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NEWS CLIPPINGS –16-11-2018

Centre allots 550 MW of power to T.N.	**The Hindu** https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/centre-allots-550-mw-of-power-to-tn/article25511896.ece

Tamil Nadu has been allocated 550 megawatt (MW) by the Centre through a scheme of providing electricity to States from stressed power plants.

The allocation will be in force for three years, during which the State will get power at a rate of Rs. 4.24 paise per unit.

For all practical purposes, only the variable cost will be applicable as a mere one paise per unit will be charged as fixed cost, a senior official of the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) said. The power is expected to be made available by the end of this month.

The arrangement has been worked out as a sequel to the initiative of the Central government to bail out 34 stressed thermal power projects that are having an estimated debt of about Rs. 1.77 lakh crore. Tangedco will get electricity from IL&FS Energy's plant in Cuddalore district.

The allocation for the State was made through the process of tender, which attracted responses from different stressed power plants offering 1,900 MW. The bids were floated originally for 2,500 MW.

The Tangedco official said that the quantum of power to be obtained by the State would be handy, as peak demand from January to March 2019 will vary from 14,200 MW to 15,300 MW. Besides, if the campaign for Lok Sabha elections takes place around the time, the demand for electricity will definitely be more as political parties will be liberally using power for their propaganda.

Why India, China can't keep dodging trade deals and let RCEP talks fail	Business Standard https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/why-india-china-can-t-keep-dodging-trade-deals-and-let-rcep-talks-fail-118111600109_1.html

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, or RCEP, is not a "competitor" to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (or, as it's now known after adding the adjectives "comprehensive" and "progressive," the CPTPP). Yes, the CPTPP very obviously excludes the People's Republic of China while the RCEP does not. But, unlike the former, the RCEP is a more traditional sort of trade deal, in which tariff cuts on tradeable goods — rather than high standards for labor, environmental and intellectual-property protections — are at the center of the discussion.

That's part of the reason India is leery of signing it. This week, as leaders of the 16 RCEP nations met in Singapore, India managed to postpone its moment of reckoning: Instead of concluding negotiations by the end of the year as hoped, the leaders agreed that the deal would be signed next year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for an "early conclusion" to the talks, and others said that significant progress had been made. But the truth is that the gulf between India and the other 15 countries in the RCEP remains deep, and it isn't clear how or if it can be bridged.

RCEP is is essentially a deal between the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the other countries — Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand – with which ASEAN has existing free-trade deals. Indian officials already not-so-quietly regret the current pact with ASEAN. They complain that exports from ASEAN into India have grown far quicker than Indian exports to the bloc, which they attribute to the fact that India is a "services economy." Thus, they're willing to hold up RCEP until Indian companies are granted more market access for services than is currently the case.

The truth is that those officials have it backwards. India has largely failed to develop a manufacturing sector because its factories aren't competitive and aren't plugged into global supply chains. Over the past few years, tariffs have started rising as well — often in an ad hoc and arbitrary manner — which means that becoming part of spread-out value chains will be even tougher. Modi may want to protect Indian industry. But if he's going to create the manufacturing jobs he promised in his 2014 prime ministerial campaign, he can't turn his back on dense knot of production and trade that the RCEP countries represent.

As for Indian services exports, the truth is that market access isn't as straightforward as all that. Services trade requires harmonized rules and regulations — something that RCEP isn't prioritizing in the first place. And, in fact, many bits of the agreement that do focus on convergence of rules are also unacceptable to India. It will object, for example, to any clause that forbids laws mandating data localization, having already clamped down on foreign payments networks and internet companies.

Some participants in RCEP might be tempted to dump India and move ahead, signing a reduced version of the agreement just as the other 11 signatories to the CPTPP moved on without Donald Trump's U.S. In the end, though, such a move wouldn't be terribly useful. New Zealand, for example, already has trade agreements with every RCEP participant except for India. Given the difficulty of getting Indian negotiators to the table for bilateral trade deals, the RCEP remains the best chance to incorporate India into a genuinely open trading bloc.

