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## WPI inflation rises 11.39% in August

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 14

**THE WHOLESALE PRICE**-based inflation rose marginally to 11.39% in August, mainly due to costlier manufactured goods, even as food prices softened.

Snapping the two-month easing trend, WPI inflation rose in August and remained in double-digit for the fifth consecutive month. "The high rate of inflation in August 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of non-food articles, mineral oils, crude petroleum and natural gas; manufactured products like basic metals; food products; textiles; chemicals and chemical products etc as compared the corresponding month of the previous year," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said.

Inflation in food articles eased for the fourth straight month, recording (-) 1.29% in August, even as onion and pulses prices spiked.

## ● AUGUST RUSH Domestic natural gas output rises 19% on RIL-BP boost

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 14

**THE PRODUCTION OF** domestic natural gas increased 19.2% to 2,898 million standard cubic metre (mscm) in August on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, mainly due to higher production from Reliance Industries and BP's ultra-deep-water field in the KG-D6 Block of the Krishna Godavari basin on the east coast.

The output had fallen 8.1% y-o-y to 28,670.6 mscm in FY21. The production also commenced on August 31 from state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) U1B deep-water gas located in KG-DWN 98/2 block, which has an estimated peak production of 1.2 million standard cubic metres per day (mscmd).

Demand for natural gas in the domestic market is tradi-



tionally dependent on the fertiliser, power, city gas distribution (CGD) entities, refineries and petrochemicals industries. Indigenous natural gas production caters to about 51% of the country's requirements. Analysts at CRISIL said on Tuesday that given the record-high rates of petrol and diesel, the sales volume of city gas — comprising compressed natural gas (CNG) used by vehicles, and piped natural gas (PNG) used by homes and industries — is set to soar 25-27% in FY22.

The current price for gas produced from local nominated

fields has been revised to an all-time low of \$1.79/ million British thermal units (mBtu) by the government, which is much below the breakeven point for most fields, deterring gas producers from aggressively increasing production or getting into new high-risk projects. On the back of rising global crude oil and natural gas rates, analysts expect the price of domestic gas to increase to \$3.15/ mBtu for the October-March period. For ultra-deep-water gas fields like the Krishna Godavari basin, which have higher pricing and marketing freedom, the current price cap is set at \$3.62/mBtu.

The 2.5 million tonne (MT) of crude oil produced in the country during the month was 2.1% lower than the production in the year-ago period. Around 85% of the country's crude oil requirement has to be imported.

## US-India revamping strategic ties to focus on clean energy

UNION MINISTER JITENDRA Singh on Tuesday said India and the US are revamping their strategic partnership to focus on clean energy sectors.

During a meeting with a US delegation led by Deputy Secretary of Energy David M Turk, he also said that India's commitment to promote its atomic and nuclear programme is not only for providing a major source of clean energy but also a major tool of application in areas like healthcare and agriculture.

"In the next 10 years, India will produce more than three times nuclear power and it is expected to reach 22,480 MW by the year 2031, from the current 6,780 MW, as more nuclear power plants are planned in the future," Singh, who is minister for science and technology, and atomic energy, said. —PTI

## TRACKING COVID

## US and India in talks over timeline for restarting vaccine exports

REUTERS  
Washington, September 14

**THE UNITED STATES** is communicating regularly with India in bilateral and multilateral channels to discuss the supply of Covid-19 vaccines and inquire about its timeline for restarting vaccine exports, a senior Biden administration official said.

The global pandemic will be a key topic on September 24, when US President Joe Biden will host the first in-person summit of leaders of the "Quad" countries — Australia, India, Japan and the US.

The visit by Prime Ministers Scott Morrison, Narendra Modi and Yoshihide Suga to the United States will coincide with the United Nations General Assembly in New York, which Biden will address on September 21.

The Quad leaders met virtually in March and agreed to work closely on Covid-19 vaccines, but the initiative stalled after India, the world's largest vaccine producer, was hit by a catastrophic wave of infections, and halted vaccine exports.

The administration official said Washington was staying in close touch with India and other Quad partners about the vaccine partnership, and "any factors that may affect this project or global vaccine supply," but those discussions were not tied to a specific summit or engagement.

## Study finds big drop in antibodies within four months of vaccination

**A STUDY OF** 614 fully vaccinated health workers in India found a "significant" drop in their Covid-fighting antibodies within four months of the first shot.

The findings could help the Indian government decide whether to provide booster doses as some Western countries have done.

Waning antibodies do not necessarily mean that immunised people lose their ability to counter the disease, as the body's memory cells may still kick in to offer substantial protection, said the director of a state-run institute that did the study.

"After six months, we should be able to tell you more clearly whether and when a booster would be needed," Sanghamitra Pati of the Regional Medical Research Centre, based in Bhubaneswar, said on Tuesday. "And we would urge similar studies in different areas for pan-India data."

British researchers said last month that protection offered by two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech and the AstraZeneca vaccines begins to fade within six months. —REUTERS

## Govt seeks US investment in 'gold mine' road projects

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 14

**TERMING ROAD AND** highway projects in India "gold mine" Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday asked investors from the US to invest in the sector. Stating the India's road network is doing excellently, the road transport and highways minister said the country is developing industrial clusters, roadside amenities and therefore the income from the sector would also increase.

