



October 05, 2021 – Tuesday

### Key Developments

#### **Coal ministry wraps up agenda document for sectoral reforms, sustainability**

The coal ministry on Monday said 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. This agenda has been designed along with a monitoring and reviewing framework which is to be reviewed frequently by the coal secretary for mid-course directions/ alignments, it said. The areas covered step up upon the major reforms done in the last few years and also give direction for covering and meeting the existing and the emerging challenges of the coal sector and aligns itself well with the emerging technologies and diversification thrust of the coal sector, the ministry said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/coal-ministry-wraps-up-agenda-document-for-sectoral-reforms-sustainability-121100401055\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/coal-ministry-wraps-up-agenda-document-for-sectoral-reforms-sustainability-121100401055_1.html)

#### **Liquidation: All public notices of auctions to be published on IBBI's online platform from Oct 1**

Insolvency regulator IBBI has now made it mandatory for all public notices of auctions of every liquidated asset to be published in its centralised platform — [ibbi.gov.in](http://ibbi.gov.in) — from October 1. It has also amended its liquidation-related regulations to stipulate that liquidators have to provide reasons of rejection of the highest bid and need to mention those reasons in the next progress report to be submitted to the adjudicating authority (National Company Law Tribunal).

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/liquidation-all-public-notices-of-auctions-to-be-published-on-ibbis-online-platform-from-oct-1/article36829044.ece>

#### **Ministerial panel on Air India's privatisation meets to discuss winning bid**

The ministerial panel on Air India's privatisation met today to discuss and approve the winning bid for Air India. ET was the first to report last week that the committee headed by home minister Amit Shah is empowered to clear the Air India divestment. The other members of the panel are finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, commerce minister Piyush Goyal and aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The long-awaited Air India divestment is being heralded as one of the biggest reforms by the Narendra Modi government. The earlier attempt in 2018 didn't find any takers. Sources had also indicated that the Tata Group is likely to win the bid to run Air India. The national carrier has received two bids- one from the Tata Group and the other from SpiceJet Chairman Ajay Singh in his personal capacity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/ministerial-panel-on-air-indias-privatisation-met-today-to-discuss-the-winning-bid-for-air-india/articleshow/86757764.cms>

#### **Govt mulls settling cases with telcos out of court, exploring ways to scrap existing SUCs**

The government is considering settling ongoing legal cases with telcos through an out-of-court settlement process to sharply reduce the litigation burden on the telecom industry as part of the next set of telecom reforms. The Centre

is also exploring how to abolish the existing spectrum usage charge (SUC), having scrapped the fees for airwaves to be bought in future auctions, senior officials said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/govt-mulls-settling-cases-with-telcos-out-of-court-also-exploring-way-to-scrap-existing-sucs/articleshow/86766976.cms>

## Economy

### India on path of economic recovery aided by govt reforms: DEA Secy

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth on Monday said India has got on the path of economic recovery aided by various government reforms in the last seven years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Notwithstanding the pandemic, he said, the government continued with the reform process and many strategic reforms were announced even during Covid-19.

"During the pandemic period of the past 18 months, it was not just the management of the impact of the pandemic, starting from a health crisis spilling over to the real economy and thereafter some impact onto the financial sector. Managing each of those, but with very strong emphasis on stepping up the reforms, so that the economy can bounce back with a fast growth rate, and also the potential growth rate can be built," he said. "The country is on the path of recovery," he said in a virtual event organised by industry body FICCI.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-on-path-of-economic-recovery-aided-by-govt-reforms-dea-secy-121100400700\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-on-path-of-economic-recovery-aided-by-govt-reforms-dea-secy-121100400700_1.html)

### PDS DBT beneficiaries number hits record 71 cr so far in FY22

The number of beneficiaries receiving foodgrains under the Public Distribution System (PDS) through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has reached a record high of around 71 crore so far in the current fiscal, according to data available at the DBT portal. This has not surprised the experts, but they have their own concerns.

Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), the government allocates foodgrains (wheat and rice) as per the National Food Security Act, 2013, in case of households covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Foodgrains are provided at uniform subsidised prices of ₹3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains, respectively. Since the Covid pandemic broke, additional foodgrains (5 kg/person) are being provided free of cost.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/dbt-beneficiaries-number-hits-record-71-cr-so-far-in-fy22/article36812367.ece>

### Study bats for OECD multilateral approach to tax digital services

A study paper, recently submitted by Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Jindal Global Law School to the Niti Aayog, argued in favour of OECD's multilateral approach to tax digital services, on which negotiations between the nations are expected to conclude on Friday. It opposed digital service tax (DST), currently imposed by individual countries such as equalisation levy by India and questioned the practicality of UN and G-24's approach to tax these services. The paper, co-authored by Gouri Puri, partner at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Kinshuk Jha, associate professor and executive director, Centre for Comparative & International Taxation, Jindal Global Law School, said India's commitment to the multilateral solution will help in promoting tax certainty in India.

The paper, titled 'Addressing Tax Challenges of Digitalisation: Exploring multilateralism as the way ahead for India, said India's commitment to a multilateral solution will signal to foreign investors the country's willingness to adopt internationally agreed standards that foster tax certainty for businesses and increase the predictability and stability of its tax system.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/study-bats-for-oecd-multilateral-approach-to-tax-digital-services-121100401053\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/study-bats-for-oecd-multilateral-approach-to-tax-digital-services-121100401053_1.html)

### Recovery tracker: Power generation rises, workplace visits up as cases drop

Weekly indicators of economic activity showed a mixed trend for the latest week even as Covid-19 cases declined. Some indicators like electricity generation did better than before, while freight numbers showed lower growth. The seven-day moving average of Covid-19 cases dropped 22.1 per cent to 22,287 on Sunday according to independent tracker covid19india.org. Power generation showed gains over the corresponding week in the 2019 and 2020 calendar year, though it was down last week compared to the previous week.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/recovery-tracker-power-generation-rises-workplace-visits-up-as-cases-drop-121100400858\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/recovery-tracker-power-generation-rises-workplace-visits-up-as-cases-drop-121100400858_1.html)

#### **Consumption recovery to improve from early 2022: Morgan Stanley**

A recovery in consumption and exports over the coming quarters coupled with policy measures such as lower corporate tax rates, labour reforms, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes and companies looking to diversify incremental production are likely to help improve private capex growth in the next 12-15 months, Morgan Stanley Research said on Monday. With vaccination rates fast picking up pace, the investment bank said that it expects consumption recovery to improve from early 2022.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/consumption-recovery-to-improve-from-early-2022-morgan-stanley/articleshow/86750115.cms>

#### **Rajya Sabha proceedings see average daily attendance of 78%: Study**

Rajya Sabha proceedings registered an average daily attendance of 78 per cent members in the last seven sessions, a study conducted by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat showed. The analysis of attendance of Rajya Sabha MPs reveals that around 30 per cent members had full presence in a session and only less than two per cent had zero attendance, sources said. The first-ever quantitative analysis of the extent of participation of Members of Parliament in the house proceedings was undertaken after Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu sought to know the pattern of attendance. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat analysed attendance data over the last seven sessions -- from 248th to 254th session -- having a total of 138 sittings. With the ministers, Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition not required to sign the attendance register, about 225 Members marked their attendance daily as required under the Members of Parliament (Salary and Allowances) Act, according to the study.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rajya-sabha-proceedings-see-average-daily-attendance-of-78-study-121100401085\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/rajya-sabha-proceedings-see-average-daily-attendance-of-78-study-121100401085_1.html)

### **Banking and Finance**

#### **RBI supersedes boards of Srei Infrastructure Finance, Srei Equipment Finance**

The Reserve Bank of India on Monday superseded the boards of directors of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), citing governance concerns and payment defaults. Rajneesh Sharma, Ex-Chief General Manager of Bank of Baroda has been appointed as the administrator of the two NBFCs, it said in a release. "The Reserve Bank also intends to shortly initiate the process of resolution of the two NBFCs under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2019 and would also apply to the NCLT for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution Professional," it said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/rbi-supersedes-boards-of-srei-infrastructure-finance-srei-equipment-finance/2343555/>

