



December 26, 2022 – Monday

## Economy

### **Incentivise taxpayers for shift to exemption-less regime: Bibek Debroy**

Individual taxpayers need to be incentivised to migrate to an exemption-less income-tax regime, Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, told ET, pegging India to grow at about 6.5% in the next fiscal. According to Debroy, the government's capital expenditure focus will continue in FY24 while setting aside higher spending on social sectors including health and education.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/incentivise-taxpayers-for-shift-to-exemption-less-regime-bibek-debroy/articleshow/96501164.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/incentivise-taxpayers-for-shift-to-exemption-less-regime-bibek-debroy/articleshow/96501164.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### **Centre saves subsidy and wheat stocks by making PDS free, ending PMGKAY**

The Centre seems to have made a smart move to not only limit its food subsidy outgo, which was going out of hand due to unabated extensions of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) but also saved a good chunk of wheat for effective intervention in the open market. This is through its latest decision to make PDS totally free but end extra allocations under PMGKAY, said experts.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-saves-subsidy-and-wheat-stocks-by-making-pds-free-ending-pmgkay-122122500639\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/centre-saves-subsidy-and-wheat-stocks-by-making-pds-free-ending-pmgkay-122122500639_1.html)

## Banking and Finance

### **Credit card spends fall for the first time in six months**

Consumer spending on credit cards fell for the first time since July, signalling an end to the festive season that had begun with Onam. Credit card spends fell more than 12% sequentially, with average spends coming around ₹14,280 for the month of November, compared with ₹16,343 in October, data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/credit-card-spends-fall-for-the-first-time-in-six-months/articleshow/96501198.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/credit-card-spends-fall-for-the-first-time-in-six-months/articleshow/96501198.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### **No request from cost and management accountants to conduct financial audit of MSMEs: MSME Ministry**

Minister of State in the MSME Ministry Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma informed Parliament that the MSME Ministry has not received any request from the cost accountants' institute to allow cost and management accountants to conduct financial audit of micro, small and medium enterprises. The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, which regulates the profession of cost and management accountancy, provides coaching facilities to the students, and undertakes research programmes in the field of cost and management accountancy, has over 5 lakh students and more than 90,000 members. Importantly, the institute had submitted a memorandum in April this year to the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking permission for conducting the financial audit of MSMEs and private limited companies

as per global standards, concurrent audit of banks and audit of grant-in-aid of grantee organisations/ institutions, said a news report by PTI in May this year.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-no-request-from-cost-and-management-accountants-to-conduct-financial-audit-of-msmes-msme-ministry/2925949/>

## Industry

### Indian smartwatch players gear up to beat Chinese, global rivals in 2023

The Indian smartwatch market has not only grown exponentially on the home turf, but also performed exceptionally well at the global level. And the domestic players expect to repeat the feat in 2023, with the expectation to overtake both Chinese and global rivals. In Q2 2022, India overtook China to become the second-largest smartwatch market globally for the first time, growing 347 per cent (year-on-year), according to Counterpoint Research. China, which ranked second in Q1, was pushed down to the third place with a 10 per cent (year-on-year) decrease in its shipments.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-smartwatch-players-gear-up-to-beat-chinese-global-rivals-in-2023-122122500201\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-smartwatch-players-gear-up-to-beat-chinese-global-rivals-in-2023-122122500201_1.html)

### DPIIT seeks views of ministries on draft national retail trade policy

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought the views of 16 departments and ministries on its draft national retail trade policy, which is aimed at the overall development of all formats of the sector, an official said. After getting comments from all the departments and ministries, DPIIT would seek approval of the Union Cabinet on the policy, the official added. The policy would focus on formulating strategies to provide a globally competitive and sustainable environment for the overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dpiit-seeks-views-of-ministries-on-draft-national-retail-trade-policy-122122500467\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dpiit-seeks-views-of-ministries-on-draft-national-retail-trade-policy-122122500467_1.html)

### 53% clusters functional out of total approved for development under SFURTI scheme: Govt data

The government's mega cluster support scheme SFURTI (Scheme for Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries), which brings traditional sectors and artisans into organised clusters, has 53 per cent of approved clusters functional. Between 2014-15 (when the scheme was revamped from the original scheme launched in FY06) and November 30, 2022, 498 clusters were approved for development across India, of which 266 were functional.

Sharing data in the Lok Sabha on December 22, minister of state for MSMEs, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma added that 498 clusters approved (against the target of 400 clusters) with the government's assistance of Rs 1,292 crore benefitted around 2.94 lakh artisans.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-eodb-53-clusters-functional-out-of-total-approved-for-development-under-sfurti-scheme-govt-data/2925886/>

### Steel mills eye price rise January onwards

Indian steel mills are eyeing price hikes in January on the back of improved global cues and firming up of international prices. Domestic orders continue to be on the slower side though.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/steel-mills-eye-price-rise-january-onwards/article66304354.ece>

### Indian startups witness 38% decline in total funding in 2022: Reports

For Indian startups the year 2022 will be forever etched in memory for having made them re-evaluate their strategy and revisit the basics of business. Indian startups witnessed a decline of 38.4 per cent in total funding in 2022 (YTD) as compared to the previous year, 2021 (CY), while the number of investment rounds has shrunk by 32 per cent.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-startups-witness-38-decline-in-total-funding-in-2022-reports-122122500638\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-startups-witness-38-decline-in-total-funding-in-2022-reports-122122500638_1.html)

