

July 28, 2025 – Monday

Economy

Indian economy can grow over 6.5% in FY26 without hurdles: RBI MPC member

Indian economy is growing at a robust pace and will not face any challenge in achieving a growth rate upwards of 6.5 per cent in the current financial year, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) member Nagesh Kumar said on Sunday. Kumar, in an interview with PTI Videos, further said that Indian economy, among all economies, continues to remain a bright spot for the world.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/indian-economy-can-grow-over-6-5-in-fy26-without-hurdles-rbi-mpc-member-125072700178_1.html

Economists split on interest rate cuts as inflation hits six-year low

Economists are divided on whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) should cut interest rates in August. Some point to low inflation, while others advocate caution, citing uncertainty in trade policy and the need to assess future inflation trends. The RBI will consider GDP projections and retail inflation figures when the Monetary Policy Committee meets in August.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/economists-split-on-interest-rate-cuts-as-inflation-hits-six-year-low/articleshow/122939638.cms

Finance

Payment banks seek 10% reduction in statutory liquidity ratio, nod to lend

Payment banks are urging the RBI to reduce the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) by at least 10% to invest in higher-yielding instruments and boost margins. They're also seeking permission to disburse loans and accept deposits up to ₹5 lakh. With previous requests unanswered, they've requested a meeting with the RBI governor to discuss these issues.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/payment-banks-seek-10-reduction-in-statutory-liquidity-ratio-nod-to-lend/articleshow/122939700.cms

NPAs in agriculture sector stay high amid loan-saturation concerns

Bad loans in the agriculture sector remain elevated, with several public-sector banks (PSBs) reporting higher slippages in the April-June quarter of FY26. For many banks, non-performing assets (NPAs) in farm lending were 5 per cent or more, with some nearing double digits. The stress reflects growing concern over loan saturation, with some PSBs reporting lower single-digit year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/npas-in-agriculture-sector-stay-high-amid-loan-saturation-concerns-125072700446_1.html

SEBI, exchanges revise surveillance framework for small-cap firms effective July 28

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), along with stock exchanges, has revised the enhanced surveillance mechanism (ESM) for companies with market capitalisation under ₹1,000 crore with an aim to fine-tune the

monitoring of small and micro-cap stocks effective July 28. The revisions were finalised during a joint meeting between the market regulator and exchanges on Friday and are expected to benefit 28 companies currently under the surveillance framework.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-exchanges-revise-surveillance-framework-for-small-cap-firms-effective-july-28/article69861598.ece#goog_rewarded

IRDAI makes it mandatory for insurers to cover 75,000 gram panchayats by end of next fiscal

In a move that can take social security through insurance to the countryside, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed insurers to cover 75,000 Gram Panchayats over the next two years as part of rural, social sector and motor third party obligations. The mandatory coverage of the specified number of Panchayats is applicable to all life, general and health insurers including stand- alone health insurance companies.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/irdai-makes-it-mandatory-for-insurers-to-cover-75000-gram-panchayats-by-end-of-next-fiscal/article69861526.ece#goog_rewarded

Digital debt collection makes strides as lenders use tech to cut visits

"We currently manage collections for over 98 million retail and small-business loan accounts, covering a loan book of about $250 billion," says Rishabh Goel, cofounder and chief executive officer (CEO) of Credgenics, a software-as-a-service platform for debt collection. With more than 700 million smartphone users and over 450 million UPI users, digital access is everywhere. "WhatsApp, used by over 550 million of us, is now a default channel for collections and legal followups," points out Nitin Purswani, cofounder and CEO of Medius Technologies. And that "over 25 million people paid EMIs digitally in May 2025. Many of these are missed EMI recoveries".
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/digital-debt-collection-makes-strides-as-lenders-use-tech-to-cut-visits-125072700724_1.html

New Income Tax bill gives no new search powers, eases compliance: Baijayant Panda