#### **Infrastructure finance by banks, NBFC-IFC remains sluggish in Q1 FY2022: Study**

Total infrastructure credit by banks and NBFC-Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in the first quarter of the current fiscal due to the disruptions caused by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, Icria Ratings said in a report. However, with the government's focus on the infrastructure sector, the demand for infrastructure credit is likely to improve over the medium term, the report said. "Given the disruption caused by the second wave of the pandemic, total infrastructure credit (banks and NBFC-IFCs) remained sluggish in Q1 FY2022, with infrastructure focused loan books remaining flat on quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) basis for both NBFC-IFCs as well as banks," the rating agency said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/infrastructure-finance-by-banks-nbfc-ifc-remains-sluggish-in-q1-fy2022-study/articleshow/86752453.cms>

#### **FIDC-led consortium to set up on-tap refinance mechanism non-bank lenders**

Non-bank lenders led by industry body Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) have made representations to the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to set up a on-tap refinance mechanism for such companies under the latter. The request is to set up a funding facility

on the lines of NHB refinance that will provide a facility for onward lending to MSMEs and other credit starved sectors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/fidc-led-consortium-to-set-up-on-tap-refinance-mechanism-non-bank-lenders/articleshow/86754879.cms>

## Industry

### Well-managed companies attract equity investors: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the advice given by company secretaries to businesses is going to make a lot of difference as only "well-managed" companies following good governance practices are attracting investors. She also said Indian companies have done extraordinarily well in the last year with regard to attracting investments because of their transparency and better compliance. "In the last few years, the rate at which compliance-related issues have become the main cause for companies to fail to live up to the expectations of investors, well-managed companies, companies which are more transparent in its functioning, companies which have good governance principles, board driven principles, are attracting lot of investors, not only big ticket investors, but also small retail investors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/well-managed-companies-attract-equity-investors-fm/articleshow/86757408.cms>

### Micro, small businesses get only 1.1% more credit from banks in August vis-a-vis year-ago

Year-on-year (YoY) growth in gross bank credit to the micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector in August improved further from YoY growth in July. Banks deployed Rs 11.10 lakh crore in August 2021, up by 1.1 per cent only from Rs 10.98 lakh crore in August 2020, latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed, in comparison to 0.2 per cent growth to Rs 10.99 lakh crore in July 2021 from Rs 10.96 lakh crore during the year-ago period. The growth, nonetheless, indicated the gradual opening up of businesses across multiple sectors following relaxations in Covid-related restrictions post the second wave of the pandemic in March this year.

The positive recovery in credit growth followed three months of negative YoY credit growth from minus 2.2 per cent in April this year to minus 3.6 per cent in May and minus 3.5 per cent in June, data from RBI's previous bulletins showed.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-micro-small-enterprises-get-only-1-1-more-credit-from-banks-in-august-vis-a-vis-year-ago/2343390/>

### GST registration can't be cancelled if business not carried out from premises due to Covid 19 norms, protocols: Calcutta HC

The Calcutta High Court has ruled that goods and service tax registration cannot be cancelled if business was not carried out from the premises, due to the nationwide Covid pandemic. The order was issued in case of an appeal filed by International Value Retail against revenue department and GST authorities, where the latter had issued a show cause notice and adjudication order cancelling the company's registration for not carrying out its businesses from official premises but from home, in November 2020.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-registration-cant-be-cancelled-if-business-not-carried-out-from-premises-due-to-covid-19-norms-protocols-calcutta-hc/articleshow/86759406.cms>

