



May 30, 2022 – Monday

Economy

Govt clarifies on Aadhaar sharing advisory by UIDAI

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has issued a clarification to an earlier press release, dated May 27, that cautioned citizens against sharing a photocopy of their Aadhaar card with any organisation as it can be misused. “This is in pursuant of the Press Release dated 27 May 2022 by the Bengaluru Regional Office, UIDAI. It is learnt that it was issued by them in the context of an attempt to misuse a photoshopped Aadhaar card. The release advised the people to not to share photocopy of their Aadhaar with any organization because it can be misused. Alternatively, a masked Aadhaar which displays only the last 4 digits of Aadhaar number, can be used,” as per a press release from MeitY dated May 29. “However, in view of the possibility of the misinterpretation of the Press Release, the same stands withdrawn with immediate effect,” it said. UIDAI issued Aadhaar card holders are only advised to exercise normal prudence in using and sharing their UIDAI Aadhaar numbers.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/govt-clarifies-on-aadhaar-sharing-advisory-by-uidai/article65472760.ece>

Ease of living: Common portal 'Jan Samarth' for delivery of various schemes to be launched soon

To improve the ease of living for the common man, the government is planning to launch 'Jan Samarth' -- a common portal for delivery of various schemes run by different ministries and departments. As part of the Narendra Modi government's vision of minimum government maximum governance, the new portal plans to initially onboard 15 credit-linked government schemes, sources said. The offerings will be gradually expanded, depending on compatibility, as some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have involvement of multiple agencies, they added. For example, schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS) are being administered by different ministries.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ease-of-living-common-portal-jan-samarth-for-delivery-of-various-schemes-to-be-launched-soon/articleshow/91865962.cms>

Income of 94.11% registered informal workers at Rs 10,000 or below

Over 94 per cent of 27.69 crore informal sector workers registered on the e-Shram portal have a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below and over 74 per cent of the enrolled workforce belongs to scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and other backward classes (OBC), according to the latest data. The proportion of informal workers getting a monthly income of Rs 10,000 or below was 92.37 per cent in the middle of November 2021 when total enrolments on e-Shram portal were a little over 8 crore. Those belonging to SC, ST and OBC who enrolled on the portal were 72.58 per cent in the middle of November 2021. The experts are of the view that as the enrolments progress on e-Shram portal towards the ultimate goal of enrolling all informal sector workers estimated at 38 crore in the country, the data would show sharp disparities in the society.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/income-of-94-11-registered-informal-workers-at-rs-10-000-or-below-122052900203_1.html

Banking and Finance

Govt elongates maturity of outstanding debt in FY22

The weighted average maturity (WAM) of primary issuances of Government Securities (G-Secs) increased to 16.99 years in FY22 from 14.49 years in the previous year, according to Reserve Bank of India. Simultaneously, the WAM of the outstanding debt increased from 11.31 years to 11.71 years. During 2021-22, about 58.2 per cent of the market borrowings was raised through the issuance of dated securities with a residual maturity of 10 years and above, compared with 49 per cent in the previous year, said the central bank in its latest annual report. Further, the 30-year and 40-year tenor securities were issued/ re-issued during the year, with the objective of catering to the demand from long-term investors such as insurance companies and pension funds.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-elongates-maturity-of-outstanding-debt-in-fy22/article65472907.ece>

PM Modi to release 11th installment of PM-KISAN benefits on May 31

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 11th installment of financial benefits worth Rs 21,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme to more than 10 crore farmers on May 31 in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. As part of a national event 'Garib Kalyan Sammelan', Modi will also interact with beneficiaries of 16 schemes and programmes implemented by nine central ministries through video conferencing, the agriculture ministry said in a statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/pm-modi-to-release-11th-installment-of-pm-kisan-benefits-on-may-31/articleshow/91873886.cms>

Centre likely to lift veil on taxing NFT as virtual digital asset

Ahead of the first due date of advance tax payment on June 15, the government is likely to release guidelines on what will be covered within the ambit of virtual digital assets (VDA). To remove any ambiguity in the recently established tax framework for asset holders, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is currently preparing guidelines, said government officials in the know. The apex direct tax body will define non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and whether or not they fall within the purview of VDA.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-likely-to-lift-veil-on-taxing-nft-as-virtual-digital-asset-122053000066_1.html

Industry

Employee expenses for listed SMEs, others increased in FY22 from previous year: SBI Report

