

## **Daily Economic News Summary: 31 January 2018**

### **1. India 6th Wealthiest Country with Total Wealth of \$8,230 Billion: Report**

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

India has been ranked sixth in the list of wealthiest countries with total wealth of USD 8,230 billion, while the United States topped the chart, says a report. According to a report by New World Wealth, the United States is the wealthiest country in the world as the total wealth held in 2017 amounted to USD 64,584 billion, followed by China at the second place with USD 24,803 billion and Japan with USD 19,522 billion at third. Total wealth, refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each country/city. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities. The report, however, excludes government funds from its figures

### **2. India Reaches 20 GW in Installed Solar Capacity 4 Years Ahead of Target**

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

Cumulative solar installations in India have crossed the target of 20 GW four years ahead of schedule. According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, the utility-scale cumulative installations for India now stands at 18.4 GW, with rooftop solar accounting for another 1.6 GW. For the first time, solar was the top source of new power capacity additions in India during calendar year 2017, with preliminary figures gathered by Mercom showing that solar installations reached 9.6 GW and accounted for 45 per cent of total capacity additions. The top state for solar installations was Telangana, followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan.

### **3. Saubhagya Scheme Likely to Find Mention in Budget 2018**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Given its electoral potential, finance minister Arun Jaitley's budget speech is expected to extol the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, or the Saubhagya scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Rs16,320 crore scheme last year to provide electricity connections to more than 40 million families in rural and urban areas by December 2018, and help achieve universal electricity access. The Saubhagya scheme will provide the architecture through which

the government seeks to reduce import of fossil fuels, boost underutilized power plants and meet its climate change commitments, *Mint* [reported](#) on 2 October. The government is betting on universal access to electricity provided under the scheme and plans to leverage the same to promote induction cooking, heating and charging electric vehicles, apart from the initial target of providing lighting.

#### **4. Budget to Focus on Growth of 7 States, 200 Districts**

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

The Centre is expected to provide a major push to development in seven states in the eastern part of India when it presents the budget for 2018-19 as it focusses on transforming 200 districts as part of its 'New India' strategy. The plan, which has been in the works for some time now, will focus on "tweaking" expenditure to ensure that states such as Bihar, Jharkhand and some in the northeast receive adequate attention. The strategy could include diverting funds from "obsolete" schemes to focus on new plans and programmes in the districts that have been identified by NITI Aayog.

#### **5. Mahindra Planning Electric Cabs, EV Parts Supply Business**

**Source: Livemint ([Link](#))**

Mahindra plans to start a business that will operate electric cabs and turn Mahindra Electric into a parts supplier for other electric vehicle makers. Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd plans to start a business that will operate a fleet of electric cabs and turn its electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing unit into a supplier of parts to EV makers. India's largest maker of EVs plans to turn its unit Mahindra Electric Mobility Ltd, which makes the e20Plus electric car, into a supplier of batteries, starter motors, power electronics and transmission to its parent and other vehicle makers.

#### **6. ADB Commits \$250 Loan for All-Weather Roads in 5 States**

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

Asian Development Bank will give a loan of USD 250 million to the Indian government for construction of all-weather roads in five states under the Prime Minister's rural road development scheme. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a \$250 million loan to finance the construction of 6,254 kilometres all-weather rural roads Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal under the Prime Minister's Rural Roads

Programme (PMGSY), an official statement said on Jan 30. The programme is aimed at improving rural connectivity, facilitating safer and more efficient access to livelihood and socio-economic opportunities for rural communities through improvements to about 12,000 kilometres Rural Roads across the 5 states.

### **7. How Suzuki's Hansalpur Plant Became Gujarat's Top Car Manufacturing Unit**

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

Suzuki's Hansalpur plant in Gujarat has emerged as the state's largest manufacturer of cars in less than two years of it commencing operations. It has consequently also overtaken the Sanand unit of Ford and Tata Motors in volume. The Hansalpur unit became operational in early 2016 with the production of Baleno, a bestseller from Maruti. The plant is now getting ready to manufacture the new Swift hatchback. Suzuki, which owns Maruti, has an arrangement with the subsidiary to sell cars from the Gujarat unit at a cost price.

### **8. Intra-State E-Way Bill: India Inc Pitches for More Time, Uniform Launch Date**

**Source: The Hindu, Business Line ([Link](#))**

Faced with the situation of businesses becoming standstill, large pan-India businesses have knocked the doors of the GST Council to ensure that the e-way bill for intra-state movement of goods be implemented only from an uniform launch date across all states and preferably from June 1 this year. It has submitted to the GST Council that uniformity of practice by all states as regards the implementation of e-way bill for intra-state movement of goods is the need of the hour. According to industry sources, large businesses are in a quandary as 15 states have notified that the e-way bill will get implemented for intra-state movement of goods from February 1

### **9. World Bank to Lend \$100 Million to Boost Tamil Nadu's Rural Economy**

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

The government and the World Bank on Jan 31 signed a \$100 million loan agreement to support producer organisations and enterprises, especially women entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu. This is expected to promote rural enterprises, facilitate their access to finance, and create employment opportunities for youth, particularly women, in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu across 26 districts, directly benefitting over 400,000 people. An e-governance architecture with the use of ICT along

with a robust Management Information System (MIS) will help monitor and track results real time. The \$100 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 5-year grace period, and a maturity of 19 years.

#### **10. No Orange Passport for Those with ECR Status, Last Page Will Be Printed**

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

On January 12, the External Affairs Ministry said that India has decided to do away with the last page of the passport that contains the names of the spouse, parents and address of the passport-holder. India on Jan 30 rescinded its decision to issue passports with orange-coloured jackets to those with ECR status, such as unskilled workers seeking employment abroad. "After comprehensive discussions with the various stakeholders, the MEA has decided to continue with the current practice of printing of the last page of the passport and not to issue a separate passport with orange colour jacket to ECR passport holders," it stated.

#### **11. Auto Expo 2018: 24 Launches, 100 Unveilings Lined up for the 14th Edition**

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

The upcoming 14th edition of the "Auto Expo -- The Motor Show" 2018 will offer visitors a chance to witness 24 launches and unveiling of around 100 vehicles. "There are a 100 exhibitors which is up from 88 (exhibitors) in the previous version. A 100 exhibitors is a very large number... who are taking part in this auto expo," said SIAM President Abhay Firodia. The "Auto Expo -- The Motor Show 2018" is being jointly organised by the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

#### **12. Market from Budget 2017 to Budget 2018: Sensex Gains 30%; These 44 Blue-Chip Stocks Rise Up To 200%**

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

It has been one of the best years for Indian stock markets as from Budget 2017 to Budget 2018 the benchmark Sensex had risen more than 30% with about 44 blue-chip stocks rising up to 200% in the same period. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is all set to present the Union Budget 2018 on Thursday, 1 February 2018. Over the course of last one year, the S&P BSE Sensex has added 30.29% or 8,377.77 points to 36,033.73 while the broader Nifty has advanced 29.07% or 2,488.36

points to 11,049.65. In the corresponding span, there are about 44 stocks of blue-chip companies such as DLF, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Maruti Suzuki and HDFC Bank which have grown up to 200%. Domestic stock markets are continuously breaking and making fresh record highs day after day since the beginning of 2018.