



January 16, 2023 – Monday

Economy

GDP numbers to be released after Budget

The government has rejigged its data calendar to declare the national account statistics to bring an order in their release timings. As per the new calendar, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will from this year release the first revised estimates of national income, consumption expenditure, saving and capital formation of the previous fiscal year on the last day of February against the last working day of January till now. The aim is to align the timing of the release of key official data and avoid confusion before the Budget, which is announced on February 1, officials said. "The release date of January 31 has been changed because it came just two days before the Budget and these numbers can't be incorporated in it," said an official.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/calendar-rejigged-gdp-numbers-to-be-released-after-budget/articleshow/97012454.cms>

Traders' body CAIT asks for Data Protection Bill in Budget session

Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday urged the government to introduce and pass the Digital Data Protection Bill in the upcoming Budget session of the Parliament. CAIT General Secretary Praveen Khandelwal in a statement said that the bill along with e-commerce policy and rules is necessary to ensure India's retail trade is not negatively impacted by the data collection and processing activities of big technology companies. "It is an admitted fact that global companies are violating the basic fundamentals of trade and misuse the personal and other data of Indian consumers to gain a competitive edge over local traders and retailers," he said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/msme-eodb-traders-body-cait-asks-for-data-protection-bill-in-budget-session/2948929/>

Steps to push private investment, capex support on Budget agenda

Measures to encourage private investment, capital expenditure support to the economy, and some fresh social sector initiatives through new centrally sponsored schemes are likely to be the key themes in the upcoming budget. Education and healthcare are likely to remain in focus again with Covid still a cause for worry. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will early this week hold a meeting with key finance ministry officials to finalise the February 1 budget, the last full one of this government prior to the 2024 general election, people familiar with the talks said. It's likely to be high on political messaging with assembly polls in some states this year ahead of the general election, while retaining the core focus on supporting growth and boosting investments, they said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/steps-to-push-private-investment-capex-support-on-budget-agenda/articleshow/97015954.cms>

Banking and Finance

Bank credit to retail, wholesale trade jumps 16% YoY in November: RBI data

Gross bank credit (non-priority) deployed to the retail and wholesale trade in the country in November 2022 jumped 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 7.33 lakh crore from 10.2 per cent during November 2021 at Rs 6.32 lakh crore,

according to the sectoral deployment data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Among wholesale and retail trade, which were brought under the MSME category in July 2021, retail trade was deployed Rs 3.79 lakh crore in November, up 21.9 per cent from Rs 3.11 lakh crore deployed in November 2021. In comparison, Rs 3.53 lakh crore was deployed to wholesale trade (other than food procurement) in November 2022, increasing by 10.3 per cent from Rs 3.20 lakh crore in November 2021. After inclusion under the MSME definition, the government had further eased credit access for retail and wholesale traders by treating them at par with other borrowers with respect to loans under the credit guarantee scheme of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). With the circular issued on November 30, 2022 by CGTMSE, the credit limit for MSEs into retail and wholesale trade with guarantee cover was increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-bank-credit-to-retail-wholesale-trade-jumps-16-yoy-in-november-rbi-data/2948998/>

1.44 lakh women entrepreneurs have fulfilled 14.76 lakh orders on GeM since 2019: Govt

The government's public procurement initiative Government eMarketplace (GeM) has registered over 1.44 lakh Udyam-verified women-led micro and small enterprises (MSEs) under its Womaniya programme launched in 2019 to encourage women entrepreneurs and self-help groups (SHG) from the informal sector to sell via GeM. According to the data shared by the commerce ministry in a statement on Saturday, women MSE sellers have fulfilled over 14.76 lakh orders worth Rs 21,265 crore in gross merchandise value (GMV) since 2019. Women entrepreneurs have a share of 74 per cent in the order value of products sold on GeM and 26 per cent in the order value of service categories. As per the available data on the GeM portal, there are 57.67 lakh sellers registered currently with 1.3 crore orders fulfilled worth Rs 3.62 lakh crore GMV so far indicating women MSE share of 2.49 per cent in total seller count, 11.2 per cent share in total orders fulfilled and 5.8 per cent in total GMV.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-eodb-1-44-lakh-women-entrepreneurs-have-fulfilled-1476-lakh-orders-on-gem-since-2019-govt/2948722/>

Industry

PLI scheme, tax incentives, allocation for defence, space industry's Union Budget wishlist

