



December 30, 2020 – Wednesday

### Key Developments

#### **License required to import, manufacture medical devices: CDSCO**

Importers and manufacturers required to take licence from the Central Licensing Authority or State Licensing Authority for the import and manufacture of nebulizers, BP monitoring devices, digital thermometers, and glucometer with effect from January 1, said Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

"Representation has been received requesting to extend the implementation of the notification for another three to six months because a lot of procedural work is to be done such as the resolution of queries, an audit of facilities by the regulators, and notified bodies, as the case may be, testing of products at the requisite testing labs," reads an order.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/license-required-to-import-manufacture-medical-devices-cdsco-120122900654\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/license-required-to-import-manufacture-medical-devices-cdsco-120122900654_1.html)

#### **No evidence that vaccines will not work against new Covid variant: Govt**

COVID-19 vaccines will work against new variants of the virus and there is no evidence that current vaccines will fail to protect against the SARS-CoV-2 mutants reported from the UK or South Africa, the government said on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference, Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan said so far it has not been found that the new variant increases the severity of the disease.

"There is no evidence that current vaccines will fail to protect against COVID 19 variants reported from UK or SA. Most vaccines do target the Spike protein, in which there are changes in the variants but vaccines stimulate our immune system to produce a wide range of protective antibodies," he said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/no-evidence-that-vaccines-will-not-work-against-new-covid-variant-govt-120122900902\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/no-evidence-that-vaccines-will-not-work-against-new-covid-variant-govt-120122900902_1.html)

#### **India likely to extend temporary suspension of flights from UK: Civil Aviation Minister**

India is likely to extend the temporary suspension of flights between India and the UK beyond December 31, said Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State for Civil Aviation, on Tuesday. "We are applying our mind (on the issue of extending the temporary suspension beyond December 31). I foresee a slight extension in the temporary suspension, but it will not be a long or indefinite (suspension)," he said at a press conference. Before the temporary suspension came into effect, over 60 flights a week carrying almost 2,500 passengers a day were operating between the two countries. The temporary suspension came into effect on December 22 as a new more contagious version of the coronavirus was discovered in the UK.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-likely-to-extend-temporary-suspension-of-flights-from-uk-civil-aviation-minister/article33445880.ece?homepage=true>

#### **Record-keeping of cash deals in gems & jewellery trade now a must under PMLA**

Cash transactions in gold, silver, diamonds and other precious stones have come under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) ambit. The finance ministry has notified dealers in precious metals and precious stones as "persons carrying on designated businesses or professions", if they engage in any cash transactions with a customer

"equal to or above Rupees ten lakhs, carried out in a single operation or in several operations that appear to be linked."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/record-keeping-of-cash-deals-in-gems-jewellery-trade-now-a-must-under-pmla/articleshow/80006543.cms>

### **Government proposes mandatory airbag for front passenger on all cars**

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed mandatory implementation of airbags for the co-driver, or front passenger, on all cars in addition to steering-mounted airbags for the driver. For new models, the front passenger airbag will be mandatory from 1 April 2021 while for models presently being sold in the market it will be mandatory from 1 June 2021, according to a notification dated 28 December. The ministry has invited suggestions from stakeholders within the next 30 days. The automotive industry has raised concerns on the tight timeline given by the ministry apart from the cost increase for implementation of the additional airbag, according to sources. Airbag for the driver's side is mandatory in all cars since 1 July 2019.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/government-proposes-mandatory-airbag-for-front-passenger-on-all-cars/articleshow/80006145.cms>

### **Govt mapping requirements for health workers in other countries to become the global skill capital**

The skills development ministry is working towards mapping requirements for skilled health workers across other countries as part of its vision to become the Skills Capital of the world. A sub-working group is being set up to facilitate migration of health workers to Germany, the ministry said while it is reaching out to other countries for similar collaborations.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/govt-mapping-requirements-for-health-workers-in-other-countries-to-become-skill-capital-of-the-world/articleshow/80007742.cms>

## **Economy**

### **Indian economy could be 'most resilient' in subregion in long term: UN**

India's economy could prove to be the "most resilient" in the subregion of South and South-West Asia over the long term, according to a report by the UN, which says a positive but lower economic growth post COVID-19 pandemic and the country's large market will continue to attract investments.

