



Public Finance

Centre releases Rs 2,874 crore to PLI beneficiaries so far, says DPIIT official

The government has released Rs 2,874.71 crore to the beneficiaries of the production-linked incentive scheme till March, with a majority of companies from eight sectors like electronics, telecom, pharma and food processing, a senior official said on Wednesday. Additional Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Rajeev Singh Thakur said these eight sectors are doing well, while few need to increase their pace. *(The Economic Times)*

Seasonal supply side problems adding to inflation, govt monitoring continuously: Finance Minister

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said seasonal supply side problems add to inflation and that they are being monitored continuously with efforts being made to bring down prices of essential commodities. Highlighting that efforts have also been made to bring down fuel and natural gas prices, she said these are imports coming into the country and the prices are high in the global market, due to the impact of Covid and Russia-Ukraine war. *(The Economic Times)*



Taxation

Centre tells States to scrap levies on power generation

The Centre on Wednesday issued a terse warning to States against resorting to tax levies on electricity generation, including through imposition of a water cess, noting that there were no provisions in the Constitution that enabled States to do so. *(The Hindu)*

EU's carbon border tax is hypocritical, unjust

The European Union's carbon border tax, the paperwork for which begins in October even as it comes into force within three years, is condemnable on many counts. The ultimate plan is to impose a heavy tax on all imports into the EU (by 2034) for the carbon dioxide emitted in their production, so that they are supposedly on the same footing as EU-produced goods which pay a similar tax for emissions. *(BusinessLine)*

Income tax dept releases offline e-filing forms for ITR 1, 4 for FY 2022-23 (AY 2023-24)

The income tax return forms were notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) in February 2023, well after Budget 2023. This was a departure from norm of notifying the ITR forms in April. Though the forms are notified, the ITR cannot be filed by an individual or any other taxpayer till utility form or online forms are enabled on the e-filing income tax portal. *(The Economic Times)*

Now you can't get Section 80G tax deduction without this TDS-like certificate from income tax portal

Till FY 2020-21, an individual can claim the donation on the basis of the donation receipts at the time of filing income tax return (ITR). However, from FY 2021-22 onwards, the donation can claim be claimed only if an individual enters donation certificate details in the income tax return form. Without the certificate, an individual cannot claim Section 80G deduction.

Govt to come out with angel tax rules before April 30 to address industry's concerns

The Income Tax Department is expected to come out with a detailed circular addressing various concerns related to angel tax on start-ups in the next two-to-three days, a senior Finance Ministry official said here on Thursday. This is a follow up of the Budget proposal announced on February 01. *(BusinessLine)*

States cannot tax electricity generation: Power ministry

The Power Ministry has said that state taxes or duties on electricity generation is unconstitutional, after some states levied a cess on water use for hydropower generation. *(BusinessLine)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

India's growth aim faces risks from a little boy, a sturdy cartel & big economies

India's 6.5% real economic growth aim for this financial year faces increasing risks from so-called little boy or El Nino, heavyweight oil cartel's surprise output cut and banking risks in some advanced economies, which can chase away the favourable combination of growth and inflation outcomes currently anticipated. *(The Economic Times)*

India likely to move to upper-middle-income category by 2047: Bibek Debroy

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy on Monday said that some states in India are already in the high-income category in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, and the country is likely to move to the upper-middle-income country by 2047. Debroy further said any presumption that the Indian economic growth rate will be driven only by exports may be misleading because there are plenty of endogenous sources of growth. *(The Economic Times)*

India can obviate foreign capital for growth with proper allocation of savings: Expert

India has enough domestic resources to fund its growth without relying on foreign capital, but it needs to allocate savings more prudently rather than unproductive assets like gold, a market expert said. Kotak Mahindra AMC managing director Nilesh Shah advocated greater public-private partnerships for state-owned firms to unlock wealth that will fuel India's growth. *(The Economic Times)*

Seasonal Supply Side Problems Add to Inflation, Under Watch: FM

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said seasonal supply side problems add to inflation and that they are being monitored continuously with efforts being made to bring down prices of essential commodities. *(The Economic Times)*

