



## Public Finance

### **Government proposes increasing industrial and commercial electricity tariff in Karnataka, and reduce for IP sets**

The government has filed a petition before the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KEREC) to reduce the tariff on LT 4(a) — the irrigation pump set category — and increase the tariff for industrial and commercial consumers to fill the revenue gap of ₹4,620 crore. The revenue gap occurs at the electricity supply company (escom) level when there is a deficit between the tariff collected and the expenditure, including power purchase cost, that is incurred. In this year's (FY 2025 – 26) budget, the government of Karnataka had announced a subsidy of ₹16,021 crore for IP sets, and ₹10,101 crore for Gruha Jyothi scheme. However, in the tariff order passed for this year, KEREC stated that the subsidy required to provide free power for IP sets is ₹20,095.44 crore. (*The Hindu*)

### **AP should adopt fiscal prudence, ensure transparency in public finance: Task Force**

The Andhra Pradesh government should ensure fiscal prudence and transparency in public finance in its journey to realise its Swarna Andhra Pradesh Vision 2047 goals, according to a Taskforce constituted by the State government on the road ahead. The Swarna Andhra Pradesh 2047 Vision, launched by N Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government, aims to make the State a \$2.4-trillion economy by 2047 with a per capita income of \$42,000, growing at a sustained annual growth of 15 per cent in the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). (*BusinessLine*)

### **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu urges Centre to provide ₹10,000 crore under SASCI, revenue deficit compensation**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has appealed to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to allocate an additional ₹10,000 crore to the State under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme for the financial year 2025–26. The Chief Minister informed Ms. Sitharaman that while the estimated cost for the construction of the new capital Amaravati stood at ₹79,280 crore, works worth ₹44,351 crore had already been initiated. Of this, ₹26,000 crore had been mobilised so far. Mr. Naidu urged the Centre to release the next tranche of funds as a grant rather than a loan. (*The Hindu*)

### **Sitharaman urges states to tap Centre's interest-free capex loan scheme to drive growth**

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday urged states to make full use of the Centre's special assistance to states for capital expenditure (SASCE) scheme to drive economic growth by investing in employment-generating infrastructure and local

development. “When you build capital assets, employment increases, core sectors benefit, and the multiplier effect is a lot more than just putting money in people’s hands,” Sitharaman said while speaking at a public event in Shillong. For FY26, the Centre has allocated ₹1.5 trillion for these loans, aiming to boost public infrastructure spending and support state-level capital projects. *(Mint)*

### **Puducherry CM Rangasamy makes case for U.T.’s inclusion in Finance Commission to NITI Aayog member**

Chief Minister N. Rangasamy has reiterated the demand for Puducherry’s inclusion in the Central Finance Commission (CFC) during a meeting with Arvind Virmani, Member of NITI Aayog, who called on him during a visit to the city. The Chief Minister pointed out that Puducherry was missing out on a share from the divisible pool earmarked for States as it remained outside the purview of the CFC. With limited Central funds and scope for generating own revenue, especially after the establishment of a separate Public Account in 2007, the Union Territory was unable to fulfil its welfare commitments or undertake development projects, he said. *(The Hindu)*

### **CAG, Janaagraha sign MoU to strengthen ULG finances, digital audits**

Most states have entrusted the audit responsibility to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG). However, the CAG is already burdened with Union and state-level audits. As a result, the financial scrutiny of ULGs is often neglected. To address this gap, the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, a non-profit trust focused on transforming urban governance, and the office of the CAG of India signed a five-year, non-financial memorandum of understanding (MoU) on April 8, 2025, in New Delhi. *(Business Standard)*



## **Taxation**

### **Rising refunds under direct taxes, GST in Q1 impact net collection**

Refunds in both direct taxes and GST registered a steady rise during the first quarter of the last three fiscal years. Though this trend has impacted net collection, especially when gross tax collection is also down, experts have varied views. Income Tax Department data showed gross tax collection between April 1 and July 10 topped ₹6.65-lakh crore as against ₹6.44 lakh crore showing a growth of just over 3 per cent. However, during this period, refunds rose to around ₹1.02-lakh crore compared to around ₹74,000 crore showing a jump of over 38 per cent. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Parliamentary panel finalises report on Income Tax Bill, 2025**