### Experts advise responsible travel, say mass gatherings can worsen possible 3rd Covid wave

Stressing on responsible travel, researchers have warned that a rise in population density driven by tourist arrivals or mass congregations due to social, religious or political events can lead to a surge in Covid infections worsening an anticipated third wave scenario in selected states. Illustrating a scenario where population density in India has a stronger effect on transmission than in the USA, researchers said a holiday period can amplify a possible third wave peak by up to 103 per cent and cumulative incidence in that wave by 43 per cent. It can also hasten the timing of the epidemic peak by four weeks, compared to a scenario of easing restrictions in the absence of holiday travel, they said. The opinion piece, based on mathematical models 'Responsible travel to and within India during the COVID-19 pandemic', by Balam Bhargava, Samiran Panda and Sandip Mandal from ICMR and Nimalan Arinaminpathy from Imperial College London, has been published in the Journal of Travel Medicine.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/experts-advise-responsible-travel-say-mass-gatherings-can-worsen-possible-3rd-covid-wave/articleshow/86758072.cms>

#### **Indian consumers emerge far more hungry after second Covid wave**

India's consumer goods market recovered significantly faster after the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic compared to the first wave a year ago, helped by higher sales of packaged food, commodities and discretionary categories even as growth of the home care segment slowed down. The July-September quarter saw 46% growth in total sales by value, according to the latest report by Bizom, a sales automation firm that transacts with 7.5 million retail stores.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/indian-consumers-emerge-far-more-hungry-after-second-covid-19-wave/articleshow/86743784.cms>

#### **In India's city of silk sarees, rising prices pose risk to nascent recovery**

In the narrow lanes of the Hindu pilgrimage city of Varanasi, the centre of a famed silk-weaving industry, there's little sign of the nascent economic recovery trumpeted by India's policymakers. Sales of the heavily brocaded silk sarees made in the ancient city on the river Ganges are currently down 70% from the pre-pandemic period, locals say. Many weavers have shut down their looms, others have sold them and some workers have pulled their children out of school, unable to afford the fees.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments-/textiles/in-indias-city-of-silk-sarees-rising-prices-pose-risk-to-nascent-recovery/articleshow/86748339.cms>

#### **Wage hikes, hiring costs set to weigh down IT firms' margin in Q2**

The IT industry is expected to see a dip in margins in the second quarter of the financial year, owing to pressures caused by wage hikes to arrest attrition and hiring to make up for the lost talent. The industry, however, will continue to witness a strong demand, and the growth outlook remains intact for the financial year.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/wage-hikes-hiring-costs-set-to-weigh-down-it-firms-margin-in-q2/article36816890.ece?homepage=true>

### **Agriculture**

#### **Union government is working for the betterment of farmer: Narendra Singh Tomar**

Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare said that Union government is working for the betterment of farmer. While inaugurating a Honey Processing Unit under the National Bee Keeping and Honey Mission at Mirza in Assam, he said that Union government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi started various programmes and policies for the betterment of farmers of the country. Tomar asserted that majority of Indian population lives in villages and primarily depends upon agriculture for their livelihood. So it is necessary to develop the agricultural sector of the country which will directly benefits the farmers he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/union-government-is-working-for-the-betterment-of-farmer-narendra-singh-tomar/articleshow/86759987.cms>

#### **Farmer producer organisations are coming in a big way in India: Nabard chairman**

Nabard chairman G R Chintala on Monday said that farmers producer organisations (FPO) are coming in a big way in India and will immensely help them in getting a good price. Speaking at a webinar organised by BCCI, Chintala said that FPOs is the new paradigm in Indian farming. There are nearly 10,000 FPOs in the country today out of which 5000 have been promoted by Nabard. "It has been seen that farmers belonging to the FPOs get additional benefits ranging from 40 per cent to 60 per cent. Farmers are getting inputs at a lower price and higher realisation for selling", he said. Chintala said that of the 5000 FPOs promoted by Nabard, 2500 of them have gone into investment grade. "These investment grade FPOs are getting money from the banking system and Nabkisan Finance", the Nabard chairman added.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/farmer-producer-organisations-are-coming-in-a-big-way-in-india-nabard-chairman/2343396/>

