



सत्यमेव जयते

Consulate General of India

Frankfurt

Economic and Commercial

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FROM THE DESK OF CONSUL GENERAL



Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you the January edition of the Commercial Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Frankfurt.

The Union Budget 2021 has provided a new impetus to development and Indian economy is predicted to register an impressive growth after the slow-down due to Covid pandemic related restrictions.

India undertook one of the biggest vaccination drive and the data suggests that the incidence of new infections has come down significantly. Besides ensuring vaccination of health care personnel and frontline workers in India, Government of India has also gifted the vaccine to many countries in the neighborhood. India has also supplied vaccine to many countries as part of commercial contract.

India celebrated her 72 Republic Day on 26 January 2021. The Consulate General of India, Frankfurt hosted a virtual reception on this occasion. We appreciate the greetings and good wishes received from the Indian and German business community on this occasion.

I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter.

Please send us your feedback on com1.frankfurt@mea.gov.in

Yours sincerely,

Amit Telang

Chiratae Ventures appoints Dr. Andreas Hettich on its global advisory board

In January 2021, Dr. Andreas Hettich joined the global advisory board of Chiratae Ventures, a venture capital consultancy based in Bengaluru, India. Dr. Andreas Hettich is Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Hettich Group, one of the world's leading manufacturers of furniture fittings. Dr. Hettich is also a non-executive director of Hettich India Private Limited

The global advisory board of Chiratae Ventures also includes Mr.Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus, Tata Sons, Mr.Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder, Infosys, Mr.Bruno E. Raschle, Founder, Managing Director and Non-Executive Vice Chairman of Schroder Adveq and Mr.Manish Choksi, Non-Executive Vice Chairman of Asian Paints.

Source: Press release by Hettich GmbH



Messe Frankfurt India collaborates with AMTZ Visakhapatnam

Messe Frankfurt Trade Fairs India in collaboration with Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone Limited (AMTZ) will launch a MedTech Innovation Forum. The joint cooperation aims to provide further impetus to indigenous manufacturing of medical devices and bring forward innovations and specialised medical tools and technologies that can attract domestic and global investors.

The first edition is scheduled to take place on 7th and 8th October 2021 in Visakhapatnam, which is expected to bring industry leadership together with government and medical consultants to address integral challenges of import dependency, need for technology collaborations as well as medical technology advancements that can be introduced in the industry.

AMTZ is India's first integrated medical devices manufacturing ecosystem. Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair organizer.

For more information : [Press release by Messe Frankfurt India](#)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a video-teleconference with German Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in video-teleconference with Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a video-teleconference with his German counterpart, Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel on 6th January 2021.

The Prime Minister appreciated the long-standing role of Chancellor Merkel in providing stable and strong leadership at the European and global stage and thanked her for guiding the growth of the India-Germany Strategic Partnership. The two leaders discussed key issues of mutual importance including the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral ties, regional and global issues, particularly India-EU relations.

The Prime Minister welcomed Germany's decision to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and expressed his desire to further strengthen cooperation with Germany under the platform of Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Noting that this year marks the 70th anniversary of setting up of bilateral relations between India and Germany and 20th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership, the two leaders agreed to hold the sixth Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) at an early date in 2021 and to set an ambitious agenda for the same.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 450-km Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas video conferencing. The event marked an important milestone towards the creation of 'One Nation One Gas Grid'. It has transportation capacity of 12 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres per day and will carry natural gas from the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regasification Terminal at Kochi (Kerala) to Mangaluru (Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka).



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the launch of Kochi-Mangaluru natural gas pipeline

The Government of India introduces Union Budget 2021-2022



Finance Minister of India, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presenting the Union Budget 2021-2022

The Union Budget of 2021-22 was presented by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister on February 01, 2021. The nation's first digital budget contains schemes to continue empowering multiple sectors of the economy and sections of the society given the unprecedented contraction triggered by the global pandemic.

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India's fight against COVID-19 continues into 2021 and that this moment in history, when the political, economic, and strategic relations in the post-COVID world are changing, is the dawn of a new era – one in which India is well-poised to truly be the land of promise and hope.