In the end, success will come down to give and take, and one country will have to give the most: China. India's concerns about hidden Chinese subsidies and closed Chinese markets are shared now by much of the world. And it's not as if Chinese policy makers have no flexibility: After tariffs on U.S. soy exports were imposed as part of the first salvos of the Sino-American trade war, Indian exporters of soymeal found Chinese authorities were far more willing to make things easier for them.

While RCEP may appear to be a multilateral deal, negotiations between China and India lie at its heart. Other countries have now accepted that fact, allowing India to also negotiate separately with China, as well as Australia and New Zealand, under a "bilateral pairing mechanism."

For Beijing, this is an opportunity to demonstrate not just its continuing commitment to free trade but also its willingness to make trade fairer than it's been in the past. If the 2019 deadline is to mean anything, then both India and China will have to think very hard about where their national interests really lie. If they do, they're likely to view compromise much more favorably.

India's Trade Deficit Widens Even As Exports Bounce Back	**Bloom Berg** https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/indias-trade-deficit-widens-even-as-exports-bounce-back#gs.4E8ExqA

India's trade deficit in October widened from a five-month low in September after crude oil imports coupled with a depreciating rupee weighed on the nation's trade books.

The gap between exports and imports stood at $17.13 billion, compared with $14.61 billion in the same month last year, according to a release from the Ministry of Commerce. The trade gap had hit a five-year high of $17.4 billion in August. ICRA Ltd.'s Principal Economist Aditi Nayar said that seasonal trends drove an uptick in the trade deficit.

India's imports rose 17.6 percent to $44.11 billion in October from $37.50 billion in the year-ago period. Value of oil imports rose 52.64 percent year-on-year to $14.21 billion. Brent crude prices increased 39.66 percent in October from the same period last year.

Electronic goods, too, contributed to the rise in imports. The cumulative value of imports for the April-October period increased 16.37 percent over last year to $302.47 billion.

Import Highlights:

Gold imports fell 42.9 percent to $1.68 billion despite the festive season.

Electronic goods imports increased 31.94 percent to $5.2 billion.

Iron and steel imports rose 32.2 percent to $1.47 billion.

Machinery imports rose 12.4 percent to $2.97 billion.

Coal and coke imports rose 12.4 percent to $2.26 billion.

Exports rose 17.86 percent to $26.98 billion, with increased shipments of petroleum products, electronic goods and organic and inorganic chemicals.

An increase in exports of textiles, yarn and garments, according to Nayar, may reflect a favourable base effect related to relatively muted shipments in October 2017, apart from the impact of a weaker rupee.

Export Highlights

Exports of petroleum products rose 49.4 percent to $4.5 billion.

Exports of readymade garments snapped decline to rise 36 percent to $1.13 billion.

Organic and inorganic chemical exports grew 34 percent to $1.85 billion.

Gems and jewellery exports jumped 5.5 percent to $3.49 billion.

Engineering goods exports increased 8.9 percent to $6.4 billion.

‘Govt.-RBI stand-off not good situation’	**The Hindu** https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/govt-rbi-stand-off-not-good-situation/article25511616.ece

RBI board member Gurumurthy’s comment comes amid differences over several issues

Ahead of the much talked about board meeting of the central bank, RBI board member S. Gurumurthy Thursday said the stand-off between the government and the Reserve Bank was not a happy situation.

The comment comes amid the ongoing rift between the Finance Ministry and the RBI over several issues, including capital framework of the central bank and easing of lending norms for the NBFC sector.

Delivering a lecture on ‘State of the Economy: India and the World,’ at the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) here, Mr. Gurumurthy also said the imposition of tight provisioning norms for bad loans in one go created problems for the banking system. The stand-off between the government and the RBI is not a happy thing at all, he said.

Mr. Gurumurthy further said India should not go beyond what has been prescribed in the Basel capital adequacy norms and made a case for enhancing credit for the MSME sector.

Section 7

Tensions between the RBI and the government have escalated recently with the Finance Ministry initiating discussion under the never-used-before Section 7 of the RBI Act which empowers the government to issue directions to the RBI Governor.

The RBI's board is meeting on November 19.

Vocal member

Mr. Gurumurthy has been a vocal member on the RBI board asking for easier lending and capital restrictions for Indian banks and more cash for small businesses, a view that is supported by top Finance Ministry officials and has deepened an ongoing rift between the government and the central bank.