"I sincerely hope more and more investors from the US will come and invest in the road and highways projects in India which is the gold mine for all the stakeholders," Gadkari said while addressing Indo US Economic Summit. "I will request you particularly for insurance, pension funds. They have really

a tremendous opportunity for investment in road infrastructure in India," he said.

The toll income, which is ₹40,000 crore per year, is expected to shoot up to ₹1.4 lakh crore annually in the next three years, the minister said.

"For insurance, pension funds there are lot of offers... My suggestion to all respectable dignitaries is if you plan for making investment in India road infrastructure, I will give you 100% guarantee by making escrow account where you will get return... as per your choice. It is a win-win situation for both stakeholders," he said.

The bilateral trade between India and the US is projected to reach over \$500 billion by 2025, Gadkari said, adding that both the nations have an important role to play in the post-Covid economic recovery.

## Significant R&D investment, particularly from Europe, required as part of climate action: Yadav

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi, September 14

**SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT** investment, particularly from developed economies of Europe is required to decarbonise energy as a part of climate action in developing countries, Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a session on 'Future of Sustainable Tech-

nologies in India-Europe Partnerships' organised by FICCI LEADS 2021 event on the theme 'Future of Partnerships', Yadav said that in any climate action, clean energy derived especially from renewable energy plays a vital role.

"We need to bring together the power of innovation across the world, with significant R&D investment, in particular, from developed economies of Europe. This would enable us

to solve the challenge of decarbonising energy, as well as cement and steel, in a manner that is low on cost and allows for rapid deployment in developing economies," he said.

The minister said India has much to offer and share in terms of its experience with other countries embarking on a similar journey to address energy access issues, while also addressing the growing energy demand with renewable energy.



The official noted that Washington had diverted its own supply of raw materials for vaccine production to India in April, given its urgent needs, and global vaccine supply remained a key bottleneck to ending the pandemic.

"We commend India for being one of the largest manufacturers for safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines globally, and we note that Covax and the world rely heavily on India's contributions," the official said.

"It's important for the United States to engage our allies and partners on these matters so we can take the necessary actions to end this pandemic together."

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Last date of submission of online applications: 29th September 2021

## Late appeal by NSEL: SC says no power to condone delay

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, September 14

**DISMISSING THE NATIONAL** Spot Exchange's (NSEL) plea to condone the delay in filing its appeal against rejection of its claim for ₹673.85 crore from the debt-laden Dunar Foods, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said courts have no power to do so, as it would amount to legislation.

A Bench led by Justice MR Shah said Parliament has not carved out any exception to a situation where limitation to file an appeal beyond a statutory period could be condoned.

It said there may be situations where a party may have genuine reasons like illness/accident and is not in a position to file an appeal within the statutory period of limitation or the extended maximum period which could be condoned.

"... it may cause hardship, however, unless Parliament has carved out any exception by a provision of law, the period of limitation has to be given effect to. Such powers are only with the Parliament and the legislature. The courts have no jurisdiction and/or authority to carve out any exception. If the courts carve out an exception, it would amount to legislate which would in turn might be inserting the provision to the statute, which is not permissible," the apex court said.

Rejecting the NSEL's plea for condonation of delay on the ground that the amount involved is huge, the SC said, "... what cannot be done directly considering the statutory provisions cannot be permitted to be done indirectly, while exercising the powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India."

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND E-VOTING & REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry ("Chamber") is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 05:45 p.m. (IST) through video conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual means ("OAVM") in compliance with the provisions of Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") and rules made thereunder read with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") circulars dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 and January 13, 2021 (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM ("the notice").

In compliance with Section 108 of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Chamber has appointed Central Depository Services Limited (CDSL) to provide facility to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM along with the e-voting/ remote e-voting ("e-voting") facility for the AGM.

The electronic dispatch of the notice has been made through the e-mail to all the members of the Chamber at the e-mail addresses registered with the Chamber. The dispatch of notice has been completed on Monday, September 13, 2021. The Notice of AGM is available on the Chamber's website [www.phdcci.in](http://www.phdcci.in) and on the website of CDSL at [www.evoting.cdsl.in](http://www.evoting.cdsl.in)

The remote e-voting will commence on Monday, September 27, 2021 (9:00 a.m. IST) and ends on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 (5:00 p.m. IST). The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote through electronic means or at the AGM is Thursday, September 23, 2021. The members whose names are appearing in the Register of members as on the cut-off date shall only be entitled to avail the remote e-voting facility/ voting at the AGM. The Chamber, being a company limited by guarantee, do not have the share capital, therefore every member of the company shall have one vote. The remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time. The instructions for e-voting are provided in the Notice, which is available on the website of the Chamber.