Six pillars of the Union Budget 2021-22:

1. **Health and Wellbeing:** A total outlay of Rs 2,23,846 crores (\$30.68 bn) has been allocated to Health and Wellbeing, as against the previous years' outlay of Rs 94,452 (\$12.95 bn) crores, thereby marking an increase in allocation by 137%.
2. **Physical and Financial Capital and Infrastructure:** A Capital Expenditure amount of Rs 5.54 lakh crore (\$75.94 bn) has been allocated, and a sum of Rs 44,000 crores (\$6bn) has been set aside for promising projects and departments.
3. **Inclusive Development for Aspirational India:** The Finance Minister has proposed the extension of the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme to all States and Union Territories in FY21-22. This is a Central Scheme launched by the Prime Minister on National Panchayat Day (24 April 2020) to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India using Drone Surveying technology.
4. **Reinvigorating Human Capital:** More than 15,000 schools to be qualitatively strengthened to include all components of the National Education Policy. Rs 3,000 crore (\$411.20mn) shall be provided for the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme.
5. **Innovation and R&D:** Allocation of Rs 1,500 crore (\$205.6mn) for a proposed scheme to provide financial incentive to promote digital modes of payment.
6. **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance:** Rationalising of the functioning of Tribunals. Introduction of the National Commission for Allied Healthcare Professionals Bill in Parliament.

For more information:



Union Budget
2021-22.pptx

India rolls out COVID-19 vaccination drive



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the launch of COVID 19 Vaccine in India

Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched the pan India rollout of COVID-19 vaccination drive via video conferencing on 16 January 2021. This is the world's largest vaccination program covering the entire length and breadth of the country. A total of 3006 session sites across all States and UTs were virtually connected during the launch.

The Prime Minister complimented the scientists who were associated with the development of the vaccines. The Prime Minister cautioned the people to be careful about not missing taking two doses. The Prime Minister put the unprecedented scale of the vaccination drive in perspective by informing that, in the first round itself, 3 crore people, which is more than population of at least 100 countries of the world, are being vaccinated. He said that this needs to be taken up to 30 crores in the second round when elderly and people with serious co-morbidities will be vaccinated.

Indian government launches Single Window Clearance Portal of Ministry of Coal

Ministry of Coal launched Single Window Clearance Portal, a unified platform that facilitates grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine in India.

Presently, about 19 major approval or clearances are required to be obtained before starting a coal mine in the country. These approvals or clearances are granted either by central or state governments. In the absence of a unified platform for grant of clearances/approvals for starting of a coal mine, the project proponents are required to approach different administrative ministries and Government departments.

Now, the complete process shall be facilitated through Single Window Clearance Portal, which will map not only the relevant application formats but also process flow for grant of approval or clearances.



Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah during the launch of the portal



Dr. Jürgen Ratzinger

**Managing Director, International Business
Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

With a rich experience of about 33 years, Dr. Jürgen Ratzinger has been leading the International business division of the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the Managing Director since 2007.

Dr. Ratzinger has a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Constance, Konstanz. He was also a Visiting Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC.

Would you like to share your experiences on Indo-German trade relations?

The Indo-German trade volume has shown an astonishing development over the last decades, from around 5 billion Euros in 2000 to more than 20 billion Euros in 2019. I am optimistic that bilateral trade will recover rather quickly from the dip caused by Covid in 2020.

Of course, international trade is seldomly frictionless, but both countries keep close contact in order to solve problems, e.g. through delegations, intergovernmental consultations or the Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure. I hope that negotiations for an EU-India trade agreement will be revived soon, this would give another boost to our economic relations.

Germany is India's most important trading partner in the EU. An estimated 1800 German companies are active in India. Our partner, the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AHK Indien), has six offices in India in order to promote bilateral trade and to provide market entry support. At the same time, a record number of Indian companies is active in Germany, which is particularly visible in the Frankfurt-Rhein-Main area.

Could you please share with us, how has IHK Frankfurt's experience been with Indian companies opening their offices in Frankfurt?

