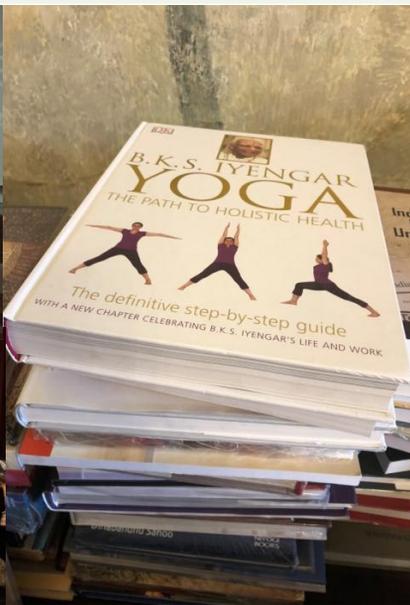


India in Czech NEWSLETTER

June 2019

S. No.	News Item	Page No.
1	Indian Economic News	2
2	Bilateral relations	4
3	Forthcoming events in India	8
4	Government of India tenders	10
5	Fairs and Exhibitions	11
6	Useful links	13



EMBASSY OF INDIA
MILADY HORAKOVE 60/93,
170 00 PRAHA 7, CZECH REPUBLIC
Tel : +420 257 533 490
Web : www.eoiprague.gov.in

INDIAN ECONOMIC NEWS

100-day agenda: Com min proposes major export promotion scheme to boost shipments

The commerce ministry prepared a 100-day action plan as the new government took office on May 30. The plan includes a major export promotion scheme to ensure expeditious refund of central and state taxes and levies to boost shipments in the wake of global challenges at trade front. A new export promotion scheme has become necessary as the existing merchandise exports for India (MEIS) scheme is being opposed by the US in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), stating it is not in compliance with global trade norms. The new scheme could be named as Central and State Taxes and Levies Scheme. According to the proposal, the new scheme would ensure refund of all un-rebated central and state levies and taxes imposed on inputs that are consumed in exports of all sectors. Initiatives by Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu has helped in taking exports to an all-time high of USD 331 billion in 2018-19. The ministry has also proposed to Introduce a WTO compliant production-based support scheme to increase outbound shipments. The Department of Commerce is consulting with all the concerned stakeholders to frame this scheme to promote high potential sectors like electronics, telecom, hi-tech engineering, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and technical textiles. Any government support which is subject to export performance becomes a prohibited subsidy under WTO norms. The ten-point action plan has also proposed the launch



of a new five-year foreign trade policy (2020-25) on September 1 this year and promote shipments of the services sector. The current policy will end in March 2020.

Commerce and Industry Minister reviews draft National Logistics Policy

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, reviewed the draft National Logistics Policy and the proposed action plan for implementation of the policy prepared by the Department of Logistics, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The draft National Logistics Policy has been prepared in consultation with the Ministries of Railways, Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Civil Aviation. Forty-six Partnering Government Agencies (PGAs) inputs were analyzed for consideration in the Policy. Commerce and Industry Minister in his opening remarks urged that all the four Ministries and their departments must leverage existing infrastructure to support each other in the logistics chain. This will not only help in maximizing existing infrastructure to support each other in the logistics chain.

This will not only help in maximizing capacity utilization but also reduce costs he added. Piyush Goyal directed that all four Ministries must work in coordination with each other so that the 14% logistics cost of India's GDP may be brought down to 9%. In the meeting all aspects of logistics related to railways, civil aviation, shipping and inland waterways, road transport, ropeways warehousing and cold chain were discussed in detail.

GST council to introduce new GST return system

Businesses will be able to use the new return filing forms under Goods and Services Tax (GST) on a trial basis for three months beginning July, the government said, spelling out the transition plan for the new tax return filing system. Currently, companies and businesses have to file tax returns via GSTR3B or summary form and GSTR1, which entails details of outward supplies. The new system will comprise three forms -- GST ANX-1 that will capture details of outward supplies, GST ANX-2 which will be the purchase form and GST RET-1 which will be the final return form. While the new purchase and sales forms will be available for trial during July-September, businesses will still have to file returns based on GSTR1 and GSTR3B. The new return form GST ANX-1 will be made compulsory October onwards, replacing GSTR1, the existing forms -- GSTR3B and GSTR1 -- will be phased out completely from January 2020.

