



# NEWS & TRENDS

## Export Import scenario of India in September 2020

Merchandise exports from India grew by 5.99% at US\$ 27.58 billion in September 2020 in comparison with US\$ 26.02 billion in September 2019.

Major commodity groups showing positive growth in exports in September 2020 vis-à-vis September 2019 were other cereals (337.22%), iron ore (109.65%), oil meals (47.52%), oil seeds (35.69%), cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (33.57%), drugs & pharmaceuticals (24.38%), ready-made garment (RMG) of all textiles (10.22%) etc.

Major commodity groups showing negative growth in exports in September 2020 vis-à-vis September 2019 were gems & jewellery (-24.67%), man-made yarn/fabrics/made-ups etc (-9.12%), mica, coal

& other ores, minerals including processed minerals (-6.71%), marine products (-5.41%), leather & leather products (-3.36%) etc.

Cumulative exports declined by 21.31% at US\$ 125.25 billion during April-September

2020 compared to US\$ 159.16 billion during April-September 2019.

Merchandise imports in India registered a decline of 19.60% at US\$ 30.31 billion in September 2020 against US\$ 37.69 billion in September 2019. Cumulative imports



registered a drop of 40.06% at US\$ 148.69 billion during April-September 2020 against US\$ 248.08 billion during April-September 2019.

Major commodity groups showing negative growth in imports in September 2020 vis-a-vis September 2019 were transport equipment (-47.08%), electrical and non-electrical machinery (-6.76%), petroleum, crude & products (-35.88%), pearls, precious and semi-precious stones (-4.89%), organic & inorganic chemicals (-2.48%).

Trade deficit was estimated at US\$ 2.72 billion in September 2020 against US\$ 11.67 billion in September 2019, with a decline of 76.66%.

### India to invest in manufacturing sectors

Under production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme, India is likely to spend Rupees 2 trillion in 10 manufacturing sectors such as advanced chemistry cell batteries, electronic products, automobiles and auto components, pharmaceuticals and drugs, telecom and networking products, textiles, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, white goods and speciality steel in the next five years.

With promotion of these sectors, product competitiveness would be enhanced, leading India to the important supply chain of manufacturing in the world, bringing in employment opportunities to India and boosting exports.

### Opening of Global Capability Centre of DICV in India

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), one of the commercial vehicle manufacturers of India, has recently opened a Global Capability Centre in Chennai, India. The 165-seat facility would house 'shared services' business stream of the company.

Shared services refer to the various services offered by Daimler India

### Metal Matrix Composites Legend Awarded

Dr Pradeep Rohatgi, internationally famous scientist and UWM Distinguished Professor, Materials Science & Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering has received the prestigious IAAM Scientist Award 2020. The Sweden-based International Association of Advanced Materials (IAAM) has awarded Dr Rohatgi, an IIT Banaras Hindu University (BHU) alumnus, for his contribution to advanced materials science. He is the only awardee recognised in the field of composite materials. He also serves as the Founding Director of the UWM Centers for Composites and the Center for Advanced Materials Manufacture.



Wisconsin-based world leader in cast metal matrix composites Dr Pradeep Rohatgi, who once was a member of IIF, made fundamental contribution, on the interaction between solidifying interfaces and particles, nucleation and growth, and micro segregation in solidifying alloys in the presence of reinforcements. He also established the mechanisms of solid lubrication by incorporating solid lubricant particles, leading to self-lubricating metal matrix composites. He followed this basic research with synthesis of several new metal matrix composites, conducting technology and product development that resulted in widespread manufacture and use of these composites in the transportation sector, electromechanical machinery, and thermal management applications. He was a Professor at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore for five years and visiting faculty at the IIT Kanpur in sixties. Dr Rohatgi also served as the Founder Director of NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram and Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (Bhopal).

Commercial Vehicles to other entities of Daimler all over the world in the fields of research and development, information technology, cost engineering, supplier and quality management, human resources, customer service etc. With this new Global Capability Centre, the company is looking forward to attracting the best possible local talent in order to continue to manufacture for the markets worldwide.

### Third plant of SMG to commence operations shortly

Maruti Suzuki, one of the largest carmakers of India, is likely to start operations of its third plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat in April 2021. Construction of the plant has been completed by Suzuki Motor Gujarat (SMG).

Volume of production would depend upon conditions of business as well as



market demand. Suzuki Motor Gujarat manufactures cars for Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on contract basis.

### NALCO to augment wind power capacity

National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) is likely to increase its wind power

generation capacity to 223.9 megawatt (mw) with addition of another wind power project of 25.5 mw in Kayathar, Tamil Nadu with investment of Rs 163 crore through REGen Powertech Pvt Ltd.

Progress has already been made on supply and execution of the equipment, however the project is yet to be completed fully

due to money crunch. An Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP) has been engaged to take up the matter of completion of the project.

The company has adopted green energy initiatives like generation of wind power and solar power to check emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) as well as global

warming.

The wind power plants in Gandikota, Andhra Pradesh (capacity: 50.4 mw); Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (capacity: 47.6 mw); Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (capacity: 50 mw); Sangli, Maharashtra (capacity: 50.4 mw) have produced 310 MU net wind power in 2019-20.

## And across the seven seas

### Volvo to launch electric trucks in Europe

Volvo AB of Sweden would start selling of a range of electric, heavy-duty trucks in Europe in 2021. Tests are running for heavy-duty Volvo FH, Volvo FM and Volvo FMX electric trucks to be used for regional transport and urban construction operations in Europe.

Sources revealed that trucks would have gross combination weight up to 44 tonnes whereas the range could be up to 300 kilometres, depending on the configuration of the battery.

### President of Sintokogio to receive William J Grede Award 2020

Mr Atsushi Nagai, President of Sintokogio, has been selected for William J Grede Award 2020 by the American Foundry Society (AFS). This award is given for major contributions in the fields of management, marketing or education with expansion of effective use of metal castings.

Under the leadership of Mr Nagai, Sintokogio has developed new technologies for making foundries more



competitive, productive, with adequate ability for meeting customer demands.

He has given much effort in attracting and developing the next generation of leaders in the industry. Mr Nagai was one of the primary organisers of the Young Professionals Summits held in Japan in 2016, Germany in 2017 and North America in 2019.

As an active member of AFS, he has shared his insights into the global metalcasting industry as a presenter at the Foundry Leadership Summit. He will be awarded during Metalcasting Congress to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 2021.

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