The Select Committee of Parliament examining the Income Tax Bill, 2025 is learnt to have finalised its report on Wednesday with about 285 suggestions to change the legislation. The committee, headed by senior Bharatiya Janata Party MP Baijayant Panda, is likely to submit the report in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. The Monsoon Session is scheduled to begin on July 21. Introduced in the Lok Sabha on February 13, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the same day with instructions to report by the first day of Monsoon Session. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in the 2024 Budget that the Centre will comprehensively review the Income

Tax Act, 1961 in a time-bound manner to make it concise and easily understandable. *(The Hindu)*

### **PMO greenlights GST revamp; All eyes on council**

The Prime Minister's Office has given in-principle go-ahead for a significant recast of the goods and services tax (GST) framework, setting the stage for the first major overhaul of the levy rolled out eight years ago, people familiar with the development said. A proposal in this regard may be moved for the consideration of the GST Council, the apex decision-making body for the indirect tax, at its upcoming meeting in August after the monsoon session of parliament. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Investors filing tax using LRS route must disclose foreign assets, income**

In April 2025, \$2.5 billion flowed out of India under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), with investment-related remittances surging around 105 per cent year-on-year. As the mutual fund route for overseas investments is frequently unavailable, many investors are using the LRS route. Such investors must ensure they file their income tax return (ITR) accurately. *(Business Standard)*

### **India needs tax breaks, startup push to lead global wellness tourism**

India needs to offer tax incentives for hospitals treating international patients and promote startups in the health sector to make the country a global medical and wellness tourism hub by 2035, a joint report by KPMG and the Federation of Hotels and Restaurants Associations of India (FHRAI) has stated. "To attract investment and improve service delivery, India should offer a mix of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, such as tax exemptions, increased subsidies under the Market Development Assistance (MDA) scheme, and technical support for marketing and promotion including on digital platforms," the report issued on Thursday said. *(Business Standard)*



## **National Accounts and State of the Economy**

### **Centre exempts 78% of thermal plants from installing key anti-polluting systems**

There are about 180 TPPs in India and a single plant can have multiple units. Now on, only about 11% of India's 600 thermal power plant units, located within a 10-km radius of the National Capital Region or cities with a population of at least a million and coming under 'Category A', have to mandatorily install the FGD systems. Another 11% of TPPs, under Category B located within 10 km radius of critically polluted areas or non-attainment cities may or may not have to install the system. The remaining 78% of thermal power plants, under 'Category C', are now exempt from installing the FGD systems. *(The Hindu)*

### **Capex to consumption: Emkay suggests investment ideas amid sectoral churn**

India's consumption landscape undergoes significant changes. The persistent "chicken-and-egg dilemma" between private investment and consumption, each heavily dependent on the other has become a problem, as the government has reached its spending limits, according to Emkay Global Financial Services report. Over the years, the

economy rotated from post-Covid export-led growth to public capex-driven investments. These themes appeared to have lost sheen in FY25, and a slow shift was seen toward consumption after the government provided measures to boost consumption, such as lowering personal income tax rates. *(Business Standard)*

### **Andhra Pradesh cuts liquor prices, tipplers save ₹116 crore every month**

Liquor prices have decreased for the first time by ₹10 to ₹100 per bottle, resulting in overall consumer savings of nearly ₹116 crore per month, keeping prices of 30 brands in Andhra Pradesh lower than those in Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu, the release said, quoting officials. Previously, the unbranded liquor held a 68 percent market share, but has now been overtaken by reputed domestic and international brands, reducing the sale of low-quality alcohol and protecting consumers in the southern state. *(Business Standard)*

### **India maintains robust growth trajectory on resilient private consumption**

Domestic momentum has improved more than previously anticipated overall, with 1H25 data pointing to resilient private consumption. This recovery in consumption is being supported by easing credit conditions. OPEC noted that India's economic growth forecast for 2025 remains unchanged at 6.5%. Additionally, inflation fell further in May and has now moved well below the midpoint of the central bank's inflation target of 4%, providing the central bank with more room to manoeuvre in case further monetary policy accommodation is needed. *(Business Standard)*

