

## Daily Economic News Summary: 7 September 2018

### **1. India, US Vow To Expand Economic Ties**

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

India and the US 6 September pledged to expand their bilateral trade and economic partnership with a view to promoting investment and job creation. According to a joint statement issued after the inaugural India-US Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue, the two nations also agreed to work collectively with other partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region to support transparent, responsible and sustainable debt financing practices in infrastructure development. The statement was issued after a meeting between Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj and Minister of Defence Nirmala Sitharaman, and US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo and Secretary of Defense James N Mattis.

### **2. Iran To Handover Chabahar Port To Indian Firm For Operation In A Month: Iranian Minister**

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

India and Iran have political goodwill to pursue infrastructure projects and continue energy trade overcoming challenges created by US withdrawal from the nuclear deal and subsequent sanctions, suggested Iran's Roads & Urban Development Minister Abbas Ahmad Akhoundi who was hosted in New Delhi, coinciding with the Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue. "I met my counterpart minister Nitin Gadkari and we discussed measures on India's role in Chabahar Port, railway project connecting Chabahar Port with Zahedan, other railway and infrastructure projects that India is undertaking in Iran," Akhoundi told ET following his meeting with the Indian minister.

### **3. Temasek Becomes Seventh Investor In NIIF Master Fund, Parks Rs 27.5 Bn**

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

Temasek Holdings, the Singapore based global investment firm, has agreed to invest up to \$400 million or Rs 27.5 billion in the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Master Fund, said NIIFs CEO and Managing Director Sujoy Bose at a media roundtable on 6 September. Temasek is now the seventh investor in the NIIFs Master Fund, after the Government of India, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), HDFC Group, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, Axis

Bank and ICICI Bank. The NIF will also be launching a 'Strategic Investment Fund' aimed at financing development stage infrastructure projects and companies. These projects will require financing from the ground-up therefore involving large capital outlays and medium-to-long-term investment horizons.

#### **4. India To Seek Ease Of Workers' Movement At WTO**

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

Faced with new issues of ecommerce and investment entering multilateral trade negotiations, India will counter with its own push and demand for easier movement of professionals across countries at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) next month. India will, for the first time, organise a seminar at WTO to revive other countries' interest in improving workforce mobility in the wake of rising protectionism, a top official told ET. "We're organising a workshop on Mode 4 of services to bring in the key proponents and opponents of the subject," the official said. Movement of natural persons is one of the four ways through which services can be supplied internationally. Called 'Mode 4' in trade parlance, it includes natural persons such as independent professionals and contributes 1-2% of services trade globally, according to WTO.

#### **5. India Urges US To Take 'Balanced, Sensitive' View On H-1B Visa Issue**

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

India on 6 September urged the US to take a "balanced and sensitive" view on the issue of proposed changes in America's H-1B visa policy, saying it could effect the people-to-people links that are crucial for energising bilateral ties. During the first 2+2 dialogue between the two countries, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj sought US Secretary of State Micheal Pompeo's support for nurturing people-to-people exchanges. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Defence Secretary James Mattis also took part in the talks. Addressing a joint press conference, Swaraj said, "I have requested Secretary Pompeo to adopt a balanced and sensitive view on the issue of proposed changes in the H-1 B visa regime as this could effect the people-to-people links which are important for energising ties."

## **6. India Says US Can Increase Aircraft, Oil & Gas Exports**

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

India has identified aircraft, oil and gas, and services related to aircraft as areas where the US can increase its exports to India while food, pharma and marine products are among the segments where the country can target a bigger pie of the US market. India has done the exercise in a move to improve trade from both countries as the two have been embroiled in a series of trade spats and are in talks to resolve those issues. “We have done a preliminary exercise and suggested that aircraft, oil and gas, and services related to aircraft where US exports could increase and it has increased,” said an official.

## **7. Aurobindo Pharma To Buy Parts Of Sandoz US Business For \$900 Mn**

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

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd has signed a definitive agreement to acquire certain assets from Sandoz Inc, USA , a Novartis division for a consideration of \$0.9 billion (\$900 million). The proposed acquisition comprises dermatology business and a portfolio of oral solid products along with commercial and manufacturing infrastructure in the US. The acquisition will be on debt-free and cash-free basis and will be made through its wholly owned subsidiary. Aurobindo Pharma USA Inc and Sandoz will enter into a transitional services agreement to support the ongoing growth plans of the businesses being acquired by the Indian company.

## **8. India, US Must Boost Bilateral Trade To \$500-600 Bn: Prabhu**

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

India seeks US partnership to boost various sectors and grow the bilateral trade to \$ 500-600 billion from \$ 125 billion currently, with a good strategy under a stipulated time, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu said in Mumbai on 6 September. “The US-India bilateral trade is declining for various reasons and we should not be happy with bilateral trade of \$ 125 billion. We must set a clear cut target of \$ 500-600 billion in a stipulated time period. We are willing to come out with complete strategy and am sure that the companies from both country’s will benefit,” Prabhu said on 6 September. Speaking at a US-India Business Council event, Prabhu said that we can resolve some issues through talks. India offers lot of opportunities in sectors including agriculture,

pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, start-ups and make “India-US partnership greater again” in line with President Trump’s call of Let’s make US great again.