



# FTCCI *Review*

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Amrit Mahotsav

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# Dear Members

**A**s we enter into new financial year I wish all members of FTCCI a very successful and prosperous year!

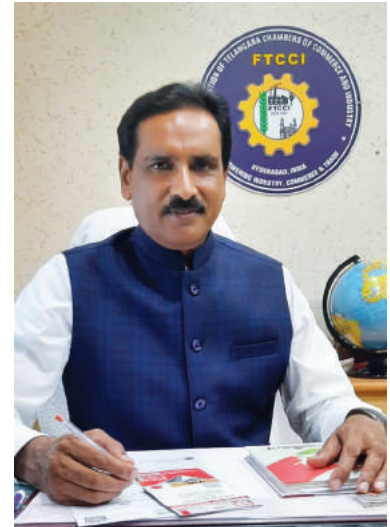
The World Bank cuts its economic growth forecast for India to 8% from 8.7% citing worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks caused by the Ukraine War. High oil and food prices have a strong negative impact on real incomes of the people reducing the power purchase and consumption demand. Despite the adverse conditions, India is moving ahead with enthusiasm and the need of the hour is to bring down the inflation.

On exports front, India is registering a robust growth despite adverse conditions, and exports rose nearly by 20 percent to reach \$ 42 billion in March. Service exports scaled a new peak of \$250 billion in FY 22 while merchandise exports exceeded an ambitious target to hit a record of \$419.5 billion. Benefits from recently concluded free trade agreement with UAE and deal with Australia are likely to outweigh potential losses caused by any geo-political tensions- as per the government. The export results are encouraging and government may give more thrust to merchandise exports to make India a manufacturing hub for various products. This not only strengthen our foreign trade but also will help moving a step further in achieving the ambitious target of increasing manufacturing share in GDP to 25 percent.

FTCCI has represented from time and again to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Telangana to introduce an Amnesty Scheme for cases pending at various levels under the erstwhile law mainly Telangana VAT Act and other related enactments that were subsumed under the GST regime from 1-07-2017. The Minister has endorsed representation to Chief Secretary for necessary action as was introduced by Central Government "Subka Viswas" Legacy Dispute scheme. The Federation made efforts to expedite the long pending announcement of the amnesty scheme and submitted a detailed proposal on implementation of the tax dispute settlement scheme by the Commercial Taxes Department, Telangana state. I once again appeal to the government of Telangana for immediate implementation of the scheme that saves investors and department precious resources of time and money.

In the Interactive Session with Sri D.P. Nagendra Kumar, IRS, Special Secretary to Govt. of India and Member, CBIC FTCCI voiced its concerns / suggestions on Policy as well procedural issues on GST.

## President's Desk



I am glad to share that FTCCI along with Media Day Marketing has organized a three-day international expo on food and dairy industry and conference on Dairy Opportunities. The expo and conference were a great success and Federation

has recommended to the Government to form a committee with all stakeholders to strengthen the dairy sector in the state and reduce the gap in supply and demand for milk. Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry has welcomed the proposal and we look forward to play a role for the benefit of dairy farmers and entrepreneurs.

With the threat of Covid-19 waning, the trade promotion activities are gradually picking up and the Federation has conducted Trade Meets with Iran, Namibia and Israel in the last one month. Program on promoting trade and business opportunities with Yazd Province, Iran aimed at creating awareness of the business opportunities in the Province and India and Africa Trade Council organized the Namibia Trade Summit. Interactive meeting on India-Israel: 30 years and beyond Trade and Economic Relations celebrated the long and fruitful relationship between India and Israel and appreciated the efforts of leaders, diplomats, thinkers, strategists of both the countries and all the people who have led the partnership and continue to nurture this important relationship.

Besides the programs, the officials of Embassy of United States of America, New Delhi visited FTCCI and had a meaningful discussion on various business prospects among the two largest democratic countries in the world.

Through this platform, I express my thanks to Mr. Fahad Suri, Under Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for visiting the Federation and encouraging us to take up various activities and assuring support of the Ministry to Federation.

K. Bhasker Reddy  
President

## Hyderabad Gets 'Tree City of The World Tag' For Second Year



For a second consecutive year, Hyderabad has been recognised as a 'Tree City of the World' by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. "Matter of immense pride that Hyderabad city is recognised for the 2nd consecutive year, among the tree cities of the world by the Arbor Day Foundation and FAO -UN," tweeted Arvind Kumar, special chief secretary, urban development, government of Telangana.

As per the organisation, 3,50,56,635 trees are planted in Hyderabad with 500 volunteer hours. Last year, Hyderabad had become the only city in India to be recognised as a 'Tree City of the World' but this year Mumbai also joined the list.

Hyderabad and Mumbai are placed alongside 136 other cities from 21 countries. The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada are the countries with the maximum cities featured on the list, with 37, 19 and 18 cities, respectively. The countries have been recognised for their commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests in building healthy, resilient and happy cities.

According to Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA), trees reduce costs for energy, storm water management and erosion control, boost property values as much as 7-20 per cent, build stronger ties among community members and increase community pride.

Other benefits of the trees include contribution to food and nutrition, creating jobs and alleviating poverty, increasing community resilience to severe weather events, supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation and having a positive impact on physical and mental health.

[www.india.com](http://www.india.com)

## India cuts coal supply, inventories slump as power demand surges

India has cut coal supplies to the non-power sector and put on hold plans to increase the number of fuel auctions for utilities due to a slump in inventories at state government-owned utilities even as demand for electricity surges.

The supply cuts come months after India's most crippling coal shortage in the recent years led to power cuts lasting upto 14 hours in some states. The onset of summer has added to worries about power supply shortages in the country.

State-run Coal India, which accounts for more than 80% of domestic output, has slashed supplies to the non-power sector - which includes aluminium smelter and steel mills - to 275,000 tonnes a day, according to an internal note

reviewed by Reuters, 18.3% lower than February and 29.8% lower than March 2021.

The federal coal ministry has also put on hold a plan to conduct three coal auctions for utilities over the next three months and will organise one auction for the quarter instead, saying the methodology to conduct three auctions was "under process".

[www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com)



## Gujarat, Kerala, Punjab top NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index list

Gujarat has topped the list for larger States in the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index-Round 1 that has ranked States and Union Territories (UTs) on six parameters including discoms' performance, energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The States have been categorised based on size and geographical differences as larger and smaller States and UTs. The index is based on 2019-20 data.

Gujarat, Kerala and Punjab have been ranked as the top three performers in the category of larger States while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh were the bottom three States. Goa emerged as the top-performer in the smaller States category followed by Tripura and Manipur. Among UTs, Chandigarh, Delhi and Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli are the top performers.

Punjab was the best performer in discom performance while Kerala topped in access, affordability and reliability category.

Haryana was the best performer in clean energy initiative among larger States and Tamil Nadu in the energy efficiency category.

"The State Energy and Climate Index (SECI) is the first index that aims to track the efforts made by States and UTs in the climate and energy sector...These parameters have been devised keeping in mind India's goals for climate change and clean energy transition," the report said.

It said the SECI is the first step in this journey where States can explore and benchmark themselves on various parameters. For instance, in terms of energy efficiency, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have done well while in terms of DISCOM's performance, two small UTs - D&D and D&N - have done well. "The best practices for all indicators in better-performing States can be adopted by other States to improve their performance. The SECI will help States to understand their performance across multiple parameters/indicators," it said.



Noting that for a few States data for a few indicators are not available, which has also affected the overall ranking of the States, the report said data updation and validation need to be a priority of State governments going forward to help them design better policies.

[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)

### 10 states given permission to borrow additional Rs 28,204 cr for power sector reforms last fiscal

The finance ministry said 10 states were given the permission to borrow an additional Rs 28,204 crore in FY22 for undertaking power sector reforms. The 10 states are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

"Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has granted additional borrowing permission of Rs 28,204 crore to 10 states for undertaking the stipulated reforms in power sector in 2021-22," it said in a statement.

In the financial year 2022-23 too, the states can avail the facility of additional borrowing linked to reforms in power sector. An amount of Rs 1,22,551 crore will be available as incentive to the states for undertaking these reforms in 2022-23, it added.

The finance ministry, based on the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission, had decided to grant additional borrowing space of upto 0.5 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to the states every year for a four year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25 based on the reforms undertaken by them in the power sector.

The objective of granting financial incentives as additional borrowing permissions for taking up reforms in power sector are to improve the operational and economic efficiency of the sector, and promote a sustained increase in paid electricity consumption.

[www.economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

### Regulator asks power exchanges to cap bid prices as demand surges

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has asked the power exchanges to cap the bid price range to Rs 12 per kWh for the 'Day Ahead Market' (DAM) and 'Real Time Market' (RTM) segments.

The CERC has directed the power exchanges to re-design the bidding software to allow bids in the price range of Rs 0-12 per kWh.

As per the Commission, power exchanges have designed the bidding software in such a way that members can submit their bids in the price range of Rs 0-20 per kWh.

"The Commission in exercise of powers under Regulation 51(1) of PMR 2021 directs the power exchanges until further orders to re-design, with immediate effect, the bidding software in such a way that members can submit their bids in the price range of Rs 0 per kWh to Rs 12 per kWh for DAM and RTM," CERC said in an order dated April 1.

"The Commission is of the view that this price moderation will be in keeping with the present market realities and shall not have any significant impact on the volume transacted and safeguard the consumer interests."

According to the Commission, the prices discovered at the power exchanges have remained significantly high during the last few days. "The factors like rise in temperature causing early onset of summers and increase in economic activities with lifting of Covid-related restrictions, have contributed significantly to the increase in electricity demand," it said. On the other hand, it cited that increase in supply has been limited.

"The situation has been further aggravated due to geo-political factors affecting the fuel supply and certain domestic supply constraints. This has widened the gap between demand and supply, with average buy to sell bid ratio reaching more than 2 and market clearing price (MCP) frequently touching Rs 20 per kWh.

[www.business-standard.com](http://www.business-standard.com)

### Centre extends timeline for loan disbursement for ethanol projects till September



The government on Tuesday extended the timeline for disbursement of loan for ethanol projects under different schemes till September 30 this year, as part of its efforts to boost domestic production and achieve ethanol blending of 20 per cent by 2025. In an official statement, the government said it has decided to extend the timeline for disbursement of loans till September 30, 2022 in respect of all the schemes notified during 2018-2021.

The move is aimed at facilitating entities to complete their projects and avail benefits of interest subvention.

