



## Public Finance

### **As Karnataka heads for polls, a look at its 5-year fiscal scorecard**

As Karnataka gears up for the assembly poll on May 10, *businessline* analysed the performance of the State economy under the incumbent government through key fiscal indicators. To be fair to the government, the last three fiscal years have been most challenging as Covid-19 ravaged the world. But Karnataka's position as India's IT powerhouse has helped it make the most of the growth in digitally-enabled services during the pandemic. (*BusinessLine*)

### **Centre relaxes guidelines to accelerate Q1 expenditure**

The finance ministry has removed all restrictions and conditions on capital expenditure by ministries, under the centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and grants-in-aid for the creation of capital assets, in the first quarter of the current financial year, in a move aimed at evenly spreading out capex during the year. The guidelines mandate that the release of amounts between Rs 500 crore and Rs 2,000 crore are to be made during the 21st and 25th of a month to take advantage of GST collections. (*Financial Express*)

### **Resources need to be efficiently utilised to make India developed nation: CAG**

Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has emphasised that India's resources have to be efficiently utilised for the country to become a fully developed nation. Speaking at a conclave on the Management Issues in Railway Public Enterprises on Tuesday, he said that India is already the fastest-growing major economy in the world. "It has one of the largest railway networks, which is crucial to the country's overall transport and logistic planning. (*Financial Express*)

### **664,000 families got Rs 13,290 crore under PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana: Nirmala Sitharaman**

On the eighth anniversary of the Jan Suraksha schemes, which also include the Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Sitharaman noted that these schemes aim to provide essential financial services to individuals from underprivileged backgrounds, thereby reducing their financial vulnerability. (*The Economic Times*)

### **Social security schemes safeguard underprivileged from financial vulnerability: FM Sitharaman**

The three schemes are dedicated to the welfare of the citizens, recognising the need for securing human life from unforeseen eventualisation and financial uncertainties. In order to ensure that the people from the unorganised section of the country are financially secure, the government launched two insurance schemes -- PMJJBY and PMSBY; and also introduced APY to cover the exigencies in the old age. (*The Economic Times*)



### **CS exhorts Commercial Taxes dept officials to achieve revenue target set for current fiscal**

Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari exhorted officials of the Commercial Taxes department to intensify their efforts to achieve the target of ₹85,000 crore set for the current financial year with focus on evasion. The Chief Secretary congratulated the officials for their performance during the fiscal of 2022-23. Ms. Santhi Kumari held a review meeting with senior officials and asked them to identify areas which remained uncovered hitherto for augmenting resources. *(The Hindu)*

### **India seeks exemptions for MSMEs from EU's carbon tax**

India is urging the European Union (EU) to enter into a mutual recognition agreement for its carbon certificates and exempt small and medium enterprises in certain sectors from the EU carbon tax, according to a government official. The EU is introducing its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from 1 October, which will translate into a 20-35% tax on select imports from 1 January, 2026. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Karnataka HC quashes Rs 21,000 crore GST notice against Gameskraft, online gaming industry cheers verdict**

The Karnataka High Court Thursday quashed a show cause notice issued by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) to online gaming platform Gameskraft Technologies despite a court stay on a previous tax demand claim of Rs 21,000 crore. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Direct tax buoyancy again falls sub-2% in 2022-23**

It should be noted that direct tax collection figures are still provisional and GDP figures are on the basis of second advance estimates for 2022-23. The actual figures may change the outcome slightly. *(Business Standard)*

### **TCS on foreign remittance: There's a sting in the tax tale**

Taxpayers who pay their advance taxes — such as business persons and professionals — may be able to adjust the TCS against their advance tax liabilities. In an earlier article on this page, I had pointed out that tax deducted or collected at source (Rs 2,29,676 crore) accounted for over 60% of the gross direct tax collections of Rs 3,69,559 crore for FY2022-23, as of June 16. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Government gives time till May 31 for Goods Transport Agencies to opt for GST payment**