India's nascent private space sector has presented a wishlist of tax incentives and a production-linked incentive scheme in the upcoming Union Budget to boost local manufacturing and spur research and development. "In the 2023-24 Union Budget, we would like to request a space-based production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for space tech start-ups to help boost local manufacturing and encourage capability building within the country," said Awais Ahmed, co-founder and CEO, Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based space start-up. Last year, Pixxel became the first Indian start-up to launch its own hyperspectral imaging satellite, "Shakuntala", onboard SpaceX's rideshare rocket and followed it up with another similar satellite, "Anand", using ISRO's PSLV rocket. It plans to have a constellation of earth observation satellites soon. "In the Union Budget 2023-24, we request a further ₹100 crore issuance as viability gap funding (VGF) to set up new infrastructure," said Kranthi Chand, the head of strategy and special projects, DhruvaSpace.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/pli-scheme-tax-incentives-allocation-for-defence-space-industrys-wishlist-for-the-union-budget/article66380945.ece>

Higher commodity prices impact consumer durables sector in CY22

Owing to slow demand, higher commodity prices have impacted the consumer durables sector in CY22. The weak demand for consumer durable products to rising inflation will be a near-term concern. Heightened competitive intensity and adjusted price hikes resulted in a decline in volumes among consumer durable companies.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/higher-commodity-prices-impact-consumer-durables-sector-in-cy22/article66374039.ece>

Consumer companies push deal activity to 25-year high in 2022, shows data

Consumer companies struck a record 645 deals — acquisitions, investments, and stake purchases — in 2022, the highest in a calendar year according to records stretching back 25 years to 1998. The total value of the deals was \$18.4 billion, according to a Business Standard analysis of data from *Bloomberg*. The spurt in deal-making was led

by conglomerates vying for a piece of India's consumption pie, which is expected to grow by trillions of dollars this decade. Reliance, Birla, and Tata groups led the race for snapping up or investing in emerging consumer companies. The frenzied deal activity comes amid expectations of stellar growth in India's consumption story.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/conglomerates-push-consumer-deal-activity-to-25-year-high-shows-data-123011500519_1.html

Domestic automobile industry scaling up efforts to enhance localisation of electric components

The domestic automobile industry is scaling up efforts to enhance localisation of electronic components in order to curtail dependence on other countries, especially China, as per auto component industry body President Sunjay Kapur. In an interaction with PTI, Kapur noted that the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and the Ministry of Heavy Industries are working together to achieve the target of localisation especially in electronics. He noted that there lies a great opportunity for the auto component industry with the big push towards electrification. With growth in consumption of electric vehicles, the industry is witnessing fast transformation of the auto components sector to be an integral part of the electric vehicle manufacturing supply chain. The component industry is making steady investments and acquiring technology companies. "We will have to keep localising...we as an industry are very fortunate that we can work with the electronics industry as well. Together with combined forces, we can look at scale for localisation efforts and that is something that we have to do," Kapur stated.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/domestic-automobile-industry-scaling-up-efforts-to-enhance-localisation-of-electric-components/article66380651.ece>

Top IT players post 14-20% topline growth in Q3 as caution; optimism marks mixed earnings' commentary

India's IT services heavyweights delivered between 14-20 per cent on-year growth in topline for the December quarter, as they raised guard on global uncertainties and choppy verticals, but remained hopeful that costs, as well as business considerations, will drive tech demand. The tech earnings season began with large IT companies, such as TCS, Infosys, Wipro and HCL Technologies, declaring their Q3 report card this week, amid analysts' gloomy prognosis around the slowdown in advanced economies and fear of geopolitical flare-ups. Industry leaders said they are keeping a close watch on the global economy and cues. Overall, the revenue growth band of the top-tier IT players was pegged between 14-20 per cent for Q3FY23, compared to the year-ago period. Seen sequentially, the topline growth for the large IT pack ranged between three per cent and eight per cent versus previous September quarter.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/it-biggies-post-14-20-topline-growth-in-q3-as-caution/article66381063.ece>

Agriculture

Entire country will be covered by doppler weather radar network by 2025

Union Minister Jitendra Singh, on Sunday, said the Met department's severe weather prediction accuracy improved by around 40 per cent in the last eight to nine years. Addressing the 148th foundation day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Minister said disaster-related mortality has dropped to single digit with improvement in forecast. He said the number of doppler radars in the country has increased from 15 in 2013 to 37 in 2023. India will add 25 more radars in the next 2-3 years, taking the number to 62, he added. "The entire country will be covered by doppler radars by 2025," he said. The IMD, on Sunday, commissioned four doppler weather radars in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, which will bolster its weather monitoring capabilities in the western Himalayan region. These four DWRs have been installed at Banihal Top in Jammu and Kashmir, Jot and Murari Devi in Himachal Pradesh, and Surkanada Devi in Uttarakhand.