The report titled 'Foreign Direct Investment Trends And Outlook In Asia And The Pacific 2020/2021', and compiled by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), stated that inward FDI flows to South and South-West Asia slightly decreased by 2 per cent in 2019, from USD 67 billion in 2018 to USD 66 billion in 2019. The growth, however, was mainly driven by India, which accounted for 77 per cent of the total inflows to the subregion and received USD 51 billion in 2019, up 20 per cent from the previous year.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-economy-could-be-most-resilient-in-subregion-in-long-term-un-120122900337\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/indian-economy-could-be-most-resilient-in-subregion-in-long-term-un-120122900337_1.html)

### **Second phase of Air India disinvestment to start from January 5**

The second phase of the strategic disinvestment of Air India will start on January 5, 2021 with the announcement of the names of the qualified bidders. The process has been divided into two stages. In stage I, expressions of interest (EOI) have been submitted by interested bidders and they will be shortlisted based on eligibility criteria and other terms mentioned in the Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM).

In the stage II, shortlisted interested bidders will be provided with a request for proposal (RFP) and thereafter there will be a transparent bidding process, said a presentation by the ministry. In view of prevailing situation arising out of Covid-19, last date for submission of EOIs was extended upto December 14, 2020. The date of intimation to qualified interested bidders is January 5, 2021.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/second-phase-of-air-india-disinvestment-to-start-from-january-5-120122900776\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/second-phase-of-air-india-disinvestment-to-start-from-january-5-120122900776_1.html)

### **Faceless schemes of direct taxes creating more problems than resolutions**

The government's Faceless Assessment Scheme (FAS) for direct taxes seems to be creating more problems than resolutions. "The scheme was launched with good intentions, but now that aim appears to be going off the track,"

said Vinod Jain, a chartered account and Member of Finance Ministry's High Powered Committee to Simplify Income Tax Law, and also one of the architects of FAS. He told BusinessLine that denial of opportunity to be heard is against the principle of natural justice, especially when decisions are not in favour of assesseees. Jain is not alone in highlighting the issues related to faceless schemes.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/faceless-schemes-of-direct-taxes-creating-more-problems-than-resolutions/article33445675.ece>

#### **Post COVID-19, India can bet on 3 positive aspects for economic revival, says former RBI Governor Subbarao**

Though COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown left a trail of economic devastation on most countries, India can potentially build upon three positive aspects- push in the rural economy, stronger federalism and a huge consumption base, former RBI Governor Duvvuri Subbarao Rao has said.

In his foreword on a Telugu book titled "Maandhyam Mungita Desam" (Nation in Recession) authored by Tummla Kishore, he said the challenge for the government in the months and years ahead is clear: to put the economy back on a healthy growth trajectory and ensure that growth is inclusive, with lower income households too enjoying the benefits of rapid growth. "The expanded MNREGA provided a lifeline when most needed, and the frontloaded transfer payments to women, pensioners and farmers have put money in the hands of households and have helped revive demand. The brisk procurement by the FCI (Food Corporation of India) has buttressed farmers' incomes while it helped the government extend the food security programme until end November," he said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/post-covid-19-india-can-bet-on-3-positive-aspects-for-economic-revival-says-former-rbi-governor-subbarao/2159897/>

#### **Govt mops up Rs 8,965 cr till November from auctioned, allotted coal blocks**

The government mopped up Rs 8,964.75 crore till last month from the auctioned and allotted mines, according to the coal ministry. These revenue figures consist of upfront amount and monthly premium only, while royalty and taxes or cess are payable over and above these payments, the coal ministry said in its E-Booklet on reforms. Apart from 204 coal mines covered under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, the remaining blocks are allocated under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. Till date, 11 coal blocks under the MMDR Act have been allotted to various government companies, where two blocks are for commercial purpose and the remaining nine are for captive end-use, it said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/govt-mops-up-rs-8965-cr-till-november-from-auctioned-allotted-coal-blocks/2160071/>

#### **Food & Consumer Affairs Ministry completes herculean tasks in COVID times**

It was a herculean task to provide free food grains to over 80 crore poor people, and the Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Ministry successfully implemented the task for eight months in a row as a COVID relief measure during the tumultuous 2020. It goes to the credit of the ministry and capability of state-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) that no part of the country witnessed any shortage of food grains amid the pandemic. Literally, there was no shortage of essential items like fruit, vegetables and milk. However, there was a short period when the onion prices skyrocketed. Under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), the ministry provided almost 32 million tonnes of free food grains during April-November period. This was in addition to its routine distribution of highly subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/food-consumer-affairs-ministry-completes-herculean-tasks-in-covid-times/2160046/>

