

July 18, 2025 – Friday

Economy

India's outward FDI surges to $5.03 bn in June, equity jumps threefold

India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments grew substantially on a year-on-year basis to $5.03 billion in June 2025, up from $2.9 billion in the same month last year. Sequentially, they rose from $2.7 billion in May 2025, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Outbound FDI, expressed as a financial commitment, comprises three components: equity, loans and guarantees. RBI data showed equity commitments rose more than threefold to $2.04 billion in June 2025, compared to $670.7 million in June 2024, and doubled from $987.1 million in May 2025.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-outward-fdi-rises-to-5-billion-in-june-2025-125071701129_1.html

India's goods exports likely to face headwinds in fiscal 2026: CRISIL

CRISIL forecasts headwinds for India's goods exports in fiscal 2026 due to potential US reciprocal tariffs, with negotiations for a bilateral trade agreement underway. Global growth is expected to slow, impacting India's merchandise trade. However, a services trade surplus and remittances should keep the current account deficit at a manageable 1.3% of GDP.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-goods-exports-likely-to-face-headwinds-in-fiscal-2026-crisil/articleshow/122632974.cms

Finance

India's office REITs see strong growth

India's office REIT market is experiencing robust growth, driven by strong leasing demand from global capability centers (GCCs) and a preference for institutional-grade assets. Office REIT stocks have outperformed the BSE Realty Index, delivering significant capital appreciation. A fourth office REIT is expected to debut by the end of 2025, further expanding the market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/property-/-cstruction/indias-office-reits-see-strong-growth/articleshow/122632771.cms

Claiming false deductions? I-T dept steps up scrutiny, warns of penalty

Tax experts are cautioning taxpayers against fraudulently claiming large deductions — such as inflated donations to charities, NGOs, or political parties, or exaggerated house rent allowance (HRA) claims — as the income tax (I-T) department has tightened scrutiny of such practices. In many such cases, the department has levied a penalty of 200 per cent of the unpaid tax, making it a costly mistake for taxpayers, say experts. "This year, taxpayers should be very careful," said CA Chetan Daga, founder of AdvantEdge Consulting.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/tax-experts-warn-against-fraudulent-deduction-claims-125071701010_1.html

Insurtech funding plunges over 70% from 2021 peak as sector consolidates

After a period of aggressive expansion, India's insurtech sector has entered a phase of consolidation, with funding dropping sharply from a peak of $820 million in 2021 to $239 million in 2024, according to a report by

Perfios and The Digital Fifth. The report noted that insurtech funding hit its highest level in 2021, driven by rapid scale-ups and strong investor enthusiasm. However, the trend began to shift in 2022, when funding dropped to $546 million, followed by a further decline to $497 million in 2023. This marked the beginning of a transition from rapid growth to a focus on sustainable and quality-driven expansion.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/insurtech-funding-plunges-over-70-from-2021-peak-as-sector-consolidates/3918278/

RBI to hold Rs 2L-cr 7-day VRRR today

The Reserve Bank of India will conduct a seven-day variable rate reversal repo auction for an amount of Rs 2 lakh crore on Friday, it said in a release. Previous actions in recent weeks met with a lukewarm response, including those for a shorter tenure of three days. The three-day auction held on July 15 received bids worth Rs 57,450 crore against the notified amount of Rs 1 lakh crore.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/rbi-to-hold-rs-2l-cr-7-day-vrrr-today/3918320/

Industry

India targets phase-wise goals under Automotive Mission Plan 2047

India is developing the Automotive Mission Plan (AMP) 2047 with phase-wise goals, guided by seven sub-committees comprising experts from government, industry, and academia. The plan aims to integrate stakeholder visions to address challenges like technological advancements and charging infrastructure. These sub-committees will consolidate ideas for presentation to an apex committee, focusing on India's global standing in 2047.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/india-targets-phase-wise-goals-under-automotive-mission-plan-2047/articleshow/122643567.cms

Regulatory push sends q-comm platforms into food safety talent crunch

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently mandated that all food handlers in dark stores and warehouses undergo food safety training and certification (FoSTaC). As platforms move to comply, they are finding themselves short-staffed and increasingly dependent on a limited pool of certified personnel. The result is a spike in compensation, growing use of consultants, and mounting pressure on already thin margins in a sector still chasing profitability.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/regulatory-push-sends-q-comm-platforms-into-food-safety-talent-crunch/3918105/

China's informal trade restrictions threaten India's $32 bn smartphone export target, warns industry body

