

Daily Economic News Summary: 28 October 2016

1. Srei launches online marketplace iQuippo for construction equipment

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

The Srei Group, which is engaged in financing infrastructure projects, on Thursday launched a digital platform, iQuippo.com, for online sale and leasing of construction and mining equipment. It is going to be an online marketplace similar to Amazon or Flipkart, said Sunil Kanoria, vice-chairman of Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd, but the first-of-its-kind for sale and lease of heavy machinery. Funded by the Kanoria Foundation, iQuippo.com is looking to connect sellers of new and used equipment with potential end users. iQuippo.com already has some 600 equipment listed on itself, and it expects to facilitate around 50-60 transactions a month.

2. Telecom firm CenturyLink nears deal to merge with Level 3

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

CenturyLink Inc. and Level 3 Communications are in advanced talks to merge, according to people familiar with the matter, in a deal that would create an enterprise telecommunications player worth more than \$50 billion, including debt. The deal comes as both companies' corporate clients seek more bandwidth and faster capabilities to move data to run their businesses. It would combine Level 3's enterprise services with CenturyLink's network that provides Internet and telephone offerings to millions of customers. The market for corporate customers' voice and data services has been estimated by analysts to be worth anywhere from \$57 billion to \$100 billion in revenue per year.

3. Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance to raise Rs.1,750 crore

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

City-based Sundaram BNP Paribas Home Finance, the home finance subsidiary of Sundaram Finance Ltd., is planning to raise around Rs.1,750 crore during the second half of the current fiscal to meet its growth plans. The company is also looking at buying portfolio of smaller housing finance companies and extending line of credit amounting to around Rs.20 crore. In a statement G. Sundararajan, CFO, Sundaram Home Finance said "Around 65 per cent of Rs.1,750 crore will be raised through debentures and short term market borrowings." In the first half of the year, the company disbursed Rs.15 crore Line of Credit and another Rs.20 crore is in the pipeline and is likely to be disbursed soon. "The company is continuing to expand its presence in the rural housing segment where the loans disbursed crossed Rs.30 crore during the first half of the year. There is potential to double the business from the rural housing segment," said Srinivas Acharya, Managing Director Sundaram Home Finance.

4. Maruti net profits up 60% on record sales

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

The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki on Thursday posted its best ever quarterly profit of Rs 2,398 crore in July-September 2016 period, rising 60.18 per cent from the same quarter a year ago on the back of record sales that analysts attribute to improving consumer sentiment and the company's recent product innovations. The total income from operations grew 29.28 per cent to Rs 20,296.8 crore during the reported quarter against Rs 15,699.7 crore in the year-ago period, Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) said. The company sold a record 4,18,470 vehicles during the quarter, a growth of 18.4 per cent over the same period of the previous year. The previous highest sales for Maruti Suzuki was 3,60,402 units in the fourth quarter of 2015-16. MSI said lower expenses on sales promotion and marketing and higher non-operating income also contributed to the increase in profits. However, this was partially offset by adverse foreign exchange movement, which stood at a total of Rs 145 crore for the quarter, after taking into account royalty payment, import and export expenses.

5. IT spending in banking, securities to reach \$7.8 billion in 2017

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

IT spending by banking and securities firms in India will reach \$7.8 billion in 2017, an 8.6 per cent rise from 2016, says Gartner Inc. This forecast provides total enterprise IT spending for internal spending and spending on data center, devices, software, IT services and telecom services, Information technology research and advisory company Gartner said. IT services and software will both be the fastest growing segments at 12.6 per cent in 2017, as firms in the banking and securities industry invest more in applications and business processes, specifically in business process outsourcing (BPO). "The focus is on integrating the digital framework firmly into the banking and securities industry in India," it said.

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