

June 18, 2026 – Thursday

Finance

RBI temporarily withdraws rate caps on FCNR(B), NRE deposits till Sept 30

The Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday temporarily removed the interest rate ceiling on non-resident deposits allowing banks to go all-out in overseas fund mobilisation. The central bank removed the cap on both fresh foreign currency non resident -bank (FCNR-B) deposits of three to five years and non-resident external (NRE) accounts of three years and above, including the deposits that are renewed upon maturity.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-temporarily-withdraws-rate-caps-on-fcnrb-nre-deposits-till-sept-30/articleshow/131806156.cms

RBI conducts two VRR auctions to address liquidity tightness in banking system

The sharp decline in liquidity surplus in the banking system amid advance tax instalments and monthly GST payments prompted the Reserve Bank of India to conduct two variable rate repo (VRR) auctions on Wednesday. The central bank conducted two 2-day VRR auctions to infuse liquidity amounting to ₹72,300 crore into the banking system at a weighted average rate of 5.26 per cent. The banking system's liquidity surplus shrank to ₹23,881 crore as on June 16 from ₹1.61,636 crore on June 15, per latest RBI data.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-conducts-two-vrr-auctions-to-address-liquidity-tightness-in-banking-system/article71114675.ece

RBI not in favour of offshore settlement for government bonds, sources say

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not looking to enable direct settlement of government securities via offshore settlement platforms like Euroclear -- one of the world's largest securities settlement systems -- despite recent tax changes aimed at attracting foreign investors, three sources familiar with the matter said. The RBI wants overseas investors to participate directly on the domestic Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching (NDS-OM) platform, an electronic system for secondary market trading in government bonds, the sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/rbi-not-in-favour-of-offshore-settlement-for-government-bonds-sources-say/article71116346.ece

Govt fundraising drive hits high gear

The government's bid to shore up its non-tax revenue got off to a strong start, with public asset monetisation in two-and-a-half months nearing 30% of last fiscal year's total, and disinvestment income already inching closer to the fiscal-2026 proceeds. Public asset monetisation contributed ₹6,367 crore to the consolidated fund of India till June 15, government data showed, compared with ₹21,732 crore in all of FY26. The government has also garnered ₹13,389 crore by selling small stakes in several companies, or nearly 80% of its ₹16,886 crore disinvestment revenue in the last fiscal year ended March 31.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/govt-fundraising-drive-hits-high-gear/articleshow/131781169.cms

Govt readies farm safety net with banks, insurers as El Nino looms

The government is working with banks and insurers to expand financial protection for rural households as it prepares for El Nino, the weather phenomenon known for disrupting monsoon rains and agricultural output, people familiar with the matter said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govt-readies-farm-safety-net-with-banks-insurers-as-el-nino-looms/articleshow/131810042.cms

SEBI plugs long-standing gap in AIF winding-up process

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) new framework allowing Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to retain liquidation proceeds beyond their fund life seeks to address a long-standing regulatory gap that often forced managers to rely on contractual safeguards or even keep funds alive longer than commercially necessary to deal with pending tax claims, litigation and other liabilities. The framework, implemented on Tuesday, allows AIFs to retain liquidation proceeds in specified cases, including pending or anticipated litigation, tax or regulatory demands, and residual winding-up expenses.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-plugs-long-standing-gap-in-aif-winding-up-process/article71113957.ece

Govt announces key leadership changes in insurance sector

The government on Wednesday announced a series of key appointments in the insurance sector, including that of Hitesh Rameshchandra Joshi as chairman-cum-managing director of General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and appointments and reappointments at the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/govt-announces-key-leadership-changes-in-insurance-sector/articleshow/131812105.cms

Microfinance sector sees 17% contraction in portfolio in FY26: SIDBI-Equifax report

While the microfinance sector witnessed a 17 per cent year-on-year (yoy) contraction in total portfolio outstanding between March 2025 and March 2026, the latest data indicates an inflection point, with visible greenshoots of recovery and microfinance borrowers graduating to retail, according to a report by SIDBI and Equifax.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/microfinance-sector-sees-175-contraction-in-portfolio-in-fy26-sidbi-equifax-report/article71114182.ece

Industry

India readies Rs 12,000 crore push for local battery component manufacturing

India is readying an incentive scheme to support local manufacturing of advanced cell battery components, officials said. Manufacturing of cathode active materials (CAM), anode active materials (AAM), electrolysers and copper foil separators will be supported under this scheme with a likely allocation of about ₹12,000 crore via financial support, they said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/india-readies-rs-12000-crore-push-for-local-battery-component-manufacturing/articleshow/131810038.cms

Agriculture

Maharashtra advises farmers to do fodder planning to avoid a potential shortage due to El Nino

The Maharashtra government has advised its farmers to pay special attention to fodder planning as the El Nino can possibly create a fodder shortage. "The possibility of a fodder shortage in the near future cannot be ruled out due to El Nino. To ensure this situation does not adversely affect livestock and milk production, all livestock farmers in the state should remain alert from now on and plan for fodder crops," said Kiran Patil, Commissioner, Animal Husbandry.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/maharashtra-advises-farmers-to-do-fodder-planning-to-avoid-a-potential-shortage-due-to-el-nino/articleshow/131803962.cms

Energy

Oil below $80 may cap fuel price hikes, boost India outlook

A decline in crude oil prices to below $80 a barrel ahead of the proposed peace deal between the US and Iran is expected to discourage oil marketing companies (OMCs) from raising fuel prices further, improving India's inflation and growth outlook, economists said. The de-escalation in the West Asia conflict and the moderation in crude prices have revived optimism about the economy amid forecasts of below-normal monsoon rains.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/oil-below-80-may-cap-fuel-price-hikes-boost-india-outlook/articleshow/131810663.cms

