

Weekly Compendium of Economic and Business Developments

(Period ending 27th November, 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 Expert Group unveils report on base revision of Wage Rate Index (WRI) to 2016=100 from base 1963-65=100, India, ADB sign US\$300 million loan to improve primary health care in India, NITI Aayog under the Indo-German Cooperation releases inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22, India & World Bank sign loan agreement to improve quality of learning for over 50 lakh students across Andhra Pradesh, Centre releases two installments of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 95,082 crore as against normal monthly devolution of Rs. 47,541 crore and decisions taken by the Union Cabinet, among others. The details of disseminated information during the week ending 27th November 2021 are appended.

Indian Economy

- [Expert Group unveils report on base revision of Wage Rate Index \(WRI\) to 2016=100 from base 1963-65=100](#) - Prof. S.P.Mukherjee, Chairman of Expert Group on Minimum Wages & National Floor Wages, Dr G.C.Manna, Chairman of Technical Advisory Committee of Wage Rate Index, Shri DPS Negi, Principal Advisor, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ms. Sibani Swain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Ms. Vibha Bhalla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment and Shri I.S. Negi, DGLB & other members of Expert Group released the new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016=100, being compiled and maintained by Labour Bureau, an attached office of Ministry of Labour & Employment. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65=100.
- [Decisions taken by the Union Cabinet](#) – (i) Cabinet approves extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for another four months (December 2021-March 2022), (ii) Cabinet approves Privatization of Electricity Distribution and Retail Supply Business in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, (iii) Cabinet approves Continuation of the umbrella scheme "Atmosphere' & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)" from the 14th Finance Commission to the next Finance Commission Cycle (2021-2026), (iv) Cabinet approves continuation of the umbrella scheme "Ocean Services, Modelling, Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)" and (v) Cabinet approves continuation of National Apprenticeship Training Scheme for next five years.
- [India, ADB sign US\\$300 million loan to improve primary health care in India](#) - The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a US\$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to

comprehensive primary health care in urban areas of 13 states that will benefit over 256 million urban dwellers including 51 million from slum areas.

- [**NITI Aayog under the Indo-German Cooperation releases inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22**](#) - In its journey towards localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and instituting robust SDG progress monitoring systems at the national, State/UT, and local levels, NITI Aayog has achieved yet another milestone with the launch of the inaugural SDG Urban Index & Dashboard (2021-22) today. The index and dashboard are a result of the NITI Aayog-GIZ and BMZ collaboration focused on driving SDG localization in our cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.
- [**India & World Bank sign loan agreement to improve quality of learning for over 50 lakh students across Andhra Pradesh**](#) - The Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the World Bank on 18th November 2021 signed the legal agreements for US\$250 million for a project which aims to improve quality of learning for over 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- [**Centre releases two installments of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 95,082 crore as against normal monthly devolution of Rs. 47,541 crore**](#) - As promised by Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman after the virtual meeting with Chief Ministers, State Finance Ministers, and Lt. Governors of UTs to step up investment, infrastructure, and growth on 15th November 2021, the Government of India has released two installments of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 95,082 Crores on 22nd November 2021, as against normal monthly devolution of Rs. 47,541 Crores.
- [**RBI releases the Report of the Working Group on digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile apps**](#) - The Reserve Bank of India had constituted a Working Group (WG) on digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile apps on January 13, 2021, with Shri Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI as the Chairman. The WG was set up in the backdrop of business conduct and customer protection concerns arising out of the spurt in digital lending activities. The WG has since submitted its report. The thrust of the report has been on enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe and sound while encouraging innovation.
- [**Hon'ble Union Textile minister Shri Piyush Goyal announces setting up of mega handloom cluster at Olympic medalist Mirabai's native village in Manipur**](#) - Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal had announced setting up a mega handloom cluster at Olympic silver medalist Saikhom Mirabai Chanu's native village in Manipur's Imphal East district. He also announced setting up of a handloom and handicraft village at Moirang in Bishnupur district, where the INA hoisted the tricolor flag for the first time in Indian soil. It will pay befitting tribute to the freedom fighters, particularly to the soldiers of the INA, he said.
- [**Shri Narayan Rane, Hon'ble Union Minister for MSME launched Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme \(SCLCSS\) for Services Sector**](#) - Hon'ble Union Minister for MSME, Shri Narayan Rane launched the Special Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (SCLCSS) for services sector in the presence of senior officers of the Ministry of MSME at Guwahati. The scheme will help in meeting the technology related requirements of enterprises in the services sector and has a provision of 25% capital subsidy for procurement of Plant & Machinery and service equipments through institutional credit to the SC-ST MSEs without any sector specific restrictions on technology upgradation.

