



Public Finance

Challenges of sub-national fiscal correction

Recent concerns over excessive doling out of freebies by States are often interpreted as intrusion into the federal powers of the States. States push back on this issue on the grounds of welfare provisioning and protection of the vulnerable sections of the population. The Central government's alarm has been on the mounting debt burden and the deteriorating fiscal situation in some States. *(The Hindu)*

Govt confident of meeting fiscal deficit target without cutting capital expenditure: Finance Secretary

The govt should be able to meet the fiscal deficit target of 6.4 per cent of GDP in 2022-23 without having to cut capital expenditure, Finance Secretary TV Somanathan on Wednesday. The secretary was interacting with the media after the release of GDP data for the first quarter of the current fiscal. "We are on course to achieve our fiscal deficit target and it is not because of a slowdown in capital expenditure," said Somanathan, who is also the expenditure secretary. *(The Economic Times)*

No decision yet on extending free foodgrain scheme, says Finance Secretary

There has been no decision made yet to extend PMGKAY under which 5 kilograms of foodgrains are provided free of cost to the poor, Finance Secretary T V Somanathan said on Wednesday. The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) was launched in March 2020 to ease the hardships faced by poor people in the face of the pandemic. The scheme is slated to end on September 30. *(The Economic Times)*

India's April-July fiscal deficit narrows on-year to 20.5% of FY aim

Total receipts stood at 7.86 trillion rupees, while overall expenditure in April to July was at 11.27 trillion rupees. They were 34.4% and 28.6% of this fiscal year's budget target. Revenue receipts stood at 7.56 trillion rupees, of which tax revenue was 6.66 trillion rupees and non-tax revenue was 895.83 billion rupees. *(The Economic Times)*

FinMin releases Rs 4,189 crore as rural local bodies grant to 5 states

This grant is based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission and are released to the states as per the advice of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for making improvements in two services -- sanitation and maintenance of Open-Defecation Free (ODF) status and supply of drinking water, rain water harvesting and water recycling. *(The Economic Times)*

States' borrowing cost continue to fall; eases 4 bps to 7.67%

The weighted average cut-off of the 10-year state debt also eased to 7.61 per cent at Monday's auctions from 7.66 per cent last week. Accordingly, the spread between the

weighted average 10-year state debt and new 10-year G-secs yield mildly fell to 38 bps from 39 bps, Icra said. *(The Economic Times)*

As freebies debate rages, a look at states' contingent liabilities

In the recent Monsoon Session of Parliament, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed Lok Sabha that borrowings by public sector undertakings and special purpose vehicles of states, where the principal and/or interest is being serviced by the state, will come under borrowings of that state. *(Business Standard)*

Centre spent Rs 5 lakh crore on MGNREGA scheme in 8 years: Nirmala Sitharaman

"During the past eight years, Telangana received Rs 20,000 crore under MGNREGA. During the same period all over the country Rs 5 lakh crore has been spent, out of which more than 20 per cent was spent in 2020-21 during COVID-19 pandemic," the finance minister said replying to a query. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt to include old off-Budget borrowings in its own books

The government has in the last two budgets cleared large off-budget borrowings, including those of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), and now is keen to disclose, or even pay up, some of these liabilities, subject to availability of fiscal space. Borrowings of government institutions HUDCO and NABARD are being looked into, officials told. *(The Economic Times)*

FM Nirmala Sitharaman to review state of economy at FSDC meeting on September 15

The meeting will review the current global and domestic economic situation and financial stability issues, including those concerning banking and NBFCs, according to the sources. *(The Economic Times)*

Borrowings by Telangana exceeded FRBM mandated limit, alleges Sitharaman

Under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, it is the responsibility of the central government to ensure intergenerational equity in fiscal management and long-term macroeconomic stability by removing fiscal impediments in the effective conduct of monetary policy and prudential debt management. *(The Economic Times)*



Taxation

GST Council to take up proposal to implement SC ruling removing IGST on ocean freight

The GST Council, at its next meeting, is expected to take up a proposal to implement the Supreme Court ruling on IGST (Integrated Goods and Service Tax) on ocean freight. The meeting is to take place in Madurai but the date is yet to be set. *(BusinessLine)*

August GST revenue collection up 28% YoY at Rs 1.44 lakh cr

The gross GST revenue collected in the month of August 2022 stood at Rs 1,43,612 crore, up 28% on a year-on-year basis, the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday. With this, the monthly GST revenues have exceeded Rs 1.4 lakh crore for six months in a row. *(The Economic Times)*

