

Daily Economic News Summary: 10 October 2017

1. Country set for good Rabi season due to late rains: Agriculture Secretary

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

The country is headed for good rabi season despite below normal monsoon rains, thanks to a surge of rainfall in the last week of September that replenished soil moisture, agriculture secretary Shobhana K Pattanayak has said. The late rains will benefit planting of rabi crops such as wheat and chana, Pattanayak said. Most parts of northwest and central India received deficit rainfall, but farmers in Punjab and Haryana have access to canal irrigation that helps them plant even if rainfall is scanty. Pattanayak attributed his confidence on rabi harvest to an extended monsoon.

2. Government will study ways to ensure better prices for oilseeds: Nitin Gadkari

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

Union minister Nitin Gadkari today said the government will carry out a study to find ways to curb the present large-scale import of cheap edible oils and ensure better prices to domestic oilseed farmers. "The policy of our government is that consumers should get edible oils at the right price, while interests of oilseed-producing farmers should also be protected. So the government will carry out a study on how much the import duty on edible oils should be increased so that farmers get a price higher than the minimum support price (MSP)," Gadkari said.

3. Plan for 44 economic corridors likely to get cabinet nod soon

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

The road transport and highways ministry's ambitious programme to construct 44 economic corridors at a cost of Rs 5 lakh crore is likely to get the Cabinet's approval soon. The project involves construction of 24,000 km of new highways, as well as feeder routes alongside these roads. It is aimed

at faster movement of cargo, along with developing multimodal logistics hubs and parks on the periphery of major commercial centres.

4. Bids invited for 9 national highways by NHAI

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

The National Highways Authority of India has invited bids for 9 national highways under its 'toll-operate-transfer' model as it seeks to raise Rs 6,200 crore through leasing out operational toll roads. The auction will involve highways running across Andhra Pradesh and four in Gujarat. The total length of these highways is just under 700 km. Interested companies will be able to submit their bids till January 9.

5. India is reasonably successful in reducing corruption: SBI Research

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

India has been reasonably successful in reducing corruption, which has had a positive impact on its economic growth, a report by SBI's research team has said. The research paper shows that between 2011 and 2016, countries, such as India, UK, Portugal and Italy, have not only succeeded in improving their overall rank in corruption perception index, but also achieved GDP growth despite slowdown in the world economy. India has improved its overall rank the most from 95 in 2011 to 79 in 2016.

6. India's coffee exports up 9.36% in 2016-17 marketing year

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

Coffee exports from India, Asia's third-largest producer and exporter of coffee, rose by 9.36 per cent to 3,76,873 tonne in the marketing year that ended September 2017, buoyed by higher global prices, according to state-run Coffee Board. The country's coffee shipments stood at 3,44,613 tonne in the 2015-16 marketing year. "Two factors contributed for higher shipments in 2016-17. Firstly, there was

enough domestic supply to meet the export demand as the domestic output was record in 2015-16. Also, global prices were better," a senior Board official told.

7. Online groceries is the next battleground for e-commerce firms

Source: Live Mint ([Link](#))

Even as Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd nears a deal to invest in Big Basket, the largest Indian online groceries start-up is set to face its toughest test with the expansion of Amazon India and the launch of Flipkart's grocery business later this year. According to experts tracking Indian e-commerce, online grocery sales have taken off slowly and grown sluggishly, and is forecast to barely reach \$1 billion in 2017, according to market research firm RedSeer Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

8. Policy key to unlock Indian Energy Exchange's full potential

Source: Live Mint ([Link](#))

One question that long-term investors may ask about Indian Energy Exchange Ltd's (IEX) initial public offering (IPO) is to what extent the company can achieve its full potential. IEX's fortunes are intertwined with the evolution of policy and power transmission infrastructure in the country. The price band for the IEX IPO, which is currently open for subscription, has been set at Rs1, 645- 1,650 per share. To be sure, IEX has done well. It has emerged as the undisputed leader in the day-ahead or the spot electricity market. IEX is a profit-making entity and thanks to its asset-light business model it generates good returns.

9. Will consult States on bringing petro products into GST: Narendra Modi

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

The government would consult states on bringing petroleum products into the ambit of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on 09.10.2017. Mr. Modi was reacting to suggestions from industry leaders to bring petroleum products, that now face high Central and

State levies, into the GST net, at an official meeting with head honchos of the oil and gas industry. The Centre currently levies an excise duty of ₹19.48 per litre on petrol and states levy VAT ranging between 6% and 48%. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has repeatedly urged the GST Council to bring petrol and diesel under GST.