

August 11, 2025 – Monday

Economy

Align skill development programmes with local needs: House committee

A parliamentary standing committee has said that skill development programmes must align with local needs so that people can build capabilities for employment. In its latest report, the House panel has also asked the ministry of skill development and entrepreneurship (MSDE) for "early completion and publication" of skill gap reports. "The committee attaches priority to aligning skill development programmes with the demand of the region/local needs for skills and urges the ministry for early completion and publication of the report, so that skill gaps are addressed, individual skills improved and adaptation to changes facilitated, thereby enhancing employability," the committee stated in the report.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/house-panel-skill-programmes-local-needs-pmkvy-skill-gap-reports-125081000274_1.html

Capex by CPSEs, four key government agencies declines 23% y-o-y in July

Capital expenditure by large central public sector enterprises moderated in July, declining 23% year on year to ₹53,406 crore, attributed partly to an unfavorable base effect. However, spending between April and July rose 2.5% to ₹2.21 lakh crore, driven by a strong June quarter. The Railway Board and NHAI remained the top spenders during this period.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/capex-by-cpses-four-key-government-agencies-declines-23-y-o-y-in-july/articleshow/123221839.cms

Govt to withdraw draft Digital Competition Bill

India withdraws the draft Digital Competition Bill after opposition from global tech majors and domestic platforms. As part of a rethink, the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) will first commission a comprehensive market study, involving consultations with other ministries such as the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) and extensive engagement with industry stakeholders, before coming up with a fresh version of the legislation. Sources said that in all probability, ex-ante provisions may not figure in any fresh draft of the Bill.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-govt-to-withdraw-draft-digital-competition-bill-3942328/

Finance

Banks turn off funding tap to below 'A' rated MFIs as stress persists

Banks, especially public sector ones (PSBs), have halted extending loans to below "A" rated micro-finance institutions (MFI) as stress in the sector continues to rise, sources say. "Last year's negative developments in the sector have led most banks to withdraw funding to MFIs. Most PSBs, which typically extend loans to MFIs, especially State Bank of India, have become bit cautious. Even DFIs like Nabard and SIDBI have tightened their funding criteria. Total fund flow from banking system to MFIs is almost 50 per cent less than last year," an industry source said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/banks-turn-off-funding-tap-to-below-a-rated-mfis-as-stress-persists/article69916668.ece

PSBs step on the gas in retail as private ones take foot off the pedal

Indian public sector banks are aggressively expanding their retail loan portfolios. They are growing faster than private sector banks in this segment. State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank are leading this growth. Private banks are becoming cautious due to rising defaults in unsecured loans.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/psbs-step-on-the-gas-in-retail-as-private-ones-take-foot-off-the-pedal/articleshow/123222980.cms

UPI's top checkout by volume in July: The grocery aisle dominates

Grocery stores and supermarkets recorded the highest over three billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions worth ₹64,881.98 crore in July, accounting for nearly a quarter of all UPI peer-to-merchant (P2M) transactions by volume, according to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) data. This is the first time the payments body has released such detailed category-wise numbers. Moreover, debt collection agencies topped the charts by value, recovering ₹93,857 crore through 161.36 million transactions, showcasing new use cases of the real-time payments system, data reviewed by Business Standard showed.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/upi-s-top-checkout-in-july-the-grocery-aisle-125081000433_1.html

SEBI moots lighter regulatory framework for AIFs with accredited investors

Capital markets regulator SEBI has proposed a separate category of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) schemes, consisting of accredited investors, which will enjoy a lighter-touch regulatory framework compared to regular AIFs. In a consultation paper issued on Friday, SEBI suggested that such accredited investors (AI-only schemes) could be allowed certain flexibilities, given that accredited investors are deemed to have the knowledge, financial capacity and risk appetite to make informed investment decisions without the same level of regulatory safeguards required for retail participants.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-moots-lighter-regulatory-framework-for-aifs-with-accredited-investors/article69917219.ece

