



September 12, 2023 – Tuesday

## Economy

### Looking at further easing FDI norms in space sector: DPIIT secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh

The government is looking at further easing foreign direct investment (FDI) norms in the space sector to attract overseas players, a top official said on Monday. Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajesh Kumar Singh said that huge scope is there for Saudi Arabian companies to invest in India in different sectors such as aviation, pharma, bulk drugs, renewable energy, food processing and agri-tech. "There is tremendous scope for collaboration... such as in artificial intelligence, robotics, cyber security, automation and space, where we are looking to further liberalise our foreign direct investment norms to bring in private sector and foreign investment in our space sector," Singh said at the India-Saudi Arabia investment forum meet here.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/looking-at-further-easing-fdi-norms-in-space-sector-dpiit-secretary-rajesh-kumar-singh/articleshow/103572553.cms>

### Retail inflation expected to range from 6.8% to 7.1% for August

The government will release the retail inflation number based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for August and the industrial growth number for July on Tuesday. While the expectation is that retail inflation could range from 6.8 to 7.1 per cent, the industrial growth rate could be 5 per cent. Retail inflation for July was 7.44 per cent. The industrial growth rate in June was recorded at 3.7 per cent.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/retail-inflation-expected-to-range-from-68-to-71-for-august/article67296687.ece>

## Banking and Finance

### RBI, banks plan new features to boost digital currency transactions, say sources

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is working with lenders to introduce new features to popularise the central bank digital currency (CBDC), the so-called e-rupee, according to six people familiar with the matter. Retail CBDC transactions are averaging close to 18,000 a day, way short of the RBI's one million-a-day target by 2023 end. The features include allowing digital rupee transactions when a customer is offline and linking the e-rupee to India's popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI), three of the people quoted above said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-cenbank-banks-plan-new-features-to-boost-digital-currency-transactions-sources/articleshow/103567440.cms>

### Fintech lending rises over 31% to Rs 29,875 crore, says FACE report

Financial technology (fintech) companies disbursed 22.2 million loans in the first quarter of Financial Year 2023-24 (Q1 FY24), growing 30.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY), said an industry association on Monday. Sequentially, disbursals grew 15.6 per cent from 19.2 million loans in Q4 FY23. As many as 17 million loans were disbursed in Q1 FY23, said the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) in a report.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/fintech-lending-grows-31-to-rs-29-875-crore-in-q1fy24-face-report-123091100795\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/fintech-lending-grows-31-to-rs-29-875-crore-in-q1fy24-face-report-123091100795_1.html)

### **Lenders, intelligence agencies in talks for alerts on deals by defaulters**

Lenders have begun discussions with intelligence agencies on an early warning mechanism for timely detection and tracking of counterparty transactions in accounts of loan defaulters. The proposed mechanism will ensure that such suspected transactions are flagged immediately, giving intelligence agencies enough time to take swift action, said people aware of the development. "This is being actively pursued," an official said on condition of anonymity, adding that counterparty transactions help investigating agencies track frauds, siphoning off of funds and other such illegal activities in accounts under the radar.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/lenders-intelligence-agencies-in-talks-for-alerts-on-deals-by-defaulters/articleshow/103587473.cms>

## **Industry**

### **Businesses over turnover over Rs 100 cr cannot report e-invoices older than 30 days from Nov 1**

Businesses with Aggregate Annual Turnover (AATO) over Rs 100 crore will not be allowed to report e-invoices older than 30 days on the date of reporting under the goods and services tax (GST) from November One. "It has been decided by the GST Authority to impose a time limit of 30 days for reporting of invoices from date of invoice, on e-invoice portals," said an advisory issued by the GST e-invoice systems on Monday. "This time limit is applicable for taxpayers with AATO greater than or equal to 100 crores," it added. Earlier the time limit proposed by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) was seven days, however it was further relaxed to 30 days taking note of concerns raised by the businesses.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/businesses-over-turnover-over-rs-100-cr-cannot-report-e-invoices-older-than-30-days-from-nov-1/articleshow/103580888.cms>

### **Domestic passenger vehicle wholesales up 9% in Aug, exports rise: Siam**

Passenger vehicle wholesales grew 9 per cent in August year-on-year on the back of demand for utility models, said a manufacturers association on Monday. Passenger vehicles and three-wheelers saw their best sales in August, but two-wheeler numbers remained static. As many as 359,228 passenger vehicles were sold this August compared to 328,376 units during the same month last year, said the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam) on Monday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/domestic-passenger-vehicle-wholesales-up-9-in-aug-exports-rise-siam-123091100438\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/domestic-passenger-vehicle-wholesales-up-9-in-aug-exports-rise-siam-123091100438_1.html)

