



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 Fiscal deficit rises to 91.3% of full-year target in April-September

The Centre's financial situation improved marginally, but remained precarious in the first six months of the fiscal as its spending outpaced its receipts by a wide margin. The Centre's fiscal deficit rose to `4,98,938 crore or 91.3 per cent of the Budget target between April and September 2017.

1 India economy is making fast progress: Nooyi

India's economy is making "tremendous" progress and is adapting to life in the 21st century, Indian-American Pepsico chairman Indra Nooyi said on Friday, a day after India jumped 30 places to rank 100th in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' report.

2 Reforms to help surpass China in biz ranking in 2 yrs: Report

A series of reforms will help India surpass China in World Bank's 'ease of doing business' ranking in the next two years, a research report by SBI said today. India has jumped 30 places to rank 100th in the World Bank's latest report on ease of doing business released yesterday.

2 'India to be high middle income economy by 2047'

Days after it gave India a 30 place jump in its ease of doing business ranking, the World Bank today said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and reforms push by the government will catapult the country to high middle income economy in 30 years.

Inflation/Recession

3 Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 2.89% in September

For the third straight month, the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for September 2017 remained stationary at 285, according to the Labour Bureau.

Public Finance Taxes And Duties

4 GST Council to trim list of items in 28% tax slab

The GST Council is set to trim the list of items in the highest tax slab of 28% by shifting some items of common use as well as products made predominantly by small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to a lower tax slab.



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India improves ease of doing business but GST still hurts manufacturing

A day after India's remarkable performance on Ease of Doing Business Indicator, there's a slight pullback as manufacturing activities slackened in October due to the negative impacts of the switch to the GST regime.

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Modi hints at GST relief for small, medium-sized firms

Thousands of Indian small firms and traders hurting from higher cost of doing business under a new multi-rate tax regime might receive some relief next week.

6

CEA to States: Work towards one power market, a la GST

States and union territories in India should demonstrate their ability to stand together in power sector reforms for the greater good as they did in the case of GST, felt Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

7

GST Council meeting begins today, tax rules revision, GSTN glitches on agenda

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is set to further amend tax rules to fix glitches in the new indirect tax system and make it easier for businesses and traders to settle into it.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

8

Core sector growth jumps 5.2% in Sept; fastest pace this fiscal

The impact of the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax and demonetisation may finally be wearing off, with the index of eight core industries expanding at its fastest pace so far this fiscal.

Infrastructure Projects Financing

9

India offers golden opportunities for global investors: Gadkari

India offers "golden opportunities" for global investors in sectors such as infrastructure, transport, agriculture and food processing, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

10

Ramco Cements Q2 profit declines to `169 crore

Tough local market conditions in Tamil Nadu and increasing operating costs driven by increasing power, fuel and transportation costs led to a



- 10 drop in net profit for Ramco Cements during the second quarter of 2017-18.

Petcoke ban in NCR: Cement firms should not be worried just yet

- 12 Petroleum coke (petcoke), a key input material for cement producers and a highly polluting fuel, is in the spotlight once again.

Shree Cement: cost pressures here to stay

After surging in the June quarter, Shree Cement Ltd's power and fuel cost per tonne has softened. While this key expense fell sequentially in the three months ended September, it remains higher compared to the year-ago quarter.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

- 12 **Coal**

Singareni plans 800 MW capacity expansion

- 13 The Singareni Collieries Co Ltd has approved the expansion of the 1,200 MW coal fired thermal power plant, by addition of another unit of 800 MW.

Commercial coal block auction likely in FY18: Coal Secy

Commercial coal block auction is likely to be carried out within this financial year ending March 2018, a top coal ministry official said here today. "A decision will be taken this month of the Cabinet.

TRANSPORT

- 14 **Railways**

Indian Railways claws back freight share from roads, waterways

The challenges of demonetisation notwithstanding, Indian Railways has notched up a seven-year high in freight loading between April and October, carrying an extra 30 million tonnes (mt) during the first seven months of the current fiscal.

- 15 **Highways/Roads/Bridges**

Can Bharatmala revive India's capex cycle and boost growth?

- 16 Last week, the government relaunched the Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP)—an initiative to add 35,000 km of new highways (subsuming existing plans to add 10,000km of national highways) with an outlay of Rs.5.35 trillion over the next five years—to raise investments in infrastructure, and boost economic growth.

New expressways are govt's preferred option

With rising cost of land acquisition and rehabilitation of displaced people



near existing national highways, the Centre is shifting focus to new projects instead of expansion of old ones.

17 **Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals**

‘Sagarmala project to save Rs 40K cr a year in logistics cost’

Union steel minister Chaudhary Birender Singh on Thursday said that the Sagarmala Project would lead to logistics cost saving of Rs 40,000 crore per annum by 2025. Singh Flagged off Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd’s (RINL) maiden coastal shipment from Visakhapatnam Port.

LABOUR

18 **General**

Maximum age to join pension scheme raised as govt seeks to widen coverage

In another significant move to expand pension coverage in the country, the maximum age for joining the National Pension System (NPS) has been raised from 60 years to 65 years for individuals who are not government employees, the finance ministry said on Wednesday.

19

EPFO may cut interest rate to 8.5% for FY18, but equity play may boost your returns

Provident fund subscribers are likely to get a lower rate of interest on their retirement corpus this fiscal year, but a senior official said the total returns would be on a par with or more than last time as they stand to gain from the fund’s move to unitise its equity investment.

20

MISCELLANEOUS

Govt appoints Adhia as fin secy

The government on Monday appointed revenue secretary Hasmukh Adhia as the new finance secretary, designating him the top officer in-charge of the Budgetmaking exercise.

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

22 **Tenders – Housing
(T13 – T18)**

A1 **Tenders – Canal Lining
(T19 – T21)**

F1 **Articles/Interviews
(A1 – A6)**

**Financial Results
(F1 – F16)**

NEWS IN BRIEF


