# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advantage India</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Overview</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recent Trends and Strategies</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth Drivers</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Industry Contacts</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive summary

- India e-commerce will reach US$ 99 billion by 2024, growing at a 27% CAGR over 2019-24, with grocery and fashion/apparel likely to be the key drivers of incremental growth.
- According to Forrester Research, Indian e-commerce sales rose by ~7-8% in 2020.
- Online penetration of retail is expected to reach 10.7% by 2024, versus 4.7% in 2019.
- Online shoppers in India are expected to reach 220 million by 2025.
- India’s digital sector is expected to increase by two-fold and reach US$ 335 billion by 2025.
- Through its ‘Digital India’ campaign, the Government of India is aiming to create a trillion-dollar online economy by 2025.
- The Indian online grocery market is estimated to reach US$ 18.2 billion in 2024 from US $1.9 billion in 2019, expanding at a CAGR of 57%.
- E-commerce sales in India were estimated to increase by only 7-8% in 2020, compared with 20% in China and the US.
- In festive season CY20, the Indian e-commerce GMV was recorded at US$ 8.3 billion, a significant jump of 66% over the previous festive season.
- In festive season CY20, the Indian e-commerce market recorded ~88 million users, a significant jump of 87% over the previous festive season.

Note: GMV - Gross Merchandise Value, CY – Calendar Year
Source: Media sources, Global Internet: e-commerce’s steepening curve’ published by Goldman Sachs, Forrester Research, News Articles
Advantage India

1. Attractive Opportunities

► Despite depressed consumer spending, economic slowdown and uncertainty created due to COVID-19, e-commerce players are expecting strong sales growth in 2021.
► Online grocery, e-pharmacy and social commerce are expected to see a bulk of the action in 2021.

2. Growing demand

► India’s e-commerce order volume increased by 36% in the last quarter of 2020, with the personal care, beauty & wellness (PCB&W) segment being the largest beneficiary.
► Tier 2 and 3 cities accounted for a 90% YoY incremental volume and value growth in the e-commerce market in the last quarter of 2020. Also, these cities reported significant gains in share of the overall e-commerce sales volume (from 32% to 46%) and value (from 26% to 43%) in the last quarter of 2020 over the same period last year.

3. Increasing Investment

► The recent rise in digital literacy has led to an influx of investment in E-commerce firms, levelling the market for new players to set up their base, while churning out innovative patterns to disrupt old functioning.

4. Policy Support

► In India, 100% FDI is permitted in the B2B E-commerce.
► As per the new guidelines on FDI in E-commerce, 100% FDI under automatic route is permitted in the marketplace model of E-commerce.
► Heavy investment made by the Government of India in rolling out fiber network for 5G will help boost E-commerce in India.

Note: FDI - Foreign Direct Investment
Source: Media sources
Growth of e-commerce in India

- India's e-commerce orders volume increased by 36% in the last quarter of 2020, with the personal care, beauty and wellness (PCB&W) segment being the largest beneficiary.

- India's e-commerce festive sale season from October 15 to November 15 (2020) recorded gross sales worth Rs. 58,000 crore (US$ 8.3 billion) for brands and sellers, up 65% from Rs. 35,000 crore (US$ 5 billion) last year.

- The Indian e-commerce sector is ranked 9th in cross-border growth in the world, according to Payoneer report.

- Indian e-commerce is projected to increase from 4% of the total food and grocery, apparel and consumer electronics retail trade in 2020 to 8% by 2025.

- As most Indians have started shopping online rather than stepping outside their houses, the Indian e-commerce sector witnessed an increase.

- E-commerce sales in India were estimated to increase by only 7-8% in 2020, compared with 20% in China and the US.

- As of February 15, 2020, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), listed 1,071,747 sellers and service providers across over 13,899 product and 176 service categories. For the financial year 2020-21, government procurement from micro and small enterprises was worth Rs. 23,424 crore (US$ 3.2 billion).

- The e-commerce market is expected to touch the US$ 99-billion mark by 2024 owing to consumers increasingly developing a preference for online shopping, fuelled by cheaper data and higher mobile penetration across the country.