Baijayant Panda, chairperson of the parliamentary select committee, stated that the new income-tax bill simplifies the tax code and reduces ambiguities for taxpayers. The committee suggested around 285 changes, including reinstating a provision on inter-corporate dividends.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-income-tax-bill-gives-no-new-search-powers-eases-compliance-baijayant-panda/articleshow/122939497.cms

Industry

DPIIT identifies electronics, chemicals, footwear, toys as key sectors for FDI growth

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has identified key sectors with high potential such as electronics, chemicals, footwear and toys where it seeks to boost foreign direct investments (FDI) by actively seeking out companies and facilitating inflows, sources have said. The DPIIT – the nodal Ministry for FDI in India – is also working with States to help them meet the needs of potential investors within the policy space determined by their regulations, the source added.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/dpiit-identifies-electronics-chemicals-footwear-toys-as-key-sectors-for-fdi-growth/article69861260.ece#goog_rewarded

Cert-In makes annual cybersecurity audit mandatory for companies

In a first, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) has made it mandatory for private and public-sector organisations that own or operate digital systems, processes, or infrastructure, to undergo a comprehensive third-party cybersecurity audit at least once a year. This is the first such directive for the private sector. The guidelines by Cert-In allow sectoral regulators to mandate audits more frequently if needed, Cert-In said.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cert-in-mandates-annual-cybersecurity-audit-for-public-private-companies-125072700416_1.html

Legacy 2W makers raise R&D spend as EV race intensifies

After surpassing new-age startups in the electric two-wheeler (E2W) market, legacy manufacturers are stepping up research and development (R&D) investments in design and new product development to stay ahead of their tech-driven rivals.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/legacy-2w-makers-raise-rampd-spend-as-ev-race-intensifies/3928181/

Beverage makers' April-June quarter takes a hit due to unseasonal rain

Early monsoon and unseasonal rainfall this year in most parts of the country have impacted the topline of beverage makers in the June quarter. This has not only impacted sales of the cola brands but also traditional milk-based beverage products, such as lassi, shakes, flavoured milks, and buttermilk. Interestingly, the beverage makers had early volume gains in 2026 as summer arrived early. They had stocked inventory and channels in anticipation of a repeat of last year's bumper sales.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/beverage-makers-april-june-quarter-takes-a-hit-due-to-unseasonal-rain-125072700543_1.html

Hotels target frequent air travellers to attract customers amid travel boom

With Indians constantly on the move, hotel chains are deploying a common strategy: tap into the growing number of frequent air travellers. Radisson Hotel Group recently launched Radisson Flights in India, partnering with Etraveli Group, a global flight technology provider. Radisson Flights, an integrated booking platform, will offer a 20 per cent discount on hotel stays with every flight booking. The group is rolling out a similar service in 14 other countries. Sarovar Hotels has tied up with FLY91, a regional carrier, to offer discounts to guests at select places in the country. In April, Accor Hotels and low-cost carrier IndiGo announced they will collaborate for their customer loyalty programmes. Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, which has a partnership with Pegasus Airlines, is exploring ways to provide similar offers to its customers in India.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/hotels-target-frequent-air-travellers-to-attract-customers-amid-travel-boom-125072700503_1.html

Auto companies align dispatches with retail demand amid stock pileup

Manufacturers of passenger vehicles (PVs) in the first half of the calendar year (2025) reported a modest 0.5 per cent year-on-year increase in wholesale dispatches, while retail sales grew 2.5 per cent for the same period, reflecting a calibrated approach by automakers amid elevated dealership inventories and cautious consumer sentiment. According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (Siam), dispatches rose marginally to 2,164,785 units, up from 2,152,828 units a year earlier.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/auto-cos-align-dispatches-to-retail-demand-amid-inventory-buildup-125072700454_1.html

Agriculture

India’s farm commodities may not gain much from FTA as UK is not a major buyer of raw produce

