

August 7, 2026 – Friday

Economy

Tariff rationalisation set to continue, more steps likely in FY28 Budget: FM

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the government will continue to rationalise India's import tariff structure and is likely to announce further measures in the budget for 2027-28. India's simple average tariff stood at 15.8% in 2025, according to World Trade Organization data.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-finance-minister-announced-continued-tariff-rationalisation-and-vision-for-2047-in-fy28-budget/articleshow/133015494.cms

Finance

Lok Sabha passes Bill enabling Centre to allow UPI charges, MDR on digital payments

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed amendments to the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act, 2007, paving the way for the Centre to allow banks and payment service providers to levy charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions and other notified digital payment modes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/lok-sabha-passes-bill-enabling-centre-to-allow-upi-charges-mdr-on-digital-payments/articleshow/132999568.cms

MDR applies only on merchants, not on end users: FM

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that merchant discount rate (MDR) is applied only on merchants and not on end users. However, she clarified that no decision yet on MDR has been taken yet. The Lok Sabha passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, also known as ToLA Bill, without any debate on Thursday. Apart from various amendments, the Bill has proposed amending the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. Once the Bill is enacted, the government can notify a list of the electronic modes of payments which will not attract any charge. Any mode or platform outside this negative list will attract MDR.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/mdr-applies-only-on-merchants-not-on-end-users-fm/article71314515.ece

Lok Sabha passes Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill to boost foreign investment, electronics manufacturing

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which seeks to attract foreign investment, promote domestic manufacturing, provide greater tax certainty and replace the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026. The Bill amends the Income-tax Act, 2025, the Finance Act, 2026 and the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/lok-sabha-passes-taxation-and-other-laws-amendment-bill-to-boost-foreign-investment-electronics-manufacturing/articleshow/132993410.cms

RBI issues stricter loan recovery rules to protect borrowers from harassment

To ensure fair treatment of borrowers during the recovery process, the RBI has issued comprehensive instructions to lenders, including asking them to contact/ visit a borrower/ guarantor only between 08:00 hours and 19:00 hours, and to avoid inappropriate occasions, such as bereavement in the family or medical emergencies, for making calls/ visits. As per the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Responsible Business Conduct) Fourth Amendment Directions, 2026, which come into effect from January 1, 2027, lenders, including banks and non-banking finance companies, have to ensure that their employees/ recovery agents don't use abusive language or use social media for posting video / audio recordings or personal details of the borrower/ guarantor.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-issues-stricter-loan-recovery-rules-to-protect-borrowers-from-harassment/article71314102.ece

Industry

IRDAI should fast-track risk-based capital framework; GST on insurance needs rationalisation: Parliamentary panel

Flagging the declining market share of public sector insurers, Parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU) called on the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to fast-track the implementation of the Risk-Based Capital (RBC) framework and also recommended the government to examine GST rationalisation to boost insurance pentration across the country, as per a report tabled on August 6.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/irdai-should-fast-track-risk-based-capital-framework-gst-on-insurance-needs-rationalisation-parliamentary-panel/article71316216.ece

Auto retail sales surge 26% y-o-y in July, FADA data show

The auto industry retailed 25,91,138 units in July 2026, up 26 per cent year-on-year, the strongest July growth in the series outside Covid-distorted base years, according to Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). Month-on-month, retail sales were almost flat (-0.16 per cent) over a strong June 2026.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/auto-retail-sales-surge-26-y-o-y-in-july-fada-data-show/article71313397.ece

Agriculture

Indian rice export prices near 10-month high amid El Nino fears and rising domestic paddy costs

Indian rice export prices held near a 10-month high this week, underpinned by rising domestic paddy prices and concerns El Nino could tighten supply, while Thai prices hit a one-month peak. India's 5% broken parboiled variety was quoted at $358 to $364 per metric ton, unchanged from last week, while 5% broken white rice was priced at $357 to $363 per ton.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/indian-rice-export-prices-near-10-month-high-amid-el-nino-fears-and-rising-domestic-paddy-costs/articleshow/133005428.cms

