राजस्थान चैम्बर सन्देश

A BULLETIN OF RAJASTHAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

राजस्थान चैम्बर एवं जयपुर व्यापार महासंघ द्वारा चैम्बर भवन में आयोजित व्यापारिक सम्मेलन के दौरान केन्द्रीय उद्योग व वाणिज्य मंत्री श्रीयुत पीयूष जी गोयल का पुष्पगुच्छ भेंटकर स्वागत करते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन।

उक्त व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में सांसद जयपुर शहर श्रीयुत रामचरण जी बोहरा का स्वागत करते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन।

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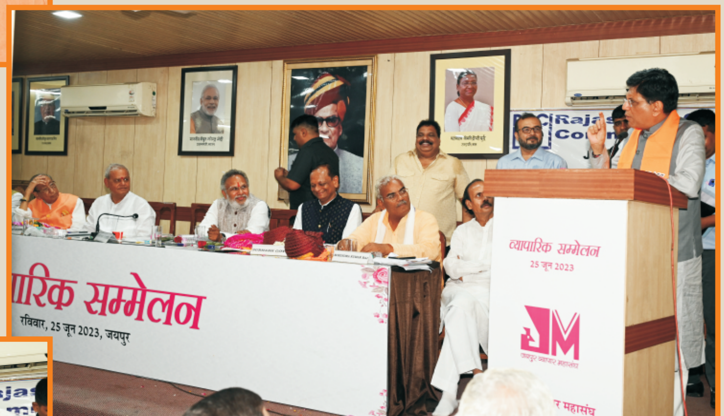
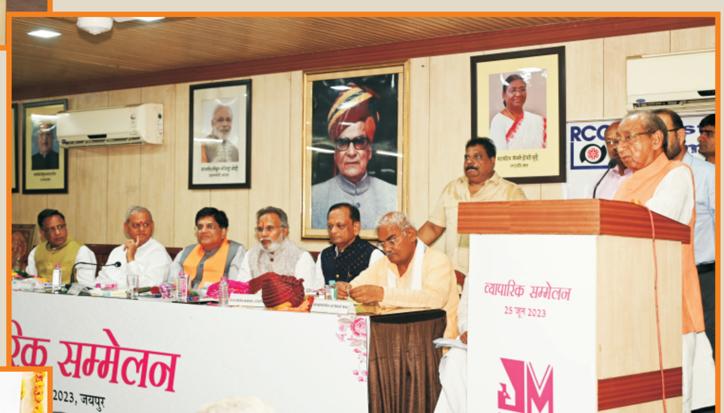
व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा गठित राष्ट्रीय व्यापार कल्याण बोर्ड के अध्यक्ष श्रीयुत सुनील संघी जी का स्वागत करते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन।

व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में अपना उद्बोधन देते हुए केन्द्रीय मंत्री श्रीयुत पीयूष जी गोयल।



व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में अपना उद्बोधन देते हुए सांसद जयपुर शहर श्रीयुत रामचरण जी बोहरा।

व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में अपना उद्बोधन देते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन।



केन्द्रीय वस्तु एवं सेवाकर आयुक्तालय जयपुर द्वारा GST डे के उपलक्ष्य पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में विशिष्ठ अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन के साथ मंच पर उपस्थित हैं आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क श्री सी. के जैन, मुख्य अतिथि श्री ओ.पी. दाधीच (पूर्व सदस्य केन्द्रीय अप्रत्यक्ष कर बोर्ड एवं सीमा शुल्क) डॉ. रवि कुमार सुरपुर मुख्य आयुक्त राजस्थान वस्तु एवं सेवाकर विभाग, श्री संजय गुप्ता अपर महानिदेशक NACIA व अन्य।

सम्पादकीय

अर्थव्यवस्था में छोटे उद्यमों की भूमिका समझनी होगी

अर्थव्यवस्था और समाज में सूक्ष्म, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्योगों के महत्त्व को समझना हमारे लिए जरूरी है क्योंकि 2030 तक जो सतत विकास के लक्ष्य (एसडीजी) हासिल किये जाते हैं, उनमें इन उद्योगों की भूमिका निर्णायक होगी। संयुत राष्ट्र भी इस तथ्य को मान्यता देता है। 2015 में बनाई गई सूची में शामिल सतत विकास के 17 लक्ष्यों को 15 साल की अवधि में हासिल करना तय किया गया था। जो रोजगार सृजन और आर्थिक विकास, आय, संपति तथा लैंगिक असमानता को कम करने और शिक्षा, आविष्कार तथा कौशल को प्रोत्साहन देने से संबंधित है।

दरअसल, एमएसएमई किसी भी फलती-फूलती अर्थव्यवस्था के गुमनाम नायकों की तरह है। यूएन के अनुसार विश्व स्तर पर ये उद्यम सम्पूर्ण व्यवसायिक जगत का 90 प्रतिशत हिस्सा है। विश्व का 60 से 70 प्रतिशत रोजगार इन्हीं उद्यमों से सृजित होता है और वैश्विक जीडीपी में इनका योगदान 50 प्रतिशत है। भारत में भी यदि आप केवल एमएसएमई क्षेत्र पर गौर करेंगे तो पाएंगे कि रोजगार, सृजन तथा निर्यात में इन उद्योगों का योगदान 50 प्रतिशत से अधिक है। पर इन्हें बैंक लोन का 20 प्रतिशत से भी कम मिलता है। इसलिए इन्हें मित्रों एवं परिवार पर या फिर उधार देने वालों पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है। अक्सर ये एमएसएमई बी2बी उद्यम होते हैं यानी बड़ी कम्पनियों को आपूर्ति करने वाले। इस प्रकार ये अपने चुनिंदा ग्राहकों पर निर्भर होते हैं। अक्सर लघु उद्यमियों को भुगतान में देरी का समस्या से दो-चार होना पड़ता है। यदि छोटे आपूर्तिकर्ता भुगतान विवाद को लेकर अदालत का रुख करते हैं तो उनके ब्लैकलिस्ट होने व ग्राहकों को खो देने की आशंका रहती है।

भारतीय कानून विक्रेताओं को समय पर भुगतान मांगने का अधिकार देता है। वर्ष 2006 के एमएनएमई कानून के अनुसार 45 दिन से ज्यादा समय तक भुगतान न करना अवैध माना गया है। पर ऐसी कितनी बड़ी कम्पनियां हैं, जिन्होंने जुर्माना भरा है। संभवतः शून्य दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता कोड (आइबीसी) अधिनियम ने छोटे व्यवसायियों को अधिकार दिया है कि वे भुगतान राशि लाख रुपए या अधिक होने पर बड़ी कम्पनियों के खिलाफ मुकदमा कर सकें। हालांकि कोरोनाकाल के दौरान यह न्यूनतम राशि बढ़ाकर 1 करोड़ रुपए कर दी गई थी। कानूनी सशक्तीकरण के बावजूद एमएसएमई विवाद से बचते हैं, क्योंकि जिस पर उन्हें मुकदमा करना होता है, आजीविका के लिए भी उसी पर निर्भर होते हैं। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने व्यापार प्राप्तियों के माध्यम से भुगतान में देरी की समस्या सुलझाने के उपाय किए हैं, लेकिन आरबीआई के भरसक प्रयास के बावजूद यह कदम प्रभावी नहीं हो सका है।

कुल मिलाकर एमएसएमई क्षेत्र में लम्बित भुगतान की समस्या नैतिक है। औद्योगिक संगठनों को अपने सभी सदस्यों, खासतौर पर बड़ी कम्पनियों को यह संकल्प लेने के लिए कहना चाहिए कि वे छोटे व्यवसायियों का भुगतान 45 दिन से ज्यादा नहीं रोकेंगे। इस संबंध में राष्ट्रीय अभियान चलाया जा सकता है। प्रधानमंत्री स्वयं इस समस्या के हल के लिए अभियान शुरू कर सकते हैं। यदि भारत को अगले दशक में हर साल 1 से 1.5 करोड़ रोजगार सृजित करने हैं तो वे मुख्यतः छोटे उद्यमों से ही संभव होंगे। एक करोड नए रोजगार यानी 5 लाख नए उद्यम। इन उद्यमों के लिए न केवल व्यवसाय करना सुगम बनाना आवश्यक है। नए व्यवसायों के लिए शहरी एवं राज्य सरकार से अनुमति लेना व नियमन संबंधी मंजूरी लेना जरूरी है, जबकि प्रक्रिया कितनी लंबी हो सकती है यह बहुत अनिश्चित होता है और भ्रष्टाचार की समस्या अपनी जगह है। वित्तीय और तकनीकी मामलों की जानकारी कम होना भी नए व्यवसायों के पंजीकरण में बाधा बनता है।

भारत में करीब 6.4 करोड़ उद्यम हैं, जिनमें से 99 प्रतिशत छोटे, सूक्ष्म या अतिसूक्ष्म हैं। हमें जरूरत है अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था में छोटे व्यवसायों की भूमिका को पहचानने के साथ प्रोत्साहित करने की। समावेशी विकास का अर्थ–एमएसएमई के स्वस्थ विकास में ही निहित है।

(डा. के.एल. जैन)

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Smt. Chavi Hemanth	- Family Welfare
Shri Manglesh Kumar Jain	- Capital Market
Shri O.P. Maheshwari	- Retail
Shri Rakesh Gupta	-Export
Shri Rajesh Kabra	- Export
Shri Pradeep Goyal	Agro & Food Products
Shri Arun Kumar Sharma	- C.H.A.
Shri Rajendra G. Tapuriah	- Capital Market
Shri Vimal Ranka	- Jewellery
Shri Prasan Kumar Dhandia	- Jewellery
Shri Mahendra Kumar Chopra	- Organic
Shri Prabhat Gupta	- Hardware
Shri Inder Chand Baid	- Jewellery
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Shri Duli Chand Karel	- B.S.S.

TREASURER

Shri Kantichand Dhandhiya	- Jewellery

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RCCI

RAJASTHAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

RAJASTHAN CHAMBER BHAWAN, M.I. ROAD, JAIPUR 302 003 (INDIA)

Smt. Nirmala JI Sitharaman,
Hon'ble Union Finance Minister,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi.

19-07-2023

Subject :—Memorandum in respect of Union Budget 2024-25

Hon'ble Madam,

Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (RCCI) Jaipur is the 73 years old Apex Organization of Industry Trade and Commerce in state of Rajasthan, along with more than 400 Product Manufacturing Associations, Professional Bodies and Organizations of Micro-level Entrepreneurs including Handicraft, Handloom, Mining, Tourism, Management and Exports. The members of this Chamber are experts in their field with rich experience are nominated by the State and Central Government in various advisory committees and the suggestions made by them are considered by the Government in policy formulation.

The Union Budget is Government's most vital economic policy tool and the most economic event in the country which outlines all the economic planning of the Country for the next financial year. It is not only important for the corporate sector but for individuals and for all sections of the society.

We are suggesting some Pre-budget measures for your kind consideration for the Union Budget year 2024-25 for direct and indirect tax as under:-

The ratio of direct tax collections to GDP in India still compares poorly with that in other developing countries. Tax gap is quite large and the personal income tax is able to capture nearby about 15 to 20 percent of its potential. India has a well-developed and diversified tax structure with the authority to levy taxes divided between the Central Government and the State Governments. Tax revenues can be increased by rationalization of tax rates, broadening the tax base and improving tax administration.

1. Income Tax Slabs should be revised though the Government has given the option of 2 tax regimes (old and new) to the taxpayers to choose as per their convenience; however most of the taxpayers are still opting for the old regime. The new tax regime should be made more attractive, the basic exemption limit of tax also needs revision seeing the inflation trend and post covid effect. Formulation of a single Direct Tax Code bringing together all present (and also the future) direct tax provisions.
2. It's high time that the Government should think for giving some benefits to those taxpayers (only individuals) who have contributed to the Economy by paying high taxes for the last 75 years. They are the true contributors to the growth of our country. The Government should think of giving them back & appreciate their contribution to the economy. These assesses have shown there honesty & loyalty towards the country. Thus the Govt. should introduce a proper Social Security Scheme in the upcoming budget.

3. Currently, Agricultural income is exempt from paying income tax. However, many wealthy farmers with large land holdings earn a handsome income but they do not pay tax. It's high time that Govt. must tax Agriculture income particularly from those who have large farm holdings of more than 50 hectares.
4. Corporate Tax, Partnership firm and LLP should be taxed at 20% without linking it to turnover.
5. Income disclosure scheme should be made applicable once every 5 year with 40% straight tax and 60% investments in bonds with a lock-in period of 5 years. It will helps the Govt. to mitigate 100% black money and the same will come into the system.

Rajasthan Chamber would like to suggest further for bringing new reforms in the present tax regime by framing tax friendly policy, so that taxpayers may freely come forward and feel pride to pay tax. The tax brackets need redesigning in such a manner that high tax should be imposed on higher income assesses and lower income assesses should be taxed with lower tax. Thus the increased tax revenue would contribute to economic growth in several sectors like - infrastructure development, education, and healthcare. This will boost economic growth and will also attract foreign investment vis a vis would generate new employment, resulting in a strong economic growth.

Indirect Tax

Goods and Service Tax is assumed to be a significant indirect tax reform to boost the economic growth engine, promisingly replacing the intriguingly complex and multi-layers taxation regime with a much simpler, transparent, and tech-driven tax administration.

It is high time that the GST empowered committee may consider having only 2 slabs of GST as under-.

