



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 Economic growth may touch 7% in 2018: Assocham report

India's economic growth may touch 7 per cent next year as the government's policies tilt towards the country's stress-ridden rural landscape in the penultimate year before the 2019 general elections, according to a report.

2 India likely to be fifth largest economy in 2018

India looks set to leapfrog Britain and France next year to become the world's fifth-largest economy in dollar terms, a report showed on Tuesday. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) consultancy's 2018 World Economic League Table painted an upbeat view of the global economy, boosted by cheap energy and technology prices.

2 Fiscal deficit worries give Sensex, Nifty a scare

Stock market finished lower in a fluctuating session today amid expiry of December derivatives contracts and on fears that the government going in for additional borrowing could upset the fiscal deficit appecart.

3 Indian economic growth slowed down in 2016-17: Government

The Indian economy slowed down in 2016-17, with the gross domestic product declining drastically from 8 per cent in 2015-16 to 7.1 per cent the next year, government said today. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said the slower economic growth reflected lower growth in the industry and the services sectors, due to a number of factors including structural, external, fiscal and monetary factors.

Public Finance Taxes And Duties

4 Jaitley introduces Bill on GST compensation cess in Lok Sabha

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Friday introduced in the Lok Sabha a new Bill that seeks to replace the recent GST compensation cess hike ordinance on certain motor vehicles.

5 Streamlining move: GST forms may go from 3 to 1 to ease the procedure

The Goods and Services Tax Council may consider merging triplicate comprehensive tax return forms (GSTR-1, 2 and 3) into one consolidated form as it meets here on January 18 in a bid to reduce hassles for taxpayers while also enabling the crucial invoice-matching process, which it reckons is necessary to check tax evasion.



6 Fiscal deficit breaches FY18 target at Nov.-end

India's fiscal deficit at the end of November breached the target and touched 112% of the budget estimate for 2017-18 mainly due to lower GST collections and higher expenditure.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

7 First cement cargo to sail down Brahmaputra today

The first movement of cement cargo via National Waterway (NW) 2 on the Brahmaputra in Assam will be flagged off on Friday by Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping and River Development.

Housing & Building Construction

7 Ministry clears building of 5,45,090 affordable houses under PM's scheme

To help the urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has given the nod for the construction of 5,45,090 more affordable houses.

8 Govt clears construction of 5.45L houses under flagship scheme

The Ministry of housing and urban affairs has approved the construction of 5.45 lakh more affordable houses under its flagship Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), with an investment of `31,003 crore, a government release said.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

Coal

9 Coal supplies to power, other sectors on track

If 2017 saw unexpected improvement in coal availability, things look brighter for 2018. After five months of volatility, coal supplies to the power sector stabilised in December and availability to the non-power sector, though still lower than last year, is rising.

9 Government forms panel to identify mines for CIL allocation

The government has set up a panel to identify additional mines for allocation to state-owned Coal India as the PSU mining giant is eyeing an output of one billion tonnes, says an official.

Power Projects/Generation/Distribution/Tariff

10 Wind power generation to touch 9,500 MW in current fiscal: Minister

A cumulative capacity addition of 467 MW of wind power generation capacity has taken place till November end during the current financial



year, according to RK Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge).

TRANSPORT

Highways/Roads/Bridges

11

India to link highway corridors to int'l trade points for Rs 25k c

To facilitate trade with bordering countries like Nepal and Bangladesh, India will link its major highway corridors to international trade points at a cost of Rs 25,000 crore, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said.

11

Transport ministry seeks Rs 78,000 crore to help fund Bharatmala

The road transport and highways ministry has sought a budgetary allocation of Rs 78,000 crore from the finance ministry for the next financial year.

12

Pending work on NH8 to resume on January 11

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will inaugurate the much-delayed work on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway (NH8) on January 11.

Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

13

Waterways authority awards Rs. 1,353 cr. tenders

Projects worth Rs. 1,353 crore have been awarded under the Jal Marg Vikas project. Termed as sub-projects, these touch three States, and are scheduled to be ready between May 2018 and December 2019. They include construction of multi-modal terminals and a navigational lock at Farakka.

13

Assam gets Rs. 1,250 crore Central fund for inland water transport

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday announced that Rs. 1,250 crore has been sanctioned for overall development of inland water transport of Assam. The Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping asked the State water resources department to involve a foreign consultant, if required, for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) within three months.

LABOUR

General

14

Pension fund regulator looking at allowing minors to open NPS a/c

Pension fund regulator PFRDA is looking at the feasibility of allowing minors to open an account under the National Pension System (NPS) and will go through the legal aspects associated with it, Chairman Hemant Contractor has said.



15

Ensure old-age pension is not less than 50% of minimum wage: social activists to PM

Noting the depreciating value of old age pension by almost half in the country in the past decade, noted social activists Baba Jadhav and Aruna Roy have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to ensure that the amount paid is no less than 50 per cent of the notified minimum wage.

MISCELLANEOUS

16

Diesel, petrol prices soar across states as crude oil surges on good demand

Diesel prices have soared in the country, peaking in Delhi and touching three-year highs in Kolkata and Chennai as crude oil surges on good demand and production cuts led by OPEC and Russia.

17

Coal India may miss output target

Despite state-owned Coal India raising its daily average output to touch 1.8 million tonnes (mt), which is likely to scale up further to 2 mt shortly, the coal behemoth is likely to miss its annual production target of 600 mt for 2017-18.

**Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads
(CC1– CC12)**

19

**Tenders – Housing
(T13 – 17)**

20

**Tenders – Canal Lining
(T18 – T21)**

A1

**Articles/Interviews
(A1)**

