

August 22, 2025 – Friday

Economy

Centre sets up Rajiv Gauba-led panels to drive next-gen reforms, Viksit Bharat goals

The central government has formed two high-powered groups. These groups will focus on next-generation reforms. Rajiv Gauba leads these groups. One group aims to achieve Viksit Bharat goals. The other focuses on regulatory reforms in the non-financial sector. A separate committee works on deregulation at the state level.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/centre-sets-up-rajiv-gauba-led-panels-to-drive-next-gen-reforms-viksit-bharat-goals/articleshow/123439954.cms

India's GDP growth likely at 6.3% in FY26, below RBI estimates: SBI report

India's economic growth is expected to be lower at 6.3 per cent this fiscal compared to the RBI's projection of 6.5 per cent, a SBI Research Report said on Thursday. The report pegged the first quarter GDP estimate at around 6.8-7 per cent, mainly due to muted private capex. India's economy is likely to grow at 6.3-6.8 per cent in 2025-26 on the back of strong macroeconomic fundamentals, though strategic and prudent policy management will be required to navigate global headwinds, as per the latest Economic Survey.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-gdp-growth-likely-at-6-3-in-fy26-below-rbi-estimates-sbi-report-125082101431_1.html

Retail inflation for farm, rural workers ease to 0.77 pc, 1.01 pc in July

Retail inflation for farm and rural workers eased to 0.77 per cent and 1.01 per cent in July from 1.42 per cent and 1.73 per cent, respectively, in June, according to data released by the Labour Ministry on Thursday. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers increased by 1.23 points to 135.31 in July 2025, while the index for Rural Labourers increased by 1.30 points, reaching 135.66, a Labour Ministry statement said.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/retail-inflation-for-farm-rural-workers-ease-to-0-77-pc-1-01-pc-in-july-125082100554_1.html

India flash PMI surges to 65.2 in August on record services, mfg growth

India’s private sector economy recorded its fastest growth since the start of survey data in December 2005, with the headline HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index rising over four points to 65.2 from 61.1 in July, according to S&P Global on Thursday.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-flash-pmi-august-2025-hits-65-2-record-growth-manufacturing-services-125082100305_1.html

Outbound investments grow 67% to $ 41.6 bn in FY25

India's outbound investments surged by 67.74% in the last fiscal year to a record $41.6 billion, driven by companies in technology, pharma, and automotive sectors. A new trend shows Indian firms are diversifying beyond traditional jurisdictions like Singapore and Mauritius, increasingly using gateways like the UAE, Luxembourg, and Switzerland.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-outbound-investments-grow-67-to-41-6-bn-in-fy25-3953741/

Finance

RBI floats discussion paper to review inflation targeting framework

Ahead of the second review of the country's flexible inflation targeting framework (FIT) due in March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday floated a discussion paper seeking feedback on four critical questions, including the appropriateness of persisting with the 4 per cent goal and if the focus should be on headline or core inflation. The paper also seeks inputs from stakeholders on whether the RBI should target a tolerance band or a specific number, and if the tolerance band of +-2 per cent should be narrowed or widened.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/rbi-reviews-inflation-targeting-framework-core-vs-headline-125082101509_1.html

Gap between bank deposit accretion and credit disbursement widens this fiscal

The gap between deposit accretion and credit disbursement has widened for banks' in the current financial year so far vis-a-vis the year ago period. This comes at a time when banks are having healthy deposit inflows even amid deposit rate cuts and credit growth has slowed, with India Inc increasingly tapping relatively cheaper sources of credit such as corporate bonds, commercial papers, and so on.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/gap-between-bank-deposit-accretion-and-credit-disbursement-has-widened-in-fy-so-far/article69960432.ece

Despite MFI pressure, bad loans seen at 15-year low

A new report suggests good news for Indian banks. Bad loans are expected to remain low in FY26. Care Ratings reports a 15-year low of 2.3-2.4%. Corporate deleveraging and declining GNPA are helping. The system-level GNPA ratio has already declined. It reached 2.3% in June 2025. However, private sector banks saw a rise in bad loans.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/et-graphics-despite-mfi-pressure-bad-loans-seen-at-15-year-low/articleshow/123439692.cms

Bank-fintech collabs allow for more proper pricing, risk underwriting: Economist Julapa Jagtiani

