

Weekly Compendium of Economic and Business Developments

(Period ending 14th October, 2021)

PHD Research Bureau disseminates information to the members of PHD Chamber & other Industry stakeholders on various economic and business development issues at International, National and Sub-national arena such as Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched Gati Shakti National Master Plan, Ministry of Power mandates energy accounting of DISCOMs with a view to reduce electricity losses, World Bank projection on India's GDP growth, India's position in Global Innovation Index, Key notification by RBI and Approval of Ministry of Textiles approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme and decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, among others. The details of disseminated information during the week ending 14th October 2021 are appended.

World Economy

- Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbanand Sonowal launches 'MyPortApp' for digital monitoring of port operations:** Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbanand Sonowal launched a port mobile application called MyPortApp in Kolkata on 7th August 2021. The App includes all port details digitally and monitor operations virtually. Targeted towards Port Users for availing various Port services, the App is aimed to promote transparency and easy access of port related information. The app also has various information like Vessel Berthing, Rake & Indent, Rake Receipt, Container Status, Tariff, Bills, Port Holidays, etc. and can be accessed anywhere 24x7 and reach out directly to port.
- Framework for Implementation of Market Based Economic Dispatch (MBED)** – Phase1 for lowering the cost of power purchase to Consumers released:-Around 5% reduction in the cost of power to the consumers from MBED expected Ministry of Power has been examining suitable mechanisms to enhance competition in the power sector with the objective of lowering the cost of electricity to consumers. With success in generation capacity additions over the past few years and a well-integrated national electricity grid, the time is right to move towards optimizing the operation of generating plants in the country to deliver benefits of reduced operating costs to the distribution utilities and end consumers. A robust day-ahead market will also form the basis for transitioning away from the country's over-dependence on longer-term PPAs to sustainable market-based operations.
- World Bank projects India's GDP growth at 8.3% in FY 2021-22 and 7.5% in FY 2022-23** According to the World Bank Report- South Asia Economic Focus, Fall 2021, South Asia's recovery continues as global demand rebounded and targeted containment measures helped minimize the economic impacts of the recent waves of COVID-19. But the recovery remains fragile and uneven, and significant risks exist that could jeopardize short-term recovery and long-term growth. Regional growth is set to increase by 7.1% in 2021 and 2022, as the economic recovery in South Asia continues.
- India has improved its position to 46th rank in Global Innovation Index 2021:** The 14th edition of the Global Innovation Index (GII) has been released to present the worldwide innovation landscape and annual performance rankings of some 132 economies. This year's edition is being released in the middle of a continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which has taken a grim toll on lives and livelihoods, but also given us many examples of human ingenuity, resilience and adaptability. Indeed, the GII 2021 finds that the innovative sectors of the global economy have remained strong, despite severe disruptions. Top three positions in the Global

Innovation Index 2021 are held by Switzerland, Sweden and United States of America. India leads in 46th position, having consistently risen up the ranks since 2015, when it was ranked 81st.

- **Gross GST revenue collections in the month of September 2021 stands at ₹ 1,17,010 crore:-** The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2021 is ₹ 1,17,010 crore of which CGST is ₹ 20,578 crore, SGST is ₹ 26,767 crore, IGST is ₹ 60,911 crore (including ₹ 29,555 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹ 8,754 crore (including ₹ 623 crore collected on import of goods). The Government has settled ₹ 28,812 crore to CGST and ₹ 24,140 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular settlements in the month of September 2021 is ₹ 49,390 crore for CGST and ₹ 50,907 crore for the SGST.

Indian Economy

- **Ministry of Power mandates energy accounting of DISCOMs with a view to reduce electricity losses-** As an important step under the ongoing power sector reforms, Ministry of Power on 11th October 2021 mandated electricity distribution companies to undertake energy accounting on periodic basis. The regulation in this regard was issued by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) with the approval of Hon'ble Ministry of Power, under the provisions of Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001. The notification stipulates quarterly energy accounting by DISCOMs, through a certified Energy Manager, within 60 days.
- **Revenue Deficit Grant of Rs. 9,871 crore released to 17 States-** The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance has released 7th monthly installment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871.00 crore to the States. With the release of this installment, a total amount of Rs. 69,097.00 crore has been released to eligible States as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant (PDRD) in the current financial year.
- **WPI inflation stands at 10.7% in September 2021-** The annual rate of inflation is 10.7% (Provisional) for the month of September, 2021 as compared to 1.3% in September, 2020. The WPI inflation stood at 11.4% in August 2021. The high rate of inflation in September 2021 is primarily due to rise in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, non-food articles, food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, chemicals and chemical products etc. as compared the corresponding month of the previous year, September 2020.
- **Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched Gati Shakti National Master Plan-** Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said that this Master plan will give impetus (Gati Shakti) to 21st century India. It will give new energy to the present and future generations of India to build the India of the 21st century and will remove the obstacles in their path.
- **Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet-** Cabinet approves the continuation of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM U) till 2025-26 for sustainable outcomes, Cabinet approves the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation – AMRUT 2.0 till 2025-26, Union Cabinet approves affiliation of 100 Schools in Government and private sector with Sainik School Society, Cabinet approves Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) Fertilisers for the year 2021-22 (from 1st October, 2021 to 31st March, 2022)
- **August 2021 IIP growth stands at 11.9%-** Growth in industry output, as measured in terms of IIP, for the month of August 2021 stands at 11.9% as compared to July 2021 growth of around 11.5%. IIP growth in August 2020 stood at (-)7.1%. The growth in the three sectors mining, manufacturing and electricity in August 2021 stands at around 23.6%, 9.7%, 16%, respectively over August 2020. Primary goods growth stands at around 17.0%, capital goods growth stands at 19.9%, intermediate goods growth stands at 10.3%, infrastructure/construction goods growth stands at 11.1%, consumer durables stands at 8% and consumer non-durables growth stands at 5.2% during August 2021 as compared to the previous year.
- **CPI inflation falls to 4.35% in September 2021-** According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the CPI inflation falls to 4.35% in September 2021 as compared to 5.3% in August 2021.