Goods Transport Agencies (GTA) in India have until May 31 to exercise the option of paying Goods and Services Tax (GST) on a forward charge basis for the current fiscal year, according to the finance ministry. Under GST, GTAs can either pay 12% tax with input tax credit or 5% without, and can choose to pass on the liability to the service recipient under reverse charge mechanism. *(The Economic Times)*

### **CBIC rolls out module for automated scrutiny of GST returns**

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has rolled out a module for automated scrutiny of GST returns. "This module will enable the officers to carry out scrutiny of GST returns of Centre Administered Taxpayers selected on the basis of data

analytics and risks identified by the System," the finance ministry said in a statement. *(The Economic Times)*

### **E-invoices must for businesses with 5 crore turnover a year**

The move is aimed at further improving compliance and further plugging gaps in revenue collection. Currently, the threshold for business annual turnover above Rs 10 crore is required to issue e-invoicing. *(The Economic Times)*



## **National Accounts and State of the Economy**

### **India's inflation likely hit 18-month low in April: Poll**

India's consumer inflation likely cooled to an 18-month low in April as rises in food and fuel prices moderated, keeping it below the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit for the second consecutive month, a Reuters poll of economists found. Inflation as measured by the annual change in the consumer price index (CPI), was forecast to have fallen to 4.80% in April from 5.66% in March, according to the median view from the May 8-9 Reuters poll of 53 economists. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Fitch pares India's GDP growth forecast for this year to 6% from 6.2%**

Fitch Ratings has lowered its 2023-24 GDP growth forecast for India to 6% from 6.2%, citing headwinds from elevated inflation and interest rates along with subdued global demand, with the economy expected to rebound to 6.7% in 2024-25 as opposed to 6.9% projected earlier. *(The Hindu)*

### **India's vulnerability to global shocks to reduce in FY24: CRISIL**

India's vulnerability to global shocks is expected to reduce in FY24 as the Current Account Deficit (CAD) improves amid challenging external financing conditions, according CRISIL Rating. CAD is India's major short-term external liability, affecting the exchange rate and investor sentiment. After peaking at 3.7 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the second quarter of the previous fiscal (FY22), CAD shrank significantly to 2.2 per cent in the third quarter of FT23. This decline was driven by falling oil imports, boost from services exports, and rising remittances. *(Business Standard)*

### **Enrollment in PM's social security schemes surpasses 55 crore mark in 8 years**

The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have recorded enrolments of 16.2 crore, 34.2 crore and 5.2 crore, respectively in eight years of its existence, the Finance Ministry has said in a statement. These schemes provide social security and financial services to underprivileged individuals and to reduce financial vulnerability. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Indian economy benefited from diaspora: RBI's Michael Patra**

Underscoring the contribution of the diaspora, Patra noted that over the years, India's perceptions about the diaspora have also transformed from 'brain drain' to 'brain gain', spurred by the contributions that Indians have made in various fields in the global arena. *(The Economic Times)*



## Banking and Monetary Policy

### **Government, financial sector regulators pitch for a dynamic system for early stress indicators for economy**

The Centre, along with financial sector regulators, has underlined the need for evolving a system of early warning indicators for the economy. The government has simultaneously asserted that the Indian economy and financial sector are well protected and that there is no spillover effect from the failure of American banks. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Give banks capital leeway for insurance-backed trade finance products: IBA to RBI**

To boost trade credit insurance penetration in the trade finance line of business, the Indian Banks' Association has sought assistance from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in facilitating capital relief for banks and financial institutions (FIs), which is seen as a significant obstacle hindering the growth of trade credit insurance backed trade finance products such as factoring and bill discounting. *(The Economic Times)*

### **ED's searches at corporates may tarnish business prospects, constrict funding access: Fitch**

Indian law-enforcement agency's investigations may not lead to regulatory action but those hurt business and access to funds, Fitch Ratings said on Wednesday, adding that the recent searches at Manappuram Finance also expose the complexity of the country's corporate governance landscape. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Digital transactions on the rise, but banks 'branch out' to drive growth**