Bank-fintech collaborations are enhancing pricing and risk underwriting accuracy, particularly for non-prime borrowers, according to Julapa Jagtiani. Marina Niessner highlighted the significant influence of financial social media on investment decisions, while cautioning about the risks of misleading content. Prof. Raghavendra Rau critically evaluated AI models, emphasizing their potential for errors in financial judgments due to a lack of genuine understanding.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bank-fintech-collabs-allow-for-more-proper-pricing-risk-underwriting-economist-julapa-jagtiani/articleshow/123431006.cms

BFSI sector to add 250K jobs by 2030, focus on tier II, III cities: Report

India's BFSI sector is set for robust growth, with hiring projected to rise 8.7 per cent in 2025-26 and touch 10 per cent by 2030, creating nearly 250,000 permanent jobs, a report said on Thursday. This growth in the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector is being driven by rising demand in tier II and III cities, marking a clear shift from metro-centric recruitment.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/bfsi-sector-to-add-250k-jobs-by-2030-focus-on-tier-ii-iii-cities-report-125082100508_1.html

India's BFSI GCC industry projected to hit $125 bn by 2032: Report

India's Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Global Capability Centers (GCCs) are projected to grow from an estimated $40–41 billion in 2023 to $125 billion by 2032, according to a report by Quess Corp. The growth is being driven by increased investments in artificial intelligence (AI), modernisation of payment systems, and a heightened focus on cybersecurity.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indias-bfsi-gcc-industry-projected-to-hit-125-bn-by-2032-report/article69960146.ece

Capital market must lower friction and compliance cost: SEBI Chief

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Thursday underlined the urgent need for innovation in capital markets that not only widens opportunities but also reduces compliance costs, making the system safer and more accessible for both issuers and investors. He was speaking at the 22nd Annual Capital Markets Conference (CAPAM2025), organised by FICCI.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/capital-market-must-lower-friction-and-compliance-cost-sebi-chief/article69959244.ece

Recovery under IBC remains lacklustre as lenders take 67% haircut

The haircut taken by creditors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code process continues to remain high at 67 per cent till June with creditors realising ₹4 lakh crore from overall debt resolution of ₹12.2 lakh crore. In the June quarter, about ₹20,000 crore of debt was resolved under IBC resulting in realisations of ₹6,200 crore (32 per cent). The quarter saw a resolution of five large cases with admitted claims of more than ₹1,000 crore and the realisation of 27 per cent was lower than overall trends seen in recent history, said Kotak Institutional Equities. The realisation values are relatively low due to weaker assets where there are incomplete projects or sectors with very poor demand from buyers.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/recovery-under-ibc-remains-lackluster-as-lenders-take-67-haircut/article69960968.ece

Insurers treading cautiously on new investment tools

Indian insurance companies are proceeding carefully with new investments. Equity derivatives adoption remains slow despite regulatory approval. Bond forward rate agreements see limited activity. Insurers are developing risk management frameworks and upgrading IT systems. They plan to start with small exposures in equity derivatives. Discussions included gold ETFs and REIT limits. Regulators are urging diversification within existing limits.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/insurers-treading-cautiously-on-new-investment-tools/articleshow/123439435.cms

GST rationalisation: GoM backs Centre's proposal to end 12%, 28% tax rates

The Group of Ministers (GoM) on Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate rationalisation has accepted the Centre's proposal to scrap the 12 per cent and 28 per cent GST rates and replace them with 5 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, GoM chairperson Samrat Choudhary said on Thursday.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/gst-rationalisation-gom-supports-centre-proposal-to-scrap-12-28-percent-slabs-125082100772_1.html

Industry

Auto firms split over GST rejig impact on car and two-wheeler sales

With the Group of Ministers clearing a new goods and services tax (GST) regime of 5 and 18 per cent, scrapping the 12 and 28 per cent slabs, automotive companies are split on its immediate impact. Many fear buyers may defer purchases of cars and two-wheelers until the GST Council gives final approval, which could hand them a bonanza.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/auto-firms-split-over-gst-rejig-impact-125082101563_1.html

FHRAI seeks GST rationalisation to boost India's tourism competitiveness

The Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) on Thursday urged the government to rationalise Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the tourism and hospitality sector. The association stressed that this step is essential for positioning tourism as a growth engine for the economy and for making India more competitive compared to other Asian destinations. In a representation to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who also chairs the GST Council, the industry body called for a uniform GST rate of 5 per cent with input tax credit across hotels, restaurants, and tourism services.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/fhrai-seeks-gst-rationalisation-india-tourism-competitiveness-125082100922_1.html