- **NITI Aayog Launches Report on Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals:-**NITI Aayog has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals. This is the first-ever pan-India assessment at the district level that draws upon physical validation of the data from the Health Management Information System (HMIS) to benchmark the district hospitals on a diverse mix of input and output indicators. The assessment looked at a wide array of health indicators ranging from beds, doctors, nurses, paramedics, diagnostic and health care facilities to the rate of Caesarean section surgeries and bed occupancy, amongst others.
- **Key Notification by RBI:-Master Circular** - Prudential norms on Income Recognition, Asset Classification and Provisioning pertaining to Advances This is in reference to the Master Circular No. DBR.No.BP.BC.2/21.04.048/2015-16 dated July 1, 2015 consolidating instructions / guidelines issued to banks till June 30, 2015 on matters relating to prudential norms on income recognition, asset classification and provisioning pertaining to advances.This Master Circular consolidates instructions on the above matters issued as on date. A list of circulars consolidated in this Master Circular is contained in the Annex 6.
- **Ministry of Textiles approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme with a total outlay of Rs 160 crore:-**Ministry of Textiles has approved continuation of Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) with a total outlay of Rs 160 crore. The scheme will continue up to March 2026. Infrastructural support, market access, design and technology up-gradation support etc will be provided to handicrafts artisans under this scheme .CHCDS aims to create world-class infrastructure that caters to the business needs of the local artisans & SMEs to boost production and export. In brief, the main objective of setting up these clusters is to assist the artisans & entrepreneurs to set up world-class units with modern infrastructure, latest technology, and adequate training and human resource development inputs, coupled with market linkages and production diversification.
- **Notification issued on incentives and disincentives pertaining to Vehicle Scrapping Policy:-**In the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, it is proposed to have a system of incentives and disincentives to nudge vehicle owners to discard old and polluting vehicles, which have higher maintenance and fuel consumption costs. In this regard, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a GSR Notification, 714(E) dated 04.10.2021 in the Gazette of India, which shall come into force from the 1st day of April, 2022.As an incentive, there will be waiver of the fee for issue of certificate of registration for a new vehicle, purchased against the authority of the Certificate of Deposit (CoD) issued by a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility for a vehicle being scrapped.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) extended up to 31.03.2022:**The Government announced creation of 'Distressed Assets Fund- - Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs' on 13th May, 2020, under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package. Accordingly, a scheme viz. 'Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt' was approved by the Government on 1st June, 2020 and the scheme was launched on 24th June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs viz. SMA-2 and NPA accounts who are eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the Lending institutions. This scheme was to remain in operation till 31.03.2021.

Our Voice

PHDCCI Economy GPS Index September 2021:-High costs of inputs will have impact on demand and production possibilities: PHD Chamber- Although, the economic activity remained intact in September 2021, high cost of inputs vis-à-vis skyrocketing international commodity prices, shortages of containers and unavailability of some raw materials, such as semi-conductors, will have impact on the demand and production possibilities in the coming months, The prices of the basic raw materials have been increased by more than 50% during the last 1 year and they are posing a challenge to the small businesses to operate as these impact their costs of production and affect their competitiveness in the domestic and international markets. The PHDCCI Economy GPS Index for September 2021 has decreased to 116.2 as compared to 116.7 for August 2021 (Base year 2018-19 = 100). The sequential growth of SENSEX (average of daily close) has increased by 6.4% from 55238 in August 2021 to 58781 in

September 2021. The sequential growth of GST collections increased by 4.5% from Rs. 1,12,020 crore in August 2021 to Rs. 1,17,010 crore in September 2021. However, the sequential growth of passenger vehicles declined by (-)20.1% in September 2021 from 232224 units in August 2021 to 185636 units in September 2021.

Accommodative Policy Stance By RBI Will Boost Enhance Consumption, Strengthen Economic Recovery : PHD Chamber - The status quo for the key policy rates by RBI would strengthen the economic recovery with enhanced consumption and production possibilities. The accommodative policy stance at this juncture would further boost the sentiments of businesses and pave the way for a double digit GDP growth in the current year 2021-22. Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 4% and maintain accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and keep inflation within the target. Reverse repo rate also remains unchanged at 3.35% in Monetary Policy Statement of October 8th , 2021. It is inspiring to note that RBI has retained the projection for GDP growth at 9.5% for FY 2021-22.

It is highly laudable that RBI has undertaken more than 100 new and conventional measures since the onset of pandemic to mitigate its impact and enhance liquidity in the economy. Going ahead, continuation of accommodative policy stance would rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy along with balancing the liquidity scenario in the country.

Economy Poised To Attain A Double Digit Growth Trajectory In 2021-22: PHD Chamber- The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry projects a double digit GDP growth trajectory at 10.25% in FY 2021-22, supported by the effective policies of the Government, RBI's accommodative policy stance and significantly improved business sentiments in the country. The declining new Coronavirus cases, accelerated vaccination drive, improved consumer and business confidence, anticipated high demand amid upcoming festive season, among others, will further enhance the pace of economic recovery in the coming months. Meaningful and proactive reforms undertaken by the Government in last many quarters have led to a strong rebound in India's GDP growth rate to 20.1% in Q1 FY 2021-22 from the lows of (-)24.4% in Q1 FY 2020-21. This reflects a stronger-than-expected pickup in recovery, improving demand momentum and improving investments sentiment. At this juncture, there is a need to address the high commodity prices and shortages of raw material to support the consumption and private investments in the country.

The drivers of household consumption needs to be further strengthened to enhance the aggregate demand as it will have an accelerated effect on expansion of capital investments. The Government should frontload the National Infrastructure Pipeline expenditure as increased spending on infrastructure will give a multiplier effect to rejuvenate the aggregate demand in the economy. More and more direct benefit transfers needs to be considered for the urban and rural poor under the various welfare schemes in addition to the free distribution of dry rations till Diwali as already announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

IIP growth at 11.9% inspiring: PHD Chamber- Rejuvenating industrial activity and recovery in the various economic and business indicators have supported the double digit growth in IIP in the recent months. The IIP growth at 11.9% in August 2021 is remarkable as compared to (-)7.1% in August 2020 and (-)1.4% in August 2019. The growth of IIP at 11.9% in August 2021 is supported by the growth of mining at 23.6%, capital goods at 20%, primary goods at 17%, electricity at 16%, infrastructure/construction goods at 11%, intermediate goods at 10.3%, manufacturing at 9.7%, consumer durables at 8%, and consumer non-durables at 5.2%. At this juncture, there is a need to address the high commodity prices and shortages of raw material to support the consumption and private investments in the country. Going ahead, the drivers of household consumption need to be further strengthened to support the demand for consumer goods and to enhance the aggregate demand in the country, as it will have an accelerated effect on expansion of capital investments in the country

Economy so far

- **Cement demand to remain strong in FY22 on rural, infra requirement: Icra** - Rating agency Icra expects the all-India cement production in FY22 at 332 million tonne, up 12 per cent from last year supported by pent-up demand, rural housing requirement and pickup in infrastructure activity. In FY2023, the production is expected to grow 8 percent to around 358 million tonne.