One way for the government to increase capital adequacy in State-run banks under Basel 3 regulations is to increase equity capital on one hand and sell sovereign bonds to the lenders on the other hand.

The move won't need actual cash infusion but only an accounting entry in banks, a process which has been used before as well by the government to increase capital adequacy ratios in banks.

For weeks, government officials in New Delhi have been pressuring RBI to accede to a range of demands, prompting RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya to warn late last month that undermining a central bank's independence could be "catastrophic," bringing the feud into the open. However, the government and the RBI are now getting close to ironing out some of their policy differences ahead of a board meeting on Monday.

India International Trade Fair inaugurated	**News on air** http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355348

Culture Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma today inaugurated the 38th India International Trade Fair (IITF) at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Sharma said, the World is looking towards India as it has been the fastest growing economy despite a slowdown in the world.

He said India International Trade Fair will provide a platform for all kind of businesses to showcase their excellence & wide spectrum of services to trade, industry & common men.

In a special video message, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu said, due to fast decision-making process and trade policy, business is growing in the country.

In his address, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry C R Chaudhary said, due to path breaking decisions of the Centre, India has jumped to 77th place in ease of doing business ranking of the world bank. He said, Government is making India a manufacturing hub and due to policies investments are on rise.

Charge De Affairs of Afghanistan Embassy Mohammed Khairullah Azad, Tirtha Prakash Poudel of Nepal Embassy, Jharkhand Khadi Board chairman Sanjay Seth and ITPO CMD L C goyal was present on the occasion.

This year the theme of the fair is Rural Enterprises in India.In this year's fair Afghanistan is the Partner Country, while Nepal is the Focus Country. Jharkhand is participating as a Partner State in the event. Around 800 participants from different States, government departments and domestic and international companies are taking part in the fair to showcase their product.The 14-day annual event will continue till 27th of this month.

Trade deficit rises to $17.13 bn	**The Hindu** https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/trade-deficit-rises-to-1713-bn/article25511612.ece

Exports rebound in Oct. from contraction seen in Sept.

India’s merchandise trade deficit widened in October to $17.13 billion due in large part to a higher oil import bill, official data released on Thursday showed. The trade deficit is wider than the $14.61 billion seen in October of last year and the $13.98 billion in September 2018.

Positive growth

“Exports in October 2018 were $26.98 billion, as compared to $22.89 billion in October 2017, exhibiting a positive growth of 17.86%,” a release said. “In rupee terms, exports were Rs. 1,98,634.84 crore in October 2018, as compared to Rs. 1,48,962.64 crore in October 2017, registering a positive growth of 33.35%.”

This growth in exports marks a rebound from the contraction of 2.15% seen in September in dollar terms.

The major commodities that saw stronger growth in exports compared with last year include engineering goods (8.87%), petroleum products (49.38%), gems and jewellery (5.48%), organic and inorganic chemicals (34.01%), and drugs and pharmaceuticals (12.83%).

“The October data shows that the exports are again back on double-digit growth trajectory during the on-going festive season,” said Ganesh Kumar Gupta, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations.

“Imports in October 2018 were $44.11 billion (Rs. 3,24,774.78 crore), which was 17.62% higher in dollar terms and 33.07% higher in rupee terms over imports of $37.50 billion (Rs. 2,44,064.20 crore) in October 2017,” the government said. Oil imports in October 2018 were $14.21 billion, which was 52.64% higher in dollar terms compared with October last year and 30.2% higher than the oil imports of September 2018.

With trade touching an all-time high of $1.60 bn, India and Peru to discuss FTA in New Delhi next month	Financial Express https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/with-trade-touching-an-all-time-high-of-1-60-bn-india-and-peru-to-discuss-fta-in-new-delhi-next-month/1382830/

With bilateral trade between India and the South American country Peru touching an all-time high of $1.60 bn, the next round of talks for the free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries is scheduled to take place next month.

Confirming to FE, a senior diplomat in the Embassy of India in Lima said that, “Officers from both countries are meeting for the third round of negotiations in New Delhi from Dec 4-7.”

According to diplomatic sources the aim of this FTA between the two countries is aiming at liberalising norms for trade in goods and services. Both sides are keen on expanding their trade basket especially in the agriculture sector as well as deepening their trade and investments.

