

August 20, 2025 – Wednesday

Economy

Parliamentary panel pitches for 35% of GDP as investment to achieve 8% growth rate

A parliamentary panel on Tuesday pitched for raising the investment rate from 31 per cent of the GDP to 35 per cent to achieve the ambitious growth target of 8 per cent. The Standing Committee on Finance also urged the government to maintain sustainable, growth-oriented energy policies that prioritise affordability and efficiency while balancing climate commitments with economic and social objectives.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/par-panel-pitches-for-hike-in-investment-rate-to-achieve-8-growth-125081901196_1.html

Icra pegs Q1 GDP growth rate at 6.7% on higher govt capex, exports

The Indian economy is expected to grow at 6.7 per cent in April-June period of current fiscal, higher than 6.5 per cent a year ago, on the back of higher government capex and exports, rating agency Icra said on Tuesday. This projection also outpaces the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC's) forecast of 6.5 per cent growth in the June quarter. India's economy grew 7.4 per cent in March quarter of FY25. Official data for FY26 Q1 GDP is scheduled to be released on August 29.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/icra-pegs-q1-gdp-growth-rate-at-6-7-on-higher-govt-capex-exports-125081900576_1.html

Finance

Mudra Yojana NPAs against outstanding loans rise to 9.8% at end of FY25

The Non-performing Asset (NPA) rate against outstanding amount under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) for Scheduled Commercial Banks has risen from 5.47 per cent at the end of March 2018 to 9.81 per cent as on March 2025, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. The NPA rate against the amount of loan disbursed under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) for Scheduled Commercial Banks, as on March 2025, is 2.19 per cent as compared to 2.71 per cent at the end of March 2018, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/npa-against-outstanding-amount-under-pmmy-rises-to-9-8-as-of-mar-2025-125081900858_1.html

Private banks told to step up Jan Suraksha, credit outreach play

The government is urging private sector banks to increase their involvement in key financial inclusion initiatives like Jan Suraksha and SLBCs. Concerns have been raised about the insufficient engagement of some private banks, hindering the effectiveness of these programs. The government is emphasizing the need for faster claim settlements and improved banking infrastructure in rural areas and the Northeast.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/private-banks-told-to-step-up-jan-suraksha-credit-outreach-play/articleshow/123393483.cms

Banks sanction Rs 62,791 cr to 2.75 lakh beneficiaries under Stand-Up India Scheme

Since its launch in April 2016, the Stand-Up India Scheme has facilitated Rs 62,791 crore in loans to 2,75,291 accounts, promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women. Additionally, Rs 17,811.72 crore has been disbursed under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme for short-term crop loans in 2024-25. The RBI regulates Peer-to-Peer lending to ensure fair practices and borrower protection.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-sanction-rs-62791-cr-to-2-75-lakh-beneficiaries-under-stand-up-india-scheme/articleshow/123387636.cms

Re 1 rise in UPI value trims debit card use by 14 paise: SBI Report

A ₹1 increase in transaction value on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has reduced the value of debit-card transactions by 14 paise between 2021 and 2025, according to a State Bank of India (SBI) Research report. "It has been observed through time series analysis for the period from January 2021 to May 2025 that a ₹1 increase in UPI transactions actually reduces the value of debit card transactions by 14 paise," the report said. This comes at a time when UPI has maintained its dominant position in India's digital payments and is gradually replacing the use of the debit card.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rise-in-upi-value-trims-debit-card-use-by-14-paise-sbi-report-125081901394_1.html

SEBI weighs tighter intraday limits on index options

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering tightening rules for monitoring intraday positions in index options, particularly for large traders and client firms to curb excessive trading or manipulation on expiry days. The issue was discussed with a secondary market panel on Tuesday to streamline the monitoring process of intraday limits and possibly introduce a penalty framework in case of breaches at higher thresholds, according to sources aware of the matter.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-weighs-tighter-intraday-limits-on-index-options/article69952777.ece

Now, panchayat heads to get training in finance

SEBI and the Panchayati Raj Ministry launch financial literacy training for sarpanches and panchayat officials to promote savings, safe investments, and fraud prevention in rural India. The initiative aims to empower 2.5 lakh panchayats and make securities market participation inclusive.
https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/now-panchayat-heads-to-get-training-in-finance/3951500/

