

DAILY NEWS MONITOR:4 JULY 2022

1. Commerce ministry looking to release new FTP before September: Official

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

The commerce ministry is working to release the new five-year foreign trade policy (FTP) before September this year and Districts as Export Hubs scheme would be part of that document, which aims at promoting exports and job creation, an official said. The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT), the commerce ministry's arm which is formulating the policy, will soon send the proposal to the finance ministry for seeking funds for the scheme. Under the scheme, the aim is to initially focus on 50 districts which have products that are scalable and hold huge export potential, the official said. The DGFT would follow a "challenge route" method to select these districts, the official said adding states and districts that want to avail the financial incentives under the scheme should compete for that. There are 750 districts in the country.

2. Tejas aircraft is Malaysia's top choice for fighter jet programme

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

India's Tejas light combat aircraft has emerged as the top choice for Malaysia as the Southeast Asian nation looks at replacing its ageing fleet of fighter jets and the two sides are holding negotiations to firm up the procurement. Malaysia has narrowed down on the Indian aircraft notwithstanding the stiff competition from China's JF-17 jet, South Korea's FA-50 and Russia's Mig-35 as well as Yak-130, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, R Madhavan, told PTI in an interview. As part of the package, India has offered to set up an MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facility in Malaysia for its Russian-origin Su-30 fighter fleet as it is facing difficulties in procuring spares for the aircraft from Russia in view of western sanctions against Moscow.

3. CAD likely to double in FY23; rupee seen crossing 80/\$: Economists

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

The Centre's raft of measures to improve the trade balance will unlikely arrest the rupee's fall with India's current account deficit, or excess of imports over exports, set to more than double in FY23. While the export duty on oil could improve government finances marginally, the raising of import costs for gold is unlikely to curb local demand for the yellow metal. Economists forecast the rupee to breach the 80-per-dollar mark soon. New Delhi last week announced an increase in gold import duty, export taxes on petroleum products and a cess on domestic crude production to prevent deficits from worsening.

4. Group of Ministers may not tweak 28% GST on online gaming, casinos

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

The group of ministers (GoM) reviewing the goods and services tax slabs for online gaming, horse racing and casinos is unlikely to tweak the 28% rate recommended for these activities, people aware of discussions said. The GST Council has given the GoM, headed by Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma, time till July 15 to review its proposals. The GoM will only review whether tax should be imposed on the total amount spent at a casino or the amount spent on gambling, the people told ET. "There is no reconsideration of the 28% for online gaming and horse races. It was not even discussed in the council meeting. It is just about casinos, following a request from Goa," a person said.