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Economy

India to become \$5 trn economy early in Amrit Kaal: FinMin

India will become a USD 5 trillion economy early in the 'Amrit Kaal' on the path to achieve the goal of becoming an advanced economy by 2047, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected India to become a USD 5 trillion economy with the third largest GDP in 2027-28. The USD 5 trillion milestone will be crossed with the help of a strong rupee which will result from macroeconomic stability, he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. "The government has set the goal of becoming an advanced economy by 2047. In the process, it will become a USD 5 trillion economy early in the Amrit Kaal," Chaudhary said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-to-become-5-trn-economy-early-in-amrit-kaal-finmin/articleshow/105725439.cms>

Proposal afoot to expand NCLAT strength to 20

The government is considering a crucial proposal to significantly expand the member strength of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to 20 (including the chairman) from the currently-sanctioned 12, a person aware of details told ET. The idea is to expedite the disposal of appeals against adjudicating authorities in cases ranging from insolvency, mergers and acquisitions to antitrust matters at a time when the economy is expanding at a fast pace, highlighting the indispensability of a much robust dispute resolution system, he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-mulls-substantially-expanding-nclat-strength-to-speed-up-insolvency-ma-appeals/articleshow/105733717.cms>

Banking and Finance

RBI not likely to cut benchmark repo rate before Q2FY25: SBI Report

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is unlikely to cut the benchmark repo rate which is at 6.5 per cent now before Q2FY25 under any circumstances, according to a report by State Bank of India (SBI). The report authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, State Bank of India said, the central bank will maintain status quo in the upcoming monetary policy, which will be announced on 8 December. Using Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Model of Machine Learning, the report constructed 4-Scenarios of repo rates and the results showed 6.5% is now the new normal.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-not-likely-to-cut-benchmark-repo-rate-before-q2fy25-sbi-report-123120400655_1.html

Bank credit to NBFCs grows 22% in Oct, exposure to sector at Rs 14.8 trn

Bank loans to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) increased 22.1 per cent year-on-year in October, and their exposure to the sector was Rs 14.8 trillion in October 2023, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings.

Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the risk weights for bank loans to higher-rated NBFCs (A and above) – a move aimed at moderating commercial banks' exposure to the shadow banks.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/bank-credit-to-nbfc-grows-22-in-october-sector-exposure-rs-14-8-trillion-123120400993_1.html

Rise in debt settlements via personal loans

Higher-than-expected GDP figures buoyed sentiments last week, but the subdued expansion in private consumption has cast a shadow on the prevailing optimism. The sluggish consumption growth has come at a time when personal loans are experiencing robust growth, raising questions about the borrowers' spending destination. Bankers believe a significant portion of these funds is either being used to repay existing loans or invested in the stock market for speculative purposes. Usually, higher personal loans should lead to higher spending by borrowers on consumer durable goods, but this has not been the case so far.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-rise-in-debt-settlements-via-personal-loans-3326739/>

Avg monthly GST mop-up at Rs 1.66 lakh cr so far this fiscal: FM Nirmala Sitharaman

The GST collection has been showing an upward trend on an annual basis since its rollout on July 1, 2017, and the average gross monthly mop-up in the current fiscal so far is Rs 1.66 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, she said the GST collection crossed Rs 1.50 lakh crore mark in every month of the current fiscal and had touched a record high of Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April 2023. "GST collection has been showing an upward trend on year-on-year basis since the implementation of GST w.e.f. 1st July, 2017... The average gross monthly GST collection in FY 2023-24 now stands at Rs 1.66 lakh crore and is 11 per cent more than that in the same period in the previous financial year," Sitharaman said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/avg-monthly-gst-mop-up-at-rs-1-66-lakh-cr-so-far-this-fiscal-fm-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/105724592.cms>

CBIC launches two-factor authentication for all e-way bill, e-invoice

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has enabled two-factor authentication for all e-waybill and e-invoice systems to further enhance the security of the goods and services tax systems. Currently the pilot rollout has been done for a state of Haryana and after seamless operation of the same in the state, it is being rolled out for Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan and Delhi taxpayers in the first phase. In the second phase, it will be rolled out across the country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/cbic-launches-two-factor-authentication-for-all-e-way-bill-e-invoice/articleshow/105726517.cms>

Industry

Electric 2W registrations see 39% y-o-y growth

Despite the reduction in FAME II subsidy in 2023, the electric two-wheeler registrations saw a 39 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in the country. According to Vahan, a website that registers vehicles in India, 7,81,263 electric two-wheelers were registered in the country in 2023 up till November as compared to 5,62,832 registered during the same period in 2022.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/electric-2w-registrations-see-39-y-o-y-growth/article67601109.ece>

