



India's FDI opportunity Through an investor's lens - a survey report

September 2021

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Preface

Recent FDI inflows have been a silver lining and have provided necessary optimism, despite the COVID-19 disruption to the economy. In FY2020-21, FDI inflows (including equity, re-invested earnings, and capital) amounted to a record US\$81.72 billion, 10 percent higher than the previous financial year.

While India remains a favoured foreign direct investment (FDI) destination, the country must enact more reforms to ensure FDI flows not only continue but also play a meaningful role in attaining the US\$5 trillion economy target. The country must continue to enact reforms and initiatives that drive improvement, building confidence in and enhancing the competitiveness of India's economy. While these inflows were driven primarily by the services sector, a more proportionate contribution to gross capital formation and the increase in exports can be achieved through greater FDI in manufacturing. Average FDI from FY15 to FY21 in manufacturing was US\$8.6 billion compared to about US\$25 billion for services. Our analysis shows that India will require at least US\$8 trillion of cumulative gross capital formation to grow into a US\$5 trillion economy, assuming we are on the fastest growth track. Based on past trends, our research suggests India needs approximately US\$400 billion of foreign capital cumulatively over the next six years.

Attracting FDI in capital-intensive sectors is key to the country's gross capital formation and establishing its position as a global trade partner. To attract investment to India, investor perceptions must be understood. Deloitte recently surveyed 1,200 multinational business leaders to understand just that.

With this report, we hope to provide insights into the findings and create a conversation on the role FDI can play in accelerating India's passage towards a US\$5 trillion economy.

Section 1: Introduction—FDI and India’s US\$5 trillion ambition

FDI – India’s bright spot

Even during the pandemic, FDI has poured into India at record levels. In FY2020-21, FDI inflows (including equity, re-invested earnings, and capital) amounted to a record US\$81.72 billion, 10 percent higher than the previous financial year.^[1] According to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Indian information and communication technology (ICT) and construction sectors were large recipients of FDI, making India the fifth largest recipient in the world in the past year. Multinational corporations (MNCs) have targeted strategic partnerships with leading domestic business groups, driving a surge in cross-border M&A, up 83 percent to US\$27 billion, with major deals in the technology and health sectors.

FDI is widely regarded as a foundation for accelerating a country’s economic growth. It provides financial capital, intellectual capital, access to international management, skills, and technology. The net effect can be massive gains in

productivity and innovation, and new direct and indirect jobs along the economic chain. In this report, we examine India’s recent FDI boom, asking whether greater FDI that leads to capital formation can be a catalyst to India’s ambition of a US\$5 trillion economy.

Channel foreign investments for capital formation

While foreign investment inflows into India have been consistently rising over the past five years, they have not contributed proportionately to the country’s capital formation and GDP.

Only a fraction of total foreign capital inflows is creating fresh assets in India. Over the last five years, net capital inflows contributed about 4 percent to the total gross capital formation (GCF) as shown in Table 1, suggesting that domestic investments, funded by domestic savings, accounted for the remaining 96 percent.

Table 1: Finances for gross capital formation over the past decade

| | FY 2011-12 | FY 2012-13 | FY 2013-14 | FY 2014-15 | FY 2015-16 | FY 2016-17 | FY 2017-18 | FY 2018-19 | FY 2019-20 | FY 2020-21 |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| GCF (US\$ bn) | 742 | 715 | 653 | 700 | 690 | 691 | 813 | 886 | 886 | 780 |
| Net capital inflows (US\$ bn) | 81 | 90 | 32 | 26 | 22 | 14 | 48 | 58 | 23 | 24 |
| Domestic Investment (US\$ bn) | 661 | 625 | 621 | 674 | 668 | 678 | 766 | 828 | 863 | 756 |
| Investment (GCF) as % GDP | 40% | 38% | 34% | 34% | 32% | 30% | 31% | 32% | 31% | 29% |
| Net capital inflow contributing to GCF (%) | 10.9% | 12.5% | 4.9% | 3.7% | 3.2% | 2.0% | 5.9% | 6.5% | 2.6% | 3.1% |

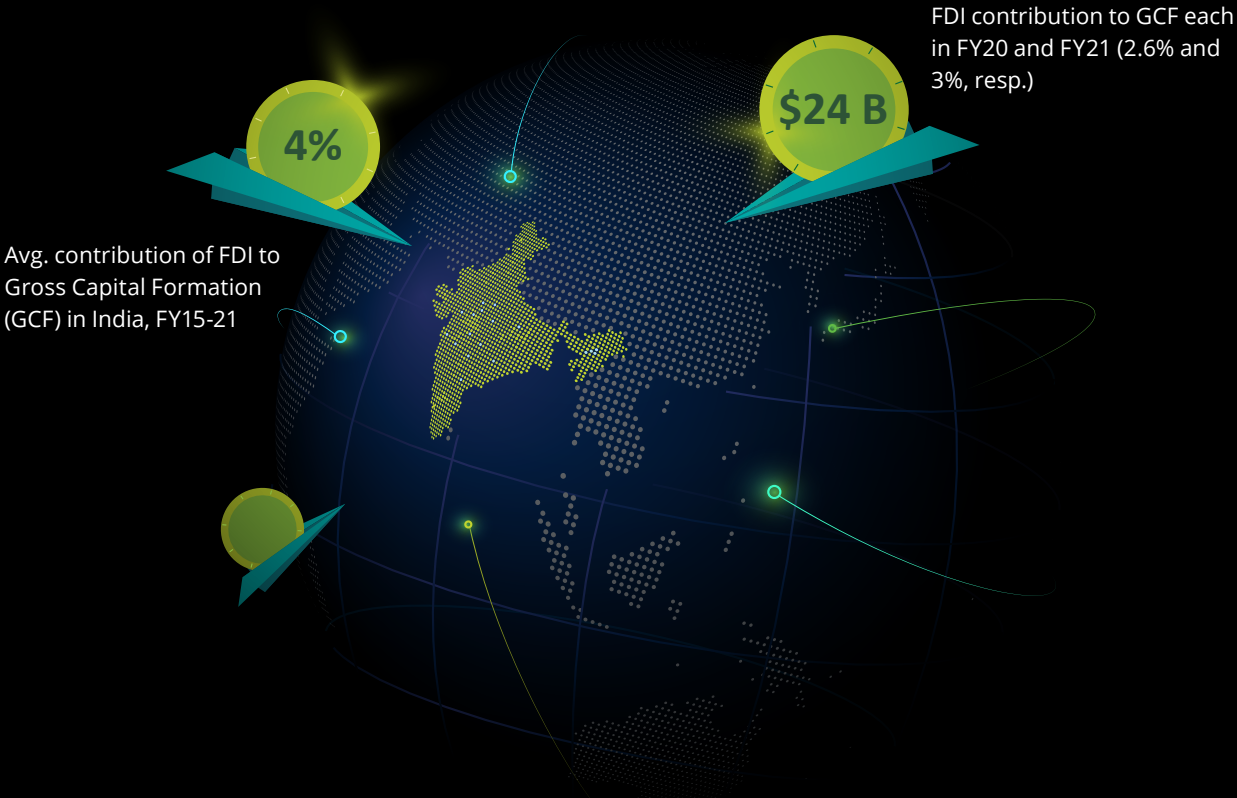
Source: Central Statistics Office, Haver Analytics, Deloitte research

Note: GCF includes dwellings, other buildings & structures; machinery & equipment; cultivated biological resources; and Intellectual property products by financial and non-financial corporations (public and private), general government, and households. The first two categories account for an average of 88% of the total GCF.

The net capital inflows for FY 2020-21 has been proxied by the current account balance data per the RBI's definition of capital inflows into capital formation.

^[1] <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1721268>

FDI contribution to the US\$5 trillion economy goal



Investing in capital formation will play a significant role in building a US\$5 trillion economy, and India will need to deploy capital resources both from domestic as well as foreign sources.

