FINANCE, TAXATION & THE INDIAN ECONOMY





Public Finance

States debt cost falls 12 bps to 7.67% on receding appetite from issuers

States on Tuesday got some reprieve in their debt cost with the weighted average price falling by 12bps to 7.67 per cent due to receding appetite from issuers as they received tax payouts from the Centre last week. Assam, Bihar, Karnataka and Punjab have raised Rs 8,800 crore from the market at the auctions, which is nearly 31 per cent lower than the Rs 12,800 crore indicated for this week. (Business Standard)

India considers plan to reduce short-term borrowing as yields surge

Borrowing costs at treasury-bill auctions have surged to the highest in more than three years amid tight banking liquidity and the recent spate of front-loaded rate hikes by the Reserve Bank of India. The 91-day t-bill yield came at 6.4764% at last week's sale, the highest since May 2019. It is up 264 basis points this fiscal year. India is considering a proposal to reduce treasury-bill sales next quarter as short-term borrowing costs surge. (Business Standard)

FM Nirmala Sitharaman nudges ministries to meet targets for asset monetisation

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday took stock of the progress made by ministries and departments on the National Monetisation Pipeline. The minister nudged ministries to push ahead with asset monetisation in line with their set targets. While some ministries may miss their monetisation goals, the government will "more or less" meet this year's target, a government official said. (*The Economic Times*)

Capex by CPSEs accelerates to 53% of annual target during Apr-Oct period

The Capital expenditure (capex) by large Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) with a target of over Rs 100 crore during the first seven months of the financial year (April-October) touched 53.03 per cent of the annual target of 6.62 trillion, according to official sources. (Business Standard)

Centre may hit fiscal deficit target but overshoot borrowing goal

The Centre will likely meet its 6.4% fiscal deficit target for the year or even narrow it marginally, but the gap between the government's receipts and spending met through borrowing is expected to overshoot the ₹16.6 trillion budget estimate. (*Mint*)



Taxation

Direct taxes collections cross ₹10.5 lakh crore so far this fiscal

The Income Tax Department on Friday said gross direct tax collections crossed ₹10.5 lakh crore this fiscal year up to November 10. This is 30.69 per cent higher than the gross

collections of over ₹8 lakh crore for the corresponding period of last year. It is over 61 per cent of the budget target of ₹14.20 lakh crore. (BusinessLine)

CSR-expenditure incurred in furtherance of business, eligible for ITC

"The expenditure made towards corporate responsibility under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, is an expenditure made in the furtherance of the business. Hence, the tax paid on purchases made to meet the obligations under corporate social responsibility will be eligible for input tax credit under CGST and SGST Acts," Telangana AAR said while disposing of an application by Hyderabad based Bambino Pasta Food Industries. (BusinessLine)

GST appellate tribunals likely to be set up by December 2023

After years of delay, the Centre is aiming to set up the GST Appellate Tribunals (GSTATs) across the country by December next year with the principal Bench in New Delhi to quickly resolve disputes relating to the key indirect tax, and further improve ease of doing business and boost tax collections. (*Financial Express*)

Budget may tweak capital gains tax regime

The Budget may tweak capital gains taxes levied on equity, debt and immovable property to bring parity in varied tax rates and holding period, a senior official said. Explaining the rationale, the official said there needs to have an alignment in tax rate and holding period for all the asset class. (Financial Express)

Urgently call GST Council meeting, Amit Mitra writes to Sitharaman

Former West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra on Wednesday exhorted Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to 'urgently' convene a meeting of the GST Council, which has not met since June. Mitra, who is currently Principal chief advisor to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a letter to Sitharaman, said that as per the Rules of Conduct, the GST Council has to meet every quarter in a fiscal year. (*The Economic Times*)

Windfall tax up on domestic crude, down on export of diesel

The government on Thursday raised the windfall tax on domestically-produced crude oil to Rs 10,200 per tonne from Rs 9,500, taking into account the marginal increase in global crude prices in the ninth fortnightly review of the one-off taxes on oil companies. (Financial Express)