India’s farm commodities may not gain substantially from FTA with the UK as the country is not a major importer of raw produce and prefer mainly processed products instead. At the same time, there is no threat from the UK to Indian agriculture as it does not have any substantial export of raw agriculture produce to any country.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-farm-commodities-may-not-gain-much-from-fta-as-uk-is-not-a-major-buyer-of-raw-produce/article69861866.ece

Public-sector to drive genome-edited rice seeds: Govt

The agriculture ministry has stated that since the world’s first two genome-edited and high-yielding rice varieties unveiled recently have been developed through indigenous efforts, the seeds would be available to farmers through state-owned entities. “There is no issue of bearing on the seed sovereignty of India’s farming community,” the ministry has stated amid concerns raised by certain quarters about potential intellectual property rights (IPRs) issues when the rice varieties would get ready for commercial release.
https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/public-sector-to-drive-genome-edited-rice-seeds-govt/3928081/

Infrastructure

India earmarks 15,000 acres for coastal shipbuilding clusters, targets ₹1.5 lakh crore investment

India has locked in nearly 15,000 acres of land across five coastal states — Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Maharashtra — for proposed shipbuilding clusters. Nearly 40 per cent of the land parcels identified or under consideration is across four locations in Maharashtra, approximately 5,800 acres, documents reviewed by businessline show. These come as the Ministry continues to woo global major towards ship-building activities in India. According to a senior official of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), land parcels are being identified through the respective state governments.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/india-earmarks-15000-acres-for-coastal-shipbuilding-clusters-targets-15-lakh-crore-investment/article69861328.ece#goog_rewarded

Telecom

UK firms can offer telecom, construction services in India without local office under CETA

Companies from the UK will be able to offer services in sectors such as telecom, and construction in India without setting up a local presence, under the free trade agreement signed between the two countries. The British firms will be treated on par with Indian firms. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed on July 24 in London. It may take about a year for items implementation as the free trade pact needs approval from the British Parliament.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/uk-firms-can-offer-telecom-construction-services-in-india-without-local-office-under-ceta/article69862213.ece

States

States likely lifted Q1 capex 30% amid slowdown

States in India significantly increased their capital expenditure by an estimated 30% year-on-year in Q1 FY26, reaching ₹95,823 crore, as part of a broader public capex push to stimulate economic activity.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/states-likely-lifted-q1-capex-30-amid-slowdown/3928246/

Govt works on plan to deregulate licensing requirements to transform Delhi into an 'investment destination'

The central government wants to improve business in Delhi. It has asked Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena to simplify licensing rules. The goal is a single-window clearance system. This aims to attract investment. Key changes include removing the need for multiple licenses. Businesses registered under GST or FSSAI may not need separate Shops and Establishment Act registration.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-works-on-plan-to-deregulate-licensing-requirements-to-transform-delhi-into-an-investment-destination/articleshow/122934765.cms

Delhi govt drafts new logistics policy to cut pollution, decongest roads, and boost trade efficiency

The Delhi government is preparing to launch its Logistics and Warehousing Policy 2025, with the draft already outlining measures that will not only decongest Delhi but also reduce pollution and improve trade efficiency. The government is exploring dedicated logistics hubs, green freight corridors, and technology-driven solutions initiatives that promise to ease traffic congestion, reduce emissions, and enhance the ease of doing business.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/delhi-govt-drafts-new-logistics-policy-to-cut-pollution-decongest-roads-and-boost-trade-efficiency/article69862001.ece

Maharashtra agro corp to set up units to manage farmers' crop surplus

The state-owned Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation (MAIDC) plans to procure mobile processing units to help farmers manage excess production of certain crops by enhancing their shelf life by 12-18 months, an official has said. Oversupply in the market forces farmers to sell their produce, particularly the perishable ones, at throwaway prices or even discard them. The MAIDC initiative aims at ensuring good returns to the growers, said the managing director of the corporation, Mangesh Gondavale.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/maharashtra-agro-corp-to-set-up-units-to-manage-farmers-crop-surplus-125072700092_1.html

