



August 30, 2024 – Friday

## Economy

### Retail inflation rates for farm, rural workers ease to 6.17%, 6.2% in July

Retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers eased to 6.17 per cent and 6.20 per cent, respectively, in July. The retail inflation rates for farm and rural workers were 7.02 per cent and 7.04 per cent, respectively, in June this year. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL) and for rural labourers (CPI-RL) registered an increase of 10 points each in July, reaching 1,290 and 1,302, respectively, a labour ministry statement said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/retail-inflation-rates-for-farm-rural-workers-ease-to-6-17-6-2-in-july-124082900889\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/retail-inflation-rates-for-farm-rural-workers-ease-to-6-17-6-2-in-july-124082900889_1.html)

### Centre sets milestones for states on urban land reforms

The Centre has set three milestones in urban land reforms, which will lead to the finalisation of land parcel-based property cards, for states to become eligible for incentives in the form of grant-like capex loans. It has earmarked Rs 5,000 crore in FY25 for the participating states as an incentive, based on their progress in achieving the specified milestones on a 'First-Come-First-Served' basis. The funds shall be disbursed in a sequential milestone-based manner to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) as per the prescribed unit rates based on the population of cities. The incentive is part of the Centre's interest-free 50-year capex loans to states in FY25.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-centre-sets-milestones-for-states-on-urban-land-reforms-3596309/>

### India's June qtr GDP growth likely slowed on reduced government spending

India's economic growth is expected to have slowed in the April-June quarter due to reduced government spending during the national elections and stalling consumption. A Reuters poll of 52 economists projected GDP growth of 6.9 per cent year-on-year for the three months through June, the first quarter of India's 2024/25 fiscal year. That is below the central bank's estimate of 7.1 per cent and the 7.8 per cent growth rate of the previous quarter.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-june-qtr-gdp-growth-likely-slowed-on-reduced-government-spending-124083000062\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-june-qtr-gdp-growth-likely-slowed-on-reduced-government-spending-124083000062_1.html)

### Moody's ups India's 2024, 2025 growth forecast

Moody's Ratings Thursday revised upwards India's economic growth projections for 2024 to 7.2% from 6.8% on signs of a revival in rural demand on the back of improving prospects for agricultural output amid above-normal rainfall. It also expects 6.6% growth in 2025 versus the earlier estimate of 6.4%. These forecast changes assume strong broad-based growth and we recognize potentially higher forecasts if the cyclical momentum, especially for private consumption, gains more traction," the ratings agency said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/moodys-ups-indias-2024-2025-growth-forecast/articleshow/112900092.cms>

## Finance

### **India's credit self-monitoring grows by 51%: TransUnion CIBIL report**

There has been a significant increase in credit self-monitoring among Indians, with 119 million people monitoring their CIBIL scores as of March 2024, marking a 51 per cent year-on-year growth in FY24, according to a report by TransUnion. The report, titled 'Empowering Financial Freedom: The Rise of Credit Self-Monitoring in India', stated that the rise reflects heightened credit awareness, especially among Gen Z and millennials, who make up 77 per cent of the self-monitoring population.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-credit-self-monitoring-grows-by-51-transunion-cibil-report-124082901155\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-credit-self-monitoring-grows-by-51-transunion-cibil-report-124082901155_1.html)

### **RBI expected to finalise guidelines on project loans in 2-3 months**

The final project loan guidelines are likely to be announced in the next two to three months, a senior RBI official said on Thursday. The norms regarding the Expected Credit Loss (ECL)-based provisioning are in an advanced stage of discussion, the official told reporters here. The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to set aside 5 per cent of the total exposure to a project till the construction of the project is on. Fearing a hit to profits, banks have been asking for a relook into it, as per reports.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-expected-to-finalise-guidelines-on-project-loans-in-2-3-months-124082900829\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-expected-to-finalise-guidelines-on-project-loans-in-2-3-months-124082900829_1.html)

