



November 10, 2021 – Wednesday

Key Developments

Govt notifies amended minerals concession rules to ease pricing pressure

The Union government has notified the amended minerals concession rules that will pave the way for sale of 50 per cent of mineral produced from captive mines, transfer of mines without any charges and partial surrender of a lease. Various amendments were made in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Amendment) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) earlier this year. The changes were aimed at increasing employment and investment in the mining sector, increasing revenues to states, raising the production and time-bound operationalisation of mines, among other objectives.

An official statement on Tuesday said the mines ministry has "notified the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Mineral) Concession (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2021 to amend The Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Mineral) Concession Rules, 2016 (MCR, 2016)".

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-notifies-amended-minerals-concession-rules-121110901385_1.html

Centre proposes model policy to encourage film shoots and promote tourism

For several years Swiss Alps and beaches in Mauritius have lured Indian cinema makers. The locales have also become popular destinations for Indian holiday makers. Now to boost domestic tourism, the central government will encourage cinema makers to film in India. The government will frame a model film facilitation policy and also encourage states to set up film promotion offices to facilitate timely permissions for shoots. This is a part of a joint initiative by Information & Broadcasting and Tourism ministries. While the cost of shooting a film is lower in India than overseas, producers opt for foreign locales because of friendly policies and easier permissions.

Fourteen states have their own film facilitation policy while 18 states give incentives to film makers. Speaking at an industry symposium on Monday, secretary (Information & Broadcasting ministry) Apurva Chandra said the central government is planning to come out with a draft model film policy based on some of the state policies. The draft model policy will be circulated with other states so that they too can adopt it. While incentives are important, ease of shooting and ease of clearances are more essential, he said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-proposes-model-policy-to-encourage-film-shoots-and-promote-tourism-121110900894_1.html

Govt frames rules for release of 75% of amount stuck in arbitration in construction sector

To address liquidity issues facing the construction sector, the government has framed rules that will allow for the release of 75 per cent of the amount to contractors against a bank guarantee in cases where a department has challenged an arbitral award. "In cases where the ministry/department has challenged an arbitral award and, as a result, the amount of the arbitral award has not been paid, 75 per cent of the arbitral award (which may include interest up to date of the award) shall be paid by the ministry/ department to the contractor/ concessionaire against a bank guarantee," the Department of Expenditure said in an order dated October 29. A new Rule 227A has been included in the general financial rule (GFR) to give effect to this.

The bank guarantee "shall only be for the said 75 per cent of the arbitral award and not for the interest which may become payable to the ministry/department should the subsequent court order require a refund of the said amount," the order said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/govt-frames-rules-for-release-of-75-of-amount-stuck-in-arbitration-in-construction-sector/articleshow/87607016.cms>

Now get Aadhaar verification done offline, users get power to revoke eKYC consent

Now people can get their Aadhaar verification done offline by sharing a digitally-signed document generated by the Unique Identity Authority of India which will contain only the last 4 digits of the Aadhaar number assigned to the holder, according to new rules published by the government. The Aadhaar (Authentication and Offline Verification) Regulations 2021 notified on November 8 and published on the official website on Tuesday have laid down a detailed process to enable offline verification of the Aadhaar for e-Know Your Customer process.

The UIDAI has added QR Code Verification, Aadhaar Paperless offline e-KYC verification, e-Aadhaar verification, offline paper based verification and any other type of offline verification introduced by the authority from time to time apart from existing mechanisms on online verification. The rule gives Aadhaar holder choice to share as a digitally signed document, "Aadhaar Paperless Offline e-KYC, generated by the UIDAI containing last 4 digits of Aadhaar number, demographic data like name, address, gender, and date of birth, and photograph of the Aadhaar number holder etc with authorised agency for e-KYC.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/now-get-aadhaar-verification-done-offline-users-get-power-to-revoke-ekyc-consent/articleshow/87613057.cms>