Housing finance companies struggle as mortgage rate war intensifies

Housing finance companies face challenges. Public sector banks aggressively price mortgage rates. This squeezes HFC margins. Loan disbursals grow, but AUM doesn't keep pace. Borrowers are shifting loans. Bajaj Housing Finance saw a profit decline. LIC Housing Finance also feels the rate war. Competition is intense, impacting even large players. Margin pressure is expected to continue for a while.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/housing-finance-companies-struggle-as-mortgage-rate-war-intensifies/articleshow/123394412.cms

Govt likely to revive anti-profiteering rules under GST 2.0 overhaul

The government is considering re-invoking anti-profiteering provisions for a limited period to ensure that businesses pass on indirect tax benefits to consumers, following the proposed overhaul of the goods and services tax (GST) regime, according to a senior official. "While the Centre remains committed to market-driven pricing, concerns over unfair profiteering cannot be ruled out if companies fail to reduce maximum retail prices (MRPs) in line with lower tax rates. We are planning to invoke anti-profiteering measures for up to two years so that businesses don't pocket benefits of the lower rates," the official said, requesting anonymity. An email sent to the finance ministry remained unanswered until the time of going to press.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-likely-to-revive-anti-profiteering-provisions-under-gst-2-0-125081901485_1.html

Industry

Govt disburses Rs 21,689 crore under 12 PLI schemes till July 31

The government has disbursed Rs 21,689 crore under Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes across 12 sectors, including electronics and pharmaceuticals, as of July 31, 2025. Launched in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for 14 sectors, the PLI scheme has approved 806 applications, with the food products segment receiving the most approvals, followed by speciality steel and auto.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/govt-disburses-rs-21689-crore-under-12-pli-schemes-till-july-31/articleshow/123384252.cms

Parliament passes Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill

Parliament on Tuesday passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025 that aims to further liberalise, modernise and make India's mineral sector more dynamic, especially with a focus on critical and strategic minerals. The bill, which seeks to amend the original Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was passed in Lok Sabha on August 12. Rajya Sabha passed it with a voice vote. About 19 members participated in the debate and shared some constructive suggestions.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/parliament-passes-mines-and-minerals-amendment-bill/article69951588.ece

Govt likely to tighten rules for money-based games in Online Gaming Bill

The government may introduce severe curbs on online money-based games in the forthcoming Online Gaming Bill, 2025, a CNBC-TV18 news report said on Tuesday. The draft Bill was reported to impose restrictions on online money games or online money gaming service offerings, a move that could impact multiple firms in the country. It is also expected to classify an “online money game” as any game — irrespective of skill- or chance-based — that involves players paying a fee or depositing money to participate.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/govt-likely-to-tighten-rules-for-money-based-games-in-online-gaming-bill-125081901285_1.html

Industry executive to meet govt, seek clarity

Automobile dealers plan to meet Union ministers to seek clarity on the proposed GST cut as buyers delay purchases. Small cars and two-wheelers may see GST reduced to 18%, while bigger cars face 40% flat tax. Dealers fear weak festive sales despite strong enquiries amid tax uncertainty.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry-industry-executive-to-meet-govt-seek-clarity-3951583/

Online monitoring mandatory for waste-to-energy plants and landfills: CPCB

The Central Pollution Control Board has directed all state pollution control boards and pollution control committees to install Online Continuous Emission and Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS) at waste-to-energy plants and sanitary landfill sites to strengthen surveillance and ensure compliance with environmental standards. The order dated August 12 asked states to submit 'action taken reports' on the status of waste-to-energy units by August 18.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/online-monitoring-mandatory-for-waste-to-energy-plants-and-landfills-cpcb-125081900573_1.html

E-comm, tech start-ups lead fresher hiring with 88% intent in H2 2025

The e-commerce and technology start-ups sector is driving fresher hiring in India with an 88 per cent intent for the July-December 2025 period, according to the latest Career Outlook Report (HY2 2025) by TeamLease EdTech. However, overall, job prospects for fresh graduates are tightening in the second half of the year, with hiring intent slipping to 70 per cent, a 4 per cent drop from the first half. The shift is attributed to AI-led workforce restructuring, global trade uncertainties, and a strategic focus on retaining experienced talent in core industries, the report noted.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/e-comm-tech-start-ups-lead-fresher-hiring-with-88-intent-in-h2-2025-125081900933_1.html