To achieve \$5T GDP by FY 2026-27

US\$7.8 T

Cumulative GCF

US\$400 B

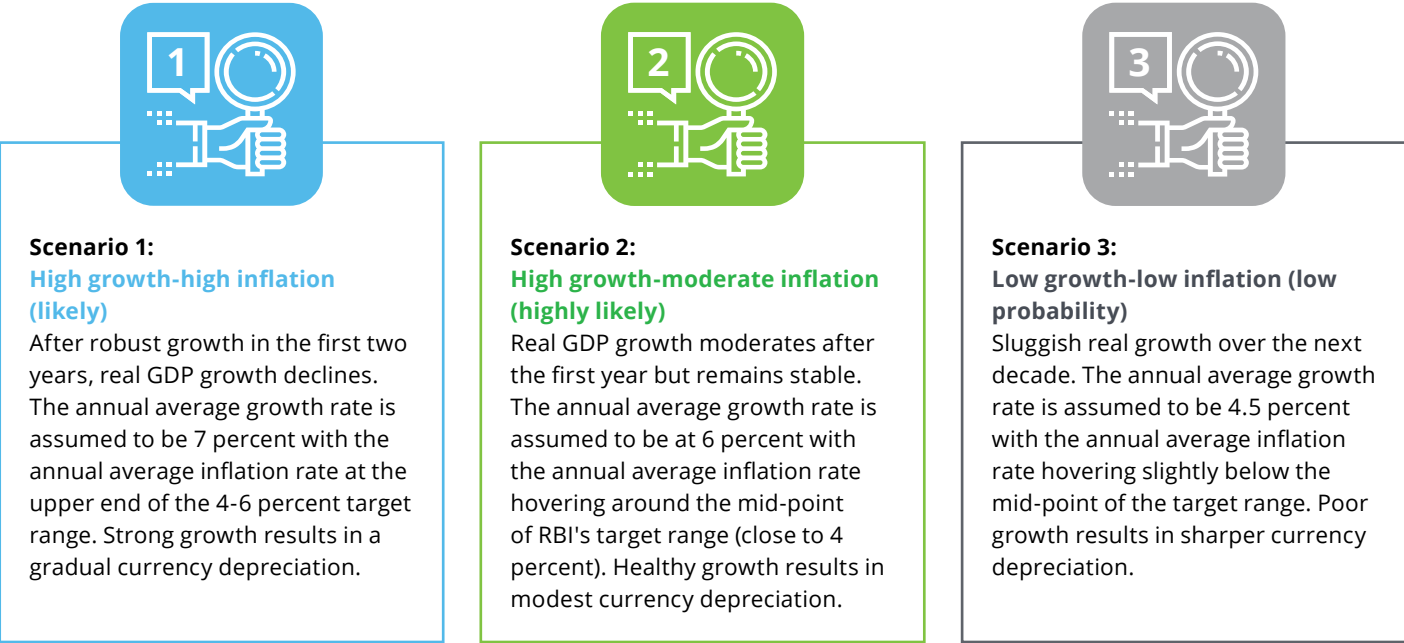
Cumulative FDI contribution to GCF

Source: RBI Annual Report publications, World Bank data, CMIE database, Deloitte Analysis

Map not to scale

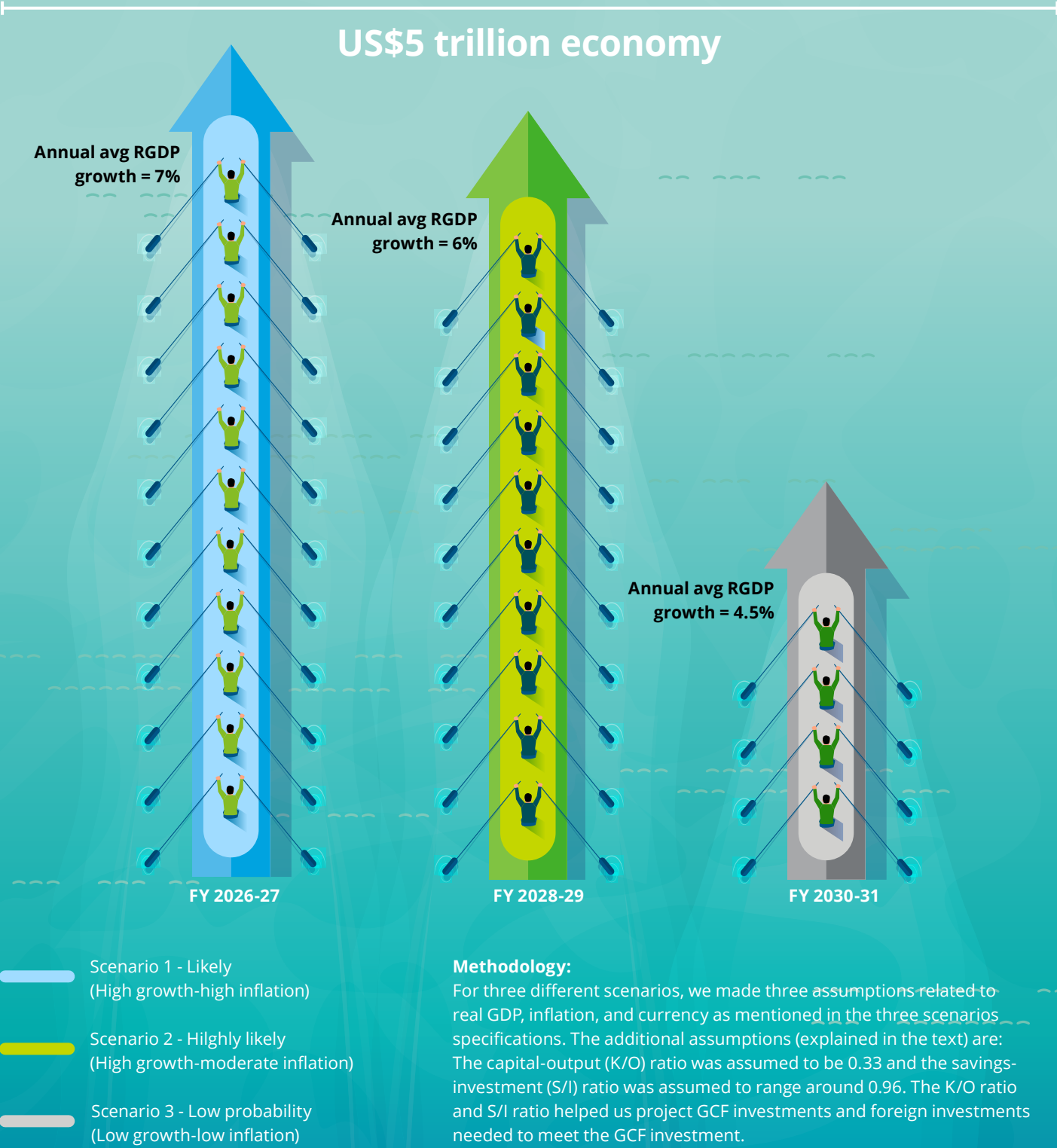
Impact of COVID-19 on the US\$5 trillion ambition

We have created three scenarios with different assumptions for growth and inflation under which India can reach the target of US\$5 trillion. We defined two likely scenarios of high growth with high to moderate inflation expectations, and a third scenario of low growth and low inflation. In addition, we estimate the level of gross fixed investment that India requires, and the scale of foreign capital required to meet the investment gap.



In scenario 1, the economy is expected to reach its target of US\$5 trillion by FY2026-27, but the target year is pushed back by slightly more than a year, if real GDP grows by a percentage point lower in Scenario 2, as shown in Figure 1. In the third scenario, India reaches the targeted goal after almost a decade from now.

Figure 1: Three alternative scenarios to reach the target of US\$5T economy



Channeling foreign investment into capital formation under three scenarios

India's capital-output ratio has significantly declined over the past decade suggesting higher capital productivity. Assuming the capital-output ratio remains rangebound at around its decadal average of 0.33 under all three scenarios, India will require total GCF averaging US\$1.3 trillion each year to achieve the target of US\$5 trillion in each of the three scenarios. Cumulatively, India will need at least US\$7.8-10.9 trillion of GCF over the next six to eight years under Scenario 1 and 2, and more than US\$13 trillion in the next decade under Scenario 3 to reach the scale of US\$5 trillion.

The past decade of strong growth has resulted in a savings-investment ratio of around 0.96, owing to high investments and declining savings. We expect a similar trend in the years ahead.

The savings rate has declined since the onset of the pandemic.^[ii] Once the economy revives, pent-up demand will accelerate consumer spending and draining savings further. At the same time, investment will accelerate to meet the demand recovery after a prolonged period of stagnant growth. As a result of these dynamics, we expect domestic savings to fall short of meeting investment requirements.

To reach the target sooner, India will have to direct a larger proportion of foreign investment into capital formation, such as green-field projects. Under the first of our two scenarios, India will need to cumulatively attract foreign investment of US\$395–435 billion towards capital formation over the next six to eight years. This translates into an annual average of at least US\$55–65 billion of foreign capital required for capital formation at a sustainable pace.

Section 2: Investor perception of India: A survey

Overview

Deloitte surveyed 1,200 multinational business leaders to understand their perceptions of FDI and investing intentions for India. Specifically, the survey sought to establish the following:

- Awareness of the Indian government's efforts to increase trade and FDI
- A percentage of measure of business leaders who:
 - Plan to expand their investment in the country or
 - Plan to begin investing in the country
- Perception of India as a place to do business relative to other countries

Methodology

The 1,200 multinational business leaders were located in Japan, Singapore, the UK, and the US. The online survey was conducted with 300 interviews per country using a sample sourced from an online panel. The survey was fielded from 12 to 27 April 2021.

Multinational business leaders were defined as:

- Having a title of director or higher
- Working for a multinational company with 50 or more employees

Business leaders surveyed represented industries across sectors in the manufacturing and services sectors. These include consumer products, industrials, utilities and energy, materials, healthcare, information technology, financials, real estate, and communication services.