AP can be a gateway to Singapore's investments in India: CM Naidu

Andhra Pradesh offers abundant opportunities for investment across multiple sectors, including ports and green energy, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said in Singapore. Naidu is leading a high-level delegation in Singapore to foster greater collaboration with the Government and showcase Andhra Pradesh as `gateway to Singapore's investments in India. The State Government had put in place many `progressive and investor-friendly' policies to facilitate investments from Singapore-based enterprises.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/ap-can-be-a-gateway-to-singapores-investments-in-india-cm-naidu/article69861723.ece#goog_rewarded

Healthcare

Pharma exports seen to double to $65-bn by 2030 despite headwinds

Despite US tariff concerns, India's pharmaceutical exports are projected to double to $65 billion by 2030. This growth is fueled by a strategic shift towards advanced therapeutics, complex generics, global acquisitions, and improved regulatory compliance, as Indian drugmakers expand their market share in key regions like the US and Europe.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/pharma-exports-seen-to-double-to-65-bn-by-2030-despite-headwinds/3928075/

External

India should push for joint statement in trade talks with US: GTRI

India must proceed with caution in its trade talks with the US, drawing lessons from countries like Vietnam and Japan, economic think tank GTRI said on Sunday. To prevent any misrepresentation, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said New Delhi should insist on a jointly issued written statement before acknowledging the final terms of any agreement. It added that a Japanese government document released on July 25 shows major gaps between Japan's understanding of a new trade deal with the United States and how President Trump portrayed it just days earlier.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-should-push-for-joint-statement-in-trade-talks-with-us-gtri-125072700458_1.html

Fisheries and aqua sector see big boost from UK trade deal, Maldives MoU

Amid the ongoing talks for a trade deal between India and the United States (US), the marine and aquaculture sector saw two crucial developments in the past few days. Firstly, the signing of the landmark trade deal between India and the United Kingdom (UK) has opened the door for the lucrative European market for India's seafood and marine exports. In the second one, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed with Maldives during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Male. A major component of the pact deals with joint investments in infrastructure for the marine sector.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/fisheries-and-aqua-sector-see-big-boost-from-uk-trade-deal-maldives-mou-125072700382_1.html

Govt to hold 1,000 stakeholder meetings, workshops on India-UK trade pact

The government will organise as many as 1,000 outreach programmes, including stakeholder meetings, workshops, awareness drives and feedback sessions, in the next 20 days across the country to sensitise industry and states on the India-UK trade agreement, sources said. The exercise is aimed at ensuring effective implementation and maximising benefits from the comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA), which was signed on July 24.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-to-hold-1-000-stakeholder-meetings-workshops-on-india-uk-trade-pact-125072700262_1.html

Govt offers duty relief on certain UK goods, sensitive sectors excluded

India has granted tariff concessions to a wide range of British goods under the recently signed free trade agreement (FTA), including pastries, pet food, cosmetics and microwave ovens, while keeping sensitive sectors out to safeguard domestic interests. The comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA), which was signed on July 24, also offers duty-free access to UK products such as cakes, protein concentrates, dog and cat food, soaps, shaving cream, detergents, and home appliances like air conditioners and washing machines.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-offers-duty-relief-on-certain-uk-goods-sensitive-sectors-excluded-125072700287_1.html

India-UK deal to help boost chemical exports, manufacturing: CHEMEXCIL

The free trade agreement between India and the UK will help boost the country's chemical exports and domestic manufacturing as a number of product categories from the segment will enjoy duty-free access in Britain, CHEMEXCIL said on Sunday. Chemicals exporters body CHEMEXCIL (Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council) said that under the trade agreement, more than 1,000 tariff lines (or product categories) from the chemicals sectors are granted zero-duty access to the UK market.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-uk-deal-to-help-boost-chemical-exports-manufacturing-chemexcil-125072700288_1.html