



Public Finance

A Budget that places health on the margins

With the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic behind us (though the World Health Organization warns that the virus has still not vanished), the Union Budget expectedly shifted focus to levers of economic growth such as infrastructure and employment. It was also hoped that the recognition of population health as a vital investment for accelerating as well as protecting economic growth would see continued investment in strengthening our health systems. *(The Hindu)*

A message of fiscal stability, growth continuity

The 8.2% GDP growth in FY24, while commendable, was driven by an uneven K-shaped segmentation. The premiumisation of consumption, as seen in the robust demand for luxury cars, houses and goods, coincided with stagnant wages, low fast-moving consumer goods sales and (food) inflation continuing to vociferously bite those at the bottom end of the income pyramid. The fiscal deficit, at 5.6% of GDP in FY24, still high compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, provided the needed growth impetus via capital spending at a time when the private capex cycle remained much on the sidelines. *(The Hindu)*

FM allots ₹10 lakh cr. for housing scheme

To address the housing needs of the urban poor and middle-class families, the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced an investment of ₹10 lakh crore under the PM Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0, including Central assistance of ₹2.2 lakh crore in the next five years. *(The Hindu)*

Financing India's 'green' future

Through the Union Budget 2024, the Government of India has demonstrated increased political and public finance commitment towards climate change. It was encouraging to see energy security as one of the nine Budget priorities, along with the 60% increase in allocation towards the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy from ₹12,850 crore in the interim Budget to ₹19,100 crore. *(The Hindu)*



Taxation

Can't say whether there will be a sunset clause on old I-T regime: FM

FM Nirmala sitharaman stated "The government's intention is to make the income tax regime simpler. Cannot say whether there will be a sunset clause on the old income tax regime. Decision after a review," she said. *(BusinessLine)*

Budget 2024: FM assures further simplification, rationalisation of GST, proposes amendment in GST Law

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday assured further simplification and rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. She also introduced nine changes in GST law through the Finance Bill to implement recommendations given by the GST Council. *(BusinessLine)*

Angel tax for start-ups axed

In a big boost to start-ups, the government has abolished the so-called 'angel tax' for all classes of investors. "To bolster the Indian start-up eco-system, boost the entrepreneurial spirit and support innovation, I propose to abolish the so-called angel tax for all classes of investors," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. *(BusinessLine)*

Capital gains tax simplified, but asset allocation choices get complex

The regime for long and short-term capital gains tax has been rationalised or simplified across asset classes, but the implications for investors are quite complex, entailing much higher outflows. Profit from listed stocks and equity-oriented mutual funds will qualify for long-term capital gains if held for 12 months or more. There is no change here. But taxation will be 12.5 per cent on gains over ₹1.25 lakh, up from 10 per cent currently (for gains more than ₹1 lakh). *(BusinessLine)*

India to withdraw 2% equalisation levy affecting non-resident digital companies

The government has decided to withdraw the 2 per cent equalisation levy on e-commerce supply of goods and services from August 1, 2024 in line with the transitional approach worked out with the US to deal with the levy affecting non-resident digital companies including American entities. On April 1, 2020, India had imposed an equalisation levy of 2 per cent on amounts received by a non-resident e-commerce operator from e-commerce supply or services. *(BusinessLine)*

Tax booster: Budget enhances tax breaks for NPS contributions in non-govt sectors

Budget 2024-25 has sweetened the deal for both employers and employees in non-government sectors, rewarding them with increased tax deduction on National Pension System (NPS) contributions. The deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS is proposed to be increased from 10 per cent to 14 per cent of the employee's salary, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech on Tuesday. *(BusinessLine)*

'States have unlimited right to tax mineral-rich lands'

A nine-judge Constitution Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, on Thursday held by an 8:1 majority that Parliament cannot limit the power of State legislatures to tax mineral-bearing lands and quarries. The judgment, freeing States from the restrictions imposed by the Centre, is in tune with the federalist principles of governance. The verdict noted how mineral-rich States such as Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha continue to have per capita income below the national average. *(The Hindu)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

Conservative growth estimate due to global uncertainties, experts on Economic Survey

