

Economy

- ✦ The annual rate of **inflation**, stood at 12.72 percent for the week ended 20/11/2010 (over 21/11/2009) as compared to 13.38 percent for the previous week (ended 13/11/2010).
- ✦ **Q2 GDP growth at 8.9%** vs 8.7% YoY
- ✦ **Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of 7.0%** in October 2010 compared to 3.9% registered in October 2009. During April-October 2010-11, six core industries registered a growth of 4.5% as against 4.5% during the corresponding period of the previous year.
- ✦ **Capital requirement of Public Sector Banks:** The Cabinet approved to provide an additional amount of Rs. 6000 crore, in addition to the Rs. 15000 crore already provided in the Budget 2010-11, to ensure Tier I CRAR (Capital to Risk Weighted Assets) of all Public Sector Banks (PSBs) at 7% and also to raise Government of India holding in all PSBs to 58%. It also approved that the exact amount, mode of capitalization and other terms and conditions would be decided in consultation with the banks at the time of infusion.
- ✦ After three weeks of losses, **the Sensex** ended this week with a gain of 830 points or 4.3% on the back of robust economy news.
- ✦ **Coal Resources in the Country:** As per the latest National Inventory on Indian Coal Resources by GSI, as on 1.4.2010, the total coal resources assessed are about 276.81041 billion tones of which about 110 billion tones or 40% are proved reserves. The extractable reserves are estimated to be around 55 billion tones. At the current level of production of about 550 million tonnes per annum, the extractable reserves of coal in the country would last for about 100 years. However, the extractable reserves will increase as more coal reserves come into proved category. Besides this coal is also imported, the import of coal in 2009-10 increased from 59,003 mts. In 2008-09 to 73,255 mts. i.e. an increase of 14,252 mts. The extent of increase in import of coal during 2008-09 over the previous year was 9,209 mts.
- ✦ **Setting up of Commission for Judicial Reforms:** The government has, in principle, decided to set up a "National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms", which inter-alia, propose to undertake strategic initiatives to reduce the period of pendency in the courts from an average of 15 years to an average of three years by 2012.

Agriculture

- ✦ **Prices of Onions being Monitored , Prices Show Declining Trends in Nasik:** As per information compiled by NAFED, the wholesale prices of onion in Maharashtra (Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon mandis) as on 1.12.2010 are ruling between Rs.200 to Rs. 2850 per qtl. with modal rate of Rs.1200 per qtl (new crop) and Rs.1100 per qtl to 2929 per qtl. with modal rate of Rs.2000 per qtl. (old crop) out of total arrivals of 11200 qtls. Market rate of FAQ and above onion is in between Rs.1600 to Rs.1800 for new onion and Rs.2600 to Rs.2800 for old onion. The arrival of onion has increased in Delhi. This would result in further stabilizing the prices.
- ✦ The total loan amount disbursed to **farmers** during 2010-11 (April, 2010 to August, 2010) by Public Sector commercial banks is Rs.86, 284.70 crore.
- ✦ **New Guidelines for Micro Irrigation** released likely to encourage investment, improve water use efficiency
- ✦ **Higher Allocation of Funds to Agriculture Sector:** An amount of Rs. 87,339 crore has been allocated for the Ministry of Agriculture during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- ✦ **Cotton Acreage up:** The area under cultivation of cotton has increased from 91.32 lakh ha. in 2001-02 to 110.00 lakh ha. in 2010-11 (1st Advance Estimates). The area coverage under cotton in the country during current year is estimated at about 110.00 lakh ha. with production of 335.00 lakh bales (1st advance estimates) which will be a record and is expected to capitalise to make a mark in the world cotton production and export. It has been estimated that there is reduction of about 39% in pesticide use due to the introduction of Bt. Cotton. The area under cotton before introduction of Bt. Cotton was 91.32 lakh ha in 2001-02 which has increased to 110.00 lakh ha during 2010-11 (1st advance estimates)
- ✦ As per the fourth advance estimates of production of foodgrains for 2009-10, released by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, estimated wheat production in the country during 2009-10 (Rabi Marketing Season 2010-11) is 80.71 million tonne. With this level of production, together with the opening balance of 16.12 million tonne of wheat in the Central pool, as on 1.4.2010, availability of wheat in the country is more than the estimated requirements. Therefore **lower global production of wheat is not likely to affect domestic availability of wheat.**
- ✦ **Sugar Production Adequate to Meet Domestic Demand:** The provisional estimated sugar production of about 245 lakh tonne alongwith the provisional estimated carry over stock of about 51 lakh tonne from last sugar season 2009-10 is adequate to meet the estimated domestic demand of about 225 – 230 lakh tonne during the current sugar season 2010-11 in the country.
- ✦ **The Government has decided to make available 17.08 lakh tonne of** sugar (levy sugar - 2.08 lakh tonne and non-levy sugar - 15.00 lakh tonne) for the month of December, 2010



