

# Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

March 24, 2023



## Economy, Industry and Policy

**Government signs MoU with 27 steel companies, kickstarting Rs 6,322-crore PLI scheme:** The government on Friday signed memorandums of understanding (MoU) with 27 companies, kickstarting the Rs 6,322-crore production-linked incentives (PLI) scheme for specialty steel, that is expected to generate investments of up to Rs 30,000 crore over the coming five years. [*The Economic Times*]

**US bank crisis will have little impact on India - CEA V Anantha Nageswaran:** The impact of the current global financial crisis will be 'low or negligible' for India as it has dealt with its own financial system issues in the recent past. [*Business Standard*]

**OECD raises FY24 India growth forecast to 5.9 per cent:** OECD revised India's inflation estimates for FY24 upward to 5.8%, from the 5% projected earlier. It expects inflation to fall to 4.2% in FY25. India's inflation has averaged 6.48% for January and February, above RBI's target band of 2-6%. [*The Economic Times*]

**Resilient economic growth in Q3 reflected in improvement in employment indicators - Finmin:** Expressing optimism about improvement in the country's labour market on the back of higher growth in the third quarter of the fiscal, the finance ministry has defended the periodic labour force survey (PLFS) and said the current weekly status (CWS) to assess employment is in line with international norms. [*Financial Express*]

**9 states may post higher nominal GDP growth than country's 10.5%:** Nine states have projected growth rates higher than the 10.5% forecast for the country in 2023-24, according to an ET analysis of budgets of 17 bigger states that account for nearly 90% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). [*The Economic Times*]

**Large CPSEs spent 85% of capex target by February - Finance Ministry:** The capital expenditure (capex) by large central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) with a target of Rs 100 crore or more touched 85 per cent of the annual Revised Estimates (RE) target of Rs 6.46 trillion during the first 11 months of 2022-23 (FY23). [*Business Standard*]

**India's steadying economy shows signs of weakening consumption:** India's economic activity held steady in February though there were early signs of slowing consumption amid concerns of future growth prospects and hawkish monetary policy. [*The Economic Times*]

**Govt proposes to sell up to 3.5% stake in Hindustan Aeronautics:** India is planning to sell up to 3.5% stake in aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd this week in a deal that could fetch the government Rs 2,867 crore (\$347.16 million). [*Business Standard*]

**For FY24, National Highway Authority eyes 1,987km monetisation:** National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) aims to monetise 1,987 kilometres (km) of highways in 2023-24 through 'toll operate transfer' and infrastructure investment trust (InvITs) modes. [*The Economic Times*]

**Receipts from dividends set to exceed revised estimate:** The government is set to end the fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) with around ₹10,000 crore more than revised estimates in terms of dividends from public sector enterprises and other investments. *[Business Line]*

**Real Estate in India - NRIs transferring focus back home on favourable govt policies:** The Indian real estate had observed a significant rebound despite increasing construction costs and a record spike in the repo rate (225 bps) in 2022. As an asset class, the Indian real estate is finally able to take a deep breath after a prolonged period of stagnation. *[Financial Express]*

**Rs 70,500-crore indigenous arms buy gets defence ministry's approval:** Including the latest proposals, AoNs granted for capital acquisitions in the current financial year 2022-23 amount to over Rs 2.71 trillion. Out of these, 99 per cent of the procurement will be sourced from Indian industries. *[Business Standard]*



## Foreign Investment

**World Bank arm IFC to invest Rs 600 cr in M&M's new last-mile mobility firm:** In a bid to scale up the penetration of affordable electric three-wheelers and small commercial vehicles (SCV), World Bank arm IFC is investing Rs 600 crore in a new last-mile mobility company wholly owned by Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M). *[Business Standard]*

**Cadbury maker Mondelez to invest Rs 4000 crore in India by 2026:** Snacking firm Mondelez International said it will invest Rs4000 crore in India over the next four year, largely into manufacturing and supply chain to fuel surging demand. *[The Economic Times]*

**Merlin Group plans to develop a World Trade Center in Kolkata:** The World Trade Centers Association and real estate developer, Merlin Group, have entered into an agreement for developing a World Trade Center in Kolkata spread across 3.5 million square feet. *[Business Standard]*