India's Economic Survey has projected a conservative growth of 6.5-7 per cent for the current fiscal year due to global uncertainties and domestic challenges. This is lower than the 8.2% growth rate estimated in 2023-24 and a bit lower than the Reserve Bank's forecast of 7.2% for the current financial year. *(The Economic Times)*

Growth-oriented outlook, inclusive provisions to uplift all sections of society

The Union Budget 2024 aimed to uplift the underprivileged, boost manufacturing with ₹11.11 lakh crore for infrastructure, and promised job creation via Employment Linked Incentive schemes. Key proposals included skill development for youth, entrepreneurship encouragement, and tax regime reviews. Fiscal prudence was maintained with a deficit target of 4.9% of GDP. *(The Economic Times)*

Naidu outlines his vision for 'Viksit Andhra Pradesh-2047'

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu shared his vision for the development of the State with the theme, 'Viksit Andhra Pradesh-2047', in a meeting with NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam at the Secretariat on Friday. *(The Hindu)*

Centre rejects study that claims 11.9 lakh excess deaths during pandemic

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday dismissed a study reporting a higher number of deaths in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India. "It is strongly asserted that an excess mortality of about 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the Science Advances paper in 2020 over the previous year is a gross and misleading overestimate. It is noteworthy that excess mortality during the pandemic means an increase in deaths due to all causes, and cannot be equated with deaths that were directly caused by COVID-19," the Ministry said. *(The Hindu)*

PPF returns still languishing lower than formula-based rates, says RBI

The interest rates offered by the Union government on two of India's most popular small savings schemes — the Public Provident Fund and five-year recurring deposits — continue to languish below the rates they should have earned as per a formula-based system adopted since April 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indicated. *(The Hindu)*

A.P. gets ₹15,000 cr. to build Amaravati, aid for Polavaram

The Union Budget spells a boost to Andhra Pradesh, with a special financial support of ₹15,000 crore for developing its capital Amaravati, besides assistance for the Polavaram irrigation project, grants for backward regions. "Recognising the State's need for a capital; we will facilitate special financial support through multilateral development agencies. In the current financial year, ₹15,000 crore will be arranged, with additional amounts in future years," Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in her Budget speech. *(The Hindu)*

Nitish hails Budget as Bihar gets ₹58,900 cr.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced development projects worth ₹58,900 crore for Bihar in the Union Budget. While ₹26,000 crore will be allocated for road projects, a 2,400-MW power plant will be set up in Pirpainti at a cost of ₹21,400 crore, and ₹11,500 crore will be used for flood control. Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) chief Nitish Kumar, a key NDA ally, called the announcements a big gift to the State, which was denied the Special Category Status by the Centre on Monday. *(The Hindu)*

First budget of Majhi govt. pegged at ₹2.65 lakh cr.; names of BJD regime's flagship schemes changed

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, on Thursday presented his maiden budget with total outlay ₹2.65 lakh crore, a jump by 15% from last year's ₹2.30 lakh crore. While the new Bharatiya Janata Party Government went for changing names of major flagship schemes implemented by the previous Naveen Patnaik Government, it gave priority to health and agriculture sectors in its first budget. *(The Hindu)*

Telangana Budget lays focus on agriculture, rural development

The Telangana government has presented the State Budget with an outlay of ₹2.91 lakh crore for the financial year 2024-25 with emphasis on welfare and development of agriculture and allied sectors. Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka introduced the Budget in the Assembly on Thursday with an estimated revenue expenditure of ₹2.2 lakh crore and capital expenditure of ₹33,487 crore. The State's economy continued to depend on borrowings, as could be seen from the public debt estimates placed at ₹62,112 crore for the fiscal and the debt repayment component amounting to ₹17,101 crore. *(The Hindu)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

Indian banks' short-term debt rises to 12-year high on loan demand

Indian banks are increasingly turning to shorter-maturity borrowing to bridge a funding shortfall caused by robust loan growth and dwindling deposits. The outstanding amount of certificates of deposit issued by banks rose to 4.3 trillion rupees (\$51.4 billion) in the fortnight through July 12, according to the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India. That's the highest since June 2012, and came as bank loans expanded at 17.4% in the year through June 28, higher than the 11% growth in deposits. *(The Economic Times)*

