



## Public Finance

### **FinMin seeks inputs for rural boost, small town revival from ministries**

Ahead of the full Budget, the Finance Ministry has asked various ministries to come up with policy suggestions to stimulate economic growth and enhance employment opportunities in small towns and rural India. The ministries have been asked to come up with policy inputs on strengthening rural and small-town economy, building social, economic and digital infrastructure in these areas, improving social equity and boosting competitiveness of MSMEs, official sources said. ([BusinessLine](#))

### **Budget must give rural capex a boost, says CII President**

The Modi 3.0 government should maintain its focus on public infrastructure capex while allocating significant portion of incremental hike in such outlays for 2024-25 towards developing rural infrastructure. This approach in the upcoming Budget would help boost consumption in rural India, Sanjiv Puri, President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has suggested. He also felt that a portion of the ₹2.1-lakh crore RBI dividend bounty must be used for capex in rural areas, particularly in activities such as rural housing and warehouses. ([BusinessLine](#))

### **Budget docs may skip mentioning 'divestment' to ward off 'pressure'**

The full Union Budget is unlikely to mention the word 'disinvestment' and continue with the language of the Interim Budget. This indicates focus on enhancing the value of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) rather than selling part of equity holding. Going by the Budget documents over the years, the word 'disinvestment' was used for the first time in the full Budget of 1991-92 and the target was ₹2,500 crore which rose to an all-time high of ₹2.10 lakh crore (comprising sales of Government stakes in CPSEs, public sector banks and financial institutions). ([BusinessLine](#))

### **Economists bat for capex push, fiscal prudence and more jobs at pre-Budget meet**

Budget 2024: The focus on the quality of spending, sans mindless freebies, and steps to further curb inflationary pressure should continue, some of the economists told finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the customary pre-budget consultation, advising against reckless giveaways. Successful tackling of inflation, they said, would be the biggest pro-poor move. ([The Economic Times](#))

### **Economists urge Govt to adhere to fiscal deficit glide path**

Top economists on Wednesday urged the Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to stick to earlier announced fiscal deficit glide path while presenting the first comprehensive budget of Modi 3.0 government next month. Attendees of the first pre-budget consultations chaired by Sitharaman at North Block suggested that the upcoming budget should avoid excessive populism and remain focused on fiscal consolidation, sources said. ([BusinessLine](#))

## Capital market experts urge govt to fast-track disinvestment of 'low float' PSUs

Capital market experts and asset managers on Thursday urged the Modi 3.0 government to give priority to "low floating stock" counters in their future disinvestment decisions on listed public sector companies, including banks. Such an approach would increase the supply of shares in the market and valuations would become reasonable, they conveyed to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and top officials of the Ministry at pre-Budget consultations meeting here. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)



### Taxation

## Income Tax returns show doubling of capital gains in AY23

Income tax assesseees have shown capital gain nearly double, during Assessment Year 2022-23 (AY23), as compared to AY22. Interestingly, Long Term Capital Gain (LTCG) has registered much higher growth as compared to Short Term Capital Gain (STCG), during the period under consideration. According to data from Income Tax Department, LTCG shown in return rose to ₹8.20 lakh crore in AY23, from ₹3.52 lakh crore in AY22. Similarly, short term capital gain tax surged to over ₹2.22 lakh crore, as compared to ₹1.52 lakh crore. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

## GST Council likely to recommend relief for sectors hit by inverted duty structure

The GST Council is likely to consider a proposal to give relief to sectors such as textiles, fertilizers, leather, etc. that face difficulty due to the Inverted Duty Structure (IDS). IDS refers to higher duty on input and lower duty on output. Because of this inversion, the producer of such a good applies for a refund. However, getting a refund is not easy because of various reasons, such as calculation. Also, there have been litigations. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