Banks have brought the focus back on physical network expansion as they aggressively open branches belying expectations that growing digital transactions could reduce the dependence on physical branches. HDFC Bank is set to open 600 branches in the semi urban and rural areas over the course of fiscal year 2024, with more additions also planned in urban locales. ICICI Bank, which opened 484 branches in the fiscal year, is expected to open branches with a higher run rate in FY24. Kotak Mahindra Bank will open 150 branches in the new fiscal year. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Indian financial system well protected, regulated, says Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth**

Briefing reporters about the outcome of the 27th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), headed by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Seth said, "We see that the global financial situation is daunting, but at the same time, the Indian economy and financial sector is well protected and well regulated. But of course, we have to be cautious and be on our toes." *(The Economic Times)*

### **G20 expert group examining ways to enhance lending capacity of multilateral development banks: NK Singh**

Singh, who is the co-convenor of the G20 Independent Expert Group, stressed that Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) need to leverage their internal resources and optimise their balance sheets for higher lending. "We certainly intend to be cognizant of the leveraging ability of multilateral institutions," Singh said. *(The Economic Times)*



## External Sector

### **India's forex reserves at comfortable level due to RBI, dollar: Economists**

India's foreign exchange reserves have risen to a 10-month high of \$588.8 billion, due to the Reserve Bank of India's sustained efforts to rebuild the reserves and reduced volatility in revaluation changes. Economists say the RBI has bought more than \$8bn in the spot market, and \$20.4bn in the forward market, while forex reserves now cover 10.4 months of imports.

### **Singapore & India looking at new growth drivers to propel ties: Kumaran**

India and Singapore are looking at new growth drivers to propel their relationship for the next decade, Indian High Commissioner to Singapore P Kumaran said on Thursday, asserting that the two countries have an "active calendar" of more than 20 bilateral mechanisms, dialogues and exercises being planned. *(Business Standard)*

### **Huge potential to increase economic ties between India, Canada: Piyush Goyal**

There is a huge potential for growth in the expansion of business and engagement between India and Canada, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. Goyal was addressing the Trade and Investment Promotion event for the agricultural and food processing sector with Indian companies and Canadian importers in Toronto on May 10. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Per capita GDP for Bangladesh higher than India till 2022**

Bangladesh continues to have higher per capita GDP when compared to India till 2022, latest data from International Monetary Fund (IMF) revealed. However, India is estimated to have edge in the next two years over Bangladesh to take the lead again at least data till 2028, estimates by the agency indicated. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Fresh data rejigs drag down 2022-23 export-import tally by \$3 billion**

India's goods trade numbers for February and March 2023 have been revised by over \$10 billion from initial estimates, and the overall export-import figures for last year have been scaled down by around \$3 billion dollars each, with experts flagging petroleum shipments as the main driver for the extraordinarily high revisions of recent export data. *(The Hindu)*

### **India-UK FTA negotiations conclude with 'detailed' policy discussions**

The ninth round of India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations concluded with detailed discussions across a range of policy areas, the UK government said on Wednesday. A joint outcome statement issued by the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) revealed that Round 9 of the ongoing talks took place between April 24 and 28 in a hybrid format, with some Indian officials traveling to London and others attending virtually. *(Business Standard)*

### **India, Canada to step up talks on movement of skilled workers**

India and Canada have agreed to step up discussions on movement of skilled professionals and students, considering its significant contribution in enhancing the bilateral economic partnership between the two nations, according to an official statement. *(Business Standard)*

### **China's debt-to-GDP ratio rises to record 279.7% on credit boom**

The Chinese economy's debt ratio reached a record high in the first quarter of the year, with bank loans to companies surging as the nation reopened from Covid Zero. The macro leverage ratio — or total debt as a percentage of gross domestic product — soared to 279.7% in the first quarter, according to central bank and statistics bureau data compiled by Bloomberg. That was an increase of 7.7 percentage points from the previous quarter, the biggest jump in three years. *(Business Standard)*

