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## Economy

### **India on cusp of returning to high growth trajectory, will become world's third largest economy by 2027-28: Arvind Panagariya**

Eminent economist Arvind Panagariya has said India is on the cusp of returning to a high growth trajectory and voiced confidence that the country will become the world's third-largest economy by 2027-28. Currently, India is the fifth largest economy "so it's another five years. We are already in (the year) 2023. So 2027-28, India should be the third-largest economy," Panagariya, Columbia University Professor and former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, told PTI in an interview here. Panagariya said his reading of the Economic Survey is that the "narrative that comes across tells the story of a much stronger economy" than the one that is growing at 6.5 per cent. "My sense is that given where India stands currently, it should get back to 7% plus kind of growth rate," he said. He added India is currently in a spot that it was in 2003 when the growth rate picked up to close to about 8 per cent and the country sustained that kind of rate for a few years.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-on-cusp-of-returning-to-high-growth-trajectory-will-become-worlds-third-largest-economy-by-2027-28-arvind-panagariya/2968995/>

### **78.1 mn rural households provided tap water in last 3 years under JJM: Govt**

More than 7.81 crore rural households have been provided tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission over last three years, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Prahlad Singh Patel informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply to a question, the minister said as on January 31, 2023, out of 19.36 crore rural households in the country, around 11.06 crore (57.12 per cent) are reported to have tap water supply. At the time of the announcement of JJM, 3.23 crore (17 per cent) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. Goa, Telangana, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Gujarat and Haryana are among the states and Union Territories which have provided tap water to every rural household.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/78-1-mn-rural-households-provided-tap-water-in-last-3-years-under-jjm-govt-123020201321\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/78-1-mn-rural-households-provided-tap-water-in-last-3-years-under-jjm-govt-123020201321_1.html)

### **Apprenticeship stipend through DBT in works**

In a move aimed at encouraging individuals to undertake apprenticeship and do away with delays in release of stipends, the government will directly transfer 25% of the stipend payable up to ₹1,500 per apprentice per month under the new National Apprenticeship Scheme instead of routing it through establishments under the erstwhile National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). The stipend, however, will be paid after the establishment pays its share of 75% to the beneficiary. Under the new scheme, the ministry will also undertake capacity building of the apprenticeship ecosystem and provide advocacy assistance to support rapid growth of apprenticeship in India, a senior government official said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/apprenticeship-stipend-through-dbt-in-works/articleshow/97561164.cms>

## Banking and Finance

### **Rs 15 lakh crore priority sector credit deployed to micro, small units in December 2022: RBI data**

Priority sector loans to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) by scheduled commercial banks saw 11.2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) growth in December 2022 vis-a-vis 11.4 per cent YoY growth in December 2021, according to the latest monthly data on sectoral deployment of bank credit by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The credit to MSEs jumped from Rs 13.72 lakh crore in December 2021 to Rs 15.26 lakh crore in December last year, also higher than Rs 14.57 lakh crore deployed in the preceding month of November 2022. Credit to mid-sized businesses under priority sector lending also increased by 13.5 per cent YoY in December 2022, though significantly lower than the 59 per cent growth in December 2021. Banks deployed Rs 3.86 lakh crore in December 2022 compared to Rs 3.51 lakh crore deployed in December 2021. Month-on-month, credit to medium units in November 2022 was lower at Rs 3.69 lakh crore. In December, the aggregate credit deployed to the overall MSME sector, including MSEs and medium enterprises, was Rs 19.12 lakh crore – 14.3 per cent of Rs 133.04 lakh crore total bank credit including food and non-food credit. In comparison, Rs 17.13 lakh crore – 14.7 per cent of Rs 115.82 lakh crore overall bank credit was deployed in December 2021.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/sme/msme-fin-rs-15-lakh-crore-priority-sector-credit-deployed-to-micro-small-units-in-december-2022-rbi-data/2969361/>

### **Monthly GST revenue at Rs 1.50 trn to be new normal next fiscal: CBIC chief**

Monthly GST collection is expected to average around Rs 1.50 lakh crore and it will be the new normal' in FY24 in view of concerted efforts to check evasion and bring new businesses within the GST net, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) chief Vivek Johri said on Thursday. In an interview to PTI, Johri said the GST and Customs revenue collection numbers as given in Budget 2023-24 are realistic based on nominal GDP growth and import trends, respectively and the indirect tax collection target set for next fiscal will be achieved. Johri said CBIC has drawn up a strategy to augment GST mop-up by way of stricter audit and scrutiny of tax returns, enforcement action against fake billing and input tax credit claims.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/monthly-gst-revenue-at-rs-1-50-trn-to-be-new-normal-next-fiscal-cbic-chief-123020201245\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/monthly-gst-revenue-at-rs-1-50-trn-to-be-new-normal-next-fiscal-cbic-chief-123020201245_1.html)

