

August 19, 2025 – Tuesday

Economy

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portal launched

The Centre on Monday launched an online portal for the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY), an employment-linked incentive scheme aimed at generating over 3.5 crore jobs across the country over two years. Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the portal, encouraging employers and first-time employees to register and benefit from the ₹1 lakh crore initiative.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/pradhan-mantri-viksit-bharat-rozgar-yojana-portal-launched/article69947388.ece

Three GST GoMs to meet between Aug 20-21 for rate rationalisation, insurance exemption and cess: Report

This week will be pivotal for India's indirect tax landscape with three key Groups of Ministers (GoMs) established by the GST Council set to convene between August 20 and 21 to deliberate major reforms. According to a CNBC-TV18 report that cited sources, the three panels will address GST rate rationalisation, taxes on life & health insurance and the compensation cess. They will then forward their recommendations to the GST Council, with the aim of finalising these changes before Diwali.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-gst-overhaul-on-cards-gst-council-forms-3-goms-to-meet-aug-20-21-on-rate-rationalisation-insurance-cess-says-report-3949662/

PM internship scheme: 30% offers accepted in second pilot so far

The second round of the Prime Minister Internship Scheme's (PMIS') pilot programme saw only 30 per cent of the total offers made by companies accepted by the candidates, according to a statement by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. This is less than the number of offers (34 per cent) accepted in round one of the pilot. The written reply in Lok Sabha stated that in the second round, which started on January 9, 2025, companies posted 82,110 internship opportunities, and 24,131 were accepted as of August 12, 2025. In the first round, which began on October 3, 2024, 82,077 offers were made and 28,141 were accepted.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pmis-second-pilot-sees-30-percent-offers-accepted-125081800793_1.html

Make in India must not become make all India needs: Former RBI Guv Subbarao

Sounding a note of caution, former RBI Governor D Subbarao on Monday said that 'Make in India' should not transform into 'Make all that India needs' as it would hurt investments in the country and impact productivity. Subbarao further said the punitive 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports imposed by the US will raise the costs of Indian goods in the most important overseas market, which is America.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/make-in-india-must-not-become-make-all-india-needs-former-rbi-guv-subbarao-125081800685_1.html

India's unemployment rate at 5.4% in Q1: First ever quarterly PLFS data

The unemployment rate in the first quarter (April-June) this financial year stood at 5.4 per cent in the country, showed the first ever quarterly periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data, released for both rural and urban areas by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Monday. The data showed that the headline unemployment rate for people aged 15 years and above in current weekly status (CWS) terms for rural areas stood at 4.8 per cent, while the rate for the urban areas was recorded at 6.8 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-jobless-rate-q1-2025-plfs-data-125081801028_1.html

Govt to conduct study of MCA21 system to improve corporate data mining

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) is inviting proposals to conduct a third-party study of its Corporate Data Management (CDM) scheme, which converts company filings on the MCA21 portal into a tool for policymaking, regulation and research. The study will assess the scheme's effectiveness, relevance, impact, and user satisfaction, while also analysing its security and access control mechanisms.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-govt-to-conduct-study-of-mca21-system-to-improve-corporate-data-mining-3949442/

Debt-to-GDP ratio falls but interest payments increase: CAG report

The CAG report reveals that while the central government's debt-to-GDP ratio improved between 2021-22 and 2023-24, its interest payments, as a percentage of revenue receipts, increased during the same period. The interest outgo reached 35.72% in 2023-24. Despite this, debt sustainability showed a positive indicator towards stability in FY24, with debt as a percentage of GDP moderating to 57%.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/debt-to-gdp-ratio-falls-but-interest-payments-increase-cag-report/articleshow/123371000.cms

Finance

Banks ride the IPO wave, lend more to investors

Banks significantly increased lending for IPO investments last fiscal year. State Bank of India's IPO financing tripled. HDFC Bank leads with the largest loan book, followed by Bank of India. Sixteen banks provided substantial loans for IPO financing. The Reserve Bank of India anticipates continued momentum in primary markets. IPOs are gaining traction as a popular investment avenue.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-ride-the-ipo-wave-lend-more-to-investors/articleshow/123371775.cms