India to launch first uncrewed Gaganyaan spacecraft in December: Isro chief

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief V Narayanan on Thursday said that Gaganyaan-G1 will be launched in December this year for the first uncrewed mission. Narayanan was addressing a joint press conference with Union minister Jitendra Singh and Group Captains Shubhanshu Shukla and Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair. "Last four months, a lot of accomplishments have been made in this area and the first uncrewed mission G1 is going to be lifted off this year-end, maybe close to December. And in that, the Vyommitra, a half-humanoid is going to fly," Narayanan said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-uncrewed-gaganyaan-december-launch-isro-shubhanshu-shukla-vyommitra-125082100873_1.html

Innovative launches amusing consumers and driving FMCG growth: Report

Innovation is powering the growth in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) segment as new launches are finding many takers among curious consumers, especially in the out-of-home channel helping in volume recovery, says a new report by Worldpanel by Numerator (formerly Kantar). Out-of-home volume growth in the overall FMCG category stood at 5 per cent for the three-month period of March, April and May. Foods grew 1.4 per cent and beverages grew 9 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/fmcg-innovation-consumer-experimentation-out-of-home-growth-125082101179_1.html

E-sports segment to see surge in user growth, investor interest

E-sports and social gaming platforms are emerging as the new growth engines of India's digital entertainment industry, with users, investors and brands expected to flock to the segment in the wake of the government's ban on real-money gaming (RMG). Unlike RMG, which depends on wagering, e-sports is skill-driven and community-focused, giving it both regulatory clarity and long-term growth potential.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/e-sports-segment-to-see-surge-in-user-growth-investor-interest/article69960530.ece

FMCG growth slows, but revival likely in second half: Numerator

Household consumption of daily groceries, home, and personal care items in India has slowed down in the twelve months ending May 2025, according to a report by Numerator. The slowdown is more pronounced in rural areas, while urban consumption also shows a decline.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-fmcg-growth-slows-but-revival-likely-in-second-half-numerator-3953641/

Agriculture

India resumes canola oil imports after 5 years as domestic prices surge

India bought canola oil for delivery in August for the first time in nearly five years, as local prices hit a 3-½-year high, making overseas purchases lucrative, industry officials told Reuters. A shipment of 6,000 tons of canola oil from the United Arab Emirates is expected to arrive at Kandla port in Gujarat this month, said Rajesh Patel, managing partner at GGN Research, an edible oil trader.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-resumes-canola-oil-imports-after-5-years-as-domestic-prices-surge-125082101119_1.html

India to gain as China eases curbs on urea

China is increasing urea exports, with India as the main recipient. This follows earlier restrictions on fertilizer shipments. Discussions between India and China cover rare earth magnets and other essential supplies. The move brings relief to Indian farmers during the kharif season. Demand for urea in India has risen due to good monsoon rainfall and increased crop acreage.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-to-gain-as-china-eases-curbs-on-urea/articleshow/123438474.cms

India snaps up steeply discounted palm oil from Colombia and Guatemala

For the first time, Indian importers have purchased palm oil from Colombia and Guatemala. This is due to surplus stocks and discounted prices. Indonesia and Malaysia are the usual suppliers. The steep discounts from the Latin

American countries attracted Indian buyers. The landed cost was lower than Southeast Asian supplies. This new supply source could impact Malaysian palm oil futures.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-snaps-up-steeply-discounted-palm-oil-from-colombia-and-guatemala/articleshow/123431955.cms

Infrastructure

85% private participation in key ports by 2030: Sarbananda Sonowal

The government has identified 50 public-private partnerships (PPP) projects worth over ₹60,000 crore, significantly surpassing the original targets of the National Monetisation Pipeline, said Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the Business Standard Infrastructure Summit on Thursday. The government also aims to raise the share of private participation in major ports to 85 per cent by 2030, he said in his keynote address at the event.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-port-expansion-ppp-investment-vision-2047-sonowal-125082101240_1.html

Shipping Ministry moves to launch ₹25,000-cr Maritime Development Fund, another ₹25,000-cr fund for ship building clusters in 3–6 months