### **Govt starts work on Auto Mission Plan to make India global industry leader**

The government has initiated the formulation of the Automotive Mission Plan 2047 (AMP 2047), a strategic road map aligned with the 'Viksit Bharat @2047' vision to establish India as a global automotive leader, focusing on innovation and sustainability. The AMP 2016-2026 (AMP 2026) is aimed at bringing the Indian Automotive Industry among the top three of the world in engineering, manufacture and exports of vehicles & components; growing in value to over 12 per cent of India's GDP and generating an additional 65 million jobs. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's goods exports may face pressure in fiscal 2026 amid tariffs: Crisis**

The World Trade Organisation forecasts a 0.2 per cent decline in the volume of merchandise trade in 2025 compared to 2.9 per cent in 2024. Accordingly, India's merchandise trade is expected to come under pressure this fiscal. However, the current account deficit (CAD) is expected to stay in the safe zone at 1.3 per cent of the GDP in the current financial year. *(Business Standard)*

### **Odisha backs national target to eliminate Measles-Rubella by 2026: Minister**

Highlighting Odisha's "outstanding performance" in child healthcare, Mahaling proudly shared that the State has achieved a remarkable 90.5 per cent full immunisation coverage, the highest among all Indian states, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). *(Business Standard)*

### **India's total exports up around 6% in quarter ended Jun-25, imports gain 4.40%**

India's total exports during April-June 2025 are estimated at US\$ 210.31 Billion registering a positive growth of 5.94 percent. Total imports during April-June 2025 are estimated at US\$ 230.62 Billion registering a growth of 4.38 percent. The services trade

surplus for April-June 2025 is US\$ 46.95 Billion as compared to US\$ 39.68 Billion in April-June 2024. (*Business Standard*)

### **Unemployment Rate unchanged at 5.6% in Jun-25**

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in CWS in rural areas (53.3%), urban areas (46.8%) among persons of age 15 years and above was during June, 2025. The marginal decline in LFPR and WPR in June 2025 was largely influenced by seasonal agricultural patterns, intense summer heat limiting outdoor physical work, and a shift of some unpaid helpers, particularly from higher-income rural households, towards domestic chores, according to the Ministry. (*Business Standard*)



## **Banking and Monetary Policy**

### **Surplus liquidity conditions will likely accelerate decline in cost of fresh deposits: Fitch Ratings**

Rising liquidity surplus, falling deposit costs, and a rise in the sector's loan/deposit ratio amid slower loan growth, should ease pressure on banks to compete for deposits, according to Fitch Ratings. Surplus liquidity conditions will likely accelerate the decline in cost of fresh deposits, it added. (*BusinessLine*)

### **Rate cuts are no magic bullet**

India's real interest rate, accounting for inflation, still hovers above the estimated neutral rate of 1.4-1.9 per cent, suggesting room for further cuts. However, lessons from the 2000s and recent financial trends indicate that such measures must be accompanied by robust structural controls to avoid misallocated capital. (*BusinessLine*)

### **RBI Governor hints at allowing foreign banks to own 26% in Indian banks**

The interest rate cuts since February have been transmitted well to lending rates, and any future reduction in policy rates will depend on the growth and inflation outlook, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Tuesday. He also indicated that the regulator might allow foreign banks to own up to a 26 per cent stake in Indian banks. (*Business Standard*)

### **Rupee depreciates beyond 86 per dollar on foreign bank, corporate bids**

The rupee depreciated against the US dollar on Monday, breaching the 86-per-dollar mark. The currency was pushed to an intraday low of 86.05 per dollar due to foreign banks and large corporations stocking up on dollars, according to dealers. (*Business Standard*)

### **RBI monetary policy: August rate cut hopes get a fillip, says BS poll**

The prospects of a further easing in policy rates by the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have become brighter with the headline retail inflation plummeting to a 77-month low of 2.1 per cent in June. While most economists expect the next rate cut to be effected in October or December, the probability of a reduction as early as August has also heightened. (*Business Standard*)

### **RBI to hold Rs 2L-cr 7-day VRRR today**

The Reserve Bank of India's Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auctions are seeing subdued interest from banks, with recent bids falling short of notified amounts despite a significant liquidity surplus in the banking system, as the RBI aims to align the call rate with the repo rate. *(Financial Express)*