Our Voice

PHD Chamber Urges the GST Council to Rationalize GST Rates: Current GST rates are not in the sync with the demand creation and employment generation in the country. We urge the government to rationalize the GST rates into three major slabs of 5%, 10% & 15% along with a few sin goods in the slab of 28%, items in category of 12% rate should be reduced to 10% and items in the category of 18% rate should be reduced to 15%.

The items in 0 and 5% category should be kept as it is. There should not be more than 25 items in the category of Sin Goods which is rated @28%, he said the rationalization of the tax slabs would create tremendous demand in the economy, subside the inflationary pressures and enhance the sentiments of producers for production and create employment opportunities for the growing workforce in the country. The lower taxes are always good to enhance the tax base and tax to GDP ratio.

Going ahead, a level playing field for industry would be crucial for the promotion of ease of doing business in the country. Enhanced ease of doing business, reduced costs of doing business, rationalization of taxes, along with lesser compliance costs would go a long way to enhance the capacity building and to become 'Atma Nirbhar' in the coming times.

Economy so far

Only 29 FDI proposals pending for approval as of today: DPIIT Secretary - Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals are being cleared and as of today only 29 applications are pending, a top government official said on Thursday. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Anurag Jain also said those FDI proposals which deserve proper consideration under Press Note 3 (PN3) will be facilitated.

Industry linkage cell opened in Bengaluru, to provide skilled youth to industries- The state government opened an industry linkage cell (ILC) to build on the industry-government collaboration and facilitate improved job opportunities for skilled youth. The ILC aims to improve the overall quality and relevance of the skill ecosystem, State's IT/BT & Skill Development Minister CN Ashwath Narayan said.

Telangana, Kerala top in H1 capex; UP, Maha among laggards: Report- Telangana and Kerala lead the capital expenditure chart of states in the first half of 2021-22 while the biggest two spenders, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, are the laggards with not even spending a fifth of the budgeted amount, thereby pulling down the overall capex by states to a low 28.4 per cent in the period.

US raises anti-dumping duty on shrimp exports by India- USDOC on Wednesday issued the final results of the fifteenth administrative review of the anti-dumping duty order on frozen warm-water shrimp from India by fixing an anti-dumping duty rate of 7.15%. It was 3.06% after the final results of the 14th administrative review.

Burying past baggage biggest outcome of talks with USTR: Shri Piyush Goyal- A key outcome of the recent talks with the US is that all the baggage of the past has been buried, says Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. In an interview with Bodhisatva Ganguli and Kirtika Suneja, Goyal, who is also the minister for textiles, consumer affairs, food and public distribution, says India has made very important and necessary commitment towards a stable and predictable regulatory regime.

Will not compromise India's interests at WTO, says Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush

Goyal -India will strongly pitch for significant outcomes at the upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial without compromising the country's interests and push for a permanent solution to the public stockholding issue, Hon'ble commerce and industry minister Shri Piyush Goyal said.

Registration granted to 105 Industrial Units under the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS)- Under the Chairmanship of Secretary, DPIIT, the Empowered Committee of North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017, in its 9th meeting granted registration to 105 new industrial units in the North East. Till date, a total of 391 new industrial units with a proposed total investment of INR 2631.19 crore have been granted registration under NEIDS, 2017. With this all applications recommended for registration by the concerned state governments upto 31st October 2021 has been considered by the Empowered committee.

Science Ministers from India and UK discuss Green Energy collaboration- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh held an online meeting with the United Kingdom (UK) Science Minister, George Freeman, wherein the two discussed Green Energy collaboration between the two countries as well as host of other issues of mutual interest.

Bank privatisation not in one go, government may retain at least 26% in 2 PSBs- The government may not fully exit from the two state-run banks that are to be privatised and instead retain at least a 26% stake for the first few years. A senior official said the extent of the stake sale will depend on interest from investors and market conditions. The government will introduce a bill in the winter session of parliament to make the changes needed before privatising the two banks.

“Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 a “gamechanger reform”: Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal- Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal has termed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 as a “gamechanger reform” that has been the most successful law in insolvency resolution in the country. Addressing the 5th Foundation Day function of the Indian Institute of Insolvency Professionals of ICAI (IIPI) here today, he hoped the faster Insolvency Resolution enabled by the IBC will eventually pave the way for banks to bring down the 'Cost of Credit'.

Industry body PHDCCI pitches for lowering of GST on textiles- The amendment has been made to change GST rate from 5 per cent and 18 per cent to 12 per cent to overcome inverted duty structure from January 1, 2022. Industry body PHDCCI has said the government should bring down the GST rates on textile inputs, such as fabric and yarn, to address the inverted duty structure, instead of raising rates on garments, as it could affect sustainability of the sector.

Cross-border insolvency: MCA proposes exclusion of financial service providers; exempts pre-pack process for MSMEs- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recommended exclusion of critical financial service providers such as banks and insurance companies from the applicability of cross-border insolvency provisions under the fresh draft it floated outlining legal framework for such matters.

Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman visits Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)- Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs visited Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), one of India's premier container handling ports, to get a comprehensive understanding about Port operations and the array of Customs facilities offered by the Port to accelerate trade and commerce.

Economists write to PM seeking higher fund allocation for MGNREGA - A group of economists have written an open letter to Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi to allocate additional funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to meet the work demand so that the scheme works according to the law.

New Wage Rate Index Series released; Base Year revised to 2016 From 1963-65 - Ministry of labour yesterday released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016, being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the ministry. The new series of WRI with base 2016=100 will replace the old series with base 1963-65, a labour ministry statement said.

Regular India-US engagements under TPF will boost trade, says USIBC - A regular engagement between India and the United States under the bilateral Trade Policy Forum mechanism will help remove barriers to trade, facilitate higher levels of investment and increase two-way trade in goods and services, the US India Business Council said recently.

Services, trade help power steady economic recovery in India - India's economy showed steady signs of strengthening in October as services, manufacturing and exports kept it on course to post the world's fastest growth.

Credit growth of banks recovers; festivals help demand- The banking system's credit growth is recovering, helped by festival-time demand for retail loans, according to analysis by CARE Ratings agency. The year-on-year (y-o-y) bank credit grew by 180 basis points from the year-ago level of 5.1 per cent in the fortnight ended October 23, 2020.

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hands over Rs 306-cr credit sanction letters to 145 beneficiaries in J&K – Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman recently handed over credit sanction letters of Rs 306 crore to beneficiaries in Jammu and Kashmir and announced a host of initiatives, including a Rs 200 crore cluster development fund for the Union territory.

Niti Aayog floats idea of full-stack digital banks - Government think-tank Niti Aayog yesterday proposed setting up of full-stack 'digital banks', which would principally rely on the internet and other proximate channels to offer their services and not physical branches, to mitigate the financial deepening challenges being faced in the country.

Chinese Yuan a key focus for RBI's currency intervention - The Indian rupee may be poised to get volatile vis-a-vis the US dollar as the talk of tapering gathers momentum, but the Reserve Bank of India's focus is more likely towards the movement of the rupee compared to how the Chinese yuan moves.

Indian investors flee crypto trading- Plans by the Indian government for a new bill that would bar most private cryptocurrencies has triggered heavy selling in the country's digital currency markets, as investors look to exit positions despite the losses, said traders and investors.

Indians sent \$2 billion abroad in September, some for a few cryptos more - Resident Indians sent close \$2 billion abroad in September under the Liberalised Remittances Scheme(LRS), touching a three year high which analysts speculate could be to buy cryptos. More than 60 per cent of the money has remitted is for travel abroad and studies, which again are at multi-year highs, RBI data indicates.

India to release 5 million barrels of crude oil from strategic reserves- India plans to release about 5 million barrels of crude oil from its emergency stockpile in tandem with the US, Japan and other major economies to cool prices. India stores about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast.

Centre releases two installments of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 95,082 crore as against normal monthly devolution of Rs. 47,541 crore- As promised by Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman after the virtual meeting with Chief Ministers, State Finance Ministers, and Lt. Governors of UTs to step up investment, infrastructure, and growth on 15th November 2021, the Government of India has released two installments of tax devolution to State Governments amounting to Rs. 95,082 Crores on 22nd November 2021, as against normal monthly devolution of Rs. 47,541 Crores.