Notes: *Estimated, F - Forecast, PSUs - Public Sector Undertakings
Source: Media sources, Global Internet: e-commerce’s steepening curve’ published by Goldman Sachs
In 2020, the number of internet connections in India significantly increased to 747.41 million, driven by the ‘Digital India’ programme. Out of the total internet connections, ~97% connections were wireless.

Internet penetration in rural India is expected to grow at a rate of 45% by the end of 2021 compared to the 2020 rate of 22%.

Number of active internet users in the country is the second highest globally and is also one of the largest data consumers globally. It has the highest data usage per smartphone at an average of 10.40 GB per month.

According to Bain & Company report, India’s social commerce gross merchandise value (GMV) stood at ~US$ 2 billion in 2020. By 2025, it is expected to reach US$ 20 billion, with a potentially monumental jump to US$ 70 billion by 2030, owing to high mobile usage.

**Note:** Internet penetration - number of internet subscribers per 100 population, Q - Quarter

**Source:** TRAI, Economic Times, Live Mint, Department of Telecommunications, Bain & Company - Unlocking Digital for Bharat
The online retail market in India is estimated to be 25% of the total organized retail market and is expected to reach 37% by 2030.

E-retail market is expected to continue its strong growth and will nearly be Rs. 1.8 trillion (US$ 25.75 billion) by FY20.

Over the next five years, the Indian e-retail industry is projected to exceed ~300-350 million shoppers, propelling the online Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) to US$ 100-120 billion by 2025.

Driven by lower data rates and investments to enhance customer experience, the Indian e-retail witnessed a rapid increase in shopper penetration, as online platforms are innovating to onboard the next billion of shoppers.

Source: Report by eMarketer, Kalaari Capital - Imagining Trillion Dollar India, AT Kearney
There are lot of opportunities for E-retailers in India to capitalize upon with the gradually growing internet penetration in India.

Online penetration of retail is expected to reach 10.7% by 2024 compared with 4.7% in 2019. Moreover, online shoppers in India are expected to reach 220 million by 2025.

Note: F- Forecasted
Source: Redseer, Crisil, Report by EY, Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association
E-tailing market by business model

E-commerce

Marketplace Model
- Marketplace model adheres to the standards and directions of a zero-inventory model.
- The E-commerce marketplace offers a digital platform for consumers and merchants without a need for warehousing the products. Marketplaces offer shipment, delivery and payments help to merchants by tying up with various logistics companies and financial institutions.
- The new FDI policy has permitted 100% FDI in the E-commerce marketplace model under the automatic route.
- In December 2020, Amazon India stated that 4,152 small and midsized sellers on its marketplace surpassed Rs. 1 crore (US$ 136,669.90) in sales; and the number of ‘crorepati’ sellers grew 29% y-o-y.

Inventory-led Model
- Inventory-led models are those shopping websites where buyers choose online from within a range products owned by the online shopping company or websites. Then website take care of the whole process end-to-end, starting with product purchase, warehousing and ending with product dispatch.
- Few examples of inventory-led model are Yepme and LatestOne.com.

Source: PwC, News Articles
Key players in e-tailing market

- Flipkart
- Myntra
- Amazon
- Paytm Mall
- Snapdeal
- Shopclues
- Nykaa
- 1mg
Recent Trends and Strategies
ANCILLARY SERVICES
• In May 2021, Amazon introduced a video streaming service within its shopping app called MiniTV for users in India. MiniTV features web series, comedy shows and content on tech news, food, beauty and fashion.
• In February 2021, Flipkart Wholesale, the digital B2B marketplace of Flipkart Group offered grocery on its app with an aim to provide kiranas and small retailers one-stop access to a wide selection of products.

AGREEMENT & PARTNERSHIP
• In April 2021, Flipkart announced a commercial alliance with Adani Group to improve the company’s logistics and data centre capabilities and create about 2,500 direct jobs.
• In February 2021, Flipkart partnered with Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board and Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation to bring local artisans and small and medium businesses into the e-commerce ecosystem.

EXPANSION
• In May 2021, Flipkart strengthened its grocery infrastructure to cater to customer safety and demand across India. In this quarter, it is planning to further expand its fulfilment centre capacity for grocery by over 8 lakh square feet across Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Coimbatore and Hyderabad.
• In February 2021, Udaan, a B2B e-commerce firm, announced to expand its warehouse capacity (by 5x) to 50 million sq. ft. across several states in the next 7-8 years.