^[ii] The RBI Bulletin, State of the economy, Annex 1, June, 2021, <https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/BulletinPDFs/0BULLETINJUNE2021E400EB7F44C349599BC13755EC3111EF.PDF>

Key findings

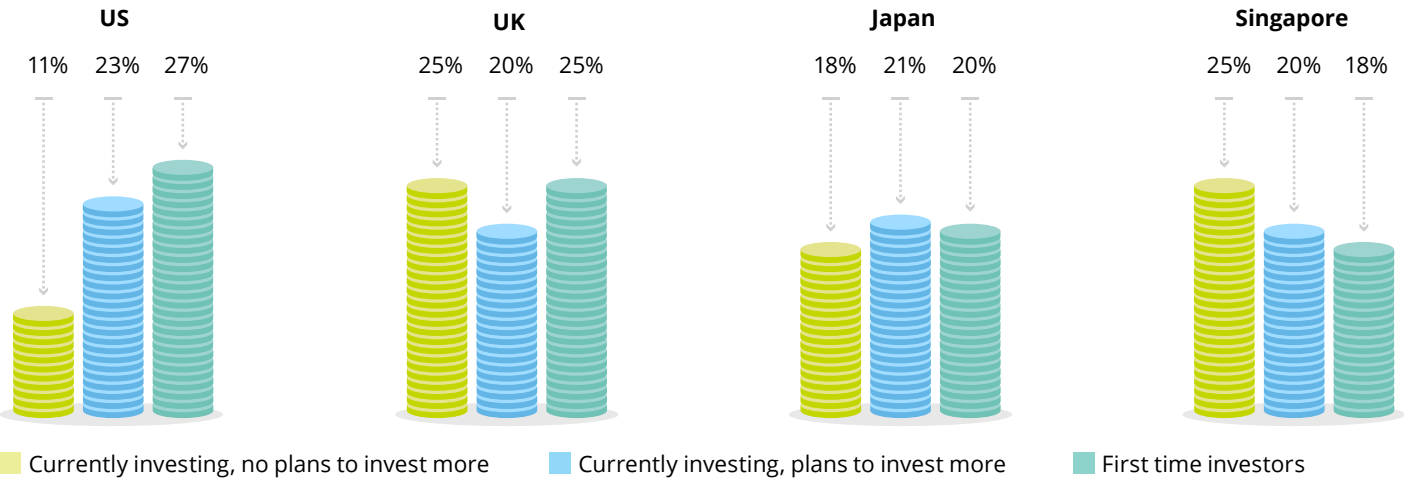
Finding #1: FDI — A continued upward trend

India remains an attractive investment destination. The business leaders said that when identifying investment destinations, they look for growth, political and economic stability, and a skilled workforce. India scored well for its skilled workforce and prospects for economic growth, both seen as supporting the momentum behind FDI.

Forty-four percent of those surveyed across the US, the UK, Japan, and Singapore said they were planning additional or first-time investments in India (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Status on likely investments in India

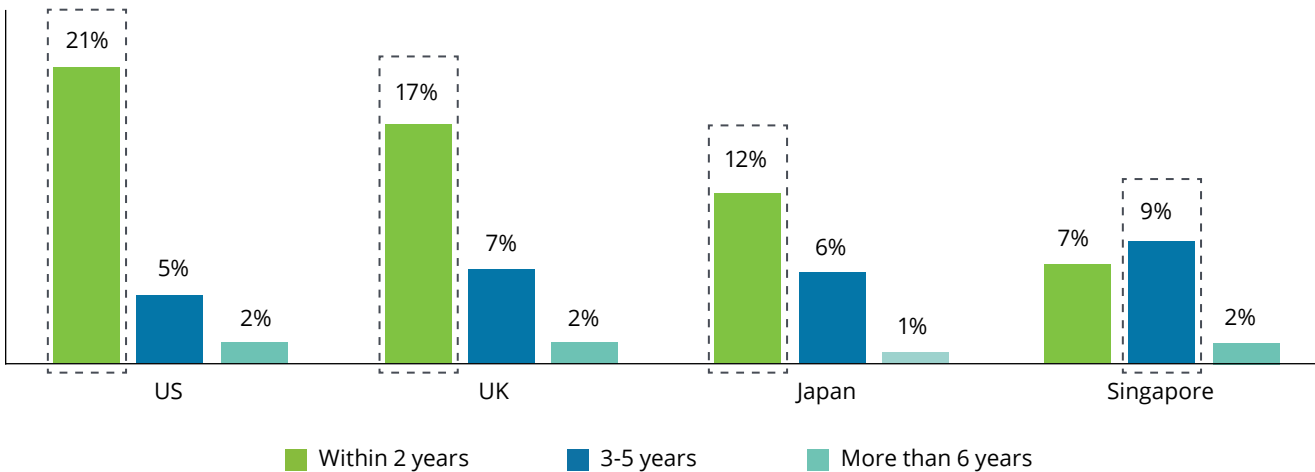
Many multinational business leaders plan to invest in India
Half of US business leaders plan to make a future investment in India



Significantly, nearly two-thirds of business leaders are planning first-time investments in India within the next two years, as shown in Figure 3.

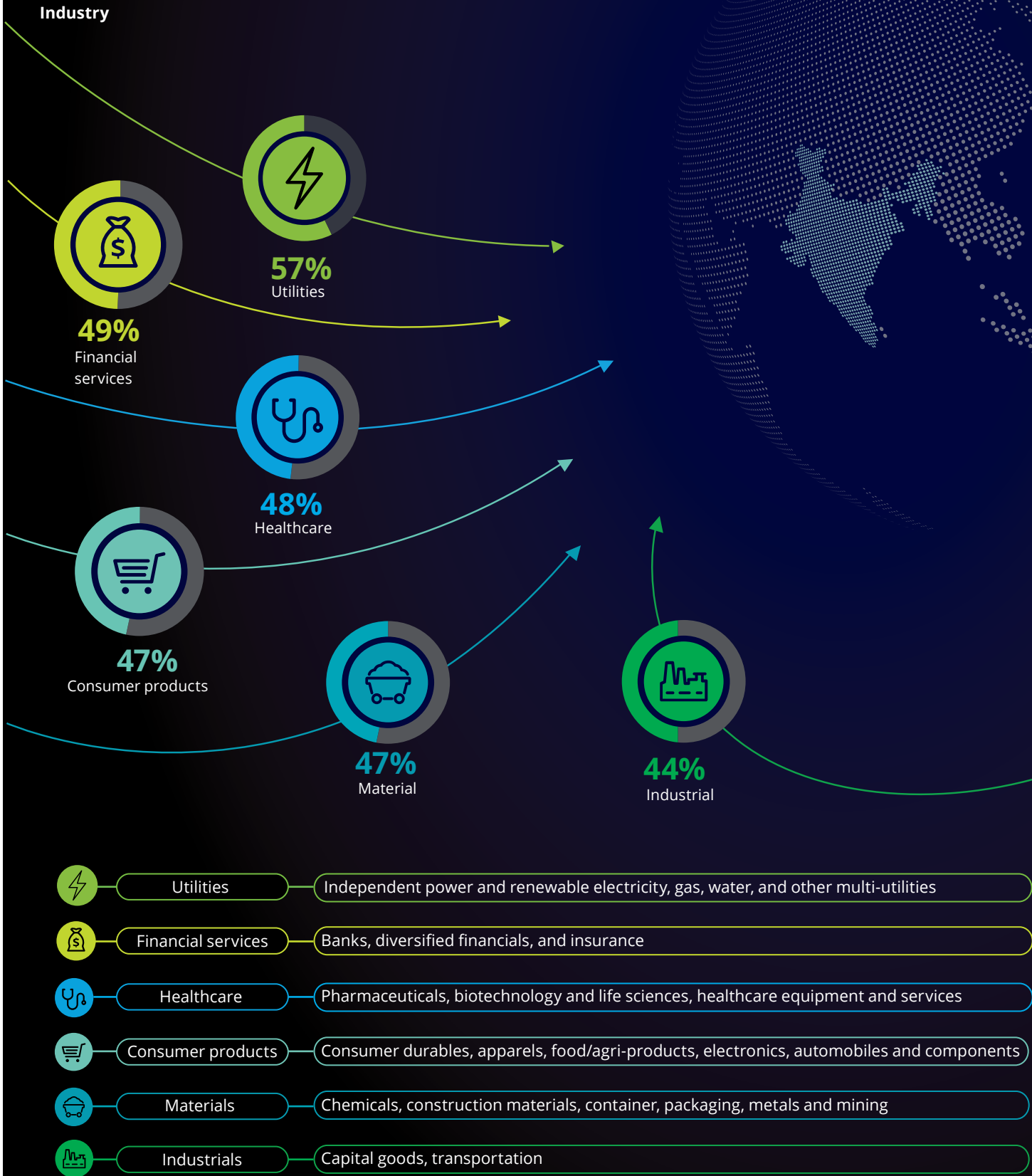
Figure 3: Expected time for companies to invest in India

Most new business investments in India will happen within two years
More Singapore business leaders are taking a slightly longer approach



Utilities, financial services, and healthcare ranked highest amongst industries likely to make new investments in India

The top five industry sectors most likely to make new investments in India



IT (43 percent) and communication services (41 percent) come in marginally below the top five sectors in which investors are most likely to make new investments. Real estate, at 34 percent, was the least popular.

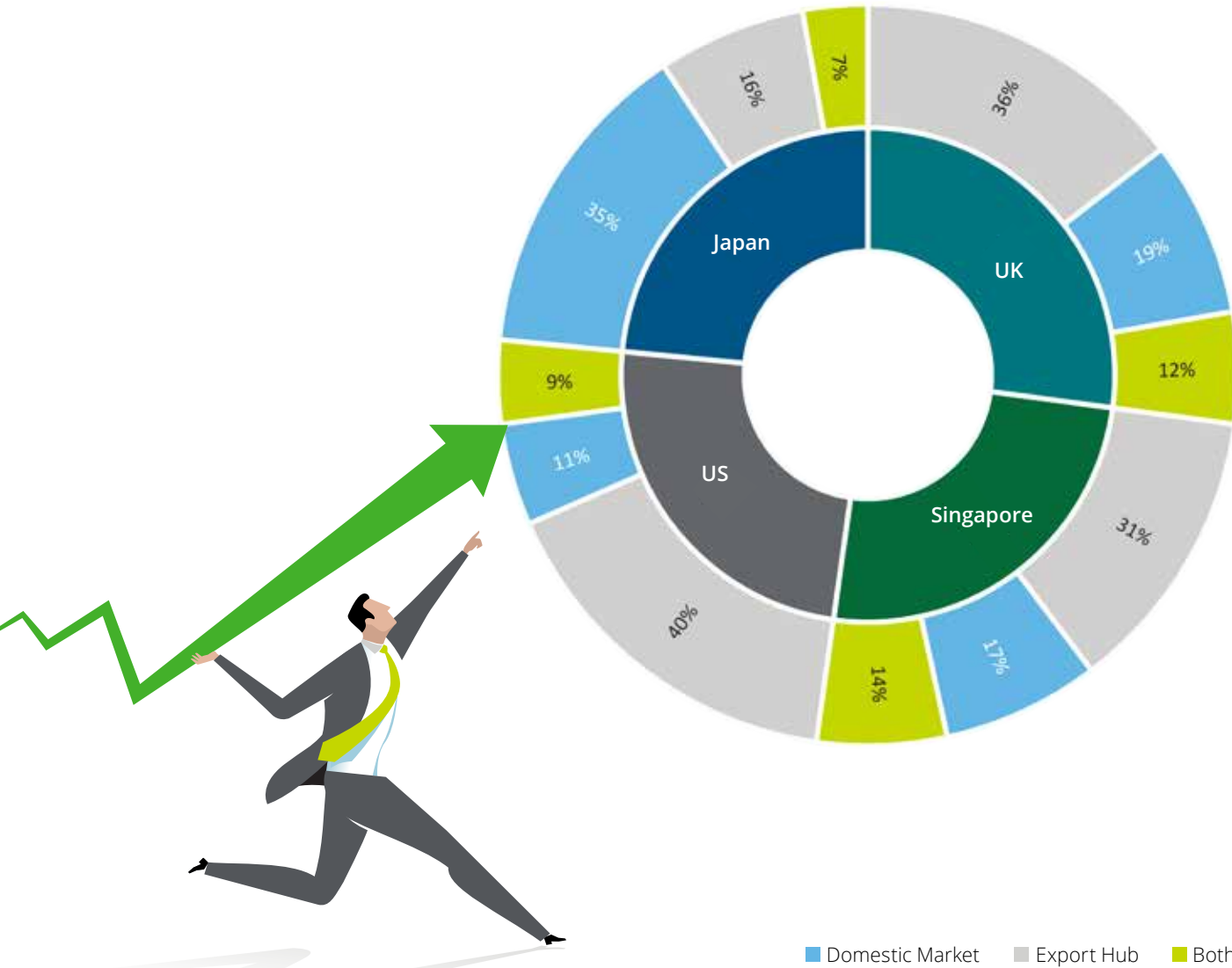
Business leaders from utilities and energy sectors, 35 percent and 27 percent, respectively, along with consumer products at 26 percent and industrials at 25 percent are first-time investors.

Although there is significant crossover, more business leaders, especially those from Japan, are investing in India for access to the home market rather than using India as an export hub. A similar pattern was noticed across industry sectors. This is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Key driver of investing in India

Japanese business leaders more interested in India's domestic market

Decision to invest in India by business leaders from the other countries are more evenly divided, with the domestic market having a slight edge over using India as an export hub.



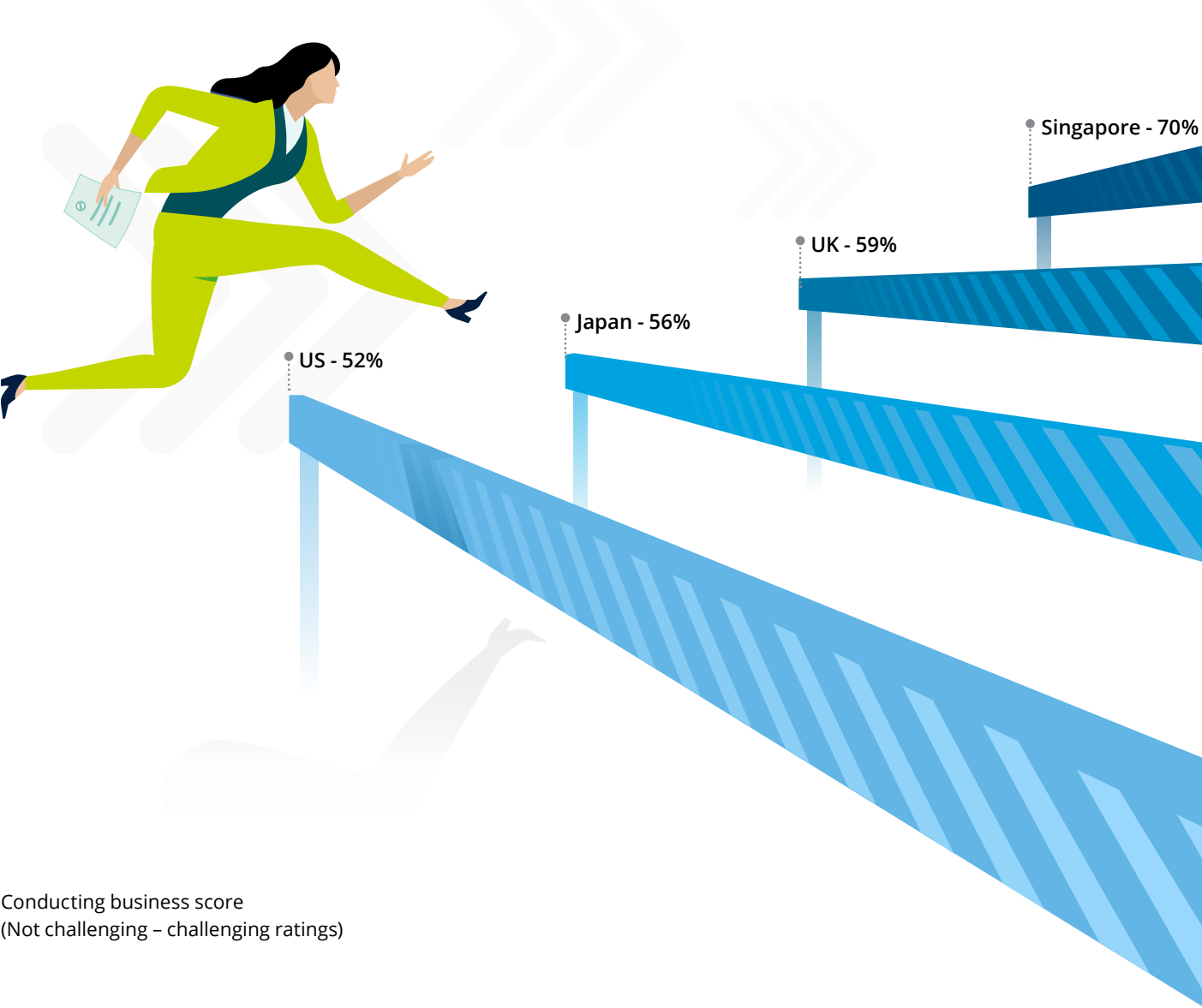
Finding #2 — Perception a challenge

While India remains attractive amongst foreign investors, its perception amongst potential investors needs to be managed and improved.

Overall, India is perceived to be a more challenging environment for MNCs to conduct business, as compared to countries such as China and Vietnam, as shown in Figure 5. More than 50 percent of business leaders, with over 70 percent from Singapore, believe that doing business in India is a challenge.

