



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 Govt, industry back times' 'remonetisation' campaign

Union ministers and industry captains have lauded Times Network's campaign urging Indians to move on from demonetisation and make efforts to bring the country's economy back on track.

2 Post-demonetisation, GDP to grow at 6% for next five years, says CMIE

The country's GDP growth rate for the current financial year is set to slow to 6% on account of demonetisation and is expected to maintain the same rate for five years, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

3 WPI rises, divergence with CPI stays

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for December rose to 3.39 per cent from 3.15 per cent in November, with rising prices of petrol and diesel. In December 2015, WPI inflation was a negative 1.06 per cent.

4 IMF Forecasts Slower Growth for India

World Economic Outlook says cash crunch likely to drag growth rate down to 6.6% from estimated 7.6% in FY2016-17.

5 Dec Wholesale Inflation Rises, Food Prices Fall

WPI increased to 3.39% in Dec from 3.15% in Nov while food inflation turned negative

India's wholesale inflation went up to 3.39% in December 2016 from a year ago owing to costlier manufactured goods, even as food items became cheaper for the first time since August 2015.

6 India to grow at 7.7% riding on strong consumption: UN

The United Nations on Wednesday pegged India's growth rate at 7.7 per cent in 2017 and 7.6 per cent in 2018 on expectation of strong private consumption.

Public Finance Taxes And Duties

7 GST Rollout from July 1 as Centre, States Reach Deal

States to assess 90% taxpayers with turnover under `1.5 cr, rest with Centre; States & Centre to share control for turnover exceeding `1.5 cr.



8 **GST to have minimal impact on inflation, GDP growth: Nomura**

The goods and services tax (GST) is expected to be fiscally neutral and the resulting inflation impact is likely to be minimal at less than 20 bps, says a Nomura report. According to the Japanese financial services major, while the resulting inflation impact will be minimal, the impact on growth would be marginally negative in the run up to its implementation.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

9 **Govt, industry must fight for free trade jointly, says tribunal**

The consent of all stakeholders, such as the Centre and businesses, is needed to implement norms, right up to the municipal level, against abuse of market power and other illegal practices restricting free trade and competition among businesses, said Rajeev Kher, member, Competition Appellate Tribunal.

10 **Jaitley likely to take the stimulus route to economic growth**

The government is looking to spur the economy through higher public investment

Finance minister Arun Jaitley is likely to significantly increase public investment in infrastructure in Union Budget 2017, offering fiscal stimulus to boost economic growth at a time when private investment shows no signs of a pick-up.

11 **MINING-AFFECTED REGIONS**

State govts asked to utilise DMF for big projects

The Union ministry of mines has asked state governments to come out with big projects to utilise district mineral foundation (DMF) funds to help the affected and for rebuilding infrastructure in mining affected areas.

Infrastructure Project Financing

12 **Sops, funds hold the key for infra development**

The efficiency of infrastructure can be measured when all stakeholders - end users, logistics service providers, contractors, developers, financiers and bankers - gain.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

13 **Inactive units of Cement Corp to be put on block first**

The heavy industries ministry is chalking out a plan to sell off seven non-operational units of Cement Corporation of India (CCI) in the initial phase as part of strategic sale of the loss-making state-owned firm. As some of the CCI units are plagued by legal issues, the efforts will be to go in for unit-by-unit sale or club a cluster of them and hit the auction route, said Heavy Industries Secretary Girish Shankar.



- 14 Gradual recovery for cement firms**
Q3 profit expected to fall and near-term outlook remains sluggish; analysts advise investors to use the recent fall in share prices as an opportunity

Cement was one of the most impacted of sectors from demonetisation. Companies had been anticipating a pick-up in demand and looking at price increases after the festive season. Instead, with demonetisation, there was a severe volume fall in November. They gained a bit in December, helped by some price cuts.

