



Public Finance

Standing committee on finance calls for greater transparency in CSR spending and monitoring

The Standing Committee on Finance headed by BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahtab has urged the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to establish a more comprehensive reporting and monitoring framework to ensure greater transparency in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending, particularly with regard to unspent funds and the effectiveness of implemented projects. The committee has expressed concern over gaps in enforcement, impact assessment, and the role of implementing agencies in CSR activities. The committee has expressed concern over gaps in enforcement, impact assessment, and the role of implementing agencies in CSR activities. (*BusinessLine*)

Govt betting on households to help tackle India's \$346 bn debt pile

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has a \$346 billion debt problem that his administration wants help from the nation's households. A record ₹29.7 trillion (\$346 billion) of sovereign bonds are due over the next five years, a result of pandemic-era borrowing and Modi's infrastructure-spending binge. To tackle the burden, the Reserve Bank of India and the government are swapping maturing debt with longer-dated notes. These refinancing debt auctions are gaining momentum thanks to an increasingly influential player: households. They've been pouring money into insurers, which in turn are buying heaps of long-dated sovereign bonds. (*Business Standard*)

India's marginalised Parliament in budgetary affairs

The Budget is more than just a financial statement, as it reflects a nation's priorities, economic vision and governance philosophy. Across democracies, parliaments exercise the power of the purse, which is critical in shaping national budgets, ensuring fiscal discipline, and promoting transparency. However, in India, parliamentary influence over the Budget remains minimal. The executive-driven process sidelines legislators, leaving them with little opportunity to effectively shape or scrutinise financial policies. Parliament must evolve from being a mere approver of the government's financial proposals to actively shaping economic policy. (*The Hindu*)

Indian bond yields dip as government's debt sale plan undershoots estimates

Indian sovereign bond yields eased slightly in early deals on Friday after the government's lower-than-expected borrowing plan for the first half of next financial year aided sentiment. The benchmark 10-year bond yield was at 6.5904% as of 10:15 a.m. IST, compared with Thursday's close of 6.6022%. The finance ministry, late on Thursday, said it plans to raise 8 trillion rupees (\$93.41 billion) through bond sales between April and September, amounting to 54% of its gross borrowing plan for the financial year. (*The Economic Times*)

'Central, State governments should invest in education over freebies'

The State and Central governments should focus on investing more in education than freebies, said G. Viswanathan, Founder-Chancellor of the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT). At the University Day celebrations here on Tuesday, he said: "Among the 13 crore eligible youth in the country, only 4 crore have access to universities and colleges." Australia's per capita income of \$68,000 was possible as it spent 5% of its GDP on education. "Their Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education is 100%, similar to that of South Korea. Any country that spends more on education and health will witness all-round economic development," Mr. Viswanathan said. *(The Hindu)*



Taxation

Govt slaps Samsung with \$601 million tax demand for telecom imports

India has ordered Samsung and its executives in the country to pay \$601 million in back taxes and penalties for dodging tariffs on import of key telecoms equipment, a government order showed, for one of the biggest such demands in recent years. The demand represents a substantial chunk of last year's net profit of \$955 million for Samsung in India, where it is one of the largest players in the consumer electronics and smartphones market. It can be challenged in a tax tribunal or the courts. *(Business Standard)*

Relief for taxpayers in income tax search and requisition cases as government amends the Finance Bill 2025

With an aim to give relief to income taxpayers, the government has amended the provisions dealing with income tax search cases, as per a supplementary frequently asked question (FAQ) released by the Income Tax Department. In the amended Section 158BA (Assessment of undisclosed income as a result of search), the word 'total income' has been replaced with 'total undisclosed income'. *(The Economic Times)*

GST Amnesty Scheme: Last few days left for payment of tax to apply for the scheme using SPL-02 form

If an eligible GST-registered taxpayer wants to apply for the GST Amnesty Scheme under Section 128A, then he/she needs to apply for it on or before June 30, 2025. However, there is a catch—he/she must pay the entire principal amount of the tax demand on or before March 31, 2025. *(The Economic Times)*

