



January 15, 2021 – Friday

### Key Developments

#### **PM Modi to launch Covid-19 vaccination drive on January 16**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the Covid-19 vaccination drive on Saturday morning through video conferencing, an official statement said on Thursday. A total of 3,006 session sites across all States and UTs will be virtually connected during the launch. Around 100 beneficiaries will be vaccinated at each session site on the inaugural day. During the first round, health care workers, working in both in government and private sectors including ICDS workers, will receive the vaccination.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/pm-modi-to-launch-covid-19-vaccination-drive-on-january-16/article33576606.ece>

#### **Govt notifies modified scheme on ethanol production**

The union food ministry has asked states to promote production of first generation (1G) ethanol from feed stocks such as cereals like rice, wheat, barley, corn, sorghum sugarcane and sugar beet under the modified ethanol generation scheme. The is likely to help government advance the deadline for blending 20 per cent ethanol in petrol to 2025 from the earlier announced 2030. Under the modified scheme notified on Thursday, the government would bear interest subvention for five years including one year moratorium against the loan availed by project proponents from banks at the rate of 6% per annum or 50% of the rate of interest charged by banks whichever is lower.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/govt-notifies-modified-scheme-on-ethanol-production/articleshow/80272426.cms>

#### **Pregnant, lactating women should not be administered COVID-19 vaccine at this time: Health ministry**

Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines is not permitted and pregnant and lactating women should not be administered the shots as they have not been part of any anti-coronavirus vaccine clinical trial so far, the health ministry said on Thursday. In a letter to all states and Union territories, the ministry highlighted that under the emergency use authorisation, coronavirus vaccination is indicated only for 18 years and above. If required, COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines should be separated by an interval of at least 14 days. "Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines is not permitted. Second dose should also be of the same COVID-19 vaccine which was administered as the first dose," the letter written by Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Union health ministry said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/pregnant-lactating-women-should-not-be-administered-covid-19-vaccine-at-this-time-health-ministry/articleshow/80274204.cms>

#### **Ninth round of talks between Centre, farm unions to take place on Friday**

The government's ninth round of negotiations with protesting farmer unions will take place as scheduled on Friday and the Centre is hopeful of positive discussions, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said on Thursday. "The government is ready to hold talks with farmers' leaders with an open mind," Tomar told reporters here.

Clearing the confusion over the fate of the ninth round of talks, which was the only outcome in the last meeting on January 8, in the wake of the Supreme Court on January 11 appointing a four-member panel to resolve the impasse and a key member of the proposed committee subsequently recusing himself, Tomar said the talks between the government and the union representatives will take place as scheduled for 12 pm on January 15.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ninth-round-of-talks-between-centre-farm-unions-to-take-place-on-friday-121011401039\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/ninth-round-of-talks-between-centre-farm-unions-to-take-place-on-friday-121011401039_1.html)

### **Ministry of Home Affairs extends validity of FCRA registration of NGOs till May 31**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the validity of registration certificates issued to NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, expiring between September 29, 2020 and May 31, 2021, till May 31 this year. It is mandatory for NGOs receiving foreign funding to register under the FCRA and the decision is expected to be beneficial for several thousand NGOs and other voluntary organisations whose registrations have expired since September 29. In a notification, the MHA said it is mandated to administer the FCRA and section 12(6) of the act provides that the certificate granted shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue. The act was amended last year and the amended law was notified on September 29, 2020.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ministry-of-home-affair-extends-validity-of-fcra-registration-of-ngos-till-may-31/articleshow/80272355.cms>

## **Economy**

### **India's December wholesale inflation slows to 1.22% as food prices ease**

The wholesale price-based inflation slowed to 1.22 per cent in December on easing food prices, as per government data released on Thursday. The inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) was 1.55 per cent in November 2020, and 2.76 per cent in December 2019. The rate of inflation based on WPI Food Index decreased from 4.27 per cent in November 2020, to 0.92 per cent in December 2020, as per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. It is to be noted here that retail inflation had also dropped sharply to 4.59 per cent in December, mainly due to declining food prices.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-december-wholesale-inflation-slows-to-1-22-as-food-prices-ease-121011400467\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-december-wholesale-inflation-slows-to-1-22-as-food-prices-ease-121011400467_1.html)