National Accounts and State of the Economy

'Greening' of coal: A peek into India's evolving stance towards emission

Hardly three days after the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference started in Egypt, aimed at curbing emissions and limiting the rise of temperatures to 1.5 degrees centigrade by 2030, Indian policy makers extolled the virtues and necessity of burning coal at events last week, reflecting India's evolving stance towards emissions. The war in Ukraine has much to do with an about-turn. (*Business Standard*)

Centre approved Rs 2 trn for development projects in Maharashtra: CM

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday said the Centre has approved Rs 2 lakh crore for 225 development projects in the state. He dismissed allegations that the state lost out the race to bag another project. (Business Standard)

Per capita income rose in real terms by 33.4 per cent since enactment of NFSA: Centre to SC

During the last eight years, since the enactment of NFSA, per capita income of the population in India has increased in real terms by 33.4 per cent. The rise in per capita income of people is bound to have taken a large number of households to higher income class and they may not be as vulnerable as they were in 2013-14. (*The Economic Times*)

India likely to remain fastest growing major economy: Das

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday exuded confidence that India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy with a likely growth rate of 7% in 2022-23 on the back of strong macroeconomic fundamentals and financial sector stability. (*The Hindu*)

India has to invest \$55 billion p.a. in urban infra to meet needs of growing population: WB report

A new World Bank report estimates that India will need to invest \$840 billion over the next 15 years— that is an average investment of \$55 billion per annum— into urban infrastructure to effectively meet the needs of its fast-growing urban population. (*The Hindu*)

WPI breaks 18-mth double-digit streak in October, eases to 8.39%

India's wholesale price index-based inflation in the month of October eased to 8.39% on an annual basis, from 10.70% recorded in September, provisional data from the Commerce Ministry showed on Monday. With this, the wholesale inflation in India has broken the streak of being in double digits for 18 consecutive months. (*The Economic Times*)

Inflation number for October expected to be lower than 7%: RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

Terming price rise as a major challenge, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday expressed hope that inflation print for October will be lower than 7 per cent. Retail inflation in September increased to 7.4 per cent from 7 per cent in August on higher food and energy costs. (*The Economic Times*)

Retail inflation cools to 6.77% in October from 7.41% in September

India's retail inflation cooled to 6.77% in October from 7.41% in September, slipping below the 7% mark for the first time in three months and only the second time since April's eight-year high mark of 7.8%. This is the tenth month in a row that inflation has been over the 6% upper tolerance threshold mandated for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The last time consumer price inflation was below the 7% mark was in July, at 6.71%. (*The Hindu*)

Food, fuel contribute almost half of headline inflation growth in India: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said that food and fuel remain the main drivers of inflation in India because they represent a larger share of the consumption basket and have contributed to almost half of the growth in headline inflation. (*The Economic Times*)

Consumer sentiments sustain elevated levels achieved during festive season, CMIE says

A fortnight after the end of the festive season, the index of consumer sentiment fell by 0.65% after a cumulative rise of 11.9% during September-October, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy said. Growth in ICS, however, is likely to slow down in November. According to CMIE, in the week ended November 6 the Index of Consumer Sentiments (ICS) grew by 2.2% but fell by 3.4% in the following week. (*The Economic Times*)

India's capex revival to push credit growth beyond 15% in this and next fiscal years: CRISIL

A full-fledged revival in Capex in FY '24 will push the corporate credit growth in double digits, pushing the overall credit growth to over 15 percent for two consecutive years in FY'23 as well as FY '24, according to a study by ratings firm Crisil. Besides, a broad-based economic recovery and stronger, cleaner balance sheets will allow lenders to expand credit. (*The Economic Times*)

India's GDP likely slowed to 6.5% in Q2

After double digit expansion in the first quarter, India's economic growth will likely slow to 6.5% in the second quarter largely due to the high base and erosion of corporate profitability due to inflation. However, a services sector recovery and government capital expenditure together supported growth in the pre-festive quarter ended September. (*Mint*)