#### **Job offers made to 14 lakh skilled personnel, details of 1.3 cr onboarded on ASEEM: Government**

Details of 1.3 crore skilled personnel have been uploaded on the ASEEM portal till December, the government said on Tuesday. The portal, launched in July 2020, is a directory of all certified skilled personnel in the country. "Till December, details of 1.3 crore skilled personnel were onboarded on the portal, and around 14 lakh job offers made," a statement said. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) said that guidelines and requisite standard operating procedures are currently under preparation for the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) and the flagship skilling scheme will be launched shortly.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/jobs/job-offers-made-to-14-lakh-skilled-personnel-details-of-1-3-cr-onboarded-on-aseem-government/2160041/>

## Banking and Finance

### **Profitability of NBFCs may be impacted due to loan impairment, low demand: RBI**

Profitability of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) may be impacted due to loan impairment, lower credit demand and a tendency to preserve cash, Reserve Bank of India said in its report on Trends and Progress of Banking in India. The stronger and the deposit-taking NBFCs may however fare better as many have reported strong revival in disbursements and collections.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/profitability-of-nbfc-may-be-impacted-due-to-loan-impairment-low-demand-rbi/articleshow/80012924.cms>

### **Loan restructuring requests much lower than estimated: Analysts**

With the loan restructuring window coming to a close, analysts are cutting the estimates on loan recast by banks to 2.5-4.5% of their total advances from the previously projected 6-8%. Analysts are also forecasting lower credit provisions and better profitability for banks in the next fiscal year starting April 1, on the back of improved asset quality with a quick economic turnaround.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/loan-restructuring-requests-much-lower-than-estimated-analysts/articleshow/80012185.cms>

### **About 4.37 crore income tax returns for FY'20 filed till December 28**

Around 4.37 crore income tax returns for fiscal 2019-20 (Assessment Year 2020-21) have been filed till December 28, the I-T department said on Tuesday. In the comparative period last year, 4.51 crore ITRs were filed. With just three days left for the deadline for income tax return (ITR) filing for individuals to end, the tax department asked taxpayers not to wait and file returns early.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/about-4-37-crore-income-tax-returns-for-fy20-filed-till-december-28/articleshow/80005935.cms>

### **Former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty likely to be next HDFC Bank Chairperson**

Former Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty is likely to be the next Chairperson of the country's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank, sources said. He would replace Shyamala Gopinath, who is set to complete her term in January. According to the sources, the bank has recommended the name of Chakraborty for appointment as the part-time Chairperson, subject to the Reserve Bank of India's approval.

Chakraborty, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Gujarat cadre, retired as Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs in April 2020. Prior to that, he was Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM). Both departments come under the finance ministry.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/former-economic-affair-secretary-atanu-chakraborty-likely-to-be-next-hdfc-bank-chairperson/2160067/>

## Industry

### **FSSAI asks food commissioners to crackdown on spices adulteration**

Food regulator FSSAI on Tuesday asked state food commissioners to conduct effective enforcement drive to check adulteration in spices. In a letter to Commissioner of Food Safety of all States/UTs, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that there have been media reports about sale of adulterated spices in the domestic market. "Instances have been reported recently in media regarding the sale of adulterated spices in domestic market. As per one such report, the spices like dhaniya powder is being adulterated with bajra and dhaniya stem whereas turmeric powder is being adulterated with broken rice which is mixed with yellow colour," FSSAI said in the letter.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/food/fssai-asks-food-commissioners-to-crackdown-on-spices-adulteration/articleshow/80013517.cms>

### **From the brink to recovery, India's retail sector pins hope on 2021**

With an epic battle of billionaires for supremacy in one of the world's most prolific markets and a pandemic-propelled surge in online shopping in the background, India's nearly trillion-dollar retail market is hoping to touch 85 per cent of the pre-COVID business in the first half of the new year. In a year when the COVID-19 carnage ripped apart the retail business, circa 2020 will best go down for the unravelling of the war between Jeff Bezos, the world's wealthiest man, and richest Indian Mukesh Ambani for pre-eminence in the booming market that is estimated to reach USD 1.3 trillion by 2025.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/from-the-brink-to-recovery-india-s-retail-sector-pins-hope-on-2021-120122900519\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/from-the-brink-to-recovery-india-s-retail-sector-pins-hope-on-2021-120122900519_1.html)