### **Economy to suffer lasting damage due to Covid, post strong rebound: Fitch**

The Indian economy will suffer “lasting damage” from the Covid-19 crisis, after a strong rebound in FY22, with its growth slowing to about 6.5 per cent a year over FY23 to FY26, according to Fitch Ratings. This would be due to a combination of supply-side scarring and demand-side constraints such as the weak state of the financial sector that will keep India’s GDP well below its pre-pandemic path, a note by the ratings agency said. The Covid-19 induced recession in India has been among the most severe in the world due to a stringent lockdown and limited direct fiscal support. “The economy is now in a recovery phase that will be further supported by the rollout of vaccines in the next months and we expect GDP to expand by 11 per cent in FY22 after falling by 9.4 per cent in FY21,” it said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/economy-to-suffer-lasting-damage-due-to-covid-post-strong-rebound-fitch-121011400950\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/economy-to-suffer-lasting-damage-due-to-covid-post-strong-rebound-fitch-121011400950_1.html)

### **Gujarat HC declines to interfere in CBDT's order of not extending due date of Audit Reports**

Gujarat High Court has decided not to overrule the order by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) related to the due date for filing Audit Report under Income Tax Act. This means Audit Report related with AY2020-21 (FY 2019-20) under section 44AB needs to be filed by January 15. After filing these reports, concerned assesses will be required to file Income Tax Return by February 15. “In the overall view of the matter, we have reached to the conclusion that we should not interfere in the matter,” a division bench of Gujarat High Court said while rejecting plea of All Gujarat Federation of Tax Consultant. “At this stage, we may only observe that the CBDT may consider issuing an appropriate circular taking a lenient view as regards the consequences of late filing of the Tax Audit Reports as provided under Section 271B of the Act. We leave it to the better discretion of the CBDT in this regard,” the bench said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/gujarat-hc-declines-to-interfere-in-cbdts-order-of-not-extending-due-date-of-audit-reports/article33575916.ece>

### **Budget Byte: Borrowing to boost spending but debt will bother govt**

Government borrowed heavily in FY21 to sustain the Covid-19 revenue shock. This may take India’s bulging debt pile to close to 90 per cent of gross domestic product. But as long-term debt grows, interest payments rise in coming years. In FY21 till November, interest expenses were almost half of the revenue receipts. But even before Covid-19

struck the economy, government was borrowing at a rate that was very close to the nominal GDP growth. As FY21 ends, economic growth would still probably lag the rate at which corporates borrow. The earlier nominal GDP growth outpaces long term interest rates in the economy, the better.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/article/budget-byte-borrowing-to-boost-spending-but-debt-will-bother-govt-121011401011\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/article/budget-byte-borrowing-to-boost-spending-but-debt-will-bother-govt-121011401011_1.html)

## Banking and Finance

### Power Finance Corp to launch maiden public bond sale for retail investors

Leading power sector lender Power Finance Corporation (PFC) will launch its maiden public bond sale for retail investors to raise Rs 5,000 crore. PFC will open its public issue of secured, redeemable Non-Convertible Debentures (NCD) on January 15, 2021. The NCDs are of face value of Rs 1,000 each. The company in a statement said the base issue size is Rs 500 crore with an option to retain oversubscription of up to Rs 4,500 crore, aggregating up to Rs 5,000 crore, which is within the shelf limit of Rs 10,000 crore. Allotment would be on first come, first serve basis and the first tranche is scheduled to close on January 29, 2021. This paper recently reported PFC will raise Rs 1.18 trillion this financial year and also tap the domestic retail bond market. The investors are divided into four categories. Out of the total issuance, 40 per cent of the allocation is earmarked for retail and high-net worth individuals (HNIs) each. The remainder is for institutional and non-institutional investors.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/power-finance-corp-to-launch-maiden-public-bond-sale-for-retail-investors-121011400735\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/power-finance-corp-to-launch-maiden-public-bond-sale-for-retail-investors-121011400735_1.html)

