

August 14, 2026 – Friday

Economy

Debt grows slower than GDP, CAG says; revenue lapses persist

The central government's ability to service debt has remained positive and the pace of accumulation of its loans between FY23 and FY25 was less than the nominal gross domestic product expansion, according to a CAG report. This indicates that "the economy has grown to be able to absorb and service the accumulated debt", it said in a report.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/debt-grows-slower-than-gdp-cag-says-revenue-lapses-persist/articleshow/133227154.cms

India's July exports hit record $44.2 billion despite West Asia crisis

Driven by engineering goods and electronics, India's goods exports in July rose 19.63% from a year earlier to $44.24 billion, despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia. But the trade deficit widened to $31.98 billion from $27.88 billion a year earlier, as import growth outpaced exports, according to official data released Thursday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-july-exports-hit-record-44-2-billion-despite-west-asia-crisis/articleshow/133227026.cms

July saw strongest-ever monthly auto sales: SIAM

The automobile industry has recorded a robust double-digit growth across major vehicle segments in July. Passenger vehicle (PV) sales rose 34 per cent year-on-year to 4,57,810 units during the month, while three-wheeler sales also expanded strongly, rising 33 per cent to 92,560 units, according to data released by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday. The two-wheeler segment, the largest among the major vehicle categories, registered a 23 per cent rise to 19.23 lakh units.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/july-saw-strongest-ever-monthly-auto-sales-siam/article71340869.ece

Swachh Bharat Mission: Liquid waste management covers 5.63 lakh villages

Liquid waste management arrangements have covered over 5.63 lakh villages under the the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II, the government informed Lok Sabha on Thursday. In a written reply, Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna said that as per the information reported by states and Union territories on the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), over 5.63 lakh of the 5.87 lakh villages are reported to have been covered with liquid waste management arrangements as on August 7. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II, launched with effect from April 1, 2020, focuses on Open Defecation Free (ODF) sustainability with solid and liquid waste management and visual cleanliness in villages, with the objective of converting villages from ODF to ODF Plus model.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/swachh-bharat-mission-liquid-waste-management-covers-563-lakh-villages/article71343842.ece

States' share of mining revenue jumps to 88% in 10 years, Centre's falls to 12%

States have recorded a steep surge in their revenue from mining and coal sectors over the past decade, while the central government's share has declined at the same rate, according to data shared by Union Minister G Kishan Reddy. Speaking to reporters after the passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, in Parliament, the coal and mines minister said that the new legislation will ensure uniform mineral rates across the country. Parliament on Thursday passed the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which seeks to restrict states' powers to levy taxes on mineral rights and mineral-bearing lands.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/states-share-of-mining-revenue-jumps-to-88-in-10-years-centres-falls-to-12/article71343853.ece

Storage in India's key reservoirs near 60% of capacity

Storage in all the five Indian regions crossed 50 per cent of the capacity this week, though 40 per cent of the 166 major reservoirs still are filled below 40 per cent. The overall level increased to 59.44 per cent of the 183.565 billion cubic metres (BCM) capacity at 109.112 BCM this week, data from the Central Water Commission showed. Five reservoirs are brimming, while the level 17 others was over 90 per cent of the capacity. The level in reservoirs continues to surge as the South-West monsoon was mixed last week. Rainfall was deficient in the southern peninsula, but excess or normal in the rest of the country barring eastern Madhya Pradesh.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/storage-in-indias-key-reservoirs-near-60-of-capacity/article71341501.ece

Finance

CAG flags Rs 25,085 crore tax effect from 1,902 assessment lapses

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged 1,902 cases of lapses in the taxation of income involving a total tax effect of ₹25,085 crore, pointing to incorrect tax rates, faulty computation of assessed income, impermissible loss set-offs and failure to tax unexplained transactions.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/cag-flags-rs-25085-crore-tax-effect-from-1902-assessment-lapses/articleshow/133227130.cms