Telecom

✚ Telephone Subscriber Base Reaches 723.28 Million on 30th September 2010, Overall **Tele-Density reaches 60.99**, Broadband Subscription is 10.29 Million

✚ TRAI Issues **Unsolicited Commercial Communications Regulations, 2010**. Regulations to take effect from 1st January, 2011 : No Commercial Communication between 9.00 PM To 9.00 AM

Environment

✚ A new report from the World Bank released outlines how residents of cities are responsible for as much as 80% of **global greenhouse gas emissions** while at the same time facing significant impacts from climate change

✚ **FAO: Funding gaps for climate change adaptation a threat to food supplies: More financing for climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing world agriculture needed**

✚ **Forest and Tree Cover Shows a Net** gain of 728 Km² in forest cover and 1,106 Km² in tree cover.

✚ **Increase in Mangrove Forest Cover:** As per the State of Forest Report 2009, published by Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover which was 4581 km² in 2005, has increased to 4639 km² in 2007, i.e. there has been a net increase of 58 km² in mangrove cover of the country.

✚ **13th Finance Commission has provided Grants-in-Aid of Rs.5000 crores:** States suffer loss of revenues because of ban on felling of trees due to ecological and environmental reasons. To compensate such losses of revenue to various State/UT Governments, the 13th Finance Commission has provided Grants-in-Aid of Rs.5000 crores for a period of five year from 2010-11 to 2014-15.

Trade

✚ **India-Ethiopia Trade Touches US \$ 272 Million – Potential to Further Increase Bilateral Trade:** Anand Sharma – Meets Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia

✚ **India's exports** during October, 2010 were valued at US \$ 17960 million (Rs. 79763 crore) which was 21.3 per cent higher in Dollar terms (15.3 per cent higher in Rupee terms) than the level of US \$ 14806 million (Rs.69175 crore) during October, 2009.

✚ **India's imports** during October, 2010 were valued at US \$ 27689 million (Rs.122970 crore) representing a growth of 6.8 per cent in Dollar terms (1.5 per cent in Rupee terms) over the level of imports valued at US \$ 25936 million (Rs. 121175 crore) in October, 2009.

✚ The **trade deficit** for April - October, 2010 was estimated at US \$ 72774 million which was higher than the deficit of US \$ 58311 million during April -October, 2009.

Notifications,
ITAT

✚ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Department of Revenue has issued a Notification No.99/2010-Customs (N.T.) dated November 30, 2010 and thereby notifying tariff **values of edible oils, brass scrap (all grades) and Poppy seeds**

✚ **U/s 80-IA(9), s. 80-IA deduction to be reduced for s 80HHC deduction:** Great Eastern Exports vs. CIT (Delhi High Court)

✚ **Interest on NPA not assessable on "accrual" basis:** CIT vs. Vasisth Chay Vyapar (Delhi High Court)