FE was the first to report that the talks of the special trade agreement with Peru was started in 2017 and since then two round of talks have already taken place, in fact a senior level team from New Delhi from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had visited Lima to study the feasibility of having such an agreement with the South American nation and identified the issues that could be addressed.

In an interview to FE, ambassador of Peru in India, Jorge Juan Castañeda Méndez said, “Both India and Peru are celebrating 55 years of diplomatic relations. Peru could be used by Indian investors as a gateway to the region. With the government of Peru planning to rebuild after last year´s devastating floods, there is a huge opportunity for Indian companies to invest in various sectors including construction of roads, highways, ports, and airports.”

Both countries have complementary seasons; soon there will be mangoes and potatoes from our country entering India. A lot of citrus fruits, avocado, grapes and quinoa are already here, the envoy of Peru added.

“There has been a significant increase in trade between the two countries. Import of Gold from Peru has gone up from last year’s $ 1.3 bn and it has potential of going up further. Silver is the other metal that India is keen on. India is buying copper from Peru as there is huge concentration of Copper which Indian mining companies can explore,” he said.

The LatAm nation is the world’s sixth largest producer of gold, second largest producer of silver, and the third largest producer of copper, tin, zinc, and lead.

In 2015, Peru was the second largest exporter of table grapes- Red Globe variety- to India, a position it holds even today. These grapes are typically available in Indian supermarkets between December and April every year. Also, Indian importers have shown a growing interest in Peruvian avocados, leading to a steady increase in its consumption since 2016.

All this has become a possibility because the open trade barriers between the two countries provide Peru with a new and significant trade partner.

Fall in crude oil prices to revive ailing power loom sector	**Times of India** https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/fall-in-crude-oil-prices-to-revive-ailing-power-loom-sector/articleshow/66642577.cms

Fall in international crude oil prices has given a reason to ailing power loom weaving sector to cheer. In the last fortnight, yarn manufacturers have reduced polyester yarn prices by almost Rs15 per kilogram giving a major relief to weaving sector.

Industry sources said reduction in polyester yarn prices has been witnessed for the first time post-Goods and Services Tax's implementation. In the last 14 months, yarn spinners were on the spree of increasing yarn prices, giving a tough time to power loom weavers struggling with market recession and the issue of lapse of input tax credit (ITC) to the tune of Rs600 crore. Due to increase in yarn prices, weavers were facing loss of Rs2 per metre on unfinished polyester fabric.

For the first time, power loom weaving industry is observing a month-long vacation. Power loom units started shutting from October 25 and will reopen only after November 25.

Leader of powerloom weaving sector, Mayur Golwala said, "The crude oil prices in international market have slid below $65 per barrel.

In the last fortnight, yarn manufacturers have reduced polyester yarn prices by Rs15 per kilogram. We believe that the industry will get real benefit when spinners will further reduce prices of yarn by Rs25 per kg."

Golwala added, "The reduction in yarn prices will provide a new lease of life to the city's textile business in the upcoming marriage season. Most of the power loom units will reopen on November 25.

" South Gujarat Yarn Dealers Association president Lalit Chandak said, "It is a positive sign for textile sector. There is four-month long marriage season when the textile trade will rebound due to decrease in the yarn prices. It is believed that the yarn prices will further reduce due to fall in international crude oil prices."

Modi stresses centrality of trade with ASEAN	**Unn India** http://www.uniindia.com/modi-stresses-centrality-of-trade-with-asean/world/news/1405937.html

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday stressed the centrality of trade and maritime cooperation for the development and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

The prime minister met Southeast Asian leaders at the ASEAN-India Breakfast Summit and said India's partnership with the 10 ASEAN countries is contributing to world peace and prosperity.

"Cementing old bonds in pursuit of a glorious future. Had a great interaction with ASEAN leaders at the ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit. We are happy that ties with ASEAN are strong and are contributing to a peaceful and prosperous planet," Modi said in a tweet after the meeting.

India became a full dialogue partner of the ASEAN in 1996. It has also signed agreements on goods, services and investment.

Over the years, this dynamic and action-oriented partnership between India and ASEAN has expanded the cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, energy, infrastructure, connectivity, culture, and human resources development.

ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner. Two-way trade stands at $81.33 billion. And buoyed by growing trade, investment flows between India and ASEAN have been mutually substantive.

At the informal breakfast meeting, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore said India must join ASEAN in pushing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), for which negotiations are on to create the world's largest free trade area.

"I am glad that we have made tremendous progress this year to advance the RCEP negotiations. We are now close to the finishing line, although further work remains to finalise the remaining details," said Lee.

India has been somewhat hesitant in joining RCEP, unwilling to cut tariffs and open its market wider in the face of strong opposition from its farm sector as well as industries like steel and textiles.

Modi had last met the ASEAN leaders in January at a commemorative summit in New Delhi to mark the 25th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. They were his guests during India's Republic Day parade.

India also recognises the ASEAN's centrality in the emerging regional economic and security architecture.

During the day, the prime minister also attended the 13th East Asia Summit, a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concern, in the city-state.

India endorsed six priority areas for cooperation --- environment and energy, education, finance, global health and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management and connectivity -- at the summit.

The priority areas of regional cooperation allows the forum members to discuss issues of common interest and concern, in an open and transparent manner, at the highest level.

Afghanistan as Partner Country at India International Trade Fair	Economic Times https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/blogs/et-commentary/afghanistan-as-partner-country-at-india-international-trade-fair/

Afghanistan seeks unique opportunity in the India International Trade fair as a partner country that begins in New Delhi from 14 November, 2018 supported by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), Government of India. IITF is essentially an important pathway for Afghanistan to showcase their products, explore business relationships and to establish competitive edge in the growing markets across the region. Afghanistan has been participating in IITF since 2005 that has created niche for buyers and sellers which are appropriate to enhance business relations with different countries. Forty-Eight Afghanistan pavilion displayed dried fruits, saffron, spices, carpets, gems and jewellery and handicrafts including 12 stalls by Afghan women. Afghanistan has taken the lead to win the Silver medal for 'Excellence in Display' at the 37th IITF last year. 80 Afghan stalls including 32 women stalls had made marvelous entry at IITF in 2017.

This 14 day long exhibition is an initiative to reach global markets and prospective buyers and sellers. This exhibition's vision is to unlock Afghanistan's potential for economic empowerment. Afghanistan will hold prominent position in the global market for agricultural, handicrafts, spices, carpets, gem stones and jewelry partnering with India.

It is important to note that such exhibition creates new opportunities for Afghanistan in bringing countries closer to achieve shared objectives. India and Afghanistan hold very good economic and social relationship with each other. Being an emerging economy in South Asia, Afghanistan and India's agricultural sector is a complementary to each other. In this exhibition buyers and sellers from Afghanistan and India grab marvelous opportunity to enhance trade ties between them that will mark a significant tie of both the nations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's model of holistic development is themed 'Rural Enterprises in India' for this year's 38th edition of India International Trade Fair 2018. ''Rural Enterprises in India' seems befitting as it will highlight the issues of rural artisans, craftsmen, farmers, market linkages, marketability among others and many more. It also explicitly features new avenues of trade and skill development, focusing on reforms and policy initiatives in diverse fields. The IITF is participated by 17 foreign countries including Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, Vietnam and UAE with 800 participants from States/Government Departments, domestic and International companies participated in the event. Jharkhand is the 'Focus State' and 'Focus Country' is Nepal. The event will conclude by 27 November, 2018.

Afghanistan- India Business ties In recent years trade ties between Afghanistan and India is growing but there is huge potential for further development. Afghanistan-India trade stood at more than USD 900 and expected to reach USD 2 billion in near future. India's main export items to Afghanistan are textiles, pharmaceuticals, tobacco, iron & steel and electrical machinery, while its imports from Afghanistan are fresh fruits and nuts, gums and resins, and spices. Afghanistan-India economic relation has been growing exponentially. India's comprehensive visioning for Afghanistan's development is consistently woven through the perspectives of building education and skills, technology and innovation, agriculture, health, urbanization, environmental sustainability, business and economy remained an imperative goal.

