



Public Finance

Fiscal deficit shrinks to 8.1% in April-June quarter

Lower expenditure because of Model Code of Conduct and record transfer from the Reserve Bank of India have helped restrict fiscal deficit to a low of around 8 per cent of the Budget Estimate during April-June quarter of FY25, data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). The figure was over 25 per cent of Revised Estimate during the corresponding period of the last fiscal. ([BusinessLine](#))

Centre's diversification spurs faster growth in non-tax revenues

Non-tax revenues, including those from interest, dividends and others, saw a sharper rise of around 40 per cent from FY23 to FY24 (provisional actual - PA) prompting the government to budget for ₹5.5 lakh crore in FY25 — a 36 per cent further increase from PA of FY24. In contrast, tax revenue grew around 11 per cent from FY23 to FY24 (PA) and have been budgeted around 10 per cent higher in FY25 relative to FY24 (PA). ([BusinessLine](#))

Smart macro, fiscal policies yielded big capital gains for investors: CEA

The astute macroeconomic and fiscal policies of the Centre over the last five years have played a key role in rewarding investors with huge capital gains, V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, said on Tuesday. The CEA was speaking at *businessline's* post-Budget event 'Decoding the Budget 2024-25' in the Capital. ([BusinessLine](#))

No State is being denied any money, says FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday categorically denied the allegation that if any State is not named in the Budget speech, it does not get any budgetary allocation. "I have been picking up on Budget speeches since 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and so on. The Budget of 2004-2005 did not take the name of 17 States. I would like to ask the members of the UPA government at that time — did money not go to those 17 States? Did they stop it?" the Minister said during the discussion on the General Budget in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ([BusinessLine](#))



Taxation

Gadkari urges FM to withdraw GST on life, medical insurance premiums

Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari has urged finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to withdraw the 18% goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums. In a letter to the finance minister, dated July 28, Gadkari flagged concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had

submitted a memorandum regarding the issues of the insurance industry to the minister. *(The Economic Times)*

GST receipts growth rallies to 10.3%, July kitty 3rd-highest ever

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections crossed ₹1.82 lakh crore to hit the third-highest monthly level in July, with revenue growth rebounding to 10.3% from June's three-year low of 7.6%. Gross revenue from domestic transactions grew 8.9%, easing from 9.4% in June, but growth in taxes collected on imports bounced to 14.2%, from 2.4% a month earlier. Sequentially, gross GST collections were 4.75% more than June's kitty of ₹1,73,813 crore. *(The Hindu)*

Punitive tax on imported laboratory chemicals removed after furore

In a relief to scientists and researchers across the country, the Finance Ministry has clarified that all imported 'laboratory chemicals', except denatured ethanol, will be taxed at 10% instead of 150% as was first proposed in the Union Budget on July 23. Imported laboratory chemicals are a critical component of research in nearly every domain of science. They include reagents and enzymes that are usually extremely specific and not mass-produced, making them expensive and a significant overhead on the budget that scientists get for planning their research. *(The Hindu)*

No tax relief for non-bank P-Note holders from Gift IFSC

The Budget has failed to provide tax relief to non-resident holders of offshore derivatives instruments (ODIs) or P-Notes, issued by non-bank entities from Gift IFSC. In May, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) allowed non-bank entities registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to issue ODIs with Indian securities as underlying at Gift-IFSC. Till then, only foreign banks could issue them. *(The Hindu)*

Capital gains growth deserves higher taxes: Finance Secretary

Capital gains is the fastest growing income class in India; it deserves to be taxed at a higher rate on the grounds of raising revenues for the government as well as equity and fairness, TV Somanathan, Finance Secretary, said on Sunday. Pointing out that India's capital gain taxes, even after the recent hike, were still lower than in most developed countries, he stressed that "India needs taxation — we have to gather taxes at moderate rates." *(BusinessLine)*

Not everyone leaving country needs a tax clearance certificate

Not every Indian leaving the country needs a tax clearance certificate, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Sunday. Post the Budget, reports suggested that everyone leaving to settle in other countries or those travelling abroad for long periods need clearance certificates from the Income Tax department. In a note, the board said that only certain individuals need to obtain tax clearance certificates before leaving the country is nothing new. *(BusinessLine)*