The Centre has notified different interest subvention schemes for sugar mills and distilleries during 2018-2021, with a view to increasing production of ethanol and its supply under Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) Programme, especially in the surplus season. This will also improve the liquidity position of the sugar mills enabling them to clear cane price arrears of farmers.

The government is extending financial assistance in the form of interest subvention at 6 per cent per annum or 50 per cent of rate of interest charged by banks, whichever is lower, on the loans to be extended by banks for five years, including one-year moratorium.

Under the schemes, the timeline for disbursement of loan for ethanol projects is up to March/April, 2022.

[www.economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

## Govt extends Rs 20,000-cr Subordinate Debt scheme for MSMEs till March 2023

Credit and Finance for MSMEs: The MSME Ministry Monday announced the extension of the Rs 20,000-crore Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) by another year. Launched in June 2020, the scheme was initially valid till March 31, 2021, but was later extended till March 31, 2022, in order to "keep the avenues of assistance to stressed MSME units open," the ministry said in a statement. The latest extension was "on the basis of the requests received from the stakeholders of the scheme," the ministry added.

The scheme provides credit facility via banks to the promoters of stressed MSMEs including special mention accounts (SMA)-2 and non-perform asset (NPA) accounts that are eligible for restructuring as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines on the books of the Lending institutions.

SMAs indicate incipient stress in the business that can result in defaults in debt servicing by the promoter. While SMA-0 are accounts with payments partially or wholly overdue for 1-30 days, SMA-1 and SMA-2 accounts have payments overdue for 31-60 days and 61-90 days respectively. On the other hand, subordinate debt is referred to subordinated debenture or junior securities, a kind of unsecured loan or bond that ranks below other senior loans or securities in terms of claims on assets or earnings.

Importantly, the proposal for modification in the scheme guidelines is also underway, the ministry had noted in its 2021-22 annual report. This is probably because the scheme hasn't seen much traction among eligible MSMEs as guarantees amounting to Rs 81.78 crore only to 756 borrowers were extended as of December 31, 2021, according to the report.

For the guarantee coverage of loans, the government had contributed Rs 4,000 to set up a Distressed Assets Fund, of which only Rs 157.41 crore was released to the Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprise (CGTMSE) in March 2021 that operates the scheme, according to the annual report. Overall, the government had targeted to guarantee loans to the tune of Rs 20,000 crore.

[www.financialexpress.com](http://www.financialexpress.com)

## Minimum pension under EPS must be enhanced: Standing committee on labour



The standing committee on labour has suggested that the labour ministry persuade the finance ministry for enhancing the minimum pension to Rs 2000 per month as against Rs 1000 under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 as the current minimum pension appears grossly inadequate.

The committee has also suggested that the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) take up an actuarial assessment of all its pension schemes so that the monthly member pension is enhanced to a reasonable extent.

"In view of the fact that Rs 1000 per month pension which was fixed eight years back appears to be grossly inadequate now, it becomes imperative on the part of the ministry of labour & employment to pursue the matter with the ministry of finance for obtaining adequate budgetary support as recommended by the high-empowered monitoring committee," Bhatruhari Mahtab, chairperson of the standing committee on labour, said in its report tabled in Parliament.

[www.economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

## Highlights of RBI's 1st bi-monthly monetary policy of 2022-23

### The highlights of the RBI's first monetary policy statement of 2022-23 unveiled by Governor Shaktikanta Das:

- Policy repo rate unchanged at 4 pc; marginal standing facility rate & bank rate too remain unchanged at 4.25 pc.
- Monetary stance to be accommodative with focus on withdrawal of accommodation to keep inflation within target.
- GDP growth projection for FY'23 slashed to 7.2 pc from 7.8 pc; growth projections based on assumption of crude oil (Indian basket) price at USD 100 a barrel during FY'23.
- Inflation forecast hiked to 5.7 pc for FY'23 from 4.5 pc.
- Escalating geopolitical tensions to cast a shadow on economic outlook.
- Robust Rabi output to support recovery in rural demand, pick-up in contact-intensive services.
- Investment activity to gain traction with improving business confidence, pick up in bank credit, government capex plans.
- Gradual withdrawal of Rs 8.5 lakh crore liquidity overhang to be undertaken over several years.
- Rationalised housing loans norms extended till March 31, 2023.
- RBI will come out with a discussion paper on climate risk and sustainable finance.
- Committee to be set up for review of customer service standards in RBI regulated entities.
- Card-less cash withdrawal facility to be extended to all banks and ATM networks using the UPI.

[economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com)



## Over 95% of ECLGS beneficiaries are MSMEs: FinMin

Around 95.21 per cent of total beneficiaries under the Rs 5-lakh-crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) have been micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), according to the government. Sharing data from the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), which operates the scheme, Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad said in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha that 117.87 lakh businesses have been supported as of March 11, 2022, with fully guaranteed collateral-free loans under ECLGS.

Existing credit borrowers such as MSMEs and other business enterprises constituted as proprietorships, partnerships, registered companies, trusts and limited liability partnerships (LLPs); and individual businesses are eligible to apply for guaranteed loans under ECLGS. The guarantee is provided by NCGTC to member lending institutions including banks and non-banking financial companies with respect to the credit given to borrowers on their loan outstanding as of February 29, 2020.

"The structure of scheme allows easy access to credit as the lenders offer pre-approved loans based on borrower's existing credit outstanding and there is no fresh appraisal undertaken by lenders since additional credit is sanctioned over and above the credit facilities already assessed," said Karad.

On February 10, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her reply to a discussion on the budget 2022-23 in Lok Sabha said banks had sanctioned Rs 3.1 lakh crore loans while Rs 2.36 lakh crore loans were disbursed under ECLGS, as reported by PTI. In her budget speech, Sitharaman had announced the extension of the scheme till March 2023 from March 2022.

[www.financialexpress.com](http://www.financialexpress.com)

## PLI scheme to account for 13-15 per cent capex in key industrial sectors over next 3-4 years: Report

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme will account for 13-15 per cent of the average annual investment spending in key industrial sectors over the next three-four years, according to a report by Crisil.

Since its introduction in March 2020, PLI has been announced for 15 sectors, involving government incentives to the tune of Rs 1.93 lakh crore. Of this, 50-60 per cent is to be spent on sectors with domestic manufacturing and export focus, and the rest on import localization.

"Implementation of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme will

lead to a potential capital expenditure (capex) of Rs 2.5-3 lakh crore over the scheme period and will account for 13-15 per cent of average annual investment spending in key industrial sectors over the next 3-4 years," the rating agency said in a report released.

PLI is now poised for a rapid on-the-ground execution, with almost 60 per cent of the capex already approved and major spending set to occur over FY23-FY26. The capex has been approved for 10 sectors, it said.

[www.financialexpress.com](http://www.financialexpress.com)

## Companies likely to face stiff queries from GST authorities



Businesses need to gear up for some stiff queries from goods and services tax authorities, as they begin scrutiny of returns for the first time since the new indirect tax regime was launched in 2017.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) on Sunday rolled out computer-assisted automated selection of returns under GST, which will be based on certain risk-based parameters including claims of input tax credit.

CBIC chairman Vivek Johri has written to field formations asking them to ensure scrutiny is conducted in a time-bound manner. "Zonal chiefs may like to have the data examined and suitably taken up as per the prescribed SoP (standard operating procedure) in a time-bound manner," Johri said in a letter, dated April 4. Johri said the first tranche of GSTINs (GST Identification Numbers) selected for scrutiny, on the basis of risk parameters, had already been shared by the directorate general of analytics and risk management with field formations. A government official said the directorate general would send

all the financial data and transaction details related to the GSTINs which would be picked for the scrutiny case, so that officials would take less time. "In case any discrepancies are found, a notice may be issued by the department with a specific query and backed by documents, which will reduce the time taken in the scrutiny process," the official added.

A government official said some of the risk parameters included input tax credit claims not matching the GST return with income tax return and past records of tax evasion.

Experts said businesses need to be extra careful while filling their return as data analytics would make it easier to detect evasion.

Businesses must ensure the GST data are reconciled before submission. The CBIC had last month issued the SoP to streamline the scrutiny of GST returns filed for the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Last month witnessed an all-time high gross GST collection at Rs 1,42,095 crore for the Centre and states together.

[www.economictimes.indiatimes.com](http://www.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

## **Sri Thaneeru Harish Rao,**

*Hon'ble Minister of Finance,  
Government of Telangana,  
Hyderabad*

### **Sub: Clusters Development in Telangana State -Ministry of MSME, Govt of India Cluster Development Program (MSE – CDP) – Recommendations of FTCCI – Reg...**

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (GoI) has adopted the Cluster Development approach as a key strategy for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and their collectives in the country. Under the program, the government of India supports the development of clusters in the states for sustainable growth of micro and small enterprises. The program includes Common Facility Centers (CFCs), Infrastructure Development (ID), Marketing Hubs / Exhibition Centres by Associations and Thematic Interventions such as training programs, exposure visits, strengthening the business development services etc.

It was brought to the notice of the government that Telangana State is lagging in availing the scheme and has availed the scheme for development of only one project and requested to allocate Rs. 20 Crore in the forthcoming Budget for 2022-23 exclusively for Clusters Development in the State. ■

## **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,**

*Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance,  
Government of India*

## **Shri Piyush Goyal,**

*Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry,  
Government of India*

## **Sri Shri Narayan Tatu Rane,**

*Hon'ble Union Minister for MSME  
Government of India*

### **Sub: Improvement in EODB for MSME sector: Suggestions of FTCCI – request for consideration**

India is now in a transformation stage using modern technology in many spheres, but still has to deal with large segment of economy that is operating at small scale and in an unorganized manner. Government support and incentives are important for this segment. Thus, the incentives and timely payments to micro and small units play a key role in making them sustainable and strong.

### **The following issues are submitted for improvement in EODB for MSME sector:**

- 1) Request to release exporters' incentives for the year 2021 both for SEIS and MEIS.
- 2) Request to release all IT (TDS) refunds for year 2021.
- 3) Kindly ensure that all state governments and PSUs pay MSME units within 90 days, and with interest after that. Many state governments / PSUs are not abiding by the stipulated time subjecting the MSEs to financial crisis.
- 4) Request to establish an enforcement mechanism and setting up fast track arbitration/ courts exclusively for payment delays.
- 5) ESI, PF, GST, TDS (IT) payments delay attract a) 18% interests plus b) penalty plus c) prosecution. ■

## **Sri K. T. Rama Rao,**

*Hon'ble Minister of Industries, IT E & C  
Government of Telangana,  
BRKR Bhavan, Saifabad,  
Hyderabad.*

### **Sub: Proposal of TS DISCOMs on power tariff hike for industrial and commercial consumers and hike in other charges for FY 2022-2023**

the recent proposal of TS DISCOMs to raise the retail supply tariff rates and other charges for industrial and commercial consumers will have an adverse impact on the yet to revive industries.

