



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 'Achieving 10% GDP growth challenging'

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said on Thursday that achieving a 10% GDP growth rate was challenging and would depend on how the world is moving.

1 India Story rebounds as GDP grows to 6.3%

As widely anticipated, India's economy has reported a 6.3% growth for the second quarter (July-September) of the current fiscal, much higher than 5.7%, a three-year low, reported during the first quarter (April-June).

2 India has standardized itself for 7-8% growth: Jaitley

Underlining the strong fundamentals of the economy, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Thursday said that India had standardised itself for a growth rate of seven-eight per cent. "It's already close to a \$2.5-trillion economy in terms of GDP," he said during the Defence Estates Day Lecture.

3 Fitch Pares India's FY18 growth forecast to 6.7% from 6.9%

Fitch Ratings has lowered India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.9 per cent from 7.4 per cent after the GDP growth "unexpectedly faltered" in the April-June quarter.

4 CSO will continue to release 2 sets of advance GDP estimates: Anant

The Central Statistics Office will continue to release two sets of advance estimates on economic growth, a practice which it started this year with the change in the Budget timeline.

Public Finance Taxes And Duties

5 Fiscal deficit hits 96.1% of budget estimate for full FY18

The country's fiscal deficit at the end of October hit 96.1 per cent of the full year budget estimate for 2017-18, mainly due to lower revenue collections and rise in expenditure.

6 Budget to focus on infra, rural sector: FM

The big focus of next year's Union budget will be spending on infrastructure and the rural sector, finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Thursday. "Whatever is the additionality of resource we have, a lot is going to be spent in these areas (infrastructure and rural sector)," he said.



TRADE & COMMERCE

Import/Export

8 Govt simplifies export procedures

In the mid-term review of the foreign trade policy, the government has unveiled several initiatives to improve the ease of doing business.

9 Higher export relief for labour-intensive sectors

The mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) has brought in additional relief worth `8,450 crore annually for the labour-intensive and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sectors.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

10 Cement, steel, refinery drag down core sector growth to 4.7% in Oct.

Eight core sectors grew at a slower pace of 4.7% in October, chiefly due to subdued performance of cement, steel and refinery segments. The eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity — had clocked a growth of 7.1% in October last year.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

11 JK Aims to Double Grey Cement Capacity in 4 Years

JK Cement, one of the largest producers of the building material in limestone-deficient northern India, is seeking to almost double its grey cement capacity to 18 million tonnes in four years through brownfield and greenfield expansions.

11 Cement demand to witness modest growth in FY18: ICRA

Domestic cement demand is expected to register a modest growth of one per cent in 2017-18 fiscal driven by pick-up in affordable and rural housing and road and irrigation projects, rating agency Icria said today.

12 Cement prices increase in Dec, reversing decline

After six straight months of decline, all-India cement prices increased by Rs4/bag (one bag=50kg) on a month-on-month basis to Rs.323/bag in December 2017, showed a recent dealer channel check by Kotak Institutional Equities.

12 Cement output continues to dip on weak demand

Given the subdued demand environment, cement production continues to



12 head southwards.

Cement prices rise again, but will they sustain this time?

In a bid to offset continuously rising cost pressures, cement companies in north and central India have finally resorted to price hikes.

New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

14

Dalmia Bharat, Piramal Bain Tie Up for Binani Cement Bid

Dalmia Bharat Cement, India's second-oldest manufacturer of the primary building material, has entered into an agreement with the Piramal Bain Resurgence Fund to bid for debt-laden Binani Cement Ltd BSE 0.06%, two people with direct knowledge of the plan told ET.

Housing & Building Construction

14

1.12 lakh units to be built under PM urban housing scheme

The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has approved the construction of 1,12,083 more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and sanctioned `1,681 crore for it. The decision was taken in the 28th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee on Wednesday, an official release said.

15

Affordable housing continues to see strong demand: Liases Foras report

Affordable housing continues to be much in demand accounting for 19 per cent of the overall sales in Q2 compared to 17 per cent in the previous quarter, according to data by real estate data analytics firm Liases Foras.

16

Shapoorji JV eyes tier-II cities for affordable homes

The Shapoorji Pallonji group is seeking opportunities for affordable housing projects in Kochi, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Indore, Ghaziabad and Coimbatore.

17

Maharashtra government to offer perks to develop private land for cheap homes

In a first of its kind, Maharashtra government will promote affordable housing projects for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Lower Income Group (LIG) on private lands across the state.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

18

Coal

Govt 'aims to auction 34 more mineral blocks this fiscal year'

The Ministry of Mines is expecting that States will put 34 more mineral



blocks for auction in the current fiscal.

TRANSPORT

19 Railways

Railways give record rakes for coal

In a relief to the power sector, the Indian Railways provided around 261 rakes every day for shipping coal last week.

19

MISCELLANEOUS

Macro-economic data reassuring, but a few concerns stay

Macro-economic data for the second quarter of the current fiscal has assured that the Indian economy can achieve around 6.5% GDP growth in 2017-18.

21

Delays could cost firms future highway contracts

Companies delaying the execution of highway projects may soon be disqualified from bidding for the next round of contracts. The government is mulling over a proposal to debar concessionaires from future tenders if their previous contracts missed the completion deadlines.

22 Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads
(CC1– CC11)

22 Tenders – Housing
(T12)

A1 Tenders – Canal Lining
(T13)

F1 Articles/Interviews
(A1 – A3)

Financial Results
(F1)
