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India – As Potential Partner in the Future

The year 2024 was marked by persistent economic challenges for Western economies, significantly affecting their GDP growth rates. Germany's economy faced headwinds, with growth remaining subdued, while the UK recorded a modest growth rate of approximately 0.5% to 1%. The USA and China, however, posted relatively stronger performances, with growth rates around 1.9% and 4.8%, respectively, for 2025, according to IMF forecasts.

In contrast, India's economy continues to shine as a global outlier. By the end of 2024, India's nominal GDP reached approximately US\$ 3.78 trillion, with a per capita GDP of around US\$ 2,880. For the financial year 2024-25, India's real GDP growth is estimated at 6.4% to 7%, making it the fastest-growing major economy, significantly outpacing the projected global average of 2.7%. This robust performance is driven by strong domestic demand, recovering agricultural output, and sustained infrastructure investments, despite a slowdown in the April-June 2024 quarter due to election-related spending constraints.

In 2025, global trade faces uncertainties from the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, plus US-China and US-India tariff tensions, threatening India's export competitiveness. Enhanced logistics and export regulations are vital to sustain momentum. India targets US\$ 1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030. In Q1 2025 (April-July), total exports hit US\$ 277.63 billion (up 5.23% from 2024), with merchandise exports at US\$ 149.20 billion. Progress in 'Ease of Doing Business' and 'Logistics Performance Index' is key, but India's SDG rank (66/193 in 2024) needs improvement in gender equality and sustainability.

While challenges remain, India is on a promising trajectory in 2025. With robust economic fundamentals, resilient services exports, and proactive reforms, the country is well-positioned to navigate global uncertainties and solidify its role as a key driver of global growth.

Dr. Dietrich Kebschull

The Bulgarian National Day



From L – R – Mr. Sridhar Subramonyan, Dr. Dietrich Kebschull, Ms. Sharda S Sridhar, Mr.H.E. Nikolay Yankov, Mrs. Yankov, Ms. Tsvetelina Gecheva (Deputy Head of Mission, Col. Nikolay Simonov (Defense Attaché) and Mrs. Simonov

On March 4, 2025, the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in New Delhi hosted a distinguished reception to commemorate Bulgaria's National Day, celebrated annually on March 3rd as Liberation Day. The event was attended by ambassadors, diplomatic officials, and dignitaries from the Government of India. Shri Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was the Chief Guest.

IGEP was represented by Dr. Dietrich Kebschull, Chairman; Ms. Sharda S Sridhar, Consultant; and Mr. Sridhar Subramonyan, Director. The IGEP Team extended warm congratulations to His Excellency Nikolay Yankov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria, and the Embassy staff, reinforcing the spirit of bilateral cooperation.

Amity University Noida Celebrates Silver Jubilee of INBUSH ERA 2025



Sharda Sridhar being facilitated by Prof. (Dr.) Gurinder Singh, Group Vice Chancellor, Amity University

Amity International Business School, Amity University Noida, successfully organized the 25th edition of its flagship International Business Summit & Research Conference, INBUSH ERA 2025, held from February 19 to 21, 2025. As Asia's premier platform for global business discourse, this Silver Jubilee edition was guided by the theme "Navigating the Journey of the 6I's – Inspiration, Ideas, Innovation, Implementation, Improvement, and Impact." The summit attracted a global audience of thought leaders, industry experts, policymakers, and academics to discuss innovative strategies for addressing contemporary business challenges.

On February 20, a pivotal panel discussion on "European Union and India: Challenges and Opportunities" featured Mr. Sridhar Subramonyan, Director, and Ms. Sharda S Sridhar, Consultant, from IGEP. Joined by 12 distinguished speakers representing over eight European Union countries, the panel explored critical dimensions of India-EU collaboration, including trade, investment, regulatory frameworks, and sustainability. The session highlighted the immense potential for deepening bilateral ties, fostering innovation, and addressing shared global challenges.

MoU between IGEP and Fecomércio-GO



Ms. Sharda S Sridhar of IGEP along with Mr. Marcelo Cesar Chaul, Vice President of Fecomércio-GO sign the MoU

In March 2025, Fecomércio-GO, through its dedicated Foreign Trade Chamber (Fecomex), organized a highly successful business mission to India, aimed at deepening economic ties between Brazil and India. The mission focused on creating new avenues for trade and investment, particularly for companies hailing from Goiás, a dynamic state in Brazil's Central-West region, with Goiânia as its vibrant capital city. This strategic initiative underscored Fecomércio-GO's commitment to fostering international partnerships and enabling businesses from Goiás to tap into the vast opportunities offered by India's rapidly growing market.

