



Public Finance

Centre's fiscal gap eases but ebbing capex pace a worry

Halfway through FY25, the Central government's fiscal deficit improved to ₹4.74 lakh crore, or 29.4% of its 2024-25 target, relative to the fiscal gap a year ago when it stood at ₹7 lakh crore, or 39.3% of the 2023-24 Budget estimates. However, worries emerged on whether the Centre is on track to meet this year's ambitious capital spending target of ₹11.11 lakh crore, as fiscal numbers as of September 30 released by the Controller General of Accounts on Wednesday indicated a 15% decline in capex in the first half of the year compared to 2023-24. (*The Hindu*)

Despite a slow start, States' capex likely to rise further this year

Capital expenditure by States, a key driver of India's economic growth in recent times, may have started on the backfoot in 2024-25 with the general elections taking up the first quarter, and States' capex dropping 7% from last year by August, but those spends may pick up steam in the coming months, rating agencies reckon. This positive prognosis is significant as the Finance Ministry in a review of the economy late September had identified lower capex spends by States as one of the 'incipient signs of strains in certain sectors', along with other cooling signals for the economy like the drop in passenger vehicle sales in the first few months of the year. (*The Hindu*)

Q2 investments jump 42.5%, capex recovers

The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir made a maiden entry into the list of top 10 States, drawing investment plans worth ₹18,592 crore. "In the first quarter of this fiscal year, major project announcements by the Central government agencies were postponed due to the election code of conduct during the Lok Sabha polls, and the private sector had also delayed unveiling major capital expenditure plans. However, with a stable government reinstated at the Centre on June 9, the second quarter has witnessed an upsurge in investment announcements by both the public and private sectors," Projects Today director and CEO Shashikant Hegde told The Hindu. (*The Hindu*)

Capex loan to states may be 20% lower than Budget estimates

The government is anticipating loan disbursement for state capital expenditure to be 15-20% less than planned for fiscal 2025. The slowdown is due to spending delays from general elections. The initial allocation was ₹1.5 lakh crore, but this may be reduced to ₹1.30-1.35 lakh crore. Efforts are ongoing to boost spending in the second half. (*The Economic Times*)

India's April-September fiscal deficit at Rs 4.75 lakh crore, narrows on-year to 29.4% of FY25 aim

India's fiscal deficit for April to September, or the first half of this fiscal year, was at 4.75 lakh crore rupees, equivalent to 29.4% of annual estimates, narrowing from the previous

year's 39.3%. The government aims to narrow the fiscal gap to 4.9% of GDP in this financial year from 5.6% a year earlier. (*The Economic Times*)

The burgeoning expenditure of elections

The total expenditure for U.S. presidential and Congressional elections in November 2024 is estimated at around U.S. \$16 billion (equivalent to ₹1,36,000 crores). According to the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), the total expenditure by various political parties for the general election to Lok Sabha this year was around ₹1,00,000 crores. The election expenditure limit for candidates is ₹95 lakh per Lok Sabha constituency in larger States and ₹75 lakh in smaller States. With respect to Legislative Assemblies, they are ₹40 lakh and ₹28 lakh for larger and smaller States respectively. (*The Hindu*)

'ITR data show decline in income inequality'

Decoding income tax return (ITR) data, a research report by the SBI has said that individual income inequality has decreased. "Our analysis shows that there has been a cumulative 74.2 per cent decline in income disparity coverage for those earning up to ₹5 lakh," the report prepared by a team, led by SBI's Group Chief Economic Advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh, said. "This shows the continuous efforts of the government are reaching the bottom of pyramid — that is leading to increase in income of lower income group people," the report added. (*BusinessLine*)



Taxation

GST collections in October increase by 9% to Rs 1.87 lakh crore

GST collections in October reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, showing an 8.9 per cent increase from last year. The total GST collections for 2024 have risen by 9.4 per cent to Rs 12.74 lakh crore. The strong GST numbers indicate a healthy trajectory for India's economy, driven by domestic consumption and import activity. (*The Economic Times*)

₹1-crore-plus individual IT filers surge 41% in H1

The number of individual income tax return filers, showing ₹1 crore plus income, has surged around 41 percent to over 2.38 lakh during the first half (April-September) of the current fiscal year, latest data by e-filing portal (<https://eportal.incometax.gov.in/>) showed. Experts feel the number is expected to go up further as due date for individuals having accounts to be audited is November 15. (*BusinessLine*)