Diesel export falls 11% on levy of windfall profit tax

India's diesel exports fell by 11 per cent in July and overseas shipment of petrol dropped by 4.5 per cent after the government slapped a windfall profit tax on such sales, according to data. Diesel exports dropped to 2.18 million tonnes (mt) in July from 2.45 mt a month back, data from the Oil Ministry's Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) showed. *(BusinessLine)*

Hearing aid exempted from GST, not parts and accessories: Karnataka AAR

One need not pay GST on hearing aid. However, one will have to pay GST at the rate of 18 per cent for parts and accessories. Now, Karnataka's Authority for Advance Rulings (KAAR) has also held the rate. Experts advise businesses to choose right HSN to avoid any dispute with tax authority. *(BusinessLine)*

Direct Tax collection in April-August surges 33%

Collections from direct taxes in the April-August period touched ₹4.80 lakh crore, marking about 33 per cent growth over the ₹3.60 lakh crore collected during the corresponding period in the last fiscal. *(BusinessLine)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

Indian economy to grow comfortably despite global headwinds: Former Finance Secretary

Despite a gloomy outlook for the global economy, India will comfortably grow at a nominal rate of 13-13.5 per cent driven by the spurt in domestic demand and consumption, according to the former Finance Secretary S Narayan. *(BusinessLine)*

Q1 GDP growth seen at 15-16% on base effect SBI estimates growth rate at 15.7%, ICRA at 13%; data to be made public tomorrow

The Indian economy is expected to register a growth rate between 15 and 16 per cent during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal (FY23). Although, some economists say it could be between 13 and 14 per cent mainly due to the base effect. *(BusinessLine)*

India's economy faces resilience test amid rising interest rates

India's economy probably grew at the fastest rate in a year last quarter driven by healthy consumption, but the pace of expansion is seen slowing as policymakers prioritize rising prices over growth. *(BusinessLine)*

India enjoying the 'there is no alternative' factor: SBI report

India seems to be enjoying the 'There is No Alternative (TINA) factor, as globally, all countries are facing the churn, and India seems to be the best placed jurisdiction in terms of growth and inflation outlook in FY23, according to State Bank of India's Economic Research Department (ERD). *(BusinessLine)*

Indian economy to grow over 7% in FY23, says finance secretary

Indian economy is on course for a 7-plus per cent growth rate in the current fiscal year, finance secretary T V Somanathan said on Wednesday. Commenting on the first quarter

GDP growth rate of 13.5 per cent, he said the economy is 4 per cent above pre-Covid levels. *(BusinessLine)*

Unemployment rate dips to 7.6% in April-June 2022: NSO survey

The unemployment rate for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 7.6 per cent during April-June 2022 from 12.6 per cent a year ago, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said on Wednesday. Joblessness or unemployment rate is the percentage of unemployed persons in labour force. *(BusinessLine)*

India's GDP grew at 13.5% in Q1FY23, fastest globally

Indian economy expanded slightly below the expectation during the April-June fiscal year FY23. Still, Gross Domestic Products (GDP) grew at 13.5 per cent, which makes the Indian economy the fastest growing globally. NSO data reveals that the growth, though lower than the RBI's estimate, was fuelled by consumption and signalled the revival of domestic demand, particularly in the services sector. *(BusinessLine)*

Unemployment rate rises to 8.28 per cent in August: CMIE

Unemployment rate in India rose to a 12-month high in August this year, according to CMIE data, This is the highest unemployment rate since August 2021. *(BusinessLine)*

GDP growth misses estimates, say analysts

Even though the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at 13.5 per cent during the April-June quarter, analysts said it was lower than expectations due to slightly weaker-than-expected growth in investments and a higher drag from net exports. *(BusinessLine)*

India to emerge as 6th largest insurance market by 2032: Swiss Re

India will emerge the sixth largest insurance market by 2032, Jérôme Jean Haegeli, Group Chief Economist, Swiss Re said on Thursday. Currently, India is ranked tenth largest in the insurance premium pecking order. *(BusinessLine)*

India moves forward with 'green growth', 'green jobs' mindset during 'Amrit Kaal': Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said India is moving forward with the mindset of 'green growth' and 'green jobs' during 'Amrit Kaal'. *(BusinessLine)*

Moody's lowers India's GDP forecast to 7.7%

The global agency Moody's has cut India's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) growth forecast by 110 basis points for the calendar year 2022. It now estimates growth to be 7.7 per cent in 2022 against 8.3 per cent in 2021. It also expects growth to be 5.2 per cent in 2023, lower than the previous expectations. *(BusinessLine)*

Economy faces resilience test as policymakers prioritise prices over growth

India's economy probably grew at the fastest rate in a year last quarter driven by healthy consumption, but the pace of expansion is seen slowing as policymakers prioritize rising prices over growth. Gross domestic product is estimated to rise 15.4% in the three months to June from a year ago, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists. That's the fastest reading since the April-June quarter of 2021 and compares with a 4.09 expansion in the previous three months. *(Business Standard)*

Financial inclusion major step towards inclusive growth: FM Sitharaman

Financial inclusion is a major step towards inclusive growth which ensures the overall economic development of the marginalised sections of the society, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday. *(Business Standard)*

Public sector contributes 20% to national income, 40% of total wages

The public sector contributes only 20 per cent to the national income, but accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the total wages, a report by a domestic ratings agency said on Monday. *(Business Standard)*

Job creation, reduced inequality should be key targets for India: Report

India's policymakers need to ensure that its growth is reflected equally among all its sectors and citizens, and that policies should be geared towards creating more jobs, if Asia's third largest economy is to be a middle income country by 2047, said a report by the Institute for Competitiveness and endorsed by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). *(Business Standard)*

India will not miss estimated 11.1% FY23 nominal GDP growth: Bibek Debroy

Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC PM), said the country will achieve the 11.1 per cent nominal economic growth rate assumed in the Budget despite the tense geopolitical situation. *(Business Standard)*

Goldman cuts India's growth forecast to 7%; M Stanley sees downside risks

Goldman Sachs has revised lower its growth projections for India after the April-June quarterly gross domestic product readings missed market estimates. The lower-than-expected growth during April-June created downside risk of 40 basis points to current fiscal year growth estimates, Morgan Stanley said in a note. *(Business Standard)*

India's power consumption grows by 2% to 130.35 bn units in August

India's power consumption grew marginally by nearly 2 per cent year-on-year to 130.35 billion units (BU) in August 2022, according to the power ministry data. Power consumption in August last year was recorded at 127.88 BU, higher than 109.21 BU in the same month of 2020. *(Business Standard)*

Day after Q1 GDP data, a spate of forecast cuts by banks, institutions

A day after the National Statistical Office released the April-June quarter (first quarter, or Q1) of 2022-23 (FY23) gross domestic product (GDP) data, a number of banks and financial institutions slashed their economic growth estimates for the current fiscal year (FY23). *(Business Standard)*

Sectors hit hardest by pandemic grew slower, says Nomura

India's gross domestic product (GDP) data indicated that while domestic demand improved in the June quarter, growth was much slower in the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic, signalling deeper scarring and lower trend growth, research firm Nomura said in a report. *(The Economic Times)*

It's not India's decade, it's India's century, says McKinsey's Bob Sternfels

The firm's 13th global leader added that it will not only be India's decade, but India's century, with all key elements in place - a large working population, multinational companies reimagining global supply chains, and a country leapfrogging at digital scale-

to achieve something special not just for the Indian economy, but potentially for the world. *(The Economic Times)*

Centre working to develop portal for 'ease of living' of pensioners

The Centre is working to develop an integrated portal to enhance "ease of living" of pensioners, said a senior official in the department of pension under the Union personnel ministry. *(The Economic Times)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

FICCI-IBA survey: Banks say NPAs may rise in MSME sector in next 6 months

The pressure on asset quality of loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is set to increase, leading to a rise in non-performing assets (NPAs) in this segment in the next six months, according to a survey by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the Indian Banks' Association. *(Business Standard)*

Centre may revamp framework for setting state-owned banks' targets

The Centre may revamp the target-setting mechanism for public sector banks (PSBs) and is looking to come up with a fresh framework to monitor the performance of state-owned lenders. The new framework could be on the lines of 'Statement of Intent' (SoI) the government used to sign with PSBs to fix their annual targets. *(Business Standard)*

RBI may set up a registry to check banking frauds

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to set a Central Payment Fraud Registry to track frauds in the payment systems. Payment system participants will be provided access to this registry for near-real time fraud monitoring, the central bank said. The aggregated fraud data will be published to educate customers on emerging risks. *(Mint)*

Inflation target breach: Special MPC meeting likely in October

Reserve Bank of India will, for the first time since it was six years back handed the job of inflation targeting, most likely be put in a tight corner and be required to explain to the government the central bank's failure in tackling price rise and meeting the inflation target as mandated in the formal inflation targeting framework adopted in law in 2016. *(BusinessLine)*

Surplus parked with RBI falls below Rs 1 trillion as liquidity shrinks

A combination of factors including the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) interventions in the foreign exchange market and strong momentum in credit demand have led to surplus liquidity in the banking system declining significantly this month. *(Business Standard)*

PMJDY accounts hit 462.5 mn in eight yrs, deposits reach Rs 1.73 trillion

Total accounts opened under PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) touched 462.5 million in eight years since the launch of financial inclusion initiative, taking the deposits in these accounts to Rs 1.73 trillion as on August 10, 2022. *(Business Standard)*

RBI may slow pace of rate hikes over growth concerns: Deutsche Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may ease its pace of rate hikes from this month and shift to similar moves after softer-than-expected growth in April-June, Deutsche Bank said. *(Business Standard)*

India leading globally in digital payments, says Rajeev Chandrasekhar

With the country's digital payment transactions value through UPI rising to Rs 10.73 lakh crore in August, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said India was leading the world in digital government solutions through direct benefit transfers. *(Business Standard)*

Shaktikanta Das seeks to shield growth as RBI prioritises inflation fight

India's central bank will seek to shield the economy in the face of a global slowdown even as the monetary authority prioritizes taming inflation, according to Governor Shaktikanta Das. *(Business Standard)*

Digital payments a public good, no plans to levy charges: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman

"We see digital payments as a public good. People should be able to access these facilities freely, so that the digitisation of the Indian economy becomes attractive to them. We intend to achieve a higher level of transparency through digitisation. Therefore, we do think it's not yet time for charging for UPI services," she said. *(The Economic Times)*



External Sector

Export duty turns India into a net steel importer in July, the first time since Jan 2021

India became a net importer of steel in July—for the first time since January 2021—following a slump in exports during the month. Exports stood at 1,56,000 tonnes, which is also the lowest since June 2019. *(BusinessLine)*

US keen on India joining crude oil price cap coalition

The US on Friday urged India to join a crude oil price cap coalition that is being put together across the world to deny Russia access to resources gained by it from oil supplies to prop up their economy and further their unjust war with Ukraine. *(BusinessLine)*

Forex reserves fall \$6.7 bn to \$564 bn in 7 days, at 2-yr low: RBI

The country's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$6.69 billion to \$564 billion for the week ended August 19, latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed. The reserves are at its lowest level since October 2020. *(Business Standard)*

Govt may try new currency swap to help developing economies avert default

To help economies facing the risk of debt default, India could try an innovative method of currency swap backed by trade in mineral resources. *(Business Standard)*

Rupee set to test fresh lows as Powell dispels hopes of softer Fed

Over the past month, speculation of the US Federal Reserve slowing down the pace of monetary tightening amid fears of a recession has been a key factor that lent support to

the Indian rupee, with overseas investors returning to domestic assets. *(Business Standard)*

FII flows into debt turns positive after 7 months

Foreign institutional investors (FII) inflow into debt turned positive in August for the first time in seven months. FIIs bought \$624-million worth of domestic bonds in August after sustained selling since January. The inclusion of Indian sovereign bonds in global bond indices could further boost inflows, experts said. *(BusinessLine)*

Rupee spurts 39 paise to almost 2-week high of 79.52 against dollar on forex inflows, lower crude price

The rupee rebounded by 39 paise to close at an almost two-week high of 79.52 against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday, supported by foreign fund inflows and a correction in crude oil prices. The U.S. dollar retreating from the 20-year high levels against a basket of world currencies also supported the local unit. *(The Hindu)*

India to benefit from investment headwinds in China: SBI Research

India is likely to benefit from a slowdown in investment intentions in China, said SBI Research in its latest report 'Ecowrap', adding that it believes the China story may now be facing clear headwinds. *(ThePrint)*

India's services exports jump 20.2% in July to \$23.26 billion

The Reserve Bank of India released the monthly data on India's international trade in services for July 2022 on 01 September 2022. According to the data, India's services exports went up by 20.2 percent on an annual basis to \$23.26 billion in July 2022. *(The Economic Times)*

India ban on rice exports would hurt its farmers and its friends

There's talk that Indian officials — worried about shrinking supplies and domestic inflation — are now considering restricting rice exports, too. A wholesale ban of the sort that New Delhi usually imposes would be a dire mistake — for the world and for Indian farmers. *(The Economic Times)*