Sir, we like to bring to your notice that the following hikes are proposed by TSDISCOMs:

- i. Energy Charges by Re 1/- (submits that the proposed tariff hike increases the Cross subsidy % beyond the permissible range of  $\pm 20\%$  as per the Tariff Policy, 2016).
- ii. Demand Charges from Rs 390 /KVA/Month to Rs. 475/ kVA/Month
- iii. To reduce the Time of the Day incentive for off-peak hours (10 PM to 6 AM) from Rs.1/unit to Rs.0.50/unit for the applicable categories viz., HT-I Industrial, HT-II Others, HT-III Railways, Bus Stations & Airports and HT-IX EV Charging Stations. However, the Peak hours' charges are the same i.e. Rs. 1/unit. This translates into 29% hike in off-peak energy charges for HT consumers along with the proposed Tariff hike.

Appealed to ensure minimal increase in power tariff and not to impose additional charges by way of Grid Support Charges or Facilitation Charges and also request not to reduce TOD tariff rebate. ■



**Smt. Neetu Prasad, IAS,**  
Commissioner of Commercial Taxes,  
Government of Telangana

**Sub : Suggestions for implementation of the tax dispute settlement scheme**

FTCCI has represented from time and again to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Telangana to introduce an Amnesty Scheme for cases pending at various levels under the erstwhile law mainly Telanvana VAT Act and other related enactments that were subsumed under the GST regime from 1-07-2017. The Hon'ble Finance Minister was endorsed our representation to Chief Secretary, Govt. of Telangana for necessary action as was introduced by Central Government "Subka Viswas Legacy Dispute scheme.

A delegation headed by President, FTCCI Sri. Bhasker Reddy and others met Finance Minister Mr. Harish Rao on 6th March 2022 and have requested to expedite the long pending announcement of the amnesty scheme. The Hon'ble Minister asked us to submit the detailed scheme proposal.

In view of this FTCCI has prepared a detailed representation with regard to suggestions for implementation of the tax dispute settlement scheme by the Commercial Taxes Department, Telangana state.

President Sri Bhasker Reddy, CA Sudhir VS , Chair, GST and Customs Committee met Smt. Neetu Prasad, IAS, Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Government of Telangana on 1st April, 2022 at her office and submitted the detailed representation and requested her to recommend to the government for necessary action.

**Salient features of suggestions:**

- ✓ Scheme applicable to all the balance of the Tax, Penalty, Interest and Cess as on 1-4-2022 irrespective of the fact whether any appeal / revision / court cases is pending or not
- ✓ All balances under all the Acts up to Rs. 20,000/- may be waived without opting by the dealer
- ✓ Where there is litigation separate percentages for each level (ADC, Tribunal, High Court and Supreme Court). While fixing the percentages, consideration may be given to the Tax paid while filing appeals before ADC (12.5%) and Tribunal (25% or 50%) or any amount as per interim stay orders or other wise
- ✓ On payment of profession Tax for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22, all the balances of Tax, interest and penalty for the earlier years shall be waived
- ✓ For Tax deferment cases (Industrial incentives) a scheme may be designed to pay in advance based on comfortable NPV

FTCCI is planning to meet Hon'ble Finance Minister and Principal Secretary Revenue, Govt. of Telangana to appraise the same.

For detailed rep : <https://www.ftcci.in/source/downloads/tdsscheme.pdf>

*Congratulations*



*Congratulations to Mrs Sushila Ram Varma receiving the Global LexFalcon Achievers Award for Professional Excellence, in Dubai on 24th March 2022.*



*Congratulations to Raj packaging company on the occasion of being selected for Best SME 100 awards out of 40000 entries. Ms. Neepa kankaria, Executive Director received the award at the hands of Minister of state for MSME in Delhi*



## Conference on Gender Equality for a Sustainable Tomorrow On the occasion of International Women's Day Celebrations for 2022

**8th March, 2022, Taj Vivanta, Hyderabad**

The event was graced by Sri Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce (I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments, Govt. of Telangana as Chief Guest ; Ms. Haritha Vasireddi, Managing Director, Vimta Labs ; Mrs. Vanitha Datla, Executive Director & CFO at Elico Ltd; Mrs Bhagwati Devi Baldwa , Chair, Women Empowerment Committee, FTCCI; K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI; Khyati Naravane, CEO, FTCCI. In the presence of Anil Agarwal, Sr Vice President, Meela Jayadev, Vice President and several eminent dignitaries from government , academia and industry.

At the event, FTCCI has identified and felicitated some of the member companies implementing best practices to bring gender parity. The companies felicitated were L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Ltd; Metrochem API Pvt Ltd; Valmiki Group; Anuha Food Products Pvt. Ltd; Kamala Farms; Kapiti Overseas pvt. Ltd. & Bahu-Belly. FTCCI in alliance with Mahesh Bagawathi Baldwa Foundation and Akhil Baratiya Maheshwari Mahila Sanghatan has also empowered skilled and needy women's by distributing 10 sewing machines. This action of FTCCI has once again showcased its commitment to be a part of the sustainable growth and development.

Sri Jayesh Ranjan has highlighted the role of women in family and pressed upon the importance of creating conducive environment for women to take the lead. Family support is the key to get more women on board. He highlighted that the patriarchal values in the society is dominating the perception of the people in all spheres like running the family, business or company. Unless these deep-rooted believes during the upbringing of children changes, gender gap cannot be filled.

Sri K. Bhakser Reddy has shown his concern for India sliding down from 112th position to 140th position in Gender Gap Report. He had taken





the initiative and shown several ways out to tackle with gender inequality in various positions. He suggested Implementing gender neutral recruitment processes; Review salaries and standardize pay; Have a clear policy on discrimination; Provide flexible working time and others .He said that we must ensure active encouragement of women to progress.

Sri Bhagawathi Devi Baldwa has cited quotes and incidents from Hindu scriptures to reiterate the importance of women participation and openness in the traditional societies and how it has been restricted in the current scenario. She has given importance to financial independence for women empowerment and said that there is nothing impossible for women , if they realize their potential.

Smt Vanita Datla has pressed upon “walk the talk”. She has asked the forum to be more responsible and participative in breaking the glass ceiling.

Smt Harita Vasireddi has rightly identified that Gender Equality is indeed an important parameter which should be considered when macro issues like GDP is taken into consideration. She cited that a small increase in the participation of Women as a workforce can give a big boost to the economy. She also reiterated that access to education; health care; technology is very important to women whereas women’s economic participation is also vital for sustainable development.





## Program on Promoting Trade and Business Opportunities with Yazd Province, Iran



**9th March, 2022**

Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI said that bilateral relationship between India and Iran has evolved into a diverse partnership nurtured by a long history of cultural connections. India has actively engaged with Iran to secure energy sources considering that Iran is the most viable option in this sphere given its geographic proximity to India. The Chabahar port being jointly developed by India will be a gateway to opportunities for trade with central Asian nations. He also mentioned about close association of FTCCI and Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran, Hyderabad, to promote the trade between the two countries by organizing interaction meetings with the business delegations on a regular basis.

Mr. Rajendra Agarwal, Chair, International Trade Committee, FTCCI said that the program is being organised to give an opportunity the businessmen to know the development taken place in Yazd Province, Iran and the scope of establishing business co-operation, joint-ventures, technology import and/or making investment in Iran especially between Yazd Province and State of Telangana.

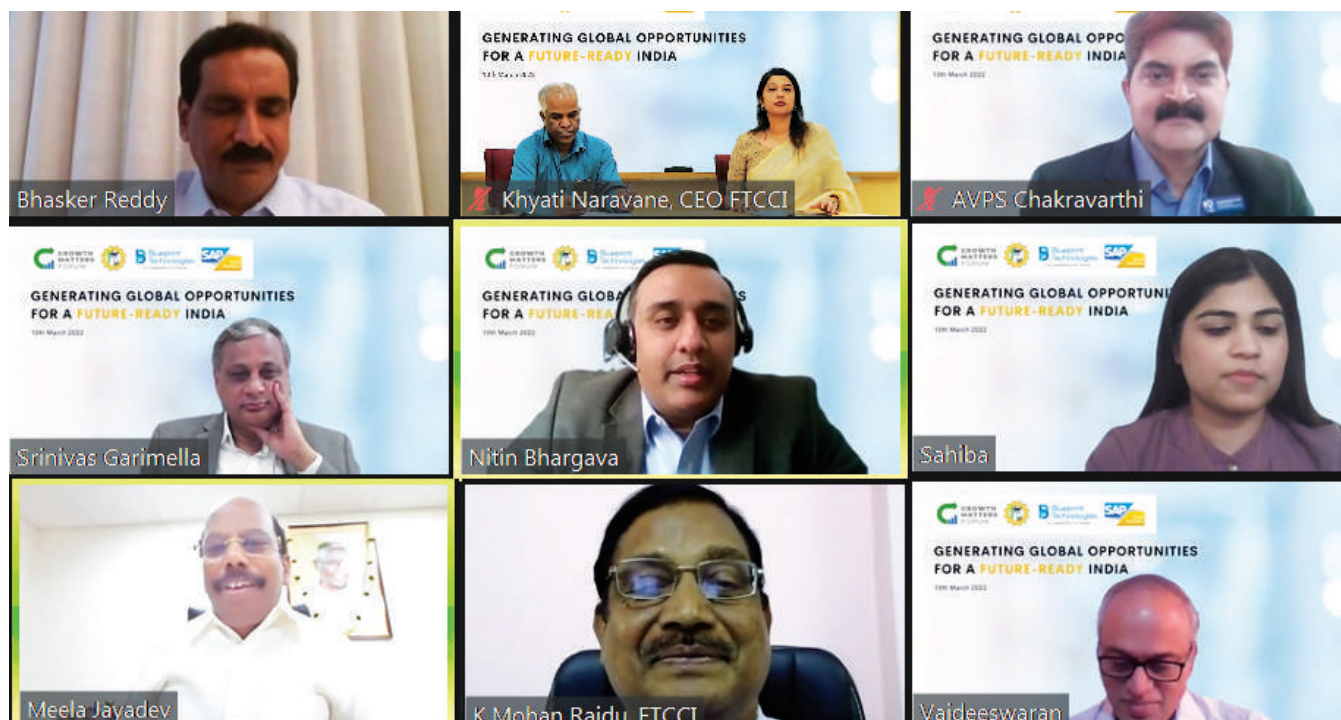
His Excellency Mr. Mahdi Shahrokhi, Consul General of Islamic Republic of Iran, Hyderabad suggested the Chambers to invite each other on a bilateral visit to explore business opportunities. MoU between the two Chambers

will also help in developing and maintaining good relations. He also suggested for having direct contacts between the two Chambers to introduce and help businesses in exploring opportunities. The potential areas for cooperation between Yazd and Telangana are Pharmaceutical products, Food products (sweets, dry fruits, etc), Mineral products, Ceramic and Tiles, Petrochemical products. He lauded the efforts of FTCCI in promotion of trade, commerce and Industry.