India's electronics industry has flagged informal trade curbs by China as a serious risk to the country's smartphone export goals, which aim to hit $32 billion this fiscal. In a letter to the government, industry body ICEA warned that China is deploying unnotified but deliberate restrictions—on capital equipment, minerals, and technical personnel—that are delaying shipments, inflating costs, and undermining India's rise as a global manufacturing hub.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/chinas-informal-trade-restrictions-threaten-indias-32-bn-smartphone-export-target-warns-industry-body/articleshow/122674415.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Watt's Inside: Refrigerators, ACs, TVs to get new labels revealing energy use, brand details, and more

New energy efficiency labels are coming for appliances like ACs and refrigerators, as per the 'Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Appliance Labelling) Regulations, 2025'. These labels will feature detailed product information, including country of origin, energy consumption, a unique serial number, and a QR code.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/durables/watts-inside-refrigerators-acs-tvs-to-get-new-labels-revealing-energy-use-brand-details-and-more/articleshow/122670251.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Agriculture

China buoys India's rapeseed meal exports in Q1FY26; overall oilmeal exports marginally down

India's oilmeal exports registered a marginal decline of 0.72 per cent during the first three months of 2025-26, despite a drop in soyabean meal exports. However, the export of rapeseed meal gained momentum during the period with China emerging as a key market. Data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) showed that India exported 10.94 lakh tonnes (lt) of oilmeal during April-June 2025-26 against 11.02 lt in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. The overall export of rapeseed meal increased to 5.31 lt during Q1FY26 from 5.23.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/china-factor-drives-rapeseed-meal-exports-in-q1fy26-overall-oilmeal-exports-marginally-down/article69822321.ece

India's Q1 tea shipments up 17% at $219 million on strong demand

India's April-June quarter tea exports this fiscal registered a 17 per cent growth in value terms at $218.95 million over the same period last year's $187.38 million on strong demand for the brew from traditional buyers. During the month of June alone, the tea exports were up 32 per cent at $83.24 million over the same period last year's $62.76 million, as per the Commerce Ministry's quick data estimates. In Rupee value terms, the tea exports during Q1 were up by around 20 per cent at ₹1,873.72 crore from the corresponding last period's ₹1,563 crore. The value of shipments in June was up 36.5 per cent to ₹715.09 crore (₹523.87 crore).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-q1-tea-shipments-up-17-at-219-million-on-strong-demand/article69821835.ece

Domestic DAP makers take a lesser hit than importers amid price surge

Even as the price of imported finished Di-Ammonia Phosphate (DAP) is shooting through the roof due to China's export restriction and supply disruption, domestic manufactures of DAP are likely to take a lesser hit as the price of raw materials that goes into making the crucial plant nutrient has not risen by same proportion. This has also reignited calls for promoting domestic value-addition than encouraging imports which would also boost capacity utilisation. India imports more than half of its annual DAP consumption.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/domestic-dap-makers-take-a-lesser-hit-than-importers-amid-price-surge-125071700905_1.html

SC grants Fssai 3-month extension to decide on front-of-pack labels

The Supreme Court has granted the expert committee under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India another three months to submit its recommendations on the proposed introduction of mandatory warning labels on the front of packaged food items. Earlier this year, in April, the apex court had already allowed a 90-day extension to the committee for its recommendations on the amendments proposed by the Fssai regarding Front-of-Pack Warning Labels (FOPL) on packaged foods, to inform customers about the sugar, salt, and fat contents.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/sc-grants-fssai-expert-panel-3-more-months-to-decide-on-front-of-pack-labels-125071701299_1.html

Agri and processed foods exports rise 7% to $ 5.9 billion in Q1

India's exports of agricultural and processed food products have commenced on a brisk note in the current fiscal, with shipments rising by over 7% on year to $5.96 billion in April-June 2025. The rise in farm-sector shipments were driven primarily by a sharp increase in exports of rice, buffalo meat and fruits and vegetables. The rice exports, including basmati and non-basmati varieties, rose by over 3.5% to $ 2.9 billion in the first quarter of 2025-26 compared to previous year. In FY25, the rice exports were at a record $ 12.47 billion, an increase of over 20% compared to 2023-24.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/sc-grants-fssai-expert-panel-3-more-months-to-decide-on-front-of-pack-labels-125071701299_1.html

Energy

Crude oil prices will come down as India looks for more import sources: Hardeep Singh Puri

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri indicated India could lower fuel prices if crude oil prices remain stable for a few months, attributing this to diversified import sources. India has expanded its oil import network from 27 to 40

countries. Puri also noted that continued oil imports from Russia have helped stabilize global energy prices, preventing a potential price surge. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/crude-oil-prices-will-come-down-as-india-looks-for-more-import-sources-oil-minister-hardeep-singh-puri/articleshow/122633733.cms