- 15 Mineral auctions fetch Rs73,300 crore**

Companies including Essar Steel India Ltd, JSW Ltd, Maithan Ispat Ltd and Shree Cement Ltd will pay seven mineral-rich states about Rs73,300 crore for extracting limestone, iron ore, diamond and gold for the mining leases they recently won in 21 rounds of auctions.

Housing & Building Construction

- 16 Housing shortage to rise to 2.50 crore units by 2021 : ICRA**

More demand While the long-term demand outlook for affordable housing looks healthy, the segment faces challenges, largely intrinsic in nature.

- 17 GOVT MAY TWEAK DEFINITION IN BUDGET**
Low-cost Housing Likely to Get Infra Status
Move would reduce costs for developers, attract investors and give a boost to Prime Minister Modi's 'housing for all' plan

The government may tweak the definition of the infrastructure sector in the upcoming budget to include low-cost or affordable housing, a move that would reduce costs for developers and attract investors, two people with the knowledge of the matter told ET.

- 18 Incentivise supply of affordable housing, says Gruh Finance MD**

Despite a series of rate-cut announcements by public and private sector lenders after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push for affordable housing, home loan growth may continue to face critical challenges amid lack of incentives to create adequate supply.

ENERGY, FUEL & POWER

Coal

- 19 Coal imports down 25% in Dec**

Coal imports fell by 25% to 14.31 million tonne (MT) in December, due to higher availability of domestic fuel.



20 CIL ups coking coal price amid low output

Coal India resorted to a second price hike in the current financial year and this time it was the turn of coking coal. A steep price rise of about 141 per cent in international prices of coal has allowed Coal India to go for price hikes of its output as well. Earlier in May last year, the company had revised prices for coal being supplied under fuel supply agreements that contribute 80 per cent of its supplies.

Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff

21 CEA says no more coal-based power units needed till 2027

The country's peak power demand at the end of the financial year 2021-22 will be 235 giga watt (GW), down 17% from the estimate made in 2012, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has said. With this revision, taking into account the lower-than-estimated economic growth in the five years to March 31 2017, the CEA reckons that the country wouldn't need any more coal-based power stations, other than the 50-GW under-construction capacity, till 2027.

TRANSPORT

Railways

22 Trailing targets, railways looks to raise coal freight

Running behind the rake movement estimates for the first nine months of the current financial year, the Indian Railways is engaging with power generation companies in Punjab, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Gujarat to increase coal demand at long leads. "We are working at how to increase demand from long lead power houses and also carry coal that will be substituted for imports," said Mohd Jamshed, member traffic, Railway Board.

23 Budget to keep IR's capex plan

With traffic receipts falling way short of target in a stuttering economy, Indian Railways will need to aggressively curb its working expenses to produce even the meagre surplus budgeted for FY17.

24 Rlys looks to boost freight traffic with string of MoUs

Come April next year, the Indian Railways will start entering into a clutch of 'transportation guarantee agreements', or memorandums of understanding, to improve its faltering freight segment, the backbone of the railways' revenue.

25 Container Corp., Nippon Express partner for freight

India entered into a collaboration with Japan for providing scheduled freight rail services between Delhi and Bengaluru.



Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

26 Work on to move cargo, people via 8 waterways

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has started work on development of waterways on eight rivers across poll-bound Uttar Pradesh and Goa, besides Bihar and Assam.

MISCELLANEOUS

27 Ministry pushes for India-made steel only for govt infra projects

Concerned over the anemic growth in steel consumption, steel minister Birender Singh urged all concerned ministries to use India-made steel only for infrastructure and construction projects of the government. He also wants a modification in the general financial rules to include life cycle cost analysis in design and planning stage of public projects.

28 Govt imposes Anti-dumping Duty on some steel products

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on certain variety of steel products imported from China and European Union to protect the domestic players from cheap inbound shipments.

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

**Tenders – Housing
(T13-T16)**

**Articles/Interviews
(A1-A2)**