Economy on the move, but we still need to stay the course on aligning inflation with 4% target: RBI

Even as the second quarter of FY25 has begun with signs of the economy gathering momentum, it is prudent to avoid the temptation of time inconsistency (placing more value on the present than on the future) and stay the course on the straight and narrow path of aligning inflation with the 4 per cent target, the RBI's latest monthly bulletin said. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI tightens cash pay-in, payout norms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday tightened cash-payout norms, making it mandatory for the remitting bank to keep a record of the name and address of the beneficiary. The decision was taken after a review of Domestic Money Transfer framework, making it tougher for customers to transfer money via the banking channel from November 1. *(The Hindu)*

Indian banks selling retail loan portfolios as deposits lag

India's private banks are selling portfolios of retail loans as regulators pressure them to improve credit-deposit ratios. India's largest lender, HDFC Bank Ltd., sold a 50 billion rupee (\$597 million) loan portfolio to an undisclosed buyer in June, Chief Financial Officer Srinivasan Vaidyanathan said in a post-earnings media call last week. *(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)*



External Sector

Govt eases norms for EPCG license holders

The government on Thursday eased certain norms for licence holders of the Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme as part of its ease of doing business efforts. The EPCG scheme facilitates import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhances India's manufacturing competitiveness. It allows import of capital goods for pre-production, production and post-production at zero customs duty. *(The Economic Times)*

Budget proposals for marine sector to boost India's aquaculture, seafood exports: MPEDA

Budget announcements for the marine sector such as rationalisation of customs duties and financing facilities will help boost the country's India's aquaculture and seafood exports, MPEDA said on Thursday. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) also said the Budget includes a range of strategic measures aimed at bolstering the competitiveness of marine products, with a particular focus on shrimp production and export. *(The Economic Times)*

India and UK launch tech initiative as new British foreign minister makes his first official visit

India and the United Kingdom launched a new technology security initiative during the British foreign secretary's first official visit to India, aiming to enhance economic growth and collaboration. The agreement involves cooperation on critical technologies like AI and telecoms, as well as strengthening ties in areas such as climate, trade, and education.

Discussions also focused on defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and global issues like the Russia-Ukraine conflict. *(The Economic Times)*

Economic Survey: PLI, FTAs to aid India's trade deficit decline; protectionism, lower demand risk export growth

The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlights risks to India's export prospects, including reduced demand from major trading partners like the US, escalating trade costs, protectionist measures, commodity price volatility, and shifts in trade policies by key nations or geopolitical developments. *(The Economic Times)*

India should avoid high dependence on imports for solar panels, critical minerals: Economic Survey

India's high reliance on crude oil imports, which account for 87 per cent of its total requirement, should not shift to solar photovoltaic (PV) modules and critical minerals, as their supply chains and geopolitics are trickier, said the Economic Survey on Monday. "It should not be that India's high dependency on imports mainly for petroleum for its energy needs, shifts to high import dependency for Solar PV panels and critical minerals (systemic risks), whose supply chain and geopolitics may be even trickier," the Economic Survey for FY24 said. *(BusinessLine)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Budget 2024: FM Nirmala Sitharaman unveils new plan for major agriculture upgrade

In the Budget 2024-05 presented today, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that new 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and cultivation crops will be released for farmers in this financial year. The Budget laid out 9 priorities for the year ahead, one of them being productivity & resilience in agriculture. *(The Economic Times)*

Union Budget 2024-25: Some boost for agriculture and rural economy

The agriculture sector has grown at an annual growth rate of 4.2 per cent in the last five years. However, the second advance estimates for FY24 indicate a dismal seven-year low of just 1.4 per cent. Rural demand including that for FMCG goods continued to lag due to low incomes and higher food inflation but there are some green shoots now. *(Business Standard)*

After India Stack, why Sitharaman proposed another stack for economic boost

Agriculture sector provides livelihood support to about 42.3% of the population of India and has a share of 18.2 per cent in the country's GDP at current prices. As a sector, it has been buoyant, which is made evident by the average annual growth rate of 4.18% at constant prices over the last five years. *(The Economic Times)*

Bengal: Potato dispatches from cold storages surge by 35 per cent a day after traders withdraw strike

