



## ECONOMY

### Economic Growth/Reforms

#### 1 GDP on a new base year

New method to calculate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has two key elements; new base year and market price. It is a normal practice to change the base year once in five years.

#### 1 Govt push needed to revive investments

Government money will have to revive the investment climate to spur economic growth, with private investment expected to remain slack in the near term, according to the Economic Survey released on Friday.

#### 2 As core sector growth slows to 1.8%, rate cut hopes rise

Growth in eight core industries slowed in 1.8 per cent in January, the lowest in 13 months, which along with a slowdown in the manufacturing sector has raised hopes of a rate cut by RBI.

#### 3 Global ratings agencies rule out upgrade for India within a year

Global rating agency S&P on Monday ruled out a rating upgrade for India within a year while Fitch said the government's fiscal consolidation strategy spelt out in Budget is "less aspiring" than in the past. After the Budget, Moody's, Crisil and Care Ratings had red-flagged the country's delayed fiscal consolidation roadmap.

#### 3 New method to calculate GDP gets RBI pat

In its first comments on the Union Budget for 2015-16, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave a thumbs-up for the steps announced by the government on fiscal consolidation, with a rider that the proof of a pudding was in the eating.

#### 4 India's fuel demand likely to rise 3.3% in 2015-16

India's annual oil products demand is forecast to grow 3.3 per cent in the next financial year as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on local manufacturing and economic expansion will raise consumption of industrial fuels.

### Economic Survey

#### 5 India in a sweet spot, says Economic Survey

India has reached a sweet spot and could finally be on a double digit medium-term growth trajectory, says the Economic Survey, projecting over 8 per cent growth in 2015-16.

#### 6 Shortage, procedural delays are major concerns in housing sector

Widening demand-supply gap in the housing sector and solutions for financing affordable homes are major policy concerns, the Survey said. The pre-Budget survey said the procedural delay is another major constraint in this sector, which has been affected due to domestic and global slowdown.



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## 7 PPP framework needs revamp

The limited success of the public private partnership (PPP) model in financing infrastructure projects is due to poorly designed frameworks which need restructuring, the Survey for 2014-15 has noted. The survey has proposed that instead of prescribing model concession agreements, States should be allowed to experiment.

## 7 Budget may not give same GDP growth range as Survey: Mehrishi

Finance Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi said that the Union Budget for 2015-16 may not give the same range of the gross domestic product growth as the Economic Survey. "Budget may not project the same range on GDP as the Economic Survey," Mehrishi said.

## Public Finance Taxes And Duties

### 8 GST rate needs to be competitive: CEA

The finance ministry's chief economic advisor has proposed a competitive goods and services tax (GST) rate, yet to be deliberated on by a proposed council to be comprised of the Union and state finance ministers.

## UNION BUDGET 2015-16

### 8 Budget a great growth booster

The Union Budget 2015-16 takes full advantage of the confluence of favourable factors helping India's economy. Among them are low crude-oil and commodity prices, low inflation and a sound current account. GDP growth in the financial year 2014-15 will be 7.4 %, making India one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

### 9 Commerce ministry seeks import duty on cement

*Wants a level playing field for domestic manufacturers*

The commerce and industry ministry on Monday sought imposition of import duty on cement in order to boost exports from the country and provide a level playing field to domestic manufacturers of the commodity.

### 10 Budget proposals that could change the fortunes of real estate companies

The real estate industry was hoping for sops in the Budget. However, those hopes did not fructify with few references to the industry. There are only two changes that directly affected the real estate industry. The net effect could be negative in the short run, while being healthy in the long run.

### 11 'Modify PPP framework to revive funding for highways'

With the much-touted Public Private Partnership (PPP) model falling to lure developers to invest in the highways sector, it might become an uphill task for the Modi government to achieve the ambitious target of building 30 km of roads every day.



