



June 10, 2022 – Friday

Economy

India's FDI rank rises to 7th position despite falling inflows: UNCTAD

India's rank jumped one notch to 7th position among top recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the 2021 calendar year despite FDI inflows into the country declining, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In its latest World Investment Report released on Thursday, UNCTAD said FDI inflows to India declined to \$45 billion in 2021 from \$64 billion in the preceding year. While the United States (\$367 billion) remained the top recipient of FDI, China (\$181 billion) and Hong Kong (\$141 billion) also retained second and third position, respectively. Among the top 10 host economies for FDI, only India saw a decline in its FDI inflows. However, outward FDI from India rose 43 per cent to \$15.5 billion in 2021. "Flows to India declined to \$45 billion. However, a flurry of new international project finance deals were announced in the country at 108 projects, compared with 20 projects on average for the last 10 years. The largest number of projects (23) was in renewables. Large projects include the construction in India of a steel and cement plant for \$13.5 billion by ArcelorMittal--Nippon Steel (Japan) and the construction of a new car manufacturing facility by Suzuki Motor (Japan) for \$2.4 billion," the report said. https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-fdi-rank-rises-to-7th-position-despite-falling-inflows-unctad-122060900883_1.html

India's unemployment rate drops for second consecutive month in May: CMIE

The number of employed in India jumped by one million in May taking the total number of employed in the country to 404 million and resulted in a drop in unemployment rates from 7.83% in April to 7.12% in May, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. This is the second consecutive month of an increase in employment after an addition of seven million in April 2022, pushing up the employment rate marginally from 37.05% in April to 37.07% in May 2022. "This suggests stability at the macro level and a positive movement of labour at the sectoral level," CMIE said in its weekly labour market analysis. According to CMIE, there was a big shift in employment from agriculture to industry and services in the last two months. Employment in agriculture declined by 5.2 million in April and another 9.6 million in May, taking the total dip in employment in Agriculture in the last two months to 14.7 million. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-unemployment-rate-drops-for-second-consecutive-month-in-may-cmie/articleshow/92102639.cms>

Consumer sentiment rebounds in June as Centre cuts duties on fuel: Report

Consumer sentiment has bounced back in June with an upturn of 0.9 percentage points over May, according to the India Refinitiv-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index (PCSI) for June 2022. According to the report, consumer sentiment bounced back after the Centre slashed excise duty on petrol (by ₹8) and diesel (₹6) to cool inflation (on May 21) Consumer sentiment had been weakening since April and May amid a hike in fuel prices owing to the Russia-Ukraine geopolitical crisis, impacting household spends, personal financial conditions and savings and investments for the future. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/consumer-sentiment-rebounds-in-june-after-dip-in-april-may-report/article65510519.ece>

Banking and Finance

RBI to soon come out with regulatory architecture for digital lending platforms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon come out with a broad regulatory architecture to address the challenges posed by digital lending platforms, according to Governor Shaktikanta Das. "... I think, very soon we will be coming out with a broad regulatory architecture which should be able to address the challenges that we are confronted with, with regard to lending through digital platforms, many of which are unauthorised, unregistered and, should I say, illegal," Das said in his address on the occasion of iconic week of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations organised by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.

Over the past one year, thousands of people have fallen prey to predatory loan apps in the absence of any regulations, suffered even sexual harassment and ended up paying extortion money to loan recovery agents.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-to-soon-come-out-with-regulatory-architecture-for-digital-lending-platforms/article65510919.ece>

Banks to report borrowers not cooperating in forensic audits

Borrowers who won't cooperate in their forensic audits will now be reported to all banks. The move comes as lenders want to speed up the forensic audit while preventing such borrowers from taking any more loans from other banks. According to an official, who did not wish to be identified, banks have agreed to update the status of such borrowers in the Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC) constituted by the sector regulator, Reserve Bank of India. "Banks can take a decision based on this information and decide not to lend until the borrower gets a clean chit," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-to-report-borrowers-not-cooperating-in-forensic-audits/articleshow/92113412.cms>