India is actioning the fundamental drivers that will make Afghanistan more competitive to enlarge its role in development under the framework of Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) of 2011. The periodic Joint Working Group meetings (JWG) brings paramount endeavor to understand the performing expectations and unleashing their propensity. The recent third JWG meeting held in Kabul last month represented a significant step forward in promoting bilateral economic cooperation between Afghanistan and India. India's pharmaceuticals have been identified as one of the potential products of export to Afghanistan and India offered to provide high quality and affordable generic drugs to Afghanistan. Afghanistan has proposed to the Government of India in creation of a permanent design centre for handicrafts in Afghanistan. India Exim Bank will be sharing its experience and expertise in the fields of capacity creation, institution strengthening, export development, export capability creation and enhancing international competitiveness for setting up similar institution in Afghanistan. India is willing to associate with Afghanistan in the capacity building of its farmers in modern technologies of vegetable production, processing and trading of horticulture products including Green House Technology. The training can be provided by different institutes in India and experts from Indian institutes can also be deputed for imparting training in Afghanistan. The decision for further action will be referred to the India-Afghanistan Task Force on Agriculture.

Afghanistan-India Connectivity Imperatives Going forward, understanding the importance of land based transit route, Afghanistan needs to facilitate India's inclusion in expanded Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). Both India and Afghanistan may utilize the accession of TIR convention for emphasizing the right of transit through other territories. It would have positive effect on the bilateral trade. Afghanistan's sustained efforts to Include India in APTTA are yet to be materialized. The Motor Vehicle Agreement between Afghanistan and India signed in September 2017 which overcomes technical objection in denying access to Afghan trucks till ICP Attari. Efforts need to be made for full transit rights for Indian exports to Afghanistan and vice-versa, via land route.

The successful air freight corridor programme between Afghanistan and India is enhancing trade ties of both the nations. The air cargo flight of have grown rapidly connecting with Kabul-Mumbai, Kabul-Kolkata, Kabul-Hyderabad, Kabul-Amritsar. This has been helping Afghanistan to seize opportunities with new and emerging markets in India. Afghanistan and India has exchanged more than 133 flights till date, exporting fresh and dried fruits mainly musk melon, pistachios, almonds, raisins, including Asafoetida.

Further, connectivity through sea has created lot of dynamics for India and Afghanistan and other regions of the world. It is important to note that trilateral cooperation betweenIran-Afghanistan-India's Chabahar port project will reap benefits for trajectory growth of Afghanistan and India by connecting global markets, improving infrastructure development a vanguard position that is envisaged in the developmental agenda of both the countries. The first trilateral meeting between India, Afghanistan and Iran for operationalization of Chabahar Port was held last month. More important for lifting US sanctions on Chabahar port project was required to realize the developmental aspirations of Afghanistan including India and other countries for taking growth to higher orbit. The utility of Chabahar port was amply demonstrated in the wheat and lentil shipments to Afghanistan.

Bihar a hit at International Trade Fair	Telegraphi India https://www.telegraphindia.com/states/bihar/bihar-a-hit-at-international-trade-fair/cid/1675341

Bihar has put up a special pavilion at the 38th International Trade Fair (ITF), which kicked off at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Wednesday, and it is attracting huge crowds.

The pavilion has been designed on the lines of the theme of this year's fair — Rural Enterprises of India.

The state's resident commissioner in New Delhi, Vipin Kumar, inaugurated the pavilion at hall number 12 of the ITF.

"Industry is at the second place after agriculture in Bihar's rural economy and the central government's textile ministry has approved Rs 30 crore for its development," Vipin said. "This money has been used to constitute self-help groups for craftsmen and artists. Five such artists have been given an opportunity to showcase their skills at this trade fair."

Madhubani painting artists Devendra Jha and Saroj Jha have done a painting on 32 panels in 20 days and it has been displayed at the entrance part of the pavilion. Similarly, various colourful paintings and artworks have been displayed to attract visitors to see the artistic legacy of Bihar.

Speaking on the occasion, Upendra Maharathi Shilp Anusandhan Sansthan director Ashok Kumar Sinha said Madhubani paintings and Manjusha paintings made by self-help groups have been given the pride of place in front of the Bihar pavilion.'

"We are showcasing the Tikuli art, terracotta objects and other such specialties from Bihar at the ITF and visitors can see the unique and famous art heritage of the state," Ashok said.