Centre asks banks to extend long-term loans for electric mobility

In a bid by the Centre to identify and address hindrances to the growth of electric vehicles (EVs), central policy think tank NITI Aayog and the De-partment of Financial Services (DFS) have requested banks to extend lon-ger-tenure loans with easier conditions to electric mobility companies, said a senior government official. "The DFS and NITI Aayog spoke with banks and urged them to extend the tenure of loans for e-mobility, especially e-trucks and e-buses. The feedback has largely been positive and we are hopeful that there will be progress on this," Sudhendu J Sinha, programme director for e-mobility at NITI Aayog told Business Standard.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/centre-asks-banks-to-extend-long-term-loans-for-electric-mobility-125081700477_1.html

Three-lenders cap makes micro borrowers fall in line

Borrowing by vulnerable economic groups is changing. The number of borrowers with many lenders decreased significantly. This reflects stricter lending practices. Data shows a drop in borrowers using more than three lenders. However, some older loans still pose a risk. The microfinance sector is now focusing on stability. The market size has contracted.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/three-lenders-cap-makes-micro-borrowers-fall-in-line/articleshow/123371685.cms

Low savings account interest rates fuel a rush to liquid mutual funds

With savings bank interest rates at historic lows, individual investor interest is picking up in liquid mutual funds (MFs), which delivered a consistent returns of 5-7 per cent annually. Such funds invest in highly liquid debt instruments having a maturity period of fewer than 91 days. These funds added more than 220,000 accounts in 2025 (till July 31) as against just 64,300 net additions in 2024 and 4,345 in 2023. In July, net addition was at a multi-year high of 108,500.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/low-savings-account-interest-rates-fuel-a-rush-to-liquid-mutual-funds-125081801263_1.html

Mutual fund overseas assets fall 5.6% to $8.3 billion in FY25, says RBI

Indian mutual funds' overseas assets dropped 5.6 per cent to $ 8.3 billion in FY25, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Monday. At the end of FY24, Indian mutual funds held assets of over $ 8.81 billion in foreign assets, as per the central bank's annual survey of foreign assets and liabilities of mutual funds. "Overseas assets of MFs declined 5.6 per cent and stood at $ 8.3 billion in March 2025, due to lower holdings of foreign equity securities," the RBI said.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/mutual-fund-overseas-assets-fall-5-6-to-8-3-billion-in-fy25-says-rbi-125081801058_1.html

SEBI extends deadline for new margin pledge framework to Oct 10

SEBI has extended the deadline for the implementation of the framework pertaining to the process of margin obligations via pledge and re-pledge within the depository system to October 10 from September 1. The extension came after the depositories, CDSL and NSDL requested more time to carry out system developments and readiness through end-to-end testing.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/sebi-extends-deadline-for-new-margin-pledge-framework-to-oct-10/article69947961.ece

SEBI proposes to realign weights in Bank Nifty, BSE Bankex indices

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed to adjust constituent weights in existing non-benchmark indices such as NSE's Nifty Bank and BSE's Bankex with derivatives. The regulator, through a circular issued earlier in May, had capped the maximum weight of the top constituent at 20 per cent and the combined weight of the top three at 45 per cent. It also mandated that such indices carry at least 14 constituents. The objective, SEBI said, was to ensure broad-based indices and curb concentration risk.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/stock-markets/sebi-proposes-to-realign-weights-in-bank-nifty-bse-bankex-indices/article69948277.ece

RBC framework: IRDAI asks insurers to conduct a second impact study

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed insurance companies to undertake a Quantitative Impact Study (QIS) to implement risk based capital (RBC) regulatory framework for the Indian insurance industry. IRDAI has been working on implementing the RBC framework to replace the current fixed-solvency margin system in a bid to align the domestic industry with global standards with a risk-sensitive approach.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbc-framework-irdai-asks-insurers-to-conduct-a-second-impact-study/article69947316.ece

REITs promise stable income, but investors must brace for volatility

Real estate investment trusts (REITs) distributed about ₹1,559 crore to 2.7 lakh unit holders in the first quarter of 2025-26, 13 per cent higher than the ₹1,371 crore distributed in the same quarter last year. The number of unit holders rose from 2.45 lakh to 2.7 lakh, attesting to their growing popularity. REITs invest mostly in offices and malls and are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/reits-promise-stable-income-but-investors-must-brace-for-volatility-125081800581_1.html

