

August 25, 2025 – Monday

Economy

India's outbound investments surge 67% in FY25, driven by ESG, GIFT City, global tax reforms: EY

India's outbound investments has jumped by 67.74 per cent to USD 41.6 billion in FY2024-25 from USD 24.8 billion in FY2023-24, as per a new EY report. The number of transactions also rose by 15 per cent, signalling a sharp uptick in global confidence, states the report titled "India abroad: Navigating the global landscape for overseas investment - 2025".It highlights that Indian companies are focusing on diversification, prioritising environmental, social, and governance (ESG) aspects, and leveraging technology-led growth to drive their global expansion strategies. The EY report highlights sectoral impacts across IT, energy, pharma, automotive, and hospitality.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-outbound-investments-surge-67-in-fy25-driven-by-esg-gift-city-global-tax-reforms-ey/article69971121.ece

Govt's focus is on creating maximum job opportunities, says PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized his government's commitment to generating maximum employment for the youth through initiatives like Skill India Mission, Start Up India, and Mudra Yojana. He urged youngsters to support self-reliance by embracing indigenous products. Modi highlighted the National Education Policy's focus on skill development, positioning India to provide skilled manpower to the world.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govts-focus-is-on-creating-maximum-job-opportunities-says-pm-modi/articleshow/123485861.cms

Finance

Banks draw up plans to help exporters navigate 50% Trump tariff threat

To support exporters against tariffs imposed by the United States (US), especially those in micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) clusters, banks are devising strategies for these firms to overcome the challenge. Commercial banks are offering interest rate discounts, flexible repayment options, and ensuring better access to export insurance and credit guarantee schemes. They are also organising workshops to encourage diversification into various markets.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/banking/banks-step-in-for-exporters-as-50-donald-trump-tariff-threat-looms-125082201231_1.html

Public sector banks lose big as pension fund deposits plunge 87% in 5 years

Public sector banks (PSBs) have witnessed a steep decline in deposits from pension funds over the past five years, even as the overall banking system benefited from this segment. Data sourced by Business Standard show that pension fund deposits with PSBs fell nearly 87 per cent—from ₹22,516 crore in March 2020 to just ₹2,969 crore by March 2025. In contrast, the aggregate deposits of pension funds with all scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) more than doubled in the same period, reaching ₹66,883 crore.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/public-sector-banks-lose-pension-fund-deposits-private-banks-gain-125082400239_1.html

NPA provisioning at a three-quarter high; private banks take the brunt

The banking sector's loan loss provisioning surged to a three-year high in the June quarter, driven by increased provisioning from private sector banks. While private banks saw a significant rise, public sector banks reported a decline in provisioning. This increase was influenced by one-off provisioning events and policy changes at certain banks.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/npa-provisioning-at-a-three-quarter-high-private-banks-take-the-brunt/articleshow/123489425.cms

After a 4-month record in FY26, corporate bond issuances slow down in Aug

Indian corporates, after raising a record ₹4.07 trillion through debt in the first four months of the current financial year, have slowed down in August, with no major issuances seen so far amid elevated yields. Market participants said that the bond market is currently in a wait-and-watch mode due to multiple uncertainties amid supply pressures from state bonds and central government bonds. The key concerns include expectation of additional borrowing for fiscal deficit management due to GST rate cut, and global risks like US tariffs and trade tensions.

https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/after-a-4-month-record-in-fy26-corporate-bond-issuances-slow-down-in-aug-125082400531_1.html

Ground slipping for affordable housing finance companies

Affordable Housing Finance Companies (AHFCs) in India, once high-growth engines, are entering a phase of moderation. New challenges, including rising delinquencies, intense competition from banks, and a lack of new affordable housing projects, are expected to slow their Asset Under Management (AUM) growth to a more sustainable 20-25%.

