commerce models will enable Indian MSMEs to gain higher visibility before OEMs searching for industrial goods. B2B e-commerce firms map large scale OEM orders against supplier production capacities, TAT, ETA, cost, insurance, and freight charges using data analytics. They will be integral to connecting MSMEs to new local business opportunities. In 2021 Indian manufacturing enterprises will have to rebuild their supply chain distribution processes from the ground up with a focus on agility. They will need to compress the cycle time across different supply chain stages of make-to-order, plant-to-port, and market-to-cash.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/365286>

### **India Petronet to expand Dahej LNG terminal's capacity.**



Indian companies are investing billions of dollars to build infrastructure, including pipelines and a new LNG import terminal. Petronet LNG, India's top liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, plans a 29% increase in its Dahej terminal's capacity to 22.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to meet rising demand. Indian companies are investing billions of dollars to build infrastructure, including pipelines and a new LNG import terminal, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to raise the share of gas in energy mix to 15% from 6.2% to help curb emissions. Capacity at the 17.5-mtpa Dahej terminal in western Gujarat state will be increased in two phases, chief executive AK Singh said. It will add 2.5 mtpa in the first phase within three to four years, followed by another similar expansion. The International Energy Agency in its latest report said India's LNG imports are expected to quadruple to 124 billion cubic metres, or about 61% of overall gas demand by 2040. Raising the share of gas to 15% would require a four-fold increase in gas consumption from the current 150 million cubic meters a day, Singh said, adding his company sought to build a new LNG import terminal on the country's east coast as well as expanding at Dahej. To meet the country's growing gas demand, Petronet is looking for flexible gas import contracts of 10 years or less instead of the standard long-term contract of 25 years, he said. Petronet operates a 5-mtpa terminal at Kochi in Southern India. Singh said the terminal would operate at about 30% by the end of this year compared to the current 20% as more customers are linked to the gas pipeline. He said capacity use at the terminal would rise to over 80% when a pipeline linking Petronet's project to the national grid is ready.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.constructionweekonline.in/projects-tenders/16671-india-petronet-to-expand-dahej-lng-terminals-capacity-to-225mtpa>

### Cabinet approves PLI scheme for manufacturing laptops.



After the success of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in bringing investments in mobile phone (handsets and components) manufacturing, the Union Cabinet approved the PLI scheme for IT hardware products. The target IT hardware segments under the proposed Scheme include Laptops, Tablets, All-in-One Personal Computers (PCs) and Servers. The scheme proposes production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the value chain of these IT Hardware products. The total cost of the PLI scheme for IT hardware is approximately Rs 7,350 crore over 4 years. The scheme intends to provide incentives between 4-1 per cent on net incremental sales (over base year i.e., 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years. As per the Cabinet statement, the scheme is expected to lead production worth Rs 3.26 lakh crore and exports worth Rs 2.45 lakh crore in four years. It is expected to bring additional investments of Rs 2,700 crore, earn direct and indirect revenue around Rs 15,760 crore and create 1.80 lakh jobs in four years. Based on initial success of the PLI scheme for mobile phones and specified electronic components, 10 target sectors along with specific product lines having high growth potential were identified by NITI Aayog for implementation of PLI Schemes. PLI Scheme for IT hardware is a further step in that direction. It comes in close wake of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for telecom and networking products that was approved by Union Cabinet. According to analysts, the Cabinet decision is yet another step by the government to fulfil the vision of making India an electronic manufacturing hub for the world and increase India's manufacturing competitiveness.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/cabinet-approves-pli-scheme-worth-7350-cr-for-laptops-tablets-servers/article33923700>