Industry

Centre speeds approvals for critical minerals, no exemption from green law

The Environment Ministry has set up a separate category on its online clearance portal to speed up approvals for mining projects involving critical minerals, a move aimed at boosting domestic supply of resources considered essential for clean energy and advanced technologies, the government informed Parliament on Monday. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said the Mines Ministry had in February requested faster clearances for such projects, following which the new facility was added to the Parivesh 2.0 portal on March 13.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-speeds-approvals-for-critical-minerals-no-green-law-exemption-125081800942_1.html

Govt mulling further FDI regime easing, more tax benefits for startups

The commerce and industry ministry is working on a 100-day reforms agenda which may include proposals such as further liberalising FDI regime, easing investments from neighbouring countries, and more tax benefits for startups, an official said. The proposals may also include easing certain environmental norms for the leather and footwear industry, liberalised rules to promote exports through e-commerce hubs, and integrating lab testing and certification requirements for various sectors, the official said.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/commerce-ministry-mulls-fdi-easing-more-tax-perks-for-startups-official-125081800886_1.html

US tariff impact: MSME NPA classification period likely to be doubled

The Union government is mulling extending non-performing asset (NPA) classification period on loans to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) from the current 90 days to 180 days, a move which will provide breather to cash-strapped firms against the backdrop of steep US tariffs, a senior government official said requesting anonymity. "The proposal to extend the loan default period for MSMEs from 90 days to 180 days is likely to be taken up by the Cabinet soon," the official said.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/govt-may-relax-loan-default-period-for-msmes-to-ease-us-tariff-impact-125081800905_1.html

Consumer durable firms, auto dealers plan festive offers as buyers wait for GST clarity

Consumer durable firms and automobile dealers are preparing for a surge in demand once the government announces a reduction in goods and services tax (GST) rates. "With the possibility of revised taxes ahead, consumers may postpone their purchases, waiting for the new rates to take effect. As the festive season nears and brands roll out attractive offers, an early announcement of these reforms would help trigger demand at the right time and deliver maximum impact," said Arjun Bajaj, Director – Videotex.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/consumer-durable-firms-auto-dealers-plan-festive-offers-as-buyers-wait-for-gst-clarity/article69948312.ece

India's GST cuts to lift festive e-commerce sales by up to 20%: Executives

India's recent goods and services tax (GST) cuts are expected to boost e-commerce sales by 15–20 per cent in high-value categories such as electronics, according to industry executives, as the government's tax rationalisation encourages consumer spending ahead of the festive shopping season. E-commerce and quick-commerce companies are anticipating an additional surge in demand on top of already strong festive season projections. Executives said the tax reforms could create a "multiplier effect" across consumer categories ranging from fast-moving consumer goods to local manufacturing.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/indias-gst-tax-cuts-to-boost-ecommerce-sales-festive-season-125081801234_1.html

Mobile phone makers pitch for 5% GST in rate revamp to spur demand

Mobile phone makers are seeking a reduction in the goods and services tax (GST) to 5 per cent from the current 18 per cent, arguing that a cut would spur demand in a category that has remained stagnant at 150 million units a year for the past four years. Higher GST rates have strained companies' working capital and added to cost disabilities in manufacturing, weakening India's competitiveness. Industry bodies representing device makers had earlier this year petitioned the finance ministry for a shift to 12 per cent, as the government reviewed GST rate slabs. But Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's August 15 announcement on GST reforms and reducing the burden on the common man has renewed the push for the lowest slab.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/phone-makers-seek-5-gst-on-devices-parts-and-components-amid-rate-rejig-125081801246_1.html

India's semiconductor market expected to triple to $100 billion by 2032: Report

With about 60 per cent of semiconductor output by the Asia-Pacific region, which continues to dominate global production, India is fast emerging as a key player. The country's semiconductor market, valued at $34.3 billion in 2023, is expected to triple to $100.2 billion by 2032, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20 per cent. The global semiconductor industry is on track for strong expansion, with its market size projected to touch $1 trillion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of nearly 10 per cent between 2023 and 2030, according to a Union Bank of India Research report.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-semiconductor-market-expected-to-triple-to-100-billion-by-2032-report/article69946436.ece

EV makers counter magnet shortage in festive season production with local sourcing, new technologies

Electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers are sourcing locally available resized magnets or managing supplies from countries like South Korea after China imposed export restrictions so that there is no interruption on production ahead of the festive period. K N Radhakrishnan, Director and Chief Executive Officer, TVS Motor Company, said at a post-earnings call, "Short term, we are managing with the stocks what we have. We also resized some higher sized magnets, which are locally available. We are also exploring some alternate strategies in the short term... currently, we are managing the daily production. We are just able to manage like that."
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ev-makers-counter-magnet-shortage-in-festive-season-production-with-local-sourcing-new-technologies/article69944207.ece

Infrastructure

FASTag annual pass crosses 500K users nationwide within four days of launch

The newly introduced FASTag annual pass facility has crossed the landmark figure of 500K users across the country within four days, an official statement said on Monday. FASTag annual pass, applicable on about 1,150 toll collection booths on National Highways and expressways allowing users to cross 200 toll plazas in a year for a one-time payment of ₹3,000, was launched on August 15. The facility has received an overwhelming response from the National Highway users across the country.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/fastag-annual-pass-crosses-500k-users-nationwide-within-four-days-of-launch-125081801077_1.html

Energy

Rooftop solar installations seen doubling to 4 mn by March 2026 on PM Surya Ghar boost

India aims to significantly boost rooftop solar installations. The government anticipates reaching 4 million installations by March 2026. This expansion is supported by the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme uses a utility-led aggregation model. It targets 10 million rooftop solar units by March 2027. The initiative provides free electricity and subsidies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/rooftop-solar-installations-seen-doubling-to-4-mn-by-march-2026-on-pm-surya-ghar-boost/articleshow/123370814.cms

Crude imports slip as demand stagnates, raising concerns for global markets

India's crude oil imports are declining due to stagnant demand both domestically and internationally. This raises concerns about India's role as a key driver of global oil demand. Crude imports fell by 0.6% from April to July. Product imports also experienced a decrease of 1.5%. Weak domestic fuel consumption is contributing to this slowdown.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/crude-imports-slip-as-demand-stagnates-raising-concerns-for-global-markets/articleshow/123371398.cms

States

Centre released ₹36,000 cr to states so far under special assistance scheme

The Centre has released ₹36,027 crore to all states and union territories under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure and Investment (SASCI) till 11 August, according to a Parliament reply by Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, on Monday. Chaudhary said that total funds amounting to ₹3,66,249.45 crore have been released by the government to states under the scheme since its inception in FY21 up to FY25.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-releases-rs-36027-crore-to-states-under-special-assistance-scheme-125081801152_1.html

AP govt to set up SPV for Greenfield airport at Amaravati, other key projects

Andhra Pradesh government will be setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for various key projects in the capital city of Amaravati. A proposal in the regard was approved in the 51st meeting of the AP Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) chaired by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati on Monday. The SPV would take up prestigious projects in the capital, including the Greenfield Airport, NTR Statue, Sports City, Smart Industries, Riverfront Development, Inner Ring Road and Ropeway.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/ap-govt-to-set-up-spv-for-greenfield-airport-at-amaravati-other-key-projects/article69948665.ece

Uttar Pradesh govt bets big on AI, data centres to boost jobs and IT parks

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently said the state government is building a network of information technology (IT) parks, in a bid to boost employment opportunities. Speaking in the UP Assembly during the monsoon session, the CM said the state is aiming to become a global leader in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and quantum computing. The Yogi government will invest over ₹10,700 crore to develop India's first 'AI City' in Lucknow. While the city already houses IT majors such as TCS, HCL and Sify, IBM is setting up a software lab to develop AI applications for global clients.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/uttar-pradesh-govt-bets-big-on-ai-data-centres-to-boost-jobs-and-it-parks-125081800829_1.html

Chhattisgarh to showcase cultural heritage at Osaka World Expo 2025

Chhattisgarh will set up its stall at the Osaka World Expo 2025 in Japan to showcase cultural heritage and identity. The Expo, being held from April 13 to October 13, 2025, at Yumeshima Island in Konohanaku, has been themed "Designing Future Society for Our Lives" with sub-themes of "Saving Lives", "Empowering Lives", and "Connecting Lives" with the overarching concept of "People's Living Lab", celebrating global innovation and the co-creation of a sustainable future.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/chhattisgarh-to-showcase-cultural-heritage-at-osaka-world-expo-2025-125081800934_1.html