Singh also dedicated 200 agro automatic weather stations for agriculture advisory to the nation.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/entire-country-will-be-covered-by-doppler-weather-radar-network-by-2025/article66381313.ece>

Infrastructure

PM Modi flags off Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the 20833/20834 Secunderabad – Visakhapatnam Vande Bharat Express train today via video conferencing from New Delhi. This is also going to be the first blue and white colour train connecting two Telugu speaking states – Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that Vande Bharat express will greatly benefit both pilgrims and tourists. The Prime Minister also underlined the speed of work that is taking place with regard to Vande Bharat trains.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/pm-narendra-modi-2083320834-secunderabad-visakhapatnam-vande-bharat-express/2948319/>

Airports under UDAN scheme to get comprehensive armed security cover

More than 60 airports operational in tier-two and tier-three cities under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN will soon be brought under a comprehensive anti-terror security cover of armed CISF personnel with the deployment of around 1,650 troops, officials said. The proposal is awaiting final policy sanction from the home ministry. The bureau of civil aviation security (BCAS), in consultation with the ministry of civil aviation and the CISF, finalised the proposal for the "very important security measure" required for the safety of passengers taking flights from small air terminals across India. Some airports such as Shimla which are under the regional connectivity scheme, are being guarded by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) while the rest are secured by various state police forces or their special armed units and there is no uniform policy.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/airports-under-udan-scheme-to-get-comprehensive-armed-security-cover/articleshow/97006525.cms>

2023 likely to witness most ready-to-move homes in 6 years: Anarock

Around 544,000 homes may be ready for you to move in across major Indian cities in calendar year 2023 (CY23) — the highest in six years — owing to pent up demand and fast project completions. This comes on the back of a phenomenal completion rate in CY22, which was the highest in five years at 402,000 units, according to property consultant Anarock. As a result of high pace of project completions, record high housing sales and new launches, the year 2022 witnessed 44 per cent higher completions year-on-year (YoY) across seven major cities, as against 279,000 units completed in CY21, according to the realty consultant.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/over-500-000-home-completions-expected-in-2023-says-anarock-report-123011500614_1.html

Logistics market glows like a 'supernova' with entry of global behemoths

Some of the world's largest logistics players and private equity fund managers are foraying into Indian industrial and logistics spaces in the country which has a total stock of about 350 million square feet (msf). Most players are looking to invest anywhere between \$500 million and \$1 billion in new ventures in the next couple of years, said experts on this segment. Prologis, the largest warehouse owner in the world, has brought in Vineet Sekhsaria, former executive director and head at Morgan Stanley Real Estate Investing India, as head of its India operations. Prologis owned or had investments in properties and development projects spread about 1 billion square feet in 19 countries as of September last year. According to sources, Prologis has drawn up huge plans for the Indian market and plans to build large warehouses near major industrial and commercial centres of the county.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/logistics-market-abuzz-with-entry-of-global-players-pe-fund-managers-123011500367_1.html

External

Regulatory, internal market barriers of China impact India's exports: GTRI

Regulatory and internal market barriers of China are some of the major impediments which impact India's exports to that country, economic think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said on Sunday. "India must take up all market access issues faced by its exporters with China on a priority basis. India may consider applying mirror regulations to imports from China," it said. China uses four significant barriers besides customs duties to regulate imports from countries like India and those barriers include regulatory, internal market, trade defense, and political, it said. "China stifle competitive imports from India through complex regulations," the GTRI said Quality and standards of products cannot be a problem as India exports to over 100 countries, including the US and Europe, GTRI said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/regulatory-internal-market-barriers-of-china-impact-indias-exports-gtri/2948589/>

India's Russian oil imports cross 1 million barrels a day in December

India's import of crude oil from Russia increased further in December 2022, topping 1 million barrels per day for the first time ever as Moscow remained its top oil supplier for the third month in a row, according to data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa. Russia, which made up for just 0.2 per cent of all crude oil India imported in the year to March 31, 2022, supplied 1.19 million bpd in December. This was higher than 909,403 bpd crude oil India imported from Russia in November and 935,556 bpd in October 2022. The previous record for most crude oil imports from Russia was in June 2022 when India bought 942,694 bpd, according to Vortexa.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-russian-oil-imports-cross-1-million-barrels-a-day-in-december-123011500203_1.html