



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 Indian economy to grow at 7.5% in 2015, says Moody's Analytics

The Indian economy is expected to grow marginally higher" at 7.5% during the year compared with 7.2% in 2014 and interest rate cuts will buttress private sector spending, said a group company of global rating agency Moody's.

1 Mumbai to be developed as a global financial centre: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said his government was committed to develop Mumbai as an international financial centre and strive to provide investors with the best financial services.

2 India to grow between 7.8% and 8.2% during 2015-16: CII

The Indian economy is expected to grow at between 7.8% and 8.2% in the current fiscal year, according to a projection by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Sumit Mazumder, the newly elected president of CII, an industry lobby, said that India will achieve double-digit growth in its gross domestic product (GDP) sooner than expected.

Inflation/Recession

3 'GST rollout to push GDP growth by 1-2%'

The implementation of the landmark goods and services tax (GST) regime proposed from April 1, 2016 would increase India's GDP by 1-2%, finance minister Arun Jaitley said. He added that the landmark constitutional amendment would immediately convert India into a big uniform market, which will benefit all the stakeholders.

INDUSTRY

Infrastructure Project Financing

4 12 heritage cities all set to get infra boost

The government has gone ahead with the mega project of developing 12 heritage cities across the country. Called HRIDAY Scheme or National Heritage Development and Augmentation Yojana, it focuses on development of civic infrastructure development projects around a dozen heritage cities - Ajmer, Amaravati, Amritsar, Badami, Dwaraka, Gaya, Kanchipuram, Mathura, Puri, Varanasi, Velankanni and Warangal.

5 Maharashtra scraps Mumbai Development Plan 2034

The Maharashtra government has scrapped the Mumbai Development Plan 2034, prepared by the municipal corporation, in the face of stiff opposition from political parties, non-government organisations (NGO) and leading personalities.



CEMENT INDUSTRY

Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

6 Century Set To Cement Ties with UltraTech

Century Textiles, owned by Birla patriarch Basant Kumar Birla, will carve out its cement business and merge it in an all share deal with India's largest cement maker UltraTech, owned by grandson Kumar Mangalam Birla, two people with direct knowledge of the plan said.

New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

7 Holcim wins ISS support for Lafarge merger

Swiss cement maker Holcim won the support of corporate governance adviser International Shareholder Services for its planned merger with French rival Lafarge SA, a move that may help win approval for the deal at an investor meeting next month.

ENERGY, FUEL & POWER

Coal

7 Imported Coal Cheaper than CIL Produce

Imported coal with high energy content is turning out to be cheaper at a large number of thermal plants than similar coal bought from Coal India since international prices have dipped almost 55% over the past six years while the state-run monopoly miner's prices have only increased, along with freight and other levies.

8 CIL Plans to Align Prices of High Grade Coal with Int'l Rates

Coal India plans to switch to market pricing for high-calorie coal where prices would be aligned to international ones. "We would want to introduce a dynamic mechanism where coal prices would be linked to similar quality of international varieties," said a senior director at the public sector coal giant. To start with, Coal India (CIL) may cut local prices of high grade coal to align them with international ones.

9 Coal price forecasts slashed as China cuts imports

The outlook for Australia's coal producers is becoming' even bleaker, with the growing realisation that China's leadership is intent on reducing long-term coal imports as it deals with rising pollution and increases hydro, nuclear and gas-fired electricity generation.

Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff

10 Govt to kickstart its 100,000 MW solar energy plan soon

The Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre is considering starting its plan to build a 100,000-Mw solar energy capacity by 2022 through award of 10,000-Mw projects in the coming three months.



11 **PowerGrid okays investments worth `5,548 cr**

Power Grid Corp on Tuesday (21.04.2015) said the company board has approved investments worth `5,547.90 crore in various projects including for the inter-state electricity transmission.

TRANSPORT

Highways/Roads/Bridges

11 **Union Cabinet approves three road projects worth over Rs 5,500 crore**

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday cleared three highway projects - one each in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana - costing over Rs 5,500 crore. These highway widening projects will be taken up on public private partnership (PPP) mode.

12 **Two highway widening projects get Cabinet nod**

The Cabinet on Tuesday cleared two major highway widening projects that will improve connectivity of Varanasi to Lucknow and central UP on the one hand and to northeastern part of the state further into Nepal on the other. Varanasi is the home constituency of Prime Minister.

12 **Govt Approves `5,150 cr Road Projects in 3 States**

The government on Wednesday (22.04.2015) approved three highway projects with a total cost of `5,150 crore in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Japan's Yokohama City Council to work on Kakinada smart city initiative

Officials from Yokohama City Council in Japan have come forward to collaborate with Andhra Pradesh in Making Kakinada a smart city. During a meeting with Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Yokohama Port President Masayuki Takashima and other delegates gave a presentation on the Yokohama City development. Yokohama is Japan's second largest city.

13 **Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals**

Two city water bodies set to become waterways

Residents on the Mumbai-Thane-Kalyan belt are set to benefit as the water bodies, including Ulhas River, passing through these areas will be used for passenger and domestic cargo transportation. The move is part of a central plan to develop 101 rivers, including 11 in Maharashtra, across the country as waterways.

14 **3 agencies split water transport project cost**

Three state agencies will work together on the eastern waterfront water transport project in a bid to divide cost. The Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB), the nodal agency for the project, has reported in the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra (Cidco) and the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT).



LABOUR

14 General

New Investment Norms for EPFO on the Cards

The labour ministry may soon notify new investment norms for EPFO allowing the retirement fund body to invest up to 5% of its huge corpus of 6.5 lakh crore in exchange traded funds (ETF). The new pattern of investment may allow investment of about 17,000 crore in ETFs during 2015-16.

GPF Interest Rate Fixed At 8.7% For FY'16

The government has retained the rate of interest for General Provident Fund (GPF) and other related schemes at 8.7 per cent for the current fiscal.

15

MISCELLANEOUS

World Bank projects displaced 380,000 in India: Report

A new report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) says the projects funded by the World Bank have over the past decade physically or economically displaced 3.4 million people globally. The story is no different for India, but World Bank India claimed the projects cleared by it followed rigorous procedures, which included consultations with the affected families.

'Action plan ready to monitor air quality in NCR'

The Centre has consulted States in the National Capital Region and prepared an action plan to check worsening of air quality in Delhi and neighbouring regions, which includes installation of ambient air quality monitoring stations and conversion of coal-based industrial estates into green-based units.

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

17 **Tenders – Housing
(T13)**

**Tenders – Canal Lining
(T14)**