1. Essential Commodities items @ 5% , Rest items be @ 15% or 16% , in case the revenue is decreased then Tobacco & Alcohol etc. be taxed @ 40% to recover in fall in the revenue. The suggested slabs and rates would certainly bring more revenue to the Govt. The Govt. should have more confidence in taxpayers since monthly GST collection is increasing month on month and year on year.
2. On many needed items the manufacturing exporters have to pay GST and then claim refund, it would be better that the manufacturing-exporters are totally exempted on all needed items used by them (rather first pay tax and then claim refund). Delay in refund creates liquidity constraints with the exporter's particularly in working capital.
3. Petroleum products be brought under GST regime.
4. GST registration should be at one place only.

Rajasthan Chamber is quite sure that the suggestions submitted as above will not affect the tax collection rather will increase revenue to be exchequer.

We assure, your honour of our full cooperation and support in encouraging taxpayers to pay proper tax and comply with Act, Rules and regulations.

With respectful regards,

Yours faithfully,
For Rajasthan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

(Dr. K L Jain)
President

Index Number of Wholesale Price in India Base : 2011-12=100)

Review for the Month of April 2023

The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is (-) 0.92% (Provisional) for the month of April, 2023 (over April, 2022) against 1.34% recorded in March, 2023. Decline in the rate of inflation in April, 2023 is primarily contributed by fall in prices of basic metals, food products, mineral oils, textiles, non-food articles, chemical & chemical products, rubber & plastic products and paper & paper products.

Month over Month Change in Major Groups of WPI:—

Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%) :— The index for this major group increased by 1.31% to 177.3 (provisional) in April, 2023 from 175.0 (provisional) for the month of March, 2023. Prices of Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas (3.47%), Minerals (2.30%) and Food Articles (1.45%) increased in April, 2023 as compared to March, 2023. Prices of Non-food Articles (-0.66%) declined in April, 2023 as compared to March, 2023.

Fuel & Power (Weight 13.15%) :— The index for this major group declined by 2.68% to 152.6 (provisional) in April, 2023 from 156.8 (provisional) for the month of March, 2023. Prices of Coal (-0.22%), Electricity (-2.20%) and Mineral Oils (-3.33%) declined in April, 2023 as compared to March, 2023.

Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%) :— The index for this major group remains unchanged at 141.2 (provisional) in April, 2023. Out of the 22 NIC two-digit groups for Manufactured products, 14 groups that have witnessed increase in prices while 8 groups that have witnessed a decrease in prices. The increase in price is mainly contributed by machinery & equipment; textiles; other transport equipment; computer, electronic & optical products; motor vehicles, trailers & semi-trailers; pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical & botanical products etc. Some of the groups that have witnessed decrease in prices are chemicals & chemical products; basic metals; food products; fabricated metal products, except machinery & equipment; leather & related products; paper & paper products etc. in April, 2023 as compared to March, 2023.

WPI Food Index (Weight 24.38%) :— The Food Index consisting of 'Food Articles' from Primary Articles group and 'Food Product' from Manufactured Products group have increased from 172.1 in March, 2023 to 173.6 in April, 2023. The year-over-year inflation based on WPI Food Index decreased from 2.32% in March, 2023 to 0.17% in April, 2023.

Final index for the month of February, 2022 (Base Year: 2011-12=100) :— For the month of February, 2023, the final Wholesale Price Index and inflation rate for 'All Commodities' (Base: 2011-12=100) stood at 150.9 and 3.85% respectively. The details of all India Wholesale Price Indices and Rates of Inflation for different commodity groups based on updated figures are at Annex I. The Annual rate of Inflation (Y-o-Y) based on WPI for different commodity groups in the last six months. The WPI for various commodity groups in the last six months

Response Rate :— The WPI for April, 2023 have been compiled at a weighted response rate of 85.5 percent, while the final figure for February, 2023 is based on the weighted response rate of 95.7 percent. The provisional figures of WPI will undergo revision as per the final revision policy of WPI.

Source : PIB : 14-05-2023

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News & Views

NabFID seeks to raise about $1 billion from multilateral institutions

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) on Thursday said it was looking to raise about $1 billion from multilateral institutions to reduce overall cost of funds and diversify funding sources.

The state-owned company's debut 10-year non-convertible debenture offering received bids of Rs 23,629 crore, almost 2.4 times the total size of the issue. It raisedRs 10,000 crore at a 7.43 per cent coupon, NaBFID said in a press release.

As for fixing of coupon, the indicative range was 7.4-7.45 per cent at the start of bidding, bond market sources said. Banks, insurance and pension funds were major investors in the bond offering.

NaBFID Managing Director Rajkiran Rai told Business Standard that the institution received a fine rate, given the present yield of around 7.02 per cent on government of India's 10-year paper. It would have liked to get a 7.4 per cent rate.

He said the next domestic bond issuance would be by the end of the current financial year (FY24).

Besides raising funds from the market, NaBFID has tied up with banks for credit lines. It will also approach international markets and funding agencies like World Bank for relatively cheaper sources of funds for renewable energy and green finance, Rai said.

SBI Capital Markets was lead advisor and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas was the legal advisor for the issuance.

The bonds, unsecured non-convertible debt securities, and carrying AAA/Stable rating from CRISIL are expected to be listed shortly on the exchanges.

Besides the initial sizable capital infusion of Rs 20,000 crore, additional support through government grants of Rs 5,000 crore will help in reducing effective cost of funds for NaBFID and, in turn, its lending rates. Also, the institution will be entitled to short-term funding in form of a repo from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage short term liquidity shortfalls, if any, in the future.

The financier is looking to disburse funds to build an outstanding book of Rs 30,000 crore by end of September 2023. The institution, in less than its one-year of its operations, has disbursed approximately Rs 15,000 crore of loans, he added.

Source :— Business Standard 15-06-2023

India, Australia includes space, sports in 15 new areas for talks on comprehensive trade agreement

Collaboration in space, mining and sports are among 15 new areas mutually identified by India and Australia for negotiations under the comprehensive free trade agreement, a senior government official said on Thursday. For the first time, these new segments would become part of a trade pact being negotiated by India.

Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal said that the third round of talks for the proposed comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) will end on June 16 and the next round of talks is scheduled in

July.

India and Australia have already implemented an interim trade pact in December last year and now negotiations are underway to expand the base of that pact for a CECA.

"In addition to five areas which we had committed and which will be taken up under CECA, there are 15 new areas where mutual interest has been shown by both sides," Agrawal told reporters here.

The official teams on both sides are discussing these areas to finalise the scope of discussions and cooperation that can be taken up in these areas, he said.

"Some of these are very new areas like space and sports, which we have not done (earlier) in any FTA (free trade agreement) till now. These are under discussion and we will see how it evolves," he added.

These areas may also include mining and defence collaboration. On Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), he said that India has observer status on the trade pillar and it is observing the developments "very" closely.

IPEF was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23 last year in Tokyo.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy (issues like tax and anti-corruption). India has joined all the pillars except the trade one.

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US and Vietnam are members of the bloc.

Members of the 14-nation bloc IPEF have 'substantially' concluded the negotiations on the supply chains agreement.

All the member countries are taking internal approvals on this agreement so that it can be operationalised latest by October.

In addition, he said that talks on a clean economy and fair economy are progressing well and the next round of talks are in July. “We hope that with another three rounds of negotiations on these two pillars, we will be good to close the negotiations hopefully by November 2023," Agrawal said.

On the proposed trade agreement between India and the UK, Joint Secretary in the department Nidhi Mani Tripathi said that talks are progressing and both sides are jointly trying to move forward in these negotiations.

The 10th round of talks concluded on June 9 and negotiations for 14 chapters out of 26 are substantially closed. She also said that the fifth round of talks for the India-EU trade agreement is scheduled from June 15-27 in India. Further India and Canada have concluded the 7th round of talks for such an agreement and both sides are hopeful to The 8th round is underway and will conclude on June 16.

Source :—The Economic Times 16-06-2023

India's petrol sales fall in first half of June

Indian state retailers' sales of gasoline fell in the first half of June from the same period last month as well as a year earlier, preliminary sales data showed, as a heat wave curtailed mobility.

Sales of gasoline, used in passenger vehicles and two-wheelers, fell 3.8% to 1.31 million tonnes in the first half of June from the same period a month ago, the data showed. However, sales of gasoil, mainly used by trucks, rose 3.4% to 3.43 million tonnes, according to the data reported by Reuters.

Gasoil accounts for about two-fifths of refined fuel consumption in India and is directly linked to industrial activity. State-run companies - Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Bharat Petroleum - own about 90% of India's retail fuel outlets. Below is a table of India's preliminary fuel sales data, with volume in thousand tonnes.

Earlier in May, India's fuel demand 9.7% year-on-year, while diesel sales continued to climb to hit a fresh peak. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 16% higher than the previous month at 3.35 million tonnes.

India will soon overtake China as the largest driver of global oil demand even as it has an opportunity to become a world leader in green hydrogen production, International Energy Agency (IEA) chief Fatih Birol said.

A swelling population, which has likely already surpassed that of China, is driving demand in the world's third-largest energy-consuming nation. Its transition from fossil fuels to cleaner sources is expected to lag other regions, but cheap electricity produced from renewable energy sources like solar energy can help transform the nation into a green hydrogen leader.

"India's oil demand will grow. I think India will soon takeover from China as the largest driver of global oil demand growth," Birol told PTI on the sidelines of a G20 event here.

This is primarily because China has seen faster adoption of electric vehicles, leading to a drop in petrol and diesel consumption

Source :—The Times of India 16-06-2023

91% of Indian organisations experienced ransomware attacks in 2023: Report

A survey conducted by CyberArk, a global identity security company, revealed that 91 per cent of Indian organisations surveyed by the agency have experienced ransomware attacks in the past year.

“More than nine in ten (91 per cent - up from 70 per cent in the 2022 report) of the organisations surveyed experienced ransomware attacks in the past year, and 55 per cent of affected organisations reported paying up twice or more to allow recovery, signaling that they were likely victims of double extortion campaigns,” the report claims.

A compounding of ‘cyber debt’

In its ‘CyberArk 2023 Identity Security Threat Landscape Report’ the company details how the tension between difficult economic conditions and the pace of technology innovation, including the evolution of artificial intelligence (AI), is influencing the growth of identity-led cybersecurity exposure.

"These issues have the potential to result in a compounding of 'cyber debt'," the report states highlighting a situation where investment in digital and cloud initiatives outpaces cybersecurity spend, creating a rapidly expanding and unsecured identity-centric attack surface.

The findings of the report further elaborate on upcoming areas of identity and cybersecurity concern in 2023. It notes that "61 per cent of security professionals surveyed expect AI-enabled threats to affect their organisation in 2023, with AI-powered malware cited as the top concern."

"New environments create new identities and, consequently, compromising identities will remain the most preferred method for attackers to evade cyber defences and gain access to critical data and assets," says Rohan Vaidya, regional director – India & SAARC at CyberArk.

"The identity-centric attack surface is one that is a priority to secure. To be best positioned to weather the current storm, organisations must adopt a risk-based strategy to secure critical assets, and initiate programmes to consolidate operations on a smaller set of trusted partners and solutions to build resilience," he further stated.

What do Indian organisations think?

100% of Indian organisations expect to suffer an identity-related compromise in 2023

61% anticipate AI-enabled attack

80% expect layoffs and workforce churn to create new cybersecurity issues

All (100 per cent) Indian organisations expect identity-related compromise in 2023, the report summarises. The reasons cited by the organisations range from economic-driven cutbacks, geopolitical factors, to cloud adoption and hybrid working. "A majority (84 per cent) say this will happen as part of a digital transformation initiative such as cloud adoption or legacy app migration."

Fueling a new wave of insider threat concerns from – for example - disgruntled ex-staffers or exploitable leftover credentials, 80 per cent of organisations expect employee churn-driven cyber issues in 2023.

Moreover, 92 per cent of Indian organisations feel code/ malware injection into their software supply chain is one of the biggest security threats their organisations face.

As identities grow, security cracks become more visible

Identities -- both human and machine -- are at the heart of nearly all attacks, the report suggests. It notes that three-fourths of identities in Indian organisations require sensitive access to perform their roles. It found that critical areas of the IT environment are inadequately protected and pique the identity types that represent a significant risk.

75 per cent of organisations say highest-sensitivity employee access is not adequately secured and India ranks higher in number of machines that have sensitive access than humans as compared to global findings (42 per cent vs 38 per cent).

Credential access remains the number one risk for respondents (cited by 45 per cent), followed by defence evasion (34 per cent), execution (34 per cent), initial access (31 per cent) and privilege escalation (26 per cent).

Business-critical applications such as revenue-generating customer-facing applications, enterprise resource planning (ERP) and financial management software – were named as the area of greatest risk due to the unknown and unmanaged identities that access them (53 per cent). However, the report notes that 70 per cent do have identity security controls in place to secure business-critical apps.

Third parties – partners, consultants and service providers – are cited as the top riskiest human identity type (44 per cent).

"The organisational desire to drive ever-greater business efficiencies and innovation remains undiminished, even as cutbacks in staffing and macro-economic forces are creating significant pressures," says Matt Cohen, chief executive officer, CyberArk.

"While attackers are constantly innovating, compromising identities remains the most effective way to circumvent cyber defences and access sensitive data and assets. Such profound risk puts the issue of "who and what to trust" at the forefront of efforts to prevent cyber debt from compounding, and to build long-term cyber resilience," the CEO states.

Source :— Business Standard 16-06-2023

Indirect tax receipts rise 19% in April-May; Collections in line with Budget projections

Thanks to robust Goods and Service Tax (GST) collections and improvement in customs duty collections, the Centre's indirect tax receipts, before devolution to states, have increased by around 19% on-year in April-May as against the required rate of 10.6% to achieve the FY24 target.

The indirect tax revenue target for FY24 is set at Rs 15.37 trillion, against the actual receipts of Rs 13.91 trillion in FY23. In April-May of FY24, the indirect tax receipts are estimated to be around Rs 2.46 trillion or 16% of the annual target compared with 14.8% of the relevant target achieved in the year-ago period. "The indirect tax receipts in April-May are in line with the budget estimate for FY24," a senior official told FE, adding that the annual target would be met comfortably.