### Bengaluru now world's fastest growing tech hub for VC funding, ahead of London, Paris, others: Research

Bengaluru has emerged as the world's fastest-growing mature tech ecosystem in the world since 2016, followed by the European cities of London, Munich, Berlin and Paris, with India's financial centre of Mumbai in sixth place, according to new research released in London on Thursday.

Dealroom.co data analysed by London & Partners the Mayor of London's international trade and investment agency reveals that investment in the Karnataka capital of Bengaluru grew 5.4 times from USD 1.3 billion in 2016 to USD 7.2 billion in 2020, with the Maharashtra capital of Mumbai growing 1.7 times from USD 0.7 billion to USD 1.2 billion in the same period. The UK capital of London registered an impressive three times growth between 2016 and 2020, rising from USD 3.5 billion to USD 10.5 billion. "It's fantastic to see that Bengaluru and London ranked as the top two fastest growing global tech hubs for VC investment. Our two great cities share mutual strengths in entrepreneurship and innovation creating lots of opportunities for tech investors and companies to do business across both regions," said Hemin Bharucha, Chief Representative of India at London & Partners.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/bengaluru-now-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-hub-for-vc-funding-ahead-of-london-paris-others-research/2170850/>

### Govt may look to correct dividend anomaly for FPIs in upcoming Budget

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have reached out to the government to relook at the tax laws that deal with withholding tax on dividends for these investors. Last year's Union Budget had created an uncertainty regarding the quantum of tax that had to be withheld on dividends paid to non-residents. This was because the exact tax rate was not specified under section 195, which covers tax deducted at source (TDS) or withholding tax for non-residents.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/article/govt-may-look-to-correct-dividend-anomaly-for-fpis-in-upcoming-budget-121011401063\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/article/govt-may-look-to-correct-dividend-anomaly-for-fpis-in-upcoming-budget-121011401063_1.html)

### Google removes personal loan apps violating user safety policies from Play Store

Tech giant Google on Thursday said it has reviewed hundreds of personal loan apps in India that were flagged by users and government agencies and those found to be violating its user safety policies were immediately removed from its Play Store.

Google has asked the developers of the remaining identified apps to demonstrate that they comply with applicable local laws and regulations, failing which those apps will also be removed. "Providing a safe and secure experience across Google's products is our top priority. Our global product policies are designed and implemented with this goal in mind, and we're always working to improve our practices to enhance user safety," Google said in a blogpost. Google did not disclose the names of the apps removed.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/technology/google-removes-personal-loan-apps-violating-user-safety-policies-from-play-store/2170877/>

## Industry

### **Company incorporations grow 20% year-on-year during April-December 2020: MCA**

In a sure sign of a revival in business sentiment, company incorporations grew by 20% in the April-December period of FY21 compared to the corresponding period last year. Data from the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) showed that 1.13 lakh companies were incorporated during the first nine months of the ongoing fiscal compared to 93,758 incorporations till December in FY20. The reason behind the sharp growth was the progression of smaller firms and LLPs towards forming companies as growth picked up along with improved facilitation through digital services, a senior government official said. "As businesses grow, they graduate from a proprietorship or partnership, to an LLP and some of them go on to form a company. The figures are a sign of the inherent strength in the economy and better facilitation," they said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/company-incorporations-grow-20-year-on-year-during-april-december-2020-mca/articleshow/80271790.cms>

