



Public Finance

FinMin pays 14 States ₹7,183 cr. in deficit grant

The Finance Ministry released the sixth instalment of revenue deficit grant of ₹7,183 crore to 14 States for the current fiscal. The Department of Expenditure has on Tuesday released the 6th monthly instalment of Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of ₹7,183.42 crore to 14 States, the Ministry said in a statement. *(The Hindu)*

Nirmala Sitharaman makes the case for inflation management being a Centre-state responsibility

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that bringing inflation down cannot be the sole responsibility of the Centre and that states play a critical role in management of prices. She made the case for inflation management being a collective responsibility of both the Centre and states specially in reference to prices of fuel. She said that the Centre twice brought down taxes on fuel thereby reducing the prices but onus is on states also to follow suit. *(The Economic Times)*

India's external debt rises 8.2 pc to USD 620.7 bn till Mar 2022

According to the finance ministry, India's external debt increased by 8.2 percent year on year to USD 620.7 billion as of March 2022. According to the ministry's status report on India's external debt, while 53.2 percent of it was denominated in US dollars, Indian rupee-denominated debt, estimated at 31.2 percent, was the second largest. *(The Economic Times)*

Centre spent Rs 5 lakh crore on MGNREGA scheme in 8 years: Nirmala Sitharaman

The Centre has spent Rs 5 lakh crore on MGNREGA scheme during the past eight years, out of which 20 per cent was spent during the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said. *(The Economic Times)*

Offer freebies only if you can bear the burden: FM to States

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent observations on freebies triggering a nationwide debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has asserted that political parties should justify their freebies and show the States' abilities to bear the burden. *(BusinessLine)*

Centre may cap upcoming first green bond issues at Rs 25,000 crore

The Union finance ministry is putting finishing touches to its framework to issue 'green bonds' in the second half of the fiscal year, as part of its H2 borrowing of Rs 5.86 trillion. Initially, green bond issuances will only be a few tranches of its weekly government securities offerings and may not exceed more than Rs 25,000 crore. *(Business Standard)*

States' borrowing cost eases for third week in a row, dips to 7.52%

States breathed easy in the debt market as the average cut-off on their market borrowings dipped sharply to 7.52 per cent, down 15 basis points from last week to the lowest level since mid-May. *(Business Standard)*

Finance Ministry to kick-start budgetary exercise from October 10

The finance ministry will kick-start the exercise to prepare the annual budget for 2023-24 from October 10 in the backdrop of revival of the Indian economy and fears of recession in developed countries. *(Business Standard)*



Taxation

India issues income tax refunds worth Rs 1.14 lakh crore in April-August

India's Income Tax Department said Saturday it has issued refunds worth over Rs 1.14 lakh crore to more than 1.97 crore taxpayers in the first five months of this fiscal year that started Apr. 1. Income tax refunds of Rs. 61,252 crore have been issued in 1,96,00,998 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs. 53,158 crore have been issued in 1,46,871 cases," the Income Tax Department tweeted. *(The Economic Times)*

Over 1.55 lakh updated ITRs filed in May-September

Over 1.55 lakh updated income tax returns (ITR-U) have been filed up to September 2, the income tax department said on Sunday. The income tax department had in May this year notified a form for filing updated income tax returns (ITRs). The taxpayer will have to pay an additional amount over and above the due tax while filing ITR-U. *(Financial Express)*

GST officers can launch prosecution in cases of over Rs 5 cr tax evasion

GST officers can now launch prosecution against offenders in cases where the amount of evasion or misuse of input tax credit is more than Rs 5 crore, the Finance Ministry has said. However, this monetary threshold will not be applicable in the case of habitual evaders or in cases where arrests have been made at the time of investigation. *(Business Standard)*

August GST collection crosses Rs 1.43 lakh crore – 28% increase since last year

The Goods and Services Tax revenue collection for August stood at Rs 1,43,612 crore, 28% higher for the same month last year, the Union finance ministry said on Thursday. The tax revenue has been above Rs 1.40 lakh crore for six months. However, August's collections are lower than July's Rs 1.49 lakh crore. The highest monthly GST collection of Rs 1.67 lakh crore was recorded in April. *(scroll.in)*