Banking and Monetary Policy

Rupee drops in line with Asian FX, corporate dollar demand seen

The Indian rupee weakened on Wednesday as sustained corporate demand pushed the U.S. dollar up, while weakness in Asian stocks and currencies spilled over to domestic markets. (Mint)

Banks go slow on bond sales as rising interest rates push up costs

Banks looking to raise capital via bond sales to fund decade-high credit growth were compelled to put some of these debt issuances on hold amid a sharp rise in yields since late September, sources told Business Standard. Bank issuances of additional tier-1 bonds also came to a grinding halt in October as the rates being demanded by investors turned out to be much higher than the previous three months, the sources said. (Business Standard)

Yellen moots global cooperation on cryptocurrency regulation

United States' Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman discussed issues relating to cryptocurrency regulation during her maiden official visit to India on Friday, with Ms. Yellen mooting international cooperation to set high regulatory standards for crypto assets and reduce the cost of cross-border payments. *(The Hindu)*

RBI to meet bank chiefs to take stock of sustainability of double-digit credit growth

The Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has called for a meeting with the chiefs of public sector banks and select private sector banks on November 16 to take stock of the sustainability of the robust credit growth, and gauge if there are any risks lurking in banks' loan portfolio in the backdrop of rising interest rates. This comes even as all scheduled banks have logged a double-digit credit growth of 17.68 per cent year-on-year (yoy) as on October 21, 2022, per RBI data. (BusinessLine)

SBI turns selective on fresh loan proposals

The mood at India's largest bank — State Bank of India — has turned very cautious, especially in the last three months. The bank is unwilling to consider risky proposals and is turning down requests from corporates with a rating of BB and below. "The objective is clear and it (SBI) doesn't want to take on any fresh surprises from here on," said a highly placed source. (BusinessLine)

Active market making needed in 182-day and 364-day Treasury bills: RBI Deputy Governor Patra

The situation in money markets in India calls for active market making in 182-day and 364- day Treasury bills (T bills) and perhaps issuances of T bills of other maturities as well so that a continuous risk-free yield curve emerges, according to Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor MD Patra. (BusinessLine)

Keep eye on macroeconomic scene: RBI to banks amid deposit growth concern The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) discussed with banks the decade-high credit growth in wake of slower deposit mobilisation, in meetings with managing directors and chief executive officers (MD & CEOs) of public and private sector banks on Wednesday. (Business Standard)

Creditors recovered a third of claims in 553 resolved CIRP cases: IBBI data

The data released by the insolvency and bankruptcy board of India shows that financial creditors have recovered 32.95 per cent of their claims in 553 corporate insolvency processes that ended up getting resolved, till September 2022. (Business Standard)

RBI-ESMA logiam: Banks turn to EU, UK regulators over trade impact concerns

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) in late October de-recognised six Indian clearing houses, including the CCIL, which hosts the trading platform for government bonds and overnight indexed swaps. The decision is said to have been taken after the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) refusal to permit the foreign regulator rights of audit and inspection over the CCIL. (Business Standard)

RBI's Das, heads of banks review deposit growth

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday met the heads of public and private sector banks and discussed the issue of deposit growth trailing credit growth, among other matters. (Mint)

Why the MPC should slow its pace of tightening

Monetary conditions have also become tighter since the evaporation of excess liquidity in the money market, led by a sharp fall in foreign exchange reserves. The Indian central bank was perhaps a bit slow to pivot towards a greater focus on inflation, but that can be said about many of its peers across the world. (Mint)

Bank credit increases 17% YoY to Rs 129 trillion in early November 17

Bank credit rose 17 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 129.26 trillion as on November 4, reflecting robust offtake in the busy season. However, it moderated from 17.9 per cent YoY growth till October 21. Sequentially, credit rose by Rs 0.43 trillion over Rs 128.83 trillion as on October 21, 2022, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. (Business Standard)

NIIF-linked NBFC loans up sixfold

Loans by non-banking financial corporations where National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) has majority stakes increased by more than sixfold in three years, according to a finance ministry statement. The statement came after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Governing Council of the NIIF (Mint)



