

August 11, 2026 – Tuesday

Key Developments

India-SACU trade pact terms may be signed tomorrow

India and the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) are likely to ink the terms of reference (ToRs) for a preferential trade pact on Wednesday, an official said. The ToRs set the framework and scope of the negotiations for the proposed trade pact. The five-member SACU includes South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Eswatini, and Lesotho.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-sacu-trade-pact-terms-may-be-signed-tomorrow/articleshow/133134582.cms

Economy

Gulf shipping traffic via Strait of Hormuz falls to six vessels

Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz fell to six on Monday, compared with a 10-day average of about 11 vessels, shipping data showed, amid fading hopes of a peace deal between the U.S. and Iran. In pre-war days, about 130 to 140 ships typically transited the strait.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/gulf-shipping-traffic-via-strait-of-hormuz-falls-to-six-vessels/article71331072.ece

Unemployment rate up at 5.4% on rise in rural joblessness in Q1

India's unemployment rate rose to 5.4% in the April-June period from 5% in the preceding quarter, driven primarily by an increase in the rural jobless rate, official data released Monday showed. The unemployment rate was 5.4% in the April-June quarter of 2025. Rural unemployment rate rose to 4.8% in Q1FY27 from 4.3% in the preceding quarter, while the urban unemployment rate edged up to 6.7% from 6.6% over the year-ago period.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/unemployment-rate-up-at-5-4-on-rise-in-rural-joblessness-in-q1/articleshow/133133937.cms

CAG report flags fall in Delhi's contribution to national GDP

Delhi's economic growth has lagged the national economy over the past decade, with the national capital's contribution to India's GDP declining from 4% in 2015-16 to 3.67% in 2024-25, a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Monday said. The report, tabled by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, reviewed the finances of the Delhi government for 2024-25, including its financial position, expenditure patterns, debt and compliance with fiscal responsibility norms during the period when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was in power.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/cag-report-flags-fall-in-delhis-contribution-to-national-gdp/articleshow/133108137.cms

e-way bill generation surged to over 13.98 cr in July

Demonstrating economic resilience despite geopolitical headwinds, e-way bill generation surged to a near-record 13.98 crore in July, according to GST Network data. E-way bill generation does not directly transfer into GST collection. But it is good for the economy and tax administration. Actual collection depends on higher consumption as GST is destination-based consumption tax. Also, services and movement of goods beyond a certain threshold are not included in e-way bill generation. Yet, some impact can be seen in the GST collection in August, for which data will be out on September 1.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/e-way-bill-generation-surged-to-over-1398-cr-in-july/article71328885.ece

GeM posts increase in GMV to ₹1.55 lakh crore from ₹422 crore in a decade

The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has recorded a sharp increase in its gross merchandise value (GMV) to over ₹1.55 lakh crore from ₹422 crore a decade ago, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday. More than 12.28 lakh micro and small enterprises (MSEs), including over 2.25 lakh led by women and over 42,000 start-ups are registered on the portal, demonstrating that empowerment was happening at the grassroot level, the Minister said in a post on social media platform 'X'. "Over the last ten years, the platform has enhanced competition, improved price discovery, reduced procurement cycle times, generated significant savings for the government and strengthened accountability through end-to-end digital procurement," Goyal said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/e-way-bill-generation-surged-to-over-1398-cr-in-july/article71328885.ece

MEPZ SEZ approves investment worth ₹443 crores

The Unit Approval Committee of MEPZ Special Economic Zone, chaired by Alex Paul Menon, Zonal Development Commissioner, has approved eleven significant investment proposals during its August meeting. The approvals, comprising 9 new SEZ units and 2 Export Oriented Units, represent a combined investment of ₹443 crore and are expected to generate 2,427 employment opportunities across diverse industrial sectors including manufacturing, information technology, and logistics services, says a release.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/mepz-sez-approves-investment-worth-443-crores/article71329631.ece

Finance

Govt mops up Rs 45,306 cr from disinvestment, asset monetisation in FY26; exceeds RE target

