

# Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

October 20, 2023



## Economy, Industry and Policy

**India gaining momentum amid global uncertainty with moderating inflation, less volatile rupee - RBI Bulletin:** India is gaining momentum amid global uncertainty with easing inflation and less volatile rupee, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said its October bulletin. *[The Economic Times]*

**IMF sees India meeting its FY24 deficit goal despite extra spending:** India has room to absorb additional expenditure towards subsidies and rural unemployment programme without raising its fiscal deficit target from 5.9% set for the current financial year. *[The Economic Times]*

**GDP growth estimated at 6.3 per cent for 2023-24 - FICCI Economic Outlook Survey:** The Indian economy is projected to grow by 6.3 per cent in FY24 with a minimum and maximum growth estimate of 6.0 per cent and 6.6 per cent respectively. *[The Economic Times]*

**GST led to revenue growth, formalisation of economy - EAC-PM:** The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, introduced in 2017, has delivered on multiple fronts, including revenue growth, formalization of the economy, reduced rates of taxation and a more unified market with significant improvement in tax buoyancy and collection efficiencies. *[The Economic Times]*

**Improved forex reserve provided India's policymakers room for manoeuvre - BIS:** India's improved forex reserve adequacy helped maintain investor confidence and improved policymakers' room for manoeuvre, said a report prepared by Bank for International Settlements (BIS). India maintained forex reserve upwards of USD 550 billion during most of 2022. *[The Economic Times]*

**DGGI detects Rs 1.36 lk cr tax evasion in H1 of FY24:** The Directorate General of GST (goods and service tax) Intelligence (DGGI) has detected tax evasion of ₹1.36 lakh crore in the first six months of the current financial year (FY24) and received ₹14,108 crore as voluntary tax payment. *[The Economic Times]*

**NIIF looks to sell over \$1 billion worth of maiden roads portfolio:** India's sovereign-backed National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is looking to sell its maiden portfolio of five road projects, worth around Rs 10,000 crore (\$1.2 billion) on an enterprise value basis. *[The Economic Times]*

**Indian Railways unlikely to meet Rs 1.52 lakh crore asset monetisation target:** Collectively for FY22 and FY23, the total monetisation value (across sectors) realised was Rs 1.14 lakh crore. The government has monetised assets worth Rs 26,000 crore during FY24 against the target of Rs 1.6 lakh crore for the current fiscal while a proposal pipeline aggregating to Rs 1.23 lakh crore is currently at various stages of processing. *[Deccan Herald]*

**Government expects over ₹75,000 crore investment during World Food India to be held from November 3-5:** The Centre on October 18 said more than Rs 75,000 crore investment is likely to be attracted in the food processing sector during the second edition of the World Food India to be held from November 3-5 in the national capital. *[The Hindu]*

**India to grow at 6.5-6.8 pc this fiscal; festive, govt spending to drive growth - Deloitte:** Deloitte India on Wednesday said it expects GDP growth in the current fiscal to be in the range of 6.5-6.8 per cent primarily due to upcoming festive spending as well as higher government expenditure before the national elections mid-next year. *[The Economic Times]*

**New investments worth Rs 2,755 cr pledged with Indian Biogas Association:** New investments totalling Rs 2,755 crore have been pledged with industry body Indian Biogas Association (IBA) during the recently held Renewable Energy India Expo 2023. *[The Economic Times]*

**13 major States set for 29% spending boost in FY24 - ICRA:** Rating agency ICRA sees a sample of 13 Major State Governments' going on a Capex spending push, increasing their aggregate expenditure on this front by 29 per cent to ₹6.2 lakh crore (₹4.8 lakh crore) this fiscal. *[Business Line]*

**Wholesale prices decline for sixth straight month to 0.3% in September:** Wholesale prices declined for the sixth consecutive month in September to 0.26% from 0.52% in August, even as a rise in commodity prices pushed the prices of manufactured products sequentially for the second consecutive month. *[The Economic Times]*

