



## Public Finance

### **Govt asks all Departments to stop spending on Deepavali gifts to enhance “judicious use of public resources”**

Even as the government is encouraging the people to celebrate the ‘GST bachat utsav’ in light of the cut in rates of the Goods and Services Tax, it has also instructed all Ministries, Departments and other bodies of the Government of India to desist from incurring any expenditure on gifts for Deepavali and other festivals. “The Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure has been issuing instructions from time to time aimed at promoting fiscal discipline and curbing non-essential expenditure,” the Department of Expenditure said in an office memorandum issued to all the Secretaries in the Government of India, dated September 19. (*The Hindu*)

### **Puducherry’s debt growing but repayment within manageable limit: CAG**

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit report for 2023-2024, while highlighting the growing debt of the Puducherry government, also points out certain positive aspects of the Union Territory’s (UT) finances, such as its repayment profile and debt sustainability. The report points out that the UT’s outstanding loan liability has steadily increased from ₹9,449 crore in 2019-20 to ₹13,084 crore in 2023-24, rising year-on-year: ₹10,886 crore in 2020-21, ₹12,594 crore in 2021-22, ₹12,640 crore in 2022-23, and ₹13,084 crore in 2023-24. (*The Hindu*)

### **More than ₹50,000 cr received through FPI debt inflows, largely from global bond funds**

Relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors in Indian equity is widely reported. But they have not yet purchased debt instruments amounting to ₹50,215 crore in 2025, which helps reduce the total outflows for this year. Global bond funds investing through the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) have been the largest buyers of Indian debt. Foreign portfolio investors have pulled out ₹1,38,580 crore from the Indian equity market and ₹1,442 crore from REITs and InvITs so far in 2025. But their net purchase of debt has helped reduce the total outflow to ₹88,318 crore in 2025. (*BusinessLine*)

### **Deficit indicators elevated amid a slowdown in revenue receipts**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stated in its latest monthly bulletin that during FY 2025-26 (April-July), the key deficit indicators of the union government stood higher, as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. This was primarily due to higher revenue and capital expenditure alongside a slowdown in revenue receipts. Growth in the indirect tax collections, however, was broadly in line with last year. Gross fiscal deficit of states during April-July 2025, as a proportion of budget estimates for the financial year, was higher than the same period last year. (*Business Standard*)

## **UP no longer a Bimaru state': CAG report shows it tops revenue surplus list with Rs 37,000 crore, double of Gujarat**

In a first-of-its-kind decadal study on state finances, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found 16 states in India recorded a revenue surplus in the fiscal year 2023. Leading the list is Uttar Pradesh with a surplus of Rs 37,000 crore, followed by Madhya Pradesh, another state once considered economically weak, a TOI report stated. After Uttar Pradesh, the states with the highest revenue surplus include Gujarat (Rs 19,865 crore), Odisha (Rs 19,456 crore), Jharkhand (Rs 13,564 crore), Karnataka (Rs 13,496 crore), Chhattisgarh (Rs 8,592 crore), Telangana (Rs 5,944 crore), Uttarakhand (Rs 5,310 crore), Madhya Pradesh (Rs 4,091 crore) and Goa (Rs 2,399 crore). *(The Economic Times)*

## **Govt's market borrowings for H2 to remain unchanged from budgeted estimates**

Nomura Monday said it expects the government's market borrowing for the second half of FY26 to remain unchanged from budgeted estimates. The central government's borrowing calendar is expected to be announced early next week after discussions with the Reserve Bank. Nomura anticipates a shift towards shorter-term bonds. Direct tax collections rose by 9.2% in H1FY26. *(The Economic Times)*



### **Taxation**

## **'New GST reforms to boost savings, benefit all sections of society' : PM Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday wrote an open letter to the citizens, and said the country must celebrate the "GST Bachat Utsav (GST Savings Festival)" this festive season. The Prime Minister said the new GST structure would accelerate growth, boost savings and directly benefit all sections of society, including farmers, traders, and micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs). *(The Hindu)*