We have an estimated 250 companies with Indian majority ownership in the Frankfurt Chamber district. The most important sectors are trade, financial & corporate services and hospitality, followed by IT and logistics. Roughly two-thirds are „small trades“ but we find many of India's big players in the city as well, such as Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services or the State Bank of India.

We support Indian companies with an extensive trade promotion network in our region. The Frankfurt Chamber advises start-ups in their business development and regularly organizes events and seminars. The FrankfurtRheinMain GmbH helps foreign investors find the right location and provides guidance in setting up shop in the Rhein-Main region, while Frankfurt Economic Development GmbH offers similar services for the city of Frankfurt.

Together with the Indian Consulate, these three organize "India meets FrankfurtRheinMain – Let's talk business!", a series of events for our Indo-German community. It is the ideal venue to expand your network and to share and discuss experiences in the local business world.

Could you please comment on the impact of the COVID pandemic on the way businesses would function in the future? What could be the possible areas for Indo-German collaboration in the future?

Two sectors that have clearly gained in importance during the Covid crisis are the pharmaceutical industries and the IT & communications sector. Both Germany and India are strong in those fields. To give examples, both countries made headlines because of their crucial roles in the international vaccination roll-out against Covid. When it comes to digitization, India has long been a powerhouse in providing back office solutions around the world. Many Indian companies are firmly established in the German market, e.g. handling the IT for major German banks. With the increased relevance of global health, remote working and virtual meetings, new Indo-German business opportunities are constantly opening up. Frankfurt is a privileged place for new connections, with dozens of weekly flights between both countries and important industry clusters such as Industriepark Hoechst or the city's Fintech scene.

Another aspect to observe „post-Covid“ is the structure of global supply chains. Companies are realizing that pandemics, as well as trade conflicts, can severely disrupt their supply chains if they are not diverse enough. India is in a very good position to play a bigger role as a supply chain hub between east and west.

The Frankfurt Chamber especially encourages and assists small and medium-sized enterprises in exploring new markets.

Celebration of the 72nd Republic Day of India



Consul General Dr. Amit Telang reading the President's address to the nation.

The celebration of the 72nd Republic Day of India was organized by Consulate General of India, Frankfurt through virtual mode.

Consulate also organized the virtual reception on this occasion.

Prof. Dr. Kristina Sinemus, the Hon'ble Minister for Digital Strategy and Development of the State of Hessen, sent a video message being the Chief Guest for the virtual reception. In addition, Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, the Hon'ble Minister for Economy, Innovation, Digitization and Energy, North Rhine Westphalia and Dr. Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner, Hon'ble Minister for Federal and European Affairs and International Affairs for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia also sent video messages. The virtual event also included a series of cultural performances by Indian artists and Indian community associations as well as the congratulatory messages sent by various Indian entrepreneurs and company representatives.



Prof. Dr. Kristina Sinemus, Hon'ble Minister for Digital Strategy and Development of the State of Hessen



Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, the Hon'ble Minister for Economy, Innovation, Digitization and Energy, North Rhine Westphalia



Dr. Stephan Holthoff-Pförtner, Hon'ble Minister for Federal and European Affairs and International Affairs, North Rhine-Westphalia



Consul General Dr. Amit Telang paid a courtesy call through virtual mode on H.E. Ms. Heike Raab, Deputy Minister for Federal, European, and Digital Affairs of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate

India Tourism Mart (ITM 2021) on Virtual format from 18th - 20th February, 2021.



ITM 2021 is 3 day virtual event and will provide the buyers/participants with the opportunity to interact with tourism specialists of India in various verticals such as DMC's, India's Domestic Airlines, Luxury Trains, Cruises, Hotels & Resorts, Attractions, PCOs and other Tourism and Hospitality Service Providers from India, and with the various State Tourism Boards.

The Mart will comprise of online B2B interactions via video meetings through pre-scheduled appointments between selected Buyers and Sellers.

Buyers would be required to fill the online registration form by clicking <https://form.jotform.com/210084683113448> .The registration fee is USD 10 (non-refundable).

THANK YOU

<https://cgifrankfurt.gov.in/>