Digital tax on online ads to go from April 1

The government on Monday proposed abolishing the equalisation levy (EL) or digital tax on online advertisements, starting April 1. The proposal is part of the 59 amendments to the Finance Bill, 2025, which is being debated in the Lok Sabha. The move, which is favourable to a number of American tech giants, is seen as part of a bouquet of pre-emptive measures, including reduction of import duty on high-end/luxury vehicles, to ward off the threat of retaliatory tariffs by the US on April 2. *(BusinessLine)*

Taxpayers defaulting on TDS on rent above ₹50,000 get I-T notice

The Income Tax (I-T) Department is learnt to have issued notices to taxpayers paying a rent of ₹50,000 or more per month without deducting tax deducted at source (TDS) while remitting the amount to their landlords. Many taxpayers had received a notice from the I-T Department pertaining to assessment years 2023-2024 and 2024-25 stating that they had claimed house rent allowance (HRA) for specific years without deducting TDS, said Abhishek Murali, president, All India Taxpayers' Association. (*The Hindu*)



National Accounts and State of the Economy

Trend growth returns, but reforms key to sustain India's 6.5% GDP pace

The NSO estimates India's GDP growth for 2024-25 at 6.5 per cent, slightly above its initial estimate of 6.4 per cent but below that of forecasters and the RBI. The NSO's estimate marks a return to the pre-pandemic decadal trend growth rate, following an above-trend average growth of 8.8 per cent between financial years (FY) 2021-22 and 2023-24, driven by higher interest rates and lower fiscal stimulus. (*Business Standard*)

India loses 3% of GDP annually due to road accidents: Nitin Gadkari

India is losing 3 percent of its GDP due to around 5 lakh road accidents annually in the country, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said. The most important problem for the country is road accidents, Gadkari said, noting that every year India sees 4,80,000 accidents bank on Monday, said experts. The net liquidity in the banking system was in a deficit of Rs 1.57 trillion on Tuesday, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. The banking system's net liquidity has been in deficit mode since mid-December, and it had widened to a deficit of Rs 3.2 trillion in January. (*Business Standard*)

Services sector growth slows in March: HSBC Flash PMI

Flash India PMI slipped to 58.6 on slower services sector activity in March, as against 58.8 in February, HSBC said in a statement. A value above 50 implies growth in private sector activity and the index has stayed above this level for over three years now. The slowdown in the growth of services sector output may be attributable to higher prices in comparison to manufacturers and a slower growth in new business from abroad. (*The Hindu*)

'Women's empowerment, social justice at the centre of T.N.'s inclusive development'

"The objective of the Tamil Nadu government is not merely economic development but inclusive development, with social justice and women's empowerment at its core. That is why the State is ranked at the top in several indicators," Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said in Chennai on Friday.

Addressing the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) South India Annual Convention 2025, organised on the theme, 'Infra South: Crafting Livable Environment in India Cities', Mr. Stalin said the government's efforts had transformed cities such as Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Hosur, Madurai, Salem, and Thoothukudi into important economic hubs, fostering equitable growth across the State. (*The Hindu*)



Banking and Monetary Policy

Govt discontinues gold monetisation scheme; banks may continue: FinMin

The government has decided to discontinue the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) starting from Wednesday in view of the evolving market conditions, the finance ministry said. However, the banks may continue their short term gold deposit schemes (1-3 years), the ministry said in the statement on Tuesday. Till November 2024, approximately 31,164 kilograms of gold have been mobilised under GMS. The Short-Term Bank Deposits (STBD) offered by the banks under GMS shall continue at the discretion of the individual banks based on the commercial viability as assessed by them. (*Business Standard*)

Central Bank shares slip 5% after launching QIP at floor price of Rs 42.62

The floor price for the QIP was set at ₹42.62 per share which was a discount of 9 per cent from Monday's closing at Rs 46.85 per share on BSE. "The Capital Raising Committee of the board of the Bank has, at its meeting approved and adopted the Preliminary Placement Document dated March 24, 2025, and the application form dated March 24, 2025, in connection with the functioning of the financial system, and many of the detailed recommendations align with the concerned authorities and regulators' own developmental plans. (*Business Standard*)