MERGER & ACQUISITION
• In April 2021, Flipkart announced to acquire Cleartrip, an online travel technology firm. Flipkart announced to purchase 100% shareholding of Cleartrip as the company expands its investments to broaden its digital commerce offerings for customers.
• In March 2021, Amazon acquired Bengaluru-based retail tech start-up Perpule for Rs. 107.6 crore (US$ 14.5 million).

Source: Media sources, Company websites
PERSONALISED EXPERIENCE

- Site visitors demand one-of-a-kind experience that cater to their needs and interests. Technology is available even to smaller players to capture individual shoppers’ interests and preferences to generate a targeted shopping experience.
- Many E-commerce websites provide personalised experience to customers to cater to their needs and interests depending upon their location, choices, products they like or buy, and websites they visit.
- To give a more personalized experience, E-commerce companies have adopted voice search technology. Myntra is the first to adopt it.
- In February 2021, Amazon allowed its sellers to register on the Amazon.in marketplace and manage their online business in Marathi—a move to enhance sellers' experience on the platform in Maharashtra.

ASSISTED COMMERCE

- To expand their reach, brands are tying up with assisted E-commerce organisations which provide local merchants with a platform to place their orders. Under this, customer get help in placing order online through a merchant shop and the product gets delivered either to the shop or to customer’s address directly.
- Eshopbox, a tech-enabled third-party logistics (3PL) provider, is expected to redefine the ecosystem of new-age e-commerce by helping retailers unlock their e-commerce potential. Businesses of all sizes can use Eshopbox to streamline their e-commerce operations, from start-ups such as Oziva, Meraki and Plum to businesses such as Clarks, Blackberrys and Raymonds.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR E-COMMERCE

- E-commerce companies are increasingly adopting subscription model to provide extra benefits and tailored services to customers to suit their needs.
- Amazon, which introduced Amazon Prime in 2016, saw its Amazon Prime subscribers reach ~10 million as of February 2020.
- Swiggy, Zomato and Myntra keep on offering benefits through their subscription models to attract consumers.

Source: Media sources, Company websites
Policy and initiatives give a boost to the industry… (3/4)

PRODUCT CATEGORIES
- Brands are adapting to the change in consumption habits towards essentials, electronics, home furnishing and other comfort-related product categories. This shift has happened since the pandemic and is forecast to stay in the near future. Inventory stocking of fashion and accessories has recorded an all-time low this year.

DIGITAL MARKETING
- 2020 has witnessed a shift in the consumer basket towards essentials and a drastic change in shopping modality towards e-commerce platforms. Brands and companies are adapting to this consumer behaviour change by increasing their marketing spends on digital media to acquire market share and tap target audiences.
- As per the report, 34% business respondents have increased digital media budgets while 23% have focused more on eCommerce selling.

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS
- Companies are increasingly focusing their sights on Tier II and Tier III cities this year, as the demographic landscape and pocket spends of these cities are evolving. The revenue share of Tier II+ cities has been growing and digital marketing efforts can be targeted directly to these potential customers. This year’s festive season recorded 88% customer growth from last year, which was driven by about 40 million shoppers from Tier II+ cities.

FUND RAISING
- In May 2021, Flipkart announced that it is in talks with sovereign funds, private equity majors and other investors to raise up to US$ 2 billion at a valuation of US$ 30 billion.
- In April 2021, Kirana commerce platform ElasticRun raised US$ 75 million in a round led by existing investors—Avataar Venture Partners and Prosus Ventures.

Source: Media sources, Company websites, Modern Marketer Reckoner Report by GroupM and MMA
12

NEW E-COMMERCE PORTAL

• In March 2021, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), which represents 80 million traders and 40,000 trader associations, announced the launch of a mobile app for its e-commerce portal, ‘Bharat E-market’. The association aims to get more small traders to sell online easily through smartphones.

Source: Media sources
Growth Drivers
Growth drivers for e-commerce

1. GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES
   - Government initiatives like Digital India is constantly introducing people to online modes of commerce.
   - Favourable FDI policy is attracting key players.
   - The Government has proposed “National E-commerce Policy” and has set up a lawful agenda on cross-border data flow where no data will be shared with a foreign Government agency without prior authorization from the Indian Government.