Major private insurers seek time until 2027 for public listing plans

Several major private life and general insurance companies, directed to submit draft plans for public listing on Indian stock exchanges, have requested an extension from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) until 2027, according to sources familiar with the matter. “The private insurance companies have informed Irdai they need time until 2027 to submit their public listing plans, as India will fully adopt the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 17 in 2026,” said one source.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/private-insurers-seek-time-till-2027-for-public-listing-plans-125081000556_1.html

Industry

IBBI suggests guidelines to avoid dual proceedings

An expert committee with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed a new set of rules to avoid duplication of action against the erring insolvency professionals (IPs). In a report, the committee noted that parallel disciplinary actions by both IBBI and insolvency professional agencies (IPAs) for similar contraventions can be avoided, by periodic data sharing and regular review meetings between the two.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-ibbi-suggests-guidelines-to-avoid-dual-proceedings-3942261/

India sets sights on critical minerals with law tweaks

The government is expected to seek parliamentary approval this week for amendments to mining laws, primarily to enable state funding for acquiring critical mineral assets overseas. Approved within the government, the Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act could be introduced in Parliament as early as Monday.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-sets-sights-on-critical-minerals-with-law-tweaks/articleshow/123223052.cms

Festive discounts remain high as carmakers rush to clear inventory

Festive discounts on mass-market passenger vehicles (PV) continued to remain high in August, ranging between ₹40,000 to over ₹1 lakh, as carmakers scramble to liquidate inventory ahead of the upcoming launches and avoid heavy discounting during the festive season. With Rakshabandhan and Ganesh Chaturthi falling during the month, the discounts are almost at a similar level as compared to last year. In 2024, carmakers had rolled out steep incentives to clear older stock, with average cash discounts and exchange bonuses in the ₹60,000–₹1 lakh range on slow-moving models.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/car-discounts-festive-season-august-rakshabandhan-ganesh-chaturthi-125081000148_1.html

Growth in wage cost slows to 4-year low, but BFSI sector gives generous payouts

The growth in the salary bill of Nifty 50 companies has skid quite sharply in FY25, growing just 5 per cent and marking a four-year low, a businessline analysis shows. While it is widely believed that IT companies are the most generous in giving increments and absorbing personnel, the trend appears to be changing. The BFSI sector, particularly private sector banks and NBFCs, have recorded the largest increase in employee cost in FY25 as well as over the last five years. Public sector enterprises, on the other hand, appear to be reducing their employee bills quite sharply.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/data-stories/deep-dive/growth-in-wage-cost-slows-to-4-year-low-but-bfsi-sector-gives-generous-payouts/article69916277.ece

Electric two-wheeler manufacturing loses charge amid rare earth shortage

A global squeeze on heavy rare earth magnets has reduced the Indian electric two-wheeler output, with the country's EV industry racing to fast-track magnet-free motor designs and diversifying sourcing to keep assembly lines moving. Among major players, Bajaj Auto has already slashed production by up to 50 per cent in July and warned of continued curbs through August and September. Hero MotoCorp has said that it has managed to secure supplies for both ICE and EV models for Q2, while TVS has indicated that they are managing daily production through locally sourced higher-sized magnets. Among newer entrants, Ather CEO Tarun Mehta clarified that while there is no full halt in production, the supply gap is affecting deal demand fulfilment in Q2.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/rare-earth-magnet-shortage-india-ev-two-wheeler-production-q2-125081000151_1.html

Big FMCG firms to counter rise of regional rivals

Big FMCG companies like Britannia, HUL, and Marico are ramping up pricing, distribution, local flavours, and acquisitions to counter rising regional brands like Jaya Biscuits, Gippi Noodles, and Zoff Foods, which are winning market share with affordability, innovation, and quick commerce.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-big-fmcg-firms-to-counter-rise-of-regional-rivals-3942282/

