

August 19, 2026 – Wednesday

Finance

RRBs' gross loans rise 10.3 pc to Rs 5.78 lakh crore in FY26; PSL achievement at 91.7 pc

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) continued to expand credit delivery and support financial inclusion in 2025-26, with their gross loans outstanding rising 10.3 per cent to Rs 5,78,349 crore, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday. Gross loans outstanding of RRBs stood at Rs 5,24,163 crore at the end of 2024-25. The performance of RRBs under the Reserve Bank of India's Priority Sector Lending (PSL) framework also remained strong during the year, with the average achievement against the overall prescribed target of 75 per cent reaching 91.7 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC), the ministry said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rrbs-gross-loans-rise-10-3-pc-to-rs-5-78-lakh-crore-in-fy26-psl-achievement-at-91-7-pc/articleshow/133328259.cms

SEBI settlement overhaul may offer exit for cases stuck in SAT, courts

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) proposed overhaul of its settlement framework could give parties a wider route to resolve enforcement cases that have already reached the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) or the Supreme Court, potentially resolving the long-pending backlog of cases at the appellate and helping the regulator secure earlier resolution of long-pending disputes.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-settlement-overhaul-may-offer-exit-for-cases-stuck-in-sat-courts/article71361167.ece

Industry

Ready-made food prices may stay high as input, packaging costs rise

Prices of ready-made food products such as savouries, sweets, and snacks are likely to remain elevated, as higher input and packaging expenses and rising costs of key ingredients continue to feed into retail rates. Inflation in ready-made food products accelerated to 9% year-on-year in July from 6.7% in June and 0.8% in January, according to statistics ministry data. Prices of key commodities such as tomatoes and edible oil rose 23% and 18%, respectively, year-on-year between April and July 2026 while sugar prices increased 3%.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/ready-made-food-prices-may-stay-high-as-input-packaging-costs-rise/articleshow/133329018.cms

Small/mid-size firms lag as India Inc nears DPDP implementation phase

Corporate India's level of preparedness for Digital Personal Data Protection Rules (DPDP) remains uneven as it gets closer to the deadline with small and medium-sized entities stuck at understanding the routes in which they collect personal data and how it flows across their entity. With 9 months to go for the May 2027 deadline, large companies seem better positioned, given their resources and experience with overseas clients, but smaller businesses are still evaluating requirements, consultants and tech providers working on DPDP, told *businessline*. Further, Consent

Managers need to register by November 2026, so organisations wanting to work with such intermediaries must get their consent platform in place by then.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/smes-lag-as-corporate-india-moves-into-dpdp-implementation-phase/article71361661.ece

MoD bars import of 405 defence items under sixth 'Positive Indigenisation List'

The Ministry of Defence has notified the sixth 'Positive Indigenisation List' (PIL), barring 405 strategically important items from import. This move will offer an estimated business potential of ₹3,070 crore for the indigenous industry. More than 15,700 defence items have been successfully indigenised, resulting in an estimated import substitution value of about ₹9,000 crore over the last five years, said the Ministry of Defence in a statement. Additionally, DPSUs have placed procurement orders, including in-house production, worth approximately ₹10,000 crore on domestic vendors up to March 2026, the MoD emphasised.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/mod-bars-import-of-405-defence-items-under-sixth-positive-indigenisation-list/article71360558.ece

Agriculture

BIRC 2026 to Showcase 200 Rice Varieties, 50 Global Cuisines Across 9 Experience Zones

The upcoming Bharat International Rice Conference (BIRC) 2026 will showcase 200 varieties of rice and 50 global cuisines across nine experience zones, said the Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF) which is organising the event. The event will be held from October 23–25 in New Delhi, featuring nine curated experience zones highlighting rice through culture, technology, innovation, nutrition and global trade.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/birc-2026-to-showcase-200-rice-varieties-50-global-cuisines-across-9-experience-zones/articleshow/133319045.cms

Infrastructure

India resumes rail coach exports to Bangladesh with custom 19-coach LHB rake from RCF Kapurthala

India has resumed passenger coach exports to Bangladesh after a decade, with Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, rolling out a 19-coach rake featuring Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) broad-gauge coaches, CCTV surveillance, passenger alarm systems, a Baby Care Room and a Prayer Room. The latest rake follows a May 2024 RITES deal with Bangladesh Railway for 200 broad-gauge passenger coaches and continues the railway cooperation that began in 2015-16.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/india-resumes-rail-coach-exports-to-bangladesh-with-custom-19-coach-lhb-rake-from-rcf-kapurthala/videoshow/133320171.cms

Telecom

Satcom witnessing remarkable phase of technological evolution: Experts

Satellite communication (Satcom) is witnessing a remarkable phase of technological evolution with advances in smaller and more capable satellites, large constellations, software-defined systems, intelligent on-board processing and increasingly sophisticated antenna technologies continuously expanding what can be delivered from space, a senior official at Niti Aayog said on Tuesday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/satcom-witnessing-remarkable-phase-of-technological-evolution-experts/article71361544.ece