### **Edayur Chilli, Kuttiaattoor Mango receives GI tag**

Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango are the latest to receive the Geographical Indication tag through concerted efforts of IPR Cell of Kerala Agricultural University, State Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare and farmers of Edayur Chilli and Kuttiaattoor Mango. Kerala is a biodiversity hotspot and also has unique agriculture commodities nurtured by farmers over centuries. The GI registration will help the local products to earn greater access to domestic and international markets, KAU officials said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/edayur-chilli-kuttiaattoor-mango-receives-gi-tag/article36817342.ece>

### **First consignment of Kashmiri walnuts leaves for Karnataka**

Karnataka is all set to get the taste of Kashmiri walnut. The first consignment of Kashmiri walnuts was recently flagged off from Budgam, a release issued by the ministry of commerce and industry said on Monday . A truck carrying 2,000 kgs of walnuts was despatched to Bengaluru, Karnataka under the One District, One Product (ODOP) initiative of the ministry.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/first-consignment-of-kashmiri-walnuts-leaves-for-karnataka/articleshow/86749811.cms>

## **Infrastructure**

### **Important for country to have model builder-buyer agreement, says SC; seeks Centre's reply**

The Supreme Court Monday said it is important for the country to have a model builder-buyer agreement in the real estate sector for consumer protection because developers try to put numerous clauses in it, which common people may not be aware of. A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna issued notice to the Centre on the plea and sought its response. "It is very important for consumer protection, because builders try to put any number of clauses in the agreement which common people may not be aware of. There should be some uniformity in the agreement. It is important that this (model builder buyer agreement) is achieved in the country," the bench said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/important-for-country-to-have-model-builder-buyer-agreement-says-sc-seeks-centres-reply/articleshow/86751804.cms>

### **Office absorption rose by 168% in Q3CY21, says Knight Frank report**

About 12.5 million square feet of office spaces got absorbed in the third quarter of this calendar year, representing 168 per cent year-on-year growth, according to a new study. The quarterly report released by Knight Frank says that between January–September 2021, office markets witnessed an incremental activity of 13 per cent by transactional volume and six per cent growth in new office completion over the corresponding period the previous year. Corporate India's significant shift toward resuming work from office, the increasing rate of vaccinations and fewer restrictions on mobility have improved the business environment and aided recovery to market traction levels seen in pre-pandemic times, Knight Frank India said. The total office transactions in eight Indian markets in Q3CY21 have improved and reached 83 per cent of the 2019 quarterly average level, it said. Among the larger markets, Chennai, Bengaluru, and the National Capital Region (NCR) recorded highest recovery in Q3CY21 with transactions reaching 123 per cent, 112 per cent and 93 per cent respectively of the quarterly average of the year 2019.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/office-absorption-rose-by-168-in-q3cy21-says-knight-frank-report-121100400608\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/office-absorption-rose-by-168-in-q3cy21-says-knight-frank-report-121100400608_1.html)

### **Housing sales in Q3 jump over two fold to 32,358 units in 7 cities: JLL**

Housing sales jumped over two-fold at 32,358 units during July-September period across seven major cities as demand bounced back with unlocking of economic activities and lower COVID infections, according to property consultant JLL India. Sales of residential properties stood at 14,415 units in the year-ago period and 19,635 units in the previous quarter. JLL India released its Residential Market Update Q3 2021, that tracks housing sales data of seven cities -- Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Mumbai includes Mumbai city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane city and Navi Mumbai. Data includes only sales of apartments. Row houses, villas and plotted developments are excluded from its analysis.

According to the city-wise data for Q3, 2021, housing sales in Bengaluru increased to 5,100 units during July-September 2021 from 1,742 units in the corresponding period of the previous year. Chennai witnessed fall in housing

sales to 1,500 units from 1,570 units. Among seven cities, only Chennai registered a year-on-year fall in sales during the third quarter of 2021 calendar year.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/housing-sales-in-q3-jump-over-two-fold-to-32-358-units-in-7-cities-jll-121100400298\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/housing-sales-in-q3-jump-over-two-fold-to-32-358-units-in-7-cities-jll-121100400298_1.html)