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-ground-slipping-for-affordable-housing-finance-companies-3956147/

Life insurers raise policy value to keep life going

Life insurers in India, including LIC, HDFC Life, and SBI Life, are strategically increasing the minimum and average policy values to enhance persistency and reduce policy lapses. This shift is driven by the understanding that higher-value policies correlate with better renewal rates and financially stable customers.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/life-insurers-raise-policy-value-to-keep-life-going/articleshow/123489459.cms

GST Council may allow input tax credit for employee group insurance

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council may deliberate on extending input tax credit (ITC) to corporates providing health and life insurance cover to their staff, a senior government official told Business Standard. This comes even as such group policies are set to remain outside the ambit of GST exemption, the official added. ITC allows businesses to offset the tax paid on inputs against their output tax liability. “ITC on group health and life insurance policies may be taken up for discussion. But there is no proposal to exempt these policies from GST. They will continue to attract 18 per cent,” the official said.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/council-may-weigh-itc-on-corporate-insurance-no-gst-exemption-proposed-125082400586_1.html

GST Council likely to consider proposal to provide slab rate beyond 40% on specific items

The GST Council, scheduled to meet on September 3-4, may consider a proposal to raise the maximum possible slab rate beyond 40 per cent, sources have indicated. Once enacted, this will help to maintain tax incidence on luxury and high-end items such as SUVs (Sports Utility vehicles) and sin goods. At present, SUVs attract slab rate of 28 per cent and compensation cess ranging between 15- 22 per cent, based on category, taking total incidence on account of GST to 43 - 50 per cent. Legally, based on Section 9(1) of the CGST Act, 2017 and corresponding provision of SGST Acts, maximum slab rate can be 40 per cent.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/gst-council-likely-to-consider-proposal-to-raise-maximum-rate-slab/article69971132.ece

Industry

Vibe coding flips the script on IT hiring, opens doors for non-tech talent

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping the software development lifecycle (SDLC), with machines now writing thousands of lines of code once handled by engineers. In response, information technology (IT) services companies are increasingly seeking talent from non-technology backgrounds to tap into their domain expertise. While these hires are not trained engineers and cannot write code themselves, companies are unconcerned because code-generation (often referred to as code-gen) startups can autonomously handle coding tasks. At Cognizant, nearly 30 per cent of code is now machine-generated, up from 20 per cent earlier this year, said Ravi Kumar, its chief executive officer (CEO).

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/vibe-coding-flips-the-script-on-it-hiring-opens-doors-for-non-tech-talent-125082100945_1.html

Cold chain firms readying to meet spurt in festive demand

India's 135 cold chain logistics firms are working at a feverish pitch to ready themselves for the spike in festive demand. The rise in orders this year of frozen desserts, dairy products, ready-to-eat products and mithai, Sameer Varma, executive director, ColdStar, believes, could be about 20-25% more -than usual festive jump. That's thanks to the increasing capacity at quick commerce platforms, which deliver in 10-15 minutes. Swarup Bose, founder and CEO, Celcius Logistics, said the growth is being fuelled not only by established brands but also by the expansion into new markets and the entry of smaller brands from Tier 2 cities into Tier 1 cities. The big concern now is a possible shortage of reefer vehicles or refrigerated vehicles.

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-cold-chain-firms-readying-to-meet-spurt-in-festive-demand-3956290/

Data centre industry entering phase of unprecedented growth: Nxtra CEO

The data centre industry is entering a phase of unprecedented growth, Nxtra CEO Ashish Arora has said, adding that as AI, cloud, and digital connectivity redefines lives and work, the underlying infrastructure, too, must be future-ready technologically, operationally, and environmentally. In its sustainability report 2025 listing out its key achievements, Nxtra by Airtel said 49 per cent of the total power consumed at core data centres was sourced from renewable energy sources.

https://www.business-standard.com/companies/news/data-centre-industry-entering-phase-of-unprecedented-growth-nxtra-ceo-125082400465_1.html

Smaller FMCG brands outshine larger peers

Smaller fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies continue to outperform their bigger rivals, aided by strong rural demand and easing inflation. The value and volume growth for manufacturers with an annual turnover of under Rs 100 crore was 21.5% and 12.7% in the June quarter, the best in six quarters, according to data from research agency NielsenIQ.

https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-smaller-fmcg-brands-outshine-larger-peers-3956230/

Women just 9% of FMCD workforce despite 30% hiring surge in two years

Even as India's fast-moving consumer durables (FMCD) sector has posted a 30 per cent hiring growth over the past two years, women remain starkly underrepresented, making up just 9 per cent of the workforce, said a report. India's FMCD sector has demonstrated consistent hiring momentum, with a cumulative 30 per cent increase from May 2023 to May 2025, according to a report by CIEL HR titled 'FMCD Sector: Talent Trends and Insights'.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/women-just-9-of-fmcd-workforce-despite-30-hiring-growth-report-125082400341_1.html