## **Advance Tax collection rose 3%, net direct tax collection turned positive**

Advance tax collection after the second instalment increased nearly 3 percent to over ₹4.48 lakh crore, according to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). Corporate advance tax rose over 6 per cent to ₹3.52 lakh crore, while non-corporate contributions declined 7 per cent, falling to below ₹1 lakh crore. With refunds being lower than the same period last year, the net collections between April 1 and September 17 increased by more than 9 percent, reaching over ₹10.82 lakh crore. *(BusinessLine)*

## **GST 2.0 reflects the maturity of the tax architecture**

Given its footprint and impact, the government's latest move to rationalise the GST rates has drawn the usual spectrum of reactions: praise from those seeking relief, concern from those fearing revenue loss and scepticism from those seeing it as no more than tinkering. But there is a significant nuance that the headlines miss: the GST architecture's steady march towards maturity, where rates can be significantly adjusted without risking economic stability. *(BusinessLine)*



## National Accounts and State of the Economy

### **S&P Global retains India's GDP forecast at 6.5%, revises inflation downward**

S&P Global Ratings on Tuesday retained India's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast at 6.5 per cent for 2025-26 (FY26) on the back of strong demand, increasing investment, and tax reforms. In its report titled 'Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q4 2025: Growth To Ease On External Strain', S&P Global said: "We forecast India's GDP growth to hold steady at 6.5 per cent this financial year. We expect domestic demand to remain strong, supported by a largely benign monsoon season, cuts in the income and the goods and services tax (GST), and accelerating government investment." (*Business Standard*)

### **India's logistics cost pegged at 7.97% of GDP, says DPIIT report**

The country's logistics cost is estimated at 7.97 per cent of India's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023-24, according to a Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) report. It was prepared by NCAER (National Council of Applied Economic Research) for the department. The report said estimates derived for the previous five years show that the pace of growth in logistics costs is gradually slowing down. (*Business Standard*)

### **Stage is set for a sustained pick-up in consumption demand in H2 and for a virtuous cycle of higher investments: RBI Bulletin**

The growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism, RBI said in its September bulletin as high frequency indicators for August show manufacturing and services activity at a decadal high. Besides, S&P sovereign rating upgrade was an acknowledgment of its strong macro-fundamentals even as imposition of high US import tariff brought in some headwinds to the domestic macro-outlook, the central bank noted. (*Business Standard*)

### **India may attract \$100 bn investments in green hydrogen by 2030**

India's ambition to achieve 5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of green hydrogen production capacity will attract \$100 billion investments by 2030 and create over 0.6 million jobs, said Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi. Banking on India's recent growth in renewables, the country aims to become a global hub for production, utilisation, and export of green hydrogen, said Joshi at S&P Global Commodity Insights' World Hydrogen India summit held on Thursday. (*Business Standard*)

### **20 states spent 27% of capital expenditure in April-August: CAG data**

States spent 27 per cent of their budgeted capital expenditure during April-August period of the financial year 2025-2026 (FY26), rising by 13.6 per cent year-on-year, an analysis of monthly account reports of 20 states by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) showed. Of the 20 states, data for which is available, 16 states spent less than 30 per cent of their budget estimates (BEs) for capex in the first five

months of FY26. Telangana led the group of 20 states by utilising the highest proportion of its BE, spending 39.28 per cent. (*Business Standard*)



## Banking and Monetary Policy

### **Growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism: RBI Bulletin**

Irrespective of the headwinds caused to the domestic macro-outlook by the imposition of high U.S. import tariff, the growth outlook for H2 is one of optimism, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials wrote in the September edition of the RBI Bulletin. Stating the recent S&P sovereign rating upgrade was an acknowledgment of the economy's strong macro-fundamentals, they said the Q1:2025-26 GDP estimates reinforced the resilience of domestic growth drivers. (*The Hindu*)

### **RBI makes authentication tougher for digital transactions**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to further secure digital payments transactions, has mandated introduction of additional risk-based checks beyond the minimum two-factor authentication by leveraging upon technological advancements. (*The Hindu*)