### **India frets over US proposal seeking advance tariff notices at IPEF**

India fears that a proposal by the United States under the “supply chains” pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) could violate multilateral rules and reduce policy elbowroom. The government has sought industry's views on the US proposal, which seeks advance notices on tariff changes and export restrictions from the 14 partner countries of the IPEF, before firming up its position. *(Business Standard)*

### **Covid-19 no longer represents a global health emergency, says WHO**

Covid-19 no longer represents a global health emergency, the World Health Organization said on Friday, a major step towards the end of the pandemic that has killed more than 6.9 million people, disrupted the global economy and ravaged communities. *(Business Standard)*

### **World food prices index rise in April for first time in a year: FAO**

The United Nations food agency's world price index rose in April for the first time in a year, but is still some 20% down on a record high hit in March 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 127.2 points last month against 126.5 for March, the agency said on Friday. The March reading was originally given as 126.9. *(Business Standard)*

### **China inflation grows at slowest rate in over two years**

China's inflation rate edged up 0.1 percent year-on-year in April, the slowest rate recorded since 2021, official figures showed, signalling a weak recovery after lifting pandemic curbs. Producer prices fell for the seventh consecutive month due to sluggish domestic demand and lower commodity costs, data released by Beijing's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. *(The Economic Times)*

### **UAE surplus tops \$46 billion in first nine months of 2022**

The United Arab Emirates posted a fiscal surplus of 169.6 billion dirhams (\$46.19 billion) in the first nine months of 2022, a 165% increase from the same period of 2021, the central bank said. Revenues rose 35.6% from January to end-September 2022 to 453.7 billion dirhams on the back of "strong oil and non-oil growth and favourable oil prices", the Central Bank of the UAE said in a report. *(The Economic Times)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **Input subsidy will be released in rabi to compensate for crop damage, says Dy. CM**

Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Endowments Kottu Satyanarayana on Monday announced that input subsidy for farmers would be released in the ongoing rabi season

itself, compensating for the crop damage reported during the recent rains in Andhra Pradesh. *(The Hindu)*

### **'Fair and Remunerative Price' fixed by Centre for sugarcane is not a fair market price at all, says Madras High Court**

In a judgement that has come as a shot in the arm for sugarcane farmers, the Madras High Court has said the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) fixed by the Centre for their produce was in reality not the fair market price at all, and that small and marginal farmers can survive only if the State governments paid them the much higher State Advised Price (SAP). *(The Hindu)*

### **Govt cancels licences of 112 fertiliser units, files 30 FIRs**

In a move aimed at curbing diversion of subsidised fertilisers for industrial uses and ensuring quality, the Centre on Tuesday said that licences of 112 manufacturing units have been cancelled for violating the norms and 30 FIRs have been registered after raids conducted in over 370 plants during last six months. Out of 370 units located in 15 States, the inspection was conducted in 220 mixture fertiliser units, 130 urea units, 15 SSP fertiliser units and 5 exporters, the Fertiliser Ministry said in a statement. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Livestock, fishing see highest decadal gross value of output growth**

Livestock, fishing and aquaculture saw the highest increase in gross value of output (GVO) in the decade ending 2020-21 (2011-12 to 2020-21). On the other hand, the share of the crop sector dropped from 62.4 per cent to 54.9 per cent in the total GVO during the same period, a recent report by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) showed. *(Business Standard)*

### **Fertiliser flying squads to crack down on diversion of agriculture-grade urea**

The Centre has launched a nationwide crackdown to curb diversion of agriculture-grade urea for industrial uses that results in subsidy leakage. It has constituted fertiliser flying squads which have conducted more than 370 surprise inspections across 15 states to check for spurious or substandard mixture units, single superphosphate (SSP) units and NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) units. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Unsure about open market sale, private sector laps up wheat from the markets**

