



## Public Finance

### Government health expenditure fell from 1.35 pc of GDP in 2017-18 to 1.28 pc in 2018-19

During the same time period, out-of-pocket spending as a percentage of total health spending fell from 48.8 to 48.2. Nevertheless, when tried to compare to 2013-14 figures, out-of-pocket health expenditure lowered by 16 percentage points from 64.2 percent. Out-of-pocket expenses are expenses incurred directly by households at the time of receiving healthcare. This reflects the level of financial protection available to families for medical costs. *(The Economic Times)*

### States' borrowing costs see fourth consecutive weekly fall

Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Sikkim, which had not indicated their participation in the auction, issued Rs 5,800 crore, while Goa borrowed Rs 800 crore more than indicated. In contrast, Haryana, Kerala, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, and Bengal did not participate in the auctions, even though they had indicated a combined borrowing of Rs 5,200 crore. *(The Economic Times)*

### States step up relief measures for households battling inflation

Politicians are worried about the impact of sharp increase in prices on household essentials. For example, food inflation, which accounts for nearly 40% of the CPI basket, rose 7.62% year on year in August compared to a revised 6.69% in July, the National Statistics Office said on Monday. *(The Economic Times)*

### Govt sets up expert committee to suggest ways to scale up venture capital/private equity investments

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced earlier this year that government would set up an expert committee to address regulatory issues faced by the venture capital and private equity players. *(The Economic Times)*

### Expenditure for FY23 may go up by ₹50,000 crore

The government had budgeted Rs 39.44 lakh crore expenditure for FY23 and a total borrowing of Rs 14.13 lakh crore. The April-September borrowing was pegged at Rs 8.45 lakh crore. *(The Economic Times)*



## Taxation

### GST collection may top Rs 1.5 lakh crore from October: Revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj

Addressing a CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs) function here this evening, Revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj said, "For the last couple of months, we've been trying very hard to reach that milestone of Rs 1.5 trillion (lakh crore). But we have been failing a bit

sometimes by Rs 2,000 crore and sometimes by even Rs 6,000 crore. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Can the southern states sustain the robust Q1 revenue growth?**

The growth in revenue receipts of southern States was propelled by a strong pick-up in economic activity, increased consumption and high inflation, which led to higher realisations from tax and non-tax sources. Fiscals 2021 and 2022 saw a significant shortfall in both GST and GST cess collections, due to the pandemic. This led the Centre to raise GST compensation loans in these two years, which was provided to States to help support their revenues. These revenue streams will not be available henceforth. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Direct tax collections up 35.46% in FY23 till 8th Sept**

Direct tax collections up to 8 September 2022 show that gross collections are at Rs 6.48 lakh crore, which is 35.46% higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year. Direct tax collection, net of refunds, stands at Rs 5.29 lakh crore, which is 30.17 % higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year. *(Business Standard)*

### **Busy days ahead for finance, tax professionals**

The next 20 days are going to be very hectic for finance and tax professionals in various companies as many Goods & Services Tax (GST) related compliances need to be completed before or on September 30. Some of these include preparing for a new e-invoice mechanism, full utilisation of Input Tax Credit (ITC) of last fiscal, and rectification of invoices. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Post SC order, CBIC issues modalities for filing transitional credit under GST**

Following apex court order, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Custom (CBIC) has come out with a circular on filing claim for transitional credit (TRAN CREDIT). Though all assesses can make a claim, the CBIC says this mechanism won't be appropriate for assesseees whose claim has been rejected fully or partially. Same is true for assesseees whose appeal is pending. *(BusinessLine)*

### **CBDT clarification on tax on freebies could create complications for unlisted companies, say experts**

The government had introduced a new section (194R) to the Income-tax Act, under which a 10% TDS was to be levied from July 1 on transactions where a "benefit" was offered by an individual or a company to another. Many experts said the way the section was worded meant TDS would be applicable not only on freebies — including gifts or junkets — offered by companies, but also on loan waivers or loans restructured under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India may cut cess on ATF, diesel in fifth revision of windfall tax, sources say**