### **New RBI rules make banks fully liable if payment safeguards fail: Details**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new directions on authenticating digital transactions, seeking to balance consumer safety and ease of use. The rules were notified on Thursday and will apply to banks and non-bank payment system providers from April 1. (*Business Standard*)

### **RBI reports rise in Supervisory Data Quality Index scores for banks**

The Reserve Bank of India reported a rise in the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) score, reflecting improved data quality across scheduled commercial banks. As of June 2025, the index rose to 89.9 from 89.3 in March 2025, the central bank noted. (*Business Standard*)

### **Non-bank funding rose as bank credit slowed in FY25: RBI Bulletin**

Bank credit expansion moderated during 2024-25 (FY25), but non-bank sources, both domestic and foreign, played a key role in bridging the funding gap for India's commercial sector, according to a research paper published in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Bulletin. (*Business Standard*)

### **Reserve Bank renews its Statement of Commitment to FX Global Code**

The Reserve Bank of India has signed its renewed Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the FX Global Code (Code). The Code is a set of global principles of good practice in the FX market developed to provide a common set of guidelines to promote the integrity and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market. (*Business Standard*)

### **RBI pushes for return of unclaimed bank deposits over the next 3 months**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all banks to beef up settlements of unclaimed funds — deposits, dividends, interest warrants, pensions, etc — over the next three months (October to December) to reduce such funds in the banking system. Balances in savings or current accounts that have not been operated for 10 years, or term deposits not claimed within 10 years from the date of maturity, are classified as 'unclaimed deposits'. *(Business Standard)*

### **Banking system liquidity turns deficit amid tax payments, GST outflows**

The banking system liquidity fell into deficit mode for the first time in the current financial year, since 28 March, on the back of advance tax payments and GST outflows. The net liquidity in the banking system was in a deficit of Rs 31,986 crore on Monday, according to the latest data from the central bank. *(Business Standard)*

### **Central Bank of India partners with C2FO Factoring Solutions**

Central Bank of India has announced a strategic partnership with C2FO Factoring Solutions to facilitate Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) services for MSMEs across the country. This collaboration marks a significant step toward improving liquidity and financial inclusion for small and medium enterprises. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's banking liquidity crunch seen as temporary, says analyst**

The fall in India's banking system liquidity surplus is expected to ease over the coming days, as government spending and bond redemptions offset the impact of recent tax outflows, analysts said on Monday. The liquidity surplus declined to 70 billion rupees (\$794 million) on September 21, the lowest since late March, after nearly 2.6 trillion rupees moved out due to income tax and goods and services tax payments. *(Business Standard)*



## **External Sector**

### **Readymade garment exports down 2.6% y-o-y in August on global headwinds**

Readymade garment (RMG) exports from India in August decreased 2.6 per cent compared to August 2024, but increased 9 per cent compared to August 2023. RMG exports for the period April-August 2025 totalled \$6.7 billion, a growth of 5.8 per cent over April-August 2024 and a jump of 13.3 per cent over April-August 2023, according to data from the Apparel Exporters Promotion Council. There was a marginal increase in the exports in August (\$1.23 billion) compared with July's value at \$1.38 billion. In August, there was a rush to export as much goods as possible before the revised US tariff was implemented, but the real impact will be known in September, said an official with a garment exporter. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Relief for Indian coffee growers as the EU is set to put off deforestation norms**

Indian coffee stakeholders will get more time to gear up for the proposed European Union Deforestation Regulations (EUDR) law as the European Commission plans to

delay the implementation by another year, citing technical concerns. The EUDR, which is aimed at curbing the import of certain products from deforested areas, was set to come into effect from December 30, 2025. It has already been postponed by a year. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

### **India gains tariff edge over rivals in US textile market, says ITF**

The new reciprocal tariff structure announced by the US is aimed at creating a level-playing field among trade partners, said Prabhu Dhamodharan, Convenor of the Coimbatore-based Indian Textpreneurs Federation (ITF). This presents a medium-to-long-term opportunity to boost export volumes, especially in the textiles and apparel sector to the US, he told [businessline](#). Under the framework, India's tariff rate is 26 per cent, which is significantly lower compared to many competing nations like Vietnam – 46 per cent; Sri Lanka – 44 per cent; Bangladesh – 37 per cent and China – 54 per cent. This gives India a clear advantage in cost competitiveness, he said. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