## 12 Better roads, rural uplift drive auto sector hopes

India's Automobile sector, which has started exhibiting some signs of recovery, might have much to cheer about in fiscal 2016 due to a slew of measures announced by finance minister Arun Jaitley during his Budget speech.

## 12 Budget attractive, but fails on the fiscal deficit front, says economist

Though the Union Budget has attractive features and measures to stimulate investment, it has failed to abide by the government's earlier fiscal deficit target, said C Rangarajan, Chairman of Madras School of Economics, and the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

## INDUSTRY

### Industrial Growth & Production

## 13 Core sector growth slows to 13-month low of 1.8% in Jan

Growth in eight core industries slowed to 1.8% in January; the lowest in at least 13 months, due to negative expansion in crude oil and natural gas. The eight core sector industries - coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity - had expanded by 3.7% in January, 2014.

## CEMENT INDUSTRY

### Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

## 13 Cement cos want duties on inputs cut

JK Lakshmi Cement wants the Centre to streamline excise duty structure on cement and reduce various duties levied on the key raw material for infrastructure projects.

### Housing & Building Construction

## 14 Housing promise okay, but where's the plan?

The mere mention of 'housing for all by 2022' in the Union budget, without any clarity on the roadmap to achieving it, has disappointed the housing sector in the city. With no push for affordable housing schemes or rebates on home loans, experts feel the budget doesn't offer much assistance to first-time buyers, and also doesn't say much about the government's ambitious smart city scheme.

## ENERGY, FUEL & POWER

### Coal

## 15 Good opportunities for South Africa to export coal to India

South Africa should move more aggressively to export coal to India, as well as look for opportunities in other emerging markets, suggests Macquarie Group global commodities research head Colin Hamilton. He told delegates at the Mining Indaba in Cape Town that India was a good option, as it did not have enough coal to keep up with the growing domestic demand for coal.



## TRANSPORT

### Railway Budget 2015-16

#### 15 India Inc bets big on rail orders

Indian companies are expecting the Railways to give orders from its `8.56 lakh-crore investments, planned in the next few years, with chief executive officers (CEOs) saying this will come as a major economic stimulus package for their companies.

#### 16 Railways hopes to gain 4,000 cr

In Railway Budget 2015-16, it was announced freight rates would be raised by an average three per cent. This, the government hopes, will help it garner about `4,000 crore in 2015-16. Experts, however, question the strategy, arguing the railways could lose more market share, given there is already heavy cross-subsidisation of low passenger fares with freight rates.

#### 17 SCR gets `2,768 cr for infra growth

The South Central Railway has been allocated `2,768 crore for infrastructure development during 2015-2016, up 24 per cent over the current fiscal's allocation of `2,240 crore.

#### 18 Highways/Roads/Bridges

##### Civic body starts removing paver blocks, adds to chaos on city roads

Adding to the city's 'work in progress' tag, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started removing paver blocks and concretising over 50 minor roads and 10 major roads in the city. The BMC has spent more than Rs.1500 crore for laying inter-locked paver blocks in the last 10 years, which has now gone in vain.

#### 18 Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals

##### Parliament nod to be sought to convert rivers into waterways: Gadkari

Parliament nod will be sought in the ongoing session for converting 101 rivers into waterways, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

## LABOUR

#### 19 General

##### Atal pension plan to start on June 1

The Atal Pension Yojna (APY), announced in the budget, will be launched on June 1 and will focus on all citizens in the unorganised sector, entitling them to a pension of up to `5,000 per month after turning 60. Existing users of Swavalamban Scheme would be automatically migrated to the APY pension scheme unless they opt out.



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## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Fuel woes are back: Steep hike in petrol, diesel prices**

Petrol prices was on Saturday (28.02.2015) hike by `3.18 a litre and diesel by `3.09, the second increase in rates this month on back of rising international rates of crude oil.

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

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### **Tenders – Housing (T11 – T12)**

### **Tenders – Canal Lining (T13-T16)**

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