



## ECONOMY

### Economic Growth/Reforms

#### 1 India to grow at 7.7% in 2018-19: IMF

India's growth is expected to rebound to 7.2 per cent in the 2017-18 fiscal and 7.7 per cent in 2018-19 after disruptions caused by demonetisation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said today, while recommending the removal of long-standing structural bottlenecks to enhance market efficiency.

#### 2 New WPI, IIP series to better capture economic realities

In a departure from the past, the government is planning to remove the excise duty component from the manufactured goods while calculating wholesale price inflation for this critical segment under the new WPI series with 2011-12 base year, sources said on Thursday.

### Public Finance Taxes And Duties

#### 3 'GST, Broadened Tax Base to Take India's GDP Growth to 8% in FY19'

India's economy should expand at about 8% in the financial year ending March 2019, paced by a stable goods and services tax (GST) platform, public investments in infrastructure, and a widening tax base, Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das said.

#### 4 Decision on GST rates for commodities on May 18

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council will decide on applicable tax rates for commodities on May 18, said M Vinod Kumar, Chief Commissioner of Central Excise here.

#### 5 GST registration set to re-open on June 1

With one-fourth of taxpayers yet to enrol for the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the government has decided to reopen the I-T window from June 1 for 15 days, so as to help firms switch over to the new regime from July, said Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia.

## INDUSTRY

### Industrial Growth & Production

#### 5 Foreign trade policy before GST roll-out: Sitharaman

Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the revised mid-term foreign trade policy (FTP) is to be announced few days ahead of July 1, the scheduled date for the Goods and Services Tax roll out.



## **6 Negotiable Instruments Act may soon be amended**

The government is planning to bring amendment to the Negotiable Instruments Act (NIA) in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament in a push for a less-cash economy, and a draft Bill in this regard is being readied.

## **7 Govt to unveil new IIP, WPI series on Friday**

The government will release on Friday the new series of Index of Industrial Production as well as Wholesale Price Index, with 2011-12 as the base year, to map economic activities more accurately.

## **CEMENT INDUSTRY**

### **Growth/Marketing/Demand/Takeover**

## **7 ACC-Ambuja merger: Making of a cement behemoth**

Last week, cement manufacturers Ambuja Cements and ACC, both part of the Lafarge- Hakim group, announced that they are evaluating options of a merger.

### **Housing & Building Construction**

## **8 Need a home loan for Rs 30 lakh? SBI is offering it at 8.35 percent**

State Bank of India (SBI) reduced its interest rate by 25 basis points (bps) on home loans up to Rs 30 lakh, to 8.35 per cent, from Tuesday for new women borrowers. For male borrowers, the cut is by 20 bps, to 8.4 per cent.

## **9 UP, Maharashtra, Gujarat account for bulk of real estate investment: study**

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat account for over half of the total real estate and construction sector investments in the country as of December 2016, industry body Assocham said in a recent study.

## **ENERGY/FUEL/POWER**

### **Coal**

## **11 Central coal unions may go on 3-day strike**

Five central trade unions in the coal sector are planning to go on a three-day strike beginning June 19, demanding among other things, withdrawal of the proposed merger of the Coal Mines Provident Fund with the Employees Provident Fund.



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## Power Projects, Generation, Distribution & Tariff

### 11 Gujarat drops 4,000-Mw coal power project

The government of Gujarat has dropped a proposal for setting up a 4,000-Megawatt (Mw) coal-based ultra-mega power project (UMPP).

### 13 Viability cloud over solar power as price hits new low

The price of solar power touched a new low on Wednesday in the bidding held for the Bhadla Solar Park in Rajasthan's Jodhpur district.

## TRANSPORT

### Highways/Roads/Bridges

### 14 Road Ministry signs 34 pacts with `2-lakh-crore investment potential

The Road Ministry signed 34 memorandums of understanding with investment potential of over `2 lakh crore, which will improve multi-modal logistics at the India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit.

### 15 Infra contracts for DMIC project to be awarded soon

Infrastructure development contracts worth `1,400 crore are up for grabs at the upcoming Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor industrial township project in Maharashtra.

### 16 Roads ministry in talks with Japanese fund for Rs.2 trillion loan

The ministry of road transport and highways is in talks with a Japan-based fund for a Rs2-trillion loan at low interest rates. A cabinet note will be moved shortly for the same as part of a strategy to generate funds for India's new integrated infrastructure planning initiative.

### 16 Land acquisition delays financial closure for 23 highway projects

While the government has moved to resolve the issue of non-performing assets of banks in the infrastructure sector, land acquisition remains a major problem.

### 17 Bitumen imports jump as highway expansion drive picks up pace

India's roads and highways expansion drive has led to a sharp annual growth in import of bitumen, a refinery by-product used in laying the surface of roads and highways, opening up a growing market for shipments from Iran, the UAE, Malaysia, Singapore and Greece.

### 18 China's new Silk Road: India's caution on OBOR is well founded



- 19** The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held in Beijing on May 14 and 15.

**City's coastal road gets final green nod**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis today said the proposed Mumbai coastal road project has received the final approval from the Centre.

**19 Inland Waterways & Irrigation Canals**

**Govt may regulate river waters, auction it to garner revenue**

The Maharashtra government is toying with the idea of bringing all rivers in the state under its ambit to regulate their waters. The intention is to start auctioning the rivers' waters so as to earn revenue from fisheries and boost pisciculture in fresh waters.

**LABOUR**

**20 General**

**EPFO not to construct homes: Dattatreya**

- 21** Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya today clarified that the retirement fund body EPFO will not construct houses, but become a facilitator for its over four crore members so that they can buy homes.

**EPF deposits may get 8.65% returns in 2017-18**

Deposits on employees' provident fund may continue to fetch 8.65% returns for the second year in a row in the 2017-18 fiscal, labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya told FE.

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Major reshuffle of Secretaries across key Ministries**

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle across key Ministries on Wednesday, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet has given additional charge of the Telecom Ministry to IT Secretary Aruna Sundararajan, while Sanjay Mitra, Secretary, Road Transport Ministry, will take over as Secretary in the Defence Ministry.

- 23** **Tenders – Cement Concrete Roads**  
(CC1– CC12)

- 24** **Tenders – Housing**  
(T13 – T15)

- A1** **Tenders – Canal Lining**  
(T16 – T18)

- F1** **Articles/Interviews**  
(A1- A2)

**Financial Results**

# ***NEWS IN BRIEF***



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**(F1 – F2**

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