GST returns to become time-barred after three years from early 2025

GST Network on Tuesday said beginning early next year, GST taxpayers will not be able to file monthly and annual GST returns after three years of the original filing due date. In an advisory, the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) said GST outward supply returns, besides returns related to payment of liability, annual returns, and tax collected at source, will become time-barred after the expiry of a period of three years from the due date of furnishing the said return. (*Business Standard*)

No formal proposal to scrap windfall tax on crude oil, says FinMin official

The Finance Ministry is not considering any proposal to do away with windfall tax on domestically produced crude and export-bound petroleum products. As on date, the levy, technically known as Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), is zero on domestically

produced crude and export-bound petroleum products. The issue about doing away with the levy came into limelight when Advisor to Prime Minister Tarun Kapoor said recently that there is not much relevance in imposing windfall tax on crude oil. (*BusinessLine*)



National Accounts and State of the Economy

FinMin flags softer urban demand, factory output, maintains growth figure

The Finance Ministry on Monday acknowledged emerging concerns of softening consumer sentiments and faltering demand, particularly in urban India, as well as a moderation in industrial momentum in recent months, even as it maintained that the economy will grow between 6.5% and 7% through 2024-25. (*The Hindu*)

India may face 24.7% GDP loss by 2070 thanks to climate change: ADB report

Climate change under a high-end emissions scenario could lead to a 16.9 per cent loss in GDP by 2070 across the Asia and Pacific region, with India projected to suffer a 24.7 per cent GDP loss, according to a new report. Rising sea levels and decreasing labour productivity would drive the most significant losses, with lower-income and fragile economies being hit the hardest, it said. (*The Economic Times*)

India has entered cyclical growth slowdown, RBI's 7.2 pc estimate 'overly optimistic': Nomura

Nomura reports that the Indian economy is experiencing a cyclical growth slowdown, with urban consumption indicators weakening. The brokerage believes the Reserve Bank's GDP growth estimate of 7.2% for FY25 is overly optimistic, highlighting issues such as salary moderation and a decrease in personal loans and lending growth. (*The Economic Times*)

Budget home threshold may be hiked to Rs 55 lakh

A GST Council panel proposes expanding the definition of affordable housing from ₹45 lakh to ₹55 lakh, potentially boosting the sector. The panel also recommended higher tax on luxury homes above ₹15 crore but opposed GST on joint development agreements. (*The Economic Times*)



Banking and Monetary Policy

Day after FinMin rap for 'reckless' lending, MFIs get a RBI rebuke

A top Reserve Bank of India (RBI) official delivered a sharp message to microfinance institutions (MFIs) on Thursday, urging them to realign their lending practices and prioritise affordable credit offerings. MFIs can no longer hide behind the facade of limited access as a rationale for steep interest rates, asserted Jayant Kumar Dash, executive director of the RBI, challenging the very foundation of the sector's traditional defence. (*The Hindu*)

Bank lending rates dip sequentially, while deposit rates rise

Bank lending rates dipped sequentially, while deposit rates rose, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data published separately also showed. The weighted average lending rate on fresh rupee loans of commercial banks was 9.37 per cent in September 2024, down marginally from 9.41 per cent in August 2024. *(The Economic Times)*

Banks seek a ticket to RBI's LRS server

Banks have approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seeking integration with its Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) platform, aiming for real-time verification of limit utilisation under the Liberal Remittance Scheme (LRS), said people familiar with the development. *(The Economic Times)*

Sensex, Nifty climb again, led by banking stocks

Benchmark indices extended their gains for the second consecutive session on Tuesday, primarily led by banking stocks, with State Bank of India driving the surge. The BSE Sensex closed at 80,369.03, rising 363.99 points or 0.45 per cent, while the Nifty 50 ended at 24,466.85, advancing 127.70 points or 0.52 per cent. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI raises locally-held gold by 102 mt in April-Sept.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) added another 102 metric tonnes (mt) to the domestically-held gold in the April-September period, as per a disclosure. *(The Hindu)*

Bank staff defer Maharashtra stir over 'Ladki Bahin' scheme

Bank employees on Wednesday deferred a call to strike work on November 16 in Maharashtra after the State Government assured to enhance security for employees working on the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme. *(The Hindu)*

LCR buffers high at most banks, may dip once new rules kick in

Banks have consciously built a high liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) buffer in anticipation of tighter central bank norms kicking in next fiscal, with analysts anticipating a shrinkage in the buffer once the exact thresholds are known. Bankers expect that the higher buffer will decrease once the final circular is published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), most likely by December for implementation from next fiscal. *(The Economic Times)*