India may cut cess on domestic crude production, ET Now reported citing unnamed sources. New Delhi may also lower duty on export of ATF and diesel, the sources said. Overseas shipment of petrol will likely continue to be exempted from windfall tax, they added. This will be the fifth revision of windfall tax since it's implementation on July 1. *(The Economic Times)*



## National Accounts and State of the Economy

### **Fitch cuts India FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7%; world GDP growth at 2.4%**

Global rating agency Fitch has lowered India's economic growth forecast for fiscal 2022-23 (FY23) as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) to 7 per cent from its June 2022 estimate of 7.8 per cent. It now expects the GDP to slow further to 6.7 per cent in FY24 as compared to its earlier forecast of 7.4 per cent. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's rapid rise 'is people's achievement'**

Characterising India's economic recovery post pandemic as "awe inspiring" in the eyes of the world, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India becoming the fifth largest economy in the world is no mean achievement. *(BusinessLine)*

### **66,000 new jobseekers added to India's formal workforce in Apr-June quarter: ISF**

Indian Staffing Federation on Thursday said 66,000 new jobseekers were added to India's formal workforce, a growth of 6.6%, in the April-June quarter, taking total workforce employed through them to 1.29 million while the year-on-year addition was 28% higher with 2.33 lakh new formal contract workforce added in the July 2021 - June 2022. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's labour market shrunk by 2.1 million in August on the back of decline in salaried jobs: CMIE**

India's labour market shrunk by 2.1 million in August on the back of decline in salaried jobs while the labour force increased by 4 million, resulting in an increase of over 6 million in the number of unemployed in the country last month, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **SMBs to create 2 million jobs in 5 years: Indeed**

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) will generate approximately two million jobs in the next five years, says Raj Mukherjee, executive vice president and general manager of Indeed, a US-headquartered job portal. According to Indeed's data, factors such as challenging job roles, opportunities for innovation and learning, recognition, and growth attract job seekers to SMBs. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Bring more women into workforce**

The long-term challenge in India is to increase opportunities for women to work outside the home in decent and productive employment, as well as increase investment in education, health, and training to create more opportunities for women to be employed productively. *(BusinessLine)*

### **WPI eases to 11-month low of 12.4% in Aug**

Producers' inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) dropped for the third successive month to a 11-month low of 12.41 per cent in August. It was 13.93 per cent in July and 11.64 per cent in August last year. Despite a drop in WPI, chances of raising policy rate is still very high as Reserve Bank of India takes trend in retail inflation into consideration for policy. *(BusinessLine)*

### **RBI Deputy Governor pitches for data law to protect customers' privacy**

"Data means money. Data can be monetised. Therefore, data is significant value to business but at the same time, we will have to have regulations in place, primarily have laws in place, followed by regulations in place, which ensures that customer data is not only safe, that customers privacy is not only protected but the monetisation of customer data is done in a responsible manner," he said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Pace of rate hikes in India should be calibrated from here on: Ashima Goyal**

The pace of interest rate increases should be calibrated from here on to ensure economic recovery in India does not stall as the central bank tries to bring inflation within its tolerance band, monetary policy committee member Ashima Goyal said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Sikkim govt hikes minimum wage by 67%**

The daily wage for unskilled workers was increased from Rs 300 to Rs 500 with retrospective effect from July 11, 2022, Labour Minister Lok Nath Sharma said. The daily wage for semi-skilled workers was increased to Rs 520 from Rs 320, while skilled workers will get Rs 535 instead of Rs 335 earlier, he said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Need to keep inflationary expectations firmly anchored: RBI article**

Central bank, on the other hand, stated that the opinions expressed in the piece are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of RBI. The central bank already has brought up the crucial short-term lending rate by 140 basis points in three instalments since May this year, according to the recommendations of the RBI Governor-led Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The MPC's next meeting is set for September 28-30, 2022. *(The Economic Times)*