### **NITI Aayog spearheads efforts to standardise battery swapping policy**

The Centre is planning to initiate fresh consultations to finalise interoperable standards for battery-swapping policies, Business Standard has learnt. As part of this endeavour, NITI Aayog — public policy think tank of the Government of India — has urged the Ministry of Heavy Industries to convene a meeting with industry stakeholders. This move comes months after the industry failed to reach a consensus on the battery-swapping policy draft dated April 20, 2022.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/niti-aayog-spearheads-efforts-to-standardise-battery-swapping-policy-123091100791\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/niti-aayog-spearheads-efforts-to-standardise-battery-swapping-policy-123091100791_1.html)

### **Cement-makers to boost green power use to cut costs, emissions**

Cement-makers are accelerating their initiatives/ projects to increase the share of green power in their total power mix. The shift to green power, which is primarily executed by waste heat recovery system (WHRS) capacities now, is expected to aid cement companies in reducing power costs, which have been denting their margins. Along with steel and power segments, the cement industry is also one of the largest consumers of fuel (in the form of coal). So, greenhouse gases emitted by the cement industry significantly impact the environment.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cement-makers-to-boost-green-power-use-to-cut-costs-emissions/article67295031.ece>

### **India's retail grows due to realty supply, consumer resurgence: JLL report**

After a strong comeback in 2022, the growth momentum of India's retail sector continues to stay strong in 2023, said a report. The Indian retail sector is taking a leap forward by growing sales and revenue and is witnessing

unprecedented transformation through the introduction of newer formats, increasing institutional investment, and entry of new global brands, it added.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-retail-grows-due-to-realty-supply-consumer-resurgence-jll-report-123091100380\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-retail-grows-due-to-realty-supply-consumer-resurgence-jll-report-123091100380_1.html)

#### **IT hardware companies may be told to register for imports in FY24**

The Indian government has told IT hardware manufacturers that it's considering a registration mechanism for imports for at least this fiscal year with no quota and licensing requirements, a move that would bring relief to HP, Dell, Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, Asus, Acer and the other big tech brands. According to officials aware of the details, for the current fiscal, the government will only monitor the source and value of devices as part of an import management system. Companies will be allowed to bring in as much as they require to meet demand. Quotas and other compliances will come into effect at a later stage or starting next financial year, officials said. The government communicated its stance to the industry at a September 8 meeting chaired by minister of state for electronics and information technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/it-hardware-companies-may-be-told-to-register-for-imports-in-fy24/articleshow/103590925.cms>

#### **Handset companies step up focus on offline retail channels**

Handset brands are shifting focus significantly to the offline retail channel from online ahead of the crucial festive season driven by increasing sales of premium handsets. Typically, customers want to look-and-feel before purchasing higher-priced devices and tend to have room to better negotiate financing and trade-in offers, experts said. Online-centric brands are also revising their strategy to focus more on the offline segment with this festive season crucial to a demand rebound after a tepid first half. Typically, the festive season now accounts for around a fifth of annual sales. Xiaomi, for instance, said it is now focused on expanding its store network beyond the current 18,000 retail stores across the country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/handset-companies-step-up-focus-on-offline-retail-channels/articleshow/103587212.cms>

### **Agriculture**

#### **Pulses sowing down 8.58% so far in kharif season due to monsoon deficit**

Area sown to pulses remained lower by 8.58 per cent at 119.91 lakh hectares till last week of the ongoing kharif season due to 11 per cent monsoon rain deficit in the country, according to the agriculture ministry data. Sowing of kharif crops begins with the onset of the southwestern summer monsoons that occur from June through September.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pulses-sowing-down-8-58-so-far-in-kharif-season-due-to-monsoon-deficit-123091100482\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pulses-sowing-down-8-58-so-far-in-kharif-season-due-to-monsoon-deficit-123091100482_1.html)

#### **September rains may not save sugarcane, pulses crops**

Heavy rains in the first few days of September will not help crops such as soya bean, sugarcane, moong and urad to overcome the damage caused by scanty rains in August, experts said, warning of poor yield, price increases, and food inflation. "Inadequate rainfall for more than a month now is adding to uncertainty for crop yields," said Rahul Bajoria, managing director and head of EM Asia (ex-China) economics of Barclays. "Apart from soya bean and pulses, the irrigation-intensive sugar cane also could be threatened, particularly owing to deficient rainfall in major producers states," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/september-rains-may-not-save-sugarcane-pulses-crops/articleshow/103587454.cms>

#### **India losing market share for basmati rice**

India has started losing its global market share in basmati rice following the government's decision to fix a minimum export price (MEP) of \$1,200 per tonne for the commodity, industry executives and exporters said. At the recently concluded Istanbul food fair in Turkiye, a key destination for basmati business, not a single Indian company could bag an order for the new basmati crop of any variety because of the \$1,200 benchmark fixed by the Centre, they said. Global buyers are resorting to arm-twisting tactics and delaying payments for orders that were shipped before

the Centre's instructions came in. They are also putting pressure on the Indian basmati trade to send the contracted orders at the price that was fixed earlier to get payments for the already shipped consignments, these people said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-losing-market-share-for-basmati-rice/articleshow/103587408.cms>