**Govt to introduce another PLI scheme for batteries - Union Minister R K Singh:** To give further boost to the electric vehicle (EV) adoption in the country, the government is considering to introduce another production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for batteries. *[The Economic Times]*

**India slips to 45th position on the Global Pension Index 2023:** India slipped to 45th position out of 47 countries on the Global Pension Index 2023 as compared to 41st position out of 44 countries in 2022 and 40th out of 43 countries in 2021. *[The Economic Times]*



## Foreign Investment

**Google to manufacture Pixel smartphones in India, first devices expected in 2024:** Calling India a priority market, global tech major Alphabet Inc's Google on Thursday announced that it will be manufacturing its flagship Pixel line-up of phones in India. *[The Economic Times]*

**FPI selloff in Indian shares continues in first half of Oct - NSDL data:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued to offload Indian equities in the first-half of October, selling stocks worth 97.84 billion rupees (\$1.17 billion) on a net basis. *[Business Standard]*

**FPI remittances come under taxman's lens:** Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have received a slew of notices on foreign remittances made outside India under Section 133 (6) of the Income Tax Act. *[Business Line]*



## Trade Policy and Competitiveness

**Automobile exports dip 17 pc in Apr-Sep - SIAM:** Automobile exports from India declined 17 per cent year-on-year in the April-September period this fiscal hit by geopolitical and monetary crises in various countries. *[The Economic Times]*

**India's high quality labour-intensive goods to get benefit from FTA with UK; though overall gains limited - GTRI:** India's high quality labour-intensive goods such as apparel, footwear, carpets and cars will benefit from the removal of import duties by the UK, under the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries, according to think tank GTRI. *[The Economic Times]*

**No decision yet on India joining trade pillar of IPEF:** The IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23 in Tokyo. The 14 IPEF partners represent 40 per cent of global GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade. *[The Economic Times]*

**Centre clicks enter for online nod to IT hardware imports:** India, on Thursday, launched a new online system of authorisation for import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers, aiming to monitor shipments of such hardware without hurting supply. *[The Economic Times]*

**US at WTO on import curbs on IT - Companies will avoid doing business with India:** The US, China, South Korea and Taiwan on Monday raised concerns at India's import restriction on computers, tablets and other electronic products. *[The Economic Times]*

**India's September trade deficit narrows to \$19.37 bn; imports slide 15%, exports dip 2.6%:** India's merchandise trade deficit stood at \$19.37 billion, data showed on Friday. In September 2022, India's trade deficit was \$26.72 billion while in August, the gap had expanded to a 10-month high of \$24.16 billion. *[The Economic Times]*

**Imports from Russia up 67 per cent to USD 30.42 billion in April-September:** India's imports from Russia rose by about 67 per cent to USD 30.42 billion during the April-September period this fiscal on higher shipments of crude oil and fertiliser. *[The Economic Times]*

**Sept goods exports dip 2.6%, growth seen in H2:** India's merchandise exports fell 2.6% year on year to \$34.5 billion in September even as the government revised upwards the export growth in August to 3.88% from a 6.8% contraction reported earlier. *[The Economic Times]*



## Corporate Governance

**Big 4 get bigger: Combined revenues of EY, KPMG, Deloitte and PwC cross Rs 32,700 crore:** India Inc's increasing eagerness to professionalize decision making and invest in moat-widening technologies was manifest in the record \$4 billion annual revenue haul for the Big Four locally, marking a deepening of their corporate relationships beyond audits and taxation support through a period that saw EY outrun its peers with a topline of about Rs 11,500 crore. *[The Economic Times]*

**CCI approves IDFC merger plan with IDFC First Bank:** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday gave its approval for the merger plan of IDFC with IDFC First Bank. *[The Economic Times]*

**Coal India, partners to invest Rs 3,095 crore in fertiliser JV to boost output:** State-run firms, Coal India, GAIL India, and Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (RCF), will invest Rs 3,095 crore (\$371.90 million) in their fertiliser joint venture in Odisha. *[The Economic Times]*

