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THURSDAY

2024 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS - NO CHANGE IN TAX RATES TARGET FOR HIGHER CAPEX AND LOWER FISCAL DEFICIT

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented Interium Budget 2024 today 1/2/2024. Offering a vision for the next 5 years, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman predicted unprecedental growth, announcing a 11.1 lakh crore Capital Expenditure for the next financial year, reflecting on 11% increase from the current year. Government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit target to 5.1% of GDP in the upcoming fiscal year, further aiming for 4.5% in the fiscal year 2026. Same rates of direct and indirect tax including import tax retained. Tax break up for start-up, investments made by soverign wealth funds extended to March 31, 2025. Government to withdraw old disputed direct tax demands up to Rs.25000 till fiscal year 2009 and Rs.10000 for 2010-2011 to 2014 - 2015. It will expected to benefit 1 crore tax payers. Allocation of 255 lakh for 3 major railway corridors. Under PM Gati Shakthi to improve logistic effeciently and reduce cost. 40000 normal train bogies to be converted into high speed Vande Bharat ones. PLI scheme gets Rs 6200 crore, 4 crore converted under PM Fasal Bima Yojana. Government to launch Blue economy 2.0 to promote aquaculture with implementation of P.M Matsya Sampada Yojana to be stepped up to enhance aquaculture productivity double exports and generate more jobs. Direct financial assistance to 11.8 crore farmers under PM-Kisan Yojana. 2 crore houses to be built under PM Avas Yojana. Healthcare facilities under Ayushman Bharat will be extended to all Asha workers, Anganawadi Bharat. Plans to set up hospitals in all districts. Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 to be expedited for improved nutrition delivery, early childhood care and development.

INDONESIA'S PALM OIL REFERENCE PRICE INCREASED FROM \$ 774.93 TO \$ 806.40 PER TON

Indonesia set palm oil reference price at \$ 806.40 per ton for February an increase from \$ 774.93 per ton according to the news sources. The CPO export tax and leavy will be \$ 33 per ton and \$ 85 per ton, respectively. Malaysian palm oil for April delivery fell by RM 47 or 1.22% to RM 3795 (\$ 802.83) per ton as on 31/1/2024 closing. Exports of Malaysian palm oil products fell by 9.4% to 1,227,101 tons in January according to Amspec Agri Malaysia and according to Intertek Testing Services estimates exports fell by 6.7% to 1,286,509 tons.

INDIA'S SUGAR PRODUCTION TO DROP BY 10% TO 33.05 MMT AS PER 2ND ESTIMATE OF ISMA

India's sugar production in 2023-24(including the quantity diverted for ethenol production) is estimated to drop by 10% to 33.05 million tons from 36.62 million tons in the previous year according to ISMA(Indian Sugar Mills Association) 2nd advance estimate. Due to estimated production drop in Maharastra and Karnataka. According to ISMA gross Sugar production in Maharastra is estimated to drop to 9.99 million tons from 11.85 MMT and in Karnataka to 4.97 MMT from 6.58 MMT. Uttarpradesh is estimated to produce 11.99 MMT as against 11.89 MMT in the previous year.

GOVERNMENT SELLS 71 LAKH TONS OF WHEAT AND 1.62 LAKH TONS OF RICE SO FOR UNDER OMSS

Government sells 71 lakh tons of wheat and 1.62 lakh tons of rice so for in open market to keep prices of the commodities under control. A total of 101.5 lakh tons of wheat and 25 lakh tons of rice have been allocated by the Government for offloading under open market sales scheme. The first e-auction of rice under OMSS for 2023 was held on July 5, 2023 and till January 24,2024, 1.62 lakh tons of rice have been sold in open market. Till January 24, 2024, 71.01 LMT of wheat have been sold under OMSS.