



Public Finance

Centre earned ₹254 crore from disposing scrap, eased 588 rules: Jitendra Singh

The Centre has earned ₹254.21 crore from scrap disposal besides easing of 588 rules during the ongoing special cleanliness campaign, Union Minister Jitendra Singh. Mr. Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, said tremendous enthusiasm is being witnessed in ministries/department for institutionalising Swachhata and minimising pendency. Mr. Singh said the campaign has inculcated a behavioural change and led to innovation in governance. *(The Hindu)*

Pension proceeds Deceased NPS subscribers

Pension regulator PFRDA has come out with guidelines to handle the NPS corpus meant for issue of annuity lying unutilised due to the death of subscribers during the transitory time between their withdrawal of lump sum amount and issue of annuity. *(BusinessLine)*

First Supplementary Demands for Grants likely to see additional allocation for food and fertiliser subsidy

The first Supplementary Demand for Grants (SDG) may include provisions for additional expenditure on food and fertiliser subsidy besides re-capitalisation of public sector general insurance companies. Still, government officials are hopeful of limiting the fiscal deficit (difference between expenditure and income) as planned in the budget. *(BusinessLine)*

India can accelerate green investments to \$12.1 trillion by 2050

India can accelerate green investments to USD 12.1 trillion by 2050 and reap a host of benefits, a consultancy firm said on Thursday. With the ongoing rate, India's net Green House Gas (GHG) emissions will rise to 11.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2070 from the 2.9 gigatons in 2019, Mckinsey & Co said in a report. *(Business Standard)*

Centre directs 36% of defaulter CPSEs to join TReDS platform

The finance ministry has directed 92 operating central public sector enterprises (CP-SEs) that have not onboarded the trade receivables discounting system (TReDS) despite the government's mandate to do so. Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre would take adequate measures to clear pending dues to MSMEs and would ensure that the central government departments and CPSEs make payments to the MSMEs in 90 days. *(Business Standard)*



Taxation

Avoiding confusion GST Council issues guidelines on authority for action against taxpayer post show cause notice

The GST Council has issued detailed guidelines on authority regarding action consequential to issuance of show cause notice (SCN). The guidelines also prescribe mechanism to be followed in case of recurring SCN. *(BusinessLine)*

Google India's payment to Ireland unit not royalty, rules ITAT

After getting relief on the equalisation levy front, Google has got another tax break with the Income Tax Appellate Authority (ITAT) ruling that the payments made by the company to its Ireland outfit are not royalty and therefore not subject to withholding tax. *(BusinessLine)*

GST has begun to deliver, State finances healthier: FinMin

India's five-year old Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime has started delivering 'dividends', and States' finances are in better shape this year, but a higher subsidy burden on fertilizers and free food grains under the extended PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) could 'stress' government finances, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday. *(Financial Express)*

Windfall taxes on oil firms to fetch Rs 40,000 cr in FY23

The windfall taxes imposed in July on domestic crude and export of petroleum products will likely generate additional revenues of around Rs 40,000 crore in the current fiscal, a senior official told FE, adding that nearly half of these taxes will likely be paid by private sector companies. *(Financial Express)*

ITR due date for businesses extended by 7 days

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Wednesday extended the due date for filing returns of income (ITR) by businesses by seven days to November 7. *(Financial Express)*

ITR filing: Deadline to file income tax returns with audit reports for AY 2022-23 extended to November 7

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the due date for filing income tax returns (ITRs) by corporate and individuals whose accounts need to be audited, to November 7, 2022. Earlier the due date of filing ITR for these assesseees was October 31, 2022. *(The Economic Times)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

Formal job creation in India slows down in August: MoSPI

Formal job creation in India slowed down in August after remaining buoyant for the last four months across the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation and the National Pension Scheme. The provisional payroll data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation on Tuesday shows net new subscriber addition under EPFO fell by 7.1% in August at 1.69 million compared to 1.82 million in July, 1.83 million in June, 1.68 million in May and 1.53 million in April. *(The Economic Times)*

One database for all welfare schemes in works

Ahead of the general elections in 2024, the government will merge two of its flagship beneficiary identification schemes to complete an asset-based classification of the poor for targeted social and economic benefits delivery. The Socio-Economic Caste Census

(SECC) will be rolled into the Social Registry being jointly developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and NITI Aayog. *(The Economic Times)*

Run-up to Budget: Economic Survey may peg India's FY24 GDP growth at 6-7%

The Economic Survey 2022-23 (FY23), to be presented a day before Union Budget 2023-24 (FY24), is likely to project India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth between 6 per cent and 7 per cent for FY24. *(Business Standard)*

