

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 21 JULY 2022

1. Over Rs 980 crore spent on Aadhaar enrolments, updates since 2019-20: Govt

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

Over Rs 980 crore has been spent by the UIDAI in the last three years on Aadhaar enrolments and updates, while nearly 5.99 lakh Aadhaars have been cancelled for being duplicate and for other reasons as of May 31, 2022. As per government data, expenditure of Rs 141.60 crore, Rs 320 crore and Rs 519.9 crore were incurred in Aadhaar enrolments and updates in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively. Officials said that the UIDAI has taken adequate steps to address duplicate or multiple Aadhaar generation issues and regular efforts are made to upgrade systems and procedures. The demographic matching mechanism has been further strengthened, biometric matching of all new enrolments is ensured and 'Face' has been included as a new modality (in addition to fingerprint and iris) for de-duplication.

2. India adopts US' joint statement on cooperation of global supply chains

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

On behalf of partner economies including India, US State Department on Wednesday (local time) released a Joint Statement of the 2022 Supply Chain Ministerial Forum, focussing on the global challenge which includes -- the COVID-19 pandemic, wars and conflicts and climate change. "The shocks to global supply chains from pandemics, wars and conflicts, extreme climate impacts, and natural disasters have put in stark relief the urgent need to further strengthen supply chains, to work to reduce and end near-term disruptions, and to build long-term resilience. This is a global challenge we intend to approach resolutely and cooperatively," the joint statement read. The partner economies include Australia, Brazil, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

3. India, UK to sign MoUs on market access, education and health

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

India and the UK will sign on 21 July three memorandums of understanding (MoUs), covering market access, health and education, sources told FE. The MoUs are in addition to the ongoing negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA). In April, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had pitched for wrapping up the FTA by as early as Diwali in October. However, as Johnson stepped down from the position of the Conservative Party leader earlier this month (he will remain the Prime Minister until a new leader is selected,

likely by October), there are fresh uncertainties as to whether the Diwali deadline could be met and whether there could be any realignment of priorities in the FTA negotiations.

4. India, Africa may soon start talks for trade pact

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

India is likely to soon start talks for a trade and investment agreement with African nations to further bolster bilateral commerce, an official source told FE. The move comes at a time when New Delhi looks to further strengthen its trade with relatively small and medium-sized economies, as key markets like the US and the EU are staring at a huge growth slowdown. African nations, too, will benefit hugely from this engagement, as India's trade and investments in the continent are not designed to lead the countries into "debt trap", said the official source, in a veiled reference to China, which has often been accused of resorting to unfair trade and investment practices. While India exported goods worth \$40 billion to Africa in FY22, its imports were higher at \$49 billion, partly due to oil purchases from countries like Nigeria. According to an Exim Bank study, there is a potential to further boost trade by \$48 billion per annum in the medium term

5. Govt slashes windfall tax on petrol, ATF after fall in global prices

Source: Hindustan Times ([Link](#))

The government on 20 July slashed windfall tax on domestically produced crude, diesel and aviation turbine fuel, withdrew the levy on petrol, and exempted exports of fuels from special economic zone (SEZ) from it. The development comes in the wake of softening of international oil prices and which are expected to benefit energy firms. There has been no change in the duty on fuel sold in the retail market. The decision, announced in a notification issued by the Union finance ministry on Tuesday late night, comes less than three weeks of the government levying the windfall tax.

6. India to invest overseas, seek long-term deals in push for fertiliser

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

India plans to secure fertiliser supplies and hedge against price rises by expanding its footprint in mineral-rich countries through investments and multi-year import deals, fertiliser minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on 20 July. The chase for supply security comes as prices of key crop nutrients such as urea, potash and Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) have jumped to records following sanctions on key producers such as Belarus and Russia and lower supplies from Morocco and China. The world's second biggest producer of wheat and rice

relies mostly on annual import deals and spot purchases to meet rising demand for fertilisers from its agriculture sector, which accounts for 15% of an economy of more than \$3 trillion.