



February 13, 2023 – Monday

## Economy

### Smart Cities mission: 22 cities including Agra to be ready by next month

Agra, Varanasi, Chennai, Pune and Ahmedabad are among the 22 cities that will complete all projects under the government's ambitious Smart Cities Mission by next month, giving their citizens better quality of life and a clean and sustainable environment, officials said on Sunday. In the remaining 78 cities selected under the mission, the ongoing projects will be completed in the next three-four months, a senior official of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said. The Narendra Modi government launched its flagship Smart Cities Mission on June 25, 2015 and 100 cities were selected for redevelopment through four rounds of competition from January 2016 to June 2018. According to the ministry, the mission's objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give its citizens a decent quality of life and a clean and sustainable environment, besides adopting "smart solutions" to various issues.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/smart-cities-mission-22-cities-including-agra-to-be-ready-by-next-month-123021200750\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/smart-cities-mission-22-cities-including-agra-to-be-ready-by-next-month-123021200750_1.html)

### Data embassies may only be allowed to store non-personal information

The government likely to allow only non-personal datasets to be stored in data embassies — the physical data centres of trusted nations which enjoy diplomatic immunity from local laws — as part of an upcoming policy, sources said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/data-embassies-may-only-be-allowed-to-store-non-personal-information-123021200403\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/data-embassies-may-only-be-allowed-to-store-non-personal-information-123021200403_1.html)

## Banking and Finance

### Banks report record quarterly NII in Q3 amid improving credit offtake and better asset quality

The banking sector reported the strongest year-on-year growth in net interest income (NII) for the December 2022 quarter since the pandemic hit June 2020 quarter helped by a sustained double-digit credit offtake. In addition, the sector continued to report lower year-on-year provisioning for nonperforming assets (NPAs) for the fourth consecutive period following improving collection efficiency and rising credit quality. For a sample of 29 banks, the bad loan provisioning fell by 27.6% year-on-year to Rs 23,080.6 crore in the December quarter. NII increased by 34.5% to a record Rs 1.8 lakh crore. NII is calculated as the difference between total interest earned and interest expended.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-report-record-quarterly-nii-in-q3-amid-improving-credit-offtake-and-better-asset-quality/articleshow/97843186.cms>

### Govt mulls modified valuation norms for taxing foreign investments in cos

The Income Tax Department is likely to come out with modified valuation rules under the I-T Act for ascertaining the fair market value (FMV) of shares of unlisted companies for the purpose of levying tax on non-resident investments, an official said. The Finance Bill, 2023 has proposed amending Section 56(2)(viib) of the I-T Act, thereby bringing

overseas investment in unlisted closely held companies, excepting DPIIT-recognised startups, under the tax net. The official said that amendments are needed as I-T Act and FEMA provide different methodologies for calculating the FMV of shares of unlisted companies.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-mulls-modified-valuation-norms-for-taxing-foreign-investments-in-cos-123021200345\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-mulls-modified-valuation-norms-for-taxing-foreign-investments-in-cos-123021200345_1.html)

#### **NBFCs' collection efficiency close to pre-Covid levels: ICRA**

Nearly three years after the Covid-19 outbreak, the collection efficiency of microfinance-focused non-banks and unsecured SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) pools has topped 98% of the levels seen in the pre-pandemic days, ICRA has said in a report. Even the delinquency levels are lower by 300 basis points (bps) from their peak levels during Covid-19, the rating agency said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/nbfc-collection-efficiency-close-to-pre-covid-levels-icra/articleshow/97850087.cms>

#### **Industry**

#### **MCA likely to include tech experts in digital competition law panel**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is likely to appoint experts from the technology and startup ecosystem to the recently formed committee on digital competition law, a senior official told *Business Standard*. The 16-member panel currently has government officials and senior lawyers, many of whom represent big tech firms. An official memorandum detailing the composition of the panel said that the chairperson of the committee-- the MCA secretary--can "co-opt any other person as a member or special invitee as and when required." Startups, meanwhile, have been concerned about non-representation on the government panel, which many said was skewed in favour of the big tech firms. "The government is very vocal about putting controls on the practices of big techs. But forming a committee of a few lawyers who actually represent these companies can muddle up with the whole purpose of the bill. The government must be inclusive while composing the committee, as these deliberations need the voice from the small players of the ecosystem (as well)," an industry executive said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/mca-likely-to-include-tech-experts-in-digital-competition-law-panel-123021200330\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/mca-likely-to-include-tech-experts-in-digital-competition-law-panel-123021200330_1.html)