- **Rising Sept inflation for clothes, footwear signals return of demand** - Increasing pace of mobility along with rising input prices have pushed retail inflation for cloth and footwear further in September. This is despite headline inflation down to a 5-month low in the said month. Data show, rate of retail inflation for clothing went up to 7.03 per cent in September from 6.71 per cent in August.
- **Indian economy is recovering from COVID-19 crisis; says World Bank President** - The Indian economy that was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic is now in recovery mode and the World Bank welcomes that, its president David Malpass said recently. Malpass also said that India, which faces huge challenges of integrating more people into the formal sector economy and raising the earnings of the people, has made some progress but that's not enough.
- **UN, World Bank, IMF in need of urgent reforms: Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** - Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman said that institutions such as United Nations, World Bank and International Monetary Fund need to be urgently reformed as they no longer speak for countries whose issues have remained unattended to for decades. All these organizations will have to look at reforming themselves.
- **Edible oil import jumps 63% in September to record 16.98 lakh tonnes on record palm oil shipment: SEA** - India's imports of edible oils rose 63 per cent to 16.98 lakh tonnes during September, a monthly record, due to all-time high shipments of palm oil, according to industry body SEA. The total import of vegetable oils, comprising both edible and non-edible oils, increased 66 per cent during September to 17,62,338 tonnes compared to 10,61,944 tonnes in September 2020, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said in a statement.
- **Indo-Japan trade increases to US\$ 18 billion in 2019: Exim Bank study** - India Exim Bank's study titled "Prospects for Enhancing India Japan Trade Relations" has noted that over the past decade, India's total trade with Japan has increased from US\$ 10 billion to almost US\$ 18 billion, with exports valued at US\$ 5 billion and imports US\$ 13 billion in 2019. However, despite having a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Japan, India has been running a persistent trade deficit with Japan, which has more than doubled during the decade, to almost US\$ 8 billion in 2019.
- **Exim Bank targets US\$ 7 billion financing of project exports over 5 years** - Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) targets to achieve financing of USD 7 billion of project exports over the next five years with the government announcing fund infusion of Rs 1,650 crore in the National Export Insurance Account (NEIA) to boost project exports. The NEIA Trust, set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in March 2006, provides export credit insurance cover for promoting medium and long-term project exports from India.
- **USISPF lauds India's role in global minimum corporate tax** - The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum yesterday commended the Indian government's role in the recently agreed upon new global minimum corporate tax by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) last week. Nearly 140 countries, including India, on Friday signed up to a historic deal to ensure big companies pay a corporate tax rate of at least 15 per cent, as well as a fairer system of taxing profits where they are earned.
- **CBDT exempts certain non-residents, foreign investors from filing ITR FY21 onwards** - The income tax department has exempted certain non-residents and foreign investors from filing Income Tax Return (ITR) from 2020-21 onwards, a move aimed at easing compliance burden. Through a notification, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said non-residents (corporates/ otherwise) who do not earn any income other than income from investment in 'specified fund', being Alternate Investment Fund Category III located in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC) or GIFT city shall not be required to file ITR.
- **India looks at close to double digit growth this year: Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** - Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India is looking at near close to double-digit growth this year and the country will be one of the fastest-growing economies. The minister also emphasised that she expects the economic growth next year to be in the range of 7.5-8.5 per cent, which will be sustained for the

next decade.

- **ADB raises climate finance ambition to \$100 billion by 2030** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday said it is elevating its ambition to deliver climate financing to its developing member countries by \$20 billion to \$100 billion from 2019–2030.
- **Government scraps basic customs duty, cuts agri cess on crude palm, soyabean and sunflower oil** - The government yesterday scrapped basic customs duty as well as slashed agri cess on crude varieties of palm, soyabean and sunflower oil till March 2022, a move which will help cool prices and increase domestic availability in the festive season. The duty cuts will be effective from October 14 and will remain in force till March 31, 2022, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said in a notification.
- **Audit firms start moving out assignments following RBI regulation** - Auditors have begun shifting out of assignments at financial companies to comply with the latest guidelines from the central bank, which had shortened audit terms at high-street banks, other types of lenders and financial-services firms in its guidelines aimed at improving the quality of oversight.
- **Government engaging with States, UTs to implement 'export hub initiative' in all districts: Hon'ble Union Minister Anupriya Singh Patel** - Hon'ble Union Minister Anupriya Singh Patel recently said that the government was engaging with States and Union Territories to implement the export hub (DEH) initiative in all districts of the country to tap the export potential of agriculture and industrial products. Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry said that Jammu and Kashmir is heading towards a new era of prosperity and is witnessing a wave of positive change, with the government taking several reformative measures for socio-economic development, besides empowering the people of the UT.
- **Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for Mahatma Gandhi NREG Scheme launched** – Hon'ble Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Shri Giriraj Singh recently launched Climate Resilience Information System and Planning (CRISP-M) tool for integration of climate information in Geographic Information System (GIS) based watershed planning under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA along with Lord Tariq Ahmad, Hon'ble Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth in the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office through a virtual event.
- **Economy on steady track, coal crisis temporary, says finance secretary TV Somanathan**- The Indian economy is on course for a "fairly steady and sustainable recovery" as the chances of another major Covid outbreak have diminished thanks to the country's inoculation drive, finance secretary TV Somanathan said. He also ruled out any significant impact from the ongoing power crisis on output, as flagged by some experts, saying the coal shortage was a temporary problem.
- **August 2021 IIP growth stands at 11.9%**- Growth in industry output, as measured in terms of IIP, for the month of August 2021 stands at 11.9% as compared to July 2021 growth of around 11.5%. IIP growth in August 2020 stood at (-)7.1%. The growth in the three sectors mining, manufacturing and electricity in August 2021 stands at around 23.6%, 9.7%, 16%, respectively over August 2020. Primary goods growth stands at around 17.0%, capital goods growth stands at 19.9%, intermediate goods growth stands at 10.3%, infrastructure/construction goods growth stands at 11.1%, consumer durables stands at 8% and consumer non-durables growth stands at 5.2% during August 2021 as compared to the previous year.
- **CPI inflation falls to 4.35% in September 2021** - According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), the CPI inflation falls to 4.35% in September 2021 as compared to 5.3% in August 2021.
- **Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Sitharaman discusses investment opportunities, reforms in India with corporate leaders in US**- Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman discussed investment opportunities, reforms in India and other related issues during her meeting with leaders of global corporations, who said they were upbeat about investing in the country.

- Leading India's intervention, Shri Piyush Goyal calls for waiver of IPR and dismantling new trade barriers in the global fight against the pandemic-** The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has called for waiver of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and dismantling new trade barriers in the global fight against the COVID19 pandemic. Response to the pandemic needs to ensure equitable access to vaccines and other COVID-19 related health products by ensuring quick resolution of the supply side constraints. One of the ways to demonstrate this is by accepting the TRIPS waiver proposal. Shri Goyal called for actively resolving new trade barriers like vaccine differentiations or COVID passports, which impose mobility restrictions and impede the movement of personnel needed for delivering critical services.
- Government may share data on import surges with industry to promote local substitution-** The Indian industry may soon get access to periodic data on surges in imports of various products in the country so that it may be able to identify items with growth potential in the domestic market and assess feasibility of substituting the imports with local manufacturing, an official has said.
- 49% FDI cap for Air India to stay: Government-** The Government has underlined Air India's special dispensation in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) policy that dictates a cap of 49 per cent on all foreign investments. In private airlines, non-aviation players can have up to 100 per cent FDI, whereas there is a cap of 49 per cent for foreign airlines specifically.
- PFRDA to have three CRAs to manage NPS-** Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) will now have three Central Record Keeping Agency (CRAs) to manage the National Pension System – KFin Technologies Private Limited, NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited and CAMS.
- GSTN blocks Rs 14,000-crore input tax credits of 66,000 taxpayers-** GST Network said that it has blocked Rs 14,000 crore worth of input tax credit (ITC) of 66,000 businesses registered under GST. Responding to social media posts based on an RTI reply about the Rs 6.14 lakh crore of ITC NSE 1.37 % blocked under Rule 86A of GST laws, GSTN tweeted that the figure includes erroneous data entries made by the taxpayers.
- NSE launches weekly USD-INR futures contracts-** The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has introduced weekly futures contracts in the US Dollar-Indian Rupee (USD-INR) currency pair. The first day witnessed participation from 122 trading members, with volumes of 1.43 lakh contracts worth Rs 1,079.6 crore traded at the end of the day in the weekly futures contracts of USD-INR.
- Rupee takes fresh tumble vs dollar as crude prices rise to 7-yr high-** After weakening to a 15-month low, the rupee continued its slide against the US dollar in early trade as global crude oil prices climbed to fresh seven-year highs, intensifying worries about upside risks to India's inflation and worsening the outlook on the current account. The domestic currency opened at 75.4100 per US dollar versus 75.3550 to a dollar at close.
- India considers \$3.8 billion increase in fertilizer subsidy-** India is likely to provide additional Rs 28,600 crore (\$3.8 billion) to fertilizer companies as compensation for selling products at lower than market prices to farmers, people with the knowledge of the matter said. The fixed subsidy on of Di-ammonium Phosphate is being raised to Rs 1,650 per bag from Rs 1,200 now.
- Vietnam scouts for Indian corn; Bangladesh, Nepal buying good volumes-** India is getting good enquiries for its corn (maize) from Vietnam even as it continues to export good volumes to Bangladesh and Nepal, which are sourcing more of the coarse cereal from New Delhi compared to other sources, according to traders and exporters.
- Government asks power plants to blend 10% imported coal to step up supply-** The government has asked thermal power units to restart the discontinued practice of blending 10% imported coal on concerns over depleting stock, while the coal and power ministries will explore ways to further enhance supplies.