Employee expenses for more than 2,000 listed companies including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and others increased in the financial year 2021-22 in comparison to FY21 when employee expenses had declined in every other type of company barring big enterprises with turnover more than Rs 1,000 crore, according to the latest Ecowrap report from the State Bank of India's Economic Research Department. "This turnaround indicates that companies were hiring in FY22," the report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI said. The growth in employee expenses was highest at 22 per cent for 222 companies with a turnover between Rs 100 crore and Rs 250 crore during FY22. 670 very small companies with turnover up to Rs 50 crore and 164 other small enterprises with turnover between Rs 50 crore and Rs 100 crore had registered 2 per cent and 15 per cent growth respectively in employee expenses during FY22.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-skil-employee-expenses-for-listed-smes-others-increased-in-fy22-from-previous-year-sbi-report/2541448/>

Auto companies ring up higher net sales, profits in March quarter

Aggregate net sales and net profits of auto companies rose 12 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, year-on-year in the quarter-ended March even as the chip shortage, a steep increase in raw material prices, and the demand slowdown facing a few segments have crimped margins. Automakers expect margins to remain under pressure because the chip shortage is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon and may prevent them from leveraging scale. A persistent inflationary trend will also continue to mount pressure.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/auto-companies-ring-up-higher-net-sales-profits-in-march-quarter-122053000025_1.html

Agriculture

Telangana to launch pilot project for single-pick cotton

The Telangana Government is launching a pilot project on single-pick cotton on about 50,000 acres. This comes at a time when cotton yields have remained stagnant for years and farmers are finding it tough to find the labour to pick the bolls. The single-pick cotton will be suitable for machine harvest as the plants will grow to a uniform height of around knee-level, compared with the tall varieties grown across the country now. Machine harvest of the low height variety will ease the problems associated with the harvesting season.

Currently, farmers pick the cotton bolls at least three times and, sometimes, up to four times. The single-pick method will prolong the harvest by a few weeks and will enable farmers to complete the harvest in one go.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/telangana-to-launch-single-pick-cotton-pilot-project/article65472743.ece>

Infrastructure

Centre executing projects worth Rs 1,34,200 crore to boost rail, road, air network in northeast, says Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the Centre is implementing various rail, road and air connectivity projects worth Rs 1,34,200 crore in the northeast. Addressing the 'Natural Allies in Development and Interdependence' conclave here, she said the Union government has been pumping in huge money in developing a number of infrastructure projects throughout the region. "We are carrying out 20 railway projects worth Rs 74,000 crore for 2,011 km, which are spread across the northeast," Sitharaman said. The Centre is also developing 4,000 km of roads in the region at a total cost of Rs 58,000 crore, she added. "There are 15 ongoing air connectivity projects in the northeast, costing around Rs 2,200 crore," the finance minister said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/centre-implementing-infra-projects-worth-rs-134200-crore-in-northeast-fm-nirmala-sitharaman/2541463/>

Sustainable real estate: Net-zero projects define new landscape for realty in India

Solar rooftops, wind turbines, water management, composting, waste recycling. These are the buzz words when it comes to real estate projects currently. The spotlight is on developers and occupiers to deliver sustainable and net-zero projects for a reduced carbon future. A recent study by JLL 'Sustainable real estate: India's response to a greener future' also points out that a majority of occupiers (93%) agree they will proactively prioritise locations that help them reduce carbon emissions in the future and investors (65%) agree that they would prioritise investing in cities that are climate change progressive. As many as 57% occupiers have achieved green building certification and 40% aspire to have market-recognised sustainability certification for their portfolio by 2025. As many as 34% of respondents say they are paying 7-10% premium rents for sustainability certification and 32% are paying 4-7% premium.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sustainable-real-estate-net-zero-projects-define-new-landscape-for-realty-in-india/2541134/>

Energy

Govt panel allows 6 gencos to raise charges by up to 20 paise a unit

A government panel set up to fix variable tariffs has allowed Tata Power, Essar Power, JSW Energy and three others running power projects using imported coal to raise charges by up to 20 paise a unit. This is less than the increase sought by some of the power producers. Through tariff increases, the government aims to mediate between the buyers and sellers to start generation quickly. The parties have an option to adopt this tariff, decide mutually or allow plants to sell on the power exchanges. The six plants have a cumulative capacity of 9.1 GW. The committee has suggested ₹6.22 per unit compared with ₹6.05 per unit earlier for the 4 GW Mundra ultra-mega power project run by Tata Power. The company had sought ₹9.11 per unit variable tariff from the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). The plant has a fixed tariff of 90 paise.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/fuel-cost-pass-through-govt-panel-allows-6-gencos-to-raise-charges-by-up-to-20-paise-a-unit/articleshow/91878078.cms>