## **External Sector**

### **Tesla debuts in India with experience centre in Mumbai; launches Model Y**

Tesla, the American electric vehicle company, on Tuesday (July 15, 2025) officially commenced its India operations by opening its first 'experience centre' at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai. It will be followed by another one in Delhi NCR soon at an unspecified date. The company announced the launch of Model Y in two variants, starting at ₹59.89 lakh. This model will be imported from Tesla's factory in China and will be retailed in India. Before the products are delivered in India, Tesla would set up a robust charging infrastructure in Mumbai and Delhi-NCR, company officials said. *(The Hindu)*

### **NATO chief says India, Brazil and China could be slammed with sanctions**

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte warned on Wednesday that countries such as Brazil, China and India could be hit very hard by secondary sanctions if they continued to do business with Russia. Mr. Rutte made the comment while meeting with senators in the U.S. Congress the day after President Donald Trump announced new weapons for Ukraine and threatened "biting" secondary tariffs of 100% on the buyers of Russian exports unless there is a peace deal in 50 days. *(The Hindu)*

### **India and UK likely to sign a FTA next week**

India and the UK are expected to sign the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) next week, a pact which aims to boost trade and investment between the two countries, an official said. The two countries announced the conclusion of the negotiations on May 6. It will remove taxes on the export of labour-intensive products such as leather, footwear and clothing, while making imports of whisky and cars from Britain cheaper, in a bid to double trade between the two economies to USD 120 billion by 2030. *(Financial Express)*

### **India pushing for lower tariff rates than what Trump gave Indonesia in latest deal**

Indian officials are trying to reach a trade deal with US President Donald Trump that would offer better terms than what the US has recently given to Indonesia. With the August 1 deadline approaching, New Delhi is pushing for lower tariff rates. Trump had on Tuesday announced that the US will charge a 19% tariff on goods coming from Indonesia, instead of the 32% that was earlier considered. In return, the US will be allowed to send American goods to Indonesia without any tariffs. Trump also said that a similar deal with India is close, adding, "We're going to have access into India." *(Financial Express)*

## **China buoys India's rapeseed meal exports in Q1FY26; overall oilmeal exports marginally down**

India's oilmeal exports registered a marginal decline of 0.72 per cent during the first three months of 2025-26, despite a drop in soyabean meal exports. However, the export of rapeseed meal gained momentum during the period, with China emerging as a key market. Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed that India exported 10.94 lakh tonnes (lt) of oilmeal during April-June 2025-26 against 11.02 lt in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The overall export of rapeseed meal increased to 5.31 lt during Q1FY26 from 5.23 lt in the corresponding period of FY25. *(BusinessLine)*

## **Normal relations between India, China are mutually beneficial'**

Continued normalisation of ties between India and China can produce mutually beneficial outcomes, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said. The Minister's comment, made during his meeting with Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng in Beijing on Monday, is important as both countries are navigating complicated issues, including China's restrictions on crucial exports like rare earth magnets and speciality fertilizers and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's succession. *(BusinessLine)*

## **India's goods trade deficit could widen to \$300 billion in FY26, amid tepid export growth**

ICICI Bank Global Markets projects India's goods trade deficit to widen to USD 300 billion in FY26 due to weak global demand impacting exports and strong domestic consumption driving imports. While exports to the US have grown, overall exports contracted slightly in June, with electronics exports remaining strong. Uncertainties surrounding US trade policies could further impact global trade flows. *(The Economic Times)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **PM Scheme for 100 agri districts gets approval**

The Union cabinet has approved the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY), allocating ₹24,000 crore annually for six years. This scheme aims to develop 100 agricultural districts by converging 36 schemes across 11 ministries. District-level master plans, aligned with national goals like crop diversification and organic farming, will be created and implemented through committees at various levels. *(The Economic Times)*

### **What is non-veg milk — and why it's the bone of contention in the India-US trade deal**

India and the US aim to boost bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030, but talks are stalled over dairy imports. India refuses American dairy, citing cultural concerns, and seeks stringent certification for imports, emphasising the protection of its dairy industry and small-scale farmers. *(Mint)*

