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ECONOMY

India on track to become \$10 trillion economy

Date: 22 February 2024



India is on track to become a USD 10 trillion economy in coming years and grab the third-largest slot soon, World Economic Forum (WEF) President Borge Brende said as he described the country as a place with optimism not seen elsewhere in a very fragmented and polarised world. In an exclusive interview with PTI, Brende also said that the WEF hopes to come back to the country with the WEF India Summit in collaboration with Government of India when the time is ripe.

Source: The Times of India

TRADE

India allows export of onions to select nations

Date: 19 February 2024

India has allowed exports of onions on a government-to-government basis to some countries, on the recommendation of the Ministry of External Affairs, said people aware of the matter. One of the persons said a limited quantity of onion exports has been allowed for bilateral purposes though no decision has been taken on lifting a complete ban on onion exports. Details of the exporting agency could not be ascertained.



Source: The Economic Times

ENERGY

India seeks \$26 billion of private investments in nuclear energy sector

Date: 20 February 2024



With an aim to bolster the share of electricity generated from sources that do not produce carbon dioxide emissions, India is planning to invite private companies to invest approximately \$26 billion in its nuclear energy sector, two government sources told Reuters. The proposed funding is crucial for India to achieve its target of having 50% of its installed electric generation capacity sourced from non-fossil fuels by 2030, compared to the current 42%.

Source: Firstpost

AUTOMOBILE

Automakers join forces under South Asian Automobile Forum

Date: 21 February 2024

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) along with the Bangladesh Automobiles Assemblers and Manufacturers Association (BAAMA), the Ceylon Motor Traders' Association, Sri Lanka (CMTA) and the NADA Automobiles Association of Nepal (NADA), recently formed a South Asian Automobile Forum at the sidelines of Bharat Global Mobility Expo in February 2024. The forum aims to promote collaboration and cooperation among the automobile sector in the South Asian region.



Source: Financial Express

STEEL

Indian steel mills seek iron ore export ban as China sales jump

Date: 23 February 2024



Smaller steelmakers in India are pressing for a ban on exports of iron ore, after a surge in sales to Chinese mills pushed up local prices. Indian exports jumped 170% to 44 million tons last year — most of which went to China — at a time when domestic demand for the raw material is rising. That's prompted the worst-affected sections of the industry to seek restrictions from the authorities to protect their margins.

Source: The Economic Times

PHARMACEUTICAL

Pharma companies develop versions of Wegovy to get in on weight-loss windfall

Date: 22 February 2024

Indian drugmakers aiming to grab a slice of the burgeoning weight-loss treatment sales pie, both at home and abroad, have begun developing their own versions of Novo Nordisk's (NOVOB.CO), wildly in demand Wegovy. With some analysts predicting a weight-loss market reaching \$100 billion a year or more by the end of the decade, executives at Sun Pharma, Cipla, Dr Reddy's and Lupin-- some of the world's largest generic drugmakers -- all said they have started work on Wegovy versions.



Source: Reuters

News from International Publications

Food industry warns 'Not for EU' labels will deter investors

Date: 22 February 2024



Government plans to require all meat and dairy products sold in the UK to be labelled "Not for EU" consumption will raise food costs, hit exports and deter investment in domestic food manufacturing, a leading industry group has warned. In a letter to ministers, the Food and Drink Federation said the post-Brexit labelling regime would cost "hundreds of millions of pounds" and had already caused international investors to "pause" plans to put capital into the UK.

Source: Financial Times

EU defence funding plan draws fire from industry and capitals

Date: 22 February 2024

Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission president, has recently promoted the idea of using the bloc's funding to subsidise defence production and to guarantee purchases of weapons as well as appointing a dedicated commissioner to oversee the new strategy. But executives and senior officials have questioned whether the way forward is to empower the commission, as that strategy risks duplicating existing structures and diverting money to defence companies that could be funded directly by member states.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

Hybrid Vehicles' Green Benefits Are Questioned

Date: 22 February 2024



Climate activists are questioning how environmentally friendly hybrid vehicles are as those cars rise in popularity. The battle over the green bona fides of hybrids comes ahead of what could be the toughest U.S. restrictions on car pollution. Hybrids combine a gasoline engine with battery power and generally get far better gas mileage than the cars and trucks Americans have typically driven. Hybrid makers argue that the vehicles' popularity is something to celebrate and "an important solution toward achieving carbon neutrality," Toyota executive Yoichi Miyazaki said.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

China beats US tariffs by shipping via Mexico

Date: 22 February 2024

China is shipping more goods to the US via Mexico, circumventing steep tariffs imposed by Donald Trump's administration and retained by Joe Biden's White House, according to a Financial Times analysis of trade data. Figures from Container Trades Statistics, analysed by Xeneta, show the number of 20ft containers shipped from China to Mexico hit 881,000 in the first three quarters of 2023, the most recent period for which the data is available, up from 689,000 for the 2022 equivalent.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

Chinese Banks Cut Key Rate To Spur Economy

Date: 21 February 2024



China's economic malaise has pushed policymakers and state-owned banks to attempt an escalating series of remedies. Their latest attempt: A surprisingly aggressive cut to a key lending rate. The People's Bank of China said that China's major banks reduced the five-year loan prime rate, a benchmark for home loans, to a new low of 3.95%, from 4.2% previously. It was the largest cut since the rate was introduced five years ago and a much bigger reduction than economists had expected.

Source: The Wall Street Journal

US warns Beijing against dumping industrial goods on global markets

Date: 20 February 2024

The US Senate has approved a \$95bn national security funding bill including new aid to Ukraine, but the legislation risks languishing in the House of Representatives because of opposition from Donald Trump. The final vote on the bill in the Senate followed weeks of pressure from Joe Biden's administration and a deepening rift among Republican senators on the merits of providing more assistance to Ukraine, alongside the broader question of the US's role in the world.



Source: Financial Times

News from International Publications

Israel's economy shrank at 20% rate after outbreak of war

Date: 20 February 2024



Israel's economy shrank almost 20% in annualised terms in the final quarter of 2023, official data has shown, as it poured resources into its conflict against Hamas in Gaza. The sharp drop in gross domestic product, which was far steeper than analysts had forecast, came as hundreds of thousands of Israeli reservists were mobilised to fight in the aftermath of Hamas's attack on October 7. GDP fell an annualised 19.4% in the fourth quarter. On a pure quarter-by-quarter basis, the economy contracted 5.2%.

Source: Financial Times