Indian banks' loan growth moderates in September amid cenbank clampdown, data shows

Indian banks' loan growth moderated this September, compared with the same month a year ago, central bank data showed on Thursday, as the impact of the Reserve Bank of India's clampdown on "exuberance" in retail lending continued. *(The Economic Times)*

India's gold imports jump 21.78 pc to USD 27 bn in Apr-Sep

The country's gold imports, which have a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), rose by 21.78 per cent to USD 27 billion during April-September this fiscal due to strong domestic demand, according to the government data. The imports stood at USD 22.25 billion in April-September 2023-24. An industry expert said that the ongoing festival demand is helping the increase in imports. *(The Economic Times)*



External Sector

With growing economy, India has 4th largest forex reserves after China, Japan, Switzerland

India has achieved a major economic milestone by becoming the world's fourth-largest holder of foreign exchange reserves, surpassing USD 700 billion for the first time. This accomplishment highlights India's economic strength and ability to insulate its economy from global shocks, fostering stability and growth. *(The Economic Times)*

RBI report shows India's forex reserves cover stands at 11.2 months of imports

India's foreign exchange reserves covered 11.2 months of imports as of June 2024, down from 11.3 months in March. Short-term debt rose to 20.3% of reserves, while volatile capital flows increased slightly to 70.1%. External assets and liabilities grew by USD 108.4 billion and USD 97.7 billion respectively. *(The Economic Times)*

India and China drive shift from G7 to BRICS in global trade dynamics: EY report

India and China are reshaping the global economy, shifting focus from G7 nations to the BRICS alliance. The BRICS+ group's share in global exports has more than doubled since 2000, challenging G7 dominance. High-tech exports from BRICS+ nations are also on the rise. This shift indicates a potential overtaking of the G7's share in global trade by BRICS+ by 2026. *(The Economic Times)*

Energy transition: India remains highly dependent on imports of critical minerals, says report

India remains highly dependent on imports for minerals critical to accelerating its energy transition, with a full reliance on shipping in lithium, cobalt and nickel, according to a report released Monday. The report, published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), said that India's demand for critical minerals is expected to more than double by 2030, while domestic mining operations may take over a decade to start producing. *(The Economic Times)*

WTO accepts India, Taipei's request to defer ICT import duty dispute ruling until April 2025

The WTO's dispute settlement body on Monday again accepted a request from India and Chinese Taipei not to adopt the ruling against New Delhi's import duties on certain information and technology products till April next year, as both sides are engaged in resolving the matter mutually, an official said. The issue came up during a meeting of the dispute settlement body (DSB) in Geneva. *(The Economic Times)*

Beyond Oil: Strengthening India-Saudi Arabia Economic Ties for a Prosperous Future

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, India's foreign trade strategy has undergone significant transformation. Actively seeking integration into global value chains, India has adjusted its export focus amidst shifting geopolitical landscapes. This new strategy has led India to sign Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with advanced economies like Australia and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) while also targeting emerging markets such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE). *(Financial Express)*

India not looking at US-China tension as source of benefit, aims to thrive on own strength: Piyush Goya

India is leveraging its democratic institutions, rule of law, and youth talent rather than seeking advantage from US-China trade tensions, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated. He emphasized India's focus on self-reliance and diplomacy for economic and trade dispute resolutions, highlighting its growing global ties. *(The Economic Times)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Are crop subsidy and MSP support helping crop output?

Even as the Government of India caters to the popular demand of increasing the Minimum Support Price (MSP), data from NITI Aayog's working paper show that from 2011-12 to 2020-21, despite receiving heavy subsidies and strong output-side support crops like rice, wheat, cotton and sugarcane — the backbone of India's agriculture — are growing at a sluggish pace. *(BusinessLine)*

Syngenta signs MoUs with CSSRI and HAU on crop productivity, sustainable agriculture

Leading seeds and pesticides company Syngenta India has signed MoUs with ICAR's Karnal-based Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) and Hisar-based Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) that will help its research and extension to reach out to more farmers to promote sustainable agriculture practices and improve crop yield. *(BusinessLine)*

India's H1 agriculture exports a tad lower at \$12.13 billion on dip in cereal shipments

As per APEDA, the fall in non-basmati rice exports pulled down the overall cereal shipments by 8.35 per cent to \$5.22 billion during April-September period from corresponding last year's \$5.69 billion. India's agri exports were down by half a per cent for the first half of current financial year at \$12.13 billion on dip in cereal shipments, mainly non-basmati rice. In the same period last year, the agri shipments stood at 12.19 billion. *(BusinessLine)*