Industry hails decision to separate gaming from gambling, horse racing

In July, the GST Council announced a 28 per cent tax on the industry, which experts and companies largely agreed to. Currently, an 18 per cent tax is applicable on the gross gaming revenue (GGR). The Group of Ministers (GoM) set up in May to review Goods and Services Tax (GST) on online gaming, gambling, and horse racing, on Monday, decided that gaming would not be clubbed with gambling, and horse racing. Industry experts have hailed the decision. *(Business Standard)*

Govt hikes windfall profit tax on export of diesel, ATF; raises tax on domestic crude oil

The government has hiked the windfall profit tax on the export of diesel to ₹13.5 per litre and jet fuel exports to ₹9 a litre, besides raising the levy on domestically-produced crude oil in line with the hardening of global prices. (*BusinessLine*)



National Accounts and State of the Economy

India, 7% plus annual growth, and the realities

The National Statistical Office's real GDP growth estimate of 13.5% for the first quarter of 2022-23 is 2.7% compared to the pre-COVID-19 GDP level of ₹35.5 lakh crore in 1Q of 2019-20, real GDP at ₹36.9 lakh crore shows an increase of only 3.8%. This indicates that the performance of the Indian economy is not fully normalised yet which would be consistent with a growth of 6.5% to 7%. In order at least to reach an annual growth of 7%, GDP may have to grow at about 5% in 3Q and 4Q of 2022-23. (*The Hindu*)

View: India's fast GDP growth doesn't mean it's ready for takeoff

Over the past three years, in fact, GDP in India has grown just over 3% — and less than 4% since the last quarter before the pandemic. This financial year — which will end in March 2023 — is unlikely to break any records: Most now expect that real growth will not reach 7% even off a low base. (*The Economic Times*)

India set to become the third largest economy by 2029: SBI

After surpassing the UK as the fifth largest economy, India is likely to get the tag of the third largest economy by 2029, according to an assessment by the State Bank of India's Economic Research Department (ERD). This is a movement of seven places upwards since 2014 when India was ranked the 10th largest economy. (*BusinessLine*)

India in much better position to deal with growth, inflation challenges: CII President Sanjiv Bajaj

India is in a much better position to deal with the challenges related to growth and inflation, said Sanjiv Bajaj, President of industry body CII. India's retail inflation continues to remain above the Reserve Bank's tolerance level of 6 per cent since January, while the economic growth in the first quarter of the fiscal was 13.5 per cent, lower than the central bank's estimate of 16.2 per cent. (*The Economic Times*)

Is there room for optimism on the GDP front?

How is one to interpret the GDP numbers for Q1 FY23? A 13.5 per cent growth is quite impressive. However, when one considers that in Q1-FY22 there was a semi-lockdown in the country, when services in particular faced considerable restrictions, the enthusiasm is moderate. Also, it should be remembered that 2020 was a lockdown year, especially in the first quarter when there was virtually no economic activity in several sectors in the first two months. (*BusinessLine*)

Q1 GDP growth below expectation, cause for concern: Ex-RBI gov Subbarao

India's GDP growth of 13.5 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2022-23 has turned out to be a cause for 'disappointment and concern', as there was expectation of a bigger bounce

back from the first quarter of last year when economic activity was crippled by the Delta wave of COVID-19, former RBI governor D Subbarao said on Sunday. *(Business Standard)*

Working on road map to advanced economy, says FM Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that while the necessary stimulus for growth would continue, her ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would work on a pathway to maintain the growth momentum for the next 25 years in order to make India an advanced economy. *(Business Standard)*

With inflation manageable, priority now is job creation, wealth distribution: FM

Inflation is down to manageable levels and now job creation and the equitable distribution of wealth are the priority over price rise, said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. These remarks come at a time when retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) dropped to 6.7 per cent in July after touching a record high of 7.8 per cent in April. *(BusinessLine)*

Moody's retains India rating and outlook, days after cutting GDP forecast

Days after Moody's cut its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for financial year 2022-23 (FY23) after the official GDP print for the June quarter came in lower than expectations, the global ratings agency said it will maintain its long-term sovereign debt credit rating and outlook on Asia's third largest economy. *(Business Standard)*