AI adoption spreads across sectors as Indian workforce seeks upskilling

As artificial intelligence pervades work places across the globe, Indian workers are increasingly leaning on AI tools to stay employable and grow in their careers, according to hiring platform Indeed’s latest workforce study. The survey,

conducted in May 2025 among more than 3,000 professionals across the country, found that 43 per cent of respondents feel confident about adapting to technologies such as generative AI and agentic AI over the next two to five years.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ai-adoption-india-work-sector-employment-upskilling-survey-125081900832_1.html

Tyre makers expect H2 FY26 rebound on festive demand, rural recovery

Tyre makers expect demand to pick up in the second half of the financial year 2026 (H2FY26), aided by festival season buying and a possible rural recovery, even as weakness continues to weigh on sales in the near term. Companies remain cautiously optimistic, banking on replacement demand, urban consumption and easing raw material costs to support growth. Apollo Tyres anticipates "a stronger topline growth" in both India and Europe. "The replacement segment is likely to lead the growth domestically," Managing Director Neeraj Kanwar said in the post Q1 earnings call.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/tyre-industry-fy26-demand-outlook-festive-season-rural-recovery-125081900697_1.html

Agriculture

Higher paddy, maize acreage boost overall kharif area

Kharif sowing is nearing completion as farmers have already planted crops in over 95 per cent of the normal area of about 1,097 lakh hectares (lh) so far. With about 44 lh covered during the past week (against 63 lh in the previous week) and the lead over year-ago period further narrowing to less than 4 per cent, the government is keeping a close watch on crop losses due to heavy rains. Experts said that fertilizer demand is indicating positive prospects for a good harvest. In Uttar Pradesh, the largest rice producing State, the paddy crop so far appears to be among the best in recent years, but the next 40 days will be crucial, said a senior agriculture scientist.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/kharif-crops-sowing-4-more-from-year-ago-after-95-normal-area-covered/article69952271.ece

Fertilizer industry seeks clarity in inverted duty structure as part of GST reforms

The fertilizer industry plans to make a representation to both the Centre and state finance ministers to seek clarity on the inverted duty structure (IDS) that persists in the sector and is likely to continue even if GST rates are rationalised. The inverted duty structure of the fertilizer industry will continue to be a challenge and strain the working capital even if the input and output rates are aligned at at 5 per cent because the output duty is paid on a subsidised value of fertilizers, industry executives told businessline. As an industry, we plan to seek more clarity and special dispensation around refunds to address the issue, even if rates are brought down," the executive said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/fertilizer-industry-seeks-clarity-in-inverted-duty-structure-as-part-of-gst-reforms/article69951826.ece

Govt seeks urea imports as kharif demand soars

Govt rushes to import urea as kharif sowing lifts demand by 12%. Stocks fell to 3.7 MT from 8.6 MT a year ago, prompting tenders for 4 MT imports. Rising global prices, reliance on LNG, and subsidy burden add pressure even as the government ensures supplies for farmers ahead of rabi season.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-govt-seeks-urea-imports-as-kharif-demand-soars-3951633/

Infrastructure

MoRTH tightens HAM norms; 25% of developers may be barred from bidding

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has tightened financial and technical qualification norms for hybrid annuity model (HAM) projects, a move that could temporarily restrict one in four current developers from bidding, according to Crisil. Crisil's study of 74 developers, who together bagged 90 per cent of HAM projects between FY22 and FY25, found that stricter financial thresholds could limit participation. HAM is a mix of the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) and build, operate, transfer (BOT) model projects.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/morth-tightens-norms-ham-projects-25pc-developers-barred-125081900656_1.html

More small and mid-sized GCCs prefer co-working spaces for flexibility and asset-light model

