



## Public Finance

### Capex hikes may go in the slow lane to trim fiscal deficit

The finance ministry has started discussions on reducing the pace of increase in capital spending in the interim budget for FY25 to align expenditure with the proposed fiscal consolidation glide path, said an official aware of the talks. The government has set a target of lowering the fiscal deficit over the next two years to 4.5% of GDP by FY26 from 5.9% budgeted in the current year. *(The Economic Times)*

### Funding deficit for climate adaptation puts some nations at high risk: UN

Despite clear signs of accelerating climate risks and impacts worldwide, the adaptation finance gap is widening and now stands at between USD 194 billion and USD 366 billion per year, according to a new report by the United Nations. Released ahead of the annual UN climate talks in Dubai, UAE, the "Adaptation Gap Report 2023: Underfinanced." *(Business Standard)*

### Deadline extended: Vivad se Vishwas II scheme allows claim submission till December 31

The Ministry of Finance has extended the deadline for submitting claims under the Vivad se Vishwas II scheme, aimed at settling disputes in government contracts, to December 31, 2023. The scheme, applicable to domestic contractual disputes involving the government of India or government undertakings, offers settlement amounts based on court or arbitral awards. *(The Economic Times)*

### Govt says investments worth Rs 33,129 crore committed during 2nd edition of World Food India

Global and domestic investors have committed an investment of Rs 33,129 crore in India's sunrise food processing sector during the second edition of World Food India, the government said on Monday. The Union Food Processing Industries Ministry has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with various companies in this regard during the three-day World Food India that concluded on November 5. *(The Economic Times)*



## Taxation

### Govt. approves early release of States' tax devolution dues worth ₹72,961.21 crore

The Centre approved an early release of States' tax devolution dues worth ₹72,961.21 crore for November, citing the upcoming festive season. The devolution dues are normally paid on the 10th of each month but this time, the release had been authorised on November 7, the Finance Ministry said. "This will enable the State Governments to make in-time releases and add to the festivities and celebrations among the people," it said. *(The Hindu)*

### **GST exemptions disrupt input tax credit chain, will complex GST: CBIC chief**

Exemptions or lower rate of taxation sought by industry on some items breaks the input tax credit (ITC) chain, leading to complexity in the goods and services tax (GST) structure, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman Sanjay Agarwal said. *(Business Standard)*

### **Over 100,000 small and mid-sized firms flout GST e-invoicing rules**

Over 100,000 small and medium-sized businesses are non-compliant with e-invoicing norms under the goods and services tax (GST) regime, a mandatory requirement for businesses with an annual turnover of over Rs 5 crore. The default has been reported mainly in businesses with a turnover between Rs 5 crore and Rs 20 crore. According to the official, 20-30 per cent of businesses within the turnover threshold are not compliant yet. *(Business Standard)*

### **On offer: Govt mulls some relief on levy of GST on vouchers and gift cards**

The government is mulling some relief on the levy of goods and services tax (GST) on vouchers or gift cards offered by companies and retailers, addressing the issue of double taxation in some instances. Some vouchers have GST levied on them at the time of purchase, which leads to double taxation when they are used to buy goods or services that also include the tax. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Govt may lift some restrictions for SEZ units but no input tax remission benefits on exports for now**

The government is examining the possibility of lifting some restrictions for SEZ units to boost growth but benefits of input duty remission schemes for exports can be extended to the sector only after its WTO compatibility is ascertained, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Hotel industry wants Govt to roll-back VAT hike**

The Government of Maharashtra has assured the hotel industry to call for a joint meeting with state finance ministry and excise department over review of their demand to roll-back the hike in value added tax on alcohol consumed in hotels to 10 percent from 5 percent. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Diwali 2023: Gifts from relatives are tax-free but these items received from anyone else are taxed!**

As the Diwali gift season is here, you may be wondering what kind of gifts may be subject to tax. This article aims to help you understand what kinds of gifts are subject to tax and what items are exempted. According to experts, Diwali gifts received from relatives are fully exempt under the Income Tax Act (ITA). However, any gifts received exceeding Rs 50,000 received from a person other than the relative shall be taxable under the head "Income from other sources". *(Financial Express)*