Economy

Nearly 24 mn income tax returns filed for FY21 so far, says I-T dept

Over 2.38 crore income tax returns have been filed for 2020-21 fiscal so far, the I-T department said on Tuesday. Of this, over 1.68 crore income tax returns (ITRs) have been processed, while refunds have been issued in more than 64 lakh cases. The Income Tax e-filing portal has received more than 2.38 crore ITRs for AY 2021-22, the I-T department tweeted. It also urged taxpayers to file their ITRs for 2020-21 fiscal on the e-filing portal quickly. The government has extended the due date for filing ITRs for 2020-21 fiscal twice. For individual taxpayer the last date is December 31.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/nearly-24-mn-income-tax-returns-filed-for-fy21-so-far-says-i-t-dept-121110900887_1.html

Hiring demand up 9% YoY in Oct, dips sequentially: Monster Employment Index

Hiring demand for the month of October 2021, witnessed a dip of 3 per cent, as compared to September 2021. However, job demand grew 9 per cent sequentially in the past six months showing an optimistic outlook to recovery, said the Monster Employment Index. There has also been a strong year-on-year recovery with a 9 per cent uptick in October 2021 (Oct 2021 vs Oct 2020). October 2021 saw industries such as Office Equipment/Automation (up 30 per cent) show remarkable improvement on account of back-to-office trends. Travel and Tourism (7 per cent) also witnessed considerable monthly growth with a major uptick in cities such as Chandigarh, Jaipur, and Kochi.

Hiring of professionals in hospitality and travel roles saw the highest month-on-month growth, indicating an overall promising recovery for the Travel sector in the months to come (Oct 2021 vs Sept 2021). There has also been an improvement in industries such as Education and Retail, as compared to the previous months.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/hiring-demand-up-9-yoy-in-oct-dips-sequentially-monster-employment-index-121110900846_1.html

States' borrowing cost falls sharply to 6.81% from 7.02%

After spiking to a record 7.02 per cent last week, the borrowing cost for the states has declined sharply to 6.81 per cent at the weekly auctions held on Tuesday, mainly because they raised shorter tenor funds and 37 per cent less than notified. Last week, the cost of debt for three states had peaked to the highest this fiscal at 7.02 per cent, up 12 bps over the previous week, despite most of the notified states drawing down less or not participating in the auctions. According to rating agencies Icra and Care Ratings, the reason for the lower cut-off at 6.81 per cent was driven by the cut in the Central excise duty and VAT by some states on petrol and diesel but left the spread between the 10-year G-secs and state debt widened to 64 bps from 61 bps last week, as the duty cut will cushion the inflation. The Rs 17,000 crore GST compensation was another reason for the lesser appetite for funds this week.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/states-borrowing-cost-falls-sharply-to-6-81-from-7-02/2365839/>

Banking and Finance

RBI to hold its first-ever hackathon, HARBINGER 2021, on payments system

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will be organising its first global hackathon on the theme of digital payments, it said in a statement on Tuesday. "HARBINGER 2021—Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' will see participants identify and develop solutions "that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience, while strengthening the security of digital payments and promoting customer protection," the central bank said in its statement. The hackathon is now inviting innovative ideas in the payment and settlement system, registration for which can be done till November 15. The RBI sought ideas on innovative, easy-to-use, non-mobile digital payment solutions for converting small-ticket cash transactions to digital mode, context-based retail payments to remove the physical act of payment, alternate authentication mechanism for digital payments, and social media analysis monitoring tool for detection of digital payment fraud and disruption.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-to-hold-its-first-ever-hackathon-harbinger-2021-on-payments-system-121110901655_1.html

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to meet heads of PSBs next week; nudge them for credit expansion to boost economy

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to meet heads of public sector banks (PSBs) next week to review performance of the lenders and progress made by them to support the economy battered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Banks would be urged to sanction loans for productive sectors to accelerate revival of the economy, sources said. According to sources, the two-day meeting would commence on November 17 and undertake a comprehensive review of various segments, progress in government schemes including Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/fm-nirmala-sitharaman-to-meet-heads-of-psbs-next-week-nudge-them-for-credit-expansion-to-boost-economy/articleshow/87611387.cms>