## Budget Wishlist. India Inc seeks a simplified capital gains tax regime

Corporate India on Tuesday urged the government to introduce simplicity, consistency, and rationalisation of the capital gains tax regime in the upcoming Budget, noting that past policy decisions had led to a complex structure. At their pre-Budget meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra and top revenue department officials, leaders of Indian Industry also called for status quo on the corporate tax rates, stressing the need to provide tax certainty for businesses. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

## At ₹4.62-lakh crore, Income Tax Dept collects over 21% of Budget Estimates in just 78 days

With strong support from personal income tax, the government has collected nearly 21 per cent Budget Estimates of direct taxes in just 78 days of the current fiscal, data released by Finance Ministry on Tuesday showed. Direct taxes comprise personal income tax (PIT) and corporate income tax (CIT). The Ministry said that net direct tax collection (gross collection minus refund) between April 1 and June 17 surged to over ₹ 4.62- lakh crore. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

## GST Council may recommend further tightening new registration rules

The GST Council may consider a proposal to make biometric check must for all new registration. It is also likely to recommend cutting TCS (Tax Collected at Source) rate to half on e-commerce operators. These are part of multiple items expected to be taken up

during the meeting scheduled to take place on June 22. It will be chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman. This is first meeting after last October. (*BusinessLine*)

### **e-WAY bill generation in May touched 10.32 crore, second all-time high**

e-WAY bill generation touched 10.32 crore in May, which is second all-time high generation. Normally, May does not see much activities, still, higher numbers could be attributed to increase in demands for electronic items, and other cooling products. Data from GSTN shows, since the introduction, this is the third occasion, when e-WAY bill has crossed the 10 crore mark. An all time high was recorded in March this year, when generation was 10.35 crore, while previous second all time high was 10.03 crore in October last year. Rise in e way bill generation likely to have some positive impact on GST collection. (*BusinessLine*)



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

### **Demand for MGNREGA jobs among seniors dropping**

The demand for MGNREGA jobs among senior citizens is coming down, despite still being higher than pre-pandemic levels. This is according to the data from the Ministry of Rural Development. In FY24, which ended on March 31, 1.17 crore seniors (aged above 60) sought jobs under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005. 14 percent of the total MGNREGA workforce were seniors in this fiscal. (*BusinessLine*)

### **Formal job creation under EPFO at 72-month high in April at 1.89 million**

Provisional payroll data, released by the ministry of labour and employment on Thursday, shows new formal job created under EPFO was 31.3% higher than 1.44 million net members added to EPFO in March 2024, attributing the surge in membership to various factors, including increased employment opportunities, a growing awareness of employee benefits, and the effectiveness of EPFO's outreach programs. (*The Economic Times*)

### **The Great Indian Inequality Debate: Is India's income inequality declining?**

The household consumption expenditure survey (HCES), released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) after a gap of 11 years, reveals that the value of Gini Coefficient for consumption expenditure in the country declined from 0.283 in 2011-12 to 0.266 in 2022-23 for rural areas, and from 0.363 to 0.314 for urban areas. (*Business Standard*)

### **Govt mulls increasing frequency of unemployment data to monthly, quarterly**

The government is considering increasing the frequency of surveys for jobs data to monthly for urban areas and quarterly for rural areas, a senior government official said. Currently, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) conducts the periodic labour force survey (PLFS) for urban areas on a quarterly basis and rural areas on an annual basis. The latest survey pertaining to urban areas for the March quarter of FY24 was released in May this year. (*Business Standard*)

### **India needs new poverty line for estimating extent of deprivation: Debroy**

India needs a new poverty line to estimate the extent of deprivation in the country, said Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister (PM), on Wednesday. He said the Suresh Tendulkar committee's estimate was more than

a decade old and that the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) was not quite a poverty line. “We still do not have an official (definition of) poverty line that goes beyond the Tendulkar committee. The Rangarajan Committee report was never formally accepted and the MDPI is not quite a poverty line. Should we now have a new poverty line, to which this HCES data can be applied,” said Debroy. (*Business Standard*)