Investment in agriculture set to boost productivity in Rajasthan

Investment in the agriculture and related sectors is set to boost mechanisation and productivity in Rajasthan, as the memorandums of understanding worth ₹19,497 crore have been received from 862 investors ahead of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit-2024. The agreements are being signed in several districts to push the growth in organic farming, horticulture and animal husbandry. *(The Hindu)*

Maharashtra's Ladli Behna Yojna creates labour shortage, drives up cotton harvesting costs

Maharashtra's Ladli Behna Yojna, aimed at empowering women through financial incentives, is impacting cotton farming in the state by weaning women off farms, creating labour shortage and driving up harvesting costs. Women form a significant proportion of

farm labour but the scheme, under which eligible women receive ₹1,500 per month in financial assistance, has drawn rural women away from farm work. *(Mint)*

Paddy procurement on track in Haryana, Punjab despite late start; 112 lakh ton purchased so far

Haryana and Punjab are well on their way to meeting their paddy procurement targets, having already purchased 112 lakh tonnes despite a delayed start due to heavy rains, the Food Ministry said on Wednesday. The procurement is in full swing in key districts like Kaithal and Kurukshetra in Haryana, approaching last year's levels, it said in a statement. *(The Economic Times)*

Government steps up onion supplies via rail transport to control prices; 840 tonne reaches Delhi

The government said about 840 tonne of buffer onion arrived via rail at Delhi's Kishanganj railway station, as part of its multi-pronged strategy to control prices. This marks the second major rail delivery after 1,600 tonne reached Delhi on October 20 through 'Kanda Express', an official statement said. The shipment, procured by NAFED under the price stabilization fund, will primarily be released through Azadpur Mandi, with a portion earmarked for retail sale at Rs 35 per kg. *(The Economic Times)*

In a first, govt inks deal for contract farming of pulses

The govt for the first time, has entered into contract farming deals with farmers in states including Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jharkhand and Gujarat to grow pulses (tur and masur) on 1,500 hectares of farmland. The pilot deal is part of a plan to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses by expanding cultivation in states where farmers are traditionally not inclined to grow pulses, a senior official aware of the development told ET. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt unveils guidelines for seaweed imports to boost coastal economy

The Ministry of Fisheries announced new guidelines for live seaweed imports on Friday, aiming to address seed shortages in its growing seaweed industry and boost coastal economies. The regulatory framework, which includes strict quarantine procedures and biosecurity measures, will allow importers to bring high-quality seaweed germplasm into the country following approval from the National Committee on Introduction of Exotic Aquatic Species. *(The Economic Times)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

India's core sectors grow 2% in September

In September 2024, India's eight core sectors' output growth increased by 2%, with significant positive growth in Cement, Refinery Products, Coal, Fertilizers, and Steel. However, the crude oil sector experienced a 3.9% decline. The data, presented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, highlights variations in the performance of these essential industries. *(The Economic Times)*

Payments of ₹21,108 cr to small firms pending: MSME Samadhaan portal

Payments totaling ₹21,108 crore to MSMEs are pending across 90,000 applications on the MSME Samadhaan portal. State governments and central public sector undertakings owe

the highest amounts. The introduction of amendments to the Income Tax Act aims to expedite the settlement of dues to MSMEs. *(The Economic Times)*

Aluminium producers ask govt to hike import duties to fight dumping, spur investments

The aluminium industry has urged the government to raise the basic customs duty on primary aluminium and aluminium scrap to prevent it from being dumped in the Indian market. Aluminium dumping is deterring new investments in the sector, an industry body said, even as India has all the ingredients to be a global aluminium hub. *(Mint)*

Silver, the poor man's gold, beats precious metal to set a record in festive season

For the first time in the history of the Indian jewellery market, silver sales surpassed gold during this Dhanteras season. High gold prices have dampened consumer demand, leading shoppers to turn to silver instead. "Silver sales have shot up 30-35% this year despite prices being 40% higher than last Dhanteras," Surendra Mehta, national secretary at Indian Bullion & Jewellers Association (IBJA), told ToI. "We are collating data for silver because this is the first time we are seeing such a huge demand," he added. *(The Economic Times)*

Railways enhances security measures for passengers amid festival rush

Amid the festival rush, Indian Railways is making every effort to ensure safe travel for the passengers and avoid any untoward incidents, the Railway Ministry has said. "Transporting people across India during Diwali and Chhath is a challenging task, but after successfully managing similar operations during Navratri and Durga Puja, Indian Railways is now fully prepared to help the commuters reach their native places for the ongoing Diwali and the upcoming Chhath celebrations," the ministry said in a press statement. *(The Economic Times)*

