



Public Finance

April to Nov fiscal deficit at 52.5% of annual target: Data

India's fiscal deficit reached 52.5% of the annual target in the first eight months of this fiscal year, due to increased revenue expenditure and muted growth in net tax revenue. Capital expenditure revived but accounted for only 46.2% of the annual target. ICRA forecasts a slight shortfall in the 4.9% fiscal deficit target. (*The Economic Times*)

Pre-Budget parley: Industry pushes personal income tax cuts, fuel price relief and MSME support

Corporate India on Monday urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to use the upcoming Budget to tackle the ongoing demand slowdown and pave the way for a consumption boost to propel economic growth. Their package of submissions for the fiscal interventions in the budget includes both personal and corporate tax rate cuts, reduction in fuel prices through excise duty cut, and enhanced public capex on the lines of the recent years. (*BusinessLine*)

Indian states' fundraising may get expensive amid record borrowing, investors say

Indian states need to pay an additional premium over central government securities to meet record high borrowing targets for January-March, totaling 4.73 trillion rupees. This heavy borrowing, alongside the central government's 2.79 trillion rupee debt sale, could further pressure banking liquidity and increase the country's debt-to-GDP ratio. (*The Economic Times*)

Capex down by 12% in April-November, fiscal deficit at 52.5% of FY25 aim

India's capital expenditure decelerated by 12 per cent during April-November period, showing a sluggish pace of spending, data from Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed on Tuesday. In the same period, fiscal deficit was down by nearly 6 per cent in absolute number, although it rose as a share of the budget estimate. The government intends to spend ₹11.11 lakh crore as capital expenditure during FY2023-24. (*BusinessLine*)

EPFO rolls out centralised pension payment systems across India

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation implemented the Centralized Pension Payments System, which allows pensioners to access their pension from any bank or branch nationwide. The system aims to streamline the payment process, eliminate the need for physical verifications, and ensure seamless pension disbursement for over 7.85 million pensioners. (*The Economic Times*)



To drive R&D spend, Electronics Council seeks tax breaks in Budget

The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) has urged Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to introduce a range of tax incentives in the upcoming 2025-26 Budget to boost investments in R&D (research and development) by the domestic hardware sector, enabling it to compete globally. *(BusinessLine)*

GST mop-up falls to 3-month low of ₹1.76 lakh crore in December

Collection from Goods & Services Tax (GST) dipped to a 3-month low in December to ₹1.76 lakh crore, Government data released on Wednesday showed. However, this marks an increase of nearly 7 per cent from ₹1.65 lakh crore collected in the same month last year. Collection in December is related with goods consumed and services availed in November during which consumption typically slows down as in a post-festival slump. *(BusinessLine)*

Punjab's revenue from VAT, CST, GST crosses Rs 30,000 cr in Apr-Dec: Cheema

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Thursday said the state has, for the first time, surpassed the Rs 30,000-crore mark in revenue collection as VAT, CST, GST, PSDT (state development tax), and excise in the first nine months of a fiscal year. "In the current fiscal year, the total revenue received from these taxes up to December is Rs 31,156.31 crore, whereas in the fiscal year 2023-24, the total revenue collection from these taxes was Rs 27,927.31 crore," Cheema said in an official statement here. *(Business Standard)*

GST cess may fall short of Rs 1.37 lakh crore for states compensation; Centre likely to meet shortfall

The GST compensation cess fund might have a ₹1.37 lakh crore shortfall by March 31 due to ₹50,000 crore interest on Covid loans. An additional ₹13,000 crore compensation may be required after reconciling audited accounts. The Centre is confident cess collections until March 31, 2026, will address this shortfall. *(The Economic Times)*

No cause for concern over sufficiency of GST cess fund: Finance Ministry

The finance ministry assures there is no concern regarding the sufficiency of the GST compensation cess fund. It is on track to meet all obligations, including back-to-back loan repayments, with a projected minor surplus by March 2026. Collections are on target, dispelling shortfall fears. *(The Economic Times)*



To spur growth in Q4, FinMin to loosen purse strings for some ministries/depts

To boost expenditure in the January-March quarter, Finance Ministry is likely to permit some ministries and departments to spend over and above quarterly and monthly expenditure limits. The move comes in the backdrop of a slowdown in capital expenditure in the April-September half which has impacted economic growth. *(BusinessLine)*

