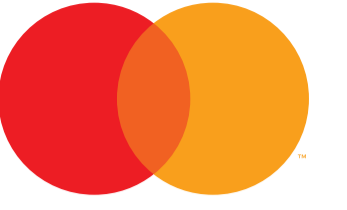


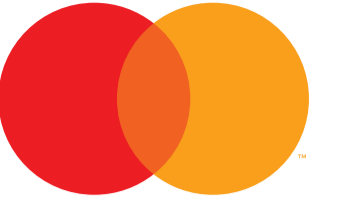
Asia Pacific Spotlight





Last week we reported strong Q3 earnings growth driven by healthy levels of domestic commerce in most markets and solid gains in cross-border spending which is now back at pre-Covid levels. Welcome news indeed! While the pandemic is not yet behind us, the outlook continues to improve. If there's one thing this experience has taught us, it is how interconnected our world is.

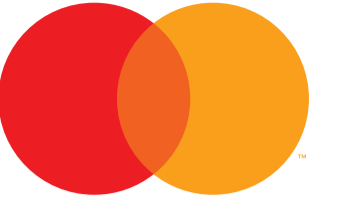
As we work our way through the recovery, making sure that everyone is included is our top priority. In this edition we're focusing our Spotlight on the partnerships, thinking and solutions that will help us to better serve the people and small businesses that have borne the economic brunt of the pandemic so that we can all pull through together.



Save the Date: A Week of Web 3.0 Exploration

The countdown is on! From 8-12 November, Mastercard will be headlining the world's largest fintech event as a Grand Sponsor of the [Singapore Fintech Festival](#) (SFF). Join us for an action-packed, hybrid experience featuring an incredible line-up of speakers including CEO Michael Miebach and APAC Co-President Ling Hai, digital showcases, workshops, lab crawls and more that will cover designing, building and ensuring sustainable financial services for Web 3.0. APAC Co-President Ari Sarker kicks off the SFF conversation in [The Business Times](#) with a deep dive into how the financial services sector can support a green recovery through sustainable finance.

Explore SFF →



The Achilles Heel of Financial Inclusion

With Southeast Asia's digital economy set to hit \$300B by 2025, glittering stats abound. But behind the headlines lies a stark challenge: how to bridge the gaping digital divide that's hindering financial inclusion for 150M adults - 31% of the population? Rama Sridhar explains why digital inclusion should be a basic right.

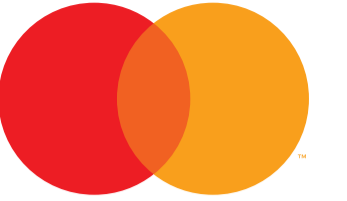
[More on this at Forbes →](#)



Grab Collabs: Partnering to Drive Progress

To advance financial inclusion, we're working with Grab to apply technology, data, talent and ecosystems to power Southeast Asia's digital economy. After supporting the [Tech for Good Institute](#) launch, we inked a MoU to facilitate digital upskilling and entrepreneurship for Grab's millions of driver-, delivery- and small business partners.

