

# Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

October 29, 2021

## Economy, Industry and Policy

[IMF revising India's growth forecast is 'gross under estimation' - N K Singh](#): Speaking at a virtual discussion on 'Financing For Development' organised by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), he also said there was a need to ensure that those who escaped poverty do not go back into poverty on account of exogenous factors like the pandemic. *(The Economic Times)*

[Stimulus package and reforms have put economy on track - FM Sitharaman](#): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government's social protection and economic stimulus packages, along with timely structural reforms in various sectors, have been pivotal in India's economic recovery process. *(Business Standard)*

[NCAER's business confidence index rises 90% in Q2](#): Indicating signs of improvement, think-tank NCAER on Tuesday said its Business Confidence Index (BCI) increased by 90 per cent in the July-September this financial year over the first quarter. *(The Economic Times)*

[Most sectors of economy on way to reach pre-pandemic levels, surpass them - NCAER](#): "With the economy expected to grow at 9.5 per cent (RBI) this year, most sectors seem to be on their way to reach the pre-pandemic level and then grow beyond those levels," the report said. *(The Economic Times)*

[Manufacturing can become a ₹7.5 tn industry by '25 - Goyal](#): The commerce, industry, and textiles minister asked various government departments to assist the textile industry gain technical efficiency across the manufacturing value chain and synergize to become cost-competitive. *(Mint)*

[Government of India releases balance amount of ₹ 44,000 crore to States and UTs](#): The Ministry of Finance has released ₹44,000 crore today to the States and UTs with Legislature under the back-to-back loan facility in lieu of GST Compensation. *(Press Information Bureau)*

[Rane inaugurates awareness programme to promote entrepreneurship](#): Union Minister Narayan Rane on Wednesday inaugurated a national-level awareness programme to promote entrepreneurship, boost domestic manufacturing with a view to pushing economic growth. *(The Economic Times)*

[Monetary Policy Committee minutes - Continued monetary support necessary, says RBI governor Shaktikanta Das](#): With the outlook on inflation improving and projections for the same easing, there is a need for continued monetary support to a still-recovering economy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das wrote in the minutes to the October meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee. *(Financial Express)*

[Centre aims to privatise 13 airports by March, list sent to aviation ministry](#): The government plans to complete the privatisation process for 13 airports run by the state-owned Airports Authority of India (AAI) by the end of this fiscal year. *(The Economic Times)*

[Shaktikanta Das reappointed as RBI Governor for three more years](#): The re-appointment is effective from December 10, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The decision was approved by the appointments committee of the cabinet late on Thursday. *(Mint)*

[Govt reconstitutes EAC-PM for two-year period; Debroy continues as head](#): Former RBI deputy governor Rakesh Mohan, NCAER director general Poonam Gupta, IIM, Ahmedabad professor TT Ram Mohan has been appointed as new part time members, while V Anantha Nageswaran has been dropped. *(Business Standard)*

**[OECD global tax deal - Large Indian companies rethink overseas investment plans:](#)** Several large Indian companies exploring outbound investments have put their plans on hold following a global tax deal over concerns of additional taxes and compliance challenges related to the new framework adopted by the world's leading industrial bloc. *(The Economic Times)*

## Foreign Investments

**[Rajnath Singh invites foreign defence companies to participate in DefExpo 2022:](#)** Inviting foreign delegates to attend DefExpo 2022, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that the exhibition will bring all the latest technologies under one roof and provide a myriad of opportunities to the stakeholders in the aerospace and defence industry. *(Mint)*

**[Arcelor-Nippon to invest ₹1 trillion in India over 10 years:](#)** ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel Corp.'s joint venture steel company in India plans to invest about ₹1 trillion over 10 years to expand its operations in the country, a senior executive said. *(Mint)*

**[India targets major global firms for local battery manufacturing:](#)** India plans to pitch to companies such as Tesla Inc, Samsung and LG Energy to encourage them to invest in manufacturing batteries locally. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Anheuser-Busch InBev to enter energy drink market in India:](#)** Anheuser-Busch InBev (ABI) is launching an energy drink in India, a first for the world's largest brewer globally. *(The Economic Times)*