'No further changes to capital gains tax in medium term'

No further changes are expected to the capital gains tax regime in the short to medium term as the government is committed to delivering tax certainty, and the proposed review of the Income Tax Act of 1961 will reduce the tax compliance burden for people by simplifying the law, rather than reduce their tax outgoes, Revenue Secretary told Sanjay Malhotra said in an interview. *(The Hindu)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

At NITI meet, PM calls for States' participation

Narendra Modi, chairing the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog, says 'Viksit Bharat 2047', or developed India, is the ambition of all Indians and that States can play an active role in achieving this; West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the only Opposition leader to attend the meeting, walks out saying she was 'not allowed' to speak. *(The Hindu)*

New job schemes to kick off soon: Somanathan

The government is confident of launching the schemes in the Prime Minister's package for employment and skilling, which were announced in last week's Budget, within this financial year. That includes the internship programme for one crore youth in 500 top companies, whose design details will be worked out in consultation with the industry, Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan said. *(The Hindu)*

T.N. sees increase in luxury car registration among the affluent group

Tamil Nadu has seen an increase in registration of luxury cars among a growing affluent population. According to data sourced from the State's Commissionerate of Transport and Safety, there has been an increase in registration of motor cars for which the sale value is over ₹30 lakh. In 2023-24, 8,475 such cars were registered in the State – an increase of about 46.2% from 5,797 cars in 2022-23. *(The Hindu)*

Congress govt. in Karnataka drives away investors: Nirmala

Accusing the State government of driving away investors from Karnataka, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said the government's policies had driven the rate of inflation in the State above the national average. "Because of the worsening law and order situation, industries are scared and they want to get out. I do not want to take the names of companies that are going out," she told presspersons here in a rebuttal to the allegations that Karnataka and many other States have been ignored in the recently presented Union Budget. *(The Hindu)*

U.P. House passes Bill to amend law against conversion

The Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday passed the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, making the law stricter by providing for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for those found guilty of marrying a woman by deceiving her and illegally converting her religion. The Bill says that if a person threatens, attacks, marries or promises to marry or conspires for it, or traffics a woman, minor or anyone with the intention of conversion, then his crime will be placed in the most serious category. *(The Hindu)*

India can replicate China's 2000-20 growth story, defence, shipping can aid rupee appreciation: Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted India's potential for economic growth, suggesting that increased shipping, focus on electric mobility, and self-sufficiency in defense could lead to rupee appreciation. Speaking at an Assocham event, he drew parallels to China's growth from 2000-2020, aiming for a similar trajectory. Emphasizing

infrastructure development, anti-corruption measures, and employment generation, Goyal predicted India could become a \$5 trillion economy within 3-3.5 years and potentially a \$55 trillion economy by 2047 with sustained growth and low inflation. (*The Economic Times*)

Low inflation and currency can amplify GDP to \$55 trillion by 2047: Krishnamurthy Subramanian

The long-term forecast of India's growth potential misses a key variable - the currency movement. Krishnamurthy Subramanian, executive director at the International Monetary Fund and former chief economic advisor, told ET in an interview that India could be a \$55 trillion economy by the 100th year of independence if the twin effects of inflation targeting and fiscal prudence are factored in. (*The Economic Times*)

India's family-owned biz projected to drive 85% of GDP by 2047: McKinsey

The contribution of family-owned businesses (FOBs) to India's GDP is projected to reach 80 to 85 per cent by 2047, according to a McKinsey report on family offices. Currently, FOBs contribute more than 75 per cent of national GDP, one of the highest percentages in the world. (*Business Standard*)

Gaining momentum: UPI transactions top Rs 20 trn for third straight month

India's flagship payments platform, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), reported a 45 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth in transaction volume to reach 14.44 billion in July. The value of transactions also saw a 35 per cent Y-o-Y increase, totaling Rs 20.64 trillion, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Thursday. This marks the third consecutive month when the value of transactions exceeded Rs 20 trillion. (*Business Standard*)

Mahila Samman scheme may not be extended beyond March 2025

The Centre has no plans to extend the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate beyond March 2025, according to a Moneycontrol report citing a senior government official. The scheme, encouraging savings among Indian women, was announced in 2023 during the Budget presentation by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It offers an annual interest rate of 7.5 per cent. (*Business Standard*)