The government's combined mop-up from disinvestment and asset monetisation stood at Rs 45,306 crore in FY26, exceeding the Revised Estimates, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Monday. The government had pegged Miscellaneous Capital Receipts, which includes PSU disinvestment and public asset monetisation, at Rs 33,837 crore in the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2025-26.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/govt-mops-up-rs-45306-cr-from-disinvestment-asset-monetisation-in-fy26-exceeds-re-target/articleshow/133092544.cms

GeM gross merchandise value surges from Rs 422 crore to over Rs 1.55 lakh crore in a decade: Piyush Goyal

Government e-Marketplace (GeM) recorded a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of over Rs 1,55,000 crore, expanding from Rs 422 crore a decade ago, as public buying shifted to an end-to-end digital platform across the country. Sharing the performance highlights, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal, said that the platform transformed public procurement norms over the last ten years.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/gem-gross-merchandise-value-surges-from-rs-422-crore-to-over-rs-1-55-lakh-crore-in-a-decade-piyush-goyal/articleshow/133088317.cms

UPI to remain free for users; nominal MDR may apply to select merchant transactions

The government on Saturday said consumers making payments through UPI will not face any transaction charges, while any future merchant discount rate (MDR) will apply only to a limited set of merchant transactions above a certain threshold. "All Person-to-Person transactions will continue to be free of charge," the government said
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/upi-remains-free-for-users-nominal-mdr-to-apply-to-limited-merchant-transactions/articleshow/133053624.cms

Lenders seek RBI approval to spread their MTM losses

Lenders have sought Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to spread the mark-to-market (MTM) losses in their investment portfolios across the remaining three quarters, citing sharp market volatility triggered by the ongoing West Asia crisis.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/lenders-seek-rbi-approval-to-spread-their-mtm-losses/articleshow/133133967.cms

Industry

NABL introduces accreditation scheme for mobile food testing labs in India

Millers have asked the government for a total exemption of sugar from compulsory jute packaging during Jute Year 2026–27, claiming serious public health risks, quality incompatibility, and a mounting economic burden on the industry and over 50 million sugarcane farmers. Sugar mill owners have also demanded suspension of the mandatory jute packaging for sugar until an independent expert study is completed.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/sugar-industry-seeks-100-exemption-from-mandatory-jute-packaging/article71328997.ece

Sugar industry seeks 100% exemption from mandatory jute packaging

The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) on Monday said it has launched India's first-of-its-kind accreditation scheme for mobile food testing laboratories.

The initiative aims to expand access to reliable, quality-assured and internationally benchmarked food testing services closer to communities, the commerce and industry ministry said.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/nabl-introduces-accreditation-scheme-for-mobile-food-testing-labs-in-india/article71329800.ece

Gov notifies 9 land ports and 2 more airports, enabling foreigners holding E-visas' entry into India

The government has notified nine land ports and two more airports, enabling foreigners holding E-visa to enter into India through them. The newly added land ports are at Agartala, Darranga (Assam), Gede (West Bengal), Ghojadanga (West Bengal), Haridaspur (West Bengal), Jaigaon (West Bengal), Dawki (Meghalaya), Moreh (Manipur), and Attari (Punjab). While the two notified airports allowing E-visa holding foreigner travellers to travel to India are at Bhopal and Tirupati, as per a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. With the latest addition, the total number of International Ports enabling entry of E-Visa holder foreigners has increased to 88, including 37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land ports.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/gov-notifies-9-land-ports-and-2-more-airports-enabling-foreigners-holding-e-visas-entry-into-india/article71328931.ece

No policy bars airport operators from owning airlines: Central Government

The government on Monday clarified in Parliament that there is no policy restricting operators of major airports from holding substantial equity in or operating scheduled airlines,but acknowledged that contractual restrictions in some public-private partnership (PPP) airport agreements can prevent such cross-ownership.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/no-policy-bars-airport-operators-from-owning-airlines-central-government/article71328844.ece

Indian space tech enters second phase as startups build commercial space infrastructure