**[India's FDI rules could be further streamlined - UK India Business Council:](#)** India allowing 74% FDI under the automatic route last year is "a big step in the right direction" but foreign investment still needs clearances from different arms of government. *(Mint)*

**[Bharti-backed OneWeb, Neom Tech form USD 200 million JV for satellite network:](#)** Bharti Group backed satellite company OneWeb and Saudi Arabia's Neom Tech and Digital Holding Company have signed a pact for a USD 200 million joint venture to provide satellite-based services to Middle East and East African countries, a joint statement said Tuesday. *(Mint)*

## Trade Policy and Competitiveness

**[Engineering goods shipments cross \\$9 billion for the third month in a row in September:](#)** Engineering goods shipments crossed \$9 billion for the third month in a row in September with 22 out of 25 top export destinations such as China, UK and UAE recording positive growth. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Forex reserves surge by \\$58.38 bn in Mar-Sep 2021 period - RBI report:](#)** "During the half-year period under review, reserves increased from USD 576.98 billion as at end-March 2021 to USD 635.36 billion as at end-September 2021, the report said. *(Business Standard)*

**[Will retort if India faces unfair trade rules, says Industry Minister Piyush Goyal:](#)** "There are a lot of non-tariff barriers that need to be studied. We need to work to resolve those barriers," he said at the 54th convocation of Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT). *(The Economic Times)*

**[Easy cargo movement, startup collaboration key for India-ASEAN relationship - CII:](#)** Ahead of the India-ASEAN Summit next week, industry has pushed to prioritise the expansion of the scope of the Bilateral Air Services Agreement to enable easier cargo movement. *(The Economic Times)*

## Corporate Sector

**[BPCL disinvestment - Top India asset sale delayed as suitors strive for partners:](#)** India's plan to privatise Bharat Petroleum Corp. has run into rough weather with bidders struggling to find partners and spread their financial risks, according to people familiar with the matter. *(The Economic Times)*

**[India sees registration of over 16,500 new companies in September:](#)** As per the ministry's monthly information bulletin for the corporate sector, there were 14,14,277 active companies as on September 30. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Ant Group may execute around 50% of Rs 10,000 crore OFS in Paytm IPO:](#)** China's Ant Group, the largest shareholder in Paytm, is expected to execute nearly 50% of the secondary share sale through the offer for sale (OFS) in the upcoming initial public offering (IPO) of the fintech firm. *(The Economic Times)*

**Govt signs share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for Air India strategic sale:** The government signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons, for divestment of government's stake and management control in the national carrier, marking the first privatisation in nearly two decades. (*The Economic Times*)

**Dr Lal Path Labs buys Suburban Diagnostics in all-cash deal:** Dr Lal Path Labs (LPL) has acquired Suburban Diagnostics in an all-cash deal for an enterprise value of Rs 925 crore and a cap of Rs 1,150 crore, the company said in regulatory filings on Tuesday. (*The Economic Times*)

## MSMEs and Start-ups

**Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission- Big opportunity for healthtech startups:** The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission could truly democratise healthcare access in India. It could also be a major boon for India's healthtech startups. (*Business Standard*)

**Need for a separate ministry focusing on micro enterprises with dedicated policy support - CIA:** To support micro enterprises recovering from the Covid impact, the CIA also suggested the government to exempt the units from GST for two years along with exemption from PF/ESI for two years. (*Financial Express*)

**Private nonprofit company to lead ONDC rollout:** The Quality Council of India has established a team of experts and a number of small and medium enterprises have been on-boarded as volunteers for execution of the network. (*The Economic Times*)

**The \$158-billion hole in financing women-owned SMEs:** About 90% of women-owned SMEs (WSMEs) in the country still rely on informal financing and 66% WSMEs do not have a bank account, said Qamar Saleem, Regional Manager-Asia & Pacific, Financial Institutions Group, International Finance Corporation (IFC). (*The Economic Times*)

**Cashfree Payments launches PAN Verification for customer KYC:** This feature will allow merchants to do a single online PAN verification or bulk pan verification of up to 10,000 PANs of their customers via PAN verification API. (*Mint*)

