

September 16, 2025 – Tuesday

Economy

Food prices drive WPI inflation to 4-month high of 0.52% in August

India's factory gate inflation based on the wholesale price index (WPI) rose to a four- month high of 0.52 per cent in August, on the back of an increase in the prices of food and manufacturing products, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday. The WPI was at a two-year low of -0.58 per cent in July. Data showed that primary food articles recorded a reduced deflation (-3.06 per cent) in August, led by an acceleration in the prices of wheat (4.75 per cent), milk (2.58 per cent) and protein-rich items like egg, meat & fish (0.06 per cent). Prices of other food items like pulses (-14.85 per cent) and vegetables (-14.18 per cent) rose during the month, yet they still remained in the deflationary zone.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-wpi-inflation-august-2025-food-manufacturing-prices-rise-125091500581_1.html

India's unemployment rate falls to 4-month low of 5.1% in August: PLFS

Labour markets showed positive momentum in August as the unemployment rate fell for the second consecutive month to a four-month low of 5.1 per cent from 5.2 per cent in July. It was on account of the start of the sowing season. The headline unemployment rate for people of age 15 and above in the current weekly status (CWS) terms for rural areas fell further to 4.3 per cent in August . This is the lowest since the start of the financial year.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-unemployment-rate-august-2025-plfs-nso-125091501306_1.html

India's exports up 6.7% in Aug despite US tariffs; trade gap narrows

Outbound shipments from India grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to $35.1 billion in August, despite global uncertainties and steep double-digit tariffs imposed by the United States (US) on several Indian goods. The rise partly reflects a low base of $32.9 billion in August 2024. On a sequential basis, exports contracted 5.7 per cent from $37.24 billion in July. Data released by the Department of Commerce on Monday showed that exports to the country's largest market — the US — rose 7.15 per cent Y-o-Y to $6.86 billion in August, even after a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff imposed from August 7.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-exports-august-2025-trade-deficit-us-tariffs-125091501353_1.html

Govt to identify 100 products to cut imports, boost Aatmanirbhar Bharat

As a step towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the department of commerce is identifying as many as 100 products, where import dependency and domestic capabilities can be enhanced. "We are identifying 100 products, where we have huge imports, but at the same time we have some domestic capacities. Those imports can be replaced by domestic capacities by improving utilisation of those products. That will be a step towards being Aatmanirbhar," commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Monday.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/commerce-identifies-100-products-import-reduction-aatmanirbhar-125091501366_1.html

Finance

RBI steps up NDF activity to counter tariff impact on flows, bankers say

The Reserve Bank of India has stepped up its presence in the offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) market to support the rupee, which has come under pressure from shifting demand-supply dynamics, bankers said on Monday. Exporters have been holding back dollar sales, while importers are ramping up hedging in response to US tariffs risks, contributing to rupee weakness, they added. Reuters reported last month that the RBI had resumed intervention in the NDF market after a period of reduced activity.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-steps-up-ndf-activity-to-counter-tariff-impact-on-flows-bankers-say/article70051913.ece

RBI issues final guidelines for payment aggregators

RBI issues final guidelines for payment aggregators: banks exempt from authorisation, NBFCs need approval. Rules mandate Rs 25 crore net worth, escrow accounts, fit-and-proper norms, dispute resolution, and risk management to ensure secure digital transactions.
https://www.financialexpress.com/business/banking-finance-rbi-issues-final-guidelines-for-payment-aggregators-3978902/

FY26 bank credit to be a shade higher at 11–12%

Bank credit is seen growing 11-12 per cent this fiscal after a slower first half, owing to government and regulatory support and a pick-up in consumption even as gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) have bottomed out, according to Crisil Ratings. That would be a shade higher than last fiscal's (11 per cent growth) and above the decadal average growth (10.5 per cent) as well, senior officials said in the agency's banking conclave.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/fy26-bank-credit-to-be-a-shade-higher-at-1112-even-as-npas-decline/article70052870.ece

Banks remain wary of NBFCs despite lower risk weights

Following the RBI's restoration of risk weights, bank lending to NBFCs has slowed significantly, growing only 2.6% in the first four months of FY26. Banks are particularly cautious towards smaller NBFCs with high exposure to microfinance and unsecured loans.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-remain-wary-of-nbfcs-despite-lower-risk-weights/articleshow/123907727.cms

Securitisation volumes to dip in Q2 as investors shun unsecured loans

Securitisation — the sale of loans through structured transactions — is likely to remain subdued, with volumes estimated at around ₹63,000 crore in the July-September quarter (Q2) of 2025-26 (FY26), compared with ₹70,000 crore during the same period last year. The moderation is driven by a limited pool of loans available for sale in the unsecured and microfinance segments, and by investors being selective amid stress in the retail sector, according to bankers and rating agency analysts.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/securitisation-subdued-q2-unsecured-loan-stress-125091501430_1.html