Artists are also working on handicrafts and handloom products at the pavilion. Nitu Sinha, Anukriti Mishra and Suridhi Devi are present, showcasing their skills to visitors.

Already the response of the crowd for this section has been tremendous.

Industries department director Pankaj Kumar Singh was also present on the occasion. The state government will organise Bihar Diwas at the pavilion on November 24.

EU Prepares to Withdraw Cambodia From Trade Scheme	Voacambodia https://www.voacambodia.com/a/eu-prepares-to-withdraw-cambodia-from-trade-scheme/4660258.html

The World Bank has warned that Cambodia's economy will face increased risks if the EU presses ahead with Cambodia's expulsion from the scheme

The European Union, Cambodia's largest export market, is making preparations for the country's expulsion from a preferential trade scheme that guarantees tariff-free access to EU markets for Cambodian goods, according to the EU ambassador.

George Edgar, EU ambassador, said in an email on Tuesday that starting the procedure for removing Cambodia from the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme reflected the concerns in Brussels over the deterioration of human rights and basic freedoms.

“The formal withdrawal procedure for the Everything But Arms arrangement in relation to Cambodia has not yet launched. Preparations are being made for the formal decision by the European Commission that would launch the procedure,” he wrote in an email.

He added that once the decision is formally made, there will be a six-month period during which the EU will study the issue further, followed by a further six month decisionmaking process.

Edgar declined to comment on the possible impact on the garment industry in Cambodia, which supports some 800,000 jobs in Cambodia and whose largest export market is the EU, with about 46 percent of Cambodian textile exports going to Europe. Garment exporters in Cambodia have appealed to the EU not to remove Cambodia from the scheme.

The World Bank has warned that Cambodia’s economy will face increased risks if the EU presses ahead with Cambodia’s expulsion from the scheme.

Moody’s credit rating agency has estimated that the potential loss to the Cambodian economy from the cancellation of the EBA would negatively affect the country’s credit rating and would harm Cambodia’s competitiveness.

Phay Siphan, government spokesman, said the country’s strong growth would counter the potential loss as a result of its removal from the EBA scheme.

“We are ready for the tax increase,” he said. “Wages are guaranteed by the law in Cambodia.”

FDI firms help boost Vietnam’s trade surplus high	**Vietnam Express** https://e.vnexpress.net/news/business/data-speaks/fdi-firms-help-boost-vietnam-s-trade-surplus-high-3839569.html

Vietnam’s Jan-Oct trade surplus was the highest in eight years at $7.2 billion. FDI firms dominated this performance.

The January- October trade surplus of $7.2 billion was a significant increase over last year, when Vietnam had a trade deficit of $2 billion, according to Vietnam Customs.

Both exports and imports posted double-digit year-on-year growth. Exports were worth over $202 billion, up 15.2 percent, while imports were worth $194.8 billion, up 12.4 percent.

Most of the export value was created by foreign direct investment (FDI) businesses, contributing $142.8 billion, or

70.7 percent of total export value, up 14.9 percent year-on-year

However, experts and lawmakers have constantly expressed concerns that Vietnam was overly dependent on foreign businesses. Tran Anh Tuan, acting-principal of the HCMC Institute for Development Studies, said most foreign companies import materials from home countries to manufacture in Vietnam, taking advantage of the cheap labor costs to export.

"Vietnam can only gain low added value in this process. Foreign firms' high exports and imports only benefit other economies, not Vietnam," he said.

Truong Trong Nghia, a HCMC deputy of the National Assembly, said that major foreign companies were still dominating exports, and this could hurt Vietnam.

With FDI businesses accounting for over 70 percent of total exports, Vietnam will suffer when they leave the country, he said.

Other experts proposed that Vietnam pays more attention to local companies and help them improve their export capabilities.'

Nghia asked: "What will the economy be left with when these companies are gone?"

Vietnam's top three export items in the first 10 months remained phone components, textiles and electronics, all of which are mostly manufactured by FDI firms

Phone export value grew 12.6 percent year-on-year to $41.4 billion, with imports to the biggest buyer, the EU, growing 9.5 percent year-on-year

Textile exports increased 17.1 percent to $25.1 billion with the U.S. leading the buyers' list with imports of $11.4 billion, up 12.3 percent year-on-year.