Crypto exchanges want government to define various crypto assets

Crypto exchanges are lobbying for definition of different types of crypto assets while the government looks to table the Cryptocurrency Bill in the Parliament this budget session, said people with direct knowledge of the matter. The government's current plan includes creating a broad framework around crypto assets that would give them a legal credence in India. "The department of economic affairs (DEA) and the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) are aiming to table the draft Bill which will be presented in the budget session," an official directly involved in the drafting of the Bill told ET on the condition of anonymity. "The idea is to open it up for debate, but the sense is that cryptocurrency will be a regulated commodity in the near future."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/crypto-exchanges-want-government-to-define-various-crypto-assets/articleshow/87613408.cms>

GIFT Authority may be vested with overseeing crypto trading

The government may entrust the responsibility of overseeing cryptocurrency trading to Gandhinagar-based Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT). The government is thinking of appointing GIFT-based International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) as the regulator for crypto trading, sources told BusinessLine. This is after two of the country's main banking and financial market policy-making authorities — the Reserve Bank of India and SEBI — appear not very keen on regulating the crypto market.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/gift-authority-may-be-vested-with-overseeing-crypto-trading/article37406513.ece?homepage=true>

Covid-19 vaccine bill likely to shoot up to ₹50,000 crore

The Centre's spending on the Covid-19 vaccination programme is expected to touch ₹50,000 crore this fiscal year. The government had made a provision for ₹35,000 crore in the Budget.

"We expect the overall expenditure to be in the range of ₹45,000-50,000 crore," a top Finance Ministry official told *BusinessLine*, adding that much of this amount has already been spent. Further, the official said that for anything

above the budgeted ₹35,000 crore, Parliament's nod would be sought in the Winter Session, commencing from November 29.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/covid-19-vaccine-bill-likely-to-shoot-up-to-50000-crore/article37406531.ece?homepage=true>

Industry

Diwali Bash: Online sales surge as people from smaller cities go digital

With a sharp drop in the number of Corona positive cases, both customers and sellers are going overboard to make up for the losses in sales during last year's Diwali, dampened by the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, both offline and online sales have registered a remarkable surge compared to those of last year.

Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has announced a record-breaking Rs 1.25 lakh crore Diwali sale for offline traders and retailers, while online cashback and coupon site CashKaro has witnessed 8 times jump in traffic during Diwali sales. In terms of sales term, CashKaro has registered 5 times growth in sales with around 30 lakh orders in and around Diwali.

CashKaro and EarnKaro Co-Founder Swati Bhargava attributes the performance to the lucrative offers announced by brands, as the e-commerce players try hard to capitalise the upswing in the online shopping trend.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/money/diwali-bash-online-sales-surge-as-people-from-smaller-cities-go-digital/2365782/>

Companies may get a relief on transition of cess/tax credit following a Bombay High Court ruling

In what could give relief to several companies the Bombay High Court recently quashed tax notice that disallowed transitional tax credit for educational cess. The court was ruling in the matter of Godrej & Boyce case where a transitional credit of Rs 3.84 crore was availed. The tax department had issued notices to the company claiming that the tax credits were availed erroneously.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/companies-may-get-a-relief-on-transition-of-cess/tax-credit-following-a-bombay-high-court-ruling/articleshow/87608288.cms>

5G mobiles account for 22 pc share of India's smartphone shipment: CMR

Shipment of 5G smartphones in the country continues to gain traction and such devices accounted for 22 per cent market share in the third quarter of 2021, according to CMR. As per CMR's India Mobile Handset Market Review Report for Q3 2021, more than 20 5G-capable smartphones were launched over the course of the quarter. "Across price tiers, 5G smartphone shipments are gaining in strength, and contributing to increased affordability, availability and accessibility. "With smartphone brands, such as OnePlus, Oppo, realme, Samsung and vivo prioritizing 5G, and consumers seeking to future-proof themselves, 5G continues to gain momentum," CMR Analyst-Industry Intelligence Group Shipra Sinha said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/5g-mobiles-account-for-22-pc-share-of-indias-smartphone-shipment-cmr/articleshow/87609007.cms>

Dairy industry in India to grow by 9-11% in FY22, says report

The dairy industry is expected to grow by 9-11 per cent in 2021-22, driven by a revival in economic activities, increasing per capita consumption of milk and milk products, changing dietary preferences due to rising urbanisation, according to a report. The industry-wide demand to grow by 9-11 per cent in the financial year 2021-22, Icria said in a report maintaining a stable outlook for the dairy industry over the long term.