A day after West Bengal potato traders called off their indefinite strike, dispatch of tubers from cold storages surged by 30-35 per cent to fill the demand vacuum, officials said on

Thursday. The traders' body said they would continue to adjust supplies in an effort to stabilise prices. The potato traders went on strike on July 21 in protest against alleged harassment by the state government and local administrations in exporting the tuber to other states. *(The Economic Times)*

Budget's focus on agri-research may help reduce production shocks

The budget proposal to undertake a comprehensive review of agricultural research, release of new seeds focused on raising productivity, and developing climate resilient varieties involving the private sector is expected to help reduce production shocks and improve food security of the country in the long run. *(The Economic Times)*

Union Budget: Edible oil industry seeks higher customs duty to motivate farmers

Even though the Union Budget has given a fresh impetus to the agriculture sector, the edible oil industry feels that to increase the production of oil seeds, the government should increase the customs duty on imported edible oils to motivate farmers to switch from other crops to the cultivation of oil seeds. *(The Economic Times)*

Make agricultural exports ban an exception': Economic Survey

Recommending a farmer-friendly policy framework, the Economic Survey 2023-2024 on Monday said the government should consider export bans on agricultural products only in specific situations and avoid banning futures or options markets at the first sign of any price surge to let markets function in the interest of farmers. *(The Economic Times)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Private sector activity hits 3-month high of 61.4 in July

India's private sector activity surged to a three-month high in July, driven by strong manufacturing and service sectors, according to the HSBC Flash India Composite Output Index which reached 61.4. This positive trend marked 36 consecutive months of expansion. Backlogs of work increased, leading to the best employment growth in over 18 years. Inflation remained a concern with rising input costs for materials like coal and steel, and essentials such. *(The Economic Times)*

Robust demand drives India's business growth to a three-month high in July, PMI shows

India's business activity surged at its fastest pace in three months in July, driven by strong demand particularly in the services sector. This growth has resulted in companies hiring at the quickest pace in over 18 years, based on a recent survey. HSBC's flash India composite purchasing managers' index, compiled by S&P Global, rose to 61.4 in July from June's final reading of 60.9. The index has now marked three consecutive years of expansion. *(The Economic Times)*

Five new schemes to aid job creation

Centre will implement three schemes for 'employment-linked incentive' as part of the Prime Minister's package, says Finance Minister; the upgrade of a thousand Industrial Training Institutes and a scheme for internship opportunities to give focus to skill development. *(The Hindu)*

White category industries may skip pollution permits: Environment Ministry

Industries classified under the non-polluting "white category" might not need prior approvals from state pollution control boards to be set up and run under the Air Act of 1981 and the Water Act of 1974, according to a draft notification by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, as report by Indian Express. *(Business Standard)*

Budget to boost rural consumption, augment purchasing power: FMCG industry

The Union Budget will help drive consumption, especially from rural areas, with its special focus on agricultural schemes and rural development, FMCG industry leaders said. "The new announcements today, increasing the investment rural development, investment activities supporting urban poor, the schemes for youth, employment, especially skilling, are quite positive, especially for business like ours that serves consumers," said Jawa during an earning calls on Tuesday. *(Business Standard)*

Budget to plug skill gap, boost employment creation: HR, ed-tech industry

HR and Ed-tech industry experts on Tuesday said budget proposals on skilling, internship and job creation will help address the need for a skilled workforce and boost employment generation for youth. Experts termed the Budget for 2024-25 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as forward-thinking which aligns with the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat'. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of up to Rs 15,000 is set to boost formal employment by making it more attractive for industries to hire new talent, they added. *(Business Standard)*

India's FY25 GDP growth will surpass Economic Survey forecast: Industry

Reacting to the Economic Survey 2023-24, tabled in Parliament, Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, stated that it is "pragmatic" in its approach and offers a futuristic vision to move India boldly towards achieving the developed economy status by 2047. "The survey is positive about the India growth story, and I am confident that India's GDP growth for FY25 will surpass the forecast given in the Survey and basis certain conditions, it has the potential to be at 8 per cent," CII President Sanjiv Puri said. *(Business Standard)*