External Sector

External commercial borrowing of India Inc may stay muted in FY23

The external commercial borrowing (ECB) by Indian companies is likely to stay muted in the current financial year due to a sharp increase in interest rates in developed markets. Rating agency ICRA said ECB approvals were expected to remain at \$30-35 billion in FY23, which would be lower than \$38.6 billion in FY22. (Business Standard)

G-20 summit to focus on food, energy security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave for Bali on Monday to attend the G-20 summit on November 15 and 16. Food and energy security and post-COVID health issues will be at the top of the agenda in sessions at the summit in the Indonesian city. (*The Hindu*)

Bilateral talks will scale up ties with US: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen on Friday pitched for scaling up ties between the two countries. In a separate event, Yellen pitched 'friendshoring' for India, which is a global trade route away from China. (BusinessLine)

UK economy: A crisis in the making for some time, with India trade deal offering hope

Economic experts agree on the massive scale of the challenge, even as they hold out the prospect of a free trade agreement (FTA) with India as a potential generator of much-needed economic growth. "The economic crisis in the UK is caused by some new and some long standing factors," explains Dr Anna Valero, Senior Policy Fellow at the London School of Economics (LSE) Centre for Economic Performance. (*The Economic Times*)

Bilateral trade with India doubled to \$2 billion in the past two years, says Ambassador of Norway

Bilateral trade between India and Norway has doubled to \$2 billion in the last two years, Norway's Ambassador to India, Hans Jacob Frydenlund, said on Monday. Norway would invest \$1 billion from its climate investment fund in five years worldwide, Hans Jacob Frydenlund said, adding that how much of the funds would be invested in India would depend on the projects. (*The Hindu*)

India's G20 presidency will be inclusive, action-oriented: PM Modi

India's G20 presidency will be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who accepted the ceremonial gavel from Indonesian President Joko Widodo at a handover event during the conclusion of the G20 summit in Bali on Wednesday. (*The Hindu*)

India to start talks for new FTA next week: Piyush Goyal

Though the minister did not disclose the name of the region, there is a likelihood that the talks may start with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as the region was keen to increase economic engagement with India. GCC is a union of six countries in the Gulf region -- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. (*The Economic Times*)

Rishi Sunak greenlights 3,000 UK visas for Indians; all you need to know about the UK-India Young Professionals Scheme

The British government said India is the first visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme, highlighting the strength of the UK-India Migration and Mobility Partnership agreed last year. (Mint)



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Punjab considering to restrict use of paddy varieties of over 150 days

Amid several steps taken to reduce incidents of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana, and other states, the Punjab Government is considering measures that include preventing cultivation of paddy varieties that take more than 150 days to mature for harvesting. Stopping such varieties could provide ample time for farmers to plant wheat, experts said. (BusinessLine)

Will India be self-reliant in edible oils by 2030?

The data from the Oilseeds Division of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare show import dependency will decrease to 23 per cent in 2030-31 from 52 per cent (2021-22), but India will still need edible oil from other countries. (BusinessLine)

Scientists develop paddy varieties that require 30% less phosphorous

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR) have developed paddy varieties that require at least 30 per cent lower phosphorous at a time when the country is facing a huge challenge in meeting fertiliser demand. (BusinessLine)

Soya can tackle India's protein challenges, says PFNDAI

A study by Protein Foods and Nutrition Development Association of India (PFNDAI) has revealed that food innovation and continued consumer education on the importance of protein, and more specifically the benefits of soya protein, will be key in improving the protein status of India's population. Soya provides promise as a protein source as it can be used to fortify traditional Indian foods, says a study by PFNDAI. (*BusinessLine*)

Odisha adopts underground pipeline-based irrigation system in a big way

As part of its efforts to encourage "climate-proof" agriculture that will be environment-friendly, the Odisha government has begun adopting underground pipeline-based irrigation (UPBI) system in a big way, shelving open canal irrigation, a top government official has said. The State has now gone a step further by launching a pressurised irrigation system that can help farmers to adopt drip irrigation without secondary pumping. (BusinessLine)