Consumers exploring both luxury, sustainable mobility alternatives: Survey

Consumers are exploring both luxury and sustainable alternatives, setting the stage for a new era in the Indian automotive sector, according to a survey by Grant Thornton Bharat. As per the survey -- 'Shifting Gears: Understanding Passenger Vehicle Market Trends', 85 per cent of the respondents were considering premium models and there is an increasing preference for hybrid vehicles over electric vehicles (EVs). *(The Economic Times)*

Indian consumers outshine Chinese in gold buys

Indian consumers purchased 51% more gold compared to China between July and September led by higher purchases of gold coins and bars, as per latest World Gold Council data. The data showed Indians purchased 248.3 tonnes of gold compared to China's 165 tonnes. On a year-on-year basis, India's demand for gold surged by 18% in July-September. This surge in demand is due to the drop in import duty on gold from 15% to 6% as announced in the budget on July 23 and revenge buying by consumers. *(The Economic Times)*

Mobile volumes may not ring as loud as expected

Market trackers have started revising their smartphone volume estimates downwards for 2024 following tepid demand in the ongoing festive season, amid longer replacement cycles and low organic conversion from feature phones to smartphones. Increasing consumer preference towards premium devices, however, is expected to aid value growth. *(The Economic Times)*

NTPC develops catalyst for methanol production

NTPC has developed a catalyst to produce methanol using gases emitted from fossil-fired power plant, an official statement said Wednesday. The catalyst has been developed by NTPC in collaboration with Indian Institute of Petroleum, the power ministry said. CO2 mitigation is one of a critical challenge faced by fossil-fired power plant. Therefore, capturing CO2 from the flue gas and converting it to valuable fuel and chemicals is in focus, globally. *(The Economic Times)*

Exchange prices of power drops amid improved supply and rainfall

Power prices on exchanges have eased owing to better monsoon rains and improved power supply. Data from the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) showed that in the day ahead market (DAM), the price of power in the first half of FY25 (April-September) have declined nearly 12% to about ₹4.87 per unit from ₹5.53/unit. *(Mint)*

Credit growth to industry rises to 9.1% in September 2024 compared with 6% year ago

RBI today announced data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for the month of September 2024¹ collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks, accounting for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit deployed by all scheduled commercial banks. On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit in September 2024 grew at 14.4 per cent, as compared to 15.3 per cent a year ago. *(Business Standard)*

EU to increase tariffs on Chinese EVs to protect its car industry: Report

The European Commission has given the final green light to steep tariffs on electric vehicles (EVs) made in China, officially closing the probe that began one year ago, as per Euro News. According to Euro News, the extra tariffs on China-made electric cars will go ahead as planned, despite ongoing talks with China and will apply as of Wednesday. *(Business Standard)*

Quick commerce boom: Industry giants race to claim their slice of the pie

The quick commerce market in India is on the verge of a significant expansion, projected to reach a valuation of \$9.95 billion by 2029, growing from \$3.34 billion in 2024. The sector is witnessing a surge of activity as new players enter the market, eager to capture their share of this rapidly evolving space. Quick commerce refers to the rapid delivery of small orders, typically within a short time frame of 10 to 30 minutes. *(Business Standard)*

Indian manufacturers eye 2-3x profit growth with Industry 5.0: PwC report

About 93 per cent of Indian manufacturers are adopting sustainable practices through Industry 5.0, aiming to boost profits by 2-3 times in the next three to five years, says a recent PwC India report. The report titled 'Decoding the Fifth Industrial Revolution: Marching towards a resilient, sustainable and human-centric future' covers six major industries. It finds that Industry 5.0 offers a way to improve financial and operational performance while building a human-centred manufacturing ecosystem. *(Business Standard)*

Crude oil trades higher as industry data shows decrease in US inventories

November crude oil futures were trading at ₹5,701 on Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) during the initial hour of trading on Wednesday against the previous close of ₹5,668, up by 0.58 per cent, and December futures were trading at ₹5,684 against the previous close of ₹5,653, up by 0.55 per cent. According to the industry body American Petroleum

Institute (API), crude oil inventories in the US declined by 0.57 million barrels for the week ending October 25. (*BusinessLine*)



News on Kerala

No cultural activities and collectives during office hours, Govt issues directive

The state government has issued a strict directive to avoid cultural forums and department-based collectives being conducted in a way that disrupts office activities. Veena N Madhavan, Special Secretary, Personnel and Administrative Reforms department, issued the order on Tuesday. The order cites that office collectives and cultural forums function in a way that violates the code of conduct of state government staff without complying with the state government's directions (*Onmanorama*).