The wheat flour industry fears the government may not be able to sell enough wheat from the central pool in the open market this year as well, as its procurement may fall short of target with multinationals, stockists, traders and even big farmers lapping up almost all of the good quality grain. *(The Economic Times)*

### **NFCSF revises down sugar output estimate to 32.7 million tons for 2022-23**

The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Federation (NFCSF) on Wednesday revised sugar production estimates lower to 32.7 million tonnes in the ongoing 2022-23 marketing year ending September from its earlier estimate of 35.5 million tonnes. The revised sugar production estimate is, however, down by 8.88 per cent from the actual production of 35.92 million tonnes in the 2021-22 marketing year (October-September). *(The Economic Times)*

### **Sugarcane growers to lobby against inclusion of sugar mill owners in new Karnataka cabinet**

Sugarcane growers representatives are planning to seek Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot's intervention to advise the new chief minister not to have sugar mill owners on the next

cabinet, blaming them for the unpaid bills and other issues. Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers' Association president Kurubur Shanthakumar told ET on Thursday that the organisation will meet the governor over the weekend with the demand. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Govt scraps import duty, agri cess on soya bean oil, sunflower oil imports under TRQ**

The finance ministry has announced a waiver of basic customs duty and agriculture infrastructure and development cess on crude soya bean oil and sunflower seed oil imports under the tariff rate quota (TRQ) system. This waiver will be effective from 11 May to 30 June, 2023, and applies exclusively to importers holding a TRQ license for the 2022-23 fiscal year. *(Mint)*



## **Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology**

### **Investments via PLI schemes top priority: Nirmala Sitharaman**

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday underlined the government's priority to incentivise and facilitate investments in India through production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes, which are being expanded beyond the initial 14 sectors to include semiconductors and solar components. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Semiconductor industry will double from current \$600 billion to \$1 trillion plus: Ashwini Vaishnaw**

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and Purdue University, US on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), for cooperation in capacity building, R&D, and industry participation. Minister of Telecommunications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw, who is on a visit to Silicon Valley, said the semiconductor industry will double from \$600 billion to more than \$1 trillion in the next few years. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Enhanced competitiveness of India's economy will attract more investments: PHDCCI**

The Indian economy's enhanced competitiveness will attract more investments and create new employment opportunities for its growing young population, says industry body PHDCCI. Strengthening of India's connectivity with Global Value Chains (GVCs) will help improve supply side bottlenecks and reduce costs of doing business, said Saket Dalmia, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry. *(The Economic Times)*

### **FMCG, auto buyers move up the value chain**

In an indication that Indian consumers have moved up the value chain, average selling prices across different categories including TVs, cars, smartphones and consumer durables have gone up by 50-80 per cent over the last 3-5 years. For example, the average selling price of smartphones has gone up from ₹13,000 in 2018 to over ₹21,000 now. *(BusinessLine)*

### **First two retail stores in India 'milestone' for Apple: CEO Tim Cook**

India is at a "tipping point" and a major focus for Apple, the technology giant's CEO Tim Cook has said, terming the opening of its first two retail stores in the country - in Mumbai and Delhi - as a "milestone" for the company. Speaking at Apple's Q2 2023 earnings call



on Thursday, Mr. Cook emphasised the dynamism and vibrancy in the Indian market, calling it “unbelievable (*The Hindu*)

### **Green Port policy launched to catalyse carbon reduction**

India's Major Ports will need to have clean fuel storage and ship refuelling facilities according to the freshly launched 'Harit Sagar' the Green Port guidelines. These norms were issued by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) on Wednesday. Speaking at the event, Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways said that these guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for India's Major Ports to achieve quantifiable reductions in carbon emissions over defined timelines. (*The Economic Times*)

### **Centre proposes comprehensive 10-year R&D roadmap for steel sector**

The central government has proposed to develop a medium-term research and development roadmap and action plan for the steel sector for the next ten years, the Ministry of Steel said. The move is aimed at promoting sustainable development and ensuring the long-term growth of the sector. (*Mint*)

