

VEKLY **NEWSWRAP**

September 29, 2024 / 99



ECONOMY

Slowing Indian economy to drag APAC's growth in 2025: Moody's Analytics

Date: 24 September 2024



Moody's Analytics projected on Tuesday that India's economic growth would slow to 6.5% in 2025 from an estimated 7.1% in 2024, impacting the overall performance of the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region. Growth in developing Asia is expected to decrease to 5.1% in 2024 and 4.9% in 2025, driven by sluggish momentum in China. China's weak domestic demand will slow its growth to 4.7% in 2024, below the official 5% target, and further down to 4.6% in 2025.

Source: Business Standard

TRADE

Why India's easing of export curbs is important to global rice trade

Date: 28 September 2024

India has lifted most export restrictions on rice shipments effective immediately, anticipating increased crop yields from above-average monsoon rains and ample state granary stocks. India is crucial to the global rice trade, accounting for over 40% of rice exports in 2022, with a record 22.2 million metric tons out of a total of 55.4 million. Its exports surpass the combined shipments of the next four largest exporters: Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan, and the United States. Additionally, India exports rice to more than 140 countries.



Source: The Economic Times

STEEL

India's finished steel imports from China hit 7-year high in April-August

Date: 23 September 2024



India's finished steel imports from China reached a seven-year high in the first five months of the 2024/25 financial year, according to provisional government data reviewed by Reuters. Overall finished steel imports climbed to 3.7 million metric tons in the April-August period, marking a six-year high, making India a net importer. The country, the world's second-largest crude steel producer, has seen increased consumption due to strong demand from the infrastructure and automotive sectors. China led as the largest exporter, followed by South Korea and Japan. India's steel ministry is considering trade measures in response to domestic mill concerns.

Source: Business Standard

PHARMACEUTICAL

Want to make India a reliable pharmacy of world, says Secretary Department of Pharmaceuticals

Date: 27 September 2024

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is becoming a key economic driver, fueled by the success of the Make in India initiative and the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The sector has experienced substantial growth in exports and increased global interest. Many Contract Research, Development, and Manufacturing Organisations (CRDMOs) are setting up operations in India, further boosting its position as a global pharmaceutical hub. This growth reflects the industry's rising influence and contribution to India's economy and international standing.



Source: The Economic Times

TECHNOLOGY

India leads on world AI stage in talent and domain skills: Nasscom chief

Date: 29 September 2024



India is emerging as a leader in global AI talent and domain skills, positioning itself strongly in this transformative era, according to Nasscom's new chairperson, Sindhu Gangadharan. In a PTI interview, she emphasized that this is "the best time to be in India," especially for those in technology. Gangadharan addressed key issues, including the importance of mental and social well-being in the workplace and the economic impact of AI. She underscored the need for organizations to prioritize workforce well-being, especially following recent tragedies that raised concerns about workplace stress.

Source: Business Standard

RENEWABLE ENERGY

REC raises \$500 million via green bond to support renewable energy projects

Date: 28 September 2024

State-owned REC Ltd announced on Saturday that it has successfully raised \$500 million through green dollar bonds to finance renewable energy projects. The 5-year bond features a coupon rate of 4.75% per annum, payable semi-annually, with a maturity date of September 27, 2029. This marks the first U.S. dollar bond issuance by an Indian public sector enterprise in 2024. The funds are part of REC's \$10 billion global medium-term program and will support eligible green projects under its Green Finance Framework, adhering to international and RBI guidelines.



Source: Business Standard

News from International Publications

European steelmakers press Brussels to tackle a flood of Chinese exports

Date: 23 September 2024



European steelmakers are urging trade officials to address a surge in Chinese steel exports that has driven prices below production costs. They are calling for new tariffs to combat global overcapacity and protect domestic manufacturers struggling with weak demand and high energy costs. China, the world's largest steel producer, is expected to export over 100 million tonnes this year, the most since 2016. Although direct Chinese exports to Europe are small, European producers face indirect pressure from increased imports elsewhere. Steelmakers warn that subsidized, below-cost Chinese steel threatens the industry's sustainability and green transition efforts.