### **Country's wealth will increase 1,000% in next 50 years: NSE MD Chauhan**

National Stock Exchange Managing Director and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan on Wednesday said he is confident that India's wealth will increase 1,000 per cent over the next 50 years, thanks to the young population and technological advancements. Speaking as the chief guest at the 23rd convocation ceremony of the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) near Ahmedabad on Wednesday evening, Chauhan admitted that India still has socio-economic challenges, such as poverty, illiteracy, poor housing, living conditions, lack of food, water, sanitation and insufficient healthcare. (*Business Standard*)

### **Govt may finalise base year revision for CPI, IIP, GDP by end of 2024**

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is in the works to finalise the base year revision for consumer price index (CPI), index of industrial production (IIP) and gross domestic product (GDP) by end of the year, a senior government official privy to the matter said. The government has already started the groundwork to update the CPI, IIP and GDP with the release of the latest household consumption expenditure survey (HCES) for August 2022-July 2023. (*Business Standard*)

### **Retail inflation steadily easing, food prices still a concern: RBI bulletin**

Retail inflation is gradually easing, but volatile and elevated food prices are interrupting the path of disinflation, the RBI Bulletin said on Wednesday. An article on the "State of the Economy", published in the June 2024 Bulletin, said global growth was resilient in the first quarter of 2024, and many central banks have pivoted towards a less restrictive monetary policy stance in response to the fall in inflation in their economies. In India, high-frequency indicators suggest the real GDP growth in Q1 FY2024-25 is broadly maintaining the pace it achieved in the preceding quarter. (*Business Standard*)

### **Fitch Ratings raises India's growth forecast by 20 bps to 7.2% for FY25**

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday raised its growth estimates for India by 20 basis points to 7.2 per cent — same as that of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) — citing positive economic outlook driven by recovering consumer confidence and increased investment. “Investment will continue to rise but more slowly than in recent quarters, while consumer spending will recover with elevated consumer confidence. Purchasing managers survey data point to continued growth at the start of the current financial year. (*Business Standard*)

### **India must avoid 'adventurism', focus on bringing down inflation: RBI chief**

India should avoid "adventurism" and continue to focus on bringing down inflation towards the target of 4% despite the growing clamour to signal a pivot in monetary policy, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Tuesday. The central bank kept the key repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for an eighth straight policy meeting earlier this month saying robust economic growth will give it space to focus on bringing down inflation towards its medium-term target. (*Business Standard*)



## Banking and Monetary Policy

### **Centre seeks exemption for sovereign funds from RBI's alternate investment fund rules, sources say**

The Indian government has asked the central bank to exempt sovereign funds from a recent set of tightened rules concerning investments in alternate investment funds (AIFs), according to two government sources and a fund official. In December, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked banks and non-banking financial companies to raise provisions for AIF investments - under which sovereign funds also fall - if they were also lenders to the projects in which the AIFs were investing. *(The Economic Times)*

### **RBI flags pursuit of growth at cost of risk buildup**

India's banking regulator Thursday cautioned lenders against chasing 'mindless' business growth at the cost of exposing the broader financial system to 'unacceptable risks', as hidden vulnerabilities in business models could potentially be overlooked in the financing industry's unifocal pursuit of profitability. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Banking return on assets to dip 10-20 bps: Crisil**

After touching a 20-year high last year, return on assets (RoA) of banks is expected to moderate to 1.1-1.2% this fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Thursday. It was nearly 1.3% in fiscal year 2024. Though it is expected to be healthy as compared with the long-term sectoral average of 0.75% over 20 years and average of 0.5% over the past 10 years, Crisil said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Credit growth up by 19.3%, crosses deposit growth; PVBs outpace PSBs: CareEdge**

The Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) in India have reported a significant increase in credit offtake, with a year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 19.3 percent for the last quarter of FY24, according to CareEdge report. This growth translates to an absolute expansion of Rs 26.6 lakh crore since March 2023, reaching a total outstanding credit of Rs 164.3 lakh crore as of March 31, 2024. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Central banks worldwide to add to gold reserves in 2024**

