

May 7, 2026 – Thursday

Economy

S&P Global lowers India's growth forecast to 6.6% for FY27

S&P Global on Wednesday lowered India's growth forecast for current fiscal (FY27) by 50 basis points to 6.6 per cent. A report titled, 'India Forward', jointly prepared by S&P Global and Crisil, said that India is facing external economic shock from energy supply disruptions, rising oil and gas prices and currency volatility. "The shock could be an opportunity to address tactical issues and remove roadblocks, to help achieve its longer-term economic growth and sustainability goals," it said while advocating that India should devise a comprehensive energy storage policy to create strategic buffers.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/sp-global-lowers-indias-growth-forecast-to-66-for-fy27/article70947336.ece

Unregistered business entities grow 8 pc in 2025, add 74.52 lakh jobs: Govt survey

Unregistered businesses or unincorporated enterprises grew by 8 per cent to reach 7.92 crore and added 74.52 lakh jobs between January and December 2025, according to a government survey released on Wednesday. The Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) captures key economic and operational characteristics of establishments engaged in manufacturing, trade, and services (excluding construction), and provides essential data for policymaking.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/unregistered-business-entities-grow-8-pc-in-2025-add-74-52-lakh-jobs-govt-survey/articleshow/130858625.cms

Finance

RBI overhauls authorisation, renewal framework for authorised dealers

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has overhauled the authorisation and renewal framework for entities authorised to deal in foreign exchange (fx), whereby Authorised Dealers (AD-I and II category) can appoint a Forex Correspondent (FxC) for conducting money changing business under a 'principal-agent' model. A FxC can purchase foreign currency notes/coins and travellers' cheques; sell foreign currency notes/coins and travellers' cheques for foreign travel purposes; and function as Money Transfer Service Scheme sub-agent in accordance with the guidelines on Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-overhauls-authorisation-renewal-framework-for-authorised-dealers/article70948176.ece

ECLGS 5.0 could potentially benefit about 1.1 crore MSMEs: SBI report

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 5.0 could potentially benefit about 1.1 crore MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) accounts, leading to an incremental credit flow of ₹2.3 lakh per account, per an assessment by State Bank of India's economic research department. "This timely intervention will ensure liquidity support, protect jobs, sustain supply chains, and strengthen resilience of the Indian economy," SBI's ERD said in a

note. The MSMEs that will benefit from ECLGS constitute about 45 per cent of total MSME portfolio of banks, it added.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/eclgs-50-could-potentially-benefit-about-11-crore-msmes-sbi-report/article70947763.ece

Industry

India's R&D ecosystem gets boost with PSA-FICCI strategic partnership

The office of India's Principal Scientific Adviser has partnered with industry body FICCI to foster a robust ecosystem for research and development in the country, an official release said on Wednesday. Under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on Wednesday, the partnership will aim to bridge the gap between industry, academia, and research institutions, promote research, its translation, and commercialisation, foster strategic partnerships, and support policy dialogue.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/indias-rd-ecosystem-gets-boost-with-psa-ficci-strategic-partnership/article70948490.ece

EV industry at crossroads: Financial gains meet cost headwinds

India's EV makers are caught in a tug-of-war between improving financials and persistent cost pressures, as a turbulent macro environment — ranging from chip shortages and rare earth disruptions to ongoing geopolitical tensions — keeps input costs elevated. Companies like Ather Energy have made visible progress, narrowing losses and moving closer to breakeven in FY26. However, rising prices of key inputs such as rare earth magnets, lithium-ion batteries, and memory chips continue to weigh on margins.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ev-industry-at-crossroads-financial-gains-meet-cost-headwinds/article70948159.ece

Agriculture

Government's foodgrain stocks hit 604 lakh tonnes, nearly three times buffer requirement

The government's wheat and rice reserves held in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns rose to 604.02 lakh tonnes as of April 1, nearly three times the mandatory buffer requirement of 210.40 lakh tonnes, official data showed. Rice stocks stood at 386.10 lakh tonnes, well above the buffer norm of 135.80 lakh tonnes, while wheat reserves were at 217.92 lakh tonnes against the required 74.60 lakh tonnes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/governments-foodgrain-stocks-hit-604-lakh-tonnes-nearly-three-times-buffer-requirement/articleshow/130853759.cms