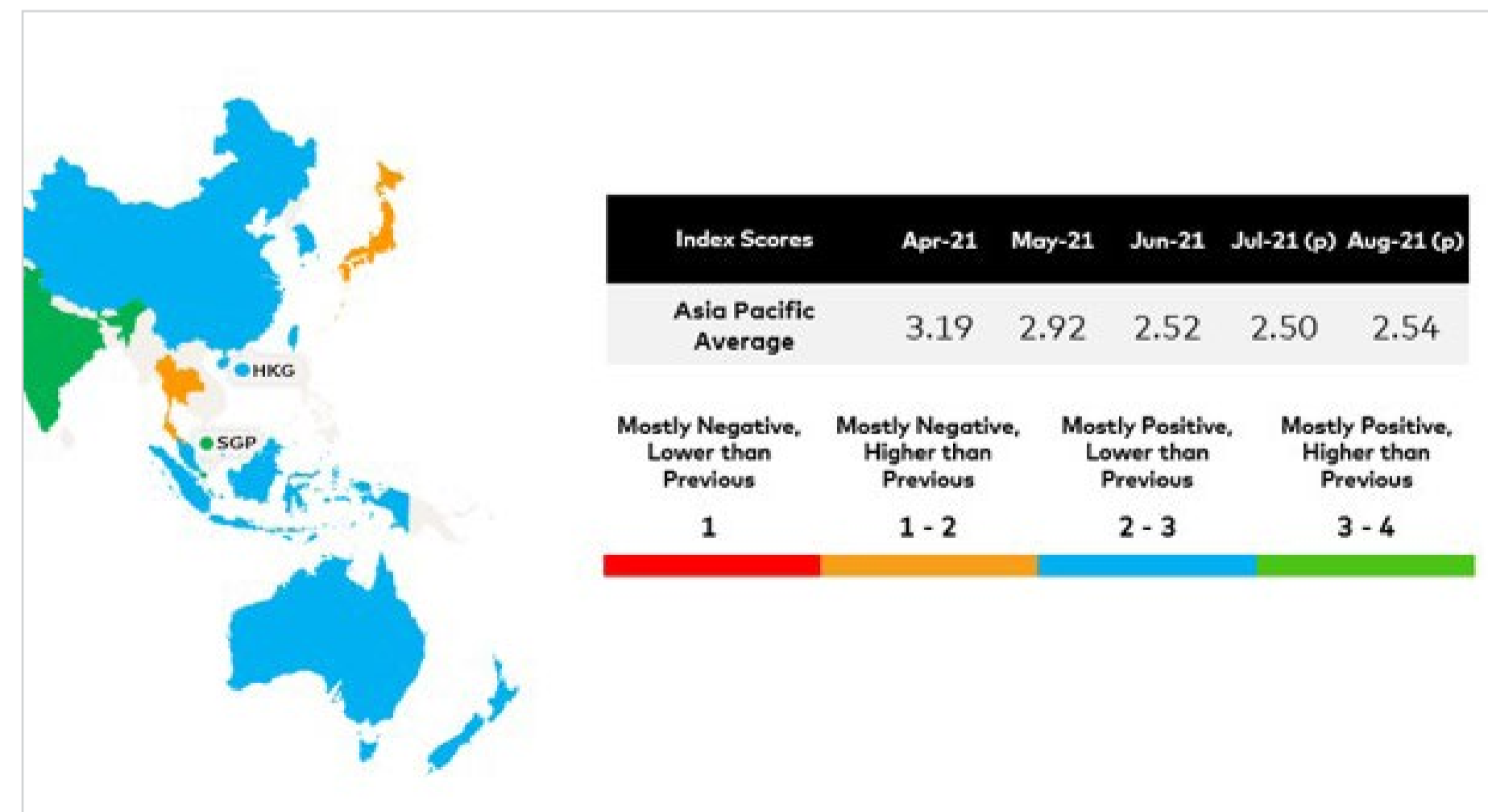
[Learn more about the MoU →](#)



Don't Miss: \$5.5T B2B Commerce Opportunity

APAC is the B2B commerce capital of the world. Yet less than 1% of the addressable opportunity in industries like electronics, retail and FMCG is carded—presenting vast, untapped potential for financial institutions. Why is so much being left on the table?

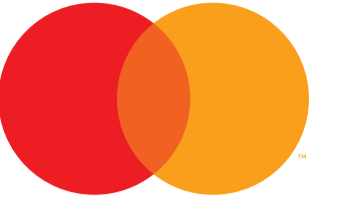
[Listen to the podcast →](#)



Asia Pacific Consumer Retail Barometer

The regional average stabilized and lifted slightly after three months of decline. While averages for Consumer and Business Sentiment moved lower, they were counterbalanced by upticks in Retail Sales and Credit Card Expenditure.

[Download the Barometer →](#)