Central banks around the world are planning to increase gold holdings in their reserves even as Indian retail consumers may shun the yellow metal due to high prices. As per the World Gold Council's recent "Central Banks Gold Reserves" survey, nearly 30 per cent of world's central banks plan to add gold to their own reserves this year. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Banks draw attention of Govt, RBI to ATM shortage**

Banks have sounded out the government and the banking regulator Reserve Bank about shortage in supply of automated teller machines (ATMs) while making a case for clarity in norms for procurement via the government e-marketplace, or GeM portal, people familiar with the matter said. Industry insiders said the initial reason for low capacity is connected to the 'Make in India' guidelines, which were implemented in FY20, and it took time for vendors to set up Indian operations. The Indian ATM market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.2% between 2024 and 2032. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Private banks further consolidate lending market share**

Private sector banks have further consolidated their position in the lending market post Covid, backed by their expertise in retail and services sector lending. Their cumulative market share has risen to 42% at the end of March from 35% four summers back, when the Covid pandemic began spreading in India in March 2020, according to an IDFC First Bank report. Public sector banks lost their share to 53% from 59% over the same time horizon. In retail lending, private banks' cumulative share increased to 49% from 41% while public sector banks saw their share shrinking to 49% from 57% during this four-year period. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Bad loan restructuring emerges to be a better option for ARCs**

For the first time, asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in FY24 saw the value of bad loan restructuring surpass recovery through the sale of non-performing assets, ToI reported. Traditionally, ARCs are known for recovering value from banks' bad loans by selling them to the highest bidder. However, they are now taking on roles usually performed by lenders. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Banking 'efficiency': Public sector banks beat private peers in new SBI list**

According to a study conducted by SBI, India's largest state-owned bank, public sector banks in India demonstrate greater "efficiency" compared to their private sector counterparts, ToI reported on June 18. The study evaluates efficiency by examining how effectively banks utilise their resources to produce output at an optimal scale. In terms of individual bank performance over the full sample period from FY06-23, SBI leads the public sector banks with a score of nearly 98%, followed by Union Bank of India at 92.5%. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's non-banking financial sector grew by 10%; declined globally by 3 %**

India's non-banking financial sector registered a growth of 10 per cent however globally the sector declined by 3 per cent, highlights a report by SBI. The non-banking financial institutions are typically those that do not possess a full banking license and thus, cannot accept public deposits. These entities usually focus on lending and financing activities. *(The Economic Times)*

### **RBI's timely action helped moderate unsecured credit growth, says Das**

The Reserve Bank of India's timely action last November through increase in risk weights on unsecured consumer credit and bank credit to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) pre-empted the build-up of potential risk, resulting in moderation in credit growth in these segments, according to Governor Shaktikanta Das. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Credit card transactions abroad are under Govt scanner again**

With the rise in remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), spending through international credit cards is prominently on the government's radar. However, a decision has yet to be made about the date to bring it under LRS, a top government official confirmed: "As more and more Indians go abroad, spending through cards is on the rise. Certainly it is on our radar." Last May, the Finance Ministry issued a notification bringing credit cards under the LRS ambit with 20 per cent tax collection at source (TCS). Debit cards are already covered under LRS. *(BusinessLine)*



### **India's forex reserves dip \$2.9 bn to come off all-time record high**

India's foreign exchange reserves saw a notable decrease of \$2.92 billion to reach \$652.9 billion as of June 14, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India. This followed a significant increase of \$24.3 billion in the previous week, pushing reserves to a record high of \$655.8 billion as of June 7. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India, EU fail to reach accord on steel at WTO**

India and the European Union have failed to reach an agreement at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the concessions the bloc can offer to New Delhi to mitigate the adverse impact of duties it levies on some steel imports. The measures hurt imports from many countries including India. "India requested the European Union to put forth its proposals for maintaining substantially equivalent level of concessions and other obligations and adequate trade compensation to mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed measure," India said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Export duty on onions to stay as domestic prices recover**