## **Cabinet approves major push for agriculture, renewable energy with outlay of over Rs 50,000 crore**

The Cabinet on Wednesday approved three flagship initiatives with a combined annual outlay of over Rs 50,000 crore to accelerate agricultural transformation and strengthen renewable energy investments. The focus lies on improving farm productivity across 100 selected districts and supporting the energy transition through increased funding for public sector undertakings. *(The Economic Times)*

## **Agriculture Minister directs states to ensure adequate availability of fertilizers**

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, has written to the Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories, directing immediate and strict action against the issue of counterfeit and substandard fertilizers. This letter has been issued with the objective of curbing the sale of fake fertilizers, black marketing of subsidized fertilizers, and illegal activities such as forced tagging across the country. *(Business Standard)*

## **India-Argentina eye deepening bilateral cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors**

The second Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Agriculture between India and Argentina was held yesterday, with the Indian Co-chair, Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, joining the session virtually. The meeting was co-chaired by Sergio Iraeta, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, from the Argentina side. Both sides underscored the significance of the meeting as a key milestone in deepening bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and allied sectors. *(Business Standard)*

## **June jobless rate: Rural unemployment fell to 4.9% while the urban rate rose to 7.1%**

India's unemployment rate remained steady at 5.6% in June, unchanged from May, as an improvement in rural areas offset a rise in urban joblessness, official data released on Tuesday showed. Youth unemployment edged up in June, with 15.3% of individuals aged 15-29 who were working or seeking work remaining jobless, up from 15% in May. The rate was higher among females (17.4%) than males (14.7%). Overall, the unemployment rate among women declined to 5.6% in June from 5.8% in May, while it remained unchanged at 5.6% for males. *(The Economic Times)*

## **'Confined field trials' on GM maize to begin soon at Punjab Agricultural University**

The field trials of two kinds of genetically modified (GM) maize are expected to begin in the ongoing kharif (summer) season at the Punjab Agricultural University, days after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the country's top regulator for the sector, gave the nod for the trials, after receiving consent from the Punjab government. *(The Hindu)*

## **India was a net importer of maize in 2024-25 despite record output**

India's maize imports touched a record 9.7 lakh tonnes during financial year 2024-25, a six-fold increase over 1.37 lakh tonnes in 2023-24. The country became a net importer of maize during the year on rising demand for the cereal from key consuming sectors such as livestock feed, starch and ethanol, even as the exports have slowed down considerably. *(BusinessLine)*



## Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

### **Bank credit to large industries slows, led by infra, metals & textiles**

Gross bank credit to large industries has been growing at a far lower pace compared to the overall credit growth in the last decade. Granular data reveal the slowdown is more pronounced in lending to large industries. Sectors such as infrastructure, metals and textiles, which account for around 51 percent of bank credit to industry, have witnessed annual growth of less than 3 percent in the last 10 years. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Chennai can become a medical devices powerhouse**

Chennai stands at a pivotal crossroads in India's evolving healthcare landscape. With its deep pool of engineering talent, strong manufacturing base, and robust academic institutions, the city is uniquely positioned to emerge as a national and potentially global hub for medical devices. While India's biotech scene has garnered much attention in recent years, it is medical devices where Chennai can realistically take a leadership role in the near term. *(BusinessLine)*

### **IRDAI may restrict Kiwi Insurance's retail health offerings**

Insurance sector regulator IRDAI may restrict Kiwi General Insurance from offering retail health products to avoid direct overlap, as the promoter of the non-life firm, WestBridge Capital, also holds a majority stake in leading standalone health insurer Star Health and Allied Insurance, sources said. *(BusinessLine)*

### **'Centre surpasses airport infrastructure investment target by over ₹5,000 crore'**

The Centre has exceeded its five-year airport infrastructure investment target by 105 per cent to ₹96,843 crore in capital expenditure against the projected ₹91,637 crore during FY19-20 to FY24-25. The original target (₹91,637 crore) was set under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). *(BusinessLine)*

### **Cropin partners with Wipro to drive digital transformation in agri-business**

Agri-tech firm Cropin announced a strategic partnership with Wipro on this tuesday to drive digital transformation across the agribusiness sector. By combining Cropin's AI-powered agri-intelligence platform with Wipro's deep domain expertise in consumer industries and its global consulting and technology capabilities, the two companies will enable agri-food businesses to unlock farm-level insights, enhance operational agility, and scale sustainability efforts, according to a statement. *(BusinessLine)*

