



September 27, 2024 – Friday

## Economy

### India jumps 42 spots in 9 years, ranks 39th in Global Innovation Index 2024

India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index has improved by 42 positions over the last 9 years, with the country now ranked first among the 38 lower-middle-income economies. According to the index released on Thursday, India holds the 39th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024, a remarkable improvement from its 81st position in 2015. The index evaluates the innovation performance of around 133 global economies, showcasing their strengths and weaknesses in fostering innovation.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-jumps-42-spots-in-9-years-ranks-39th-in-global-innovation-index-2024/articleshow/113721955.cms>

### DPIIT proposes to appoint agencies for ascertaining cost of regulation

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has proposed to appoint survey agencies to ascertain of cost of regulation in the country. The department is undertaking an exercise to assess the cost of regulations in states with a view to further improving the ease of doing business. "DPIIT proposed to undertake the measurement of administrative cost burden related to multiple compliance requirements prescribed by the government departments across the country," according to a request for proposal (RFP) of the department.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/dpiit-proposes-to-appoint-agencies-for-ascertaining-cost-of-regulation-124092600653\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/dpiit-proposes-to-appoint-agencies-for-ascertaining-cost-of-regulation-124092600653_1.html)

### Centre announces hike in minimum wages for workers by revising variable dearness allowance with effect from Oct 1

Amid a rise in cost of living, the Union government on Thursday announced a hike in minimum wage rates for workers up to Rs 1,035 a day by revising variable dearness allowance. This adjustment is aimed at helping workers cope with the rising cost of living, a labour ministry statement said. "This adjustment is aimed at helping workers cope with the rising cost of living," the statement said, referring to the 2.40-point rise in consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-hikes-minimum-wages-as-living-costs-surge/articleshow/113706225.cms>

### India doing well in infra; needs to do more to boost manufacturing: Rajan

India has done well in areas like infrastructure in the last 10 years, but it also needs to do more in other sectors to boost local manufacturing and job creation, former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan said on Thursday. In an interview with PTI, Rajan further said the government's focus on production, whether it is goods or services is a good thing, but it is also important to do it the right way. Responding to a question on the Modi government's flagship initiative 'Make in India', he said, "I would say the intention is good. I think in some areas, we have done a lot, as I said, in infrastructure...we have done a lot that has been very useful".

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-doing-well-in-infra-needs-to-do-more-to-boost-manufacturing-rajan-124092600570\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-doing-well-in-infra-needs-to-do-more-to-boost-manufacturing-rajan-124092600570_1.html)

### **Pickup in public expenditure may keep growth steady: Finance ministry**

After witnessing contraction in the first quarter of the current financial year (Q1FY25), the government is expecting public expenditure to pick up in the remaining quarters, even though there is a need for monitoring automobiles and fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sales due to slowdown seen in Q1, the finance ministry (FinMin)'s Monthly Economic Review for August said. "As public expenditure picks up and the rural economy strengthens, the overall growth is expected to remain steady in the subsequent quarters... urban consumption shows some signs of weakness, evident in the decline in automobile sales in the first five months of the current financial year compared to the same period last year," the monthly review said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pickup-in-public-expenditure-to-add-growth-investment-finmin-review-124092600973\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/pickup-in-public-expenditure-to-add-growth-investment-finmin-review-124092600973_1.html)

## **Finance**

### **Deposit growth outpaces Credit Growth in last 8 months: CARE Ratings**

Banking system deposit growth has outpaced credit growth in the last 8 months, data compiled by rating agency CARE showed. In absolute terms, over the last 8 months, credit expanded by Rs. 10.9 lakh crore to reach Rs. 170.5 lakh crore as of September 6, 2024. While deposits have expanded by Rs. 14.7 lakh crore over the last 8-months to reach Rs 215.5 lakhs crore.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/deposit-growth-outpaces-credit-growth-in-last-8-months-care-ratings/articleshow/113710780.cms>

### **GoM on GST on health, life insurance premium to meet on October 19**

The ministerial panel to decide on lowering goods and services tax (GST) on health and life insurance premiums will have its first meeting on October 19, officials said. Currently, 18 per cent GST is levied on insurance premiums and there have been demands to either exempt or reduce the tax. The GST Council in its meeting earlier this month decided to set up a 13-member GoM to decide on tax on health and life insurance premiums. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary is the convenor of the GoM.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gom-on-gst-on-health-life-insurance-premium-to-meet-on-october-19-124092600320\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/gom-on-gst-on-health-life-insurance-premium-to-meet-on-october-19-124092600320_1.html)