### **India's April fuel demand drops over 10% from March'23**

India's fuel consumption, a proxy for oil demand, was down around 0.3% year on year in April, but fell over 10% from March this year, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed on Monday. Consumption was down to about 18.41 million tonnes from 18.45 million a year ago. (*The Hindu*)

### **High prices lead to gold demand falling 17% in Jan-March quarter**

With high prices the demand for gold in India for Q1 2023 (January to March) shrunk by 17% to 112.5 tonnes as compared to overall demand of 135.5 tonnes in the year-ago period, according to the World Gold Council (WGC). India's gold demand value during the quarter was ₹56,220 crore, down by 9% as compared to ₹61,540 crore in the year-ago period. (*The Hindu*)

### **For the foreseeable future, diesel is likely to drive India's economy**

India's climate change goals are turning combustible. On the one hand, a protracted dispute between the government and manufacturers over subsidies threatens to slow the pace of electric vehicle (EV) sales. On the other hand, repeated assertions by different arms of the government over banning sales of new fossil fuel-fired vehicles have queered the pitch for energy investments. (*Business Standard*)

### **India on path to become third largest economy, says MSME minister; urges industry to keep on investing**

Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane has encouraged both international and domestic industries to continue investing in India and identified varied opportunities available in the country. He believes that India, which is presently the fifth largest economy, will become the third largest economy by 2030, only behind Germany and Japan. (*The Economic Times*)

### **India's economy and the 'elegant excuse for being incompetent'**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, known for his sharp comebacks, waded into the 'services-versus-manufacturing' debate yesterday. "I have always believed that this focus on services was actually an elegant excuse for being incompetent in manufacturing," he said in his inimitable style. (*The Economic Times*)

## **We are not trying to put anybody out of business through ONDC: DPIIT Secretary**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh, has said that the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative is not trying to put anybody out of business. He added that the goal is to democratise e-commerce for MSMEs and smaller producers, and provide a level playing field. (*The Economic Times*)



## **News on Kerala**

### **Kerala State Electricity Board proposes ₹2.54 a unit as 'green energy' tariff**

Premium tariff for supply of power from renewable energy sources is a first for KSEB. Several consumers, especially in commercial and industrial segments, are eager to switch over to renewable energy for a rapid transition to a zero-carbon economy. (*The Hindu*)

### **Kerala's urban policy formulation to kick off with a series of urban dialogues**

Ahead of the formulation of an urban policy for Kerala, as proposed in the State Budget this year, the Local Self-Government department and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) are set to kick off a series of sessions titled 'Kerala Urban Dialogues' in association with experts and institutes from the field to generate ideas and a pathway for policy formulation. (*The Hindu*)

### **Kerala's private health spending rises despite increased govt. investments in the sector**

The State's per capita out-of-pocket expenditure rose from ₹6,772 in 2018-19 to ₹7,206 in 2019-20, even when its per capita GHE increased from ₹2,479 to ₹2,590. (*The Hindu*)

### **Universities stare at financial crunch as govt. cancels non-Plan grant instalment**

State Universities stare at a financial crunch with the government cancelling the last instalment of the non-Plan grant pertaining to the 2022-23 fiscal year. In a circular, the universities have been informed that the instalment cannot be sanctioned since the particular fiscal year has passed and the next has begun. The financial constraints of the government are believed to have prompted the move. (*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



**GULATI INSTITUTE OF  
FINANCE AND TAXATION**

An Autonomous Institution of Government of Kerala

**Disclaimer: This compilation on important news items relating to Finance, Taxation and Indian economy by GIFT from various newspapers and e-resources aims at providing an update to our esteemed readers. GIFT does not guarantee the accuracy or validity of the information provided. It is not a commercial product and all the copyrights remain with those of the respective copyright holders. Images are sourced from the web.**