RBI policy effect: Loans to get more expensive as banks hike lending rates

Following the monetary policy committee's (MPC) decision to raise benchmark policy rate by 50 basis points, many lenders, including ICICI Bank and Bank Baroda have raised their external benchmark linked loan rates by an equal amount. ICICI Bank on Thursday raised its external benchmark lending rate by 50 basis points to 8.60 per cent while Bank of Baroda has increased its repo linked lending rate to 7.40 per cent. RBL Bank has also raised its repo-linked lending rate by 50 bps to 10 per cent, effective June 8, 2022. Another private sector lender, Federal Bank, has also factored in the increase in repo rate and increased the interest rates accordingly.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-policy-effect-banks-raise-their-repo-linked-lending-rates-by-50-bps-122060900549_1.html

Micro loan delivery slowed in April-May as lenders took time to adjust to new guidelines

The revised microfinance guidelines, which put all micro lenders on the same platform, slowed loan disbursement in the first two months of its implementation as loan rejection rate jumped to about 50% from the normal 35% because lenders now have to follow processes more diligently. Lending rates also jumped by 100-200 bps on an average as RBI removed the lending rate for NBFC-MFIs. The uniform microfinance guidelines came into effect from April 1. "Post the implementation of revised guidelines, microfinance loan rejection rate increased to over 50% vs 30-35% pre-March," ICICI Securities said in a note.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/micro-loan-delivery-slowed-in-april-may-as-lenders-took-time-to-adjust-to-new-guidelines/articleshow/92101082.cms>

NBFCs may face NIM pressure as borrowing costs set to soar

With interest rates increasing, the net interest margins (NIMs) of NBFCs could come under pressure, Krishnan Sitaraman, senior director & deputy chief ratings officer at Crisil, said. "However, in many of the segments, they will be able to pass on a reasonable amount of the interest rate increase to their customers. At the same time, in certain segments like new car loans, where there is direct competition from banks for them, they may find it difficult to pass on the increase in cost of borrowing, hence market share for them will likely decline in these segments," he said. The trend on NIMs has been mixed for NBFCs in Q4FY22. While the margins were up for affordable housing companies on a sequential basis in Q4FY22, major NBFCs experienced NIM compression, according to data compiled

by Kotak Institutional Equities. NBFCs have been guided to absorb first part of the rise in funding costs as current NIMs are higher than their long-term averages, the brokerage said. Despite the rise in borrowing costs, NBFCs are optimistic that loan growth will remain robust, led by revival of demand in both rural and urban areas.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/nbfc-may-face-nim-pressure-as-borrowing-costs-set-to-soar/2553743/>

India lost \$1.5 billion in 2020 by not taxing electronic transmissions: Think tank

Ahead of a key ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) next week, a Geneva-based think tank has pegged India's potential loss of revenue by not taxing electronic transmissions at \$1.5 billion in 2020 and \$4.9 billion in 2017-20 based on bound rates (the ceiling tariffs committed by respective countries). As per a research paper by South Centre, an intergovernmental organisation of developing countries, the revenue loss was from imports of items like movies, music and video games. The research paper pitched for customs duties to "regulate conspicuous consumption through imports". WTO members can't impose customs duties on electronic transmissions since a temporary moratorium was put in place in 1998-something that India has opposed.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-lost-1-5-billion-in-2020-by-not-taxing-electronic-transmissions-think-tank/articleshow/92113520.cms>

Industry

Electric vehicles: India may slash GST on lithium-ion batteries to 5%

To give a boost to green mobility plans, India may cut the goods and services tax (GST) on lithium-ion batteries and bring them on par with taxes on electric vehicles (EVs), a media report said on Thursday. According to a *Livemint* report, discussions have already begun on how to proceed with the plan, which is a crucial step in making India a global manufacturing hub for EVs. The government is expected to develop the final policy in around three months, the report added. At present, e-vehicles are taxed at 5 per cent, while lithium-ion batteries are taxed at 18 per cent. Battery price makes up as much as 50 per cent of an electric vehicle's cost. An emerging trend to tackle the problem of prohibitive cost of EV adoption is battery swapping technology. The first meeting deliberating on the battery-swapping policy was held on June 7. NITI Aayog, the ministries of new and renewable energy, heavy industries, and other government departments talked about tax rationalisation, standardisation of batteries to ensure interoperability in the meeting, *Livemint* reported.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/gst-council-may-bring-rate-on%E2%80%8A-lithium-batteries%E2%80%8A-on-par%E2%80%8A-with-%E2%80%8Aevs-report-122060900371_1.html