India sees no need to curb sugar exports for now as demand weakens, sources say

India has no plans to curb sugar exports for now, despite lower output, as stable prices suggest weaker demand has offset some of the production shortfall, two government sources said on Wednesday. India, the world's biggest sugar exporter after Brazil, allowed mills to export 1.59 million metric tons, betting output would exceed domestic demand. But production is now expected to lag consumption for a second consecutive year as cane yields weaken in major growing regions.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-sees-no-need-to-curb-sugar-exports-for-now-as-demand-weakens-sources-say/articleshow/130853983.cms

APEDA to conduct Basmati survey in 4 mln ha, double the area of actual crop grown

Last week, Union Minister of State for Commerce Jitin Prasada unveiled India's first AI-based Basmati Paddy Survey project (2026–2028), an ambitious initiative to be implemented by APEDA covering approximately 4 million hectares. This target has sparked significant industry debate, as APEDA's own 2023 report estimated the total Basmati cultivation area at only 2.14 million hectares, less than half of the new project's scope. The discrepancy has fuelled intense discussions regarding a potential expansion of the current Basmati Geographical Indication (GI) zone, a move that remains contested given that the legal inclusion of Madhya Pradesh is still sub-judice.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/apeda-to-conduct-basmati-survey-in-4-mln-ha-double-the-area-of-actual-crop-grown/article70947738.ece

Infrastructure

Govt approves ₹23,437 crore railway expansion across 6 states

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved three railway multi-tracking projects worth ₹23,437 crore aimed at easing congestion and improving network capacity, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The projects include the Nagda–Mathura, Guntakal–Wadi, and Burhwal–Sitapur third and fourth line expansions. Together, they will add around 901 km to the Indian Railways network.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/govt-approves-23437-crore-railway-expansion-across-6-states/articleshow/130831007.cms

India's office market diverges: Demand for Grade A assets grows, mid-tier losing relevance

India's office market is no longer moving in one direction; it is clearly splitting into two distinct tracks. On one side, Grade A assets are tightening their grip on demand; on the other, mid-tier buildings are steadily losing relevance. This divergence is not cyclical, it is structural, observe industry leaders. Data backs this observation. According to ANAROCK, the demand for premium office space continues to accelerate. Grade A office demand across the top seven cities rose 17 per cent year-on-year to 58.2 million sq. ft. in 2025. Southern markets lead this momentum, with Bengaluru (14.95 million sq. ft.), Hyderabad (8.5 million sq. ft.), and Chennai (5.9 million sq. ft.) accounting for a significant share of absorption.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/indias-office-market-diverges-demand-for-grade-a-assets-grows-mid-tier-losing-relevance/article70947469.ece

Cement demand expected to recover amid infrastructure push before monsoon

After a sluggish April, cement makers are betting on a sharp pickup in demand this month, driven by a push in infrastructure and real estate activity ahead of the monsoon. Last month's slowdown was largely attributed to labour shortages, as workers — particularly from West Bengal — returned home to vote in elections, disrupting construction activity. Early signals in May are encouraging, but recent price hikes of ₹10–20 per 50 kg bag could temper demand in some regions.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cement-demand-expected-to-recover-amid-infrastructure-push-before-monsoon/article70947445.ece

Energy

Power ministry to seek Cabinet nod for ₹20,000 crore carbon capture scheme by July

The power ministry is likely to seek Cabinet approval by July for a ₹20,000 crore carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) scheme and has initiated inter-ministerial consultations, a senior government official told ET. The FY27 budget had announced incentives for CCUS to support decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors such as power, steel, cement and refineries. The scheme will also support emissions reduction in sectors such as iron and chemicals, as well as emerging areas including coal gasification and green hydrogen.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/power-ministry-to-seek-cabinet-nod-for-20000-crore-carbon-capture-scheme-by-july/articleshow/130867272.cms

India's Rs 11.2 trillion distribution capex to anchor smart metering shift towards outcomes: Central Electricity Authority

India's power distribution sector is poised for a major transformation, with an estimated Rs 11.2 trillion capital expenditure pipeline through 2035 set to drive the next phase of reforms, as the smart metering programme shifts focus from installations to measurable outcomes, Vivek Goel, Chief Engineer (Distribution Planning & Technology), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), said today.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/indias-rs-11-2-trillion-distribution-capex-to-anchor-smart-metering-shift-towards-outcomes-central-electricity-authority/articleshow/130859114.cms