**Indian Oil Corporation to invest Rs 1,660 cr in joint venture with NPTC:** Indian Oil Corporation, the nation's biggest oil firm, will invest Rs 1,660.15 crore as equity in a newly set up joint venture with energy major NTPC Ltd for setting up renewable power plants. *[The Economic Times]*

**Sony India- Zee Entertainment merger deal may close by November:** Sony Group Corp's India unit and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited (ZEEL) may be closing their merger deal in November, a report said on Wednesday. The much-awaited Zee-Sony merger, which is pegged as one of the biggest deals in the media industry in India, was previously expected by the end of September. Last month. *[BusinessToday]*



## MSMEs and Start-ups

**BCIC signs up with Japan's SME organisation to step up manufacturing share to India's GDP:** Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) has entered an MoU with The Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, Japan (SMRJ) to support enterprises in India and Japan to expand their businesses globally. *[The Economic Times]*

**Top 5 government schemes for startups in India to support entrepreneurs:** India is going through the era of startups, where the country is creating a robust ecosystem for businesses and entrepreneurs. India is now called the 'Startup Hub' as it has more than 99,000 startups, and 107 unicorn companies worth \$30 billion. *[Business Standard]*



## Employment and Industrial Relations

**Skilling is empowering, promotes justice - PM Modi:** Demand for India's skilled manpower was growing globally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has claimed. Addressing a virtual meeting on Thursday evening, after launching 511 Pramod Mahajan Rural Skill Developments Centres located in the rural areas of Maharashtra's 34 districts. *[The Economic Times]*

**Govt may amend pension scheme:** The Union government is likely to amend the national pension scheme (NPS) by the year-end to ensure employees get at least 40-45% of their last-drawn salary as retirement payout based on recommendations of a high-level panel currently looking into the matter. *[Mint]*

**LinkedIn lays off 668 employees as hiring activity slows:** Microsoft's LinkedIn said on Monday it would lay off 668 employees across its engineering, talent and finance teams in the second round of job cuts this year for the social media network for professionals as demand for hiring services slows. *[Business Line]*

**Centre to save Rs 18,000 cr by removing fake accounts from welfare schemes:** Collaborating with states, the Centre has launched a verification drive targeting beneficiaries of fertiliser subsidies, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). *[Business Standard]*



## Industrial Finance

**Int'l transactions above ₹50,000 to come under further scrutiny:** The Centre on Tuesday notified an amendment to the Prevention of Money-laundering (Maintenance of Records) Rules, 2005, further tightening the record keeping in case of international transactions above ₹50,000 to prevent terror financing. *[The Economic Times]*

**REC along with Bank of India to co-finance projects worth Rs 30,000 crore in next 5 years:** REC Ltd on Wednesday signed an agreement with Bank of India to co-finance Rs 30,000 crore worth of projects in the power, infrastructure and logistics sectors over the next five years under a consortium arrangement. *[The Economic Times]*

**Mopup of savings scheme for elderly crosses Rs 1 lakh cr:** Collections under the small savings scheme for senior citizens have surged after the government doubled the limit in the budget, crossing Rs 1 lakh crore in the first half of the fiscal year. *[The Economic Times]*

## **ADB approves USD 181 million loan to enhance urban infrastructure in Ahmedabad's Peri-urban areas:**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has given its nod to a USD 181 million loan aimed at bolstering the quality of urban infrastructure and services, thereby enhancing urban liveability and mobility in the peri-urban regions of Ahmedabad city in Gujarat. *[The Economic Times]*



## **Technology and Innovation**

**India and Sri Lanka working together to link UPI and Lanka Pay - PM Modi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced that the governments of both India and Sri Lanka are working together on fintech sector connectivity by linking Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Lanka Pay. *[The Economic Times]*

**IBM enters into three MoUs with MeitY over developments of semiconductors, AI and quantum technology:** Today, International Business Machines (IBM) entered into three Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) with three entities related to the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). *[Financial Express]*

**Gujarat government signs MoU with IN-SPACE to set up space manufacturing cluster:** The Gujarat government on Wednesday signed an agreement with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) to set up a space manufacturing cluster at Sanand in Ahmedabad district. *[The Economic Times]*