In the previous financial year, the Centre achieved the revised estimate of Rs 13.9 trillion, which was Rs 50,000 crore more than the budget estimate (BE), largely aided by buoyant GST receipts.

The average monthly GST collections in the first two months of the current financial year have been Rs 1.72 trillion thanks to a whopping Rs 1.87 trillion in April (aided by year-end transactions in March). As expected, the GST collections moderated to Rs 1.57 trillion in May.

As against the requirement of Rs 1.5 trillion monthly gross GST collections (inclusive of state GST and compensation cess), officials expect the monthly collections to range between Rs 1.55-1.6 trillion during the current financial year. This could lead to Central GST collections exceeding the FY24 target of Rs 8.1 trillion by a decent margin.

The official said that Customs duty collections have also fared well in the first two months of the current fiscal compared to the year-ago period.

The focus of the government is on compliance and broadening of the tax base by the Centre in the current financial year to boost revenue collections.

To check fake GST registrations and input tax credit (ITC) frauds, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs will assign a risk rating to all applications and tax officers will cross-verify the documents submitted by the applicants with municipal records. The instructions were issued on Wednesday after it came to light during a special drive that fraudsters have misused PAN and Aadhaar numbers of people to obtain GST registrations.

Similarly, the CBIC has been taking steps to reduce the time taken for cargo clearance by the Customs authorities, a move that would help augment customs duty collections.

Source :—Financial Express, 16-06-2023

Net direct tax collection rises 11 pc to Rs 3.80 lakh cr, so for in FY24: FinMin

Net directtax collection so far this fiscal grew 11 per cent to reach Rs 3.80 lakh crore, the ministry of finance said on Sunday.

The Advance Tax collections for the April-June quarter of 2023-24 stood at Rs 1,16,776 crore as of June 17, reflecting a growth of 13.70 per cent over the same period last fiscal.

The Net Direct Tax collection of Rs 3,79,760 crore (as of 17.06.2023) includes corporation tax (CIT) at Rs 1,56,949 crore and personal income tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax(STT) at Rs 2,22,196 crore, the ministry said in a statement.

On a gross basis, before adjusting refunds, the collection stood at Rs 4.19 lakh crore, a 12.73 per cent growth over the same period last fiscal. This includes Corporation Tax (CIT) at Rs 1.87 lakh crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT) including Securities Transaction Tax(STT) at Rs 2.31 lakh crore.

Refunds amounting to Rs 39,578 crore have been issued till June 17, a 30 per cent growth over last year

Source :—The Economic Times, 18-06-2023

Govt likely to invite financial bids for privatising NMDC Steel after commissioning blast furnace this month

The government is likely to invite financial bids for privatising NMDC Steel only after the commissioning of the blast furnace at the company's steel plant in Chhattisgarh, according to officials.

Officials expect the value of the company to go up once the blast furnace of the steel plant becomes operational. NSL is expected to have a production capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum. The government holds a 60.79 per cent stake in NMDC Steel Ltd (NSL) after it got demerged from NMDC, which is India's largest iron ore producer.

The facility is located in Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh. The remaining 39.21 per cent stake is with the public.

NSL is up for privatisation with the government looking to sell 50.79 per cent of its shareholding, along with management control. The government had received multiple preliminary bids or expressions of interest for the company.

Officials said the government will get to know the fair value of NSL once the blast furnace, which is the heart of a steel plant, is commissioned and production starts.

Financial bids would be invited only after investors gain confidence about the real capacity of the company.

NMDC Steel, which was listed on the stock exchanges in February this year at Rs 30.25, is currently trading at around Rs 44 a share. Based on the current market price, the sale of a 50.79 per cent stake would fetch the government around Rs 6,500 crore.

In October 2020, the CCEA gave 'in-principle' approval to the demerger of the Nagarnar steel manufacturing unit from NMDC and strategic disinvestment of the resulting entity by selling the entire stake of the Government of India.

Following that the government on December 1, 2022, invited bids for buying a 50.79 per cent stake in NSL. The balance 10 per cent stake of the government would be offered to NMDC after the strategic buyer for 50.79 per cent stake is selected.

The privatisation of NSL is expected to be completed in the current fiscal. The Budgeted disinvestment target for the current fiscal is Rs 51,000 crore, of which the Government has so far raised Rs 4,235 crore from minority stake sale in PSUs.

Source :—The Economic Times 18-06-2023

Tata Steel plans Rs 16,000 cr consolidated capex for domestic, global operations in FY24

Tata Group's steel manufacturing arm, Tata Steel, is planning a consolidated capital expenditure (capex) of Rs 16,000 crore for its domestic and global operations during the current financial year, reported PTI, citing the company's CEO & MD T V Narendran and Executive Director & CFO Koushik Chatterjee. The company has earmarked Rs 10,000 crore towards standalone operations and Rs 2,000 crore for its subsidiaries in India.

"The projected capital expenditure (capex) for FY2023-24 is set at Rs 16,000 crore on a consolidated basis which is intended to be financed through internal accruals over the full year," PTI quoted the executives as saying in the company's annual report for 2022-23.

Of this, Rs 10,000 crore has been earmarked towards Tata Steel Standalone operations of which the Kalinganagar project will account for approximately 70 per cent, they said.

The company is in process of expanding capacity of its plant at Kalinganagar, in Odisha to 8 MT from 3 MT.

"Our other Indian subsidiaries, currently in an expansion phase with value accretive projects, especially in downstream operations which are important to service customer needs and improve our value-added product mix, will have a capex of about Rs 2,000 crore," the company officials said.

In Europe, Tata Steel Nederland will incur capex of Rs 1,100 crore on the relining of its blast furnace, which is underway. The remainder of the capex is largely allocated towards and will be spent on sustenance, environmental initiatives, and improvement projects, the leaders said.

Tata Steel has planned capital expenditure (capex) of Rs 12,000 crore on its India and Europe operations during the 2022-23 financial year. While Rs 8,500 crore is for India and Rs 3,500 crore for operations in Europe, Narendran had told PTI in July 2022.

In the UK, Tata Steel has had active and detailed discussions with the UK government in relation to the future of its business there.

Given the UK's decarbonisation journey and rising carbon costs, it has been clear that for the continuity of steel making in the long-term, it is necessary for Port Talbot to transition to alternative green technologies.

The discussions are ongoing and at the same time, some of the existing heavy-end assets in Tata Steel UK will reach the end of life over the following few years.

The management of Tata Steel UK will evaluate all scenarios with regard to the future configuration of the business and will consult appropriately with various stakeholders prior to relevant strategic decisions being taken. “Any decision making will also take into account our market, customers, supply chain impacts and safe operating practices for our employees," the officials said.

Source :—The Economic Times 18-06-2023

PE/VCs investment in India falls 44% to $3.5 billion, says report

Private equity and venture capital funds' investment in the country continued to fall in May, with the overall values declining by nearly 44 per cent to USD 3.5 billion, a report said.

The dedicated funds had invested USD 6.2 billion in May 2022 and USD 7.4 billion in the preceding month of April 2023, representing a dip of 44 per cent and 52 per cent, respectively, as per the report by industry lobby IVCA and consultancy firm EY.

"Despite a recovery of sorts being seen in tech sector indices and some of the large global tech names, sentiment in India for tech sector investments has been lacklustre, and fundraising by Indian startups has been sluggish," the firm's partner Vivek Soni said.

There is a high level of dry powder with the funds courtesy of the large fundraises over the past one-and-a-half years, but most of them are "circumspect with deployment and are focusing significant efforts on managing existing portfolios that are struggling with maintaining growth and margin improvement", he added.

Only healthcare and financial services have witnessed some investments, Soni said, adding that the medium- to long-term outlook remains positive and the overall deployments in 2023 will surpass the previous year's number.

In May 2023, the overall deal activity by volume stood at 71 transactions, 42 per cent lower than the year-ago period.

Growth investments declined 4 per cent to USD 1.9 billion across 17 deals, compared to USD 2 billion invested across 19 deals in May 2022, while the pureplay PE/VC (Private equity and venture capital) investments at USD 2 billion across 62 deals was 52 per cent down by value.

Real estate was the favourite sector for the funds in May 2023, recording USD 1.2 billion in PE/VC investments across seven deals against 12 deals worth USD 1.1 billion in May 2022. The technology sector was the second largest sector, with USD 864 million invested across 15 deals, a 159 per cent rise over May 2022.

The month recorded 20 exits worth USD 1.8 billion compared to USD 511 million in May 2022 and USD 1.6 billion in April 2023.

Funds have raised USD 2.2 billion in the month against USD 745 million in the year-ago period, the report said.

Source :— Business Standard 19-06-2023

Yokohama to invest Rs 671 crore to bolster passenger tyre capacity in India

Yokohama Rubber Company, a Japan-based manufacturer, has revealed its plans to bolster its passenger car tyre capacity in India. The company is set to invest 671 crore rupees ($80 million) in expanding its annual tyre production capacity in the Indian market through Yokohama India.

Having been operational since 2007, Yokohama India specializes in manufacturing tyres designed for Indian driving conditions. The company aims to install the new capacity within its existing Visakhapatnam plant in India. The expanded production line is projected to commence operations in the fourth quarter of 2024 and will focus on manufacturing 22-inch passenger car tyres.

Yokohama has seen significant growth in its yearly production capacity, that has jumped to 1.53 million tyres in 2019 and 1.96 million tyres in 2021 from 700,000 tyres in 2014. Also, the company's facility in Bahadurgarh, Haryana, has an existing annual capacity to manufacture 2.8 million tyres.

Yokohama operates three production facilities in Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), and Dahej (Gujarat) for the manufacturing of off-road tyres.

The tyre maker has recently expanded its retail presence in Tamil Nadu with the inauguration of its 51st store in Salem. This store serves as a comprehensive showcase for Yokohama's product range, encompassing passenger car tyres and SUV tyres. Additionally, the brand's YIN dealership stores offer various tyre-related services, including wheel alignment and wheel balancing.

Source :—The Economic Times 19-06-2023

88% of MSMEs credit GST for cost reductions along with optimised supply chains: Deloitte

With large companies giving thumbs up to Goods & Services Tax (GST), nearly 88 per cent of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have credited the reduction in cost to GST, a survey by Deloitte said on Tuesday.

There is also a 10 per cent increase among all business leaders on positive reliance towards GST.

As GST is entering into seventh year of its existence, the survey has been done to access the acceptability and gauge the usefulness of GST among all sizes of industrial units.

It took place in May this year collecting responses from 612 senior leaders across industries and companies and tracking the impact of GST across industries, including consumer, technology, media and telecommunications, energy resources, financial services, life sciences, and government and public services.

Growth in GST revenue

Talking about finding, Mahesh Jaising, Partner and Leader, Indirect Tax, Deloitte India said that the 22 per cent y-o-y growth in GST revenue is testimony to the overall economic development and tax-payer-centric administration.

“The survey indicates a positive impact on businesses of all sizes with MSMEs being the biggest beneficiary of the simplified tax regime,” he said.

He suggested that to boost economic progress and create a conducive business environment, the government could introduce additional measures for MSMEs, granting them an opportunity to avail input tax credits on invoice receipts and relaxing corresponding requirements to further reduce the cost and compliance burden.

Presenting a broader picture, the survey found that India Inc feels the time has come to unleash the next phase of reforms in indirect tax administration to enhance EoDB (Ease of Doing Business), resolve legislative ambiguities, and give new impetus to India’s growth story.

Need for introducing an amnesty scheme

Respondents to the survey acknowledged the need for introducing an amnesty scheme, essential for resolving existing tax disputes that had tied up business capital and government revenue.

Jaising further added that while the sentiment towards the GST regime remains positive across businesses in India and better than the survey taken last year, there is a push to dispel legislative ambiguities around input service distribution (ISD) vs. the cross-charge mechanism, self-supplies, and deemed valuation to ensure uniformity in the taxation system.

“We also found an inclination towards export rule liberalisation under the GST law with 78 per cent respondents citing it as the most-needed impetus, followed by unlocking working capital, removing ITC restrictions, and the removal of ‘deemed supply’ provisions,” he said.

Additionally, taxpayers and authorities have struggled to gauge the complexity of the law, align internal systems, and train professionals, leading to inadvertent slippages.

Resolve current issues

The government could deliberate on introducing a one-time amnesty scheme to resolve existing disputes, many of which have arisen due to interpretation issues or minor non-compliances during the initial years of the GST regime. Business leaders across industries appreciated user-friendly tech engines, such as GSTR 2B, sequential return filings, the timely transition of e-invoicing data, and the GST portal.

However, “the government must resolve current issues and demands, particularly those that are revenue neutral, to fully realise the benefits of the GST regime in India,” respondents said.

Source :—The Economic Times 20-06-2023

NBFCs expand MSME portfolios

An increasing number of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are looking to tap the MSME segment as competition from banks has intensified in vehicle, gold and home loans. Muthoot Finance on Tuesday launched small business loans to plug the gap of credit access to the MSME segment. “From a business perspective, we are venturing into this initiative as part of our strategic expansion plans and diversification, aiming to become a one-stop finance services provider,” says MD George Alexander Muthoot. “We are offering ticket sizes ranging from Rs 1-10 lakh, which are typically easy for SMEs to repay.”

Shriram Finance is looking to expand its MSME operations. Executive vice chairman Umesh Revankar believes that the share of MSME loans will increase to 15% of its portfolio in three years, from 10.3% currently. In recent times, NBFC interest in the MSME segment has also been fuelled by sustained demand from small enterprises for credit. A strong government impetus to grow MSMEs and initiatives like Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, credit guarantee scheme for micro and small enterprises and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana have expanded the presence of formal credit to the segment, say experts.