HDI: India slips to 132nd rank mainly on Covid impact

India slipped two slots to rank 132 out of 191 countries in the latest Human Development Index (HDI) report released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2020 India was ranked 130. However, UNDP says the rankings are not comparable as in 2020, the HDI was measured for 189 countries while this year it is for 191 nations. *(BusinessLine)*

Govt panel to review local gas pricing formula to tame inflation: Report

India has set up a panel to review the pricing formula for locally produced gas to ensure "fair price to the end consumer", according to a government order seen by Reuters, a move aimed at lowering inflation and boosting use of the cleaner fuel. *(Mint)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

'Think of the worst': RBI Governor Das nudges banks to raise capital

Given the uncertainties surrounding the global financial environment, domestic banks should raise more capital in order to be prepared for the worst-case scenarios, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday. *(Business Standard)*

Comply with digital lending norms for existing loans by Nov 30: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday said that regulated entities engaged in credit delivery through digital lending will have time till November 30 to comply with the lending norms for existing digital loans. However, for new and existing customers availing fresh loans, these norms will be applicable immediately. *(Business Standard)*

1-year median MCLR rise moderates in August, up 40 bps since June

The rise in one-year median marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) of commercial banks moderated to 10 basis points (bps) in August from a hike of 15 bps in July. It has risen 40 bps since June. This comes on the back of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raising the repo rate by 140 bps to 5.4 per cent in the current tightening cycle. *(Business Standard)*

RBI is anchoring expectations on rupee weakness, says Shaktikanta Das

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) interventions in the foreign exchange market are not just aimed at preventing excessive volatility in the rupee but also to anchor expectations around the depreciation of the domestic currency, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Monday. *(Business Standard)*

RBI taking up pilot project for end-to-end digitalisation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) lending to simplify rural finance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced taking up a pilot project for end-to-end digitalisation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) lending, developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH). The decision has been taken to eliminate the challenges associated with rural finance in India. *(The Economic Times)*

Public sector banks to open 316 branches in financial inclusion drive

Public sector banks (PSBs) are targeting to open around 363 brick and mortar branches by December 2022 to scale up Prime Minister Narendra Modi's financial inclusion drive by covering villages with a population over 3,000 and within 5 km radius. *(Business Standard)*

Digital lending norms: Fintech firms seek clarity on RBI's FLDG stance

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) stance on first loss default guarantee (FLDG) in the recently-released digital lending norms has put fintech players, who use this model extensively, in a spot of bother. *(Business Standard)*

Govt, RBI propose action plan for facilitating special rupee accounts

The Centre, along with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has prepared an action plan for facilitation of special rupee accounts for trade settlements. This includes nudging banks and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to reach out to foreign banks for opening such vostro accounts. Banks have also been asked to process over 115 proposals at the earliest, and to remain cautious while dealing with Russian banks. *(Business Standard)*

CBDC to bring down time, cost for cross-border transactions: RBI Deputy Guv

Central bank digital currency (CBDC), to be launched this year, could become a tool for reducing time and cost for cross-border transactions, Reserve Bank Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said on Wednesday. *(Business Standard)*

Take lead on crypto regulation: finance minister to IMF MD

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman urged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to take the lead in regulating crypto assets and defining a globally coordinated approach on the matter. The issue was raised during a meeting with IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva in New Delhi on Wednesday. *(Mint)*

Blind adoption of new fintech could have an adverse impact: RBI ED

While new technologies such as artificial intelligence and block chain bring much benefit in the financial sector a blind adoption of technological innovation without understanding its biases and limitations could be counterproductive, said Ajay K Choudhary, executive director (ED) of Reserve Bank of India. *(Business Standard)*

Digital lending norms aim to protect customer interest: RBI's Rao

The Reserve Bank of India's recent norms on digital lending aim to strike a balance between innovation and inclusion while ensuring that regulatory arbitrage is not exploited to the detriment of customer interest, said Deputy Governor M Rajeshwar Rao. *(Business Standard)*



External Sector

Trade data flags testing time for goods exports

India's merchandise exports shrank 1.15% year-on-year in August to \$33 billion, while inelastic imports of petroleum and coal continued to climb, lifting imports above the \$60 billion mark for the sixth successive month. The country's goods trade deficit moderated slightly sequentially from the record \$30 billion in July, but remained the second highest on record at \$28.68 billion, and widened sharply from the \$11.7 billion in August 2021. *(The Hindu)*

