



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 India can grow at 8 per cent for next 20 years: UN expert

India can achieve an eight per cent growth rate for the next two decades by promoting investment and improving the living conditions of its people, a senior UN economic official has said.

2 Indian economy seen at \$10 tn by 2030 at SKOCH summit by economists

India could be a \$10-trillion economy by 2030 if the average annual real GDP growth reaches 7.6% during this period, economists and policymakers opined at a SKOCH summit on Thursday.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth/Production

2 Rajya Sabha passes Companies Bill

With the Rajya Sabha also passing the Companies Bill on Tuesday, the enactment of crucial amendments, which are more than 40, to the 2013 law will be a reality as soon as President Ramnath Kovind signs on it.

3 Amendments to Companies Act passed; to ease compliance

A bill to amend the companies law to strengthen corporate governance standards, initiate strict action against defaulting companies, and help improve the ease of doing business in the country, was passed by Parliament on Tuesday.

4 Cabinet approves Consumer Protection Bill

Focused on faster redressal of consumer grievances and to ensure stringent action against unfair trade practices, the Cabinet approved the introduction of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2017, to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, sources said.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

4 Duty hike on petcoke to raise cement prices

Cement prices are likely to go up by `3-4 a bag by mid-January because the government has decided to hike the import duty on petcoke from the current 2.5 per cent to 10 per cent, following the Supreme Court giving the go ahead to cement companies to use the fuel despite a ban on it.



New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

5 Dalmia Bharat to acquire bankrupt Murli Industries

Dalmia Bharat is set to acquire Murli Industries, a Nagpur-based cement manufacturer referred to the bankruptcy court, in a deal that will involve huge write down of equity and Dalmia infusing close to Rs 400 crore to revive the company.

Housing & Building Construction

6 Affordable Housing PSU land to be used to build homes

The government plans to tweak the land use policy to ensure affordable housing is accorded top priority. That will make available vast tracts of surplus land belonging to sick public sector undertakings (PSUs) for low-cost housing in urban areas.

ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

Coal

7 Coal Prices may Rise: Analysts

Companies including power generators that depend heavily on e-auction coal should brace for a further rise in costs as international prices are slated to exert upward pressure on domestic spot market for the next three months before subsiding, experts have predicted.

7 CIL clears coal supply deals with 10 September auction winners

The board of directors of Coal India on Wednesday cleared the decks for awarding coal contracts to 10 power plants that won the supply in an auction held in September.

8 Coal block defaulters to face penalties

The ministry of coal is devising methods to penalise coal block operators falling behind targeted production and revenue payment to states.

Power Projects/Generation/Distribution/Tariff

9 Power sector to be stable over 1.5 years; say Icra and Moody's

Rating agencies Moody's Investors Service and ICRA today said they have a stable outlook for the Indian power sector over the next 12-18 months and expects a change in its energy mix towards renewables.



TRANSPORT

Highways/Roads/Bridges

- 10 PM Narendra Modi announces Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads, highways in north-east**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today announced Rs 90,000 crore for improving roads and national highways in the Northeast in the next two to three years to facilitate better connectivity. The prime minister dedicated to the nation a 271-km two-lane national highway connecting Tura in western Meghalaya and Shillong.

- 10 Over 80 pct habitations connected with roads under PMGSY**

More than 80 per cent of the habitations in the country had been connected with all-weather roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), this was informed during a review meeting of the scheme.

- 11 Gadkari looking to launch India's first private rapid transit system from Dhaulan Kuan to Manesar**

The ministry for road transport and highways has decided to re-invite expression of interests (EOI) in December for India's first private rapid transit (PRT) system on 70-km stretch from Dhaulan Kaun (Delhi) to Manesar (Haryana) in Delhi-NCR region.

- 12 Road orders in slow lane as they fall to tenth of India's target**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has miles to go to achieve its annual road-building goal. The National Highway Authority of India aims to agree contracts for 10,000 kilometers in the year to March, but has managed to award only a little over a one-tenth of the total so far, data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways show.

- 13 MMRDA ropes in Delhi Metro for Mumbai Metro corridor**

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has signed an agreement with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for the complete implementation of Mumbai's Metro-6 corridor.

Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

- 13 104 irrigation projects to be launched today**

The Maharashtra government will launch 104 irrigation projects in the state on Sunday (17.12.2017), of which 78 projects are in the suicide-prone district of Vidarbha, Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister for water resources, Nitin Gadkari, will launch the projects at Nandura in Buldana district.



LABOUR

General

13

Bill to increase maternity leave period & gratuity limit tabled in Lok Sabha

The government on Monday introduced a bill in the Lok Sabha that will allow it to notify a higher period of maternity leave and raise gratuity limit for employees. The gratuity limit for private sector is expected to be raised to Rs 20 lakh in line with that in the government sector.

14

Improving Returns ESIC to diversify investment plan

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has drawn up a plan to diversify the manner in which its reserve funds are invested, a move that will see a gradual reduction in its low-yielding fixed-deposits (FDs) portfolio and herald exposure to private corporate bonds.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Govt favours GST on petrol, diesel but states' consensus needed: Arun Jaitley

The centre is in favour of bringing petroleum products under the goods and services tax (GST) regime, but is waiting for a consensus to emerge among states, finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Tuesday.

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Excise, VAT may stay after GST on fuel

The goods and services tax (GST) Council is trying to build consensus among states over imposing the GST on petroleum products by allowing the Centre and states to levy existing taxes over a 28 per cent GST rate.

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Budget 2018: Govt stares at fiscal wall on rural spending path

The government would have to walk a fiscal tightrope if it offers, as is widely believed, more sops for the rural and agriculture sector in the 2018-19 Budget.

Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads (CC1– CC11)

19

Tenders – Housing (T12 – T16)

20

Tenders – Canal Lining (T17 – T18)

