

Daily Economic News Summary: 27 May 2016

1. India's economic growth picked up pace at start of 2016: Poll

Source: **Economic Times** ([Link](#))

India's economic growth accelerated slightly at the start of 2016 on stronger demand, a Reuters poll found, although recent surveys of purchasing managers suggest it lost some momentum going into April. The poll of 26 economists predicted gross domestic product expanded 7.5 percent January-March, faster than the previous quarter's 7.3 percent but still well short of the recent peak of 8.3 percent in mid-2014. A modest recovery in the agricultural sector and a steady performance in the services sector are the main drivers, Rishi Shah, an economist at Deloitte said. Only three respondents - DBS Bank, IHS Global Insight and ZyFin Research - said growth slowed in the Jan-March quarter. Forecasts in the poll ranged from 6.9 to 7.8 percent.

2. India introduces cheaper & faster patent registration for startups

Source: **Economic Times** ([Link](#))

Startups from the world over will now be able to register patents in India faster and at much lower costs under a 'tatkal (instant)' option offered under the latest amended patent rules. These benefits will also be available to entities that file their first application in India. India has introduced expedited services for patent registration and also included the definition of 'startup' in the patent rules to pass on special benefits. The amended rules seek to cut the time period for grant of patents from five-seven years to two and a half years immediately and one and a half years by March 2018.

3. NITI AAYOG starts process to disburse fund under AIM for Innovation

Source: **Economic Times** ([Link](#))

To boost innovation in the country, NITI Aayog has invited applications from schools, institutions and individuals seeking financial support for setting up research laboratories under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM). With a view to give substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to catalyse the entrepreneurial spirit in the country, Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2015-16 had announced the government's intention to establish AIM in NITI Aayog with an initial sum of Rs 500 crore.

NITI Aayog is inviting applications from eligible schools/ organisations and individuals to apply for the three major schemes under Atal Innovation Mission, it said in a release. First scheme will be for establishing tinkering laboratories in schools while the other will be for establishing new incubation centres. Lastly, there will be a scheme for scaling-up established incubation centres. AIM will also provide financial support to academic and non-academic institutions (companies/technology parks/group of individuals) to establish new incubation centres across India. These will be called Atal Incubation Centres (AIC). They will be established in subject specific areas such as manufacturing, transport, energy, health, education , agriculture, water and sanitation, etc. AIM's objective is to setup 100 AICs during 2016-17.

4. Government approves over Rs 5530 crore for infra boost in 111 cities

Source: **Economic Times** ([Link](#))

The Centre has approved an investment of over Rs 5,530 crore for providing basic infrastructure in over 110 cities across six states under AMRUT scheme for the current fiscal. The central assistance to these states - Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha, Jharkhand and Meghalaya - will be to the tune of Rs 2,453 crore. The funds will be used for providing household water taps, improving water supply, sewerage networks/sewage management, storm water drains, urban transport and provision of open and green spaces in these cities.

For 2016-17, approved investment in 34 mission cities of Madhya Pradesh has been Rs 2,074 crore with central assistance of Rs 862.80 crore, while Rs 1,401 crore investment is approved for 31 cities of Gujarat with central assistance of Rs 599.18 crore. For 29 cities of Rajasthan, investment of Rs 1,120 crore is approved with central assistance of Rs 536 crore; for 9 cities of Odisha Rs 531 crore with central assistance of 265 crore; for 7 cities of Jharkhand - Rs.381 crore with central assistance of Rs 164 crore and for the lone Mission city of Shillong in Meghalaya Rs 26.67 crore with central assistance of Rs 24 crore, the release said.

5. Coal India exploring export opportunity to Bangladesh

Source: **Economic Times** ([Link](#))

Coal India (CIL) intends to export coal and is in talks with power companies in Bangladesh for striking supply deals. This is for the first time CIL would be exporting the fossil fuel on a commercial basis. Coal India subsidiaries — Bharat Coking Coal and North Eastern Coalfields — plan to supply coal to Bangladesh power companies. Coal is likely to be transported to Haldia port in West Bengal from where it could be forwarded through sea route to ports in Bangladesh. *"CIL's coal is likely to be cheaper than the ones supplied from Indonesia because we would save on logistics. The coal produced by these two subsidiaries are of high quality that can compete with Indonesian coal,"* a Coal India official said.

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By Harsha Hazarika