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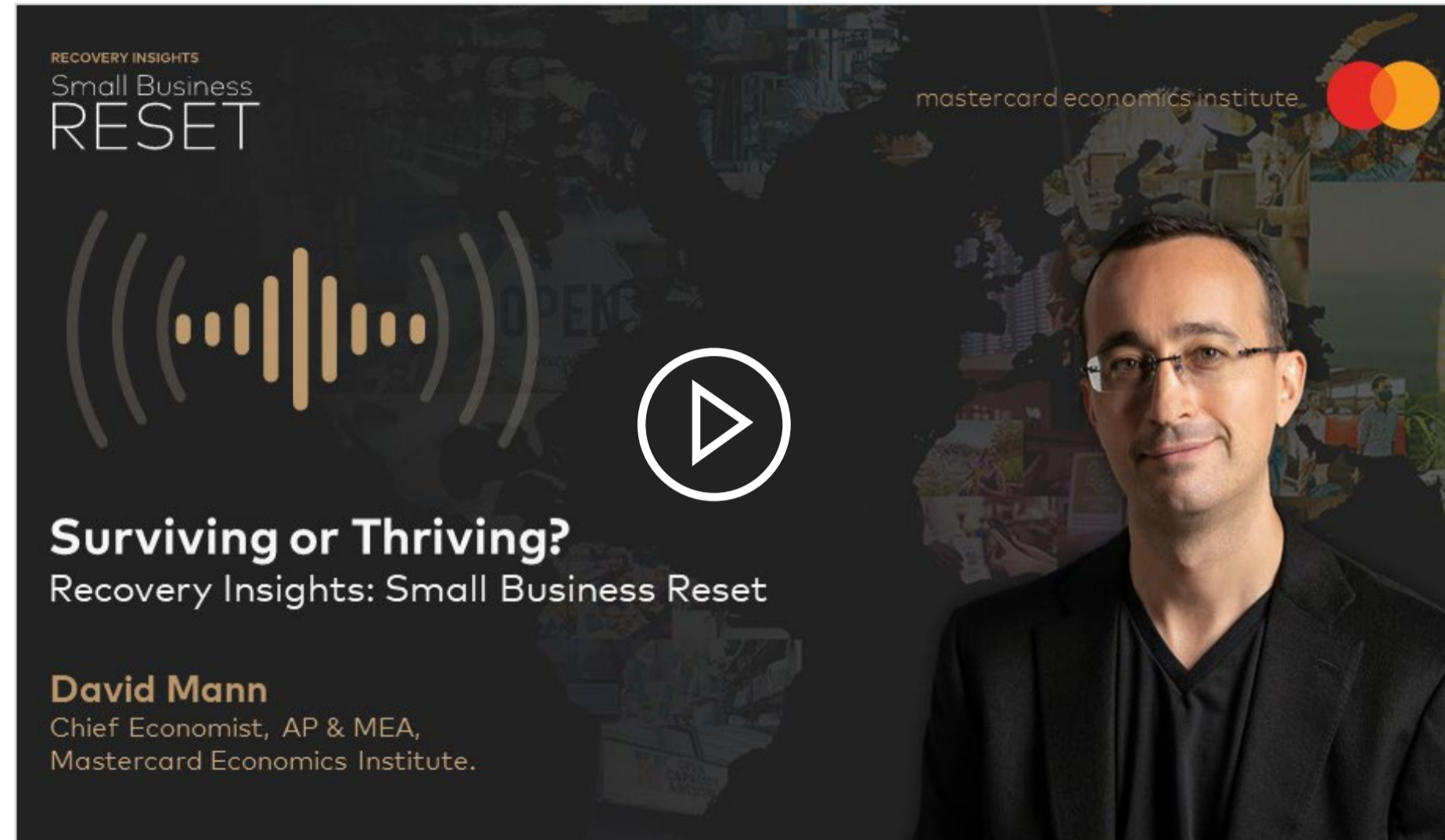
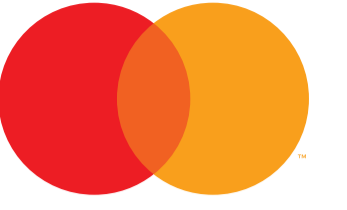
RECOVERY INSIGHTS

Small Business
RESET

Taking the Leap: New APAC SMEs Up 35% YoY

According to Mastercard's [Recovery Insights report](#), SMEs in APAC were much harder hit than large businesses at the outset of the pandemic. However, disruption bred innovation as a host of new digital businesses were created to meet evolving needs. This report sheds light on the pandemic's impact on small businesses around the world and what will sustain their growth beyond 2021.

Discover more APAC insights →



Podcast: Small Business Reset

Our AP & MEA Chief Economist breaks down the takeaways from the Recovery Insights report. Tune in as he explains how we identified the sectors and locations where SMEs are under or outperforming large businesses, and shares emerging trends in entrepreneurship.

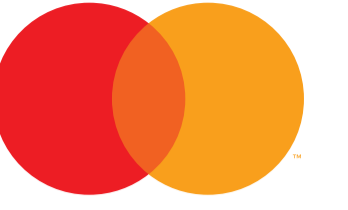
[Listen now →](#)