Issues concerning liquidity regulation in banks

The RBI Governor, Sanjay Malhotra deferred the implementation of the proposed Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) Framework from April 1, 2025, to 'not before' March 31, 2026. Banks had opposed the implementation earlier apprehending it would cause a liquidity crisis, and had raised the issue with the new Governor. They had also petitioned the government regarding the proposed LCR guidelines. Not only in India but also globally, the implementation of the Framework, ab initio, has been riddled with issues. Several prominent researchers opine that, "Unlike capital regulation, which has received extensive academic scrutiny, liquidity regulation is new and has run ahead of research." However, post-implementation, in advanced economies, a plethora of research has evolved, and it's growing. (*BusinessLine*)

India's financial system resilient, diverse: IMF

The Indian financial system has become more resilient and diverse, driven by rapid economic growth and withstood the pandemic well, according to an IMF report. The I Sector Assessment Program (FSAP), a joint programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, undertakes a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of a country's financial sector. IMF has released the latest India-FSSA report, based on the assessment carried out during 2024, while WB's Financial Sector Assessment report is due for publication. The IMF report said that since the last FSAP in 2017, India's financial system has become more resilient and diverse, driven by rapid economic growth. (*BusinessLine*)

Banks may wait for liquidity cues to cut rates on special deposit plans

Most banks are unlikely to immediately withdraw their high-interest special deposit schemes which are set to expire on March 31, despite the limited-time nature of the offers, according to industry executives. Some banks may choose to extend the schemes with lower interest rates, they said, adding that bankers are currently assessing liquidity conditions and the monetary policy decisions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). *(The Economic Times)*

RBI MPC meeting schedule for FY26 released; first meet set for April 7-9

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has scheduled six Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings for the fiscal year starting April 2025. The first meeting will be held from April 7-9, 2025, following the recent rate cut to 6.25%. Subsequent meetings are set for June, August, October, December 2025, and February 2026. *(The Economic Times)*



External Sector

US team in India this week to discuss tariff cuts ahead of April 2 reciprocal tariffs

Assistant US Trade Representative Brendan Lynch will be in India with his team on Tuesday to hold a week-long face-to-face discussion with Indian negotiators on tariff cuts ahead of the April 2 date set by US President Donald Trump for the imposition of reciprocal tariffs on “high tariffing nations” including India. *(BusinessLine)*

India weighs scrapping import tax on US LNG, boost purchases, sources say

India is considering a proposal to scrap import tax on U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) to boost purchases and help cut the trade surplus with Washington, a key irritant for President Donald Trump, four government and industry sources said. The United States is India's second biggest supplier but the two sides are looking to ramp up volumes for India's energy-hungry economy, one of the fastest growing in the world. *(The Economic Times)*

India imposes anti-dumping duty on five Chinese products

India has imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese goods, including vacuum flasks and aluminium foil, during the month so far to protect domestic players from cheap imports from the neighbouring country. These duties were imposed as these products – Soft Ferrite Cores, a certain thickness of vacuum insulated flask, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin – were exported to India from China at below normal prices. *(The Hindu)*

US tariff hike: Emkay Global predicts sectoral disruptions, but limited macro impact

Emkay Global Financial Services expects every 10 per cent incremental US tariff on India to result in an export loss of \$6 billion, impacting sectors such as electronics, pharma,

apparel, gem and jewellery, agriculture, and petrochemicals. The US President Donald Trump announced that it would implement reciprocal tariffs on India on April 2. While the nature of reciprocal tariff implementation is unclear, Emkay believes a broad country-level tariff by the US is the most likely scenario, given complications around sector/commodity-level tariffs. The key susceptible sectors, such as auto, pharma, and electronics, are far better placed than feared, whereas apparel, gems, and jewellery are the most exposed. (*BusinessLine*)

Imports from China used for making finished products that are also exported: Commerce Department

India's imports from China continue to rise as most of the goods sourced from the country go into making finished products that are also exported, the government said. "Most of the goods imported from China are raw materials, intermediate goods and capital goods, like active pharmaceutical ingredients (API), auto components, electronic parts and assemblies, mobile phone parts, machinery and its parts, etc. which are used for making finished products which are also exported out of India," Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Jitin Prasada replied in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. (*BusinessLine*)