## **Banking and Monetary Policy**

### **Bank credit growth hits near nine-year high of 15.5%, shows RBI data**

Credit growth of commercial banks is at a near nine-year high of 15.5 per cent year-on-year for the week ended August 26, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed. The credit growth is the highest since November 1, 2013, when it was 16.1 per cent. *(Business Standard)*

### **FM tasks RBI to 'whitelist' legal loan apps to protect borrowers**

To curb the menace of illegal loan apps, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been asked to prepare a 'whitelist' of legal loan apps and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has been tasked with ensuring only such applications are available on app stores. *(The Hindu)*

### **Jan Dhan@8: A game-changer for the unbanked**

Eight years after its launch, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) still shows strong growth in the addition of new accounts, becoming a game-changer for the poor and women who have been left out of the ambit of the banking system. *(BusinessLine)*

### **RBI mulls sharing UPI data with large corporates, no final decision yet**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is faced with requests from large corporates—mostly corporates based in India, including fintechs—on how they could access the rich data of

the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the best performing real-time payment system in the world, Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said on Monday. *(BusinessLine)*

### **SBI joins Rs 5-trillion market cap club; stock surges 26% in three months**

Public lender State Bank of India (SBI) hit the Rs 5-trillion-mark in market capitalisation (market cap) for the first time on Wednesday after its shares touched a record high of Rs 564.45, up 1 per cent on the BSE in intra-day trade in an otherwise weak market. *(Business Standard)*

### **RBI allows BBPS to process cross-border inbound remittances**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow foreign inward remittances received under the Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA), to be transferred to the KYC compliant bank account of the biller (beneficiary) through Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS). *(BusinessLine)*

### **FinMin to allow RRBs to raise funds via IPO, rights issue**

The Finance Ministry has issued draft guidelines for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to raise resources from capital market, paving the way for raising funds via rights issue, private placement with select investors such as large banks and insurance companies, and initial public offerings (IPO). *(BusinessLine)*

### **India not defending Rupee, it can take care of itself: Chief Economic Adviser**

India does not need to defend the rupee because its economic fundamentals are such that the currency can take care of itself, the country's chief economic adviser, V. Anantha Nageswaran, said on Tuesday. *(The Economic Times)*

### **State Bank of India ready to open rupee trade account with Russian banks**

State Bank of India (SBI) is willing to work with Russian banks not facing sanctions and remain on the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) network to open a special rupee vostro account (SRVA) for invoicing in Indian currency. The country's largest lender in a statement said it has not been identified as the nodal bank for handling Russia-related transactions. *(Business Standard)*

### **Banks seek clarity on 'grey areas' from RBI on Rupee Vostro accounts**

The banks reached out to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to seek clarity on legal and regulatory grey areas around proposed rupee Vostro accounts before operationalising them to settle international trade, including that with Russia. *(Business Standard)*

### **India emerges as Sri Lanka's top lender in 2022: Verite Research think-tank**

India has emerged as the top lender to Sri Lanka in 2022, disbursing USD 377 million in loans to the island nation as it grappled with an unprecedented political crisis and economic turmoil, according to the Verite Research think-tank. The Asian Development Bank follows India with USD 360 million in loans. They account for 76 per cent of total disbursements from January to April 2022. *(The Economic Times)*

### **SBI stock has its moment in the sun**

State Bank of India's (SBI's) shares have been on the radar of investors for some time. The public sector lender's market capitalization has breached the ₹5 trillion mark on Wednesday, because of the rally in the stock price. With this, SBI became the third Indian bank to attain this position after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. *(Mint)*

### **Bond rally to fuel bank earnings**

An unlikely rally in government bonds has spurred hopes for a bumper September quarter for banks. Banks, which had taken a sharp hit because of mark-to-market losses on their investments in government securities in the June quarter, will be able to write back some of their losses if the yield on the 10-year government bond continues around the current level till the end of the month. *(Mint)*



## **External Sector**

### **Investors snap up Indian govt bonds ahead of inclusion in global indexes**

Foreign investors have stepped up purchases in a clutch of Indian government bonds that have no limits on foreign investments ahead of an anticipated inclusion of Indian debt in global bond indexes *(Business Standard)*

