

Daily Economic News Summary: 06 December 2017

1. Rs 7,500 crore Bandra-Versova sea link plan cleared

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

The Maharashtra government today accorded administrative approval to the Versova-Bandra sea link (VBSL) project, eight years after the state cabinet committee on Infrastructure (SCCI) cleared it. In a Government Resolution, the state has pegged the project cost to be around Rs 7,502 crore and its length is estimated to be about 17.17 kms. The SCCI had cleared the project on August 18, 2009. However, it took another four years, for the government to get the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and environment clearance from the Centre which were given in January 2013, an official said. In extending the area in length, the government has approved the design plan at a height of 900 meters from the coastline, states the GR.

2 India 'dream' plan to cut freight time to 14 hours from 14 days

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

A \$7.1 billion rail corridor in Rajasthan that's set to cut freight times between India's capital New Delhi and the business hub of Mumbai to 14 hours from 14 days is finally showing signs of progress. About 800 kilometers away in Gujarat, a 920-square-kilometer industrial area is taking shape near the village of Dholera, with hundreds of workers fusing concrete sections of a sewerage system on a recent visit. Summing up the massive project's ambition, a sign for a yet-to-be-built housing development reads: "Dream City." Plagued by delays, red tape and disputes over land acquisition, for years it seemed the \$100 billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor would remain just that -- a dream. First proposed more than a decade ago, the sprawling assortment of smart

cities and industrial parks on both sides of the freight railway could cut logistics charges that amount to roughly 14 percent of total costs by bypassing the country's infamously chaotic major cities

3. India's containerised foreign trade surges 10% in Q3 2017

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

India's containerised overseas trade grew by 10 per cent in the third quarter of 2017 and the trend is likely to continue, Maersk India said in its latest report. "As the exuberance around the recent rankings conferred on India by the World Bank and Moody's just about begins to alleviate, the country gets yet another reason to celebrate, with its global containerised import-export recording its highest growth... at a strong 10 per cent in Q3 of 2017," Maersk India Q3 2017 Trade Report said on 05.12.2017. The report, which analysed India's containerised foreign trade with close to 200 countries in Q3 2017, revealed that the growth led by rising exports to Mediterranean and North American nations, registering a surge by 14 per cent and 8 per cent, respectively. The data also indicates India's strengthening trade ties with these regions.

4. China woos India with 'mega-scale regional market' offer

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

China and India can create a "mega- scale regional market" to tap the huge demand of over 2.5 billion people living in both the countries, a top Chinese planner said today. "China and India are only countries with over a billion population each with a huge market demand," Li Wei, President of Development Research Centre (DRC), said at the third annual dialogue meeting with NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. "We can further integrate our markets at deeper level and

form a mega scale regional market which will be very much significant to the development of our two countries," Li said. He called for integration of market of China with 1.4 billion people with

5. India, Japan holds maiden Act East Forum meet, eyes to stabilise Indo-Pacific region

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

India and Japan on Wednesday held their maiden Act East Forum meeting in Delhi in pursuance of the Memorandum of Cooperation to establish this Forum signed on September 14 during the visit of Prime Minister Abe to the country eyeing to stabilise Indo-Pacific region. The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Japanese Ambassador to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu. The Act East Forum aims to provide a platform for India-Japan collaboration under the rubric of India's "Act East Policy" and Japan's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy". The Forum will identify specific projects for economic modernization of India's North-East region including those pertaining to connectivity, developmental infrastructure, industrial linkages as well as people-to-people contacts through tourism, culture and sports-related activities. Thereafter the Forum will discuss joint projects for ASEAN region. Japan is already undertaking infrastructure projects in Northeastern states.

6. India, China to strengthen trade, investment ties

Source: The Economic Times ([Link](#))

India and China agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade and investment as they have a major stake in the path that the global economy is likely to follow in the coming years, an official statement said today. At the third edition of the dialogue between the NITI Aayog and the Development Research Council of China (DRC), both sides exchanged views on policies and measures to address the challenges for attaining sustainable growth, it said. The dialogue, being

held in China, took place under the MoU between NITI Aayog DRC signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to that country in May 2015. The next dialogue will be convened in India in 2018.

7. Finance Ministry clears FDI proposal worth Rs 1.90 crore in November

The Economic Times ([Link](#))

The finance ministry today said it cleared a foreign direct investment (FDI) proposal of Rs 1.90 crore in November. The proposal relating to Wells Fargo International Finance (India) Pvt Ltd was approved, Finance Ministry said in a statement issued 05.12.2017. The company had sought approval for issuance of equity shares to Wells Fargo International Finance LLC and Wells Fargo International Banking Corporation for meeting obligations pertaining to certain pre-operative or pre-incorporation expenses and the proposed voluntary liquidation of Wells Fargo India, the statement said. A proposal from SBI Macquarie Infrastructure Management Pvt Ltd was rejected, it said. The Union Cabinet in May decided to abolish the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) -- an advisory body comprising of secretaries to various departments for vetting of foreign direct investment (FDI) applications and making recommendations to the government.

8. Rs. 8,450 crore package to boost exports

Source: The Hindu ([Link](#))

The government on Tuesday announced incentives worth Rs. 8,450 crore to boost exports of goods and services — mainly from labour-intensive segments and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises — and to increase employment generation and value-addition. The incentives were announced as part of the mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). The move comes at a time when India's shipments shrank in October — the first after 14 consecutive months of

positive growth — due to the impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). “The FTP will continue to be reviewed and evaluated regularly for addressing concerns of the exporters, simplification of procedures and for promotion of exports,” an official statement said.

9. UAE set to open more consular offices in India

Source: The Hindu ([Link](#))

The United Arab Emirates will open several consular centres in India, said the Ambassador of the Gulf nation on Tuesday and reaffirmed his government’s intention to revitalise the the country’s infrastructure with \$75 billion investment from its sovereign wealth fund. The announcement on boosting consular services of UAE came even as diplomatic sources confirmed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Abu Dhabi in February, 2018. “Under the present circumstances, if the people from Chandigarh, Chennai and Hyderabad want a visa to UAE, they have to travel either to Mumbai, Delhi or Kerala. So to prevent hardship for the people, we are soon going to open our consular visa centres in these cities,” Dr. Ahmed Albanna, UAE Ambassador to India, told presspersons. Expansion of consular services will help the Indian workforce, who constitute one of the largest overseas Indian communities in UAE.