

August 14, 2025 – Thursday

Economy

MoSPI discusses preparing Index of Service Production from Services Sector Survey

The statistics ministry convened a session to discuss the preparation of the Index of Service Production, drawing parallels with the Index of Industrial Production. The Annual Survey of Services Sector Enterprises (ASSSE) was reviewed, with emphasis on its objectives and data utility. Participants highlighted the services sector's crucial role in economic indicators and the need for a comprehensive Business Register.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/mospi-discusses-preparing-index-of-service-production-from-services-sector-survey/articleshow/123288155.cms

CBAM to cost India 0.03% of GDP, domestic carbon tax can blunt impact: Analysis

India's GDP could fall by 0.02 to 0.03 per cent between 2026 and 2030 due to revenue outflows if the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is applied without a domestic carbon pricing system, according to a new working paper. This would also curb household consumption, with urban families experiencing the most impact due to higher prices of carbon-heavy goods.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cbam-to-cost-india-003-of-gdp-domestic-carbon-tax-can-blunt-impact-analysis/article69928269.ece

Finance

Banks to clear cheques within few hours from Oct 4: RBI

Reserve Bank of India will launch a faster cheque clearing system. This new system aims to clear cheques within hours. The current process takes up to two working days. The new system will use continuous clearing. Phase 1 starts on October 4, 2025. Phase 2 begins on January 3, 2026. Banks must inform customers about these changes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-to-clear-cheques-within-few-hours-from-oct-4-rbi/articleshow/123284117.cms

PSU banks to hold majority in digital payment intel body

To combat payment fraud, state-run banks will spearhead the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform (DPIP), holding a majority stake in this non-profit venture. DPIP aims to enhance fraud risk management through real-time intelligence sharing and prevent fraudulent transactions. A committee involving public, private banks, MeitY, and RBI will finalize the structure, ensuring representation from fintech companies and payment banks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/psu-banks-to-hold-majority-in-digital-payment-intel-body/articleshow/123288147.cms

RBI panel calls for building AI policy framework for financial sector

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) committee on Wednesday recommended that regulators must, in the medium term, develop a comprehensive AI policy framework for the financial sector, to provide flexible, forward-looking guidance for AI innovation, adoption, and risk mitigation across the sector. “The RBI may consider issuing consolidated AI

Guidance to serve as a single point of reference for regulated entities and the broader FinTech ecosystem on the responsible design, development, and deployment of AI solutions," the committee said in its report.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-panel-calls-for-building-ai-policy-framework-for-financial-sector/article69929583.ece

RBI's revised co-lending norms likely to boost NBFC growth: Crisil

The revised co-lending guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are expected to increase growth opportunities for non-banking finance companies, rating agency Crisil said. It also said that the new norms will expand regulatory oversight of the segment by extending the arrangements to all regulated entities and to all forms of loans, "The revised directions will increase growth opportunities for NBFCs over the long term because their applicability extends to such arrangements between all REs and all forms of loans, whether secured or unsecured," Malvika Bhotika, director, Crisil Ratings.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-revised-co-lending-norms-to-boost-nbfcs-growth-crisil-125081301696_1.html

NPCI asks banks, payments apps to block UPI P2P collect request from October 1

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has directed banks and payment apps to halt all peer-to-peer (P2P) Unified Payments Interface "collect requests" from October 1 to curb frauds, according to a circular. The "UPI collect" feature allows users to request money from another UPI user by sending a payment request through their UPI app.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/npci-asks-banks-payments-apps-to-block-upi-p2p-collect-request-from-october-1/article69929902.ece

SEBI permits use of mutual funds for IAs, RAs deposit compliance

SEBI has allowed investment advisers and research analysts to use liquid mutual funds and overnight mutual funds for meeting their mandatory deposit requirements, providing an alternative to scheduled bank deposits. Overnight mutual funds are a type of debt mutual fund that invests in overnight securities -- debt instruments with a maturity of just one day.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sebi-permits-use-of-mutual-funds-for-ias-ras-deposit-compliance/article69928441.ece