Mr. Mohammad Reza Ghomi, President, Yazd Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines & Agriculture informed that Yazd is the forth industrial and developed province of Iran. Always Yazd is known for the quality of its silk and carpets, Yazd today is one of Iran's industrial centers for textiles. There is also a considerable ceramics and construction materials industry and unique confectionery and jewellery industries. Yazd, the city of wind catchers, was recently inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List. Ceramic tiles, hydrocarbons, building glass, glass wares, petrochemicals and agricultural products including pomegranate seeds, pistachios and pistachio kernels are among the main exported items.

Members of Board of Representatives of Yazd Chambers, Officials of Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Mr. Meela Jayadev, Vice President and Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO of FTCCI participated and addressed the meeting.





## FTCCI partnered with SAP & Blueprint Technologies P.Ltd. in organising a **Webinar on Generating Global Opportunities for a future-ready India**

**10th March, 2022**

Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI said that business realities in the aftermath of the pandemic have reinforced the role of technology as a business enabler. Digital transformation of MSMEs is therefore of paramount importance, while improving their operational efficiencies and providing them access to wider markets. Since our inception, FTCCI has played an instrumental role in identifying bottlenecks and putting forth solutions that would maximize growth opportunities for this sector. Our collaboration with SAP, is therefore, an extension of this commitment and vision to enable change through meaningful interactions between our members, governments, and industry at large.

Mr. Vaideeswaran, Director- Enterprise Applications, Blueprint Technologies Pvt Ltd, said that the pandemic marked a turning point in the shift toward technology as a way of life. MSMEs of future will look considerably different from MSMEs in the past, as the world moves toward a digital economy. By partnering with SAP and bringing the Global Bharat Movement to MSMEs in the state, Blueprint Technologies is committed to deliver digital acceleration of the sector by strengthening the skilling ecosystem and enabling enterprises to be future- ready.

Mr. Nitin Bhargava, Vice President, Mid-Market, SAP Indian Subcontinent informed that with more than 80% of SAP

client base being SMEs, SAP is at the forefront of digital transformation for enterprises in the country. We fully understand their technological needs and special business requirements. By bringing Global Bharat to local businesses in Telangana, we are enabling them in their quest to go digital with state-of-the-art solutions and capabilities to scale and become future-ready, he added.

The technical sessions was moderated by Mr. K. Mohan Raidu, Chair, Information Communications & Technology Committee, FTCCI. Mr. Vaideeswaran, Director- Enterprise Applications, Blueprint Technologies Pvt Ltd., Mr. Srinivas Garimella, Chair, Industrial Development Committee, FTCCI & Director, Vega Conveyors & Automation Ltd. and Mr. AVPS Chakravarthi, Managing Committee Member, FTCCI & CEO & Mg. Director, Ecobliss India P.Ltd., participated and addressed the technical session.

During the webinar, the FTCCI, SAP Global Bharat endeavor was discussed, which offers MSMEs with access to the global marketplace, digital skilling for their employees, and technology to improve their company processes. Telangana's MSMEs will be able to go digital owing to Global Bharat, which will provide them with digital solutions to help them run their operations more efficiently.

Mr. Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Mr. Meela Jayadev, Vice President and Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO of FTCCI also participated and addressed the meeting.

## Trade Facilitation meeting organized by Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Tax

12th March, 2022,  
GST Bhavan, Hyderabad

On Behalf of FTCCI CMA Mallikarjuna Gupta, Member GST Committee and N.V.S.Lakshmi, Dy Director attended the meeting and raised the following issues.

1. Inspection, search and detention provisions were made more stringent. This is causing immense hardship for genuine cases to get caught due to clerical or human mistakes. Responding to this Chief Commissioner suggested if there is genuine clerical mistakes may contact to their Jurisdictional Deputy Commissioner for redressal. She further informed that she will intimate to the state GST officials also of this issue.
2. Integration of GST portal and TReDs: one of the major problems faced by the MSME is the timely receipt of payment and this is hindering their growth and sustenance all together. Another challenge is the MSMEs are not able to discharge their GST liability on account of delayed payment and are not able to file the returns. To overcome this challenge, it is proposed to integrate the threads (Trade receivables discounting system platform) with the GST portal.

**Responding to this the Chief Commissioner informed that she will recommend to the Board (CBIC).**

3. Allowing the Input Tax Credit to the Tax payer for the wrong filing of returns by suppliers:

In the initial days of the roll out of the GST, the suppliers have by mistake filed the B2B invoices in the B2C section of the GSTR-1. Since the invoices are wrongly reported in B2C, the same are not reflected in GSTR-2A. But



the recipients have availed the input tax credit. During the Audit, the field officers are doing their job as per the provisions and as part of it there are finding it mismatches and issued notices.

There is no revenue loss to the Government as the tax has been discharged by the supplier but the recipient is facing the challenge. The Maharashtra Commercial Taxes internal circular no. 02A of 2022 issue and has clearly stated that in such cases the recipient can take input tax credit where the supplier has wrongly classified and filed it in the B2C section of GSTR-1 in place of B2B section. The circular has given relaxation for the financial year 2017-18 and 2018-19.

In the similar lines requested the central taxes to issue directions to the field level officers.

Responding to this the Chief Commissioner in principle agreed to alert the DGGI(Directorate General of GST Intelligence) and also state GST officials.

The meeting was Chaired by Ms. Siva Naga Kumari, IRS, Chief Commissioner , Customs and Central Taxes. Sri Sanjay Mahendru, IRS, Principle. Commissioner, Hyderabad GST Commissionerate; Sri M.R.R. Reddy, IRS, Principal Commissioner , Secunderabad GST Commissionerate ;Sri B. Suresh Babu, IRS, Commissioner, Ranga Reddy GST Commissionerate; Sri K.G.V.N. Surya Teja, IRS, Additional Commissioner –CCO, Sri V. Srinivas, Addl Commissioner- Medchal GST Commissionerate, Dr. Sunil.J. Ranote, Addl Commissioner, Commissioner (A) Hyderabad and Sri. M. Kumara Ganesh, Asst. Commissioner, CCO, Hyd were also participated.

### WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION

FTCCI Review attempts to keep abreast its members with latest information on various developments taking place around the globe. If you have any news/information on the issues related to Government policies, programs and latest developments that you may like to share with the FTCCI members. Please write to [info@ftcci.in](mailto:info@ftcci.in)





## Customs & Central Taxes, Hyderabad Zone Organized an Interactive Session with Sri D.P. Nagendra Kumar , IRS, Special Secretary to Govt. of India and Member Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

**17th March, 2022, GST Bhavan, Hyderabad**

Smt. Siva Naga Kumari, IRS, Chief Commissioner, Customs and Central Taxes along with Principal commissioners, commissioners and other senior officers of the department were attended the meeting.

Sri Bhasker Reddy, President, along with FTCCI team Sri S. Thirumalai, Sri V.S. Sudhir, Sri Mohammed Irshad Ahmad, GST and Customs Committee met the Member-CBIC and Chief Commissioner and submitted the issues/recommendations for their consideration.

*(FTCCI issues/recommendations and response from the Member-CBIC in 28 pg )*



We are very happy to inform that we have created a helpdesk for the benefit of all our members to support them with the necessary guidance in the following areas.

- |  |               |                        |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
| ▶ Direct Taxes                                     | ▶ Banking     | ▶ MSMEs                |
| ▶ Indirect Taxes                                   | ▶ Insurance   | ▶ Energy               |
| ▶ Human Resources (HR) & Industrial Relations (IR) | ▶ Health Care | ▶ International Trade. |
|  | ▶ Legal       | ▶ Company Law          |



The main purpose of creating the helpdesk is to provide guidance to the members in getting the necessary help to resolve the problems.

**All the members are requested to make use of this helpdesk facility**

**Forward your queries to [helpdesk@ftcci.in](mailto:helpdesk@ftcci.in)**

**Officer Incharge : Lokesh Fatehpuria, Joint Director, FTCCI Ph.No.8309788764**

FTCCI Jointly with MSME-DI, Hyderabad, DC- MSME, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India has organised a

## State level Clusters Awareness Programme cum Workshop



### 21st March, 2022, Federation House

The objective of the programme was to create awareness of MSE- Cluster Development Program(CDP) and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries(SFURTI) along with other DC-MSME Schemes, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) and The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Schemes for the benefit of MSEs.

Mr. D. Chandra Sekhar, IEDS, Additional Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest, Dr. Sanjib Roy, Director, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and FTCCI senior officials Sri. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, Sri Anil Agarwal, Senior Vice president, Sri P. Krishna, Chair, Membership Development Committee and Ms. Khyati Naravane, CEO participated in the inaugural session.

Sri. K. Bhasker Reddy in his welcome address said that the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, has adopted the cluster development approach as a key strategy for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs). He stated that FTCCI will put efforts to develop clusters in the state for the rapid growth of MSME sector.

Sri P. Krishna in his introductory remarks said that availing of soft and hard interventions of MSE- CDP

scheme benefit the MSEs immensely and welcome the officials of MSME-DI, KVIC, and NSIC for making effort to create awareness among the industry associations and entrepreneurs of the various schemes.

