

DAILY NEWS MONITOR: 28 SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Ministerial panels set up to review GST exempt list, identify evasion sources

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

The Finance Ministry has set up two committees of state finance ministers who would review current tax slabs and GST exempt items, identify potential evasion sources and suggest changes in IT systems. The Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation would also review inverted duty structure, recommend rationalisation measures, including merger of tax rate slabs. The 7-member panel, which would submit a report in two months, would be headed by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and include West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra, Kerala Finance Minister K N Balagopal, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad.

2. Govt to extend existing foreign trade policy till March next year: Piyush Goyal

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

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday said the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) will be extended till March 31 next year. The government had earlier extended the FTP 2015-20 until September 30 this year due to the COVID-19 crisis. The Foreign Trade Policy provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs. "We are notifying it today evening or tomorrow...We have decided to extend the policy until March 31 (2022) and in the (new) financial year, we can start with the new policy," he told reporters. He expressed hope that by that time, COVID-19 issues would be resolved.

3. Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has potential to bring revolutionary changes: PM Modi at its launch

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 September launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, under which a digital health ID will be provided to people that will contain their health records, and asserted that it has the potential to bring revolutionary changes in healthcare. In his address after the launch, Modi said the mission marks a new phase in efforts of the last seven years to strengthen health facilities. The pilot project of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was announced by the prime minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2020. Currently, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is being implemented in a pilot phase in six union territories.

4. PM Narendra Modi launches health ID, digital record for citizens

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the digital Ayushman Bharat Mission and said the initiative would bring about a revolutionary change in India's health facilities, improve ease of living, and digitally protect the health records of people. He said in a virtual address that the mission would create a seamless online platform that would enable interoperability within the digital health ecosystem. Referring to the Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity, the prime minister said the digital infrastructure was taking everything from 'Ration to Prashasan' to the common Indian in a fast and transparent manner. "There is no such big connected infrastructure anywhere in the world," Modi said. The PM said the Ayushman Bharat-Digital Mission would connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across the country with each other and simplify hospital processes. Every citizen would be able to get a health ID and their health record would be digitally protected, Modi said.

5. Adani Wilmar rolls out 'Fortune Mart' stores in 6 states

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

Adani Wilmar, which markets edible oils and other food products under the Fortune brand, on 27 September said it has opened 12 physical stores on franchisee model across six states and plans to start outlets across the country. "Adani Wilmar is opening physical stores under the name Fortune Mart which will exclusively sell Fortune and other Adani Wilmar brand products," the company said in a statement. The physical stores are being opened on a franchise model. Adani Wilmar has so far opened 12 Fortune Mart stores in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Lalitpur, Gandhinagar, Surat, Gandhidham, Jabalpur, Vidisha, Gwalior, Kharghar, Akola, and Haldia. These cover the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal. The company further aims to launch Fortune Mart stores in north and eastern parts of India in the coming quarter.

6. Icria revises up India's fiscal 2022 GDP growth forecast to 9%

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

Ratings agency Icria on 27 September revised up its 2021-22 real GDP growth estimate for India to 9 per cent from the earlier 8.5 per cent. A ramp-up in COVID-19 vaccination, healthy advance estimates of kharif (summer) crop and faster government spending were the factors which led to the revision, the agency said in a statement. It can be noted that after the 7.3 per cent contraction in 2020-21, there were expectations of a higher growth number in 2021-22. However, the second wave of COVID-19 infections early into the fiscal year, which spread even in the hinterland, made analysts more circumspect. The RBI expects the

economy to grow at 9.5 per cent. Icra on Monday said it expects the second half of the fiscal year to have brighter prospects. "The widening coverage of COVID-19 vaccines is likely to boost confidence, which will in turn re-energise demand for contact-intensive services, helping to revive the portions of the economy affected most by the pandemic, its chief economist Aditi Nayar said.

7. Govt aims to tap solar energy to power cold chain facilities

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

India plans to tap its ambitious solar programme to offer uninterrupted power to cold-chain facilities for storing vaccines in what would be a major boost to the nationwide covid-19 vaccination exercise. The plans to use solar power assume importance given unreliable electricity supply in several parts of the country, especially rural India. The country has set an aim to have 100GW of solar power generation capacity by 2022, with a significant focus on rooftop solar and decentralised solar installations. On the vaccination front, nearly 880 million covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered in the past nine months, but the country's target for the universal immunisation programme for children and pregnant women is nearly 100 million a year.