



December 30, 2022 – Friday

## Economy

### Indian firms lead in intending to hire first-time jobseekers: Report

India companies did better than global ones between July and December 2022 in intending to hire "freshers"—people applying for their first jobs, said a report on Thursday. Compared to 11 per cent globally, 59 per cent of firms in India Inc showed intent to hire freshers. That is a 12 per cent increase over the first half of 2022. The intent to hire freshers in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region was 20 per cent, followed by the USA at 15 per cent and West Asia at 6 per cent, said the "Career Outlook Report" by education solutions company TeamLease Edtech. Hiring intent for all jobseekers in India—freshers or people with experience—increased from 50 per cent in the first half of this calendar year to 61 per cent in the second.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-firms-lead-in-intending-to-hire-first-time-jobseekers-report-122122900503\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/indian-firms-lead-in-intending-to-hire-first-time-jobseekers-report-122122900503_1.html)

### India's persistent core inflation may exert upward pressure on CPI: Report

India's consumer price index (CPI) inflation has moderated, but the persistence and broadening of core inflation may continue to exert upward pressure on the headline number going forward, the Financial Stability Report released on Thursday said. The Financial Stability Report includes contributions from all financial sector regulators in the country and is published bi-annually by the RBI on its website. India's headline retail inflation dropped to a 11-month low of 5.88% in November from 6.77% in the previous month. Excluding the volatile food and energy components, core inflation was between 6% and 6.26% in November, according to three economists' estimates, versus 5.9% to 6.3% in October. "Frontloaded monetary policy actions are expected to bring inflation into the tolerance band and closer to the target while anchoring inflation expectations," the RBI said.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-persistent-core-inflation-may-exert-upward-pressure-on-cpi-report/articleshow/96600891.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/india-persistent-core-inflation-may-exert-upward-pressure-on-cpi-report/articleshow/96600891.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### India's current account deficit in July-Sept rises sharply to 4.4% of GDP

India's current account balance posted a deficit of \$36.4 billion in the second quarter ended September 2021 (Q2 FY23), forming 4.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). The current account deficit (CAD) was \$18.2 billion (2.2 per cent of GDP) in the first quarter ended June 2022 (Q1 FY23) and \$ 9.7 billion (1.3 per cent of GDP) a year ago (Q2 FY22), said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a statement. CAD in Q2 FY23 was mainly due to widening of merchandise trade gap to \$83.5 billion from \$63 billion in the preceding quarter (Q1 FY23) and an increase in net outgo of investment income.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-current-account-deficit-in-q2-rises-sharply-to-4-4-of-gdp-122122900924\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-current-account-deficit-in-q2-rises-sharply-to-4-4-of-gdp-122122900924_1.html)

## Banking and Finance

### PFRDA restores pre-COVID norms for withdrawals by government NPS subscribers

The government sector NPS subscribers will have to make a request for partial withdrawal of their National Pension System (NPS) corpus only through their associated nodal offices from January 1, 2023. The government sector NPS subscribers include employees of central and state governments and autonomous bodies. The Pension Fund Regulatory And Development Authority (PFRDA) relaxed the norms during the COVID pandemic by allowing withdrawals under NPS through self-declaration. "With the abating of the pandemic-related difficulties and relaxation of lockdown restrictions, the issue examined after taking into consideration of the prevalent practices, circumstances and law, it has been decided to make it mandatory for all the Government sector subscribers to submit their requests through their associated nodal offices," it said in a circular. [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/pfrda-restores-pre-covid-norms-for-withdrawals-by-government-nps-subscribers/articleshow/96550789.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/pfrda-restores-pre-covid-norms-for-withdrawals-by-government-nps-subscribers/articleshow/96550789.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

#### **Credit push to priority sector gains traction: RBI report**

The Reserve Bank of India's push for priority sector lending is gaining traction, as seen from the rising volumes of PSL certificate trades which stood at more than Rs 6 lakh crore last fiscal. This opens up new avenues of credit for rural households and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through NBFCs and housing finance companies. [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/credit-push-to-priority-sector-gains-traction-rbi-report/articleshow/96605361.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/credit-push-to-priority-sector-gains-traction-rbi-report/articleshow/96605361.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

#### **Banks told to have nodal officers to assist trade settlement in Rupee**

The government has asked banks to designate nodal officers who can act as a single point of contact to facilitate and promote 'international trade settlement in Indian rupees' and open special rupee vostro accounts (SRVA). The move is intended to push banks as points of referral and assist the trading community in rupee settlement. [https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-told-to-have-nodal-officers-to-assist-trade-settlement-in-rupee/articleshow/96604951.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-told-to-have-nodal-officers-to-assist-trade-settlement-in-rupee/articleshow/96604951.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