### **Govt wants to eventually move to exemption-free I-T regime with lower taxes: Revenue Secy**

A day after the Budget announcement of a revamped personal income tax regime, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday said the government would eventually like to move to a simple and exemption-free tax structure with lower rates. According to an analysis by the Revenue Department, an individual earning Rs 15 lakh in a year will have to claim deductions of at least Rs 3.75 lakh under the old tax regime, otherwise the new revamped tax regime with lower rates proposed in 2023-24 will be more beneficial. In an interview to PTI, Malhotra said the government does not have any specific timeline to make the new regime mandatory for taxpayers. "We would like to move towards a lower tax rate, which is simple and without tax exemptions," Malhotra said. The Budget has proposed changes to the new optional tax regime which provides that no tax would be levied on people with annual income of up to Rs 7 lakh.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/budget/govt-wants-to-eventually-move-to-exemption-free-i-t-regime-with-lower-taxes-revenue-secy-2969769/>

### **UPI transactions rise 1.3% in Jan to start 2023 with a record high**

Payments transactions via the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) network rose 1.3 per cent on-month to a high of nearly ₹13-lakh crore in January. However, the rise was substantially lower than the 7.7 per cent increase seen in the previous month. The volume of transactions rose by 2.6 per cent to 803 crore transactions during the month, according to data by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). The network has processed around 6,752 crore transactions worth ₹113-lakh crore in FY23 so far. During 2022, the platform saw around 7,404 crore transactions worth ₹126-lakh crore.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/upi-transactions-rise-13-in-jan-to-start-2023-with-a-record-high/article66464007.ece>

### **Life insurers to approach FinMin seeking clarity on Budget tax announcement**

After the Union Budget for 2023-24 proved to be a dampener for the life insurance industry, sector players are now joining hands to approach the Finance Ministry likely to seek a rollback of or clarity on the tax announcement. The

most crucial thing being sought is to increase the tax exemption limit to ₹10 lakh from ₹5 lakh announced in the Budget, and to make the cap applicable on single policies and not on the cumulative policies held by an individual. A source told businessline that instead of individual companies, life insurers are expected to make a representation via the Life Insurance Council or one of the CFO industry groups and that IRDAI will be kept in the loop.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/life-insurers-to-approach-finmin-seeking-clarity-on-budget-tax-announcement/article66463851.ece>

## Industry

### Government e-Marketplace achieves a GMV of ₹1.5 Lakh crore in FY23

The government's online public procurement platform, Government e Marketplace (GeM), has achieved a gross merchandise value (GMV) of ₹1.5 lakh crore in FY23. "Going by the current run rate, GeM is suitably placed to exceed its annual target of ₹ 1.75 lakh crore," per an official release issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/government-e-marketplace-achieves-a-gmv-of-rs-15-lakh-crore-in-fy23/article66463882.ece>

### EV registrations dip marginally in January, but up 100% y-o-y

The electric vehicle sector has maintained its monthly sales momentum at one-lakh plus units during the first month of 2023 amid a marginal decline of 2 per cent, compared with the previous month's (December 2022) volumes. This is the fourth consecutive month of EV registrations clocking over 1 lakh units.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ev-registrations-dip-marginally-in-december-but-up-100-y-o-y/article66463076.ece>

### FMCG industry witnesses consumption slowdown in the Dec quarter: Report

The country's Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry witnessed a consumption slowdown in the December quarter, with an overall "negative" volume growth, as consumers continue to reel under inflationary pressure, says a report. According to the report released by data analytics firm NielsenIQ on Thursday, in October-December, the FMCG industry grew 7.6 per cent in terms of value but its volume growth was (-) 0.3 per cent. "... Overall FMCG volume growth is negative, the absolute values, as well as volumes, continue to be above pre-Covid levels across markets," it said. The rural markets declined 2.8 per cent registering the sixth consecutive quarter with negative volume growth, while the urban market maintained stable positive growth of 1.6 per cent.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/fmcg-industry-witnesses-consumption-slowdown-in-the-dec-quarter-report-123020200820\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/fmcg-industry-witnesses-consumption-slowdown-in-the-dec-quarter-report-123020200820_1.html)