RBI releases 'alert list' of 34 entities barred from forex trades

After receiving repeated enquiries on the authorisation status of certain electronic trading platforms for foreign exchange transactions, the Reserve Bank of India has released a list of entities that are not authorised to undertake such trades. *(Business Standard)*

Forex reserves, cushion against external shocks

India has a six-sided buffer, including a favourable growth differential, lower inflation than a large number of its trading partners, a forex reserve cushion and a sound banking system built around its economy, which every financial market participant must keep in mind, said Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das. *(BusinessLine)*

India's current account deficit to triple: Nomura Research house expects CAD to rise to 3.5% of GDP this fiscal year

Brokerage Nomura expects India's current account deficit (CAD) as a share of the gross domestic product to triple this fiscal year, saying that a global economic slowdown will further skew the country's trade imbalances. *(BusinessLine)*

5 mt Indian sugar export deals likely in first tranche after govt lifts curbs

Indian exporters will likely enter into deals to ship out at least five million tonnes (mt) of sugar once the Centre lifts the 10 mt cap imposed on shipments for the current sugar season to September 30. The export prospects are despite the International Sugar Organization (ISO) estimating higher production and ending stocks during the 2022-23 season starting October 1. *(BusinessLine)*

FPIs raise their bearish bets on Indian markets

Even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pumped in close to ₹45,000 crore in the equity markets in the last three weeks of August, they have once again turned sharply negative on India's stock markets. FPI net short position in index derivatives, comprising mainly of Nifty and Bank Nifty index, touched nearly 85,000 contracts on September 2, which is the third largest bearish bet on the Indian markets since March 2022 Covid pandemic, the data curated by Indiacharts shows. *(BusinessLine)*

Indian traders continue to warm up to Russian steel imports

India is emerging as one of the larger importers of Russian steel over the last few months. Cheaper offerings over Indian-finished steel has been the prime draw for traders. Orders of around 300,000 tonnes of steel have been placed with most of the deliveries scheduled in September. *(BusinessLine)*

As exports decline, Steel Ministry seeks details from industry to reconsider duty policy

The Steel Ministry has sought a detailed presentation and additional information from the industry on various issues relating to exports, that include product categories that have been impacted post imposition of duty and also the future demand outlook of the commodity. *(BusinessLine)*

Creative economy accounts for \$121 bn of exports in 2019

India's creative economy comprising arts and crafts, audio and video arts and design among others accounted for exports of goods and services worth \$121 billion in 2019, according to a paper by the Exim Bank of India. *(The Economic Times)*

China becomes a trouble spot for Indian hair exporters

China is becoming a trouble spot for Indian hair exporters though it accounts for 80 per cent of Indian hair exports. Payment of Rs 300 crore is stuck in China against their exports and exporters are uncertain when they will be reimbursed. Additionally, the buyers from China are also putting pressure on Indian exporters to ship hair at a 40 per cent discount. This will put pressure on the margins of the exporters who sells hair at an average price of \$150-\$200 per kg. *(The Economic Times)*

Tea exports during current first half rises to 96.89 million kg

Exports of tea during the first six months January to June 2022 has increased to 96.89 million kg as compared to 86.46 million kg in the similar previous period. According to Tea Board data, the largest importer traditionally has been the CIS block where exports had slightly fallen to 20.58 million kg during the current six months against 21.04 million kg in the previous period of 2021. *(The Economic Times)*

Revvig exports to America keeps India in race to be next China

India, believed by many to have the potential to become the next China, is finally making headway in the exports market as it broke into the top 5 suppliers of Christmas decorative items and t-shirts to the US. Sea-borne shipments of festival goods and accessories to America touched \$20 million last month, almost triple the value from the year-ago period, according to US customs data. *(The Economic Times)*

India's trade worries grow as exports contract marginally, imports surge

The concerns over India's widening trade deficit and its impact on the broader economy have increased due to a marginal contraction in exports coupled with a continuing surge in the country's import bill through the month of August. The government on Saturday released preliminary data that showed India's exports fell by 1.15 per cent year-on-year to USD 33 billion in August, while imports rose 36.8 per cent to USD 61.7 billion. *(The Economic Times)*

