

Industry Developments

31st January 2024





Overall

IMF raises India's FY25 GDP growth forecast to 6.5 per cent

Domestic demand resilience will help India carry forward the growth momentum in FY25 as the world prepares for a soft landing, the IMF, noting that the Indian economy will grow 6.5 per cent compared with the 6.3 per cent projected earlier.

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Technology-driven reforms have transformed India's economic landscape

As per the latest India Economy Review, India's digitalization reforms, powered by technology, have become a global model for financial inclusion and economic advancement.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Delhi CM announces 'New Solar Policy'

Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Arvind Kejriwal announced the 'New Solar Policy'. Under this policy, people will get zero bills if they install solar panels on their rooftops. They will be able to use 200 units, 400,500 units of electricity with the help of solar power.

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VA Tech Wabag plans 100 Bio-CNG plants

VA Tech Wabag plans to set up 100 bio-CNG plants in India and in certain regions in the GCC, Africa, and Europe. It has signed an MoU with Peak Sustainability Ventures, an Alternative Investment Fund focusing on climate-related sectors.

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GAIL signs LNG import deal with UAE firm

GAIL recently said that it has signed an agreement to buy 0.5 million tonne per annum of LNG from UAE's ADNOC-Gas, the second supply deal it has stitched this month as part of shoring up supplies to meet energy demands of the country.

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Global LNG output to rise by 3.5 per cent

Global LNG output will rise by only 3.5 per cent in 2024 compared to the 8 per cent growth rate experienced between 2016 and 2020, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). Growth in LNG supply will be hindered by delays in new liquefaction plants and issues with feedgas availability.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Rajasthan govt to adopt Maharashtra model to supply electricity to farmers

The Rajasthan government has decided to adopt the Maharashtra model to supply electricity to farmers during the day by promoting solar energy production and improving the power distribution system.

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Government diverts Chenab river water to expedite Ratle hydropower project

The government announced the diversion of water from the Chenab river to expedite the 850 MW Ratle hydroelectric project in Jammu & Kashmir. The diversion of river flow will enable the isolation of the dam area and expedite construction works.

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TPREL sets up 1,040 kW bifacial solar power project

Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL) commissioned a 1,040 kW bifacial system project in the Chengamari tea estate in West Bengal. The project is expected to generate around 1.5 million units of energy annually and reduce the carbon footprint of 29,420 lakh tonnes.

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AGEL completes funding of USD 750 million notes ahead of maturity

Adani Green Energy (AGEL) has completed the funding for USD750 million worth of notes due on 9 September 2024 with the receipt of the funds under the preferential allotment of USD1.125 billion to the promoters of the company.

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Chemical and Petrochemical

Oil PSUs capex spend approaching target for the year

India's PSU oil companies have reported a capital expenditure of INR89,151 crore from April to December 2023, approaching the annual target of INR106,401 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24, according to the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell.

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Govt expects fuel consumption to grow by 2.7 per cent in 2024-25

Fuel consumption is expected to grow by 2.7 per cent in 2024-25, according to a media report quoting initial government estimates. It could rise to 238.954 million tonnes from the revised estimate of 232.561 million tonnes for 2023-24.

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Infrastructure

Construction equipment sales up by 30 per cent in Dec 2023: ICEMA

The construction equipment industry has witnessed a 30 per cent growth in unit sales in the December 2023 quarter. The industry sold around 36,055 units in the quarter against the 27,817 unit sales recorded in the third quarter of the previous financial year.

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Odisha's Cuttack railway station undergoes major transformation

Odisha's Cuttack railway station has been undergoing major transformation under the Centre's Amrit Station Scheme. The development aims to improve connectivity and passenger experience, besides envisioning a modernised transportation hub.

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Gujarat's Surat gears up for major infrastructural push in 2024-25

Surat, the diamond city of India and winner of the Swachh Survekshan 2023 award for the cleanest city, is gearing up for a major infrastructural push with a whopping INR4,100 crore allocated for development works in the 2024-25 budget. This ambitious plan, unveiled by Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal, marks a significant investment in the city's future, aiming to elevate its livability and attract further growth.

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Real Estate

Mangaluru City Corp to acquire land through TDR

The Mangaluru City Corporation plans to acquire land through transferable development rights (TDR), according to media reports. The civic body has been looking to identify land plots to implement its housing projects.

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Indian home buyers moving premium properties

Home buyers in India are moving towards higher-value properties, as per a recent report by credit bureau CRIF High Mark. As per the report, there has been a 22 per cent surge in the average size of home loans to INR24.7 lakh in 2022-23 from INR20.2 lakh in 2019-20.

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Macrotech Developers aims to generate surplus cash in March 2024 quarter

Realty firm Macrotech Developers aims to generate surplus cash and reducing debt by 11 per cent by the end of March 2024 quarter supported by strong housing demand, MD and CEO Abhishek Lodha said.

