



July 1, 2024 – Monday

Economy

India takes first steps to meet 2070 net-zero goal, Niti Aayog forms panels

Three years after India declared its goal to become a net-zero economy by 2070, the policy design for achieving the target has begun, with the NITI Aayog forming dedicated multi-sectoral committees to prepare a transition plan. In 2021, India joined a select group of nations that set a target year for becoming net-zero carbon economy. At COP26 in Glasgow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined a five-pronged 'Panchamitra' climate action target for India and committed to a net-zero target by 2070, joining nations like the US, the UK, and China.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-takes-first-steps-towards-net-zero-2047-target-niti-aayog-forms-comm-124063000455_1.html

EPFO gross new members addition dips 4% to 10.9 mn in 2023-24: MoSPI report

Retirement fund body EPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4 per cent to 10.9 million in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as per a report by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). According to the report 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective January to April, 2024', the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recorded 10,993,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared to 11,498,453 in 2022-23.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/epfo-gross-new-members-addition-dips-4-to-10-9-mn-in-2023-24-mospi-report-124063000140_1.html

Plan to overhaul macro data collection criteria

The government has launched a major review of the existing system of macroeconomic data collection and computation methodology. The move comes amid criticism from several quarters, including leading statisticians, economists and global agencies, about India's economic data, including the national income accounts. As per a gazette notification dated June 27, a new 26-member advisory committee on national accounts statistics will not just undertake the customary base-year revisions for different sets of data, but would also advise the government on the "methodology for compilation and presentation of the National Accounts Statistics (Gross Domestic Product)".

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-plan-to-overhaul-macro-data-collection-criteria-3539080/>

Bullish on India's consumption, investors flock to fund retail sector startups

Buoyed by India's strong consumption patterns, venture capitalists are flocking to fund retail sector startups. Investor confidence in new-age retail companies and startups has surged, with funding in the retail sector increasing by 32 per cent to \$1.63 billion in the first half (H1) of 2024, up from \$1.23 billion in H1 2023, according to data intelligence firm Tracxn. The Indian economy is on track to emerge as the third-largest economy in the world by 2026. Last year, the country's consumption grew at a faster pace than that of advanced economies such as China, the US, and Germany, as observed in a UBS report.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/bullish-on-indias-consumption-investors-flock-to-fund-retail-sector-startups/article68351781.ece>

Finance

Tech to risk perception: Co-lending model battles 'multiple issues'

The bank-NBFC (non-banking financial company) colending model, introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2018, is yet to take off fully due to multiple issues, said industry players. The reasons include lack of technological integration, different risk perceptions on the part of lending partners (banks and NBFCs), and bigger NBFCs being slow in accepting the model, said experts. Colending happens when multiple lending partners enter into an arrangement to provide loans to priority sectors like micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/tech-to-risk-perception-co-lending-model-battles-multiple-issues-124063000446_1.html

Industry

Centre to issue mineral exploration rights, takes the task away from states

The Centre has introduced a new scheme allowing itself to issue mineral exploration licences for all major minerals, excluding atomic minerals, to private agencies. Previously, this responsibility rested with mineral-rich states. According to a Ministry of Mines notification dated June 27, the scheme for engagement of notified private exploration agencies (NPEA) in mineral exploration, administered through the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET), enables the Union government to directly grant mineral concessions for a full spectrum of exploration activities, from reconnaissance to prospecting operations.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-to-issue-mineral-exploration-rights-takes-the-task-away-from-states-124063000450_1.html

Not just China, all PLI-led visas being fast-tracked: Piyush Goyal

The government is expediting visa-related issues to bring technicians to India from any country, not just China, as and when required, to ensure the smooth implementation of the flagship production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing. "If those under the PLI scheme need to get their equipment installed, we try to expedite the ability to get technicians into India from any country, whichever it may be," Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told Business Standard in an interview.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/not-just-china-all-pli-led-visas-being-fast-tracked-piyush-goyal-124063000388_1.html

Second to none, thrifting set to outpace apparel market

Sauntering through the lanes of Hauz Khas Village in Delhi, one can spot several stores—ordinary looking from the outside, but a treasure trove of one-of-a-kind clothes, shoes and accessories. These are thrift stores, selling second-hand clothes, and export surplus from brands budget and luxury—making fashion accessible to all while doing their bit for the environment. The rising number of offline and online thrift stores are in consonance with the demand, as indicated by reports too.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-second-to-none-thrifting-set-to-outpace-apparel-market-3539186/>

Agriculture

Excess rainfall, untimely sowing likely to hit some kharif crops

The weather office's forecast that the second half of the monsoon season could see above-normal rains has raised fears that excess moisture could hit the crops of moong, urad, soyabean and cotton, sowing for which has started late because of deficit rainfall. It has been seen that delayed sowing followed by excess rainfall at the time of harvest or during the flowering and the fruiting stages has often spoiled crops of moong, urad, soyabean and cotton, reducing their production substantially.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/excess-rainfall-untimely-sowing-likely-to-hit-some-kharif-crops/articleshow/111349228.cms>

Approval for new Bt cotton variety expected soon, says Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh

A new variety of technologically advanced Bt cotton likely to be allowed soon for commercial cultivation to help Indian textile industry in a bigger way, Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh has indicated. He also said that in order to overcome labour problem in this sector, efforts are on to utilise members of Self-Help Group (SHG) in a big way.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/approval-for-new-bt-cotton-variety-expected-soon-says-textiles-minister-giriraj-singh/article68351752.ece?cx_testId=22&cx_testVariant=cx_1&cx_artPos=0&cx_experienceId=EX80XMB4HBZD&cx_experienceActionId=showRecommendationsEG2NLWRIDEL625#cxrecs_s

Infrastructure

Forged wheel import holdup: Railways asks SAIL to boost output amid crisis

Amid a Red Sea-induced temporary crisis of imported forged wheels, the Ministry of Railways has asked Steel Authority of India (SAIL) to streamline its rolling stock manufacturing operations and prioritise meeting its delivery commitments following the April-June quarter (Q1) of 2024-25 (FY25), according to senior officials. "The delivery of wheels from SAIL has been falling short. Around mid-June, SAIL was informed the supply for Q1FY25 was only 64 per cent of the target," a senior government official said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/railways-sail-s-supply-forged-wheels-turn-slowly-amid-import-holdup-124063000409_1.html

Warehouse operators take shine to solar power, rework logistics

India's warehousing sector is seeing increasing adoption of solar power, driven by cost savings, environmental benefits as well as supportive government policies. The move towards renewable energy is not just a response to global environmental concerns but also a strategic business decision for many warehouse operators seeking to reduce operational costs and enhance sustainability.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/warehouse-operators-take-shine-to-solar-power-rework-logistics/articleshow/111386003.cms>

Energy

Retrofitting of inter-city diesel buses can generate over 50,000 jobs

Underscoring the employment opportunity from the adoption of retrofitting in inter-city diesel passenger buses, a recent report said that it is projected to add 6000-7000 direct jobs and 36,000-42,000 new indirect jobs over the next few years. Converting current internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles to electric ones is known as retrofitting. The procedure entails swapping out the original engine and any associated parts for a new alternative energy source that will be installed inside the current vehicle body.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/retrofitting-of-inter-city-diesel-buses-can-generate-over-50000-jobs/articleshow/111381981.cms>

States

Bihar to host mega investor summit in Dec; roadshows from Monday

Bihar will roll out the red carpet for domestic and foreign investors at a mega event in December as it looks to lure investments in sectors like textiles, food processing and EVs that will create jobs and boost business in the state. After the grand success of the 2023 edition, the state will host the two-day Bihar Business Connect event on December 11 and 12 in Patna. And before that, it will hold roadshows in different cities, beginning with Kolkata on Monday.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/bihar-to-host-mega-investor-summit-in-dec-roadshows-from-monday/articleshow/111377636.cms>

Centre extends deadline for smart city projects in Telangana

The Union Government has extended the deadline for Telangana to complete two Smart City Mission projects till March 2025. The deadline was to end on Sunday (June 30). This extension comes in response to an appeal from

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. During a recent meeting in New Delhi, Chief Minister Reddy requested a deadline extension from Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. "As many as 45 smart city-related works have been completed in Warangal. Another 66 works at the cost of ₹518 crore are under progress. Similarly, 25 works were completed and another 22 works worth ₹287 crore are in progress in Karimnagar," it said. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/centre-extends-deadline-for-smarty-city-projects-in-telangana/article68351994.ece>

External

Govt begins anti-dumping probe into glass fibre imports from China, Bahrain

India has initiated an anti-dumping probe into the import of glass fibre from China, Thailand, Bahrain following complaint by a domestic player. The duty is aimed at protecting the domestic industry from cheap imports. The commerce ministry's investigation arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) is probing the alleged dumping of glass fibres and its articles originating in or exported from these countries. https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-begins-anti-dumping-probe-into-glass-fibre-imports-from-china-bahrain-124063000511_1.html

Tobacco farmers ask govt to include sector under duty refund scheme RoDTEP

Tobacco exporters have asked the government to extend the duty refund scheme RoDTEP to the sector to boost outbound shipments. In a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in Hyderabad on June 29, traders submitted that tobacco exporters are not covered under any scheme that provides export incentives. They "requested to extend support to tobacco exporters by including them under the RoDTEP scheme," the ministry said in a statement. https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tobacco-farmers-ask-govt-to-include-sector-under-duty-refund-scheme-rodtep-124063000454_1.html

Mobile phone exports: India captures 50% share of fall in shipment from China, Vietnam

India is fast bridging the gap with China and Vietnam in terms of mobile phone exports. While FY24 mobile exports from China and Vietnam fell 2.78% and 17.6%, respectively, from the year before, exports from India surged 40.5%, officials told ET, citing global trade data. Further, the officials added that India has captured nearly 50% of the reduction in corresponding mobile phone exports from China and Vietnam. This suggests that the objective of gaining a bulk of the supply chain shift from China has been met. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/mobile-phone-exports-india-captures-50-share-of-fall-in-shipment-from-china-vietnam/articleshow/111386700.cms>