Fresh unsecured business loans by NBFCs rose 24% YoY to Rs 33,915.3 crore as on March 31, latest data by Finance Industry Development Council and CRIF High Mark showed. A report by TransUnion CIBIL and Sidbi shows that more MSMEs are preferring NBFCs for their financing needs.

“Firstly, NBFCs can process and disburse loans much faster than traditional lenders. Lower turnaround time is crucial for MSMEs that often need quick access to working capital,” Nishith Maheshwari, head – partnerships, SME business loans, InCred Finance, said. Since NBFCs require minimal documentation from borrowers because they assess creditworthiness differently, the underwriting process becomes more efficient due to preset industry-specific policies.

Flexiloans.com co-founder Manish Lunia believes that fintechs and NBFCs enjoy success in this segment due to their differentiated underwriting and “well-entrenched” branch networks. Broadly, these entities are able to assess cash-flow and repayment ability of MSMEs in a far better manner than banks.

“The general hypothesis is that MSMEs are not credit worthy. I am telling you that has changed. We are now looking at MSMEs through the eye and lens of data, similar to how the consumer finance segment is assessed,” says U GRO Capital MD Shachindra Nath.

Source :—Financial Express, 20-06-2023

Gadkari dedicates 11 flyovers on eight-lane highway from Delhi to Panipat

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday dedicated 11 flyovers spread over 24 km on the eight-lane national highway from Delhi to Panipat completed at an outlay of about Rs 900 crore.

On the occasion, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar thanked Gadkari for giving the gift of road projects to the people.

Khattar said 17 national highways have so far been constructed in the state. Perhaps Haryana in the only state in which all district headquarters have been connected with the national highway. Besides, several projects are in the pipeline.

He said the Central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed its tenure of nine years. On the other hand, the double-engine government in Haryana has also performed remarkably well in every field in the last eight and a half years.

Besides further strengthening the road and rail network, today a common man is also travelling by air. He said the state government is working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Centre in implementing the schemes.

The Chief Minister said the present government hit hard on 3Cs -- corruption, crime and caste-based politics.

He said the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against corruption. Apart from this, special emphasis has been laid on 5-S -- Shiksha (education), Swasthya (health), Svabhiman (self-respect), Suraksha (security) and Svavlamban (self-reliance).

In Haryana, eligible citizens are getting the benefit of every scheme sitting at home through the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP).

Source :— Business Standard 20-06-2023

Narendra Modi's US visit may encourage more American firms to invest in India

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States may encourage more American companies to consider investing in the South Asian country as they look to reduce their reliance on China for manufacturing-related activities.

The United States is the third largest source of foreign investment for India, with over $60 billion invested between 2000 and 2023, according to official data.

Following are some recent investment announcements, mostly by U.S. companies:

TESLA

Elon Musk said Modi was pushing the electric-car maker to make a "significant investment" in the country, adding that such an announcement was expected soon.

MICRON TECHNOLOGY

India's cabinet approved the chipmaker's $2.7 billion plan for a new semiconductor testing and packaging unit, a senior government source said, ahead of Modi's state visit to the United States.

Boeing The aircraft-maker plans to invest about $24 million in India to set up a logistics centre for airplane parts. The announcement preceded the company bagging an order for 220 jets from AirIndia.

AMAZON.COM

Amazon Web Services said it planned to invest $13 billion in India by 2030 to build its cloud infrastructure and create thousands of jobs

APPLE

The U.S. tech giant opened its stores in Mumbai and Delhi in April. It has been trying to make India a bigger manufacturing base and has started manufacturing several products there through contract electronics makers Foxconn, Wistron Corp and Pegatron Corp

During his visit to India in April, CEO Tim Cook said Apple was "committed to growing and investing across the country."

FOXCONN

The Taiwanese contract manufacturer plans to invest $500 million to set up manufacturing plants in the south Indian state of Telangana and almost $968 million in neighbouring Karnataka. The investments are expected to create more than 70,000 jobs, Indian officials have said.

The Apple supplier also plans to build a factory in India to manufacture AirPods, Apple's wireless earphones.

CISCO SYSTEMS

The U.S. networking equipment maker will begin manufacturing from India as it looks to diversify its global supply chain. It has set a target of $1 billion in production and exports from India over the next few years.

WALMART

The retail giant's CEO met Modi during his India visit last month and reiterated that the company planned exports from India worth $10 billion a year by 2027.

Source :—The Economic Times, 21-06-2023

2 substations soon, one for the airport

Two substations of 220 kV capacity each are expected to be ready by July and October, officials said on Tuesday. These new substations will supply power to sectors that fall under Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) area.

According to officials, the substation in Sector 18 is expected to be ready by July end or mid-August and will also provide 93MW supply to Jewar Airport in the first phase. The second substation in Sector 24 will be ready by October. Both the substations are being built on 12 acres of land each, at a cost of Rs 42.30 crore (Sector 18) and Rs 54.76 crore (Sector 24), respectively. They will be connected to the 765 kV substation at Jahangirpur for supply connections. Once operational, they will generate about 500 MW of power supply which will benefit Sectors 18, 20, 24, 22D, 22E among other sectors that come under YEIDA.

“We have built two substations of 220 kV capacity each for supply connections of Yamuna Authority sectors. These are being built in Sectors 18 and 24 of YEIDA. The Sector 18 substation will be ready next month and become operational by August 15. Work is almost 90% complete. It will also provide about 93MW supply to the upcoming Jewar Airport,” Satendra Singh chief engineer, transmission (west zone, Meerut) Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Limited (UPPTCL) told TOI.

Singh further added that both the substations are based on air insulated technique and will draw power from the 765 kV substation at Jahangirpur.

At present, supply to some parts of the Yamuna area is being provided through a 220 kV substation in Sector 32. “A substation of 220 kV capacity has been built in Sector 32 of YEIDA which provides power to industrial sectors of the authority,” said an official from the transmission department.

Source :—The Times of India 21-06-2023

Google looks to assemble Pixel smartphones in India

As per the reports, Alphabet Inc’s Google is in early talks with companies including Lava International and Dixon Technologies India as well as Foxconn Technology Group’s India Unit Bharat FIH to manufacture its flagship device in India. Google is following in Apple’s footsteps that have diversified its iPhone manufacturing from China to India. The company has widened its supply base in India and tripled iPhone output to over $ 7 billion in the fiscal year through March 2023.

The country has been pitching for an alternative manufacturing hub, as more companies are becoming wary of the risks of depending on China after its harsh Covid lockdowns and trade war between Washington and Beijing. Pixel is the flagship device of Google. As per Counterpoint Research, Google built nearly 9 million Pixel smartphones last year. The Local assembly could help Pixel sales as India is a key growth market for Google's services, and if the effort is successful, Google could move production of other hardware such as speakers to India, the report said.

Source :— The Indian Express, 21-06-2023

Foreign companies are shifting investment out of China as confidence wanes, business group says Beijing

Foreign companies are shifting investments and their Asian headquarters out of China as confidence plunges following the expansion of an anti-spying law and other challenges, a business group said Wednesday.The report by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China adds is one of many signs of growing pessimism despite the ruling Communist Party's efforts to revive interest in the world's No. 2 economy following the end of anti-virus controls.

Companies are uneasy about security controls, government protection of their Chinese rivals and a lack of action on reform promises, according to the European Chamber. They also are being squeezed by slowing Chinese economic growth and rising costs.Business confidence in China is "pretty much the lowest we have on record," the European Chamber president, Jens Eskelund, told reporters ahead of the report's release."There's no expectation that the regulatory environment is really going to improve over the next five years," Eskelund said.

President Xi Jinping's government, trying to shore up economic growth that sank to 3% last year, is trying to encourage foreign companies to invest and bring in technology. But they are uneasy about security rules and plans to create competitors to global suppliers of computer chips, commercial jetliners and other technology. That often involves subsidies and market barriers that Washington and the European Union say violate Beijing's free-trade commitments.Two-thirds of the 570 companies that responded to the European Chamber's survey said doing business in China has become more difficult, up from less than half before the pandemic.

Three out of five said the business environment is "more political," up from half the previous year. Companies are on edge after police raided offices of two consultancies, Bain & Co. and Capvision, and a due diligence firm, Mintz Group, without public explanation. Authorities say companies are obliged to obey the law but have given no indication of possible violations. Companies also are uneasy about Beijing's promotion of national self-reliance. Xi's government is pressing manufacturers, hospitals and others to use Chinese suppliers even if that raises their costs.

Foreign companies worry they might be shut out of their markets.Last month, the government banned using products from the biggest U.S. maker of memory chips, Micron Technology Inc., in computers that handle sensitive information. It said Micron had unspecified security flaws but gave no explanation.One in 10 companies in the European Chamber survey said they have shifted investments out of China. Another 1 in 5 are delaying or considering shifting investments. In aviation and aerospace, 1 in 5 companies plan no future investment in China. China has long been a top investment destination due to its huge and growing consumer market, but companies complain about market access restrictions, pressure to hand over technology and other irritants.

The ruling party has tightened control since Xi took power in 2012, pressing foreign companies to give the party board seats and a direct say in hiring and other decisions.The European Chamber noted it wasn't just foreign companies that are moving: 2 out of 5 in its survey reported Chinese customers or suppliers are shifting investments out of the country.A separate group, the British Chamber of Commerce in China, said last month its members were waiting for "greater clarity" about anti-spying, data security and other rules before making new investments.

The biggest concern is the ruling party's sweeping expansion of its definition of national security to include the economy, food, energy and politics, Eskelund said."What does qualify as a state secret? Where does politics begin and the commercial world stop?" Eskelund said. That "creates uncertainty" about "where we can operate as normal businesses." In the European Chamber survey, the top destination for companies moving their Asian headquarters out of China was Singapore, with 43% of companies that moved, followed by Malaysia.

Only 9% went or plan to go to Hong Kong.Leaders including Premier Li Qiang, China's top economic official, have promised to improve operating conditions, but businesses say they see few concrete changes.“Our members are not really convinced that we are going to see tangible results,” Eskelund said.

Source :—Financial Express, 21-06-2023

Asset monetisation plans for FY24 ready: Centre banks on roads, mines to meet Rs 1.8 trn goal

The Centre has drawn up a plan to meet the asset monetisation target of Rs 1.8 trillion for the current fiscal, with a robust pipeline of brownfield assets in roads, mining, power, petroleum and ports..

The public sector asset monetisation unlocked capital worth Rs 97,000 crore, 110% of the annual target. The achievement through accruals and private investment was Rs 1.32 trillion in FY23, which was 81% of the annual target of Rs 1.62 trillion. “Monetisation is in its third year and there is a lot of clarity among the agencies in terms of what to do. There is no question of any shortfall this year,” a senior official told FE.

Monetisation by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has reported decent numbers in the past two years even though targets were missed. Officials are confident that the highway maker would exceed the target in the current financial year. As against its achievement of Rs 22,400 crore (75% of target) in FY22 and Rs 17,300 crore (53%) in FY23, officials expect the achievement could be Rs 50,000-60,000 crore in FY24 as against the target of Rs 43,979 crore. NHAI plans to mobilise nearly of the amount through the infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) while the balance would be through other instruments including Toll Operate Transfer (TOT)-based PPP concessions.

For the third year in a row, the monetisation of coal and other mining assets is expected to fetch Rs 50,000-60,000 crore in FY24 as against the target of Rs 8,726 crore. While the target for this segment was enhanced to Rs 37,500 crore from the initial goal of Rs 6,060 crore for FY23, the achievement came in at around Rs 60,000 crore. In FY22 also, the mining sector had yielded upfront revenues and capital expenditure to the tune of Rs 58,000 crore against the target of Rs 3,394 crore.

Among others, asset recycling in power transmission, power generation, natural gas exploration and port infrastructure is expected to do well in FY24, the official said.

However, railways and telecom, which have achieved very little in the last two years, are likely to fall short of their monetisation goals by a wide margin in FY24 as well. Railways' asset recycling target for the current fiscal is Rs 44,907 crore. As per the original plan, it has to redevelop 120 stations in FY24. While that is a daunting task given the past two years of experience, it would try to initiate some station redevelopment in FY24, officials reckon.

Similarly, prospects are good for the port sector to meet the asset monetisaton goal of Rs 4,377 crore in FY24 as many ports are expecting private investment in additional berths, mechanisation, development of oil jetty, container jetties, O&M of container terminal, etc.

The aggregate asset pipeline under the NMP over the four years, FY22-FY25, is indicatively valued at Rs 6 trillion or about 14% of the central share of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) of Rs 43 trillion (out of a total Rs 111 trillion in six years through Fy25).

Source :—Financial Express, 21-06-2023

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invites US chip maker Micron to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited American chip maker Micron Technology to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India, a day after the Union Cabinet approved the company's $2.7 billion plan.

On June 21, the cabinet had also sanctioned production-linked incentives worth 110 billion rupees ($1.34 billion) for Micron plant, which is slated to be constructed in Gujarat, according to a report of Reuters.

"The prime minister invited Micron Technology to boost semiconductor manufacturing in India," an official statement issued by the external affairs ministry read.

PM Modi, who is visiting the US at the invitation of President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden., has also invited Applied Materials to India for development of process technology and advanced packaging capabilities.

Modi during his meeting with President and CEO of Applied Materials Gary E Dickerson discussed the potential of the company's collaboration with academic institutions in India to create a skilled workforce.

Prime Minister Modi also met General Electric CEO of H Lawrence Culp and invited the company to play a greater role in the aviation and renewable energy sector in India.

