



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 **Note ban impact: FinMin lowers CSO's estimates of GDP growth for 2016-17**

The Finance Ministry has in the Union Budget finally given an estimate of the impact of demonetisation on growth for 2016-17.

2 **Economy to grow more than 7 per cent next fiscal: Shaktikanta Das**

Stepping up the growth pitch, Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das on Saturday expressed confidence that the economy will grow upwards of 7 per cent next fiscal.

2 **Union Budget 2017-18 – Key Highlights**

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley presented his fourth Union Budget 2017-18, budget today. The key highlights of the budget proposal.

5 **Railway fare hike on the anvil as Jaitley hints at paying more for services**

The government might hike rail passenger fares and freight rates after the budget to stave off mounting losses, a top official said on Tuesday, as finance minister Arun Jaitley said passengers should pay for services they receive.

6 **New scheme for building export infrastructure at state level**

Finance minister Arun Jaitley announced a new scheme for building export infrastructure at the state level in budget 2017-18 on Wednesday.

7 **No word on corporate tax cut**

After the demonetization blow suffered by the corporate sector as consumers stayed away from or deferred purchases, India Inc was waiting for corporate tax cut, which, to their disappointment, hasn't come.

7 **Infra status to boost low-cost housing**

Builders will be eligible for tax and subsidy incentives, and institutional funding at affordable rates

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in the Budget 2017-18, has proposed to grant 'affordable housing' the coveted infrastructure status to facilitate higher investment in the sector and, in turn, achieve the government's ambitious goal of 'Housing for All'.

9 **The road ahead for the Railways**

The Indian Railways returned to the pavilion today after batting with aplomb on the economic pitch of the country for 92 long years. While presenting his "historic Budget", Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley took just three minutes to deliver a bulletin on the health of this unique institution, and that was all.



10 Income Tax relief for Rs.2.5-Rs.5 lakh slab

“The FM has provided a welcome relief firstly by reducing the tax rate to 5% from 10% for income below Rs. 5 lakh and at the same time reducing the rebate from tax to Rs. 2,500,” Parizad Sirwalla, Partner and Head of Global Mobility Services, KPMG in India said.

10 Rural infrastructure to get more funds in Budget 2017

Finance minister Arun Jaitley proposed on Wednesday to increase spending on rural infrastructure in order to improve the quality of life in villages. The proposals include higher allocation for rural roads, housing, electrification and irrigation.

11 Jaitley reiterates resolve to restart labour reform process to manufacturing

Budget 2017 did not offer a strategy specifically tailored to boosting job creation, but several of its core focus areas have the potential to spur job creation.

12 GST uncertainty worked against tax cut

While the government should have attempted bolder reforms in the area of direct taxes and tried to improve compliance, it has instead created room for some arbitrage by lowering the income tax for the slab between Rs.2.5 lakh and Rs.5 lakh to 5% from 10%.

Economic Survey 2016-17

13 Economic Survey wants modification of FRBM Act

India has “changed utterly” over the last 13 years since the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) was enshrined in law for prudent fiscal management and therefore, the FRBM operational framework designed in 2003 “needs to be modified to reflect the India of today and even more importantly, the India of tomorrow,” according to the Economic Survey.

14 India’s rising exports could boost GDP by 1%

Betting big on India’s exports which have grown nominally in the on-going fiscal after two years of continuous decline, the Survey has projected that it could increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 1 per cent in the next fiscal year.

15 Fiscal deficit hits 94% of Budget Estimates in April-December

Fiscal deficit in the first nine months of 2016-17 touched 93.9 per cent of the Budget target as against 87.9 per cent for the same period a year ago. In value terms, the April-December fiscal deficit stood at Rs 5.01 lakh crore, or 93.9 per cent, of 2016-17 Budget estimates (BE).



16 Govt revises fiscal 2016 GDP growth rate from 7.6% to 7.9%

India's economy grew faster in 2015-16 than earlier estimated, which could result in slower growth in the current fiscal because of a higher base. Data released by the statistics department on Tuesday showed India's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.9% in 2015-16 against an earlier estimation of 7.6%.

17 Reform labour laws, give tax breaks to create jobs: Economic Survey 2017

Accepting that job creation is India's central challenge, the Economic Survey has identified apparel, leather and footwear as key sectors to boost employment and provide "bang for the buck" at a relatively low cost.

19 Economic Survey 2017: Industrial growth seen slowing to 5.2% in FY17

The Economic Survey 2017 projected on Tuesday a decline in the industrial sector's growth to 5.2% in the current fiscal year from 7.4% in the last.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

20 Eight core industries grow by 5.6% in December

Eight core industries register a growth of 5.6% in December 2016 on the back of healthy output recorded by refinery products and steel.

21 300 mining leases to be put on auction in FY'18: Government

Government today said 2017-18 would be the most important year for the mining industry as leases of around 300 mineral blocks would be auctioned during the fiscal. "In 2017-18 nearly 300 mining leases should be put on auction by different states," Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar said during an event.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

21 ACC appoints Neeraj Akhoury as MD & CEO

ACC has appointed Neeraj Akhoury as Managing Director and CEO designate with the board 'reluctantly' accepting the resignation of incumbent Harish Badami who will demir office on February 4.

22 How Southern Cement Makers Beat Cash Crunch

Southern cement makers such as The Ramco Cements, India Cements and Dalmia Bharat have on average clocked 20% growth in sales volumes in the December 2016 quarter, even as the overall industry reported a fall of 1.1% post demonetisation.