Tamil Nadu sanctions Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme to offer incentives for fabless chip design firms

As semiconductor manufacturing projects elude the state, Tamil Nadu has sharpened its focus on the design ecosystem and has sanctioned the Semiconductor Design Promotion Scheme to offer targeted subsidies and prototyping grants to fabless design firms. This scheme forms part of the state's ₹500-crore Tamil Nadu Semiconductor Mission 2030 (TNSM 2030) announced during the TN Budget 2025, a release from the state industries minister said on Monday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tamil-nadu-sanctions-semiconductor-design-promotion-scheme-to-offer-incentives-for-fabless-chip-design-firms/article69946065.ece

Healthcare

Indian drugmakers seek exemption for generics from US supplies probe

Indian pharmaceutical industry representatives met with Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. They requested the US government to exclude generic drugs from its investigation into pharmaceutical imports. The probe, under

Section 232, raises concerns about supply chain disruptions. This discussion occurs amidst India-US trade negotiations and potential US tariffs.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/indian-drugmakers-seek-exemption-for-generics-from-us-supplies-probe/articleshow/123371648.cms

External

Trump's tariff gamble sparks Indian export rush to US, but a 50% duty threat hangs heavy

Indian exporters frontloaded shipments to the US to avoid potential higher duties, leading to a 21% export surge between April and July. While this growth provides a buffer for discounts, exporters fear a 50% tariff could devastate businesses with thin margins. Industry leaders are seeking government assistance to mitigate potential job losses, particularly in the MSME sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/trumps-tariff-gamble-sparks-indian-export-rush-to-us-but-a-50-duty-threat-hangs-heavy/articleshow/123358685.cms

China lifts curbs on fertilizers, rare earths & tunnel boring machines to India

China has lifted export restrictions on fertilizers, rare earth magnets/minerals, and tunnel boring machines to India—three key concerns raised by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during meetings with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi last month. Sources indicate that shipments have already resumed.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-lifts-curbs-on-fertilizers-rare-earths-tunnel-boring-machines-to-india/articleshow/123377378.cms

Centre removes cotton import duty till Sept 30 to aid textile sector

Giving temporary relief to the textile and garment industry amid concerns over revenue loss from higher US tariffs, the finance ministry on Monday removed the 11 per cent duty on raw cotton imports for a period of 42 days till September 30. The exemption will benefit the textile chain — yarn, fabric, garments and made-ups — and provide relief to the textile industry and consumers. Through a notification by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, the government removed the basic customs duty and the Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on cotton imports from August 19 to September 30.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-removes-cotton-import-duty-textile-industry-relief-125081801441_1.html

Coir exporters seek govt support to counter US tariff on imports from India

The Federation of Indian Coir Exporters Associations (FICEA) has urged the government to intervene to resolving the crisis that has arisen following the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the United States on coir imports from India. FICEA chairman Roby Francis and secretary general Sajan B. Nair pointed out that the present crisis needed to be treated as an "emergency" as the sudden and steep tariff increase has severely impacted the competitiveness of coir products in the US market. The industry cannot afford a standstill situation, as any delay will result in irreparable damage, the association said in a letter to the State Industries Minister P. Rajeeve.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/coir-exporters-seek-govt-support-to-counter-us-tariff-on-imports-from-india/article69946955.ece

Reopening of PLI scheme window will help textile firms spur exports, says MATEXIL chief

The Ministry of Textiles' decision to reopen the portal for filing of fresh applications under the production linked incentive scheme for textiles, covering manmade fibre, apparels, fabrics and technical textiles will boost exports. The portal for filing applications will remain open till end of this month. The PLI scheme is aimed at promoting large-scale investment, fostering innovation and sustainability and enhancing India's global competitiveness in textiles.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/reopening-of-pli-scheme-window-will-help-textile-firms-spur-exports-says-matexil-chief/article69946871.ece

Uncertain times for diamond workers as tariff threatens trade

Surat’s diamond industry faces uncertainty as US tariffs threaten jobs and wages. While factory floors still run at full capacity, CEOs warn of losses, job cuts, and shrinking exports. With livelihoods at stake, workers remain anxious about the future despite temporary stability.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-uncertain-times-for-diamond-workers-as-tariff-threatens-trade-3950287/