Tea industry seeks higher RoDTEP rates to make exports competitive overseas

The tea industry has sought higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to make exports more competitive in the overseas markets. Leading industry body Indian Tea Association (ITA), in its pre-budget memorandum, said that the present RoDTEP rate for bulk tea is 1.7 per cent (free on board) subject to a cap of Rs 6.70 per kilogram. *(Business Standard)*

India must strengthen manufacturing sector to create jobs: Fitch analyst

India needs to strengthen its manufacturing sector to create jobs in the economy and facilitate its medium-term growth prospects, an analyst at Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday following the announcement of the country's annual budget. "Developing a strong manufacturing sector will likely be important to improving the labor market and purchasing power of households for a stronger medium-term growth trajectory," Jeremy Zook, director - Asia sovereign ratings, said in an interview. *(Business Standard)*

One Month Wage DBT, Job Creation In Manufacturing, And Support To Employers: Announces FM In Budget 2024

The Union Minister for Finance in the Budget 2024 has announced schemes that focuses on jobs, skilling, youth. The government has announced Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of one month salary to first time employees up to Rs 15,000, eligibility limit Rs 1 lakh per

month. This will benefit 210 lakh youth. Job creation of manufacturing, incentive at specified scale with respect to EPFO contribution. 30 lakh youth entering employment and their employers to benefit. *(Business Standard)*

Job creation in manufacturing sector will be incentivized says FM

The Finance Minister said in her budget speech today that job creation in the manufacturing sector will be incentivized through a scheme linked to the employment of first-time employees. This scheme will provide incentives to both employees and employers concerning EPFO contributions for the first four years of employment. It will benefit 30 lakh youth and cover additional employment in all sectors. *(Business Standard)*

Garment industry hail support to MSMEs and manufacturing sector in Budget

Union Budget 2023-24 supports garment industry growth with credit schemes, wage grants, and incentives for women's workforce participation. The Union Budget 2023-24 underlines the progressive vision of the government for holistic growth and steps to reach Vikshit Bharat. Sundararaman, Chairman of SIMA welcomed the allocations granted by the Finance Ministry for exports - Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies with an increase of 5.8 percent and 10 per cent for the year 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. *(BusinessLine)*

Budget 2024: Mixed signals from the mobile and telecom industry

The government on Tuesday has proposed to reduce the basic custom duty (BCD) on mobile phones, mobile printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) of cellular mobile phones, and mobile chargers to 15 per cent from 20 per cent earlier, in the interest of consumers. *(BusinessLine)*

Indian fintech industry set to soar to \$420 billion by 2029, says NPCI Chairman Choudhary

India's fintech industry is projected to grow at a cumulative annual growth rate of 31 per cent to about \$420 billion by 2029, Ajay Kumar Choudhary Non-Executive Chairman and Independent Director, NPCI, has said. *(BusinessLine)*

Auto component industry turnover up 10 pc at Rs 6.14 lakh crore in FY24: ACMA

The turnover of the automotive component industry rose by 9.8 per cent year-on-year to Rs 6.14 lakh crore for the fiscal ended March 31, 2024, industry body ACMA said on Thursday. The industry had reported a turnover of Rs 5.59 lakh crore in the 2022-23 financial year. *(The Economic Times)*

Media industry likely to seek reversal of Karnataka government decision on cess levy

Media and entertainment industry bodies are planning to submit representations to the Karnataka government for a reversal of the 1-2% cess on cinema tickets besides TV and over-the-top (OTT) subscription fees, people familiar with the development said. *(The Economic Times)*

Budget 2024: Govt to build dormitories near manufacturing clusters

The Centre will construct dormitory-style rental housing close to manufacturing clusters to retain workers at production units for longer periods, thereby maintaining steady production levels, said Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday. *(Mint)*



Union Budget: Centre ignores Kochi-Bengaluru industrial corridor project

In a significant setback for Kerala's industrialisation plans, the Central government has yet to give final approval to the Kochi-Bengaluru industrial corridor, announced earlier. Despite Kerala completing all necessary procedures to acquire land for the corridor project, the Centre remains silent on granting final approval. (*Onmanorama*).