### **Millennials fuel surge in credit card defaults as e-commerce drives debt**

The increasing allure of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) schemes and easy e-commerce instalment purchases is propelling young millennials into a credit card debt spiral. According to data from TransUnion CIBIL, credit card defaults have risen from 1.6 per cent in March 2023 to 1.8 per cent by June 2024. Although this may seem marginal, the amount of outstanding credit card dues has skyrocketed to nearly Rs 2.7 trillion by June 2024, compared to Rs 2.6 trillion in March 2024 and just over Rs 2 trillion in March 2023, reported The Economic Times. Pre-pandemic, in March 2019, total card outstanding stood at Rs 87,686 crore, reflecting a 24 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over five years.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/millennials-fuel-surge-in-credit-card-defaults-as-e-commerce-drives-debt-124092600854\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/millennials-fuel-surge-in-credit-card-defaults-as-e-commerce-drives-debt-124092600854_1.html)

### **Govt retains borrowing target, to raise Rs 6.61 lakh crore in H2 to fund revenue gap**

The Centre has retained its borrowing target for the current financial year and plans to raise Rs 6.61 lakh crore through auction of dated securities during October-March period of 2024-25 to fund the revenue gap to boost economic growth. "Out of Gross Market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore budgeted for 2024-25, Rs 6.61 lakh crore (47.2 per cent) is planned to be borrowed in H2 through issuance of dated securities, including Rs 20,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs)," the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/govt-to-borrow-6-61-trillion-rupees-via-bonds-in-oct-march/articleshow/113703039.cms>

### **IBBI tweaks norms to speed up insolvency resolution in housing**

The insolvency watchdog has tweaked regulations to allow the hiring of an interim representative for a group of creditors like homebuyers until the bankruptcy court approves the final appointment to expedite the rescue of

stressed real estate companies. "This interim representative will have the same rights and duties as an authorised representative in meetings of the committee of creditors," the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) said in a statement on Thursday.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ibbi-amends-rules-to-enhance-interim-representation-for-creditors-in-insolvency-process/articleshow/113710994.cms>

## Industry

### High natural rubber prices to impact profitability of tyre makers: CRISIL

Inflated natural rubber prices which are way above the trend in the past decade could impact the profitability of tyre manufacturers, according to CRISIL Market Intelligence & Analytics. Tyre makers are headed for a rough patch as the price of natural rubber has surged more than 33 per cent on-year in just the first five months of this fiscal amid strong demand and crunched supply, which could strain profitability, CRISIL said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/high-natural-rubber-prices-to-impact-profitability-of-tyre-makers-crisil-124092600602\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/high-natural-rubber-prices-to-impact-profitability-of-tyre-makers-crisil-124092600602_1.html)

### Govt will launch skill voucher system very soon, says top official

The government will soon launch a skill voucher system, Secretary in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Atul Kumar Tiwari said on Thursday, asserting that the Centre is actively seeking industry partnerships to upgrade 1,000 industrial training institutes nationwide. The ambitious plan, he shared, aims to transform 200 industrial training institutes (ITIs) into hub institutions, with 800 more serving as spoke facilities as part of a major initiative to enhance the country's skill development ecosystem. At FICCI's Global Skills Summit 2024, Tiwari announced that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship would soon launch a skill voucher system.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-will-launch-skill-voucher-system-very-soon-says-top-official-124092600857\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-will-launch-skill-voucher-system-very-soon-says-top-official-124092600857_1.html)

### Average women representation in India Inc hasn't changed in 2 years: Study

The average representation of women in India Inc has not changed in the last two years and stands at 36.6 per cent, a study released on Thursday said. Last year, this stood at 36.9 per cent. The "Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) study" released by Avtar and Seramount showed that the representation of women improved rapidly from 25 per cent in 2016 to 33 per cent in 2019. However, its improvement slowed down during the Covid-19 years.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/average-women-representation-in-india-inc-hasn-t-changed-in-2-years-study-124092601226\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/average-women-representation-in-india-inc-hasn-t-changed-in-2-years-study-124092601226_1.html)

### Edible oil prices up 5-10 per cent, may rise further

Consumers are beginning to feel the pinch of inflation in kitchen staples such as edible oil following the recent hike in import duties announced on crude and refined oil. According to the Price Monitoring Cell of the Department of Consumers Affairs, the modal or benchmark retail price of mustard, sunflower and palm oil, which are commonly used in Indian kitchens, has appreciated to Rs 148/litre, Rs 129/litre and Rs 110/litre on Tuesday, from Rs 140, Rs 120 and Rs 100, respectively, on September 13. This is an increase of 5-10% since the announcement of the duty hike 12 days ago.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-edible-oil-prices-up-5-10-per-cent-may-rise-further-3621994/>

## Agriculture

### Govt mulls hike in sugar MSP, ethanol prices

The government is considering increasing ethanol prices, raising minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar, and reviewing sugar exports for the 2024-25 season, Food Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Thursday. "The petroleum ministry is seized of the matter. We are in touch with petroleum ministry. It is well under consideration to hike the ethanol price," Joshi told reporters on the sidelines of an industry conference here.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govt-mulls-hike-in-sugar-msp-ethanol-prices/articleshow/113713932.cms>