**Google, MeitY Startup Hub collaborate to help Indian startups build high-quality apps:** Applications for the Appscale Academy will be open till December 15, 2021. Out of the applicants, 100 startups will be selected based on defined qualitative and quantitative parameters by a panel of industry experts, members of MeitY Startup Hub, and Google Play. (*Mint*)

**5,000 SMEs to suffer huge losses if coal crisis not addressed for primary aluminium industry - IIVCC:** An acute shortage of fossil fuel coupled with stoppage of coal supplies is not only impacting the primary aluminium industry but also the large manufacturers, SMEs and ancillary industries connected to the industry, with the potential to impact lakhs of people employed in related sectors across the country, the IIVCC said. (*Financial Express*)

## Employment and Industrial Relations

**Govt to soon set up panel for National Employment Policy:** The government will soon set up a committee to frame India's first National Employment Policy with an aim to significantly push up employment generation in the country. (*The Economic Times*)

**Labour panel to study increasing contractualisation in PSUs:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on labour has decided to examine the increasing trend of contractualisation in the labour sector, particularly in government and public establishments. (*The Hindu BusinessLine*)

**MGNREGS Outlay - Ministry seeks additional Rs 25,000 crore for rural jobs scheme:** With nearly 94% of the Rs 73,000-crore budgetary allocation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural employment scheme (MG-NREGS) having been spent, the rural development ministry has sought an additional outlay of Rs 25,000 crore in the supplementary budget for 2021-22. (*Financial Express*)

**14% employment rise in Q3 2021 from Q3 2020 - Michael Page India:** According to the latest report by Michael Page India, India Inc is seeing a 14% employment rise in the third quarter of 2021 compared to the same quarter last year. (*The Economic Times*)

**Hiring boom in financial services amid deals, IPO rush, digitisation:** Data from jobs site Naukri.com shows that hiring activity in the banking and financial services sector rose 43% year on year in September. (*The Economic Times*)

[ILO revises upwards estimate for loss of work hours globally in 2021 due to Covid:](#) According to ILO, the loss of working hours in 2021 because of the pandemic are significantly higher than previously estimated largely due to uneven roll-out of vaccination and majority of global stimulus being concentrated in high-income countries. *(The Economic Times)*

## Industrial Finance

[Multilateral development banks should intensify pvt capital mobilisation for inclusive, green growth – Sitharaman:](#) Assuring India's cooperation and support to the AIIB for its future endeavours, she urged the Beijing-based lender to set up a Resident Board and Regional Offices to ensure accountability, transparency and quality of operations and investments. *(The Economic Times)*

[Festive season - Banks dole out over Rs 11,000 crore loans under govt's credit outreach programme:](#) The finance ministry feels that various sectors need credit support and asked banks to hold talks with exporters and various associations to support their loan needs. *(The Economic Times)*

[India, ADB sign \\$100 mn loan to promote agribusiness, reduce food losses in Maharashtra:](#) India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday signed a \$100 million loan to promote agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in Maharashtra. *(Mint)*

[AIIB to support India in improving healthcare infrastructure:](#) Multilateral development bank Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on Tuesday said it will support India in ramping up its healthcare infra facilities to meet future health challenges. *(The Economic Times)*

## Technology and Innovation

[FM reviews capex, asks DoT to expedite digital expansion:](#) Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday nudged the department of telecom to expedite digital expansion plans in the north-eastern region and asked the ministry of civil aviation to raise its capital spending target substantially in the next fiscal. *(Financial Express)*

[Govt, industry discuss new ecommerce rules:](#) Ecommerce is a dynamic and evolving sector and the government is trying to keep pace with it. The final rules will come out only after the process of consultation is completed, Nandan added. *(The Economic Times)*

[India successfully tests Agni-5 missile:](#) India on Wednesday successfully tested the nuclear capable Agni-5 missile capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with very high degree of accuracy, a statement from the Indian defence ministry said. *(Mint)*

[India's data consumption rate highest worldwide - RS Sharma:](#) India has the highest mobile data consumption rate at about 11 to 12 GB per user a month in the world. *(The Economic Times)*

## Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

[Automated ports could help ease supply chain woes:](#) Disruptions to the flow of critical components — such as truck chassis and shipping containers — clogged cargo facilities. As bottlenecks proliferated throughout the economy, ports bore the brunt. *(The Economic Times)*

[India-US-Israel-UAE grouping to focus on infra development - Israeli ambassador:](#) On the new grouping of four, Gilon said that India's technological prowess, money from the UAE and innovation from Israel would power the cooperation among the four countries. *(Mint)*

[Massive infra boost! Check these 22 upcoming Greenfield projects under Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase 1:](#) Under the Modi government's Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase I, a total of 571 infra projects with an aggregate length of 19,785 kilometres and a cost of Rs 593,820 crore have been approved till now, while as many as 536 projects with an aggregate 18,782 kilometres' length and a total cost of Rs 533,076 crore have been awarded. *(Financial Express)*

[New manufacturing hub in the offing:](#) Inclusion of Kerala in the ambitious industrial corridor projects in the country by extending the Chennai-Bengaluru industrial corridor to Kochi has the potential to turn Palakkad into a major manufacturing hub. *(The Hindu)*

**[438 infrastructure projects show cost overrun of Rs 4.3 trillion:](#)** As many as 438 infrastructure projects, each worth Rs 150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns totalling more than Rs 4.3 lakh crore, according to a report. *(Business Standard)*

**[Govt approves pilot project on skilling personnel for use of geotextiles in infra projects:](#)** The textiles ministry on Monday said it has approved a pilot project on skilling of design or commissioning technical personnel associated with application of geo-textiles in infrastructure projects including roads, highways, railways and water resources. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Tata Power crosses 1,000 EV charging stations mark in India:](#)** Starting with the first chargers being installed in Mumbai, Tata Power EV charging points are now present in nearly 180 cities. *(The Economic Times)*

## Sustainable Industrialisation

**[Rajasthan ranks 2nd after Karnataka on State Energy Efficiency Index 2020:](#)** “Rajasthan has ranked second after Karnataka on the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020 released by the Union Ministry of Power,” an official said on Wednesday. *(The Hindu)*

**[Power ministry comes out with rules to ensure sustainability of sector:](#)** The ministry notified rules for the sustainability of the electricity sector and promotion of clean energy to meet the India’s commitment towards climate change., a statement said. *(The Indian Express)*

**[Gadkari bats for green hydrogen; says India needs to reduce oil imports:](#)** Batting for green hydrogen as a transport fuel, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday said there is a need to make India a country that will not be dependent on imports of petrol and diesel. *(Business Standard)*

**[Solar’s growth stumbles just as the world needs it most:](#)** The sector is being slammed by a barrage of obstacles, with rising materials costs, forced labor accusations and a worsening trade war all hitting at once. *(The Economic Times)*

**[India added 10 GW of solar and wind capacity in the first nine months of 2021 – Report:](#)** From January 2021 till September 2021, approximately 8,811 MW solar capacity and 1,246 MW of wind capacity was added in India. *(The Economic Times)*

## Sectoral News

**[Jindal India, Shirdi Sai, RIL arm & Adani lowest bidders for solar PLI scheme:](#)** Jindal India Solar Energy, Shirdi Sai Electricals, Reliance New Energy and Adani Infrastructure have emerged as lowest bidders for the government’s Rs 4,500 crore solar manufacturing production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Govt planning semiconductor design-linked incentive policy:](#)** The government is planning to come up with a semiconductor design-linked incentive policy to promote domestic manufacturing as well as attract global electronic chip companies to the country, according to an official source. *(Financial Express)*

**[Govt expects Indian electronics manufacturing to reach \\$300 bn by 2024-25 - MoS IT:](#)** The government expects the Indian electronics manufacturing sector to grow to around \$300 billion (about Rs 22.5 lakh crore) by 2024-25, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on Friday. *(The Economic Times)*

**[Power crisis brewing in China likely to hit Indian pharma companies:](#)** The power crisis brewing in China may throw the Indian pharma market off gear if the situation continues for a few more months, feel sources in the local industry. Indian players roughly import 66-70 per cent of their bulk drug requirements from China. *(Business Standard)*



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