## States

### Assam eyeing Rs 40,000 crore investment in semiconductor industry: Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the state is in discussion and is eyeing to get Rs 40,000 crore investment in the semiconductor industry. Speaking at the state assembly, "We are in good discussion and likely to get investment to the tune of Rs 40,000 crore in the semiconductor industry. We are competing with three states including Gujarat and Orissa and are hopeful of making the breakthrough." Eyeing to attract semiconductor units in Assam, the state government has approved Assam Electronics (Semiconductor, etc.) Policy 2023 recently.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/assam-eyeing-rs-40000-crore-investment-in-the-semiconductor-industry-assam-cm-himanta-biswa-sarma/articleshow/103584789.cms>

## Healthcare

### Pharma sector to post revenue growth of 8-10% this fiscal on steady domestic sales, higher exports to regulated markets

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is expected to post a revenue growth of 8-10 per cent during the fiscal 2024, in line with the last fiscal. This, CRISIL said in a report, will be supported by steady domestic growth and increased exports to regulated markets, even as semi-regulated markets face headwinds. The report also stated that the operating profitability is seen improving 50-100 basis points (bps) to ~21 per cent this fiscal, supported by moderation in input and logistics costs, and abating pricing pressure in the US generics market.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-pharma-sector-to-post-revenue-growth-of-8-10-this-fiscal-on-steady-domestic-sales-higher-exports-to-regulated-markets-3239529/>

### Flexibility in registration process to boost Indian drug exports to Oman

Indian drug exports to Oman are set for a boost as the registration process has now been made flexible. "As per our information, the Oman authorities agreed to expedite the review of registration of applications of products from India that are approved by USFDA, UKMHFA or EMA in response to a request made by India," R Uday Bhaskar, Director General, Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), told businessline. In the 10th India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting held on May 2022, the Indian side had requested Omani authorities to accept Indian pharmaceutical products which have been registered with USFDA, UKMHRA and EMA without the need to go through the lengthy registration process in Oman for each product. Further, India also requested the Omani side for fast-tracking of applications of registration/approval of drugs/companies that are already approved by USFDA.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/registration-process-flexibility-boosts-indian-drug-exports-to-oman/article67294769.ece>

## External

### India, UK explore possibility of shares listing at GIFT City and LSE

The United Kingdom has received the first confirmation from India that it would explore the London Stock Exchange (LSE) for overseas direct listing of Indian companies, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said on Monday. "We are particularly pleased to have made a big step forward with the first confirmation by India that it will explore the London Stock Exchange as an international destination for the direct listing of Indian companies," Hunt said while addressing media persons in a joint briefing with his Indian counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman after the 12th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue.

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/india-uk-explore-possibility-of-shares-listing-at-gift-city-and-lse-123091101037\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/india-uk-explore-possibility-of-shares-listing-at-gift-city-and-lse-123091101037_1.html)

### Trade deficit with Saudi Arabia at record high in FY23: CMIE data

The trade balance between India and Saudi Arabia is at its worst since at least the turn of the millennium. India's imports from Saudi Arabia was \$31.3 billion in the last fiscal year (FY23) more than its exports. This is the largest gap since 1999-00, the year from which data was available from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/trade-deficit-with-saudi-arabia-at-record-levels-shows-cmie-data-123091101068\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/trade-deficit-with-saudi-arabia-at-record-levels-shows-cmie-data-123091101068_1.html)

#### **India imposes anti-dumping duty on some Chinese steel for 5 years**

India on Monday imposed an anti-dumping duty on some Chinese steel for five years, according to a government notification. On Sept 4, India's steel secretary, Nagendra Nath Sinha, said New Delhi was monitoring the steel imports situation after the steel industry raised concerns over potential dumping by Chinese sellers. During April-July, China was the second biggest steel exporter to India, after South Korea, selling 0.6 million metric tons, up 62% from the same period a year earlier. In all, India imported 2 million metric tons of finished steel in the period, the highest since 2020 and up 23% from a year earlier.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-imposes-anti-dumping-duty-on-some-chinese-steel-for-5-years-123091101401\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-imposes-anti-dumping-duty-on-some-chinese-steel-for-5-years-123091101401_1.html)

#### **Removal of additional tariff on US products will hurt local economy, say Kashmir apple farmers**

Regional political parties and apple growers in Kashmir have urged the government of India to reconsider its decision to remove additional duties on American products, including apples, walnuts and almonds, as this would adversely impact local farmers. The apple farmers have complained that the removal of additional tariff would negatively impact the local industry in J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It would result in huge losses for the local apple industry, which is already grappling with the economic stress in the wake of Covid-19 lockdowns and lesser crop production.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/removal-of-additional-tariff-on-us-products-will-hurt-local-economy-say-kashmir-apple-farmers/articleshow/103593092.cms>