## National Accounts and State of the Economy

### **India well-positioned to achieve 9-10% GDP growth, says Uday Kotak**

India is well positioned to achieve a gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 9-10% even as the global economy slows down, says veteran banker Uday Kotak. His statement came during the India Today Mumbai Conclave 2023 on Wednesday. *(Financial Express)*

### **UBS raises India's GDP forecast to 6.3% for FY24 with potential growth to 6-6.5%**

UBS has upped India's GDP growth forecast by 10 basis points (100 basis points mean 1 percentage point) to 6.3 per cent. Also, it has increased India's FY25 GDP growth forecast upwards by 20 basis points to 6.2 per cent. However, it feels that macro risks and next year's general poll will be key factors to watch. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Domestic demand to sustain India growth in the near term, says Moody's**

Strong domestic demand is likely to sustain India's economy in the near term, said Moody's on Thursday as it kept the country's growth forecast for 2023 and 2024 unchanged at 6.7 and 6.1 per cent. "Robust goods and services tax collections, surging auto sales, rising consumer optimism and double-digit credit growth suggest urban consumption demand will likely remain resilient amid the ongoing festive season," said the rating agency's 'Global Macro Outlook 2024' report. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Absolute decoupling yet to happen between carbon emission, GDP growth globally, says RBI deputy governor**

While the growing recognition of the adverse effects of climate change had led to some recent actions that were weakening the correlation between carbon emissions and GDP growth globally, an absolute decoupling was yet to happen, Michael Debabrata Patra, deputy governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said at the New York Fed Central Banking Seminar organised by the Federal Reserve Bank, New York, on October 9, 2023 at New York, USA. *(The Hindu)*



## Banking and Monetary Policy

### **Amid concerns over delinquencies, public sector banks assure govt 'small loans not a systemic risk'**

Amid mounting concerns over delinquencies, public sector lenders have assured the finance ministry that they do not see any systemic risks emanating from small unsecured loans as their overall exposure remains small. The finance ministry had asked state-run banks to review their small loan portfolios and submit a report detailing the situation. Banks said the number of these loans may be large but the ticket sizes are not high. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Early-stage hearing of defaulters better, commercial banks tell RBI**

Commercial banks have told the Reserve Bank of India they would prefer giving defaulting borrowers an "in-person hearing" at the time they identify an account as stressed than at

the last stage before classifying the borrower as a wilful defaulter, said people aware of the matter. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Unsecured loan growth to remain strong even if RBI raises risk weights: Report**

According to some reports, the regulator may increase the risk weights for such loans, which moderates a lender's ability to lend to such segments as the capital charge goes up. "Growth can remain strong even with higher risk weights," the report by Axis Capital Research said. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Monetary policy contraction shock leads to riskier NBFC lending: Report**

A contractionary trajectory in the monetary policy has led to a build-up of risk in NBFCs' portfolios due to an increase in the share of unsecured loans, according to the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL)'s 'India Finance Report 2023'. "The evidence also shows risk build-up on the assets side of the NBFC balance sheet due to a fall in secured loans and advances, even as unsecured ones have increased marginally," the report said *(BusinessLine)*

### **Five years after IL&FS debt resolution, 82 of its subsidiaries remain unresolved**

Five years after IL&FS was put under a debt resolution mechanism, almost 82 of its subsidiaries remain unresolved, of which, 24 are expected to remain unresolved by March next year due to delays in responses from joint venture partners, multiple litigations/arbitrations and holding companies wherein underlying entities need to be resolved. *(BusinessLine)*

### **New IT regime for regulated entities from April 1: RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday released final guidelines on information technology (IT) governance for regulated entities (REs) like banks, non-bank financial companies, credit information companies and other financial entities. These entities have been mandated to put in place a robust IT governance framework. As per the new guidelines, which will come into effect from April 1 next year, the REs will have to set up a board-level IT strategy committee (ITSC), which will be headed by an independent director and will have three directors as members. *(Financial Express)*

