



Policy Developments

☞ The Government of India has decided to implement the Nutrient Based Subsidy policy for fertilizer. It has decided to fix the subsidy on contents of nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur and potash. There will be an additional per tonne subsidy for subsidized fertilizers carrying other secondary nutrients and micro nutrients. [More](#)

☞ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has entered into a Note Purchase Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under which the RBI shall purchase from the IMF notes for an amount up to the equivalent of US \$10 billion. This is a part of the international efforts to support the IMF's lending capacity following the decision of the G-20 in its London Summit to treble the resources available to the IMF to \$ 750 billion. This agreement is a temporary bilateral arrangement for an initial period of one year, which may be extended by a period of upto two years. Permanent increases in the resources of IMF are expected to take place through an increase in quotas and standing borrowing arrangements which are currently under negotiation. With the signing of this agreement by the RBI with the IMF, India as member of the G-20 has fulfilled its commitments in this regard. [More](#)

☞ The Government of India has approved US\$ 974.65 million for setting up 1,100 mega watt grid-connected solar power plants under the first phase of the National Solar Mission. The Government targets to set up 1,100 mega watt grid-connected solar plants, including 100 MW capacity plants as rooftop and smaller solar power plants for the first phase of the National Solar Mission till March 2013. [More](#)

☞ The Government of India has decided to remove the cap on the number of players allowed to participate in financial bidding for port expansion projects under the public private partnership mode. This will allow all technically qualified players to make financial bids

instead of allowing only five technically qualified players to participate in financial bidding. [More](#)

Economic News

☞ India's GDP registered a growth of 6% in the third quarter of 2009-10. The economic activities which registered significant growth are, 'mining & quarrying' at 9.6 per cent, 'manufacturing' at 14.3 per cent, 'construction' at 8.7 percent, 'trade, hotels, transport and communication' at 10.0 per cent, and 'financing, insurance, real estate and business services' at 7.8 per cent. [More](#)

☞ The Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has estimated that the growth rate in 2010-11 would be at 8.2% due to turn around in the agriculture sector and continued growth in the manufacturing and services sector. The growth for 2011-12 is estimated at 9%. [More](#)

☞ The Index of six core industries registered a growth of 9.4% in January, 2010 as compared to 2.2% in January, 2009. During April-January, 2009-10, six core industries registered a growth of 5.4% as against 3% during the corresponding period of the previous year. The six core industries are crude oil, petroleum refinery products, coal, electricity, cement and steel. [More](#)

☞ India added 19.90 million new wireless subscribers in January, 2010. The total number of wireless subscribers currently stands at 545.05 million. The overall tele-density in India has reached 49.50. [More](#)

☞ India's exports stood at \$14.3 billion in January, 2010, registering a growth of 11.5%. For the same month, Imports registered a growth of 35.5% and stood at \$24. 7 billion. [More](#)

☞ India is ranked among the top three investment destinations for private equity (PE) firms in the world, as per a report by consulting firm, Bain and Company, USA. According to the report, US tops the list, followed by China. The report pointed out that India is emerging as an attractive investment market for PE firms as an

increasing number of family-owned businesses are turning to outside investors to raise funds. [More](#)

🌀 India offers better long-term returns on stocks than China, given the outlook for economic growth and corporate earnings according to Franklin Templeton Investments. The firm has stated that it would make a long-term bet on India rather than China. [More](#)

🌀 According to a report by CII and Boston Consulting Group, India's manufacturing sector, which is the 13th largest in the world, could emerge as the fourth largest manufacturing economy of the world if it grows by 11% for the next 15 years. [More](#)

🌀 The turnover of 23 commodity exchanges in India posted 50 per cent year-on-year growth during April 2009- February, 2010, to touch US\$ 1.53 trillion, according to the commodity markets regulator, Forward Markets Commission. Data showed that future trade in farm items, as well as commodities such as energy and crude oil, accounted for a large part of the business. [More](#)

Corporate News

🌀 Dell has reported that its sales in India have touched \$1 billion in 2009, accounting for nearly 2% of its global revenues. The company is planning to go for specific opportunities such as e-governance solution, education and healthcare. [More](#)

🌀 Corporate India will witness the highest rise in salary, almost 10.6%, among Asia Pacific countries in 2010, led by sectors like engineering, procurement and construction, banking, finance and insurance, retail and IT according to a study by Hewitt Associates. [More](#)

🌀 Corporate India recorded Merger and Acquisition deals worth \$2.8 billion and \$2.3 billion in January and February, 2010 respectively according to VCCEdge, a financial research firm. In February, 2010, the deal count increased to 51, compared to 28 deals in February, 2009. [More](#)

🌀 Power equipment maker Thermax Ltd has entered into a joint venture with U.S.-based Babcock & Wilcox

Power Generation Group to make supercritical steam boilers. Thermax already has a joint venture with diversified U.S. manufacturer SPX Corp to provide air pollution control systems for power plants and energy efficiency equipment. [More](#)

🌀 India's leading real estate company, Hindustan Construction Company has plans to invest around Rs 50,000 crore (approx \$10.98 billion) in its township project in Maharashtra over the next 10-12 years. [More](#)

🌀 Apollo Tyres has decided to make Chennai as its hub for both manufacturing and research and development. It is planning to set up a \$480 billion manufacturing facility. [More](#)

🌀 Thomas Reuters, financial data provider has plans to launch 146 India specific indices, out of which 73 will be sector-specific. The company has recently launched a range of indices to help monitor global markets and to develop investment vehicles. [More](#)

🌀 The joint venture of Tata Advanced Systems and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation will produce its first helicopter from the Aerospace and Precision Engineering special economic zone located in Andhra Pradesh. [More](#)

🌀 Amazon, the US based online retailing agent has decided to ramp up the e-commerce platform group at its development centre based in Hyderabad. The company is planning to redesign its web services architecture in keeping with increasing traffic on the book retailing platform. [More](#)

🌀 Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited expects its turnover to double from the current level of \$6 billion to around \$12 billion by 2020. The company is active in solar energy business and plans to create an integrated facility for solar energy. [More](#)

🌀 Singareni Collieries Company Limited, India's leading coal producer plans to foray into commercial energy production. It plans to invest Rs 5,600 crore (approx \$1.23 billion) over the next four years to set up a 1,200 MW thermal power plant in Andhra Pradesh. [More](#)