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Technology, Media and Telecom

Anil Kumar Lahoti appointed as TRAI chairman

Anil Kumar Lahoti, former chairman of the railway board and chief executive officer (CEO), has been appointed by the government as the chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

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DoT asks service providers for security audit of their systems

A government official stated that the Department of Telecom (DoT) has requested service providers for a security audit of their systems following claims by a cybersecurity company that 750 million Indian subscribers' data had been leaked.

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Tejas Networks continues to increase shipments of 4G RAN to BSNL

Tejas Networks, a homegrown telecom gear maker, has stated that it is continuing to increase shipments of 4G Radio Access Network (RAN) to Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL).

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Agri & Food processing

Telangana govt attempts to sell 3.5 mt of paddy from 2022-23 season

The Telangana government has initiated a fresh attempt to sell around 3.5 million tonnes (mt) of paddy from the 2022-23 season in a bid to clear the mills and godowns with paddy stocks and make space for fresh arrivals.

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India's rice output expected to drop

India's rice output is expected to drop for the first time in eight years. This has raised the prospect of the Centre extending curbs on exports of the grain to control food prices in the lead-up to elections.

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Sugarcane farmers in Western UP plan to shift to cultivation of maize

Sugarcane farmers in Western Uttar Pradesh (UP) are planning to shift to cultivation of maize as they are unhappy with lower cane yields this year. Reportedly, they have complained that the yield of sugarcane has dipped by 10-13 per cent this year and perceive that the popular cane variety 'CO-0238' is responsible for this fall.

[Read more](#)





Banking and Financial Services

Private banks expect credit growth in high teens

Private banks are expected loan growth in 2024-25 to be in the 'high teens'. Indusind Bank expects a credit growth of 18-20 per cent led by vehicle finance, consumer finance and microfinance businesses among others.

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RBI approves Reliance Home Finance's decision to exit home finance business

The RBI has given approval to Reliance Home Finance (RHF) for voluntary dissolution of the home finance business. Reliance Home Finance is acquired by Authum Investment and Infrastructure (All).

[Read more](#)

NBFCs urge for credit guarantee scheme in Union Budget 2024

Gold loan non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) facing liquidity crunch have urged government for measures to infuse liquidity in the system in the Union Budget 2024. They have also requested for a partial credit guarantee scheme to cover their onward lending to micro-enterprises.

[Read more](#)

Automobiles and Ancillaries

ACMA expects Indian market to grow to USD14 billion by 2028

The ACMA expects the Indian market for automotive components aftermarket to reach USD14 billion by 2028, according to media reports. The Indian automotive aftermarket was valued at USD 10 billion in 2023, according to a study by ACMA.

[Read more](#)

Toyota temporarily suspends three models in India

Toyota Kirloskar Motor has temporarily suspended the dispatch of its three models - Innova Crysta, Fortuner and Hilux - in the country. This is after irregularities were found in the certification tests for the diesel powertrain.

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Passenger vehicle manufacturing companies likely to report robust sales in January 2024

Leading passenger vehicle manufacturers including Maruti Suzuki India and Hyundai Motor India are likely to report robust sales in January 2024 on sustained consumer demand especially for SUVs. As per industry estimates, around 375,000 vehicles are likely to have been dispatched during the month, an increase of eight per cent over January 2023.

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Industrial Manufacturing

JSW Steel sees strong steel demand in India

According to Joint Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Jayant Acharya, the company's profits for the December 2023 quarter quintupled driven by higher output and strong demand in India as infrastructure spending accelerated ahead of elections this year.

[Read more](#)

Vedanta Aluminium on its way to reduce carbon footprint

Vedanta Aluminium is on its way to reduce its carbon footprint. It is prioritising higher resource efficiencies, greater use of renewables in energy mix and converting waste into wealth. The company is committed to achieving Net Zero by 2050, adopting a two-fold strategy of reducing and offsetting its carbon footprint.

[Read more](#)

Steel companies expect continued focus on infra spending in Budget

Steel companies expect continued focus on the infrastructure spending, push to domestic manufacturing, and measures to check rising imports in the upcoming interim Budget for 2024-25.

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India turns net importer of steel during April-December 2023

Steel imports have touched 5-year high during April-December 2023. The country imported 5.6 million tonnes of finished steel between April and December, up 26.4 per cent compared to the year-ago.

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Pharmaceuticals

Delhi govt to monitor pharmacies dealing in scheduled drugs

The Delhi government has decided to closely monitor pharmacies that deal in scheduled drugs in order to prevent minors from engaging in their unlawful purchase. This has come in view of the rise in substance abuse in the national capital.

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Jubilant Pharmova sells entire stake in Sofie Biosciences

Jubilant Pharmova (JPL) has planned to sell its entire stake in associate entity Sofie Biosciences for USD139.4 million. Reportedly, the former had acquired a 25.8 per cent stake in Sofie Biosciences through its Singapore-based subsidiary Jubilant Pharma in November 2020 for USD25 million.