Financing/Public Issues/Shares

22 Shree Cem Growing Well, Hold for At Least One Year

Shree Cement managed to ward off the adverse impact of demonetization by clocking 4.5% volume growth and 5.6% realization growth in the December quarter at a time when the sector was severely hit by the cash crunch.

23 JK Lakshmi Cement sales up 4% in third quarter

JK Lakshmi Cement withstood the impact of demonetisation in the third quarter of financial year 2017 due to higher sales before the government decision. Whole-Time Director Shailendra Chouksey said that the first half of the quarter had shown better results before the government derecognised high value currency notes.

24 ACC profit dives 46% on lower output, weak demand

ACC, an Holcim-owned cement company, has reported 46 per cent fall in December quarter net profit at `56 crore (`102 crore) due to lower realisation and fall in sales volume. Net sales were down 6 per cent at `2,672 crore (`2,846 crore).

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Contrasting show from ACC, UltraTech

Following the note ban, the Street was estimating the move to hit cement majors. The impact has been especially hard on ACC's performance in the December quarter.

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Ramco Cements to buy back shares at Rs. 720

The board of directors of The Ramco Cements Ltd., has approved the proposal for buy-back of equity shares for a price not exceeding Rs. 720 per share from the shareholders of the company.

26

Birla Corp invests Rs 100 cr in Reliance Cement, starts exercise of rebranding cement

M P Birla Group company Birla Corporation Limited on Wednesday said it has invested Rs.100 crore in Reliance Cement Company Private Limited (RCCPL) during December quarter this fiscal, which became its wholly-owned subsidiary from August last year.

Housing & Building Construction

27

Affordable housing to add impetus to sector

On the heels of declining growth rate and disruption due to demonetisation, finance minister Arun Jaitley has provided for a balanced Budget.



28

Sops, Cheap Loans to Make Affordable Housing a Reality

India's long-pending social objective of affordable mass housing appears to be finally doing just that: Getting millions of its wage earners on to the property ladder for the first time.

29

Qatar Holding agrees to invest \$250 million in ArthVeda's fund

Mumbai-based ArthVeda Fund Management said Qatar Holding has agreed to invest \$250 million (₹1,663 crore) in its affordable low and middle income (LMI) fund.

30

Real estate sector needs just one clearance from green panel

After the government ended multiple green approvals for the high "air pollution contributor" real estate sector, it now needs only clearance from a state environment authority, mostly headed by a retired bureaucrat.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

30

Coal

Government to auction 23 coal mines in FY18, 4 for commercial mining

After more than a year of deliberation, the central government has decided to open commercial mining of coal in the coming financial year.

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Coal ministry to allow commercial mining by private companies

Forty-four years after nationalising coal mines, the government will allow commercial mining by private companies this year, a top coal ministry official said on Thursday.

32

Abolish import duties on coking coal and metal scrap: Steelmin to finance ministry

Flagging the need for abolition of import duties on coking coal and metal scrap, both scarce material in the country, steel ministry has written to the finance ministry, requesting it to reconsider the proposals overlooked in the Budget.

TRANSPORT

33

Highways/Roads/Bridges

Highways – Govt funding to go up by 60%

Government support for road construction is expected to jump nearly 60 per cent next year to ₹23,891.59 crore as the Centre prepares big plans on roads. According to the revised estimates, the government's funding in the current year will be ₹4,977 crore.

33

First phase of coastal roads award likely in 2017-18



- 34 More than 2,000 km of coastal roads would be built in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and the first phase of the award is expected to happen during 2017-18, an official said.

Hybrid model roads projects suffer financial commitment hit; NHAI can

- 35 Over a dozen road projects conceived under the hybrid annuity model are stuck for want of financial commitments while a couple have been cancelled by the NHAI.

Govt doubles highways target to 15,000 km in next fiscal

- 36 The government has set a target of constructing 15,000 km of highways in the next financial year, 50 per cent more than that in the current fiscal.

NHAI seeks consultant for city logistics parks

The Centre is drawing up a proposal to set up warehousing zones on the outskirts of major cities through public-private partnerships.

37

Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

Green nod to modernize upper Krishna project

- 38 Karnataka government has received environmental clearance for expanding the command area of Upper Krishna Irrigation Project (UKIP) to provide irrigation facilities for the drought-prone areas in three districts -- Bijapur, Bagalkot and Raichur at a cost of Rs 3,710 crore.

Mumbai Port plans for higher coastal cargo revenue

In a bid to strengthen its revenue from coastal cargo, Mumbai Port, the country's largest port, has chalked out a strong marketing strategy to garner a variety of bulk cargoes such as agri products and engineering goods in the coming months.

39

LABOUR

General

Lok Sabha approves bill on non-cash wage payments

- 40 Employers will soon be able to pay wages solely via cheque or bank transfer, with the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passing a bill to remove a provision in the law that requires workers' consent for non-cash wage payments.

Govt likely to restart labour reform process after state polls

The central government is likely to revive the pending labour reform process after the ongoing assembly elections in five states conclude, two government officials said. The labour ministry will push for the consolidation of labour laws into four codes and a bill for small factories as has been planned over last two years in a staggered manner, the officials said, requesting anonymity.



41

MISCELLANEOUS

Steel sector must gear up, face global competition: Steel Min

42 Asserting that the steel sector has started "stabilising", Steel Minister Chaudhary Birendra Singh today said the industry must gear up to face global competition as protectionist measures like minimum import price (MIP) and anti-dumping cannot continue indefinitely.

Panel Wise Capexil's Export Statistics

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

43 **Tenders – Housing
(T13 – T15)**

A1 **Tenders – Canal Lining
(T16 – T20)**

F1 **Articles/Interviews
(A1- A2)**

**Financial Results
(F1 – F10)**