India's growth resilient despite exogenous threats: Nirmala Sitharaman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that despite exogenous threats, India's well-targeted policy mix, accompanied by major structural reforms and a sound external balance sheet, have aided its growth to remain resilient. Sitharaman emphasised that India has embarked on the path of a self-reliant economy and therefore has been successful in mitigating the negative effects of the pandemic. *(Mint)*

A better quarter for GDP, a worse quarter for the economy

In the first half of the year, a contraction in gross domestic product belied rising demand. But the third-quarter GDP report will probably paint too rosy a picture. The read on the economy that gross domestic product provided for the first half of the year was worse than reality. For the third-quarter GDP report, the opposite will probably be true. *(Mint)*

FM Nirmala Sitharaman asks AIIB to invest more in clean energy, social infrastructure

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday exhorted the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to scale up investments in clean energy and social infrastructure, with a special focus on education, health and digital infrastructure. Such a targeted approach, she said, would ensure resources are not scattered across multiple areas and impact remains meaningful. *(Financial Express)*

Inflation may see a resurgence next year: FinMin report

The Monthly Economic Review (MER) by Finance Ministry apprehends a resurgence of inflation in 2023 on account of supply disruptions due to geopolitical conflict. Rising dollar is also expected to fuel this concern. Still, growth and stability concerns for India are less than that for the world at large. *(BusinessLine)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

Central banks must keep raising rates till 'neutral' level: IMF MD

International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said on Wednesday that central banks should keep raising interest rates further to fight inflation until they hit a "neutral" level, though in most cases they have not reached this point. Asked how long she expected central banks to keep raising rates, Ms. Georgieva said the IMF projected that "by 2024 to get to a point when central banks are seeing the impact of their actions" *(The Hindu)*

Rupee strengthens as dollar falls against major currencies

The rupee on Thursday strengthened by 48 paise against the dollar on account of the U.S. currency softening against major currencies. At the interbank foreign exchange market,

the Indian unit closed at 82.33 compared with its previous close of 82.81. “The rupee edged higher amid the decline seen in the dollar index towards a one-month low and improved risk sentiments,” said Sugandha Sachdeva, vice president, Commodities and Currency Research, Religare Broking Ltd. *(The Hindu)*

RBI calls for additional MPC meeting to discuss report to govt. on inflation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has called for an additional meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on November 3 to discuss its response to be sent to government for missing its mandated target to retain retail inflation within the 2% to 6% band for three consecutive quarters. *(The Hindu)*

Rupee weakens nearly 10% by end of Samvat 2078 on global pressures

Reflecting global headwinds, especially the Russia-Ukraine war and aggressive tightening by the US Federal Reserve, the rupee depreciated by 9.95 per cent to close at Rs 82.69 to the dollar on October 21, 2022, marking the end of Samvat 2078. *(Business Standard)*

Q2 scorecard: Banks' loan growth outpaces deposits by a huge margin

A short clip went viral on social media last week, and in it a middle-aged man was seen publicising on the streets of Mumbai a deposit scheme of a public-sector bank. *(Business Standard)*

After a good ride, tide turns for low-cost CASA in September quarter

The phase of pulling in money into low-cost deposits -- current accounts and savings accounts (CASA) -- with ease is over for banks due to a turn in the interest rate cycle. For many the share of CASA in deposits either remained static or shrank in the quarter ended September 2022. *(Business Standard)*

Rupee, bonds gain on hopes of Federal Reserve slowing rate hikes

The rupee and government bonds strengthened on Thursday as weak economic data in the US sparked speculation of the Federal Reserve slowing the pace of its rate increases, dealers said. The domestic currency settled at 82.50 per US dollar as against 82.73 per dollar on Tuesday. Yield on the 10-year benchmark government bond closed 3 basis points lower at 7.41 per cent. *(Business Standard)*

ECB raises interest rates again, cuts bank subsidies

The European Central Bank raised interest rates again on Thursday and announced it was changing the terms of its ultra-cheap loans to commercial banks in a bid to shrink its bloated balance sheet and fight off a historic surge in inflation. The central bank for the 19 countries that use the euro raised its deposit rate by a further 75 basis points to 1.5% - the highest rate since 2009. Until as recently as July, ECB rates had been in negative territory for eight years. *(The Hindu)*