Tyre industry set for 7-8% growth in FY26 on strong replacement demand

The domestic tyre industry is likely to register a 7-8 per cent growth in the current fiscal on the back of replacement demand, according to people tracking the sector. JK Tyre & Industries MD Anshuman Singhania said the Indian tyre industry remains an export-heavy manufacturing sector, with outbound shipments surpassing Rs 25,000 crore in FY25. "In FY26, the Indian tyre industry is expected to achieve 7-8 per cent growth on the back of the strong domestic replacement demand despite muted OE (original equipment) offtakes," Singhania said in an analyst call.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tyre-industry-set-for-7-8-growth-in-fy25-on-strong-replacement-demand-125082400159_1.html

Festival season cheer on hold as auto buyers await GST relief and discounts

Automobile dealers are bracing for a hesitant start to the festival season, with bookings and showroom visits slipping by 25 per cent in the latter half of August. Many customers, they said, are delaying purchases in anticipation of a cut in goods and services tax (GST), prompting some dealers to roll out extra discounts in a bid to draw them in. Last Wednesday, members of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (Fada) met Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, raising concerns that buyers could postpone purchases until tax changes are confirmed and come into effect.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/festival-season-cheer-on-hold-as-auto-buyers-await-gst-relief-and-discounts-125082400805_1.html

Niti Aayog to huddle with 2W giants on electric motorcycles

Niti Aayog has convened a meeting on Monday with top two-wheeler makers including Hero MotoCorp, Bajaj Auto, TVS Motor, Ola Electric, Ather and Revolt to push the electrification of motorcycles, a segment that dominates India's two-wheeler market but has seen almost no EV penetration. Although motorcycles powered by internal combustion engines make up nearly two-thirds of India's two-wheeler market, the penetration of electric motorcycles is a negligible 0.1 per cent.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/niti-aayog-to-huddle-with-2w-giants-on-electric-motorcycles/article69971522.ece

India's lubricant majors bet on EVs, digital infra to fuel future growth

India's leading lubricant manufacturers are broadening their portfolios beyond internal combustion engine (ICE) oils to tap into emerging opportunities in electric mobility and digital infrastructure, as the industry adapts to long-term shifts in demand. Castrol India has identified electric vehicle (EV) fluids as a core growth pillar. Its Castrol ON range of coolants, transmission oils, and greases is already being used across Tata Motors' EV portfolio. The company is also collaborating with global technology providers to develop thermal management solutions for data centres, where rising demand from artificial intelligence applications is driving a transition to liquid-based cooling.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/lubricant-makers-focus-on-ev-fluids-and-digital-infra-for-growth-125082400448_1.html

India aims to be among top 5 sporting nations by 2047: Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya revealed that India is aiming to feature among the top five sporting nations by 2047, the year in which the country will celebrate its 100th year of independence. Mandaviya invoked various reforms, including the Target Podium Olympic Scheme (TOPS), Khelo India and initiatives like the Fit India movement, to cite the progress the nation has made under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "PM Modi has given slogans of Khelo India, Fit India and introduced the TOPS scheme, which helps athletes to get exposure and best facilities, which allows them to compete at their best level," Mandaviya said during the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2025 in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

https://www.business-standard.com/sports/other-sports-news/india-aims-to-be-among-top-5-sporting-nations-by-2047-mansukh-mandaviya-125082500028_1.html

Agriculture

Vegetable oils body IVPA urges govt to lift GST refund restrictions

Vegetable oil industry body IVPA has urged the government to lift restrictions on tax credit refunds in place since July 2022, saying the curbs are straining working capital and deterring investment in the sector. The Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA) said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council's restriction on refunds of accumulated Input Tax Credit (ITC) under the inverted duty structure was causing cash flow problems, particularly for small and medium enterprises.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/vegetable-oils-body-ivpa-urges-govt-to-lift-gst-refund-restrictions-125082400244_1.html

Energy

Clean energy drive in high gear on route to milestone 2030: Power sector experts at ET WLF 2025

