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Economy

India among top countries with high income, wealth inequality: UNDP report

India has emerged among top countries with high income and wealth inequality but the share of the population living in multidimensional poverty fell from 25 to 15 per cent between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the UNDP said in a new report. The 2024 Asia-Pacific Human Development Report, launched on Monday, paints a qualified picture of long-term progress but also persistent disparity and widespread disruption, foreseeing a turbulent development landscape and urgently calling for new directions to boost human development.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-among-top-countries-with-high-income-wealth-inequality-undp-report-123110600964_1.html

E-way bill generation surges to all-time high of 10.03 cr in Oct

E-way bill generation in October has crossed 10 crore for the first time since its introduction. This could be a reflection of the festival demand which necessitated goods to be transported in large quantity. Data from GSTN showed e-way bill generation touched 10.03 crore, surpassing the previous high of 9.34 crore in August, this year. Experts feel that apart from festival demand, higher compliance also contributed to high e-way bill generation. This will have some impact on GST collection for November. It is possible that the movement of goods might have occurred in the same month of consumption or even a month before that, which is why e-way bill generation may have an impact on collection spreading over two months.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/e-way-bill-generation-surges-to-all-time-high-of-1003-cr-in-oct/article67504349.ece>

Costlier onion, pulses likely to push up thali prices in November: CRISIL

The cost of an average home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali dipped by five per cent and seven per cent respectively in October 2023 as compared to the previous month due to a significant fall in potato and tomato prices, an analysis by CRISIL showed. However, the analysis also showed that thali prices might inch up in November if higher prices of onion — which accounts for around 10 per cent of the total cost of a veg thali — persist. In October, the price of pulses, which accounts for a nine per cent share in the total cost of a veg thali, increased by 19 per cent year-on-year. This kept the thali cost from falling further, CRISIL said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pricy-onion-pulses-might-push-up-thali-prices-in-november-says-crisil-123110601055_1.html

Fitch upgrades India's medium-term GDP growth projection to 6.2%

The Indian economy has the potential to clock 6.2 per cent annual average growth rate in the medium term during the 2019-27 period, credit rating agency Fitch ratings said in its latest Global Economic Outlook report on Monday. The agency raised the projection by 0.7 percentage points from 5.7 per cent estimated for 2013-2022, primarily due to improved employment rate and better working-age population forecast. "India's labour productivity forecast is also higher," the report said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/fitch-upgrades-india-s-medium-term-gdp-growth-projection-to-6-2-123110600694_1.html

Weak coalition after 2024 polls, oil may hit growth stability: Morgan Stanley

A weak coalition government in 2024 moving away from supply-side reforms could pose a key risk to India's growth stability along with oil prices inching up to \$110 per barrel, said a Morgan Stanley report. "The key risk would be the emergence of a weak coalition government, which could result into a pivot back towards redistributive policies at the expense of the focus on boosting capex and implementing supply-side reforms," it said. Morgan Stanley researchers said India would be able to manage risks from oil prices increasing to \$95 per barrel but cautioned that \$110 per barrel could make the situation difficult for the country.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/weak-coalition-after-2024-polls-oil-may-hit-growth-stability-morgan-stanley/articleshow/105020134.cms>

Near-term macro impact of free foodgrain scheme muted, adds to medium-term risks: Nomura

The extension of the free foodgrain scheme is likely to have a muted impact on macros in the near term, but as the cost of procurement rises, the food subsidy bill is expected to increase over time, said Aurodeep Nandi and Sonal Varma, Nomura economists, in a report Monday. "Over the medium term, the government is likely to forgo revenues from its subsidised food sales (0.05% of GDP on an annualised basis). As procurement costs increase, the food subsidy bill will also increase over time," they said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/near-term-macro-impact-of-free-foodgrain-scheme-muted-adds-to-medium-term-risks-nomura/articleshow/105013139.cms>

Green industry expected to add 3.7 million jobs by FY25: TeamLease Digital report

