



## Public Finance

### State government borrowings dip sharply in April

State government borrowings through securities declined sharply to ₹53,870 crore in April from ₹2.25 trillion in March, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), likely deferring costlier loans to suit spending. On Tuesday, 10 states raised ₹24,700 crore through auctions of State Development Loans (SDLs), the largest tranche during the month. Earlier in April, states had mobilized funds in four smaller tranches of ₹11,800 crore, ₹3,500 crore, ₹3,000 crore and ₹10,870 crore. The indicative amount for state borrowings in the first quarter of FY26 (April–June 2025) is pegged at ₹2.73 trillion, slightly higher than the ₹2.54 trillion estimated in the same period last year. *(Mint)*

### Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announces nine major welfare measures for State government employees

In a bonanza for State government staff, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin announced nine welfare measures on Monday. This will incur an additional annual cost of nearly ₹5,000 crore for the State government. He also announced a 2 per cent increase in dearness allowance (DA), based on the Centre's decision to increase DA by 2 per cent from January 2025. This will benefit nearly 16 lakh employees, including teachers, pensions and family pensioners, and will cost the State government an additional ₹1,252 crore annually. *(BusinessLine)*

### India's 4.4% fiscal deficit target hinges on solid revenue. Global conditions pose a challenge

The government has set out with an ambitious fiscal deficit target of 4.4 percent for the current year. This is, however, contingent on strong tax collections, disinvestment revenue and large dividend from the Reserve Bank of India and other central Public Sector Undertakings. The budget has assumed nominal GDP growth of 10.1 percent, growth of gross tax revenues at 10.8 percent. Income-tax collection is estimated to grow 14.3 percent, while corporation tax collection is projected to grow 10.4 percent in the current financial year. All these projections will need to be recalibrated in light of the uncertain global environment. *(ThePrint)*

### Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka lead in new state rankings; Goa tops smaller states list

Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka are India's top three states based on a study of 50 indicators spread across seven parameters: economic, fiscal, infrastructure, financial development, social, governance, and environment. The fiscal sub-category carried the second-highest weightage (20%). Odisha led this category with a score of 71.1, although it ranked ninth overall. "Odisha led the fiscal rankings, faring well in terms of revenue deficit, interest payments (as % of revenue), debt management, outstanding liabilities, and guarantees," CareEdge stated. *(The Economic Times)*

## Failure to revise 'Contracted Demand' leads to ₹4.88 crore excess power charges in 10 Tamil Nadu government buildings, says CAG report

Failure of the departments to revise the 'Contracted Demand' based on actual electricity consumption resulted in an excess expenditure of ₹4.88 crore on power charges in 10 government buildings in Chennai. And inaction on the part of the government to undertake correction of power factor in another government building resulted in an avoidable expenditure of ₹1.68 crore, according to report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March 2023 that was tabled in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. (*The Hindu*)



### Taxation

## April GST mop-up hits all-time high at ₹2.37 lakh crore

Goods and Services Tax collection rose 12.6% year-on-year to an all-time high of about ₹2.37 lakh crore in April, reflecting strong economic activity and March-end reconciliation of books by businesses. The GST mop-up was ₹2.10 lakh crore in April 2024 — the second highest ever since GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017. In March 2025, the collection was ₹1.96 lakh crore. As per the government data released on Thursday, GST revenue from domestic transactions rose 10.7% to about ₹1.9 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods was up 20.8% to ₹46,913 crore. (*The Hindu*)

## Direct tax mop up for 2024-25 fiscal hits target; record refunds issued

The provisional net direct tax collection for the 2024-25 financial year has met the set target, growing 13.57 per cent to over Rs 22.26 lakh crore with the income tax department issuing the highest-ever amount of refunds ever delivered, official data showed Friday. The government set a target of Rs 22,07,000 crore for the direct tax administration as per the budget receipt of July 2024 and revised it to Rs 22,37,000 crore during the budget presented this February. (*Business Standard*)

## Councillors propose 50% tax rebate for properties belonging to women

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) is exploring the feasibility of providing a 50% rebate in property tax for women who own property, including houses, in the city. At the Council meeting on Wednesday, Mayor R. Priya said the civic body would request the State government to consider the demand of councillors for the rebate for women who have registered property in their name. The State government has already issued a government order, reducing the registration charges for property registered in the name of women. (*The Hindu*)