### **Open to answering any queries from govt on privacy policy update: WhatsApp**

Under fire over its recent privacy policy update, WhatsApp on Thursday said it is open to answering any questions from the government on the issue and is aware that the company will have to "compete" for users' trust with rivals such as Signal. In an interview to PTI, WhatsApp Head Will Cathcart said the Facebook-owned company remains committed to privacy and security of users across India and will continue to explain to users that their messages are end-to-end encrypted. Rival messaging platforms such as Signal and Telegram had seen phenomenal rise in downloads soon after WhatsApp sought user consent to its updated privacy policy that seeks to share some data with Facebook. "We know we have to compete for users' trust when it comes to privacy and that's very good for the world. People should have choices in how they communicate and feel confident that no one else can see their chats," Cathcart said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/open-to-answering-any-queries-from-govt-on-privacy-policy-update-whatsapp-121011400947\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/open-to-answering-any-queries-from-govt-on-privacy-policy-update-whatsapp-121011400947_1.html)

### **Budget 2021 Expectations: 'Govt must specially focus on healthcare innovations by supporting startups'**

With countries still fighting one of mankind's biggest health crisis, gaps in the healthcare infrastructures in even some of the most developed economies has raised alarms across the world. India, which was struggling to meet the healthcare requirements due to lack of access to even basic healthcare facilities like ICUs, ventilators, and other essential medical equipment-even before the pandemic, had to struggle to stay afloat by enforcing one of the most stringent lockdowns anywhere in the world! The question is do we have to wait for a pandemic to hit us to make remarkable transformations in this field for better delivery of healthcare and then align our resources/budget in this direction? On a positive note, this pandemic has been a wake-up call for the healthcare sector in India, where the authorities came face to face with issues plaguing the medical technology industry.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/budget/budget-2021-expectations-govt-must-specially-focus-on-healthcare-innovations-by-supporting-startups/2170857/>

### **PV sales in India at ten-year low, industry working hard to regain volumes: SIAM**

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India slipped to a ten-year low in the April-December this fiscal, and the industry will have to work hard to regain better volumes and business health, industry body SIAM said on Thursday. While releasing the wholesale numbers for December and the third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal, the industry body said high levels of uncertainty remain in the industry due to COVID-19 situation and shortage of critical components like semiconductors. SIAM noted that sales improvement in December and the third quarter did not convey the actual picture of the auto industry, which continues to face severe headwinds. As per the latest data by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales increased 13.59 per cent to 2,52,998 units last month as compared to 2,22,728 in December 2019.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/pv-sales-in-india-at-ten-year-low-industry-working-hard-to-regain-volumes->

[siam/articleshow/80269992.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/indian-supermarket-chains-to-go-on-expansion-spree/articleshow/80269992.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

### **Indian supermarket chains to go on expansion spree**

More Retail is scouting for space in several cities as it aims to open 300 supermarkets and hypermarkets over the next three years, while Reliance Retail is looking for hundreds of properties for its Reliance Smart Point supermarket format, multiple real estate agents said. Riding on a sharp recovery from pandemic-led blows, supermarket chains are aggressively looking to expand nationwide in the coming years, according to retail real estate companies. The big box retailers are betting on India's long-term potential for organised food and grocery business, an estimated market of more than \$500 billion.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/indian-supermarket-chains-to-go-on-expansion-spree/articleshow/80272134.cms?utm\\_source=ETTopNews&utm\\_medium=HPTN&utm\\_campaign=AL1&utm\\_content=23](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/indian-supermarket-chains-to-go-on-expansion-spree/articleshow/80272134.cms?utm_source=ETTopNews&utm_medium=HPTN&utm_campaign=AL1&utm_content=23)

## **Agriculture**

### **FCI to be strengthened, modernised in next 12 months; MSP system to continue: Piyush Goyal**

Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said state-owned FCI will be strengthened and modernised in the next 12 months and stressed that the MSP procurement system will continue. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), government's nodal agency for procurement and distribution of foodgrains, should become more efficient, transparent and accountable, as well as use modern technologies and data analytics to improve its functioning, he said. Addressing the 57th Foundation Day of FCI, Goyal said the organisation will be strengthened and modernised with usage of technology in the next 12 months so that it can continue to serve farmers and consumers. He assured that the procurement system at minimum support system (MSP) will continue and FCI is committed to serve farmers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/fci-to-be-strengthened-modernised-in-next-12-months-msp-system-to-continue-piyush-goyal/articleshow/80272245.cms>

