

Daily Economic News Summary: 8 November 2019

1. Modi to head for BRICS meet with big biz team

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be accompanied by a large business delegation during his visit to Brazil next week for the annual summit of BRICS, a group comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Modi, who will be in Brasilia on November 13-14, will hold several bilaterals with his counterparts from other member countries, apart from participating in the BRICS restricted session where the leaders would discuss intra-BRICS cooperation for economic development, TS Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, said at a press conference on 7 November. BRICS leaders will also hold a meeting with the BRICS Business Council where the chairman of the council will submit his report. A report will also be submitted by the head of the new development bank, the Secretary said.

2. City of London explores steps to ‘supercharge’ India’s green finance sector

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

Aiming at “supercharging” India’s green finance sector, the City of London Corporation, the financial hub of the British capital, on 7 November unveiled a series of recommendations, including reducing structural barriers to investment and innovative financing mechanisms tailored to the Indian landscape. In a report titled ‘Untapped Potential: Supercharging Green Finance in India’, the corporation alongside the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) explores the opportunities and challenges for sustainable finance in India. The report, which has inputs from the UK-India Green Finance Working Group, calls on policymakers to reduce barriers to investment in order to accelerate the development of India’s green finance sector, including the Rupee-denominated Masala Bond market

3. Any ‘further decision’ on RCEP can be taken only if other members address our concerns, says MEA

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

After announcing earlier this week that India had exited the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact, the Ministry of External Affairs has now said that if the country gets a firm indication that its core concerns would get addressed by other members, it could consider

taking a further decision on the matter. “I think our concerns and requests are available with other members of the RCEP. We have said that we have negotiated with a very clear view of our interests. If we get a firm indication that our core interests will be accommodated, at that stage we can think of taking any further decision on this matter,” MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said answering a question at a briefing on 7 November.

4. Qatar Airways to look at setting up airline in India given right environment: CEO

Akbar Al Baker

Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))

Qatar Airways will look at setting up an airline in India provided there is a very business-friendly environment in the country's aviation sector, its chief Akbar Al Baker said on 7 November as he also expressed wish to expand the relationship with IndiGo. The leading Gulf carrier, which has entered into a code share pact with IndiGo, would look at all opportunities in the Indian market that would not hurt existing relationships. From its hub in Doha, Qatar Airways operates 102 weekly flights to 13 destinations in India and its cargo division has 28 weekly freighters to seven places in the country. On plans to set up an airline in India, Baker told PTI that it could be looked at provided there is a very business-friendly environment in the aviation sector in India "which we don't think it is". In September last year, he had said the airline would wait for "another 12 months" to decide on setting up an airline in India as it was seeking clarity on "ambiguous" foreign ownership norms.

5. Govt responds to Moody's change in outlook

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The fundamentals of Indian economy remains robust with inflation under check and bond yields low, the finance ministry said in a statement, in response to Moody's Investors Service lowering the outlook on India's rating. "India continues to offer strong prospects of growth in near and medium term," the finance ministry added. Moody's cited increasing risks that growth in Asia's third-largest economy will remain lower than in the past for lowering its outlook. The ratings agency however retained India's foreign and local currency ratings at 'Baa2'. India's economic growth fell to 5.0% year-on-year in the June quarter, the slowest since 2013. "While government measures to support the economy should help to reduce the depth and duration of India's growth slowdown, prolonged financial stress among rural households, weak job creation, and, more

recently, a credit crunch among non-bank financial institutions have increased the probability of a more entrenched slowdown," Moody's said.

6. India may impose anti-subsidy duty on imports of copper wire rods from 4 nations

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

India may impose anti-subsidy duty for a period of five years on copper wire rods from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam after concluding a probe that these imports have impacted domestic players. The commerce ministry's investigating arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) in September last year started a probe into an alleged subsidisation of exports of 'continuous cast copper wire rods' by these four countries. Hindalco Industries and Vedanta Industries (Sterlite Copper) had filed an application on behalf of domestic industry before the DGTR alleging subsidisation of the products from these four nations, and requested the initiation of an anti-subsidy investigation. The directorate has recommended "imposition of definitive countervailing duty (or anti-subsidy duty) for a period of five years," it said.

7. Indian, Thailand ports trusts sign three MoUs to reduce sea travel time

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

Three agreements have been signed between Ranong Port (Thailand) and port trusts of Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Kolkata, with an aim to reduce sea travel time between the two countries to more than a half. The memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the two-day BIMSTEC conclave of ports which concluded here on 7 November. It was the first such conclave. The MoUs will contribute to BIMSTEC objective of strengthening connectivity and is part of India's Act East Policy, said an official release. "These MoUs will enhance economic partnership by cutting down the sea travel time between India and Thailand from 10-15 days to seven days," it added. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) links five countries from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka) and two from South-East Asia (Myanmar and Thailand).

8. Govt examining possibility of regulatory authority for e-commerce sector

Source: Money Control ([Link](#))

The government is examining a possibility for setting up of a regulatory authority for the e-commerce sector, a senior official said on November 7. Domestic traders have time and again demanded for a regulator to monitor the sector and act against online retail companies flouting norms. The official in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) said

that they are currently working on a policy for e-commerce sector and are examining several issues under that. "One of the ideas floated as a part of this exercise is whether there's a need for any regulatory authority for e-commerce. It is not a decision because the policy is yet to be finalised, but one of the many suggestions that we are examining," the official added. Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) have pressed for formation of a regulatory authority empowered to act against companies flouting norms.