## Govt. to reduce interest for late payment of property tax arrears in urban local bodies

The Tamil Nadu government plans to reduce the interest rate for late payment of property tax arrears in urban local bodies across the State. A Bill for amending the Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Act, 1998, was tabled by Minister for Municipal Administration K.N. Nehru in the Assembly on Monday. It seeks to impose an interest at 0.5% if property tax remains unpaid after the completion of a financial year. Earlier, if half-yearly property tax remained unpaid, the assesseees were to pay 1% simple interest a month, in addition to the amount due. (*The Hindu*)



## National Accounts and State of the Economy

### India may save \$66 billion by phasing out thermal coal imports by 2029

India could discontinue its thermal coal imports by 2029 and save approximately \$66 billion in foreign exchange between 2025 and 2029, if the country could add 50 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity annually, according to a report released on Monday by the think tank Climate Risks Horizon. *(Business Standard)*

### Manufacturing reality: Domestic vs foreign consumption gets more complex

Power Grid Corporation of India said that its committee of directors on investment on projects has approved three investment proposals with a total value of Rs 964.44 crore. The first project, which involves strengthening the transmission system to facilitate evacuation of power from the Bhadla/Bikaner complex, is estimated to cost Rs 212.81 crore. The project is scheduled for commissioning within 18 months from the project allocation date, i.e., by 09 June 2026. *(Business Standard)*

### Tube Investments of India Ltd spurts 3.74%, up for third straight session

Tube Investments of India Ltd is quoting at Rs 2902.2, up 3.74% on the day as at 12:49 IST on the NSE. The stock is down 23.45% in the last one year as compared to a 7.52% gain in NIFTY and a 1.88% gain in the Nifty Auto index. *(Business Standard)*

### Uttar Pradesh defence corridor gets ₹30K crore investment proposals

The Kanpur and Jhansi nodes top the charts with investment proposals worth ₹12,683 crore and ₹9,139 crore, respectively. The six nodes under the project include Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, and Lucknow. Aligarh and Lucknow trail along with a kitty of ₹3,419 crore and ₹2,611 crore, respectively. Meanwhile, Agra and Chitrakoot have attracted investment proposals worth ₹709 crore and ₹180 crore, respectively. *(Business Standard)*



## Banking and Monetary Policy

### Deposit rate cuts likely to be moderate in current cycle

The cut in deposit interest rates during the current easing cycle is expected to be moderate compared to the previous one because the highest cut in the policy repo rate is anticipated to be about 100 basis points (bps), as against 250 bps in the previous cycle. In addition, the credit deposit (CD) ratio will remain elevated for major banks. Also, regulatory factors, such as the revised liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms and the potential increase in deposit insurance coverage, will weigh on lenders, thus limiting their ability to implement significant deposit rate cuts. The monetary policy committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its February meeting, reduced the repo rate by 25 basis points. In April, it reduced the policy repo rate by another 25 bps to 6 per cent. *(Business Standard)*

### **Banks see sharp slowdown in retail loans in busiest quarter**

Private sector major ICICI Bank's retail loans grew 9 per cent year-on-year in Q4FY25 to ₹7.17 lakh crore, significantly lower than the 19 per cent growth seen in Q4FY24. Mortgage loans, which constitute the largest portion of the retail loan book, grew 11 per cent in Q4FY25, while vehicle loans and personal loans grew 4 per cent each; credit card loans were up 12 per cent; and loans against shares and other instruments de-grew 4 per cent on a yearly basis. Similarly, Axis Bank's retail loans grew at 7 per cent in Q4FY25, compared to 20 per cent last year; IDFC First Bank's retail finance loans rose 19 per cent in Q4FY25, down from 31 per cent in same quarter last year, while RBL Bank's retail loans grew 13 per cent, less than half of the 30 per cent growth seen last year. *(BusinessLine)*

### **RBI to inject ₹1.25-lakh crore liquidity in May via OMO purchase auctions**

Keeping up its liquidity injection efforts, the Reserve Bank of India on Monday announced an auction calendar for May, whereby it will conduct open market operations (OMOs) for purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs) aggregating ₹1.25 lakh crore in four tranches. The RBI has been conducting OMO purchase auctions since late January 2025 to infuse liquidity into the banking system. Liquidity in the system turned into deficit in Q4FY25 mainly due to seasonal increase in currency in circulation and RBI's forex operations. However, system liquidity turned into surplus in late March with the surplus currently at about ₹1.02 lakh crore at the last count on April 25. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Centre may float bonds in other countries**

The Union Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, is examining the possibility of floating short, medium or long-term Government of India bonds in countries like Philippines, Hongkong, Thailand, etc., to which the Indians residing in those countries, besides the nationals, can subscribe. He is also believed to be considering the scope for making some changes in the banking laws to provide for the holding of deposits of Indians resident in these countries in foreign currency instead of rupees. *(The Hindu)*