**Canon launches a new technology for chip manufacturing:** Canon, a Japanese company known for its printers and cameras, launched its innovative solution on October 13, 2023, Friday. The new solution is expected to aid in the production of cutting-edge semiconductor components, stated Cointelegraph. *[Financial Express]*



## **Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs**

**PM Modi announces Rs 20 trn blueprint for improving maritime infra by 2047:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced a target to develop India's maritime sector by improving ports and reducing shipping emissions: A proposal that will need investments worth Rs 80 trillion by 2047. *[Business Standard]*

**Report card on 2nd anniversary - PM Gati Shakti gives 'Gati' to ₹11.58 lakh cr infrastructure projects:** The government has evaluated more than 300 central and state projects worth ₹11.58 lakh crore in two years since the launch of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, helping their progress by ensuring speedy clearances and removing bottlenecks. *[The Economic Times]*

**Rs 51,000-crore Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) completed:** The entire 1337 kilometre (km) length of the Rs 51,000-crore Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) was declared operational on Friday. *[The Economic Times]*

**India's infra spend to double in next 7-yrs to ₹142.9-lakh crore:** India's infrastructure spend will double in the next seven years (FY24 to FY30) to ₹ 142.9 lakh crore from ₹ 66.7 lakh crore in the last seven years, according to CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics (MI&A). *[Business Line]*

**Aluminium industry seeks govt intervention for declaration of rates for SEZs, EOUs under RoDTEP:** Aluminium producers' association AAI has sought government's intervention for notification of rates for aluminium special economic zones and export oriented units (EOUs) under the RoDTEP scheme. *[The Economic Times]*



## Sustainable Industrialisation

**Revised bidding guidelines for renewable energy - Fueling India's Energy Transition:** India has set an ambitious target of achieving net zero emissions by 2070. To meet this objective, India has pledged to, inter alia, achieve 500 GW of installed electricity (about 50 per cent of cumulative installed power) from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 as part of its NDCs under COP26. *[The Economic Times]*

**Tata Power Renewable Energy to set up 12.5 MW captive solar plant in Maharashtra:** Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) on Monday said it has signed an agreement with Endurance Technologies Ltd for setting up a 12.5 MW captive solar plant in Maharashtra. *[The Economic Times]*



## Sectoral News

**Centre to increase imported coal blending to meet power demand:** The Centre is likely to direct power generators to increase imported coal for blending to at least 6% of their requirement from the current 4% in the wake of fast-depleting stocks at power plants. *[The Economic Times]*

**I-T dept may raise tax demand retrospectively from telcos - Analysts:** The income tax department may raise demand on a retrospective basis from telecom operators following a Supreme Court order, which classified licence fees paid by service providers as capital expenditure rather than a revenue expenditure, according to industry analysts. *[The Economic Times]*

**Empowered committee in PLI scheme approves Rs 1,000 cr disbursement to beneficiaries of electronics sector:** The government disbursed Rs 2,900 crore till March 2023, out of claims worth Rs 3,400 crore received under the scheme, which aims at boosting domestic manufacturing, creating jobs and supporting exports. *[The Economic Times]*

**ISID** Institute for Studies in Industrial Development  
An institution of Indian Council of Social Science Research (Ministry of Education)  
4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110070, India

Follow us at



**Disclaimer: Industry Matters** is a weekly news update on Indian economy, industry, and policy compiled at ISID from various newspapers and e-resources. ISID does not guarantee the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of the news items linked in the above message. It is shared for informational and educational purposes to facilitate and support research and information on Indian industry. It is not a commercial product and all copyrights remain with those of the respective copyright holders. Images are sourced from the web.

**Team Members:** Satyaki Roy, Swati Verma, Sangeeta Ghosh, B Dhanunjai Kumar, Amitava Dey & Rakesh Gupta.  
Compiled by: Rakesh Gupta, Edited by Sangeeta Ghosh.

To unsubscribe please [click here](#)