### India emerges key mover of global S&T partnerships.



Devasthal is a picturesque mountain peak in Uttarakhand from which the snow-capped Himalayas is clearly visible and the nearest settlement is 8 Km away. The tranquil place far from the maddening crowd however stands out from many such hilly spots is being a symbol of India's rising position in global science and technology. The world-class 3.6-meter optical telescope set up at the place has assumed global importance for observing a number of time-critical cosmic explosive events such as Gamma Ray Bursts and Supernovae. It is the Asia's largest fully steerable optical telescope, an international facility for and people from different parts of the world compete for observation and machine time by submitting research proposals. It was set up in year 2016 by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous research institute of DST with support from Belgian government and established India's role as a global player in astronomy research and is facilitating strong future collaborations with national, international institutions and industries. The technological know-how gained from the development of this telescope and back-end instruments are beneficial for optical facilities planned for future such as the Thirty Meter Telescope – one of the mega projects in which the country is participating. India has emerged a key mover of global S&T partnerships in critical areas like energy, water, health and astronomy which are global challenges to make the world a better and more scientific place to live in. Some flagship international partnerships which India has driven include Mission Innovation to boost research, development and innovation and related investment in clean energy, the Dutch Indian Water Alliance for Leadership Initiative (DIWALI), a platform where all stakeholders from both countries could participate and form a consortium for designing solution for water challenges.

#### **Read more:**

<https://www.ibef.org/news/india-emerges-key-mover-of-global-st-partnerships>

### India to become Aatmanirbhar in silk production in 2 years:

Smriti Irani.



Union minister Smriti Irani expressed confidence that India will become self-reliant or Aatmanirbhar in silk production in the next two years. The Minister for Textiles and Women and Child Development said the government aims to provide employment to over one crore people exclusively in the silk segment through the Krishi Vigyan Kendra programme. She said that India's raw silk production increased 35 per cent in the last six years. Six years ago, 70 lakh people in India were employed in this sector whereas 90 lakh people are currently employed in the segment, she said. The minister was addressing a programme to announce an MoU between the Textiles Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry. In a tweet, Irani said the "@TexMinIndia-@AgriGol MOU will focus on establishing tree based Agro-forestry models in sericulture & exploring possibilities of activities through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). This will enhance training, boost technology & create sustainable livelihood for silk farmers/rearers". On the eve of International Women's Day, the minister also distributed Buniyaad Reeling Machines to women silk reelers with an aim to eradicate unhygienic and obsolete thigh reeling practice. The Central Silk Board (CSB) under the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a convergence model for implementation of Agro-forestry in the silk sector under the ongoing Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme. Irani said that 8,000 women thigh reelers were identified for providing Buniyaad machines and 5,000 women have already been supported under Silk Samagra Phase I. She said that for remaining 3,000 thigh reelers, fund provision has been made in order to eradicate Unhygienic and Obsolete Thigh Reeling Practice from the country.

#### **Read more:**

<https://retail.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/apparel-fashion/apparel/india>

### Audi to launch electric e-tron range in India in next 2-3 months.



German luxury carmaker Audi will launch its fully electric SUV e-tron and crossover e-tron Sportback in India in the next two to three months to kick off its EV journey in the country, according to a senior company official. The company, which had earlier planned to launch the e-tron towards the end of the last year, had to alter the plan in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and is now planning to launch the two EVs under the e-tron range simultaneously as it bets big on electric mobility in India. "We are launching the e-tron in India. Not just one model, we are going to launch two models -- the e-tron and the e-tron Sportback. We are going to launch in the next two to three months. Right now, we are in the process of planning this," Audi India Head Balbir Singh Dhillon told. Globally, Audi had announced a five-year plan under which it would launch 30 electrified vehicles, which includes 20 pure EVs and 10 plug-in hybrid vehicles by 2025. Dhillon said the company's global plans and "our confidence level in India, gives us the strength to launch multiple models in India". Out of the 30 global electrified vehicles, he said, "Some of these models will make their way to India, not just the two models (e-Torn and e-Tron Sportback). In the times to come you will see more models to come into the country". Bullish on the EV market in India, Dhillon said the government's roadmap is also clear by keeping GST low on EVs and waiving off registration fees. "It is like directions given that going forward we need to move in that direction. As a part of this, as a brand, we are very bullish on this topic and launch these two cars very shortly," he added.

#### **Read more:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/audi-to-launch-electric-e-tron-range-in-india-in-next-2-3-months-official/articleshow>

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<http://dgftebrc.nic.in:8090/TradeDispute/>

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Contact:

Mr. Anand Mathai

Commercial Officer

High Commission of India

Tel: 225-4340

Email: [trade.pospain@mea.gov.in](mailto:trade.pospain@mea.gov.in)



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