"Prime minister appreciated GE for its long-term commitment of manufacturing in India. The prime minister and Mr. Culp Jr discussed GE's greater technology collaboration to promote manufacturing in India," it said.

Global companies are exploring India as a viable investment destination for semiconductors amid heightened focus by the Indian government on making the country a hub for the manufacturing of electronics and semiconductors.

In 2021, the Indian semiconductor market reached a valuation of USD 27.2 billion, and it is projected to experience a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of approximately 19 percent, reaching USD 64 billion by 2026. However, despite this growth, India has yet to establish its own semiconductor manufacturing capabilities.

The establishment of semiconductor units, also known as fabs, is a highly specialized, intricate, and costly undertaking. Fabs require sophisticated technology, involve significant risks, and demand substantial time and financial investments before yielding returns.

Source :—The Economic Times22-06-2023

India's power sector transforms into surplus in nine years: RK Singh

India's power sector underwent a transformation phase to become "surplus" from a deficit in the last nine years, Union Minister R K Singh said on Thursday. More than 185 gigawatt (GW) of generation capacity has been added "transforming the country from a power deficit to a power surplus", the Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister said while addressing a conference on the achievements of his ministry here.

The total installed power generation capacity currently is 416 GW. The installed capacity is now close to double the peak demand and India is exporting power to neighbouring countries, he said.

The entire world has seen how India's power sector transformed in the last nine years, the minister said.

The maximum demand till date has only been 221 GW, he said. For transmission of power, 1.97 lakh circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines have been added connecting the whole country into one grid running on one frequency with the capability of transferring 1.12 lakh MW from one corner of the country to another.

India's grid has emerged as one of the largest unified grids in the world. Distribution companies (discoms) can buy power at the cheapest available rates from any generator in any corner of the country thereby enabling cheaper electricity tariffs for consumers.

The aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses of discoms have declined significantly from 22 per cent in FY 2021 to 16.44 per cent in FY2022.

The gap between the average cost of supply (ACS) and average realisable revenue (ARR) declined from Rs. 0.69/kWh (kilowatt hour) in FY2021 to Rs 0.15/kWh in Fy2022. "Against legacy dues of Rs. 1,39,747 crores as on June 3, 2022, 13 states/ UTs have paid instalments of Rs 64,196 crores," the minister said.

In the green energy space, Singh said, India has witnessed the fastest rate of growth in the renewable energy sector among all large economies.

The installed renewable energy capacity (including large hydro) has increased from 76.37 GW in March 2014 to 173.61 GW in May 2023, reflecting an increase of around 2.27 times.

RE generation (including large Hydro) has increased from 190.88 billion units (BU) in 2014 -15 to 365.60 BU in 2022-23 (up to March, 2023).

About USD 78 billion in investment has been received in the sector since 2014 (including USD 10.3 billion in FDI). Besides, the government also took various measures to promote domestic manufacturing of cells and modules, usage of green energy and development of RE projects.

Source :—Financial Express, 22-06-2023

India plans more steel products in manufacturing incentive plan

India plans to widen the range of steel grades covered by a government incentive program in a bid to boost output and back Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal to establish the nation as a global manufacturing hub. The steel ministry is in talks with other government departments and domestic industry to include more types of the alloy in the so-called production-linked incentive program, Steel Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha said in an interview. "We hope to come out with something in this regard in a few months."

India has already approved an investment of about 63 billion rupees ($770 million) over five years to make high-grade specialty steel. “The government is keen that India becomes a country which can produce all grades of steel competitively,” Sinha said. The nation is the biggest steel maker after China.

Modi is seeking to boost local manufacturing and lure the world’s top brands to make products locally for export through use of production-linked incentives. The prime minister has pitched India as an alternative manufacturing hub, as more companies become wary of the risks of depending on China.

The ministry also plans to incentivize green technologies like hydrogen, Sinha said. The country has about a dozen task forces working on ways to help policy makers respond to demand for low-carbon emission steel production, he said. The ministry has made 4.55 billion rupees available to companies under the National Green Hydrogen Mission for research and development in this space. The government is also monitoring European Union plans for a carbon tax. “Carbon-efficient steel exporters from India may not be impacted,”

Source :—Financial Express, 22-06-2023

Fitch raises India's GDP forecast to 6.3% for current fiscal year

Fitch Ratings raised its forecast for India's economic growth to 6.3 per cent for the current fiscal year 2023–2024 from its prior prediction of 6 per cent. This is mostly due to near-term momentum and a stronger outturn in the first quarter

The growth projection is in comparison to the 7.2 per cent GDP growth in Fy23. The economy had expanded by 9.1 per cent in the preceding fiscal year (FY22).

"India's economy has been showing broad-based strength - with GDP up by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in 1Q23 (January-March) and autosales, PMI surveys and credit growth remaining robust in recent months - and we have raised our forecast for the fiscal year ending in March 2024 (FY23-24) by 0.3 percentage points to 6.3 per cent," the rating agency said.

In March, Fitch reduced its projection for 2023–2024 from 6.2per cent to 6 per cent, noting challenges from high inflation and interest rates as well as weak global demand.

For 2024-25 and 2025-26 fiscal years, it estimated a growth of 6.5 per cent each. Since then, inflation has eased and the domestic economy has picked up

Fitch stated that the GDP growth for the months of January through March was higher than anticipated and that there has been a recovery in manufacturing following two consecutive quarterly contractions. Additionally, Fitch noted that there has been a boost from construction and an increase in farm output. In expenditure terms, GDP growth was driven by domestic demand and a boost from net trade.

Source :—The Economic Times22-06-2023

India is the investment destination of the decade : HSBC

New growth drivers like digitalisation, rapid ascend of India’s start-up ecosystem, high-tech exports, maturing reforms and the strength of the corporate balance sheets — altogether, enhance the growth prospects and investability of the Indian economy, according to a new report by HSBC

Authored by Neha Sahni, Director — Global Market Strategist, Chief Investment Office, HSBC Global Private Banking and Wealth, HSBC Holdings Plc, the report said, “If ‘new India’ helps lift the ‘old’ economy sectors with digitalisation of manufacturing and agritech, we think India’s potential growth rate could rise to 7.5 per cent per year over the next decade. This will solve two-thirds of India’s employment problem and will chart out a growth path different from what’s been seen before.”

The HSBC report comes soon after Morgan Stanley said all the conditions are in place for India’s sustained economic expansion, and is well-placed to sustain growth rates of above 6 per cent.

Consumption basket

India is expected to grow from $2,300 GDP/capita economy to $5000 GDP/capita economy over the next 6-7 years. This has enormous implications for its consumption basket, both in terms of the quantum and the type of consumption — especially for those goods and services that fall in the aspirational and discretionary categories.

“With a young, digitally savvy and economically productive workforce, India’s middle class is expanding rapidly. This young, middle income strata of the Indian population is aspirational, and has a deep penetration of mobile phone usage. Placing digital transactions via mobiles comes as second nature to this young cohort,” HSBC said.

"Consequently, we expect India to have the second largest group of online shoppers by 2030, of around 500 million. And as a result, the size of India's e-commerce market is estimated to grow to $350 billion by 2030," it added. returns.

Source :—Business Line, 23-06-2023

Global steel production falls 5 percent in May; India's output rises 4 percent

New Delhi, India has registered a 4.1 per cent growth in its crude steel production at 11.2 MT amid 5.1 per cent downfall in the global output at 161.6 MT in May 2023, according to the World Steel Association (worldsteel). Despite a 7.3 per year-on-year (y-o-y) fall, China remained the top steel producing country in May with 90.1 MT crude steel production, world steel data showed. India produced 11.2 MT crude steel, up 4.1 per cent over May 2022, the body said in its latest report.

Japan's output was also 5.2 per cent down y-o-y at 7.6 MT. The United States produced 6.9 MT steel registering a 2.3 per cent fall annually.

Russia is estimated to have produced 6.8 MT, up 8.8 per cent. South Korea registered a marginal fall of 0.1 per cent to 5.8 MT.

While Germany produced 3.2 MT, Brazil 2.8 MT, Turkiye 2.9 MT and Iran produced 3.3 MT in May 2023.

Brussels-based World Steel Association is one of the largest industry associations in the world, with members in every major steel-producing country.

It represents steel producers, national and regional steel industry associations, and steel research institutes. Members represent around 85 per cent of global steel production.

Source :—The Times of India 23-06-2023

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Source :—Business Line 23-06-2023

India saves 249 BU units energy in FY22: BEE report

India Conserved 249 billion units (BUs) of electricity to save Rs 1.60 lakh crore in bills for the 2021-22 financial year, according to a BEE report. The report titled National Energy Data: Survey and Analysis 2021-22 was released by Union Minister for Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh on Friday in the national capital.

The report by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has been prepared in collaboration with Niti Aayog, the Ministry of Power said.

Electricity saving of 249 BUs has happened, the data showed. The total energy savings worth Rs 1,60,721 crore happened as an impact of various energy conservation policies, it said.

While releasing the report, the minister underlined the need for data on energy usage, such as the comparative cost of gas-based cooking and solar cooking.

"Our whole objective is to reduce dependence on imported sources of energy. The way to do this is two-fold to electrify the economy and then to green the energy," he said.

BEE Director General (DG) Abhay Bhakre said that impact of various government schemes, including incentives and subsidies, would be assessed, sub-sectoral energy consumption patterns will be analysed, and data on non-commercial energy sources like biomass would be captured.

BEE, under the Ministry of Power, promotes the use of energy-efficient processes, equipment, devices and systems. It takes various steps to encourage preferential treatment for the use of energy-efficient equipment or appliances

Source :— The Economic Times, 23-06-2023

India-UAE sign pact for AEOs for faster customs clearances

India and UAE signed Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for authorised economic operators (AEOs) of both countries, the CBIC said. The AEO programme enables Customs administration to identify safe and compliant exporters and importers and to provide them better facilitation. Under MRA, Customs authorities recognise AEOs of both countries, which in turn helps expedite customs clearances.

"In pursuance of greater trade facilitation & ease of doing business, India & UAE signed the Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Authorised Economic Operators of both countries today, on sidelines of the 141st/142nd sessions of WCO Customs Co-operation Council meeting, in Brussels," the Central Board ofIndirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) tweeted.

Earlier in September 2021, India and the US had signed a MRA AEO. The Customs authorities of both countries have already evaluated each other's AEO programme and is working to quickly implement the reciprocal arrangement for authorised economic operators.

Source :—The Times of India 23-06-2023

Exporters with credit limit of up to Rs 50 cr set to get 90% insurance cover: ECGC

Export promotion organisation Export Credit Guarantee Corporation ofIndia (ECGC) on Friday announced the expansion of 90 per cent insurance cover for exporters with a credit limit of Rs 50 crore, a cover limited to those with a limit of Rs 20 crore earlier.

However, exporters with a credit limit of Rs 20 crore previously used to get an insurance cover of 60 per cent which was only last year increased to 90 per cent.

Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, said that this change will be effective July 1, 2023.

Currently, there four banks associated with the scheme, providing Rs 50 crore credit for exports, and this expansion is set to benefit 3,000 exporters.

Meanwhile, the ECGC has also chosen to extend this cover to another nine banks which in turn will benefit another set of 3,000 exporters.

Goyal mentioned plans to meet more bankers next week to request their alliance with this scheme.

Goyal also explained that with the provision of 90 per cent insurance cover, exporters' accounts become AA accounts, which enables interest rates to go down. This tag also helps banks when it comes to giving loans.

"With 90 per cent insurance cover, banks have been assured and with this the interest rate has come around repo rate plus 2.2 per cent for all AA rated accounts," the minister said. "This interest rate will be applicable to the exporters' with exports up to Rs 50 crore as well."

Further, he also guaranteed that in the next four to five months, all activities at ECGC will be digitised to quicken the procedure. The resolution of disputes will be done via video conferencing, he said.

M Senthilnathan, Chairman & MD, ECGC India Limited, disclosed various plans in the pipeline including two extra covers for exporters as part of their strategy to expand their market.

He specified that the exporters coming directly to ECGC for their services will be given extra cover depending on their

credit limit.

"The target for ECGC is that for FY24 we should be able to support exports for the Rs 10 lakh crore target as set by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ECGC is confident of achieving this target," he said.

Wholly owned Government of India enterprise, ECGC is mandated with improving the competitiveness of the Indian exports by providing them with credit insurance covers.

In March 2023, the Minister had urged the ECGC to think of ways to establish ECGC as an integral part in India's aim to take its exports to $2 trillion exports by 2030 and a trillion dollar of exports in services and in goods each.

India's overall exports in April 2023, however, were estimated at $65.02 billion showing a positive growth of 2 per cent.

Source :—The Times of India 23-06-2023

India to account for 12% of global m-cap by 2075; GDP to surpass US

Goldman Sachs has predicted the Indian economy and market will be among the top globally by 2050 and even surpass the US by 2075.

In a report titled, The Path to 2075-Capital Market Size and Opportunity, the US-based investment bank said the growth in Emerging Markets (EM) will continue to outpace that in the developed market, with 7 of the top 10 world economies becoming EMs by 2075.

"We expect EM growth to continue to outstrip DM over the remainder of this decade (3.8 per cent versus 1.8 per cent). In 2050, we project that the world's five largest economies will be China, the US, India, Indonesia, and Germany. By 2075, China, the US, and India are likely to remain the three largest economies and, with the right policies and institutions, seven of the world's top ten economies are projected to be EMs," said Jan Hatzius, chief economist and head - Global Investment Research at Goldman Sachs. Thanks to the superior economic growth, EMs and Indian capital markets are expected to grow in stature over the coming decades.