#### **Steel cos blame high cost of iron ore for price hike**

Steel companies have urged the government to temporarily ban iron ore export to improve domestic supply and bring down prices. Steel producers have come under heavy criticism for hiking prices consistently and putting pressure on infrastructure projects. In a letter to PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Indian Steel Association said a temporary ban on exports of high-grade fines and lumps for six months or till the situation stabilises, will increase domestic supply.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/steel-cos-blame-high-cost-of-iron-ore-for-price-hike/article33444594.ece?homepage=true>

#### **Auto industry hopeful of turning the corner**

The year 2020 was one of the worst for the automobile industry, which suffered losses of more than ₹2,300 crore in turnover for every single day of closure. However, the industry is hopeful of some revival in 2021 on the back of overall economic recovery. Owing to the complete nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the auto industry witnessed the steepest downturn in years. As per the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), during this period, domestic sales stood at 15 lakh units, resulting in a 75 per cent de-growth, compared with the corresponding quarter last year.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/auto-industry-hopeful-of-turning-the-corner/article33438983.ece>

#### **Auto parts industry revenue to grow 16-18% in FY22; outlook revised from negative to stable: ICRA**

Ratings agency ICRA on Tuesday said it has revised its outlook on the auto component industry from negative to stable, on the back of demand revival across original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), replacements and exports. ICRA expects the domestic auto component industry's revenue to grow 16-18 per cent in the financial year starting April 2021, supported by factors such as increasing content per vehicle, low base effect, and higher realisations. Long-term demand drivers include increased focus on localised supply chains by Indian OEMs. Diversification of supply chain risk by global OEMs is also expected to lead to increased sourcing from India in the coming years, ICRA said in a statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-components/auto-parts-industry-revenue-to-grow-16-18-in-fy22-outlook-revised-from-negative-to-stable-icra/articleshow/80009781.cms>

### **Agriculture**

#### **How India's grain policies stoked Food Corporation of India's debt binge**

Food Corporation of India (FCI), the state grain procurement agency, buys rice and wheat from growers every season at guaranteed prices but farmers fear that those purchases may end under new agricultural laws at the centre of recent protests. Farmers say the new laws will shut the regulated wholesale markets they depend on to take their produce. But FCI has racked up huge debts from the purchases required to meet its role as a buyer of last resort and to supply India's food welfare program.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/how-india-s-grain-policies-stoked-food-corporation-of-india-s-debt-binge-120122900436\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/how-india-s-grain-policies-stoked-food-corporation-of-india-s-debt-binge-120122900436_1.html)

#### **Areca prices remain firm in 2020 despite lockdown**

The Covid-induced lockdown in 2020 seems to have helped the arecanut sector in getting a good price for the commodity at a time when the crop production was less compared to the previous year. Mahesh Puchhappady,

General Secretary of the All India Areca Growers' Association, told BusinessLine that the lockdown helped farmers who were affected by the crop loss to the extent of around 30-35 per cent during the year.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/areca-prices-remain-firm-in-2020-despite-lockdown/article33445942.ece>

## Infrastructure

### Process of putting up six more airports under PPP is in final stages: AAI

The government plans to start giving six airports including Trichy to the private sector through a public, private partnership (PPP) in the first quarter of 2021, Arvind Singh, Chairman, Airports Authority of India said on Tuesday. "The process of putting up six more airports under PPP is in the final stages," Singh said at a press conference here. He added that concession agreement for three airports awarded to the private sector under the PPP model.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/process-of-putting-up-six-more-airports-under-ppp-is-in-final-stages-aii/article33445801.ece>

### Transporters against e-way bill validity period reduction from Jan 1

Transporters' apex body AIMTC on Tuesday said it is against reduction of E-Way bill validity period from January 1, and said that the move will disrupt supply chain and create chaotic condition. The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) is the umbrella body of transporters that represents about 95 lakh truckers and entities.