Revival in economic activities, increasing per capita consumption of milk and milk products, changing dietary preferences due to rising urbanisation, and continued government support to the dairy industry will drive demand, it added. Domestic milk production is estimated to increase by 5-6 per cent in the financial year 2021-22, supported by a normal monsoon and early onset of the flush season in some regions, the report said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dairy-industry-in-india-to-grow-by-9-11-in-fy22-says-report-121110901272_1.html

Agriculture

Govt buys over 209 lakh ton paddy so far this Kharif marketing season for Rs 41,066 cr

The government on Tuesday said it has procured 209.52 lakh tonne of paddy so far in the current Kharif marketing season for over Rs 41,066.80 crore. The Kharif marketing season (KMS) 2021-22 runs from October to September. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the government's nodal agency for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains. In a statement, the Food Ministry said 209.52 lakh tonne of paddy has been purchased till November 8 of the ongoing Kharif marketing season.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govt-buys-over-209-lakh-ton-paddy-so-far-this-kharif-marketing-season-for-rs-41066-cr/articleshow/87605122.cms>

Infrastructure

Avg price of 40-ft high cube Chennai container drops 5%: Container xChange

Despite the ongoing pandemic, which has led to container shortage across the globe due to restrictions, the average price of a 40-ft high cube container at Chennai has dropped to \$5,400 on October 25, from \$5,700 in September.

“Though there is a drop on a month-on-month basis, the general trend observed from the beginning of the year till date in the ports of Chennai and Nhava Sheva is a gradual increase in the overall trading prices of containers in India,” Container xChange report said today. Alongside, at Nhava Sheva prices of a 40-ft high cube container averaged at \$4,880 and has been stable in the period under review.

“There is also a drop in container freights in the last few weeks since China ports are heavily infected by Covid-19 leading to drop in congestion,” said an official with an Indian shipping company on condition of anonymity.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/avg-price-of-40-ft-high-cube-chennai-container-drops-5-container-xchange-121110901574_1.html

Domestic air passenger traffic rises 67% to around 8.8 mn in Oct: ICRA

Domestic air passenger traffic grew by a whopping 67 per cent year-on-year at around 87-88 lakh in October, on the back of festive season demand amid continuous fall in the number of COVID-19 infection cases, says an ICRA report. According to credit ratings agency ICRA, domestic passenger volume in October 2020 was at 52.71 lakh. The growth in domestic passenger traffic, on a sequential basis, was nearly 24-25 per cent higher compared to 71 lakh, as per ICRA. Moreover, domestic carriers operated 46 per cent more flights at 72,000 during the month under review over 49,150 departures logged in October 2020, ICRA said, adding, on a sequential basis, the number of departures in October 2021 were higher by around 18 per cent, as COVID-19 infections demonstrated a downward trajectory. However, higher aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices continue to pose a near-term challenge with price seeing a sequential increase of 13.9 per cent in November 2021, it stated. For October 2021, the average daily departures were at around 2,400, significantly higher than the average daily departures of 1,585 in October 2020, and higher than around 2,100 in September 2021, said Suprio Banerjee, Vice President and Sector Head at ICRA.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/domestic-air-passenger-traffic-rises-67-to-around-8-8-mn-in-oct-icra-121110900879_1.html