Banking and Monetary Policy

Indian banks allocate only 5% revenue on IT spends

Indian banks allocate a lower percentage of their revenue to IT spending compared to global peers, a report by Boston Consulting Group has pointed out. Global banks typically invest 7% - 9% of their revenue on IT costs while Indian banks allocate only up to 5%, it said. According to the report "The Poster Child", 75% of digital payments and loans and 25% of new digital accounts will originate from third-party platforms by FY26. (*The Economic Times*)

Rs 2000 banknotes: 97.92 pc returned; Rs 7,409 cr worth notes still with public

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said 97.92 per cent of the Rs 2000 denomination banknotes have returned to the banking system, and only Rs 7,409 crore

worth of the withdrawn notes are still with the public. On May 19, 2023, the RBI announced the withdrawal of Rs 2000 denomination banknotes from circulation. *(The Economic Times)*

India's private sector banks lead market cap gains on stronger metrics

India's private sector banks led gains in market capitalization in the three months to June 30 amid improvement in their financial metrics and positive sentiment in the Indian stock market, research by S&P shows. Positive investor sentiment contributed to the increase in market capitalization. The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex index rose 7.3% in the second quarter, while the Nifty 50, another commonly tracked benchmark, was up 7.5%. *(The Economic Times)*

Bank loans to shadow lenders drop, credit card outstanding rises

The year-on-year growth in bank credit to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) has dropped sharply to 8.5% as of June 2024. Despite this, the growth in credit card outstanding and gold jewellery loans remains high, with year-on-year increases of 23% and 30%, respectively. This change aligns with RBI's earlier measures to moderate lending to NBFCs by increasing the risk weightage on certain loans. *(The Economic Times)*

Credit slows down across sectors in June except loans to corporates and housing

Credit growth moderated across sectors in June with the exception of loans to large corporate, housing and gold loans, latest RBI data indicates. Credit to large industry or large corporates grew at 7.7 per cent (y-o-y) in June 2024 as compared with 7.4 per cent in June 2023, according to the latest data on sectoral deployment of bank credit released by the central bank. *(The Economic Times)*

Digital tech adoption has improved efficiency of banks, increased competition on sector: RBI RCF Report

Paying light to the banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India in its recent report has said that the adoption has improved the efficiency of banks in India, along with increasing competition. "The adoption of digital technologies has improved the efficiency of banks in India, along with increasing competition in the banking sector. Overall digitalisation in the financial sector enables banks to reduce various risks and improves integration across various financial markets, thus, boosting liquidity in these markets," said RBI in its RCF report. *(The Economic Times)*

RBI proposes banks maintain higher stock of liquid securities amidst use of technology 24x7 to transfer funds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued draft guidelines on Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) late Thursday, asking banks to set aside a higher stock of liquid securities as a buffer on deposits amidst risk involving increased use of technology to transfer funds. The draft guidelines, which will be effective from FY25, are aimed at preventing a scenario similar to Silicon Valley Bank's collapse. *(The Economic Times)*



Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement helped trade between UAE, India increase by 15%

Vijayawada, The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to India, Abdalnasser Alshaali, on Thursday said here that bilateral trade between the Middle Eastern country and India rose by 15 per cent to USD 83.6 billion in fiscal 2023-24, powered by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Alshaali noted that the deal inked in May 2022 propelled trade from USD 73 billion in FY 2021-22 to USD 83.6 billion by streamlining trade processes, reducing tariffs and creating more robust pathways for businesses to operate across borders. *(The Economic Times)*

Vietnam PM sets ambitious target of \$20 billion in bilateral trade with India

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh called for stronger economic cooperation with India, aiming for \$20 billion in bilateral trade. Speaking in New Delhi, he highlighted opportunities in infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and digital technology. Chinh invited Indian businesses to invest in Vietnam, focusing on strategic sectors and integrating Vietnamese companies into their supply chains. *(The Economic Times)*

Key export scheme norms simplified for ease of business

To make it easier for exporters to do business, the government has simplified the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme which allows import of capital goods at zero customs duty against an obligation to export. As per a public notice issued by the Directorate General Of Foreign Trade (DGFT), exporters will now get additional time to submit installation certificates for imported capital goods, reducing pressure on businesses to meet timelines. *(The Economic Times)*

