



September 27, 2023 – Wednesday

## Economy

### JPMorgan sees India in its top 3 fastest-growing Asia markets in 2024

India could be among the three fastest growing markets for JPMorgan in the Asia Pacific region next year, alongside Australia and Japan, said a top official at the Wall Street bank. "People are starting to get excited about the whole China plus one element and while other countries have benefitted, India could be the largest beneficiary," said Filippo Gori, JPMorgan's CEO for Asia Pacific told Reuters, referring to a strategy for businesses diversifying supply chains beyond China. This is because India has the scale to absorb part of the supply chain that many companies around the world are looking to move, he said in an interview in Mumbai.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/jpmorgan-sees-india-in-its-top-3-fastest-growing-asia-markets-in-2024/articleshow/103974862.cms>

### India to hold top spot for economic growth but risks to downside remain - Reuters poll

India will be the fastest-growing major economy this fiscal year, supported by government spending ahead of May's general election, according to a Reuters poll of economists who did say the forecast risks were skewed to the downside. While Narendra Modi's government increased spending in the past few years to build roads, railways, and other infrastructure, helping India defy the global slowdown trend, it has so far failed to create enough jobs. Forecasts for this fiscal year ranged widely from 4.6% to 7.1%. But most economists said expected growth was still well below potential and a drier than normal monsoon season so far could act as a restraint in an economy where agriculture employs about half the workforce in a country of over 1.4 billion people.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-to-hold-top-spot-for-economic-growth-but-risks-to-downside-remain-reuters-poll/articleshow/103974686.cms>

## Banking and Finance

### Centre sticks to market borrowing plan for H2FY24; introduces 50-year bond

The central government has decided to stick to its market borrowing plan of Rs 6.55 trillion in the second half (October-March) of financial year 2023-24 (H2FY24), brushing aside pressure from tepid revenue growth and rising subsidy burden in the pre-election year. This will include the issuance of sovereign green bonds worth Rs 20,000 crore, as against the Rs 16,000 crore maiden green bonds issued in FY23.

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/govt-sticks-to-market-borrowing-plan-of-rs-6-55-trillion-in-h2-of-fy24-123092601308\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/govt-sticks-to-market-borrowing-plan-of-rs-6-55-trillion-in-h2-of-fy24-123092601308_1.html)

### India may fix biggest subsidy schemes - food & LPG - that cost Rs 4 lk cr a year

NITI Aayog will soon undertake the evaluation of India's biggest subsidy schemes, the National Food Security Act and LPG subsidy, to rationalise expenditure, prevent leakage and ensure benefits are reaching the eligible candidates. The Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, which is an attached office of NITI Aayog, has invited proposals for a central coordinating agency for evaluation of the two schemes, which together cost the exchequer nearly Rs 4,00,000 crore a year. "The government implements one the largest public food and nutritional safety nets in the world through the National Food Security Act (NFSA), enacted in 2013.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-to-evaluate-national-food-security-act-lpg-subsidy/articleshow/103956402.cms>

#### **P2M transactions to make 75% of all UPI transactions by 2025: Report**

Driven by zero transaction fees and depth of acceptance, person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions in India are expected to account for 75 per cent of all United Payments Interface (UPI) transactions by 2025, a report released on Tuesday showed, citing data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Currently, P2M accounts for a share of 56.1 per cent of all UPI transactions. According to the "India Digital Payments Report for H1 2023" released by global payments service provider Worldline, the number of UPI transactions in India rose 62 per cent in the first six months of 2023 compared to the same period last year. This has been largely driven by P2M transactions. [https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/p2m-transactions-to-make-75-of-all-upi-transactions-by-2025-report-123092600366\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/p2m-transactions-to-make-75-of-all-upi-transactions-by-2025-report-123092600366_1.html)

#### **Banking & financial companies go all out to retain staff**

High attrition and increased competition for hiring talent are prompting companies in India's banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector to line up a host of incentives, promotions and career progression plans to retain manpower, the frequent loss of which is posing a major challenge, said industry executives. The likes of Axis Bank, Motilal Oswal Financial Services and IIFL Finance are rolling out measures such as employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) across the ranks, including the frontline workforce, internal career switch opportunities with promotions and salary increase, quarterly incentives, learning and upskilling opportunities, and festival bonuses, with an aim to create more career growth and earning opportunities at a time when poaching has become rampant. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banking-financial-companies-go-all-out-to-retain-staff/articleshow/103970438.cms>

