India attracted foreign investment of over USD 20 billion during COVID times: PM Modi at India Ideas Summit

Addressing the India Ideas Summit 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India attracted foreign investment of over USD 20 billion during the coronavirus time. “We’re reaching record highs in FDI every year. Each year is significantly higher than the earlier one. The FDI inflows in India in 2019-20 were USD 74 billion. This is an increase of 20% from the year before that. India attracted over USD 20 billion foreign investment between April and July,

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PM addresses the inaugural session of India Global week

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today addressed the inaugural session of India Global week via videoconference. Referring to the current times of crisis, the Prime Minister said India would play a leading role in the global revival. He said that this is closely linked with two factors. First is - Indian talent and second is India’s ability to reform and rejuvenate. He elaborated that world over, the contribution of India’s talent-force is highly recognized, especially the contribution of the Indian tech industry and tech professionals. The Prime Minister listed the gains made during the last six years such as: total financial inclusion, record housing and infra construction, Ease of Doing Business, bold tax reforms including the GST. PM said that the green-shoots of economic recovery could already be seen as owing to the indomitable Indian spirit.

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Healthcare:

Turning Crisis into opportunity- Dr Harsh Vardhan discusses bilateral Health Co-operation including management of COVID-19 with Australian Health Minister

Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare had a digital interaction with his Australian counterpart Mr Gregory Andrew Hunt to discuss bilateral Health co-operation. While Australia has one of the best healthcare systems of the developed world, healthcare in India is one of the fastest growing sectors expected to hit US$ 275 billion mark in the next 10 years.

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India’s healthcare system ensured one of best COVID recovery rates in the world: PM Modi

The mortality rate in India is much lower compared to many other countries, and also the world average. Globally, the mortality rate of the disease is about 4.3 per cent, while in India, it has dropped to 2.55 per cent now. The United States, which has seen the maximum number of deaths, more than 1.35 lakh, has a mortality rate of about 3.98, while Brazil, with over 74,000 deaths, has a mortality rate of 3.84 per cent.

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PM launches 3 high throughput COVID testing facilities at Kolkata, Mumbai and Noida

The three high-throughput testing facilities are set up strategically at Noida; Mumbai; and Kolkata, will reportedly be able to test over 10,000 samples in a day. These labs will also reduce turn-around-time and exposure of lab personnel to infectious clinical materials. The labs are enabled to test diseases other than COVID also.

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India’s first Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, undergoing trial

India is one of the largest vaccine producers in the world and scientists are hoping to develop a coronavirus vaccine within months because of the pandemic. Covaxin, which has been developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with ICMR and NIV, Pune, will be tested on more than 1,100 people in phase 1 and 2 clinical trials.

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India’s Covid-19 recovery rate now at 63.54%

With 795 labs in the government sector and 324 private labs, there are as many as 1119 labs in the country. These include:
Real-Time RT PCR based testing labs: 600 (Govt: 372 + Private: 228)
TrueNat based testing labs: 426 (Govt: 390 + Private: 36)
CBNAAT based testing labs: 93 (Govt: 33 + Private: 60).
Growing healthcare infrastructure of various types of COVID facilities adequately supported by ICU and oxygen supported beds, ventilators and other equipment has facilitated and ensured timely detection and effective clinical management of COVID-19 positive cases.

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New Education Policy 2020: Doors open for foreign universities; 4-year UG with exit option, flexible Master’s

Paving the way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India, the new National Education Policy (NEP) states that the world’s top 100 universities will be “facilitated” to operate in the country through a new law. “A legislative framework facilitating such entry (of foreign universities) will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India,” the new policy says.

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Education:

**Major Reforms in Higher Education:**

Multiple Entry and Exit Points with appropriate certification. UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor’s Degree after 3 years and Bachelor’s with Research after 4 years.

Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.

A National Mission for Mentoring will be established, with a large pool of outstanding senior/retired faculty.

**Major Reforms in School Education**

The 10+2 structure of school curricula to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 (9-12 class) curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively. The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi pre-schooling.

The policy has emphasized mother tongue/local language/regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond. Sanskrit to be offered at all levels of school and higher education as an option for students, including in the three-language formula. Other classical languages and literatures of India also to be available as options. No language will be imposed on any student.

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**Major Reforms in School Education**

All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim. A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body.