Acute adversities are faced by this sector and "there is yet another impractical scenario created from the government vide amendment in rule ...vide notification no 94/2020-Central Tax dated 22-12-2020, wherein the E-Bill validity period is halved. The said amendment is ill-informed, and ill-conceived. It is bereft of any consideration of the ecosystem of the road transport sector and is notified without any consultation with the stakeholders," the AIMTC said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/transporters-against-e-way-bill-validity-period-reduction-from-jan-1-120122900663\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/transporters-against-e-way-bill-validity-period-reduction-from-jan-1-120122900663_1.html)

## Telecom

### Sabotaging telecom infra as form of protest strongly condemned: COAI

Industry body COAI on Tuesday "strongly condemned" the sabotaging of telecom network infrastructure and disruption of services as a form of protest, after over 1,500 mobile towers were targeted during farmers' stir in Punjab. Terming telecom services as "lifeline" for lakhs of customers, COAI's Director General, SP Kochhar said disruption of telecom services is causing immense inconvenience to the common man, for whom mobile services are "essential". "While we respect people's right to protest on any issue, sabotaging the telecom network infrastructure and disrupting telecom services as a form of protest by anyone is strongly condemned," COAI said in a statement. Apex industry body Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI's) members include Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sabotaging-telecom-infra-as-form-of-protest-strongly-condemned-coai-120122900609\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sabotaging-telecom-infra-as-form-of-protest-strongly-condemned-coai-120122900609_1.html)

## Energy

### New solar policy cuts power rates in Gujarat

Gujarat's new solar policy will reduce electricity costs by over 40% and expand the state's potential as India's renewable energy hub, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said on Tuesday. "Currently, the industry gets power at an average cost of Rs. 8 per unit. The new policy will help bring it down to Rs. 4.5 per unit," Rupani said, speaking while unveiling his state's new plan for solar power. The policy will be effective from 2021 to 2025, and promises benefits to residential as well as commercial developers to set up new projects for power purchase agreements lasting up to 25 years. New projects can also be set up by individuals without any minimum capacity generation ceiling, Rupani said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/new-solar-policy-cuts-power-rates-in-gujarat/articleshow/80011039.cms>

## States

### **UP-RERA plans to approach RBI on project disbursements**

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP-RERA) has said it plans to approach the RBI after developers complained that banks aren't disbursing project receivables for construction, a step that will lead to delays in home delivery. National Real Estate Developers Council (NAREDCO) had recently raised the issue of banks not allowing developers use of project receivables for projects as per the RERA norms and multiple projects getting stuck due to funds paucity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/construction/up-rera-plans-to-approach-rbi-on-project-disbursements/articleshow/80013237.cms>

### **37 people who returned from UK test positive for Covid-19 in Goa**

Thirty seven passengers out of 979, who travelled from the UK from December 9 till the midnight of December 22, have tested positive for Covid-19. The state government awaits reports from Pune's National Institute of Virology for confirmation of the mutant strain among the Covid positive passengers. A senior official attached to the Directorate of Health Services said all the 37 passengers, along with about a dozen persons who had come in contact with the UK in Goa, have been placed in an institutional quarantine facility, the Employees State Insurance hospital, located in South Goa. "Testing and contact tracing of all the 979 passengers is almost complete. The patients as well as the persons who they came in contact with, have been admitted to institutional quarantine as a precautionary measure," the official said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/37-people-who-returned-from-uk-test-positive-for-covid-19-in-go-120122900743\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/37-people-who-returned-from-uk-test-positive-for-covid-19-in-go-120122900743_1.html)

## External

### **India-Lanka strengthen ties, revive maritime dialogue despite Covid in 2020**

Sri Lanka's powerful Rajapaksa dynasty consolidated its grip over power, with President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother Mahinda becoming the prime minister in 2020 - a year which witnessed strengthening of Colombo's ties with New Delhi and revival of a key trilateral maritime dialogue involving India after a gap of six years. The high hopes of an economic revival that accompanied the Rajapaksas' return to power turned into despair soon after the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the island in mid-March, plunging it into the worst financial crisis. President Gotabaya's administration has emphasised that its 'India-First' policy, which resonates well with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, would be the cornerstone of Colombo's outreach to New Delhi.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-lanka-strengthen-ties-revive-maritime-dialogue-despite-covid-in-2020-120122900555\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-lanka-strengthen-ties-revive-maritime-dialogue-despite-covid-in-2020-120122900555_1.html)