- **Asia coal prices surge to fresh records; China, India output is key-** Seaborne thermal coal prices in Asia climbed to fresh record highs last week, with early signs of rising exports not enough to eclipse concerns over coal shortages in top importers China and India. India's imports of thermal coal were assessed by Kpler at 2.67 million tonnes in the week started October 4, which is up from the lowest week this year of just 1.46 million in the week beginning Sept. 13.
- **Shri Narayan Rane calls for concerted efforts to enhance growth of MSME sector-** Hon'ble Union Minister for MSMEs Shri Narayan Rane has exhorted the officers of MSME Ministry to brace up for enhancing the output of MSME sector. The Hon'ble Minister had said that he would like to see a quantum jump in the performance of this sector, for which all segments of the Ministry will have to work in tandem. He called for increased spending by the Ministry for the betterment of the society at large. He pointed towards the possibility of quantum jump in India's exports through MSME sector, which can lead to achieving higher GDP.
- **Airlines permitted to operate with full capacity-** The Government has allowed all the scheduled domestic airlines to operate with full capacity. This is expected to facilitate airlines to operate more flights, which will have an impact on fares, especially during the busy festive season. As of now, airlines are operating at 85 per cent capacity. Last year in May, when the government permitted airlines to re-start operations, capacity was capped at 33 per cent. The cap was gradually increased to up to 80 per cent by December last year. However, it was reduced to 50 per cent from June 1 this year after the second wave. While the cap was at 50 per cent between June 1 and July 5, it stood at 65 per cent between July 5 and August 12. It was then increased to 72.5 per cent, before being further raised to the current 85 per cent.
- **Ministry of Coal Launches the next Tranche of Auction of Coal Mines for Sale of Coal-** After successful auction of 28 coal mines in the first two tranches, Ministry of Coal has today launched the auction process of 40 new coal mines (21 new mines under CM(SP) Act and 19 new mines under the Tranche 3 of MMDR Act). With coal mines rolling over from previous tranche, there shall be a total of 88 coal mines on offer. Total geological resources of about 55 billion tonnes of coal are on offer from these 88 mines, of which 57 are fully explored mines and 31 are partially explored mines. There are 4 coking coal mines on offer. Mines are spread across 10 coal bearing states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
- **Centre issues guidelines on unallocated power to prevent misuse by states-** The government has issued guidelines to ensure they states do not misuse electricity allocated from coal-based power stations of Central PSUs. If any state is found selling power in power exchange or not scheduling this unallocated power, their unallocated power may be temporarily reduced or withdrawn and reallocated to other states which are in need of such power.
- **Seven new PSUs this week, Defence Ministry approves Rs 65,000-crore orders-** The defence ministry has cleared deemed contracts worth Rs 65,000 cr for the seven Public Sector Units (PSUs) being carved out of the Ordnance Factory Board under a 'grandfathering clause', with the new entities set to be launched this week by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The new entities, which have been formed from 41 erstwhile OFB factories, will also get significant advance payments from the defence ministry, central armed police forces and state governments to help them move to a new corporatised structure.
- **Odisha government hikes remuneration of contractual staff by 50%-** Three days after hiking the Dearness Allowance of its regular staff and pensioners from 17 per cent to 28 per cent, the Odisha government Monday decided to increase the remuneration of contractual government employees by 50 per cent and henceforth refer to them as Initial appointees.
- **Global corporate icon explains why India is best country in Asia to invest currently-** A top American corporate leader and former CEO, said that India is the next big economic force in Asia after China's recent unpredictability and crackdown on tech.

- CCI issues cease and desist order against firms found guilty of bid rigging and cartelization in tender floated by Eastern Railway-** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) issued a final order today against eight firms which were found to have contravened the provisions of Section 3(1) of the Competition Act, 2002 read with Section 3(3)(d) thereof, which proscribe anti-competitive agreements. CCI found these firms to have indulged in cartelization in the supply of Axle Bearings to Eastern Railway by means of directly or indirectly determining prices, allocating tenders, coordinating bid prices and manipulating the bidding process.
- India Post launches e-PLI bond/ digital version of PLI policy bonds on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav occasion-** Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, launched the digital version of the Postal Life Insurance policy bonds, also termed as "ePLI bond", on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. ePLI bond is made available in collaboration with DIGILOCKER, National eGovernance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) Government of India. DigiLocker has been providing a secure cloud-based platform for storage, sharing and verification of documents & certificates for various organisations.
- Union Cabinet extends Swachh Bharat, AMRUT schemes by 5 years-** The cabinet committee on economic affairs (CCEA) has approved nutrient-based subsidy rates for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertiliser for the rabi season, offering a net subsidy of ₹28,655 crore.
- Indian economy on path to swift recovery: Finance Ministry report:-** Strategic reforms and the rapid vaccination drive has placed the country on the path to swift recovery by enabling the economy to 'navigate the ravaging waves' of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Finance Ministry's Monthly Economic Review. Sustained and robust growth in agriculture, sharp rebound in manufacturing and industry, resumption of services activity and buoyant revenues suggest that the economy is progressing well, the September review said.
- Power outages risk to growth, add to retail inflation: Nomura:-** Nomura, on Monday, cautioned if power outages become more widespread, then industrial output could suffer in the near term, while higher energy costs may squeeze firms' margins and add to consumer price inflation. In its weekly report, it said that Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI) rose to 105.1 for the week ending October 10 from 103.4 in the prior week. With power demand likely to rise from a continued economic normalization and upcoming festive sales, supply-side disruption.
- India agrees to USD 200 million Line of Credit to support development projects in Kyrgyzstan:-** India on Monday agreed to a USD 200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan, as External Affairs Minister Mr S Jaishankar held "cordial and constructive" talks with his Kyrgyz counterpart Ruslan Kazakbaev on a wide range of bilateral and global issues, including Afghanistan. Jaishankar arrived here on Sunday as part of his four-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries.
- APEDA signs MoU with ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur for boosting exports of citrus and its valued-added products:-** For boosting exports of citrus and its valued added products, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ICAR-Central Citrus Research Institute (ICAR-CCRI), Nagpur. The MoU envisages promoting export by focussing on creation of product specific clusters along with development of technologies by APEDA and ICAR-CCRI with a focus on efficient and precision farming. The collaboration with two institutes of repute would focus on diversifying the export basket, destinations and boosting high value agricultural products exports through establishing Brand India globally. Market development and traceability in citrus which includes strengthening forward and backward linkages, branding and marketing, establishment of market intelligence cell, the MoU states.
- Government receives over Rs 2,593 crore dividend from NTPC, PGCIL this fiscal year:-** The government has received nearly Rs 2,600 crore as dividend from NTPC 2.62 % and PGCIL this fiscal year, DIPAM Secretary Mr

Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on 11th October. "Government of India has respectively received about Rs 1,560 crore from NTPC and Rs 1,033 crore from PGCIL as dividend in this FY recently," Pandey tweeted. As per the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management's website, the government has received Rs 7,515 crore.

- **Finance Ministry releases Rs 9,871 crore grant to 17 states:-** The Finance Ministry on Monday said it has released Rs 9,871 crore of revenue deficit grant to 17 states. The states which will receive money from the grant as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.
- **India will have to scrap "digital permanent establishment" rules post global tax deal :-** India will have to abolish special economic presence (SEP) or "digital permanent establishment" rules introduced in May if the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) tax deal comes through since unilateral measures, such as SEP and equalization levy, can't exist in the proposed tax regime. Finance ministers of G-20 countries are scheduled to meet on October 13 in Washington to finalize the deal.
- **Commerce ministry provides alternate method for transfer of space by exiting unit in SEZ:-** The Commerce Ministry on Monday provided an alternate method for the transfer of space by an existing unit in a special economic zone (SEZ), a move aimed at promoting ease of doing business. According to an instruction given to all zonal development commissioners of SEZs, the ministry said it has received representations from stakeholders expressing difficulties in following the procedures to exit from a zone as the exiting units are not able to recover the value of their financial asset.
- **India may consider higher GST and fewer rates:** India may look at increasing tax on some goods and services in a step toward moving to a simpler structure with fewer rates, according to people familiar with the matter. A panel on goods and services tax, headed by Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, will likely meet in December to consider the overhaul from the current four-rate system, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are private. India currently taxes good and services produced in the country.
- **Looking forward to investing 'even more' in India: Bain Capital leadership after meeting with Sitharaman:-** American private investment firm Bain Capital, with investments of about USD 5 billion in Indian companies, is looking forward to investing "even more" in the country and the next decade will be very important for both India and the US to work together to build businesses on a global basis, top executives of the company said.
- **RBI allows multinational banks to store limited data abroad-** Bringing a closure to a contentious issue, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed multinational banks operating in the country to store a limited set of data in offshore servers. Certain fields of static information such as name and address of client, some know-your-customer details along with select transaction particulars like date and amount, name of beneficiary, and reference number can be stored abroad by foreign banks.
- **Prices of cooking oils, except mustard oil, fall on reduction in import duties: Government:-** The government on Friday said retail prices of cooking oils, except mustard oil, have fallen in the domestic market despite a surge in global rates on the back of its decision to reduce import duties on crude and refined edible oils. International prices of edible oils have gone up in the range of 1.95 per cent to 7.17 per cent after the import duty reduction, according to an official statement. After the duty reduction (with effect from September 11) on imported edible oils, domestic retail prices have reduced in the range of 0.22 per cent to 1.83 per cent.
- **Forex reserves down by USD 1.169 billion to USD 637.477 billion-** The country's foreign exchange reserves dipped by USD 1.169 billion to stand at USD 637.477 billion in the week ended October 1, RBI data showed on 8th October 2021. In the previous week ended September 24, 2021, the reserves had declined by USD 997 million to USD 638.646 billion. The reserves had surged by USD 8.895 billion to a lifetime high of USD 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021.

- EPFO may soon credit interest for 2020-21 in accounts of 60 million subscribers-** The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) may soon credit the interest declared for 2020-21 in the accounts of 60 million subscribers, bringing some festive cheer to the salaried class. The interest rate of 8.5%, declared for 2020-21 in March this year, has been awaiting the finance ministry's approval for over six months now. The finance ministry had raised issues about the rate of interest being higher compared with that of other government schemes, including public provident fund or small saving schemes. EPFO had estimated an income of around Rs 70,300 crore in the previous fiscal, including Rs 4,000 crore from sale of its equity investments and Rs 65,000 crore from debt.
- Economy finally ready to flourish with privatization, investor interest in the offing-** Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held a series of meetings with experts across several sectors and officers in late April and early May 2020 amid the national lockdown. The message was clear, there is political commitment to convert the Covid crisis into an opportunity by resetting policies so that we can achieve higher levels of growth when things begin to normalise. It was a signal to the bureaucracy to move decisively. Several issues such as the labour and farm law changes or the Air India disinvestment, have been dragging on for decades. Officials believe that the results are now showing, as they point to the recent upgrade in the outlook for India's sovereign rating to stable, from negative.
- Buy-Now, Pay-Later loans help fuel India's festive recovery -** Indian consumers are ratcheting up buy-now-pay-later installment plans to purchase everything from washing machines to vacations online as the country's longest festive season gets underway. Popularity is swelling for these small-sized loans that typically amount to less than Rs 5,000 (\$67) as the labor market recovers from the pandemic shock. Those payments have been growing at least 20%-30% over the past three months, according to fintech-firm executives. They are expected to increase by about 66% on an annual basis in India to \$11.6 billion this year.
- India's trade minister Shri Piyush Goyal to meet Chinese counterpart -** India's Hon'ble Trade Minister Shri Piyush Goyal will have a one-on-one meeting with his Chinese counterpart on 12th October 2021 at the G-20 summit in Italy. Shri Piyush Goyal will also meet other trade ministers, including those from the United States, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, Brazil, and Canada, among others. Relations between India and China have been strained due to border related issues.
- Aggressive marketing, timely roll out of FTAs to help exports touch US\$ 500 billion: Exporters-** Aggressive marketing of products, timely implementation of free trade agreements that are under negotiations and affordable credit to MSME players would help in taking the country's merchandise exports to USD 500 billion in the next financial year, according to exporters. Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal in a meeting with export promotion councils stated that the country's exports are growing at a healthy rate and now exporters can aim for USD 450-500 billion of outbound shipments during the next fiscal year.
- Centre imposes stock limits on edible oils to soften prices in domestic market-** The Centre on 10th October 2021 imposed stock limits on traders of edible oils and oilseeds, barring importers and exporters, till March 31, in a bid to check rising domestic prices and give relief to consumers. Edible oil prices in the domestic retail markets have shot up sharply by up to 46.15 per cent in the last one year due to global factors and local tight supply situation, as per Government data.
- Natural farming gives edge to Himachal Pradesh apple growers in market-** Apples produced in orchard with natural farming technique fetched an unexpected price of over Rs 100 per kg this year. "The moment a buyer in the local market Dhamandri saw the label of 'Natural Apples' on the boxes, instantly the consumer would purchases all at this price. According to the data shared by the State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU), PK3Y in Shimla, as many as 1,33,056 farmers are practicing natural farming in Himachal Pradesh (partially or fully) so far, involving an area of 7609 hectare. This includes 12,000 apple orchardists. The farmers are happy with the results of natural farming in terms of zero dependence on external market, production, farm health and reduced expenditure, they have also started making efforts to build their own linkages for marketing of natural

produce with better returns.