## **Infrastructure**

### **NHAI eyes better traffic management system; Signs MoU with IRTE, IDC to promote road safety; Details here**

To promote road safety as well as to collaborate in the areas of traffic management, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE) and Institute for Development and Communication in Chandigarh (IDC). Under the pact, IRTE will support the highway authority to improve the functional aspects of road geometrics as well as ensure that Traffic Control Devices conform to the standards of IRC to achieve free, efficient and rapid traffic flow, according to a PTI report. Through a programme named 'Capacity building of Road Safety Management through Safe Systems Approach Programme', the institutes will collaborate with the highway authority in the traffic management areas. According to NHAI, IRTE will also support the authority as well as its associated agencies in conducting safety audit, traffic engineering surveys, developing as well as creating awareness programmes for schools, universities and the general public.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/roadways/nhai-eyes-better-traffic-management-system-signs-mou-with-irte-idc-to-promote-road-safety-details-here/2170977/>

## **Telecom**

### **DoT pares telecom revenue estimate by 70% to Rs 40,000cr**

The government expects to net around Rs 40,000 crore from telecom sector this fiscal, less than a third of the budget estimate of Rs 1.33 lakh crore, mainly due to the absence of 5G airwaves in next auctions and limited payments towards past AGR dues. In the absence of premium 5G airwaves from the upcoming March sale and likely limited appetite, the telecommunications department (DoT) expects a maximum of around Rs 10,000 crore as upfront payments this fiscal, which signals overall proceeds of around Rs 40,000 crore under the communications head, said government officials familiar with the matter.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/telecom-news/dot-pares-telecom-revenue-estimate-by-70-to-rs-40000cr/articleshow/80273987.cms>

#### **Optic fibre contributes major part of telecom carriers' infrastructure spend: Sterlite Tech**

Optic-fibre cable or OFC contributes a major pie of the Indian telecom carriers expenditure on creating digital infrastructure which is also a backbone to achieve Centre's ambitious Digital India vision, an executive of the country's top fibre maker said. "Telcos are making aggressive investments in digital network infrastructure, and optic-fibre cable holds a major share of telcos' overall digital infrastructure investment," Anand Agarwal, group chief executive Sterlite Technologies Limited (STL) told ETTelecom.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/telecom-news/optic-fibre-contributes-major-part-of-telecom-carriers-infrastructure-spend-sterlite-tech/articleshow/80273175.cms>

### **Energy**

#### **NTPC arm makes 50 MW solar project in Kasargod commercially operational**

State-run power giant NTPC on Thursday said that its arm THDC India has made its maiden solar project in Kerala commercially operational. "The maiden solar power project of 50 MW capacity situated at Kasargod Solar Park at Kasargod, Kerala of THDC India Limited (a subsidiary company of NTPC Limited), is declared on commercial operation from December 31, 2020," a BSE filing said. With this, the commissioned as well as commercial capacity of the THDC India Limited and NTPC group has become 1,587 MW and 62,975 MW, respectively.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/ntpc-arm-makes-50-mw-solar-project-in-kasargod-commercially-operational/article33574833.ece>

### **States**

#### **Maharashtra govt to issue own trade circulars as opposed to following CBIC**

Maharashtra government has issued a trade circular stating that it will not adopt goods and service tax (GST) circulars issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) but will issue its own following study of such circulars. The trade has sought intervention of the Prime Minister's Office to scuttle the move since it would be detrimental to industry already reeling under the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, while going against the principle of One Nation-One Tax that was introduced by GST. "Henceforth, whenever CBIC issues any circular, Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Department (MGSTD), on its examination, would issue a separate circular regarding its applicability for the implementation of the MGST Act," the commissioner of state tax, Maharashtra has said in its trade circular issued January 12.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/maharashtra-govt-to-issue-own-trade-circulars-as-opposed-to-following-cbic/articleshow/80271260.cms>