### **Drop in India's forex reserves worrisome as inflows slow down: Economists**

India's FX reserves declined to \$553.1 billion in the week ended Sept. 2, their lowest since Oct. 2020 and down by \$8 billion from the previous week, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed on Friday. It was the biggest drawdown in reserves since early July, which analysts attributed to the RBI intervening in currency markets to help the rupee after it hit a record low of 80.12 against a surging dollar that week. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's trade deficit more than doubles to \$27.98 billion in August**

India's exports in the month of August rose marginally by 1.62% to \$33.92 billion while the trade deficit more than doubled on an annualised basis to \$27.98 billion, government data showed on Wednesday. Trade deficit in August 2021 stood at \$11.71 billion. India's trade deficit had widened to a record \$30 billion in July. *(The Economic Times)*

### **FPIs turn net buyers in financial services sector**

After nine months of intense sell-off in the banking and financial services equities, foreign investors have turned net buyers in the sector in the last two months. *(BusinessLine)*

### **India must leverage Trade 4.0**

After a year of stupendous export performance, the question arises: Can exports sustainably contribute to India's GDP and help it achieve its ambition of becoming a \$5-trillion economy? *(BusinessLine)*

### **India's broken rice exports had gained over 90% in FY22, shows data**

The government's ban on broken rice exports and restrictions on other grades of the cereal comes amid export gains that were at a multi-year high. *(Business Standard)*

### **Indian steel exports in August down 66% y-o-y**

Indian steel exports for August witnessed a 66 per cent drop, year-on-year (YoY) to 0.45 million tonnes (mt) with weaker orders across key markets in prime categories, and pricier offerings, continuing to be a worry for mills here. *(BusinessLine)*

### **As global prices plunge, edible oil imports surge 35% in August**

With prices of edible oils dropping in the global markets, India cashed in on the fall importing 13.75 lakh tonnes (lt) last month against 10.16 lt in August 2021, recording a growth of 35.29 per cent. *(BusinessLine)*

### **After a flat growth last fiscal, Indian pharma exports back on a growth path**

After registering a flat growth last fiscal, India's pharmaceutical exports are back on a growth path this fiscal, despite geopolitical challenges in global markets. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Centre bans export of broken rice due to domestic demand**

The Centre has banned the export of broken rice, mostly used as animal feed and as a component for ethanol production, in view of the domestic demand and production scenario of rice. *(The Hindu)*

### **India's rice export curbs paralyse trade in Asia as prices rise**

India's restrictions on rice exports have paralysed trading in Asia, with buyers scouring for alternative supplies from Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar where sellers are holding off on deals as prices rise, industry officials said. *(The Hindu)*

### **India stays out of 'trade pillar' at Indo-Pacific meet**

India stayed out of the joint declaration on the trade pillar of the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific Foodgrain stocks – rice, wheat and unmilled paddy - in the Central Pool managed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) dropped by 33.5 per cent to 60.11 million tonnes (mt) as of September 1 from 90.41 mt a year ago. *(The Hindu)*

### **Iran may urge India to restart oil import**

Iran will nudge India towards reviving its procurement of discounted Iranian sweet crude during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi that is likely to take place this Friday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand. *(The Hindu)*

### **India, France agree to expand cooperation on Indo-Pacific body**

India and France agreed to set up an Indo-Pacific trilateral framework to roll out development projects, decided to expand strategic cooperation and vowed to work closely to deal with pressing global challenges such as food crisis triggered by the Ukraine war. *(Business Standard)*

### **Share of petro products in exports touch record high at 21.2% in Apr-Aug**

High international energy prices and cheaper crude oil sourced from Russia have lifted the share of India's petroleum products in exports to their highest ever at 21.2 per cent during April-August. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's exports surge 1.62% in Aug with outbound shipments worth \$33.92 bn**