- **Centre won't raise more from market in the second half of FY22:-** The Centre has not raised market borrowing in the second half of FY22 even after subsuming the goods and services tax back-to-back loan facility to compensate states, as it expects to lift more funds from non-market avenues such as the National Small Savings Fund. The overall borrowing may not be lower than the Rs 15.1 lakh crore estimated in the budget for FY22. There had been some expectations that the fiscal deficit may be less than the budgeted 6.8% of GDP in FY22 after the government decided to borrow from the market that initially allocated in the budget.
- **RBI may hold rates, lay roadmap for raising reverse repo:-** India's Central Bank may keep its benchmark rates unchanged at the bimonthly monetary policy meeting on Friday while laying down a roadmap for raising the reverse repo rate, mirroring the calibrated approach Mint Road's counterparts on either side of the Atlantic are taking to re-acclimatize their economies with normal liquidity flows. India's economy expanded 20.1% in the June quarter, versus 24.4% growth contraction in the corresponding quarter last year. Benchmark Indian stock indices that rose to fresh highs have come off since, although, they are still within 5% of their record showing.
- **Proposed e-commerce policy to be robust, balanced, says Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister of Shri Piyush Goyal:-** Hon'ble Union minister Shri Piyush Goyal on 3rd October assured that every stakeholder's interest will be taken into consideration while framing the e-commerce policy which would be robust and in the interest of every Indian. Mr Goyal, who heads commerce and industry as well as consumer affairs ministries, also said that he welcomes all the feedback on the draft e-commerce rules but comments about inter-departmental issues on the draft rules are totally unwarranted.
- **UK wants trade and security pact with India and other democracies to challenge authoritarian states:** The UK wants to strike agreements covering trade and security with India and other freedom-loving democratic countries in the strategic Indo-Pacific region to challenge the influence of "malign actors and authoritarian states", Britain's new Foreign Secretary Mr Liz Truss said on 3rd October. Mr Truss, who was in charge of talks with India on a future Free Trade Agreement (FTA) as the International Trade Secretary until her recent promotion within the UK Cabinet, said that she is keen to strike more deals along the lines of AUKUS - the trilateral security alliance between Australia, the UK and the US, which is widely seen as a counter-balance to China.
- **Zydus Cadila gets permission to conduct phase III trial for two-dose Covid vaccine:-** India's drug regulator has given permission to Zydus Cadila for conducting Phase III trial on the two-dose regimen of its needle-free Covid-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D. In a meeting held last month, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC), which advises the drug regulator-granted permission to the company for conducting Phase III trials on its Covid-19 vaccine.
- **India's services activity remained strong in September, hiring resumed:** India's services industry expanded for a second straight month in September 2021, bolstered by improved domestic demand and easing COVID-19 restrictions, pushing firms to hire more employees for the first time in nearly a year. The IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index eased to 55.2 in September from August's 18-month high of 56.7, but stayed comfortably above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction. Indian companies continued to benefit from a recovery in demand as the pandemic receded further and restrictions were lifted. The improved market environment meant that companies managed to secure new work and increase business activity during September.
- **MG-NREGS data: Demand for work at 17-month low:** Demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MG-NREGS) and person days of work generated under it have both fallen to hit their 17-month lows in September this year, possibly indicating revival of economic activities in urban centres. The data showed only 2.86 crore persons demanded work in September compared with 3.59 crore in March 2021, 4 crore in April, 4.15 crore in May, 5 crore in June, 4.26 crore in July and 3.21 crore in August. The number of persons demanding work under the popular scheme had hit a nadir in April 2020 (2 crore) but jumped in May (5.4 crore) immediately after the lock-down was eased; the demand peaked in June

2020 (6.35 crore). In March, 2020, 2.76 crore only persons demanded work.

- **Coal ministry finalises agenda document for sectoral reforms, sustainability:** The coal ministry on 4th October 2021 said that it has finalised an agenda document for the ongoing fiscal which broadly focuses on areas like reforms, transition and sustainability in the coal sector. This is for the first time that an agenda document for the ensuing year has been brought out in the form of a compilation and provided to all senior functionaries who have been apportioned the responsibility of steering the four broad focus areas through the year with regular monitoring and appraisals. The agenda document broadly focuses on four areas — coal sector reforms, coal transition and sustainability, institution building and futuristic agenda, the coal ministry said in a statement.
- **GST: E-way bill generation at a six-month high in September:** E-way bill generation for goods transportation under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) system came in at 6.79 crore September, the highest since the start of the current financial year. E-way bill generation has been registering a steady rise since June after falling to below four crore in May, when the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak. The September number was 70% higher than May and 3% more than August. Daily e-way generation rose 6.5% month-on-month to 22.65 lakh in September compared with 21.26 lakh in August. In the first three days of October, 52.69 lakh e-way bills were generated, showing a daily generation of 17.56 lakh.
- **Icra raises FY22 power demand growth outlook to 8.5%:-** The country's energy demand growth outlook for the ongoing fiscal upward to 8.5% on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, from 6% estimated earlier. The expectation of higher power demand growth is based on electricity requirement rising 12.7% y-o-y in the first six months of the fiscal. Power demand in April-September 2021 was 2.9% higher than the corresponding period in FY20, when there was no impact of Covid-19. Higher power demand signals an increase in commercial and industrial activities, with businesses gradually resuming operations after the lifting of lockdown curbs in recent months. Domestic demand also increased due to higher use of cooling devices amid rising temperatures.
- **Deepening energy crisis raises inflation alarm as RBI meets-** Higher oil prices and coal shortages risk fanning inflation and slowing economic growth in India ahead of a central bank meeting, while punishing the nation's currency and bonds. A lack of coal means factories could shut, while forcing India to import more fossil fuels at a time when crude prices at a seven-year high are already weighing on the energy hungry nation. The threat of inflation and worsening external deficit have led to a 12 basis-point surge in the nation's benchmark bond yields over the past two weeks and a decline in the rupee.
- **Industrial Park Rating System Report 2.0 launched by Ministry of Commerce and Industry-** The 2nd edition of the Industrial Park Rating System (IPRS) Report was launched by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Som Parkash. 41 Industrial Parks have been assessed as 'Leaders' in the Industrial Park Ratings System Report. 90 Industrial Parks have been rated as under Challenger category while 185 have been rated as under 'Aspirers'. These ratings are assigned on the basis of key existing parameters and infrastructure facilities etc. The Report is an extension of the India Industrial Land Bank which features more than 4,400 industrial parks in a GIS-enabled database to help investors identify their preferred location for investment. The portal is currently integrated with industry-based GIS system of 21 States and UTs and plot-wise information in these are updated on a real-time basis.
- **Government mulling to broaden PLI scheme to attract gaming device makers:** Meity official- The Government is looking to widen the production-linked incentive scheme and provide other possible incentives to attract gaming device manufacturers. Ministry of Electronics and IT joint secretary Shri Saurabh Gaur in an online roundtable discussion said that steps are also being taken with the support of the information and broadcasting ministry and culture ministry to promote the gaming ecosystem in the country.
- **Moody's upgrades India's rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' -** Moody's Investors Service on 4th October 2021 changed its outlook on India's sovereign ratings to stable from negative. However, it retained the ratings, both on foreign and domestic currencies, at the lowest investment grade. Experts said this would have a