State govt to launch Gulf-Kerala ships as Centre rejects move for chartered flights

Kerala Government has decided to focus on launching ship services between the Gulf countries and the state for the benefit of expatriates after its ambitious move to conduct chartered flights had to be abandoned. Four shipping companies have expressed interest in the project and among them two - Chennai-based White Sea Shipping Lines and Jabal Ventures of Kozhikode - have submitted project reports to the government (*Onmanorama*).

Tea prices shoot up as production dips, farmers jubilant

With tea prices registering a sudden jump since September this year and the majority of production units fixing prices more than Rs 22 per kg for green leaf for the South Indian tea, the tea farmers of major tea baskets of South India, including Wayanad and adjacent Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, are in a jubilant mood (*Onmanorama*).

KSEB: Prosumers can now sell solar power directly to consumers

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) is set to roll out a community grid mapping system that will enable domestic solar power producers (prosumers) to sell excess power after their use at a fixed price to others. The community grid mapping system will be implemented on a pilot basis in the jurisdiction of 15 section offices under four sub-divisions in the Thiruvananthapuram division. It would later be extended to other districts (*Onmanorama*).

Kerala govt stares at Rs 8,278 cr in unpaid DA arrears to staffers

The Kerala government is facing a backlog of unpaid dearness allowance (DA) totaling ₹8,278 crore, owed to government employees and pensioners. This amount pertains to just two instalments of DA that have been sanctioned, calculated based on preliminary estimates from the finance department. Considering the increase recently approved by the Centre, the pending DA stands at 22 per cent. Of this, 3 per cent has been sanctioned recently, leaving 19 per cent still to be allocated. (*Mathrubhumi English*)

Kerala Govt to enhance school academic excellence; Learning achievements to be visible in classrooms

A high-level meeting chaired by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan has announced plans to improve the academic standards of government schools and establish common guidelines for pre-primary education. The government aims to make school education more transparent to build trust among parents. Learning achievements for students at every level will be

displayed in classrooms, allowing parents to see their child's progress. | ([Mathrubhumi English](#)).

Electric vehicle boom in Kerala, registrations nearing 2 lakh

Kerala's electric vehicle sector is witnessing a notable boom as total registrations of such vehicles approach the 2-lakh mark. Currently, 1,83,686 electric vehicles are registered in the state, with this year alone accounting for 54,703 new registrations, reflecting the state's growing shift towards sustainable transport options. In 2023, a total of 75,802 electric vehicles were registered, while 2022 saw 39,623. ([Mathrubhumi English](#)).

Kerala ranks second in imposing fines for traffic violations

Kerala has emerged as the second-highest state in India for imposing fines for traffic violations, despite ranking 10th in the number of vehicles on the road. Since the introduction of the e-Challan system, which allows fines to be paid via mobile phones and AI cameras, police and the Motor Vehicles Department have recorded 92.58 lakh cases of traffic violations. Uttar Pradesh leads the nation with 1.06 crore cases, while Tamil Nadu is in third place with 90 lakh cases ([Mathrubhumi English](#)).

Govt. to enhance investors' trust in Kerala: Minister

Investment-friendly policies adopted by the State government have transformed Kerala into a preferred destination for diverse enterprises with the investors' trust increasing substantially in the industrial ecosystem now prevailing in the State, Minister for Industries P. Rajeev said here on Wednesday. ([The Hindu](#)).

State to reach out to tourists with footage of Malabar destinations

Tourism department has sanctioned ₹1.98 crore for producing 30 one-minute videos focussed on unique destinations in northern Kerala for integrating visually appealing videos into its promotional strategy with the aim of attracting a wider audience and solidifying Kerala's reputation as a premier tourist destination. ([The Hindu](#)).

Validity of prevailing electricity tariffs in Kerala extended up to November 30

The validity of the prevailing electricity tariffs in Kerala has been extended by one month up to November 30. The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) noted in an order on Tuesday that it might take a few more weeks for it to finalise the tariffs. The validity of the prevailing tariffs, extended through an earlier order, ends on October 31. The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) had filed fresh proposals in August seeking power tariff revision for the fiscals from 2024-25 to 2026-27. ([The Hindu](#)).

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