Early rains, lower temperatures hit demand for fans, ACs in Q1

Early onset of monsoons and lower-than-expected temperatures in many parts of the country hit demand for fans and air conditioners, reflecting in the performance of manufacturers of such products, who reported significant decline in sales. Still carrying a good amount of inventory, fans and AC companies are hoping for a demand revival during the festival season and higher temperature post monsoons to boost sales in H2.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/early-rains-lower-temperatures-hit-demand-for-fans-acs-in-q1/article69916899.ece

India evolving into one of the world's leading aerospace nations, says ISRO chairman

India has made a giant leap in aerospace technology and defence technology, evolving into one of the world's leading nations, according to V Narayanan, Chairman, ISRO, who was speaking to the 2025 graduates at the 21st Convocation Ceremony held at SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Chennai. "In the early days, with crucial support such as the small rocket donated by the USA, India's space program took its first steps. Since then, India has

come a long way when it comes to space technology reflecting the unwavering vision and dedication of our scientists and engineers, propelling India toward a future defined by technological strength and national security." he added.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-evolving-into-one-of-the-worlds-leading-aerospace-nations-says-isro-chairman/article69916747.ece

India's GCC boom unlikely to get caught in the cross hairs of Trump tariffs

India's booming GCC ecosystem is likely to stay immune to the souring business relations between India and the US in the near-term, given the strategic contribution of talent in India's GCCs to parent US corporations. This, coupled the US' trade surplus with India when it comes to services, makes Indian captive centers of American companies reasonably safe, say industry trackers.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/indias-gcc-boom-unlikely-to-get-caught-into-the-cross-hairs-of-trump-tariffs/article69916802.ece

India emerging as global education hub amid stricter foreign admissions, visa challenges

As global universities tighten their admission policies and visa challenges grow, India is rising as a global education hub, prompting many students to rethink their study-abroad plans, according to several top officials of educational institutions. Top officials of many eminent educational institutions said that initiatives such as e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access Indian educational institutions.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/india-emerging-as-global-education-hub-amid-stricter-foreign-admissions-visa-challenges/article69916219.ece

Agriculture

Higher MSP, import curbs help moong acreage surpass last year's level

Moong has become a standout crop in terms of acreage this kharif season compared to urad and tur or arhar, which, many traders said, could be correlated to the crop's good procurement by state agencies, higher minimum support price (MSP), and also policies on imports. While areas under arhar and urad — the other major pulses grown during kharif season — are both trailing (as of August 1) compared to last year by 6.6 per cent and 2.1 per cent, respectively, acreage under moong is almost 3.2 per cent more than last year's level.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/moong-acreage-traumps-last-years-level-due-to-higher-area-in-rajasthan-125080801500_1.html

India's push for self-reliance in edible oils not a threat, says Malaysia

Malaysia does not see India's ambitious push for self-reliance in edible oils through the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) as a threat but as a strategic opportunity. The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) has welcomed the initiative as a forward-looking step to boost India's edible oil security, while reaffirming the role of Malaysia, the world's second-largest producer of palm oil, as a key and long-term supplier.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-push-for-self-reliance-in-edible-oils-not-a-threat-says-malaysia/article69913488.ece

Shivraj Chouhan to transfer ₹3,200 cr crop insurance to 3 million farmers

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will on Monday digitally transfer a crop insurance claim amount of ₹ 3,200 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to 3 million farmer beneficiaries. Of the total claim amount, ₹ 1,156 crore will be transferred to farmers in Madhya Pradesh, ₹ 1,121 crore to 700 thousand farmers in Rajasthan, ₹ 150 crore to Chhattisgarh-based farmers, and ₹ 773 crore to farmers in other states, according to an official statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/shivraj-chouhan-to-transfer-3-200-cr-crop-insurance-to-3-million-farmers-125081000409_1.html