FTA review talks with Japan, Korea, Asean moving slow, but India pursuing: Piyush Goyal

The India-Korea agreement, dubbed as comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), was operationalised in January 2010. India has sought greater market access for certain products like steel, rice, and shrimp from South Korea to boost exports of these goods. India has also raised concerns about the growing trade deficit between the two countries. India's exports to Korea dipped to USD 6.41 billion in 2023-24 from USD 6.65 billion in 2022-23 and USD 8 billion in 2021-22. *(The Economic Times)*

FTAs two-way traffic, need to give sops too: Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal criticized the domestic industry at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event on Tuesday for demanding protectionist measures that could obstruct Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the United Kingdom and the European Union. Goyal emphasized that FTAs are a reciprocal arrangement and expressed concern that reluctance to offer tariff concessions could jeopardize proposed deals. *(The Economic Times)*

India adds two more ports for export of essential commodities to Maldives

India has announced two additional ports for the export of essential commodities from India to the Maldives for the financial year of 2024-25. Kandla and Vishakhapatnam

Customs Sea ports have been added to the list of ports allowed for Export of Essential Commodities. This is in addition to four ports which were already in use. Sea ports have been added to the list of ports allowed for Export of Essential Commodities, which are under the Prohibited/Restricted category to the Republic of Maldives for the fiscal year 2024-25. *(Business Standard)*

India has potential to export 15 mn tonnes coal to its neighbours: Study

India has a potential to export 15 mn tonnes of coal to its neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh, according to a study. By promoting exports, increasing domestic production, and facilitating import substitution, the country aims to achieve self-reliance, strengthen energy security and support the growth of the coal sector. The country has a capacity to export 8 mn tonnes (MT) of coal to Bangladesh, 3 MT to Myanmar, 2 MT to Nepal and 2 MT to others. *(Business Standard)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

'Focus on enhancing rural income, employability and agri productivity'

Budget 2024-25 has generated a debate on whether enough is being done to move the economy to the high growth trajectory envisaged over the medium and long term, and what more needs to be done. In a panel discussion on 'Decoding The Budget 2024-25' organised by *businessline*, experts analysed various sectors — from agriculture to the stock market — to come up with solutions to maximise welfare and growth. *(BusinessLine)*

Weather disruption in Himachal Pradesh to make tomato prices red hot again

Tomato prices could see a sharp increase in the coming days after heavy rainfalls wreak havoc in Himachal Pradesh, which is the main supplier of the kitchen staple to several north Indian markets, said traders from Azadpur mandi. The daily retail price of tomatoes in Delhi is around Rs 70 per kilo, according to data from the department of consumer affairs, while in Mumbai it is around Rs 80 per kilo. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt to keep a watch on prices of 16 more food items

The Indian government will begin monitoring daily wholesale and retail prices of 16 additional essential food commodities from August 1 to help stabilise rates through policy interventions, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said. The Department of Consumer Affairs currently tracks the daily prices of 22 essential food commodities from 550 centers across 34 states and Union Territories. *(The Economic Times)*

After Delhi NCR, tomatoes being sold at Rs 60/kg in select locations in Mumbai

The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF) has initiated market intervention to stabilize soaring tomato prices in the retail market in Mumbai. This intervention is aimed at ensuring that profit margins remain reasonable at the retail level, preventing windfall gains to intermediaries, and thereby protecting the interests of consumers. *(The Economic Times)*

Onion to stay on hot plate for a fortnight, say traders

Onion prices are expected to stay elevated at least for a fortnight as farmers are delaying sale of their harvest, expecting better prices as seen by a 50% drop in arrivals at the benchmark Lasalgaon market in Nashik. Arrival of the new crop from south India is likely to help soften onion prices from mid-August, say traders. *(The Economic Times)*

New districts identified: 35 for Tur cultivation and 13 for Urad

Stepping up efforts to help the country attain self-sufficiency in pulses, the government has identified 35 new districts for increasing cultivation of tur and 13 districts for urad for bringing more area under coverage of the two kharif (summer) pulses where it will distribute high-yielding varieties of seeds. India imported all major pulses, including tur, urad, masoor, chana and yellow peas, in 2023-24 due to low domestic production on account of erratic rainfall, spending around \$3.74 billions during the financial year. *(The Economic Times)*