China's zero-Covid policy hits India's diamond exports

The China lockdown and Beijing's zero-Covid policy have started to impact India's exports of cut and polished diamonds, which fell for the first time this fiscal year in July. Exports of these stones fell 13.45% from a year earlier to \$1,933.32 million in July, as demand was muted from China, the second largest buyer of India's cut and polished diamonds after the US. *(The Economic Times)*

Foreign fund inflows in Indian stocks highest after 20 months in August

Foreign portfolio investors have infused Rs 51,204 crore into the Indian equity segment in the month of August, their highest investments in 20 months, data from the National Securities Depository (NSDL) showed. Meanwhile, FPIs have turned net buyers in Indian equity markets for two consecutive months through August and helped domestic indices to stay buoyant. *(ThePrint)*

India's merchandise exports jump 17 per cent to \$192 billion in April-August

India's merchandise exports rose by 17.1 per cent year-on-year to \$192 billion in the first five months of the current financial year, Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam said on 03 September 2022. *(ThePrint)*

India, Bangladesh to begin FTA talks this year

India and Bangladesh have decided to start negotiations this year on a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement—a free trade agreement in goods, services, investments and other related areas. *(BusinessLine)*

New Foreign Trade Policy to turn spotlight on IT-enablement, e-comm, R&D, export hubs

The new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), which will come with a vision statement that will set the road-map for future export growth, is set to be announced by the month-end, but a decision on its duration—whether full-term, mid-term or even shorter—is yet to be taken, sources tracking the matter have said. *(BusinessLine)*

For India, countertrade holds promise

In a world characterised by heightened uncertainties and greater volatility, countries are increasingly looking at countertrade as a tool for meeting developmental needs, securing key resources, saving scarce foreign exchange reserves and circumventing sanctions. *(BusinessLine)*

Software service exports rose 17% to \$156.7 b in FY22

India's exports of software services (excluding exports through commercial presence) are estimated to have increased by 17.2 per cent to \$156.7 billion during 2021-22. *(BusinessLine)*

What's Delaying Re Trade with Russia? RBI, GoI Want to Know

The India-Russia trade deal is turning out to be a tale of 'who will bell the cat'. Banks want the regulator and the government to give a clear guidance that would shield them from any action by the US authorities. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt to help co-ops brand, export goods

The Central government is going to set up a multistate export house that will enable cooperatives to brand and export items, said Cooperatives Minister Amit Shah, as per a statement released by Ministry of Cooperation on Thursday. *(Mint)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Agriculture education needs to be repurposed

The advancement of technology, emergence of sunrise areas and the risks posed by climate change in agriculture have necessitated greater extension support to farmers for efficient integration with agricultural value chains (AVCs) to maximise farm incomes and adoption of risk-mitigating, climate smart agricultural practices. *(BusinessLine)*

Farming needs overhaul to survive climate change

The effects of the climate crisis are a study in contrast — flooded roads in IT city Bengaluru on the one hand and the parched earth of drought-affected Banka of Bihar on the other. Climate crisis threatens our food security. This year, record-breaking heat waves trimmed wheat output by 3 per cent; now, large rice-growing tracts are staring at a shortfall of crops due to insufficient rainfall. *(BusinessLine)*

Normal monsoon drives August FMCG sales up nearly 7% in rural areas: Bizom

Demand for fast-moving consumer goods in rural India grew 6.7 per cent in value in August, while urban areas registered a value growth of 5.5 per cent over July, as consumption in rural areas increased due to normal and above normal monsoons in most parts of the country, according to data by Bizom. *(Business Standard)*

Rural Indians join rush to study overseas as prospects dim at home

Many are applying for short courses in Canada and Australia driven by increasingly bleak job prospects at home and as Western governments loosen immigration requirements. *(Business Standard)*

Wake up to the continuing distress in rural India

A preliminary reading of the data of the last four years corroborates evidence from other sources of a deepening of rural distress. While overall employment has indeed increased, the sectors and population groups which have seen an increase in employment suggest that a large part of the employment growth may be distress-driven. *(Mint)*

Govt imposes 20% export duty on non-Basmati rice from Sept 9

The government on Thursday imposed a 20 per cent export duty on non-Basmati rice except for parboiled rice to boost domestic supplies amid a fall in area under the paddy crop in the current Kharif season. *(Business Standard)*

