



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 India Inc's business confidence index at six-quarter low: Ficci survey

India Inc is not as confident about the overall economy and performance of companies in the second quarter of the current financial year as it was in each of the previous five quarters, showed a survey conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci) here.

2 Prices, fiscal deficit under control: FM

Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Monday said that both fiscal deficit and inflation were under control and reforms were maintaining growth.

2 Opportunity for India to be driver of global growth: FM

Moving to calm rattled investors, the government on Tuesday (25.08.2015) said domestic macro-economic indicators were strong and there was no need to panic.

3 India's rating upgrade hinges on reforms rollout: Moody's

Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday (25.08.2015) said India's rating could be upgraded if expectations of gradual but credit-positive reforms are realised in actual policy implementation, and if the recent improvement in inflation and also the fiscal and current account ratios are sustained.

4 Q1 growth likely to be at 7.2-7.5%, miss expectations

The Indian economy is estimated to have grown between 7.2 per cent and 7.5 per cent in the first quarter of the fiscal, belying expectations of a sharp turnaround in economic activities in 2015-16.

4 India's GDP may have grown by more than 7.5% in Q1: Mehrishi

India's GDP may have grown by more than 7.5% in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, finance secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said on Thursday. "The (Q1) figure seems to be in excess of 7.5%," Mehrishi told FE.

Inflation/Recession

5 Inflation to remain RBI's focus: Rajan

Notwithstanding the recent sharp fall in retail inflation, reining in the price rise in the economy is still among the "work in progress" objectives of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), governor Raghuram Rajan said on Thursday.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

6 Despite govt's assurance, core concerns could pull down domestic revival

If (Monday's mayhem in the stock markets was a wrinkle for investors, the Union government's assurance that the fundamentals of economy are quite strong and that the downslide is attributable to external factors maybe heartening albeit insufficient.



Infrastructure Project Financing

7 Govt may allocate more funds for infrastructure

The government may look at increasing allocation of funds to the infrastructure sector, especially for the construction of roads and highways, which "would have a multiplier effect and boost rural jobs", a senior government official said.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

8 Cement plants in south India rejig business to tide over slowdown

Seven years ago when the demand for cement began to fall in south India, Andhra Pradesh continued to remain a bastion of growth. The state's cement consumption was growing at 20 per cent annually and had reached 20 million tonnes at its peak.

New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

9 Sagar Cements to consolidate BMM acquisition by Sept

Sagar Cements Ltd will consolidate the acquisition of BMM Ltd before end of September this year. "The ramp up for BMM is more or less complete as far as volumes are concerned.

9 UltraTech and Jaypee close to cementing deal

UltraTech Cement Ltd, backed by Indian billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla, is nearing an agreement to acquire Jaiprakash Associates Ltd's cement grinding plant in central India, people with knowledge of the matter said.

10 CRH finishes deal push with \$1.3-bn US glass firm buy

Ireland's CRH bought US glazing products manufacturer CR Laurence for \$1.3 billion on Thursday (27.08.2015) and said this would be its last big acquisition for the next year or two.

10 'UltraTech well placed to take part in next round of growth'

With the government's thrust on infrastructure development, housing sector, smart cities and roads, UltraTech Cement chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla says the company is well placed to meet the expected rise in demand and participate in the next phase of growth.

Housing & Building Construction

11 Affordable homes of \$11.8-bn opportunity for builders

Affordable home segment presents 1 business opportunity worth \$11.8 billion for developers across seven major cities of the country, according to property consultant Cushman and Wakefield.



11 10 cities to compete for this year's 'smart city' funding

Ten Cities from Maharashtra will compete with 88 others in the country to get priority funding from the Union government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet smart cities initiative.

12 India's city scape makeover plan takes first baby steps

The Centre on Thursday released the list of 98 cities making up for % of urban population for development under its Smart Cities mission, marking the first major step of the Narendra Modi government for the promised change in the urban landscape of the country.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

Coal

13 Low-cost Indonesian coal in high demand in India

With Indonesian coal prices falling to \$59 per tonne (free on board), there is a new trend in fuel consumption. A number of small traders have tied up with miners of Indonesia for high sea sales of coal to fulfill the demand coming up from unconventional corners - small sponge iron units, lime factories, smokeless fuel plants, coke oven units, tea gardens and even brick kilns.