India's renewable energy sector is rapidly expanding, exceeding expectations for 2030 green goals, driven by solar and wind power growth. Executives highlighted skill gaps and payment risks as challenges, while emphasizing the need for hybrid projects and energy storage for reliable power.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/clean-energy-drive-in-high-gear-on-route-to-milestone-2030-power-sector-experts-at-et-wlf-2025/articleshow/123489041.cms

Petroleum products export down 16% to $12.3 billion in Apr-Jul

India’s exports of petroleum products fell 16% year-on-year to $12.3 billion in the first four months of FY26, down from $14.7 billion in the same period last year, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC).In volume terms, however, exports remained largely unchanged at 20.1 million tonne during the period. Imports of refined oil products declined by 4% on-year to $7.6 billion during the four-month period.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-petroleum-products-export-down-16-to-12-3-billion-in-apr-jul-3956136/

Telecom

Permit to Starlink bars copying, decryption of Indian data overseas: MoS Telecom

The government has approved a permit to Starlink, after the company agreed to comply with domestic laws, including security conditions, which bar it from copying and decrypting data overseas and mirroring Indian user traffic on any system set up abroad, Minister of State for Communications Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar said. The minister told that security conditions mandate satellite communication providers to set up earth station gateways in India through which communications from satellite to users are routed.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/permit-to-starlink-bars-copying-decryption-of-indian-data-overseas-mos-telecom/article69971500.ece

Telecom companies, OEMs must collaborate with global players : Broadband India Forum President

Indian telecom operators and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) must collaborate with the global players to drive technological progress and deliver greater benefits to the public, said TV Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum. Speaking on the role of emerging technologies in expanding connectivity to ANI, the Broadband India Forum President underscored the importance of being "technology agnostic" and leveraging multiple platforms to bridge the digital divide.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/telecom-companies-oems-must-collaborate-with-global-players-broadband-india-forum-president/article69970904.ece

States

States rejig policies, seek Centre's help to counter Trump tariffs

The government of Tamil Nadu, which exported 31 per cent of its total shipments worth $52.1 billion to the US in FY25, fears massive job losses once the additional 25 per cent tariff takes effect on August 27. The state has sought the Centre’s help, as have several other states, including Andhra Pradesh. From Uttar Pradesh to Telangana, Kerala to Rajasthan, Gujarat to Tamil Nadu, state governments are reworking their export promotion policies and exploring ways to quickly look for newer markets. State governments have requested the Centre for export incentives, lifting of import duty in the case of cotton for the textile sector and goods and services tax (GST) exemptions. Some have written to the Centre to look at the Brazilian model, which has announced tax deferrals and tax credits for exporters.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/states-rejig-policies-seek-centre-help-to-counter-trump-tariffs-125082400745_1.html

Gujarat emerges as India’s copper hub, amid soaring demand from sunrise sectors

Despite having limited resources of copper ore, Gujarat has emerged as the country’s copper production hub with large investments from Hindalco and Adani at Dahej and Mundra, respectively. While Hindalco’s Dahej unit started

in 1998, Gujarat pipped Tamil Nadu to become the largest copper producer with Adani's Kutch facility starting operations in 2024.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-gujarat-emerges-as-indias-copper-hub-amid-soaring-demand-from-sunrise-sectors-3956105/

Healthcare

GST rate rationalisation likely to drive growth in life and health policies

Amid muted insurance penetration, the rationalisation of goods and services tax (GST) rates is expected to boost sales of life and health insurance among price-sensitive customer segments by making policies more affordable. According to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's annual report, insurance penetration in India stood at 3.7 per cent in 2023-24 (FY24), down from 4 per cent a year earlier. Non-life insurance penetration remained flat at 1 per cent, while life insurance penetration increased slightly to 3 per cent from 2.8 per cent. Growth in health insurance has been constrained by affordability concerns amid high medical inflation.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/gst-cut-boost-insurance-sales-life-health-price-sensitive-125082400522_1.html

External

Indian envoy discusses fair trade with US lawmakers amid tariff tensions

Indian envoy Vinay Mohan Kwatra discussed fair, balanced and mutually beneficial trade ties with US lawmakers amid ongoing tariff tensions between New Delhi and Washington. The Indian Ambassador has met four US lawmakers in the last 24 hours and 23 since August 9, as revealed by his social media posts. Kwatra met Congressman Rep Joe Courtney, Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, on Saturday (local time) and thanked him for supporting the bilateral partnership between the two countries.
https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-envoy-discusses-fair-trade-with-us-lawmakers-amid-tariff-tensions-125082400272_1.html