Cottonseed oil prices likely to rise by Rs 5-6 per litre during festive season

A price increase of Rs 5-6 per litre in cottonseed oil is anticipated during the festive season due to heightened demand even though the cotton yield this season has surpassed expectations, industry officials said. Both government and private players are actively promoting alternative oils, such as rice bran oil, which faces fewer supply issues compared to other crops. Supported by Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and effective marketing, rice bran oil's demand is rising. Its health benefits and competitive pricing are key factors driving consumer awareness and preference. *(The Economic Times)*

Over 73 per cent of Agriculture Budget goes towards welfare measures, subsidies: ICRIER

Food and fertilizer subsidies account for more than 50 per cent of the Union Budget for the rural and agrarian sector in FY25, highlighted a report by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The report noted that in the Union Budget document for 2024-25, the central government has allocated Rs. 6.2 trillion for the agriculture sector, which constitutes 13 per cent of the overall budget of Rs. 48.2 trillion in FY25. *(ThePrint)*

India retains eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023: WTO

Despite a drop in its agriculture exports in 2023 to \$51 billion from \$55 billion in 2022, India maintained its position as world's eighth largest exporter of agriculture products in the year as seven of the top ten exporting nations witnessed a decline, per figures collated by the WTO. *(BusinessLine)*

States can directly buy rice from FCI, says Food Minister

The Indian Government has permitted states to directly purchase rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Open Market Sales Scheme (Domestic) without participating in the e-auction from August 1. The Department of Consumer Affairs announced that it will begin monitoring the price of an additional 16 commodities. *(BusinessLine)*

Ivorian farmers turn to new rice variety for increased yields and profit

Ivorian rice farmer Francois Kasse Yao has struggled to make ends meet with only one harvest per year before he planted a new variety, resistant to unpredictable weather conditions capable of producing larger yields. The grain, introduced as a part of a programme designed to increase output of the regional staple food and cut dependence

on imports, allows rice growers to get two harvests per year, with a yield of up to 5 metric tons per hectare. *(ThePrint)*

Punjab's rice exporters want Centre to push aromatic basmati rice over water-guzzling paddy

As the groundwater crisis looms large in the key grain-producing State of Punjab, the Punjab Rice Millers and Exporters Association has written to the Finance Commission to recommend the Central government pushes the cultivation of aromatic basmati rice instead of the more water-intensive paddy. *(The Hindu)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Core industries' growth skids to 20-month low of 4% in June

Pulled down by a high base effect despite a strong show from coal and electricity sectors, the country's eight core industries' output growth slid to a 20-month low of 4 per cent in June. This latest reading — seen by some economists as a satisfactory growth — was lower than the core industries growth of 8.4 per cent in June 2023 and upward revised growth of 6.4 per cent in May 2024. *(BusinessLine)*

DoT allocates airwaves to all three telecom companies

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has allocated spectrum to all the three private telecom operators who bought airwaves in the June auction. "The frequency assignment letters have been issued to the companies today (Thursday)," an official aware of the details told ET. *(The Economic Times)*

Passenger vehicle sales drop for first time in 2.5 years

Passenger vehicle sales fell for the first time in two and a half years in July amid sluggish demand and high dealer inventory, reflecting a broader slowdown in consumer spending across sectors after a two-year post-pandemic boom. *(The Economic Times)*

India's power consumption rises 3.5 pc to 145.40 billion units in July

India's power consumption rose a meagre 3.5 per cent to 145.40 Billion Units (BU) in July compared to the year-ago period as rainfall brought down temperatures from the scorching heat. In July 2023, the power consumption stood at 140.41 BU, according to official data. *(The Economic Times)*

Plans afoot to reallocate some broadcasting spectrum for 5G

The government has initiated an exercise to ascertain whether an additional 100 MHz spectrum in the mid-band can be taken away from the broadcasting sector and allocated to telecom operators for 5G services, people in the know said. This would not only help meet the 5G needs of the telcos but would also generate revenue for the government as the airwaves would be auctioned. *(The Economic Times)*

DTH, teleport company expect new policy to lower satellite costs

Direct-to-home (DTH) and teleport operators are expecting satellite capacity costs to fall after the government's policy of mandating foreign satellite operators to set up local units

if they want to provide satellite capacity to Indian companies from April 2025. (*The Economic Times*)