External Sector

External sector pressures emerging as fresh challenges

External sector pressures from the soaring dollar, higher interest rates and external financing are emerging as new challenges to India's macroeconomic stability, the Ministry

said, noting this is 'no time for celebrations and complacency' despite India's robust growth and better management of inflation so far in 2022-23. Forex reserves are sufficient despite a rapid fall, it said. *(The Hindu)*

Rupee trade: Notification allowing exporters earning in rupee enjoy existing schemes likely

With India preparing to start full-fledged rupee trade with Russia and also engaging in talks with some other countries, such as the UAE and Sri Lanka, for a similar arrangement, the Centre is likely to soon come out with a notification allowing exporters to enjoy all existing export benefits, such as input duty reimbursement schemes, even if they are not earning foreign currency, an official tracking the matter has said. *(BusinessLine)*

Stabilising trade Rupee-rouble trade with Russia: May not be that easy

Indian government allowed UCO Bank to open a rupee account with Russia's Gazprombank but fears that it may follow what happened in case of Iran where rupee-rial trade was initiated. While the Indian banks are opening special vostro account with Russian banks for settlement of trade in rupee, efforts are on to augment rupee balance in the existing account facilitated by UCO Bank for trade with Iran. *(BusinessLine)*

India, China trade crosses \$100 billion during January-September; trade deficit climbs to over \$75 billion

India and China bilateral trade continued to boom, crossing USD 100 billion for the second year in the first nine months of 2022 while India's trade deficit climbed to over USD 75 billion, according to trade data released by Chinese customs. *(The Economic Times)*

Working towards best FTA with 'economic superpower' India: UK's Greg Hands

Describing India as an "economic superpower", Britain said on Wednesday that it was working towards the "best" Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that is beneficial to both the countries. India and Britain launched negotiations for the FTA in January with an aim to conclude talks by Diwali but the deadline was missed due to a lack of consensus on issues. *(Business Standard)*

India, UAE can work together and increase trade footprint world over: UAE minister Omar Sultan Al Olama

Omar Sultan Al Olama, the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence of the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday said that now is the time to dominate the world through commerce, and countries like India and the UAE can work together to substantially increase the footprint across the world. The UAE minister said that there are ingrained roots between India and the UAE and in multiple possible areas for cooperation, particularly in collaboration between startups in both countries. *(The Economic Times)*

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework with countries like India, Aus is a better fit for today: US Trade Chief

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or IPEF, is a better fit for today than the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPTPP, according to US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. IPEF is the most significant US economic engagement in the region since Trump abandoned the Trans-Pacific Partnership, negotiated under President Barack Obama. *(The Economic Times)*

PM Modi speaks to the U.K. PM Rishi Sunak, discusses India-U.K. trade pact

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 27 held a telephone conversation with the new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The discussion between the two leaders took place in the backdrop of the arrival of the U.K. Foreign Secretary James Cleverly who will participate in the special meeting of the U.N. Counter Terror Committee in Mumbai and Delhi. *(The Hindu)*

Russia-Ukraine war, prior orders, new importers why India's wheat exports doubled' despite ban

Pre-existing orders, impact of the Russia-Ukraine war, and demand from countries that previously did not buy wheat from India — these are the reasons why there has been a growth in wheat export despite a ban on the same, according to sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. India's wheat exports doubled between April and August this year as compared to the same period last year, according to commerce ministry data. The Union government had put restrictions on wheat exports in May in order to control rising domestic prices. *(The Print)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Unseasonal rain, crop losses could keep India's food inflation high

The crop losses for farmers across the country mean that food prices, already at their highest in over two years, could stay elevated, instead of tapering after the harvest as they usually do. India's millions of rural poor will be particularly affected, hit by both the bad crop and the high prices. Along with grains, the prices of vegetables, milk, pulses and edible oils, which account for over a quarter of the overall consumer price index, are rising and likely to remain high in coming months. *(The Economic Times)*

Hike public spending on agri R&D to sustain growth: CACP

In its non-policy recommendations for the rabi marketing season 2023-24, the CACP reiterated its earlier guidance of enhancing the public spending on R&D in agriculture to a modest level of 1 per cent of the agricultural gross value added (GVA). The country's public expenditure on agricultural research and education to agricultural GVA is very low at about 0.6 per cent. *(BusinessLine)*

Centre to use tech for crop insurance scheme from 2023

The Agriculture Ministry has set up two committees — one for nationwide implementation of technology-based crop yield estimation and the other for standardisation and improvement of weather data infrastructure. The move will reduce the delay in crop loss/damage estimation and ensure timely settlement of claims by farmers, officials said. *(BusinessLine)*