Sri D. Chandra Sekhar, IEDS, Additional Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India said that MSE- CDP Scheme, SFURTI scheme are playing a key role in developing Micro and Small Industries and traditional industries in the country. Many of the states are availing cluster programmes for the benefit of the MSEs and said that Telangana state is lagging behind in developing cluster under to program. He asked various Industry Association to create awareness of various schemes offered by Ministry of MSME and also take initiative to develop clusters in various products across the state. The Ministry has sufficient





funds for the program and readily sanctioning them if the proposals are good and effective.

Dr. Sanjib Roy, Director, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has given a detailed presentation on SFURTI scheme for the benefit of artisans.

Ms. Sumathi, Assistant Director, MSME-DI has given a detailed presentation of various schemes available for MSMEs and also about the Samadhan Portal and GeM Portal of Ministry of MSME. In Samadhan Portal MSEs can file their grievances about delayed payments and GeM portal helps in participating in various Government and PSUs' Tenders for procurement of goods and services.

Mr. Vishnu Murthy Bhoga, DGM, NSIC explained the schemes of MSMEs and said that they help MSEs procuring raw material at discounted prices if a group of units come together for the supply of raw materials at regular intervals. The NSIC also makes feasibility report of projects and connects various banks for sanction of loan without entrepreneurs needing to waste time and money to prepare DPRs and approach banks for loans.

## India Namibia Summit



**12th March, 2022, Park Hyatt, Hyderabad**

H.E. Mr. Gabriel Sinimbo, High Commissioner of Namibia in India, Mr. Jayesh Ranjan, IAS., Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications,

Govt. of Telangana, H.E. Mr. Prashant Agrawal, IFS., High Commissioner of India in Namibia, Mr. Suresh Chukkapalli, Hon. Consul General of Republic of Korea, Dr Asif Iqbal, President, Indian Economic Trade Organization, addressed the Summit.

FTCCI Team attended the Summit and congratulated Dr. Tasneem Shariff, on her appointment as Trade Commissioner-Namibia, India Africa Trade Council in Hyderabad.

The India Africa Trade Council organized the India Namibia Summit.

## Corporate Consultation meet on Tuberculosis(TB)

A Joint initiative of USAID and the Govt. of India and implemented by The Union under iDEFEAT TB project.



**17th March, 2022, Taj Krishna, Hyderabad**

The Objective of the corporate consultation meet was to sensitize Corporates/ large industries on TB and its socio-economic aspects and mobilize them to join the Corporate TB pledge, work towards TB Free workplaces and contribute towards TB elimination.

**The following are addressed the gathering and made a pledge:**

Mr Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Principal Secretary of the Industries & Commerce

(I&C) and Information Technology (IT) Departments, Govt. of Telangana, Mr. K.Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI, Dr. Kuldeep Singh Sachdeva, Regional Director, The Union South -East Asia, Dr. Rajesham, STO Telangana, Dr. Amit Shah, Deputy Director, Health Office, USAID India, Delhi, Dr. Jyoti Jaju, Project Director, iDEFEAT TB Project, The Union.

FTCCI with the support of Jeedimetla Effluent Treatment Limited organized a Webinar on  
**Solvent Management - Compliance Requirements**



**22nd March, 2022**

Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI expressed that it is important to know Solvent Regulations and which ones apply to your business. He opined that improved solvent management can make companies more competitive and profitable by reducing the cost of buying solvents and solvent-containing materials; reducing waste disposal costs; making it easier to comply with statutory controls on solvent use; improving environmental performance; reducing the need for pollution abatement equipment.

Dr. K. Narayana Reddy, Chair, FTCCI Environment Committee briefed about the significance of the Solvent Management, its regulations & compliances and importance of optimizing use of solvents to reduce waste and contain our overall environmental impact.

Mr. G Bala Subramanyam, Former Faculty at Administrative Stat College of India (ASCI) presented about the need and objective of establishing solvent management framework at industry level. This will help the industry to monitor and review the solvent management and can plan for continual improvement. It will be good idea to identify a person as "Solvent Manager or Champion" for this purpose. Senior management commitment, involvement of Line department and technology up gradation are key factors in solvent management.

Mr. Murali Mohan G, Associate Director, Dr. Reddys Laboratories Ltd explained the importance of solvent management as it helps the industry in enhancing the safety and environmental compliance and reduces cost of raw materials in a significant manner. It is one of the key parameter for the sustainable operation for Pharma industry. He emphasized the need to

focus in a scientific way in solvent selection, recovery and recovery aspects.

Mr. L Nagesh Kumar, Former CEO, Solvent Recovery Plant, Maharashtra opined that Industry, processors and regulatory agencies should come together and agree on feasible best available technology options to recover and recycle solvents. He further informed that with appropriate design considerations of solvent recovery plant and good operation protocols, the spent solvent can be processed meeting the quality requirements for reuse.

Mr. B.V. Bhadra Girish, Senior Environmental Engineer (FAC) , TS Pollution Control Board explained the regulatory compliance requirements for handling solvents by the Pharma industry and the solvent recovery plants under the consent and hazardous waste authorization protocols. He also briefed the opportunities for adopting co- processing of HW in cement industries.

Meeting with  
 Officials of  
 Embassy of United  
 States of America,  
 New Delhi :  
 24th March, 2022







## Interactive Meeting on India- Israel : 30 years and beyond Trade & Economic Relations

**24th March, 2022**

Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI said that meeting is being organized to understand the business potential of Israel, opportunities available for trade and industry and the kind of assistance provided to help conduct business there and vice versa as well as to commemorate our 30 years of diplomatic relations. FTCCI would be happy to part of the celebrations and extend all its support in furthering the trade between the two countries more particularly with the State of Telangana. He invited the Israeli government and companies to pro-actively partner in development projects and programs. These partnerships can help us reach new heights in our trade and commercial partnership.

Mr. Joseph Avraham, Consul for Economic and Trade Affairs of Israel in Bengaluru said that the purpose of the visit is to develop economic ties and cooperation between Israel and the State of Telangana. There is tremendous scope for expanding trade in areas like smart agriculture,

water, life sciences, med tech, edutech, fintech, industry 4.0 and smart cities. Israeli companies and companies in the state of Telangana will find areas to collaborate in these sectors.

Mr. Joseph Avraham said that as we celebrate this milestone, it is also an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of our leaders, diplomats, thinkers, strategists and all the people, who have led our partnership and continue to nurture this important relationship.

Mr. Ken Udai Sagar, Hon. Consul of Israel - Telangana and A.P. addressed on the opportunities and latest technological interventions in Israel and possible collaboration between Israel and Indian MSMEs.

Mr. Rajendra Agarwal, Chair, International Trade Committee, FTCCI, Mr Irfaan Rafequee, Director, Indo Israel Chambers of Commerce and Industry also participated and addressed the meeting.



Meeting with  
Mr. Fahad Suri,  
Under Secretary,  
Ministry of Commerce  
and Industry :

19th March, 2022

## Panel Discussion on Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management : Integrated Connectivity through enhancing Exports/Convocation Ceremony



**7th April, 2022**

Shipping and Logistics Committee, FTCCI has curated and completed the skill development program in partnership with TSTPC, Govt of Telangana i.e. "Certificate Course in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management". The program has been spread over the duration of three months started from 8th of January, 2022 till 12th March, 2022. The program was conducted from 10am to 1pm on every Saturday. There were around 16 mentorship sessions by the industry leaders, experts and veterans. The last two Saturdays were field visits which include visit to GMR Cargo Facility; ICD Sanathnagar, CONCOR; Zero Miles facility which includes Reliance Digital, Amazon managed by Mahindra Logistics, Flipkart & HUL.

The Convocation was preceded by a Panel Discussion on Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management :Integrated Connectivity through enhancing Exports in order to commemorate the India's achievement of historic milestone of US\$ 400 billion of exports and to identify the role of Global

Logistics & Supply Chain Management along with other catalyst.

K. Bhasker Reddy, President FTCCI mentioned that deploying the correct mode of logistics is going to be a big differentiator in the success of the business. The current trends and importance of keeping oneself updated is of prime importance. He spoke about some of the major trends in logistics and supply chain management which is evolving like RFID; Embedded Integration Technology; Globalization and Compliance; Integrated 3PL Services etc.

Mr Saurabh Kumar, Chair, Shipping and Logistics, FTCCI stated that there is an added importance given in strategic meetings of the company to warehousing, supply chain management and logistics. He also mentioned that the whole logistic and supply chain is evolving dynamically with the cutting edge technology and a lot of development in all the fronts. Updating oneself to sustain and perform better, one should attend such programs.

Shri MRR Reddy, IRS, Commissioner, Customs has enlighten the participants with the current developments in Customs. The customs procedures way back in 1995 was entirely manual with around 30 stages to complete the compliance which is now fully automated and transparent for ease of doing business. Customs have introduced 'Risk management system' wherein based on





certain parameters only certain identified documents will be verified in course of export or import. With the introduction of E-Sanchit, all the documents are electronically filled and digitally signed, around 95% of the work is done online. He stated that there is see change in policy front like deferred payment option etc to facilitate international trade .

The Panel session on Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management has been conducted successfully with the panelist as Shri MRR Reddy, Commissioner Customs ;Shri K Bhasker Reddy,MD, Creamline Diary Products ; Shri Priyatham Vankalapati, CEO, Sam Agritech ; Shri Sundeep Reddy G, Founder & Director, Zero Miles Warehousing Pvt Ltd and the Moderator , Mr Saurabh Kumar , CEO, GMR Air Cargo.

The panel held a fruitful discussion highlighting the future of exports and imports from/into India with respect to developing logistics and supply chain facilities and facilitators. The panel session effectively highlighted the changing way of working with respect to Customs department and their support; the way warehousing with lot of new changes would act as an enabler to growth, how there is a potential for growing exports etc.

Latter the convocation was held for participants of "Certificate Course in Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management". The program was sum up by Mr Ravi Prakash Mathur Co-chair, Shipping & Logistics , FTCCI and participated by Mr Sathish lakharaju, Senior VP , Wiz Freight ; Mr Ajay Zadoo, Regional Manager, CWC; Mr Kamal Jain , Director ,Cargomen Logistics Pvt Ltd,Mr Vikrant Singh Sengal, AGM Terminal Operation GMR Cargo; Mr Chalapti from HUL; and many others.





# International Exhibition on Food & Dairy & Conference on Milking Dairy Opportunities

**8th April, 2022**

Mr. K. Bhasker Reddy, President, FTCCI in his welcome address raised problems and bottlenecks the dairy industry is facing. While the city needs 35 lakh liters of milk, we are able to procure only 12 lakh liters. He expressed displeasure about the sporadic procurement of milk. He also expressed concern that help, support, and funds supposed to come from National Dairy Promotion and Research Board is also not materializing. He suggested the Minister of Animal Husbandry to involve dairy entrepreneurs in corporate, private and cooperative sectors to strengthen dairy sector in the State.