Mathematical Thinking & Scientific Temper (coding from class 6)

No rigid separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams. Vocational education will start in schools from the 8th grade, and will include internships.
**Kashmir Saffron Gets Geographical Indication Tag**

The Union government issued a certificate of GI registration for the saffron grown in the Kashmir Valley. Pampore, the hub of saffron in Kashmir, is expected to have a bumper crop of the spice this season due to initiatives taken by the National Mission on Saffron (NMS).

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**India Records all time high Export of Coir and Coir Products**

The export of coir and coir products from India worth Rs 2,757.90 crore (US$ 391.25 million) for the year 2019-20, registers an all-time high record, which is around Rs 30 crore (US$ 4.26 million) higher than that of the last year i.e. 2018-19 which stood at Rs 2,728.04 crore (US$ 387.01 million). 988,996 MT of coir and coir products were exported during the year 2019-20 from the country as against 964,046 MT exported during the preceding year.

Read More:

**Indian spices’ exports up by 23 percent to US$ 359 million in June, says Assocham**

In June 2020, India’s spices exports increased by 23 per cent to Rs 2,690 crore (US$ 359 million) from Rs 2,190 crore (US$ 292 million) in the same month last year, as per the data by Assocham. A study done by the chamber also pointed out that the demand for spices is increasing in domestic market leading to a sharp increase in their prices by almost 12 per cent in June whereas the headline CPI inflation was half that level. spices exporters raked in even better in domestic currency, with an increase by 34 per cent to Rs 2,721 crore (US$ 386.01 million) in June 2020 from Rs 2,030 crore (US$ 288 million) in the comparative month a year ago, the industry chamber said quoting official data.

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**Milk production is expected to rise to 330 million tons by 2024; Government trying to increase milk processing up to 40 per cent - Shri Giriraj Singh**

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Shri Giriraj Singh launched the Implementation Guidelines for Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) worth Rs 15,000 crore (US$ 2.13 billion), which was approved by the Union Cabinet on 24.06.2020 under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan stimulus package for ensuring growth in several sectors. India is producing milk of 188 million tonnes and by 2024 the milk production is expected to rise up to 330 million tons.

Read More:
**Automobiles / EV:**

**Electric vehicle market likely to be Rs 50,000 crore opportunity in India by 2025: Report**

The electric vehicle (EV) market is estimated to be a Rs 50,000 crore (US$ 7.09 billion) opportunity in India by 2025, with two- and three-wheelers expected to drive higher electrification of the vehicles in the medium term in the wake of COVID-19, according to a report by Avendus Capital.

Read More:

**India’s first public Electric Vehicle charging plaza inaugurated**

Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, inaugurated India’s first public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging plaza at Chelmsford Club in Delhi. This plaza will host 5 EV chargers of different specifications. The EV charging plaza is a new avenue for making e-mobility ubiquitous and convenient in India.

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**Global PE firms eye India’s auto components sector**

Top private equity (PE) firms such as Temasek, Blackstone, Goldman Sachs, Samara Capital, and Baring Private Equity Asia are actively exploring investment opportunities in India’s auto parts manufacturing sector.

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**Oil & Gas:**

**RIL overtakes Exxon to become world’s no 2-energy company**

Reliance Industries Ltd., controlled by Asia’s richest man Mr Mukesh Ambani, toppled ExxonMobil Corp. to become the world’s largest energy company after Saudi Aramco, as investors piled into the conglomerate lured by the Indian firm’s digital and retail forays. On July 24, 2020, Reliance, which manages the biggest refinery complex, gained 4.3 per cent in Mumbai adding US$ 8 billion to take its market value to US$ 189 billion.

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**India sets out multi-faceted reform to support gas**

The Indian government announced further measures to raise the share of gas in the country’s energy mix. The target is to increase the contribution of gas from c.6pc to 15pc by 2030. India will expand its gas pipeline infrastructure from 17,000km to c.32,000km and raise annual LNG import capacity from 39.2mn t to c.50mn t.

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**Renewables:**

**AP government invites private participation to set up ultra-mega renewable energy power parks**

The Andhra Pradesh Renewable Energy Export Policy, 2020, has been announced to attract private investments for establishing solar/wind/wind-solar hybrid projects on a massive scale. Under the policy, the renewable energy produced can be exported to other states without any obligation to the state DISCOMs to procure power as the DISCOMs have already exceeded the Renewable Power Purchase Obligation (RPO) as notified by the Ministry of Power (MoP), government of India and also AP State Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC).