"Our projections imply that EMs' share of global equity market capitalisation will rise from around 27 per cent currently to 35 per cent in 2030, 47 per cent in 2050, and 55 per cent in 2075. We expect India to record the largest increase in global market cap share – from a little under 3 per cent in 2022 to 8 per cent in 2050, and 12 per cent in 2075 – reflecting a favourable demographic outlook and rapid GDP per capita growth," Hatzius said.

Source :— Business Standard 24-06-2023

UPI to account for 90% of retail transactions in 5 years: RBI bulletin

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions will likely account for 90% of overall retail digital transaction volumes in the next five years, up from 75.6% as of March end, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monthly bulletin released said.

According to the report, a total of 9.4 billion UPI transactions were recorded in the month of May, with a 143% year-on-year (YoY) rise in successful transactions under the UPI Autopay feature, and a 23% on-year rise in new mandate registrations. Furthermore, person-to-merchant (P2M) payments have gained prominence, comprising 57% of the total transaction volume through the UPI, the RBI said.

With the linking of RuPay credit cards to UPI, the share of P2M transactions in value terms is also anticipated to rise further, owing to a higher average ticket size of credit card purchases than UPI, the report said. With rising digital transactions and withdrawal of `2,000 bank notes, the overall currency in circulation, which forms the largest component of reserve money, decelerated to 5.3% from 8.3% a year ago, it added.

Credit, deposit growth

The state of economy report noted that scheduled commercial banks' credit moderated to 15.4% in early May, from the peak of 17.8% recorded in October 2022, due to an unfavourable base effect and moderation in credit growth to industry. More importantly, the wedge between the growth rates of banks' credit and deposit narrowed, with the growth in deposit mobilisation recording a 27-month high of 11.8% amidst continuing efforts by banks to bridge the funding gap.

Further, in response to the RBI's cumulative repo rate hike of 250 basis points since May 2022, banks have revised their benchmarks for pricing of loans—the external benchmark-based lending rate (EBLR) and the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) — upwards. Accordingly, during May 2022 to April 2023, banks have cumulatively increased their EBLRs and their 1-year median MCLR by 250 bps and 145 bps, respectively.

"As a result, the weighted average lending rate (WALR) on fresh and outstanding rupee loans increased by 158 bps and 104 bps, respectively. On the deposit side, the weighted average domestic term deposit rate

(WADTDR) on fresh and outstanding deposits increased by 233 bps and 125 bps, respectively," it said.

On a monthly basis though, the WALR on fresh rupee loans and WADTDR on fresh deposits declined by 23 bps and 12 bps, respectively, in April 2023. The increase in the WALRs on fresh rupee loans and WADTDRs on fresh deposits was higher in the case of public sector banks relative to private banks.

Forex reserves, FPI flows

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by \$69.2 billion since October 21, 2022 to \$593.7 billion as on June 9, 2023, which is sufficient to cover 10 months of imports projected for FY23 or 97% of total external debt outstanding at end December 2022. During the calendar year 2023, India's foreign exchange reserves increased cumulatively by \$31, which is the second highest among major foreign exchange reserves holding countries, the report said.

Foreign portfolio investments, meanwhile, also remained positive for third consecutive month in May and at their highest level in the previous nine months at \$5.5 billion. Equity segment dominated the FPI flows, accounting for \$5 billion. Relative to comparable emerging market peers, Indian equities attracted the second highest FPI inflows during May 2023, the report said, adding that financial services, automobiles and fastmoving consumer goods (FMCGs) attracted the bulk of these investments during May.

"In June 2023 so far (up to June 16), FPIs invested \$1.2 billion in Indian markets, taking net inflows in 2023-24 to \$8.8 billion, as against net outflows of US 5.9 billion during FY23. India received 48.7% of total emerging markets FPI equity flows in 2023-24 (up to June 14) as against India's weight in MSCI Emerging Market Index of 14.3% (as on May 31, 2023)," the report said.

Source :—Financial Express, 24-06-2023

Modi's US tour. Google, Amazon commit \$25 billion investments in India

Google will invest \$10 billion in India's digitisation fund, its CEO, Sundar Pichai announced on Saturday. He also announced the opening of a global fintech operation centre in Gujarat.

On the other hand, e-commerce giant Amazon plans to invest \$15 billion more in India, taking its total investment in the country to \$26 billion, the company's President and CEO, Andy Jassy, said.

Jassy said the company has already invested \$ 11 billion in India till date.

Both the investments decisions were announced after the Indian-origin CEO of Google and its parent company and Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, in Washington, during the latter's US tour. The investment announcement was made post the meeting.

As per a statement released by India's MEA (Ministry of External Affairs), the Prime Minister invited Pichai to explore further avenues of collaboration in the domains of Artificial Intelligence (AI); fintech; cybersecurity products & services; and mobile device manufacturing in India.

"….also discussed collaboration between Google and academic institutions in India to promote R&D and skill development," the statement said.

Post the meeting, Pichai told reporters, "We shared with the Prime Minister that Google is investing \$10 billion in India's digitisation fund…. We are announcing the opening up of our global fintech operation centre in GIFT city, Gujarat."

"The PM's vision for Digital India was way ahead of its time. I now see a blueprint that other countries are looking to do," he added.

The Alphabet boss added that he was looking forward to the progress India will make with the additional \$10 billion. Some ideas that Pichai would look forward to go ahead with include building a single, unified AI model that will be capable of handling more than 100 Indian languages across speech and text (a part of Google's global efforts to bring the world's 1,000 most-spoken languages online and to help people access knowledge and information in their preferred language); support a new multidisciplinary centre for responsible AI with IIT Madras; among others.

Praise for Amazon's digitisation push

Modi also met President and CEO of Amazon, Andrew R. Jassy in Washington DC. Discussions centred around e-commerce, and the US-based major's promotion of digitisation of MSMEs in India was "welcomed" by the PM.

"They also discussed the potential of further collaboration with Amazon in the logistics sector in India," an MEA statement said.

Post the meeting, Jassy said, "I had a very good and productive conversation with Prime Minister Modi. I think we share a number of goals. Amazon is one of the biggest investors in India. We have invested \$11 billion till date and intend to invest another $15 billion, which will bring the total to $26 billion."

The Amazon CEO further added that his company was "very interested in helping create more jobs"; helping digitise more small and medium size businesses, and helping more Indian companies and products be exported all around the world.

Other Meetings

Modi interacted with the members of the Indian community at the Ronald Reagan Centre in Washington DC. In his address, he invited them to contribute to India's "growth during Amrit Kaal".

"Prime Minister also thanked them for playing a significant role in strengthening India-USA ties, and highlighted future areas of bilateral partnership," the MEA statement said.

The Prime Minister also addressed a gathering of professionals at the John F. Kennedy Centre in Washington DC. The event was organised by the US – India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF). Secretary of State of the USA, Antony Blinken also graced the occasion.

Source :— Business Line 24-06-2023

ECGC sets Rs 10 trn target for exports risk cover in FY24

ECGC, the state-run agency giving credit cover for exporters, has set an ambitious target to provide credit risk cover of Rs 10 trillion in the current financial year, up from Rs 6.68 trillion in 2022-23, chairman and managing Director of the company M Senthilnathan said on Friday.

ECGC, earlier named as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India, also plans to increase the ambit of the Export Credit Insurance for Banks (ECIB) that started last year.

Under ECIB working capital loans by banks to exporters of up to Rs 20 crore were extended insurance cover against defaults. From this year, the benefit of enhanced cover will be extended to accounts with limits up to Rs 50 crore at no additional cost and this will benefit 3000 exporter-borrower accounts, Senthilnathan said at a press conference.

The government was planning an Initial Public Offer of ECGC but it got postponed. The company is IPO ready and the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management will decide on it, Senthilnathan said.

Four banks – State Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra and Saraswat Bank – are part of the ECIB.

"The experience under the cover has been satisfactory in terms of low default ratio in the last one year. It has resulted in easing of interest rates on loans obtained from banks by exporters," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

ECGC will also provide enhanced cover under the policy covers providing protection against commercial and political risks on account of the overseas buyers issued to the exporters in the policies available for sale in all the channels.

"Full 100% cover will be provided for existing policyholders where 'No Claim Bonus (NCB)' is 50% and the policy proposal has been received directly from the exporters and not through insurance brokers. Additional cover of 5% under the policies will be given where the proposal is received directly from the exporter and not through insurance brokers," Senthilnathan said.

Goyal said all procedures of ECGC will be made fully digital in the next few months and a new grievance redressal mechanism at ECGC Ltd. will be established where a Live video-conference facility will be available daily for one hour on the website of the company.

When the idea of ECGC IPO was floated, there was a view that the company might need to increase its capital if there were a default in payment by customers of Indian exporters due to COVID and geopolitical developments. As the situation remained under control the need for extra capital did not arise.

The paid-up capital of the company now stands at Rs 4300 crore and its net worth is Rs 10,000 crore. ECGC is a profitable dividend paying company. Last financial year it paid Rs 276.5 crore dividend to the government, its sole shareholder.

Source :—Financial Express, 24-06-2023

Banks may finance Go First's request for Rs 400 crore interim funding

Go First lenders are likely to support the airline's request for Rs 400 crore interim funding to restart the operations.

Go First temporarily halted operations on May 2 and was admitted under the insolvency process on May 10. On Wednesday, the airline's resolution professional Shailendra Ajmera submitted a business plan and a request for over Rs 400 crore to the airline's committee of creditors (CoC).

The CoC comprises Go First's lenders - Bank of Baroda, Central Bank, Deutsche Bank and IDBI Bank - which collectively have an exposure of over Rs 6500 crore to the airline.

"Bank representatives met again on Thursday to discuss the airline's funding request. The airline's revival plan has been analysed," said a person familiar with the process. The lenders are expected to decide in the next two-three days and after which boards of respective banks would authorise additional funding. The additional funds would be treated as interim finance which has priority over all other debt under the insolvency process.

Go First plans to operate around 150 daily flights with 22 aircraft in the initial phase. Ajmera and senior executives have also apprised DGCA officials about the restart efforts and addressed their concerns. For the regulator, the main concern is the airline's financial sustainability, airworthiness and consumer interest.

Go First intends to start operations on July 1 and needs DGCA approval for the restart and sale of tickets. While revival efforts are underway, Go First is also challenging engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney's (P&W) application for a stay on an arbitral award.

On March 30, Go First secured interim relief from Singapore International Arbitration Centre when it directed P&W to supply the airline with a certain number of spare engines till December 2023. The engine manufacturer was ordered to take all reasonable steps and release without delay at least ten serviceable spare leased engines within 28 days of the order and a further ten spare leased engines each month until December.

P&W and Go First did not respond to queries.

Earlier in May while opposing Go First's enforcement application in a US court, the engine manufacturer said the airline has not right over engines. Go First is opposing P&W's application before SIAC citing its revival efforts, it is learned.

Source :— Business Standard 24-06-2023

India should consider free trade agreement with Egypt: Exporters

Mediterranean nation holds huge potential for the domestic industry in various sectors like agri products, steel items and light vehicles, according to exporters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in Cairo for a two-day state visit at the invitation of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that India and Egypt have historic trade relations, which are robust and fairly balanced.

India's exports increased to USD 4.1 billion in 2022-23 from USD 3.74 billion in 2021-22. However, imports from that country declined to about USD 2 billion against USD 3.5 billion in 2021-22.

Fertiliser, crude oil, chemicals, raw cotton, and raw hides are major import items from Egypt. The main export items include wheat, rice, cotton yarn, petroleum, meat, flat-rolled products, ferroalloys (related to iron) and light vehicles.

"The prime minister's visit is significant as Egypt is the gateway to Africa and Europe. A cementing of economic relations and possibly a feasibility study for FTA can be undertaken as Egypt has such FTAs with countries in West Asia and Africa," Sahai said.

Besides cooperation in agriculture, biotechnology, pharma, and renewable energy, India should explore tie-ups in logistics with Egypt, he added.

"We should look at taking trade to USD 15 billion in the next three years from the current over USD 6 billion," he said.

Engineering exporter and Director of Geco Trading Corporation Khalid Khan said that Egypt is a major trading partner of India in Africa.

Ludhiana-based engineering exporter and Hand Tools Association President SC Ralhan suggested that Egypt should consider starting trade with India in domestic currency. About 50 Indian companies are operating in Egypt.

Source :—The Times of India 25-06-2023

Centre approves Rs 56,000 cr for 16 states for capital investment

Projects approved in sectors such as health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges and railways; Bihar gets lion's share of funds at Rs 9,640 cr, MP gets Rs 7,850 crore investments, mutual funds

Centre on Monday approved Rs. 56,415 crore to 16 States for capital investment under 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' Scheme for giving timely boost to capital spending by States.

The projects approved are across various sectors including health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges and railways.

Funds for meeting the State share of Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana have also been provided to the States under this scheme to enhance pace of the projects in these sectors.

The highest allocation has been made to Bihar at Rs 9,640 crore followed by Madhya Pradesh which has been given Rs 7,850 crore.

The scheme 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24' was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. The idea was to provide boost to capital spending by States.

Under the scheme, special assistance is being provided to the State Governments in the form of 50-year interest free loan up to an overall sum of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24.

A similar scheme - 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23' was also executed by the Ministry of Finance in the last financial year. Under the scheme, Capital Investment proposals of Rs. 95,147.19 crore were approved and an amount of Rs. 81,195.35 crore was released to the States in the last financial year.

However, such a scheme was first instituted by the Ministry of Finance in 2020-21 in the wake of COVID-19 Pandemic to provide assistance to the states. The scheme for 2023-24 has eight parts, Part-I being the largest with allocation of Rs. 1 lakh crore. This amount has been allocated amongst States in proportion to their share of central taxes and duties as per the award of the 15th Finance Commission. Other parts of the scheme are either linked to reforms or are for sector specific projects.

In Part–II of the scheme, an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore has been set aside for providing incentives to States for scrapping of State Government vehicles and ambulances, waiver of liabilities on old vehicles, providing tax concessions to individuals for scrapping of old vehicles and setting up of automated vehicle testing facilities. Part–III & IV of the scheme aim at providing incentives to States for reforms in Urban Planning and Urban Finance. The scheme also aims at increasing the housing stock for the police personnel and their families within the police stations in urban areas. An amount of Rs. 2,000 crore is earmarked for this purpose under Part-V of the scheme.

Source :— Business Standard 26-06-2023

Lulu Group to invest Rs 10k Cr in India over 3 years to complete ongoing projects

Lulu Group will be investing Rs 10,000 crore in India on various ongoing projects over the next three years and the UAE-based conglomerate has invested over Rs 20,000 crore in the country, Lulu Chairman Yusuff Ali MA said here on Monday. He also said his aim is to provide employment to 50,000 people in India and so far his various enterprises have given over 22,000 jobs.

Yusuff Ali also said the Lulu Group has committed about Rs 3,500 crore in investments in Telangana in the next five years in various projects including a Destination Shopping Malls (Rs 3,000 crore) here and also in other cities in the state. "We have got an investment of more than Rs 20,000 crore in different areas including shopping malls, hotels, and food processing units (in India). We will increase this," he said.

"We have started the construction of a shopping mall in Ahmedabad. And also another one in Chennai we are coming up. A food processing plant is coming up in Noida and another one in Telangana. It is Rs 10,000 crore investments in the next three years," Yusuff Ali said when asked about the overall investments on the upcoming projects.

He further said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has liberalised NRI investment laws and according to that all investments by non-resident Indians are treated as domestic investments. He said a five lakh sq ft Lulu Mall built with an investment of Rs 300 crore here will be inaugurated in August and an export-oriented modern integrated meat processing plant and state-of-the-art Destination Mall (2.2 million sq ft) will also come up.

Source :—Financial Express, 26-06-2023

Tata Chemicals lays out Rs 8,000-cr capex plan

Tata Chemicals has earmarked a capex of Rs 8,000 crore over the three years as the world's third-largest soda ash maker embarks on an expansion spree that includes scaling businesses sustainably. "We intend to invest about Rs 8,000 crore over the next 2-3 years as capex," chairman N Chandrasekaran said at the company's AGM held virtually on Monday.

Addressing shareholders, Chandrasekaran said the company will increase its soda ash capacity by another 1 million tonne (MT), taking its total global capacity to 5.3 MT. The company's 380 kilo tonne of salt capacity addition in the UK and Mithapur in India would increase its global capacity to 2.3 MT and that in India to 1.8 MT.

The company is also expanding its specialty silica capacities by 5 times, in a phased manner, to reach 50,000 KT to support the emerging demand from tyre industry, he said, adding the firm would add 200 KT of capacity addition at its sodium bi-carbonate plant at Mithapur. He, however, did not provide the timelines earmarked for these expansion projects.

Last year, Tata Chemicals had earmarked a Rs 5,000-crore capex spend over the "next few years", while that for FY23 was Rs 1,500 crore.

To achieve market leadership in its core business, de-leverage international operations and accelerate commitment to sustainability aligned to the project Aalingana, remains thefocus, he said. "The company has committed to science-based target initiatives, with a goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2045," he added.

Talking about the general industry, Chandrasekaran said the Indian chemical industry was expected to see moderation in demand growth in 2023 on the back of a "strong" post-Covid recovery seen in 2022. In line with the continued GDP growth, the long-term outlook remains positive.

The global chemical growth moderated in 2023 mainly led by the slowdown in China and supply chain bottlenecks. It is expected to grow by about 3% in the given macro environment.

The outlook for the Indian economy also remains positive, he said, adding the estimated GDP growth in India expected to be about 6.1% in 2023-34 and will remain one of the fastest growing economies. The global economic outlook for 2023 appears to have downside risks and the global GDP growth is expected to be about 2.9%, he added.

Source :—Financial Express, 27-06-2023

India's road network grew 59% in 9 years, now second largest after US: Nitin Gadkari

India's road network grew 59 per cent in the last 9 years to become the second largest in the world after US, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

Gadkari said that the country's road infrastructure now stands at 1,45,240 km compared to 91,287 km in 2013-14.

Earlier, China used to have the second largest road network in the world.

The road, transport and highways minister was addressing a conference on '9 years achievements of government' in the national capital.

He said that India has made as many as seven world records in the sector over the last 9 years.

"India's road network is the second largest in the world after the US," he said.

The minister further said that the revenues from tolls rose to Rs 4,1342 crore from Rs 4,770 crore in 2013-14.

The government aims to increase the toll revenue to Rs 1,30,000 crore by 2020, Gadkari said.

The usage of fastags has helped in reducing the waiting time at the toll plazas to 47 seconds.

The government is taking various measures to reduce it further to below 30 seconds, he noted.

Source :—The Times of India 27-06-2023

India ranked 67th on Energy Transition Index, makes significant improvement : WEF report

The World Economic Forum ranked India at 67th place globally on its Energy Transition Index and said it is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across all dimensions.

Sweden topped the list and was followed by Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland in the top five on the list of 120 countries.

Releasing the report published in collaboration with Accenture, the WEF said the global energy transition has plateaued amid the global energy crisis and geopolitical volatilities, but India is among the countries that have made significant improvements.

"India is the only major economy with energy transition momentum accelerating across the Energy Transition Index's equitable, secure and sustainable dimensions," the WEF said.

"For example, despite continued economic growth, India has successfully reduced the energy intensity of its economy and the carbon intensity of its energy mix, while achieving universal energy access and effectively managing affordability of electricity," the WEF added.

Achieving universal access to electricity, replacing solid fuels with clean cooking options and increasing renewable energy deployment have been primary contributors to the improvement of India's performance.

India also emerged relatively less affected by the recent energy crisis, largely due to the low share of natural gas in power generation and increased use of existing generation capacities. "Although the country maintains a well-diversified mix of energy trade partners, rising import dependence represents a risk amid global energy market volatilities," the WEF said.

The energy mix, however, remains predominantly carbon intensive, with a low share of clean energy in final demand. "Improvements in the enabling environment have been driven by political commitment, an ambitious reform agenda, infrastructure investments and a competitive renewable energy landscape," the WEF said.

On the road ahead, the WEF said in its report that the pace of thermal power plant expansion has considerably slowed in India, though strategies for early retirement or repurposing of the existing fleet will be crucial.

"Continued progress will be challenged by two key macro trends: strong economic growth, and the urgency to create quality jobs for a growing working-age population. A skilled workforce, public-private collaboration in innovation, and investment in research and development in low-carbon technologies are necessary to enable India's energy transition," it added.

Besides India, Singapore is the only other major economy showing "true momentum by advancing sustainability, energy security and equity in a balanced way," the WEF said.

France (7) was the only G20 country in the top 10, followed closely by Germany (11), the US (12), and the UK (13).

The WEF said that out of 120 countries, 113 have made progress over the last decade but only 55, including India, have improved their scores by more than 10 percentage points.

Source :— The New Indian Express, 28-06-2023

Govt plans Rs 17,000 cr incentive scheme for electrolyzers, green hydrogen production: MNRE Secy Bhupinder Bhalla

The government has planned over Rs 17,000 crore in incentives to promote the manufacturing of electrolyzers and green hydrogen in the country, MNRE Secretary Bhupinder Singh Bhalla said on Wednesday. The draft of the incentive scheme for electrolyzer manufacturing and a part of the incentive scheme for the production of green hydrogen have been finalized and will be rolled out soon.

The incentives will be provided under a scheme and the draft of the same has been prepared, Bhalla said.

The move will result in demand creation for the clean energy source, the official said.

The government is already working with respective ministries to promote green hydrogen. The Ministry is also working on provision of incentives for electrolyzer manufacturing and for production of green hydrogen, Bhalla said.

The MNRE Secretary said that "the draft of the incentive scheme for electrolyzer manufacturing and part of the incentive scheme for the production of green hydrogen have been finalized and will be rolled out soon. The total incentives being offered under the Hydrogen Mission are more than Rs 17,000 crore until the year 2030, which will be rolled out in tranches, so that the government will learn from the first tranche and evolve the second one."

The official also announced that the International Conference on Green Hydrogen will be held from July 5-7, 2023 in New Delhi.

Ajay Yadav, Joint Secretary at MNRE, said around 25 sessions will be held at the three-day conference next month in Vigyan Bhawan.

The event will bring together the stakeholders to discuss emerging technologies in the entire green hydrogen value chain. Around 1,500 delegates from India and abroad from various countries like Japan, US, EU will also be taking part in the first conference of hydrogen in India.

Source :— The Economic Times, 28-06-2023

States' financial profile better in FY23; debt stays high: RBI report

Tiding over the adversities brought in by the pandemic, the fiscal position of the states showed a sharp improvement in FY23. The consolidated gross fiscal deficit (GFD) of the states and Union Territories (UTs) declined from the peak of 4.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in FY21 to 2.8 per cent in FY22 and FY23.

This level was much lower than the budgeted estimate of 3.4 per cent for the year (FY23), according to the Reserve Bank of India’s Financial Stability Report.

The swift consolidation was primarily driven by a decline in revenue expenditure, coupled with an increase in the states' tax revenue, led by state GST. For FY24, the states have budgeted a GFD-GDP ratio of 3.2 per cent, which is significantly lower than the indicative target of 3.5 per cent set by the Central government.

In FY21, the GFD had risen because the finances of the states were strained owing to disruptions caused by the first wave of the pandemic.

The report pointed out the capital expenditure (capex) of the states had reached 2.5 per cent of GDP in FY22 and remained at the same level in FY23. Their capex is budgeted to increase to 3.2 per cent of GDP in FY24.

Revenue expenditure, on the other hand, declined from 14.2 per cent of GDP in FY22 to 13.5 per cent in FY23 (provisional). This has resulted in improvement in the quality of expenditure. The revenue expenditure to capital outlay (RECO) ratio for the states has improved from 7.1 during 2020-21 to the Budget estimate of 5.1 in 2023-24.

Source :— Business Standard 28-06-2023

GST Network issues advisory on enablement status of eInvoicing for taxpayers having Aggregate Annual Turnover

What is e-invoicing and its applicability?

E-Invoicing is a system in which invoices are authenticated electronically by GST Network (GSTN) for further use on the common GST portal. Under the electronic invoicing system, an identification number is issued against every invoice by the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP) to be managed by the GSTN.

Currently, e-invoicing is applicable to the taxpayers having Annual Aggregate Turnover (AATO) > Rs. 10 Crore in FY 2017-18 onwards. Further, CBIC has reduced the annual threshold criteria of AATO for applicability of e-invoicing from Rs. 10 Crore to Rs. 5 Crore with effect from 1 August 2023 onwards.

What is AATO?

AATO for this purpose means the aggregate vaule of all taxable supplies (excluding value of inward supplies on which tax is payable by a person under reverse charge), exempt supplies, export of goods or services or both and inter state supplies of persons having the same Permanent Account Number (PAN), to be computed on all India basis.

Advisory by GST Network

GSTN has enabled all eligible taxpayers with AATO ≥ Rs. 5 Crore as per GSTN records in any preceding financial year for e-Invoicing. These taxpayers are now enabled on all 6 IRP portals including NIC-IRP for e-Invoice reporting. Taxpayers can check the enablement status on the e-Invoice portal at https://einvoice.gst.gov.in by entering GSTIN.

Source :— Tax Edge 29-06-2023

Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) issues Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for scrutiny of GST returns for Financial Year (FY) 2019-20 onwards

Background

CBIC vide Instruction No. 02/2022 - GST dated 22 March 2022 had issued SOP for scrutiny of returns for FYs 2017-18 and 2018-19 till the time a scrutiny module for online scrutiny of returns is made available. Directorate General (DG) Systems has now developed a functionality 'Scrutiny of Returns' containing the online workflow for scrutiny of returns in the CBIC ACES-GST application. Now CBIC has issued revised SOP which contains detailed guidelines for selection of returns, scrutiny process, schedule, timelines, reporting and monitoring of such scrutiny of returns for FY 2019-20 onwards.

What is ACES-GST application?

An application primarily meant for back-end processing of various GST functionalities like refund, investigation, adjudication, etc. by the GST officers.

SOP issued by CBIC SOP

Selection of returns

• Directorate General of Analytics & Risk Management (DGARM) based on identified risk parameters will select the GSTINs whose returns are to be scrutinized for a FY.

• Details of such GSTINs along with the details of risk parameters and amount of GST discrepancy involved will be made available to the concerned Central Tax GST officer on ACES-GST application

• Since the data may undergo change at the time of scrutiny due to subsequent compliances carried out by the taxpayer, the officer should rely upon the latest available data

Scrutiny schedule

• Upon receiving the list of GSTINs, the GST officer shall finalize a month-wise scrutiny schedule with prior approval of the divisional Assistant / Deputy GST Commissioner

• While preparing the scrutiny schedule, the scrutiny of the GSTINs which appear tovcbe riskier based on the likely higher revenue implication may be prioritized

• The Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner of the concerned Commissionerate will monitor and ensure that the scrutiny schedule is adhered to by the officers under his jurisdiction

• The GST officer shall conduct scrutiny of returns pertaining to minimum of 4 GSTINs per month. Scrutiny of returns of 1 GSTIN shall mean scrutiny of all returns pertaining to a FY for which the said GSTIN has been selected for scrutiny

• The GST officer shall scrutinize the returns and related particulars furnished to verify its correctness. Information available on the system in the form of various returns and statements furnished and the details made available through various sources may be relied upon for this purpose

• For convenience of the GST officers, the details of risk parameters along with the amount of GST discrepancy involved will be provided

• The GST officer shall issue a notice in Form GST ASMT-10 (notice for discrepancies in GST returns) informing the taxpayer about discrepancies noticed along with amount of tax, interest or any other amount payable in relation to such discrepancy and seeking his explanation thereto. In case where the taxpayer hasalready made additional payment of tax after filing of returns through Form DRC-03

(intimation of voluntary tax payments), such payments may also be taken into consideration by the officer

• The notice shall be communicated on the common portal and there will be no need to send any physical communication

• The GST officer shall mention the parameter-wise details of the discrepancies noticed in Form GST ASMT-10 and shall also upload the worksheets & supporting documents. A single compiled notice may be issued for all returns for that FY

• Where the taxpayer accepts the discrepancy and pays all amounts or where the explanation furnished by the taxpayer in GST ASMT -11 (reply letter for Form ASMT-10) is found acceptable, the GST officer shall conclude the proceeding

• Where no satisfactory explanation is furnished or where the taxpayer after accepting the discrepancy, fails to pay such amount, the GST officer may initiate appropriate action u/s 73 or 74 of the CGST Act

• If GST officer is of the opinion that the matter needs to be pursued further through audit or investigation to determine the correct liability, then he may take the approval of the jurisdictional Principal Commissioner / Commissioner for referring the matter to the Audit Commissionerate or anti-evasion wing of the Commissionerate, as the case may be Timelines for

• Scrutiny of returns is to be conducted in a time bound manner as mentioned below so that the cases may be taken to their conclusion

Reporting and Monitoring

• The details of action taken by GST officer will be available in the form of 2 MIS reports on the ACES-GST application

• MIS report Monthly Scrutiny Progress Report (MSPR) shall display summary information of the status of scrutiny of returns for the selected month of a FY

• The GSTIN-wise details of action taken in respect of scrutiny of returns of the allotted GSTINs shall be made available in the MIS report Scrutiny Register

Others

• The requirement of compiling and sending the MSPR to Directorate General of GST (DGGST) as per the earlier Instruction is dispensed from FY 2019-20 onwards. The progress of the scrutiny exercise shall be monitored by the Principal Commissioner/ Commissioner on monthly basis

Source :— Tax Edge 29-06-2023

Notification

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

Department of Communication,

Central Office, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg,

Fort, Mumbai-400001

Economic activity remained resilient in Q4. Rabi foodgrains production is expected to increase by 6.2 per cent in 2022-23. The index of industrial production (IIP) expanded by 5.2 per cent in January while the output of eight core industries rose even faster by 8.9 per cent in January and 6.0 per cent in February, indicative of the strength of industrial activity. In the services sector, domestic air passenger traffic, port freight traffic, e-way bills and toll collections posted healthy growth in Q4, while railway freight traffic registered a modest growth. Purchasing managers' indices (PMIs) pointed towards sustained expansion in both manufacturing and services in March.

Amongst urban demand indicators, passenger vehicle sales recorded strong growth in February while consumer durables contracted in January. Among rural demand indicators, tractor and two-wheeler sales were robust in February. As regards investment activity, growth in steel consumption and cement output accelerated in February. Merchandise exports and non-oil non-gold imports contracted in February while the strong growth in services exports continued.

CPI headline inflation rose from 5.7 per cent in December 2022 to 6.4 per cent in February 2023 on the back of higher inflation in cereals, milk and fruits and slower deflation in vegetables prices. Fuel inflation remained elevated, though some softening was witnessed in February due to a fall in kerosene (PDS) prices and favourable base effects. Core inflation (i.e., CPI excluding food and fuel) remained elevated and was above 6 per cent in January-February. The moderation observed in inflation in clothing and footwear, and transportation and communication was largely offset by a pick-up in inflation in personal care and effects and housing.

The average daily absorption under the LAF moderated to Rs. 1.4 lakh crore during February-March from an average of Rs. 1.6 lakh crore in December-January. During 2022-23, money supply (M3) expanded by 9.0 per cent and non-food bank credit rose by 15.4 per cent. India's foreign exchange reserves were placed at US$ 578.4 billion as on March 31, 2023.

Outlook

The inflation trajectory for 2023-24 would be shaped by both domestic and global factors. The expectation of a record rabi foodgrains production bodes well for the food prices outlook. The impact of recent unseasonal rains and hailstorms, however, needs to be watched. Milk prices could remain firm due to high input costs and seasonal factors. Crude oil prices outlook is subject to high uncertainty. Global financial market volatility has surged, with potential upsides for imported inflation risks. Easing cost conditions are leading to some moderation in the pace of output price increases in manufacturing and services, as indicated by the Reserve Bank's enterprise surveys. The lagged pass-through of input costs could, however, keep core inflation elevated. Taking into account these factors and assuming an annual average crude oil price (Indian basket) of US$ 85 per barrel and a normal monsoon, CPI inflation is projected at 5.2 per cent for 2023-24, with Q1 at 5.1 per cent, Q2 at 5.4 per cent, Q3 at 5.4 per cent and Q4 at 5.2 per cent, and risks evenly balanced.

A good rabi crop should strengthen rural demand, while the sustained buoyancy in contact-intensive services should support urban demand. The government's thrust on capital expenditure, above trend capacity utilisation in manufacturing, double digit credit growth and the moderation in commodity prices are expected to bolster manufacturing and investment activity. According to the RBI's surveys, businesses and consumers are optimistic about the future outlook. The external demand drag could accentuate, given slowing global trade and output. Protracted geopolitical tensions, tight global financial conditions and global financial market volatility pose risks to the outlook. Taking all these 3 factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5 per cent with Q1:2023-24 at 7.8 per cent; Q2 at 6.2 per cent; Q3 at 6.1 per cent; and Q4 at 5.9 per cent, with risks evenly balanced (Chart 2).

With CPI headline inflation ruling persistently above the tolerance band, the MPC decided to remain resolutely focused on aligning inflation with the target. It is essential to rein in the generalisation of price pressures and anchor inflation expectations. An environment of low and stable prices is necessary for the resilience in domestic economic activity to be sustained. While the policy rate has been increased by a cumulative 250 basis points since May 2022, which is still working through the system, there can be no room for letting down the guard on price stability. Taking these factors into account, the MPC decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent in this meeting, with readiness to act, should the situation so warrant. The MPC will continue to keep a strong vigil on the evolving inflation and growth outlook and will not hesitate to take further action as may be required in its future meetings. The MPC also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth. All members of the MPC – Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Dr. Ashima Goyal, Prof. Jayanth R. Varma, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das – unanimously voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent.

Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Dr. Ashima Goyal, Dr. Rajiv Ranjan, Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra and Shri Shaktikanta Das voted to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation progressively aligns with the target, while supporting growth. Prof. Jayanth R. Varma expressed reservations on this part of the resolution.

Yogesh Dayal

Chief General Manager

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX NUMBER FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Table - I — **Base 2001 = 100**

Month & Year	All India	Alwar	Jaipur	Bhilwara
Jan. - 2023	133.2	128.2	127.2	130.3
Feb. - 2023	133.4	129.2	128.4	130.6
March - 2023	134.7	129.7	129.6	131.9
April - 2023	135.1	130.2	130.2	132.1
May - 2023	133.3	130.4	130.6	132.4
June - 2023	136.1	130.9	130.7	133.0

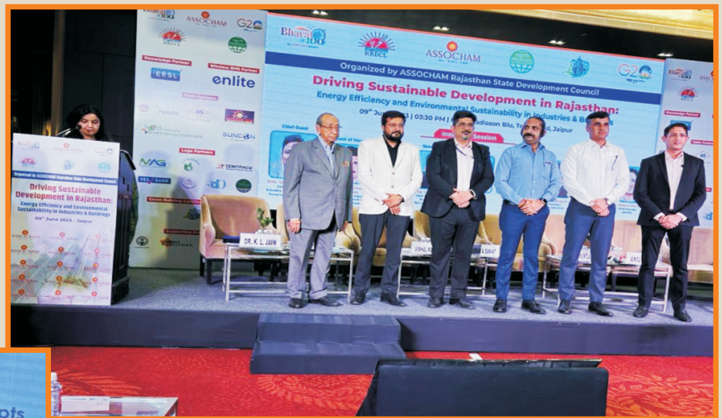
Table - II — **Base 1982 = 100**

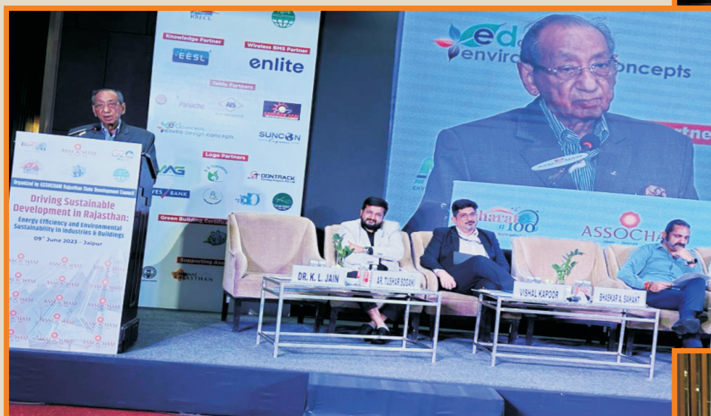
Month & Year	All India	Alwar	Jaipur	Bhilwara
Jan. - 2023	619	611	539	602
Feb. - 2023	624	616	543	604
March - 2023	629	619	549	607
April - 2023	633	623	552	609
May - 2023	635	624	553	610
June - 2023	637	625	556	613

Table - III

Month & Year	All India		Alwar	Jaipur	Bhilwara
	1960 = 100	1949 = 100	1960 = 100		1966 = 100
Jan. - 2023	3098	3721	3105	2802	1993
Feb. - 2023	3100	3798	3136	2883	2002
March - 2023	3109	3842	3147	2902	2019
April - 2023	3142	3902	3149	2947	2032
May - 2023	3143	3909	3152	3149	2043
June - 2023	3149	4012	3163	3012	2100

राजस्थान चैम्बर एवं सोलर क्वार्टर द्वारा द ललित होटल में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में आयोजकों के साथ समूह छायाचित्र में उपस्थित डॉ. के.एल. जैन।





उक्त सोलर क्वार्टर वर्कशॉप में अपना उद्‌बोधन देते हुए डॉ. के. एल. जैन।

सोलर क्वाटर स्टेट लीडरशिप अवार्ड–2023 में कुशल सोलर उद्यमियों को पुरस्कृत करते डॉ. के.एल. जैन।

राजस्थान चैम्बर एवं सेव द चिल्ड्रन संस्था द्वारा राजस्थान चैम्बर भवन में बाल श्रम रोकथाम पर आयोजित सभा में पोस्टर विमोचन करते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन, मानद महासचिव श्री आनन्द महरवाल, डॉ. अरुण अग्रवाल, श्री बी.बी. शर्मा, मानद सचिव श्री सुभाष गोयल, महारानी गायत्री देवी मार्केट के महामंत्री श्री नीतिन शारदा भगेरिया तथा सेव द चिल्ड्रन के श्री एजाज अहमद नजर तथा अन्य पदाधिकारीगण।

ध्रुवपद धाम ट्रस्ट द्वारा चैम्बर भवन में आयोजित तीन दिवसीय ध्रुवपद प्रशिक्षण कार्यशाला में उद्‌घाटन के अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन ध्रुवपद धाम ट्रस्ट की सचिव डॉ. मधु भट्ट तैलंग तथा अन्य पदाधिकारी।

RNI NO. 23747/72

कॉनफैडरेशन ऑफ ऑल इण्डिया ट्रेडर्स (CAIT) की जयपुर इकाई द्वारा चैम्बर भवन में आयोजित व्यापारिक सम्मेलन में अपना उद्‌बोधन देते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन।

सीतापुरा स्थित जयपुर एक्जिबिशन सेन्टर में आर्चिटेक्चर एण्ड इन्टीरियर डिजाइन की एक्जिबिशन एस रिफ्लेक्ट के उद्‌घाटन हेतु आयोजकों ने राजस्थान चैम्बर ऑफ कॉमर्स एण्ड इण्डस्ट्री को ऐसोसिएट पार्टनर के रूप में आमंत्रित किया जिसमें चैम्बर के मानद महासचिव श्री आनन्द महरवाल ने विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में चैम्बर का प्रतिनिधित्व किया। समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि श्री पवन अरोड़ा आयुक्त राजस्थान हाउसिंग बोर्ड थे।

फैडरेशन ऑफ इण्डियन चैम्बर ऑफ कॉमर्स की राजस्थान स्टेट काउंसिल की सभा में महाराज जयसिंह जी अध्यक्ष एमेरिटस, राजस्थान चैम्बर का स्वागत करते हुए राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन तथा स्टेट काउंसिल के अध्यक्ष श्री रणधीर विक्रम सिंह जी।

भारतीय स्वर्णकार संघ एवं राजस्थान चैम्बर ऑफ कॉमर्स द्वारा चैम्बर भवन में आयोजित निःशुल्क मेडिकल एवं नेत्र परिक्षण कैंप में उद्‌घाटन के अवसर पर राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन का अभिनन्दन करते हुए स्वर्णकार संघ के अध्यक्ष श्री दुलीचन्द कंडेल तथा महासंघ के अन्य पदाधिकारी। साथ में उपस्थित हैं चैम्बर के सचिव श्री दिनेश कानूनगो।

राजस्थान चैम्बर के अध्यक्ष डॉ. के.एल. जैन को राजस्थानी भाषा में उन पर लिखित प्रशस्ती-पत्र भेंट करते हुए राजस्थानी, हिन्दी, संस्कृत व अवधी भाषा के सुप्रसिद्ध कवि व लेखक श्री ताऊ शेखावाटी।

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