Dr. S. Ramchander, Director, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Government of Telangana said the Government recognized the animal husbandry sector as a priority area. Animal husbandry plays a significant role in the nutritional security of the masses. The livestock sector employs 8.8% population. The milk production of Telangana has grown from 42.07 LMT in 2014 to 57.65 LMT in the year 2020-2021. Telangana contributes approximately 3.0% of India's total milk production with a 9.1 % annual growth rate of milk production against



the national average of 6.5%. Despite being the world's largest milk producer, only 12 to 15 % of the milk is delivered to the dairies for processing as against the world average of 70 %. He informed that strong Veterinary Health Care network with 2100 veterinary hospitals, 1200 qualified Veterinarians 2000 para veterinarians across the state to cater the animal health care in the state. 100 Mobile veterinary clinics rendering the Emergency services at farmer's doorstep.

Mr. R. Natarajan, Deputy General Manager (Agro Business Unit), State Bank of India said that due to the large presence of unorganized sector in Dairy industry, financing limitations is causing hindrance to the milk production. He informed that the banks are trying to give consumption rules to farmers and also trying to provide animals to farmers who are in need through tie-ups with major dairies in the country to increase the milk procurement. He also said that the banks are also participating in various schemes of the Central government such as Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development fund, Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and has given a detailed presentation on the financing options provided by the banks







Md. Mohamood Ali, Hon'ble Minister of Home, Prisons and Fire Services, Government of Telangana stated what farmers want is energy and water, which is available abundantly in Telangana state. He said that "I'm being a Diary Farm proprietor, I do know that we're unable to fulfill the milk demand of town. Hyderabad people drink tea no less than 5 to six occasions a day and so they choose buffalo milk." But the state is able to meet only 30% of the milk demand within the metropolis and the remaining is imported from Maharashtra and Karnataka. He said that Telangana should become self-sufficient in Milk production and he exhorted Dalit Bandhu beneficiaries to form groups of 10 and start small dairy businesses that are in high demand, which would help them reduce labour costs while yielding them higher profits if they themselves work in the dairy. He added that there was a need to bring in milking machinery for buffaloes and small cold storage equipment for small dairies.

T. Srinivas Yadav, Hon'ble Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, and Dairy Development Corp. Government of Telangana said that Dairy sector plays a key role in employment generation in rural areas. He welcomed the suggestion of President, FTCCI and advised the Director of Animal Husbandry and MD of Vijaya Dairy to immediately form a committee by involving government and private stakeholders. He expressed that deliberations could be made to fill the gaps in the dairy industry and processes, by putting collective spirit above competition, to promote the dairy sector in a major way. He also said that Vijaya Dairy which was speculated to be closed down before the TRS party came into power is now making fast strides. It is now doing well and achieved a turnover of over Rs 650 crore and are targeting Rs 1000core.

#### **The following Technical Sessions were conducted:**

Mr. Thummala Reddy Shanmukha, Consultant, Agro and Food processing, has given a detailed presentation on Opportunities for starting Mini Dairy Farms.





Mr. A. Praveen Reddy, President, Mulkanoor Dairy Co-op and Mulkanoor Co-operative Bank, has given a detailed presentation on Challenges in Sustainability of Dairy Farms-Way Forward.

Dr. Satish Kulkarni, Principal Scientist, National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), has given a detailed presentation on A2 Milk - Reality Vs. Hype, Desirable and un-desirable practices in Milk Production.

Dr. V. Sudershan Rao, Former Deputy Director, National Institute of Nutrition has given a detailed presentation on FSSAI regulations with special reference to Milk and Milk products.

Dr B.K Karna, Director - Packaging Clinic & Research Institute (PCRI), has given a detailed presentation on Packaging Solutions for Dairy Industry.

Dr. Nagendra Naik, Training Officer, National Skill Training Institute, has given a detailed presentation on IOT in Dairy Industry.





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**గర్భాశయముఖద్వార క్యాన్సర్ :**  
వాస్తవంగా అన్ని గర్భాశయముఖద్వార క్యాన్సర్లు హెచ్పీవి వల్ల కలుగుతాయి. సాధారణ స్క్రీనింగ్ గర్భాశయముఖద్వార క్యాన్సర్లను నిరోధించవచ్చు.

**ఒరోఫారింజియల్ క్యాన్సర్లు:**  
ఈ క్యాన్సర్లు గొంతులో (సాధారణంగా టూన్సిల్స్ లేదా నాలుక వెనుక) ఉంటాయి. ఇవి HPV వల్ల కలుగుతాయి.

**గుదమునకు క్యాన్సర్:**  
గుదమునకు క్యాన్సర్లు 90% పైగా HPV వలన కలుగుతాయి. ప్రతి ఏడాది కొత్త కేసుల సంఖ్య మరియు గుదమునకు క్యాన్సర్ వలన మరణాలు పెరుగుతున్నాయి.

**పురుషాంగం క్యాన్సర్:**  
పురుషాంగం క్యాన్సర్లు HPV ద్వారా (90%పైగా) కలుగుతాయి.

**యోని క్యాన్సర్:**  
చాలా యోని క్యాన్సర్లు HPV వలన (75%) కలుగుతాయి.

**యోని ఉపరితల క్యాన్సర్:**  
చాలా యోని ఉపరితల క్యాన్సర్లు (70%) HPV వల్ల కలుగుతాయి.

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## Interactive Session with Sri D.P. Nagendra Kumar, IRS, Special Secretary to Govt. of India and Member Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs

17th March, 2022 at GST Bhavan, Hyderabad.

Smt. Siva Naga Kumari, IRS, Chief Commissioner, Customs and Central Taxes along with Principal commissioners, Commissioners and other senior officers of the department were attended the meeting. Sri Bhasker Reddy, President, along with Sri S. Thirumalai, Sri V.S. Sudhir, Sri Mohammed Irshad Ahmad from FTCCI, met the Member-CBIC and Chief Commissioner and submitted the following issues/recommendations for their consideration.

### During the interaction, Member – CBIC has responded our queries as follows

Sl.	Gist of issue	Relief required	Response from Member-CBIC
01	There are several legacy issues / pending cases under the erstwhile Excise /Service tax laws which remains pending since several years while the trade has moved on to the latest GST regime.	An amnesty scheme for Excise / Service tax laws particularly for MSMEs may be introduced to provide an option for the registered persons to bring closure to these cases. Rajasthan and Maharashtra have introduced such scheme.	Member informed that after June 2022 legacy issues would be time bared. He wants FTCCI to give the instances where the legacy issues are causing hardship for MSME. He would be looking into the same.
02	There is no tool for the recipient of a supply to know the actual payment of tax by the supplier to the Government which is an essential condition for availing the ITC under Section 16(2)(c)	Either a tool shall be made available for recipient to track such payments Until such tool is available this condition shall be relaxed	Member responded that there is a need for compliance discipline among the trade. The new compliances from 1st of January 2022 is showing results. Govt. is working on indicting the risky credit in auto populated 2B, based on which the taxpayer may choose to take the ITC or otherwise.
03	Rule 86B which restricts the utilization of ITC and insists of paying certain amount in cash despite having adequate ITC balance electronic credit ledger is putting an addition compliance burden and pressure on working capital.	There is an urgent need to withdraw the Rule 86B	Member responded that there are many exceptions for this rule, after such exception this will apply only 6000 taxpayers. The amount of blockage because of this is not significant. This may be required to build compliance discipline.
04	Services provided by employees of one branch to another branch of the same company is being taxed as services provided by a distinct entity to another distinct entity. This causing severe hardship and putting an additional burden on the tax payers in terms compliance and also reporting.	A clarification needs to be issued so as to dispense with this requirement as it will not add any purpose as the ITC is available in all such cases. It is only causing additional compliance burden on registered persons.	Member made it clear that the supply of employment service is out of GST. All other services have to be cross charged in view of GST being the destination-based tax. Discussion was made to issue clarification in this regard, which may be sent GST council after due deliberation.
05	E-Invoice more than 20 crores	There are several players in MSME sector who still maintain manual invoicing or are not having suitable invoicing systems. An extension of atleast 3 month is required for upgrading the systems and training the staff.	Government has to take decision. The functioning of e-waybill system is effective. More outreach programmes are required to reach out to the particular segment.



Sl.	Gist of issue	Relief required	Response from Member-CBIC
06	Time Limit in Show Cause Notices (SCNs). Recent SCNs under DRC 01 are issued with a time limit of 13 days or one week. These are issued for 3-4 years together and the tax payer has to respond within 13 days or 7 days for all these years.	Suitable amendment needs to be brought in to allow a minimum time for registered persons to respond with an option for further extension	There is a need of uniformity in process by Center of State. He has made not of this concern and will explore the option of inclusion of this in the rules.
07	Butter and Ghee are currently taxed at 12%. These products are loss making for every dairy industry reason being the input costs do not support the market price in India. Therefore, dairy industries are forced to sell at lower prices.	A rate reduction of 12% to 5% is required so that the losses can be minimized and benefit can be passed on to the customers. This will also be in larger interest of farming community.	He will refer to the Fitment Committee
08	Flavoured milk is an essential item akin to milk and required for development of healthy society. There is no big difference between flavoured milk and milk. However, Government is proposing 12% rate on flavoured milk whereas on milk the same is 5%.	Since milk is exempt, flavoured milk can be taxed at reduced rate of 5% so that it will attract more customers support in healthy society.	He will refer to the Fitment Committee
09	QRMP Scheme – Quarterly monthly filing scheme – This scheme is not popular as it requires additional compliances compared with monthly scheme. Further it is difficult to understand for the purpose of filing the returns.	Quarterly scheme for small tax payers can be either scrapped or revamped with better features or functionalities having less compliances.	He noted the request. The option to pay quarterly is being considered.
10	Integration of GST Portal with TReDS platform	MSMEs are not being paid on time and this results in a lower compliance ratio for GST and also they are not cash-rich. It is proposed to integrate the GST portal with TReDS platform so that the MSMEs will receive money on time and their GST compliance will be intact and can tide the challenges of cash flows.	Member opined there may not be much use in integration, they can be considered sharing the invoice details/validation.
11	Taxability of Extra Neutral Alcohol / Rectified spirit / Special Denatured spirit	Please bring the above products under GST as they are not alcohol for human consumption.	This issue has been under deliberation by GST council.
12	Section 149 which deals with Goods and Services tax compliance rating is yet to be made effective.	It is requested to implement Section 149 so as to aid the recipients in taking informed decisions and thereby avoiding ITC reversals / default in compliances.	Member opined that rating a tax payer may have adverse impact to his business and hence this will be notified only when the system is stabilized.
13	Interest rate under Section 50	Rate of interest shall be reduced from 18% to 12% mainly on account of high input costs, inflation and also the Covid impact	Member opined, that there has to be differential treatment on a law compliance tax payer and other and hence interest is inevitable



# Celebrating World Heritage Day

Theme: Heritage and Climate

## Introduction:

*The International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, is celebrated each year on 18 April. The day is celebrated under the theme “Heritage and Climate” In 2022.*

*In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) established 18 April as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, followed by UNESCO’s adoption during its 22nd General Conference, the same year.*

A World Heritage site is a landmark or area with legal protection by an international convention administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). World Heritage sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other forms of significance. The sites are judged to contain “cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity (OUV)”.