Mixed Show for Formal Job Creation in February

While net additions to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation increased, new subscriptions to the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and National Pension Scheme declined. *(The Economic Times)*

Industrial States Take Lead in Easing Labour Laws

Key industrial states have taken the lead in easing labour laws for select sectors through amendments to the Factories Act, whereas the Centre has yet to implement the labour codes endorsed by Parliament. *(The Economic Times)*

Oil prices, El Nino key risks to inflation, growth outlook: FinMin

Downside risks dominate the upside risks to the official 6.5% GDP growth projection for this fiscal, Ministry says in monthly report; flags milk, wheat and crude oil prices as posing risks to the outlook on inflation. *(The Hindu)*

India's patent filings soar 13.6% in FY22: Nasscom

Some 2,66,000 of the total 5,84,000 patents filed between FY2010 and FY2022 were from technology domain and also 1,60,000 these technology patents were from emerging technologies like AI, IoT, Big Data, Cybersecurity, and Blockchain. *(The Hindu)*

Public and private sector FY22 wage bill gap widens

The gap between the private sector and public sector wage bills has widened further in fiscal 2022 to nearly a percentage point, shows an analysis of data on employee compensation. As a percentage of nominal gross domestic product, the wage bill of the private sector was 12.7% in the year ended March 21, 2022, compared with 11.8% for the public sector. *(The Economic Times)*

Index of consumer sentiment expected to grow by 2-3% in April: CMIE

According to CMIE, the average monthly growth in consumer sentiments during April 2022 through March 2023 was 2.68% but the month-to-month change was volatile, ranging from -1.7% in November to 7.1% in September. "The expected growth in April 2023 would be in the vicinity of the average monthly growth seen in 2022-23," it said in its weekly labour market analyses, adding that the consumer sentiments are growing at a rather slow pace. *(The Economic Times)*

Efforts taken continuously to cool prices of essential items: Sitharaman

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that the central government has continuously taken steps to stabilise prices of essential commodities, addressing their seasonal supply side problems. Speaking at a function in Kalaburagi, Karnataka, Sitharaman said that the Centre has taken consistent steps to cool inflation including lowering excise duty on petroleum products and customs duty on edible oils. *(Mint)*

Economic growth faces risks from weather, geopolitics, global financial conditions: finance ministry

The finance ministry on Tuesday flagged the downside risks to the official forecast of 6.5% economic growth rate in FY24 arising from oil production cut by the OPEC, troubles in the

financial sector in developed markets impeding cash flows and elevated risks to the monsoon rains from El Nino which could impact farm output and prices. *(Mint)*

India jumps 6 places in World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023

India has jumped 6 places and ranked 38 out of 139 countries in the 7th edition of World Bank's Logistics Performance Index 2023, Ministry of Commerce & Industry said on 26 April. *(Mint)*

'India's demographic profile an opportunity'

India crossing China in population is an opportunity because it will create a large domestic market thanks to the young people who are ready to offer their services and labour to the world, said Manish Sabharwal, vice chairman, TeamLease Services. He also said that economic growth upwards of 7% combined with structural reforms is the best way to reduce our underemployment and raise wages. *(Financial Express)*

Demand for work under NREGA declines in FY23

In an indication that the labour market is now recovering post the pandemic as economic activities have gained momentum, the number of people who availed employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) declined by 16.9% in 2022-23 from a year ago. The data indicates that employment available under the flagship scheme has fallen to levels lower than even FY21, when the pandemic was still underway. *(Financial Express)*

Rural India feeling inflation pressure, says Unilever's Jope

India's fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) market has been largely driven by growth in urban areas rather than rural areas, Unilever's CEO Alan Jope said during earnings call on Thursday after announcing the company's March quarter numbers. The company follows a January-December accounting year. *(Financial Express)*

IMF's growth forecast for India may have errors, real numbers to come as a surprise: RBI

The IMF recently lowered its 2023 growth forecast for India to 5.9 per cent from 6.1 per cent citing slowness of domestic consumption and challenging external conditions. In its annual World Economic Outlook, IMF also lowered the forecast for 2024-25 fiscal (April 2024 to March 2025) to 6.3 percent from the 6.8 percent it had predicted in January this year. *(The Economic Times)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