### **New database on registration status of charities for taxation clarity**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has instructed its officials to create a new database of charitable institutions to track their registration status under different provisions of the Income-Tax (I-T) Act. The intent is to eliminate discrepancies in tax filings and claims of exemption. "In cases where registrations or approvals have been cancelled, these details must be uploaded on the I-T department's website by August 31," said an official familiar with the matter.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/new-database-on-status-of-charities-for-taxation-clarity-124082901310\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/new-database-on-status-of-charities-for-taxation-clarity-124082901310_1.html)

### **Fintechs can't bypass compliance irrespective of scale, says RBI ED**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has urged fintechs not to compromise on compliance, irrespective of scale, P Vasudevan, RBI executive director, said. "When we meet venture capitalists and co-founders, we tell them to imbibe the element of compliance in their investment entities and see that compliance is never compromised, irrespective of scale," Vasudevan said at the Global Fintech Fest on Thursday.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/fintechs-cannot-bypass-compliance-irrespective-of-scale-rbi-ed-p-vasudevan-124082901180\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/fintechs-cannot-bypass-compliance-irrespective-of-scale-rbi-ed-p-vasudevan-124082901180_1.html)

## **Industry**

### **Quality control proposed on sale of minerals**

The mines ministry Thursday proposed enforcement of quality controls on sale of primary lead, refined nickel, zinc, and tin ingots in the country. These norms have been formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), and the ministry has proposed mandating them through a Quality Control Order (QCO).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/quality-control-proposed-on-sale-of-minerals/articleshow/112904682.cms>

### **Plant-based leather gains traction, but costs rise due to limited infra**

Allen Solly, a brand under the Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail umbrella, has introduced a range of products made from materials like apple peels and cactus leaves in India. This move comes after growing demand for sustainable and cruelty-free fashion, a trend that's seen significant growth in recent years. However, local brands in India have been a step ahead and have already established various products using vegan leather.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/plant-based-leather-gains-traction-but-costs-rise-due-to-limited-infra-124082901020\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/plant-based-leather-gains-traction-but-costs-rise-due-to-limited-infra-124082901020_1.html)

### **Meity plans jobs push in proposed electronic components PLI scheme**

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) is looking at a proposal to generate 1.5-2 direct jobs for every Rs 1 crore invested by companies under the proposed electronic components production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. If this plan fructifies, a Rs 10,000 crore investment under the proposed PLI scheme would bring with it the expectation of creating 15,000-20,000 direct jobs in electronic components sector.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/meity-plans-jobs-push-in-proposed-electronic-components-pli-scheme-124082800958\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/meity-plans-jobs-push-in-proposed-electronic-components-pli-scheme-124082800958_1.html)

#### **Govt plans 'repairability index' for mobile, electronics to tackle e-waste**

India is planning a repairability index for mobile phones and electronic products to address the growing e-waste problem and encourage manufacturers to produce more easily repairable items, officials said on Thursday. The Consumer Affairs Ministry is spearheading the initiative, which will provide a score on key parameters to inform consumers about the ease with which a product can be repaired, the officials said at a national workshop on the issue.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-plans-repairability-index-for-mobile-electronics-to-tackle-e-waste-124082900654\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-plans-repairability-index-for-mobile-electronics-to-tackle-e-waste-124082900654_1.html)

#### **Two-wheeler industry expects robust growth in upcoming festive season: TVS**

The two-wheeler industry is expected to witness robust sales in the upcoming festive season, riding on the back of strong revival in rural demand and bountiful monsoon so far, according to TVS Motor Company Senior Vice President - Head Commuter Business Aniruddha Haldar. In an interaction with PTI, he noted that the growth in the two-wheeler industry is also being driven by rising acceptance of scooters in the rural areas.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/two-wheelers-three-wheelers/two-wheeler-industry-expects-robust-growth-in-upcoming-festive-season-tvs/articleshow/112901133.cms>