To be selected, a WHS must be a somehow unique landmark that is geographically and historically identifiable and have special cultural or physical significance. For example, they might be ancient ruins or historical structures, buildings, cities, deserts, forests, islands, lakes, monuments, mountains, or wilderness areas. A World Heritage site may signify a remarkable accomplishment of humanity, and serve as evidence of our intellectual history on the planet, or it might be a place of great natural beauty.

As of April 2022, a total of 1,154 World Heritage Sites (897 cultural, 218 natural, and 39 mixed properties) exist across 167 countries; the countries with the most sites are Italy (58), China (56), Germany (51), France (49), Spain (49), India (40), Mexico (35), the United



Kingdom (33) and Russia (30)

Telangana's Ramappa Temple becomes a UNESCO World Heritage Site

On July 25, Telangana made history when the majestic Ramappa temple at Palampet village, 210 km north-east of Hyderabad, bagged the coveted UNESCO World Heritage Site tag. The ruins of the majestic temple, built in the 13th century by the Kakatiya line of kings (regarded as one of the brightest periods of Telugu history), is the first site in the state and the 39th in the country to get the honour. It is the best known of the Kakatiya temples with its decorative pillars, exquisitely carved ceilings and the celebrated figures of dancers and musicians.

### About Ramappa Temple:

Rudreshwara, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, is located in the village of Palampet approximately 200km north-east of Hyderabad, in the State of Telangana. It is the main Shiva temple in a walled complex built during the Kakatiyan period (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra. Construction of the sandstone temple began in 1213 CE and is believed to have continued over some 40 years. The building features decorated beams and pillars of carved granite and dolerite with a distinctive and pyramidal Vimana (horizontally stepped tower) made of lightweight porous bricks, so-called 'floating bricks', which reduced the weight of the roof structures. The temple's sculptures of high artistic quality illustrate regional dance customs and Kakatiyan culture. Located at the foothills of a forested area and amidst agricultural fields, close to the shores of the Ramappa Cheruvu, a Kakatiya-built water reservoir, the choice of setting for the edifice followed the ideology and practice sanctioned in dharmic texts that temples are to be constructed to form an integral part of a natural setting, including hills, forests, springs, streams, lakes, catchment areas, and agricultural lands.

Source : <https://www.genevaenvironmentnetwork.org/resources/updates/world-heritage-day-2022/> <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1570/>





# Russia Ukraine War

What Impact Can It have on  
India's Economy?

Srikanth Srinivas





*An essay on the 'State of the Economy' in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) February 2022 bulletin begins by saying this: "Domestic macroeconomic conditions are striking a path that is diverging from global developments." Perhaps, but the possible outcomes of the geopolitical crisis that began when Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24 could challenge that assessment. That's not all. On March 8, US President Joe Biden raised the ante in this war by announcing a ban on the import of Russian energy products.*

While the US itself is not very dependent on Russian oil—in 2021, it imported an average 672,000 barrels a day, or 8 per cent of its needs, according to the Energy Information Agency (EIA); Canada provides 51 per cent of US oil imports—the impact would be elsewhere. Crude oil prices could skyrocket—to as high as \$150 a barrel, some analysts

fear—and that would wreak havoc on the Indian economy.

Many observers worry that the impact on India's economy could be severe; others are sanguine that India's economy is insulated from the effects of a war that is very far away. The stock market has already reacted, with major indices falling by almost 10 per cent since February 1, although they recovered around the days of the state election results. Several market veterans shrug off the slide saying a 'technical correction' was due anyway, and events in Europe supplied the trigger.

Most companies and business people are confident—or at least hopeful—that the crisis will be resolved quickly, since the world cannot afford a longdrawn-out conflict or persistent political tension in Europe. That said, US-China trade tensions have persisted for long,

and the global economy has adjusted. China's alignment with Russia, and new tensions over Taiwan could, however, ratchet up the pressure.

Three scenarios are possible: a difficult, but manageable short-term one, in which the dispute is resolved and tension de-escalated within two months, a second, more adverse situation in which the effects of persistent sanctions will be felt if the conflict continues for six to nine months, and the third, worst-case scenario of a dragged-out war over 12-18 months.

Three types of effects on the Indian economy are likely: direct, affecting trade between India and both Russia and Ukraine; indirect, through global commodity and energy market shifts; and macroeconomic, as policy implementation and business choices may have to be deferred or adjusted to manage any fallout from the crisis. The results of and responses to this 3x3 matrix will vary, and degrees of uncertainty—at least at this stage—are high. The big question is how the Indian economy will weather this crisis. Will it demonstrate resilience, or will some sectors get into serious difficulties?

## **BITTER, BUT STRONG, MEDICINE**

Pharmaceutical companies—Sun Pharmaceuticals and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) come to mind—have production facilities in Russia and offices in Ukraine. Requests for an interaction sent to the first elicited no response, despite many

attempts. DRL's spokesperson sent a standard two-line response that has been curated for the media: "We have had a presence in the region for over three decades. Ensuring the well-being of our staff is our first and foremost priority, along with measures to meet patient needs and business continuity. We have been monitoring developments closely and preparing accordingly, and continue to do so." Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General of the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) and himself a former head of pharma company Abbott India, identified three immediate industry priorities, the first being to keep an adequate supply of medicines—three to four months' stock—in Ukraine and Russia. "Our other priorities are to ensure the safety of employees in the region, and to ensure the safe return of our Indian staff and their families back home," he says. "We are working closely with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce on meeting these and other challenges."

But there is one essential commodity's behaviour that is concerning to the pharma industry: the volatility in active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) prices. The industry depends on imports for 90 per cent of its API needs, and increased volatility because of the Ukraine crisis is going to make matters worse. "Company margins—and balance sheets—are already stressed as a consequence of this volatility," Jain points out. "Things could get harder for the industry, financially. Our response to the Covid-19 pandemic and changing operations and structures while still ensuring the flow of medicines isn't interrupted has also come with some costs." They would do it all over again if needed, he adds. Consultation with the government is ongoing to address the API challenge, along with a whole host of other things.

## **THE PAYMENTS PROBLEM**

The imposition of economic sanctions on Russia has been swift. To start with,

five major Russian banks have been barred by Europe and the US from the SWIFT global messaging system that lets banks communicate with each other across borders about payments and transfers between them, a sort of financial SMS confirmation system. The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, or SWIFT, has more than 11,000 participating member banks and financial institutions from 200 countries, and makes global trade and finance possible.

The sanctions have got the pharma industry worried, not because of the volume of trade—the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil) reported that in 2020-21, pharma exports to Russia and Ukraine amounted to \$591 million and \$181 million, respectively, or less than 3 per cent of total pharma exports—but because companies are worried about receiving payments. “Receiving payments for exports to Russia will now be a big problem,” says Ajay Sahai, Director General and CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). “There is about \$400 million in unrealised receipts for exports that have already been shipped.” Most of that is from Russia. The problem, Sahai says, is that the financial consequences can be steep for exporters. Banks have applied stringent terms in recent months because the rouble has been a volatile currency, and now it has pretty much collapsed.

Pre-shipment credit is typically accompanied by insurance cover from the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), and post-shipment credit has high penalties if payments are not received on time. “Unless the

government asks banks to relax the penalties and payback periods until the situation is resolved, the costs for exporters can be crippling,” says Sahai. Russian companies have offered to pay through third countries—Turkey, for instance—but the ECGC and banks insist that payment through third countries should be part of the agreement when the contract is initiated, that is, before shipment is made. Unfortunately, that provision probably is absent in most contracts.

On March 3, at a meeting in Kolkata, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das suggested that banks should find alternative ways of handling payments with Russia, but no ideas were forthcoming from bankers. In the past, a rupee-rouble exchange was put in place—this was after the collapse of the Soviet Union, to make payments for defence and other purchases—which may now be reconsidered. For imports, things may be a little easier. The bulk of Russia’s exports to India are oil, gas and coal, all of which, along with agricultural products (like sunflower oil from Ukraine), pharmaceuticals and medical devices, are exempt from sanctions. India’s trade volumes with the two countries are not very significant (see The Export-Import Impact). The indirect effects, however, are a whole different story.

## THE COMMODITIES CONUNDRUM

Over March 7 and 8, the price of nickel on the London Metal Exchange (LME) shot up from roughly \$29,800 to over \$100,000 a tonne, forcing the LME to suspend trading, and launch an investigation into the causes. Russia accounts for 9 per cent of global supply, but influences prices hugely. The immediate effect of the invasion of Ukraine was the jump in crude oil prices, which traded upwards of \$110 a barrel at one point, though it softened to less than \$105 thereafter. (On March 15, Russian crude was selling at a \$26 discount to Brent.) However, the significant jump in spot prices worries

economists, whose estimates on the tipping point for crude prices—the point at which the Indian economy will begin to feel the full impact—vary between \$80 to \$100 a barrel.

Price hikes are not restricted to oil and gas or energy; over the past 18 months, all commodity prices have risen steadily. They seem to have plateaued, but this latest crisis has added its own upward impetus. Rising prices of three metals are of major concern: steel, aluminium and nickel. In addition, coal is a significant factor in the production of the first two. On March 4, aluminium hit a record \$3,850 a tonne, an increase of 13 per cent in just a week, on the LME, and nickel reached an 11-year high.