#### **SEBI extends nomination deadline for demat to Dec-end**

Capital market regulator SEBI has extended the deadline for nomination in demat accounts and submission of investor proof for physical security holdings to the end of this year, from October. Earlier, SEBI mandated that trading and demat accounts that do not have 'choice of nomination' by September 30 shall be frozen. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-extends-nomination-deadline-for-demat-to-dec-end/article67348925.ece>

#### **NABARD raises Rs 1,000 crore in country's first social impact bond**

India's National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) concluded the country's first social impact bond issue, but raised less than it could have due to higher costs for the issuer, three bankers said on Tuesday. NABARD accepted bids worth 10.40 billion rupees (\$124.9 million), the bankers said, declining to be identified as they are not authorised to speak to the media. NABARD had planned to raise at least 10 billion rupees via this issue, with a greenshoe option to retain an additional 20 billion rupees. The state-run company has set a coupon of 7.63% on this issue. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/nabard-raises-rs-1000-crore-in-countrys-first-social-impact-bond/articleshow/103964473.cms>

#### **GST Council to take up recast of Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will discuss on October 7 the reconstitution of the group of ministers on rate rationalisation, and likely review the progress made by the states in incorporating the recently approved changes with regard to taxation of online gaming in their GST laws. The council may also take up inverted duty structure on select items. "The 52nd meeting of the GST Council will be held on October 7, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi," the GST Council secretariat posted on X. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gst-council-to-take-up-recast-of-group-of-ministers-gom-on-rate-rationalisation/articleshow/103969726.cms>

#### **PFRDA's outreach to CPSEs, corporates and NRIs to enhance NPS play**

Pension regulator PFRDA is now focused on enhanced outreach to Central PSEs, private corporates as well as NRIs as part of its overall effort to scale up the NPS assets under management (AUM) to at least ₹12-lakh crore by end

March 2024, according to its Chairman Deepak Mohanty. “We have now written to all the top brass of Central Public sector entities who are yet to onboard into NPS and urged them to join”, Mohanty told businessline in an interview ahead of the NPS Diwas to be celebrated by the regulator on October 1.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pfrdas-outreach-to-cpses-corporates-and-nris-to-enhance-nps-play/article67349747.ece>

## Industry

### DGFT opens registration of companies seeking to import IT hardware

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has opened the window for registration of companies seeking to import IT hardware such as laptops and tablets, with a one-week target for approval of an application. As per officials aware of the details, companies need to provide value and volume details around import/export of IT hardware along with domestic manufacturing for the past three years. The firms also need to disclose the country of origin for imports. “The format for registration has been shared and companies can revert if some things need to be fine-tuned. It’s a simple form, which can be filled in a few minutes,” an official told ET. This follows a decision taken by the government that there won’t be any licensing or quota for companies to import products, at least till September next year. Representatives from the IT hardware industry along with officials from the ministry of electronics and IT (Meity) attended a meeting with DGFT on September 25 to discuss the registration process.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/dgft-opens-registration-of-companies-seeking-to-import-it-hardware/articleshow/103969680.cms>

### Vivad se Vishwas - I scheme: Govt grants Rs 256 crore in relief to MSMEs

The finance ministry announced on Tuesday that more than Rs 256 crore in relief grant has been given to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the Vivad se Vishwas-I scheme for the Covid-19 pandemic period. The government departments and ministries accepted more than 10,000 claims of MSMEs. The ministry said in a release that this move will increase the flow of bank credit by freeing up guarantees. The highest relief worth Rs 116.47 crore has been granted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), which includes the claims settled and the amount paid by the agencies under the administrative control of the MoPNG. The Ministry of Railways granted Rs 79.16 crore in relief, while the Ministry of Defence granted Rs 23.45 crore. The Ministry of Steel provided a relief of Rs 14.48 crore, whereas the Ministry of Power gave Rs 6.69 crore in relief.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/vivad-se-vishwas-i-scheme-govt-grants-rs-256-crore-in-relief-to-msmes-123092600837\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/vivad-se-vishwas-i-scheme-govt-grants-rs-256-crore-in-relief-to-msmes-123092600837_1.html)

### This festive season, bigger e-commerce sales set to light up volumes

The upcoming festive season sales are expected to bring the steepest online discounts since Covid, up to 60% in certain categories, with several ecommerce majors indicating a push to expand volumes. Walmart-owned Flipkart, Amazon India, Reliance Retail's Jiomart and Ajoio, as well as Tata Neu are all expected to roll out attractive offers across categories such as smartphones, electronics, fashion and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG). Executives of the brands selling online said a 10-20% higher budget from last year has been allocated for online promotions, including discounting, this year, leveraging lowering input costs.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcg/this-festive-season-bigger-e-commerce-sales-set-to-light-up-volumes/articleshow/103973834.cms>