Customs to start uniform risk-based scrutiny of imported goods in phases from Sep 5

The Customs department will begin a standardised risk-based faceless assessment system across the country for clearance of imported consignments in phases starting with metal from September 5. This would promote ease of doing business as it would bring uniformity in Customs examination, and reduce the time taken for clearing consignments. *(The Economic Times)*

India Inc's foreign investment declines over 50% to \$1.11 bn in July

India Inc's foreign direct investment in July declined over 50 per cent to USD 1.11 billion in July 2022, the Reserve Bank data showed. As per the RBI data on Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI), the domestic companies had invested over USD 2.56 billion in July 2021 in the form of equity, loan and issuances of guarantees. *(BusinessLine)*

FDI equity inflows dip 6% during April-June to \$16.59-bn, says DPIIT

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India contracted by 6 per cent to USD 16.59 billion during the April-June quarter this fiscal, according to the data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). *(Business Standard)*

CAD may touch nine-year-high in Q1FY23 as net exports soar

India's current account deficit (CAD) may hit a nine-year high in the June quarter of FY23 with the net exports ratio touching 5.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the first quarter. *(Business Standard)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Fiji virus stunts paddy in Punjab, Haryana

The Centre's team has submitted its preliminary assessment on the disease, which has now been confirmed as virus, that has dwarfed some non-basmati and basmati plants in Haryana and Punjab, and it apprehends that there may be net loss of production in 3,000 to 5,000 hectares area under paddy planted in this season. But farmers in Haryana are worried fearing for the healthy standing crop and praying for its safety even as they reconciled to have lower yield. *(BusinessLine)*

Stable policy vital for robust agri value chain

A confident and mature democracy should boast of a stable policy regime, and capacity to withstand temporary shocks in the economy. Especially so when the nation aspires to be a developed nation in the next 25 years. *(BusinessLine)*

Deficit in paddy area shrinks to 6%

Amid concerns over possible restrictions on rice exports, the deficit in sowing area under paddy continues to shrink as transplanting improves. Overall acreage of all kharif crops has crossed 96 per cent of normal area of 1,085 lakh hectares (lh) and is lower by 1.6 per cent from year-ago. If weather remains conducive for another month, the country may see another bumper year of harvest even if slightly lower from last year which had record output. *(BusinessLine)*

Bangladesh in 'deal' to import 1 lt rice from India

With Bangladesh under pressure to have ample rices stocks, its Directorate-General of Food has reportedly signed a deal with an Indian public sector firm to import one lakh tonnes of rice on a government-to-government (G2G) basis. *(BusinessLine)*

Above normal rains in Sept may affect crops ready for harvest

India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Thursday predicted above normal rainfall, quantitatively more than 109 per cent of long period average (LPA) of 167.9 mm this month with most regions likely to receive excess precipitation, potentially threatening standing crops ready for harvest. *(BusinessLine)*

Centre targets to procure 51.8 million tonnes of kharif rice

The Centre has set the procurement target for kharif-grown rice for the 2022-23 season (October-September) to 51.8 million tonnes (mt) from the current season's purchase of 51 mt. The higher target is despite the apprehension of lower production of the cereal after sowing has been affected in major growing States due to deficient rainfall or delayed monsoon rains. *(BusinessLine)*

Fall in Sri Lankan tea production to further boost South Indian teas

The declining trend in Sri Lankan orthodox tea production is likely to benefit South Indian crop further, as exporters believe that there is enough scope to enter into various global markets. *(BusinessLine)*

Paddy acreage deficit goes down from 15% to 6% in a span of 14 days

The shortfall in the area under paddy cultivation for the week ended August 26 over the same period last year has narrowed to 5.99 per cent from 8.25 per cent in the previous week due to a pick-up in rain in West Bengal and Jharkhand. *(Business Standard)*

Farm sector clocks 4.5% growth in Q1 on robust rabi harvest, price rise

Gross Value Added (GVA) for agriculture and allied activities grew by 4.5 per cent at constant prices during the April-June quarter of FY23. This was driven largely by a robust rabi harvest and sharp spike in the prices of several food items. GVA for agriculture, forestry and fishing during the comparable period of last year had risen by 2.2 per cent. *(Business Standard)*

Indian rice rates jump on sound demand amid concern over possible export curbs

Prices of rice from top exporter India this week climbed to their highest in more than a year, boosted by strong demand amid concerns over a possible restriction on exports of some grades of the staple. *(The Economic Times)*

Experts link recent drop in wheat production to climate change, urge India to take it up at COP27