20 lakh farmers expected to benefit as PMKSY expected to leverage investment of Rs 31,400 crore

Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) is expected to leverage investment of Rs 31,400 crore, handle of 334 lakh MT agro-produce valuing Rs 1,04,125 crore, benefit 20 lakh farmers

and generate 5,30,500 direct/ indirect employment in the country by the year 2019-20. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shri Rameswar Teli, in the

Parliament. The Minister added that under PMKSY following schemes are implemented: Mega Food Parks; Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities; Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters; Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages; Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and Human Resources and Institutions. He also stated that 100% FDI is permitted under the automatic route in food processing sector. 100% FDI is also allowed through Government approval route for retail trading, in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India. The sector has witnessed FDI equity inflow of US\$3.28 billion during April 2014 to March 2019. Seven FDI proposals for retail trading in food products have been approved amounting to about US\$ 705 million during 2017-18.

The Minister also informed steps/measures taken to boost the growth of food processing sector in the country which are: creation of a special fund of Rs 2000 crores in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide affordable credit to food processing industries, classification of food & agro-based processing units and cold chain as agricultural activity for Priority Sector Lending (PSL); lower Goods & Services Tax (GST) rates for majority of food products, 100% exemption of income tax on profit for new food processing units, 100 percent income tax exemption from profit derived by FPOs having annual turnover of Rs.100 crore for activities such as post-harvest value addition to agriculture, concessional import duty for plant and machinery under project imports benefit scheme, import duty exemption on import of raw material under advance authorization scheme etc.

BILATERAL RELATIONS

Czech Post Releases Bapu@150 commemorative Postage Stamp

A commemorative postage stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled on 26 June, 2019 as a joint effort of Czech Post and the Embassy of India, Prague. The ceremony was held at the Embassy of India in Prague in the presence of Czech Post's Director General, Mr. Roman Knap and Her Excellency, Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic, and attended by the stamp designer, Mr. Jan Kavan.

The stamp portrays Mahatma Gandhi with his hands folded in the conventional Hindu gesture of greeting and deep respect. The motif of the first day cover (FDC) is based on the non-violence symbol of circles referring to perfection and harmony. In the context of the non-violence symbol, the folded hands represent mutual cooperation. The stamp and FDC are accompanied by a commemorative handstamp depicting Gandhi's spectacles and the date of issuing the stamp. All three items were designed by Jan Kavan and the FDC was engraved by Bohumil šneider, according to Czech Post.

„On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the birth of our Father of the Nation, we remember his greatness not only in India but also by celebrations and activities around the world to spread his teaching and philosophy of non-violence. Czech stamps have long been valued as most beautiful ones. I am therefore pleased that Mahatma Gandhi became the motif of one of them,” said Her Excellency, Mrs.



peace. We are honoured to be able to contribute to the commemoration of his legacy by issuing this stamp. This is the first Czech commemorative stamp in the history remembering this person,” said Roman Knap, Czech Post's Director General.

The Postal Security Printing Company in Prague printed 500,000 commemorative stamps by offset and 3,200 FDCs by recess printing from flat plates.

The Z stamp corresponds to stamps with the face value of CZK 41 used for priority International Ordinary Mail up to 50 g destined to non-European countries. The stamp is available at any dedicated philatelic counter, at certain post offices, or online via Czech Post's website.

An **Energy Mission from the Czech Republic** led by Mr Richard Hlavaty, Senior Director General of Foreign Economic Policies, Ministry of Industry and Trade visited the cities of Uttarakhand, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi from 25th - 28th June, along with four Czech companies dealing with water turbines, hydro-mechanical equipments, hydro-power equipments and metal fittings.

Czech Republic dedicates World Environment Day, June 5, 2019 to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary ([Bapu@150](#))



Embassy of India in Prague in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and the Government of the Czech Republic, observed the World Environment Day on 5 June, 2019, dedicated to 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi was not only political leader, but his teaching, philosophy and attitude to nature have contributed also to modern environmentalism. In view of this, the World Environment Day (WED) was an ideal opportunity for celebration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in India and all over the world and thus help spread Mahatma's philosophy of non-violence and respect for nature. As tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and nature, 150 trees will be planted, which will be gifted by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. The first symbolic tree was planted on 5 June in the garden of the Embassy of India in Prague. On this occasion, the Deputy Minister in the Czech Ministry of Environment gave a presentation of the places, where remaining 149 trees will be planted during

autumn of 2019. The Czech Republic is partnering with the Embassy of India in commemorating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, including through release of [Bapu@150](#) commemorative stamp by Czech Post on June 26, 2019.

Czech Finance Minister inaugurates Festival of India, Prague, 24 June



The Festival of India in the Czech Republic was inaugurated by H.E. Ms Alena Schillerová, Minister of Finance, Government of the Czech Republic and H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of India on 24 June, 2019 at Karlín Divadlo, Prague, by the lighting of Indian traditional lamp.