India: \$100M Facility to Support MSMEs

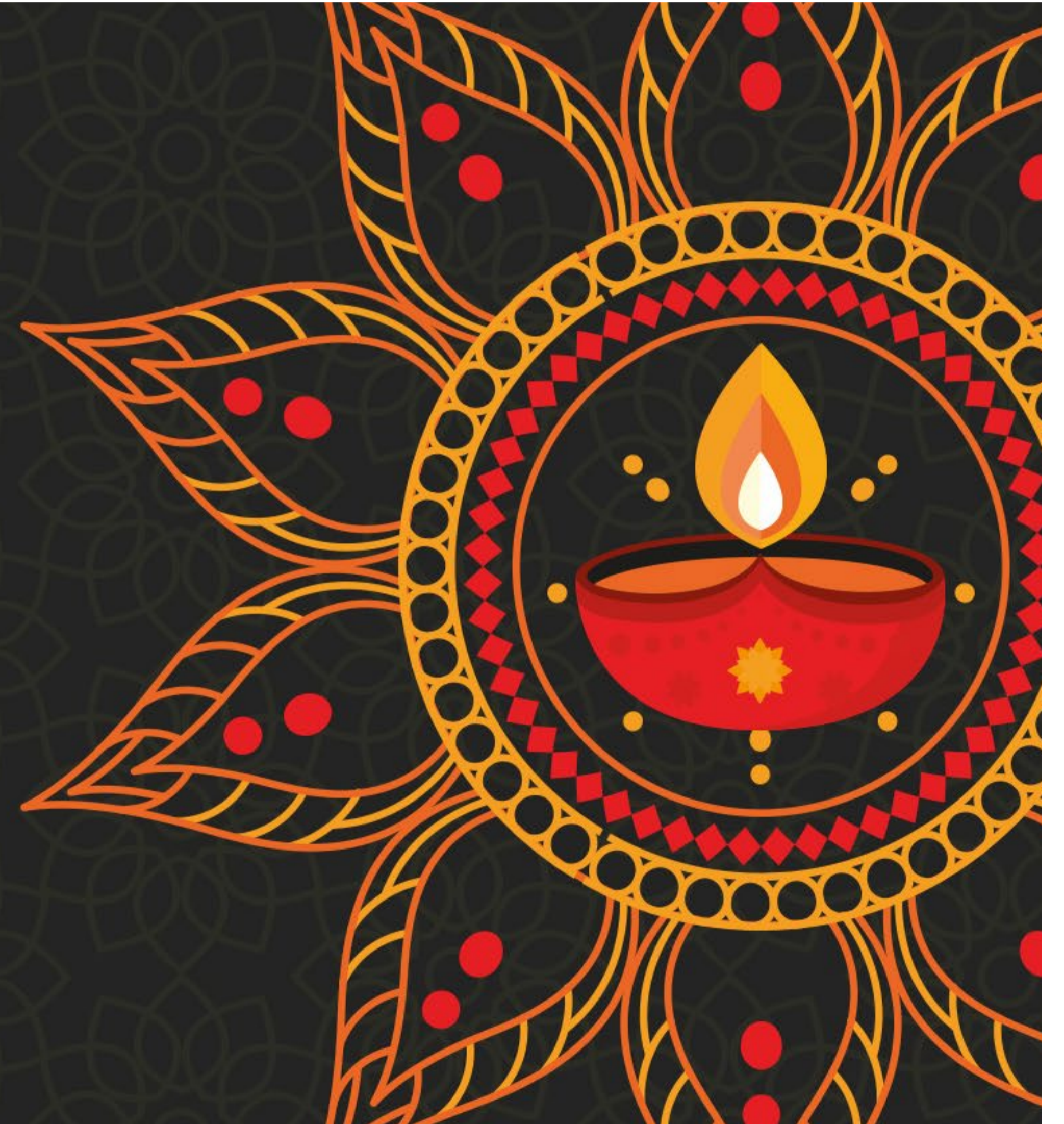
To support economic recovery from the pandemic, we've partnered with HDFC Bank, USAID and DFC, to launch a credit facility to help micro, small and medium enterprises in India to digitize and secure financing, with a goal of at least 50% being women-owned businesses.

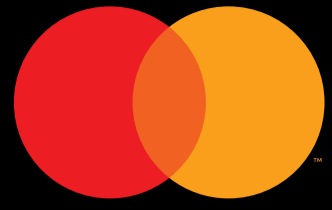
[More on this →](#)



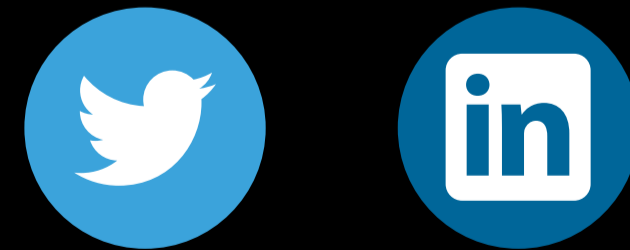
May this festival of lights
illuminate your world with
health and prosperity

Happy Diwali!





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