Infrastructure

Capex by CPSEs, 4 organisations cross over 33% of annual target in April-July

The capital expenditure by 59 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and four organisations such as the Railway Board crossed over 33 per cent of the annual target in the first four months (April-July), data from Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) showed. It was 28 per cent in the corresponding period of last fiscal. According to the data, 63 entities spent over ₹2.82 lakh crore in the April-July period, which is over 33 per cent of the annual target of over ₹8.43 lakh crore. During the period under consideration, the Railway Board topped in value terms, spending over ₹1.19 lakh crore, while GAIL was ahead of the others in terms of percentage of the target achieved at over 60 per cent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/books/reviews/business-economy/capex-by-cpses-4-organisations-cross-over-33-of-annual-target-in-april-july/article71313994.ece

Energy

No concessions, commitments on ethanol import for fuel blending from US in trade talks

India Thursday dismissed claims of US ethanol imports for fuel blending, stating that no concessions or commitments relating to the import of ethanol for fuel blending from the US have been made in their trade discussions and that all sourcing is being done from domestic producers.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-rejects-us-ethanol-import-claims-amid-trade-talks-sticking-to-domestic-sourcing/articleshow/133008939.cms

India's fuel demand increased 2.9% in July, with gasoline and diesel sales showing strong growth

India's fuel demand rose 2.9% in July compared with the same month last year. Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 19.92 million metric tons, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry showed. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, were 9.2% higher from a year earlier at 3.82 million metric tons.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/indias-fuel-demand-increased-2-9-in-july-with-gasoline-and-diesel-sales-showing-strong-growth/articleshow/133008356.cms

India achieves 1.05% CBG blending in FY26, ahead of 1% target

Under the government's mandate to blend Compressed Biogas (CBG) with Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for the transport sector, India has marginally surpassed the 1 per cent target set for FY26. Under the CBG Blending Obligation (CBO), a blending rate of 1.05 per cent was achieved in the last financial year. The CBO aims to promote the production and consumption of CBG.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/india-achieves-105-cbg-blending-in-fy26-ahead-of-1-target/article71314065.ece

Telecom

TRAI's 5G slicing norms appear convoluted, may hurt non-premium users: Industry experts

Telecom industry representatives have raised doubts regarding the enforcement of the 5G slicing norms proposed in the latest consultation paper released by the sector regulator. As telcos like Bharti Airtel push forward with a slicing-based prioritiy postpaid plan, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released a consultation paper for 5G slicing with network capacity as its driving principle. However, after an initial welcome response, industry experts flagg loopholes in the norms that could ultimately hurt regular, non-premium users.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/trais-5g-slicing-norms-appear-convoluted-may-hurt-non-premium-users-industry-experts/article71314252.ece

States

Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approves Ease of Doing Business Act, PPP Policy for 2026

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved the proposed Andhra Pradesh Omnibus (Ease of Doing Business) Act, 2026, aimed at amending multiple laws to improve the business environment, along with the Andhra Pradesh Public-Private Partnership Policy, 2026. The Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati on Thursday, also ratified the decision of the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority to raise a ₹300-crore loan from APPFCL for payment of annual annuity to Amaravati farmers during 2026-27.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-cabinet-approves-ease-of-doing-business-act-ppp-policy-for-2026/article71313876.ece

Tamil Nadu seeks public suggestions to boost State revenues

The Finance department of the Government of Tamil Nadu has invited views and suggestions to augment the State's Own Tax and Non-Tax revenues, and to improve revenue buoyancy, efficiency and self-reliance. This is further to a meeting of the State's new Revenue Augmentation Committee on July 31, post which the Committee has resolved to invite views and suggestions from the general public, associations, academicians, research scholars and institutions engaged in the field of public finance, a statement from the Finance Department on Thursday said.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tamil-nadu-seeks-public-suggestions-to-boost-state-revenues/article71314772.ece