### **Gem and jewellery sector seeks urgent relief as U.S. tariff hits hard**

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) has sought urgent relief measures from the Centre for the sector, which, according to it, has been severely impacted by the recent 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. [\(The Hindu\)](#)

### **Why is India not importing corn from the U.S.?**

India has, however, been importing maize in recent times, apparently for ethanol. For instance, overall maize imports were some one million tonnes in 2024-25 (60% from Myanmar and much of the rest from Ukraine). India doesn't import U.S. corn, much of which is Genetically Modified (GM). India has allowed only GM cotton cultivation, with GM brinjal and mustard cultivation remaining in the investigation stage. [\(The Hindu\)](#)

### **India capable of meeting domestic demand for SAF, exporting surplus: Government study**

India holds immense capacity to develop a strong domestic sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry that is capable of fully meeting its internal demand while also having excess available for export, says a feasibility study conducted by the Centre. The report underlines that India has the capacity to produce more than 14 - 33 million tonne (MT) per year of SAF from feedstocks such as vegetable oils, sugarcane bagasse, rice straw and municipal solid waste, forming the bulk of the biogenic feedstocks. [\(The Hindu\)](#)

### **Exporters to get 90% upfront refund only after GST law change**

To operationalize the GST Council's decision for 90% upfront refunds to exporters, a legal amendment is needed. The current GST Act lacks provisions for risk-based provisional refunds, especially for industries with inverted duty structures. An ordinance is being considered to expedite the process, with the law committee examining the required changes and defining "risky taxpayers." [\(The Economic Times\)](#)

### **India-EU FTA talks: 13th round sees little progress on farm, auto sectors**

India and the European Union's 13th round of FTA negotiations in Delhi saw limited progress, particularly in automotive and agricultural sectors. While advancements were made in rules of origin and investment, key disagreements persist in agriculture, chemicals, and automotive standards. [\(The Economic Times\)](#)

### **India, Australia ink MRA to boost organic products export**

India and Australia have formalized a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) to streamline trade in organic goods. This agreement facilitates the acceptance of each other's organic standards and certification systems, encompassing items like wine and agricultural produce. The initiative aims to reduce trade barriers, ensure certification equivalence, and boost India's organic exports. *(The Economic Times)*

### **DGTR recommends anti-dumping duty on Chinese electrical steel for 5 yrs**

To protect local businesses, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies suggests a five-year anti-dumping duty on specific steel imports from China. The investigation revealed that these products were being sold at unfairly low prices in India. The recommended duties vary for different Chinese companies. The Finance Ministry will make the final decision. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's smartphone exports grow 39% in August, US shipments double: ICEA**

India's smartphone exports grew 39 per cent to about \$1.53 billion in August 2025 compared with the same month last year, according to the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA). It also added that shipments to the US more than doubled in the same period. *(Business Standard)*

### **India's software exports race ahead, but listed IT firms fall behind**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) balance of payments (BoP) data and annual disclosures by the country's listed information technology (IT) services companies reveal a widening divergence in software exports. While the RBI figures show robust double-digit growth in India's software services exports, listed IT groups have struggled with low single-digit increases in foreign exchange revenues and net sales. *(Business Standard)*



## **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

### **SC seeks response of Centre on PIL seeking import curbs on yellow peas**

The Supreme Court has asked the Central government for a response on the Public Interest Litigation about restricting yellow pea imports. The plea argues these imports harm pulse farmers' livelihoods. Kisan Mahapanchayat filed the PIL. Advocate Prashant Bhushan represents the farmers. The court wants to ensure consumers don't suffer from potential shortages. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Centre directs farm machinery makers to cut prices after GST rate reduction**

The Centre has asked agricultural machinery manufacturers to reduce their product prices in line with the revised Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates effective from September 22, so that the benefit directly reaches farmers "with full transparency." Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, after a meeting with farm machinery manufacturers here on Friday, said the reduction in GST rates was a significant step that would have a widespread impact. *(The Hindu)*