Why India remains a marginal player in global fruit and veggie market

India is one of the world's foremost producers of several fruits and vegetables such as mangoes, bananas, potatoes, and onions. But its performance when it comes to exports or capturing the global markets has been woeful. *(Business Standard)*

Bihar grappling with low attendance in rural schools, colleges

Enrolment of students in Bihar's rural schools has increased but a steep fall in attendance, especially in the Magadh division, has become worrisome for the administration, officials said on Wednesday. Besides, a declining turnout of students is also a problem in government-run colleges in rural Bihar, they said. *(ThePrint)*

Paddy cultivation sees decline

The trend of decrease in paddy sowing has continued even as the monsoon season in northern India is in its last legs. According to the data released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Friday, the decrease in the area of paddy cultivation is 22.90 lakh hectares, 5.62% less than the area covered in 2021. *(The Hindu)*

Nano urea fast-tracked for approval despite incomplete trials

Nano-urea, a product developed by the Indian Farmers and Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) and heavily advertised by government as panacea to reduce farmer dependence on packaged urea is yet to be fully tested despite having been fast tracked for commercial application. *(The Hindu)*

PM Kisan scheme | '21 lakh farmers chosen in Uttar Pradesh found ineligible'

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, 21 lakh farmers selected in Uttar Pradesh have been found ineligible in a probe, State Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi said on September 7. The amount given to those ineligible farmers so far under the scheme will be recovered from them, the minister added. *(The Hindu)*

Govt sets 2022-23 grain production target at 328 mt, up 4% on year

The government on Wednesday set a food grain production target of 328 million tonne (mt) for the 2022-23 crop year (July-June) which is 4% more than a record foodgrain output of 315.7 mt in the previous year. Out of the total grain production, rabi crops such as wheat, mustard and chana (gram) would contribute 164.8 mt in 2022-23 crop year. Rabi crops are sown in the winter months of December-January and harvested from April onwards. *(Financial Express)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

India to emerge as 6th largest insurance market by 2032

India will emerge as the sixth largest insurance market by 2032, Jérôme Jean Haegeli, Group Chief Economist, Swiss Re said on Thursday. Currently, India is ranked tenth largest in the global listing of countries by insurance premium volumes. The expected rise in rankings for India will be on the back of likely 14 per cent compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) in insurance premiums over the next decade. *(BusinessLine)*

Draft electricity policy: Power sector should create long-term coal requirement plan

The draft National Electricity Plan proposes that the power sector should prepare a long-term plan providing an estimate of its coal consumption requirements and inform the Coal Ministry, Railways and Ports of the same. *(BusinessLine)*

Services PMI accelerates in Aug; job creation strongest in 14 years

India's services activity accelerated in August from a four-month low in July on the back of strong growth in new orders and upturn in business activity. The sector saw the strongest increase in job creation in over 14 years. *(Business Standard)*

Realising India's wind energy potential

What Mukesh Ambani does today, the government and the rest of the country will do tomorrow, it seems. Even as the Central Government takes its first, tentative steps towards developing its hitherto untapped offshore wind energy potential, energy behemoth Reliance Industries Ltd is already moving to set up a captive 5 MW offshore plant off the Gujarat coast. *(BusinessLine)*

5 ways to transform electronics industry

A report 'Globalise to Localise', released on August 29, makes bold recommendations for increasing electronics exports. It says India should allow duty-free import of all inputs and should not insist on any local value addition. Also, India should stop giving any preference based on value addition to local firms in government purchases. *(BusinessLine)*

Is Industry 4.0 teams friendly or will it lead to an increase in organisational conflicts

In the hype surrounding the Industry 4.0 (I4), one tends to lose sight of the serious effects it can have on teamwork. The Covid-19 pandemic sorely tested this age-old concept, which has kept organisations improving efficiencies over the last more than sixty years at least. *(BusinessLine)*

ISRO, Australian Space Agency to boost bilateral collaborations in space tech

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Australian Space Agency (ASA), an entity that is responsible for the development of the country's commercial space sector, have decided to intensify their interactions with a view to developing and growing space technology markets for both India and Australia. *(The Hindu)*

Million jobs needed for India's air quality management, says iFOREST report

India will need to train at least a million people over the next five years for air quality management. This will also create several thousands of jobs in the public and private sector to manage air pollution, according to a report released on Wednesday by the thinktank International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST). *(The Hindu)*