India's central government is unlikely to remove the 40% export duty on onions imposed last month, as domestic onion prices have almost doubled in the last month. The average rate of onions at the benchmark Lasalgaon APMC was Rs 28/kg on Tuesday, up 40% in the last 15 days and double of what it was a month ago. The rising onion prices have slowed down the pace of government onion procurement operations to create a strategic reserve under the Price Stabilisation Fund. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Government proposes export obligation period review for certain sectors**

India allows duty free import of inputs used for manufacturing for exports subject in advance authorisation to export obligation period in which exporters have to ship the goods within a stipulated time period otherwise they're penalised. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has sought comments of all the concerned stakeholders on the proposed amendments within 15 days. *(The Economic Times)*

### **EU's proposed sustainability standards to hurt Indian exports: GTRI**

The EU's recently passed regulation, Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) will lead to high costs and hurt exports from developing countries, economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said Wednesday. The ESPR mandates that imported products meet stringent sustainability standards, including a Digital Product Passport for traceability. Besides, it could hurt exports from developing countries due to the increased costs and challenges of meeting high EU standards and compliance cost. *(The Economic Times)*

### **DGFT implements automated system for adhoc input-output norms fixation**

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has introduced a new automated system to establish adhoc input-output norms, aimed at facilitating foreign trade procedures. This initiative allows exporters to import duty-free raw materials for manufacturing goods meant for export under advance authorisation. Exporters can now apply for

customized adhoc norms through a rule-based, automated process if standard norms do not meet their specific requirements. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Three-wheeler exports may continue to skid in FY25 over subdued demand**

India's three-wheeler exports, which have been on a downhill trajectory over the past few years, are showing no signs of recovery in FY25, with key markets like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Egypt witnessing subdued demand. In May, the country's exports plummeted 11.3 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y). "Sri Lanka's economy is struggling, Nigeria is facing high inflation and political risks, and Bangladesh is experiencing increased political uncertainty. These factors contribute to a bleak outlook for three-wheeler exports." *(Business Standard)*

### **UK overtakes China as India's fourth-largest export market in May**

The United Kingdom (UK) has overtaken China to become India's fourth-largest export market in May, commerce department data showed. The UK was India's sixth-largest export destination in May last year. While exports to the UK grew by a third to \$1.37 billion in May, the shipments to China saw 3 per cent growth at \$1.33 billion last month. *(Business Standard)*

### **Commerce Ministry to take up the issue of rice export curbs with inter-ministerial panel**

The Commerce Ministry is likely to move a proposal before the Amit Shah-led Committee of Ministers (CoM) on food prices to "suitably change" the export duty structure on parboiled non-Basmati rice. It will likely seek a direction on industry's demand to cut the minimum export price (MEP) of Basmati rice from the current \$950/tonne. *(BusinessLine)*

### **E-commerce hubs: Commerce Department working with revenue dept to sort out duty-free returns issue**

With the development of e-commerce hubs to facilitate online exports likely to be prominent on the government's 100-day agenda, the Commerce Department is working with the Department of Revenue on tricky issues, such as the proposal to allow returns without imposing import duties and expediting customs clearances, sources have said. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Rising vegetable prices strain household budgets across India: Survey**

A survey by LocalCircles highlighted significant consumer concerns over rising prices of essential vegetables—onion, potato, and tomato. It found that 16% of households are cutting consumption or feeling financial strain due to these price hikes, with another 31% anticipating impact if prices exceed INR 50 per kg. *(The Economic Times)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **Climate-resilient agriculture is prerequisite for sustainable development, says ICAR chief**

Himanshu Pathak, Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, has said that



climate-resilient agriculture is a prerequisite for sustainable development in the face of climate change and that farm scientists should focus their research on it. While addressing the Central Tobacco Research Institute scientists on Wednesday at Guntur CTRI Research Station, Dr. Pathak said that climate change is the major challenge influencing the performance of Indian Agriculture. *(The Hindu)*.