India to grow at 9.1% in 2022 on the back of significant catch-up potential: Goldman Sachs- Global brokerage giant Goldman Sachs sees India growing at 9.1 per cent in calendar year 2022 from 8 per cent in the current year. The brokerage added that it is optimistic about India given its significant catch-up potential after the pandemic pummelled the economy. India is witnessing a strong economic rebound with almost all the high frequency indicators in green and looking up.

Government plans to provide more tax concessions on vehicles bought after scrapping old ones: Shri Nitin Gadkari- The government is considering a proposal to provide more tax-related concessions on vehicles that are purchased after scrapping old vehicles under the recently launched National Automobile Scrappage Policy, Honb'le Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari said.

NITI Aayog under the Indo-German Cooperation releases inaugural SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22- In its journey towards localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and instituting robust SDG progress monitoring systems at the national, State/UT, and local levels, NITI Aayog has achieved yet another milestone with the launch of the inaugural SDG Urban Index & Dashboard (2021-22) today. The index and dashboard are a result of the NITI Aayog-GIZ and BMZ collaboration focused on driving SDG localization in our cities, under the umbrella of Indo-German Development Cooperation.

India, US agree to facilitate market access for mangoes, pomegranates, cherries, hay- India and the US have agreed to facilitate market access for mangoes and pomegranates from India and cherries, and alfalfa hay for animal feed from the US at the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF). It was decided to activate working groups on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment, and intellectual property, which would frequently meet to address issues of mutual concern of both sides on a mutually beneficial manner.

Banks should lend urgently to help rubber MSMEs bounce back post Covid- The All-India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) is concerned that banks are reluctant to favour large borrowers in the wake of the Covid pandemic and defaults by some firms. This will impact both credit-financed consumption and private investments. Since bank funding will be crucial in the post-pandemic period, a wider range of financial instruments should be available to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in the rubber industry to ensure sustained investment, growth, innovation and employment.

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman hands over credit sanction letters to 145 beneficiaries for Rs 306 crore in Jammu- On the 2nd day of her visit to Jammu & Kashmir, Hon'ble Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman handed over sanction letters to 145 beneficiaries for Rs. 306 crore of different banks which included sanction letters to different credit linked

schemes like Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), MUDRA Scheme, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Joint-Liability Groups (JLGs) etc. during an event.

Possible to have lower liquidity while continuing with accommodative stance: MPC member:- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) should not continue with unconventional measures now, and it is possible to have lower liquidity levels while continuing with the growth-enhancing accommodative stance, a senior RBI official witting on the rate-setting panel said on Monday. As the growth normalises, it "makes policy sense" to lower the liquidity levels to some extent, the RBI's executive director Mridul Sagar said, adding that the negative real interest rates are impacting the retired people.

Business activity at highest levels since pandemic began as more people go to work: Report :- An increase in driving to workplace resulted in the overall business activity surging to an all-time high of 14 percentage points (pp) higher than the pre-pandemic levels last week, a report said on 22nd November. The weekly Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which compares activity in a particular week with the last week prior to the announcement of the lockdowns in March 2020, came at 114 for the seven days ended Sunday, up from 110.3 in the prior week.

Retail pulses inflation likely to stay under 5% in H2FY22:- India's retail inflation for pulses is expected to be under 5 per cent during the second half of the current fiscal, India Ratings and Research said on Monday. As per the agency, this estimate is based on the high level of prices during the corresponding period of last fiscal and the measures taken by the Centre to meet the rising demand.

SBI Research upgrades India GDP projection to 9.3-9.6% range for FY 22:- SBI Research has revised upwards India's GDP growth projection to range of 9.3%-9.6% for FY 22 as the country recorded only 11% increase in Covid cases during July-September (Q3) 2021 period, second lowest among top 15 most affected countries. The research arm of the country's largest lender had earlier pegged India's GDP growth at a range of 8.5%-9%. SBI Research's revised projection is in line with Reserve Bank of India's projection of 9.5% for FY 22.

Centre's FY22 fiscal deficit may be better at 6.6% on stronger-than-expected tax buoyancy: Fitch:- The Centre could better its fiscal deficit at 6.6 per cent of GDP in this financial year on stronger-than-expected revenue buoyancy, even if the budgeted disinvestment target is not met, Fitch Ratings has said. The international rating agency had last week kept the sovereign rating unchanged at 'BBB-' with a negative outlook, and said that the risks to India's medium-term growth outlook are narrowing with rapid economic recovery from the pandemic and easing financial sector pressures.

