

## Daily Economic News Summary: 18 July 2018

### **1. Government Doubles Import Duty On Over 50 Textile Products To Promote 'Make In India'**

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

The government has doubled import duty on over 50 textile products -- like jackets, suits and carpets - to 20 per cent, a move that is aimed at promoting domestic manufacturing. The Central Board of indirect Taxes and Custom (CBIC) late July 16 notified list of textile products on which duties have been hiked to 20 per cent. It has also raised the ad-valorem rate of duty for certain items. The imported products which have become expensive include woven fabrics, dresses, trousers, suits and baby garments. "The duties have been doubled on most of the textile products. It will help boost domestic manufacturing but least developed countries including Bangladesh would continue to enjoy duty free access to Indian markets," FIEO DG Ajay Sahai said. Experts said as per WTO norms, India will not be able to give any further incentive to the textile sector and the government has increased the import duties with a view to encourage domestic manufacturing.

### **2. India, Iran Review Bilateral Ties, To Strengthen Connectivity Through Chabahar Port**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

India and Iran on July 16 reviewed their bilateral ties and plans to strengthen connectivity through Indian investment in Iran's Chabahar port besides import of Iranian crude oil in the wake of the US imposing sanctions on Tehran. Both sides agreed to "maintain the momentum of mutually beneficial multifaceted bilateral cooperation and exchanges between the two sides", according to an Indian statement released at the end of the talks in New Delhi. The stock taking exercise took place during the 15th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Iran. The Indian side was led by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale and the Iranian delegation was led by visiting deputy foreign minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi. The talks come as New Delhi is looking at ways to balance its ties with Iran that it considers a key partner in energy and connectivity with those with the US, who New Delhi views as a vital source of cutting edge technology and investments.

### **3. What To Look Out For In Parliament's Monsoon Session**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Opposition parties will want to retain the post of deputy chairman of Rajya Sabha, which has been held by the Congress for four decades now. However, opposition unity may be challenged as the Trinamool Congress is also looking to field a candidate. The National Democratic Alliance, which is in a minority in the Rajya Sabha, is looking to elect a candidate of its own. The Bharatiya Janata Party is the single largest party in the Rajya Sabha. P.J. Kurien's term as deputy chairman ended on 1 July. According to PRS Legislative Research, 25 bills have been listed for consideration and passage, and three for withdrawal during the session. 18 new bills, including the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) bill, 2018, are expected to be introduced. Important bills listed for consideration and passage include Fugitive Economic Offenders bill, 2018, Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) bill, 2017, and Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) bill, 2016.

### **4. Centre Asks State Governments To Provide Report On E-Tailers Compliance With New Declaration Norms For Packaged Goods**

**Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))**

The Centre has asked state governments to provide a detailed report on e-commerce firms printing details like expiry date, best before use and customer care contact information on pre-packaged goods, a senior Consumer Affairs Ministry official said on July 17. From 1 January, e-commerce companies have been mandated to comply with new declaration norms for packaged goods except for medicines as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2017. At present, only MRP is printed on the goods sold online. "We have written to state governments to submit a status report on the implementation of new declaration norms by the e-commerce firms," the official told *PTI*. Companies like Amazon, Flipkart and Snapdeal are complying with the new declaration rules. However, the states have been asked to give a detailed report, the official said. There are thousands of e-commerce portals in the country. Some of them have uploaded the new rules on their websites and asked sellers to follow them strictly, the official added. Besides MRP, e-commerce companies have to declare the country of origin, best before use by date, consumer

care detail, net quantity, name and address of manufacturer and importer and name of the commodity among others.

## **5. Oman, India Explore New Avenues To Boost Trade And Investment**

**Source: Times of Oman ([Link](#))**

The Omani-Indian Joint Committee explored means to enhance cooperation between the two countries in economic, trade, service and investment fields during its eighth session held at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on July 16. The Omani side to the meeting was chaired Dr. Ali bin Mas'oud Al Sunaidy, Minister of Commerce and Industry whilst the Indian side was headed by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation, who is currently visiting the Sultanate accompanied by Indian officials and businessmen. During the meeting, the Indian side was briefed on the procedural facilities provided by the Sultanate through the "Invest East" portal to facilitate economic and investment activities and to identify the activities organised by the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), as well as investments to which the foreign investor is entitled to invest 100 per cent. The meeting also focused on the opportunities in the mining sector in the Sultanate with the possibility of benefiting from some successful Indian experiences and benefiting from the experience of the Indian side in establishing ICT based industries, such as applications, electronic services and software.

## **6. Soon, Traffic Police To Accept Digital Version Of All Vehicle Documents**

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

In a bid to make it compulsory for the state transport authorities and traffic police officers to accept the digital version of all vehicle documents including driving licence, Registration Certificates and pollution certificates, the central government is set to amend the Motor Vehicles Rules, reports *The Times of India*. The move comes after reports of some of the state transport authorities and traffic police officers not accepting the digital versions of vehicle documents. The official FAQs of DigiLocker, which is the central government's cloud-based system for digital documents, says that being a partner of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways DigiLocker is integrated with the National Register (national database of driving license and vehicle registration data across the country) and thus digital documents are authentic documents which can be used as an alternative to the physical documents. However, in some states, traffic officials reportedly were not accepting digital vehicle documents. The draft rule proposes to add in rule 139 of the Motor Vehicle

Rules after the words "driving licence and," the words "certificate for Pollution Under Check in physical or electronic form."

### **7. Centre Proposes New Military Training Plan; From Job Opportunities, Criteria To Stipend, Check Details**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

With an aim to make India “Vishwaguru” (a universal leader), the Central government is mulling introduction of a scheme under which military training programme will be imparted to 10 lakh young men and women every year. The proposed scheme named as the “National Youth Empowerment Scheme or N-YES” will aim at preparing a “disciplined” and nationalist “force of youth,” to “optimising the Indian demographic advantage”, according to Indian Express report. This is for students who have cleared class X and XII and are enrolled in colleges. In a bid make this scheme attractive, the government has proposed a raft of lucrative initiatives such as a fixed stipend for the 12-month training. Apart from this, there was a proposal of making N-YES an “essential qualification” for jobs in Defence, paramilitary forces and police. A meeting on the proposed scheme was called by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) last month, the report said. The meeting was attended by officials of the Department of Youth Affairs, Human Resource Development Ministry and Defence Ministry.

### **8. India, South Africa Seek WTO Relook At E-Commerce Norms**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

As e-commerce behemoths Amazon, Alibaba, and Walmart battle it out for the Indian market, India and South Africa have asked whether it is proper to continue with the current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions at the World Trade Organization (WTO). In a joint proposal circulated at the World Trade Organization on 12 July, India and South Africa said “the realities prevailing in 1998, when WTO members agreed for the first time to the temporary moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, have changed significantly during the subsequent two decades.” “These changes,” according to the two developing countries, “necessitate a re-examination of the implications of the temporary moratorium, particularly from the development perspective,” particularly on the fiscal side. Given the manifold increase in the volume of electronic transmissions, which initially covered only “digitized products” such as e-

books, music and a variety of services, it is important to re-examine all the issues because of diffusion of additive manufacturing technology through 3-D printing as well as manufacturing physical products.