Sebi signals more relaxations to ease onboarding of foreign investors

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has planned a slew of further relaxations to facilitate easier registrations of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), including a common know-your-client (KYC) and smoother documentation through India digital signature. Over the last year, the market regulator has taken several measures to make the onboarding of FPIs smoother. These include relaxations for FPIs only investing in government securities, exemptions in disclosure regime and now recently approved Swagat-FI — a single window framework for trusted FPIs such as government-owned or related funds, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds.
https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/sebi-fpi-onboarding-relaxations-common-kyc-digital-signature-125091501175_1.html

Pass on GST relief to policyholders: Govt tells insurers

The government has instructed insurance companies to fully pass on the GST exemption benefits to policyholders, aiming to make insurance more affordable. Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju emphasized proactive outreach to publicize these reforms and their positive impact on accessibility. This measure seeks to strengthen financial security and increase insurance penetration nationwide.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/pass-on-gst-relief-to-policyholders-govt-tells-insurers/articleshow/123907600.cms

DFS Secy asks insurers to launch outreach campaigns on GST benefits

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) Secretary, M Nagaraju, on Monday directed insurance companies to proactively undertake outreach campaigns to publicise the recent reforms and highlight their positive impact in making insurance more affordable and accessible. "The measure is expected to make insurance more accessible and cost-effective, thereby strengthening financial security and enhancing insurance penetration across the country," the finance ministry said in a statement.
https://www.business-standard.com/finance/insurance/dfs-insurers-gst-exemption-outreach-insurance-affordability-125091501376_1.html

Industry

India proposes GST invoicing to replace mining transit passes

India is weighing in on the possibility of "phasing out" its "transit pass" system for mineral transport, and replace the same with mandatory GST invoicing for every truckload of (iron) ore. Taken up for discussion at recent high-level stakeholder meetings, the shift is being signalled as a major reform in the sector ending a decades old system that has often been pulled up for being opaque, rigged through forged permits, issuance of duplicate passes and under-reporting, causing loss to the exchequer.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-proposes-gst-invoicing-to-replace-mining-transit-passes/article70052623.ece

FM Sitharaman calls for balanced AI regulation as NITI sees $600 bn boost

Regulation has to keep pace with technology in a world where artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly progressing and where it needs to be kept within check to serve the common good, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said. Calling for a soft touch-approach in the regulatory mechanisms that do not kill technology, she said AI should help give solutions for creating better cities and urban areas.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/nirmala-sitharaman-ai-regulation-niti-aayog-report-125091501326_1.html

India ready with incentives to build semiconductor chip ecosystem, says Rai

Invest India is working closely with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to bring semiconductor, semiconductor equipment, and electronics manufacturing services companies from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United States for building a full-fledged chip fabrication ecosystem in the country, according to Nivruti Rai, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO). "There are only a few countries that have the ability and investment we want to draw in. We are working with all of them to build the ecosystem so that we become cost-competitive," Rai told Business Standard in an exclusive interaction.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/invest-india-chip-manufacturing-ecosystem-semiconductor-rai-125091500990_1.html

Govt to auction 23 critical mineral blocks in sixth tranche on Tuesday

The Centre will launch the sixth tranche of auctions on Tuesday for critical and strategic minerals, offering 23 blocks across multiple states. It will also announce the first set of bidders for exploration licences (ELs) under its new regime, the Ministry of Mines said in a statement. The tranche comprises four mineral blocks for mining leases and 19 for composite licences, covering resources such as rare earth elements, tungsten, lithium, tin, graphite, vanadium, titanium, cobalt, zirconium, gallium, rock phosphate, and potash.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-sixth-tranche-critical-mineral-auctions-mines-ministry-125091501159_1.html

PV production fell 4.1% in August as OEMs cut dispatches to dealers

Passenger vehicle (PV) production in India fell by 4.1 per cent in August as dispatches by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to dealers declined by almost 9 per cent. OEMs recalibrated their dispatches to dealers as demand fell sharply after the goods and services tax (GST) 2.0 announcement around mid-August. As consumers held back their purchase decisions in anticipation of price cuts, the retail of PV suffered in several dealerships, pushing inventory days to 60 and an overall channel inventory of around 600,000 units at the end of August. OEMs, thus, recalibrated their dispatches to dealers, with major companies like Maruti Suzuki India reporting an over 8 per cent decline in dispatches.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/auto/pv-production-sales-august-2w-3w-sales-growth-gst-impact-125091500901_1.html