The Festival featured following three performances: Bharatanatyam by Ms. Neha Seshadrinath on 'Natesha Kauthvam'. 'Natesha Kauthvam' described the Lord of Dance, Nataraja, as the one worshipped by sages, celestials, Brahma and Vishnu. Kathakali led by Kalamandalam Shri Rajasekharan Madhava Kurup, who performed the story of 'Kirata', which defined that during the period that Pandavas brothers were in exile in the forest, they and Draupadi suffered.

Czech National Library receives gift of 100 Indian books from Indian Ambassador



H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic visited the National Library of the Czech Republic on 13 June, 2019 and gifted 100 books for setting up of the India Section at the National library in Prague. During her interaction with Dr. Martin Kocanda, Director General and other senior officials of the National Library, Ambassador conveyed that the Embassy greatly values the National Library of the Czech Republic as an iconic institution of learning and is, therefore, desirous of institutional cooperation with the esteemed National Library. Dr. Martin Kocanda, Director General, thanked Indian Ambassador for the gesture and noted that the books on diverse topics on India will be used and offered to readers in the National Library. Ambassador remarked that 100 books on diverse topics on India, including politics, economics, yoga, history, culture, architecture, fine arts, cuisine, sports etc. will help in enriching knowledge about different facets of India as a country and in promoting international understanding. It is

mentioned that during the State visit of H.E. Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India to the Czech Republic from 6-9 September, 2018, both H.E. Mr. Miloš Zeman, President of the Czech Republic and President of India welcomed partnerships between the centres of learning.

Prague leads the world in celebration of International Day of Yoga (IDY)' June 15, 2019



Embassy of India, Prague in association with the Yoga in Daily Life, Art of Living and with the support of Prague City authorities held the inaugural event of International Day of Yoga 2019 on 15 June, 2019 from 9 to 11 am at Strelecky Ostrov island, on the Vltava river in the backdrop of the historic Charles Bridge.

Ambassador, H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, welcomed the participants and dedicated the day to them. Hundreds of Yoga enthusiasts performed the Yoga asanas/exercises as per the Common Yoga Protocol. Yoga T-shirts were distributed to the participants. After the morning exercises, enthusiastic groups

did flash mobs on Charles Bridge, near Rudolfinum, Old Town Square etc. and took group photographs in standing / yoga poses in backdrop of iconic places and made it a grand success. Ambassador was a key note speaker at 'Yoga- Science of Humans' Conference held by Yoga in Daily Life in the presence of Swami Maheshwarananda and 700 Czech citizens. In addition, during the course of the week, IDY will be celebrated by Yoga in Daily Life at its 36 different locations. On June 21, Yoga in Daily Life will organize a social event in Prague, namely, open-air practising of Yoga for the general public at Charles Square, comprising of:(i) Yoga for Children; (ii) Yoga Against back pain; (iii) Exercise for beginners; (iv) Yoga to support vitality; Free yoga classes will also be held on or around 21 June. Lakhs of Czech citizens practise yoga in one form or the other.

Goa Tourism Roadshow in Prague on 12 June, 2019



Department of Tourism, Government of Goa in association with the Embassy of India organized the Goa Tourism Roadshow in Prague on 12 June, 2019. About more than 50 local tour operators registered for B2B meetings.

H.E. Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic was the Chief Guest at the event and in her remarks explained how easy is to obtain tourism visa from Indian Embassy or to utilize electronic Visa facility of Government of India. Ambassador further informed that the Goa continues to draw foreign visitors by the thousands every year, thanks to its lovely beaches, mountains, hills, backwaters, cuisine, the relaxed and chilled out way of life and has been consistently voted as one of the world's must see destination by leading tourism & travel magazines and surveys. It was emphasized that there is a huge potential to further develop Czech Republic as a source market for Goa especially in Free Independent Travellers (FIT)/ charger segment. The Roadshow provided a unique opportunity to both the Czech Tour Operators and tourism stakeholders of Goa to have business-to-business interaction which will further help in attracting the Czech tourists to Goa.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN INDIA

Himachal Pradesh global Investors' Meet 2019



The Government of the State of Himachal Pradesh is organising a Global Investors' Meet (GIM) from 26-27 September 2019 at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. Nestled in the Himalayas and adobe of H.H. the Dalai Lama, the beautiful state of Himachal Pradesh boasts of proactive governance, skilled manpower, natural utilities and is in an accelerated socio-economic growth phase. Abundance of industrial power that is amongst the cheapest in the country, open and progressive policies of the State Government backed by fast track project clearances, continuous investment in upgradation of infrastructure development, human capital and social welfare has made Himachal Pradesh as the preferred destination in India for entrepreneurs and tourists alike.