Source: Financial Times

Early voting begins in race for the White House

Date: 23 September 2024

For many Americans, election day has already begun. While polling day is set for November 5, early voting is underway, with tens of millions expected to cast ballots before then. In-person voting started last Friday in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Virginia, while states like Alabama and Wisconsin have begun mailing ballots to those who requested them. Several more states will follow suit in the coming weeks, allowing voters to participate well ahead of the official election day.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

U.S.'s climate plan falters amid hurdles and resistance

Date: 24 September 2024



Climate optimism is waning as higher costs, resistance from businesses and consumers, and slow technology adoption delay the transition from fossil fuels. Although renewable energy is growing faster than anticipated, surging power demand is consuming much of the new capacity, forcing utilities to rely on fossil fuels like coal for longer. With greenhouse gas emissions at record levels, scientists predict worsening floods and heat waves. 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record. "Our response is totally insufficient," warns climate scientist Sonia Seneviratne.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

U.S. proposes ban on Chinese tech in driverless vehicles

Date: 24 September 2024

The Biden administration proposed a ban on the import or sale of connected vehicles containing Chinese or Russian components, citing concerns over potential espionage and domestic chaos during conflicts. After seven months of deliberation, officials expressed growing worry about foreign adversaries gaining access to American driving data or remotely controlling vehicles via internet connections. The move is part of broader efforts to protect national security and prevent foreign influence in critical technology used in transportation, officials said during a briefing.



Source: The Washington Post

News from International Publications

China unleashes aggressive stimulus blitz battle to hit 5% growth target

Date: 25 September 2024



China has introduced a series of stimulus measures, including cuts to its benchmark interest rate, to combat its economic slowdown. The People’s Bank of China (PBoC) announced state funding to boost the stock market, aid share buybacks, and support the struggling property sector. PBoC Governor Pan Gongsheng said the actions aim to “support the stable growth” of China’s economy and encourage a “moderate rebound in prices.” The measures lifted the CSI 300 index by 4.3%, marking its best day since July 2020.

Source: Financial Times

Low-alcohol beer sales surge after post-Brexit duties overhaul

Date: 25 September 2024

In 2023, UK sales of low-alcohol beer surged more than in any other market, driven by a post-Brexit tax overhaul that encouraged brewers to introduce new products. Beer with less than 3.5% alcohol by volume doubled in sales from 650,000 hectolitres in 2022 to nearly 1.3 million hectolitres, according to IWSR. The UK’s growth outpaced other countries, with Venezuela in second place. The UK is now the eighth-largest global market for low-alcohol beer, up from 13th in 2022.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

France mulls tax rises on business and rich

Date: 25 September 2024



The new French government is considering tax increases on the wealthy and corporations to address widening deficits without reversing President Emmanuel Macron's pro-business reforms. Finance Minister Antoine Armand stressed the need for decisive action, citing one of France's worst deficits outside of crises like the pandemic. Targeted levies on high-wealth households and businesses are under review for the 2025 budget. This marks a shift from Macron's tax-cutting policies aimed at boosting growth and investment, but fiscal discipline issues have led to rising deficits and borrowing costs.

Source: Financial Times

COP29 host's own climate plans are 'insufficient', warn experts

Date: 26 September 2024

A report has labeled Azerbaijan's efforts to combat global warming as "critically insufficient" ahead of this year's UN climate summit, COP29, which will be hosted in Baku. This comes during New York Climate Week, where Azerbaijan outlined its vision for COP29. President-designate Mukhtar Babayev set a goal to increase energy storage capacity six-fold by 2030. However, Climate Action Tracker criticized Azerbaijan for weakening its climate targets and doubling down on oil and gas production, despite global efforts to reduce fossil fuel reliance.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

Global economy is set for uptick, says OECD

Date: 26 September 2024



The OECD expects a modest rise in global economic growth this year and next, driven by falling interest rates and recovering real wages. Lower oil prices could also help control inflation. However, uncertainties remain over the impact of high interest rates on demand, and escalating conflicts in the Middle East could raise oil prices. The OECD forecasts global output growth of 3.2% in both 2024 and 2025, up from the 3.1% forecast in May and 2.7% projected at the end of 2023.

Source: The Wall Street Journal