Credit growth expected to moderate to 10% in FY24 from 15% in FY23: Report

It can be noted that all lenders have been having a great run with high credit growth and lowest stress on the books in over a decade at present. *(Business Standard)*

Rupee rises 4 paise to 81.75 against US dollar

The rupee gained 4 paise to 81.75 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday, April 28, 2023, tracking a weak American currency and foreign fund inflows. Forex traders said the rupee is trading in a narrow range as the support from crude oil prices below USD 80 a

barrel was negated by muted domestic equities. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 81.77 against the dollar and then rose to 81.75, registering a rise of 4 paise over its previous close. *(The Hindu)*

Talks on for Green Finance Model with key concessions

Banks are in discussions with the government on a Green Finance Framework that includes a preferential dispensation for key statutory requirements such as cash reserve ratio (CRR), statutory liquidity ratio (SLR), risk-weighted assets and additional tax benefits to promote green lending. These concessions would bring down the capital cost for lending to the sector. *(The Economic Times)*

RBI harmonises provisioning norms for urban cooperative banks

The Reserve Bank on Monday harmonised the provisioning norms for standard assets applicable to all categories of urban cooperative banks (UCBs). In December last year, the RBI had categorised UCBs into four tiers -- tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 -- for regulatory purposes. Prior to that, such banks fell only in tier 1 and tier 2 categories."On a review, it has been decided to harmonise the provisioning norms for standard assets applicable to all categories of UCBs, irrespective of their tier in the revised framework," the central bank said in a circular. *(The Economic Times)*

RBI imposes Rs 44 lakh penalty on 4 co-op banks

The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties totalling Rs 44 lakh on four cooperative banks, including a Rs 16 lakh penalty on Chennai-based The Tamil Nadu State Apex Co-operative Bank, for contravention of various norms. A penalty of Rs 13 lakh has been imposed on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank as it failed to transfer an eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) within the prescribed period and transferred the same with delay, RBI said in a release on Monday. *(The Economic Times)*

Indian banks unlikely to go SVB, Credit Suisse way as they can swim good in troubled waters

The bank failures in the world's largest economy and in Europe following the pandemic and war-induced tightening cycle posed a lot to brood over for policymakers on the vulnerability of financial systems. The concerns were particularly true for emerging market economies, who may have to struggle with fiscal packages to calm markets. However, India's banking system has considerably less chances to face such incidents, the finance ministry said today in a report. *(The Economic Times)*

RBI monitoring banks' business models more closely, says governor Shaktikanta Das

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started to monitor the business models of banks more closely, said RBI governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday, while speaking at the Global Conference on Financial Resilience. The recent stress tests revealed that the Indian banks were efficient and will be able to maintain capital adequacy above minimum requirement even in situation of severe distress. The RBI has put in place various frameworks to monitor the banks and has also deployed macroprudential measures to assess system level buildup of risks, highlighted Das in his speech. *(The Economic Times)*



External Sector

FTAs will help India join MNC supply chains: Arvind Virmani, member, NITI Aayog

India's free trade agreements with developed countries will greatly facilitate its entry into the supply chains of multinational companies and significantly push up exports, Arvind Virmani, member, NITI Aayog, said. Outlining the challenges and opportunities before India as it strives to become a developed nation by 2047, Virmani said global inflation and oil prices are expected to cool over the next one year and that will have a positive impact on the Indian economy with an expected enhanced capex from the private sector. *(The Economic Times)*

India likely to continue shielding farm sector in extended free trade pact with Australia

India will give continued protection to its sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors against tariff cuts under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) being negotiated with Australia and limit market access offers only to items where producers would not be affected, sources have said. *(BusinessLine)*

India-UAE CEPA: DGFT to open fresh window for inviting new applications for gold TRQ

The government decided to open a fresh window for inviting new applications for gold tariff rate quota (TRQ) under the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), that allows 1 per cent import duty concession, to bring it in line with the relaxation in the eligibility criteria for TRQs notified on April 17. *(BusinessLine)*