### **Healthcare**

#### **Depression, stress may reduce efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines, scientists say**

Depression, stress and loneliness can weaken the body's immune system, and lower the effectiveness of certain vaccines, including the new COVID-19 preventives that are in development and the early stages of global distribution, scientists say. According to a report accepted for publication in the journal Perspectives on Psychological Science, simple interventions, including exercise and getting a good night's sleep in the 24 hours before vaccination, may maximise the vaccine's initial effectiveness. The researchers noted that even though rigorous testing has shown that the COVID-19 vaccines approved for distribution in the US are highly effective at producing a robust immune response, not everyone will immediately gain their full benefit. Environmental factors, as well as an individual's genetics and physical and mental health, can weaken the body's immune system, slowing the response to a vaccine, they said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/depression-stress-may-reduce-efficacy-of-covid-19-vaccines-scientists-say-121011400868\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/depression-stress-may-reduce-efficacy-of-covid-19-vaccines-scientists-say-121011400868_1.html)

#### **Over 8,000 health workers to be vaccinated in Delhi on scheduled days**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the Delhi government has completed all preparations for rollout of the Coronavirus vaccine from January 16, with over 8000 health workers to be vaccinated on every scheduled day in the city. The Delhi government has received 2.74 lakh doses of the vaccine so far from the Centre which would be sufficient for 1.2 lakh health workers. There are a total of 2.4 lakh health workers in Delhi and more vaccine doses are expected to arrive soon, he said. Vaccination will begin at 81 centres on Saturday and the number of centres will be increased after a few days to 175 and finally 1000, he said. The vaccine will be administered on four days of the week - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It will not be given in Sunday and two days of the week.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/over-8-000-health-workers-to-be-vaccinated-in-delhi-on-scheduled-days-121011400514\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/over-8-000-health-workers-to-be-vaccinated-in-delhi-on-scheduled-days-121011400514_1.html)

#### **India to treat homegrown COVID-19 vaccine same as AstraZeneca's**

India will treat a domestic COVID-19 vaccine "equally" with a prominent global one, even though the homegrown drug's efficacy has not been proven, and people will have no choice which they one they get, a top government vaccine official told Reuters. The government on Saturday will launch one of the world's biggest vaccination programmes with shots manufactured in India - one developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca Plc, the other by Bharat Biotech International Ltd with a state-run institute.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/india-to-treat-homegrown-covid-19-vaccine-same-as-astrazenecas/articleshow/80269109.cms>

#### **External**

#### **Vegetable oil imports jump 9% to 24.59 lakh tonnes in November-December**

India's vegetable oil imports jumped 9 per cent in November- December 2020 to 24.59 lakh tonnes due to advance buying by industry to beat the impending export levies by Malaysia, according to industry data. "Import of vegetable oils during November- December 2020 is reported at 24,59,484 tonnes compared to 22,55,501 tonnes for the same period in 2019," Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said in a statement. The edible oil marketing year runs from November to October. Edible oil imports increased to 13,28,161 tonnes in December from 11,07,380 tonnes in the same month last year. Non-edible oil shipments also rose to 28,424 tonnes from 20,901 tonnes during the period under review.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/vegetable-oil-imports-jump-9-to-24-59-lakh-tonne-in-november-december/articleshow/80265223.cms>



**COUNTRY'S FIRST & ONE OF ITS KIND ANNUAL VIRTUAL EXPO on MANUFACTURING & SERVICES SECTOR**

**ANNUALEXPO 2020**  
11 December 2020 to 11 December 2021

**EXHIBITION | WEBINARS | B2B Meetings | LISTING IN DIGITAL DIRECTORY | OPEN FOR 365 days**

**FREE ENTRY FOR BUSINESS VISITORS. REGISTER NOW!**  
<http://registrations.ficci.com/annualexpo2020/attendee-registration.asp>