India's electric vehicles now getting financed with new models

Innovative financing models are driving the electric commercial vehicle (EV) market in India. Startups and financiers are offering battery subscriptions, flexible EMIs, and first-loss guarantee partnerships to overcome traditional lending barriers. These approaches address the unique economics of EVs and the credit challenges faced by small commercial operators, making EV ownership more accessible. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/indias-electric-vehicles-now-getting-financed-with-new-models/articleshow/122639364.cms

Wind industry urges govt for phased localisation of key wind turbine components

Indian wind energy players are urging the government to adopt a phased approach to localizing wind turbine components. Concerns have been raised about a mandate for rapid localization, fearing supply chain bottlenecks and increased costs. Industry leaders advocate for strategic localization, focusing on quality manufacturing, global partnerships for specialized technologies, and export-linked incentives to build investor confidence. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/wind-industry-urges-govt-for-phased-localisation-of-key-wind-turbine-components/articleshow/122634347.cms

India tightens control on offshore Atomic Minerals with new licensing rules

India has announced sweeping regulations governing exploration and production of atomic minerals in offshore areas. The rules entail government oversight over strategic resources such as uranium and thorium, amid rising concerns over nuclear energy security and geopolitical risks. Foreign firms are barred from exploration activities unless specific relaxations are made; while state-owned entities or government nominated ones will be allowed. The Ministry of Mines, in coordination with the Department of Atomic Energy, notified the "Offshore Area Atomic Minerals Concession Rules, 2025" this week.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-tightens-control-on-offshore-atomic-minerals-with-new-licensing-rules/article69821718.ece

India's long overdue low-carbon development plan likely to see light

India is planning to announce its first nationwide long-term, low-carbon development strategy later this year, something that major emitters like China, Europe, and the United States have in place, according to a senior official involved in the climate plan. The country's emission-mitigation plan, which begins in 2040 and stretches till 2070, the deadline for "zero emission", will be underpinned by the first set of official numbers to be released by a top committee constituted by the NITI Aayog in April last year, offering multiple scenarios for transitioning to net zero by 2070 from 2040 onwards, the official said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-long-overdue-low-carbon-development-plan-likely-to-see-light-125071701481_1.html

Green energy feeders may soon power export, data hubs

India is exploring green energy feeders for green hydrogen production. This initiative supports export units and data centres. The government aims to identify transmission lines with over 90% green energy flow. These dedicated feeders will directly supply green power to plants and data centres. This move will help manufacturers identify their products as green energy-based. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/green-energy-feeders-may-soon-power-export-data-hubs/articleshow/122671468.cms

India needs USD 1.5 trillion investment across key sectors to address climate challenge: Report

India needs significant investment to combat climate change. A Deloitte India report estimates a requirement of USD 1.5 trillion by 2030. Renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and decarbonisation are key areas. Reaching 500 GW of renewable energy capacity requires substantial funds. Scaling up energy storage is also crucial. Strategic climate finance can accelerate decarbonisation efforts in India https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/india-needs-usd-1-5-trillion-investment-across-key-sectors-to-address-climate-challenge-deloitte-

report/articleshow/122657287.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

States

Uttar Pradesh govt plans civic infrastructure outlay of ₹3.44 trillion

The Uttar Pradesh government has proposed to spend ₹3.44 trillion to transform the civic infrastructure of the state, with a special focus on rural areas where it plans to spend 62 per cent of the total outlay, under its 'Mission 2031' programme. The remaining ₹1.29 trillion pertain to 17 municipal corporations, which are the biggest urban local bodies in UP. The state is looking to improve basic amenities such as roads, water supply, electricity and public infrastructure. Of the rural local bodies, the UP government is looking to inject ₹1.75 trillion in the gram panchayats. Similarly, the allocation for the UP block level development and district panchayats have been pegged at ₹17,000 crore and ₹23,000 crore respectively.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/uttar-pradesh-govt-plans-civic-infrastructure-outlay-of-3-44-trillion-125071700975_1.html

RTIRs 238 crore released to NCR cities under EPC funds for clean-air action plans

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has released more than Rs 238 crore to nine urban local bodies (ULBs) in the NCR as part of its efforts to support city-level air pollution control under the Environment Protection Charge (EPC) funds, an RTI reply has revealed. The funds were disbursed to ULBs in Gurugram, Jind, Narnaul, Nuh, Palwal, Greater Noida, Hapur, Bharatpur and Bhiwadi through the respective state pollution control boards (SPCBs), according to the reply provided by the CPCB's air quality management division to an application filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act on June 17.
https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/rtirs-238-crore-released-to-ncr-cities-under-epc-funds-for-clean-air-action-plans/3917951/