Read More:


**Largest Solar Power Plant of Indian Navy Commissioned in Ezhimala**

Largest Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala has been commissioned by the Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla. It is a 3 MW Solar Power Plant which has been set-up in line with the Indian Government’s initiative of ‘National Solar Mission’ which aims to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.

Read More:


**India installed 5.9 GW of solar capacity in FY20, to add another 6.6 GW in FY21: Report**

India installed about 5.9 gigawatt (GW) of utility-scale solar capacity in the financial year 2019-20 and is estimated to add another 6.6 GW capacity in FY21. It added that 1.7 GW capacity was installed in the rooftop solar segment in FY20 and projects of 1.4 GW capacity are expected to be commissioned in FY21.

Read More:


**India to set up solar power park in Sri Lanka**

India’s largest power generation utility NTPC Ltd. plans to set up this project in the island nation under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

Read More:


**NTPC floats tender to acquire 1 GW solar projects, to invest around Rs 5,000 crore**

State-run power giant NTPC has floated a tender to acquire 1 GW operational solar projects, which entails an investment of around Rs 5,000 crore. By 2032, the company plans to have a minimum of 32 GW capacity through RE sources constituting nearly 25 per cent of its overall power generation capacity.

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**Gujarat adds highest wind power generation capacity**


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Technology:

Google to invest ₹75,000 crore in India

Google will invest ₹75,000 crore/ US$ 10 billion approximately in India to boost the country’s digital economy. The investment will be carried out over the next five to seven years. The Google for India Digitization Fund will focus on the following areas:

- Enabling affordable access and information for every Indian in their own language.
- Building new products and services that are relevant to India’s unique needs.
- Empowering businesses and supporting them in their digital transformation.
- Leveraging technology and AI for social good, in areas like health, education and agriculture.

Read More:

Google to invest US$ 4.79 billion in Reliance Jio Platforms

Reliance Industries announced a new stakeholder in Jio Platforms. It has added Google as a new strategic partner. Google plans to invest Rs 33,737 crore (US$ 4.79 billion) with a stake of 7.7 per cent. So far, the company has received an investment of Rs 1,52,056 crore (US$ 21.57 billion) from stakeholders.

Read More:

Apple supplier Foxconn plans to invest US$ 1 billion in India: Sources

Foxconn plans to invest up to $1 billion to expand a factory in southern India where the Taiwanese contract manufacturer assembles Apple iPhones. Foxconn's planned investment in the Sriperumbur plant, where Apple's iPhone XR is made some 50 km west of Chennai, will take place over the course of three years.

Indian fantasy sports platforms report three-fold jump in FY20 revenue: Study

According to the joint report released by the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) and KPMG, the Indian online fantasy sports industry was booming vastly. As per the data, the gross revenue of online fantasy sports (OFS) operators including Dream11 increased threefold to Rs 2,470 (US$ 350.40 million) in FY20 versus Rs 920 crore (US$ 130.51 million) in the previous fiscal. The OFS market attracted Contest Entry Amount (CEA) worth Rs 16,500 crore (US$ 2.34 billion) in FY20 versus Rs 6,000 crore (US$ 851.18 million) in previous financial year.

Read More:
**Increase in AI by Indian firms can result in 2.5 per cent increase in India’s GDP: Report**

A substantial increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Indian firms can result in a 2.5% increase in India’s GDP in the immediate term, a study has found. The study has used investments in software, databases and computer machinery as a proxy for AI and has measured AI intensity as the ratio of AI to total sales of the firm. The report by IT industry body Nasscom along with think-tank ICRIER and Internet giant Google called Implications of AI on the Indian Economy said that in order to trigger a positive growth shock, AI intensities should be sharply increased.

Read More:

**Indian direct selling industry records US$ 2.47 billion sales in 2019, ranks 15th globally**

The Indian direct selling industry has recorded sales of US$ 2.47 billion in 2019, reporting a growth of 12.1 per cent, according to a report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA). India has improved its rank to the 15th from the earlier 19th a year before, said The Global Direct Selling - 2019 Retail Sales report by Washington-based WFDSA.

