



## ECONOMY

### Economic Growth/Reforms

#### 1 Aayog's top task: to prepare 15-year vision for economy

Currently, Niti Aayog has three members—Bibek Debroy, V K Saraswat and Ramesh Chand. Rajiv Kumar is also chancellor of Gokhale Institute of Economics and Politics in Pune and the founding director of Pahlle India Foundation, a nonprofit research organisation specialising in policy-oriented research and analysis.

#### 1 GST will lead to increase in GDP in six months: Godrej

Veteran industrialist Adi Godrej on Wednesday said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will lead to considerable increase in the GDP in the next six months.

### Public Finance Taxes And Duties

#### 1 GST relief for textiles, goods movement to get smoother

The GST Council revised rates on 19 services on Saturday, including reducing the job work rate in the textiles sector to 5% from 18%, as finance minister Arun Jaitley appealed to businesses to pass on the benefits of the tax reform measure.

#### 4 Govt Monitoring Prices Post GST, No Supply Disruptions Yet

The government is closely monitoring daily price variations in over two dozen essential commodities - from wheat to tea - to check at early stage any abnormal movement in rates post GST rollout, CBEC Chairperson Vanaja Sarna said.

## INDUSTRY

### Industrial Growth & Production

#### 3 Govt to release draft changes in mineral auction rules in August

The government will bring out proposed changes in mineral auction rules this month as it looks to make sale of mines more effective, a top official said on Friday.

#### 3 Miners want block free from encumbrances at auctions

As the development of a mine gets stuck due to delays in obtaining a string of approvals, miners have asked for making the process hassle free at the stage of auctions.

#### 4 Green activists may seek action against mines in other states

The Supreme Court's landmark order imposing an estimated Rs 25,000 crore penalty on iron ore and manganese miners in Odisha continues to rattle the sector, with serious implications for mining operations across the country and clearances obtained in the past.



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## Infrastructure Project Financing

### 5 Infrastructure sectors saw growth falling to 0.4% in June

Growth in the eight core sectors slowed to 0.4% in June due to contraction in the output of coal, refinery products, fertiliser and cement. The growth rate of the infrastructure sectors - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity - was 7% in June last year.

### 5 Expedite clearances to infra projects: Gadkari

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has sought to fast-track key infrastructure projects, including the Char Dham scheme, and reached out to all the stakeholders for quicker clearances.

### 5 PPP in transport sector in need of a boost

PUBLIC private partnerships (PPPs) have played a key role in infrastructure creation in recent decades, with the transport sector accounting for a large chunk of such projects.

## ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

### Coal

### 5 Forget fossil fuel subsidy, there are larger costs

*As heal points out, G-20 subsidies on fossil fuels were \$444bn in 2014 but the health costs a whopping \$2.8tn*

If the government goes ahead with its plan to reduce kerosene subsidies every month, as it has in the case of LPG, chances are Opposition MPs will once again raise a hue and cry in Parliament on how the poor are being affected.

### 6 Singareni Collieries looking to set up solar plants in coal mining belt

The Singareni Collieries Company Ltd, a State-owned mining company, is considering setting up of solar photo-voltaic power projects in the mining belt where the collieries operates.

### 7 Coal India to halve offer under e-auction

Coal India BSE 0.74 % has decided to halve its offer under e-auction from 300 million tonnes during 2016-17 to around 150 million tonnes this year, which will increase supply to fuel-starved power plants.

### 7 Guj to swap coal allocation with efficient plants

In an attempt to cut power purchase cost, Gujarat has invited tenders to buy coal-based electricity from independent power producers who would agree to sell power at less than Rs 2.82/unit. Through the auction, Gujarat will transfer the coal allocated to power generating stations owned by Gujarat State Electricity Corporation (GSECL) to more fuel efficient private power plants.

### 8 Govt annuls fifth round of coal mine auction on tepid response

The Centre has annulled the fifth round of coal mine auctions due to poor response from bidders.



- 8 CIL plans to shut about 100 unprofitable mines**  
*Co now has 394 mines, of which about 15 are highly profitable*

Coal India will shut nearly 100 unprofitable mines over the next two-three years. Of this, 37 will close operations this year. Last year, Coal India BSE -0.65 % closed down over 15 mines. A recent study showed that about 15 mines are highly profitable and 90 others can be made profitable.

## **Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff**

- 9 Solar capacity addition in H1 at 4.8 GW**

India has added 4,765 MW of solar power generation capacity in the first-half of 2017 with 1,869 MW of this in the second quarter of 2017.

- 10 NTPC plans lower capex as demand growth slows**

NTPC, India's biggest electricity producer, is planning its first reduction in capital spending in at least six years amid the country's slowing demand growth and surplus capacity.

## **Energy Conservation**

- 10 Govt identifies 5 ports to boost cruise tourism**

Union minister for shipping Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday announced that the government has identified five major ports — Mumbai, Mormugao, Mangalore, Chennai and Cochin — to boost cruise tourism in India.

## **TRANSPORT**

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

- 11 BMC begins work for better monsoon roads**

In order to save itself from embarrassment, the civic body has already started prepping for next year's monsoon. The Roads Department of the BMC has decided to start road repair works soon after this year's monsoon concludes.

- 11 NHAI confident of meeting FY18 construction targets**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is confident of exceeding the targets set by the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) for the current fiscal despite its failure to meet targets for construction and awards of highways during the first quarter of FY18.

- 12 High Interest rate – NHAI to not tap EPFO for funds**

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is unlikely to borrow from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in the current fiscal in an effort to rein in cost of funds. It had borrowed Rs 10,000 crore from the EPFO last fiscal in two tranches at an average coupon rate of 7.85%.



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**13 Expectations of higher returns drive up bids for HAM highway projects**

Expectations of higher returns have driven up the bid prices for the roads being tendered under the hybrid annuity model (HAM), so much so that projects have been awarded as high as 44% more than the cost estimated by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

**15 A Rs 2-lakh crore makeover for Mumbai on track**

The Maharashtra government's capex for the current year may have been pegged at levels lower than in 2016-17, but a Rs 2-lakh crore makeover for Mumbai is on track. A special purpose vehicle — Maha-Infra — will soon be set up to aggregate land that will be securitised to raise resources.

**16 Geographical contiguity to be the main criterion**

Geographical contiguity will be the prime criterion, besides the volume of traffic, for project selection in the National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI's) roll-out of the first set of highway projects for monetisation.

## **Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals**

**17 IWAI to lease out waterway assets on long-term basis**

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will lease out the assets built on national waterways to the private sector for operation and management for tenures as long as 30 years on a revenue share basis, according to its Vice-Chairman Pravir Pandey.

## **LABOUR**

### **Labour Laws Problem**

**17 EPFO move to cut charges could free up Rs 1,900 crore**

Less than four months after it reduced the administrative charges (ACs), the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is planning to slash these imposts further. The move would allow employers — from whose share to the EPF these charges are deducted — to increase workers' salaries.

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

**19 Tenders – Housing  
(T13 – T15)**

**Articles/Interviews  
(A1)**

**Financial Results  
(F1 – F6)**

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