Cash makes a comeback in Bengaluru as vendors ditch UPI amid GST fears

UPI continues to dominate digital transactions across most Indian cities. But cash is making a comeback on the streets of Bengaluru. Neighbourhood vendors and small roadside stall owners of the city are turning to cash transactions again, citing rising "risks" associated with UPI payments. Instead of QR codes, signs reading "No UPI, only cash" are now seen among small-scale traders in Bengaluru, according to a report by *The Economic Times*.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/bengaluru-vendors-abandon-upi-opt-for-cash-amid-gst-fears-125071600953_1.html

Nuclear power plant: Karnataka to ask NTPC to submit report regarding location after carrying out study

The Karnataka cabinet has asked NTPC to conduct a state-wide study to identify suitable locations for a proposed nuclear power plant, rejecting three previously suggested sites in Vijayapura, Raichur, and Koppal. The state will decide on the location after reviewing NTPC's comprehensive report.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/nuclear-power-plant-karnataka-to-ask-ntpc-to-submit-report-regarding-location-after-carrying-out-study/articleshow/122661865.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Healthcare

India needs to offer tax incentives, push health startups to make country global medical hub: Report

A new report suggests India should offer tax incentives to hospitals treating international patients and support health-tech startups to become a global medical hub by 2035. India's medical tourism market is projected to reach $58.2 billion by 2035. The report recommends global branding campaigns, 'Heal in India' missions, and insurance portability to attract more international patients.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-needs-to-offer-tax-incentives-push-health-startups-to-make-country-global-medical-hub-report/articleshow/122635837.cms

CDSCO extends COPP application deadline for pharma units to August 15

In an effort to assist pharmaceutical manufacturing units in onboarding the quality certification process, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has extended the deadline for submitting online applications for a WHO GMP COPP certificate by another month. A Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (COPP)

is issued to confirm that a pharmaceutical product is authorised for sale in its country of origin and manufactured in compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cdsco-extends-deadline-for-online-copp-application-to-august-15-125071701294_1.html

Domestic med-tech companies flag security threat from Chinese devices

Indian medical tech leaders have voiced concerns to the government regarding the security risks associated with importing Chinese healthcare devices. They highlighted potential misuse for surveillance, cyberattacks, and data breaches, urging stricter scrutiny and measures to prevent rerouting via other countries. Manufacturers also seek streamlined regulations and policy support to boost domestic production and achieve self-reliance. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/domestic-med-tech-companies-flag-security-threat-from-chinese-devices/articleshow/122589770.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

External

India, UK likely to sign free trade agreement next week after review

India and the United Kingdom are expected to formally sign a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA) next week, aimed at strengthening economic and investment ties between the two countries, news agency *PTI* reported. The legal review of the final text is currently in progress. "The process of legal scrubbing of the FTA text is going on. It is expected to be signed next week," *PTI* quoted an official as saying. https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-uk-likely-to-sign-free-trade-agreement-next-week-after-review-125071700769_1.html

India should keep buying Russian oil despite US pressure, says GTRI

Global Trade Research Initiative suggests India maintain its stance on Russian oil imports. They advise resisting US pressure, highlighting the role of discounted oil in managing inflation. Ajay Srivastava notes potential tariff threats from Donald Trump. He emphasizes that altering policy won't prevent future demands. GTRI stresses strategic autonomy in energy policy for India amid geopolitical shifts. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-should-keep-buying-russian-oil-despite-us-pressure-says-gtri/articleshow/122635176.cms

India should negotiate trade agreement with US on its own term: EAC-PM chief S Mahendra Dev

S Mahendra Dev, Chairman of EAC-PM, suggests India should negotiate a trade agreement with the US on its terms, prioritizing national interests, anticipating boosted exports from FTAs. He advocates maintaining current inflation targets and FRBM for economic stability. PLI schemes, coupled with FTAs, are expected to attract FDI, enhance exports, and promote domestic manufacturing competitiveness. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-should-negotiate-trade-agreement-with-us-on-its-own-term-eac-pm-chief-s-mahendra-dev/articleshow/122627728.cms

India likely to settle for 10-15% tariff in interim trade deal with US

India may have to settle for tariffs of up to 15 per cent on its shipments under the interim trade deal with the US, currently under discussion, a government official said requesting anonymity. This will still put it in a better position than competing developing countries, such as Indonesia (19 per cent) and Vietnam (20 per cent), which have agreed to higher tariffs in deals with Washington. https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-likely-to-settle-for-10-15-tariff-in-interim-trade-deal-with-us-125071701309_1.html