Steel mills eye new offerings overseas to work around export duty burden

Hit by steep export duty, Indian steel mills are re-working their product offerings to cater to overseas buyers and protect their topline and bottomline. A supply glut, due to absence of major export orders for nearly two weeks, and poor domestic demand, have led to mills being stuck with just one month of stock. Steel companies are exploring offers from Vietnam and the Middle East for alloyed hot rolled coils (HRC) which are not under the duty ambit, trade sources told *BusinessLine*. India's monthly crude steel production is around 10 million tonne (mt), spread across private and PSU players. The country exported 13.5 mt of finished steel in FY22 posting a 25 per cent y-o-y rise. Mills, including PSU-major SAIL, are looking at exporting semi-finished products — where no taxes have been levied. Others are looking at speciality offerings like rail plates or rail-infra that have also escaped the export tax net.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/steel-mills-eye-new-offerings-overseas-to-work-around-export-duty/article65510572.ece>

Agriculture

Investment of Rs 7,243 crore done under fishery scheme PMMSY; Govt launches dashboard

The government on Thursday said project investment of Rs 7,242.90 crore has been made in last two years under Padhan Mantri Matsya Samapada Yojana (PMMSY), while announcing the launch of a dashboard of this flagship scheme. PMMSY, launched in May 2020, is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs 20,050 crore for its implementation during a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. A Management Information System (MIS) dashboard for PMMSY has

been put in place for aggregating information on one platform. The dashboard aims at effective monitoring of PMMSY activities and their progress in all participating states. It also helps strategically utilise the information for informed decision making. As the data is fed into the MIS system at district level by each participating states/union territories, the platform is a true indicator of PMMSY's progress, it said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/investment-of-rs-7243-crore-done-under-fishery-scheme-pmmsy-govt-launches-dashboard/2554370/>

Reduce import duty on soya, sunflower oils to zero till Sept, urges SEA

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has expressed concern over the implementation of the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for the imports of soyabean oil and sunflower oil. In a letter addressed to the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution and Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, President of SEA Atul Chaturvedi urged the Government to reduce the import duty on soya and sunflower oil to zero for the time being till September instead of issuing TRQ. This will have a salutary effect on domestic edible oil prices. He said the Government may review the situation in September and take a suitable call based on kharif oilseed production.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/reduce-import-duty-on-soya-sunflower-oils-to-zero-till-sept-urges-sea/article65511134.ece>

Govt should buy paddy only from small, marginal farmers: Report recommends

The government should procure paddy from small and marginal farmers as a way to manage surplus rice stocks in state warehouses, a commission has recommended in its report about the 2022-23 kharif season. Procurement from other farmers could be limited to surplus from two hectares of land, said the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACPC) in its latest price policy report. "This would entail sufficient stocks for maintaining food security and protect the interest of more than 90 per cent of farmers," it said. The recommendations, if followed, could bring about a dramatic change in the manner in which food grains are procured in the country and eliminate the need for large subsidies to maintain and procure surplus grain stocks in central warehouses.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-should-buy-paddy-only-from-small-marginal-farmers-report-recommends-122060900942_1.html

Infrastructure

Aviation sector eyes take-off in peak demand

While the travel chaos in Europe has been spoiling the mood of thousands of summer vacationers, largely due to airlines' inability to cope with the rush, the aviation sector in India promises to be better prepared for hectic summer travel. Travel demand in Mumbai and Delhi increased by 150% in April, mainly due to international travel, weddings and long weekends. The average daily rate of rooms was 105% higher in Mumbai and 62% higher in Delhi as compared to March, as per data by RateGain Travel Technologies, a global SaaS provider for travel and hospitality.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/airlines-aviation/aviation-sector-eyes-take-off-in-peak-demand/2553633/>

Delhi Metro invites bids from banks for ₹2,700-crore loan

Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has invited bids from 18 banks to raise a loan of ₹2,700 crore. The money will be used to settle dues owed to Reliance Infrastructure subsidiary DAMEPL. The Supreme Court upheld an arbitration award in favour of the Anil Ambani-backed infrastructure company in a case related to the Airport Metro Express Line project. DMRC has already paid ₹2,444.87 crore to DAMEPL, pursuant to court orders. DMRC had written to 18 banks to submit their bids by end of May, but the deadline to submit the bids was later extended to June 10. The DMRC letter has gone to SBI, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara bank, HDFC, ICICI, Kotak, and PNB among others.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/delhi-metro-invites-bids-from-banks-for-2700-crore-loan/article65510787.ece>