The green economy is booming, and the country's green industry is expected to add 3.7 million jobs by FY25 to the current 18.5 million, according to the Green Industry Outlook report by TeamLease Digital, shared exclusively with ET. The most sought-after green skills are in renewable energy, environmental health safety, solar energy, corporate social responsibility and sustainability. The profiles that are in most demand: solar project managers, solar O&M technicians, wind energy engineers, biofuel process engineers, carbon analysts, sustainability consultants, PCB design engineers, e-waste managers and hydrogen project managers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/hr-policies-trends/green-industry-expected-to-add-3-7-million-jobs-by-fy25-teamlease-digital-report/articleshow/105020675.cms>

Banking and Finance

MSMEs deployed 14.3% of India's non-food credit in September by banks

Scheduled commercial banks have deployed Rs 21.69 lakh crore to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under priority sector lending in September 2023, up 17.2 per cent from Rs 18.50 lakh crore deployed in September 2022, according to the latest data on sectoral deployment released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The September deployment was 14.3 per cent of India's Rs 151.3 lakh crore non-food credit during the month vis-a-vis 14.6 per cent of Rs 126 lakh crore non-food credit in September last year.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/sme/msmes-deployed-14-3-of-indias-non-food-credit-in-september-by-banks/3298170/>

NBFCs post healthy loan growth but margin, loan quality concerns remain

Despite posting healthy loan growth across sectors, concerns regarding margin pressure and portfolio quality continued to weigh on the Q2 FY24 earnings of diversified NBFCs. Most retail-focussed NBFCs saw credit growth being driven by both secured loans, such as automobile, housing, and small business loans, and unsecured and personal loans during the quarter.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/nbfc-post-healthy-loan-growth-but-margin-loan-quality-concerns-remain/article67505197.ece>

Industry

Oct auto retail sales dip 8% due to Shraddh period; Navratri sales up 18%

Automobile retail sales fell by 8 per cent in October compared to the same period last year, as two-wheeler (2W) and passenger vehicles (PV) sales declined by 13 per cent and 1.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y), respectively. However, the Navratri period (October 15-24) marked record sales for the sector, with an 18 per cent increase. "The month commenced under the shadow of the inauspicious Shraddh period, persisting until October 14. Consequently, a year-on-year comparison may not accurately reflect the actual trajectory of growth in the Indian auto retail sector," said Manish Raj Singhani, president of FADA. Last year, both Navratri and Diwali fell during October, he added.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/oct-auto-retail-sales-dip-8-due-to-shraddh-period-navratri-sales-up-18-123110600209_1.html

MSMEs getting major business from public procurement portal GeM: Singh

Micro and small enterprises are getting major business from public procurement portal GeM and they are expected to sell goods and services worth over \$ 20 billion by the end of this fiscal, a senior government official said on Monday. The Government e-Market (GeM) portal was launched on August 9, 2016, for online purchases of goods and services by all the central government ministries and departments. GeM CEO P K Singh said that the platform provides different support measures to these enterprises to increase their participation in government buying.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/msmes-getting-major-business-from-public-procurement-portal-gem-singh-123110601084_1.html

Commodity spike may rob companies of pricing power in H2: Experts

A spike in prices of key commodities could erode consumer companies' pricing power and dent corporate profits over the next few months as firms will likely absorb most of the increase in input costs, experts said. Crude oil prices rose sharply to \$85.3 per barrel in the July-September period from \$76.6 per barrel in the previous quarter, according to data released by the World Bank. Groundnut oil was up 6% sequentially during the same period, whereas soybean oil was up 11% from the previous quarter. Rice prices were higher by almost \$100 to around \$600 per metric tonne.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/commodity-spike-may-rob-companies-of-pricing-power-in-h2-experts/articleshow/105019995.cms>