2. INCREASING AWARENESS
   - As the awareness of using internet is increasing, more and more people are getting drawn to E-commerce.
   - Whether it’s sellers, buyers, users or investors, more and more people are adapting to the use doing commerce online.

3. INVESTMENT
   - India is the land of occasions and Increasing FDI inflow, domestic investment, and support from key industrial players is helping the growth of E-commerce.
Demographic factors

Tier II and tier III cities provide major sales

- Metro cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi has accounted for most of the online shopping in absolute numbers.
- Less densely populated regions have generated a larger proportion of online sales.
- E-commerce companies in India reported a 55% increase in sales at US$ 4.1 billion (Rs. 29,000 crore) across platforms in the first week of festive sales in October 2020 (October 15-21), driven by increased demand for smartphones and rise in demand from Tier-II cities.

Convenience of E-commerce

- Online retailers now deliver to 15,000-20,000 pin codes out of nearly 100,000 pin codes in the country.
- With logistics and warehouses attracting an estimated investment of nearly US$ 2 billion by 2020, the reach of online retailers to remote locations is set to increase.
- In July 2020, Amazon’s India unit announced its plans to open 10 new warehouses in the country.
- In October 2020, Flipkart acquired a 140-acre land at Rs. 432 crore (US$ 58.87 million) to establish their largest fulfilling centre in Asia, in Manesar, Gurgaon, in a bid to scale their fulfilment infrastructure to cater to increased demand post COVID-19.

Millennials are the most active

- Although shoppers between 25 and 34 years of age have been the most active on E-commerce portals, a surprising number of older people have increasingly started to shop online.
- However, the age group of 15-34 years are the major consumers of E-commerce.
- The popularity of web series among millennials is growing immensely.

Source: Economic Times, Media sources
Factors driving e-commerce growth

1. Growth of logistics and warehouses
   - Online retailers now deliver to 15,000-20,000 pin codes out of nearly 100,000 pin codes in the country.
   - With logistics and warehouses attracting an estimated investment of nearly US$ 2 billion by 2020, the reach of online retailers to remote locations is set to increase.

2. Internet content in local languages
   - Online retailers see this segment as the new growth driver with significant influx of mobile subscribers, who are now comfortable with languages other than English.
   - Indian language users on the internet are expected to reach 540 million by 2021.

3. Mobile commerce
   - Online retailers’ growing reach in town and cities beyond metros is driven by an increased usage of mobile internet. Increased ownership of smartphones is helping more Indians access shopping websites easily.
   - Number of smartphone users in India is expected to reach 859 million by 2022.

4. Increasing investment
   - In October 2020, Amazon India invested over Rs. 700 crore (US$ 95.40 million) into its payment unit, Amazon Pay.

5. Consumer spending
   - In India, ~66.6 billion transactions worth US$ 270.7 billion are projected to shift from cash transactions to card and digital payments by 2023 and rise to US$ 856.6 billion by 2030.

6. Payment's modernisation
   - In terms of the real-time digital payment infrastructure, backed by UPI and 24x7 NEFT, India has been ahead of the curve.
   - The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a further rise in digital, contactless payments as customer behaviour has shifted from cash to card.

Notes: CAGR - Compound Annual Growth Rate
Source: Media sources, KPMG Report - E-commerce Retail Logistics India
The proliferation of mobile devices combined with internet access via affordable broadband solutions and mobile data is a key factor driving the tremendous growth in India’s E-commerce sector.

Smartphone users in India is expected to reach at 859 million by 2022.

In India, smartphone shipments reached 150 million units and 5G smartphone shipments crossed 4 million in 2020, driven by high consumer demand post-lockdown.

Smartphone shipments in India increased by ~23% YoY to reach 38 million units in the first quarter of 2021, driven by new product launches and delayed demand from 2020. Xiaomi led the Indian smartphone market with 26% shipping, followed by Samsung (20%).

The Indian government is emphasising on increasing the local value-addition on the manufacturing front. As the government’s schemes—such as Production Related Incentive (PLI) progress to impact the overall electronic manufacturing ecosystem—mobile phone production is expected to increase in the coming years. Brands such as Micromax and Lava are expected to take advantage of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and schedule their comeback.

