



ECONOMY

Economic Growth/Reforms

1 Maharashtra economy may grow 9.4%: Survey

The Maharashtra Economic Survey has said that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2016-17 is expected to grow by 9.4 per cent over the previous year. The Survey was tabled in the Assembly on Friday.

1 House panel asks govt to set up index to monitor services inflation

The inflation data currently fails to capture the ground reality, a Parliamentary panel has said, asking the government to come up with a separate price index for the services sector so as to reflect the rising costs in areas such as healthcare and education.

2 GDP growth to slow to 6.7% in Jan-March 2017: Nomura

India's GDP growth is expected to slow to 6.7 per cent in the January-March quarter of this fiscal year as overall activity is yet to bounce back to levels seen prior to demonetisation, says a Nomura report.

2 FM: India can grow over 7-8% if global situation improves

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday said an annual growth rate of 7 per cent to 8 per cent was plausible for India and the rate can improve further if the global economy picks up.

Public Finance Taxes And Duties

3 GST: Centralized assessment for service-oriented industries likely

The goods and services tax (GST) council is considering setting up a centralized assessment interface for service-oriented industries such as banking, telecom, insurance and information technology, according to two officials familiar with the discussions in the GST council.

4 GST Council meet: No e-wallets for exporters, but tax refunds in 7 days

Instead of an e-wallet facility — a virtual payment system — for manufacture-exporters to get tax refunds in the upcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, the GST Council has agreed to process the refunds much quicker than earlier promised.

5 Cabinet clears four GST bills, 1 July rollout on track

The Union cabinet on Monday gave its nod to the supporting legislations for the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) paving the way for the bills to be tabled in the Lok Sabha this week.



TRADE & COMMERCE

Export/Import

- 6 FIEO buoyant, hopes exports will rise to touch \$270 billion this fiscal**

Buoyed by last month's double-digit growth in exports, the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is looking at more export-friendly measures to sustain the growth rate.

- 7 GST will make exports competitive, says Nirmala Sitharaman**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, when implemented, will result in eliminating barriers between the States and make exports more competitive, according to Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman.

INDUSTRY

Industrial Growth & Production

- 8 FIPB Roadmap to ease FDI approval process in next few weeks: Shaktikanta Das**

The government will come out with a roadmap in the next few weeks to further simplify the FDI approval process by abolishing the FIPB, Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das said today.

- 8 PSUs outperform private peers in economic crises**

Public sector undertakings (PSUs) in India have weathered the economic slowdown better than their private sector counterparts, a study by business information provider Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) India has revealed.

Infrastructure Projects Financing

- 9 State has spent Rs.11 k cr on ongoing infra projects**

The state has so far spent more than Rs.11,000 crore on vital infrastructure projects, most of them in Mumbai, with planning on some of these going on for years and some unlikely to take off anytime soon.

- 10 Maharashtra to set up SPV for `1-lakh-crore infra projects**

The Maharashtra government has drawn up plans to set up a special purpose vehicle (SPV), Mahainfra, which will raise about `1 lakh crore for funding infrastructure projects.



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Nod for 18 new airports costing `30,000 cr

The government has given in principle approval for setting up 18 airports which together are estimated to cost nearly Rs 30,000 crore.

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94 infrastructure projects facing delay, cost overrun

Big infrastructure projects worth Rs 150 crore and above are running behind schedule and have cost overrun, Parliament was informed today.

CEMENT INDUSTRY

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Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover

Cement: Rising costs, unfavourable volume base seen hurting growth

Cement demand in the December quarter was impacted by demonetisation in most parts of the country, with southern India being an exception.

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New Projects/Expansions/Diversification

Emami Cement commissions 700 cr grinding plant in West Bengal

Emami Cement, part of the `50,000-crore diversified Emami Group of Companies, has commissioned its 2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) cement grinding unit at the Panagarh Industrial Park in Burdwan district of West Bengal. The project came up at a cost of `700 crore.

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Housing & Building Construction

Housing gets a policy push, but challenges remain

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Recent policy measures, in step with the government's mission of Housing for All by 2022, augur well for developers and end-users alike.