Centre forms working group for base revision of WPI; Niti Aayog's Ramesh Chand to head

The Centre on Thursday announced formation of Working Group for base revision of the current series of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from base 2011-12 to 2022-23. Professor Ramesh Chand of NITI Aayog has been tapped by Centre to head the group. Along with him, other 17 members are appointed to the group. *(The Economic Times)*

Poverty gap shrinks between rural and urban India in FY24, driven by higher consumption: SBI report

India is experiencing a notable reduction in the gap between rural and urban consumption, according to a report by State Bank of India. The gap in monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) has decreased significantly, with the difference between rural and urban MPCE now at 69.7%, a sharp decline from 88.2% in 2009-10. *(The Economic Times)*

172 mn jobs created during 2014-24; 46 mn in FY24: Mansukh Mandaviya

India created nearly 172 million fresh jobs between 2014 and 2024, of which 46 million were created in the last financial year, 2023-24, said Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, citing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) latest KLEMS database. This database provides insights into five key inputs in production: capital (K), labour (L), energy (E), materials (M), and services (S). *(Business Standard)*

Prospects of economy expected to improve in 2025: RBI Governor

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra states Indian economy is expected to improve in 2025 with high consumer and business confidence. Despite a slowdown in the first half of 2024-25, robust balance sheets and high profitability are predicted for corporations. Financial sector reforms and low levels of impaired assets bolster financial stability. *(The Economic Times)*

Mospi: Surveys on health, labour force, telecom to start in January

The National Statistics Office (NSO) will begin three surveys in January. These include surveys on health, telecom and ICT skills, and education. Additionally, the NSO will conduct the Periodic Labour Force Survey and the Annual Survey on Unincorporated Enterprises. The surveys will use scientifically designed sampling techniques and data collection will be done using tablets with e-SIGMA software. *(The Economic Times)*

NSO begins process to empanel survey institutions

The National Statistics Office (NSO) has initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to empanel private survey institutions for conducting socioeconomic sample surveys. This effort aims to expand the NSO's outreach and improve data collection. Interested institutions must submit their proposals by January 06, 2025. The initiative will enhance survey capacity and support better decision-making. *(The Economic Times)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

Rs 2000 notes withdrawal: Rs 6,691 cr worth such notes still with public

98.12% of Rs 2000 banknotes have been returned to the banking system, with only Rs 6,691 crore worth of such notes still with the public. The deposit and exchange facilities for these notes remain available at RBI offices, and they continue to be legal tender. *(The Economic Times)*

Banking liquidity in deficit in December, RBI moves cap call rate

The banking system liquidity slipped into deficit in December for the first time since June 2024 even as both tranches of the easing of cash reserve ratio (CRR) came into effect, infusing ₹1.16 lakh crore. Despite the deficit, the Reserve Bank of India has managed to keep overnight borrowing costs close to the policy repo rate by finetuning variable rate repo (VRR) auctions. *(The Economic Times)*

Bank loan growth dropped for the fifth month in a row in November

Indian banks' loan growth moderated for a fifth successive month in November, central bank data showed, as lenders continued to rein in unsecured and personal loans following the Reserve Bank of India's crackdown on "exuberant" lending. Bank credit increased by 11.8% year-on-year last month, slower than the 16.5% rise in November 2023, excluding the impact of HDFC Bank's merger with its parent Housing Development Finance Corp, according to RBI data released late on Tuesday. *(The Hindu)*

Deposit & lending rates move marginally in November

Lending and deposit rates displayed a mixed trend in November. While deposit rates firmed up marginally, lending rates eased marginally, data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed. *(The Economic Times)*

NBFCs' disbursals drop in Q2 on fewer urban sanctions

Non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) saw their loan disbursals drop nearly 13% on-year at the end of the September 2024 quarter, led by a 23% decline in urban sanctions, the latest industry data showed. Long-term loans, given for a period of more than three years, led the decline with a 50% year-on-year drop, followed by loans against securities which saw an 18% decline, and education loans dropped by 10%, data released by industry body Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) showed. *(The Economic Times)*

Financial system stable on healthy balance sheets: RBI

The asset quality of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) improved further with the gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio declining to a 12-year low of 2.6% in September, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in the December Financial Stability Report (FSR) released on Monday. SCBs' Net NPA (NNPA) ratio stayed at about 0.6%. "The provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) of SCBs improved further to 77% in September, largely due to proactive provisioning by PSBs," the RBI said. *(The Hindu)*

Banks urge RBI to inject liquidity via foreign-exchange swaps amid crunch

Some big lenders in India have asked the central bank to inject liquidity using foreign-exchange swaps as short-term currency financing costs surged to a four-year high, according to people familiar with the matter. In recent informal interactions, some lenders asked the Reserve Bank of India to consider using FX swaps, where the parties simultaneously agree to exchange currencies in the spot market and reverse the transaction at a future date, the people said. Such operations could effectively inject rupee liquidity into the financial markets. *(Business Standard)*

Crypto assets can negatively impact financial stability, says RBI report

Widespread use of crypto assets, including stablecoins, can have a negative impact on the macroeconomic and financial stability of a country, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Monday. In its Financial Stability Report (FSR), the banking regulator highlighted that excessive use of crypto assets can reduce effectiveness of monetary policy, worsen fiscal risks, circumvent capital flow management measures, divert resources available for financing the real economy and threaten global financial stability. *(Business Standard)*

RBI flags risk to secured loans from slippages in smaller personal loans

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cautioned in its bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR) that borrowers with unsecured loans, such as credit cards and personal loans, who also have larger secured loans, risk triggering delinquencies in the secured loans if they default on the smaller ones. Default in any loan category results in other loans of the same borrower being treated as non-performing by the lending financial institution. *(Business Standard)*



External Sector

India's foreign exchange reserves dip by \$4.112 billion

India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$4.112 billion to \$640.279 billion for the week ending December 27. This marks the fourth consecutive weekly decline, with the reserves shrinking by over \$60 billion since October due to foreign institutional investment outflows and the central bank's efforts to curb rupee depreciation. *(The Economic Times)*

Cheap imports, declining FDI challenge India's textile export ambitions

India has set an ambitious target of textile exports worth \$100 billion by 2030, but the recent data released by the Ministry of Textiles pertaining to India's textile and apparel trade puts achievement of the goal in jeopardy. Textile and apparel exports increased 19.26 per cent from the financial year 2022 - 2024 (FY22 -24). Furthermore, the exports of ready-made garments, man-made textiles, jute products, and handlooms (mentioned in the 'others' category) fell below the pre-pandemic level. *(Business Standard)*

India's 2025 fuel exports may face heat from geopolitics, Houthi attacks

Conflicts in West Asia and new refineries in Africa and West Asia may take the shine off India's overseas fuel sales in 2025, a key contributor to the country's exports, industry officials say and shipping data show. Overseas sales of gasoline, naphtha, diesel, and jet fuel rose marginally by 2.9 per cent on the year in 2024 to a record, ship tracking data show. *(Business Standard)*

China proposes further export curbs on battery, critical minerals tech

China's commerce ministry has proposed export restrictions on some technology used to make battery components and process critical minerals lithium and gallium, a document issued on Thursday showed. If implemented, they would be the latest in a series of export restrictions and bans targeting critical minerals and the technology used to process them, areas in which Beijing is globally dominant. *(Business Standard)*

Maharashtra received Rs 1.13 trn FDI in just 6 months in 2024-25: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Friday said that the state received Rs 1.13 trillion FDI in just six months in 2024-25, which is almost what it has received annually over the last four years. In a post on X, the chief minister said the state received Rs 1,13,236 crore in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first two quarters of the financial year ending in September 2024. *(Business Standard)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

CII pitches for food subsidy rationalisation, suggests direct income support via DBT for PDS beneficiaries

Ahead of Budget 2025-26, Industry has urged the rationalization of food subsidies, recommending that the government adopt Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to provide direct income support to beneficiaries of the Public Distribution System (PDS). This approach would empower beneficiaries to purchase food items of their choice based on individual needs. *(BusinessLine)*

IIT Madras collaborates with the Agriculture Ministry on Project VISTAAR

To improve the efficiency and efficacy of agricultural extension systems through digitalization, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, the government of India, on Project VISTAAR. *(The Economic Times)*

Why agri-tech might need a different approach to boost innovations

IIT-B, a premier research deemed university in Bengaluru, has been developing a host of projects with the idea of introducing higher efficiency in agricultural processes. Primarily an agrarian economy, India holds large potential for research and technological innovation in agriculture. Nevertheless, innovations in this space which is estimated to be around \$24 billion, have barely scratched the surface given the myriad challenges such as low market adoption, high customer acquisition costs, lukewarm investor interest, high infrastructure costs, and more. *(The Hindu)*

Researchers find bacteria that can clean up pesticides from soil to enhance crop yield

IIT Bombay researchers have identified bacteria that can consume toxic pollutants in the soil and produce helpful nutrients as a by-product. Soil contamination is one of the major issues in the agriculture industry. These compounds are toxic, can inhibit seed germination, reduce plant growth, and yield and also accumulate in seeds and plant biomass. *(The Hindu)*

Why can't Centre open doors to farmers, asks SC

Supreme Court judge, Justice Surya Kant, made it clear on Thursday that efforts to hospitalise farmers' leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal is not a ruse to derail his hunger strike. He lashed out at the Punjab government and other farmers' leaders for deliberately creating such an impression in the media. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has reportedly said the Centre would accept whatever decision the apex court takes on Dallewal's hunger strike. (*BusinessLine*)

Govt hikes crop insurance scheme allocation, subsidy for DAP fertiliser

The Union Cabinet has increased the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to Rs 69,515 crore, which will benefit almost four crore farmers. The decision will ensure risk coverage for crops against unavoidable natural calamities, benefiting farmers nationwide through 2025-26. The minister said the decision will help in risk coverage of crops from non-preventable natural calamities for farmers across the country. (*Business Standard*)

Centre extends additional subsidy on DAP, costing up to Rs 3,850 crore

To preclude the possibility of a retail price increase, the Centre on Wednesday extended the additional subsidy on di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) beyond December 31, 2024 — a move that will enable fertiliser companies to maintain the current price levels at Rs 1,350 per 50-kg bag. The extension will impose on the exchequer an additional burden of up to Rs 3,850 crore. Sources said in the absence of the extension, fertiliser companies were planning to increase DAP rates by at least Rs 200 per bag to compensate for the under-recoveries due to the increased cost of imports. (*Business Standard*)

Govt extends 2 crop insurance schemes till 2025-26; creates Rs 824.77 cr fund for tech infusion

The Centre on Wednesday extended two crop insurance schemes -- PMFBY and RWBCIS -- for one more year till 2025-26 and also created a separate Rs 824.77 crore fund for technology infusion in the implementation of flagship schemes. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) have been extended to align it with the 15th Finance Commission period. (*The Economic Times*)

Rural roots, digital wings: The new trajectory for India's financial sector

In 2024, India's financial sector demonstrated immense resilience and achieved remarkable growth despite facing a complex global environment. As the world struggled with escalating geopolitical tensions and inflation, the Indian economy remained strong with GDP growth remaining robust at around 6.5 per cent. Healthy domestic demand for retail and SME loans kept bank lending robust. Disbursements by non-banking financial companies (NBFC) continued to grow, indicating their increasing reach into under-penetrated markets. (*Business Standard*)

Centre-Delhi face-off: Shivraj Singh accuses Atishi govt of blocking farm schemes

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday accused the Delhi government of depriving farmers of benefits under central schemes and urged Chief Minister Atishi to keep political differences aside in matters of farmer welfare. In a letter to Atishi, Chouhan said the AAP government has failed to implement major central initiatives including the Integrated Horticulture Development Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, and the Beej Gram programme. (*The Economic Times*)

India sugar production declines by 16pc to 95.40 lakh tn in Oct-Dec: ISMA

Sugar production fell by 16 per cent to 95.40 lakh tonne in the first quarter of the ongoing current marketing year that started in October, mainly due to a decline in output in Maharashtra, according to industry body ISMA data released on Thursday. Mills had manufactured 113.01 lakh tonnes in the year-ago period. The production data excludes the diversion of sugar for ethanol making. According to the Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA), crushing rate in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka was better than last year. *(The Economic Times)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

13 states, UTs among 'achievers' in logistics performance index: DPIIT report

Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi are among the 13 states and Union Territories categorised as "achievers" in the logistics index chart 2024 by the Commerce and Industry Ministry. The index, which assesses efficiency in logistics services, aims to enhance trade and reduce transaction costs across states. *(The Economic Times)*

Fertilizer industry hopeful of direct cash transfer of subsidy as Ministry prepares pilot

The fertilizer industry hopes that 2025 will be a year of reform as the Fertilizer Ministry prepares to launch a pilot for direct cash transfer of subsidy in select districts, for which it is currently believed to be developing a module. However, the details of the plan are yet to be discussed with the industry while officials are tight-lipped. The subsidy has reached ₹1,23,833.64 crore — ₹86,560.29 crore for urea and ₹37,273.35 crore for phosphatic and potash fertilizers during April-November of current fiscal. *(BusinessLine)*

Asian Development Bank to provide \$500 million loan to support sustainable infra projects in India

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD 500 million (about Rs 4,250 crore) loan to support green and sustainable infrastructure projects aligned with the country's climate commitments. The ADB loan, with a sovereign guarantee, will be extended to the India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), the finance ministry said in a statement on Monday. *(The Economic Times)*

Entry to global markets essential for success of electronics components PLI Scheme

Access to global markets and expenditure support is essential to make the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics components manufacturing successful, said A Gururaj, Managing Director at Optimus Electronics. Earlier in December, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said the Cabinet is considering the ₹40,000-crore scheme to reduce dependence on imports from China and Hong Kong. *(BusinessLine)*

India's non-life Insurance industry may register double-digit growth in 2025

Despite flat general insurance penetration in the country, the non-life insurers are expecting to register double-digit growth in 2025 with a conducive regulatory

environment and launch of innovative products catering to specific customer needs, stakeholders said on Thursday. The industry is also expected to meet this expectation if it receives a favourable outcome on GST relief and a revisit of motor third-party rates, a top private insurer said. *(The Economic Times)*

New e-truck incentive plan may not have many takers

The PM E-Drive scheme, a demand incentive scheme started last September to accelerate electric vehicle adoption, is likely to have only a limited impact on electrification in the truck segment, said industry executives. They noted that a precondition requiring a consumer to buy an electric truck only with a certificate of deposit obtained after scrapping an old truck can be a deterrent to the scheme's success. *(The Economic Times)*

Factory activity levels hit a 12-month low in December

Hopes of a recovery in the manufacturing sector took a fresh hit as factory activity levels in India's private sector stumbled to a 12-month low in December from an already weak November performance, with both new orders and output levels slipping to the lowest through 2024, as per a private survey-based index. *(The Hindu)*

Core sectors' output grew at four-month high pace of 4.3% in November

Output in India's eight core infrastructure sectors that constitute about 40% of overall industrial production, grew at a four-month high pace of 4.3% in November, led by a 13% surge in cement, marking the sharpest rise in the key construction input's production in well over a year. *(The Hindu)*

Housing sales volume falls 4% in 2024 in top 7 cities; value up 16% to ₹5.68 lakh crore: Anarock

Housing sales are estimated to fall 4 per cent this year in seven major cities to nearly 4.6 lakh units on lower launches, while sales in value terms are up 16% to ₹5.68 lakh crore, according to Anarock. Average housing prices grew 21% this year across the seven major cities on rising rates of land, labour and some building raw materials. *(The Hindu)*

Centre to issue guidelines on pesky calls next month: Consumer Affairs Secy

The Consumer Affairs Ministry will release guidelines next month to tackle unsolicited commercial communications or pesky calls, a senior government official said on Tuesday, December 24, 2024. Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said the department has prepared draft guidelines in consultation with stakeholders, which will be harmonized with upcoming regulations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). *(The Hindu)*

In relief to telcos, 5G radiation rules eased

The government has relaxed the electromagnetic field (EMF) rules for 5G network, partly meeting a long-standing demand of the industry that will allow telecom operators to cover more areas with fewer base stations, reducing both cost and their carbon footprint. As per the revised rules, the power density requirement for a 5G base tower station (BTS) has been increased to 5 watts per square metre from 1 watt, which essentially means the signals can travel a longer distance. *(The Economic Times)*

Tobacco exports to cross Rs 13,000 cr this yr: Official

The country's tobacco exports are likely to register an over 8 per cent growth and cross Rs 13,000 crore this year, a senior government official said on Wednesday. Additional

Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal also said the Tobacco Board has taken a number of steps to help farmers increase their income. *(The Economic Times)*

Renewable energy capacity additions may exceed 35 GW in 2025

India's renewable energy (RE) capacity addition could exceed 35 gigawatts (GW) in 2025 on the back of a strong project pipeline, favourable solar photovoltaic module prices, and an increase in wind manufacturing capacity, according to some industry executives. However, some companies said a faster pace of capacity addition is needed to meet the government's target of 500 GW of capacity addition by 2030. *(The Economic Times)*

MoUs worth Rs 18,500 cr investment potential inked in 7 mega textile parks: Govt

Investment MoUs with expected investment potential of over Rs 18,500 crore have been signed in the seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks, the textiles ministry said Wednesday. In its year end review, it said that the selected states and special purpose vehicles (SPV) have started activities to provide infrastructural facilities like water, power and road till the park gate. *(The Economic Times)*

Overall assessment of steel industry key before safeguard duty: GTRI

Think tank GTRI on Thursday called for a comprehensive assessment of the Indian steel industry to evaluate the impact of extant import measures before imposing the proposed safeguard duty. Noting that steel imports are only 6% of domestic production, steel production is lower than consumption and that large steel producers are not struggling due to imports, it said that safeguard duties will restrict imports, reduce competition and enable domestic steel manufacturers to raise prices. *(The Economic Times)*

Coal production from captive, commercial mines rises 34 pc in Apr-Dec period

Coal production from captive and commercial mines rose 34.2 per cent to 131.05 million tonnes (MT) in the April-December period of the current fiscal year. Coal output from captive and commercial mines was 97.665 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement. Coal output from captive and commercial mines was 18.40 MT in December, the coal ministry said in a statement. *(The Economic Times)*

EV players to meet Piyush Goyal on Friday, discuss infra-related issues

Stakeholders from the electric vehicle (EV) sector will hold a meeting with Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here on January 3 on issues, including infrastructure related to charging and battery swapping, sources said. They said that officials from the Department of Heavy Industries are expected to attend the meeting. *(The Economic Times)*



News on Kerala

Kerala High Court disposes of over 1.10 lakh cases in 2024

In 2024, the Kerala High Court resolved 1,10,666 cases to reduce the backlog. Justice P V Kunhikrishnan topped with 11,140 cases disposed. Other notable contributors include Justices C S Dias, Nagaresh, and Bechu Kurian Thomas. The court has 45 judges serving out of a sanctioned strength of 47 judges. *(The Economic Times)*

Kerala announces rehabilitation project for Wayanad landslide survivors

The Kerala government on Wednesday approved a comprehensive rehabilitation project for survivors of devastating landslides in Wayanad district that killed over 200 people last July. The project involves setting up two townships to provide a safe and sustainable living environment for those affected by the disaster. *(Business Standard)*

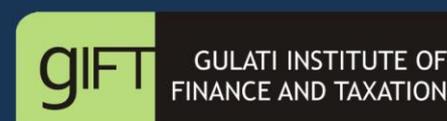
Air Kerala set to start operations by June 2025 with 1st flight from Kannur

Upcoming airline Air Kerala on Monday said it is planning to start operations by June next year with the first flight from the Kannur International Airport. Without disclosing the maiden destination, the airline, which has already put in place all key positions, including of the CEO and CFO, said it has inked a pact with private airport operator Kannur International Airport Ltd (KIAL) to start flight services on regional routes. *(Business Standard)*

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar sworn in as Kerala Governor

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar was sworn in as the Governor of Kerala on Thursday (January 2, 2025). Kerala High Court Chief Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar administered the oath of office at a brief function held at Raj Bhavan in Thiruvananthapuram in the morning. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, senior political leaders, government functionaries and Mr. Arlekar's family members were among those present. Clad in traditional Kerala attire, Mr. Arlekar took the oath in the name of God. Mr. Arlekar takes over as the 23rd Governor of Kerala, Raj Bhavan said. *(The Hindu)*

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