India offers US tariff cuts on farm imports, eyes trade success, govt sources say

India has offered tariff cuts on imports of U.S. farm products like almonds and cranberries as a further concession to the United States, two government sources said, hoping to avert President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs set for next week. Unlike China, Canada and the European Union, India is actively seeking to appease the Trump administration and is open to cutting tariffs on over half of U.S. imports worth \$23 billion, Reuters reported earlier this week. (*The Economic Times*)

India-US trade pact to be good for both; our interests will be protected: Piyush Goyal

The ongoing talks between India and the US for the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) are progressing and will be "good" for both the nations while protecting India's interests, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said at the summit on Thursday. On whether Indian industry should brace for any turbulence after April 2, he said the India growth story will remain intact and the country would continue to power the global economy. (*The Economic Times*)

Tariff exemption to India will push Indo-US bilateral trade: Exporters

Exempting India from US reciprocal tariffs could promote smooth bilateral trade, say exporters. Despite potential tariffs on Indian products, negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement targeting 2025 are ongoing. However, obtaining exemptions might necessitate significant concessions from India beyond the trade sector, making their receipt uncertain. (*The Economic Times*)



Union government to help States procure pulses at MSP: Agriculture Minister

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that tur, urad, and masoor will be procured at 100% of state production under the Price Support Scheme for 2024-25, aiming to boost domestic production and reduce imports. This initiative will continue till 2028-29 to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses. Procurement of tur has been approved in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh for the Kharif 2024-25 season. Karnataka's procurement period has been extended by 30 days till May 1. NAFED and NCCF are procuring at MSP in several states, with 2.46 lakh metric tonnes of tur procured as of March 25, benefiting 1.71 lakh farmers. *(The Hindu)*

Centre issues guidelines to tackle high rate of job card deletions under MGNREGS

The Ministry of Rural Development has issued guidelines to address the high deletion rate of job cards under MGNREGS. Over the past four years, 10.43 crore worker names have been removed, coinciding with the Aadhaar-based payment system, though the government denies any link. As per the new guidelines, deletions must be verified through gram sabhas, including those for work approvals, social audits, or special meetings. Job cards can be removed only for reasons like permanent migration, urban reclassification, duplication, forged documents, or worker death. Deleted names must be publicly displayed for 30 days. Gram sabhas must convene twice a year to review flagged deletions, allow objections, and inform households of their appeal rights. The reason for each deletion must be disclosed, and pending dues must be cleared before removal. *(The Hindu)*

Agri stocks and tariffs: Not much to fear right away

While concerns over reciprocal tariffs by the US have kept a tight grip on the stock market, the impact of this on the agri space may not be very significant. According to the WTO (2024), the tariff imposed by India on agri inputs from the US works out to a simple average rate of 17 per cent, compared with about 3.3 per cent imposed by the US. The trade weighted average tariff by India is at 12.2 percent vs 2 percent. While the US wants India to open up its agri market, there are challenges in doing so. Though, over the last three decades, the share of agriculture in the country's overall GDP has halved from about 30 per cent in the 1990s to about 16 per cent in FY24, it still remains the single-largest sector in terms of employment and livelihood, with over 46 per cent of the population dependant on it directly and indirectly. *(The Hindu)*

Govt to raise farmers' incomes through PMDDY

The Centre plans to boost farmers' income in 100 districts under the PM Dhana Dhaanya Yojana (PMDDY), aiming to enhance productivity, credit access, irrigation, and post-harvest management. The Agriculture Ministry is finalizing details, with a launch expected before the kharif sowing season in June. Focusing on 100 aspirational districts, PMDDY aims to benefit 1.6 crore farmers in low-productivity areas by improving irrigation and integrating services like borewells, solar pumps, micro-irrigation, and

electricity connections. The scheme will also address credit access, ensuring flexibility for farmers to choose quality products over bank recommendations. With increased income, farmers can invest independently, so PMDDY may support allied activities to generate additional earnings. *(BusinessLine)*