## Infrastructure

### Warehousing demand from manufacturing companies up in H1

India's emergence as a global manufacturing hub is fuelling warehousing demand from manufacturing-related sectors with multinationals setting up factories in the country. Demand from these sectors climbed to 25% of total domestic warehousing demand in the first half of calendar 2024 from 15% in 2019 led by factors like adoption of the China plus one strategy by multinationals and supportive Indian government policies such as the production linked incentive (PLI) scheme, which currently covers 14 sectors.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property/-/construction/warehousing-demand-from-manufacturing-companies-up-in-h1/articleshow/113715345.cms>

## Energy

### Headroom to slash petrol, diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre: Icra

A reduction in crude oil prices in recent weeks has improved margins on retail auto fuels, providing state-owned firms a headroom to cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre, rating agency Icra said on Thursday. The price of a basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$74 per barrel in September, down from about \$83-84 a barrel in March when petrol and diesel prices were last cut by Rs 2 per litre.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/headroom-to-slash-petrol-diesel-prices-by-rs-2-3-per-litre-icra-124092600478\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/headroom-to-slash-petrol-diesel-prices-by-rs-2-3-per-litre-icra-124092600478_1.html)

## Telecom

### 6G coming soon in India? Telecom minister Scindia meets Bharat 6G Alliance's working groups

Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday initiated a meeting with the seven working groups of the Bharat 6G Alliance, the minister said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). Hinting at the arrival of 6G in India, the minister wrote, "6G is India's future! 6G is India's potential!" "In line with PM Sh@narendramodi Ji's vision to make Bharat a "telecom superpower", glad to have initiated a meeting with the seven Working Groups of the Bharat 6G Alliance," he further added.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/6g-coming-soon-in-india-telecom-minister-scindia-meets-bharat-6g-alliances-working-groups/articleshow/113695404.cms>

## States

### Kerala CM plans on turning State into hub of wellness tourism

With the aim to turn Kerala into a hub of wellness tourism, considering the changing global trends and needs, the State government has formulated schemes to push for the same, said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/kerala-cm-plans-on-turning-state-into-hub-of-wellness-tourism/article68687041.ece>

## Healthcare

### CDSCO flags over 50 drugs of various companies as 'not of standard quality'

The country's central drug regulatory authority has listed samples of more than 50 drugs, including paracetamol, Pan D, calcium and vitamin D3 supplements, and anti-diabetes pills, as "not of standard quality" in its latest report. The batches of medicines flagged by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) in its drug alert for August are of companies such as Alkem Laboratories, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Hetero Labs Limited, Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Nestor Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Priya Pharmaceuticals and Scott-Edil Pharmacia Ltd.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cdscs-flags-over-50-drugs-of-various-companies-as-not-of-standard-quality-124092600690\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cdscs-flags-over-50-drugs-of-various-companies-as-not-of-standard-quality-124092600690_1.html)

## External

### **To streamline FDI clearance mechanism further : DPIIT Secretary**

The government continues to streamline the process for clearance of foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals in the restricted sectors so that they get cleared in the shortest possible time, while targeting \$100 billion inflows a year going ahead, a senior official said Wednesday. "FDI in most of the sectors is under automatic route, and only few sectors still remaining in the restricted category. We will continue to streamline the processes so that if any proposals that do not require restrictions are cleared in the shortest possible time after whatever consultations needed," secretary in the department of promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) Amardeep Singh Bhatia said. "There has been continuous effort for liberalising FDI," additional secretary in DPIIT Himani Pande said.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-to-streamline-fdi-clearance-mechanism-further-dpiit-secretary-3621978/>

### **India, Egypt identify international trade settlement, digital payments as focus areas**

India and Egypt have identified international trade settlement and digital payments, trade and investment in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), and transport and trade disputes as areas of focus, the government said Thursday after the sixth Session of India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC). New Delhi also said that necessary approvals for signing the MoU on cooperation between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) of India and MSME Development Agency (MSMEDA) of Egypt have been obtained.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-egypt-identify-international-trade-settlement-digital-payments-as-focus-areas/articleshow/113707023.cms>

### **Indian steelmakers seek higher tariffs as Chinese imports surge**

India's steelmakers have called on the government to double tariffs on steel imports to curb a surge in cheaper steel shipments from China, according to a letter from an industry association seen by Reuters. The world's second-biggest crude steel producer became a net importer of the alloy in the fiscal year through March 2024 and the trend has continued into the current year. Finished steel imports from China hit a seven-year high over April-August while overall finished steel imports hit a six-year high of 3.7 million metric tons.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-steelmakers-seek-higher-tariffs-as-chinese-imports-surge/articleshow/113694539.cms>