### **Govt weighs interventions to stabilise rising wheat prices**

The government on Thursday said it will undertake suitable policy interventions to ensure stability in wheat prices for consumers in the country. After a meeting of the committee of ministers chaired by Home Affairs and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, the government said it has directed officials to keep a close watch on wheat prices. Prices of wheat and wheat flour have increased by up to Rs 2 per kg from a year ago, according to the official data. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Combined fall in tea production in north India till June-end seen at 60 Mkg less than in same period last year**

Tea Association of India (TAI) stated that combined fall in the Tea production till the end of June 2024 is projected to be less by around 60 Mkgs in North India as compared to the corresponding period of last year. TAI added that the data released by Tea Board of India's indicates a drop of production of around 8% in Assam and around 13% in West Bengal up to the month of April 2024 as against last year during the same period. *(The Economic Times)*.

### **PM Modi releases 17th installment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, disburses Rs 20,000 cr to over 9.2 cr farmers**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Varanasi on Tuesday released the 17th instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana in which more than 9.26 crore farmers will receive benefits amounting to over Rs 20,000 crore. In his first move after being sworn-in as PM for the third consecutive time, PM Modi had authorized the release of the scheme's 17th instalment last week. *(The Economic Times)*.

### **Onion buffer stock not even 10% of FY25 target**

The government's procurement of onions from farmers for creation of a buffer stock for price stabilisation operations has not touched even 10% of the 5 lakh tonnes it has targeted for 2024-25, officials said. June marks the end of the peak arrival period for rabi season onions, after which they go into the storages of traders, stockists and farmers. Since 2016-17, the Centre has been creating a strategic buffer stock for price stabilisation. Earlier, the government used to buy onions only to support farmers when prices would collapse. *(The Economic Times)*.

### **Intense heat leads to rise in tomato prices**

Tomato prices have doubled in the past 15-20 days in Maharashtra and the southern states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, as intense heat waves have reduced production. The average tomato price in wholesale markets has reached ₹40-50 per kg in these states. *(The Economic Times)*.

### **After electoral setback, Modi may be forced to amend India's food policy**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is facing a policy conundrum after losing ground in the recent election: how to control food inflation without resorting to export curbs and more imports - steps that have angered farmers, a sizeable voting bloc. To hold down consumer prices, Modi's administration clamped down, starting in 2022, on exports of

staples such as rice, wheat, sugar and onions. It also lowered tariffs on pulse and vegetable oils, allowing cheaper imports. *(The Economic Times)*.

### **Prospects for Indian agriculture are brightening: RBI monthly bulletin**

The prospects for Indian agriculture are brightening with the early landfall of the southwest monsoon, according to the monthly bulletin released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday. The RBI highlighted that the early arrival of the southwest monsoon will boost the agriculture prospects and is expected to surge agricultural production. An early monsoon is generally beneficial for crops, leading to better yields and overall agricultural productivity. *(ThePrint)*

### **Minimum price mechanism for Ukrainian food exports to start in August, official says**

New rules to prevent Ukrainian agricultural exports below official minimum prices will start in August at the earliest, a senior agriculture ministry official said late on Wednesday. The new export price mechanism will apply to shipments of wheat, corn, sunflower oil, soybeans, rapeseed and some other agricultural commodities. *(ThePrint)*



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

### **Cabinet approves offshore wind energy projects in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu with total outlay of Rs 7,453 cr**

The Union Cabinet approved 1 GW offshore wind energy projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu with the total outlay of Rs 7,453 crore. Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while announcing the decision said, "Union Cabinet has taken a landmark decision by approving India's first offshore wind energy project. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Cost of FAME 3: Meet local sourcing norms or face penalty**

Automakers applying in the third edition of the Centre's flagship incentive scheme for electric vehicles will be liable to pay penalties in event of non-adherence with laid-down localisation norms, a senior official told ET. *(The Economic Times)*