### **RBI to hold rates till it clearly sights Fed heading to cut**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will keep interest rates on hold until the prospect of rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve is "more clearly in sight", Moody's Investors Service said on Thursday. adding that post-festival demand dynamics in India, which will likely sustain growth in the near-term amid weak exports, will depend on inflation and the lagged impact of monetary tightening *(The Economic Times)*



## **External Sector**

### **India remains a strategic partner: White House**

India remains a strategic partner for the United States, the White House said on November 8 adding that it is for New Delhi to decide what their stance is going to be on any particular crisis or contingency around the world including the Middle East. *(The Hindu)*

### **India, Malaysia looking at reviewing 2011 trade pact: Malaysian Foreign Minister Kadir**

India and Malaysia are firming up a framework for conducting trade in national currencies and initiating a process to review the 12-year-old comprehensive economic cooperation agreement to include new domains and items, Malaysian Foreign Minister Zambry Abdul Kadir said. *(The Hindu)*

### **India will collaborate with Sri Lanka on debt treatment: Nirmala Sitharaman**

India will continue collaborating with Sri Lanka on debt treatment while the island nation attempts to emerge out of last year's grave economic crisis, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told President Ranil Wickremesinghe. *(The Hindu)*

### **US, India have established strong defence industrial cooperation: US State Department**

The United States and India have established a strong defence industrial cooperation that looks at opportunities for co-development and co-production of important military capabilities for both countries, as per a US State Department fact sheet released on Thursday *(ThePrint)*

### **India to be added to UK safe states list, ruling out asylum rights for illegal migrants from the country**

The UK government has tabled plans to add India to an expanded list of safe states, which would speed up the process of returning Indians who travel from the country illegally and rule out their chance of seeking asylum in Britain. *(ThePrint)*

### **India's solar energy experience pivotal to Africa outreach, says International Solar Alliance D-G**

India's significant advancements in solar energy have positioned it as a pivotal player in shaping the policies of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the alliance's outreach to Africa and "small island developing states", Ajay Mathur, director general of the ISA, has said. *(ThePrint)*

### **India seeks Ethiopia's collaboration on digital payments, rupee-denominated trade**

The 6th Session of the India-Ethiopia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia earlier this week, co-chaired by the Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce Priya P Nair and the Lead Executive of the International and Regional Trade Integration, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia, Tages Mulugeta. *(ThePrint)*

### **India, Malaysia looking at expanding cooperation in trade, energy, defence**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with his Malaysian counterpart Zambry Abdul Kadir with a focus on expanding bilateral cooperation in areas of defence, trade, investment and energy. *(ThePrint)*



### **Kharif crop prices will guide inflation fight in coming months amid polls**

A few weeks back, the Central government released the first advance estimate of kharif crops, which showed a dip in production of almost all crops except for tur due to uneven monsoon and other natural calamities, including pest attacks, in the case of cotton. *(Business Standard)*

### **Farmers breathe sigh of relief as basmati prices increase**

Prices of basmati paddy have gone up from their lows seen a couple of weeks ago because of the easing of the minimum export price (MEP), and this should enable resuming export amid concern over a lower than expected crop in 2023-24, trade and market sources have said. *(Business Standard)*

### **Costlier onion, pulses likely to push up thali prices in November: CRISIL**

The cost of an average home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali dipped by five per cent and seven per cent respectively in October 2023 as compared to the previous month due to a significant fall in potato and tomato prices, an analysis by CRISIL showed. However, the analysis also showed that thali prices might inch up in November if higher prices of onion — which accounts for around 10 per cent of the total cost of a veg thali — persist. *(Business Standard)*

### **Momentum continues in rabi sowing but wheat area trails**

According to data released by the Ministry of Agriculture, the overall acreage under rabi crops increased to 120.50 lakh hectares (lh) against 115.83 lh a year ago. With the south-west monsoon withdrawing and rainfall being deficient over 60 per cent of the country in October, sowing of wheat and rice, perhaps, slowed down, said experts. *(BusinessLine)*

### **There's an urgent need to inject vibrancy into cotton**

We have the world's largest area under cotton cultivation (125 lakh hectares). With production of 320-330 lakh bales, we rank either first or second in global production. Also, we are a significant exporter of raw cotton, cotton yarn and value-added textiles. But the cotton sector is at a crossroads today. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Cotton output may fall 4.7% due to scant rainfall, pink bollworms: CAI**

Cotton production in 2018-19 is likely to fall 4.7 per cent from the previous season to 34.8 million bales, as scant rainfall and an attack of pink bollworms are expected to squeeze crop yields, the head of a leading trade body told Reuters. The drop in output could limit exports from the world's biggest producer of the fibre amid rising demand from top consumer China and in turn support global prices, which are hovering near their lowest level in more than nine months hit last week. *(Business Standard)*

### **Farm sector is still reliant on rainfall**

A debate is currently underway on the extent to which variability in the South-West monsoon (SWM) rainfall will affect farm output due to the unusual rainfall pattern experienced in 2023. Though it is commonly believed that a reduction in SWM rainfall will hit agricultural production, some argue that the impact has come down over time due to a massive increase in irrigation. *(BusinessLine)*



#### **4 nations to make up for India's rice export curbs**

Thailand, Pakistan, Myanmar and Cambodia will likely compensate for reduced shipments of rice from India and Vietnam and exports from Asia are likely to be 55.4 million tonnes (mt), 6 per cent higher than the five-year average, the Food and Agriculture Organisation has said. *(BusinessLine)*

#### **In a first, govt launches Krishi 24/7 for AI-powered farm news monitoring**

The Union Agriculture Ministry has roped in a private firm to track and monitor agriculture related news across the country even in regional languages, which experts welcome the move as a good initiative, but have cautioned the government to carry out regular evaluation of bias and variance in the information. *(BusinessLine)*

#### **Coop minister Amit Shah launches 'Bharat Organics' brand of new cooperative body NCOL**

Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Bharat Organics' brand of the newly created National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) and announced that it will become a trusted brand in India and abroad. The NCOL will initially sell six organic products in India, with plans to expand internationally. *(The Economic Times)*

#### **View: India's choking Diwali smoke billows from a failed farm policy**

A year of protests caused the government in 2021 to reverse a farm law that would have cut the subsidy bill by deregulating crop prices. India's urbanites are going to keep choking through Diwali for many years to come. *(The Economic Times)*

#### **Enhancing farmers' income: Regulatory assistance key to farmer success**

Agriculture plays a significant role in India's economic growth. With around 54.6% of the total workforce involved in agriculture and allied sector activities, the sector contributes 17.8% to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA). During 2021-22, in the country's total exports agricultural exports contributed of to the tune of US \$ 50.2 billion with a 20% increase from US \$ 41.3 billion in 2020-21. *(Financial Express)*



## **Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology**

#### **Insurers hike premiums for public infra assets by up to 25% in aftermath of Sikkim cloudburst**

Indian insurers are raising premiums for industrial sites, railroads, roads, tunnels, bridges and other public infrastructure assets by up to a quarter in the aftermath of a deluge of claims due to October's glacial lake outburst and unprecedented flooding in Sikkim and sub-Himalayan West Bengal. *(The Economic Times)*

#### **Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry to organise business networking meet on November 27**

The Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry is organising a business networking meeting on November 27 in the city with an 18-member delegation from Kochi Prefecture. The delegation comprises senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Labour Department of the prefectural government and representatives of manufacturing companies of repute. *(The Hindu)*

### **Power units with fuel linkage under Shakti plan get sales flexibility**

The government's amendment to the SHAKTI policy allows plants without power purchase agreements to sell electricity in any segment, including term-ahead market (TAM) and real-time market, apart from DAM or through the Discovery of Efficient Energy Price (DEEP) portal. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Mines Secretary asks HCL to focus on ramping up output of copper ore**

The state-owned Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) has been advised by Mines Secretary V L Kantha Rao to concentrate on increasing the production of copper ore and metal-in-concentrate. Rao reviewed the company's operations on Wednesday by visiting the HCL corporate office in Kolkata. *(The Economic Times)*



## **News on Kerala**

### **Tribes of Chinnar revive millet farming, beat back malnutrition.**

The tribal settlements in the Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) near Marayur in Idukki are reaping the benefits of Punarjeevanam, an initiative launched eight years ago to revive millet cultivation. Launched in collaboration with the Forest department, the project aimed at addressing malnutrition and other health issues among the tribal community, especially children. The project has so far revived cultivation of 36 millet species on nearly 15 acres and tribal families have gone back to their traditional dietary habits. *(The Hindu)*

### **Support needed for 7 million people left behind by migration.**

Kerala should devise programmes for the people in the State left behind as a result of migration, said Irudaya Rajan, chairman, International Institute of Migration and Development. Addressing a seminar on Kerala's diaspora organised as part of the Keraleeyam here on Sunday, he said migration for employment has left behind one million housewives, two million children and four million elders. *(The Hindu)*.

### **Opposition criticises Kerala govt for conducting Keraleeyam amid financial constraints**

V D Satheesan alleged that the government does not know its priorities when spending money and the extravaganza of money and resources on Keraleeyam celebrations is an example of it. *(The New Indian Express)*

### **Keraleeyam not a financial extravaganza: Finance Minister Balagopal**

We have to showcase good things about Kerala. We also have to discuss issues we are facing. The attack of the opposition parties against Keraleeyam is not desirable," K N Balagopal said. *(The New Indian Express)*

### **Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates Keraleeyam festival that seeks to showcase State to the world**

Week-long festival seeks to shed light on richness of Kerala's ethnic traditions, showcase complexity of its evolution as a modern State and present a marker of the polity's promising future as a knowledge-based economy. UDF boycotts event, accusing the government of profligacy. *(The Hindu)*



### **Keraleeyam: online expo on The Hindu reports on State's achievements**

As many as 80 reports from the pages of The Hindu that capture the journey of Kerala since its formation on November 1, 1956, are showcased at an online expo as part of the week-long Keraleeyam. *(The Hindu)*

### **Keraleeyam 2023: "Use latest science and tech tools for building sustainability in agriculture"**

K. C. Bansal, secretary, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, on Thursday underscored the need to apply the latest biotechnological strategies including tools like genome editing for enhancing production and building sustainability in agriculture. Dr. Bansal was speaking online on the 'Science and technology innovations for enhancing productivity and building a sustainable future in agriculture' at a seminar on agriculture organised here as part of the Keraleeyam 2023 celebrations of the State government. *(The Hindu)*

### **Schemes should also be drafted along with surveys focusing on elderly**

The state government is planning to conduct a survey to study the problems of the elderly. It is estimated that almost one-fourth of the population is elderly. Their number was twelve and a half percent twelve years ago and it is estimated that it will increase to 23 percent in 2025. *(Kaumudi)*

### **More emphasis on IT research must in Kerala**

As part of Keraleeyam, a seminar was organised by the IT department on 'IT sector in Kerala', which suggested that more emphasis should be given to research in the sector. It emphasised on designing courses in the form of acquiring expertise in the respective fields beyond mere education. It mentioned offering more internship programmes and refresher courses in the IT sector. *(The New Indian Express)*

### **Keraleeyam seminar: Experts bat for integrated public health policies, more funds**

The seminar organised as a part of 'Keraleeyam' on Friday shed light on matters concerning the state's public health infrastructure. Experts say that the number of families falling below the poverty line is increasing and this is causing a crisis in the public health sector. The experts pointed out that the number of senior citizens is increasing, and plans and policies should be formulated to ensure proper care for them. *(Mathrubhumi)*

### **Kerala Govt. will introduce Bill to permit private universities, says Minister R. Bindu**

The State government will introduce legislation to permit private universities in Kerala during the next Assembly session, Higher Education R. Bindu has said. She added that the government endorsed the idea of private universities and the contours of the proposed legislation were being finalised. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala to launch master plan to raise tourism's contribution to State's GDP from 12% to 20%.**

The State government will come up with a comprehensive master plan, 'Mission 2030', for tourism sector next year, Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas has said. Addressing a seminar on tourism held here as part of Keraleeyam, Mr. Riyas said the master plan will lay down policies and suggestions on matters including increasing tourism's contribution to State's GDP from the current 12% to 20%. *(The Hindu)*