CEA to fix eligible coal quantity for power plants under SHAKTI

The Power Ministry has directed the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) to determine the eligible quantity of domestic coal for power plants using the key commodity through the auction of coal linkage under the SHAKTI Policy, it said on Sunday. The Power Ministry said in a statement that blending 10 per cent of imported coal is equivalent to about 15 per cent of domestic coal in energy terms.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/cea-to-fix-eligible-coal-quantity-for-power-plants-under-shakti/article65472845.ece>

India heading towards another power crisis in July-August: Report

A lower pre-monsoon coal stock at thermal power plants in India is suggestive of another power crisis in July-August, independent research organisation CREA has said. The current coal stock stands at 13.5 million tonnes at pithead power stations and 20.7 MT cumulatively at all power plants across the country. "The data compiled from official sources suggest that the coal power plants are in no position to address even a minor spike in the power demand and there is a need to plan for coal transportation well in advance," Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air's (CREA) latest report 'Failure to load: India's power crisis is a coal management crisis'. The Central Electricity Authority of India (CEA) has predicted a peak power demand of 214 GW in August. In addition, the average energy demand could also increase to more than what it is in the month of May to 1,33,426 million units (MUs)."

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/india-heading-towards-another-power-crisis-in-july-august-report/2541416/>

States

Rajasthan government accords industry status to tourism & hospitality sector

The Rajasthan government accorded industry status to the tourism and hospitality sector in the state. According to an official statement on Saturday, Urban Housing Development and Local Self Department Minister Shanti Dhariwal issued a notification to this effect. In the budget announcement in February, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had said the tourism and hospitality sector will be granted industry status. The tourism sector in the state, like everywhere else in the country and the world, was severely affected during the coronavirus pandemic. "The sector will be greatly benefited by this announcement by the state government," the statement issued said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/rajasthan-govt-accords-industry-status-to-tourism-hospitality-sector/article65472600.ece>

Healthcare

Over 13 lakh doses administered in India on May 28

India vaccinated over 13 lakh beneficiaries against Covid-19 on Saturday, May 28, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As of 7 am on May 29, 13,81,764 total doses of the Covid-19 vaccine were administered in the country in the last 24 hours. Of this, 43,264 first doses and 4,55,683 second doses were administered to those aged above 18. 34,130 first doses and 1,06,345 second doses were administered to beneficiaries aged 15-18 years. 1,34,554 first doses and 2,65,372 second doses were administered to the 12-14 years cohort. 1,01,500 precaution doses were administered to beneficiaries aged 18-59 years in the last 24 hours, while 2,40,916 precaution doses were administered to beneficiaries aged above 60 years, healthcare workers and frontline workers.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/covid-19-vaccination-over-13-lakh-doses-administered-in-india-on-may-28/article65472628.ece>

External

US surpasses China as India's biggest trading partner in FY22 at \$119.42 bn

The US surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22, reflecting strengthening economic ties between the two countries. According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 119.42 billion as against USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the US increased to USD 76.11 billion in 2021-22 from USD 51.62 billion in previous fiscal year, while imports rose to USD 43.31 billion

as compared to about USD 29 billion in 2020-21. During 2021-22, India's two-way commerce with China aggregated at USD 115.42 billion as compared to USD 86.4 billion in 2020-21, the data showed. Exports to China marginally increased to USD 21.25 billion last fiscal year from USD 21.18 billion in 2020-21, while imports jumped to USD 94.16 billion from about USD 65.21 billion in 2020-21. Trade gap rose to USD 72.91 billion in 2021-22 from USD 44 billion in previous fiscal year.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/us-surpasses-china-as-indias-biggest-trading-partner-in-fy22-at-119-42-bn/2541244/>

Steel exports continue downtrend, down 22% in April

After a bull run in FY22, steel exports from India are now witnessing a pronounced drop, owing to global recessionary pressures, slower orders from key markets and competitive pricing. Exports declined 22 per cent y-o-y in April, and for the second month since March, when finished steel exports were down 8 per cent y-o-y. India exported 743,000 tonnes of finished steel last month compared to 952,000 tonnes in the year-ago period. In FY22, exports were up 25 per cent y-o-y to 13.5 million tonnes (mt). There was a 12 to 42 per cent drop in orders last month from countries such as Turkey, Belgium and Nepal, show Steel Ministry data, accessed by BusinessLine.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/steel-exports-continue-downtrend-down-22-in-april/article65473193.ece>