Telecom

Telecom market share stabilisation spark estimates of 15% tariff hike

Tariff conversations return with experts estimating a hike of 15 per cent by December 2026 as market shares of individual telecom companies plateau. Market shares of the three major telcos remain stagnant for the second quarter in a row. While market share of Vodafone Idea (Vi) remains on the lower end, the moderating pace of its peers' gains could drive focus back on tariff hikes, as per a Jefferies report.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/telecom-market-share-stabilisation-spark-estimates-of-15-tariff-hike/article71114097.ece

States

Odisha approves Rs 76,612 crore investment proposals across 20 mega projects, to create over 50,000 jobs

The Odisha government on Wednesday approved 20 mega investment proposals worth Rs 76,612 crore which will generate employment for over 50,0000 people in the state. The project proposals were approved at the High Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/odisha-approves-rs-76612-crore-investment-proposals-across-20-mega-projects-to-create-over-50000-jobs/article71115022.ece

Gujarat govt signs ₹1 lakh cr funding pact with HUDCO for metro, expressways and Dholera projects

The Gujarat government has signed an agreement with state-owned lender Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd (HUDCO) to secure long-term financing of up to ₹1 lakh crore for infrastructure projects, providing a major funding pipeline for metro rail expansion, expressways and urban development initiatives across the state.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/gujarat-govt-signs-1-lakh-cr-funding-pact-with-hudco-for-metro-expressways-and-dholera-projects/article71114833.ece

External

India-UK free trade deal to take effect on July 15, opening 99% of exports to tariff-free access

The free trade deal between India and the UK will come into effect on July 15, about 11 months after the pact was inked, overcoming disagreements related to British trade restrictions on steel and unlocking tariff-free access for 99% of India's exports. The rollout of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer following discussions between the two leaders on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Evian-Les-Bains.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-free-trade-deal-to-take-effect-on-july-15-opening-99-of-exports-to-tariff-free-access/articleshow/131815092.cms

US buyers keen to stitch deals with Indian apparel exporters

As prospects of a US-Iran truce brightened, US buyers have resumed enquiries with Indian apparel exporters. However, buyers are seeking discounts of 5%-10% across apparel categories, putting pressure on already-thin exporter margins. "Enquiries are coming, but US buyers are offering lower prices," said K.M. Subramanian, president of the Tirupur Exporters Association (TEA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/us-buyers-keen-to-stitch-deals-with-indian-apparel-exporters/articleshow/131811932.cms

India-EU free trade deal to be inked by year-end: Ursula von der Leyen

India and the European Union will sign the ambitious free trade agreement by the end of this year, top EU leader Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday after holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the meeting, held on the sidelines of the G7 summit in this French commune, the two sides also resolved to step up security and defence cooperation.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-free-trade-deal-to-be-inked-by-year-end-ursula-von-der-leyen/articleshow/131801176.cms

PM Modi holds 'very fruitful' meeting with German Chancellor Merz at G7, discuss trade, defence

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France on Wednesday, their second bilateral meeting this year. The two leaders reviewed progress in the India-Germany Strategic Partnership and expressed satisfaction at the momentum in bilateral ties following Merz's visit to India and the conclusion of India-EU FTA negotiations earlier this year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/pm-modi-holds-very-fruitful-meeting-with-german-chancellor-merz-at-g7-discuss-trade-defence/articleshow/131800830.cms

India, US 'very close' to inking a trade deal, says Trump after meet with Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised the matter of Indian seafarers coming under attack in the Gulf with US President Donald Trump, affirming that their safety and security was of paramount importance, as the two met on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France in what was their first structured in-person meeting since February 2025.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-very-close-to-inking-a-trade-deal-says-trump-after-meet-with-modi/articleshow/131815076.cms

India takes the shine off silver as imports plunge 82% in May after duty hike

India's silver imports crashed 81.6% in May, marking an abrupt reversal after a record-breaking year, as higher import duties and licensing restrictions imposed by the government sharply curtailed inbound shipments, according to a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-silver-imports-plunge-82-percent-may-duty-hike-import-curbs-gtri-report/articleshow/131794402.cms

Non-fossil power capacity set to cross 300 GW by Sept, says energy minister Pralhad Joshi

Renewable energy minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday said India's non-fossil fuel-based power capacity is set to cross 300 GW by September. The current capacity of non-fossil fuel-based projects is 291.5 GW, while the target is to reach 500 GW by 2030. A key element of making green hydrogen in India is the use of green energy with estimates that for 5 million tonnes production capacity under the National Green Hydrogen Mission around 125 GW of dedicated renewable energy capacity is needed.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/non-fossil-power-capacity-set-to-cross-300-gw-by-sept-says-energy-minister-pralhad-joshi/articleshow/131810621.cms

India to allow lower duty import of 378K UK cars in 15 yrs of trade pact

India will allow the import of 378,000 units of conventional-engine passenger cars, including those in the mass segment, from the UK at concessional customs duty during the first 15 years of the implementation of the trade pact between the two countries. two countries. Under the pact, tariffs on automotive imports will fall from about 110 per cent to 10 per cent, with quotas on both sides.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-to-allow-lower-duty-import-of-378k-uk-cars-in-15-yrs-of-trade-pact-126061800016_1.html

Trade deal with Canada by November; European Union pact by year-end

The India-European Union (EU) trade deal will be formally signed by the end of the year, and the two sides will accelerate work on an investment agreement, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Wednesday after her meeting with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Evian, France.

https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-eu-trade-deal-to-be-signed-by-year-end-says-von-der-leyen-126061701228_1.html