

Daily Economic News Summary: 14 August 2015

1. Rupee plunges to new 2 year low of 65.10 on Yuan woes

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

Continuing its downward march for the seventh straight session, the rupee today plummeted by 32 paise to close at 65.10 against the dollar, hitting its weakest level last seen in September 2013, as China further devalued yuan.

2. Sansui to go online-only in India to boost sales

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

Japanese consumer goods manufacturer Sansui has decided to go online only in a big way in India and will sell its air-conditioners and certain models of televisions and refrigerators exclusively through Flipkart.

"Last month we saw a 25% decline in sales in offline stores and three-digit growth in sales through Flipkart. So we have decided to sell all air-conditioners and some models of refrigerators and televisions only online," said Amitabh Tiwari, chief operating officer (COO) of Sansui.

The move will help Sansui, which competes with Samsung Electronics and LG, to reduce the cost of distribution and sales. *"Air-conditioners are seasonal products and selling them through offline stores involves huge cost. Our strategic tie-up with Flipkart will help us in cutting this cost drastically,"* Tiwari said.

3. JP Morgan, TPG, Carlyle lead race to invest \$200 million in JSW infra

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

Leading private equity funds, including an infrastructure fund managed by JPMorgan, are in separate talks with Sajjan Jindal's JSW Group to invest up to \$200 million for a minority stake in its privately-owned port company, JSW Infrastructure Ltd, multiple sources aware of the negotiations said.

US private equity groups Carlyle and TPG Capital Management along with domestic infrastructure asset manager IDFC Alternatives are the other funds vying for an investment in the company, in a long term bet on resurging infrastructure opportunities in the country.

JSW Group, which has interests in steel, power and cement, is looking to complete the share sale process in a few months, the sources said. They have mandated domestic investment bank JM Financial Services to run a formal process to find a buyer, the sources said.

4. Bharti Airtel fires the first shot in India's upcoming 4G war

Source: **Live Mint** ([Link](#))

Bharti Airtel Ltd has thrown down a challenge to its 200 million customers in India: Find an Internet connection that's faster than its high-speed, data-rich, fourth-generation (4G) mobile phone service, and the company will pay their phone bills for life.

That audacious offer was made after Bharti Airtel, about one-third owned by Singapore Telecommunications Ltd, on 6 August became the first phone services provider to commercially launch 4G services across India, beating existing competitors, including Vodafone Group Plc, and stealing a march over would-be rival Reliance Jio Infcomm Ltd.

Bharti Airtel launched 4G services at 3G prices in 296 cities and towns countrywide, and offered users sweeteners, including unlimited voice calls on mobile, along with bundled movies and music, and a mobile app giving users access to a vast collection of videos.

With that, India's biggest phone firm by revenue and subscribers, controlled by billionaire Sunil Mittal, fired the first shot in India's upcoming 4G war.

Reliance Jio plans to launch its long-delayed pan-India 4G services in December. By rolling out its network four months ahead, Bharti ensured it will be up and running by the time Reliance Jio, a unit of Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd, (RIL) hits the ground. It will be Reliance Jio which will be playing catch-up.

5. Tata sons to raise its stake in AirAsia India to 41.06% from 30%

Source: **Live Mint** ([Link](#))

Tata Sons Ltd will raise its stake in the newest low fare airline AirAsia India to 41.06% from the current 30%, said a company spokesperson.

AirAsia India is a joint venture in which currently AirAsia Bhd holds a 49% stake, Tata Sons 30% and Arun Bhatia of Telestra Tradeplace Pvt. Ltd the rest. *"We are in the process of subscribing to the capital of AirAsia India which will take up our stake to 41.06% from the current 30%,"* said the spokesperson.

Tata Sons is the promoter of major operating companies of the Tata group and holds significant shareholdings in these companies.

By Harsha Hazarika