### Continued focus on infra in Budget to ensure long-term growth in steel demand: Experts

The government's continued focus on infrastructure in the Union Budget 2023-24 will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand, according to experts. On Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman increased capex for infrastructure development in the country to Rs 10 lakh crore in the Budget. She also announced a capital outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore for the modernisation and expansion of the Indian Railways. "Infrastructure, building and construction sectors together account for around 60 per cent of the end-use steel consumption share in the domestic market. Continued focus on infra projects will ensure sustained long-term growth in steel demand," CareEdge Ratings said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/continued-focus-on-infra-in-budget-to-ensure-long-term-growth-in-steel-demand-experts/articleshow/97559392.cms>

## Agriculture

### In the first e-auction, FCI sold 0.9 MT of wheat in open market

Close to 0.9 million tonne (MT) of wheat was sold in the open market by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the first weekly e-auction held on Wednesday. According to a food ministry statement on Thursday, a quantity of 0.88 MT of wheat was sold through e-Auction from FCI's stocks on e-auction held across 22 states. "More than 1100 bidders participated in the first e auction of wheat," the ministry said. The corporation had offered 2.2 MT of wheat

out of 2.5 MT of grain earmarked for e auction from the central pool stocks to bulk buyers such as flour millers under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/in-the-first-e-auction-fci-sold-0-9-mt-of-wheat-in-open-market/2969399/>

### **Sugar production up 3.42% to 19.35 mn tonnes in Oct-Jan of 2022-23: ISMA**

The country's sugar production rose 3.42 per cent to 193.5 lakh tonnes in the first four months of the ongoing marketing year ending September, on rise in output in key producing states, industry body ISMA said on Thursday. Sugar production stood at 187.1 lakh tonnes during October-January period of the previous marketing year. Sugar marketing year runs from October to September. India is a major sugar producing country in the world. Releasing the latest production figures, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said around 520 mills were operating as on January 31, as against 510 mills in the year-ago period. Total sugar production, after diversion for ethanol manufacturing, has increased to 193.5 lakh tonnes till January of the current marketing year from 187.1 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period, it said. Sugar production in Maharashtra, the country's leading producing state of the sweetener, rose to 73.8 lakh tonnes during October-January of the ongoing marketing year from 72.9 lakh tonnes in the year-ago.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sugar-production-up-3-42-to-19-35-mn-tonnes-in-oct-jan-of-2022-23-isma-123020200926\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sugar-production-up-3-42-to-19-35-mn-tonnes-in-oct-jan-of-2022-23-isma-123020200926_1.html)

## **Energy**

### **Cold weather hits India's gasoline, gasoil sales in Jan: Prelim data**

Sales of gasoline and gasoil by Indian state-run retailers declined in January from the previous month as cold weather in parts of the country hit the movement of personal and commercial vehicles, preliminary sales data showed. State retailers sold about 6.7 million tonnes of gasoil in January, a decline of 8.6% from the previous month, the data showed. Gasoil accounts for about two-fifths of refined fuel consumption in India and is directly linked to industrial activity. Cold weather and softening industrial activity curbed the movement of gasoil-guzzling trucks last month. India's manufacturing industry expanded at the slowest pace in three months in January as output and sales growth slackened, according to a private survey.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cold-weather-hits-india-s-gasoline-gasoil-sales-in-jan-pre-sales-data-123020200685\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cold-weather-hits-india-s-gasoline-gasoil-sales-in-jan-pre-sales-data-123020200685_1.html)

## **Telecom**

### **Deferred spectrum dues to make up most of 30% telecom revenue jump**

A 30% jump in the expected revenue to ₹89,469.17 crore from the telecom sector in FY24, as estimated in the budget, will be primarily made up of the deferred spectrum payments from the 2021 and 2022 auctions with a small part from another sale in the next fiscal year, officials said. As per officials aware of the details, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) plans to auction E (71-76 GHz and 81-86 GHz) and V (57-64 GHz and 64-71 GHz) bands along with satellite airwaves, which won't net much-around Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 8,000 crore, while Rs 17,000 crore-Rs 18,000 crore is likely to come from deferred spectrum payments. The E and V bands can be used for backhaul as well as mobile services.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/deferred-spectrum-dues-to-make-up-most-of-30-telecom-revenue-jump/articleshow/97561110.cms>

### **Trai to meet telcos on Feb 17 on service quality, pesky calls, messages**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said Thursday that it has called a meeting with mobile phone operators on February 17 to discuss the quality of wireline and wireless services, especially considering the 5G rollout. The carriers are expected to follow the standards laid down in the 'Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations 2009' as amended from time to time, the sector regulator said in a media release. The meeting will discuss potential "measures and action plan to improve the QoS, review the current QoS standards, QoS for 5G services, and unsolicited commercial communications," the regulator added in its statement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-policy/trai-to-meet-telcos-on-feb-17-on-service-quality-pesky-calls-messages/articleshow/97554303.cms>