Welfare pension distribution likely to hit as govt fails to allocate fund

The distribution of the Kerala government's welfare pension will be delayed due to the lapses in sanctioning the required fund. Although the State Finance Minister had announced that the distribution would start on July 24, Wednesday, the delay in issuing an order is likely to disrupt the pension distribution. An amount of Rs 900 crore is needed to distribute Rs1600 each to more than 60 lakh beneficiaries. (*Onmanorama*).

National Pension Scheme: Kerala likely to change stand as Centre signals revision in Union Budget

The Centre's plan regarding the National Pension Scheme (NPS). Following the State Budget in February 2024, Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal noted that the state government plans to reassess the Contributory Pension Scheme implemented under the NPS. Balagopal expressed concerns about the insecurity caused by the NPS among government employees. The government's intention is to review the NPS and implement a revised scheme that will offer greater security to employees. (*Mathrubhumi English*).

Health Minister Veena George decries Union Budget's snub to Kerala's AIIMS request

Kerala's Health Minister, Veena George, expressed her disappointment on Tuesday that the Union Budget 2024 failed to include an AIIMS facility for the state, despite Kerala meeting all the necessary criteria. Addressing a press conference in Malappuram on the Nipah outbreak, Minister George revealed that the state had allocated 20 acres of land, constructed access roads, and ensured water availability. (*Mathrubhumi English*).

Onam 2024: Kudumbashree to cultivate 3,500 acres of flowers, pesticide-free vegetables in Kerala

The Kerala government-backed women's empowerment organisation Kudumbashree has entered the Onam season with the launch of two new projects—Nirappolim and Onakkani. These initiatives are designed to create additional employment opportunities for female farmers. The aim of 'Nirappolima' is to cultivate at least 1,000 acres of flowers such as chrysanthemums, jasmine, marigolds, and roses, which are in high demand for floral carpets for female farmers. (*Mathrubhumi English*).

Kerala's demands ignored, apprehensions grow in state over national cooperative policy

The stage is set for yet another tussle between the Centre and Kerala government regarding the national policy on the cooperative sector. Apprehensions regarding this have grown with the announcement of the policy during the budget presentation by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday. It is pointed out that many conditions rejected by the state

government have been included in the draft document of the policy presented during the budget. *(Mathrubhumi English)*.

Green signal for super-speciality hospital in Guruvayur; Mukesh Ambani to release Rs 56 Cr

The technical ambiguity over the super specialty hospital of the Guruvayur Devaswom was cleared finally with the State Government giving a green signal. Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan will lay the foundation stone on July 30. Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has pledged Rs 56 crore towards the construction of the hospital. *(Mathrubhumi English)*.

Kerala police department implements 'Kaval Karuthal' scheme to address policemen's grievances

Responding to concerns over the mental well-being of policemen, the police department has initiated measures to address complaints and resolve issues effectively. Policemen, including those up to the ADGP level and their families, now have direct access to lodge complaints through newly formed committees at station levels. *(Mathrubhumi English)*.

Kerala all set to hike service fees to overcome financial crisis

Fees for government services are likely to increase soon as the Finance Department has given permission to other departments to increase fees for all types of services. The respective departments were also asked to issue orders in this regard before July 26. This is according to the Cabinet's decision to increase the revenue of the government to resolve the financial impasse. *(Mathrubhumi English)*.

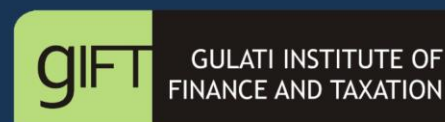
Kudumbashree scheme to provide livelihood to 25,000 women farmers this year: Minister

At least 25,000 women farmers will get livelihood opportunities this year through the Kudumbashree's new farm schemes, Minister for Local Self-government M.B. Rajesh has said. He was speaking after performing the State-level inauguration of 'Nirapolima' and 'Onakani' schemes by planting flower saplings on Anjana farming group's land at Anamukham in Perumkadavila in the district on Tuesday. *(The Hindu)*

Campus Industrial Park project to be launched on Wednesday

The Campus Industrial Park project drawn up by the government to overcome the scarcity of land for industrial needs and promoting entrepreneurial skills among students will be launched here on Wednesday. *(The Hindu)*

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