

Daily Economic News Summary: 26 September 2016

1. Tourism meet sees pacts worth Rs.15,000 cr.

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

Five states -- Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttarakhand and Chattisgarh – signed 86 MoUs worth close to Rs.15,000 crore during the recently concluded Incredible India Investors' Summit. Gujarat leads the tally with signed pacts worth nearly Rs.9,000 crore, followed by Karnataka (Rs.2,600 crore), Rajasthan (Rs.1,000 crore), Uttarakhand (Rs.500 crore) and Chhattisgarh (Rs.12 crore), according to an official statement.

“With many more projects in the pipeline... IITIS-2016 met the desired objectives and highlighted tourism investment potential in the country,” said Minister for Tourism and Culture Mahesh Sharma while assuring investors that his ministry would assist and support them in making India the tourist destination of choice. The B.R. Shetty Group has shown keen interest in investing Rs.450 crore, while Costa Cruise and Triveni Singapore will be investing close to Rs.750 crore and Rs.800 crore, respectively, in India, according to the official statement. The summit was organised by the Ministry of Tourism in partnership with industry body CII and the Tourism Finance Corporation of India. The three-day summit was aimed at inviting investments from foreign and domestic players to fund 700 tourism-related projects from 29 states requiring over Rs.50,000 crore.

2. Bid to monetize 200 acres of land in Mumbai's Thane-Belapur industrial corridor

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

Around 200 acres of land worth over Rs1,600 crore are up for sale in Mumbai's Thane-Belapur industrial corridor as many of the landowners in the region, including private companies and developers, plan to monetize them to take advantage of the growing demand for commercial and industrial real estate, according to property advisors, builders and government officials. Some of the top commercial developers such as RMZ Corp, Ascendas-Singbridge and Embassy Group have already set their sights on entering the region and are currently scouting to buy land to start information technology (IT) parks in the area. Most of the industrial land plots in the region (that stretches from Thane till Navi Mumbai) are owned by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).

3. Reliance Industries shares hit 7-year high

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

Shares of India's largest private enterprise Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Monday hit over a seven-year high on the back of higher volumes. The stock gained in 10 out of 14 trading sessions. In intraday trade, the stock touched a high of Rs.1,122 a share, a level last seen on 19 May 2009, and rose as much as 1.7%. Since 2 September, the stock has gained 10.5% and so far this year it has gained 10.25%. "Singapore gross refining margins (GRMs) have rebounded to \$6.1 MTD (month to date), a 5-month high. RIL could benefit further from higher L-H (light and heavy) spreads, lower Brent-Dubai spreads, and OSP (official selling price) cuts. Assuming GRMs remain steady through year-end as is our view, 3Q could shape up to be a much better quarter than was being earlier feared," rating firm Citi Research said in a 19 September note.

4. India growing 8% a year seen by Citi helping oil, gold demand

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

India has become the center of the world's oil demand growth and the country's economic growth will affect global commodities, Citigroup Inc. said in a research note. The world's second-largest country by population after China will see its economy expand at about 8% a year through 2021, Citi researchers including Ed Morse said. The country's working-age population will increase by 220 million over the next 20 years, and about 240 million people will move to cities. Urbanization and rising incomes will boost demand for transportation fuels, gold jewelry and electricity generation, while looser regulations should spur increased exports of iron ore into the market. India's economy won't copy China's near-decade of double-digit economic growth that pushed oil prices into the \$100-a-barrel range, but will be enough to impact global supply-and-demand balances of several commodities, Morse said.

5. Patanjali's Rs 1,600-cr food park coming up in Uttar Pradesh

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

Patanjali Ayurved, promoted by televangelist Ramdev, may announce an investment of Rs 1,600 crore shortly for setting up a herbal food park in Noida in election-bound Uttar Pradesh to meet its domestic as well as global demand. "It is almost finalised now. You may see an announcement by Patanjali Ayurved for an investment of around Rs 1,600 crore in Noida to set up a food processing plant around Diwali," a senior UP government official privy to the development said. "As far as investments in the state are concerned, the UP government is fair and transparent in promoting industrialisation, which will create jobs." There was speculation that Patanjali will announce its investment in UP after the Assembly polls in March next year. However, company officials have also confirmed the development, saying the procedure for identification of the land is at an advanced stage and the unit could be near the Yamuna Expressway. A Patanjali Ayurved official said: "It would be an international food park, which would be for exports and domestic markets as well."

By Nandini Malhotra