Energy

MNRE aims to clear backlog of ₹200 cr subsidy for CBG plants post monsoon

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is working to clear a little over ₹200 crore subsidy backlog for waste to energy projects under the National Bioenergy Programme (NBP). Officials indicated this would be taken up after post-monsoon inspections by biomass pellet developers. Delays have stemmed from stringent norms, eased last June, and off-take challenges for larger plants.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/mnre-aims-to-clear-backlog-of-200-cr-subsidy-for-cbg-plants-post-monsoon-125081000299_1.html

India mulls setting up LME-style metal, mineral trading exchange

Government is mulling amendments in the existing legal framework to make way for a mineral and metal trading exchange on the lines of London Metal Exchange (LME) or Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE). According to a Cabinet note moved on August 7, the contents of which were reviewed by businessline, this structured marketplace is being envisaged to ensure better price discovery.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/india-mulls-setting-up-mineral-and-metal-trading-exchange-opens-door-for-full-mine-sales/article69914711.ece

Govt plans to ease petrol pump licensing norms amid energy security push

The government is considering further easing the norms for setting up petrol pumps in the world's fastest-growing fuel market, in light of the evolving energy security paradigm and commitment to decarbonisation, according to an official order. The government had in 2019 relaxed the norms for setting up petrol pumps, opening the door for non-oil companies to enter the fuel retailing business. At that time, companies with a net worth of Rs 250 crore were permitted to sell petrol and diesel, provided they committed to setting up infrastructure for at least one new-generation alternative fuel, such as CNG, LNG, biofuels, or EV charging, within three years of beginning their operations.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-plans-to-ease-petrol-pump-licensing-norms-amid-energy-security-push-125081000146_1.html

Private sector likely to play a key role in nuclear power road map

The Union Government is formulating a comprehensive national nuclear energy mission, which was announced in the 2025-26 Union Budget, aiming to install 22 gigawatt (GW) of nuclear power capacity by 2032 and 100 GW by 2047. The current nuclear power capacity is 8.8 GW. The capacity expansion plan involves setting up nuclear power plants across states through joint ventures between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and the private sector and amending several laws, it is learnt. A consultative process is underway, led by NITI Aayog along with NPCIL, involving state energy ministers as nodal points to ensure alignment with state-level energy priorities.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/private-sector-likely-to-play-a-key-role-in-nuclear-power-road-map-125081000525_1.html

Telecom

Telecom content spends rise in FY25 with Jio in lead

India's telecom operators increased content spending in FY25, reaching ₹1,676 crore, after a dip in FY24. Jio Platforms significantly boosted its content costs by 153% to ₹915 crore, driven by deals with JioHotstar for cricket events. Meanwhile, Airtel and Vodafone Idea reduced their content budgets, focusing on cost management and strategic partnerships with various OTT platforms to enhance customer engagement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/telecom-content-spends-rise-in-fy25-with-jio-in-lead/articleshow/123222080.cms

States

Centre wants states to support exporters hit by Donald Trump tariff

The commerce and industry ministry is set to reach out to export-oriented states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, urging them to support labour-intensive sectors hit by the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the US government. Exporters have warned that the US tariff hike poses a setback, affecting nearly 55 per cent of India’s

shipments to the American market. Apparel and leather exporters are expected to be the worst hit, particularly as this is the period when orders for the festival season are typically placed.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/analysis/centre-wants-states-to-support-exporters-hit-by-donald-trump-tariff-125081000545_1.html

AP Govt collaborates with industry to boost economy of tribal regions

Tata Consumers will take the Araku Coffee brand to larger domestic and global markets. Starbucks will add it to its menu. These were part of 21 MoUs AP Govt has inked to harness the economic potential in the forest economy and tribal regions in the State. Tata Consumers signed an MoU with Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) to take the organic Araku Coffee brand to larger domestic and global markets. Additionally, Starbucks will also introduce Araku Coffee to its menu.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/ap-govt-collaborates-with-industry-to-boost-economy-of-tribal-regions/article69916399.ece

Telangana govt launches accelerator for culinary ventures to promote cultural tourism

