

Daily Economic News Summary: 15 November 2016

1. India's income will go up by 27% with women participation: IMF

Source: **Business Standard** ([Link](#))

India's national income would increase by 27 per cent if the participation of women in the workforce matches the level of men, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde has said. Delivering a speech on "Women's Empowerment: An Economic Game Changer" in Los Angeles, 60-year-old Lagarde said equal pay and better economic opportunities for women boost economic growth and create a bigger pie for everyone to share. "Empowering women can be an economic game changer for any country. For instance, if women were to participate in the labour force to the same extent as men, national income could increase by five per cent in the US, nine per cent in Japan, and 27 per cent in India," she said on Monday. Better opportunities for women also promote diversity and reduce economic inequality around the world, she added. "To put it differently: if you discourage half the population from fully participating in the labour market, you are essentially behaving like an airline pilot who shuts down half his engines in mid-flight. Sure, your plane will likely continue to fly, but it would be such a crazy thing to do," Lagarde said. Noting that across the globe women were still facing a triple-disadvantage and are less likely than men to have a paid job, Lagarde said only half of the world's working-age women were employed.

2. Demonetisation impact: \$1 billion worth of gold imported so far since Nov 9

Source: **Business Standard** ([Link](#))

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes would cease to be legal tender from the midnight of November 8 – a move aimed at cracking down on the flow of black money – those in possession of unaccounted wealth were seen rushing to jewellers to buy gold. While these people were willing to pay huge premiums, jewellers were ready to accept old currency notes. The transactions took place on past-dated bills; even VAT was paid. As a result of this rush, there was a sudden spurt in demand for gold. According to market estimates, as much as \$1 billion worth of gold, or around 30 tonnes, has been imported since November 9. GFMS Thomson Reuters estimates that India's gross official import of gold was worth nearly \$1.5 billion as of November 14. Of this, as much as \$900 million worth of the metal was imported after the demonetisation of high-value legal tenders. While this estimate does not exclude gold imported for exports, such gold would have been a small part of total imports. It should be noted that the government had last month said that for according the status of a nominated agency, the export of gold jewellery from export-processing zones (EPZs) and export-oriented units (EoUs) would not be taken into account. The country's

import of the yellow metal had stood at about \$3.5 billion in October, according to GFMS Thomson Reuters estimates.

3. GE buys cloud-based software firm ServiceMax for \$915 million

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

General Electric Co. (GE) said its software unit bought ServiceMax, a cloud-based provider of software used in inventory and workforce management, for \$915 million. GE said the acquisition was part of GE Digital's strategy to advance its "Industrial Internet" vision. GE wants to connect machines using the internet, producing data that can improve productivity, reduce emissions and lower fuel costs.

4. Future Consumer forms JV with UK wholesaler Booker Group

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

Future Consumer Ltd, the packaged consumer goods arm of Kishore Biyani's Future Group, on Monday unveiled a equal joint venture with the UK's largest wholesaler, Booker Group, to expand and develop the latter's cash-and-carry business in India. Future Consumer is investing Rs50 crore in Booker India Pvt. Ltd. Booker Group entered India in 2009 and has six cash-and-carry stores in Maharashtra and Gujarat. The joint venture will now quickly scale operations to set up 60-70 stores in the next 3-4 years, said Biyani, vice-chairman, Future Consumer. Each cash-and-carry store on average will have a distribution reach of 3,500 retailers and a business potential of Rs60-70 crore per store per annum. "In terms of impact, this will be one of the largest impact deals for Future Consumer," said Biyani, adding that the potential is huge for his company, which now manufactures everything from processed foods to spices, grains and personal care products. "The joint venture also offers scope to distribute its goods in the UK," he added. The Booker Group has 200 branches in the UK and did business of £5 billion in 2015.

5. Mobile gaming portal PlaySimple raises \$4 million

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

Mobile gaming portal PlaySimple has raised \$4 million in a series A round led by SAIF Partners and IDG Ventures India, the company said in a statement. The Bengaluru-based company—which has two indigenously-developed games in its portfolio—will use the funds to develop new titles, expand its teams and market its brand. It raised \$500,000 in 2015 in seed funding from IDG Ventures. PlaySimple, which calls itself a gaming studio, has a 22 people-strong workforce developing easy-to-learn games for all age groups. These games have an average session time of 15 minutes and are targeted at the global audience. The company focuses

on categories such as trivia, word and puzzle games and garners its revenue from advertising and in-application purchases.

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