

May 25, 2026 – Monday

Economy

RBI greenlights record surplus transfer of Rs 2.86 lakh crore

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) central board approved a record surplus transfer of Rs 2.86 lakh crore to the government for FY26, up 7% from the previous year and broadly in line with expectations. The transfer of the surplus — also referred to as a dividend payment — has provided a significant boost to the government's non-tax revenues in recent years. RBI on Friday said its balance sheet expanded 20.6% to Rs 91.9 lakh crore at the end of the last financial year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbi-greenlights-record-surplus-transfer-of-rs-2-86-lakh-crore/articleshow/131267873.cms

India's economy likely ended FY26 on firm footing despite worsening Iran war impact

The Indian economy likely closed FY26 on a strong note, with growth in the March quarter bolstered by robust domestic demand, agricultural activity, and services despite the worsening impact of the Iran war later in the three-month period, according to an ET poll of economists. Sharply higher crude prices and continued energy supply disruptions due to the conflict that began on February 28 could however weigh on growth this fiscal year, the economists said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-economy-likely-ended-fy26-on-firm-footing-despite-worsening-iran-war-impact/articleshow/131296500.cms

Finance

States hold fuel VAT rates, see up to 58% rise in sales tax revenue

Even as the Centre said it has taken a ₹30,000-crore revenue hit in FY26 through excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel, States have continued to see strong growth in collections from sales tax/VAT on petroleum products, with most refraining from lowering local levies despite the recent spike in crude prices. Monthly indicators compiled by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India show that, barring Kerala, States recorded growth of up to 58 per cent in collections under "sales tax/taxes on sales, trade etc" during April. A significant portion of this revenue comes from VAT and sales tax on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/states-hold-fuel-vat-rates-see-up-to-58-rise-in-sales-tax-revenue/article71017318.ece

Industry

Delivery cost increased by about 19% in Asia Pacific: Report

The survey was conducted after the Middle East conflict erupted, which put pressure on fuel supplies and cost. "The research finds that delivery costs across APAC have risen 18.9 percent year-on-year on average. For India, where fuel prices, driver wages, and urban congestion are structural cost drivers, this number is not a surprise. What is a

surprise is the nature of the blind spot: operators can see where cost lands (fuel, labour, vehicles, carrier bills) but not where it is actually created," the report released recently said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/delivery-cost-increased-by-about-19-in-asia-pacific-report/articleshow/131296470.cms

Cement makers expect 7-8% growth in FY27 despite West Asia headwinds

Leading cement makers expect a healthy growth in the range of 7-8 per cent in FY27, driven by government infrastructure spending, housing demand and urbanisation, notwithstanding short-term headwinds due to rising fuel costs amid the West Asia crisis. Top executives of companies like UltraTech Cement, Ambuja Cements, Shree Cement, Dalmia Cement and Nuvoco Vistas, in their latest earnings calls, expressed optimism about medium-term demand, projecting industry growth in the range of 7-8 per cent, while betting on premiumisation and improved sales realisations to support earnings amid cost pressures.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/cement-makers-expect-7-8-growth-in-fy27-despite-west-asia-headwinds/article71017125.ece

Agriculture

El Nino threat: Centre rolls out kharif contingency plan to shield crops

The agriculture ministry has launched a contingency plan ahead of India's largest sowing season - focused on seed buffers, water management and district-level crop planning - as the country braces for a deficient monsoon. It has directed states to prepare district-wise crop strategies, and promote short-duration crops such as pulses, certain millets and vegetables during the kharif season because they require less water, mature quickly and help mitigate the vagaries of weather, said officials.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/el-nino-threat-centre-rolls-out-kharif-contingency-plan-to-shield-crops/articleshow/131267825.cms

Infrastructure

IRFC to raise ECB loan worth $2 billion to finance large infra projects

State-owned Indian Railway Finance Corporation is planning to mobilise $2 billion through external commercial borrowing, primarily in Japanese yen, to fund business growth in the current financial year. The external commercial borrowing (ECB) is part of the ₹70,000 crore resource mobilisation plan approved by the board of Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) for the ongoing financial year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/irfc-to-raise-ecb-loan-worth-2-billion-to-finance-large-infra-projects/article71016942.ece