#### **Companies are rushing to stock retail stores with summer products**

With an early onset of summer, companies selling summer-centric products such as soft drinks, ice-cream, air-conditioners and air-coolers are rushing for advance stocking at retailers, stepping up inventories by 20-25% compared with previous years. Some companies are also increasing manufacturing and marketing spending in expectation of robust demand amid forecasts of an extended summer. "We don't want to take any chances by running out of stock. So, we have pre-stocked much earlier this year than we normally do. We have safeguarded ourselves," Ravi Jaipuria, chairman of RJ Corp-owned Varun Beverages, PepsiCo's exclusive bottling partner, said at the company's post-earnings call last week.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/companies-are-rushing-to-stock-retail-stores-with-summer-products/articleshow/97846945.cms>

#### **Semiconductor chip supply constraints put brakes on auto OEM ramp-up**

The semiconductor chip supply-chain nightmares that had shaken up the automotive (auto) industry during the pandemic may be behind us. But with component supplies yet to fully normalise, automakers are struggling to ramp up production to full capacity.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/chips-are-down-supply-constraints-put-brakes-in-auto-oem-ramp-up-123021200652\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/chips-are-down-supply-constraints-put-brakes-in-auto-oem-ramp-up-123021200652_1.html)

#### **Mobile shipments yet to recover amid rising prices**

The Indian smartphone market showed a degrowth for the second time in two years as consumer demand dwindled on account of high inflation. The entry-level segment saw a sharp decline in shipments even as the supply situation improved in 2022, said market trackers. They expect a rather difficult and elongated recovery process, as worries

around rising prices and excess inventories continue to remain a concern, at least till the first half of 2023. A look at the performance of smartphone brands in 2022 and the way forward.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/mobile-shipments-yet-to-recover-amid-rising-prices/articleshow/97851834.cms>

### **Tractor industry revises FY23 growth guidance upwards to low double digits**

Tractor makers have revised sales growth guidance for FY23 to low double digits from earlier projected high single numbers for the current fiscal due to robust demand amid positive farm sentiments. Tractor demand has remained steady, supported by a fourth consecutive normal monsoon and government support measures during this fiscal.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/tractor-industry-revises-fy23-growth-guidance-upwards-to-low-double-digits/article66500824.ece>

## **Agriculture**

### **March heat to shape up wheat output this year in North India: Experts**

Temperatures in March will be critical to determining the impact of any unusual heatwave conditions on this year's wheat crop in North India. It is that time of the year when the crop enters its vital grain-filling stage, say meteorologists and crop experts.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/march-heat-will-determine-how-india-s-wheat-crop-shapes-up-this-yr-experts-123021200511\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/march-heat-will-determine-how-india-s-wheat-crop-shapes-up-this-yr-experts-123021200511_1.html)

## **Infrastructure**

### **Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, freight corridor to be pillars of progress: PM**

The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) will be two robust pillars of the country's economic prosperity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday, while inaugurating the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway, "In the coming time, these two projects will transform Rajasthan and the whole region, along with strengthening the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)," the PM said in Rajasthan, which is headed for polls later this year. The Delhi Mumbai Expressway is one of the Centre's most expensive and ambitious infrastructure projects. The 246-km Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot stretch of the expressway, which was inaugurated today, is expected to cut travel time between Delhi and Jaipur to 3.5 hours. Modi noted that the expressway's holistic planning will result in savings of crores of rupees and time, referring to the provision of dedicated corridors along the expressway for installation of optical fibre cables for 5G, gas pipelines, warehouses, and solar plants.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-mumbai-expressway-freight-corridor-will-be-pillars-of-progress-pm-123021200728\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/delhi-mumbai-expressway-freight-corridor-will-be-pillars-of-progress-pm-123021200728_1.html)

## **Telecom**

### **DoT starts doling out PLI to manufacturers, GX Telecom gets 1st cheque**

The Department of Telecom has started disbursing production-linked incentives to shortlisted manufacturers who have completed their target for 2021-22, a government official said. Telecom gear maker GX Telecom, which has been shortlisted under the PLI scheme for promoting local manufacturing, said it received an incentive from the DoT under the scheme. Our vision for 2023 will be to develop products that are designed in India, made in India which will create skilled job opportunities in the direction of building India as a global hub ... with the incentive received further supporting new innovation to cater international market demands with indigenous products," GX International Group CEO Paritosh Prajapati told PTI. The company has a capacity to make 3.5 lakh units of GPON equipment which are used for rolling out broadband networks.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dot-starts-doling-out-pli-to-manufacturers-gx-telecom-gets-1st-cheque-123021200440\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/dot-starts-doling-out-pli-to-manufacturers-gx-telecom-gets-1st-cheque-123021200440_1.html)