### **Container shortage and high freight likely to affect India's agricultural exports**

Ocean freight has doubled and trebled because of a severe shortage of containers and delays have started affecting India's export of major agricultural products like rice, grapes, cotton as also engineering goods. A decline in containers coming from China due to fall in imports from that country has boosted container shortages.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/container-shortage-and-high-freight-likely-to-affect-indias-agricultural-exports/articleshow/80012816.cms>

### **Traders seek export sops for cotton, yarn to lower purchase burden**

Amid slowing global demand and falling prices in the domestic markets, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) has sought export incentive for cotton fibre and yarn so as to prevent additional procurement burden on the government. Speaking to BusinessLine, Atul Ganatra, President, CAI, informed that the exports have been badly hit due to economic slowdown in key markets such as Bangladesh and Indonesia. "Even though our cotton is the cheapest in the international market, exports are not taking off as expected. We believe the government should offer export incentive for cotton and yarn to encourage exports from India," Ganatra said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/trade-seeks-export-sops-for-cotton-yarn-to-lower-purchase-burden/article33446919.ece>

### **India's tea shipments in three quarters nosedive**

India's tea shipments in the first three quarters of the current calendar have fallen compared to the same period of 2019 due to Covid-19 and the concomitant lockdown in many countries. After months of sacrificing prices, producers raised their export price in September resulting in the average price to increase to ₹234.76 a kg in the three quarters from ₹229.42 in Jan-Sept 2019, marking a gain of 2.33 per cent.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-tea-shipments-in-three-quarters-nosedive/article33445105.ece>

### **India defers certificate requirement for rice export to European countries till July**

India on Tuesday deferred the requirement of obtaining a certificate of inspection from a government agency to ship both basmati and non-basmati rice to European countries to July 1, 2021. Earlier the date was January 1 next year. A notification dated August 10 is "amended to the extent that export of rice (basmati and non-basmati) to EU member states and other European countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland only will require Certificate of Inspection from EIA/EIC". Export to remaining European countries (except Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland) will require Certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council (EIC)/Export Inspection Agency (EIA) for export "from July 1, 2021," the directorate said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-defers-certificate-requirement-for-rice-export-to-european-countries-till-july/2159994/>

### **Organic cotton, food, toys high on India-Korea trade to cut dependence on China**

Korean companies are looking at India to buy organic cotton, leather goods and handcrafts while Indian companies have shown interest in Korean toys and cosmetics as the two sides look at alternatives to replace buying from China. Jeonbuk Business Centre, a B2B trade promotion agency launched early this year to promote India-Korea trade, said it is getting above 20 inquiries daily from Korean companies which want to buy industrial items and organic products from India

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/organic-cotton-food-toys-high-on-india-korea-trade-to-cut-dependence-on-china/articleshow/80008203.cms>

### **India starts probe into alleged exports subsidisation of aluminium item by Malaysia**

India has initiated a probe into alleged exports subsidisation by Malaysia on an aluminium product, following a complaint by the domestic industry, according to a notification. The commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has started an anti-subsidy investigation to examine whether Malaysia's subsidy programmes for exports of 'aluminium primary foundry alloy ingot' into India are impacting the domestic industry. The product is primarily used for automobile and steel applications. Vedanta Ltd and Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd have filed an application before the directorate seeking initiation of the probe of subsidised imports of the product originating in or exported from Malaysia. They have alleged that subsidised imports from Malaysia are causing material injury to the domestic industry and have requested the imposition of countervailing duties on the imports, DGTR has said in a notification.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-starts-probe-into-alleged-exports-subsidisation-of-aluminium-item-by-malaysia/2159866/>

### **India may impose anti-dumping duty on Chinese PET Resin**

India may impose anti-dumping duty on the imports of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET Resin) originating in or exported from China based on an application led by IVL Dhunseri Petrochem Industries Private Limited and Reliance Industries. The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended anti-dumping duty of \$15.54-200.66 per MT of the imported product for five years. PET resin is used in textiles, plastic bottles, tires, undersea cables and 3-D printing, among others. "The Authority recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty equal to the lesser of margin of dumping and the margin of injury so as to remove the injury to the domestic industry," DGTR said in a notification.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-may-impose-anti-dumping-duty-on-chinese-pet-resin/articleshow/80012645.cms>