India's domestic cotton demand set to dip 6% in 2022-23

India's domestic cotton demand for the 2022-23 season up to September is estimated to be lower by about 18 lakh bales (170 kg each) at 300 lakh bales or nearly 6 per cent less than last year's 318 lakh bales, the Cotton Association of India (CAI) has estimated. The association's Cotton Crop Committee meeting on Monday attributed the decline in domestic consumption to a reduction in operations of mills due to slack demand for yarn and cloth. (BusinessLine)

India's food safety authority scuttles move to sell 'blended basmati rice'

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has scuttled the efforts to introduce "blended Basmati rice" for sale in the country by deciding not to accede to a proposal that has been in the works since 2017. "The FSSAI decision basically will protect the purity of basmati rice and not allow any dilution, given the geographical indication (GI) tag for it," said S Chandrasekaran, a trade analyst and author of "Basmati Rice: The Natural History Geographical Indication". (BusinessLine)

Unlocking the potential of the Indian Agri sector through supply chain finance

While today we are among the top three producers of some two dozen major crops, pastoral and dairy produce, our farmers are yet to see any major breakout from living on the margins. (*The Economic Times*)

Finance ministry likely to give additional Rs 25,000 crore for MGNREGS

The finance ministry is likely to accept the rural development ministry's demand for an additional Rs 25,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the current fiscal year (FY23). (Business Standard)

COP27: India opposes efforts to extend scope of mitigation to agriculture

India has opposed the developed world's efforts to extend the scope of mitigation to agriculture at the ongoing UN climate summit in Egypt, saying rich nations do not want to reduce emissions by changing their lifestyles and are "searching for cheaper solutions abroad", sources said on Thursday. India made it clear that the world is facing a climate crisis today because of the excessive historic cumulative emissions by the developed nations.(Business Standard)

Global demand, low inventories push Basmati paddy prices

Robust global demand and negligible inventories have pushed up mandi prices of Basmati paddy this season sharply across the key rice growing regions in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. *(Financial Express)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Industrial output grows 3.1% in September

India's industrial output grew 3.1% in September, rebounding from a contraction in the previous month, helped by a double-digit rise in electricity generation even as manufacturing output growth remained weak at 1.8%. (*The Hindu*)

Q2 review: India Inc sacrifices growth to protect margins

While the year-on-year revenue growth for India Inc at 30 per cent in the second quarter Q2 looks robust, a study of the sequential trend paints a different picture. Excluding banking and financials (BFSI), sequential (quarter-on-quarter or QoQ) revenue growth came in at just 0.2 per cent, the lowest in a year. (BusinessLine)

Profitability of domestic steel makers to rise in Dec quarter on better demand conditions

After a challenging September quarter, the profitability of domestic steel makers in the October - December quarter is expected to improve on back of increased demand and lower input costs, analysts said. (*The Economic Times*)

Better data practices can bring in incremental profits of \$460 bn for enterprises: Infosys study

Enterprises would be able to generate an additional over \$460 billion in profits if they did three things – improved data practices, trusted in advanced artificial intelligence (AI), and integrated AI with business operations, the study said. (*The Hindu*)

India's innovative youth and enhanced tech access will drive growth of technology: PM Modi

Growth of technology and innovation in the country will be driven by the innovative youth and increasing tech access in the nation, PM Modi said, while speaking at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, virtually. (BusinessLine)

Sports broadcasting sector pegged at over ₹9,500 crore in FY22: CII-KPMG report

Revenues of the sports broadcast sector is estimated at over ₹9,530 crore in FY22 with TV continuing to be the largest media platform in terms of reach as well as consumer engagement for sporting events. (BusinessLine)

Hospitality sector's per-room revenue grew 89.6% YoY in Q3: JLL report

The Indian hospitality sector continued to post strong yearly growth in the third quarter of the 2022 calendar year, on the back of a sustained increase in corporate travel. During the same quarter last year, the industry was struggling to recover from the second wave of the pandemic. (Business Standard)