Telecom

DoT sets up directorate to track national broadband expansion goals

The government has established a National Broadband Mission (NBM) directorate to track time-bound meeting of countrywide broadband connectivity expansion targets as part of efforts to bridge the digital divide. The directorate will create a central dashboard on the telecom department's portal, which will offer monthly updates on actual progress levels around meeting national broadband expansion goals, including setting up of digital communications infrastructure and providing affordable universal broadband services across India.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/dot-sets-up-directorate-to-track-national-broadband-expansion-goals/articleshow/87611016.cms>

Energy

India to achieve 50% clean energy share before 2030 deadline: Singh

India will easily achieve the target of 50 per cent share of energy from non-fossil fuels and also the 500-gigawatt (GW) renewable energy capacity before the deadline of 2030 set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh. It assumes significance in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge at the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070. Modi also raised the nationally determined contribution (NDC) target of non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030, from 450 gigawatts earlier. Talking to PTI, Singh said, "We are working hard towards the prime minister's target of 500 GW from renewable energy by 2030. We had said we will do 40 per cent (energy from non-fossil fuel) by 2030. We have reached 39 per cent. We will easily achieve the 50 per cent target by 2030. The prime minister has given the target till 2030, we will achieve...before that." He added that the prime minister has increased the renewable energy (RE) target by 50 GW to 500 GW to be achieved by 2030.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-to-achieve-50-clean-energy-share-before-2030-deadline-singh-121110901004_1.html

Oil PSUs to set up 22,000 EV charging stations in the next 3-5 years

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and two other public sector oil firms will install 22,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations over the next 3-5 years to support the nation's target to reduce its carbon intensity and reach net zero emissions by 2070. IOC, the country's largest state-controlled refiner by capacity, will set up EV charging facilities at 10,000 fuel outlets over the next three years, Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya said. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) said it will set up 7,000 stations over the next five years while Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) has plans for 5,000 stations. At the 2021 Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined a net-zero emissions target by 2070 for India. Also, India is targeting to increase its low-carbon power capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 and meet 50 per cent of its total energy requirements by 2030.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/oil-psus-to-set-up-22-000-ev-charging-stations-in-the-next-3-5-years-121110901295_1.html

Solar projects allowed deadline extension amid China delays

The government has enabled timeline extension for solar projects facing disruptions in supply of imported solar modules, mainly from China, where severe power cuts imposed on industries have led to abrupt cost increase and retraction of several signed binding contracts. The renewable energy ministry has empowered the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) to look into any time extension requirement for projects under implementation through ministry agencies and having scheduled commissioning date before April 1, 2022, and make recommendations on a case-to-case basis. As a one-time special dispensation, DRC is authorised to take up the projects directly without waiting for the decision of renewable energy implementing agencies, the ministry said in an order issued last week. "The concerned project developer can apply to DRC within one month of this order," it said. "Such projects shall only be required to pay minimum fee of Rs 1,00,000."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/solar-projects-allowed-deadline-extension-amid-china-delays/articleshow/87613852.cms>

States

Amit Mitra named Principal Chief Advisor to West Bengal CM and finance dept

Amit Mitra will slip into the role of Principal Chief Advisor to Chief Minister and finance department of West Bengal with his tenure as state finance minister ending on Tuesday. Mitra will have the rank of cabinet minister in the state. According to a government notification, he will advise and aid the Chief Minister and finance department on all matters relating to management of state finance.

His responsibilities will also include representing the state government on national and international events, meetings and committees. He will also examine important proposals, files and policy issues relating to all financial matters which are referred to him for advice/views.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/amt-mitra-named-principal-chief-advisor-to-west-bengal-cm-and-finance-dept-121110901626_1.html

Rajasthan govt will reduce VAT on fuel: Gehlot

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday said his government will reduce VAT on fuel like other states, hours after he urged the Centre to further slash excise duty and cited fund crunch caused by the Covid pandemic. The Centre on November 3 slashed excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and on diesel by Rs 10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record-high retail fuel prices. The state government has been under pressure from the opposition over the issue after several states, including Congress-ruled Punjab, cut down the price of petrol and diesel.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/rajasthan-govt-will-reduce-vat-on-fuel-gehlot/articleshow/87611925.cms>

Healthcare

'No wasting a single Covid vaccine shot; stocks with States can be used till May'

As many as 15.92 crore vaccine doses lying with 28 States and eight Unions Territories can be used up to May 2022 under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme, official sources told *BusinessLine*.