Britain's economy grows at fastest pace in a year: PMI

British businesses reported a bounce in activity this month and the slowest input cost inflation in over two years, an industry survey showed, but price pressures still look strong enough for the Bank of England to raise rates again next month. The preliminary or "flash" reading of the S&P Global/CIPS UK Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) - spanning services and manufacturing firms - rose to 53.9 in April from 52.2 in March, putting it further above the 50 line denoting growth for the third consecutive month. *(The Economic Times)*

Asian nations uncover 20.1 billion euro in additional revenue through tax transparency network: report

Asian nations participating in a global tax transparency network have identified at least Euro 20.1 billion in additional revenue since 2009, according to a report released. A report released by the Asia Initiative of a platform founded by the OECD, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, said that the commitment to information exchange and tax transparency is growing among participating countries. *(Mint)*

China Jan-Mar industrial profit slump underlines slow economic recovery

The economy expanded by 4.5% year-on-year in the first three months of the year, beating market expectations and marking the strongest growth in a year but its resilience looks likely to be tested. China's industrial firms' profits shrank at a slightly slower pace in

January-March but the decline remained in the double-digits as the economy struggled to fully recover despite the country's exit from its zero-COVID policy. (*Business Standard*)

U.S. GDP expanded 1.1% in first quarter

U.S. economic growth slowed more than expected in the first quarter as an acceleration in consumer spending was offset by businesses cutting back on inventory investment in anticipation of weaker demand this year amid higher borrowing costs. Gross domestic product increased at a 1.1% annualised rate last quarter, the government said in its advance estimate of first-quarter GDP growth. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP rising at a 2.0% rate. (*The Hindu*)

Economist suggests demonetization of ₹5,000 note to overcome Pakistan economic crisis

A Pakistani economist has suggested that the crisis-hit country should demonetize its ₹5,000 note to come out of the ongoing economic crisis. He cited an example of India, saying that the country's demonetization worked "tremendously well" and its "tax collections" rose after that move. (*Mint*)

Rupee falls 5 paise to 81.79 against US dollar

The rupee pared all its initial gains to settle lower by 5 paise at 81.79 against the US currency amid a strengthening greenback overseas and foreign capital outflows. However, the strong sentiment in the domestic equities market restricted the rupee's fall, forex traders said. (*ThePrint*)

Sri Lanka trying to reduce overall debt by \$17 bn, President Ranil Wickremesinghe says

Sri Lanka is trying to reduce its overall debt by \$17 billion through restructuring, the country's president told the parliament as he sought support of opposition parties for a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund programme. President Ranil Wickremesinghe also said that the country would discuss debt restructuring with India and the Paris Club of creditors on one platform and with China separately. (*The Economic Times*)

Yen to regain status as preeminent haven currency after years of dollar dominance

The yen is set to regain its status as a preeminent haven currency after years of dollar dominance as the Bank of Japan normalizes policy and the inflation shock wanes, according to Barclays Plc. While the dollar became the dominant refuge in macro shocks of recent years, signs of the yen's return as a haven surfaced in recent bouts of strength in peak periods of risk-off sentiment sparked by financial market turmoil, analysts including Shinichiro Kadota and Lhamsuren Sharavdemberel wrote in a report. (*Mint*)



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Help farmers who suffered heavy crop losses: Bandi Sanjay Kumar

Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar urged his party men to help farmers who had suffered heavy crop losses due to unseasonal rains and hailstorm in the last few days, by taking up field visits and collecting details of the extent of damage. In a tele-conference with district presidents on Tuesday, he said that the details can be given as

representations to the respective District Collectors seeking assistance to the affected farmers in the next two days and the party can take up an agitation if there was no response from the government. *(The Hindu)*

Lack of initiatives, promotion of wheat, rice reduced millets crop cultivation area: Niti Aayog report

“The area under cultivation of various millets in India has been declining and the underlying reasons behind it could be attributed to the promotion of rice and wheat vis-a-vis millet production and lack of suitable initiatives towards millets,” a Niti Aayog report said. The government think tank NITI Aayog released a report on April 26 titled Promoting Millets in Diets: Best Practices across States, UTs of India. Millets which were once an integral part of the Indian diet have been almost forgotten due to various demand and supply challenges. *(The Hindu)*