Figure 5: Perceptions of conducting business in India

Percentage of business leaders who found doing business in India challenging



Conducting business score
(Not challenging – challenging ratings)

This trend continues with respondents across industry sectors. Business leaders from real estate (69 percent), industrials (67 percent), and utilities (65 percent), where historically regulation is deep, complex, and evolving, find it most challenging, followed by IT and healthcare (59 percent), which are both burgeoning sectors, as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Perceptions of conducting business in India by sector

Business leaders in the real estate, industrial, and utility sectors find it particularly challenging to conduct business in India

Doing Business Score

(Not challenging-challenging ratings)

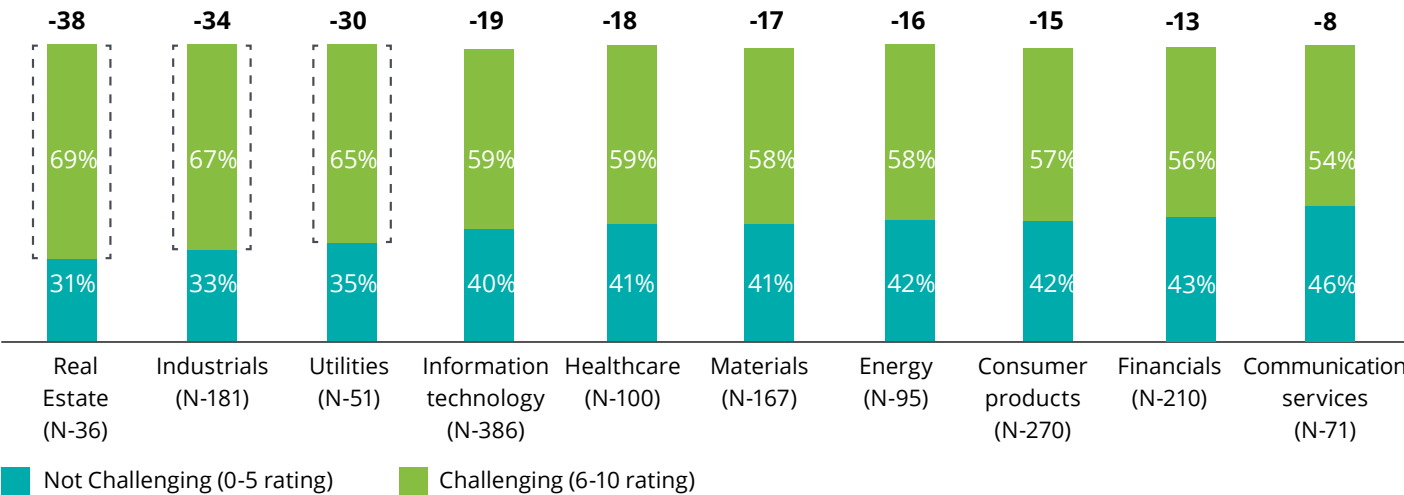
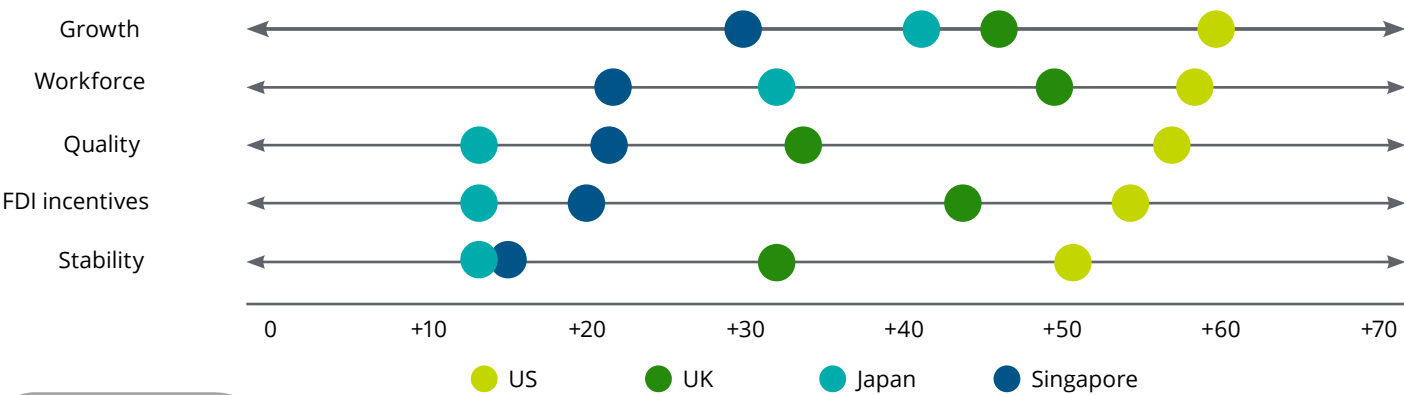


Figure 7 shows perceptions around low institutional stability (predictable taxation, regulatory clarity and efficient judicial redress or mechanisms) and inadequate infrastructure.

Figure 7: Business leaders: Average net descriptor score by country

Based on current perceptions, business leaders are more likely to attribute economic growth and skilled workers to India than stability



Silver Lining:

The Indian government and the country's judiciary, in separate decisions have addressed some of the long-standing concerns regarding institutional stability. Last month, India proposed discontinuing a contentious law that taxed companies retrospectively. The amendment to the tax law is likely to resolve multiple existing tax payment disputes that will boost investor confidence. There have also been a number of recent instances where international arbitration awards have been recognised by the courts in India.

Finding #3 — Low awareness of recent reforms

Continuing on perception management, despite the government's reforms to improve ease of doing business in India, business leaders lack the necessary awareness to make informed decisions on investments. Business leaders in Japan (16 percent) and Singapore (9 percent) were least aware of initiatives such as the digitisation of customs clearance and production linked incentives for manufacturers, and therefore scored India the lowest in ease of doing business (Figure 8A).

However, this perception quickly changed as soon as leaders became better informed about reforms resulting in renewed optimism about doing business in India. Our research indicated that ~70 to 80 percent of MNC leaders were more likely to do business in India once they were made aware of relevant recent business policy reforms (Figure 8B).

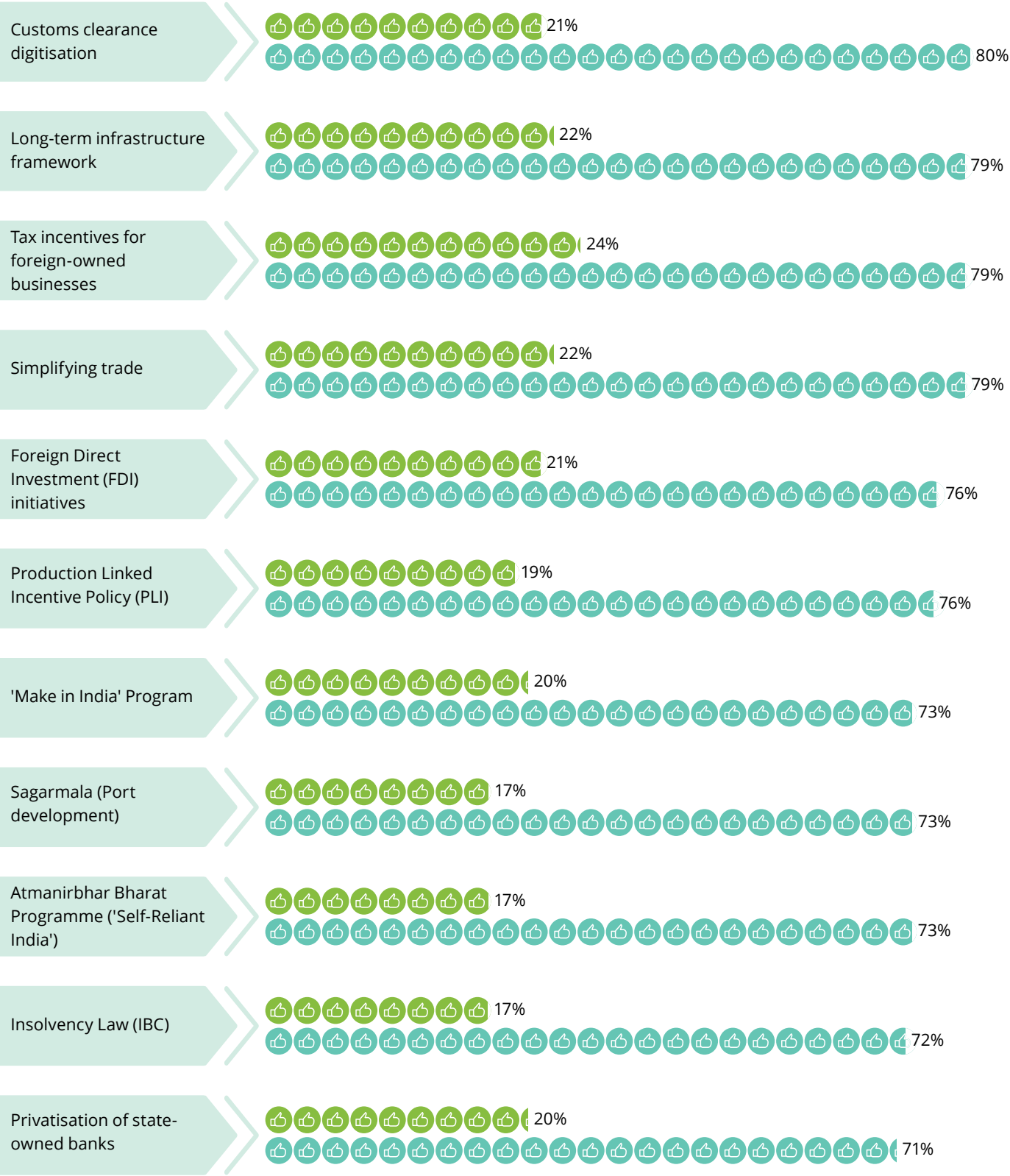
Figure 8A: Familiarity with the Indian government programmes

US business leaders are more likely to know the details of Indian government programmes



Greater awareness of India's reforms, and a search for alternative manufacturing locations in light of recent geopolitical events, have resulted in US business leaders viewing India as their most preferred investment target: More than 50 percent of leaders planning India investments are first-time investors.