### **Support farmers, promote biofuels, says Gadkari**

Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said there is a need to support farmers who are denied fair prices for their produce because of global factors. He highlighted the need to support farmers facing unfair prices due to global market influences, emphasizing that a significant portion of India's population relies on agriculture with a disproportionately low GDP contribution. *(The Economic Times)*

### **India's rice exports on track for new record despite floods: IGC report**

India, the world's leading rice exporter, is poised to ship a record amount of grain this season despite severe flooding that damaged crops in the key farming state of Punjab. The International Grains Council (IGC) has forecast that India will export a record 23.4 million tonnes of rice during the 2025-26 season, a 2% increase from the previous season. *(Mint)*

### **Govt makes it mandatory to register non-basmati rice contracts with APEDA for shipments**

The government on Wednesday mandated that exports of non-basmati rice will be allowed only after registration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said the export policy has been amended to include this condition. India's rice exports rose 6.4% to USD 4.7 billion in April-August FY26. *(The Economic Times)*

### **Small farms are more productive than large farms, finds study**

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT Bombay) and the University of Hyderabad conducted a study and found that productivity in India's semi-arid tropics depends less on farm size and more on access to inputs, credit, and markets. The study involved analysing data from 1975 to 2014 and examining changes through three waves over 40 years. *(The Hindu)*

### **Russian Deputy PM meets PM Modi, discusses agriculture and food sector ties**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrushev at the World Food India 2025 and said they discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, fertilizers and food processing. "Happy to meet Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrushev at the World Food India 2025. We discussed ways to strengthen our win-win cooperation in agriculture, fertilizers and food processing," the Prime Minister said in a post on X. *(Business Standard)*



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

### **10 implications for companies, workers and markets**

The H-1B visa fee hike has sent shockwaves through the Indian IT industry. The announcement comes against the backdrop of an already uncertain macroeconomic climate, worsened by recent tariff hikes. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data show that Indian firms dominate H-1B usage. Between FY09 and

FY25, TCS accounted for 98,259 visas, Cognizant - 92,435, Infosys - 87,654 and Wipro - 77,289, placing them among the top beneficiaries of the programme. *(BusinessLine)*

### **GST 2.0 will enhance competitiveness of Indian edible oils in domestic and global markets: SEA**

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) has said that the revision in GST rates will enhance the competitiveness of Indian edible oils and meals in both the domestic and international markets. *(BusinessLine)*

### **H-1B volatility exposes India's IT sector as experts call for product-first innovation**

With a significant portion of the US' outsourced H-1B workforce being Indians, industry experts warn that India's heavy reliance on talent exports leaves its IT sector vulnerable to policy shifts like the recent visa fee hike to \$1,00,000 per application. This highlights the urgency for India to shift toward product-led innovation and the development of home-grown IP. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Tool & Die industry needs more attention**

Walking through a toolroom, one is struck by the silence. Unlike an automotive plant with its hum and clang, here the work is quiet, meticulous, almost artistic. Yet these jigs, dies and fixtures create every car, washing machine, mobile phone and aircraft engine. Without them, there would be no modern manufacturing. However, in India's journey to become a global manufacturing Atmanirbhar powerhouse, the Tool and Die (T&D) industry (the process of making custom metal parts) remains under-recognised and needs a huge impetus. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Visa curbs push Indian students online, edtech firms tap global tie-ups**

Rising uncertainty around US visas is forcing Indian students to rethink higher education plans abroad, even as edtech platforms step in to fill the gap with global degrees delivered online. *(BusinessLine)*

### **Agnikul Cosmos commissions first-of-its-kind large-format additive manufacturing facility for rocket systems**

Space tech start-up Agnikul Cosmos commissioned a new additive manufacturing facility for aerospace and rocket systems. For the first time in India, the facility enables 3D printing of aerospace and rocket components up to one metre in height. *(BusinessLine)*