Use biofertilizer to improve yields, Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister urges farmers

Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy on Thursday exhorted farmers to use high-quality biofertilizers to improve yields in a sustainable environment. Inaugurating the state-of-the-art Biofertilizer and Organic Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratory, said to be the first of its kind in the State, he said farmers were happy with the Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy government which was providing them all support. *(The Hindu)*

KDHP bags 7 Golden Leaf India awards at Global Dubai Tea Forum

The Munnar-based KDHP—makers of Ripple Tea and associate company of Tata Consumer Products Ltd—has bagged seven Golden Leaf India awards at the Global Dubai Tea Forum, the highest number of awards by any company from South India this year. All three awards in the CTC category were bagged by KDHP, two in orthodox category for the high ranges and two awards for green tea in the open category. *(BusinessLine)*

Record procurement. India's wheat procurement tops last year's total purchase

Wheat procurement, which took off late due to delayed harvest in northern regions, has surpassed the purchases by government agencies of 18.79 million tonnes for the whole of 2022. Year-on-year, the buying surged by 31 per cent to 19.52 million tonnes (mt) as of April 26 from 14.89 mt a year ago, according to the latest official data. For this year, the procurement target has been fixed at 34.15 mt. *(BusinessLine)*

Amit Shah launches nano-DAP, asks farmers to adopt it

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said nano-urea and nano-DAP can guarantee the same level of production as conventional fertilisers. He appealed to farmers to shun the conventional bag of fertilisers if they are using the liquid alternatives, a recent innovation by IFFCO. Soil conservation, higher crop yield, easy transportation, apart from helping the government to cut the subsidy costs are some of the benefits of the liquid fertilisers have been projected to deliver. *(BusinessLine)*

Tea planters suffering from 'crop loss', 'falling' prices in Tripura

Tea planters in Tripura are witnessing a "shortage" in production due to a prolonged dry spell in the northeastern state with "falling" prices of the crop creating pressure on margins, stakeholders said on Sunday. *(The Economic Times)*

The pulse of food production

The share of wheat and rice in the country's total crop output has increased since 2014-15, despite the focus to move farmers away from these crops, according to official data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. *(The Economic Times)*

India's horticulture sector holds untapped potential despite challenges

India's horticulture sector has proven to be more profitable and productive than the agricultural sector and has emerged as a rapidly growing industry. According to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), India ranks second in fruits and vegetable production in the world after China. *(The Economic Times)*

Arya.ag announces partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to drive farmers' financial inclusion

Grain commerce platform Arya.ag on Thursday announced a strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank. With this business correspondent model partnership, Arya.ag, will further its mission to drive financial inclusion for farmers and FPOs and offer loans through Shivalik Small Finance Bank under Warehouse Receipt Finance. *(The Economic Times)*

El Nino contingency plan being readied for farmers & output

The government is putting in place a contingency plan to mitigate harm and protect farmers and farm output as chances of El Nino in the monsoon this year rises, said senior officials. *(The Economic Times)*

Diversion of sugar for ethanol to fall by 11%, says ISMA

Trade body Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has lowered its sugar production estimate by 3.5%, while the estimated diversion of sugar to ethanol has also been cut by 11% in its latest estimate issued today over the earlier estimate issued in January. *(The Economic Times)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

India's non-tech sectors to hire 1 million tech workers by FY 2027-28

By fiscal year 2027-28, more than one million (11.15 lakh) technology professionals may be employed in non-tech sectors such as banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and consulting, communication media and technology, retail and consumer business, life sciences and healthcare, engineering research and development (ER&D), and energy and resources, according to a report. *(BusinessLine)*

Cabinet okays National Medical Devices Policy, to set up 157 new nursing colleges

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod to the National Medical Devices Policy, which is expected to help the sector expand to \$50 billion or over ₹4-lakh crore by 2030, from its current size of around \$11 billion or over ₹90,000 crore. The policy aims systematic development and expansion of the sector, said Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. *(BusinessLine)*

Electronics, mobile production corner over 50% share of PLI disbursements

More than half the disbursements of ₹2,875 crore made so far under the government's ₹1.97-lakh crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors have gone to large scale electronics manufacturing, including mobile phones, per government estimates. Pharmaceuticals and food products have cornered most of the remaining disbursed amount. Disbursements are yet to begin for six sectors — textiles, white goods, automobiles, auto parts, solar PV modules and ACC battery. *(BusinessLine)*

Industry bodies seek Steel Ministry's intervention on issue of iron ore shortage

At least three industry bodies, all related to steel-making, have written to the Steel Ministry over the last one month requesting its intervention to sort out iron ore shortages to the tune of 50 million tonnes (mt). The shortage is to the tune of 3.35 – 4 mt per month, as per industry estimates. Iron ore is a key steel making raw material. *(BusinessLine)*

Industrial & Logistics (I&L) sector leasing grew by 26% Y-o-Y : Report

Industrial & Logistics (I&L) sector leasing grew by 26% Y-o-Y to 8 mn sq ft in Jan-Mar 2023 while supply during this period increased by 28% Y-o-Y to 7.6 mn sq. ft, according to CBRE. During the Jan-Mar23 period, Delhi-NCR drove absorption activity, with the leasing of 1.7 mn sq. ft., followed by Hyderabad at 1.5 mn sq. ft. and Ahmedabad at 1.2 mn sq. ft. The leasing share of these three cities in total leasing stood at 54%. *(The Economic Times)*

Domestic coal production to continue to rise in FY24: CareEdge

India's coal output will rise in financial year 2023-24, driven by a ramp-up in production of state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) and NLC India Limited by engaging mining developers cum operators (MDOs). Incremental output is also expected from the operational and new captive mines, CareEdge Ratings said in a report. *(Mint)*

Oil prices slip on uncertainty over global economic outlook, rate hikes

Oil prices slipped on Monday as concerns about rising interest rates, the global economy and the outlook for fuel demand outweighed support from the prospect of tighter supplies on OPEC supply cuts. Brent crude slipped 48 cents, or 0.6%, to \$81.18 a barrel by 0045 GMT while US West Texas Intermediate crude was at \$77.39 a barrel, down 48 cents, also 0.6% lower. *(Mint)*

Steel prices to come under pressure on weak demand

Spot Hot Rolled Coil prices were stable in the spot market even as coking coal prices were down by a further \$13 a tonne, the lowest since last August. China's export prices have fallen by \$50/tonne against last week as mills are resorting to exports in the absence of domestic demand pick-up, said Motilal Oswal Research report. *(BusinessLine)*

Almost 50,000 km of National Highways added in 9 years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for an infrastructure upgrade to boost the economy has led to an unprecedented 50,000 kilometres of National Highways - the country's arteries - being added in the last 9 years, according to official data. India had a total of 97,830 km of National Highways in 2014-15 which has been expanded to 145,155 km by March 2023. *(The Economic Times)*



State completes micro-plans to wipe out extreme poverty

The government is determined to free the State from poverty and ensure a better standard of living for its people through a slew of short-term and long-term projects, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said. *(The Hindu)*

Supplementary textbooks to cover deleted NCERT lessons

A school curriculum steering committee meeting on Tuesday decided to prepare supplementary textbooks for Plus One and Plus Two higher secondary subjects for which the State uses the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks. *(The Hindu)*

34 railway stations in State will be upgraded: Vaishnaw

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that 34 railway stations in the State would soon be upgraded to world class standards. *(The Hindu)*

Prime Minister flags off Vande Bharat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday flagged off Kerala's first Vande Bharat Express at 11.10 a.m. from the Thiruvananthapuram Central Railway Station. *(The Hindu)*

Govt. forging ahead to make Kerala a research hub: CM

The State government is forging ahead with projects to turn Kerala into a hub of higher education and research with the setting up of new institutions focusing on cutting-edge technology and research, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said. *(The Hindu)*

All pre-primary students must be given mid-day meal: panel

All students in pre-primary wing of government and aided schools in the State should be included in the mid-day meal scheme, the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has said. *(The Hindu)*