## **External Sector**

### **Textile sector eyes solutions for yarn export to Bangladesh**

With Bangladesh closing its land ports for yarn exported by India, textile mills in India are examining alternative modes of transport while also urging the government to take up the issue with Bangladesh. Almost 30% of India's yarn, mainly dyed and special yarn, exported to Bangladesh was being transported via land ports. At a recent meeting, the yarn exporters explored various alternative options such as shipping in containers, using inland water ways, etc. They also had meetings with buyers in Bangladesh. *(The Hindu)*

### **Diamond exports to dip 10% this fiscal as tariffs take effect**

The additional 10 per cent tariff imposed by the US — which accounts for nearly a third of India's natural diamond exports — is expected to further strain Indian diamantaires. This development comes amid already subdued demand and increasing competition from lab-grown diamonds (LGD), per Crisil Ratings report. In the milieu, export revenues of diamantaires will decline 8-10 per cent in fiscal 2026, it added. That said, calibrated

inventory management across the value chain will support realisations, thus helping reduce the decline in export revenues and limit the erosion of operating margins. *(BusinessLine)*

### **India will not export wheat even if govt procurement exceeds target**

India will not allow wheat export even if the procurement exceeds the government target of 31.3 million tonnes (mt), as the priority is to bolster stocks and restore normal allocation through ration shops, said a top official. The Centre banned wheat exports in May 2022 to control prices, after a fall in the domestic production and a sharp decline in the official procurement for the central pool. However, it continued exporting on humanitarian grounds and for diplomatic reasons to friendly countries on a government-to-government basis, though in limited quantities. *(BusinessLine)*

### **India, Rotterdam Port plan green corridor for clean energy exports**

The visit of Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal to the Netherlands has laid the groundwork for setting up a green, digital corridor between the Port of Rotterdam and Indian ports for the export of green hydrogen to Europe. The Commerce Ministry said that huge opportunities are there for enhancing cooperation between Indian ports and the Netherlands' Port of Rotterdam in areas such as digitalisation, green shipping, and logistics optimisation, to boost bilateral trade. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Plastic exports rise 8.7% to \$12.5 billion in FY24-25**

Total plastic exports from India touched \$12.5 billion in 2024-25 against \$11.5 billion in 2023-24, recording a growth of 8.70 per cent. A media statement by the Plastics Export Promotion Council (Plexconcil) said the growth in India's plastics exports was driven by strong performances across several key product categories. Plastic films and sheets saw a growth of 15.9 per cent, increasing from \$1,750 million to \$2,028 million; while woven sacks, woven fabrics and tarpaulin grew by 16 per cent to reach \$1,571 million, up from \$1,355 million. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Total exports jump to \$825 bn in FY25 as services shipments rise over 13%**

India's exports of goods and services hit an all-time high of \$825 billion in 2024-25, driven by a record surge in the shipments of services that reached \$386.5 billion in the last fiscal despite global trade headwinds, according to the commerce ministry data. Following the release of March services exports data by the RBI, the country's overall exports for 2024-25 have been revised to \$824.9 billion from the earlier estimate of \$820.93 billion, announced on April 15. Total exports were worth \$778.13 billion in 2023-24. *(Business Standard)*

### **India slaps 20% export duty on parboiled, milled rice for food safety**

The Ministry of Finance has imposed a 20 per cent export duty on parboiled rice and specific milled rice varieties, with the new rule taking effect from May 1. The decision is aimed at regulating rice exports and ensuring domestic food security. According to the circular issued by the ministry, the export duty applies to parboiled rice—including GI-recognised and other varieties—and "Other Rice" under specific customs classifications. This includes semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed. *(Business Standard)*

### **Commerce Min seeks exporters' views on schemes under export promotion plan**

The commerce ministry has sought views of export promotion councils (EPCs) on the different schemes which the government is framing under the export promotion mission announced in the Union Budget, an industry official said. The councils will have to submit their comments by tomorrow to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the official said. The government is framing schemes for MSME exporters to provide credit on easy terms, promote alternate financing instruments through strengthening factoring services for them and offer monetary assistance to deal with non-tariff measures imposed by other countries. The commerce, MSME and finance ministries are working on these schemes. *(Business Standard)*

### **Engineering goods exports from India reach record high in 2024-25, hit \$116.7 billion**

India's engineering goods exports hit a record high of USD 116.67 billion in fiscal year 2024-25. This represents a 6.74 percent increase. The United States was the top destination. There was growth in exports to the UAE, Singapore, and Nepal. Engineering exports outperformed overall merchandise exports. Concerns remain about global trade dynamics and potential impacts from US tariffs. *(The Economic Times)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **Surge in summer sowing offers more cushion against food inflation**