SEBI to define algo trading, revamp stock brokers' rules

Markets regulator SEBI on Wednesday proposed to define 'algorithmic trading' as part of the exercise to revamp stock brokers' regulations, which will ease compliance burden. Also, the regulator has proposed granting stock brokers access to the Negotiated Dealing System, Order Matching (NDS-OM) platform. Generally, this platform is used by banks and primary dealers for trading government securities.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-to-define-algo-trading-revamp-stock-brokers-rules/article69928659.ece

Settlements with SEBI hit highs in FY25; amount jumps eight-fold

More market participants chose to settle disputes with SEBI last year rather than fight them in Court, as both the number of applications and the amounts involved to settle jumped sharply. In FY25, SEBI received 703 settlement requests, up from 434 in the previous year—an average of nearly three a day. The regulator collected ₹799 crore as settlement charges (₹94.5 crore). Another ₹65 crore came in as disgorgement.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/settlements-with-sebi-hit-highs-in-fy25-amount-jumps-eight-fold/article69929444.ece

Industry

India needs big push in AI, chips to compete with US, China, says CEA

Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday stressed that India must significantly step up efforts in artificial intelligence (AI) and semiconductor manufacturing to compete with the United States and China.

Speaking at the 2025 Emkay Confluence in Mumbai, Nageswaran cautioned that while trade-related issues are important, they should not overshadow other critical challenges, reported NDTV Profit.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-ai-semiconductors-growth-nageswaran-us-china-competition-125081300522_1.html

Govt to decriminalise 1,000 minor offences, overhaul IP regime

The government will identify 1,000 provisions penalising minor offences for decriminalisation soon. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal invited stakeholder inputs to simplify intellectual property laws. The initiative aims to make India's IP framework innovation-friendly. Focus is on data exclusivity without patent evergreening. Goyal sees data exclusivity as key to attracting R&D inflows.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-to-decriminalise-1000-minor-offences-overhaul-ip-regime/articleshow/123289525.cms

PE/VCs chase electronics companies showing spark

Indian electronics manufacturers are gaining significant traction from private equity and venture capital firms, drawn by the sector's growth potential and government support. Firms like Multiples Alternate Asset Management and TA Associates are actively seeking investment opportunities in companies like Zetwerk and Amber Enterprises.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/electronics/pe/vcs-chase-electronics-companies-showing-spark/articleshow/123289521.cms

Asci asks media companies to label paid posts shared on social media

The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) on Wednesday asked media companies to label paid posts on their social media handles. The self-regulatory organisation (SRO) for the advertising industry has expressed growing concerns about promotions being perceived as editorial content. As a result, it has added a clause to its code to prevent such advertisements from being displayed.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/asci-asks-media-companies-to-label-paid-posts-shared-on-social-media-125081301225_1.html

Tourism minister urges collective action to clock 20 million FTAs

Amid a sustained domestic travel boom, Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Wednesday stressed the importance of remaining focused on getting more foreign tourists to India, which can be done by developing new arenas of experiential tourism and working on the human capital available in the country. Shekhawat, who was speaking at the two-day national conclave organised by the Federation of Associations of Indian Tourism and Hospitality (FAITH) in New Delhi, added that India’s goal should be to achieve 20 million foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in the country.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tourism-minister-urges-collective-action-to-clock-20-million-ftas-125081301754_1.html

Agriculture

PM Modi to roll out ₹2,481 cr mission to boost natural farming next week

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the ₹2,481 crore National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) on August 23rd. This centrally sponsored program, conceived by Niti Aayog, aims to promote sustainable farming on 750,000 hectares, benefiting 10 million farmers by increasing their income.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/pm-modi-to-roll-out-2481-cr-mission-to-boost-natural-farming-next-week/articleshow/123287745.cms

Significant cut in fertiliser use under PM Pranam: Govt

Fourteen states have reported a reduction of 1.51 million tonne (MT) in their combined fertiliser consumption in 2023-24 over the average in the previous three years. This has been achieved under the central scheme PM Pranam, which aims at cutting subsidies and incentivising states for balanced use of chemical social nutrients, the government stated in Parliament on Wednesday. In the three years prior to 2023-24, the annual consumption of fertilisers was around 58 MT.

