

August 18, 2026 – Tuesday

Economy

ICRA estimates India's GDP growth at four-quarter low of 7 per cent in April-June

Rating agency ICRA on Monday estimated India's GDP growth at a four-quarter low of 7 per cent in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal, sliding from 7.8 per cent in the March quarter of FY26, on a slower pace of expansion in the services sector. It projected the industrial sector to grow at 7.7 per cent, agriculture at 4 per cent, and the services sector to grow at 7.9 per cent in the June quarter.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/icra-estimates-indias-gdp-growth-at-four-quarter-low-of-7-per-cent-in-april-june/articleshow/133301848.cms

India's unemployment rate drops to 5.1% in July as job market improves, more women join workforce

India's unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above declined to 5.1% in July 2026, from 5.5% in June 2026, as both labour force participation and worker population ratios improved, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Monthly Bulletin released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on Monday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-unemployment-rate-drops-to-5-1-in-july-as-job-market-improves-more-women-join-workforce/articleshow/133294261.cms

Finance

RBI cuts FX swap window short after NRI deposits cross $50 billion

Strong inflows from a foreign deposit drive prompted the Indian central bank to cut short a zero-cost FX swap facility for banks, with policymakers also wary of the domestic liquidity effects and the cost of such fundraising, analysts said. The Reserve Bank of India brought forward on Friday the last date for its swap facility by a month after banks collected a more-than-expected $50 billion of deposits from non-resident Indians in about two months.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbi-cuts-fx-swap-window-short-after-nri-deposits-cross-50-billion/articleshow/133290355.cms

SEBI simplifies mutual fund registration with single application form

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has eased the process of launching a mutual fund by introducing a single consolidated application form for registration. The move replaces the existing multi-stage process that required separate submissions for in-principle approval and final registration of a mutual fund. The revised application form brings together all key information relating to sponsors, ownership structure, financial strength, governance standards, compliance systems and the proposed Asset Management Company (AMC), making the approval process more streamlined and transparent.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-simplifies-mutual-fund-registration-with-single-application-form/article71357671.ece

Shorter-tenor SLB contracts may boost closing auction participation

Stock exchanges have introduced shorter-tenor securities lending and borrowing (SLB) contracts to improve short-term liquidity and to boost participation in the new closing auction session (CAS), according to people familiar with the discussions. The three-working-day contracts, launched by NSE Clearing and BSE Clearing from Monday, will allow market participants to borrow securities for a much shorter period. Sources said this is particularly relevant for CAS, which has faced concerns over low participation and price spikes since its launch earlier this month.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/shorter-tenor-slb-contracts-may-boost-closing-auction-participation/article71356977.ece

Indian lenders' dollar bond sales hit record near $9 billion

Indian financial institutions have sold a record of almost $9 billion in dollar bonds this year, as lenders rush to capitalise on a central bank facility that lowers hedging costs on overseas borrowings. ICICI Bank Ltd. raised $750 million from US-denominated debt on Monday, putting the 2026 total so far at $8.85 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The number has already topped the previous full-year record of $7.92 billion in 2019, and could rise further. Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. has set an initial price guidance for a planned five-year dollar issuance and Yes Bank Ltd. has hired advisers for another potential dollar bond offering, people familiar with the matter have said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/indian-lenders-dollar-bond-sales-hit-record-near-9-billion/article71358856.ece

Banking leaders urged to shape reforms as government readies panel for Viksit Bharat 2047

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday called on banking leaders to submit recommendations on reforms needed to align the sector with India's development ambitions, as the government prepares to set up a high-powered committee to examine the role of banking in achieving Viksit Bharat 2047.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/government-to-set-up-high-powered-panel-on-banking-sectors-role-in-viksit-bharat-nirmala-sitharaman/articleshow/133288152.cms

Industry

MSME Development (Amendment) Bill can be an IBC moment for MSMEs: Crisil Intelligence

The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, if executed well, can be an IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) moment for MSMEs**,** bringing similar discipline to one of the most persistent challenges facing them: delayed payments, according to a Crisil Intelligence (CI) report.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/msme-development-amendment-bill-can-be-an-ibc-moment-formsmes-crisil-intelligence/article71356499.ece

Military drone security framework awaits MoD approval 18 months after draft was first published

The secured military drone framework is still awaiting approval from the Ministry of Defence, nearly 18 months after its draft was first published way back in March, 2025. The Army Design Bureau (ADB), which authored the framework, resubmitted it to the Ministry more than a month ago after incorporating the latest of repeated feedback from the industry and other stakeholders, which was put in public in March of this year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/military-drone-security-framework-awaits-mod-approval-18-months-after-draft-was-first-published/article71357147.ece

REIT quarterly distributions cross ₹3,000 crore as listed universe expands

India's listed real estate investment trusts (REITs) distributed ₹3,136 crore to unitholders in the first quarter of FY27, more than double the ₹1,559 crore distributed in the year-ago quarter, as the sector expanded to six listed trusts from four a year earlier.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/reit-quarterly-distributions-cross-3000-crore-as-listed-universe-expands/article71356277.ece

Agriculture

India's pulses imports down a tad during H1 this year

India's pulses imports were a tad lower in the first six months of calendar 2026 at 31.80 lakh tonnes, down 1.46 per cent from 32.27 lakh tonnes a year ago, on a dip in chana (chickpea) and urad (black matpe) imports. However, imports of tur (pigeon peas), masoor (lentils) and yellow peas were up during this period, according to a recent market update by trade body India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), which quoted the DGCIS figures.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indias-pulses-imports-down-a-tad-during-in-h1-this-year/article71356874.ece