The hike in steel prices could be beneficial for India, according to Amit Dixit, Director, Institutional Equities at Edelweiss Financial Services Ltd, a Mumbai-based financial services firm. “About 11 per cent of seaborne global steel exports are from Ukraine and Russia,” he points out. “Most of it is intended for Southeast Asia, and the crisis will disrupt their supply. This can be an opportunity for Indian steel makers to enter that market.”

Aluminium poses a different problem. Because of its high energy intensity—in India, 40 per cent of the cost of production is attributable to coal (as a source of energy)—which is a problem for achieving net zero carbon as agreed to in the climate change accords. There has been a push towards recycling. The International Energy Agency reports that 34 per cent of the metal used in 2020 was recycled. “But there is also a shortage of 2 million tonnes in a market where demand is 69 million tonnes annually,” Dixit points out. Ergo, prices will go up. Russia is a significant producer of aluminium, accounting for roughly 4-6 per cent of global production, and is among the world’s most cost efficient producers. Sanctions compound the supply shortage. India is unlikely to face supply constraints, though. Hindalco, Vedanta and Nalco can





more than meet domestic demand. But the metal's prices are set at the LME, not in India, and so are likely to remain high.

Two other metals are worthy of mention: palladium and platinum. Russia accounts for 35 per cent of the global production of the first, and 10 per cent of the second. Both are key inputs into catalytic converters, and thus the automobile supply chain. In 2019, palladium became the most expensive of the four precious metals (gold, silver, platinum and palladium), and a reliable substitute isn't easily available. When the US imposed sanctions on Russia in April 2018—the US has a long history of imposing sanctions on Russia for a variety of reasons—the volatility in prices was similar, and the impact on the automobile industry was very adverse. That can hit close to home for consumers.

## A TWIST IN THE TAILPIPE

In December 2021, asked by the media on the outlook for 2022, auto mobile industry leaders and senior executives shared opinions that ranged from hopeful to 'cautiously optimistic'. The pandemic itself pushed up demand for personal passenger vehicles, although the global semiconductor chip shortage and higher fuel prices increased the cost of ownership considerably. Others said they expected demand to strengthen after India navigated the Omicron variant onset; production shortages due to a global semiconductor chip shortage were also handled relatively smoothly.

But industry honchos seem unwilling to hazard a statement now. Attempts to connect with and questions sent to senior company executives for this article were met with silence. Basudeb Banerjee, an Automobile Industries Analyst at ICICI Securities, says there's no cause for worry. "The choice for consumers is really between the cost of personal mobility weighed against the cost of family time, which seems to have become more valuable now,"



he says. "Most people will still be willing to absorb the higher costs." Plus, the government has also chipped in with policy incentives for production; there's about Rs 26,000 crore under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the auto and auto component industries, another Rs 18,000 crore for investment in advanced chemistry cells (for EVs), and Rs 76,000 crore for semiconductor manufacturing over the next six years. The latest surge in commodity prices will delay the industry's anticipated recovery. Several analysts had priced in a bottoming out of gross margins by the second quarter of FY22.

The sustained increase in commodity prices, and now the Ukraine crisis, have shifted that point to Q3FY23. More pain before some gains, apparently. The logic for that assessment is relatively straightforward. Raw material costs as a share of sales value amount to roughly 75 per cent (see The Platinum, Palladium Risk). The sum of energy conversion costs, logistics, sales and marketing—labour costs will remain stable—will dent or damage gross margins by about roughly 3-4 per cent.

With additional costs stemming from the crisis—not forgetting inflation—the gross margin turnaround could well be pushed into the start of 2024, if the Ukraine crisis persists. And if markets are anything to go by—both

equity markets and futures—people are persuaded that things could take longer before 'normalcy' is restored. Uncertainty breeds volatility.

## UNMAKING THE MARKET

The most obviously visible signs of distress are in global equity markets, and their hopes of a fast resolution seem likely to be belied. On March 4, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the media in Brussels that an early end to the crisis appears unlikely, after his meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Sanctions on Russia, its businesses and economy are likely to get harsher. Indian stock markets have been 'correcting' very quickly. On March 7, the S&P BSE Sensitive Index (BSE Sensex) had declined to 53,035, by almost 15 per cent from its 52-week record high of 62,245.

Another 5,700-point decline will take it to the lowest point in a year, or 42,205. That likelihood doesn't seem far-fetched, although it recovered marginally to 55,464 on March 10. Rashesh Shah, Chairman and CEO of the Edelweiss Group, isn't convinced that the Ukraine crisis is the primary cause for the fall in the Indian equity market. "We were already in a global risk-off environment," he says. "India is reasonably insulated from what is essentially a geopolitical crisis." He acknowledges the potential inflationary effects that commodity

prices will have on the economy. "But look at corporate balance sheets," he argues. "This year's Budget and tax collections in the past few months have been high enough for the RBI to reduce the government's borrowing programme; the government's balance sheet is strong too."

Others are less sanguine. "The market was expensive, and some valuations were definitely very high," says Sanjeev Prasad, Managing Director and Co-head at Kotak Institutional Equities. "Interest rates are high, and so is inflation. I have never seen people in the equities market as worried about inflation as they are now." He's right about excessive valuations. The stock price of TCS, for example, was 19-22 times forward earnings through most of the last decade; it is now 30 times. HUL (Hindustan Unilever Ltd) was at more than 45 times earnings in early March, and Avenue Supermarts Ltd—otherwise known as DMart—has a price-earnings (P/E) ratio of 110 times! The National Stock Exchange's (NSE) Nifty 50 is trading at 19.5 times. Prasad worries that inflation in FY23 could average well above RBI forecasts; an extended conflict could keep oil prices higher than \$110 a barrel; September oil futures on March 8 were over \$126. Together with other high commodity prices, the RBI may have to revise its inflation estimate upwards, to 6 per cent, probably even higher. With 10-year bonds at a shade over 6.8 per cent, and forward earnings yield (the reciprocal of the P/E ratio) at 5.13 per cent, the yield gap between equity and bonds is 162 basis points. "When earnings yield is that much lower than bond yield, equities are clearly overpriced," Prasad points out. "And if the RBI hikes interest rates to contain inflation, that gap could get bigger, or there will be a bigger market correction."

## **INFLATION: ILLUSION OR SPIRAL?**

There is a spectrum of views on inflation and the economy's ability

to tolerate it. There are a multitude of ways that economists and other analysts slice and dice it: food versus non-food, core versus consumer, cost-push versus demand pull (which is analogous to supply side versus demand side) and so on. Inflation is also intensely political. Energy prices will go up sharply as crude oil and coal prices spiked as a result of the current crisis involving Ukraine and Russia. A meeting of OPEC+—a group that has 23 members that account for 45 per cent of global crude production and of which Russia is co-chair—lasted just 13 minutes on March 2. Not surprisingly, they held the line on production; after all, they are happy to take the benefits of the price increase. "Sanctions may not be imposed beyond the end of March or April; at least that's the hope," says Madan Sabnavis, until recently chief economist at CARE Ratings, and currently Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda. "India's GDP growth for this year—FY22—is unlikely to be impacted, though some volatility in bond and currency markets cannot be ruled out."

The problem is, inflation may have been suppressed for a while recently. Elections in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa, Manipur and Uttarakhand necessitated keeping fuel prices untouched even as global crude prices were rising even before the Ukraine crisis; many are also expecting a hike in minimum support prices (MSP) for farmers. Both these are expected to go up. Look out for second order effects as transport prices and freight rates also go up. Still, public finance—at least right away—will not be a problem. The government's cash balances with the RBI seem more than adequate and cancelling the auction of some government debt has lowered expectations of problems, and suggest that tax collections will be robust. "But the increase in oil prices will reduce excise and neutralise expected revenue gains," says Indranil Pan, Chief Economist at YES Bank. "The global economy—and thus India—will feel significant pain if oil prices stay this high for an extended period.

Demand will cool and supply-side bottlenecks will persist if the crisis persists beyond three months."

Conducting a nimble monetary policy will be challenging. Many expect the US to withhold interest rate increases; global analysts suggest there may be fewer rate increases, although US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell is not taking his foot off the brake entirely. There will be policy rate hikes, and with consequences for India's economy. Ordinary people were already expecting high inflation even before the crisis. The January 2022 Household Inflation Expectations Survey expected inflation to be higher at 9.7 per cent a month ahead, and at 10.6 per cent in the coming three months, and 10.7 per cent for the coming year. Compare that to the RBI's target of 4.5 per cent for the year.

Opinions and views on the impact of the crisis—and the consequences of sanctions against Russia—fall into two camps: one believes, maybe even hopes, that the crisis gets over quickly, a second is worried that it may last longer than anticipated and cause some permanent economic damage. No one wants to prepare for the worst possible outcome. The problem is, despite hope and selective amnesia, India cannot 'decouple', as many people thought India could before the global financial crisis of 2008. Then, as now, that impression is wildly inaccurate. In an interconnected global economy, it doesn't have to be a sneeze that can give the world a cold, or the shivers.

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Government of Telangana : 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



Inauguration of Franchise India Annual Small  
Business Awards 2022 at ITC Kohneur, Madhapur,  
Hyderabad : 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022



Corporate Consultation meet on  
Tuberculosis (TB) at Taj Krishna  
Hyderabad in partnership with Union  
South East Asia Office (USEA)  
Government of India The Union  
Government of Telangana :  
17<sup>th</sup> March, 2022





FTCCI officials and participants of Global Logistic Team Industrial Visit to Zero Miles Warehousing Facility -Reliance Digital; Mahindra Logistics - Amazon; Flipkart. : 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



Sri R. Ravi Kumar, Chair, Hr & IR, Skill Development Committee with Sri Shyam Sunder Jaju, Deputy Commissioner of Labour, LET&F, Govt of Telangana : 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



Wings India 2022 – With Dr Andrew Fleming, Deputy High Commissioner : 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



With Sri T. Srinivas Yadav Hon'ble Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Govt of Telangana : 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2022



CEO of FTCCI with Sri M.R.R. Reddy, IRS, Commissioner - Secunderabad GST Commissionerate & Addl Charge- Commissioner – Customs : 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2022



CEO of FTCCI with Sri Md. Mohamood Ali, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Minister of Home, Prisons and Fire Services, Govt of Telangana : 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022



4th Marathi Food Festival on the occasion of International Women's Day at Keshav memorial Institute of Technology (KMIT), Narayanaguda. CEO of FTCCI with Sri G.Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region of India : 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2022











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