## Trade Policy and Competitiveness

**Indian mobile exports to cross \$10 bn in FY23; Apple may account for 50%:** Buoyed by attractive government incentives towards local manufacturing, India is all set to reach a remarkable \$10 billion (over Rs 82,000 crore) worth smartphone exports in the fiscal year ending March 31. *[Business Standard]*

**Centre sets 2030 as target to become global hub for green shipping:** The Centre will start the process of turning all of India's tugboats into green tugs to reduce transport carbon emissions and become a global hub for green shipping by 2030. *[Business Standard]*

**PM Mitra parks to boost India's \$100 bn textile export goal, says industry:** The Indian textile industry believes the opening of seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM Mitra) Parks across the country will help develop the country as a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports. *[Business Standard]*

**Engineering goods exports to US, China, Germany, Italy shrink in February 2023 - EEPC:** India's engineering goods exports to nearly seventeen key markets, including the US and China, declined in February 2023 as outbound shipments from the sector fell for the seventh straight month. *[Business Line]*

**Pharma exports up 3.14% at 22.9 bn in April-Feb of FY23:** pharmaceutical exports registered a 3.14 per cent growth in April-February period of the current financial year at \$22.9 billion compared to \$22.20 billion in the same period in the previous financial year. *[Business Line]*

**India's Apr-Feb fertiliser imports from Russia highest in 3 years at 34.19 lakh tonnes:** India imported 34.19 lakh tonnes of fertilisers, including urea and DAP, from Russia during April-February of the current fiscal, highest in the last three years, according to the data placed before Parliament. The imports have risen notwithstanding the Russia-Ukraine war. *[The Economic Times]*



## Corporate Governance

**Tata Consumer drops plan to acquire water brand Bisleri:** Tata Consumer Products has dropped its plans to acquire a stake in the country's largest packaged drinking water maker Bisleri. The company on Friday informed stock exchanges that it has stopped negotiations to buy a stake in Bisleri. *[The New Indian Express]*

**International Finance Corp to buy 5.6% stake in JK Tyre for \$30 million:** JK Tyre & Industries Ltd on Wednesday said World Bank Group member IFC will invest USD 30 million (about Rs 240 crore) to pick a 5.6 per cent stake in the company to part-fund expansion of energy-efficient tyre manufacturing. *[Business Standard]*

**Zee Entertainment set to repay IndusInd \$10 million to wrap Sony deal:** Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. has agreed to repay dues owed to IndusInd Bank Ltd. as the company seeks to resolve insolvency proceedings initiated against it and inch closer to completing a merger with a Sony Group unit to create a \$10 billion media giant. *[Business Standard]*

**ADP merger likely to give wings to GMR Airports Infrastructure stock:** The GMR Group and its joint venture (JV) partner -- the French Groupe Aeroports de Paris (ADP) -- will merge their unlisted company, GMR Airports (GAL) into the listed GMR Airports Infrastructure (GIL), alongside an infusion of €331 million (Rs 2,900 crore). *[Business Standard]*

**Accenture to acquire AI company Flutura; deal terms not disclosed:** Flutura will strengthen Accenture's industrial AI services to increase the performance of industrial plants, refineries, and supply chains while also enabling clients to accomplish their net zero goals faster. *[Business Standard]*

**Blue Star enters into Railway Electrification space, wins 4 orders worth Rs 575 cr:** Blue Star on Tuesday announced that it secured railway electrification orders totalling Rs 575 crore, thereby successfully expanding its presence in the railways segment and marking its foray into the railway electrification space. *[The Economic Times]*



## MSMEs and Start-ups

**Govt's MSME registration portal Udyam crosses 1.5-crore mark:** The registration count on the MSME ministry's MSME registration portal Udyam has crossed the 1.5-crore mark, over two and a half years after it was launched on July 1, 2020 with the reclassification of MSMEs post the Covid pandemic. *[Financial Express]*

**Bank credit to MSMEs grew 71% during FY15-FY22 period - Govt data:** Credit to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by scheduled commercial banks in the past eight years has grown by 71 per cent from Rs 11.71 lakh crore deployed during the financial year 2014-15 to Rs 20.11 lakh crore during the financial year 2021-22. *[Financial Express]*

**20 women-led startups in pipeline to become unicorn, finds a study:** Around 18 per cent of India's unicorn startups are founded or co-founded by women and 20 other firms are in pipeline to become unicorn. *[Business Standard]*