Jewellery industry estimated to register 60% growth in Q2 FY 2023

The domestic jewellery industry is estimated to have registered a healthy growth of 60% in Q2 FY2023 compared to pre-Covid levels (Q2 FY2020), according to rating agency ICRA. (*The Economic Times*)

Mobile industry agrees for phased roll-out of uniform device chargers: Govt

Smartphone companies and industry organisations have agreed to a phased rollout of a uniform charging port for all electronic devices, the Consumer Affairs Ministry said. "Stakeholders agreed that a phased roll-out of the common charging port may be conducted so that the same can be applied by the industry and adopted by consumers harmoniously," an official statement said. (*The Economic Times*)

Indian Appliances & Consumer Electronic industry to double to Rs 1.48 crore by 2025

The Indian Appliances and Consumer Electronics (ACE) market is expected to almost double in the next three years to around Rs 1.48 lakh crore by 2023, led by increasing domestic demand, said the industry body CEAMA. (*The Economic Times*)

Electric 2-wheeler companies hit a Rs 1,000 crore bump

Sales and production of electric two-wheelers are set to take a hit just when the demand was rising, with the government stalling subsidy disbursal amounting to ₹1,000 crore to half a dozen companies including Hero Electric and Okinawa Autotech. (*The Economic Times*)

Pricing, services, strong network key to 5G uptake: Industry Execs

Competitive pricing, including attractive bundling of value-added services, backed by strong network quality is key to driving adoption of 5G services, say industry executives and experts. (*The Economic Times*)

'Gaming industry to add 1 lakh new jobs in FY23'

The gaming industry in India is slated to grow 20-30% and will likely add 1 lakh direct and indirect new jobs by the time FY23 draws to a close, according to a new report by staffing firm, TeamLease Digital. (Mint)

Piyush Goyal calls for self-regulation within media and entertainment industry on content

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal called for some forms of self-regulation within the media and entertainment industry with regard to content and said that if the industry does not self-regulate, there will be a clamour from society and the government would then have to undertake regulation. (*ThePrint*)

Help bring capital into National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti: FM to NIIF

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has urged the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to expand its operations and explore ways to crowd in private capital for projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline, PM Gati Shakti and National Infrastructure Corridor. (*The Hindu*)



News on Kerala

Kerala to hold global brainstorming to set better green fuel ecosystem in motion

Aimed at making big strides in the electric vehicle (EV) and alternative green fuel-powered vehicles segment, Kerala is set to bring together leading electric and alternative

fuel vehicle experts, industry stakeholders, academia and policymakers in and outside the country. *(The Hindu)*

English to remain medium of instruction for medical education in Kerala

English will continue to be the medium of instruction for medical students in Kerala even as Madhya Pradesh is all set to impart medical education in Hindi. The debate over shifting the medium of medical education to regional languages got a new twist on Saturday with Union Home Minister Amit Shah asking the Tamil Nadu government to teach medical and engineering courses in Tamil. (*The Hindu*)

'Kerala Agri-Net' on the cards for farm sector

As part of adopting a farm plan-based development model for the State's farm sector, the Agriculture department proposes to put in place a network of value-and-supply chains designed on a hub-and-spoke model, named 'Kerala Agri-Net,' it is primarily meant to be a robust value-and-supply-chain system for managing agricultural inputs and produce, the guidelines for the development model published by the Agriculture department say. (*The Hindu*)

Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district hits 50% target for Entrepreneurship Year with 7,681 units

The capital city has hit 50% of its target as part of the Kerala government's initiative to launch 1 lakh micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the State in 2022, which is being observed as Entrepreneurship Year (*The Hindu*).

Kerala govt taking steps to make future generations more skilled: Pinarayi Vijayan

The Left government is continuously taking steps to mould the future generations into being more knowledgeable and skilled as a society's development is determined by the living standards of the children in it, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday on the occasion of Children's Day. (*The Economic Times*)

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