### **A time for consolidation, as Ayushman Bharat turns the page**

Seven years ago, down to the week, the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme was launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand, with the initial promise of covering hospital expenses of over 10 crore vulnerable families in the country. It has since expanded to cover more people, illnesses and hospitals, with success stories of people getting free treatment, as their hospital bills are paid by the scheme. There have also been the low-points of delayed payments to hospitals and complaints of fraud, among others. But seven years into running one of the world's largest health insurance schemes, now would be a good time to undertake an independent impact assessment and consolidate the scheme, say experts from both sides of the healthcare aisle. *(BusinessLine)*



### **A mixed bag of gloom, hope in Kerala's IT sector over exorbitant H-1B visa fee hike**

On Saturday, after the U.S. President Donald Trump announced the decision to raise H-1B visa fees to \$1,00,000, the general mood in the IT sector in Kerala was one of panic, doom and gloom. U.S.-based IT professionals who were home on leave were scrambling to find a flight which would let them re-enter the U.S. before the deadline kicked in within a day, but to no avail. Though the clarification from the White House early on Sunday eased some of the tension, many like Kumar (name changed), who has been hoping for an onsite assignment in the U.S. soon, feel that things will not be the same again. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala committed to welfare of expats, says Chief Minister**

The State government is committed to ensuring the well-being of the expatriate population who has contributed to the progress of the State, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said. He was inaugurating NoRKA Care, a health and accident insurance coverage conceived by the government for the Malayali diaspora. The need for an insurance scheme under the aegis of the government had been a long-standing demand of the expatriates. That was being fulfilled with the formal inauguration of NoRKA Care, he said. Mr. Vijayan said this was the first time in the country that a State was implementing such an insurance scheme for expatriates. Under the scheme, cashless treatment would be available in more than 500 hospitals in Kerala and over 16,000 in the country. *(The Hindu)*

### **GST on lottery tickets in Kerala to increase to 40% from Sept. 22: GST department**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) on lottery tickets will rise to 40% starting Monday as new GST slabs take effect, according to the State GST department. The previous tax rate of 28% will not remain applicable; this was clarified following reports suggesting otherwise. Under the revised GST rates approved by the GST Council on September 3, lottery tickets are now categorized with other high-tax items like cigarettes, beedi, gutka, and pan masala, which will also face the new 40% tax. However, the State GST department announced that the implementation of this rate for cigarettes, beedi, gutka, and pan masala will be delayed and will not start on September 22 as per earlier plans; existing rates for these products will remain in effect for the time being. *(The Hindu)*

### **Milma dairy products to get cheaper as new GST rates take effect from Sept. 22**

The Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation has announced reduction in the MRP of its value-added dairy products, with the introduction of the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime from Monday. One litre of Milma's ghee will see a decrease of ₹45, with the price dipping from ₹720 to ₹675. The price of the 500-ml variant will drop from ₹370 to ₹345, reflecting a ₹25 cut. This price reduction is attributed to the reduction of GST on ghee from 12% to 5%. Similarly, the price of Milma's butter is set to fall by ₹15, its MRP changing from ₹240 to ₹225. The cost of a 500-gm pack of paneer will decrease by ₹11, bringing it down from ₹245 to ₹234, as the GST on paneer has been exempted altogether, eliminating a prior 5% tax. *(The Hindu)*

### **Minister unveils logo of women entrepreneurs conclave**

Industries Minister P. Rajeev on Wednesday unveiled the logo of the Kerala Women Entrepreneurs Conclave 2025 to be organised by the Directorate of Industries and Commerce in Thrissur on October 13. The conclave, organised under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) project supported by the World Bank, will focus on strengthening the participation of women in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, said an official statement here. *(The Hindu)*

### **Kerala government to expand 'We Parks' to 20 more sites across State**

Buoyed by the success of the first 'We Park,' a project that aims to convert unused public spaces under the flyovers into sustainable and aesthetically appealing sites, set up near SN College Junction in Kollam, the Tourism department has decided to expand the project at the State-level by beautifying the spaces under 20 more flyovers. As part of this, an administrative sanction has been given to three projects in Thrissur district, while a detailed project report (DPR) is being prepared for the project at other identified sites across the State. *(The Hindu)*

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