## Employment and Industrial Relations

**Layoffs in US will bring lot of work to India 0 GlobalLogic CEO Nitesh Banga:** Layoffs by Big Tech in the US are expected to bring a lot of work to India and the country's IT sector is poised to gain significantly during the slowdown. *[The Economic Times]*

**Semiconductor fab - 'Need skilled workers from abroad' - MEiTy scientist:** To set up the initial semiconductor fab, we need to bring people from outside. Then, they will train people, and from there it will proliferate. *[The New Indian Express]*

**Work generated under NREGS declines in February:** Work generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) moderated for a second straight month sequentially in February, indicating a marginal pick-up in industrial activities. *[The Economic Times]*

**Aadhaar-linked NREGS payments to get more time:** The government will likely extend the current mixed model of wage payment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) beyond the March 31 deadline. *[The Economic Times]*



## Industrial Finance

**Digital lenders disbursements zoom 147% in October-December:** The disbursement volume of digital lenders has risen 147% year-on-year to 18.3 million in October-December, according to a report by the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE). *[Financial Express]*

**PFC signs agreement with Japan's JBIC for project loan of Rs 165 cr:** Power Finance Corporation has inked a pact with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a project loan of JPY 2.65 billion or about Rs 165 crore. *[Business Standard]*

**Inflows into NRI deposits more than double in April 2022-January 2023:** The bank accounts of non-resident Indians (NRIs) received \$5.95 billion during April 2022-January 2023, more than doubling from the \$2.7 billion in the equivalent period in FY22. *[Business Standard]*



## Technology and Innovation

**PM Modi launches Bharat 6G vision document, inaugurates ITU area office:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Area office and Innovation Centre in New Delhi today. He also unveiled Bharat's 6G Vision Document at the event alongside launching the 6G R&D Test Bed and the 'Call before u dig' App. *[Mint]*

**Digital transformation - Supercharging the Indian economy and powering an Aatmanirbhar Bharat:** The digital revolution is well underway in India, and the country is rapidly establishing itself as a major player in the digital economy, with the IT and digital industries at the forefront of enabling seamless digitalization. *[The Economic Times]*

**Bharti-backed OneWeb to launch 36 satellites with Isro by March end:** OneWeb, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company backed by Bharti, plans to launch 36 satellites on India's space agency rocket on March 26. *[Business Standard]*

**Foxconn Technology plant in India to assemble Apple AirPods in India:** For Foxconn the \$200 million investment in the new factory comes over and above the Rs 1,000 crore it has invested in its unit in Tamil Nadu to make iPhones under the PLI scheme. *[Business Standard]*

**India Post signs MoU with Shiprocket to enhance last-mile e-commerce penetration:** India Post, the government operated postal service, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with logistics aggregator firms Shiprocket and Pickrr to to help MSMEs and enhance last-mile e-commerce delivery services across the the country. *[The Economic Times]*



## Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

**Over 1,000 ODOP products identified as across all districts - DPIIT:** As many as 1,068 products have been identified across all 761 districts of the country in line with the government's focus on the 'One District One Product' initiative. *[Business Standard]*

**Government to spend ₹4.5 lakh crore more on infrastructure projects:** The original cost of 1,423 projects being monitored by the ministry was estimated at ₹ 20.38 lakh crore, but anticipated cost has risen to ₹24.85 lakh crore. *[The Economic Times]*

**132 km pipeline to supply diesel to Bangladesh - PM Modi:** India's second cross border energy pipeline was inaugurated today. This 131.57 km long pipeline will connect Siliguri in India with Prabhatipur in Bangladesh, and will transport diesel across seven districts in Bangladesh. *[The New Indian Express]*

**Poll-bound Karnataka among seven states to win mega textile park project:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday formally launched the ₹4,445 crore project to develop seven 'PM MITRA' mega textile parks -- one each in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. *[Hindustan Times]*

**Karnataka gives nod to 78 industrial projects of Rs 5,298-cr investment:** The State Industries and Commerce Department has cleared a total of 78 investment proposals worth Rs 5,298.69 crore promising 13,917 jobs. *[Business Standard]*

**IOC to invest Rs 61,077 cr in petchem complex at Paradip, Odisha:** India's top oil company IOC will invest Rs 61,077 crore in building a petrochemical complex at Paradip in Odisha - its largest ever investment at a single location - as it doubles down on its transition plan. *[Business Standard]*