Parliamentary panel seeks penalties for banks hosting multiple mule accounts

A parliamentary standing committee has recommended that the government and the Reserve Bank of India should establish a "Penal Framework for Negligent Branches" which penalises banks for hosting multiple "mule accounts" and holds them responsible for lapses in know-your-customer (KYC) compliance.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/parliamentary-panel-seeks-penalties-for-banks-hosting-multiple-mule-accounts/articleshow/133227086.cms

Bank deposits hit decade-high growth as NRI dollar inflows cross $37 billion

Bank deposits rose 15.4% year-on-year at the end of July, marking the fastest pace in nearly 10 years, as overseas Indians parked about $37 billion in foreign currency-linked non-resident deposits in less than two months since the Reserve Bank of India created a special window to attract dollar inflows. Bank credit growth also accelerated to 19.4% during the same period, marking the fastest pace since June 14, 2024.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/bank-deposits-hit-decade-high-growth-as-nri-dollar-inflows-cross-37-billion/articleshow/133188027.cms

RBI proposes new interest rate rules for regulated entities, seeks public comments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked regulated entities (REs) to harmonize methodology for determining interest rates, including defining the internal benchmark, the components of the spread, the loan categories, and the delegation of powers for loan pricing in draft guidelines on interest rates released on Wednesday. In a case of floating rate loans, the benchmark rate shall be reset on the first calendar day of the month in which the reset is due, RBI said. Res have been given the freedom to calculate their internal or external benchmark, plus a risk-based spread.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbi-proposes-new-interest-rate-rules-for-regulated-entities-seeks-public-comments/articleshow/133188150.cms

UPI costs Rs 20,700 crore, government allocation just Rs 2,000 crore: Parliament Panel

A parliamentary standing committee has recommended that the government should explore a self-reliant, tiered revenue model to ensure that the Unified Payment Interface or UPI ecosystem achieves financial sustainability without perpetually straining the government exchequer.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/upi-costs-rs-20700-crore-government-allocation-just-rs-2000-crore-parliament-panel/articleshow/133197619.cms

Parliamentary panel rejects govt response on cyber fraud, says it fails to plug key gaps

A Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance has rejected the government's response on tackling cyber-enabled financial fraud, saying the measures outlined by the Department of Financial Services remain largely procedural and fail to address critical operational gaps, particularly in preventing fraudulent funds from being siphoned through mule accounts.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/parliamentary-panel-rejects-govt-response-on-cyber-fraud-says-it-fails-to-plug-key-gaps/article71340442.ece

Industry

India's electronics exports surge 11-fold to Rs 4.24 lakh crore, women's workforce nears 30%

India's electronics exports have surged over 11-fold to Rs 4.24 lakh crore in FY2025-26, with women comprising nearly 30 per cent of the workforce in the electronics manufacturing ecosystem, as per the data shared by the government. According to the release, India's digital economy now accounts for up to 14 per cent of GDP, as flagship initiatives, such as Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0), have bolstered India's domestic manufacturing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-electronics-exports-surge-11-fold-to-rs-4-24-lakh-crore-womens-workforce-nears-30/articleshow/133207347.cms

Agriculture

Sugar mills unlikely to advance crushing season despite promise to govt: Industry officials

Most sugar mills in the country are unlikely to advance the crushing season by 15 days to October despite industry bodies promising the government they would do so to ease record-high sugar prices, senior industry officials said. The main hurdle is a shortage of migrant labour, which is typically available only around Diwali in November. Mechanised harvesting is still limited and cannot make up for the shortfall, they said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/sugar-mills-unlikely-to-advance-crushing-season-despite-promise-to-govt-industry-officials/articleshow/133223547.cms

Onion prices jump to Rs 27/kg at Lasalgaon amid delayed kharif crop arrival from South India