Ganga Expressway to cut freight time, unlock ₹30k cr savings on logistics

The newly-opened 594-km Ganga Expressway is expected to significantly reduce freight transit time across Uttar Pradesh, unlock annual logistics savings of up to Rs 30,000 crore and spur industrial and warehousing growth across more than a dozen districts, according to government estimates and industry players. The six-lane expressway, expandable to eight lanes, connects Meerut to Prayagraj through 12 districts, and is being projected as a major logistics and industrial corridor linking western and eastern UP.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/ganga-expressway-to-cut-freight-time-unlock-30k-cr-savings-on-logistics-126052400304_1.html

Energy

Coal India plans syngas projects near gas-based power, DRI and fertiliser units as gas supply tightens

State-owned Coal India plans to set up coal-to-syngas production units either at pithead locations or adjacent to user industries such as fertiliser units, direct-reduced iron and gas-based power plants amid disruption in gas supplies due to the West Asia conflict, sources said. Coal India Ltd (CIL), which accounts for over 80 per cent of domestic coal output, has already initiated steps to develop such coal-to-syngas facilities.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/coal-india-plans-syngas-projects-near-gas-based-power-dri-and-fertiliser-units-as-gas-supply-tightens/articleshow/131289438.cms

States

Karnataka hikes minimum wages by 60%; Bengaluru workers to get at least ₹23,376 a month

Karnataka has notified a 60 per cent increase in minimum wages, a move expected to significantly boost earnings for workers across the State's unorganised sector. Under the revised rates, labourers in Bengaluru will receive a minimum monthly wage of ₹23,376, while skilled workers will be entitled to ₹31,114. Labour Minister Santhosh Lad said the revision fulfils a long-pending demand of workers and aligns with Supreme Court directives.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/karnataka-hikes-minimum-wages-by-60-bengaluru-workers-to-get-at-least-23376-a-month/article71017602.ece

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta approves mega projects worth over ₹1,000 crore under 'Mission Yamuna'

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday approved mega projects worth over Rs 1,000 crore under 'Mission Yamuna'. According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), the massive funding injection is specifically earmarked for the comprehensive cleanup of the Najafgarh Drain, extensive sewage treatment upgrades, and advanced water management systems across the capital.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/delhi-cm-rekha-gupta-approves-mega-projects-worth-over-1000-crore-under-mission-yamuna/article71017354.ece

External

Parliamentary panel to discuss impact of West Asia crisis on India's maritime trade

A Parliamentary panel will meet on Monday to look into the impact of the West Asia crisis on India's maritime trade and seafarer safety. The department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has called the Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for the discussion. The members of the panel would discuss the subject 'Implications of the West Asia crisis on India's maritime trade, shipping infrastructure and seafarer safety, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/parliamentary-panel-to-discuss-impact-of-west-asia-crisis-on-indias-maritime-trade/article71019710.ece

Government allocates 8,606 tonnes of raw sugar exports to the US

The government has allocated 8,606 tonnes of exports of raw cane sugar to the US under the quota-based tariff concession scheme. "The quantity of 8606 MTRV (metric tonnes raw value) raw cane sugar to be exported to USA under TRQ scheme from 01.10.2025 to 30.09.2026 has been notified," the DGFT has said in notification.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/government-allocates-8606-tonnes-of-raw-sugar-exports-to-the-us/articleshow/131294507.cms

India, US trade deal: Both countries looking at firming up pact soon

India and the US are poised to soon firm up the much-awaited trade agreement that will be both "beneficial" and "sustainable" and will advance the mutual interests of both nations, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Sunday while asserting that the overall bilateral ties are set to witness an upward trajectory. Rubio, currently on a four-day visit to India, made the remarks after holding wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar that focused on boosting two-way cooperation in areas of trade, critical minerals, energy and defence.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-trade-deal-both-countries-looking-at-firming-up-pact-soon/articleshow/131291593.cms