India's wheat production is projected to have declined nearly three per cent to 106.84 million tonnes in the 2021-22 crop year. The decline is likely to have been caused by a heatwave that resulted in shrivelled grains in the northern states of Punjab and Haryana. *(The Economic Times)*

Agriculture Minister reviews progress on database for identification of eligible farmers for PM-KISAN, other schemes

Narendra Singh Tomar, in a virtual meeting with state agriculture ministers, asked states to complete the work of data verification and update at the earliest so that no eligible farmer is deprived of the benefits of the schemes. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year is provided to eligible farmer families, payable in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000. *(The Economic Times)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

All public procurement needs to be online to attain economies of scale: Goyal

Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stressed the need to bring all public procurement online to bring in economies of scale and encourage social inclusiveness by promoting MSMEs. *(BusinessLine)*

Industry likely to get transition period for Labour Codes

In what could help industry and employers ease into the new framework, the government is likely to provide a transition period to them for the implementation of the Labour

Codes. This will ensure that it is done in a smooth manner, without too much confusion and problems on the ground. *(BusinessLine)*

High costs, rupee depreciation continue to haunt India Inc

High energy cost and supply chain disruptions continued to haunt India Inc even as topline of most companies posted a growth in the June quarter. ICRA predicts a tougher situation for corporates next quarter too. *(BusinessLine)*

Core sector growth slows down to 4.5% in July

The eight core industries' output growth for July 2022 came in at 4.5 per cent, much lower than the upwardly revised 13.2 per cent output growth seen in June, data released by Commerce Ministry on Wednesday showed. *(BusinessLine)*

Retail inflation for industrial workers eases marginally to 5.78 per cent in July

Retail inflation for industrial workers eased further in July to 5.78 per cent compared to 6.16 per cent in June this year. It was marginally lower at 5.26 per cent in July 2021. *(BusinessLine)*

Manufacturing PMI eases slightly to 56.2 in August

Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for August dropped a tad to 56.2 from 56.4 of July, showing second-strongest improvement in operating conditions since last November. Also, the impact of inflation has come down. *(BusinessLine)*

House price index rises 3.5% YoY in first quarter, shows RBI data

The all India house price index (HPI) rose by 3.5 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022-23, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India. The growth in the HPI was 1.8 per cent during January-March and 2 per cent in the April-June quarter of 2021-22. *(Business Standard)*

Investments rise in June quarter, but still lower than 30% of GDP

Though investments as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) rose year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022-23 (Q1FY23), they are still below the 30 per cent mark that is required to put the economy on a sustained growth path. *(Business Standard)*

Govt plans to revamp crop cover scheme PMFBY to woo more insurers

Amid reports of some insurance companies making profits in the government's flagship crop cover scheme PMFBY, the Centre is planning to revamp the programme to rationalise premium rate and encourage participation of more insurers. *(Business Standard)*

386 infra projects show cost overruns of Rs 4.7 lakh crore

According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, which monitors infrastructure projects of Rs 150 crore and above, out of 1,505 projects, 386 reported cost overruns and as many as 661 projects were delayed. *(The Economic Times)*



Kerala State Finance Commission recommends annual revision in property tax

Property tax collected by local governments should undergo annual revision from April 1, 2023, the Sixth State Finance Commission has recommended. The revision should be linked to money value and subject to the condition that it is not less than 5%, the second report of the commission, tabled in the Assembly, said. Necessary provisions should be made in the Kerala Panchayat Raj and Kerala Municipality Acts in this regard. *(The Hindu)*

Amended electricity rules will hit consumers, Assembly told

The draft Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2022, published by the Centre in August will adversely affect ordinary electricity consumers, the Power department informed the State Assembly on Thursday. *(The Hindu)*

How floriculture is helping Kerala's economy

More agripreneurs are taking up floriculture with a steady demand for flowers in both domestic and international markets. They seek more support from the authorities to tap the business potential of the sector. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala could look for double-engine driven development, says PM Modi

Kerala too would have a "double-engine"-driven development if it supports BJP in the State, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Addressing party workers at a public meeting organised outside the Cochin International Airport Limited on Thursday evening, Mr. Modi said the BJP-ruled States were experiencing double-engine development with the copious support of the BJP-led central government. *(The Hindu)*

Merger of LSG departments will ensure better service: Minister

The merger of common services under the Local Self Government department will ensure better and speedier service delivery, Rural Development Minister M.V.Govindan said here on Thursday. *(The Hindu)*