


**September 15, 2026 – Tuesday**

## Economy

### Retail inflation in August rises to 4.8%, wholesale print up 9.9%

India's price pressures intensified in August, with retail inflation accelerating to 4.8%, its highest level since the introduction of the revised Consumer Price Index (CPI) series in January, and wholesale inflation climbing to 9.9%, fueling expectations of a possible rate hike by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/retail-inflation-in-august-rises-to-4-8-wholesale-print-up-9-9/articleshow/134247430.cms

### WPI inflation edges higher to 9.9% in August, fuel leads rise

Wholesale prices rose to 9.9% year-on-year in August, from 9.8% in July, driven by higher inflation in fuel and power and manufactured products, official data released Monday showed. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation was nil in August 2025.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/wpi-inflation-edges-higher-to-9-9-in-august-fuel-leads-rise/articleshow/134238243.cms

## Finance

### DBT transfers reach Rs 2.08 lakh crore

The total direct benefit transfer (DBT) under 320 welfare schemes and subsidies has reached ₹2.08 lakh crore so far in the current fiscal, with fertiliser subsidy being the highest at ₹62,984 crore, followed by the Public Distribution System at ₹52,741 crore. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme stood third with transfers of ₹15,241 crore, government data showed. The total number of transactions were 245 crore. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin accounted for ₹10,423 crore of the total DBT while PAHAL, or the LPG subsidy scheme, saw ₹4,788 crore worth of transfers. As per the data, ₹56,170 crore was allocated to other schemes.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/dbt-transfers-reach-rs-2-08-lakh-crore/articleshow/134247113.cms

### Merchant fee on UPI rolling out as transaction floor set at Rs 2,000

India on Monday exempted transactions of up to ₹2,000 through Unified Payments Interface and all RuPay debit card payments from any charges imposed by banks or other payment providers, paving the way for the return of merchant discount rate, or MDR, on UPI transactions. The Department of Financial Services issued a notification, bringing into effect changes to the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, exempting UPI transactions below ₹2,000 and debit cards operated through RuPay from any charges imposed by banks.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/merchant-fee-on-upi-rolling-out-as-transaction-floor-set-at-2000-rupay-debit-card/articleshow/134247429.cms

### Central database may be used for financial oversight, risk monitoring

The government plans to leverage the Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India's (Cersai) expanding database to further strengthen credit oversight and risk monitoring in the financial sector.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/central-database-may-be-used-for-financial-oversight-risk-monitoring/articleshow/134247073.cms

## Industry

### Mobile phone makers seek 13% GST cut amid dip in demand, rising memory prices

Mobile phone industry body ICEA has written to the government seeking a reduction in GST on mobile phones to 5 per cent from the current 18 per cent amid a decline in domestic demand, especially due to rising memory chip prices. India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman dated September 2 said India is now the world's second-largest mobile-phone manufacturer by volume, and mobile phones became the country's largest export product in FY 2025-26.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/mobile-phone-makers-seek-13-gst-cut-amid-dip-in-demand-rising-memory-prices/article71466157.ece

## Agriculture

### Rice gets pricier in India as US-Iran war sends countries scrambling to secure food supplies

Rice, a staple on Indian plates, is getting pricier as the US-Iran war drives countries to lock in food supplies, pushing up global demand. Basmati prices have risen 15–20% in the first quarter of FY27 from a year earlier, while non-basmati varieties are up 20–25%, squeezed by stronger overseas demand and deficient rains in southern India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rice-gets-pricier-in-india-as-us-iran-war-sends-countries-scrambling-to-secure-food-supplies/articleshow/134239149.cms

## Infrastructure

### CJI Surya Kant calls for shift from retrospective to preventive justice in infra projects

Observing that "infrastructure is inherently exposed to the unexpected", Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday called for a fundamental shift from retrospective justice to preventive justice in infrastructure development, saying the rule of law is not just about correcting the wrong but also about creating conditions where things go right.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cji-surya-kant-calls-for-shift-from-retrospective-to-preventive-justice-in-infra-projects/article71465802.ece

## Energy

### India, China to see LNG demand rebound once Middle East supply crunch eases, executives say at Gastech conference

India and China's liquefied natural gas (LNG) demand is expected to rebound once the Middle East supply crunch eases and prices fall, a Reuters report said, citing industry executives, as the US-Iran war drives Asian buyers towards cheaper alternatives like coal and oil.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-china-to-see-lng-demand-rebound-once-middle-east-supply-crunch-eases-executives-say-at-gastech-conference/articleshow/134250268.cms