Agriculture

Missions alone won't boost output of pulses and oilseeds, says Shivraj

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday urged scientists and experts gathered for the annual rabi conference to deliberate on ways to recalibrate the export and import policies for the farm sector as just announcing 'missions' won't solve the problem of low production in oilseeds and pulses. India allows import of almost all pulses at zero duty, which many experts believe is pulling down domestic acreage of tur and urad as realisation has fallen.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/shivraj-chouhan-pulses-oilseeds-production-policy-reforms-125091501403_1.html

Kharif sowing increases 2% so far this year; oilseeds lag behind last year

Total area sown to paddy rose marginally by 2 per cent to 438.51 lakh hectares so far in the ongoing 2025-26 kharif (summer) season, but oilseeds acreage was lagging behind, according to agriculture ministry data released on Monday. Paddy, the main kharif crop, was sown in about 430.06 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. The sowing began with the onset of southwest monsoon in June. As per the ministry data, pulses acreage grew slightly to 118.06 lakh hectare, as against 117.25 lakh hectare in the year-ago period. However, tur and moong acreage was lagging behind.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/kharif-sowing-increases-2-so-far-this-year-oilseeds-lag-behind-last-year-125091501250_1.html

Farm sector clocked world's highest growth at 3.7 pc in Q1: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

India's agriculture sector has achieved a remarkable 3.7% growth in the first quarter of 2025-26, the highest globally, according to Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. This rebound from last year's 1.5% growth underscores the success of farmer-friendly policies. Chouhan emphasized collaborative efforts under the 'One Nation, One Agriculture and One Team' initiative and warned against spurious inputs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/farm-sector-clocked-worlds-highest-growth-at-3-7-pc-in-q1-shivraj-singh-chouhan/articleshow/123904924.cms

Infrastructure

India to add 6 mn sq ft of F&B retail space by 2028, says JLL report

India's retail property market is set for strong growth, with new malls and prime developments planned through 2030. Of the 30 million square feet of retail development in the pipeline, about 6 million square feet will be taken up by the food and beverage (F&B) sector by 2028, according to a recent JLL report. Based on recent leasing activity, the anticipated supply will meet about 38–40 per cent of total F&B demand. However, with high streets accounting for more than 50 per cent of overall F&B leasing, their potential for expansion in the next three years will surpass that of malls and business parks.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-retail-property-market-fb-expansion-jll-report-2030-125091500659_1.html

Energy

India's LNG demand to shrink in 2025, first dip in years

India's annual liquefied natural gas demand is set to contract in 2025 for the first time in years, as buyers hold out for a surge in production that is expected to push down prices. The world's fourth-biggest LNG importer bought about 16 million tonnes of the super-chilled gas in the eight months through August, down 10% from a year earlier, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. Purchases slowed as elevated spot prices made LNG less competitive against alternative fuels, while monsoon rains brought cooler weather and reduced power demand. The pullback offers some relief to a global gas market that's remained tight since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine forced Europe to pivot to LNG, boosting competition with Asia.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/indias-lng-demand-to-shrink-in-2025-first-dip-in-years/article70055339.ece

Centre announces policy to tap geothermal energy

Countries such as Germany have accelerated geothermal expansion and Big Tech companies in the U.S. have been scouting for low-carbon electricity to fuel AI growth. India has identified 381 hot springs and 10 geothermal provinces, including Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat, the MNRE said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/centre-announces-policy-to-tap-geothermal-energy/articleshow/123907681.cms

Telecom

Govt keen to launch satcom services by December-January: Sources

The government is keen to launch satellite communication (satcom) services by the end of this year. The Digital Communication Commission (DCC) – the highest decision-making body of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) – is expected to meet soon to discuss the details of the the rollout for the same. Sources told businessline that the DCC would chart out the relevant policies for satellite-based services, for which companies like Elon Musk-owned Starlink, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio joint venture with SES and Globalstar and Sunil Mittal-backed Eutelsat OneWeb are in the fray.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/govt-keen-to-launch-satcom-services-by-december-january-sources/article70053334.ece

States

Uttar Pradesh to invest ₹8,350 crore to create industry-ready workforce

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is looking to invest ₹8,350 crore to train the youth and create a workforce ready for Industry 4.0, which refers to the integration of digital technologies into manufacturing and industrial processes. The government is partnering private-sector majors like Tata Technologies Ltd (TTL) to upgrade the industrial training institutes (ITIs). While UP has invested ₹5,000 crore to upgrade 150 government ITIs in collaboration with TTL, the state has cleared a proposal to invest ₹3,350 crore to upgrade another 62 ITIs.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/uttar-pradesh-to-invest-8-350-crore-to-create-industry-ready-workforce-125091501200_1.html

Chhattisgarh unveils ₹52K cr development push in Bastar's investor meet

The Chhattisgarh government organised its latest Investor Connect in Jagdalpur, Bastar, to transform the region from a terror zone to a growth hub. The event held on Thursday was envisioned to build confidence among investors and prepare a platform for investment post-insurgency. The state government unveiled ₹52,000 crore investments and development projects to transform Bastar into a growth hub, said state government officials.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/chhattisgarh-unveils-52k-cr-development-push-in-bastar-s-investor-meet-125091500894_1.html

