

Financial Market**Govt may allow higher FDI in Defence sector****(BL-1)**

The Government is inclined to allow an increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit beyond the existing 26 per cent in the defence sector on a case-to-case basis.

Rupee ends flat, tracking equities**(BL-6)**

The rupee was flat tracking the domestic equity markets, although it remained at 45 levels. It opened stronger at 45.77 and closed at 45.80/81 against the previous close of 45.82.

Call rates move up**(BL-6)**

The inter-bank call rate ended at 3.3-3.4 per cent, marginally higher from its previous close of 3.2-.3.3 per cent.

General insurers face higher liabilities**(BL-6)**

For the first time, global insurers have turned their back on primary general insurers in the country by under subscribing treaty obligations. That means general insurance companies in India will have to absorb liabilities themselves and will require more capital.

Banking**Banks withdraw teaser rates****(ToI-19)**

If you were planning to buy a car or a house, prepare to shell out a little more. Signalling that the interest rates in the country have bottomed out, leading private sector banks, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Kotak Bank, on Thursday raised interest rates on auto loans between 25 and 75 basis points (100 basis points+1%).

ATMs turning faster, smarter**(BL-1)**

The next time you visit an automatic teller machine to draw cash, you may not need to wait in a long queue thanks to the introduction of 'faster' ATMs by some banks.

Indian Economy**Food inflation rises marginally to 17.87%****(ToI-19)**

Food inflation rose marginally to 17.87% for the week ended February 20 on the back of higher prices of milk, wheat, rice and vegetables. The figure in the previous week was at 17.58%. On an annual basis, price of rice increased 10%, wheat 14%, pulses 35%, onions 11% and potatoes 28%.

Food inflation may spill over into other sectors**(ToI-19)**

Given the rate at which the price rise horse has been galloping, several companies have cited inflation as a worry for the 2010-11 fiscal. With inflation in food products and primary articles hovering between 16% and 20%, India Inc feels that if this trend spills over into other areas, revenues and bottomlines of a large number of companies could be hit. These fears have been accentuated by excise duty hikes announced in the Budget, which some industry experts have termed as "inflationary".

SEZs will get to sell power outside zones**(ET-7)**

The government will allow power projects located in special economic zones (SEZs) to sell electricity to units outside the zones, including in other SEZs, without seeking a distribution licence from state electricity boards. This will make these power SEZs, such as the ones proposed by the Adani Group, Wardha Power and the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), more attractive to investors.

High state levies fuel petroleum prices: Centre**(ET-7)**

Under fire from opposition and allies on budget-induced fuel price hike, the government is set to turn the tables on the states saying that high state taxes were the reason fuel prices are high.

Articles

Budget and banking reforms (BL-8)
K.Kanagasanapathy

Growth and inclusive development (BL-9)
T.N.Srinivasan

Banking on talent (BS-8)
Shyamal Majumdar

Four good steps that will yields results (FE-8)
The Green Revolution was confirmed to a few states. It
needs to be spread
Madan Sabnavis