Energy

Power exchanges can trade contracts up to 3 months now

Power exchanges will be able to trade contracts up to three months following approval from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The approval is expected to bring a landmark change in the power markets as a major chunk of bilateral trade is expected to shift from bilateral contracts to power exchanges. Of the 660 power tenders between January 2020 and April 2022, 396 tenders (60%) were for monthly procurement of power. "This indicates preference for monthly contracts among stakeholders," CERC said. Increased share of electricity trade on exchanges is desired the world over for a deep, competitive market structure.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/power-exchanges-can-trade-contracts-up-to-3-months-now/articleshow/92113513.cms>

Crude oil prices may hit \$135 per barrel in next 12 months, Goldman Sachs says oil shortage unresolved

Crude oil prices have risen sharply in the last few months, on the back of fall in Russian exports and demand cuts in China. Brent Crude and WTI crude futures were trading above \$120 per barrel on Thursday morning and could rise further, said analysts at Goldman Sachs. On the demand side, analysts believe the weak global growth outlook would not be sufficient to rebalance inventories at current crude oil prices. "As a result, we believe oil prices need to rally further to normalize the unsustainably low levels of global oil inventories, as well as OPEC and refining spare capacities," Goldman Sachs said in a report this week, adding that Brent may average \$135 per barrel in the next 12 months. Analysts at the global brokerage firm believe that the structural shortage of crude oil remains unresolved even though oil market touched first surplus since June 2020 in April-May of 2022. "This politically created surplus is already ending, however, driven by the ongoing recovery in Chinese demand, with an 0.5 mb/d expected further decline in Russian production following the European ban," they said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/market/commodities/crude-oil-prices-may-hit-135-per-barrel-in-next-12-months-goldman-sachs-says-oil-shortage-unresolved/2554170/>

India renewable energy investments in FY22 at record \$14.5 bn: Report

Investments in India's renewable energy sector grew 125 per cent year-on-year to a record \$14.5 billion in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22), said a report on Thursday. Conglomerates such as Reliance Industries (RIL) and the Adani group have plans to ramp up their renewable energy capacity. Acquisitions and bond issues by RIL, Adani and other companies constituted 75 per cent of the total value of investments in FY22, said the report by Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). In FY20, total investment in the sector stood at \$8.4 billion. FY21 saw a fall in investments, due to Covid-19, with the total deal value touching \$6.4 billion. The largest deal in FY22 was SB Energy's exit from the Indian market with a sale of assets worth \$3.5 billion to Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), part of the Adani group, in October last year. Around the same time, Reliance New Energy Solar, a subsidiary of RIL, picked up REC Solar Holdings for \$771 million. Among bond issues, key ones included that of companies such as Vector Green, AGEL, ReNew Power, Indian Railway Finance Corporation and Azure Power, IEEFA said.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-renewable-energy-investments-in-fy22-at-record-14-5-bn-report-122060900916_1.html

Telecom

5G rollout unviable if captive private networks allowed, telcos tell govt

In a move which could jeopardise the country's upcoming 5G spectrum auction, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) sent a letter to Minister of Communications, Ashwini Vaishnaw, late evening on Wednesday, saying there will be "no business case for rollout of 5G networks" if captive private 5G networks are permitted. In a blunt letter to the minister COAI - the apex body of telecom operators with Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea Ltd as its key members - has made it clear that if independent entities set up private captive networks with direct 5G spectrum allotment by DoT, the business case of telecom operators will be "severely degraded". They have made it plain in the letter that "this will diminish the revenue so much that there will be no viable business case left for the telecom service providers (TSPs) and there will not remain any need for 5G network rollout by them." COAI has explained to the minister that wherever 5G has been rolled out there has hardly been any consequent revenue increment from the retail segment. The revenue and efficiency enhancement can happen only in the enterprise segment.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/5g-rollout-unviable-if-captive-private-networks-allowed-telcos-tell-govt-122060900252_1.html