### **Unification of people of all religions needed to check ascendancy of fascism: Saeed Mirza**

Speaking at a seminar on 'Pluralism and multiculturalism' organised by the Department of Culture as part of the ongoing Keraleeyam festival here on Monday, he said that hate has been growing across the country, especially in the north, but Kerala seems to be the bastion and bulwark of the forces aligned against that kind of hate. *(The Hindu)*

### **Experts advise Kerala to be on guard against groundwater overexploitation.**

S. K. Ambast, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), on Sunday cautioned Kerala to be on guard against overexploitation of groundwater resources. Dr. Ambast was speaking on the subject 'Challenges and opportunities for sustainable groundwater management' at a seminar on the State's water resources sector held as part of the Keraleeyam 2023 celebrations. At the moment Kerala does not have any of its 152 blocks in the 'over-exploited' category. *(The Hindu)*

### **Hydrokinetic power project gets govt. nod**

The State government has given the go-ahead for deploying five hydrokinetic turbines in the Left Bank canal of the Moolathara regulator in Palakkad district. The project is part of an initiative of the Energy Management Centre, Kerala (EMC), which is the State-designated agency for the enforcement of the Energy Conservation Act, for trying out hydrokinetic energy turbines in irrigation channels. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala model faces stiff challenge due to Central policies, say economists**

Kerala's ability to sustain its alternative development model in the face of adverse policies pushed by the BJP-led Union government sparked concern at a seminar on 'Economic alternatives for the future' organised as part of the Keraleeyam 2023 celebrations of the State government. Speakers including economist and Professor Emeritus, JNU, Prabhat Patnaik, and CPI(M) PB member Prakash Karat noted the need for drawing upon the Kerala experience for building a national-level alternative, but they worried how far Kerala can sustain its alternative development path in the present environment. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala: Satheesan expresses shock at GST official's felicitation**

The LDF government has been accused of misuse of power by the leader of Opposition, V D Satheesan, regarding the appointment of the GST additional commissioner (intelligence) to oversee the collection of sponsorships for Keraleeyam. Satheesan expressed his concern that tax defaulters, who should have been apprehensive of GST intelligence officials, have instead contributed to the sponsorships. *(The New Indian Express)*

### **'Keraleeyam' a grand success people rejected opposition's charges of extravagance says CM Vijayan**

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday outrightly rejected the opposition's charges on the LDF government's recently concluded 'Keraleeyam' programme being an extravagance, and said the mass participation of people despite inclement weather was proof of the grand success of the week-long event. *(The Week)*

### **Kudumbashree registers ₹1.37-crore turnover at Keraleeyam**

Keraleeyam, a festival organised by the State government to project the State's achievements, has brought cheer to the Kudumbashree mission. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala faces severe financial crisis: Chief Secretary tells High Court.**

Kerala Chief Secretary V.Venu on Wednesday candidly confessed before the Kerala High Court that the State government is going through a severe financial crisis and finding it difficult to garner resources for the day-to-day affairs. The Chief Secretary who appeared online before the court made the submissions when a contempt of court petition filed by retired KSRTC pensioners for not implementing the court directive to pay pensions in time came up for hearing. *(BusinessLine)*

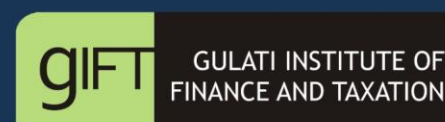
### **MSME can now operate with temporary building number.**

Temporary building numbers will be provided for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with investments up to ₹50 crore to avoid delays in starting operations. The government made the required amendments in the Kerala MSME Facilitation Rules, 2020, as per which the number recorded in the acknowledge certificate received while submitting an application through the Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast and Transparent Clearance (K-SWIFT) platform for starting industrial enterprises will be treated as a temporary building number. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala forms organic farming mission to boost climate-smart farm practices**

The Kerala Government has formed Organic Farming Mission to encourage the adoption of sustainable organic and climate-smart farming practices in the State. The objective of the mission is to expand organic farming to 5,000 hectares in the State in the next five years through an annual target of 1,000 hectares. *(BusinessLine)*

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