Electronics, the third largest export item, went up 15.8 percent to $24.42 billion. China was the largest importer in this category with purchases worth $6.9 billion, up 28.1 percent year-on-year.'

New report highlights problems for emerging Europe post-Brexit	**Emerging Europe** https://emerging-europe.com/news/new-report-highlights-problems-for-emerging-europe-post-brexit/

A major new report from Dutch bank ING has suggested that while the implications of Brexit will be profound for the whole of Europe, the UK's exit from the European Union will be especially felt in emerging Europe. The automotive and textile industries, as well as agriculture, are likely to suffer the most.

According to the report, Central Europe and Brexit: Who and what is most at risk? the automotive sector is the crown jewel of the Hungarian export sector and friction with the UK would hurt. While Czech exports to the UK represented only five per cent of total exports in 2017, the concentration in motor vehicles is more important – with the UK representing around seven per cent of total Czech car exports. This makes the UK the second biggest car export destination after Germany. Meanwhile, electrical, machinery and transport equipment comprise around 50 per cent of Romanian exports to the UK.

The sector that arguably faces the biggest challenge is agriculture and food, particularly in the case of a 'no deal' Brexit. Food products, particularly meat-based, are the most heavily scrutinised items at borders. Neither Dover nor Calais, both major entry/exit ports for UK-EU trade, have the necessary veterinary inspection points needed to carry out these checks, risking long delays if there is no deal by March.

Across the region, 170,000 jobs in farming, fishing and food manufacturing are directly exposed to UK export demand. The dominant commodities are chocolate, meat products and vegetables. Polish agricultural and processed food exports to the UK amount to approximately 1.4 billion euro annually.

If the UK leaves the EU without a deal in March, Britain will automatically begin trading on World Trade Organisation (WTO) terms. It does have the alternative of choosing the 'Canada-plus' route, negotiating a new free trade agreement with the EU. However this would only come in to effect in 2021.

After Germany, Britain is the largest export market for Poland and maintains a trade surplus of over eight billion euros with the UK.

Then there are migrants to consider. The report notes that: "Polish workers enjoyed the first wave of EU enlargement in 2004 and look more likely to receive 'settled status' in the UK after Brexit. The same may not be true for Romanians, where full access to the labour market was only granted in 2014."

In addition there is still a huge void when it comes to the effect Brexit will have on the trade in services. This sector could be impacted by a loss of market access to specialists, not to mention the impact on sharing of data. There is also an issue on the free movement of people in the services sector.

However, one of the biggest blows for emerging Europe will be the impact on the 2021-27 EU budget. At present six per cent of the budget is provided by the UK.

"The indirect impact could be bigger, however. The UK's departure will see average GDP per capita levels decline in the EU, depriving some countries of funds as their GDP per capita levels rise above the new EU average. This could impact the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria," explains the report. Which means funding to those countries could be cut.

"We should not underestimate the impact Brexit could have on supply chains in the CEE region and the key sectors exposed which may suffer the biggest disruption. In terms of the financial implications, Romania may be more exposed from a decline in remittances than Poland, since the Polish presence in the UK workforce is more mature. Even though the loss of the UK's budget contribution is meaningful, the bigger impact may come from the decline in the average GDP per capita level in the EU. This and fresh priorities will have profound implications for the 2021-27 budget round, potentially delivering over 20 per cent declines in real terms for the likes of the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary," concludes the report.

Italy, Uzbekistan mull co-op in several spheres	**Azer News** https://www.azernews.az/region/140972.html

On Nov. 14, 2018, Uzbek Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Sahib Saifnazarov met with Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy Manlio Di Stefano, Uzbek media reported quoting the press service of the Uzbek Ministry of Foreign Trade.

The sides exchanged views on the state and prospects of bilateral trade and economic relations.

The Uzbek side proposed to jointly develop the institute of the Uzbek-Italian intergovernmental working group, as well as holding business forums and exhibitions to establish and strengthen relations between representatives of the business circles of the two countries.

Manlio Di Stefano noted that Italy can offer many opportunities for cooperation in a number of spheres, including the textile industry, fruit and vegetable processing, tourism, information technology and communications, telemedicine and other areas;.