

Daily Economic News Summary: 11 October 2017

1. IMF lowers forecasts for India

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

India's economic growth for 2017 and 2018 will be slower than earlier projected, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its latest World Economic Outlook released on 10.10.2017. The report cited "lingering impact" of demonetisation and the Goods and Services Tax for the expected slowdown during the current and the next year. The IMF projected India to grow at 6.7% in 2017 and 7.4% in 2018, which are 0.5 and 0.3 percentage points lower than the projections earlier this year, respectively.

2. Bold reforms have put India firmly on growth path: OPEC

Source: Indian Express ([Link](#))

India is experiencing some of the greatest structural changes as bold new reforms like note ban and GST have put the country firmly on a sustainable growth path, oil cartel OPEC's Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said. Speaking at the India Energy Forum by CERAWeek, he said the country's expanding middle class represents a growing source of demand, not just for energy but for goods and services from around the world.

3. Modi government had already put Nobel winner's idea into practice

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

Much before US economist Richard Thaler won Nobel prize for economics, the Narendra Modi government had put his famous theory in practice by dedicating a separate unit to it. Thaler popularised the idea of 'nudge economics', which emphasises subtly guiding humans toward beneficial behaviours without forcing them to comply. Thaler's theory was one valuable addition to the field of behavioural economics.

4. India tries hard to keep multilateralism intact at WTO despite pressure

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

Ahead of the crucial ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Argentina in December, India is trying hard to keep multilateralism intact at the intergovernmental trade body. In a series of tweets on Tuesday, commerce and industry minister Suresh Prabhu said: "Trying hard to ensure multilateral WTO remain intact, despite huge pressures. Having several bilaterals with all important countries".

5. PM Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council to hold first meeting today

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

The recently constituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) will hold its first meeting on 11.10.2017 to deliberate upon and lay out a roadmap to give a leg up to the Indian economy in the short term after GDP growth for the first quarter fell to a three-year low of 5.7%. Key issues expected to come up for discussion include ways to boost consumer demand, attract private investments and measures to incentivize job creation in the country, people familiar with the agenda said.

6. Oil imports: India readies to play hardball with suppliers over pricing

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

After telling Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) members on Sunday that India has other options to buy oil at competitive prices, New Delhi is set to play hardball with its traditional suppliers from the Middle East on pricing. India is reworking its import strategy by stepping up the share of short-term contracts to take advantage of the bear market and is exploring long-term supply deals at discounted price with its newest oil trade partner, the US, the re-entry of which in global oil markets last year has stepped up competition among suppliers.

7. Vishakhapatnam poised to emerge as Andhra's IT and digital payments capital

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

Three years post the state's bifurcation, Vishakhapatnam is all set to emerge as the state's information technology (IT) and digital payments capital. About 60% of the IT sector will come to the port city, with the Andhra Pradesh pushing for "less cash" usage, said state IT minister Nara Lokesh on 09.10.2017. "Sixty percent of the IT sector will come here, 20% in Amaravati and 20% to Tirupathi. That is how it is naturally going," Lokesh told reporters in the sidelines of a press conference at the Blockchain Business Conference, held by the Andhra Pradesh government in Vishakhapatnam. Fintech valley, a hub for financial technology companies, will see 16 new companies, apart from nine existing ones, begin operations in a month-and-a-half, he added.

8. Danone India launches Protinex Bytes, eyes healthy snack market

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

Danone India Pvt. Ltd, the Indian arm of French dairy firm Danone SA, is launching new products in its portfolio of nutrition and dairy products meant for the healthy snack market in India. The firm on 11.10.2017 launched Protinex Bytes, a protein multigrain biscuit meant for office-going consumers looking for a healthy snack on the go. This is the first major extension of the Protinex brand of protein powders that Danone acquired from pharma firm Wockhardt Ltd in 2012.

9. India is said to plan domestic sale of pulses to prevent rotting

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

India is likely to sell about 1 million tons of pulses domestically to avoid its stockpiles rotting in warehouses. The government is attempting to sell the reserves in the open market and to some states and organizations such as railways and defense forces, according to two people familiar with the

matter who didn't want to be identified, citing rules. That would account for about half of the total inventories held by the world's largest consumer, they said. The states are seeking to buy the grain at a subsidized rate so they can distribute it to the poor under their social welfare programs, one of the two people said, adding that the federal government may spend about 6 billion rupees (\$92 million) to subsidize the states, including Karnataka, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.