Acreage under summer crops has surged 15% year-on-year, raising hopes of easing food inflation ahead of the kharif season. With a strong rabi harvest and forecast of a good monsoon, policymakers may get much-needed relief on the price front. *(Mint)*

### **Credit growth to agriculture slows to 10.4% in March 2025: RBI data**

The bank credit growth to the agriculture sector slowed to 10.4 per cent year-on-year for the fortnight ended March 21, while advances to the industry remained flat at 8 per cent, as per the RBI data released on Wednesday. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the data on sectoral deployment of bank credit collected from 41 select commercial banks, accounting for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit deployed by all banks taken together. *(Business Standard)*

### **Punjab hybrid rice ban to cost farmers up to Rs 10,000 per acre, says industry body FSII**

The Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII) on Tuesday sought the Centre's intervention in the Punjab government's ban on hybrid paddy seeds, warning of significant income losses for farmers as the kharif sowing season approaches. FSII Chairman Ajai Rana said the April 7 ban could reduce farmer incomes by Rs 8,000-10,000 per acre. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Time to break-free from paddy for sustainable agriculture in India**

The Indian agriculture sector is at a crucial juncture. Intensive paddy cultivation has been the cornerstone of the sector for decades now, providing livelihoods for millions of people. However, this practice now poses a significant roadblock in India's journey towards sustainability. As per the latest estimate of 2023-24, paddy cultivation in India

occupies an area of 47.82 million hectares (Mha), accounting for 36 per cent of the total area under foodgrain production. *(Business Standard)*

### **Shedding old habits: Rethinking agricultural practices in India**

India's ambitious goal to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2070 faces a significant challenge from its agriculture sector, a major GHG emitter. This issue traces back to the Green Revolution which was once a breakthrough in food production but has now become counter-productive. As per a 2014 study by the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), India's Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP) have the highest global warming potential, mainly due to extensive rice cultivation. *(Business Standard)*

### **There's potential to double India's crop yields even with existing technologies: Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, DARE**

The government is actively working to identify yield gaps in agriculture and their determinants. Even with current technologies, there's enough potential to double yields, especially in rain-fed areas where the gap is substantial, says Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). *(The Economic Times)*

### **Centre hikes sugarcane price by 4.41% to ₹355 per quintal for 2025-26**

In a move impacting millions of farmers and sugar mill workers, the Centre has approved an increase in the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane to ₹355 per quintal for the 2025-26 sugar season, up from ₹340 per quintal in the previous season. The decision, taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday (April 30, 2025), aims to safeguard the interests of sugarcane farmers. *(The Hindu)*

### **Govt mandates digital reporting for sugar mills, regulates khandsari units**

Under the new Sugar (Control) Order, 2025, the government has brought khandsari units with a crushing capacity above 500 tonnes per day under regulatory oversight for the first time. The shift to digital reporting is expected to improve transparency, enhance efficiency, and reduce data leakages. *(Mint)*



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

### **Starlink's India struggle: spectrum, surveillance, and connectivity**

Starlink's regulatory experience in India offers critical insights into the delicate interplay between innovation, law, and sovereignty. It underscores the importance of early, structured dialogue between technology providers and government regulators. *(The Hindu)*

### **Digital access a part of fundamental right to life and liberty: SC**

Inclusive and meaningful digital access to e-governance and welfare delivery systems is a part of the fundamental right to life and liberty, the Supreme Court held in a judgment this week. Hearing a petition on how people with disability find it nearly impossible to complete the digital Know Your Customer (KYC) process, said that the state has an obligation to provide an inclusive digital ecosystem to the marginalised, underprivileged,

vulnerable, disabled, and historically excluded sections of society. Amidst the “wave of digital progress” in India a crucial aspect often overlooked is whether this technology is truly inclusive, the court said. *(The Hindu)*

### **Google’s expanding AI ambitions in India clash with U.S. antitrust scrutiny**

As Google rolls out a sweeping expansion of its Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools across search, advertising, and YouTube in India, its global ad and search business models are simultaneously under intense legal scrutiny in the U.S., raising questions about the balance between innovation and market power. *(The Hindu)*

### **Insufficient support for deep tech start-ups in India: study**

Only about one in four public-funded research and development organisations in India gives incubation support to start-ups and only one in six provides support to ‘deep tech’ start-ups. Only 15% collaborated with industry overseas and only half opened their facilities to outside researchers and students, say the findings of a study commissioned by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser and executed by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Centre for Technology, Innovation, and Economic Research. *(The Hindu)*