Competitive supply chain ensuring fast turn-around time, catering to rising demand, boosting profitability must for small businesses

Logistics for MSMEs: Emerging technologies can help businesses to equip employees with low-power devices that run powerful analytics to deliver premium services or use augmented reality to streamline warehouse management and operations. *(Financial Express)*

Govt reply sought on plea against HLL disinvestment

The GoI has envisaged the strategic disinvestment of HLL as a whole rather than separately in parts, where Interested Bidders can bid individually or in consortium," the government said in the information memorandum. *(Financial Express)*

Govt drops plan to directly sponsor roads sector InvITs

The road transport and highways ministry has dropped a plan to bring public money into infrastructure development through government-sponsored road and highway sector InvITs, two officials aware of the development said. *(Mint)*

India gives coal-fired plants extra two years to install emissions equipment

India extended a deadline for coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulphur emissions by two years, the government said in a notification on Tuesday, marking the third push back on a commitment to clean up dirty air. *(Mint)*

Receivables of renewable energy companies to shrink 20% in FY23: Crisil

Major renewable energy companies are set to see their receivables reduce a fifth from 180 days a year ago to 140 days as of March 2023, a level last visible pre-covid, according to a report by Crisil. *(Mint)*

India power demand growth rate seen nearly doubling in next five years

India expects annual electricity demand to grow at an average of 7.2% over five years ending March 2027, a draft government plan showed, nearly double the growth rate of over 4% seen during the five years to March 2022. *(Mint)*



News on Kerala

HC seeks ED's view on PSU masala bonds

The Kerala High Court on Friday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to inform the court whether masala bonds issued by any public sector undertakings (PSUs) had been inquired into. Justice V.G. Arun also directed the ED to state its view in this regard in the affidavit to be filed in response to the writ petitions filed by former Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB) Chief Executive Officer K.M. Abraham and Joint Fund Manager Ani Jula Thomas challenging the summons issued by the ED in connection with the issue of masala bonds by the KIIFB. *(The Hindu)*

Growth in GST revenues brings cheer to State

At a time when the Kerala government is expressing dismay over the impact of Central policies on State finances, the growth in Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues should offer some cause for cheer. Compared to 2021-22, GST revenues have shown an encouraging growth in the first five months of the current fiscal, indicate monthly data released by the Union Finance Ministry. Data for August 2022, released on Thursday, show a jump in GST revenues by 26% over August 2021. The tax revenue for the month stood at Rs. 2,036 crore. It was Rs. 1,612 crore in August last year. *(The Hindu)*

Norms issued to local bodies for utilisation of health grants

The Local Self-Government department (LSGD) has issued guidelines to local bodies for the utilisation of grants in the health sector under the 15th Finance Commission. Setting up of urban polyclinics and improvement of facilities at existing primary-care centres are part of the plans. The guidelines focus on decentralising public-health-related activities, which are now being planned at the district level. *(The Hindu)*

Aid extended to all families during Onam: Balagopal

Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal has said that the State government has extended financial assistance to all families in the State in a time-bound manner for Onam. Free Onam food kits have been distributed to around 90 lakh families and social security pension of Rs. 3,200 each has been disbursed to 60 lakh beneficiaries. *(The Hindu)*

KSITIL to incentivise rural BPO/IT ops

The Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) is set to launch a scheme for incentivising the establishment of BPO/IT/ITES operations across panchayats in the State. Under the Fostering Technologies in Rural Area (FOSTeRA) scheme, which is aimed at creating around 10,000 jobs in the sector, up to 50% of expenditure incurred on setting up the operations will be provided to eligible companies, with an upper ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh for every job created. *(The Hindu)*

Wayanad first in NITI Aayog rating

Wayanad has been ranked first in the country in the aspirational districts programme (ADP) of the NITI Aayog in financial inclusion and skill development categories. The district was awarded ₹3 crore by the NITI Aayog for outstanding performance during the first half of the financial year. *(The Hindu)*

GULATI INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND TAXATION
GIFT Campus, Chavadi Mukku,
Sreekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695017
Phone : 0471 2596970, 2596980, 2590880, 2593960
Fax : 0471 2591490
Email : giftkerala@gmail.com



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