Odisha to amend land lease rules to attract solar investment

Odisha is set to amend its land rules to allow 30-year leases for solar projects, removing a key hurdle that has slowed the State's renewable energy expansion despite its ambitious clean energy plans, Vishal Kumar Dev, Additional Chief Secretary in charge of energy and IT, has said. The State added only about 150 MW of ground-mounted solar capacity last year, reflecting the twin challenges of limited land availability and an inflexible land leasing regime. Unlike Rajasthan and Gujarat, Odisha has little wasteland, with most land either under cultivation or classified as forest, Dev told businessline.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/specials/clean-tech/odisha-to-amend-land-lease-rules-to-attract-solar-investment/article71314699.ece

External

Parl panel for early conclusion of India-US trade pact, tariff exemptions on key goods

India should conclude the proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US at the earliest while ensuring that its interests are adequately protected, the Standing Committee on Commerce said Thursday, while recommending a review of the India-US trade relations in the interest of the country and its citizens as far as the US tariff hike is concerned. It said that to ensure that the agreement is effective, the government should negotiate for complete exemption for India's key export products such as generic medicines, critical minerals and smartphones from any future unexpected US tariff increases.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/parl-panel-for-early-conclusion-of-india-us-trade-pact-tariff-exemptions-on-key-goods/articleshow/133010640.cms

India-Israel investment agreement in force: Modi, Netanyahu discuss enhanced bilateral ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a telephone call with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, reviewed the sustained progress in India-Israel Special Strategic Partnership. The telephonic conversation comes in light of a bilateral investment agreement between India and Israel that came into force on Saturday, which claims faster dispute resolution and stronger investor protection whilst preserving sovereign policy-making space for the partner nations.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-israel-investment-agreement-in-force-modi-netanyahu-discuss-enhanced-bilateral-ties/articleshow/133008172.cms

India, Brazil must join hands to defend multilateralism amid tariffs: Brazilian Trade Minister Márcio Fernando Elias Rosa

India and Brazil must join hands to defend multilateralism and World Trade Organisation amid unilateral imposition of tariffs, Brazil's Industry & Trade Minister Márcio Fernando Elias Rosa has told ET. Marcio, currently on a visit to India for the BRICS Trade and Industry Ministers meeting ahead of the September Summit, told ET that India and Brazil must join hands to defend multilateralism against tariffs.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/brazils-trade-minister-advocates-for-multilateralism-and-stronger-india-brazil-ties-amid-us-tariff-challenges/articleshow/133008395.cms

India-Sri Lanka focus on infrastructure projects; updating FTA to boost Comprehensive Partnership

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and top leaders in Colombo on Wednesday and both sides reviewed infrastructure projects, advanced talks on updating the Free Trade Agreement, finalized a Social Security Agreement, and exchanged Indian Rupee-denominated credit line agreement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-sri-lanka-focus-on-infrastructure-projects-updating-fta-to-boost-comprehensive-partnership/articleshow/132981879.cms

India, South Africa discuss early India-SACU trade pact

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday that he discussed the signing of terms of reference (ToRs) for the India-SACU (Southern African Customs Union) preferential trade pact and an early conclusion of negotiations with his South African counterpart, Parks Tau, in a meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS 2026 Trade Ministers' Meeting

in Jaipur. Cooperation in critical minerals, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing sectors also featured prominently in the talks.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-south-africa-discuss-early-india-sacu-trade-pact/article71314616.ece

India, Africa powerful force for global progress: Jaishankar

Africa is India's partner and its "priority", and whether one speaks of a multipolar world order or of a reformed multilateralism, it will happen only when the continent is "given its due place", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday. In his address at an event marking Africa Day 2026, Jaishankar said India continues to maintain close contact with the African Union and looks forward to reconvening the deferred India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-4).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-africa-powerful-force-for-global-progress-jaishankar/articleshow/132979444.cms