### **As buyers diss cars, auto companies count on offers**

Carmakers and dealers are offering incentives by way of discounts, exchange bonuses, assured gifts to the tune of 5-11% - the highest in five years - in a bid to tempt buyers amid mounting inventory as sales slow, following a record FY24. The offers aren't just on older models launched two to three years ago but even on those that went on sale barely a year ago, depending on fuel type, variants and brands. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's coal-based power demand at all-time high**

India's demand for coal-based power has risen by 7.3% this fiscal year to an all-time high, the government said in a statement on Wednesday. Peak demand for power in India's hot, arid northern plains hit a record earlier this week, even as the government said it continues to implement measures to meet high energy consumption. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Union Minister G Kishan Reddy to launch 10th round of commercial coal auctions on Friday**

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy will on Friday launch the 10th round of commercial coal auctions in which 60 mines will be put on block, an official statement said on Wednesday. The move will enhance domestic coal production and ensure energy security for the nation. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Rental growth slows in India's top cities amid housing supply surge**

Residential rental growth in key micro markets across India's top cities has slowed significantly in the second quarter of calendar year 2024, signalling a shift in the country's real estate dynamics. Rental prices have risen a modest 2-4% during April-June, compared to a 4-9% growth in the first quarter, according to latest data from property consultant Anarock. *(Mint)*

### **Media industry expects minister Vaishnav to address concerns, review regulations**

The Indian media and entertainment industry expects the new information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnav to review and address some of the pressing issues, including content piracy, regulatory overreach, and censorship concerns. *(Mint)*

### **Ease of doing business: Industry ministry to work on next round of reforms**

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) on Wednesday held a meeting with the industry representatives on its agenda items for promoting ease of doing business in the coming months. Apart from the industry and DPIIT, officials from other departments also were part of the discussions that centred around Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0, national single window system and World Bank's Business Ready Index which is being compiled. *(Financial Express)*

### **Investments in renewable energy, roads, real estate to grow by 38% in fiscals 2025 and 2026, says Crisil Ratings report**

Key infrastructure sectors including renewable energy and roads and real estate are expected to see an investment growth of approximately 38 per cent in fiscals 2025 and 2026, in comparison to previous two fiscals to Rs 15 lakh crore, stated a report by CRISIL Ratings. The surge, per the report, will be aided by India's need for creation of sustainable infrastructure by adding more green power to the energy mix, improving physical connectivity through a denser road network, as well as rising demand for residential and commercial real estate. *(Financial Express)*

### **Industry body calls for policy intervention to aid 'struggling' jute industry**

The Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA), in a representation to the government, has called for policy intervention to help the "struggling" sector tide over challenges, including declining demand for jute bags and its detrimental impact on workers and farmers, a senior official said. The industry body has written to Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Pralhad Joshi in this regard. *(ThePrint)*

### **Sitharaman to hold pre-budget meeting with industry chambers on Jun 20**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to hold pre-budget consultations with industry chambers on June 20, sources said. The budget for 2024-25 fiscal is likely to be presented in Parliament in the second half of July. Industry sources said the pre-budget consultation with Sitharaman would be preceded by a meeting with Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on June 18. *(ThePrint)*

**India business activity grew faster in June, job creation at 18-year high, PMI shows**  
India's business activity expanded at a faster pace this month than in May, thanks to gains in manufacturing and services. The pace of job creation was at its strongest in over 18 years, marking a strong start to the country's economy this financial year. HSBC's flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 60.9 in June, marking nearly three years above the 50-level separating growth from contraction. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Centre monetizes assets worth Rs 3.85 lakh crore; Coal and Roads ministry top contributors**

The government has monetized Rs 3.85 lakh crore through core assets of various ministries and Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) since FY22 under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). In FY23-24, against a target of Rs 1.8 lakh crore, the government achieved Rs 1.56 lakh crore, with top-performing ministries being Road Transport and Highways and Coal, collectively monetizing Rs 97,000 crore. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Road construction down by 12.1% to 1288 km in the current financial year up to May 2024**