With India's Global Capability Centre(GCC) ecosystem growing rapidly year after year, so has the demand for high quality office spaces to house these global clients. With long-term leases in large tech parks being impractical for small and mid-sized GCCs, co-working spaces have emerged as a suitable and more flexible alternative. Industry players and analysts told businessline that co-working spaces is finding more takers from the GCC world as smaller GCCs are starting their journey in India by setting up in such shared spaces. As they scale, the GCCs either move to larger managed office spaces.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/more-small-and-mid-sized-gccs-prefer-co-working-spaces-for-flexibility-and-asset-light-model/article69952549.ece

Energy

India awards 862,000 TPA green hydrogen capacity, eyes 10% of global demand

India has awarded 862,000 tonnes per annum (TPA) of green hydrogen production capacity to 19 companies under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shripad Naik announced at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Green Hydrogen Summit 2025 on Tuesday. Speaking at the event in New Delhi, Naik outlined India's ambition to capture about 10% of the global green hydrogen demand, projected to exceed 100 million metric tonnes by 2030. "We want to make India not only a major producer but also a global hub for green hydrogen exports," he said.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-awards-green-hydrogen-capacity-eyes-10-global-demand-125081901570_1.html

India curbs solar output to stabilise power grid amid low demand: Ministry

India is curbing solar output during periods of low demand to keep its power grid stable and to ease congestion in power lines as green energy supply rises, its Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) told Reuters. Congestion in power lines due to some new plants coming into operation ahead of schedule and delayed transmission projects have also forced power output curbs, also known as curtailment, the MNRE said in an emailed response to questions late on Monday.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-curbs-solar-output-to-stabilise-power-grid-amid-low-demand-ministry-125081900299_1.html

Government expands coal-fired power capacity addition target to 97 GW by FY35

The Power Ministry has revised upwards its target of meeting India's electricity base load requirement through additional thermal power capacity. The new target is to set up a minimum 97 gigawatts (GW) of coal and lignite-fired capacity by FY35, up from the earlier target of 90 GW by FY32. Minister of State for Power Shripad Naik in a written response to a query in Rajya Sabha on Monday pointed out that the projected thermal (coal and lignite) capacity requirement by FY35 is estimated at around 307 GW. Besides, an estimated 2 GW capacity is expected to retire by FY32.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/government-expands-coal-fired-power-capacity-addition-target-to-97-gw-by-fy35/article69950736.ece

India's oil reforms to blunt US and European Union supply coercion

India's energy security will get a leg up amid US President Donald Trump's tariff rumbles as the government hopes to finalise by September major reforms in the oil and gas sector, a senior government official said. These measures are expected to help the government deal with geopolitical pressures inflicted by countries like the US by squeezing supplies of oil via coercive methods or from armed conflicts in West Asia that block key passageways like the Suez Canal or the Strait of Hormuz through which India receives most of its oil and gas.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-s-oil-reforms-to-blunt-us-and-european-union-supply-coercion-125081901395_1.html

Telecom

Tariff playbook exhausted, telcos turn to data to boost ARPUs

India's telecom sector is entering a new phase of growth, with operators encouraging users to move towards premium data plans to boost average revenue per user (ARPU). With the impact of recent tariff hikes fully absorbed, analysts project data surge to be the next big lever for ARPU rise in India. Last fiscal, the sector reported good operating profit and ARPUs largely due to the tariff hikes announced i the earlier part of the financial year. According to Everest Group data, Indian telcos averaged over 15 per cent ARPU growth compared to the 3-6 per cent rise reported by the European counterparts. Even American telecom companies averaged only 1-3 per cent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/tariff-playbook-exhausted-telcos-turn-to-data-to-boost-arpus/article69952493.ece

Telecom bodies demand lower tax for mobile phones and services

India's telecom stakeholders are demanding that the government slash GST rates on mobile phones from 18 to 5 per cent, contending that phones have now become essential infrastructure rather than luxury goods in the country's digital economy. "The mobile phone is no longer aspirational; it is essential digital infrastructure for education, healthcare, financial inclusion, and governance. It should rightly be taxed at 5 per cent GST, in line with the Prime Minister's GST reform agenda and his vision of a $500 billion electronics ecosystem," said Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman at the India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) in a statement.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/telecom-bodies-demand-lower-tax-for-mobile-phones-and-services/article69951893.ece