There are several local food brands in tier-2 and tier-3 cities that fail to expand beyond their towns and capitalise on their brand. With that in mind, the Government of Telangana has joined hands with The Culinary Lounge to launch a Culinary and Experiential Tourism Accelerator, aimed at tapping into the $1-trillion global culinary tourism market.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/an-exclusive-accelerator-for-culinary-ventures-to-promote-cultural-tourism/article69916678.ece

External

Indian envoy discusses energy security with US Senator Lindsey Graham amid tensions over Russian oil imports

India's Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra discussed energy security with US Senator Lindsey Graham, highlighting growing energy trade. This followed Graham's call for India to use its influence with Russia to help end the Ukraine war, amidst rising trade tensions after the US imposed tariffs on Indian imports due to continued Russian oil purchases.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-envoy-discusses-energy-security-with-us-senator-lindsey-graham-amid-tensions-over-russian-oil-imports/articleshow/123213154.cms

Trumputin talks! India pins hopes on Alaska assembly

A meeting between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin in Alaska has sparked optimism in New Delhi. India anticipates a potential agreement leading to reduced tensions and the removal of sanctions on Moscow. This could ease transactions between India and Russia. It may also lead to the elimination of the 25% tariff imposed on India's imports of Russian oil.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/trumputin-talks-india-pins-hopes-on-alaska-assembly/articleshow/123222159.cms

India concludes trade deal negotiations with Oman, date of economic partnership agreement remains unrevealed

India and Oman have concluded negotiations for a comprehensive trade deal, initiated in 2023, as confirmed by Minister Jitin Prasada. This agreement builds upon the longstanding strategic partnership between the two nations, fostering trade and investment. In the past five years, India has actively strengthened its trade ties by signing five major FTAs and is currently pursuing several new deals.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-concludes-trade-deal-negotiations-with-oman-date-on-economic-partnership-agreement-stands-unrevealed/articleshow/123214569.cms

India wants pointed action from ASEAN to improve free trade pact utilisation in last leg of review

Amidst growing uncertainty over trade with the US, India is looking at extracting last-mile concessions from the ten-member ASEAN countries for products in sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals and automobiles, where there is considerable under utilisation of the bilateral free trade agreement currently under review, sources have said. Both sides are hoping to wrap up the review process in October this year before the ASEAN summit.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-wants-pointed-action-from-asean-to-improve-free-trade-pact-utilisation-in-last-leg-of-review/article69916960.ece

India is certainly crucial in IMEC project: Italy's envoy Francesco Talo'

India is "certainly crucial" in the transnational IMEC project because it's a huge market and producer, as also the initiative is about trade of goods, energy and data connectivity, and New Delhi is a "protagonist in all three sectors," a top Italian diplomat has said. Billed as a pathbreaking initiative, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) envisages a vast road, railroad and shipping networks among Saudi Arabia, India, the US and Europe with an aim to ensure integration among Asia, Middle East and the West.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-is-certainly-crucial-in-imec-project-italys-envoy-francesco-talo/article69915892.ece

Stainless steel manufacturers seek anti-dumping duties on cheap imports

The domestic stainless steel industry has filed a petition with the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) to consider anti-dumping duties on cheap imports, which are posing a challenge to local players, Jindal Stainless Managing Director Abhyuday Jindal has said. The Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA), on behalf of the industry, has filed the application to investigate the dumping of stainless steel items in the domestic market from a select group of countries, Jindal said, adding that the industry is now waiting for the DGTR to begin its investigation.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/stainless-steel-manufacturers-seek-anti-dumping-duties-on-cheap-imports-125081000372_1.html

India emerges as top smartphone supplier to US, electronics sector soars: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday said India has become the top supplier of smartphones to the United States, with electronics manufacturing now worth ₹12 lakh crore. Highlighting the government's vision, Vaishnaw addressing the inaguration ceremony of Metro projects in Bengaluru today, said that India's electronic production has grown six times in the last 11 years.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/india-emerges-as-top-smartphone-supplier-to-us-electronics-sector-soars-ashwini-vaishnaw/article69916294.ece