## Agriculture

### Centre targets 114 million tonnes of wheat output next rabi season

The Centre has fixed a target of producing 114 million tonnes of wheat in the forthcoming rabi season, which is 1.3 million tonnes more than the 2022-23 production of 112.7 million tonnes (according to the third advance estimate). It has also targeted to bring around 60 per cent of the total wheat area of 30 million hectares under climate-resistant varieties amid strong El Nino conditions this year.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-targets-114-million-tonnes-wheat-production-next-rabi-season-123092601162\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-targets-114-million-tonnes-wheat-production-next-rabi-season-123092601162_1.html)

## Infrastructure

### DGCA approves wet lease for domestic carriers to meet festive season demand

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has permitted domestic airlines to prepare their fleets for the expected surge in demand during the festive season by wet leasing aircraft, Financial Express (FE) has reported. Wet leasing refers to an arrangement wherein one airline provides an aircraft along with complete crew, maintenance, and insurance (ACMI) to another airline, which is paid for on the basis per hour operated.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/dgca-approves-wet-lease-for-domestic-carriers-to-meet-festive-season-demand-123092600234\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/dgca-approves-wet-lease-for-domestic-carriers-to-meet-festive-season-demand-123092600234_1.html)

## Energy

### 36% deficit rainfall leads to spike in power demand in August, Kotak says new investment need of the hour

The month of August 2023, with a 36 per cent deficit in rainfall, saw a spike in power demand with peak demand rising closer to 240 GW, said Kotak Institutional Equities. The temporal distribution of monsoons normally causes spikes in power demand in the months of August/September due to irrigation requirements as well as rising temperatures, which got aggravated by little rainfall in most parts of the country this year.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-36-deficit-rainfall-leads-to-spike-in-power-demand-in-august-kotak-says-new-investment-need-of-the-hour-3255514/>

### Barauni-Guwahati pipeline to provide gas in Guwahati by end of the year

Barauni-Guwahati Pipeline will provide gas in Guwahati by the end of the year, and Assam will be linked with the National Gas Grid. Gas conclave a day-long brainstorming workshop on the prospects and challenges of the usage of natural gas, was organized by the Department of Industries, Commerce & Public Enterprises, Government of Assam on Tuesday in Guwahati. Minister, Industries, Commerce Bimal Bora while commending the pioneering role of Assam in the petroleum and natural gas sector in the country, noted how the Hydro-carbon Vision 2030 for North-East India of the Central Government has opened up several vistas of economic development through natural gas; and further noted how Assam has so much reserves of natural gas that it can fuel its economy based on this clean and green fuel. In this regard, he stressed on evolving synergy among the different stakeholders of the entire value chain of natural gas.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/barauni-guwahati-pipeline-to-provide-gas-in-guwahati-by-end-of-the-year/articleshow/103968912.cms>

## Telecom

### Over regulation of internet may have discriminatory results: Cos to Trai

Founders and top leaders of many prominent startups, including Zerodha's Nithin Kamath and Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma, have written a joint letter to regulator TRAI in support of net neutrality, and cautioned that any move towards "over regulation" of internet services categorised as OTT services could have "discriminatory consequences". The letter, signed by representatives of 129 startups, calls for the internet to be maintained as an open platform where network providers treat all content, application, and services equally, without discrimination.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/over-regulation-of-internet-may-have-discriminatory-results-cos-to-trai-123092600949\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/over-regulation-of-internet-may-have-discriminatory-results-cos-to-trai-123092600949_1.html)

## States

### TN unveils new tourism policy; seeks to attract ₹20,000- crore investments in 5 years

Tamil Nadu government has unveiled its new tourism policy to develop the State into the most attractive experiential destination in Asia with multi-pronged goals. Over the next five years, the state aims to attract ₹20,000-crore investments and to facilitate the skill development of 3 lakh people. In the next five years, the State expects tourism to contribute at least 12 per cent of the State GSDP annually and tourism and supporting industries in the State to employ 25 lakh people.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tn-unveils-new-tourism-policy-seeks-to-attract-20000-crore-investments-in-5-years/article67348650.ece>