https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-significant-cut-in-fertiliser-use-under-pm-pranam-govt-3945781/

Sugar trade body AISTA seeks export quota reform to boost shipments

Sugar trade association AISTA on Wednesday requested the government to allocate export quotas only to mills willing to ship from their own facilities, saying the current system hampers exports and hurts mill profitability. The All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA) said the existing quota system, which distributes limited export allocations to all mills based on past production, allows remote or export-reluctant mills to sell their quotas to others, leaving substantial quantities unexported.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sugar-trade-body-aista-seeks-export-quota-reform-to-boost-shipments/article69928003.ece

Soyabean carryover stocks for oil year 2025-26 expected to drop 59% to 3.66 lakh tonnes: SOPA

The carryover stocks of soyabean in the country for the oil year starting October 2025-26 are expected to drop to 3.66 lakh tonnes, about 59 per cent lower than 8.94 lakh tonnes last year. This is based on the latest supply and demand estimates released by the Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA). As of July 1, the soyabean stocks with the farmers, plants and traders were 15.13 lakh tonnes. Including the stocks with NAFED and NCCF as on August 11, the total stocks estimated by SOPA were 21.13 lakh tonnes.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/soyabean-carryfoward-stocks-for-oil-year-2025-26-expected-to-drop-to-366-lakh-tonnes-sopa/article69928453.ece

Government mulls blending soyameal with Bharat atta

The Indian government is exploring the option of blending soyameal with Bharat atta (flour) with the twin objective of supplying protein to a large number of population as well as help to expand domestic consumption of soyameal. This comes amidst decline in soyameal export and large surplus. Cooperative major Nafed has been tasked by an inter-ministerial panel to work out costing and feasibility study, if initially 5 per cent blending is permitted before it is rolled out, sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-government-mulling-to-blend-soyameal-with-bharat-atta/article69929519.ece

Infrastructure

Govt, Niti Aayog to revise toll fee framework amid overcharging complaints

Amid rising cases of toll being charged on national highways (NHs) even after the end of the concession period, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has initiated a study with central policy think tank NITI Aayog to revise the user-fee determination framework, it has informed the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. In its report, the PAC, chaired by Congress Member of Parliament (MP) K C Venugopal, said that collecting toll beyond the concession period creates a regime of "perpetual tolling", asking for an overhaul of the process.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-niti-aayog-to-revise-toll-fee-framework-amid-overcharging-complaints-125081301608_1.html

Energy

India achieves 100 GW solar PV module capacity under ALMM: MNRE

India's empanelled solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) has touched 100 gigawatts (GW), the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said on Wednesday. The 100 GW solar module capacity developed is fully listed under the government's ALMM, which specifies the solar PV modules and manufacturers eligible for use in government and government-assisted solar projects. It ensures that only quality-assured and compliant modules are used, thereby promoting reliability and performance in the country's solar energy sector.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-achieves-100gw-solar-pv-module-capacity-under-almm-mnre-125081301979_1.html

India eyes nuclear power expansion, to allow uranium mining: Report

India is planning to allow private firms to mine, import and process uranium in a significant step to move its status quo in nuclear power sector, a report said. The government aims to bring in billions of dollars to boost the country's nuclear industry, and to take nuclear power contribution to 5% of the country's total power requirement. While the government mulls to maintain control on reprocessing spent uranium fuel and managing plutonium waste, it is willing to allow a regulatory framework to include private players amid a surging demand for nuclear fuel, Reuters reported.

https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/india-eyes-nuclear-power-expansion-to-allow-uranium-mining-report/3945745/

