



## ECONOMY

### Economic Growth/Reforms

#### 1 **GDP data based on real statistics, not anecdotal evidence: Das**

With the Central Statistics Office (CSO) not factoring in the demonetisation impact on GDP, the finance ministry on Friday said its 7.1 per cent growth estimates for 2016-17 financial year are based on 'real statistics' and not 'anecdotal evidence'.

#### 2 **GDP advance estimates hint at revival of farm sector, pegs growth at 4**

The government has forecast that farm production will grow by a robust 4.1% in 2016-17, indicating a turnaround for the sector hit by back-to-back droughts, in the first advance estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) released on Friday.

#### 2 **GDP to fall to 3-yr low of 7.1%, data predicts slowing economy**

The government on Friday predicted that the Indian economy will grow at 7.1% in 2016-17 lower than the 7.6% growth clocked in the previous fiscal. The slump is mainly due to slowdown in manufacturing, mining and construction sectors.

#### 3 **Demonetisation just a bump; India to maintain 7% growth: Cisco**

Describing demonetisation as only a "bump", Cisco Executive Chairman John Chambers today said India is well-positioned to maintain GDP growth rate of over 7 per cent for the next few years and it should be a "top ally" for the US in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### 4 **Over 150 mining leases to lapse today**

The mining lease approvals of more than 150 major mineral deposits of iron ore, bauxite, manganese, lime stone and dolomite are set to lapse on Wednesday due to lack of forest and environment clearances, required for execution of a lease deed.

### Inflation/Recession

#### 5 **Retail inflation hits three-year low of 3.40%**

Retail inflation decelerated slightly to a series low last month, led by a decline in food prices. The likely cause is the cash crunch due to demonetisation of high-denomination, currency that suppressed demand. The- lower rate of consumer inflation enhances the possibility of an interest rate reduction by the monetary policy committee (MPC) in its next meeting.



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## Public Finance Taxes And Duties

### 5 **GST: November 8 is the D-day for migration of eight million assesseees**

Come November 8, and the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), which is expected to provide common and shared IT infrastructure for GST implementation, will on-board to its platform the details of about 80 lakh existing assesseees of excise, value-added tax, customs and service tax, a top official said.

### 6 **GST rollout before September 16 is a constitutional necessity: Jaitley**

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday stated that there is a constitutional necessity to roll out the Goods and Services Tax (GST) before September 16, if not on April 1. Speaking on the sidelines of the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit here, Jaitley said that since the constitutional amendments have already been made and accepted, it is necessary to roll out GST by September 16.

## INDUSTRY

## Industrial Growth & Production

### 7 **Start-ups may soon be able to access insurance, pension funds**

The Centre will soon hold discussions with insurance and pension regulators on a proposal to enable pension funds and insurance companies such as Life Insurance Corporation to invest in start-ups.

### 8 **Industrial output at 4-year high of 5.7% in November**

Industrial output expanded by 5.7 per cent, the fastest pace in more than four years, largely on account of a low base effect, government data showed. The strong growth of the Index of Industrial Production in November 2016, which analysts have called a 'false positive', comes on the back of a contraction of 3.37 per cent in the same month of the previous year.

## Infrastructure Projects Financing

### 9 **118 North-East projects await environment clearances**

At least 118 projects in the North-East are pending with the Union environment ministry for want of forest clearance despite the central government pushing for faster development of the region.

### 10 **'Infrastructure spending must be raised in budget'**

The Centre should prioritise measures that will boost spending on infrastructure creation to shore up demand in the upcoming budget, industry body FICCI said.



## CEMENT INDUSTRY

### Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

#### 11 Demonetisation to derail cement sector growth: Ind-Ra

The government's demonetisation initiative is expected to derail the growth of the cement sector, says India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra).

#### 12 Demonetisation uncertainty may cause cement firms to report fall in volume: Kotak

In a quarter plagued by uncertainty owing to currency demonetisation, we expect mixed results from the cement sector— pan-India players likely to report volume decline and flat realizations, players in North will report weakness in volumes with sequential drop in realizations, and South-based players will report healthy volume growth coupled with sequential improvement in realizations.

#### 12 Cement prices fall again

The downtrend in cement prices just does not seem to be ending. After a reduction on September 3, A-grade cement manufacturers in Mumbai cut prices again a couple of days back.

### New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

#### 13 JSW Cement buys 37% stake in Shiva Cement for `97 crore

JSW Cement has acquired 37.16 per cent stake from the promoters of Shiva Cement for Rs. 97 crore. The company has also made an open offer to buy out another 32 per cent through open offer at Rs. 14 a share leading to a total outgo of Rs. 87.36 crore.

## ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

### Power Projects/Generation/Distribution/Tariff

#### 14 Retail fuel prices to remain high

Diesel and Petrol prices are about 20 per cent more than what they were a year before at this time and seem unlikely to reduce. Global crude oil prices are inching upwards after output cuts by the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) cartel.

## TRANSPORT

### Railway

#### 15 Railways may get 6% increase in Budget

The Finance Ministry may grant the Indian Railways a more than six per cent increase in gross budgetary support to Rs. 48,000 crore, a figure that the operator of the world's fourth largest railway network



16 wants raised further, according to official sources.

## **Rail freight revenue short by `7,000 crore**

Indian Railways (IR) freight revenue has lost an estimated `7,000 crore in the financial year thus far, mainly due to a 50 million tonne (mt) shortfall in expected coal traffic, besides a drop in cement movement due to demonetisation.

## 17 **Highways/Roads/Bridges**

### **Road ministry wants India Inc to spend CSR funds on safety front**

Keen on reducing the number of accidents on roads by half by 2019, road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has decided to reach out to the corporate sector, seeking their help in inculcating a culture on road safety in society and take up road safety as a part of their corporate social responsibility programme.

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### **Jica flags off Mumbai Project**

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica), which is funding 80% of the estimated Rs 17,843 crore cost for building country's longest sea bridge, the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), has given its nod to invite proposals for the project.

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### **Icra launches new credit rating system for infra**

Rating agency ICRA Ltd on Wednesday announced the country's new credit rating system for the infrastructure sector, in line with the announcement made in the budget 2016 document.

## **LABOUR**

## 20 **General**

### **Aadhaar now mandatory for EPF pension scheme**

The Centre has made obtaining an Aadhaar number mandatory for 2.5 crore members of the Employees' Pension Scheme of 1995, one of the benefits available to Employees' Provident Fund subscribers.

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### **Employment in eight key sectors estimated at 205.22 lakh**

The total estimated employment in eight selected sectors stood at 205.22 lakh, as per the new series of the draft Quarterly Employment Survey by the Labour Bureau.

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **April 1 still the target for GST: FM**

Union Finance minister Arun Jaitley said the government was committed to implementing the Goods and Service Tax (GST) from April 1 this year and stressed that all contentious issues over which the

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**



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Centre and the states are on disagreement will be resolved in the next few weeks.

**23 Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads  
(CC1– CC13)**

**24 Tenders – Housing  
(T13 – T17)**

**A1 Tenders – Canal Lining  
(T18)**

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

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