**Source:** IMF, World Bank, International Data Corporation (IDC), Counterpoint Research, Media Sources
## Government and private initiatives influencing e-commerce (1/2)

### 1. Bharat Net and Digital India
- In the Union Budget of 2020-21, the Government has allocated Rs. 8,000 crore (US$ 1.24 billion) to BharatNet Project to provide broadband services to 150,000 gram panchayats.
- The project has a target to connect 250,000 gram panchayats by March 2020. The Government has also planned to set up 500,000 Wi-Fi hotspots for providing broadband service to 50 million rural citizens.
- Under the Digital India movement, Government launched various initiatives like Umang, Start-up India Portal, Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) etc. to boost digitisation.

### 2. E-commerce draft policy
- The Government of India’s Draft National e-Commerce Policy encourages FDI in the marketplace model of E-commerce. Further, it states that the FDI policy for E-commerce sector has been developed to ensure a level playing field for all participants.
- According to the draft, a registered entity is needed for the E-commerce sites and apps to operate in India.
- The telecom provider offered free high-speed internet access to users for first seven months.

### 3. Permanent account numbers (PAN) mandated
- In October 2020, amending the equalisation levy rules of 2016, the government mandated foreign companies operating e-commerce platforms in India to have permanent account numbers (PAN). It imposed a 2% tax in the FY21 budget on the sale of goods or delivery of services through a non-resident ecommerce operator.

### 4. Udaan
- Udaan is a B2B online trade platform to connect small and medium size manufacturers and wholesalers with online retailers. It also provide them logistics, payments and technology support.
- The platform has sellers in over 80 cities of India and delivers to over 500 cities.

*Source: Bain & Company - Unlocking Digital for India, Union Budget 2019-20, Media Sources*
5. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
   - The Indian government has formed a new steering committee that will look after the development of a government-based e-commerce platform. The new committee, set up by the Commerce Ministry, will provide oversight on the policy for Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which is an e-commerce platform being developed with the government’s backing. The ONDC will serve as the infrastructure for setting up the final storefront, which will be something similar to Flipkart and Amazon.

6. Ecommerce Ecosystem
   - In a bid to systematise onboarding of retailers on e-commerce platforms, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is reportedly planning to utilise the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to set protocols for cataloguing, vendor discovery and price discovery. Their aim is to provide equal opportunities to all marketplace players to make optimum use of the ecommerce ecosystem in the larger interest of the country and its people.

7. National Retail Policy
   - The government had identified five areas in its proposed national retail policy—ease of doing business, rationalisation of the licence process, digitisation of retail, focus on reforms and an open network for digital commerce—stating that offline retail and e-commerce need to be administered in an integral manner.

8. Consumer Protection Rules
   - The Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020, notified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry in July direct e-commerce companies to display the country of origin alongside product listings. In addition, they will also have to reveal the parameters that go behind determining product listings on their platforms.

Source: Bain & Company - Unlocking Digital for India, Union Budget 2019-20, Media Sources
# Key industry Contacts

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| **E-commerce Association of India**         | Address: 122, 1st Floor, Devika Tower Corporate Business District, Nehru Place New Delhi -110 019  
Phone: +91 011 41582722  
Fax : +91 011 41582722  
Email: [info@ecai.co.in](mailto:info@ecai.co.in)  
Website: [www.ecai.co.in](http://www.ecai.co.in) |
| **Retailers Association of India (RAI)**   | 111/112, Ascot Centre, Next to Hotel Le Royal Meridien, Sahar Road, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai-400099.  
Tel: 91-22-28269527—28  
Fax: 91-22-28269536  
E-mail: [info@rai.net.in](mailto:info@rai.net.in)  
Website: [www.rai.net.in](http://www.rai.net.in) |
Appendix
Glossary

- CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate
- GMV: Gross Merchandise Value
- FDI: Foreign Direct Investment
- FY: Indian Financial Year (April to March)
- GOI: Government of India
- Rs: Indian Rupee
- US$: US Dollar
- Numbers have been rounded off to the nearest whole number, wherever applicable.
## Exchange Rates

### Exchange Rates (Fiscal Year)

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*Note: As of April 2021
Source: Reserve Bank of India, Average for the year
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