As per the monthly update, released the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) on Wednesday, the capital expenditure incurred during the period stood at Rs 57,925 crore till May 2024, which is 42.5% of the capital outlay under the vote on account provision for the first five months of 2024- 25. *(The Economic Times)*

### **'Aircraft took off': Adani reviews impact of Modi era on India's growth after 1991-2014 reform runway**

Gautam Adani highlighted India's infrastructure evolution, noting foundations were laid from 1991-2014, leading to rapid development in the last decade under PM Modi. Speaking at a CRISIL event, Adani praised the National Infrastructure Pipeline's integrated approach and announced Adani Group's \$100 billion investment in green energy, aiming for 50 GW capacity by 2030. *(The Economic Times)*



## **News on Kerala**

### **Sardine prices soar to over Rs 400 per kg in Kerala**

Sardine - the cheapest fish available in Kerala since time immemorial - has now become a luxury. The price of the fish, commonly referred to as 'mathi' or 'chaala' in Malayalam, has spiraled upwards from Rs 100 to over Rs 400 a kg. Stakeholders in the fishing sector said that the prices have shot up following a drastic reduction of yield, caused by the trawling ban and the impact of climate change *(Onmanorama)*.

### **Plantation land for other purposes: Revenue Dept cancels Land Board circular**

The Kerala Revenue Department has issued an order quashing a controversial circular of the State Land Use Board that offered concessions to owners of land converted from plantations. According to the order, signed by Revenue Principal Secretary Tinku Biswal, the circular is a misinterpretation of the laws related to land reforms in the state. The order also directed officials to resume litigation against owners of such land. The Revenue

Department utilized its special powers under the Kerala Land Reforms Act to issue the order (*Onmanorama*).

### **Government considering amendments to law on issuing caste certificates**

The government will suggest the amendments needed in the current law for issuing caste certificates to those who have migrated to Kerala from other States. A detailed study will be conducted on the necessary changes that are needed in the law before submitting a report on the same to the Centre, Revenue Minister K. Rajan said in the Assembly on Wednesday(*The Hindu*).

### **Arrears to Kerala govt. staff will be paid as soon as financial situation improves: Balagopal**

The arrears of benefits due to government employees and pensioners will be given as soon as the government's financial situation improves, Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal told the Assembly(*The Hindu*).

### **₹17,526.76 crore spent for LIFE project**

A total amount of ₹17,526.76 crore has been spent on the State government's Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Housing project, ever since its launch in 2017. Out of this, ₹2,081.69 crore was from the Union government's allocations for Pradhan Mantri Awaz Yojana (rural and urban) schemes, while local bodies have pitched in with ₹5,153.73 crore from their funds, according to documents placed by Minister for Local Self Governments M.B.Rajesh in the Assembly(*The Hindu*).

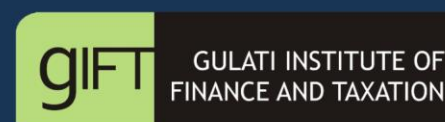
### **Forest department joins the e-commerce bandwagon to market Vanasree products**

Opening up new avenues for forest producers from Kerala, the Forest department has joined the e-commerce bandwagon to market its high-demand Vanasree products. A wide range of products including forest honey, pepper, turmeric and cardamom, marketed by Vana Samrakshana Samiti and Eco-Development Committees (*The Hindu*).

### **Kerala government constitutes delimitation commission**

The State government has issued a notification constituting the delimitation commission for redrawing the boundaries of local body wards. The five-member commission is headed by the State Election Commissioner A. Shajahan. The four members are Rathan Kelkar, Secretary, IT, Environment; K. Biju, Secretary, Public Works; S. Harikishore, Secretary, Information and Public Relations; and K. Vasuki, Secretary, Labour and Skills, and Transport (*The Hindu*).

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