States

Bihar wants end to quota on production of ethanol

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has reached out to the Centre to seek removal of the state-specific quota on production of ethanol as it has the capacity to produce more than its allocated share due to high availability of maize and rice husk. The state has also come out with a comprehensive industrial promotion policy for textile and leather based on relevant data and studies in the last nine months. Nitish Kumar demanded twice in his speech on Wednesday in Patna at the release of the textile and leather investment promotion policy that the Centre should not bind Bihar within a quota for production of ethanol. This quota for states is based on its consumption of ethanol. Kumar had reportedly also expressed his concern to Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, a keen enthusiast of the use of ethanol, and suggested Bihar's quota be increased.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/bihar-wants-end-to-quota-on-production-of-ethanol/articleshow/92112028.cms>

Goa govt stops transportation of minerals by road during monsoon

The Directorate of Mines and Geology, Goa, issued a notification on June 6 ordering the halting of transportation of ore by road until further orders as the monsoon season has begun in the state. "Transportation of ore by roads during monsoon season may jeopardise the safety of the citizens using the road network in the vicinity of mining leases or transport routes of such minerals," the department said in its notification.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/goa-govt-stops-transportation-of-minerals-by-road-during-monsoon/articleshow/92106054.cms>

Healthcare

India's daily Covid-19 cases jump 40%

India reported a 40 per cent daily jump in Covid infections, with numbers crossing 7,200 on Thursday, the highest since March. On a 24-hour basis, India reported 7,240 cases, with the total tally rising to 431,97,522. Over 80 per cent of the cases are from Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and Karnataka. The country reported 8 fatalities. Six were reconciliation deaths from Kerala, while fresh fatalities were reported from Delhi and Chattisgarh. Daily positivity rate stood at 1.62 per cent, while the weekly positivity rate stood at 0.91 per cent, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-covid-tally-up-40-on-a-day-to-day-basis/article65511056.ece>

India unlikely to witness fourth wave unless new COVID-19 variant reported, says health expert

An upward trend in new COVID-19 cases continued in India on Thursday, with the country recording more than 7,000 new cases in the last 24 hours noting which a top expert has warned that India is unlikely to experience the fourth wave unless a new COVID-19 variant is reported. In an exclusive conversation with ANI on Thursday, Director of Internal Medicine, Max Healthcare, Dr Rommel Tickoo said, "India is unlikely to witness the fourth wave unless and until a new COVID-19 variant is reported that has different characteristics from the previous variants." Dr Tickoo further said that people are travelling to various places and are back to normal due to which cases are rising. He said, "COVID-19 cases are rising likely due to an increase in tourism activities. A lot of people are travelling to places, going for holidays, vacations and things are almost getting back to normal. So, this surge is expected in quite a few states."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/india-unlikely-to-witness-fourth-wave-unless-new-covid-19-variant-reported-says-health-expert/articleshow/92110160.cms>

External

Key pillars of WTO should be retained while undertaking reforms: Official

India would support efforts to improve the working of the World Trade Organisation but its key pillars like special and differential treatment for less developed and developing nations, equal voice and dispute settlement mechanism should be retained while undertaking WTO reforms, an official said. WTO reforms is one of the key issues which would figure in the forthcoming ministerial meeting. The four-day Ministerial Conference is scheduled to start

from June 12 in Geneva. Last meeting was held in Argentina in 2017. "We believe that WTO is an important organisation. Its multi-lateral nature should never be affected and therefore we support any efforts to improve its working. But the pillars of the WTO which is — special and differential treatment for the less developed and developing nations, consensus-based approach that is the equal voice that every member has, transparency requirements, rule of law and dispute settlement mechanism — all these pillars of the WTO should be maintained when we are trying to do WTO reforms," the official said. "So we are going to try and focus to bring the WTO reform agenda to be a more focused agenda and maintaining these pillars and these disciplines," the official added.
<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/key-pillars-of-wto-should-be-retained-while-undertaking-reforms-official/2554388/>

India considers curbing fridge imports to boost local industry: Report

India is considering restricting imports of refrigerators to promote local manufacturing, two industry sources told Reuters on Thursday, potentially freezing out shipments from Samsung Electronics Co and LG Electronics Inc in the \$5 billion market. The sources, who declined to be named as the talks were private, said the government was considering mandating that importers seek a licence from the authorities, replacing the existing free-import regime. That could be followed by a ban on imports of refrigerators with refrigerant already added, to create opportunities for value-added operations in India, said one of the sources, who has direct knowledge of the government's discussions. The source said a decision could come within a month, adding: "The thrust is to support all those who are manufacturing in India rather than those bringing them into India."
https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-considers-curbing-fridge-imports-to-boost-local-industry-report-122060900499_1.html