Wholesale onion prices at the benchmark Lasalgaon Mandi have surged 25% in the past week, even as the government is preparing to sell buffer stock onions to curb price increase. Traders said prices are expected to rise further, following a delay in the arrival of the kharif onion crop from southern India due to late sowing.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/onion-prices-jump-to-rs-27/kg-at-lasalgaon-amid-delayed-kharif-crop-arrival-from-south-india/articleshow/133223548.cms

From freebie to luxury: Coriander prices spike after rain disrupts Nashik supply chain

The humble dhaniya patti has gone from freebie to luxury garnish. Once casually thrown into the vegetable bag by neighbourhood sabziwalas, fresh coriander has turned unexpectedly expensive after heavy rains disrupted supplies from key producing regions. Fresh coriander prices at Delhi's Azadpur mandi surged to ₹175 per kg, while retail prices climbed to ₹220-230 a kg earlier this week, traders said. Wholesale prices usually hover around ₹25 a kg at

this time of the year, according to Mukesh Kumar, a vegetable trader at Azadpur mandi. Traders said prices briefly touched ₹200 a kg at the wholesale market before falling to around ₹110 later.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/from-freebie-to-luxury-coriander-prices-spike-after-rain-disrupts-nashik-supply-chain/articleshow/133223540.cms

MCX launches crude sunflower oil futures contracts to strengthen edible oil price risk management

The Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) on Thursday launched futures contracts on crude sunflower oil, expanding exchange-traded risk management options for participants across India's edible oil value chain. India consumes around 26-27 million tonnes of edible oil annually, of which more than 60% is met through imports. This high import dependence exposes the domestic market to global price movements, supply-demand dynamics, currency fluctuations and changes in competing edible oil prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/mcx-launches-crude-sunflower-oil-futures-contracts-to-strengthen-edible-oil-price-risk-management/articleshow/133213860.cms

India's urea import prices fall 12% as global fertilizer market tightness eases

India, one of the world's biggest urea importers, received offers for the soil nutrient that were 12% below the June purchase price, signaling that the war-driven tightness in the global fertilizer market is easing. State-run producer Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., which also imports urea on behalf of the government, received offers for about 3.1 million tonnes against a 1 million-ton tender for the west coast, with prices between $393.65 and $435 a tonne, according to people familiar with the matter. For the east coast, submissions totaled 2.4 million tons against a 700,000-ton requirement, with offers between $390.25 and $435.5 a tonne, they said, asking not to be identified due to the commercial sensitivity of the information.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-urea-import-prices-fall-12-as-global-fertilizer-market-tightness-eases/article71343859.ece

Energy

Govt mandates alternative fuel facilities at every third fuel outlet

The government has mandated that at least every third retail outlet (RO) of fuel marketing entities must offer a "new generation alternative fuel", including CNG, LNG, biofuels or electric vehicle (EV) charging and battery-swapping facilities, within three years of their commissioning. The move, notified in the Gazette on August 10, seeks to accelerate the adoption of cleaner fuels, reduce dependence on imported crude, curb pollution and promote energy security and farmers' income while attracting private investment into fuel retailing. The Centre will also have the power to prescribe additional "new generation alternative fuels" from time to time. For ROs commissioned between November 8, 2019, and August 10, 2026, fuel marketing entities have been given one month to report the number of outlets commissioned and operational for more than three years and details of outlets that are already offering alternative fuels and any shortfall in this area. They will have another six months to bridge the shortfall. Failure to do so will attract a one-time penalty of 10 lakh for every deficient outlet.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/govt-mandates-alternative-fuel-facilities-at-every-third-fuel-outlet/article71341942.ece

States

Adani Group discusses nuclear, clean energy and ₹80,000 crore projects with Odisha government

Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd CEO Karan Adani on Thursday met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Deputy CM KV Singh Deo and discussed the Adani Group's ongoing and proposed projects in the state, including plans for setting up nuclear power projects. Accompanied by a team, Adani discussed avenues for industrial collaboration and infrastructure development with Majhi, with the meeting focusing on projects proposed by the Adani Group in Odisha, sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/adani-group-discusses-nuclear-clean-energy-and-80000-crore-projects-with-odisha-government/article71343837.ece