Read More:

**Daily average electronic transactions increased from 66 Lakh in 2014 to 16.3 Crore in 2020; E-services increases from 2,463 in 2014 to 3,858 till May 2020**

The Digital India journey in the past 5 years has centred around empowerment, inclusion, digital transformation. It has positively impacted all aspects of the lives of Indian citizens identity management through Aadhaar, Direct Benefit Transfer, Common Services Centres, DigiLocker, mobile based UMANG services, participatory governance through MyGov, Jeevan Pramaan, to UPI, Ayushman Bharat, e-Hospital, PM-Kisan, e-NAM, Soil Health Cards, SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, National Scholarship Portal, e-Pathshala, and so on. A ‘National AI Portal’ and ‘Responsible AI for Youth’ was launched recently to lay the foundation for an AI-powered future. Digital India’s initiatives have also played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 situation, such as Aarogya Setu, E-Sanjeevani, sensitisation through MyGov and Social media platforms etc.

Read More:

**Oracle sharpens focus on India with new cloud data centre in Hyderabad**

Technology major Oracle Corp. launched its second cloud data centre in Hyderabad to support the increased customer demand for enterprise cloud services. The new data centre is part of Oracle’s global plans to operate 36 “second generation” cloud data centres or regions by the end of 2020. Oracle launched its Mumbai cloud region in 2019, making India its latest country with multiple cloud regions available. With this launch, India joins US, Canada, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and the European Union in having multiple Oracle Cloud regions that enable better disaster recovery strategies.

Read More:
Amazon.com Inc's India unit announced its plan to open 10 new warehouses in India and begin offering auto insurance, in moves that will help the e-commerce giant widen its reach in a key growth market. Amazon will now have over 60 warehouses or fulfilment centres across 15 Indian states with an area equivalent to more than 100 football fields, said the company.

Read More:

Flipkart buys Walmart India's wholesale biz

Flipkart has acquired the Indian operations of Walmart Inc. as its US parent consolidates its operations in this fast-growing retail market to compete with Reliance Industries Ltd and Amazon, among others. Flipkart will take over Walmart India Pvt. Ltd, which operates the Best Price cash and-carry wholesale stores. It is expected to launch a digital marketplace, Flipkart Wholesale, which is in pilot mode, in August, to grow its business-to-business (B2B) vertical.

Read More:

India's e-commerce business is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 27 percent to reach USD 99 billion by 2024, Goldman Sachs said projecting that Reliance Industries would capture half of the online grocery sales through its Facebook. "We forecast India e-commerce will reach USD 99 billion by 2024, growing at a 27 percent CAGR over 2019-24, with grocery and fashion/apparel likely to be the key drivers of incremental growth".

Read More:

Indian online grocery market can exceed US$ 3 billion sales in 2020: Sanjiv Goenka

The Indian online grocery market is estimated to exceed sales of about Rs 22,500 crore (US$ 3.19 billion) in 2020, a significant 76 per cent jump over the previous year, according to Spencer's Retail Chairman Mr Sanjiv Goenka. Spencer’s Retail is headquartered in Kolkata and operates 191 stores (including Nature’s Basket) of various formats in 42 cities. Its revenue in FY20 stood at Rs 2,373.29 crore (US$ 336.68 billion).

Read More:
https://www.ibef.org/news/indian-online-grocery-market-can-exceed-us-3-billion-sales-in-2020-sanjiv-goenka
Free Yoga in the Government House Grounds –
Presented by the Consulate General of India Perth in partnership with the Indian Society of Western Australia (ISWA)

Registration Link: https://govhouse.wa.gov.au/yoga-in-the-grounds-presented-by-the-consulate-general-of-india-perth/?fbclid=IwARoCcTpOJrhAWW7f5zhJJnSEiXBOUEH2Cfomn66Cq5kZCz8VKrP4tn-sU2M
Participate in forthcoming Tender / Events

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for private participation for operation of passenger train services in India**

The Ministry of Railways has invited Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for private participation for operation of passenger train services for over 109 Origin Destination (OD) pairs of routes through introduction of 151 modern Trains (Rakes). The 109 OD Pairs have been formed into 12 Clusters across the Indian Railway network. Each Train shall have a minimum of 16 coaches.

The project would entail private sector investment of about Rs 30,000 crore. This is the first initiative of private investment for running Passenger Trains over Indian Railways network. Majority of Trains to be manufactured in India (Make in India). The private entity shall be responsible for financing, procuring, operation and maintenance of the trains. The Concession Period for the project shall be 35 years.

The operation of the trains by the private entity shall conform to the key performance indicators like punctuality, reliability, upkeep of trains etc. Operation and maintenance of the passenger trains would be governed by standards & specifications and requirements specified by Indian Railways. For more information regarding participation kindly visit: www.eprocure.gov.in