Healthcare

Mixed Q1 results for top drug firms amid price erosion, tariff threat

Pricing pressure in a key cancer drug, coupled with a steep rise in March shipments to the US ahead of potential tariffs, has led to a mixed performance for top drug exporters to the US in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025-26 (FY26). Pharmaceutical (pharma) companies like Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Cipla, and Aurobindo Pharma have posted a fall in exports to the US, primarily due to price erosion in key products. Meanwhile, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries posted a modest 1.5 per cent growth, while Zydus Lifesciences posted a 3 per cent year-on-year growth. In contrast, companies like Lupin, Torrent Pharmaceuticals, and Alembic Pharmaceuticals have posted strong double-digit growth, riding on launches in the market.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/price-erosion-dragged-us-sales-for-top-drug-firms-125081201791_1.html

External

Bessant warns of higher secondary tariff on India, asks EU to join hands

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Wednesday warned that Washington could raise its current 25 per cent secondary tariff on India if American President Donald Trump's meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska on Friday fails to make headway on Ukraine. He also asked the European Union to impose a similar secondary levy on India.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/bessant-warns-of-higher-secondary-tariff-on-india-asks-eu-to-join-hands-125081301847_1.html

Jaishankar, Lavrov to meet in Moscow on August 21 amidst tariff tension

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov are scheduled to meet in Moscow next week amidst US tariff action against India for buying oil and arms from Russia. "On August 21, FM Sergey Lavrov will hold talks with FM of India S Jaishankar in Moscow. The Ministers will discuss key issues on our bilateral agenda, as well as key aspects of cooperation within international frameworks," the Russian Foreign Ministry posted on social media platform X on Wednesday.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/jaishankar-lavrov-to-meet-in-moscow-on-august-21-amidst-tariff-tension/article69929195.ece

Govt plans ₹25,000 cr export support mission to counter US tariff Impact

The commerce and industry ministry has firmed up support schemes worth about ₹25,000 crore under the Export Promotion Mission for a six-year period, amid continuing uncertainties from higher tariffs imposed by the US. The proposal has been sent to the finance ministry for approval. Once it clears the contours and allocation, the schemes will be rolled out after the Union Cabinet's nod, two people aware of the matter told Business Standard.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-plans-25-000-cr-export-support-mission-to-counter-us-tariff-impact-125081301859_1.html

Textiles minister sets up 4 committees on market diversification

India's textile industry aims for $100 billion in exports by 2030, despite challenges like the US's 50% tariffs. Minister Giriraj Singh has formed committees to explore new markets and enhance competitiveness. Exporters are encouraged to focus on the EU market, which is larger than the US, as India negotiates a Free Trade Agreement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/cons-products/garments-/-textiles/textiles-minister-sets-up-4-committees-on-market-diversification/articleshow/123286524.cms

India's trade negotiators to strategise for WTO this month

Indian trade negotiators are set to convene later this month to strategize for the upcoming WTO ministerial conference and prepare for the country's trade policy review next year. The focus will be on WTO reform, particularly restoring the dispute settlement mechanism and consensus-based decision-making. India also aims to address trade distortions caused by non-market economies and non-tariff barriers.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-trade-negotiators-to-strategise-for-wto-this-month/articleshow/123288002.cms

China to continue anti-dumping tariff on Indian fibre optic products

China's commerce ministry will continue with anti-dumping tariffs of up to 30.6 per cnet on single-mode optical fibre imports from India, which were due to expire on Thursday, as it begins a final review of an investigation initiated in 2013. The review will take up to a year, the ministry said on Wednesday in a statement. China first imposed the tariffs in 2014 and had extended them in August 2020.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/china-to-continue-anti-dumping-tariff-on-indian-fibre-optic-products-125081301199_1.html

Gem, jewellery exports rise 15.98% to $2.17 billion in July: GJEPC

Gem and jewellery exports witnessed 15.98 per cent year-on-year growth to $2,178.24 million (Rs 18,756.28 crore) in July amid global challenges, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said on Wednesday. Overall gem and jewellery exports stood at $1,878.09 million (Rs 15,700 crore) in the corresponding month of 2024, according to data shared by GJEPC.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/gem-jewellery-exports-rise-15-98-to-2-178-24-million-in-july-gjepc-125081301357_1.html