India's private space sector is entering a new phase, with startups shifting focus from proving launch and satellite technologies to building the infrastructure, manufacturing capabilities and downstream applications needed to support a sustained commercial space economy. The shift is being driven by companies expanding beyond individual products to develop more integrated capabilities across propulsion, spacecraft manufacturing, testing and data applications.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/indian-spacetech-enters-second-phase-as-startups-build-commercial-space-infrastructure/article71328951.ece

Agriculture

Rice use for ethanol may rise as maize, sugarcane acreage falls this Kharif season

India may have to rely more heavily on rice for ethanol production this year as lower kharif acreage under maize and sugarcane raises concerns over feedstock availability, according to senior sugar industry executives. The contribution of rice towards ethanol production may rise by around 15-20% in the current season, said senior industry executives. At present, rice accounts for about 26.79% of ethanol feedstock, while sugarcane contributes roughly 28%. While maize planting is down around 4%, that of cane is down 0.85%, according to government's latest data.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rice-use-for-ethanol-may-rise-as-maize-sugarcane-acreage-falls-this-kharif-season/articleshow/133130617.cms

India considers curbing use of sugarcane for ethanol to tame record-high sugar market

India is considering restricting the amount of sugarcane used for ethanol in the season beginning October to boost sugar output and try to calm record prices, two government and two industry sources said. Reduced rainfall in Maharashtra and Karnataka, India's biggest sugarcane-producing states, has raised concerns about next year's sugar output, the sources said, declining to be named because the deliberations are not public.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-considers-curbing-use-of-sugarcane-for-ethanol-to-tame-record-high-sugar-market/articleshow/133097955.cms

Delhi State Cooperative Bank to venture into financing farmers, artisans

In a bid to strengthen the cooperative banking ecosystem in the National Capital Territory, NABARD's New Delhi Regional Office organised its first Capacity Building Workshop for branch managers of the Delhi State Cooperative Bank Ltd. (DStCB) on Monday. The workshop aimed to enhance participants' understanding and capabilities across developmental, regulatory, supervisory and business development aspects of cooperative banking.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/delhi-state-cooperative-bank-to-venture-into-financing-farmers-artisans/articleshow/133108998.cms

Infrastructure

Parliamentary panel seeks details on Indian Railways' efforts to boost domestic bullet train capabilities

A Parliamentary Standing Committee has sought details from the Railway Ministry on its efforts to enhance domestic capabilities to manufacture bullet train components, as well as on skilling programmes being conducted with the help of international expertise. In its 10th report, tabled in Parliament on August 10, 2026, the Standing Committee on Railways also asked the ministry to study successful high-speed rail networks in other countries to develop a better understanding of their operations and practices for the seven future high-speed rail corridors announced in the Union Budget 2026-27.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/parliamentary-panel-seeks-details-on-indian-railways-efforts-to-boost-domestic-bullet-train-capabilities/articleshow/133110112.cms

Energy

Top 5 city gas distributors drive over half of CBG sales

Five of India's 33 city gas distributors accounted for 55% of national compressed biogas (CBG) sales in 2025-26, with Torrent Gas and BPCL leading efforts to blend CBG with natural gas supplied to vehicles and homes. The overall CBG blending ratio in compressed natural gas (CNG) and domestic piped natural gas (PNG) reached 0.92% in 2025-26, nearly meeting the government's 1% mandate, according to data published by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/top-5-city-gas-distributors-drive-over-half-of-cbg-sales/articleshow/133136646.cms

Ethanol-blended fuel's use can impact environment, land-use patterns: Experts

A group of experts raised concerns over ethanol-blended fuel on Monday, saying the policy could severely impact land-use and agriculture patterns, food security, groundwater levels and household incomes. The experts also

highlighted that going forward, the government should decrease ethanol-blended fuel prices to compensate consumers for a drop in efficiency and expenditures incurred due to wear and tear of vehicle components.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/ethanol-blended-fuels-use-can-impact-environment-land-use-patterns-experts/articleshow/133117194.cms