#### **Reports indicate Indian AI market set for rapid growth, expected to reach \$17-20 billion by 2027**

Despite the Indian AI market being at a nascent stage, it is expected to mirror the global AI market growth rate of 25-35 per cent CAGR over the next three-four years, and reach nearly \$17-20 billion by 2027, reports indicate. Alongside, AI integration is said to boost the country's GDP by \$500 billion by 2025.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/reports-indicate-indian-ai-market-set-for-rapid-growth-expected-to-reach-17-20-billion-by-2027/article68581971.ece>

### **Agriculture**

#### **Rains, cyclone threaten Gujarat's cotton and peanut crops ahead of harvest**

India's biggest cotton and peanut growing areas are forecast to continue witnessing heavy rains and strong winds this week, raising the risk of floods and threatening the crops that are just weeks away from harvesting. Saurashtra and Kachchh regions of the western state of Gujarat will receive heavy precipitation for three days through Saturday, according to the India Meteorological Department. A deep depression in the coastal parts may intensify into a cyclone on Friday, causing the wind speed to surge to as high as 85 kilometers (53 miles) per hour, it said in a bulletin Thursday.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rains-cyclone-threaten-gujarats-cotton-and-peanut-crops-ahead-of-harvest/articleshow/112904722.cms>

### **Infrastructure**

#### **Noida Interational Airport to have capacity of over 1 lakh tonnes when cargo facility opens, will grow with demand: CEO Christoph Schnellmann**

The development works on the cargo terminal and multimodal cargo hub at Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar are in full swing with work being done in partnership with Air India SATS, NIA Chief Executive Officer Christoph Schnellmann said on Thursday and noted there will be cargo capacity for well over one lakh tonnes of cargo when the facility opens. "The development works on the cargo terminal and multimodal cargo hub are in full swing as well. We're working in partnership with Air India SATS who have designed the facility, who are constructing the facility and who will operate the facility. There will be a capacity for well over 1 lakh tonnes of cargo when the

facility opens and it's designed in a modular fashion to grow with the demand. We plan to submit our application for the aerodrome license this year," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/noida-interational-airport-to-have-capacity-of-over-1-lakh-tonnes-when-cargo-facility-opens-will-grow-with-demand-ceo-christoph-schnellmann/articleshow/112910527.cms>

## Energy

### India added 1.1 GW of rooftop solar capacity from January to June: Report

India added 1.1 GW of rooftop solar capacity from January to June 2024, marking a 26 per cent increase from the 873 MW added in the same period last year, US-based research firm Mercom Capital said in a report on Thursday. The report titled – 'India Rooftop Solar Market' - noted that in the second quarter of 2024, 731 MW of rooftop solar was installed. This is an 89 per cent jump from 388 MW Year-on-Year.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-added-1-1-gw-of-rooftop-solar-capacity-from-january-to-june-report-124082900924\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-added-1-1-gw-of-rooftop-solar-capacity-from-january-to-june-report-124082900924_1.html)

### Rains bring power prices down 35% on exchange

Incessant rains across most parts of the country have led to a sharp fall in power prices this month compared with a year ago on the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). The average daily price in the day-ahead market (DAM) stood at ₹4.33 a unit between August 1 and 28, down 35.5% compared to the same period last year. Real-time market (RTM) average daily price has also fallen 42.2% on year to ₹3.58 a unit in the same period, IEX data showed.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/rains-bring-power-prices-down-35-on-exchange/articleshow/112904636.cms>

### Government lifts cap on sugar diversion for ethanol production starting in November 2024

The Union government has made a notable policy shift, allowing sugar mills to use cane juice or syrup to produce ethanol for the upcoming Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25, starting November 1, 2024. This update, announced in a notification on August 29, 2024, removes the previous cap on sugar diversion for ethanol production.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/government-lifts-cap-on-sugar-diversion-for-ethanol-production-starting-in-november-2024/articleshow/112902338.cms>

## States

### Rajasthan's industry body urges state govt for continuation of RIPS

A Rajasthan-based trade and industry body has urged the state government to expand the scope of incentives under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme 2022 (RIPS) scheme. It said once a new scheme is implemented, there should be no change in it for at least a decade. RIPS is being introduced continuously. It was first announced in the year 2019, then it was introduced in 2022, and now a plan is being made for 2024.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/rajasthan-industry-body-urges-state-govt-for-continuation-of-rips-124082900006\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/rajasthan-industry-body-urges-state-govt-for-continuation-of-rips-124082900006_1.html)