External demand for key commodities such as engineering goods, gems and jewellery, and textiles fell in August. *(Business Standard)*

### **Focus on Free Trade Agreements with developed countries: Piyush Goyal**

India concluded a trade pact with the United Arab Emirates earlier this year and launched negotiation for similar pacts with several other countries such as Canada. Addressing the reconstituted Board of Trade here on Tuesday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal argued for the need to sign more Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with developed

economies. In this regard, he urged participants of the Board of Trade (BOT) to focus on the possibilities that each sector had to offer in FTAs. *(The Hindu)*

### **India's August sunflower oil imports up 89.6%**

After the Ukraine crisis, Russia and Argentina have emerged as major suppliers of sunflower oil to India as imports of the cooking oil jumped 89.6% to 1.35 lakh tonnes in August, according to Solvent Extractors Association. India, the world's leading vegetable oil buyer, is dependent on imports of sunflower oil, which constitutes 16% of the total edible oil imports. *(The Hindu)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **PMGKAY extension hangs in balance on low food stocks**

Foodgrain stocks – rice, wheat and unmilled paddy - in the Central Pool managed by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) dropped by 33.5 per cent to 60.11 million tonnes (mt) as of September 1 from 90.41 mt a year ago. This lower stock will weigh on the Government's decision in extending the supply of free rations under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) after September 30. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Warring seed industry factions to set up self-regulatory mechanism**

Domestic seed producers, who have strong production and distribution networks, and multinational seed firms that have a strong research and development presence have decided to set up a common self-regulatory platform to facilitate the smooth introduction of new seed technologies and hassle-free licensing mechanism, ending years of litigation and continuous skirmishes. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Centre unlikely to achieve pulses procurement target**

The Centre's plan to increase procurement of pulses may remain on "paper" unless it comes out with a clear policy on "procurement and disposal", experts say. Procurement of pulses has been lower historically with the purchase of urad (black matpe) being less than one per cent of the target. As a result, farmers are unlikely to get the minimum support prices (MSP) for pulses, they say. *(BusinessLine)*

### **East Africa is now top supplier of tur to India**

The East African pigeon pea (tur/arhar) producing block of countries, including Tanzania and Mozambique, have emerged as the largest supplier of the pulses variety to the Indian market in recent years, displacing the traditional supplier Myanmar. This is even as India remains a net importer of pulses to meet its growing domestic demand.

*(BusinessLine)*

### **Paddy acreage deficit shrinks to less than 5 per cent**

The deficit in kharif paddy acreage has shrunk to less than 5 per cent to 393.79 lakh hectares (lh), as per the latest sowing data released by the Agriculture Ministry on Friday, over the same period last year. However, the acreage this kharif are still lower than the normal area for the period. The total area under coverage for all Kharif crops stood at 1,084.15 lh as on September 9 compared with 1,094.17 lh in the year-ago period.

*(BusinessLine)*



### **Some policy options to revive agriculture**

The agriculture sector is considered the backbone of the Indian economy as it provides livelihood for nearly half the country's population. Though agriculture's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) has been declining since 1947, it still remains a key sector, especially evident during the Covid-19 pandemic when its resilience crucially helped people and the economy. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Cooperative system is the only way to resist farm distress, says agro economist Sukhpal Singh**

The new Chairman of the Punjab State Farmers' and Farm Workers' Commission says farming can be made a profitable vocation with a little help from the government. *(The Hindu)*

### **122 farmer suicides in a single district in WB in 2021, reveals RTI query**

A Right to Information (RTI) query has revealed that there were 122 farmer and farm-related suicides in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district in 2021. The West Bengal government has for the past several years maintained in public forums and the State Assembly that there has not been a single farmer and farm-related suicide in the State. *(The Hindu)*

### **Delayed onset, withdrawal of monsoon: Time for farming in India to adjust?**

A few weeks back, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that the southwest monsoon is expected to begin its withdrawal from parts of Rajasthan from the first week of September. *(Business Standard)*