[Read more](#)





Education

INR300 crore earmarked for improvement of Himachal Pradesh's education

A sum of INR300 crore has been earmarked for improvement of Himachal Pradesh's education sector. According to Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, land is being identified to open a school in the Chintpurni Assembly constituency.

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16 govt medical colleges in Maharashtra to be covered under HIMS

As many as 16 government medical colleges in Maharashtra will be covered under the Healthcare Management Information System (HMIS) by February 2024. HMIS is a centralised system that maintains critical patient records.

[Read more](#)

Assam CM inaugurates Government Law College in Tezpur's Sonitpur

Assam Chief Minister (CM) Himanta Biswa Sarma recently inaugurated the Government Law College in Tezpur's Sonitpur district. This college will go a long way towards providing quality legal education to students across the state.

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Aviation

Noida Airport's first phase development to cost INR10,056 crore

Officials said that the first phase of development of the upcoming international airport in Noida will cost INR10,056 crore. Around INR7,100 crore has already been spent on it so far, the officials added.

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Air travel crosses pre-covid levels: FinMin

Air travel, which was most affected by the pandemic, has noted an increase in the number of Indians taking flights. It is now beyond pre-covid levels, according to the Finance Ministry's 'Review of the Indian Economy'.

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Govt plans to extend Digi Yatra benefits to foreign citizens

Officials said that the government plans to extend the Digi Yatra benefits to foreign citizens by introduction of e-passport based enrollment. This strategic move aligns with the government's vision to make the system more inclusive, catering to both domestic and international travelers.

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Consumer Market

Smartphone maker realme expects to increase sales in India by 10 per cent

On 29 January 2024, the founder and chief executive officer (CEO) of realme, Sky Li, stated that the firm hopes to grow its sales in India by 10 per cent in 2024 and rank among the top five brands worldwide.

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Samsung to manufacture laptops in India

Samsung is planning to start manufacturing laptops in India this year. It will manufacture laptops at the Noida factory, which is also the company's second-largest production base.

[Read more](#)

Healthcare

IMA seeks investment in government hospitals

The Indian Medical Association (IMA)'s President, Dr. RV Asokan, stated that the investment in health has stagnated and hospitals in the government sector and their human resources need to be strengthened.

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Tamil Nadu minister inaugurates new facilities at govt hospital

Tamil Nadu minister for micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) Thamo Anbarasan inaugurated several new facilities at the Government Arignar Anna Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre and Kancheepuram District Headquarters Government Hospital.

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Textile

Textile industry seeks extension of RoDTEP scheme in Budget 2024

The textile industry is seeking the extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme until 30 September 2024. This will allow the industry to continue functioning until a new government is formed.

[Read more](#)

New payment rules to MSMEs impact textiles industry

A new regulation for the assessment year 2024-25 has been enforced by the central government. The new rule mandates that purchasers settle payments for goods procured from MSMEs within 45 days of delivery.

[Read more](#)





Information Technology

GenAI spending by Indian companies to rise 165 per cent

Generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI) spending by Indian companies will increase by nearly 165 per cent to six billion in the next 12 months, according to the Infosys Knowledge Institute. Companies across the Asia-Pacific region will nearly triple their Gen AI investments to USD 3.4 billion in 2024.

[Read more](#)

TCS expands deal with Aviva

Tata Consultancy Services has expanded its existing partnership with Aviva, a UK-based insurance provider, by bagging a 15-year deal. TCS will transform Aviva's UK life business and enhance customer experience by utilising the TCS BaNCS-based platform.

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IT midcaps getting opportunities to bid for larger deals

Information technology companies like LTIMindtree and Persistent Systems have stated that they are increasingly getting an opportunity to bid for larger deals on account of their strong execution.

[Read more](#)

Transportation

TNSTC allots 367 BS-VI buses to Tamil Nadu's Kumbakonam division

The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC) has allotted 367 Bharat Stage (BS)-VI buses to the Kumbakonam division. The move aims to modernising the TNSTC fleet. The buses have lower emissions & modified safety parameters and will run on mofussil & city routes.

[Read more](#)

110 million women in Telangana avail 'Maha Lakshmi' free travel facility

Nearly 110 million women in Telangana have availed the 'Maha Lakshmi' free travel facility since its application in December 2023. The information was shared by Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) managing director VC Sajjanar on 26 January 2024.

[Read more](#)

Manipur CM lays foundation for Imphal Ring Road project

Manipur Chief Minister (CM) N Biren Singh laid the foundation stone for the Imphal Ring Road project. The project is expected to be constructed at a cost of INR17.5 billion. It will improve the road connectivity in Imphal by addressing the traffic congestion.

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