### **India's strategic pivot in research and innovation**

India, now being the world's fourth-largest economy, has historically underinvested in R&D. National spending remains stuck below 0.7 percent of GDP, well behind China (2.4 percent), the US (3.4 percent), and even Brazil (1.2 percent). However, over the past decade, India has made visible progress in expanding its scientific ecosystem, particularly in biotechnology, space, ocean science, and rural technologies. *(BusinessLine)*

## **Cement, steel production up in April-May; fertilizer, power generation sees decline**

Infrastructure sector performance has been mixed during the first two months of current fiscal, a Statistics Ministry report has found. Data from the report showed that among the 10 components of infrastructure, cement production saw a rise of over 8 percent, while power generation and fertilizer production dipped during this period. *(BusinessLine)*



### **News on Kerala**

#### **Anert installs demo project on Vehicle-to-Grid technology**

The Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (Anert) has installed a pilot project on Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) technology at its headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram to introduce the evolving concept to the public. Anert describes the concept as a game-changing one that transforms electric vehicles (EV) into mobile energy assets. V2G-enabled EVs can send power back into the grid, helping balance energy supply and demand. EVs charged during the daytime at relatively lower tariffs can export the power back to the grid during peak hours, Anert officials said. Electricity Minister K. Krishnankutty inaugurated the demonstration project at the Anert headquarters at PMG on Friday. *(The Hindu)*

#### **KCA gears up to link cricket with tourism to boost Kerala's economy**

Kerala Cricket Association is gearing up to link cricket with tourism in a bid to boost the state's economy. The initiative, dubbed as 'Cricket Tourism', aims to position Kerala as a premier destination where sports and travel converge, attracting cricket fans from across the country. KCA is working closely with the State's tourism department to develop comprehensive programmes that go beyond the boundary lines of the game. *(BusinessLine)*

#### **Trawling ban boosts demand for freshwater fish in Kerala, but farmers struggle to find market**

With the annual trawling ban in place, local fish farms are finally seeing a rise in demand. Sales of freshwater species, such as Varaal (Snakehead Murrel) and Tilapia (Cichlid), have surged, especially as the availability of sea fish has declined in local markets. Despite the growing interest, farmers say they face a major hurdle, marketing their produce. Fisheries clubs, established by the Department of Fisheries in nearly every panchayat to support fish farmers, have become largely inactive. These clubs were envisioned to function like dairy cooperatives, offering subsidies, pooling resources, and ensuring collective benefits. But most have failed to stay active or effective. *(onmanorama)*

#### **Kerala example of 'welfare magnet State', says paper presented at ILO meet**

Kerala has set an example of a "welfare magnet State" through its "systematic and organised labour welfare initiatives and inclusive development", especially for migrant labourers, says a paper presented at the 'Regulating for Decent Work' conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at Geneva between July 2 and 4. The paper,

presented by K. Ravi Raman, member, State Planning Board, also suggests the possibility of designing a better economic and fiscal strategy towards the migrant welfare system, including an “exclusive budget” for the guest workers. The cost to the State to ensure dignified work and living conditions for them by maintaining welfare benefits for another five years is estimated to be ₹454 crore. ([The Hindu](#))

### **How Kerala is setting a global benchmark for ethical AI in education**

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into global education systems has been met with both enthusiasm and caution. Recent reports from international organizations like UNESCO and UNICEF underscore the significant opportunities AI presents, but also warn of the ethical and pedagogical challenges that must be urgently addressed. In India, it is surprising to see how stories of robotic teachers are garnering more attention in classrooms. ([The Hindu](#))

### **₹436-crore liability of KSRTC to be waived off**

A Cabinet meeting held on Thursday has decided to waive off an amount of ₹436.49 crore owed by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) to the Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation (KTDFC). The due amount, including interest and other penalties on the outstanding short-term and long-term loans availed by the KSRTC from the KTDFC, will be completely waived off. The KTDFC had been looking for ways to recover the dues from various debtors of the KTDFC, including KSRTC, by invoking recovery proceedings. ([The Hindu](#))

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