

July 16, 2026 – Thursday

Economy

India's overall BoP turns into a deficit in the first two months of FY27

India's overall balance of payments (BoP) turned into a deficit in the first two months of FY27 due to net outflows under the capital account head, especially under the foreign portfolio investment (FPI) route, even as the current account turned into a surplus, per provisional RBI data. In the April-May 2026 period, the BoP, which is a record of all economic transactions between a country's residents and the rest of the world, turned into a deficit of $11 billion against a surplus of $5 billion in the year ago period.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/indias-overall-bop-turns-into-a-deficit-in-the-first-two-months-of-fy27/article71226782.ece

Softer inflation trips rate hike forecasts, RBI hold more likely

A softer-than-expected inflation trajectory in the first quarter has prompted economists to forecast a pause in rate action by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), with at least two institutions that had earlier estimated an increase in policy rates at the August review meeting itself are now uncertain about the timelines for a hardening cycle.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/softer-inflation-trips-rate-hike-forecasts-rbi-hold-more-likely/articleshow/132424461.cms

India's unemployment rate steady at 5.5% in June

India's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% in June, in line with May, according to official data released Wednesday. Female unemployment rose in June compared to a decline in the male jobless rate. The unemployment rate among women increased to 5.9% in June from 5.6% in May, while the rate for men eased to 5.3% from 5.4%
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-june-unemployment-rate-at-5-5-y/y/articleshow/132413935.cms

India's war-risk insurance pool faces its first real-world test

The newly-launched Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool) has received its first claim after a vessel covered under the arrangement was reportedly damaged in a drone attack in the Black Sea, people familiar with the development told ET. This marks the first test of India's sovereign-backed war risk insurance mechanism amid mounting tensions in West Asia, where attacks on a commercial vessel in the Strait of Hormuz and the subsequent death of an India seaman prompted New Delhi to summon Tehran's envoy recently.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/indias-war-risk-insurance-pool-faces-its-first-real-world-test/articleshow/132424489.cms

Finance

Govt raises cost inflation index for FY27 to 384, lowering long-term capital gains tax

Long-term capital gains liability on the sale or transfer of any capital asset, such as land, property, trademarks and patents, is expected to be lower this year as Cost Inflation Index (CII) for financial year 2026-27 has been fixed at 384

as against 376 of financial year 2025-26. This shows a rise of 2.12 per cent. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified the index. Historically, this index has been the base for adjusting the cost of acquisition of capital assets for inflation while computing long-term capital gains (LTCG), resulting in a more equitable tax outcome. However, with the withdrawal of indexation benefits under the Finance Act, 2024, its significance has come down, still it will be useful for land or building purchased before July 23, 2024.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-raises-cost-inflation-index-for-fy27-to-384-lowering-long-term-capital-gains-tax/article71228392.ece#google_vignette

RBI pushes banks, NBFCs to own data risks across third parties

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed stricter governance standards for data shared with third-party service providers, requiring regulated entities to ensure that access to data is granted strictly on a "need-to-know" basis and that non-disclosure agreements are embedded in all third-party contracts.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-pushes-banks-nbfcs-to-own-data-risks-across-third-parties/articleshow/132424533.cms

After 5 years, FinMin may table third batch of supplementary demand for grants in the Monsoon Session

After a five-year interval, the Finance Ministry is likely to table the Supplementary Demands for Grants (SDG) during the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, an official source told BusinessLine. Alongside the supplementary spending approvals, the Ministry is also expected to introduce three key bills for consideration and passage. The last time SDG was introduced during a Monsoon Session was in FY22, a fiscal year that ultimately saw three such supplementary demands.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/finmin-likely-to-table-monsoon-session-sdg-after-5-years-3-key-financial-bills-on-anvil/article71226221.ece

Industry

June passenger vehicle sales rise 24.1%: SIAM

Domestic passenger vehicle (PV) sales rose 24.1 per cent year-on-year in June, driven by robust demand across vehicle segments, particularly scooters and utility vehicles, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM). The data showed that PV sales increased to 3,88,144 units in June from 3,12,851 units in the corresponding month last year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/june-passenger-vehicle-sales-rise-241-siam/article71226249.ece#google_vignette

Agriculture

Kharif crop acreage to rise as sowing window remains open till August 15: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

The acreage of key kharif crops such as rice (paddy), pulses and oilseeds will increase to compensate for the current deficiency in the next few weeks, agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Wednesday. "The sowing window is open till August 15," he said, adding that more rainfall is expected in the coming weeks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/kharif-crop-acreage-to-rise-as-sowing-window-remains-open-till-august-15-shivraj-singh-chouhan/articleshow/132423870.cms

Skill shortage could derail India's bio-input ambitions: Agriculture Commissioner

India's ambitious plan to scale up biological farm inputs - from bio-stimulants to bio-pesticides - could suffer a setback due to shortage of trained manpower, Agriculture Commissioner P K Singh said on Wednesday, calling for urgent skill-development measures to support the growing bio-manufacturing sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/skill-shortage-could-derail-indias-bio-input-ambitions-agriculture-commissioner/articleshow/132411468.cms

Infrastructure

Cabinet approves ₹24,000-crore highway projects in Varanasi to ease congestion

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved national highway projects worth more than ₹24,000 crore in Varanasi to ease congestion in the temple town. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also cleared two railway multi-tracking projects in Odisha and Jharkhand worth ₹3,907 crore.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/cabinet-approves-24000-crore-highway-projects-in-varanasi-to-ease-congestion/articleshow/132424537.cms