FICCI submits proposal for continuation of demand incentives for EVs

Industry body FICCI on Monday said it has submitted its proposal to the Ministry of Heavy Industries for the continuation of the FAME scheme for the next five years, with a review at the end of three years. The time period for the current FAME II scheme is till March 2024. Sudden withdrawal or discontinuation of upfront price incentives will lead to up to 25 per cent price increase of EVs and this may derail EV adoption momentum substantially, also impacting further investments in the EV sector, and disrupting gains made so far, noted FICCI.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/ficci-submits-proposal-for-continuation-of-demand-incentives-for-evs-123120401260_1.html

Centre plans to tweak iron ore sale price formula in India: Report

India plans to tweak a formula to fix the average domestic sale price of iron ore, a key steelmaking raw material, according to a government note reviewed by Reuters and a source with direct knowledge of the matter. After the

Ministry of Mines pointed out that some iron ore miners tried to keep the average sale price artificially lower to pay lower royalties to the government, the federal government formed a panel to work out an "alternative mechanism" to determine domestic iron ore prices.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-plans-to-tweak-iron-ore-sale-price-formula-in-india-report-123120400604_1.html

Disbursal of Rs 79 cr under PLI for white goods expected in last quarter

The government is expected to disburse Rs 79 crore fiscal incentives under PLI for white goods in the last quarter of this financial year as certain selected beneficiary firms have started production, a senior official said. The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme on white goods seeks to encourage domestic manufacturing of air conditioners and LED light components. The official also said that the target of Rs 11,000 crore incentive disbursement for different sectors under the scheme during the current fiscal may fall short. "Lot of the disbursement will come in the last fiscal. Lot of projects are in gestation period. In the white goods sector, we are expecting about Rs 79 crore disbursement in the last quarter," the official said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/disbursal-of-rs-79-cr-under-pli-for-white-goods-expected-in-last-quarter-123120400422_1.html

Primary steel industry to face challenges in H2 amid weak market: Icra

The primary steel industry is likely to experience a challenging environment during the second half of FY24 amid increased input cost and weakening steel prices, according to Icra. The domestic hot rolled coil (HRC) prices have corrected by 6.7 per cent since early October 2023, while the rebar prices witnessed a fall of 4.7 per cent in the same period, the ratings agency said. The overall industry's operating profit margins in H2 FY2024 are expected to be lower compared to H1 FY2024, largely driven by weaker profitability from the blast furnace operators, Icra said in its latest report.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/primary-steel-industry-to-face-challenges-in-h2-amid-weak-market-icra/articleshow/105725606.cms>

Gold tops Rs 64,000 per 10 gm; wedding demand takes a hit

Gold price rose to the highest on record at more than Rs 64,000 per 10 gm on Monday, dampening demand as the new wedding season has just begun and raising concerns among people who have marriages planned in their families. The yellow metal touched Rs 64,200 per 10 gm on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) in early morning trade, taking a cue from the international market. Silver, which is termed as a poor man's gold, also rose to a new high at Rs 78,331 per kg on the MCX. At around 4 pm, gold was trading a bit lower around Rs 63,850.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/fashion/-/cosmetics/-/jewellery/gold-tops-rs-64000-per-10-gm-wedding-demand-takes-a-hit/articleshow/105731982.cms>

Agriculture

Millet prices hit a record as demand outgrows supply

Prices of ragi, jowar, brown top, and other types of millets have shot up by 40% to 100% in one year with International Year of Millets campaigns and entry of multinationals into this segment pushing demand and erratic weather conditions affecting supplies. Launch of new products like millet-based pasta, noodles and snacks, inclusion of millets in breakfast cereals, and increased consumption of millets in the traditional form of flour have all bolstered the demand for millets, industry insiders.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/millet-prices-hit-a-record-as-demand-outgrows-supply/articleshow/105735840.cms>

Infrastructure

342 proposals cleared till Nov 16 to complete stalled real estate projects: Government

The government approved 342 proposals till November 16 this year to complete stalled real estate projects, benefit more than 2 lakh homebuyers and unlock projects worth Rs 94,367 crore, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday. In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said that

these proposals have been approved under the Special Window for Completion of Affordable and Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) investment fund. "As of November 16, 2023, under SWAMIH, 342 proposals aggregating to Rs 37,554 crore have been approved and this will benefit around 2,18,699 homebuyers and unlock projects worth Rs 94,367 crore," the minister said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/342-proposals-cleared-till-nov-16-to-complete-stalled-real-estate-projects-government/articleshow/105732811.cms>

Govt to run pilot for growth hubs programme in four cities: MoS Rao Inderjit Singh