Paddy arrivals at 18-year-low as rain, lower yield affect crop

India's kharif paddy arrivals have declined to an 18-year low during October 1-20 as the crop has been affected by weather and lower productivity in key growing regions of Haryana and Punjab. However, experts say there need not be any cause for alarm though production might be a little lower than the Ministry of Agriculture's estimates. *(BusinessLine)*

Five new varieties to expand India's Basmati platter

Five new varieties of seeds of Basmati rice, developed by a group of scientists led by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI) Director Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh in 2020 and 2021, are all set to bring revolutionary changes in the way Basmati rice is cultivated in the country. Three of the five varieties can resist two common diseases of paddy (one bacterial and one fungal). The other two varieties can save 35% of water as the method of Direct Sowing of Rice (DSR) can be used to raise them. *(The Hindu)*

SKM to march to Raj Bhavans demanding MSP, pension

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), at an online meeting held on Tuesday, has decided to observe the second anniversary of the farmers' agitations on November 26 by holding protests in front of all Raj Bhavans. The agitations, which began on November 26, 2020, against the three farm laws that have now been repealed, continued for more than 13 months. Considering the differences of opinions among various farmers' organisations, the SKM also decided to frame guidelines for all its member outfits at the earliest. *(The Hindu)*

Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee approves commercial cultivation of genetically modified mustard yet again

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) that functions under the Union Environment Ministry has yet again cleared the proposal for the commercial cultivation of genetically modified (GM) mustard. The recommendation will now again go for the approval of the Environment Ministry. Though the GEAC had cleared the proposal in 2017, the Ministry had vetoed it and suggested that the GEAC hold more studies on the GM crop. *(The Hindu)*

Centre pegs onion output at a record 31.7 mt for 2021-22 season

Onion production during the 2021-22 crop year has been pegged at a record high of 31.27 million tonnes (mt), though it is lower than the second advance estimate of 31.7 mt. *(BusinessLine)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

A crisis is brewing in the coffee industry

Coffee cultivation is becoming an increasingly loss-making proposition in India. Already weighed down by the high cost of inputs and production as well as labour shortage, the industry is now also affected by changes in climate patterns. *(The Hindu)*

High inflation may impact realty sector

The ongoing stress in the economy on account of high inflationary pressure may adversely impact the real estate sector going by a sentiment index. As per the latest Knight Frank-Naredco Real Estate Sentiment Index Q3 2022 (July - September 2022), the current Sentiment score has declined marginally from 62 in Q2 2022 to 61 in Q3 2022 on account of the economic scenario playing out globally. *(The Hindu)*

CIL initiates ₹11,000-cr worth of FMC projects under phase III

Coal India Ltd (CIL) has initiated 17 more first-mile connectivity (FMC) projects under phase III at an estimated cost of ₹11,000 crore. These projects have been planned for a loading capacity of 317 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) and would help strengthen its network of eco-friendly transportation. *(BusinessLine)*

Engineering goods exports fall in Sept as demand from China, EU shrink

Exports of engineering goods, a top export item, declined 10.85 per cent year-on-year in September 2022 to \$8.4 billion as the export duty on items of iron and steel and economic slowdown in China and the EU, which account for nearly a fourth of the demand, continued to take a toll. *(BusinessLine)*

IT companies see deal momentum slowing down in Q2

The client-addition data of the top-4 IT firms for the September quarter of FY23 fiscal indicate early signs of business slowing down in the West. TCS, HCL, Infosys and Wipro saw a quarter-on-quarter decline in net client additions. *(BusinessLine)*

OTT players should be brought under ambit of new Telecom Act: COAI

Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the industry body representing telecom service providers (TSPs) such as Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio and Vodafone-Idea, said it welcomes inclusion of over-the-top (OTT) communication services in the draft Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022, but added that the services need to be defined in the draft Telecom Bill, too. *(BusinessLine)*

Quicken 5G tower roll-out by fourfold: Telecom Minister

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday gave the industry a target to make 10,000 towers 5G-capable every week as opposed to the current rate of 2,500 towers a week, with an eye on expediting the roll-out of 5G services. *(The Hindu)*

Industry divided over impact of battery swapping on innovation

With the government likely to announce the policy on battery swapping in electric two- and three-wheelers, almost six months after the draft was released, the industry is divided over its impact on innovation in the segment. *(The Hindu)*

Mid-tier IT firms with niche focus fare better than larger peers

Mid-tier IT companies with a sharp focus on niche industries and geographies and operating with a more agile organisational structure have a competitive advantage and fared better in some aspects compared with the larger peers during the September quarter of FY 2022-23. *(Financial Express)*