States

Madhya Pradesh to emerge as hub for critical minerals: CM Mohan Yadav

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said the state is moving towards becoming a hub for critical minerals. He noted that Singrauli, the state's leading mineral centre and energy capital, holds rich reserves of rare earth elements (REEs), which significantly add to Madhya Pradesh's mineral wealth. With these resources, he said, the state would help India reduce its dependence on countries such as China and strengthen its position in global competition.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/mp-critical-minerals-hub-singrauli-rare-earth-elements-125081901525_1.html

Maharashtra inks MoUs worth ₹42,893 cr; projects to create over 28k jobs

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 42,893 crore with various companies for data centre and solar energy projects in the state. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the state is emerging as the data centre capital and solar energy integration capital of India. Eight MoUs for various investments and two strategic agreements, including a partnership with the UK to attract foreign investments, were signed. The MoUs worth Rs 42,893 crore are expected to generate 28,558 jobs, it was stated. The chief minister said these investment commitments reflect the trust of investors and the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/maharashtra-inks-mous-worth-42-893-cr-projects-to-create-over-28k-jobs-125081900831_1.html

Healthcare

Govt panel starts drafting rules for refurbished medical device imports

A central government's inter-departmental high-level committee has begun discussions on framing new rules to regulate the entry of refurbished or second-hand medical devices into India. Valued at ₹1,500 crore, the pre-owned medical equipment market currently accounts for nearly 10 per cent of the overall medical equipment industry in the country, according to industry executives.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/refurbished-medical-devices-regulation-committee-discussions-125081900684_1.html

External

India, US negotiating agreement to liberalise trade in goods: Minister

India and the US are negotiating a multi-sector bilateral trade agreement and as a part of the negotiations, both sides are discussing liberalisation of trade in goods, including non-sensitive agricultural products, Parliament was informed on Tuesday. The government is engaged with all relevant stakeholders including agriculture, farming experts, to assess the interests and requirements of India's rural economy, farmers and agricultural sector, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-negotiating-agreement-to-liberalise-trade-in-goods-minister-125081900891_1.html

Exports to 8 of top 20 hubs decline in April-July, shows govt data

Even as the imposition of a 50 per cent tariff by the end of August is expected to sharply reduce India's exports to the US in coming months, its shipments to some eight among the top-20 countries have contracted during the first four months of 2025-26 (FY26). According to commerce department data, export destinations that witnessed contraction during April-July are: the Netherlands (-21.2 per cent), the UK (-11.2 per cent), Singapore (-11.8 per cent), Saudi Arabia (-11.8 per cent), South Africa (-16.3 per cent), Italy (-9.2 per cent), France (-17.3 per cent), and Malaysia (-28.8 per cent).
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/exports-to-8-of-top-20-hubs-decline-in-april-july-shows-govt-data-125081901259_1.html

India Exim Bank signs $40 million credit line deal with Africa's ECOWAS Bank

The Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank) and the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID) have signed a commercial credit line agreement of $40 million. This agreement is aimed at creating new opportunities for Indian businesses to contribute to Africa's growth story and strengthen bilateral economic ties, India Exim Bank said in a statement. Collaboration with financial institutions in Africa form a vital pillar of these partnerships, particularly in light of the growing global uncertainties and resultant challenges to trade, per the statement.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/india-exim-bank-signs-40-million-credit-line-deal-with-africas-ecowas-bank/article69950763.ece

China pledges to address India's rare earth mineral needs: Report

There is an upward trend in India-China relations and Beijing has promised to address New Delhi's needs on rare earths, a top Indian official and a source said on Tuesday, as the neighbours rebuild ties that were damaged by a 2020 border clash. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is visiting India for the 24th round of border talks with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and is also due to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, days before Modi travels to China for the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/china-pledges-to-address-india-s-rare-earth-mineral-needs-report-125081901007_1.html

High seas & higher tariffs: Seafood units, acqua farms struggle to stay afloat

India's $7.38 bn seafood sector reels as US doubles tariffs to 50%, threatening Rs 24,000 cr in exports. Shrimp farmers, exporters, and fishermen face price crashes, cash crunch, and order cancellations, while competitors like Ecuador gain an edge with lower duties.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-high-seas-higher-tariffs-seafood-units-acqua-farms-struggle-to-stay-afloat-3951395/