beneficial impact on debt allocations by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to Indian papers. India's economic growth potential increased materially beyond its expectations, supported by effective implementation of government economic and financial sector reforms that resulted in a significant and sustained pickup in private sector investment.

- **Cost of State debt jumps to 2-month high of 6.91 per cent** - Ahead of the fourth monetary policy review on 1st October 2021 when the market fears RBI may begin to normalize the easy money policy by sucking out liquidity from the system, the cost of borrowing for the States jumped by 6 basis points (bps) to a two-month high of 6.91 per cent. As many as 17 States raised Rs 22,809 crore at the weekly auctions held on 4th October 2021, the first auction of the second half of the borrowing season. This was Rs 55 crore over the notified amount as Gujarat accepted an additional Rs 500 crore, while Punjab accepted only Rs 55 crore of the notified Rs 500 crore.
- **Government receives over Rs 2,800 crore dividend from CIL, ONGC this fiscal** - The Government has received over Rs 2,800 crore as dividend from Coal India and ONGC this fiscal year (FY). Government of India has respectively received about Rs 1426 crore from Coal India Ltd and Rs 1406 crore from ONGC as dividend in this FY recently. As per the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) website, so far in the current financial year (April-March), the government has received Rs 4,576 crore as dividend from CPSEs. Besides, Rs 9,110 crore has been mobilized through disinvestment in various Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) so far this fiscal.
- **Sugar exports may fall to 5-6 million tonnes in 2021-22 from record 7.1 million tonnes in previous year:** India's sugar export is estimated to decline to 5-6 million tonnes in the current marketing year ending September from a record 7.1 million tonnes in 2020-21. India's sugar export rose 20 per cent to an all-time high of 7.1 million tonnes in the 2020-21 marketing year ended last month on the back of better demand and financial assistance from the government.
- **World Bank leaves India's growth projection unchanged at 8.3% for FY 2021-22 from June forecast** - The World Bank said increasing pace of vaccinations will determine India's economic prospects this year and beyond while leaving the growth projection for the country unchanged at 8.3% for FY 2021-22 from its June forecast. It flagged higher than expected inflation and slow recovery of the informal sector as the main risks to consumer spending.
- **Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus to railway employees for the financial year 2020-21** - The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, yesterday approved the Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for the financial year 2020-21 for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel). The financial implication of payment of 78 days' PLB to railway employees has been estimated to be Rs.1984.73 crore. The wage calculation ceiling prescribed for payment of PLB to the eligible non-gazetted railway employees is Rs.7000/- p.m. The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs. 17,951 for 78 days.
- **Government has approved setting up of 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore in a period of 5 years** - With a view to realize the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, of building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and to position India strongly on the Global textiles map, the Government has approved the setting up of 7 PM MITRA parks as announced in Union Budget for 2021-22. PM MITRA is inspired by the 5F vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The '5F' Formula encompasses - Farm to fibre; fibre to factory; factory to fashion; fashion to foreign. This integrated vision will help furthering the growth of textile sector in the economy.
- **Same GST slab for ice-cream sold anywhere: Finance ministry** - The Government said recently that ice cream is the same whether it is sold inside an ice-cream parlour or outside, and should attract the same rate of goods and services tax (GST). The Government said a GST of 18% should be levied on ice cream even when they are sold inside a parlour. Earlier, ice creams attracted 5% tax when sold inside parlours and 18% outside.

- RBI's interest rate-setting panel starts deliberating next monetary policy** - Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy yesterday amid rising global commodity prices and the need to contain inflation at home. The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would be announced on Friday by Hon'ble RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. Experts are of the view that the central bank will maintain the status quo on policy rates for the eighth time in a row. The policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate is currently at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo rate is 3.35 per cent.
- Extension of RoDTEP scheme to SEZs, export-oriented units in pipeline: Government official** - Extension of benefits of the RoDTEP scheme to special economic zones and export-oriented units (EOUs) is in the pipeline to make SEZs more investor-friendly, a senior government official said recently. The government in August announced rates of tax refunds under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for 8,555 products, such as marine goods, yarn, dairy items, but SEZs and EOUs were kept out of this. The industry is demanding for this extension.
- Impact of protectionist measures on global economy has never been positive: Report** - Batting for trade openness, a UN ESCAP-ADB report recently asked Asian nations to refrain from imposing trade restrictions including non-tariff barriers saying the impact of protectionist measures has never been positive for the global economy. The report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also made a case for promoting digital and paperless trade procedures by the Asian nations in view of the supply chain disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Procurement of paddy at MSP by Haryana Government started on October 3: Hon'ble CM Shri Manohar Lal Khattar** – Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal Khattar recently said that the procurement of paddy at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Haryana government has been duly started from October 3, 2021. Under this, passes have been issued on the 'e-procurement portal' of the state for the purchase of about 3.60 lakh tonnes of paddy so far in the state.
- RBI keeps key policy interest rates unchanged to strengthen fragile economic recovery** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday kept key policy interest rates unchanged as expected to strengthen a fragile economic recovery and reiterated an accommodative stance that supports durable recovery. But it took the first step to end excess eventual liquidity by scrapping the special Government Securities Acquisition Programme (GSAP). The comfortable liquidity situation and improved finances of the government mitigate concerns of higher borrowing to bridge the Good and Services Tax (GST) collections. But GSAP withdrawal is not the reversal of the accommodative policy, Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das said.
- Inflation trajectory more favorable than anticipated, says Shri Shaktikanta Das**- Inflation trajectory is turning out to be more favorable than anticipated, said Reserve Bank of India Governor Shri Shaktikanta Das on Friday during his monetary policy decision address. The RBI maintained status quo during the fourth bimonthly rate-setting panel that started its three-day deliberations on Wednesday amid rising global commodity prices and a need to contain inflation in India.
- India's unemployment rate falls sharply in September to 6.86%: CMIE**- India's unemployment rate fell sharply in September to 6.86% as against 8.32% in August as 8.5 million additional jobs were created last month with the majority of them created in rural India with construction activity picking up pace, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said.
- Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal calls for focus on Skill Development in all Govt schemes**- The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has said Skill Development will be the core of all Government schemes. As the Government pumps in more resources in the many Industrial, Textile and Automobile Parks, each such Park should include a relevant Skill Development institution, he said. Addressing a Webinar on "Sabka Prayas: Collective Partnership" today, Shri Piyush Goyal said the New Education Policy (NEP) being implemented across

the country now too lays stress on Skill Development. It envisages Dual Degree programmes, tie-ups with foreign Universities, student exchange programme and the promotion of Liberal Arts besides Academics.