India's Shipping Ministry is moving closer to setting up a ₹25,000-crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF). The Ministry is also working on a parallel proposal of around ₹25,000 crore for shipbuilding clusters, with exact outlay being under considering. Final clearances for these two are likely in the next 3–6 months. Cabinet note preparations are underway.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/shipping-ministry-moves-to-launch-25000-cr-maritime-development-fund-25000-cr-ship-building-clusters-in-36-months/article69959354.ece

Toll operators to get payouts for shortfall due to FASTag annual passes

National Highways Authority of India will compensate toll operators. This is for the difference in toll collection after the annual pass launch. The compensation covers three months starting August 15. The financial impact will be factored into future bids. The compensation is limited to two transactions per vehicle daily. The mechanism will be reviewed after three months based on data.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/toll-operators-to-get-payouts-for-shortfall-due-to-fastag-annual-passes/articleshow/123438734.cms

India leads APAC office demand with 70% share in H1 2025 leasing: Report

India accounted for a 70 per cent share of office space leasing in Asia Pacific (APAC) and the country's demand "remains positive", according to a report by Colliers. Domestic demand accounted for 46 per cent of office leasing in India. Leasing activity in 11 key APAC markets reached 48.4 million square feet (msf) in the first half of 2025 (H1 2025), up 9.6 per cent from the previous year. Of this, India leased 33.7 msf of space in its top seven cities.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-office-leasing-share-apac-colliers-h1-2025-report-125082100535_1.html

Domestic airlines to see operating profit moderate 11-14% this fiscal: Crisil

The domestic airline industry is expected to witness moderation in operating profit this fiscal due to muted demand in the first quarter as well as an expected decline in yields, ratings agency Crisil said. Accordingly, Crisil on Thursday estimated that the domestic airline industry will see operating profit moderate 11-14 per cent to ₹20,000-21,000 crore in FY26 from ₹23,500 crore last fiscal. This trend, Crisil cited contrasts with the strong recovery seen in the three fiscals post the Covid-19 pandemic.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/domestic-airlines-to-see-operating-profit-moderate-11-14-this-fiscal-crisil/article69960935.ece

Energy

OMCs likely to remain profitable through FY26

State-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL are expected to maintain strong profitability throughout the current fiscal year (FY26). This positive outlook is driven by several key factors, including a forecast of lower crude oil prices.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-omcs-likely-to-remain-profitable-through-fy26-3953609/

New coal mines up for grabs in 13th round of commercial mine auction

The Ministry of Coal is set to launch the 13th round of commercial coal mine auctions today, on August 21 in New Delhi. The auction aims to speed up coal production and ensure a steady supply to meet India's growing energy needs. "This event will mark another significant step towards enhancing transparency, competition, and self-reliance in India's coal sector," it said. The 13th round will also continue with liberal terms to promote ease of doing business and attract investment.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-new-coal-mines-up-for-grabs-in-13th-round-of-commercial-mine-auction-3952980/

PFC inks loan pact worth EUR 150 million with German lender KfW

PFC has secured a EUR 150 million loan from KfW to support India's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). This collaboration aims to improve the operational and financial efficiency of power distribution companies nationwide. The partnership between PFC and KfW strengthens Indo-German cooperation in the energy sector, advancing the shared goal of accelerating energy transition and ensuring reliable power supply.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/pfc-inks-loan-pact-worth-eur-150-million-with-german-lender-kfw/articleshow/123436946.cms

Russia redraws India's oil map, but Middle East holds ground

Russia's increased oil supply to India has reshaped trade dynamics, impacting smaller suppliers while major Middle Eastern exporters like Iraq, Saudi Arabia and UAE remain largely stable. Discounted Russian crude primarily displaced costlier supplies from Africa and the Americas. As India potentially reduces Russian imports due to US pressure, sidelined suppliers may regain importance.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/russia-redraws-indias-oil-map-but-middle-east-holds-ground/articleshow/123416474.cms

States

PM Modi to launch ₹13,000 cr projects, inaugurate Ganga bridge in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Bihar on Friday when he is scheduled to inaugurate development projects worth more than ₹ 13,000 crore, including a bridge over the river Ganges, besides addressing a rally. The PM's programmes will be held at a time Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra' is underway in the state. Assembly elections are due in the state this year.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/pm-modi-to-launch-13-000-cr-projects-inaugurate-ganga-bridge-in-bihar-125082101213_1.html