### **Industry**

#### **Organised gold jewellery retailers' revenue to grow 23-25%, retail sales volume to increase 16-18%, says CRISIL**

With volume growing on pent-up demand and recovery in discretionary spending, revenue of organised gold jewellery retailers will rise to 23-25 per cent this fiscal, according to a CRISIL report. The revenue had jumped 36 per cent last fiscal on a low base of the pandemic-hit fiscal 2021. Next fiscal, the report said, the growth will moderate to 8-12 per cent, given the higher base of this fiscal and due to the slower growth in disposable incomes courtesy the economic outlook. "We expect organised jewellery retail sales volume to increase 16-18 per cent on-year to 670-700 tonne this fiscal, crossing the pre-pandemic level of ~600 tonne, supported largely by wedding and festival demand. Realisation will also support the revenue growth with an expected on-year increase of 5-7 per cent," said Aditya Jhaver, Director, CRISIL Ratings.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/organised-gold-jewellery-retailers-revenue-to-grow-23-25-retail-sales-volume-to-increase-16-18-says-crisil/2930468/>

### **Agriculture**

#### **Agriculture GVA growth likely at 3.9% in FY23: ICRA**

India's agricultural GVA growth is likely to be 4 per cent during third quarter (October-December) of current fiscal, but may slide to a record 3 per cent growth in next quarter. Improved fertiliser availability and healthy reservoir storage levels along with a likely increase of rabi sowing areas by 1-2 per cent from year-ago level will help the farm sector's overall growth, according to a report by rating agency ICRA.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/agriculture-gva-growth-likely-at-39-in-fy23-icra/article66317906.ece>

#### **Indian domestic market cotton prices begin aligning with global market**

Indian cotton prices have begun to align with market fundamentals and global rates now that the demand, including for exports, has rebounded, industry participants and traders say.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-domestic-market-cotton-prices-begin-aligning-with-global-market/article66317395.ece>

## Infrastructure

### Residential real estate sales to lag commercial in FY23: CRISIL

CRISIL expects primary residential sales to post modest volume growth of 3-8 per cent on-year in 2022-23 (FY23) on a high base of the previous year for the top eight cities. The increase in primary residential sales will be despite a reversal in the purchasing power of homebuyers. Affordability has taken a hit in FY23 owing to an uptick in interest rates and capital values, and a reversal of stamp duty cut across key states. The demand momentum has sustained despite a rise of 6-10 per cent on-year in capital values across cities, following a steep increase in raw material cost.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/residential-real-estate-sales-to-lag-commercial-in-fy23-crisil-122122901211\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/residential-real-estate-sales-to-lag-commercial-in-fy23-crisil-122122901211_1.html)

## Energy

### Power regulator retains price cap at electricity exchanges

India's power regulator on Wednesday retained a price cap of 12 rupees per unit on electricity traded on its spot power exchanges ahead of expected record energy demand in the coming summer months. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued the order on Wednesday for extended retention of the ceiling "until further orders", citing consumer interests. The move could effectively keep costlier imported coal and gas-based power generation out of the spot market.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indian-power-regulator-retains-price-cap-at-electricity-exchanges/article66316197.ece>

## Telecom

### MSO registrations should be renewed for 10 years: TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on Thursday recommended that the renewal of registration of multi-system operators of satellite television should be done for a 10-year period and the process fee kept at Rs 1 lakh. The regulator made a host of other recommendations for the renewal of multi-system operators (MSOs) registration after consultations with stakeholders. The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had asked for the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI) recommendations since the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994, did not have a provision for the renewal of MSO registrations, the regulator said in a statement.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/mso-registrations-should-be-renewed-for-10-years-tra/articleshow/96602207.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/mso-registrations-should-be-renewed-for-10-years-tra/articleshow/96602207.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)

## States

### Kerala govt aims to transform 1,000 MSMEs into Rs 100 crore turnover companies

Kerala Industries Minister, P. Rajeev on Tuesday said that the state government has set up a target to scale up 1,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and turn them into Rs 100 crore turnover companies in the next three years, as per a report by the Knowledge and News Network (KNN). The minister was addressing the attendees during the inauguration of the B2B summit – Exploring Business Alliance – between the state and the central PSUs organised by the Industrial Department at Kochi. "As part of promoting enterprises, we recruited, 1153 qualified persons and used them at local bodies – one for one panchayat, two for municipalities and one for 20 divisions of a Corporation. We could achieve the goal within eight months," informed the minister.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-eodb-kerala-govt-aims-to-transform-1000-msmes-into-rs-100-crore-turnover-companies/2930589/>

### **Tamil Nadu retains investment destination tag with Rs 1 trillion in 2022**

Often billed as a favoured investment destination, Tamil Nadu managed to garner over Rs 1 lakh crore investments committed by various companies in 2022, a year that brought both challenges and opportunities to the southern state. It faced the challenge arising out of various issues like Russia-Ukraine conflict or the suspension of the production at US automaker Ford near here among others. This year, Tamil Nadu signed memoranda of understanding with over 60 companies which committed investments of Rs 1.25 lakh crore that would generate around 75,000 new jobs. Chief Minister M K Stalin has been reaching out to investors at various platforms to make Tamil Nadu become the most attractive investment destination in South Asia and endeavour towards 'Made in Tamil Nadu' products reaching all parts of the world.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/tamil-nadu-retains-investment-destination-tag-with-rs-1-trillion-in-2022-122122900199\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/tamil-nadu-retains-investment-destination-tag-with-rs-1-trillion-in-2022-122122900199_1.html)