Tea exports fall marginally in FY22, according to Tea Board data

Export of tea during the last fiscal FY22 declined marginally to 200.79 million kilograms as compared to 203.79 million kilograms in the previous financial year, according to Tea Board data. Offtake by the CIS countries, the largest importer of Indian tea, fell to 42.48 million kilograms in the last fiscal, as against 49.08 million kilograms during 2020-21. The export to Iran, the second-largest importer after CIS, however, rose slightly to 29.28 million kilograms from 28.35 million kilograms in the similar previous period. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) lifted a much higher offtake during the last fiscal at 23.20 million kilograms as against 13.60 million kilograms in the corresponding previous financial year, Tea Board said.
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/tea-exports-fall-marginally-in-fy22-according-to-tea-board-data/articleshow/92109701.cms>

Tyre exports rise 50% to over ₹21,000 crore in FY22

Recording one of the highest growths across sectors, tyre exports jumped 50 per cent to hit a record high of ₹21,178 crore in FY 2021-22. Data released by the Ministry of Commerce shows that tyre exports stood at just over ₹14,000 crore in the previous year. In the last two financial years, since international trade has been disrupted due to Covid, tyre exports from India have gone up by 70 per cent. "The export performance proves the ability of the Indian tyre industry to meet rising expectations in the new geo-political scenario," said Satish Sharma, Chairman, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).
<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/tyre-exports-roll-up-50-per-cent-to-top-rs-21000-crore-in-fy22/article65510194.ece>

Rice rates rise as fears of export curbs accelerate demand

Export prices for Indian rice rose further this week, supported by strong demand and concerns that the world's top exporter of the grain could restrict shipments. India's 5% broken parboiled rice was sold at prices of \$357 to \$362 per tonne this week, compared with \$355 to \$360 in the previous week. "There's huge demand for 100% broken rice, as well as for the 5% broken rice. Traders are speculating India might put restrictions on the exports," said an exporter based at Kakinada in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. India's surprise ban on wheat exports has prompted rice traders to increase purchases and place unusual orders for longer-dated deliveries.
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/rice-rates-rise-as-fears-of-export-curbs-accelerate-demand/articleshow/92109972.cms>

Centre extends anti-dumping duty on bus and truck tyres from China by three months

The centre has extended the anti-dumping duty on import of bus and truck tyres from China by three months. In a gazette notification, it was stated that the anti-dumping duty imposed in September 2017, for a period of five years, will now be in force till December 2022. According to a notification by the Central Board Excise and Customs (CBEC), the anti-dumping duty on these Chinese products lies in the range of \$ 245.35 - 452.33 per tonne. It covers new or unused pneumatic radial tyres with or without tubes and or flap of rubber (including tubeless tyres) having normal rim diameter code above 16 inches used in buses, lorries, and trucks.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/tyres/centre-extends-anti-dumping-duty-on-bus-and-truck-tyres-from-china-by-three-months/articleshow/92106121.cms>

Current account deficit likely to hit three-year high at \$43.8 bn in FY22

The country's current account deficit is likely to hit a three-year high of 1.8 per cent or USD 43.81 billion in FY22, as against a surplus of 0.9 per cent or USD 23.91 billion in FY21, a report said on Thursday. According to an assessment by India Ratings, the Current Account Deficit (CAD) has moderated to USD 17.3 billion or 1.96 per cent of GDP in the fourth quarter of FY22 as against USD 8.2 billion or 1.03 per cent in the year-ago period, and massively down from USD 23.02 billion or 2.74 per cent in Q3, which was a 13-quarter high. The improvement in the key numbers are due to the remarkable improvement in merchandise exports in FY22, when it grew 42.4 per cent as against a negative 7.5 per cent in the pandemic-hit FY21. But exports could face significant headwinds from rising uncertainty and volatility in the global economy primarily because of the spike in commodity prices, especially crude oil after Russia invaded Ukraine, the report warned, and pointed to the lower forecast of global growth by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which sees the global economy clipping at just about 3 per cent in 2022, down from 4.7 per cent forecast earlier.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/current-account-deficit-likely-to-hit-three-year-high-at-43-8-bn-in-fy22-122060900749_1.html