### **Mumbai airport to reopen domestic passenger terminal T1 from October 20**

The city's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) on Monday announced the reopening of its domestic passenger terminal T1 from midnight of October 20. GoFirst, AirAsia India, Star Air and TruJet will resume all their domestic operations from Terminal 1 from October 20 at midnight, the private airport operator said in a release. The Mumbai airport authorities had suspended flight services from T1 in mid-April after the deadly second wave of the pandemic hit the country and moved all operations to T2, which is largely used for international connectivity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/mumbai-airport-to-reopen-domestic-passenger-terminal-t1-from-october-20/articleshow/86756156.cms>

## **Energy**

### **Coal India supply to power sector grows by 12% to 118 MT in Sep qtr**

State-owned Coal India Ltd supplied 117.6 million tonnes (MT) of coal to power utilities during July-September of the current fiscal, registering a growth of 12.3 per cent. "Coal India Ltd (CIL) supplied 117.6 million tonnes to power utilities during July- September 2021 quarter, the highest for Q2 of any year, posting 12.3 per cent growth," the PSU said in a statement. This is a volume jump of 13 MT compared to 104.7 MT in the same quarter last year. The growth is even higher at 17.2 per cent when matched against 100.3 MT of COVID-free second quarter of FY'20. CIL's total offtake shot up to 147.3 MT at the quarter ending September which is 9.7 per cent more against comparable quarter of last year when the offtake was 134.3 MT.

"The company is responsive to the importance of improving coal stocks at thermal power stations. We are rallying our efforts to restore normalcy as early as possible by pushing additional quantities. The demand is far outstripping the supplies now," CIL Director Marketing S N Tiwari said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-india-supply-to-power-sector-grows-by-12-to-118-mt-in-sep-qtr-121100400848\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/coal-india-supply-to-power-sector-grows-by-12-to-118-mt-in-sep-qtr-121100400848_1.html)

### **Power cost to remain high as imported coal prices soar: Ind-Ra**

Short-term power prices are likely to remain elevated in the near term on account of a continued increase in imported coal prices, according to rating agency Ind-Ra. It noted that a large part of the increased power generation would continue to be met through coal-based plants, although coal output is not increasing to the desired level. This is reflected in low inventory stocks at power plants, and therefore, a part of the increased energy demand will have to be met through imported coal, Ind-Ra said. In light of the expected high imported coal prices, the short-term power prices in India are likely to remain elevated, it stated. The speedy recovery in power demand post the second wave of COVID-19 infections, coupled with lower than adequate domestic coal production, led to a reduction in coal inventory levels at various power plants, it said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/power-cost-to-remain-high-as-imported-coal-prices-soar-ind-ra-121100400619\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/power-cost-to-remain-high-as-imported-coal-prices-soar-ind-ra-121100400619_1.html)

### **PMUY beneficiaries may continue using around three cylinders a year**

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries appear to be shrugging off the high cost of refills and maintaining the same level of annual consumption at around three cylinders a year. According to data compiled by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the annualised consumption for this year, based on numbers till September 2021, stands at around 3.7 refills per beneficiary. This is based on extrapolated data for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder refills, senior officials told Business Standard. But this data will vary closer towards the end of the year, considering fire wood availability.

"Since a complete weaning away from firewood or dung for cooking has not happened, PMUY beneficiaries tend to stack LPG with other forms of fuel to meet their requirements. During the rainy season, dry wood availability becomes an issue and LPG consumption gains," an oil ministry official said. PMUY beneficiaries had gone in for 3.01-

cylinder refills in 2019-20 and three refills in 2018-19. This was when domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices were regulated by budgetary subsidies, which varied every month to keep the effective price of a cylinder closer to Rs 500 apiece.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pmuy-beneficiaries-may-continue-using-around-three-cylinders-a-year-121100400231\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pmuy-beneficiaries-may-continue-using-around-three-cylinders-a-year-121100400231_1.html)

## States

### **Delhi unveils 10-point action plan to combat air pollution in winter**

To combat air pollution in Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced a 10-point "winter action plan" that focuses on dust control, using the Pusa bio-decomposer, installing smog towers and checking waste burning and vehicular emissions. He also urged the neighbouring states to retrofit thermal power plants in NCR areas with new technology and ensure the use of CNG-operated vehicles and cleaner fuel in industries in the region. Kejriwal claimed that the Centre and neighbouring states have not done anything to check stubble burning, which will lead to a rise in air pollution in the winter season. He appealed to the governments of neighbouring states to work together to make the air clean. He also urged the Centre and states to ensure free spraying of the bio-decomposer for in-situ management of crop residue, as his government has been doing in Delhi.