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

### **Should India choose manufacturing over services?**

Earlier this week, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan, questioned the Central government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, arguing that it works against the interests of Indian consumers. In doing so, he revived the larger debate on the government's efforts to promote the country's manufacturing sector through subsidies, and on its relative importance vis-a-vis the services sector. *(The Hindu)*

### **Drone manufacturing industry gets off to a steady flight**

A year since the announcement of incentives for the country's fledgling drone manufacturing industry, there has been a steady increase in the number of projects. This has spurred startups such as Garuda Aerospace, IdeaForge and Skye Air Mobility, which provide drones-as-a-service for such projects, to accelerate manufacturing due to the increasing demand. *(Mint)*

### **Why are you hesitating to get into manufacturing, FM Nirmala Sitharaman asks India Inc**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday sought to know from India Inc what is stopping them from getting into manufacturing when countries abroad are showing their belief in India. The NDA government will do everything industry invest in India and provide the schemes required, she said. Policies like PLI, tax cuts have been provided to support the private industry in India. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Auto sector should target 100% electrification in 2-3-wheeler segments in next four years: Amitabh Kant**

Kant said the process of urbanisation has just started in India and over the next five decades over 500 million Indians will move into urban areas and hence the automotive industry will have to leapfrog to offer a cleaner transport solution for masses. *(The Economic Times)*

### **A manufacturing renaissance: Can China-plus-one deliver for India?**

Apple Inc's plans to manufacture iPhone 14 in India set the ball rolling for the country to promote itself as an attractive manufacturing hub. The move by the American tech company, which was reported by Bloomberg News, reflects an effort to de-risk the production and supply chain for products that have a high level of dependence on China. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Fresh salvo at GDP for not capturing ground manufacturing activities**

Controversy over the quality of data in the new Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series keeps resurfacing again and again ever since it was launched in 2015 with the base year of 2011-2012 and a different methodology than used till the 2004-05 series. *(Business Standard)*

### **Goldman cuts Infosys, TCS to 'sell' on looming slowdown**

Goldman Sachs downgraded top Indian information technology service providers Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys to "sell," from "buy," citing a potential slowdown in dollar revenue growth in the face of impending macroeconomic stress. *(The Hindu)*

### **'South India saree market likely to touch ₹30,800 crore by FY25'**

The South India saree market is expected to touch ₹30,800 crore by FY25 growing at a CAGR of 6%, according to a report and analysis by Technopak. The saree market of South India, having large players such as Pothys, Nalli, Sai Silks Kalamandir, RS Bros., was valued at ₹23,200 crore in FY20. *(The Hindu)*

### **Tier 2, cities beyond leading smartphone sales: Flipkart**

India's smartphone user base crossed the 600-million mark during the April-June quarter. Tier 2 and cities beyond are witnessing a notable growth in smartphone sales over the last few years and this demand is expected to continue, Flipkart said on Monday. *(The Hindu)*

### **Infosys shoots off stern missive to staff on moonlighting; no two-timing, it warns**

Put simply, moonlighting refers to employees taking up side gigs to work on more than one job at a time. Infosys has shot off a missive to its employees, asserting that dual employment or 'moonlighting' is not permitted, and has warned that any violation of contract clauses will trigger disciplinary action "which could even lead to termination of employment". *(The Hindu)*

### **Report to restructure commerce ministry under study; idea is to set up trade promotion body, says Goyal**

The restructuring rests on pillars like increasing India's share in global trade, assuming leadership roles in multilateral organisations, creating 100 Indian brands as global champions, and setting up economic zones in India to strengthen the manufacturing base and attract greater investments. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Finance ministry mulls changes in laws to boost insurance penetration in India**

Insurance penetration in India increased from 3.76 per cent in 2019-20 to 4.20 per cent in 2020-21, registering a growth of 11.70 per cent. Insurance penetration measured as the percentage of insurance premium to GDP witnessed handsome growth during the year, mainly due to the outbreak of COVID-19. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Discussion to extend PLI scheme to more sectors underway**