14 Keep royalty on minerals at 10% FIMI tells govt

Even as the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act has prescribed for up to 100% royalty as miners contribution to the proposed District Mineral Foundation (DMF), industry body Federation of Indian Mineral industries (FIMI) on Saturday said it has requested the government to keep it at 10% for both new and existing mines.

15 Coal prices near-decade lows as Chinese demand slumps

Coal prices' downward trajectory shows no sign of reversing as a supply glut, combined with expectations that demand from top consumer China will shrink more, paint a bleak outlook for the fossil fuel which generates nearly half the world's electricity.

15 Global coal price on the downside

The sharp decline in the prices of coal to five-year low at \$42.55 per tonne in the global market is unlikely to bring any cheer to the imported coal-based power producers. However, with cost of generation going down by as much as 35 per cent, the cases of compensatory tariff contested on basis of escalating global price of coal could stand invalid now.

Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff

16 World's largest solar power station to come up in MP

Madhya Pradesh will house world's largest 750 mega-watts (MW) solar power station in Rewa district, State's Energy Minister Rajendra Shukla said today.



**16 Solar target
New challenges for augmenting solar power capacity**

When the Narendra Modi government scaled up the power generation target under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission fivefold to 100,000 megawatts (Mw) last year, it seemed an over-ambitious target. A year on, that target continues to look daunting, but it certainly has acquired new dimensions.

17 Poor manufacturing could cast a shadow on India's solar ambitions

Even as the government gears up for another round of fighting at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for its domestic content requirement (DCR) policy under the National Solar Mission (NSM), the low capacity of Indian solar manufacturing could be a long-term handicap for India.

TRANSPORT

Highways/Roads/Bridges

18 Centre looks to promote use of geo-textiles in rural roads

Impressed by the quality of rural roads constructed using jute and coir geotextiles, the Centre, has asked states to replicate the "good experience of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu" in this regard for projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

19 Centre extends easy exit norms to all BOT highway projects

The Centre has allowed road developers to completely exit BOT (build-operate-transfer) projects two years after completion and invest the funds in incomplete highway projects, power plants or retire debt.

19 Fadnavis gives nod to 1180km Metro corridor, finance centre in city

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis approved several big-ticket infrastructure projects and the big bucks required to execute them at a meeting of the government authority of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) on Wednesday.

20 Road Min won't let dust settle on green highways policy

To develop environment friendly national highways with the active participation of the local community, farmers, private sector, institutions and government agencies, the Union government will launch the Green Highway (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 on September 29. Officials said the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) is trying to get Prime Minister Narendra Modi to unveil the policy.

21 Panvel-Indapur road project to be fast tracked

The project of widening the Panvel-Indapur National Highway will be fast tracked, said Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis after a meeting on Thursday with Union Minister for Surface Transport and Shipping, Nitin Gadkari, to review the work.



Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

21 '400-cr project to boost waterways: 7 major ports to be set up'

To boost waterways, the government has prepared a Rs 400-crore project under which the Centre will provide subsidy of 50% to states to build floating jetties, road transport and highway minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday (24.08.2015).

LABOUR

General

22 Labour reforms: Talks fail, unions to strike on Sept 2

Central trade union leaders on Wednesday refused to withdraw their nationwide strike call for September 2 to protest against proposed labour reforms, after their meeting with a group of ministers (GoM) failed to make any headway.

MISCELLANEOUS

22 2% cess likely on air tickets

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed serious concern over the predatory pricing by the domestic airlines, an issue that will be addressed shortly by the civil aviation ministry, which is also mulling a two per cent cess on tickets in its new aviation policy.

23 India to be able to double its power generation in next seven years: Goyal

India will be able to double its power generation in the next seven years, Union coal and power Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads (CC1– CC14)

24 Tenders – Housing (T15 – T19)

25 Tenders – Canal Lining (T20)

A1 Articles/Interviews (A1 – A2)