A landmark achievement of the mission was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 18, 2025, at the prestigious India International Centre in New Delhi. The MoU, formalized between Fecomércio-GO and IGEP Consult Pvt Ltd, represents a significant step toward supporting the internationalization of Goiás-based companies in India.

Through this agreement, IGEP will leverage its extensive expertise and local knowledge to provide tailored guidance, facilitating seamless market entry and sustainable growth for Brazilian enterprises. The signing ceremony, attended by key stakeholders, was marked by the signatures of Ms. Sharda S Sridhar, Consultant at IGEP, on behalf of the organization, and Mr. Marcelo Cesar Chaul, Vice President of Fecomércio-GO. This MoU lays a robust foundation for enhanced bilateral economic cooperation, promising to strengthen trade linkages and foster mutually beneficial business opportunities between Goiás and India.



IGEP and WTSH



L– R: Dr. Dietrich Kebschull of IGEP, Mr. Christian Decker (Head, Foreign Trade Consultancy of WTSH), Mr. Hajo Schulenburg (Founder of oendle (Advisor to IGEP) meeting in Kiel, Germany

In 2025, the Schleswig-Holstein Business Centre (SHBC), established by the IGEP Foundation in India in 2005, celebrates its 20th year of facilitating business connections between Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg, and India. The center provides a wide range of customized services to support companies at various stages of market entry and expansion in India, enabling seamless integration into one of the world's fastest-growing economies.

IGEP has helped several companies from the state of Schleswig-Holstein establish their business presence in India over the past 20 years. The IGEP team of Dr. Dietrich Kebschull and Ms. Sharda S Sridhar, made a visit to the WTSH headquarters in Kiel in March 2025 to explore ways to strengthen the cooperation. They were accompanied by Dr. Dirk Troendle, advisor to IGEP, who is based in Freiburg.



L – R: Dr. Dietrich Kebschull with Mr. Hinrich Habeck (Director of WTSH), Ms. Sharda S Sridhar and Mr. Christian Decker (Head, Foreign Trade Consultancy of WTSH)

Samvardhan-III: A Major Initiative for Child Protection

The first quarter of 2025 marks a significant step forward in child protection with the ongoing implementation of Samvardhan-III, an initiative of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in collaboration with district administrations of Koderma, Giridih, and Dumka.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) launched the Samvardhan-III Action Plan in Koderma, Giridih, and Dumka, Jharkhand, to connect vulnerable children and families with welfare schemes. Inaugurated on June 5, 2024, by NCPCR Chairperson Mr. Priyank Kanoongo at Koderma, the initiative engaged 713 villages through special Gram Sabhas to identify children in 23 high-risk categories. Block-level training from July 18-20, 2024, involved government officials, Anganwadi workers, and NGOs, ensuring access to education, health, and social security schemes to protect children from child marriage, labor, and trafficking.



L – R: Sharda Sridhar with Mrs. Rupali Banerjee Singh (Member Secretary, NCPCR), Mr. Priyan Kanoongo (Chairman, NCPCR) and Mr. Sanjay Mishra (Founder, Bal Kalyan Sangh)

Rugmark Foundation's Schools: Empowering Children of Carpet-Weaving Families

The Rugmark Foundation, dedicated to eradicating child labor in the carpet industry, operates three vital educational institutions in India: RM Balashraya (a rehabilitation center) in Bhadohi, Barhi Newada in Varanasi, and Handia in Allahabad. As of Q1 2025, these schools collectively serve 334 children from carpet-weaving families, providing a critical pathway to break the cycle of child labor.

These schools address the educational and developmental needs of children whose parents, due to their proximity to the carpet-weaving industry and socio-economic challenges, face the risk of engaging their children in labor at an early age. By offering formal education alongside vocational training in diverse fields, the Rugmark Foundation equips these children with skills for sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, the schools provide medical care, recreational activities, and sports, fostering holistic development and opening new perspectives for a brighter future.



On January 26, 2025, the Rugmark schools celebrated India's Republic Day with flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, and activities, fostering national pride and unity among students, enriching their educational journey.