

Daily Economic News Summary: 31 October 2019

1. Last-minute India demands jeopardize 16-nation Asian trade pact

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

India keeps making last-minute requests after it agreed to terms for the world's largest regional trade agreement, potentially preventing Asian leaders from announcing a breakthrough on the 16-nation pact during a summit in Bangkok next week, people familiar with the situation said. In recent days, India angered other negotiators by making additional requests on the China-backed pact covering half the world's population, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the talks are private. Leaders of the countries had planned to announce a preliminary deal on Nov. 4 when leaders gather for meetings hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, they said.

2. Baby steps before leap: Global banks, now sense a new vista — regional trade

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

At Citibank's offices in Chennai and Delhi, two Japanese nationals are performing a very special role the 200-year-old financial giant has never tried before. These executives have been specially relocated from Tokyo to liaise with corporate giants such as HitachiNSE -0.83 %, Honda, Panasonic and conglomerates like Mitsubishi that sell power turbines to auto components in India. Citi, which claims nearly a third of the market share in the multinational business, has also similar desks to service South Korea's chaebols like Samsung and Hyundai, which dominate the domestic electronics and automobile markets but keen to retain their global trading volume amid disruptions in global supply chain due to the US-China trade war.

3. India's marine exports to China touches \$800 million; on course to cross \$1 billion mark

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

The Indian Embassy in Beijing along with Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) organised a promotional event and buyer seller meet on marine products on 30 October on the sidelines of China Fisheries and Seafood expo in the eastern Chinese port city of Qingdao. A regime and health insurance portability of social security entitlements across countries. India's exports of marine products to China tripled in the last nine months touching USD 800 million and is expected to cross the USD one billion mark this year, according to an

official statement. The big push of marine exports to China were part of India's efforts to widen its export base to bridge huge trade deficit with the world's second largest economy, which last year climbed to USD 57 billion.

4. Piyush Goyal says India to enter FTAs on its own terms; these two concerns need to be addressed

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

India will enter into FTAs or comprehensive partnerships on India's terms, based on what is best in our national interests and what is best for the people of India. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at an event that the issues of high capital cost and high taxation levels need to be addressed to boost India's trade. Piyush Goyal also said that the country needs to accelerate the export growth to reach the goal of USD 1 trillion in exports. The event was about the release of a High-Level Advisory Group report. On the issue of Free Trade Agreements to hinder India's domestic market, he said that India will enter into FTAs or comprehensive partnerships on India's terms, based on what is best in our national interests and what is best for the people of India.

5. New Delhi geared up to host ISA' second general assembly

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The national capital, New Delhi, is geared up to host the second general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) starting today. With India and France front-ending the attempts to set up the ISA, it has become India's calling card on climate change and is increasingly being viewed as a foreign policy tool. Being held in New Delhi from 30 October—2 November, the first treaty-based international government organization headquartered in India has 81 countries as signatories to the ISA framework agreement. However, 58 countries have ratified it. While those countries who have signed and ratified the ISA framework agreement will attend the second general assembly as members, those countries who have only inked it will be attending as observers.

6. Gold amnesty scheme might be announced soon

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The government may soon announce an amnesty scheme for gold to bring hordes of black money used in buying the yellow metal considered a safe investment option in India. According to sources, the new amnesty scheme would allow gold hoarders to come clean on investment

made using black money by declaring their possession and paying tax on it. The tax will have to be paid on entire value of gold declared by an individual that has been purchased without any receipt. Though the rate of tax is yet to be worked out by the government, sources indicated that the thinking is to keep the rate at around 30 per cent level with an effective rate of around 33 per cent including education cess. The new scheme is being considered as yet another attempt to unearth lakhs of crores of black money still lying in the system in the form of unaccounted gold.

7. Industry leaders find Amazon, Apple and Alibaba the most disruptive firms

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

Amazon, Apple and Alibaba top the list of companies that tech industry leaders worry most about disrupting their business, according to a KPMG report. In a survey of more than 740 technology industry business leaders globally, DJI, Google, Netflix, Airbnb, Microsoft, Facebook, and Baidu round out the Top 10 list. The disruptors' list complements the fact that tech industry leaders ranked e-commerce platforms first and social networking second as the most disruptive business models over the next three years, the report said. KPMG's study found some divergent views between tech industry millennials and tech industry leaders on the topic of emerging global technology innovation visionaries. Among tech business leaders, Google CEO Sundar Pichai topped the list, followed by Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk.

8. India to invest Rs 1 trillion in setting up 100 new airports by 2024

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

India is planning to start 100 additional airports by 2024, as part of a plan to revive economic growth in Asia's third-largest economy, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The proposal, which includes starting 1,000 new routes connecting smaller towns and villages, was discussed at a meeting last week to review infrastructure needed by 2025, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussion is private. Steps to start a plane-lease financing business in the country was also discussed, they said. With economic activity at a six-year low and prospects of further slowdown looming, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen to double down on infrastructure projects in a bid to revive growth and achieve a target of making India a \$5 trillion economy by 2025. Last month, the government cut corporate tax rates, putting India on par with some of the lowest in Asia, to help compete with the likes of Vietnam and Indonesia for investments amid global trade tensions.