Credit card industry adds 0.51 million cards in June, slowest pace since October 2022

Banking industry's net addition of credit cards in June 2024 was at its slowest pace since October 2022. While HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank continued to lose market share in credit cards in force (CIF), Axis Bank lost volumes and value, according to a report by brokerage firm Anand Rathi. (*Mint*)

Govt says India's semiconductor market to cross \$100 billion by 2030

India's semiconductor market, which includes a robust chip design and engineering sector, is tipped to cross \$100 billion in valuation by 2030, Union minister of state for information technology Jitin Prasada said in Parliament on Wednesday. (*Mint*)

Skilling ecosystem is missing crucial industry links: TNSDC MD

The one challenge that exists today is the missing industry linkage in the skilling ecosystem, said J. Innocent Divya, Managing Director (MD), Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC), on Tuesday. Speaking at The Hindu's Tamil Nadu Women's Summit 2024, she said: "The main challenge in a massive skilling initiative is the upgradation of hardware facilities that exist in colleges. (*The Hindu*)

Dairy industry to witness 13-14% revenue growth this year on strong demand

India's dairy industry is expected to witness healthy revenue growth of 13-14 per cent this financial year, as strong consumer demand continues along with improved supply of raw milk, a report said on Wednesday. While demand will be supported by rising consumption of value added products (VAP), ample milk supply will be driven by good monsoon prospects, Crisil Ratings said in a report. (*Business Standard*)



News on Kerala

Rescue operations in Wayanad likely to go for weeks

The rescue operations in Wayanad, where massive landslides have claimed about 200 lives so far and left hundreds missing, will take at least three weeks to complete as per the current pace of operation, according to senior government sources. The State will soon press an IBOD (Intelligent Buried Object Detection) technology to detect people trapped under the debris. Already, five sniffer dogs have been brought to the place as part of the search operation. (*The Hindu*)

Kerala landslides: Police launch probe into social media campaign against CM's call for aid

Kerala police commenced an investigation after noticing a social media campaign against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's appeal for landslide relief in Wayanad. The campaign was spread on platform X from the handle 'Koyikodans 2.0'. The authorities are taking strict action against those responsible. Vijayan encouraged donations to the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. (*The Economic Times*)

Four years since Pettimudy landslip, kin waiting for Central aid

Even after four years since the Pettimudy landslip, near Munnar, on August 6, 2020 that killed 70 people, the financial assistance of ₹2 lakh announced by the Union government has not reached the families of the victims. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala announces seven Centres of Excellence for advanced research

The Kerala government has granted administrative sanction for launching seven Centres of Excellence, each focussing on specific areas of advanced research and training, to function as autonomous institutions. These will be equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by top-tier faculty members, researchers and students. *(The Hindu)*

SC notices on Kerala, Bengal pleas against governors 'delaying' Bills

The Supreme Court issued notices to the Centre and governors of Kerala and West Bengal following delays in clearing bills passed by state legislatures. The court asked for replies within three weeks. Kerala and West Bengal accuse their governors of unconstitutional behavior. Additionally, Tamil Nadu and Punjab have also approached the court over financial disputes with the Centre. *(The Economic Times)*

Land acquisition must for railway projects in Kerala", says Vaishnaw

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted challenges in progressing the Angamali-Sabarimala railway line project due to 'lack of cooperation' from the Kerala government. The proposed project, sanctioned in 1997-98, faces hurdles like protests against land acquisition and court cases. Vaishnaw emphasized the need for state support for land acquisition to move forward, pointing out the potential for development in Kerala if cooperation is enhanced. *(The Economic Times)*

Kerala can claim compensation under UN convention for people hit by extreme weather events, says ecologist

Kerala can claim compensation from a United Nations (UN) climate fund for people affected by events like the massive landslide in Wayanad triggered by an extreme weather event caused by climate change. "The landslide in Wayanad district's Mundakkai in the early hours of Tuesday killed around 200 people. It is the direct fallout of climate change inducing an extreme weather event," said well-known ecologist S. Faizi, who hails from Kerala and played a prominent role in Multilateral Environmental Negotiations, including the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. *(The Hindu)*

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