### **Analysts assessing impact of US tariffs on IT firms**

Even as reciprocal tariffs by US President Trump trigger economic chaos, IT analysts and investors are trying to assess how these tariffs could impact the bottomlines and margins of IT companies. IT analysts have been grilling the top CXOs of top-tier companies like TCS, Infosys and Wipro to get a clarity on the terrain in the backdrop of tariffs. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Retail industry clocked 6% growth in March: RAI Survey**

Retailers clocked 6 per cent growth in March per the latest survey done by the Retailers Association of India (RAI). The growth was led by food and grocery and quick service restaurants (QSR) segments. This reflects steady domestic demand at a time when global trade conditions remain unsettled, the industry body noted. The growth was higher than that of the previous month but the industry is yet to return to double-digit growth. *(BusinessLine)*



## **News on Kerala**

### **Bhoothathankettu hydel project: KSEB to terminate contract with consortium**

Inordinate delay in completing the Bhoothathankettu small hydroelectric project has prompted the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) to sever contractual ties with the consortium of the Indian and Chinese companies that was tasked with executing the electromechanical works for the 24 megawatt (MW) project. The KSEB director board has decided to terminate all contracts, including a tripartite agreement inked with Sree Saravana Engineering Bhavani Ltd. (SSEB), Tamil Nadu, and Hunan Zhaoyang Generation Equipment Company Ltd., China, following a drawn-out dispute over the despatch of the third and final consignment of equipment from China. On the basis of advice from the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), the KSEB has decided to invite fresh bids for supply of the remaining equipment from China or other sources. *(The Hindu)*

### **Commission recommends overhaul of fine arts education in colleges**

An expert commission, chaired by renowned art educator Shivaji K. Panikkar, has recommended a complete revamp of the existing curricula in Kerala's fine arts colleges. Major reforms in admission processes, evaluation methods and administration structures have been recommended, along with a transition to a credit and semester framework. Prof. Panikkar, former Dean and Founder Member, School of Culture and Creative Expressions, Ambedkar University, presented the commission report to Higher Education Minister R. Bindu here on Wednesday. Kerala State Higher Education Council member secretary Rajan Varughese was present. The commission was mandated with making recommendations to reform fine art education in the State. *(The Hindu)*

### **NH projects: State govt. waives GST share, royalty**

A State Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday in Thiruvananthapuram decided to waive the State share of the GST and royalty on construction materials to be used for all future projects implemented by the National Highways Authority of India in Kerala. The State is of the view that national highway development projects and new national highways are essential for the development of Kerala. A detailed proposal in this regard was submitted to the Union Minister of Surface Transport. The Minister himself has put forward the demand for the State's participation in such projects. This issue has been examined, and it has been decided to ensure the State's participation in the upcoming national highway works by waiving the State share of GST and royalty on construction materials, said a Cabinet briefing. *(The Hindu)*

### **State aims 15,000 start-ups, one lakh jobs by 2026: CM**

Holding that Kerala is now nationally and internationally recognised as a haven for start-ups, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here on Tuesday that the State is aiming to increase the number of start-ups in the State to 15,000 by 2026 to generate over one lakh new jobs. He was speaking at an interaction programme with select personalities from various fields in the district, held as part of the fourth anniversary celebrations of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government. The Chief Minister said the number of start-ups in the State has grown from 640 in 2016 to 6,300 at present, with investments reaching ₹5,800 crore. The IT sector too has seen substantial growth. The number of IT companies in Kerala has increased from 640 in 2016 to 1,106 today. *(The Hindu)*

### **Tourism makeover for Athirappilly project**

The State power utility issued orders dated April 24 for "remodelling Athirappilly hydroelectric project" as a tourism-friendly project. The contentious 163 megawatt (MW) hydel project planned at Athirappilly has remained in limbo for years, although the KSEB never officially abandoned it. Its latest decision, the KSEB says, is meant to see whether the project can be developed as the State's first integrated tourism-cum-power generation project. As such, it will ensure water flow in the scenic Athirappilly waterfall throughout the year, provide tourist amenities, while guaranteeing energy security for the future, the KSEB says in an explanatory note issued on Monday. *(The Hindu)*

### **Invest Kerala Summit: Works on projects worth Rs 4,410 cr to begin in May**

Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev on Saturday said works on 13 projects with a total investment of Rs 4,410 crore through the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS 2025) will commence in May. Noting that these projects were submitted through Expressions of Interest (EoIs) at the IKGS held in February, Rajeev, who also holds Law and Coir portfolios, added in April alone, four projects worth Rs 1670 crore have started. *(Business Standard)*

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