"The Delhi government has provided a solution to the problem of stubble burning the Pusa bio-decomposer. We hope it will be used as much as possible," he said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-cm-announces-action-plan-to-combat-air-pollution-in-winters-121100400472\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-cm-announces-action-plan-to-combat-air-pollution-in-winters-121100400472_1.html)

### **No state should deny Rs 50,000 ex-gratia to kin of Covid-19 victims: SC**

The Supreme Court Monday said no state should deny the ex-gratia compensation of Rs 50,000, as recommended by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), to the kin of persons who died of COVID-19 on the sole ground that death certificate does not mention it as the cause of death. The bench said that the compensation would be disbursed from state disaster relief funds within 30 days of submitting application and cause of death being certified as of COVID-19. It also ordered the states and the Centre to give wide publicity to the scheme in print media and electronic media. Approving the NDMA guidelines, a bench of Justices M R Shah and A S Bopanna said that in cases of death certificates already issued and a family member being aggrieved it would be open for them to approach appropriate authority.

On production of essential documents like RTPCR test, the concerned authorities can modify death certificates, the apex court said, adding that if still aggrieved, the members can approach the Grievance Redressal Committee.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/no-state-should-deny-rs-50-000-ex-gratia-to-kin-of-covid-19-victims-sc-121100400477\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/no-state-should-deny-rs-50-000-ex-gratia-to-kin-of-covid-19-victims-sc-121100400477_1.html)

### **Kerala government's high speed internet project K-FON expected completion by 2021 end: CM**

Kerala government's ambitious public centric project, K-FON, for providing high speed internet for free to the poor and at affordable rates to others is expected to be completed by the end of the year, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday. The CM, in a Facebook post, said the first phase of the project was completed in February this year. As part of the first phase, a survey of 30,000 offices, 35,000 kilometres of optical fibre cable and 8 lakh Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) poles has been completed, he said in the post. The first phase was launched in Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/kerala-governments-high-speed-internet-project-k-fon-expected-completion-by-2021-end-cm/articleshow/86758561.cms>

## Healthcare

### **70% of India's adult population administered first vaccine: Mandaviya**

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday said that 70 per cent of India's adult population has been administered the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. "Strong Nation, Rapid Vaccination: India has administered the first dose of #COVID19 vaccine on 70% of the population. Under PM @NarendraModiji, India is achieving new landmarks in the fight against the pandemic. Keep it up India, let us fight Corona," the minister said in a tweet. With the



administration of 23,46,176 vaccine doses in the last 24 hours, the cumulative COVID-19 vaccine doses administered has exceeded 90.79 crore as per provisional reports till 7 am. This has been achieved through 88,05,668 sessions held across the country, the ministry said. According to officials, 25 per cent of the population has been administered both the doses. More than 5.67 crore (5,67,37,905) balance and unutilised vaccine doses are still available with the states and UTs to be administered.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/70-of-india-s-adult-population-administered-first-vaccine-mandaviya-121100400437\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/70-of-india-s-adult-population-administered-first-vaccine-mandaviya-121100400437_1.html)

#### **WHO's Solidarity clinical trials: India to start trials of two new drugs to treat Covid-19**

India will roll out this month the next phase of the World Health Organization's Solidarity trial - Solidarity PLUS - which aims to assess the effectiveness of new drugs in treating hospitalised Covid-19 patients. The India trial will study two drugs - Imatinib and Infliximab - which are already in use for other conditions. Imatinib is used for treating certain cancers while infliximab is used for diseases of the immune system, including Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/whos-solidarity-clinical-trials-india-to-start-trials-of-two-new-drugs-to-treat-covid-19/articleshow/86770386.cms>