Big-bang luxury sales add to Diwali shine

"Renowned international brands such as Louis Vuitton, Dior, Cartier, Bulgari, Gucci and Giorgio Armani are leading the way, with increased sales compared to last year," said Pushpa Bector, senior executive director at DLF Retail. DLF's luxury portfolio includes the DLF Emporio and The Chanakya malls in Delhi. Higher spending per customer than last year across all luxury categories signals an uptick in overall expenditure this festive season. "Hermes and Chanel stores at The Chanakya mall in Delhi are consistently booked for festive appointments," Bector said. "There is a growing demand for distinctive products." Some brands have introduced special Diwali products for India, including limited editions available exclusively in the country. Diwali is on November 12.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/retail/big-bang-luxury-sales-add-to-diwali-shine/articleshow/105024483.cms>

Agriculture

Govt says investments worth Rs 33,129 crore committed during 2nd edition of World Food India

Global and domestic investors have committed an investment of Rs 33,129 crore in India's sunrise food processing sector during the second edition of World Food India, the government said on Monday. The Union Food Processing Industries Ministry has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various companies in this regard during the three-day World Food India that concluded on November 5. "The event concluded with a substantial surge of investment interest, resulting in the signing of MoUs worth Rs 33,129 crore underscoring the event's significant impact on propelling India's food processing sector," an official statement said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/govt-says-investments-worth-rs-33129-crore-committed-during-2nd-edition-of-world-food-india/articleshow/105015107.cms>

Energy

12 Gw thermal power by next year to meet high demand, says R K Singh

Amid record high power demand this year, the Union power ministry has initiated discussions with state governments to augment their power generation capacities, both conventional and renewable energy. Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy R K Singh said close to 12 gigawatt (Gw) of new coal-based capacity will come online by March 2024. "Since August, every month the power demand has increased by 20 per cent. We have asked states that all units should run at 100 per cent capacity. We have discussed with the states to set up new power plants in coal-bearing areas to meet the future power demand," Singh said on the first day of the annual State Power Ministers' meeting held here in Delhi.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/12-gw-thermal-power-by-next-year-to-meet-high-demand-says-r-k-singh-123110601164_1.html

Govt likely to open next round of commercial coal mines auction on November 15, says Coal Secretary

The Centre is planning to open an auction of around 40 commercial coal mines later this month, said Amrit Lal Meena, secretary, of the Ministry of Coal, on Monday. "Commercial coal mines auction is going to be launched very soon. The minister is likely to open the next round of commercial coal mines auction on November 15," Meena told reporters at the 10th Asian Mining Congress.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-likely-to-open-next-round-of-commercial-coal-mines-auction-on-november-15-says-coal-secretary/article67504871.ece>

External

India, Australia education ministers agree to boost research collaborations

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday met his Australian counterpart Jason Clare and both the countries agreed to increase research collaborations in priority areas including mines and minerals and critical minerals, Pradhan said. The two countries agreed to have more research in areas of agriculture, mines and minerals, logistics, renewal energy, water management, healthcare and artificial intelligence, and increase student and faculty exchange programmes, dual degree, twin degree, and joint PhD, he said. The two ministers held discussions at the first Australia-India Education and Skill Council Meeting of the two countries organised in Gujarat capital Gandhinagar.

https://www.business-standard.com/education/news/india-australia-education-ministers-agree-to-boost-research-collaborations-123110600717_1.html

India, Bhutan to expand cross-border linkages

India and Bhutan on Monday decided to further deepen cross-border linkages through expansion of bilateral cooperation on trade, technology, cross-border connectivity, mutual investments, education and people-to-people connections. These decisions were agreed upon during a meeting between PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck here on Monday night.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-bhutan-to-expand-cross-border-linkages/articleshow/105020338.cms>

At 0.57 mt, India's steel imports exceed exports in October

Indian steel imports at 0.57 million tonne (mt) outpaced exports which stood at 0.29 mt in October as India continued to be a net importer for the month. Lack of export offers from Vietnam, West Asia and slowdown in Europe impacted numbers, even as lower priced offers from China made their way into the country. As per a report of the Steel Ministry, accessed by *businessline*, imports exceeded exports by nearly 0.28 mt.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/at-057-mt-indias-steel-imports-exceed-exports-in-october/article67504388.ece>