### DESH Bill may let companies have obligation of choice: Govt official

The Development of Enterprises and Services Hub (DESH) Bill, 2022, might ask companies to commit to only one of the criteria — investments, breakthrough technology, job creation, and exports — that would eventually augur well for the economy and spur growth, people aware of the matter said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/desh-bill-may-let-companies-have-obligation-of-choice-govt-official-122122500673\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/desh-bill-may-let-companies-have-obligation-of-choice-govt-official-122122500673_1.html)

## Agriculture

### India's rabi crops sowing rises 4.4% led by wheat

Farmers in India have sown rabi crops across 620.62 lakh hectares as of Friday, an increase of 4.4 per cent year-on-year from the previous cropping season, Union farm ministry data showed. During the same period last year, the total acreage was 594.62 lakh hectares.

The increase in crop area is across all crops with the highest in wheat. Out of the 25.99 lakh hectares increase in all rabi crops, the increase in wheat area is 9.65 lakh hectares from 302.61 to 312.26 lakh hectares.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-rabi-crops-sowing-rises-4-4-led-by-wheat/articleshow/96484719.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indias-rabi-crops-sowing-rises-4-4-led-by-wheat/articleshow/96484719.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## Infrastructure

### Govt gives 'in-principle' approval to 21 greenfield airports across country

The government of India has accorded an 'In-principle approval' for the setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country. Ten such airports have been operationalized so far in the country, the latest being the Manohar International Airport in Goa, which was inaugurated on December 11 this year, said Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Lt Gen (Retd) VK Singh in a written reply to Rajya Sabha. Since 2018, seven airports, Pakyong (Sikkim), Kannur (Kerala), Kalaburagi (Karnataka), Sindhudurg (Maharashtra), Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh), Orvakal (Andhra Pradesh) and Donyi Polo (Arunachal Pradesh) airports have been operationalized apart from the inauguration of Manohar International Airport at MoPA, Goa.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-gives-in-principle-approval-to-21-greenfield-airports-across-country-122122500250\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-gives-in-principle-approval-to-21-greenfield-airports-across-country-122122500250_1.html)

## Energy

### While India makes most of Russian oil price cap, the sanctions could backfire on the West

The economic and human cost of the Russia-Ukraine war is increasing. However, instead of finding a negotiated settlement of the Russia-Ukraine dispute, there is an effort to cap the price of Russian oil exports. Such a measure can jeopardise the nascent post-Covid economic recovery due to shortage of energy in advanced economies while this may or may not pressurise Russia to stop war.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/while-india-makes-most-of-russian-oil-price-cap-the-sanctions-could-backfire-on-the-west/articleshow/96494067.cms>

### Gazprom's gas supply cut hits govt plan for 1,000 LNG stations

Russian gas company Gazprom's suspension of natural gas supply to state-owned Gail has scuppered the government's plan to set up 1,000 liquefied natural gas (LNG) fuelling stations nationwide, two industry officials aware of the development said, prompting domestic marketing companies to scramble for fresh supply of LNG.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/gazproms-gas-supply-cut-hits-govt-plan-for-1000-lng-stations/articleshow/96501490.cms>

## Telecom

### Telecom operators deploy 33,000 5G base stations this year

As 2022 nears an end, telcos like Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel have deployed about 33,000 base stations for 5G services. Sources in the Department of Telecommunications told that the telcos deployed around 10,000 base stations in December, taking the cumulative number of base stations deployed for 5G services to about 33,000. Quoting the Ministry of Communications report to the Rajya Sabha, reported last week that the telcos had deployed

about 21,000 base stations for 5G services till November 26. According to senior DoT officials, the telcos have added more than 10,000 additional base stations to that number.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/telecom-operators-deploy-33000-5g-base-stations-this-year/article66304470.ece>

#### **Telecom firms get green signal for towers, services on railway land**

The Ministry of Railways has opened its telecommunication services to private players, allowing them to install towers on land owned by it. So far, this right was reserved only for its own telecom arm — RailTel Corporation of India.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/telcos-get-green-signal-for-setting-up-towers-on-land-owned-by-railways-122122500575\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/telcos-get-green-signal-for-setting-up-towers-on-land-owned-by-railways-122122500575_1.html)

#### **External**

#### **India seeks comments of WTO members on consumer protection in e-commerce**

India has sought comments from other WTO member countries on their experiences related to consumer protection in e-commerce, such as countering fakes and counterfeits, data protection, management of returns and dispute resolution, and the role the WTO can play in the area.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-seeks-comments-of-wto-members-on-consumer-protection-in-e-commerce/article66304338.ece>

#### **China Covid surge stokes supply fears among Indian traders**

Indian traders are keeping a close watch on the Covid-19 surge in China as that could disrupt supply of critical imports including active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), electronics, chemicals, and plastics. Exports, which have been sluggish, could also take a hit as demand from China may plunge, adding to weakness in many developed markets, traders said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-covid-surge-stokes-supply-fears-among-indian-traders/articleshow/96501152.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-covid-surge-stokes-supply-fears-among-indian-traders/articleshow/96501152.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)