### Kerala to receive 500 MW coal linkage amid power deficit

In a move to address the power shortage in the state of Kerala, the ministry of power has recommended earmarking long-term coal linkage of 500 megawatt (MW) to the state from Coal India, helping it meet its power deficit and future energy needs. In a recent meeting of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) for power sector, the Kerala State Electricity Board informed that due to unusual growth in power consumption, the state requires 500 MW of power on an immediate basis. The Government of Kerala has said that the cost of power procured by it on a short-term basis is very high and accordingly, the state is willing to tie-up power on a long-term basis.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-kerala-to-receive-500-mw-coal-linkage-amid-power-deficitnbs-3596321/>

## Healthcare

### **India's pharma sector set for 9.6% CAGR, reaching \$55 bn by 2030: Report**

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is projected to reach Rs 4.6 trillion (\$55 billion) by 2030, according to a report from Pharmarack Technologies, a digital supply chain solutions and market intelligence platform. The report, cited in a Business Today article, states that the sector, valued at approximately Rs 2.42 trillion (\$29 billion) in 2023, will witness a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.6 per cent.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-pharma-sector-set-for-9-6-cagr-reaching-55-bn-by-2030-report-124082900916\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-pharma-sector-set-for-9-6-cagr-reaching-55-bn-by-2030-report-124082900916_1.html)

### **External**

### **Ecom export hubs expected to create up to 2.75 lakh additional jobs: Report**

The union government's plan to set up 50 e-commerce hubs is expected to create up to 2.75 lakh additional jobs in the logistics sector, said a study released by TeamLease Degree Apprenticeship on Thursday. "India is making significant strides in transforming its economy by focusing on emerging sectors and integrating advanced technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). As part of this transformation, the government is establishing 50 e-commerce export hubs that will boost exports to \$100 billion and strengthen India's global trade presence.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ecom-export-hubs-expected-to-create-up-to-2-75-lakh-additional-jobs-report-124082901329\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ecom-export-hubs-expected-to-create-up-to-2-75-lakh-additional-jobs-report-124082901329_1.html)

### **Tyre exports from India increases by 17% to Rs 6,219 cr in Q1: ATMA**

Tyre exports from India grew 17 per cent year-on-year to reach Rs 6,219 crore in the first quarter of the current fiscal with the US emerging as the biggest market, industry body Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) said on Thursday. Tyre exports from India recouped in the first quarter of FY25, increasing by 17 per cent YoY. Tyre exports had declined by 14 per cent in the corresponding quarter in the previous year, ATMA said citing data just released by the Ministry of Commerce.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tyre-exports-from-india-increases-by-17-to-rs-6-219-cr-in-q1-atma-124082900774\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tyre-exports-from-india-increases-by-17-to-rs-6-219-cr-in-q1-atma-124082900774_1.html)

### **E-commerce export hubs open to biggies too**

The e-commerce export hubs (ECEH) that the government has proposed to set up will be open to all companies including existing large e-commerce players like Amazon, Flipkart and ShipRocket. The facility will be open to the existing players, who have the capacity to run such an operation involving sourcing, warehousing and exporting, a senior official said. For further feedback on the framework of these hubs a meeting with the industry representatives who might be interested in setting up these hubs has been called by the ministry of commerce and industry which will be held in the next 4-5 days.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-e-commerce-export-hubs-open-to-biggies-too-3596375/>

### **India prepares for trade council meetings with Kenya, Tanzania to push exports**

India is preparing for joint trade council meetings with its top trading partners in Africa — Kenya and Tanzania — scheduled in September this year as the country eyes doubling trade with African nations to \$200 billion by 2030.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-prepares-for-trade-council-meetings-with-kenya-tanzania-to-push-exports/article68582242.ece>