## States

### **Kerala economy posts strong recovery in 2021-22**

Kerala's economy has posted a strong recovery in 2021-22 with Gross State Domestic Product at constant prices recording a robust growth of 12.01%, compared to (-) 8.43% in 2020-21. According to the Economic Review tabled in the state assembly by finance minister KN Balagopal on Thursday, this is the highest growth recorded since 2012-13 and gave the credit to the stimulus packages, along with other policy interventions of the state government, augmented growth, particularly at a time when economic activities were severely constrained, for the achievement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/kerala-economy-posts-strong-recovery-in-2021-22/articleshow/97561126.cms>

## External

### **Schemes for MSMEs in Budget 2023 to help boost exports, says AEPC**

Various schemes, including a revamped credit guarantee scheme, announced in the Budget to support MSMEs and exporters will help promote the country's exports, AEPC said on Thursday. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech said a revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs with an outlay of Rs 9,000 crore will be launched from April 1. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Chairman Naren Goenka said that the focus on infrastructure, investment, green growth, youth power and inclusive development will boost India's journey to be the fastest-growing robust economy. The announcement to cover more sectors under the PLI scheme and support to the MSME sector will help thrust exports and investment in the country. Rs 9,000-crore corpus for a revamped credit guarantee scheme will surely alleviate the stress of small and medium enterprises in India, he said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/schemes-for-msmes-in-budget-2023-to-help-boost-exports-says-aepc-123020200366\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/schemes-for-msmes-in-budget-2023-to-help-boost-exports-says-aepc-123020200366_1.html)

### **G20 education working group likely to lead to university tie ups**

First G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) meeting that concluded in Chennai on Thursday may lead to better collaboration with universities across the globe for enhancing technology enabled learning, said a senior government executive on Thursday. The India Chair of G-20 Education Working Group (EdWG) and Secretary Higher Education Sanjay Murthy has said that collaboration with Universities across the globe would be the major outcome of the deliberations at the Chennai Meet. Addressing media persons after the conclusion of the two day G20 Education Working Group, in which 80 delegates from 30 countries and international organisations from member nations and special invitees participated, Murthy said "best practices in Tech related education in member countries were discussed in a major way".

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/g20-education-working-group-likely-to-lead-to-university-tie-ups-123020201660\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/g20-education-working-group-likely-to-lead-to-university-tie-ups-123020201660_1.html)

### **Inclusive, resilient growth focus of India's G20 priorities: S Jaishankar**

India's priorities for its G20 Presidency are to ensure inclusive and resilient growth with a focus on challenges being faced by the countries of the Global South, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday. Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Jaishankar also listed technological transformation and public digital infrastructure, reform in the multilateral institutions, women-led development and international peace and harmony as key focus areas for India's presidency of the grouping. India assumed the presidency of the influential bloc G20 at its annual summit in Bali in November with a promise of striving to ensure that the grouping acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action to deal with pressing challenges.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/inclusive-resilient-growth-focus-of-india-s-g20-priorities-s-jaishankar-123020201201\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/inclusive-resilient-growth-focus-of-india-s-g20-priorities-s-jaishankar-123020201201_1.html)

### **India rice export prices stay high on strong demand, limited supply**

Rice export prices from India rose to their highest level since April 2021 this week, aided by firm demand and tight supplies, while elevated rates in Thailand kept buyers at bay. Top exporter India's 5% broken parboiled variety was quoted at \$393 to \$398 per tonne this week, up from last week range of \$387-\$395. "Government has made record purchases of unmilled rice from farmers this year. Limited amounts of supplies are available to private players for the exports," a New-Delhi-based dealer with a global trade house said. India's rice exports in 2022 jumped to a record high despite the government's curbs on overseas sale, as buyers continued to make purchases because of competitive prices, according to government and industry officials.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-rice-export-prices-stay-high-on-strong-demand-limited-supply/articleshow/97555633.cms>

#### **Russian crude oil imports create another record in January**

India imported a record volume of crude from Russia in January, or 28% of its total imports, little affected by the West's price cap on Russian oil, as per energy cargo tracker Vortexa. India received 1.27 million barrels a day (mbd) of Russian crude in January, 6% more than in December, while China received 0.98 mbd of seaborne Russian crude and Europe 0.27 mbd. Russia remained the top crude supplier to India for the fourth month in a row in January, improving its market share from 26% in December. Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the UAE also expanded their share in a month by one percentage point each to 20%, 17%, and 8%, respectively. The share of the US rose from 7% to 9% while that of Africa fell from 9% to 6% in January.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/russian-crude-oil-imports-create-another-record-in-january/articleshow/97561414.cms>