#### **WHO may take a call on Covaxin today**

The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) of the World Health Organisation (WHO) will meet on Tuesday to make its recommendations on Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin on Emergency Use Listing (EUL). In an hour-long meeting, to be held on Tuesday the Hyderabad-based company will give a presentation on vaccine safety and efficacy data emerging from Bharat Biotech Covid-19 vaccine clinical trials (phase 1-3 trial results and post marketing). It will also discuss risk management plans and other implementation considerations.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/who-may-take-a-call-on-covaxin-tomorrow/articleshow/86770859.cms>

#### **COVID vaccine delivery through drones starts in Northeast**

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday launched an initiative to facilitate COVID-19 vaccine delivery to tough and hard-to-reach terrains of the Northeast through drones. The ICMR's Drone Response and Outreach in North East (i-Drone), a delivery model to make sure that life-saving COVID vaccines reach everyone, is in line with the government's commitment to 'Antyodaya' in health - making healthcare accessible to the last citizen of the country, officials said. "This is for the first time that a 'Make in India' drone has been used in South Asia to transport COVID-19 vaccine over an aerial distance of 15 km in 12-15 mins from the Bishnupur district hospital to Loktak lake, Karang island in Manipur for administration at the PHC. "The actual road distance between these locations is 26 km. Today, 10 beneficiaries will receive the first dose and eight will receive the second dose at the PHC," Mandaviya said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/covid-vaccine-delivery-through-drones-starts-in-northeast/articleshow/86755340.cms>

#### **External**

#### **WTO upgrades global trade growth forecast to 10.8% in 2021, 4.7% in 2022**

The WTO has upgraded its forecast for global merchandise trade volume growth to 10.8 per cent in 2021 and 4.7 per cent in 2022 from the previous predictions of 8 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively in March this year, spelling more good news for Indian exporters on a high growth track this fiscal. "The resurgence of global economic activity in the first half of 2021 lifted merchandise trade above its pre-pandemic peak, leading WTO economists to upgrade their forecasts for trade in 2021 and 2022," per the upgraded forecast released on Monday.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/wto-upgrades-global-trade-growth-forecast-to-108-in-2021-47-in-2022/article36828679.ece>

#### **G20 Trade Meet: India likely to make renewed pitch for IPR waiver for Covid-19 vaccines, meds**

India is likely to make a renewed call for a temporary waiver of intellectual property rights obligations for equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines and medication items across the world at the G20 meeting of Trade Ministers in Italy on from October 10 to 12 in Geneva, Switzerland. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to put forward

the country's views on post-pandemic recovery, the distribution of vaccines and medicines around the world, the forthcoming WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), and sustainable development measures on October 12, officials tracking the matter told *BusinessLine*.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/g20-trade-meet-india-likely-to-make-renewed-pitch-for-ipr-waiver-for-covid-19-vaccines-meds/article36821829.ece>

#### **Government restricts export of syringes with or without needles**

India on Monday restricted the export of syringes with or without needles which means their exports would now require a licence. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said that the export policy for syringes with or without needles

has been amended from "free" to "restricted".

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/government-restricts-export-of-syringes-with-or-without-needles/articleshow/86758243.cms>

#### **Not much success yet in tapping Chinese market: Tea association official**

Aiming at geographical diversification, Darjeeling tea exporters have been trying to tap the vast Chinese market, but are yet to taste success so far due to travel constraints amid the COVID-19 pandemic, an official said on Monday. Chairman of Indian Tea Exporters Association (ITEA) Anshuman Kanoria said the exporters of Darjeeling tea are exploring new markets, including China. "Our traditional markets of premium Darjeeling orthodox tea have been Europe, Japan and Germany. We are looking at other regions like the USA and China," Kanoria said. He said although talks with Chinese importers are underway, exploration of the market has hit a roadblock as participating in trade fairs and other activities have not been possible, owing to the pandemic-related restrictions.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/not-much-success-yet-in-tapping-chinese-market-tea-association-official/articleshow/86755204.cms>



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