



December 4, 2023 – Monday

Economy

MPC likely to hold repo rate for fifth time in a row, shows BS poll

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to keep the policy repo rate unchanged for the fifth consecutive policy review, all the 10 respondents said in a Business Standard poll. The central bank will announce the review of the policy on December 8. After increasing the repo rate by 250 basis points (bps) to 6.5 per cent between May 2022 and February 2023, the MPC hit the pause in the April review of monetary policy.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-likely-to-hold-policy-rates-for-fifth-time-in-a-row-shows-bs-poll-123120300620_1.html

Banking and Finance

NFRA can check audit misconducts of its pre-formation period as well: NCLAT

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld the authority of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to retroactively oversee and take action against Chartered Accountants for misconduct predating its establishment in October 2018. This means that NFRA, the country's sole independent audit regulator, can penalise auditors and audit firms for their misdeeds that occurred before October 2018. Not only that, even for auditor misconducts prior to October 2018 and proceedings already underway by CA Institute, the matter would be in the exclusive domain of NFRA, NCLAT has ruled.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/overarching-powers-nfra-can-check-audit-misconducts-of-its-pre-formation-period-as-well-nclat/article67601149.ece>

At ₹1.67-lakh crore, GST mop-up rises 15% in Nov on higher consumption, compliance

Consumption and compliance helped the government collect ₹1.68-lakh crore through Goods and Services Tax (GST) in November. The collections this month are 15 per cent higher than in November last year. However, the number is lower than 1.72-lakh crore in October, which was the second highest collection ever since the GST rollout. The mop-up in November marks the ninth consecutive month where monthly GST collections have consistently surpassed the ₹1.5-lakh crore threshold.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/gst-collections-jump-15-to-167-lakh-crore-in-november-finance-ministry/article67595124.ece>

Industry

Muted festive demand has led to excess stocks: FMCG distributors

Muted demand of fast-moving consumer goods this festive season has led to distributors grappling with excess stocks, the national FMCG distributors federation has said. "Contrary to expectations, Diwali witnessed subdued enthusiasm for the FMCG sector. Post-Diwali sales have historically been low. Particularly hard-hit segments are

chocolates, confectionery and biscuits, followed by beauty, and cosmetics," said Dhairyashil Patil, national president of All India Consumer Products Distribution.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fmcmuted-festive-demand-has-led-to-excess-stocks-fmcm-distributors/articleshow/105650764.cms>

Government cracks the code to track recycled textiles trade

India will soon start keeping a record of its export and import of recycled textiles, as the government plans to track the trade of products made from regenerated fibres and measure the growth of the circular textile economy. The textiles ministry has kick-started the process to create separate tariff codes - called HSN (harmonised system of nomenclature) codes in trade parlance - as the existing ones do not account for recycled textile products and they are exported and imported in exist .

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments-/textiles/government-cracks-the-code-to-track-recycled-textiles-trade/articleshow/105636375.cms>

Agriculture

Pulses, onions to stay under the weather; near 6 per cent inflation seen over next 3 months

Severe rains and hailstorms in Maharashtra, Gujarat, west Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan in recent times could push inflation to around 6% over the next three months with rising pulses and onions prices keeping food inflation high, experts said. "Food inflation will continue to be under pressure, and I believe that 6% inflation can prevail over the next three months," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda. "Rabi sowing is lagging and low reservoir levels can impact.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/pulses-onions-to-stay-under-the-weather-near-6-inflation-seen-over-next-3-months/articleshow/105664561.cms>

Inter-mandi eNAM trade up 188% in April-November on low base

More than seven years after the launch of pan-India digital wholesale agri-marketing platform or electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), purchase from farmgate trade has finally taken off across several states. Farmers are selling commodities on the platform without physically transporting it to the mandis. Using farm-gate module, farmers in 11 states including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Himachal Pradesh have sold several commodities paddy, maize, cotton, raw banana, cauliflower, onion, tomato, brinjal and coconut on the digital platform without transporting the commodities to agricultural produce market committee (APMC) mandis.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-inter-mandi-enam-trade-up-188-in-april-november-on-low-base-3326681/>

Rabi sowing down 5% on late kharif harvest

Due to late harvesting of paddy in a few states such as Punjab and Haryana, sowing of key rabi crops – wheat, pulses and oilseeds have been delayed, officials said. According to the agriculture ministry on Friday, wheat is sown in 18.8 million hectare (mh), which is a decline of 5% on year while total estimated area to be covered in the season is 30.73 MH. An agriculture ministry official said sowing of rabi crops is 'slightly delayed' due to late harvesting of kharif paddy in some states including Punjab where farmers went for re-planting of paddy following floods in July.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-rabi-sowing-down-5-on-late-kharif-harvest-3323249/>