Figure 8B: Significant change in investor perception based on increased awareness



Familiar with the Indian government's programmes

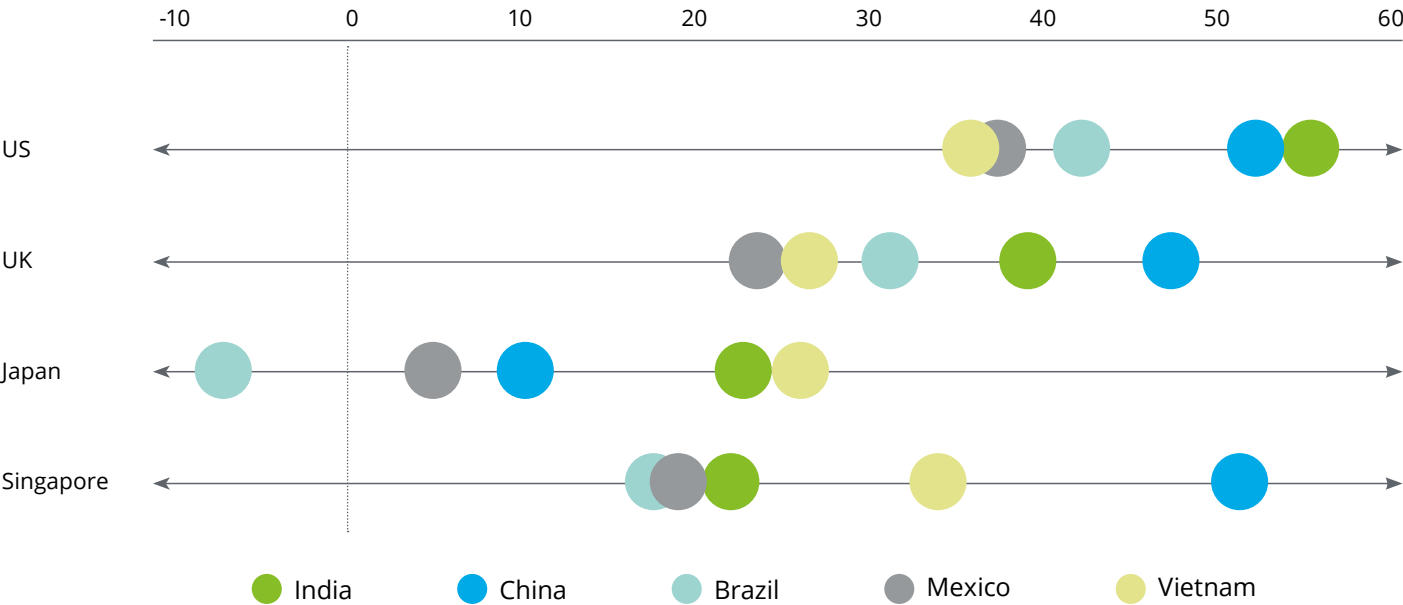
More likely to conduct business in India after reading a description of the Indian government's programme

Finding #4 — A competitive FDI environment

Figure 9 shows that compared to respondents in the other four countries surveyed - China, Brazil, Mexico, and Vietnam - India has the strongest reputation amongst investors in the US and a close second in the UK and Japan, narrowly trailing China and Vietnam, respectively. While perceptions of China did take a beating over the past year, the country is still a close competitor to India amongst US investors as a destination for their capital investments.

Figure 9: Business leaders: Average net descriptor score by country

Compared to the other four countries tested, India has the strongest reputation in the US, narrowly trails in the UK and Japan, and in third place in Singapore



Given the US and UK’s strong historic ties with India, business leaders expressed greater confidence in India and consider it an important market for new investments, owing to its appeal as an export hub as well as a domestic market.

Japan, which places very high importance on long-term stability of institutions and quality of infrastructure, holds a less favourable perception of India (Japanese investors view Vietnam as superior in this regard). However, Japanese businesses have said that their investments in India are

focussed on developing domestic market opportunities, rather than creating an export hub for the rest of the world.

Business leaders from Singapore and especially first-time investors prefer a longer time horizon compared to the other three countries. While they view China and Vietnam as preferred destinations across all metrics (stability, quality, and workforce), most first-time investments from Singapore are likely to come through in three or more years.

Section 3: Recommendations

1. Creating the right institutional framework for outreach to potential investors

Given that perception management is key to attracting investment, advocating the government’s policies and reforms and investing in focussed marketing is essential. The following are a few recommendations:

- Setting up an institutional structure for close coordination between the Ministry of External Affairs, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade and concerned line Ministries for leveraging Indian missions / consulates to create higher awareness about policy and regulatory reforms and related initiatives being undertaken in India.
 - The initiative should be particularly focused on countries like Japan, Singapore, select EU countries, etc., which may not be as familiar with India as the US, the UK and specifically target prominent industry bodies as well as potential anchor investors in the identified focus sectors for investment.



2. Reinforcing the different roles of government through focused communication

With MNCs continuing to look for alternative global manufacturing hubs, the government can position India well to capture a disproportionate share of this tectonic shift, by playing four distinct roles (as shown in Figure 10).

Figure 10: Four key roles that the government can play

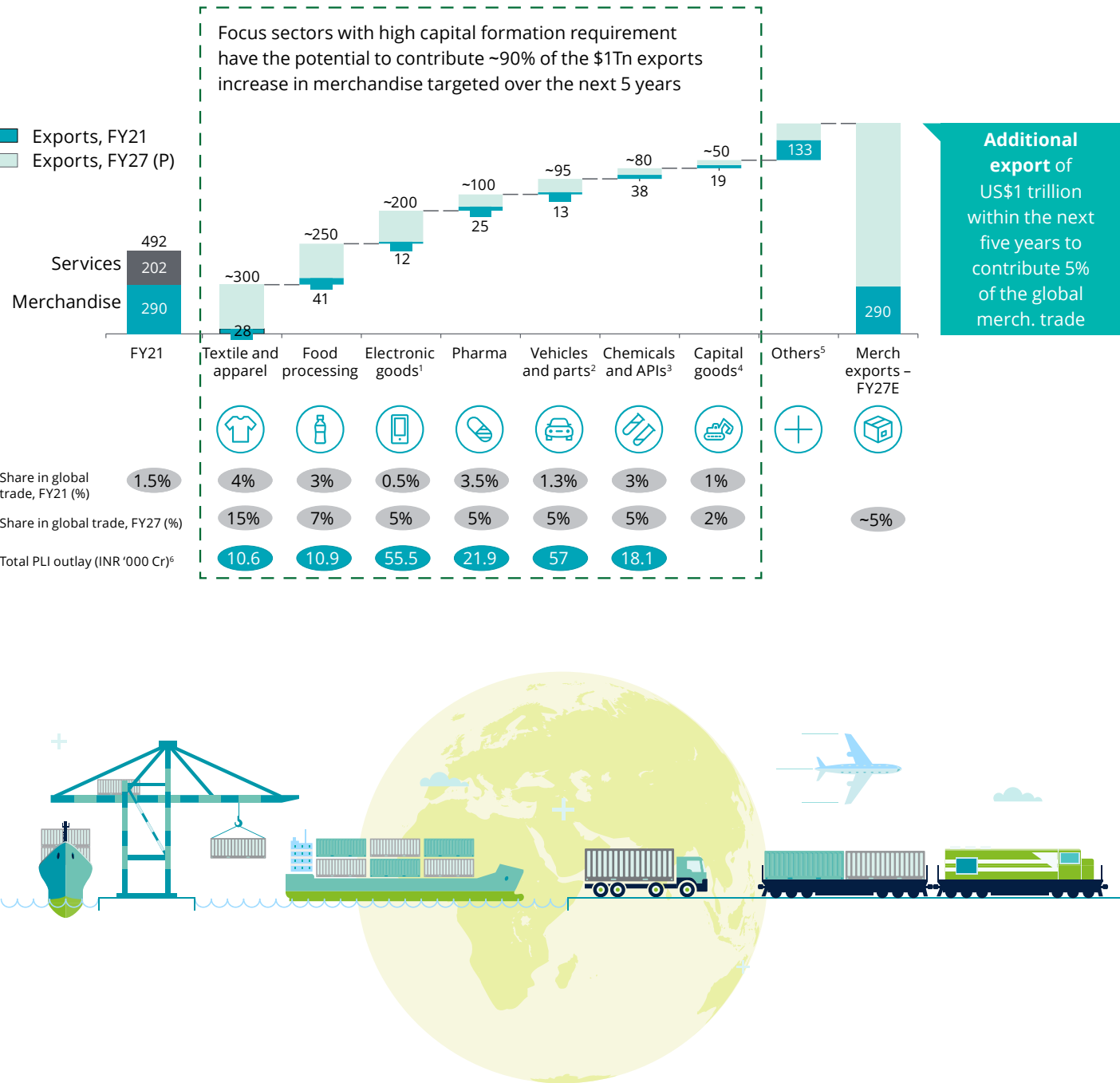


A targeted communications campaign highlighting relevant actions already taken or being taken by the government and driven through consular offices in select countries may go a long way in addressing perception-related issues arising due to lack of relevant information.

3. Channeling GCF through FDI in capital-intensive sectors

India can target an additional US\$1 trillion of merchandise exports in the next five years by attracting higher FDI into capital investment-led focus sectors through schemes such as PLI (as shown in Figure 11).

Figure 11: Merchandise exports (FY 21 and FY 27E)



Source: Export Import data bank - Ministry of Commerce and Industry, DCPC, DHI, Invest India reports, Electronics and Computer Software ESC reports, SIAM reports, analyst reports and Deloitte analysis

Notes: ¹Includes medical devices; ²Includes vehicles and auto components; ³Includes organic, inorganic and specialty chemicals and doesn't include petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals; ⁴Includes mechanical equipment and appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, etc.; ⁵Others include petroleum products (9.2% of exports), gems and precious stones (9%), iron and steel (4.1%) etc.; ⁶PLI Outlay over multiple years

We have the following recommendations to attract FDI in seven capital-intensive sectors: electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles and apparels, food processing, automotive, chemicals and capital goods:

- I. **Electronics:** Despite being the third-largest market in terms of digital consumers, India only contributes to 3percent of electronics manufacturing; through its PLI schemes and additional policy reforms, India's export contribution could grow 16x to US\$200 B

Electronic goods

US\$400 B

India's electronics market size; third-largest share of digital consumers globally

US\$70 B

India's electronics manufacturing industry, FY18 (3% of global share); 25% CAGR

US\$12 B

Electronic goods exports in FY21; 0.5% of global market

US\$2 B

FDI inflow over a six-year period (FY14-20)

US\$5.3 B

Outlay through PLI for large-scale electronics manufacturing (4-6% PLI for five years)

Key recommendations for the electronic goods sector

Creator

- Explore possibilities to increase the total outlay under SPECS to attract global organisations
- Create a platform to enable collaboration between Indian start ups and mobile phone manufacturers on mobile software, OS, and application development

Negotiator

- Extend the lower corporate tax rate to existing manufacturing companies that achieve identified thresholds of increased manufacturing activity
- Extend/reintroduce the weighted deduction of 150-200%, provide tax credit, cash grant for entities undertaking R&D activities

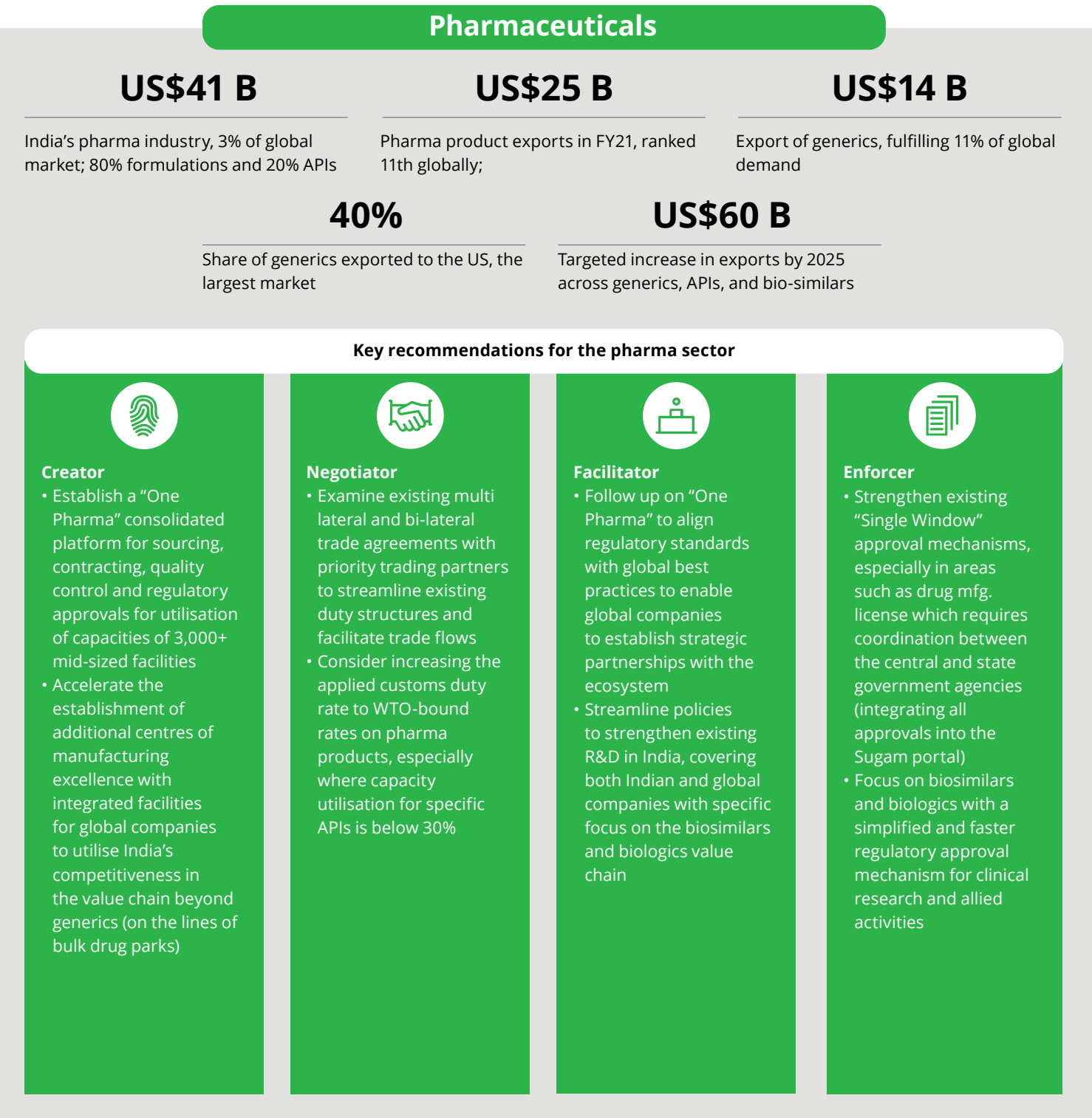
Facilitator

- Facilitate investment in R&D centres by leading telecom equipment manufacturers focussing on product development, software, and operating systems for India and global, through an R&D linked incentives programme.
- Facilitate investment by global medical electronics manufacturers through market access and incentives
- Extend higher incentives to Original Design Manufacturers (ODMs) under the PLI scheme to focus on manufacturing active components for the downstream electronics value chain
- Enable an export focussed infrastructure and regulatory environment to reduce operating costs and lead-times

Enforcer

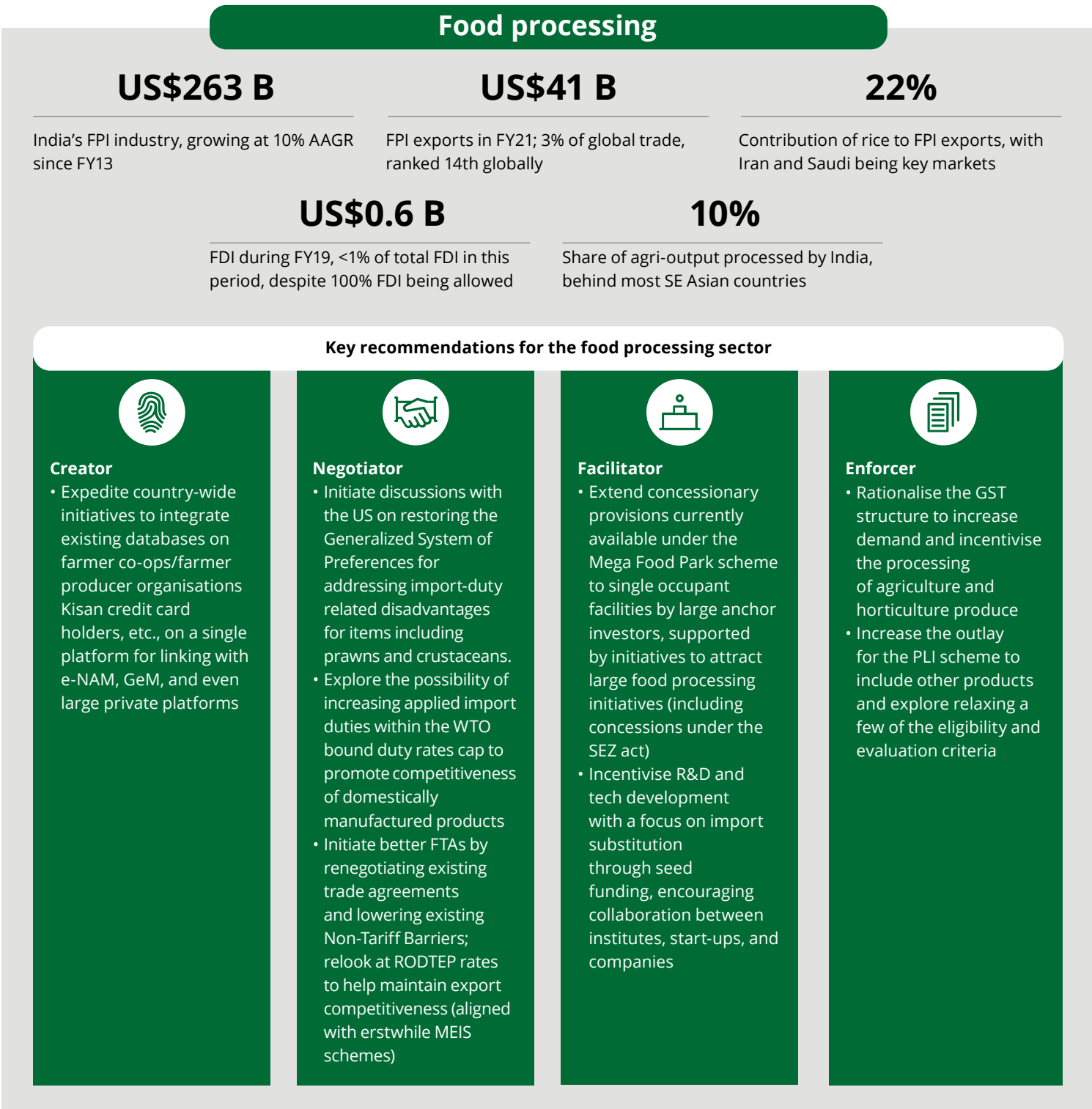
- Focus on development to enhance domestic manufacturing contribution in electronic components from the current sub 40 percent to 80 percent by 2024
- Review and improve regulations and processes on customs, export shipments, and timelines
- Review regulations to promote zero e-waste, preserve valuable metals, and progress towards refurbished reusable electronic equipment

II. **Pharmaceuticals:** The government can also focus on industries that have the potential to show quick results and set a global precedent; the pharmaceutical sector has the potential to become a US\$100 billion pharma factory of the world



IV. **Food processing:** There is significant opportunity in the food processing industry for value addition through higher processing and generating rural employment to increase India's global trade contribution to US\$250 B (7% share)

v. **Automotive:** With a changing global landscape driven by alternate fuels, the automotive sector has the potential to become a US\$600 B industry in the next five years and a global hub for exports of components

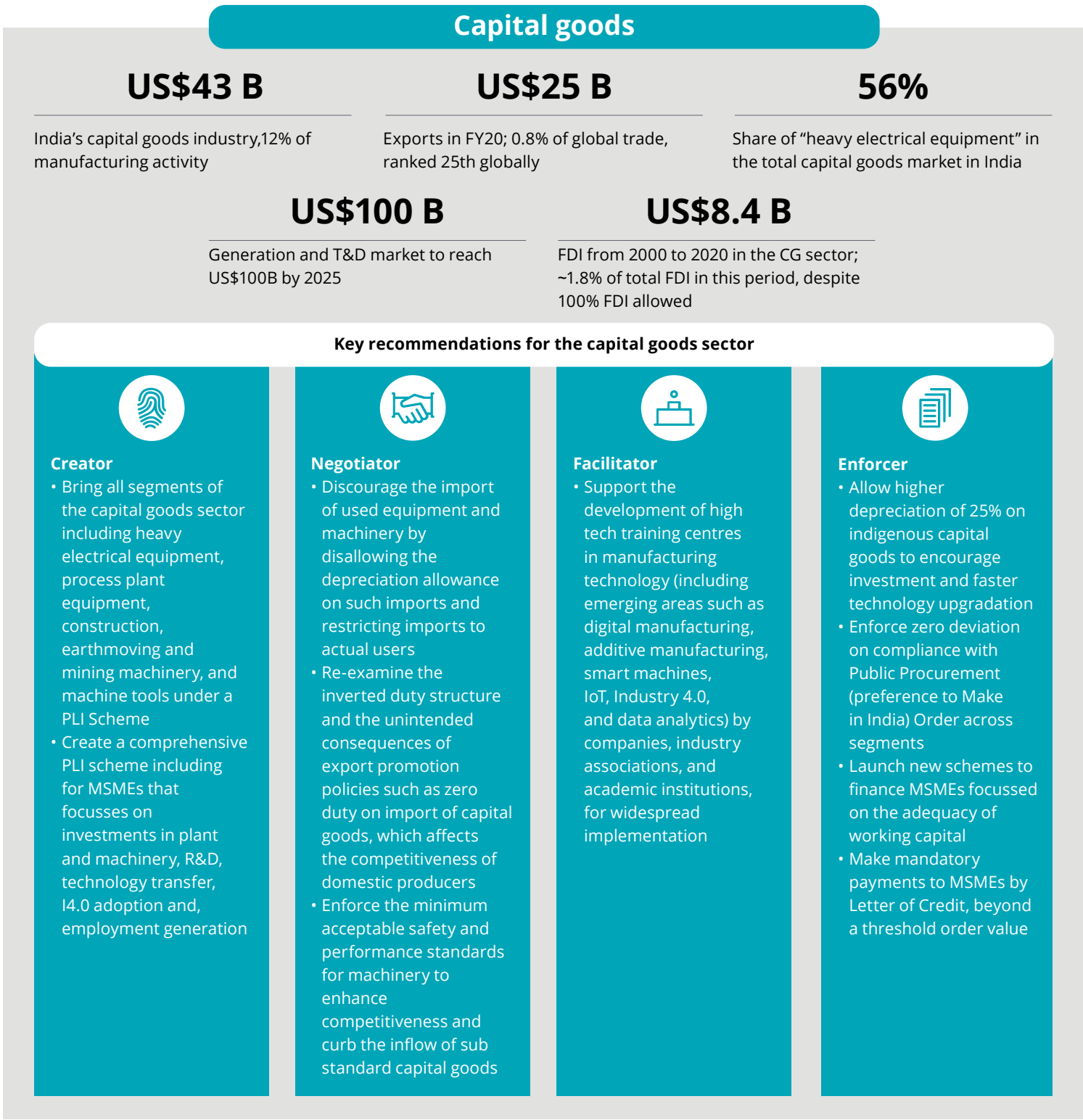


vi. **Chemical Industry:** India's chemical industry is poised for strong growth and has the potential to reach US\$300 B by 2025 and emerge as a global manufacturing hub, supported by strong demand, favorable government initiatives, and industry policies



Note: ¹Includes organic, inorganic, specialty, agro-chem and petrochemicals
Source: Deloitte research and analysis

vii. **Capital goods:** There is significant opportunity in the capital goods industry to reach US\$100B by 2025, enabled by policies, support to MSMEs, and the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies



Source: Deloitte research and analysis

4. Attracting and diversifying FDI to create larger opportunities

The creation of high-yielding assets and greater capital productivity will spur India's long-term GDP growth. Attracting FDI enables access to technology and integration with global supply chains and networks. All these create a virtuous circle of larger opportunities, higher asset creation, and improved capital productivity leading to a multiplier effect on income and jobs.

However, India also needs to diversify its sources of foreign capital. Currently, the US and the UK are the most enthusiastic investors in India. Diversifying India's source of FDI will aid in broad-based networking, accessing varied technology and resources, as well as mitigating geopolitical risks.

5. Nudge FDI to boost the start-up ecosystem

Start-ups are creating new markets: they are agile, risk takers; they innovate and understand scale. Start-ups created 60,000 direct jobs and between 130,000 and 180,000 indirect jobs.^[iii] They have fanned economic activity in Tier 2 and 3 cities.

Start-ups have been pivotal in e-commerce, fin-tech, food-tech, health-tech, and ed-tech, all digital platforms that have delivered new or ensured continuing services through lockdowns.

Despite their strong recent visibility, most Indian start-ups fail within the first five years. The main reason is debutant entrepreneurs' struggle to attract seed capital and even monetize ideas.^[iv] The government is working towards strengthening the start-up eco-systems for nurturing innovation and creative ideas. The government enabled INR 960 crore of funding to Start-ups benefitting over 4000 start-ups through various schemes. It has also allocated INR 828 Cr sanctioned funds for infrastructure. These measures are in addition to several other supports such as credit guarantees, tax exemptions, amongst others.

That said, India can also use FDI as a means and ways to establish bilateral cooperation with countries that have brought India closer to global investors and use the network to help start-ups tap funds globally, as well as aid in deepening investment and trade ties. While venture capitalists, angel investors, and private equity funds play an important role, the government can target global sources for such funds to supplement domestic funding sources and even bring in expertise and ideas. Israel, France, and Singapore, among others, have been active in supporting start-ups and building out ecosystems of finance and ideas in the country. India could leverage, their culture of entrepreneurship and innovation to buttress India's start-up growth.

Conclusion

To grow into a US\$5 trillion economy by FY27, India needs to attract FDI in capital-intensive sectors that add to the country's gross capital formation; this is particularly important considering India's declining domestic savings. India's competitive advantage such as a large and growing domestic market and skilled technical workforce, makes it an unmatched magnet for investors. It is already clear, though, that start-ups, combining innovation and scale, will play a progressively important on India's journey to a US\$5 trillion economy. The government must showcase to the world India's dazzling potential as an attractive manufacturing destination while also aspiring for a greater share of global investments and trade flows.

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^[iii] NASSCOM, 2019, Ibid
^[iv] Rumki Majumdar. 2020. Finding New Frontiers: The Challenges of Early-Stage Indian Entrepreneurs in Accessing Finance in an Evolving Startup Ecosystem. Entrepreneurial Finance in Emerging Markets, Springer Link, pp 193-211
https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-46220-8_13



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