CM Manjhi launches 27 major industrial projects worth ₹25,308 crore

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday virtually performed the ground-breaking ceremony for 27 major industrial projects, which will bring a total investment of Rs 25,308 crore and generate 52,000 jobs. He asserted that Odisha was moving from "promise to performance, potential to prosperity".The projects would come up in 12 districts -- Angul, Rayagada, Jajpur, Cuttack, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Khurda, Puri, Bhadrak, Koraput, Jharsuguda and Ganjam. "Our industrialisation is inclusive as 27 of the 30 districts of the state now have industries," Majhi said.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/cm-manjhi-launches-27-major-industrial-projects-worth-25-308-crore-125091501220_1.html

Centre, Arunachal ink development package pact ahead of Upper Siang project

As China's mega dam project gets under way and India prepares for a robust defensive plan against it, the Centre and the Arunachal Pradesh government on Monday (September 15) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of a special development package in the Siang region of the state. According to a press release, the agreement was signed between the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and the state government. The initiative is being rolled out as a pre-investment activity of the proposed Upper Siang Multipurpose Storage Project.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/centre-arunachal-pradesh-mou-upper-siang-project-roads-china-border-125091500728_1.html

Andhra CM calls for ecosystem to transform India into no 1 nation globally

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Monday said an ecosystem should be created to elevate India to the top position globally. Addressing the fourth district collectors conference at the secretariat, the Chief Minister praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for moving the Indian economy from the 11th position to the fourth. We have to create an ecosystem to make India number one. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi came, the 11th largest economy (India) has become the fourth largest, said Naidu.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/andhra-cm-calls-for-ecosystem-to-transform-india-into-no-1-nation-globally-125091500501_1.html

External

India, US chief negotiators to meet Tuesday for BTA trade discussions

Chief negotiators from India and the United States (US) are scheduled to meet on Tuesday to hold discussions on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) after a month-and-a-half-long hiatus. The meeting, which will last only for a day, will be a precursor to the next formal round of negotiations that will take place depending on the outcome of the discussions. Chief negotiator and assistant US trade representative (USTR) for South and Central Asia, Brendan Lynch, is reaching New Delhi on Monday night and will hold talks with his counterpart – commerce department special secretary and chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal – on Tuesday.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-us-bta-trade-talks-negotiators-meet-new-delhi-125091500904_1.html

India-EU FTA: 14th round of negotiations scheduled in Brussels from Oct 6-10

India and the EU will hold the 14th round of FTA talks in Brussels from October 6-10 after concluding the 13th round in September. The EU is pressing for auto sector duty cuts, similar to concessions India granted the UK. Currently, India levies over 100% duty. EU officials said the pact would boost investment and jobs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-fta-14th-round-of-negotiations-scheduled-in-brussels-from-oct-6-10/articleshow/123899491.cms

US tariff impact: Export Promotion Mission Scheme to be placed before Cabinet soon

Inter-ministerial consultations have concluded for the Export Promotion Mission, and a proposal seeking Union Cabinet approval will be submitted soon. The government is considering support measures worth approximately Rs 25,000 crore for exporters over six financial years (2025-2031). This mission aims to protect domestic exporters from global trade uncertainties, particularly those arising from recently imposed US tariffs.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-tariff-impact-export-promotion-mission-scheme-to-be-placed-before-cabinet-soon/articleshow/123903463.cms

Edible oil imports up 5.55% in August, amid jump in CPO shipments to India

Edible oil imports recorded a 5.55 per cent increase in August driven by higher crude palm oil (CPO) shipments to India. According to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), India imported 16.21 lakh tonne (lt) of edible oil in August 2025 against 15.36 lt in August 2024. The import of CPO, which contributes a major share in the total edible oil imports to India, witnessed a jump of 39.79 per cent in August. The country imported 9.79 lt of CPO in August 2025 against 7 lt in August 2024.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/edible-oil-imports-up-555-in-august-amid-jump-in-cpo-shipments-to-india/article70051894.ece

Landmark agreement to curb billions in overfishing subsidies comes into force at WTO

A landmark agreement to curb billions of dollars in subsidies contributing to overfishing came into force on Monday, the World Trade Organization said - a move activists hailed as a step towards helping global fish stocks recover. It was the first agreement to take effect at the WTO since 2017 after years of stalled debates and infighting on top of, more recently, a surge in U.S. tariffs that left some critics asking whether the Geneva-based body had a future.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/landmark-agreement-to-curb-billions-in-overfishing-subsidies-comes-into-force-at-wto/article70052193.ece