Chhattisgarh CM on 10-day Japan, South Korea visit to attract investors

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday proceeded on a 10-day tour of Japan and South Korea to attract investment in the state, a government official said. This will be the first foreign trip by Sai after becoming the CM, and it aims to draw investors, especially from electronics, automobile, and food processing sectors, to the state, he said.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/chhattisgarh-cm-on-10-day-japan-south-korea-visit-to-attract-investors-125082100368_1.html

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves setting up 250 MW solar energy plant in Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has on Thursday approved a proposal to set up a 250 MW Solar Power Project in Mylavaram, Kadapa. The Cabinet, which met in Amaravati, had also approved an allotment of 200 acres of land to Adani Solar Energy. The AP Circular Economy, AP Waste Recycling Policy 4.0 (2025-2030) were also approved. Other key

decisions of the Cabinet included filling up of 2,778 posts in Village/Ward secretariats on deputation basis and development of a health centre in Chittoor into a 100-beds hospital.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-cabinet-approves-setting-up-250-mw-solar-energy-plant-in-kadapa/article69961006.ece

Healthcare

Most cancer drugs beyond ambit of price control mechanisms: Parliamentary panel

A Parliamentary panel has flagged that a substantial segment of cancer drugs are still beyond the ambit of current price control mechanisms and recommended measures to include the widest possible range of cancer drugs by expanding the scope of the Drugs Prices Control Order. In its 163rd report presented on Wednesday, the Committee on Petitions, Rajya Sabha, headed by Narain Dass Gupta stressed that regular and comprehensive market assessments should be instituted to monitor prevailing drug prices and availability trends.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/most-cancer-drugs-beyond-ambit-of-price-control-mechanisms-parl-panel-125082100517_1.html

External

India, Russia seek to increase trade to $100 billion as US ties fray

India and Russia are looking to increase their annual trade by about 50 per cent over the next five years to reach $100 billion, seeking to reduce tariffs as both countries see mounting tensions with the US, a top envoy said. Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said Wednesday during a visit to Moscow that the two countries must remove trade bottlenecks and reduce non-tariff barriers to reach the goal. Russia is India's fourth-largest trading partner, while India is Russia's second-largest.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-russia-seek-to-increase-trade-to-100-billion-as-us-ties-fray-125082100720_1.html

Goods exports to China rise 20% to $5.8 billion during April-July

India's goods exports to China witnessed a robust 20% year-on-year increase in the first four months of FY26, reaching $5.76 billion. This growth, driven by strong performances in energy, electronics, and agri-based products, signals improved trade performance and growing export competitiveness. Petroleum and electronic goods exports saw significant surges, reflecting strong Chinese demand.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/goods-exports-to-china-rise-20-to-5-8-billion-during-april-july/articleshow/123439246.cms

US will hold nations signing trade deals accountable for meeting targets, says trade official

The US will hold accountable countries that sign trade deals with it to meet the targets set in the agreements, a US trade official said on Thursday. "The reasons for the US signing more trade deals is to put more dollars in the pockets of the farmers. The US will hold the other side accountable for trade deals," said Luke Lindberg, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA). He was speaking at the inaugural function of Soy Connext 2025, organised by the US Soybean Export Council. (USSEC).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/us-will-hold-nations-signing-trade-deals-accountable-for-meeting-targets-says-trade-official/article69963196.ece

US imposes new fees on foreigners seeking work permits

The United States has imposed new fees for certain immigrants who were previously barred from paying to apply for permission to work in the country. Any form submitted without the required fees and postmarked on or after August 21, 2025, will be rejected by USCIS. To start working in the US, all foreigners need to have an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). It is also the responsibility of the US employers to ensure that all employees, regardless of their citizenship or national origin, are authorized to work in the country only if they hold an EAD.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/investing-abroad-us-imposes-new-fees-on-foreigners-seeking-work-permits-3953465/

Anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre imports soon

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty for five years on imports of acrylic fibre and liquid epoxy resins after a probe that established injury to the domestic manufacturers. On acrylic fibre imports from China, Thailand and Peru a duty of $ 920 to $ 34 per metric tonne has been recommended depending on which country exports have originated from and the manufacturers.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-anti-dumping-duty-on-acrylic-fibre-imports-soon-3953669/