India's growth to be better than anticipated on higher vaccine coverage: SBI Report:- State Bank of India's economists have upgraded India's growth projections for FY'22 to 9.3% to 9.6%, from 8.5% to 9% forecast earlier on higher vaccination coverage and lower incidence of fresh cases. We believe that FY'22 GDP growth rate could be in the range of 9.3%-9.6%" SBI research department's Ecowrap. "The reason for the upward revision is that India recorded only 11% increase in Covid cases during Q3 2021, second lowest among top 15 most affected countries,

Exports rise 18.8 pc to USD 20 billion so far in November: - The country's exports rose 18.8 per cent to USD 20.01 billion during the three week period of this month (November 1-21), due to healthy growth in sectors such as petroleum products, engineering goods, chemicals and gems and jewellery, according to the preliminary data of the commerce ministry. Imports during the period increased 45.34 per cent to USD 35.11 billion as against USD 24.15 billion during the corresponding period last year, the data showed

Piyush Goyal meets US trade representative Katherine Tai: - Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal met with United States Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai on 22nd November. Accompanied by Deputy United States Trade Representative Sarah Bianchi, United States Trade Representative (USTR) Katherine Tai is on a two-day visit to India. This is Tai's first visit to India after she took over the office in March this year. Earlier, in a statement, the office of the USTR said: "Ambassador Katherine Tai and Ambassador Sarah Bianchi.

Indian and United States officials to look for ways to resolve trade issues: - India and the United States agreed to look for ways to resolve differences on issues such as market access and digital trade at the start of a two-day visit by U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, officials said. Negotiators from both countries have struggled for more than a year to conclude a trade package as New Delhi and Washington spar over a range of issues, including tariffs.

India, US set to revive Trade Policy Forum after four years: - India and the United States (US) are set to revive the Trade Policy Forum (TPF) on Tuesday after four years, in an attempt to bolster trade and investment flows between the two nations. US Trade Representative Katherine Tai, who is on a two-day visit to India, said she hoped to make progress in areas such as movements of goods and services between the two countries, and ironing out market access restrictions and high tariffs, and these would be taken up on priority with India.

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announces clearance of two proposals of IFSCA at GIFT City in Gujarat:- Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announced clearance of two proposals worth Rs 469 crore of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) at GIFT City here during her one-day visit on Saturday. Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman announced formal clearance of Rs 269.05 crore for supervisory technology fund for IT infrastructure and Rs 200 crore for headquarter building, the Ministry of Finance said.

Icra ups Q2 GDP growth estimate to 7.9% after Government spending increases:- A jump in government spending in September has led Icra 1.15 % to upgrade its GDP growth estimate for the second quarter of FY2021-22 to 7.9 per cent, according to a release. The domestic rating agency's earlier estimate for real GDP growth for the July-September period was 7.7 per cent. The GDP had grown by over 20 per cent in Q1FY22 on a low base as the pandemic's first wave raged. The RBI has forecast a 9.5 per cent growth rate in FY22 low base as the pandemic's first wave raged. The RBI has forecast a 9.5 per cent growth rate in FY22. Economic activity in Q2 FY22 was supported by a pick-up in industrial and service sector volumes after the second wave of Covid-19 subsided and rising vaccine coverage revived confidence. Additionally, healthy Central and state Government spending, robust merchandise exports and continuing demand from the farm sector supported economic activity in that quarter.

Reserve Bank of India may launch digital currency pilot next year, says new report:- The Reserve Bank of India's digital currency may see its pilot launch in the first quarter of the next fiscal year, a senior central bank officer said at the State Bank of India's Banking and Economic Conclave as reported by a local newspaper. I think somewhere it was said that at least by the first quarter of next year a pilot could be launched. So we are bullish on that," the Business Standard newspaper quoted Mr P. Vasudevan, chief general manager at Department of Payment & Settlement of the RBI said. Central bank digital currencies, or (CBDCs) are digital or virtual currencies are basically the digital version of fiat currencies, for India that would be its domestic currency rupee.