States

TN govt says project that harms environment, livelihoods will not be allowed

The Tamil Nadu government will not allow any project that adversely affects people's livelihoods or causes environmental damage, Environment and Climate Change Minister VK Rajeev said in the Assembly on Tuesday. He was responding to concerns over a proposed hydrocarbon project by Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd (HOEC) in Cuddalore district. The proposed project, estimated to cost ₹425 crore, involves drilling wells around 18 km off the Parangipettai coast in Cuddalore district. Each well is proposed to be drilled to a depth of around 3,000 metres.

https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tn-govt-says-project-that-harms-environment-livelihoods-will-not-be-allowed/article71360073.ece

Delhi's education and health budgets rise, but spending trails allocations

Delhi's spending on education and health has increased over the past decade, but actual expenditure has often remained below the revised budget estimates. The trend is especially significant when viewed against the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected both government priorities and the pace of spending.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/delhis-education-and-health-budgets-rise-but-spending-trails-allocations/article71361421.ece

EV ecosystem rapidly expanding in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka & Telangana

India's electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem is rapidly broadening beyond its traditional urban hubs, with Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana emerging as major centres of electricity consumption by public charging stations (PCS). Latest data from the Central Electricity Authority show that power consumption by EV public charging stations across India rose to 1,558.69 million units (MU) in FY26, more than three times the 465.85 MU recorded in FY24. While Delhi and Maharashtra continue to account for a significant share, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana have rapidly increased their contribution.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ev-ecosystem-rapidly-expanding-in-uttar-pradesh-karnataka-telangana/article71361116.ece

External

BRICS weighs Russia's grain exchange plan; digital platform for farm produce trade mooted

BRICS members are exploring a plan backed by Russian President Vladimir Putin to establish a grain exchange that could potentially end the "hegemony" of certain commodity exchanges on global agricultural trading and prices. It would be on the agenda at the September 12-13 BRICS Summit in New Delhi. Russia presented the framework of the BRICS Grain Exchange at a meeting of BRICS trade ministers in Jaipur recently.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/brics-weighs-russias-grain-exchange-plan-digital-platform-for-farm-produce-trade-mooted/articleshow/133330137.cms

Govt organises awareness session on EU CBAM for exporters

The commerce and industry ministry Tuesday organised an awareness session for exporters on the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) regulations. The technical sessions provided participants with an overview of the EU CBAM framework, its applicability and covered products, obligations for exporters, calculation of embedded emissions, data collection and reporting requirements, and accreditation and verification mechanisms.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-organises-awareness-session-on-eu-cbam-for-exporters/articleshow/133329985.cms

India's tanker exports surge over six-fold to USD 1.36 billion in Q1 FY27; UAE leads

India's tanker exports surged more than six-fold to USD 1.36 billion in the June quarter from USD 221.1 million a year earlier, signalling the country's growing shipbuilding and maritime engineering capabilities, with the UAE emerging as the largest destination during the period, according to commerce ministry data. Tankers are large-scale transport ships engineered for the bulk movement of liquids and gases. They serve as a cornerstone of global energy networks and industrial supply chains, they safely distribute vital commodities, including crude oil, petroleum products, chemicals, liquefied natural gas (LNG), and fresh water.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-tanker-exports-surge-over-six-fold-to-usd-1-36-billion-in-q1-fy27-uae-leads/articleshow/133318178.cms

India weighs sugar import duty cut to curb record local prices

India, the world's second-largest sugar producer, is considering cutting its import duty on the commodity to help curb domestic prices that recently climbed to a record. Officials are weighing proposals to lower or scrap the 100% tax on inbound shipments in an effort to boost local supplies, according to people familiar with the matter, who

asked not to be identified because the discussions are confidential. The deliberations come just before a seasonal surge in sugar demand for the festival season, adding to the incentive to rein in rising prices.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/india-weighs-sugar-import-duty-cut-to-curb-record-local-prices/articleshow/133316298.cms

India-Japan trade at USD 27.5 billion in FY 2025-26 still a fraction of potential: Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said bilateral trade between India and Japan stood at around USD 27.5 billion in 2025-26 but remained only a fraction of the potential between the two countries. Addressing a Japanese delegation at the UP-Japan Investment Meet 2026, Goyal said the bilateral relationship was backed by a target of 10 trillion yen in Japanese investment in India over the next decade. "Our bilateral trade stands at around USD 27.5 billion in FY 2025-26, still fraction of our potential," Goyal said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-japan-trade-at-usd-27-5-billion-in-fy-2025-26-still-a-fraction-of-potential-piyush-goyal/videoshow/133335018.cms

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https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-organises-awareness-session-on-eu-cbam-for-exporters/articleshow/133329985.cms

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal invites Japanese companies to deepen investments in India

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal Tuesday invited Japanese businesses to deepen investments and partnerships in India and said that he will undertake a four-day visit to Japan from August 24 to hold discussions on strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries. Manufacturing, agriculture, technology, infrastructure, energy and defence, green and blue economy, and India's civilisational soft power—represent areas where the strengths of India and Japan complement each other, the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/commerce-minister-piyush-goyal-invites-japanese-companies-to-deepen-investments-in-india/articleshow/133328268.cms