A $500 billion question hangs over Rubio's India trade claim as original tariff bargain loses its footing

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's claim that India has committed to buying $500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years has run straight into a reality check from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), which says the logic of the underlying trade deal itself may have already collapsed. Rubio, currently in India (May 23–26,

2026), posted on X thanking American diplomats and claiming that India had committed to major purchases across energy, technology and agriculture sectors.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/a-500-billion-sized-question-hangs-over-rubios-india-trade-claim-as-original-tariff-bargain-loses-its-footing/articleshow/131290447.cms

US overtakes Mauritius to become India's 2nd largest FDI source as inflows cross $11 billion mark

The United States has overtaken Mauritius to become the second-largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in the latest financial year, marking a notable shift in global investment flows into the country, reported TOI. Equity inflows from the US more than doubled to over $11 billion in 2025-26, as companies increasingly chose to invest directly into India rather than routing funds through tax-friendly jurisdictions used in earlier years. Singapore retained its position as the top source of FDI, recording a steady rise in investments, while Japan also saw a sharp increase driven by large deals in the financial services sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-overtakes-mauritius-to-become-indias-2nd-largest-fdi-source-as-inflows-cross-11-billion-mark/articleshow/131290178.cms

The green strategic partnership: India and Norway chart a sustainable future

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Norway on May 18–19, 2026 — the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over four decades — marks a significant turning point in bilateral ties. The visit elevated relations into a Green Strategic Partnership, signalling a convergence between India's scale, talent, and expanding market and Norway's world-class capabilities in high-tech areas.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/the-green-strategic-partnership-india-and-norway-chart-a-sustainable-future/articleshow/131289173.cms

Piyush Goyal to visit Canada next week with 150-member industry delegation; trade talks on agenda

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to Canada next week accompanied by a delegation of more than 150 business leaders, as New Delhi and Ottawa look to accelerate negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement and deepen investment ties, as per a TOI report. The visit, beginning May 25, comes amid renewed engagement between the two countries on a broader economic partnership after trade discussions resumed earlier this year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/piyush-goyal-to-visit-canada-next-week-with-150-member-industry-delegation-trade-talks-on-agenda/articleshow/131289439.cms

Govt in 'advanced stage of consultation' on industry's demand for cotton import duty removal

The government is in an "advanced stage of consultation" regarding the 11 per cent customs duty on imports of raw cotton, and examining if the levy can be removed, with a decision expected soon, a senior official said. Ministries, including finance, textiles, and agriculture, are deliberating on the duty, with the textile industry seeking its removal to mitigate cost pressures on domestic companies due to high prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-in-advanced-stage-of-consultation-on-industrys-demand-for-cotton-import-duty-removal/articleshow/131288843.cms

India-Russia energy ties widen beyond crude to gas, nuclear and petrochemicals

India and key strategic partner Russia are in talks aimed at expanding energy sector cooperation through gas supplies and joint ventures, including the development of hydrocarbon fields in the South Asian nation. While Russia remains a stable exporter of crude to the country, the two sides are exploring opportunities for supplies of gas to Indian cities, expansion of CNG filling stations and new oil, gas and petrochemical facilities, according to Roman Babushkin, Russia's deputy chief of mission in India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-russia-energy-ties-widen-beyond-crude-to-gas-nuclear-and-petrochemicals/articleshow/131268049.cms

India blocks China's request for solar, IT dispute panel at WTO

India on Friday blocked China's first request to set up a dispute panel at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in a case that Beijing has filed alleging that New Delhi's tariffs and incentives discriminate against its imports of information technology and solar energy products. At a meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), India

argued that the measures are consistent with multilateral rules. Earlier this month, China had requested a panel be set up after the failure of bilateral consultations on reaching a mutually agreed solution to the dispute.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-blocks-chinas-request-for-solar-it-dispute-panel-at-wto/articleshow/131267763.cms