## Sustainable Industrialisation

**Five firms make the PLI cut to manufacture hydrogen-powered vehicles:** The government selected five companies -- Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors, Pinnacle Mobility, Tata Motors, and Booma Innovative – for manufacturing hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles under the Rs 25,938-crore production-linked incentive scheme for the automobile and auto component industry (PLI-Auto). *[Business Standard]*

**Mercedes set to invest billions in e-vehicles plants:** Mercedes will invest billions of dollars to modernise its plants in China, Germany and Hungary over the coming years, magazine Automobilwoche reported, as the carmaker prepares to switch to electric vehicles and cut emissions. *[The Economic Times]*

**Amplus Solar to invest Rs 1,500-cr in Andhra to set green hydrogen plants:** The company aims to set up 7.5 KPTA (kilo tonne per annum)-distributed green hydrogen plants for industrial consumption in Andhra Pradesh with an investment of Rs 1,500 crore. *[Business Standard]*

**Tata Power Renewable Energy to set up 200 MW solar project in Maharashtra:** Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) on Tuesday said it has received a letter of award from MSEDCL to set up a 200 MW solar project in Solapur, Maharashtra. *[Business Standard]*

**Thomas Cook India, SOTC Travel, LTIMindtree together launch 'Green Carpet':** Omnichannel travel services firm Thomas Cook India and its group company SOTC Travel on Tuesday partnered with LTIMindtree to launch 'Green Carpet', a global platform that will help companies to monitor and manage their business travel emissions. *[Business Standard]*

**India's renewable energy capacity reaches 168.96 GW till Feb 2023 - Minister R K Singh:** Out of the total 168.96 GW, 64.38 GW is solar power capacity, 51.79 GW hydro, 42.02 GW wind and 10.77 GW bio power. *[The Economic Times]*



## Sectoral News

**More than 2,170,000 EVs registered in India; Uttar Pradesh tops list:** Of over 21.70 lakh electric vehicles registered in India, Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 4,65,432 EVs, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi with 2,26,134 and 2,03,263 respectively, the government said in Parliament on Tuesday. *[Business Standard]*

**Auto off the pace - Number of unsold cars soars, new bookings decline:** Inventory of unsold cars with dealers has touched a four-year high and pace of fresh bookings has started to slow down, signaling an easing of demand. Most carmakers maintain that the inventory levels are reasonable and not an area of concern as of now. *[The Economic Times]*

**India's power consumption rises 10% in Apr-Feb to 1375 billion units, surpasses full fiscal energy supplies year ago:** India's power consumption surged 10 per cent to 1375.57 billion units (BU) during April-February this fiscal year and has already surpassed the level of electricity supplied in entire 2021-22. The government data showed that power consumption in April-February 2021-22 was 1245.54 BU. *[The Economic Times]*

**Indian airports' revenues to rise 26% to \$3.9 bn next fiscal year - CAPA:** Indian airport operators are projected to report 26 per cent rise in revenues at USD 3.9 billion in the next financial year, aviation consultancy CAPA India said on Wednesday. For 2023-24, air passenger traffic, including domestic and international, is expected to be 395 million. *[Business Standard]*

**Premium hotels revenue likely to surge 80% in fiscal year 2023-24:** Premium hotels are expected to log in strong growth across operating parameters, especially on the revenue side, which is expected to surge 80 per cent this fiscal and a further 15-20 per cent next. *[Business Standard]*

**Reliance Jio's 5G expanding fast, services now available in 406 cities:** Reliance Jio on Tuesday said that its True 5G services have gone live in 406 cities, thus becoming the first and only telecom operator to reach such a wide network in a short span of time. *[Business Standard]*

---

**ISID** **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development**  
An institution of Indian Council of Social Science Research (Ministry of Education)  
4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110070, India



**Disclaimer:** *Industry Matters* is a weekly news update on Indian economy, industry, and policy compiled at ISID from various newspapers and e-resources. ISID does not guarantee the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of the news items linked in the above message. It is shared for informational and educational purposes to facilitate and support research and information on Indian industry. It is not a commercial product and all copyrights remain with those of the respective copyright holders. Images are sourced from the web.

**Team Members:** Satyaki Roy, Swati Verma, Sangeeta Ghosh, B Dhanunjai Kumar, Amitava Dey & Rakesh Gupta.  
Compiled by: Rakesh Gupta, Edited by Sangeeta Ghosh.

To unsubscribe please click [here](#)