Gadkari announces ₹5 lakh cr road push for UP

Uttar Pradesh has received a major infrastructure boost with the inauguration of the 63-km Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, cutting travel time between the two cities to just 35-45 minutes. During the event, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced fresh road projects worth ₹50,000–60,000 crore and revealed that road infrastructure worth nearly ₹5 lakh crore will be completed across Uttar Pradesh over the next two years. The Centre also approved a 23-km elevated corridor in Lucknow, a metro project above it, and additional highway expansion plans.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/not-just-lucknow-kanpur-expressway-gadkari-announces-5-lakh-cr-road-push-for-up/videoshow/132407040.cms

Energy

Russian firms seeking more gasoline from India

Top Russian energy companies have approached Indian refiners for more gasoline after Ukrainian strikes knocked out a significant portion of Russia's refining capacity, two sources familiar with the matter said Wednesday. India is the biggest buyer of Russian seaborne crude oil, making Moscow's bid to secure Indian gasoline an unusual reversal in the countries' energy trade relationship, highlighting the extent of the disruption caused by the Ukrainian attacks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/russian-firms-seeking-more-gasoline-from-india/articleshow/132424329.cms

NPCIL-NTPC JV to invite bids for ₹28,000 crore Rajasthan nuclear project

Anushakti Vidhyut Nigam Ltd, a joint venture between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and NTPC Ltd, will soon invite bids for a nuclear island engineering, procurement and construction package worth more than ₹28,000 crore for four 700 MW reactors at the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Power Project.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/npcil-ntpc-jv-to-invite-bids-for-28000-crore-rajasthan-nuclear-project/articleshow/132423489.cms

India raises windfall tax on diesel, jet fuel exports; cuts levy on petrol exports

The Indian government on Wednesday raised windfall taxes on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exports while cutting the levy on petrol exports, effective July 16 in its latest fortnightly review of windfall tax. According to finance ministry notifications, the export duty on petrol has been reduced to Rs 2.5 per litre from Rs 4 r per litre.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-raises-windfall-tax-on-diesel-atf-exports-cuts-levy-on-petrol-exports/articleshow/132423479.cms

Telecom

Cabinet clears Rs 1.9 Lakh crore push for chip, mobile phone manufacturing

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the ₹1.27 lakh crore second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and a new ₹62,500 crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS). The government will release the administrative notification for both schemes within the next fortnight, electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cabinet-clears-1-9-lakh-crore-push-for-chip-mobile-phone-manufacturing/articleshow/132424720.cms

States

Karnataka to roll out data centre policy to power AI-led GCC growth

Karnataka is finalising a comprehensive and sustainable Data Centre Policy to support the infrastructure requirements of AI and next-generation computing. He said the policy would create the digital infrastructure required to support AI-led innovation and next-generation computing, while complementing the State's broader AI vision.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/karnataka-to-roll-out-data-centre-policy-to-power-ai-led-gcc-growth/article71226798.ece

External

India, EU strengthen strategic partnership at 3rd TTC; announce cooperation in AI, semiconductors, clean technologies

India and the European Union on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen strategic cooperation in trade, technology and security at the third meeting of the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), with both sides agreeing to deepen collaboration in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, quantum technologies, clean energy and resilient supply chains.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-strengthen-strategic-partnership-at-3rd-ttc-announce-cooperation-in-ai-semiconductors-clean-technologies/articleshow/132427329.cms

India, EU hopeful of investment protection pact before year-end

India and the European Union Wednesday said they are hopeful of concluding an investment protection agreement before the end of this year. Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said he was hopeful that India and the EU would conclude an investment protection agreement before the end of the year but added that deadlines are not as important as the intention. EU trade and economic security commissioner Maros Sefcovic said the two sides share the goal to "do our utmost to do it by the by the end of the year".
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-hopeful-of-investment-protection-pact-before-year-end/articleshow/132424482.cms

India-UK trade pact comes into force, gold standard of FTA for both

India and the UK Wednesday operationalised a free trade agreement (FTA) under which a host of domestic goods will enter the British market at zero duty. New Delhi shipped $140 million worth of goods including gems and jewellery, engineering goods, marine goods, processed food and textiles under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on Day 1.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-trade-pact-comes-into-force-gold-standard-of-fta-for-both/articleshow/132420954.cms

India exports $140 million worth of goods at zero duty on first day of UK trade pact

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into force on Wednesday, with shipping of $140 million worth of goods to Britain on the first day of its implementation. The shipments included textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering, marine products and processed food.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-exports-140-million-worth-of-goods-at-zero-duty-on-first-day-of-uk-trade-pact/articleshow/132421337.cms

Ladakh exports first apricot consignment to UAE; LG Saxena pitches processing unit

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Wednesday flagged off the first consignment of fresh apricots for export to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and pitched for setting up a world-class apricot processing unit in the Union Territory to strengthen outbound shipments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/ladakhs-historic-apricot-export-to-uae-lg-saxena-advocates-for-world-class-processing-unit/articleshow/132410320.cms

India's first UK jewellery export consignment under FTA: $10 million shipped, zero-duty access boosts industry

India's gems and jewellery industry on Wednesday flagged off its first export consignment to the United Kingdom under the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA), with 27 exporters shipping jewellery worth $10 million from six major manufacturing centres.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-first-uk-jewellery-export-consignment-under-fta-10-million-shipped-zero-duty-access-boosts-industry/articleshow/132419093.cms

India, UAE central banks said to hold talks on FX deposit issues

India and the United Arab Emirates' central banks have held discussions to resolve issues hampering the South Asian nation's efforts to boost foreign-currency deposits from one of the world's largest remittance corridors, according to people familiar with the matter.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-uae-central-banks-said-to-hold-talks-on-fx-deposit-issues/articleshow/132413312.cms