### Natural gas imports rise despite price surge

India's natural gas imports continued to grow despite a sharp rise in prices this fiscal year. Demand got a boost from a subsidised fertiliser sector, growing CNG vehicle sales, limited supply of alternative fuels such as LPG and falling domestic gas production. However, a recent surge in spot liquefied natural gas (LNG) prices to $25 per mmbtu may partly dent demand or push consumers towards alternative fuels, said industry executives.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/natural-gas-imports-rise-despite-price-surge/articleshow/134247108.cms

**A look at India's global uranium hunt**

India's push to rapidly expand nuclear power is increasingly turning into a race to secure the uranium needed to fuel its future reactors. With the government targeting 100 GW of nuclear capacity by 2047, India is pursuing uranium supplies across Central Asia, Australia and North America while also exploring overseas mining assets, according to an analysis by the Times of India. The strategy is unfolding alongside a major change in domestic nuclear policy that is expected to bring private companies into power generation.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/from-uzbekistan-to-canada-a-look-at-indias-global-uranium-hunt/articleshow/134235729.cms

## Telecom

**Satcom to play key complementary role in reaching remote areas: TRAI Chairman**

Satellite communications will play an important complementary role to terrestrial networks by delivering services to remote and difficult-to-reach areas in India, TRAI Chairman AK Lahoti said on Monday. Lahoti said that the regulator had clearly articulated the importance of satcom for the country in its recommendations made to the government.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/satcom-to-play-key-complementary-role-in-reaching-remote-areas-trai-chairman/articleshow/134245440.cms

**COAI, British High Commission ink MoU for cooperation on AI, digital trust, intelligent connectivity**

Telecom industry body COAI and the British High Commission on Monday signed a pact to strengthen cooperation on Artificial Intelligence, connectivity and digital trust, as well as responsible technology-led innovation. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked at the CO.AI 2026 event organised by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), in association with the British High Commission.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/coai-british-high-commission-ink-mou-for-cooperation-on-ai-digital-trust-intelligent-connectivity/articleshow/134236761.cms

## States

**TN CM's UK visit attracts over ₹12,300 crore investments, 9,400 jobs**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's investment trip to UK saw the state delegation sign multiple MoUs involving investments for over Rs 12,300 crore in London on Monday. The investment drive, aimed at positioning Tamil Nadu as Asia's premier advanced manufacturing and technology hub, is expected to generate more than 9,400 high-value jobs across the state.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/tn-cms-uk-visit-attracts-over-12300-crore-investments-9400-jobs/article71466503.ece

## Healthcare

**Centre proposes easier norms for faster drug rollout**

The government is looking to simplify the regulatory process for bioavailability and bioequivalence (BA/BE) studies for domestic drug approvals, allowing applicants to start eligible studies after intimating the drug regulator instead of requiring its prior permission.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/centre-proposes-easier-norms-for-faster-drug-rollout/articleshow/134247112.cms

## External

**China is now ready to address trade concerns with India**

China said Monday it stands ready to work with India to "properly" address each other's economic and trade concerns in a balanced manner and better benefit enterprises and people of both countries. The statement came a day after Chinese commerce minister Wang Wentao met commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal to discuss India-China trade and economic ties.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-is-now-ready-to-address-trade-concerns-with-india/articleshow/134247076.cms

**New Delhi summit boosts India-EAEU FTA negotiations**

The negotiations for a free trade agreement (FTA) between the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and India picked up momentum last week on the margins of the BRICS summit and the India-Russia Innoprom (joint industrial exposition) held here.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/new-delhi-summit-boosts-india-eaeu-fta-negotiations/articleshow/134246277.cms

**Piyush Goyal meets Chinese commerce minister; discusses trade ties**

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has met his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao and discussed ways to boost trade and economic ties between the two countries. "Met with Mr Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, and discussed India-China trade and economic ties," Goyal has said in a tweet on September 12.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/piyush-goyal-meets-chinese-commerce-minister-discusses-trade-ties/articleshow/134244219.cms

**India, Mercosur ink pact for electronic origin certificates**

India and the five-member Mercosur bloc have signed an agreement to accept Certificates of Origin in electronic form instead of only paper documents, in a move aimed at facilitating paperless trade between the two sides, the commerce and industry ministry said Monday. Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay are Mercosur members. The certificate is a proof to be able to seek duty concessions under a trade deal.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-brazil-led-bloc-ink-pact-for-electronic-origin-certificates/articleshow/134242865.cms