Any person, who becomes the member of the Chamber after the dispatch of the Notice and their names are appearing in the Register of members as on the cut-off date i.e. September 23, 2021 may obtain the login id and password by sending a request at [evoting@cdsl.in](mailto:evoting@cdsl.in). The facility for voting through electronic means shall also be made available at the AGM. The members, who will be attending the AGM through VC / OAVM and have not already cast their vote through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote during the AGM.

Members who have voted through remote E-voting will be eligible to attend the AGM. However they will not be eligible to vote at the AGM. Members can opt for only one mode of vote i.e. remote E-voting or E-voting at the AGM. In the case of voting by both the modes, vote cast through remote E-voting will be considered as final and E-voting at AGM will not be considered.

The Chamber has appointed Dr. S. Chandrasekaran (CP: 715), Senior Partner and failing him, Mr. Rupesh Kumar Agarwal (CP: 5673), Managing Partner, M/s Chandrasekaran Associates, as the scrutinizer for conducting the e-voting and remote e-voting process in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Rules made thereunder, in a fair and transparent manner.

In case of any query or grievances relating to remote e-voting may contact Ms. Shivani Gupta, Deputy Secretary at [shivani.gupta@phdcci.in](mailto:shivani.gupta@phdcci.in) / 9810959998 or Ms. Khushboo Gautam, Executive Officer at [khushboo.gautam@phdcci.in](mailto:khushboo.gautam@phdcci.in) / 9910319410 at PHD House 4/2 Siri Institutional Area August Kranti Marg New Delhi 110016. Further members may also refer to the frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) for members relating to e-voting and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of [www.evotingindia.com](http://www.evotingindia.com).


For and on behalf of  
PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Sd/-  
**Saurabh Sanyal**  
Secretary General

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021  
Place: Delhi

**ADVERTORIAL**

## Remote control

*The Intel vPro® platform meets the needs of today's IT professionals with a suite of transformative technologies that are built for business*



**I**N THE pre-pandemic days, working in an office was the norm, a PC-related issue could easily be resolved by the in-house IT desk. Today, many employees and IT teams no longer work under the same roof, which makes fixing technical glitches and proactively managing the PC fleet much more difficult. Now tasked with supporting a dispersed workforce, IT teams everywhere need the tools to protect corporate assets, ensure seamless operations, improve company productivity, reduce downtime and control costs. This is where the Intel vPro® platform comes in to meet the needs of today's IT professionals with a suite of transformative technologies that are built for business. Each technology has been rigorously tested and designed to minimise computing disruptions across the PC fleet.

The Intel vPro platform gives IT the modern manageability tool it needs to manage, detect, protect and remediate device management — from provisioning to retirement — whether that device is on the other side of the world or the other side of the office. So how does this work for you and me?

**Glitch-free performance:** Working from home will always have its challenges. So many of us have been on a video conference call or presentation that was interrupted by connectivity glitches or background distractions. This is stressful for employees. Which is why PCs built on the Intel vPro platform deliver out-of-the-box business-class performance. They power business-critical workloads.



maximize employee productivity, analyze data quickly, simplify connectivity and extend battery life to help get the best work out of your organization.

- Improved bandwidth to support more devices on a single access point.
- Support new 160-MHz channels that deliver nearly 3x faster gigabit speeds over wireless.

**Manageability:** The Intel vPro platform gives IT teams the power of complete remote manageability of their entire PC fleet. They can discover, repair and protect the PC fleet wherever it is located.

- Intel establishes a secure connection between IT and an Intel vPro platform-based PC even when these devices are inside the firewall, are outside the firewall via the cloud, are connected via Wi-Fi, are connected via wired ethernet, have a healthy operating system and have an inoperable OS.
- A combination of hardware and software-based capabilities. Software alone gives IT the ability to access a device and the operating system, but only when that device is powered on. If that PC can't boot, this tool is ineffective.

Better manageability means better cost savings.

**Security:** We are proactively looking for vulnerabilities so we can address them before they become an issue. Software alone cannot keep up with the new variants of ransomware, cryptomining and memory attacks that target digital security, safety and privacy. Hardware is the foundation of any security solution, which is why Intel continues to deliver new innovations in hardware-based security technologies.

- By using the Intel vPro platform, IT can automate after-hours patching on company PCs. Once the patching is complete, IT can put the computers to sleep to help keep energy costs down. When morning comes, IT can wake up the PCs and get everything running before employees start work.
- In the event of a cyber attack, IT teams can remotely manage and repair systems simultaneously.
- Intel Remote Secure Erase allows IT to remotely wipe data off Intel and third-party SSDs in Intel vPro platform-based PCs before disposal or re-use.
- Intel Hardware Shield includes the Intel® Threat Detection Technology (TDT), which is a silicon-level AI-based threat detection that of-floads memory scanning, cryptomining and ransomware.

**Stability:** The demanding design requirements and rigorous testing ensure that all brands of PCs built on the Intel vPro platform deliver a reliable stable foundation for smoother fleet management and allow you to scale with confidence. Intel insists that the highest possible standards are maintained throughout the PC value chain, from Intel to OEM to I.T. to eventually the end user.

- It keeps hardware components consistent for 15 months from product launch, including the silicon on the motherboard, the design and each physical component.