## Healthcare

### Govt rolls out Rs 5,000 cr scheme for innovation in pharma, medtech

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya launched the Rs 5,000 crore Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma and MedTech sector (PRIP) scheme, which aims to transform India's pharma medtech industry from a cost-based one to innovation-based. The scheme aims to strengthen research infrastructure in India, the third largest pharmaceutical industry in the world by volume, with a current market size of around \$50 billion.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-launches-rs-5k-cr-scheme-to-boost-innovation-in-pharma-medtech-sector-123092600677\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-launches-rs-5k-cr-scheme-to-boost-innovation-in-pharma-medtech-sector-123092600677_1.html)

### Clinical trials of new drugs over-recruiting Indians: Study

Several international clinical trials of new medicines have "over-recruited" participants from India, with Indians accounting for more than 60% of the total volunteers in some cases, a new study has found. Given that all trials carry an element of risk, experts believe that there is an "unfair" burden-benefit ratio on the Indian population when sponsors conducting trials in multiple countries recruit too many patients from the country, said the study published in PLOS One journal. "The Indian drug regulator needs to be particularly alert to the planned, or actual, over-recruitment of participants from India," the researchers said in the study.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/clinical-trials-of-new-drugs-over-recruiting-indians-study/articleshow/103970237.cms>

## External

### Centre extends RoDTEP scheme till June 30 amid faltering exports

Amid faltering exports and tepid external demand, the Centre on Tuesday extended the tenure of the export-boosting scheme Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) for nine more months. The scheme has now been extended until June 30 at the same rates for the existing export items. "This will help our exporting community to negotiate export contracts in the present international environment on better terms. The scheme is World Trade Organization (WTO)-compatible and is being implemented in an end-to-end IT environment," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-extends-rodtep-scheme-till-june-2024-amid-faltering-exports-123092601189\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-extends-rodtep-scheme-till-june-2024-amid-faltering-exports-123092601189_1.html)

### India's export of cut, polished diamonds may fall by 22% in FY24: ICRA

India's export of cut and polished diamonds is projected to decline by 22 per cent to \$17.2 billion in the current fiscal due to weakened demand from the key consuming nations, according to rating agency Icri. In the first five months of the current fiscal, cut and polished diamond exports witnessed a sharp year-on-year decline of 31 per cent following lower export volumes and higher polished diamond prices, it said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-export-of-cut-polished-diamonds-may-fall-by-22-in-fy24-icra-123092600822\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-export-of-cut-polished-diamonds-may-fall-by-22-in-fy24-icra-123092600822_1.html)

### India, US discuss opportunities to further strengthen interoperability, logistics cooperation

Underscoring the transformative momentum in the India-US relationship, officials of the two nations held discussions on opportunities to further strengthen interoperability and logistics cooperation. During the India-US 2+2 Intersessional Dialogue held here on Tuesday, the officials also discussed combined maritime engagements in the Indian Ocean Region, as well as expanded cooperation in the space and cyber domains, the Pentagon said. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary Vani Rao of the Ministry of External Affairs and Joint Secretary Vishwesh Negi of the Ministry of Defence, it said. The American side was led by Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Dr. Ely Ratner and Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-us-discuss-opportunities-to-further-strengthen-interoperability-logistics-cooperation/articleshow/103974210.cms>

#### **Traders flag slow labour-intensive exports' growth**

Exporters have raised concerns with the government about slow growth of labour-intensive exports such as garments, gems and jewellery, marine products, and plastics, over the past few years, compared to Bangladesh, China, and Vietnam. India's goods exports contracted for the seventh straight month in August though the extent of decline narrowed to 6.86% from double-digit contractions in recent months, to hit a three-month high of \$34.5 billion.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/traders-flag-slow-labour-intensive-exports-growth/articleshow/103969886.cms>

#### **Exempt quality order on imports under Advance Authorisation: SRTEPC**

The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council has urged the government to exempt quality control order on import of manmade fibre textile made under the advance authorisation. The government has recently imposed quality control orders for various products including manmade fibre textiles products such as fibre and yarn. Bhadresh Dodhia, Chairman, The Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council said the quality control order for textiles has exempted compliance on imports done for re-export purpose after certain value-add. "On similar lines, raw materials imported against Advance Authorisations are also used for the manufacture of finished products that are subsequently exported," said Dodhia.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/exempt-quality-order-on-imports-under-advance-authorisation-srtepc/article67348468.ece>

#### **Steel exports could remain under pressure because of global headwinds**

A Steel Ministry report has pointed out to continuing "southbound steel prices" in global markets and recessionary pressures in Europe's housing market, thereby raising concerns about continued pressure on exports (steel).

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/steel-exports-could-remain-under-pressure-because-of-global-headwinds/article67349231.ece>