## **Energy**

### **Govt is planning to allocate more FAME II funds for E-buses amid allegations of EV subsidy fraud**

The government is considering tweaking the allocation of funds under its electric vehicle subsidy scheme to focus more on replacing diesel buses in public transport, amid allegations that many electric two-wheeler makers had wrongfully claimed incentives. It is looking at the option of increasing the utilisation of resources earmarked under the FAME II (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme for electrifying buses, government sources told ET. "There is keenness that we bring on road more electric buses as this is an area of highest impact, socially and environmentally," said a senior official. "It will not only help reduce vehicular pollution but cut drastically our fuel bills," said the official on the condition of anonymity.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/govt-is-planning-to-allocate-more-fame-ii-funds-for-e-buses-amid-allegations-of-ev-subsidy-fraud/articleshow/97850078.cms>

## States

### Investment proposals worth Rs 33.5 trn received in GIS, says CM Adityanath

Investment proposals have been made for all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh in the Global Investors Summit, unlike earlier when investment in the state, meant only in the areas falling in the National Capital Region, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Sunday. He also said these proposals will lead to the creation of 93 lakh job opportunities and asserted that the state is a safe destination for investment. "The investment that will come into Uttar Pradesh will foster development. Investment proposals worth Rs 33.5 lakh crore were received in the Global Investors Summit. With this investment, 93 lakh jobs and employment will also be created," he said on the third and last of the event, attended by industry delegations and corporate leaders from the country and the world. On the concluding day, President Droupadi Murmu also addressed the summit and said the state is "capable and ready" to become India's growth engine. The chief minister said, "Earlier investment in the state meant investment only in the National Capital Region (of the state)."

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/investment-proposals-worth-rs-33-5-trn-received-in-gis-says-cm-adityanath-123021200842\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/investment-proposals-worth-rs-33-5-trn-received-in-gis-says-cm-adityanath-123021200842_1.html)

## External

### Norway supports India's initiative on multilateralism & rule-based trade: Trade Minister

Norway's Trade and Investment Minister Jan Christian Vestre has stated that his country fully supports India's efforts in promoting multilateralism and a rules-based trade system. The minister praised the Indian government's leadership at the G-20 and highlighted the importance of continuing the process of globalization. "That's an initiative our government supports 100 per cent and we also appreciate your leadership at G-20 and that you are so focussed on multilateralism and that we need rules-based trade system," Vestre said in an interview. The Norwegian minister, who was here on a two-day visit to India last week, said that some countries are turning away from the path of globalization.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/norway-supports-indias-initiative-on-multilateralism-rule-based-trade-trade-minister/articleshow/97836432.cms>

### India's exports to Turkey may get impacted in short run due to earthquake

India's merchandise exports of commodities such as cotton, manmade yarn and textile dyes may be impacted in the short run to earthquake-hit Turkiye, according to exporters. Two powerful earthquakes hours apart on Monday last week caused widespread destruction of property and killed more than 28,000 people, leaving millions homeless in Turkiye. The earthquakes also caused damage to the infrastructure and logistics network with the Port of Iskenderun remaining closed for around a week. Exports to Turkiye increased to USD 6.2 billion during April-November 2022 against USD 5.1 billion in the corresponding period in 2021. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (Fieo) Director General Ajay Sahai said that the extent of the damage in Turkiye is yet not known and thus its impact on exports is difficult to ascertain.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-exports-to-turkey-may-get-impacted-in-short-run-due-to-earthquake-123021200493\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-exports-to-turkey-may-get-impacted-in-short-run-due-to-earthquake-123021200493_1.html)

### India targets ₹25,000 cr worth defence exports by 2024: Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Sunday, said that India has set a target to achieve defence exports worth ₹25,000 crores by 2024, and Aero India 2023 will provide a renewed thrust to the government's efforts to create a vibrant and world-class domestic defence industry to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in this sector. Addressing media on the eve of Aero India, Defence Minister Singh stated that we envisioned the aero show to be a big event, but it has taken shape of an even more grand event. With participants from around 100 friendly countries and 800 exhibitors, this Aero show is the biggest so far, Rajnath Singh told reporters.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-targets-25000-cr-worth-defence-exports-by-2024-rajnath-singh/article66500975.ece>