

**Daily Economic News Summary: 30 January 2020**

**1. Manufacturing companies may need up to 2,000 compliances under laws**

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

Manufacturing companies in India may need to fulfil 1,984 compliances under various central and state laws, which are time-consuming and increase the cost of doing business, industry lobby group Ficci has told top government functionaries ahead of the Union Budget. A study undertaken by the industry body has shown that the compliances, including approvals and filings, are required under 122 central and state laws, including those related to environment, labour laws, GST and the Companies Act. The issue was flagged before finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the pre-Budget consultations, where top officials were also present. Officials from the department for promotion of industry and internal trade were told to look into the issue, sources told TOI.

**2. Assam tops in budgetary practices, followed by Odisha, Andhra: Survey**

**Source: Business Standard ([Link](#))**

Assam has emerged as the top state in terms of best practices followed in budget formulation, followed by Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, says a survey by Transparency International. The survey was based on four parameters -- public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly. The states which figured lower in the ranking were Goa, Maharashtra and Punjab. "It is ironical that being a 'Union of States', state budgets in India have never received such importance as claimed by Union Budget.

**3. Budget may unveil 2 mega agri initiatives**

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

The government is likely to announce two mega agriculture initiatives one related to crop diversification and another on financial assistance to create Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) – in the budget. ET was the first to report on October 11 about the Rs 7,000-crore FPO programme – a promise made by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the previous budget

where the government is expected to help nurture 10,000 such FPOs. These FPOs organised groups of small and market access and collective bargaining power.

#### **4. Government notifies rules for winding up of companies under Companies Act**

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

In a move that will help lessen the burden on the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), the government has notified the rules for winding up of companies under the companies law. The Corporate Affairs Ministry has notified the Companies (Winding Up) Rules, 2020, which would be effective from April 1. Petitions for winding up of companies are subject to various conditions, including thresholds on turnover and paid-up capital. Currently, voluntary liquidation cases are primarily taken up under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). The rules have been notified under the Companies Act, 2013, which is implemented by the ministry.

#### **5. Aluminium association seeks import duty hike ahead of Budget**

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

Aluminium Association of India has appealed to the government to increase import duties on aluminium products to curb imports in the interest for both primary and downstream players. In a letter to the principal secretary to the PM, the AAI said its communication was in response to what it termed as “misleading and short-sighted advertorial campaign by (Aluminium Secondary Manufacturers Association -ASMA) against the Primary Indian Aluminium Industry.”ASMA had urged government to reduce import duty on primary aluminium to 2.5%, remove duty on scrap, increase duty on downstream products to 20% from 7.5% and remove aluminium from all FTAs to protect the domestic industry from cheap imports.

#### **6. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer likely to visit India next month to finalise trade package**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is likely to visit India next month to finalise talks on the proposed trade package between the two countries that could be announced during Donald Trump’s tour in coming months, an official said. The official said that the USTR along with his team is expected in the second week of February. They would hold discussions with the officials of the commerce ministry. This visit of USTR assumes significance as Indian and US officials are engaged in talks to finalise dates for a possible visit by US President Donald Trump to India

in the coming months. The official said that the trade package if finalised could be announced during Trump's visit to India. The two countries are negotiating a trade package to iron out issues and promote the two-way commerce.

### **7. Nirmala Sitharaman's revival efforts bear fruit; India's quarterly growth faster than G7, BRICS**

**Source: Financial Express ([Link](#))**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's efforts to revive the economy have started to appear on the ground, helping to regain the lost momentum of the GDP. "A series of government stimulus measures, coupled with a low-interest-rate environment, are likely to spur demand and investment in 2020 and to produce a rebound in full-year real GDP growth, to 6.1% (up from an estimated 4.9% in 2019)," said a report by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Surprisingly, among the BRICS and G7 countries, India is likely to have recorded the fastest rate of quarterly growth in the October-December quarter. India is expected to retain the top spot in the January-March quarter as well.

### **8. Govt drafts new bill to prevent illegal fishing in India's EEZ**

**Source: Money Control ([Link](#))**

In order to prevent illegal fishing in India's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), the government has drafted a new bill that aims to regulate fishing beyond the country's territorial waters, according to sources. An EEZ is a sea zone generally extending 200 nautical miles from a country's coastline that is reserved for the respective country under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) for exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind. The bill on regulation and managing fishing in EEZ, which has been drafted by the fisheries ministry and is yet to get the Cabinet approval, assumes significance in the backdrop of growing illegal fishing in the zone.

### **9. Cabinet approves allocation of 30% funds of NE Council for new projects**

**Source: Money Control ([Link](#))**

The Union Cabinet on 29 January approved the allocation of 30 per cent of funds of the North-Eastern Council for new projects for focused development of deprived areas, neglected sections of society and emerging priority sectors. The move will benefit marginalized and vulnerable groups of people in backward and neglected areas of north-eastern States.

**10. Apple logs double-digit growth in India over strong iPhone sales: Tim Cook**  
**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Buyoed by iPhone 11 sales, Apple registered double-digit growth in India for iPhones in the holiday quarter (October-December period), the company's CEO Tim Cook has announced. "We grew double digits in emerging markets led by strong performances in Brazil, mainland China, India, Thailand, and Turkey," Cook told analysts after declaring all-time high revenue for Apple's fiscal 2020 first quarter that ended on December 28. The revenue from iPhones in the holiday quarter was \$56 billion globally. "Again, that's up 8 per cent over a year ago, thanks to the exceptional demand for the iPhone 11, iPhone 11 Pro, and iPhone 11 Pro Max.