Food inflation expected to soften in coming months:- Food inflation, which was on continuous uptrend before Diwali, is expected to soften in the coming months supported by a high base effect of last year, healthy crop production buoyed by normal rains, and ample ground water that supports the rabi crop. However, despite a marginal reduction, some pressures on cooking oil inflation will continue to remain given elevated global prices and a weaker rupee that could impact imports, industry leaders and analysts said.

Over Rs 1.15 lakh cr I-T refunds issued till Nov 8; include Rs 12,617 cr for FY21:- Income tax refunds of over Rs 1.15 lakh crore have been issued to more than 98 lakh taxpayers so far this fiscal year, the I-T department said on Wednesday. These also include Rs 12,616.79 crore refunds to 65.31 lakh taxpayers for 2020-21 fiscal (Assessment Year 2021-22). CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,15,917 crore to more than 98.90 lakh taxpayers from 1st April, 2021 to 8th November, 2021," the I-T department tweeted.

Joint bank account not mandatory for spouse pension, says government:- Joint bank account is not mandatory for spouse pension, the government said on Saturday. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh said the Narendra Modi government has always sought "ease of living" for all sections of society including retirees and pensioners who are the nation's assets with all their experience and long years of service rendered by them.

GST could see major overhaul; reducing tax slabs, pruning exempt list on table: India could be eyeing a significant revamp of the goods and services tax (GST) structure as the regime completes five years in July next year when compensation to states is set to come to an end. Tax slab restructuring and reducing exemptions could be considered in the most comprehensive makeover of the single tax that was rolled out on July 1, 2017. The new regime may have just three major tax rates covering most of the items against four now - 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. The recast will seek to simplify the regime as well as lift revenue.

CBIC notifies rate changes for apparel, footwear and textiles from Jan 1, 2022:- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified an increase in goods and service tax rate of various kinds of textiles, apparel and footwear to 12% from 5% earlier, which will be effective from January 1, 2022. However, GST rates for certain synthetic fibres and yarn have been lowered from 18% to 12%, according to the notification issued on Thursday, bringing in uniformity of rates for the entire textiles sector as well as removing distortions due to the inverted duty structure.

Taxes can't be levied if a company doesn't have any presence in India: ITAT:- A tax tribunal has held that domestic taxes cannot be levied if a company doesn't have any presence in India, offering much needed clarity for companies with advertising income. The tax tribunal was ruling in the case of ESPN, the sports channel, versus the tax authorities. The Delhi Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) ruled that since ESPN did not have a permanent establishment (PE) or a business connection in India, domestic taxes cannot be levied on the company.

India, world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 bn in 2021: World Bank:- India, the world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 billion in 2021 with the United States being the biggest source, accounting for over 20 per cent of these funds, according to the World Bank. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt, the Washington-based global lender said in its report released on Wednesday. In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to USD 89.6 billion, reflecting a drop in overall migrant stock, as a large proportion of returnees from the Arab countries await return.

Forex reserves decline \$763 million to \$640.11 billion:- The country's foreign exchange reserves declined by \$

763 million to \$ 640.112 billion in the week ended November 12, RBI data showed. In the previous week ended November 5, the reserves had decreased by \$ 1.145 billion to \$ 640.874 billion. It touched a lifetime high of \$ 642.453 billion in the week ended September 3, 2021. In the reporting week, the decline in the foreign exchange reserves was on account of a dip in foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves

Government to exceed FY22 tax collection target, direct tax mop-up at Rs 6 lakh crore till Oct: Revenue secretary:- With the net direct tax collection till October closing in on Rs 6 lakh crore and average monthly GST mop-up likely around Rs 1.15 lakh crore this fiscal, the government's tax collection kitty will surpass budget estimates this financial year, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said. Mr Bajaj said the relief in excise duty on petrol and diesel and customs duty on edible oil will cost the exchequer about Rs 80,000 crore this financial year.

Markets So Far

	Yearly			Monthly		Daily		
Indicators	2018	2019	2020	September 2021	October 2021	23 rd November 2021	24 th November 2021	25 th November 2021
BSE SENSEX	36068	41253	47751	58781	60422	58664	58341	58795
GOLD (10 GRMS)	30600	34813	46985	46579	47208	47669	47447	47522
CRUDE OIL (1 BBL)	4437	4007.8	2966	5232	6056	5709	5849	5833
EXCHANGE RATE (INR/USD)	68	70.4	74.11	73.58	74.93	74.42	74.61	74.50

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

Warm Regards,

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