Global energy crisis is historic turning point towards cleaner fuels: IEA

The global energy crisis will be a "historic turning point" towards cleaner fuels, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said, and added that global demand for fossil fuels has shown a "peak or plateau" across all scenarios. *(Mint)*

Fertiliser manufacturers to benefit from price drop of phosphoric acid imports

The declining price of imported phosphoric acid has come as a major relief to manufacturers of phosphatic fertilisers at a time when the industry is gearing up to meet the demand for the ensuing Rabi season. *(BusinessLine)*

Textile manufacturers should start securing cotton to meet their demand: Goyal

Textile manufacturers should start securing cotton to meet their demands, said textiles minister Piyush Goyal, adding that those involved with cotton industry should meet to discuss the strategy to ensure traceability of cotton and better value of cotton products.

(Mint)

FMCG companies still reeling from slump in rural demand

Slowdown in rural demand is continuing to hurt packaged consumer goods companies Dabur, Marico, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consumer and ITC noted in their second quarter earnings calls. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt unveils Satcom reforms; nudges telecom cos to deploy 5G towers fast

The government on Wednesday unveiled new policy reforms for satellite communications services to ease procedures and streamline clearance processes and nudged the telecom industry to substantially speed up the deployment of 5G towers. *(BusinessLine)*



News on Kerala

KWA to launch 'self-meter reader' app for consumers

The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) is launching a 'self-meter reader' app on November 1 which will allow its consumers to take the reading on water meters. Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine will formally launch the app in the first week of November. Consumers can also upload photographs of the reading via the app. *(The Hindu)*.

Local Self-government Minister to visit districts for project review

Minister for Local Self-Government M.B. Rajesh is set to visit districts as part of Nava Kerala Thadeshakam 2.0 to review the implementation of annual Plan of local self-government institutions. District-level meetings under the leadership of the Minister will be convened to explain various projects formulated by the government and the Local Self-government Department *(The Hindu)*.

Kerala set to become women-friendly tourism destination

With a view to becoming a women-friendly tourism destination, Kerala has launched a project to encourage the participation of women in all tourism activities and attract more women tourists to the State. The 'women-friendly tourism' project, an initiative of the State Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission), launched here on Wednesday, aims to establish women-friendly tourism centres and empower women. The project will be implemented ensuring the participation of women from all sections of society *(The Hindu)*.

Technopark to host IoT summit

Industry experts, investors, and government officials will discuss emerging opportunities and interact with start-up promoters at a summit on Internet of Things (IoT) organised by the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) on October 28 at Park Centre, Technopark here *(The Hindu)*.

SCOLE-Kerala: online mechanism for complaint redressal

An online mechanism has been instituted to address study-related complaints of students of SCOLE-Kerala (State Council for Open and Lifelong Education-Kerala). *(The Hindu)*

Thiruvananthapuram airport procures 4 electric vehicles as part of carbon neutral policy

The Thiruvananthapuram international airport (TIA) here has procured four electric vehicles as part of its endeavor to achieve Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Level 4+ and net-zero status. The vehicles will be used by the engineering and maintenance and the landside operations team at the airport for their routine work, a TIAL statement said here. *(The Economic Times)*.

Over 5,000 Endosulfan victims to get one-time aid of Rs 1000

The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to provide a one-time financial assistance of Rs 1000 each to as many as 5,287 Endosulfan victims in Kasaragod district. A cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, decided to give away the aid to those victims, who are getting pension through the Kerala Social Security Mission. *(The Week)*

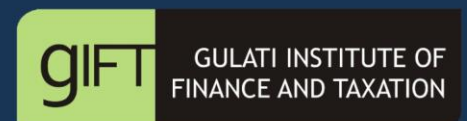
Vizhinjam Port strike enters 100th day, protesters lay siege to construction site

The protest against the proposed Vizhinjam Port site entered the 100th day on Thursday, with agitators encircling the area by road and sea, demanding all construction activities be stopped. Locals and fishing communities under the banner of the Thiruvananthapuram Latin Archdiocese have been protesting since August 16, alleging that the port construction works have resulted in coastal erosion on the northern side of the site, affecting their livelihood. *(BusinessLine)*

BYJU's faces testing times in Kerala over labour issues

Kerala Minister for General Education and Labour V Sivankutty has assured BYJU's employee representatives, and those of Prathidhwani, a welfare organisation of IT employees, that he would look into the 'labour issues' cropping up at the edtech company's development centre at Technopark. *(BusinessLine)*

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