States

Over ₹35,000 cr investment in works in UP defence corridor: CM Yogi

nvestment proposals worth over ₹35,000 crore are getting utilised on the ground in the Uttar Pradesh's six defence industrial corridors spread across Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Agra, Aligarh and Chitrakoot, said state Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday. The CM's assertion came during his address at the closing ceremony of the three-day NorthTech Symposium held at Prayagraj, UP. This adds to ₹12,000 crore worth projects which have already been seeded till January this year in one of the two defence industrial corridor -- the other being in Tamil Nadu.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/over-35000-cr-investment-in-works-in-up-defence-corridor-cm-yogi/article70947736.ece

External

India, Vietnam set $25 billion bilateral trade target by 2030

ndia and Vietnam set a $25 billion annual trade target by 2030, up from $16 billion last fiscal, and elevated ties to an enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership in a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President To Lam on Wednesday. The talks focussed on areas including trade, investments, banking, defence, agriculture, health, ICT and critical minerals with 13 MoUs signed in diverse areas such as digital payments and cooperation in rare earth elements and emerging technologies.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-vietnam-set-25-billion-bilateral-trade-target-by-2030/article70947421.ece

India, South Korea likely to hold FTA review talks on May 25

India and South Korea are expected to hold negotiations on May 25 regarding the review of the comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), which was implemented in January 2010, an official said. The deliberations are important as India has suggested Korea to consider negotiating a fresh bilateral trade agreement to make it more contemporary and address concerns of the trade deficit. Last month, in a bilateral meeting here, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal made the suggestion to negotiate a fresh FTA to his Korean counterpart Yeo Han-koo.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-and-south-korea-to-review-fta-amid-growing-trade-deficit-on-may-25/articleshow/130855813.cms

India, Japan sign quantum technology and healthcare cooperation agreements

India and Japan strengthened their strategic partnership in science and technology with the exchange of key agreements in the fields of healthcare innovation and emerging technologies during a high-level bilateral meeting in the national capital. According to an official statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology, on Tuesday, the meeting took place in the presence of Japan's Minister for Science and Technology Policy and Minister of State for Space Policy, Kimi Onoda and Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/india-japan-sign-quantum-technology-and-healthcare-cooperation-agreements/article70949405.ece

India's total exports hit record $863 billion in FY26, services surge 8.7%

India's services exports touched $421.3 billion in FY26, surpassing $418.3 billion estimated earlier, boosting total goods and services exports to a record $863.1 billion last fiscal year, an official said Wednesday. Services exports climbed 8.7% from $387.55 billion in the previous fiscal. Overall exports rose 4.6% from $825.26 billion in FY25. This marks the highest level of overall exports so far, sustained by steady performance across sectors despite ongoing global challenges," the official said. "Moreover, the highest-ever total exports were recorded in each quarter of 2025-26."
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-total-exports-hit-record-863-billion-in-fy26-services-surge-8-7/articleshow/130867252.cms

Indian industry led by pharma to invest $20.5 billion in the US

Indian industry, led by pharmaceutical companies, shared plans of investing $20.5 billion in the US at the 2026 SelectUSA Investment Summit, reinforcing the growing role of Indian companies as investors and partners in the US economy, per a statement issued by the US Mission in India on Wednesday. “Under President Donald Trump’s leadership investment is flowing back into the US at record levels! Indian companies plan to invest over $20.5 billion in various sectors including tech, manufacturing and pharmaceuticals”.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/indian-industry-led-by-pharma-to-invest-205-billion-in-the-us/article70947831.ece

Standstill in India gold imports drags on, threatens supply

Indian banks have been unable to import gold and silver for five weeks, an unusually long halt that’s pushing up domestic prices and threatening shortages in the world’s second-biggest bullion market. Shipments have been stuck at customs since the start of the financial year on April 1, ensnared by administrative bottlenecks and a lack of clarity over taxes, traders with direct knowledge of the matter said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/standstill-in-india-gold-imports-drags-on-threatens-supply/articleshow/130853289.cms