The government has identified Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), Varanasi, Surat and Visakhapatnam for running its pilot project under the Growth Hubs programme, minister of state for planning Rao Inderjit Singh said in response to a question in Rajya Sabha on Monday. "The Growth Hubs programme is an initiative to develop city regions in a planned manner in order to achieve the economic target of making India a \$30 trillion economy by 2047 under its Viksit Bharat plan," he said. "The Growth Hubs programme aims to develop a template for devising economic growth strategy for identified city regions across the country and prepare a roadmap for achieving the same which inter alia includes identification of key growth drivers, enablers and interventions," he added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/govt-to-run-pilot-for-growth-hubs-programme-in-four-cities-mos-rao-inderjit-singh/articleshow/105724585.cms>

Energy

Mines Ministry opposes cap on iron ore production in Odisha, Supreme Court seeks MOEF's stand

Unsatisfied with the Ministry of Mines' response that no capping is warranted on production of iron ore in Odisha, the Supreme Court on Monday sought the independent view of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) on the impact of mining on the environment and the concept of intergenerational equity, the issues not looked at by the former. The Ministry of Mines told the SC that steel being an important pillar in achieving the economic goals of the nation and in making India self-reliant, any such capping would be highly detrimental towards achieving the common developmental goals of the nation. "Putting a cap on production of a mineral in a particular state, which is resource rich in that commodity, will jeopardise the economic development of the nation, mineral availability for the downstream industries and the requirement to sub-serve the huge population base of the country," it said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/mines-ministry-opposes-cap-on-iron-ore-production-in-odisha-supreme-court-seeks-moefs-stand/articleshow/105732701.cms>

India joins Battery Energy Storage Systems Consortium for RE integration

India on Monday became a member of the Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consortium, an initiative led by The Global Leadership Council (GLC) of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP). As part of this collaborative effort, India stands among the pioneering nations committed to securing 5 Gw of BESS commitments by the conclusion of 2024. In September, the government endorsed viability gap funding for BESS development. The scheme aims to facilitate establishing 4,000 Mwh of BESS projects by 2030-31, providing financial assistance of up to 40 per cent of the capital cost through budgetary support in the form of VGF.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-joins-battery-energy-storage-systems-consortium-for-re-integration-123120401068_1.html

States

MHADA reduces interest on delayed payments of development charges to 12%

The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) has decided to reduce the penal interest charged on delayed payments of installments against various premiums to be paid in respect of building permission in the redevelopment projects of MHADA from the existing 18% to 12% annually. The decision comes into effect following the directions issued by Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. The minister had recently, at a NAREDCO conference, voiced concern over the level of interest charged by the state government's housing body from realty developers and had stated the need to lower the same to bring it at par with that of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/cstruction/mhada-reduces-interest-on-delayed-payments-of-development-charges-to-12/articleshow/105732946.cms>

Assam contributes 14% of total crude oil production in the country: Minister

Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri said that Assam contributes 14% of total crude oil production and 10% of total natural gas production in the country. Answering the question related to production of petroleum and natural gas from Assam and also the steps taken by the government to reduce the import dependence, he further added that the first refinery in Asia was established in Digboi (Assam) in the year 1901, after the commercial scale production of crude oil at Digboi in 1889. He informed to the House that during the last four financial years i.e. 2019-20 to 2022-23, the total royalty paid to the state government is Rs. 9291 crore for crude oil and Rs. 851 crore for gas production.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/assam-contributes-14-of-total-crude-oil-production-in-the-country-minister/articleshow/105735144.cms>

External

Trade strategy on table to achieve exports target of \$2 trillion by 2030

The government is working on a fresh foreign trade strategy to explore opportunities for growth and collaboration in an attempt to achieve an ambitious target of \$2 trillion in total exports — goods and services — by 2030, and increasing India's share in global trade from 2.7 per cent to 10 per cent, people aware of the matter said. Towards this, the department of commerce is close to finalising a strategy paper, which is aligned with the vision of what should be the share of trade as a multiplier of growth as the Indian economy grows, one of the persons cited above told Business Standard.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/trade-strategy-on-table-to-achieve-exports-target-of-2-trillion-by-2030-123120400950_1.html

India seeks deal with Argentina & Brazil for pulses imports

After signing memorandum of understandings (MoUs) with Mozambique, Malawi and Myanmar for importing pulses, India has approached Argentina and Brazil for deals under which the South American countries will undertake to grow tur and urad varieties with an obligation to export the products to India. Sources told FE that discussions have been initiated with Argentinian authorities for growing pulses varieties which India imports in substantial quantities.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-india-seeks-deal-with-argentina-amp-brazil-for-pulses-imports-3323947/>