India's import tariffs on agri products are 3rd highest globally

India has high import tariffs, particularly on agricultural products, according to the WTO's 2024 World Tariff Profiles. These tariffs are aimed at protecting local farmers, as agriculture is a key livelihood sector. However, lower import barriers could hurt domestic farmers by increasing competition. In contrast, countries like the US impose much lower tariffs, with India's MFN tariff rising from 32.8% in 2017 to 39% in 2023. To counter US tariffs, India could selectively reduce tariffs and boost domestic production to balance trade. *(BusinessLine)*

Govt committed to purchase 100 per cent of tur, says Chouhan

In a bid to achieve self-sufficiency and encourage farmers to produce more, the government is committed to procuring 100 percent of the tur (arhar) crop through Central agencies, said Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday. Also, the government has approved the purchase of 27.99 lakh tonnes of gram (chana) and 28.28 lakh tonnes of mustard for the rabi marketing season 2025, besides extending the PM-Asha Yojana till 2025-26, according to an official statement. Chouhan said till March 25, a total of 2.46 lakh tonnes of tur at MSP had been procured by agencies such as NAFED and NCCF in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Telangana, benefiting over 1.71 lakh farmers. He said the price of tur in Uttar Pradesh is currently running above MSP. *(BusinessLine)*

All-India Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers moves up around 4% on year

The Ministry of Labour & Employment stated that All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and Rural Labourers (CPI-RL) (Base: 1986-87=100) decreased by 7 points each, for the month of February 2025, falling to 1309 and 1321 points, respectively compared to February 2024. The year-on-year inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL for February 2025 were recorded at 4.05% and 4.10%, respectively, compared to 7.43% and 7.36% in February 2024. The corresponding figures for January 2025 stood at 4.61% for CPI-AL and 4.73% for CPI-RL. Meanwhile, on a monthly basis, inflation rates based on CPI-AL and CPI-RL for February 2025 stood at -0.53% for both the indices. Food prices eased around 1% for both the indices on a monthly basis. *(Business Standard)*

Climate concerns: Changing rainfall patterns threaten agriculture

A recent study published in the Reserve Bank of India's March bulletin highlights a pressing concern — the increasing variability in rainfall and its impact on food-crop production. It reaffirms that agriculture in India still relies heavily on monsoon. While the expansion of modern irrigation facilities and the development of climate-resilient seed varieties have provided some relief, rainfall continues to be a decisive factor. Precipitation during the southwest monsoon remains critical for agricultural production during the kharif season. *(Business Standard)*



Ola Electric's lay-offs rattle India's growing EV sector job market

India's electric vehicle (EV) job market, where active EV start-ups employ over 1,10,000 people across different parts of the talent pyramid, seems suddenly caught in a quagmire as an unexpected juxtaposition of events hit the market recently. In mid February, Elon Musk-led EV manufacturer Tesla listed several open positions, including customer facing roles, engagement managers, delivery specialists, and service technicians in Maharashtra, between Mumbai and Pune, to kick start its India story. According to a Business India report, while the EV major announced 13 jobs on LinkedIn, there were reports elsewhere saying the company had 20 positions for India, 15 of which were in Mumbai while the other five were in Pune. *(The Hindu)*

Govt. moots abolishing digital tax on online advertisements from April 1

The government on Monday proposed abolishing the equalisation levy (EL) or digital tax on online advertisements starting April 1 as part of the 59 amendments to the Finance Bill, 2025, which is being debated in the Lok Sabha. The move, which affects a number of American technology giants, is seen as part of a bouquet of pre-emptive measures to ward off the threat of retaliatory tariffs by the U.S. on April 2. The levy is charged at 6% of the sum received or receivable by a non-resident for online advertisement services. In 2020, the levy was also imposed on non-resident e-commerce operators. The rate was 2% but was removed in 2024. *(The Hindu)*

CGD to grow at 10% CAGR till FY30: Report

The government's push to increase the consumption of clean fuels and improve the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix is boosting city gas consumption. According to a report by CareEdge Ratings, natural gas volumes are expected to expand at a sustainable compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 10 percent over FY25-30, supported by capital expenditure (capex) of ₹30,000 crore during FY25-FY27. *(BusinessLine)*

India's first payment security mechanism tender for e-buses to be issued soon

E-bus sales in India surged 81% in FY24, and industry experts anticipate significant growth, with annual sales expected to exceed 17,000 units by FY27, driven by strong government support. The Indian government has fully taken over the PSM initiative, allocating ₹3,435 crore to ensure the deployment of 38,000 e-buses by FY29. CESL is finalizing tenders for electric bus procurement under the first PSM tender, with multiple states participating in the initial phase. To provide financial security for OEMs, the PSM model guarantees timely payments by deducting dues from state funds, mitigating risks for bus manufacturers. *(BusinessLine)*

Indian IT players better insulated against US budget cuts: Analysts

Amid Accenture's word of caution last week on its revenue taking a hit due to tightened US government spending under the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), industry analysts noted that Indian IT firms that have a large western market may not be

as impacted. Top-tier IT players like TCS and Infosys do work with select US State governments and federal agencies in some cases, but have less than 2 percent of their revenues coming from government contracts there, analysts told businessline. In contrast, the federal government's revenues accounted for approximately 16 percent of Accenture's America revenues in FY24, and 8 percent of its global revenues. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

Trump's coal thrust may help India

US President Donald Trump's support for fossil fuels, including coal, continues in his second stint. Any attempt by climate advocates to retire coal from the energy space will be a distant dream, at least for now. This and his subsequent decisions created a flutter and revived the debate between coal producers and climate advocates. While India and the US are sorting out the tariff issues, coal is one issue where the two nations can be on the same page. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

India's software market to be worth \$100 b by 2035, growing 5x: Report

India's domestic software market is projected to grow 5x in the next decade from \$20 billion in 2025 to \$100 billion by 2035, said a new report. SaaSBoomi, in collaboration with 1 Lattice, released the report on Tuesday, which stated that the domestic IT software market will be driven by expanding adoption of tech by SMEs, deepening digital initiatives by the Centre and AI-led automation. The next decade will see Indian software makers gain share, with homegrown companies positioned to claim up to 50 per cent of the \$100 billion market, the report predicted. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)



News on Kerala

Kerala Assembly passes bill to establish private universities, marking policy shift

The Kerala Assembly has passed the Kerala State Private Universities Bill, 2025, allowing private varsities in the state. This move represents a significant policy shift from the CPI(M)-led government's previous stance against education privatization. Concerns remain about its impact on public universities and existing educational institutions. [\(The Economic Times\)](#)

Kerala to raise school entry age from 5 to 6

The State intends to make six the age of admission to Class I from the 2026-27 academic year, Kerala's Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said. A policy decision in the matter will be taken by the government. Addressing a press meet here on Thursday, Mr. Sivankutty said the age of admission to Class I in the State was five. However, scientific studies indicated that children became ready to start formal education after the age of six. More than 52% of the children in Kerala already take admission to Class I at the age of six. [\(The Hindu\)](#)

Rubber Board begins geo-mapping of plantations for EUDR compliance

The Rubber Board has initiated steps to implement certification of natural rubber under Indian Sustainable Natural Rubber (iSNR) and for EUDR compliance. Such action has been necessitated because natural rubber and its derivatives are EU-listed commodities for deforestation-free regulations. M Vasanthagesan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, inaugurated the EUDR sensitisation programme for representatives from rubber plantation companies in Kottayam, which will be followed by similar events in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. ([BusinessLine](#))

Emerging technology hub will be set up at Rs 350 crore, says Kerala CM

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday announced the launch of an Emerging Technology Hub in the state capital by the Kerala Startup Mission. The hub, being developed at an estimated cost of Rs 350 crore will focus on leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) across key sectors including agriculture, healthcare, defence, and renewable energy. Responding to a calling attention motion by Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) legislator Manjalamkuzhi Ali in the Assembly, he added that this hub, being set up on a three-acre site in Technocity, Thiruvananthapuram. ([Business Standard](#))

KSEB to levy fuel surcharge from consumers in April

Giving another shock to consumers, the Kerala State Electricity Board announced that it will continue to impose fuel surcharge in April. According to KSEB, 7 paise per unit will be collected as a surcharge from consumers who are paying monthly bills and others making payments every two months. ([On manorama](#))

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