



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 New CPI to capture changing patterns

Any increase in mineral water and potato-chip prices, as well as changes in data usage charges will reflect in the retail inflation rate that the government announces every month using a revamped gauge. Hotel lodging charges and inverter prices are among the other items added to the new Consumer Price Index basket that aims to capture changing consumption patterns.

1 India must seize chance to be top economy: IMF head

India has an opportunity to emerge as one of the world's most dynamic economies but it needs to implement the planned reforms and open up more fully to the world, IMF Chief Christine Lagarde told TOI in an exclusive written interview.

2 Seeks clarifications on new GDP series

The International Monetary Fund has sought certain clarifications from the Indian authorities on the new GDP series even as it is confident about its veracity, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said.

2 IMF: India a bright spot in global economy, will clock 7.2% growth

India is a bright spot in a cloudy global economy, with recent policy reforms and improved business confidence boosting its economic activity, IMF managing director Christine Lagarde said on Monday.

3 Economy to grow 7.7% in 2015, says OECD

India is poised to grow 7.7% this year and 8% in 2016 to become the "fastest growing major economy", according to think tank OECD.

Inflation/Recession

4 Wholesale prices fall 2% in February

Inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) declined for the fourth consecutive month at -2.06% in February from -0.39% in January, mainly due to a drop in fuel prices even as food prices rose. Fall in global crude prices have helped India, a major crude oil importer, reduce its import bill and curtail inflation.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

5 Make in India for world markets

On the present government's 'Make in India' campaign, C Rangarajan, former chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, says it is important to first ask for whom it is being made.



Infrastructure Projects Financing

5 Maharashtra Eco Survey estimates growth at 5.7%

The Maharashtra government's Economic Survey for FY15 shows a series of difficult decisions ahead. The Survey estimates economic growth at 5.7 per cent, compared to 7.3 per cent in 2013-14 and 7.8 per cent in 2012-13.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

6 Cement stocks sizzle amid boost to infra projects

Shares of cement companies are back in focus after the road transport ministry unveiled a list of 36 companies that are committed to supply 10 million tonnes of the commodity for a year, making analysts bullish about the likely beneficiaries including Ambuja Cements, ACC, JK Cement, Jaypee Group and Orient Cement.

7 Wave of cement M&As seen ahead

Cement firms may prefer to buy existing assets with limestone sources as opposed to investing in new plants

Nothing's concrete yet, but get ready for a wave of cement mergers and acquisitions (M&As) – that's the message from bankers, analysts and cement company executives.

Housing & Building Construction

8 Govt may agree to change some land bill provisions

Opposition slams Bill, asks what is the hurry?

The Narendra Modi government on Monday indicated that it is willing to make some changes to the land acquisition amendment Bill — it seeks to do away with the requirement of majority consent of landowners for five sectors, including infrastructure and defence — to allay fears that farmers' interest are being sacrificed.

9 Smart cities scheme to be rolled out next month

The Government's flagship 'smart cities' scheme will be rolled out from next month, Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu said on Monday. "We are in an advanced stage of consultations, which will be over by the end of this month. Next month, we will roll out the much awaited scheme," Naidu said at the National Symposium on Sustainable Smart Cities here.

10 Shendra smart city set to get finance secy nod

Shendra Bidkin, the smart city that found mention in the Union Budget speech, is likely to get the finance ministry's nod on Thursday to initiate tenders to the tune of Rs 1,500 crore towards infrastructure and development. The smart city is set to come up in Aurangabad as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).



ENERGY, FUEL & POWER

Coal

11 Ambuja to invest in coal block

Ambuja Cements on Tuesday (17.03.2015) said it will invest around Rs 370 crore to develop the Gare-Palma-IV/8 coal block in Chhattisgarh. The cement maker, in which Swiss building material major Holcim has majority stake, said it expects mining operation in the said block to start in 2018.

Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff

11 Power output up 10% in April-February 2015

Power generation in the country went up by 10 per cent in the April 2014-February 2015 period, with the country gearing up to meet greater electricity demand. Thermal power generation in particular went up nearly 12 per cent during the period to 803,875.07 million units, according to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

TRANSPORT

Railways

12 Railway freight earnings grow 13% in April-February

Indian Railways' freight earnings grew 12.7 per cent to Rs 95,136 crore between April 2014 and February 2015, the first 11 months of the ongoing financial year.

12 RS clears rly budget Prabhu wants funds

The Rajya Sabha approved the Railway Budget for 2015-16 on Tuesday as railways minister Suresh Prabhu made a strong pitch for higher investment. He said railways required Rs 8.5 lakh crore in the next five years and Rs 2 lakh crore would be utilised for network decongestion and an equal amount would be spent for network expansion.

13 Ratan Tata to participate in rly's Kaya Kalp

Moving ahead to fulfill his Budget promises, railway minister Suresh Prabhu on Thursday constituted 'Kaya Kalp' Council and appointed noted industrialist Ratan Tata as its head.

Highways/Roads/Bridges

13 Road Developers on high-growth path

The government appears to be committed to reviving infrastructure investments in the country. Given that most road developers are facing financial stress, the government is looking at ways to revive the sector by tweaking the funding model to kick-off the development of roads and highways.



14 Highway projects: NDA ahead on approvals, UPA on execution

In the first eight months of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government under Narendra Modi, the road transport and highways ministry sanctioned 15 new projects, under the National Highway Development Programme (NHDP), and awarded a total of 1,678.27 km.

15 Shifting to cement roads will lead to huge savings: Gadkari

Thirty six cement makers have promised supplies of 85 lakh tonne for road building at prices up to 180 a bag against a market price of over 300, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said.

15 Govt plans to pay contractors in parts for better roads

In a move which may improve quality of new roads in Maharashtra, the state government is planning to pay road contractors their money in installments over a period of time. During this period, the contractors will have to maintain the roads at their own cost. The defect liability period for roads will also be increased from the existing six months.

MISCELLANEOUS

16 After liberalization, China eyes entrepreneurship revolution

More than decades after China ushered economic liberalization, the government is now planning to launch another business revolution to create thousands of entrepreneurs. Chinese premier Li Keqiang announced on Sunday that all stops would be pulled out for the “mass entrepreneurship” programme.

**Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads
(CC1– CC10)**

**17 Tenders – Housing
(T11 – T16)**

**18 Tenders – Canal Lining
(T17 – T19)**