PSU OMC's LPG under recovery rises to over ₹59,000 crore in July

The under recovery of PSU oil marketing companies (OMCs) for supply liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at below market rates has swelled to more than ₹59,000 crore in July 2026 from over ₹51,000 crore in June.
Government have been ensuring availability of domestic LPG at affordable prices to households in the country for which it has paid to the OMCs a compensation of ₹22,000 crore in FY23 and is also paying ₹30,000 crore during FY26 and FY27, Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said in a written response in Rajya Sabha on Monday. "Even after the payment of this compensation, accumulated under-recoveries of the PSU OMCs on domestic LPG were more than ₹59,000 crore as of July 31, 2026 itself," the Minister added.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/psu-omcs-lpg-under-recovery-rises-to-over-59000-crore-in-july/article71329075.ece

Telecom

TRAI directs use of 1601-series for service, transactional calls by utilities, logistics cos

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday directed entities in sectors other than Banking, Financial Services & Insurance (BFSI) and Government to use a separate 1601-series number for transactional and service calls. In the first phase, the 1601 number series will cover transactional and service calls made by entities in the utilities, courier and logistics sectors, TRAI said. It also clarified that the dedicated number series should not be used for promotional voice calls by any entity.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/trai-launches-1601-series-for-secure-service-calls-aims-to-combat-fraud-in-utilities-and-logistics-sectors/articleshow/133101042.cms

States

Maharashtra to expand EV charging network across MSRTC depots and RTOs

The Maharashtra government is planning to establish electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities at MSRTC depots and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) across the state, Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik said on Monday.
Speaking at a function to flag off Tata Motors' electric trucks at the Tardeo RTO office in central Mumbai, Sarnaik said the government is also considering setting up EV charging stations at flyovers across the state on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. "Flyovers of MMRDA, MSRDC or PWD should be given to MSRTC or the RTO department so that we can set up charging stations on a PPP basis at these locations," he said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/maharashtra-to-expand-ev-charging-network-across-msrtc-depots-and-rtos/article71330840.ece

Andhra Pradesh emerges as AI leader in GST tax administration, says GST Council

Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a frontrunner in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics for tax administration, setting an example for other states, according to the GST Council. A delegation from the GST Council Secretariat visited the State Commercial Taxes Department in Amaravati on Monday to study the State government's use of AI in tax administration. The team, comprising Additional Secretary Pankaj Kumar Singh and Joint Secretary D.P. Mishra, examined various AI-enabled systems and dashboards developed by the department.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-emerges-as-ai-leader-in-gst-tax-administration-says-gst-council/article71330856.ece

Healthcare

Medical devices are not pharma products, companies say while opposing Draft Bill

Medical device industry, patient safety groups and healthcare providers have opposed the draft Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2026, saying it treats medical devices like medicines and will hurt manufacturing and

innovation, people in the know told ET. Medical device industry, patient safety groups and healthcare providers have opposed the draft Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, 2026, saying it treats medical devices like medicines and will hurt manufacturing and innovation, people in the know told ET.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/medical-devices-are-not-pharma-products-companies-say-while-opposing-draft-bill/articleshow/133130274.cms

External

Indonesia-India discuss proposal to create Preferential Trade Agreement

Indonesian Trade Minister Budi Santoso met with Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and discussed steps to enhance bilateral trade relations by accelerating trade cooperation, enhancing market access, and bolstering investment between the two nations. Santoso described India as a strategic trade partner in South Asia with immense potential. "Indonesia supports the creation of trade that is increasingly open, facilitative, and mutually beneficial, thereby driving growth in trade and investment between the two nations," the Indonesian minister noted in a statement on Saturday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indonesia-india-discuss-proposal-to-create-preferential-trade-agreement/articleshow/133114055.cms

Russia explores rail link to India to bypass maritime chokepoints

Russia is exploring an ambitious plan to build a rail link to India as a hedge against risks associated with the Strait of Hormuz and the Bosphorus. Russian deputy prime minister Marat Khusnullin recently told state-run news agency TASS that Russia needs to explore a rail link to the Indian Ocean to reduce risks from disruptions at key maritime chokepoints.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/russia-explores-rail-link-to-india-to-bypass-maritime-chokepoints/articleshow/133105859.cms