### **Goal set for up to Rs 50,000-crore green investments in Uttar Pradesh**

Riding on the global shift to green energy, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government is looking to attract private investments up to Rs 50,000 crore in the solar and bioenergy sectors. The state has set a target to generate 22,000 megawatt (Mw) of solar power over the next five years. It would comprise 14,000 Mw from solar parks and 6,000 Mw through rooftop solar power plants. The government is also drafting a green hydrogen policy in line with the Centre. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to be the fastest growing in the global landscape in this decade.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/goal-set-for-up-to-rs-50-000-crore-green-investments-in-uttar-pradesh-122122900820\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/goal-set-for-up-to-rs-50-000-crore-green-investments-in-uttar-pradesh-122122900820_1.html)

## **External**

### **India-Australia FTA to help bilateral trade cross \$70 bn in next 5 years**

The free trade agreement (FTA) between India and Australia, which comes into effect from Thursday, will help boost bilateral trade in goods and services to cross USD 70 billion in the next five years, according to economic think tank GTRI. The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) has come into force from December 29. Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said trade of value USD 23 billion would become duty-free from day one. This is 93 per cent of merchandise trade of USD 25 billion in 2021-22 between India and Australia. This creates opportunities for more trade in tough times. GTRI estimates suggest that the bilateral trade will cross USD 70 billion in the next five years due to buoyant trade relations and Australia's gradual weaning away from China, GTRI Co-founder Ajay Srivastava said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-australia-fta-to-help-bilateral-trade-cross-70-bn-in-next-5-years-122122900412\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-australia-fta-to-help-bilateral-trade-cross-70-bn-in-next-5-years-122122900412_1.html)

### **Expect to sign at least 2 more FTAs in 2023, says Piyush Goyal**

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said he expects at least two more free trade agreements to be signed up in 2023. Negotiations are scheduled with the UK, European Union and Canada, Goyal said at an event here, adding that his ministry does not have the bandwidth to tend to requests by smaller trading partners like New Zealand with which the bilateral trade stands at USD 350 million. "India today works from a position of strength, we negotiate with confidence," Goyal said, adding that the country will sign at least two such free trade agreements.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/expect-to-sign-at-least-2-more-ftas-in-2023-says-piyush-goyal/2930671/>

### **India extends policy to import refined palm oil at lower duty of 13.75%**

India extended a policy to import refined palm oil at a lower duty and allowed imports of 51,000 tonnes of cotton at nil duty in 2023, the government said in a notification late on Thursday. The concessional duty structure for the refined palm oil had been due to expire on December 31. It has been extended "until further orders," the government said. In December 2021, India cut basic import tax on refined palm oil and brought down the total taxes on their imports to 13.75% from 19.25% earlier. The duty cut made refined palm oil imports lucrative for Indian refiners, which traditionally prefer to import crude palm oil.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-extends-policy-to-import-refined-palm-oil-at-lower-duty-of-13-75-122122900414\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-extends-policy-to-import-refined-palm-oil-at-lower-duty-of-13-75-122122900414_1.html)

### **India's 5G smartphone shipments to cross 4G shipments in 2023: Report**

India's 5G smartphone shipments will exceed that of 4G shipments by the end of next year, driven by the mass adoption of the high-speed network and the rise in sale of handsets in the lower-price bands, market research firm Counterpoint said on Thursday. Although India's overall smartphone shipments are estimated to see a yearly decline this year due to component supply issues and macroeconomic factors, 5G will continue to push smartphone demand in 2023 as well, Counterpoint added. 5G data speed in India is expected to be about 10 times faster than that of 4G, with the network seen as vital for emerging technologies like self-driving cars and artificial intelligence.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/india-s-5g-smartphone-shipments-to-cross-4g-shipments-in-2023-report-122122900604\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/technology/india-s-5g-smartphone-shipments-to-cross-4g-shipments-in-2023-report-122122900604_1.html)

### **India exports ₹2,400 cr of jewellery to Australia under FTA**

India has exported the first consignment of jewellery products made up of gold, silver and imitation jewellery to Australia worth \$300 million (about ₹2,400 crore) under the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-exports-2400-cr-of-jewellery-to-australia-under-fta/article66317520.ece>

### **India-EU FTA talks focus on data flow, privacy**

India and the European Union discussed data flows, privacy, consumer protection, open government data, and issues related to capital movements and payments under the ongoing free trade agreement negotiations. The third round of talks took place earlier this month. The two sides also discussed a system of self-certification for the origin of goods clause, people aware of deliberations have told. The fourth round of talks is scheduled for March 2023.

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-fta-talks-focus-on-data-flow-privacy/articleshow/96604825.cms?utm\\_source=contentofinterest&utm\\_medium=text&utm\\_campaign=cppst](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-fta-talks-focus-on-data-flow-privacy/articleshow/96604825.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst)