Daily Economic News Summary: 14 September 2018

1. Review Meet By PM: Economists Warn Against Populist Moves; 'Rupee No Big Worry' Source: Financial Express (Link)

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is huddling with key economic policymakers on 15 September to ascertain if and what interventions are needed in the wake of the rupee's slide and the rising prices of fuels, several economists suggest the government and the central bank manage the currency's volatility more aggressively but caution against pressing the panic button and band-aid solutions, as these would only encourage currency manipulators to further exploit the situation. The government must send a clear signal to foreign investors that it will stick to the fiscal deficit target of 3.3% of GDP in 2018-19 despite the 2019 general election and desist from populist moves like fuel tax cuts, they say.

2. India Deserves To Be In NSG, Still Not There Due To China's Opposition: US Source: Business Standard (Link)

India has not been able to secure membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group because of China's veto, a senior Trump Administration official said on 13 September asserting that the US will continue to advocate for New Delhi's membership in the elite grouping as it meets all the criteria. India has been seeking entry into the 48-member elite nuclear club, which controls nuclear trade, but China has repeatedly stonewalled its bid. While India, which is backed by the US and a number of western countries has garnered the support of a majority of the group's members, China has stuck to its stand that new members should sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), making India's entry difficult as the group is guided by the consensus principle. India is not a signatory to the NPT.

3. Digital Commerce In India To Reach Rs 2.37 Lakh Cr By December 2018; Online Travel Industry Growth Strong At 54%: Report

Source: Firstpost (Link)

The digital commerce market in the country is likely to touch Rs 2,37,124 crore by December 2018, says a report. It grew at a CAGR of 34 percent between December 2011 and December 2017 to reach Rs 2,04,384 crore by the end of December 2017. According to the Digital Commerce

report 2017, online travel industry continues to grow strongly with 54 percent share while the share of online non-travel has improved over the previous year to reach 46 percent. The report is published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB Kantar, a market research and consumer consulting organisation.

4. Tamil Nadu Government May Pull A Taiwan And Build A Science Park **Source: The Economic Times (Link)**

The Tamil Nadu government has begun sounding out infrastructure developers on the prospects of a manufacturing and research cluster for information and communication technology companies to replicate the model of Taiwan's Hsinchu Science Park, which generates annual revenues of over NT\$1 trillion (about Rs 2.34 lakh crore) from nearly 500 tenant firms. For industrialists in the electronics ecosystem in Tamil Nadu, the absence of a revamped policy is a dampener in attracting foreign investment: "Firstly, Tamil Nadu should create an electronic policy that is favourable. It is a common grouse among investors that there needs to be new document from Tamil Nadu on what is on offer. Investors need to see it in black and white," the top executive of an electronic component maker said on condition of anonymity.

5. Spicejet's Delhi-Kabul Freighter Service To Start From October; Trade Pact Inked For **Transporting Fruits, Carpets, Commodities**

Source: Firstpost (Link)

Budget carrier SpiceJet on 13 September announced the launch of its Delhi-Kabul freighter service from 15 October and signing of a pact with the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) for transporting fresh fruit, dry fruits, carpets and other commodities from Kabul to India. Under the pact, aimed at promoting trade for the war-ravaged country through the Indo-Afghan air corridor, SpiceJet plans to transport 1,500 tons of cargo every month, the airline said in a release. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by SpiceJet chief project officer Manjiv Singh and ACCI chief executive officer Atiqullah Nusrat along with senior adviser for banking and financial Affairs to the President of Afghanistan Ajmal Ahmady, the airline said.

6. Defence Industrial Corridor In Uttar Pradesh To Kick Off With BEL Project Source: The Economic Times (Link)

The Uttar Pradesh government's showcase defence industrial corridor project will get off the ground with a manufacturing facility to be built by state-run Bharat Electronics Limited. BELNSE 1.37 % is the first company to have approached the state government for allotment of land under the scheme. The corridor, one of the two announced by the central government, with the other being in Tamil Nadu, is expected to benefit the politically significant Bundelkhand region. The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for the project, has identified more than 5,000 hectares of land for the corridor in six districts where farmers will be compensated at four times the circle rate. At least 40 more companies have also approached the state government, officials said.

7. Indian Families Champions Of Business! Half Of Asia Pacific Ex-Japan's Best 30 Are In India: Report

Source: Financial Express (Link)

Indian families are champions of business as half of the family-owned companies feature in Asia Pacific top 30 of the best performing firms, excluding Japan, says a report. According to the 'Credit Suisse Family 1000 in 2018' report, in the Non-Japan Asia, more than 50% of the top 30 best-performing companies are from India, followed by one-third from China while Malaysia occupies third place with three companies. The Credit Suisse Research Institute (CSRI) has analysed the database of over 1,000 family-owned, publicly-listed companies.