Fiji PM Sitiveni Rabuka begins 4-day India visit to boost bilateral ties

Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka arrived in New Delhi on Sunday for a four-day visit, accompanied by his spouse, Suluweti Rabuka. The upcoming engagement also followed recent high-level exchanges between the two countries.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/fiji-pm-sitiveni-rabuka-begins-4-day-india-visit-to-boost-bilateral-ties-125082400057_1.html

India sharpens global critical minerals play: Uranium tie-ups with Russia after Argentinian lithium blocks, copper-cobalt focus in Africa

India is fast-tracking its global critical minerals strategy with a multi-pronged push that include securing uranium tie-ups with Russia, Middle East partnerships, and lithium acquisitions as the Centre readies a war chest of over ₹4,500 crore, including overseas acquisitions and setting up emergency stockpiles for critical minerals. G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister of Mines told businessline that the Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), a state-run joint venture mandated to acquire critical mineral assets overseas, has tied up with global heavyweights including International Resources Holding RSC Ltd. (IRH) of the UAE – a vertically integrated mineral company - and Uranium One Group, a subsidiary of Russia's state-owned Rosatom.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-sharpens-global-critical-minerals-play-uranium-tie-ups-with-russia-after-argentinian-lithium-blocks-copper-cobalt-focus-in-africa/article69971162.ece

India's ASEAN roots help anchor cruise ships

On June 30, 2025, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India, hosted the first-ever ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue in Chennai. All member countries of ASEAN, namely, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as Timor-Leste, attended the meeting. One of the themes of the meet was to enhance India's cruise connectivity with a focus on heritage-led cruise tourism.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/indias-asean-roots-help-anchor-cruise-ships/article69960344.ece

Biostimulant Industry Federation urges govt action on trade barriers

The National Biostimulant Industry Federation (NBIF) on Sunday called for urgent government intervention to address regulatory bottlenecks in the domestic market and high tariffs abroad, which are hampering the sector's growth potential. NBIF urged the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office to coordinate reforms across key ministries to support an industry valued at ₹40,000 crore and comprising over 5,000 small and medium enterprises. Indian biostimulant exporters face tariffs of 15-28 per cent in key global markets, along with non-tariff barriers, including origin-specific efficacy trials and residue testing requirements, NBIF said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/biostimulant-industry-federation-urges-govt-action-on-trade-barriers-125082400237_1.html

Rs 25,000-crore outlay likely for new export mission

The total outlay for the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) is likely to be fixed at Rs 25,000 crore for the period through 2030-31 with annual allocation going up each passing year as the various components of the mission get operationalised. According to official sources, the mission is awaiting clearance from the Expenditure Finance Committee in the department of expenditure, before it is taken to the Cabinet for approval. The exporters are awaiting the scheme in anticipation that it will help them navigate the overall export slump and difficult situation caused by the hefty US tariffs.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-rs-25000-crore-outlay-likely-for-new-export-mission-3956118/

Brazilian iron ore shipments rise 4%

Brazilian iron ore shipments between January and August 2025 are expected to rise 4 per cent year-on-year, supported by stronger mining activity. Shipments to China have increased despite weaker demand, replacing shipments from Australia, Peru and India," says Filipe Gouveia, Shipping Analysis Manager at BIMCO, a global shipping community in 120 countries.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/brazilian-iron-ore-shipments-rise-4/article69972340.ece

India's pharma exports rise 5.21% to $7.57 billion in Q1 FY26

Pharmaceutical exports rose 5.21 per cent to $7.57 billion in the first quarter of the current financial year compared to the corresponding quarter of previous fiscal. The growth in exports during the quarter was led by formulations and biologics, according to pharmexcil data. "Indian pharmaceutical continues to solidify its pivotal role in the global healthcare landscape,'' Namit Joshi, Chairman, Pharmaceutical Exports Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), said. Apart from the NAFTA region, the growth in exports was also registered in Oceania, Latin American countries and Africa.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indias-pharma-exports-rise-521-to-757-bn-in-q1-fy26/article69971731.ece