Infrastructure

Govt may consider 2nd phase of Urban Livelihoods Mission

The Union Cabinet is expected to soon consider a proposal for the second version of the urban livelihoods mission, which will provide skill development and credit facilities to urban poor, said officials. The revamped Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) has already secured the nod of the Expenditure Finance Commission, they said, adding that it will take the learnings of the earlier version forward. "Learnings from

the first version have been fed into the successor scheme, especially regarding differences between rural and urban areas," said one of the officials, who did not wish to be identified.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-may-consider-2nd-phase-of-urban-livelihoods-mission/articleshow/105684032.cms>

Energy

Proposed 5% biogas blending with LNG can cut imports worth \$1.17 bn: IBA

The proposed 5 per cent blending of biogas with natural gas supplies in the country can cut LNG imports worth \$1.17 billion annually, says a study by the Indian Biogas Association (IBA). The study comes against the backdrop of the government's recent mandate to blend one per cent biogas with piped natural gas (PNG) supplies in the country from April 1, 2025 under the compressed biogas blending obligation (CBO) scheme. The biogas blending is proposed to be further increased to 5 per cent by fiscal year 2028-29. According to the study, this blending initiative gels well with the government's macro-level move to make India a gas-based economy, with a target to increase the current share of gas in the energy mix from 6 per cent currently to 15 per cent by 2030.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/proposed-5-biogas-blending-with-lng-can-cut-imports-worth-1-17-bn-iba-123120300252_1.html

Coal output from captive, commercial mines rises 37% to 11.9 MT in November

The government on Saturday said coal production from captive, commercial coal mines registered a 37 per cent rise to 11.94 Million Tonnes (MT) in November. The coal output from captive, commercial coal mines was at 8.74 MT in November 2022-23. Coal dispatch from captive, commercial coal mines in November was at 12.92 MT, registering a growth of 55 per cent as against 8.36 MT in the year-ago period. "The average daily coal dispatch from such mines in November 2023 is the highest ever with 4.3 lakh tonnes per day," the coal ministry said in a statement.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/coal-output-from-captive-commercial-mines-rises-37-to-11-9-mt-in-november-123120200370_1.html

Rooftop solar installations rise 34.7% to 431 MW in Jul-Sep: Mercom

The rooftop solar installations in India registered a 34.7 per cent year-on-year jump to 431 MW during July-September 2023, aided by a fall in module prices, Mercom India said. The rooftop solar installations were at 320 megawatt (MW) during the three-month period of 2022, the research firm said in a report. The rooftop solar capacity addition was also higher at 1.3 gigawatt (GW) in the first nine months of 2023, compared to 1.2 GW in January-September 2022. India's cumulative rooftop solar capacity reached 10.1 gigawatts (GW) at the end of September 30, 2023, the 'Q3 2023 Mercom India Rooftop Solar Report' said.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/rooftop-solar-installations-rise-34-7-to-431-mw-in-jul-sep-mercom-123120300347_1.html

External

COP28: Top development banks vow to up climate game, quiet on fossil fuels

Ten of the world's top development banks pledged to step up their climate efforts at the COP28 summit, yet failed to say anything about halting financing for fossil fuel projects, a document seen by Reuters showed. In a statement to be announced at the event in Dubai, the group, including the World Bank and regional peers, said the window of opportunity to secure a liveable planet was "rapidly closing".

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/cop28-top-development-banks-vow-to-up-climate-game-quiet-on-fossil-fuels-123120301138_1.html

Commerce Ministry collating industry inputs for India-ASEAN FTA review

The Commerce Ministry is collating inputs from exporters across sectors on non-tariff barriers, including unjust quality and technical standards and complex rules of origin, faced by them in ASEAN nations for an "effective"

review of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement. The review, which is taking place at the behest of India in order to address the gaping trade deficit it has with the ten-member ASEAN, is to be concluded by 2025.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/commerce-ministry-collating-industry-inputs-for-india-asean-fta-review/article67600652.ece>

India, US agree to strengthen cooperation in pharma, semiconductors, critical minerals

India and the US have agreed to strengthen cooperation in sectors like pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, critical minerals and emerging technologies, an official statement said on Friday. The two countries also discussed collaborative opportunities in green and clean technologies; and strengthening partnership in critical technologies, the commerce ministry said. These key areas emerged from the discussions during the meeting of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo at a review meeting of the India-US CEO Forum virtually last night.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-agree-to-strengthen-cooperation-in-pharma-semiconductors-critical-minerals/articleshow/105658301.cms>

India re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

India was re-elected to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council with the highest tally on Friday, and the term of council will be for the biennium 2024-25, according to an official statement. The statement said India's re-election falls under the category of 10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade", alongside Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-re-elected-to-international-maritime-organisation-council/articleshow/105707791.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst