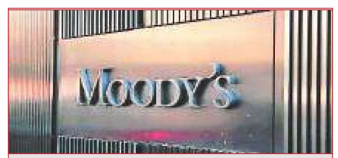
Moody's raises India GDP growth to 7 pc for FY27

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (IANS)

GLOBAL ratings agency Moody's on Friday raised India's GDP growth forecast to 7 per cent for FY27, from its earlier 6 per cent projection for the current fiscal, as the country continues to show resilience amid global headwinds. Moody's said that it continues to expect India to grow faster than all other G20 economies.

However, elevated energy prices and El Nino-related food price pressures remain which poses risks for inflation, said the ratings major. Despite global headwinds, India recorded real GDP growth at Rs 81.36 lakh crore in first quarter of this fiscal (Q1 FY27), against Rs 75.46 lakh crore in Q1 FY 2025-26 -- registering a robust growth rate of 7.8 per cent.



India could sustain over 7 per cent growth over medium term if policy reforms can crowd in private investment and raise manufacturing competitiveness, said economists

Public capital expenditure, digitalisation, services exports and improving financial-sector balance sheets were cited by experts as important supports.

Nominal GDP (or GDP at current prices) in Q1 FY 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 88.27 lakh crore, against Rs 80 lakh crore in Q1 of FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 10.3 per cent, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said in a statement. Notably, the real gross value added (GVA) in Q1 FY 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 73.82 lakh crore, against Rs 68.21 lakh crore in Q1 FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 8.2 per cent.

On the other hand, nominal GVA in Q1 FY 2026-27 is estimated at Rs 80.53 lakh crore, against Rs 72.24 lakh crore in Q1 of FY 2025-26, showing a growth rate of 11.5 per cent, according to the data. Amid persistent global uncertainty, domestic economic activity has remained resilient, as reflected in high-frequency indicators for Q1.

Early corporate results for Q1 also indicate healthy performance in the manufacturing sector, said Malhotra, adding that India remains the fastest-growing economy amid persistent global uncertainties. India could sustain over 7 pc growth over the medium term if policy reforms can crowd in private investment and raise manufacturing competitiveness, said economists.

India, Canada trade ministers discuss progress of CEPA

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (PTI)

TRADE ministers of India and Canada on Friday discussed the progress of ongoing negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

The meeting was held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Canada's International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu in Mumbai. The deliberations are important as both countries are aiming to conclude the negotiations by the end of this year. "Both sides reaffirmed our leadership's commitment to expedite negotiations and conclude CEPA at the earliest, unlocking new opportunities across trade in goods, services and investment, among others," Goyal said in a social media post. He added that early conclusion of the pact will help significantly increase bilateral trade.

The chief negotiators of the two countries held the fourth round of talks here this week.

"Two-way trade reached $30.4 billion in 2025. Our goal is clear: more than double that to $70 billion by 2030, opening new opportunities for Canadian workers and businesses," Sidhu said in a social media post.

From aerospace and artificial intelligence to clean energy and critical minerals, there is enormous potential, he said.

BRIEFS

Gold rebounds Rs 1,600; Silver climbs Rs 5,000

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (PTI)

GOLD staged a sharp comeback on Friday, rising Rs 1,600 to Rs 1.56 lakh per 10 grams in the national capital as retreating crude oil rates eased inflation concerns and gave investors room to return to bullion after the recent sell-off.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity appreciated Rs 1,600 to Rs 1,56,600 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Thursday's closing level of Rs 1.55 lakh per 10 grams, according to local traders. Silver also joined the rebound, climbing Rs 5,000 to Rs 2.47 lakh per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes). The white metal had ended flat at Rs 2.42 lakh per kg in the preceding session.

Rupee closes unchanged at 95.89 vs USD

MUMBAI, Sept 18 (PTI)

THE rupee pared initial gains to close unchanged at 95.89 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid a strong American currency.

Positive momentum in domestic equity markets, however, supported the Indian currency, forex traders said. They also said the rupee's fall was capped as crude prices slid below the 104-per-barrel level, and US bond yields eased after the US Federal Reserve hiked interest rates by 25 basis points.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.75 and touched the intraday high of 95.71 before settling at 95.89 (provisional) against the greenback, its previous closing level.

IDFC FIRST Bank removes forex markup across all credit cards

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (PTI)

PRIVATE sector IDFC FIRST Bank on Friday said it has removed forex markup charges for all existing and new credit card customers, with no conditions attached. The benefit is automatically available to all cardholders, giving customers confidence to use the bank's credit cards for their global spending, IDFC FIRST Bank said.

Customers do not need to apply for a new card, upgrade their existing card, or meet any spending threshold to avail this benefit, it said. Their current IDFC FIRST Bank credit card now comes with zero forex markup, with no conditions attached, it added.

Elevate Campuses to launch IPO on Sept 23

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (PTI)

ELEVATE Campuses Ltd, a Hillhouse Capital-backed student accommodation and K-12 platform, is set to hit the primary market with its Rs 2,100-crore initial public offering (IPO) on September 23, with shares priced in the Rs 343-362 range. At the upper end of the price band, the company will be valued at over Rs 6,100 crore.

The three-day public issue will close on September 25, with the listing expected on September 30. The IPO comprises entirely a fresh issue of equity shares, with no offer for sale (OFS) component, according to the Red Herring Prospectus (RHP).

RBI absorbs Rs 2.23 lakh crore via variable rate reverse repo auction

MUMBAI, Sept 18 (PTI)

THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday absorbed Rs 2.23 lakh crore from the banking system amid surplus liquidity by conducting a variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction.

The central bank received bids worth Rs 2,22,629 crore, which it accepted fully, for a notified amount of Rs 2.25 lakh crore. The amount was accepted at a weighted average rate of 5.24 per cent, the RBI said in a release.

The RBI has been conducting VRRR auctions since last month in order to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system and align the overnight money market rates to the repo rate.

As of September 17, liquidity in the banking system is estimated to be in surplus of around Rs 6.94 lakh crore, as per RBI data. As part of the liquidity adjustment strategy, the central bank on Thursday sold government securities worth Rs 50,000 crore through Open Market Operations (OMO).

The remaining two tranches of G-sec sales of Rs 25,000 crore each are scheduled for September 21 and September 28. The banking system was flushed with funds due to heavy mobilisation of foreign currency non-resident (bank) or FCNR (B) deposits, and subsequent swaps with the RBI provided rupee liquidity to banks.

Besides FCNR(B) inflows, month-end government expenditure, including payments toward salaries and pensions, also added to liquidity in the banking system.

SP Group backs Tata Sons listing, bolstering board's push despite Trusts' opposition

NEW DELHI, Sept 18 (PTI)

SHAPOORJI Pallonji Group, the second-largest shareholder in Tata Sons, on Friday backed a public listing of the holding company of the Tata Group's sprawling salt-to-software, automobiles and aviation businesses, adding weight to the board's push for a listing despite opposition from the Tata Trusts.

Shapoor Mistry, chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group, which owns about 18.4 per cent of Tata Sons, said a listing would strengthen transparency and public accountability at one of India's most consequential business institutions.

His comments mark a clear public endorsement of the listing by one of Tata Sons' key shareholders at a time when the proposal has exposed differences between the company's board and the charitable trusts that control it. The Tata Sons board has favoured moving ahead with a listing following the Reserve Bank of India's rejection of the company's application to surrender its registration as an upper-layer non-banking financial company (NBFC). Tata Trusts, which collectively control about 66 per cent of Tata Sons, have opposed the listing, with their Chairman Noel Tata urging the company to explore alternatives. Mistry, in a statement, said the listing was "not merely a financial or regulatory matter" but a "social and moral imperative", and called it an opportunity to strengthen governance while preserving the philanthropic role of the Tata Trusts. The SP Group's backing is significant because it aligns the second-largest shareholder with the Tata Sons board at a time when the company's controlling shareholder is resisting a listing.