"There is no question of wasting a single Covid vaccine dose at this crucial time, when it is an essential public health commodity. Initially, vaccine wastage of up to 10 per cent was accepted, but it has been reduced to 1 per cent. Vested interests at work are spreading such rumours," a top government source said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/no-wasting-a-single-covid-vaccine-shot-stocks-with-states-can-be-used-till-may/article37406435.ece?homepage=true>

External

India set to achieve services export goal of \$1 trn by 2030: Piyush Goyal

India is poised to achieve an ambitious services export target of \$1 trillion by 2030, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. Speaking at the Services Export Promotion Council-Global Services Conclave 2021, the minister said that the opening up of the domestic legal services sector will benefit Indian lawyers as they would get huge opportunities in countries such as Europe, Australia and America. However, there is a need to get Indian lawyers on board on this issue. "I personally believe that opening up legal services in India will actually be a net gain for lawyers of India because no lawyer is going to come from America or Europe and practise at Indian rates. But Indian lawyers will get huge opportunities in Europe and Australia, in America, in all of the world actually, with the kind of skills that our lawyers have," the minister said.

Goyal further said that at a time when services trade remained depressed in other countries due to the disruption caused by covid, India's services sector showed immense resilience. "Sectors like tourism, hospitality, etc. which suffered due to Covid-19, showing revival signs," he added.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-set-to-achieve-services-export-goal-of-1-trn-by-2030-piyush-goyal-121110901524_1.html

96 nations have agreed to mutual recognition of vax certificates: Minister

Ninety-six countries have agreed to mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificates with India, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday. The government continues to be in communication with the rest of the world so that beneficiaries of the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination programme are accepted and recognised, thereby easing travel for education, business and tourism purposes, Mandaviya said in a statement.

"At present, 96 countries have agreed to mutual recognition of vaccination certificates and also those who recognise Indian vaccination certificates of travellers fully vaccinated with Covishield/WHO approved/nationally approved Covid vaccines," Mandaviya stated. Consecutively, persons travelling from these countries are provided certain relaxations as enunciated in the Union Health Ministry's guidelines on international arrivals issued on October 20, 2021.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/96-nations-have-agreed-to-mutual-recognition-of-vax-certificates-minister-121110901312_1.html

Not signed up to COP26 Action Agenda on Sustainable Agriculture, says India

India on Tuesday dismissed reports that it had signed up to the Action Agenda on Sustainable Agriculture at the ongoing COP26 climate summit in Glasgow as "baseless" and "factually incorrect". The 'Sustainable Agriculture Policy

Action Agenda for the Transition to Sustainable Agriculture and Global Action Agenda for Innovation in Agriculture' was pegged as a highlight over the weekend at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). "All continents were represented, with countries including India, Colombia, Vietnam, Germany, Ghana, and Australia," noted the UK's COP26 release around the announcement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/not-signed-up-to-cop26-action-agenda-on-sustainable-agriculture-says-india/articleshow/87612027.cms>

India's coal import 12 per cent drops to 94 MT in April-August

The government on Tuesday said the country's total coal import dropped 12 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to 94.15 million tonnes (MT) in April-August 2021, on account of a substantial reduction in the import of non-coking coal. This has resulted in considerable financial savings in the current year as coal prices are going up sharply in the international market, the coal ministry said in a statement. "Due to a substantial reduction of import of non-coking coal in the current year, the total import of coal has also reduced to 94.15 MT in the period from April to August 2021 as compared with 107.01 MT during the corresponding period of 2019-20, a decrease of about 12 per cent," the statement said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-coal-import-12-per-cent-drops-to-94-mt-in-april-august/articleshow/87611606.cms>



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