

Daily Economic News Summary: 14 November 2018

1. PM Narendra Modi Arrives In Singapore For RCEP Summit

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Singapore on 14 November for a two-day visit during which he will attend the East Asia Summit, an ASEAN-India informal meet, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit and hold a meeting with US vice president Mike Pence. Before leaving for Singapore, Modi said in New Delhi that his participation in the ASEAN-India and East Asia summits symbolised India's "continued commitment" to strengthen its engagement with ASEAN members and with the wider Indo-Pacific region.

2. Indian Palm Oil Imports Unlikely To Rise Despite Fall In Prices

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

India's palm oil imports are unlikely to climb over November to January even as prices for the commodity plumb their lowest in three years, reined in by ample local supply of rival oilseeds and as a liquidity crunch hits would-be buyers, traders said. The South Asian country is the world's biggest importer of palm oil and is a key factor in international benchmark prices, which have fallen nearly a fifth so far in 2018. "Imports won't rise. There is a liquidity crunch and domestic oil availability is improving," said Govindbhai Patel, managing director of trading firm G.G. Patel & Nikhil Research Company.

3. Ministries Raise Red Flags Over RCEP Agreement

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

Several ministries have flagged major concerns over ongoing negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RECP) agreement, with cheap imports from China being the biggest fear, apart from expectations that there will only be limited gains for the country. In addition, the government could annually lose as much as Rs 20,000-25,000 crore of customs duty the moment the agreement is effective and this could double in coming years, a concern that has been flagged by the revenue department. It will also hit PM Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Make-in-India' programme as cheap imports will wipe out domestic manufacturers in the absence of protection from higher duties, a finance ministry source told TOI.

4. Niti Aayog Plans Policy For Coal Self-Sufficiency

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

Niti Aayog plans to come out with a policy prescription on how India should meet its demand for coal in domestic power and non-power sectors to cut imports of the fossil fuel over the next 10 years. The government's policy thinktank has invited bids for research/ study on linking coal production and consumption requirements in the country based on which the Aayog is expected to draft a comprehensive policy. The moves comes as India battles frequent coal supply issues for domestic power generation. Coal-based power plants account for more than half of the country's power generation capacity.

5. India Post's E-Commerce Portal Aims To Boost Parcel Business Network

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

Leveraging its parcel business network, India Post on 13 Novemembr announced the soft launch of its e-commerce portal. "IndiaPostOffice has launched an e-commerce portal and I am glad that today I have received the first parcel by this e-commerce portal," Communications Minister Manoj Sinha said in a tweet. While details of the e-commerce service that will be provided through India Post could not be ascertained, an official source that the Department of Posts has done only soft launch and full-fledged operations of the service will start around or after mid-December.

6. Bank Of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank Set 15 December Deadline To Decide On Share Swap Ratio

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

State-owned Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda have set 15 December as the deadline to agree a preliminary share swap ratio for the combined entity, said Sankara Narayanan, managing director and chief executive officer, Vijaya Bank. On 10 September, the government proposed to merge the three state-owned banks. The merged entity, comprising two relatively stronger banks and a weak one, will be the third largest lender in India, after State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank Ltd, with total business of ₹14.82 trillion.

7. Modi To Issue Unique Rs 75 Coin In Memory Of Subhash Chandra Bose; Check Details, Specifications

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

With an aim to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair, the central government on 13 November announced a release of Rs 75 coin. “The coin of seventy-five rupees denomination shall only be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the central government on the occasion of ‘75th Anniversary of Hoisting of Tricolour’ for the first time by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose at Port Blair,” PTI reported citing a notification released by Ministry of Finance. It was on December 30, 1943, legendary freedom fighter Subhash Chandra Bose who had founded the Indian National Army (INA) hoisted the Tricolour for the first time at Cellular Jail, Port Blair.

8. How Indian Railways’ Flexi Fare Scheme Impacts Its Revenue

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Indian Railways needs revenue, no doubt, but can it afford to be selective about its customers? This debate was sparked off by the flexi-fare scheme introduced by the national carrier in 2016 for the 142 “premium trains” such as Shatabdi, Rajdhani and Duronto. Under this dynamic pricing system, the base fare increases by 10% with every 10% of berths sold, with a limit set at 1.5 times the original price. The scheme was applicable to all classes, except AC first class and executive class. The pricing system is still in force.