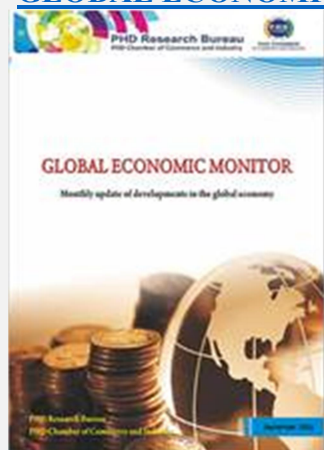
- **Close partnership between India and US is central to a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region: Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal** - Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution today said that close partnership between India and the United States is central to a free, open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. He was addressing the United States – India Business Council's (USIBC) 46th Annual General Meeting and India Ideas Summit themed 'From Recovery to Resurgence: reflecting the growing importance of global economic recovery amidst emerging healthcare issues and technological trends'. Congratulating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for completing 20 years of uninterrupted public service as the head of a duly elected democratic government, Shri Goyal lauded his untiring efforts that has accorded India a special status in the comity of nations.
- **COVID-19 necessitated need for urgency to re-imagine cooperation: Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Shri S.Jaishankar on India-ASEAN ties-** The ASEAN region is one of the major hubs for India's global economic engagement and the coronavirus pandemic has triggered a new urgency to re-imagine the cooperation and expand its ambition further, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on October 7. In an address at a CII event, he also said that the centrality of ASEAN to the Indo-Pacific and the importance of ties between India and the grouping are self-evident. "But if they have to continue to be salient, then we must strive to go beyond ideas and concepts that have outlived their shelf life," the External Affairs Minister said without elaborating.
- **US' huge investment surplus can be used in India's infra sector: Hon'ble Commerce and industry minister Shri Piyush Goyal-** Commerce and industry minister Shri Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the US has huge investment surpluses that can be used to develop infrastructure in India and make it a manufacturing base, to provide goods and services at affordable and competitive prices. While addressing United States – India Business Council's (USIBC) 46th Annual General Meeting and India Ideas Summit, he also said that going forward, it is in the interest of both countries to strengthen their strategic partnership into a more comprehensive economic and trade partnership also.
- **Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Announces a new 3 km long four-lane bridge on Brahmaputra River in Kamrup District-** Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman today announced in Guwahati that Government of India has approved the construction of a 3 km long 4-lane bridge on Brahmaputra river in Kamrup district. The bridge will be constructed at an estimated total cost of Rs 3094 crores, said the Finance Minister. Smt. Sitharaman added that the bridge will facilitate direct connectivity to the internationally renowned silk town of Sualkuchi and the industrial region of Amingaon with Guwahati and the International airport. The bridge will decongest the city of Guwahati and increase transport efficiency thus helping in cutting down travel time for daily commuters from the adjoining districts of Nalbari and Barpeta travelling to Guwahati, she said.
- **Government policies directed at fostering competition in economy: CEA-** The focus of the government policies in the last seven years has been on enabling competition in the economy, Chief Economic Adviser K V Subramanian said, stressing this is partly responsible for growth of startups. He expressed hope that the country will witness double-digit growth in the current fiscal year aided by a prudent mix of supply and demand side measures undertaken by the government. "With all these reforms, India is poised for high growth and inclusive growth through job creation especially in the organised sector going forward, our projection is that this year there is a high likelihood we could have double-digit growth. Next year we anticipate between 6.5-7 per cent," he said at a virtual event organised by Indian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (IVCA).
- **India, US discussed developments in Afghan, cross-border terrorism: MEA-** The recent developments in Afghanistan, the need to counter cross-border terrorism and ensure peace and stability in that country including through implementation of a UN Security Council resolution figured prominently in US deputy secretary of state Wendy Sherman's talks with her Indian interlocutors. The Ministry of External Affairs said this

a day after Sherman held extensive talks with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and NSA Ajit Doval on Wednesday. It said there was an exchange of views on the importance of a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region and reaffirmation of commitment to implement the positive and constructive initiatives of the Quad as announced during a summit of its leaders in Washington last month.

Newsletters

PHD Research Bureau has released newsletter on Global Economic Monitor for the month of September 2021, which disseminates information on latest updates on global macroeconomic indicators including growth, inflation, trade, financial markets, policy developments, among others.

[GLOBAL ECONOMIC MONITOR \(GEM\) FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021](#)



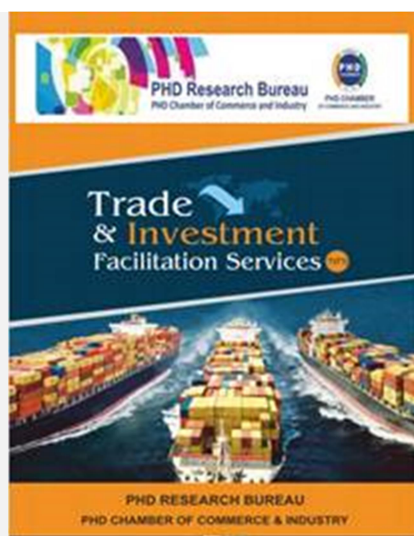
PHD Research Bureau has released newsletter on State Development Monitor for the month of August- September 2021, which disseminates information the State level developments on various aspects of Economy, Industry, Physical and Social Infrastructure, Agriculture & Food Processing, Rural Development, Tourism, among others.

[STATE DEVELOPMENT MONITOR NEWSLETTER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021](#)



PHD Research Bureau released newsletter on Trade and Investment Facilitation Services (TIFS) Edition September 2021 that provides information on recent developments in India's foreign trade, foreign investments, policy developments, bilateral economic relations, trade agreements, WTO, among others.

[TIFS NEWSLETTER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2021](#)



Markets So Far

	Yearly			Monthly		Daily		
Indicators	2018	2019	2020	August 2021	September 2021	11 th October 2021	12 th October 2021	13 th October 2021
BSE SENSEX	36068	41253	47751	55238	58781	60135	60284	60737
GOLD (10 GRMS)	30600	34813	46985	47119	46579	46897	47119	47248
CRUDE OIL (1 BBL)	4437	4007.8	2966	5047	5232	6065	6082	6074
EXCHANGE RATE (INR/USD)	68	70.4	74.11	74.17	74.13	75.35	75.51	75.29

Source: PHD Research Bureau, PHDCCI, compiled from BSE, MCX and Bloomberg

Warm Regards,

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