The objective of this PLI scheme is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive, create global champions in manufacturing, boost exports and create jobs. The government last year rolled out the scheme with an outlay of about Rs 2 lakh crore for as many as 14 sectors, including automobiles and auto components, white goods, textiles, advanced chemistry cell (ACC) and speciality steel. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's national logistics policy set for release on September 17: Some key details**

India's national logistics policy will be released by Prime Minister Modi on September 17. The policy was first announced in Budget 2020. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Centre revises definition of small companies; more firms to have reduced compliance burden**

With the amendments to certain rules, the threshold for small companies' paid-up capital has been increased to "not exceeding Rs 4 crore" from "not exceeding Rs 2 crore". Similarly, the turnover threshold has been revised to "not exceeding Rs 40 crore" from "not exceeding Rs 20 crore", the ministry said in a release on Friday. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Surge in services demand helps steady India's economy in August**

India's economy showed signs of stabilizing last month, with strong demand for services helping weather headwinds from high inflation, according to a gauge of earliest available indicators. *(The Economic Times)*



## **News on Kerala**

### **Responsible Tourism Mission wins four awards**

Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission has won four gold medals at this year's International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT) Indian Sub-Continent Awards instituted jointly by the Government of Madhya Pradesh and U.K.-based ICRT International, earning the State a hat-trick of awards. With this, Kerala qualifies to the World Tourism Market awards in four RT categories. *(The Hindu)*

### **Record Onam sales for Milma**

The Thiruvananthapuram Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Union (TRCMPU) of Milma has clocked record Onam sales of Rs. 32 crore of milk and other products. Compared to the last year, sales went up by 37%, TRCMPU said in a statement here on Friday. *(The Hindu)*

### **State caps Onam with increased liquor intake**

Kerala rounded off a season of partying by consuming nearly Rs. 624 crore worth of liquor this Onam. It is a marked increase in sales for the Kerala State Beverages Corporation (Bevco), the State-owned liquor retail monopoly, compared to the 2021 figures (Rs. 529

crores). The bumper sales have brought a cash windfall of an estimated Rs. 500 crore to the State exchequer in the seven-day run-up to Thiruvonam. *(The Hindu)*

### **State to tighten the purse strings**

Indications are that the State government will be forced to keep a tighter rein on finances in the post-Onam days. Given the spurt in spending during the festival season, the government is reportedly staring at an overdraft situation, although Finance department sources rule out the possibility of a crisis. Onam-time expenditure, including usual expenses on salary and pension, is likely to touch Rs. 15,000 crore. *(The Hindu)*

### **Food safety tag for anganwadis**

The Food Safety department is set to grade anganwadis in the district on the basis of their food safety compliance. Four anganwadis under each of the 14 food safety circles in the district will be selected for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) grading as part of the second phase of 'Eat Right Challenge', a competition among districts in the country in implementing initiatives under the Eat Right India movement. *(The Hindu)*

### **145 EV charging stations inaugurated in capital district**

The Minister was speaking after inaugurating 145 new charging stations established by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) in Thiruvananthapuram district. E-vehicles have limitations in covering large distances on a single round of charging. This being the case, there is a need to set up more EV charging stations, he said, lauding the efforts taken by the KSEB in this direction. *(The Hindu)*

### **E-cargo vehicles launched in Kochi**

Electric cargo vehicles will now be used to deliver goods, including vegetables, food, and cooking gas in the city. Eighteen e-vehicles, including 12 pick-up autorickshaws, were launched on Thursday at a function organised by the Kochi Corporation. They were launched as part of a project of the civic body implemented in association with ICLEI Local Government for Sustainability, under the eco-logistics programme. The programme aims at promoting sustainable and eco friendly modes of cargo transport in cities. *(The Hindu)*

### **EDII ties up with Kerala Govt to promote start-ups, entrepreneurship ecosystem**

The Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) has joined hands with Kerala government to promote start-ups and the entrepreneurship ecosystem. It also trains and builds capacity to ensure the setting up of micro-enterprises to generate job opportunities. *(BusinessLine)*

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



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