Fadnavis okays real estate Bill

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The government has given in principle approval for setting up 18 airports which together are estimated to cost nearly Rs 30,000 crore. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha today said the government has granted "in principle" approval for the greenfield airports.

Bonanza for home loan seekers as govt offers interest subsidy for those earning `6 lakh-`18 lakh

Home loan applicants with annual incomes from `6 lakh to `18 lakh per



- 16 annum will be eligible for interest subsidy on housing loans. The subsidy has been enabled under the new Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Groups (CLSS-MIG) by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Smart Cities

Smart User Needed For Smart Infrastructure

We need to build a new India that matches up to the aspirations of the citizens of today.

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ENERGY/FUEL/POWER

Coal

Policy for surplus coal availability for power plants in works: Govt

- 18 The government is working on a policy to ensure power plants have surplus availability of coal, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Power Projects/Generation/Distribution/Tariff

Energy efficiency scheme leads to `37,685-crore savings for the country

- 19 The 'Perform, Achieve, Trade (PAT)' scheme, run by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, has brought in savings of `37,685 crore, according to a press release issued by BEE.

TRANSPORT

Railways

Rail freight corridor may lead to lower bidding for road projects

- 19 The construction of a dedicated rail freight corridor may lead to investors lowering their bids for road projects, even as more and more stretches of the Railways have started moving trucks on trains, says a research paper.

Highways/Roads/Bridges

Highway sector headed for consolidation; M&A activity seen picking up, says ICRA

- 21 The highway sector in the country is poised for a wave of consolidation, mergers and acquisitions given the positive vibes the sector has seen lately due to the pace of implementation, changes in regulatory environment and accelerated investment flows.

Truckers threaten to go on strike from April 20



21 Over 90 lakh trucks across the country will stop plying indefinitely from April 20 if the government fails to meet various demands of truckers' by March 30, according to SK Mittal, President, All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), the apex body representing the truck industry.

Gadkari wants more powers to NHAI, unhappy with progress of projects

22 Union Minister Nitin Gadkari today said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) should have more powers to fast-track road projects while expressing unhappiness over its overall performance.

Many hybrid road projects achieve financial closure

23 At a time when bankers are wary of financing hybrid annuity road projects, mid-sized companies have achieved financial closure under this mode.

Stalled projects inflict a social cost

24 The final panel of the infrastructure summit focused on the vital backbone of any infrastructural network - transportation and connectivity.

Infrastructure: NHAI lines up massive Rs 5.35 lakh cr expenditure plan

25 Relying heavily on a planned over-300% increase in annual market borrowings and likely handsome proceeds from leasing out of existing projects under the proposed toll-operate-transfer (TOT) scheme, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has lined up a massive R5.35-lakh-crore expenditure plan for the next three years (FY18-FY20).

Nod to convert 57,500 km state highways into NHs: Government

26 The Centre has given in principle approval to upgrade 57,500 km of state highways to national highways so as to augment the existing 1.13 lakh km of NHs across the country, Parliament was informed today.

LABOUR

General

Private companies can choose Swachh Bharat projects online now

26 Now companies can go Swachh Bharat shopping. Looking at increasing the participation of the private sector in its flagship programmes, the Narendra Modi government is opening a marketplace to put up all the cleanliness projects it wants help with.

EPFO may invest up to 15% of investable amount inequity markets



27 Buoyed by the surging stock markets, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) may propose to invest up to 15 per cent of its investable amount in equity markets during the next fiscal, Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said.

Bill for damages to workers in factory mishap passed

27 A bill to ensure compensation up to Rs 1 lakh if an injured in an industrial accident and provision for hefty penalty in case of any violation by the employers was passed by Parliament on Wednesday.

28 Consultative Committee on Labour and Employment Discusses Child Labour

The meeting of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour and Employment was held here last evening.

EPFO puts in more than Rs 18,000 cr in ETFs

29 The labour ministry today said retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has invested Rs 18,609 crore in exchange traded funds (ETFs) till February 2017.

30 Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads (CC1– CC11)

A1 Tenders – Housing (T12 – T16)

Tenders – Canal Lining (T17 – T18)

Articles/Interviews (A1- A2)