The GIM will showcase the policy & regulatory environment and vast investment potential across various sectors with a focus on Agri Business & Food Processing, Manufacturing & Pharmaceuticals, Tourism & Hospitality, Power & Renewable Energy, Health Care & AYUSH, Infrastructure & Logistics, Electronics & IT, Education and Skill Development. The mega event besides showcasing investment opportunities will provide an enabling framework to facilitate investors and investment along with holding sectoral

sessions on B2G, G2G and B2B meetings. The event will be attended by Ministers and senior officers of the National and State Government along with Industries' representatives and international delegates.

5th Edition of Global Exhibition on Services (GES)



Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India is organising a Global Exhibition on Services 2019 (GES), in partnership with the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), from 18-20 September 2019 in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

This 5th Edition of GES follows up from the success of previous four editions beginning 2015, inaugurated by the President or Prime Minister, and were aimed at providing a global platform for increasing trade and services, enhancing strategic cooperation and strengthening multilateral relationships to explore new business avenues. The GES 2018 saw participation from 100 countries with 500 overseas delegates, 628 exhibitors and more than 7000 structured B2B meetings. The GES 2019 will provide a platform for forging sustained partnership among 12 core services sector viz. IT & ITES, Tourism and Hospitality, Medical, Transport & Logistics, Accounting & Finance, Audio Visual, Legal, Communication, Construction & related Engineering

Environmental, Financial and Education services. The event is expected to host delegates from 100 countries along with exhibitions focused knowledge sessions and a large number of B2B, B2G and B2C meetings.

5th Edition of the UP Travel Mart 2019 (UPTM)



Department of Tourism of the Government of the Indian State of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, is organising the fifth edition of the Uttar Pradesh Travel Mart 2019 (UPTM), from 9th to 11th August 2019, in the state capital Lucknow. UPTM is a signature tourism marketplace of Uttar Pradesh, where the domestic travel trade connects with the tourism industry partners from India and overseas. This annual event provides the domestic tourism industry leaders an opportunity to meet one-on-one at the marketplace. The event will provide platform to leading buyers, sellers and tourism industry partners to have focused discussions on the variety of latest tourism products & services across its vibrant cities, attractions, nature & wildlife, adventure, cuisine, handicraft heritage, religion and culture. The event will feature destination presentations and pre/post familiarisation tours, providing business networking opportunity to explore tourism potential of Uttar Pradesh.

5th India Europe 29th Business Forum (IE29BF)



The 5th India Europe 29th Business Forum (IE29BF) will be held on 20-21 November 2019 at New Delhi. The IE29BF has become a foundation for regular interactions between India and Europe for progressing trade and business on both sides and is positioned as the leading platform for the business inputs from India and the 29 Central and East European countries to meet, discuss and finalise partnership in the identified sector.

The IE29BF will focus on the 5 key sectors viz. Artificial intelligence, IT & ITES, Pharmaceutical, renewal energy and Smart Cities including urban transportation. The forum shall include Sectoral Roundtables, Partner Country Sessions, Exposition/Interactive Tech space, Cultural and Gala Dinner, Start-up Connect Hackathon, Sectoral Field Visits and States' participation.

International SME Convention 2019



Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises of India is organised the second edition of International SME Convention 2019 (ISC 2019) in New Delhi from 27-29 June 2019. The event was held in association with Italy and South Korea as partner countries and International Organizations of UNIDO, UNDP and ILO as institutional partners.

India's Medium and Small Enterprises Sector (MSME) has been at the core of our tremendous growth story, which is boosted, inter-alia, by various Government Initiatives like 'Make in India', 'Startup India', 'Digital India', 'Stand up India', 'Smart Cities Project.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TENDERS

Tenders can be accessed through the following links:

- 1) Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/cppp/>
- 2) Government of India Tender information System
<https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>

More details on Tenders in India are available at the following Embassy link:

<https://www.eoiprague.gov.in/tenders.php>

Information on trade fairs/exhibitions is available at:

- 1) www.indiatradefair.com
- 2) www.cii.in/CII_Events.aspx
- 3) www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp
- 4) <http://www.assochem.org/international-exhibitions.php>
- 5) www.fieo.org/view_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0
- 6) www.biztradeshows.com/india/

FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS

Sl. No.	Name of the Fair	Location	Dates	Products	Contact Person	Link
1	Smart City Expo (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	Delhi	May 22-24, 2019	Infrastructure development, materials & technologies for green building technologies, green & autonomous transport and water technologies	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in	
2	MSME Forum Exhibition	Delhi	Aug.23-25, 2019	Start Up Expo and Laghu Udyog Vyapar	Mr. S.R. Sahoo, General Manager Tel: 011-23371965/0257 E-mail: companysecretary@itpo.gov.in, hodbdd@itpo.gov.in	
3	Delhi Book Fair	Delhi	Sept.11-15, 2019	Books, Publications, Journals etc.	Mr. Ashutosh Varma, General Manager Tel: 011-23371970 E-mail: ashutosh.varma@itpo.gov.in Mgr: Shri Mukesh Chopra	
4	Stationery & Office Automation Fair & Corporate Gift Fair	Delhi	Sep. 11-15 2019	All Education, Office Stationery items & Gifts	Mr. Ashutosh Varma, General Manager Tel: 011-23371970 E-mail: ashutosh.varma@itpo.gov.in Mgr: Shri Mukesh Chopra	
5	India Intl. Footwear Fair	Delhi	Sept. 23-25, 2019	Leather & leather products, Footwear, Accessories, Chemicals, Machinery etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: shri B.N. Gupta Mgr: Shri Tarun Pant	
6	India Wellness Expo (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	Delhi	Aug. 6-8, 2019	Health India Expo, Biotech India Expo, Organic India Expo	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in	
7	India International Security Expo	Delhi	Oct.5-7, 2019	Security & safety equipment systems, including fire & industrial safety etc.	Mr. A.K. Vashisht General Manager Tel: 91-11-23378511 Fax: 91-11-23379338 E-mail: avashist@itpo.gov.in Mgr: Mrs. Durgesh Nandini	

Sl. No.	Name of the Fair	Location	Dates	Products	Contact Person	Link
9	Tex-Styles India	Delhi	Oct. 2019	Textile items – Cotton yarns, Fabrics & Home furnishing	Mr. Jayanta Das, Sr. General Manager Tel: 011-23378929/1673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in	
11	New Delhi World Book Fair (in collaboration with National Book Trust)	Delhi	Jan.4-12, 2020	Books, Periodicals, Journals, Publications etc.	Mr. Jayanta Das, Sr. General Manager Tel: 011-23378929/1673 E-mail: jd@itpo.gov.in	
12	Aajeevika	Delhi	Jan.3-12, 2020	Rural Artisan/ Self Help Groups, Small and Medium Enterprises	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: Shri Ashok Kumar Mgr: Shri Rohit sonkar	
13	Nakshatra	Delhi	Jan.3-12, 2020	Holistic products, Astrology, Numerology, Yoga etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: B.N. Gupta Mgr: Shri Arun Dhankarge	
14	26th Convergence India and IoT Expo 2018 (In Association with M/s. Exhibition India)	Delhi	Feb. 19-21, 2020	Technologies related to Telecom, Broadcast, Cable and Satellite TV, Cloud & Big Data, IoT, Digital Homes, Mobile devices, Film and Radio, Content Creation, Management and Delivery, etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in	
15	Aahar	Delhi	March 3-7, 2020	Food, Beverages, Hotel & Restaurant Equipment & Supplies etc.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: Shri Ashok Kumar E-mail: ashokkumar@itpo.gov.in	
10	India International Trade Fair	Delhi	14-27 November, 2019	Multi-Products	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: Shri Ashok Kumar	Fact Sheet
8	India International Co-Operatives Trade Fair(Organised by National Cooperative Development Corporation(NCDC) with ITPO as Co-Organisor)	Delhi	Oct 11-13, 2019	Display of products by Co-operatives from India and abroad in Agriculture, Food and other sectors.	Mrs. Hema Maity, General Manager Tel:011-23371819 E-mail: hemamaity@itpo.gov.in SM: Shri Ashok Kumar E-mail: ashokkumar@itpo.gov.in	Pamphlet

USEFUL LINKS

The National Portal of India <http://india.gov.in>

Ministry of External Affairs of India www.mea.gov.in

Indian Public Diplomacy <https://mea.gov.in/in-focus.htm>

Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India <https://commerce.gov.in/#>

Invest India www.investindia.gov.in

India Trade Portal <http://indiantradeportal.in/>

Reserve Bank of India <https://www.rbi.org.in/>

India Brand Equity Foundation www.ibef.org

The Confederation of Indian Industry www.cii.in

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry www.ficci.com

Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India
www.assochem.org

The Federation of Indian Export Organizations www.fieo.org

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry www.phdcci.in

Incredible India www.incredibleindia.org