

Daily Economic News Summary: 15 November 2018

1. PM Modi Urges US Defence Industry To Set Up Manufacturing Base

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the US defence industry to set up manufacturing facilities in the country and make India a hub for exports during his meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence in Singapore on 14 November. At his meeting with Pence on the sidelines of East Asia Summit and ASEAN summit, Modi “stressed that there was a great opportunity for the United States in India in making defence equipment and setting up defence industry in India”, foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale told reporters.

2. India, Kazakhstan Eye Expanding Trade Turnover By 5 Times

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

India and Central Asia's biggest nation Kazakhstan on 14 November desired to push their trade turnover to five billion USD from the current one billion USD taking advantage of favourable business climate in both countries. The Kazakh-Indian Investment Forum held in Delhi from 12 to 14 November was dedicated to expanding business ties across sectors.

3. No Plans To Grant MFN Status To India: Pakistan

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

The Pakistan government has said it has "no immediate plans" to grant Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India. Asked whether the government was considering granting MFN status to India and that Prime Minister Imran Khan was keen to hold peace talks with the Indian government, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce, Textile, Industry and Investments, Abdul Razak Dawood said, "No such plans at the moment".

4. Foreign Fund Managers Look For Bargains In Indian Stock Markets

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

As contagion from worries over global growth and trade friction pushes Asian equity, bond and currency markets deeper into bear territory, fund managers are hunting for bargains in Chinese and Indian equities and high-yielding Asian dollar bonds. A cocktail of negative factors has driven MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan down 15.5 percent so far this year.

Currencies from emerging markets whose economies are vulnerable on the current account have come under pressure.

5. India Can Breathe Easy For Now As RCEP Deal Deferred To 2019

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

Leaders of the 16 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member countries have deferred concluding negotiations of the proposed free trade agreement to next year, as key member states head for elections and several market access issues remain unresolved. In the August ministerial, trade ministers of member countries had resolved to conclude a “package of year-end deliverables” by December. However, with little progress on services negotiations and mounting pressure from the domestic industry, India was reluctant for early conclusion of negotiations given the upcoming general elections early next year. The decision to defer sealing the trade deal to next year will provide a much-needed breather to the Narendra Modi government.

6. Steel, Heavy Industry, Textile Ministries Still Apprehensive Over RCEP Pact

Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))

India has got a much-needed breather with the deferring of the conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) pact, but at least three Central Ministries are still not convinced about the usefulness of the agreement. “We have more convincing to do within the government. The Ministries of Steel, Heavy Industry and Textiles continue to be apprehensive as they feel their sectors are not ready to face competition from China and some others,” a government official said.

7. Uber Launches Fuel Price Index To Boost Driver Income; To Be Rolled Out First In Mumbai

Source: Firstpost ([Link](#))

Cab aggregator Uber India on 14 November assured its drivers that their net earnings will not be impacted as it is rolling out a national fuel price index to ensure that their earnings are correlated with changes in the price of fuel. The new incentive is applicable in Mumbai to begin with, Uber India said in a statement on 14 November. The drivers of popular cab aggregators Ola and Uber went on a 12-day strike last month over lower earnings due to fuel price hike. It was called off on 3 November, following assurances from the aggregators and the state governments.

8. Arunachal Signs Mous With 17 Private Investors For Projects Worth Rs 1,200-Cr In Regional Connectivity Scheme

Source: Livemint ([Link](#))

The Arunachal Pradesh government on 14 November signed MoUs with 17 private investors for projects worth Rs 1,200 crore during the fifth edition of North East Connectivity Scheme at Tawang, an official release said. The Polo Towers Group, a pioneering hospitality group has identified 11 investable projects in Arunachal worth Rs 419 crore and will generate 1850 employment opportunities. Jungle Travels India Pvt Ltd exchanged MoU to invest in 20 rooms Jungle Lodge in or near Pakke Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary in East Kameng district with an investment of Rs 10 crore and generate employment for 60 people.