India widens export basket: Amrapali mangoes, premium cherries, frozen French fries find new markets

The commerce ministry has facilitated a number of fresh agricultural and processed-food items in July that have found buyers in new overseas markets, underlining the country's widening export palette, an official said. The commerce ministry has facilitated a number of fresh agricultural and processed-food items in July that have found buyers in new overseas markets, underlining the country's widening export palette, an official said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-widens-export-basket-amrapali-mangoes-premium-cherries-frozen-french-fries-find-new-markets/articleshow/133296953.cms

El Nino seen deepening India's rainfall deficit through Sept

India appears to be facing a widening rainfall deficit, with the current regional wet spell likely to fade by end-August as the influence of drought-inducing El Nino strengthens, according to the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). A leaner rainfall trend could persist through September due to El Nino's influence on the South-West monsoon. In effect, India may already have seen the best of this year's monsoon, with withdrawal expected to begin from North-West India around mid-September, the European weather agency's outlook said.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/elninoseen-deepening-indias-rainfall-deficit-through-sept/article71357545.ece

Energy

SHANTI Draft Rules and Regulations: Single licence regime and technology from self-reliant countries proposed

The keenly awaited draft rules and regulations for the SHANTI Act, promising to open the tightly held nuclear power sector, are finally out. A single composite licence regime for building, owning, operating and decommissioning of nuclear power plants, besides opening pathways for private players and foreign technology from countries that are 'self-reliant' in nuclear reactor design and supply chain, has been announced.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/shanti-draft-rules-and-regulations-single-licence-regime-and-technology-from-self-reliant-countries-proposed/articleshow/133281724.cms

India lets clean-energy projects pay to keep grid access after delays

India's power regulator has allowed clean energy developers to pay more to keep their grid connectivity after missing project deadlines, instead of losing their access to the transmission network. Power producers can get extra time instead of automatically losing their grid connectivity rights, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission said in an order over the weekend. Producers will have to pay 1,000 Indian rupees ($10.48) per megawatt per day to obtain extra time for land and financing requirements and 3,000 rupees per MW per day for delays in starting commercial operations. The move comes after several companies approached the regulator seeking more time for projects that were delayed but still under development as India's grid planning authority started serving disconnection notices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/india-lets-clean-energy-projects-pay-to-keep-grid-access-after-delays/articleshow/133286094.cms

Grid planning should focus on rolling transmission plans linked to RE additions: IWTMA

As India gears up to add 100 gigawatts (GW) of wind power by 2030, the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) has suggested that the power evacuation infrastructure must keep pace with future wind capacity additions. The suggestions form part of a comparative assessment undertaken by IWTMA, with support from MEC Intelligence.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/grid-planning-should-focus-on-rolling-transmission-plans-linked-to-re-additions-iwtma/article71357024.ece

States

Karnataka plans 1,736-acre land acquisition to expand Tumakuru industrial node

Karnataka plans to expand the Tumakuru industrial node with the acquisition of 1,736 acres of land, a move expected to attract investments worth ₹7,000 crore into the State, Industries Minister M B Patil said. Patil was speaking virtually at the third meeting of the Apex Monitoring Authority of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/karnataka-plans-1736-acre-land-acquisition-to-expand-tumakuru-industrial-node/article71357276.ece

TN Industries Minister Keerthana seeks greater central support for industrial development

Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister S Keerthana, at the 3rd Apex Monitoring Authority meeting of the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust, emphasised on strengthening industrial corridor connectivity and expanding opportunities for industrial development across the State.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tn-industries-minister-keerthana-seeks-greater-central-support-for-industrial-development/article71356529.ece

External

India seeks WTO consultations with US over 50% tariff quota on quartz surface imports

India has sought consultations with the US at the World Trade Organization (WTO) on Washington's tariff-rate quota on imports of quartz surface products, which came into effect on August 15 and will be in place for four years. New Delhi told the WTO on August 14 that it has a "substantial interest" and proposed that the consultations take place virtually as per mutual convenience of both sides. India exported about $380 million worth of such products to the US in FY26. Washington had named India, Vietnam, Spain and Thailand as the major exporters of these goods. "India would like to propose that the consultations mentioned above take place virtually as per mutual convenience of both sides," India told the WTO last week as it sought consultations under the WTO agreement on safeguards.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-seeks-wto-consultations-with-us-over-50-tariff-quota-on-quartz-surface-imports/articleshow/133304651.cms

India set for record soyoil imports as Russia-Ukraine war disrupts sunflower shipments

India's soyoil imports are set to hit a record high in August as competitive prices prompt refiners to boost purchases for festive demand, while disruptions to sunflower oil shipments due to the Russia-Ukraine war push buyers to switch oils, dealers said. Soyoil imports in August are likely to rise to 620,000 metric tons, nearly 46% above the average monthly imports of 424,549 tons so far in the current marketing year, which began in November, according to four traders directly involved in trade deals. The traders did not wish to be named in line with their companies' policies.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-set-for-record-soyoil-imports-as-russia-ukraine-war-disrupts-sunflower-shipments/articleshow/133295508.cms

Russia receives Indian gasoline cargo as fuel shortages bite

At least one cargo of gasoline from India has entered Russia's domestic market as Moscow seeks to ease fuel shortages caused by Ukrainian drone attacks on refineries, three industry sources told Reuters and LSEG shipping data showed. Russia has introduced a range of measures to support the domestic fuel market after repeated Ukrainian attacks on oil refineries triggered shortages and price spikes. The measures include rail imports of gasoline from Belarus and Kazakhstan and a ban on fuel exports.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/russia-receives-indian-gasoline-cargo-as-fuel-shortages-bite/articleshow/133301016.cms