Delhi Master Plan 2047: 40 lakh homes planned through small-format, rental housing

Estimating a requirement of around 40 lakh additional houses by 2047, the draft Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) proposes a three-pronged strategy, including a greater push for affordable housing developed in small formats.
The proposed housing strategy seeks to increase housing supply by promoting small-format homes, affordable rental housing and development in land pooling and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) areas.
Approved by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), the draft plan is likely to be approved by the Centre within a week, sources said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/delhi-master-plan-2047-40-lakh-homes-planned-through-small-format-rental-housing/article71343841.ece

MSRTC NCMC card registrations top 1 crore as cashless bus ticketing expands

Over one crore passengers have registered for the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation's (MSRTC) National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), officials said on Thursday. Transport Minister and MSRTC Chairman Pratap Sarnaik said in a release that as of August 12, a total of 1,01,73,838 passengers had registered for the NCMC smart card, while 64,91,065 cards had been activated. The NCMC initiative is aimed at making ticketing on state-run buses more convenient and cashless.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/msrtc-ncmc-card-registrations-top-1-crore-as-cashless-bus-ticketing-expands/article71343840.ece

Maharashtra to set up task force to implement state drone policy

The Maharashtra government will set up a ministerial task force headed by Electronics, Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Minister Ashish Shelar to ensure effective implementation of the state's drone policy, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday. Fadnavis made the announcement at a meeting with representatives of drone manufacturing companies here. According to an official release, the chief minister said there was a need to create a "policy of policies" for the drone industry by bringing together provisions related to research and development, indigenous component manufacturing, testing, patents and subsidies available under various state policies.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/maharashtra-to-set-up-task-force-to-implement-state-drone-policy/article71343843.ece

Sandhya Kiran scheme: Karnataka pensioners to get cashless healthcare cover up to ₹5 lakh

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the 'Sandhya Kiran' cashless healthcare scheme for state pensioners below 70 years, family pensioners and their eligible dependents. The scheme aims to provide financial and health security to retired employees and their families and will initially cover about 4.93 lakh beneficiaries, including 3.11 lakh State Government pensioners below 70 years and their eligible dependents. "This scheme is a vital social security measure ensuring quality, affordable and cashless healthcare services for State Government pensioners and their families, helping significantly reduce the financial burden of unexpected medical expenses," the CMO said in a press release issued after the Cabinet meeting.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/sandhya-kiran-scheme-karnataka-pensioners-to-get-cashless-healthcare-cover-up-to-5-lakh/article71343851.ece

External

China to keep imposing anti-dumping duties on Indian single-mode optical fibre imports

China will continue imposing anti-dumping duties on single-mode optical fibre imports from India for another five years starting on Friday, the commerce ministry said on Thursday. The decision follows a sunset review initiated a year ago, which concluded that terminating the anti-dumping measures could lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and harm to China's domestic optical fibre industry.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-to-keep-imposing-anti-dumping-duties-on-indian-single-mode-optical-fibre-imports/articleshow/133204979.cms

Trump imposes 100% tariffs on certain drones, countering China

The Trump administration is applying a 100 per cent tariff on imports of unmanned aircraft systems and their components in a bid to cut the US's reliance on foreign supplies of drones. The top 100 per cent rate will apply to drones of a certain size or those that possess national-security capabilities, according to a White House statement. Other imports will face lower duties. The levies will take effect for many of the products in 21 days. Smaller drones that lack national security abilities will be taxed at a 25 per cent rate. Economies that struck trade deals with President Donald Trump will see their drones levied in line with the rates set in those agreements.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/trump-imposes-100-tariffs-on-certain-drones-countering-china/artie71343980.ece