



Public Finance

India may miss FY26 fiscal deficit target of 4.4% on slower growth: BMI

The government is likely to miss its FY26 fiscal deficit target of 4.4 percent, though only marginally, as economic growth underperforms projections, according to a report released by BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions, on Tuesday. The report said potential aggressive US tariff hikes are the primary risk to fiscal improvement and could derail the fiscal consolidation agenda. The report forecast the central government's fiscal deficit to narrow from 5.1 percent to 4.5 percent of GDP in FY26. (*Business Standard*)

India bonds rangebound ahead of state debt supply, CPI data

Indian government bonds traded in a narrow range in early deals on Friday, as traders awaited the state debt auction and the India and U.S. inflation readings due a day later. The yield on the benchmark 10-year bond was at 6.4219% as of 10:10 a.m., compared with Friday's close of 6.4121%. Government bond yields surged in the final market hours on Friday, after New Delhi approved a large compensation for oil marketing companies, triggering concerns of more fiscal measures by the government. (*The Economic Times*)

RBI conducts Rs 8,450 crore state government securities auction; cut-off yields between 6.43% and 7.43%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday announced the results of its latest yield and price-based auction of State Government Securities (SGS), raising a total of Rs 8,450 crore from various states and Union Territories. The cut-off yields in the auction ranged from 6.4377 percent to 7.43 percent. According to the RBI release, Bihar mobilised the highest notified amount in the auction with a Rs 2,000 crore issue carrying a cut-off yield of 7.43 percent for a 30-year tenor. Telangana followed with a Rs 1,000 crore borrowing for a 35-year tenor at a cut-off yield of 7.33 percent. (*The Economic Times*)

India's sovereign rating upgrade may make borrowing overseas cheaper

An upgrade in India's rating is expected to make overseas borrowing cheaper for local companies and non-bank lenders, leading to savings of up to 20 basis points for top-rated firms, industry executives said. S&P's upgrade of India's sovereign credit rating to 'BBB' is projected to lower overseas borrowing costs for Indian companies and non-bank lenders. Top-rated firms could see savings of 10-20 basis points on external commercial borrowings, currently around 7.75%. This shift expands the global investor base for NBFCs, potentially leading to spread benefits of 15-40 basis points. (*The Economic Times*)



Gross tax receipts dip 3.9%, amid rise in refunds

The Union government's gross direct tax collections contracted 1.9% to ₹7.99 lakh crore in the current financial year 2025-26 up to August 11, 2025, according to data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes. Higher refunds also meant that net collections contracted 3.9% during this period. The gross direct tax collections for the previous financial year stood at ₹8.14 lakh crore till August 11, 2024. Notably, the shortfall in gross collections this year comes due to lower collections from the non-corporate tax category, which also includes income tax collections. *(The Hindu)*

Lok Sabha passes Income Tax Bill; officials' powers broadened

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the revised Income Tax Bill, 2025. The Bill seeks to simplify, rationalise, and shorten the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. It also broadens the powers of income tax officials, allowing them to forcibly break into personal emails and social media accounts of assesseees during search operations. *(The Hindu)*

PM Modi announces next-gen GST reforms as Diwali gift in I-Day address

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday promised a "Diwali gift" for citizens in the form of the next generation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms. Speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort during his Independence Day address, PM Modi said the reforms would ease the tax burden nationwide. *(Business Standard)*

Karnataka witnesses 5-fold jump in GST tax evasion at ₹39,577 cr in FY25

Central GST officers in Karnataka detected tax evasion of ₹39,577 crore in 2024-25 fiscal year, an over 5-fold jump from the year-ago period, Parliament was informed on Monday. Last month, numerous small traders and shopkeepers in Bengaluru, Karnataka, received disproportionately high GST notices primarily based on digital footprints, such as UPI transactions. The notices were sent by State GST field offices. *(Business Standard)*



Wholesale price inflation in negative zone for second month, primary articles show severe deflation

The annual rate of inflation based on the All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is -0.58% (provisional) for the month of July, 2025 (over July, 2024). The negative rate of inflation in July, 2025 is primarily due to decrease in prices of food articles, mineral oils, crude petroleum & natural gas, manufacture of basic metals etc. The steep drop in primary articles reflects heavy slide in key vegetable prices. Wholesale prices of Onions and Potatoes are down 44.38% and 41.26%, respectively. *(Business Standard)*

India's GDP growth may dip to 6% in FY26 if 50% tariffs imposed: Moody's

India's GDP growth is likely to slow down by about 30 basis points to 6 per cent in the current fiscal if the US implements 50 per cent tariffs from August 27. However, resilient domestic demand and the strength of the services sector will mitigate the strain on India, Moody's said, adding that India's response to high US tariffs will ultimately determine the effect on its growth, inflation and external position. *(Business Standard)*

India's cities face governance gaps due to delayed urban elections: Report

A recent study has noted rampant delays in elections to Urban Local Governments (ULGs) across the country, with as many as 61 per cent of ULGs across 17 states experiencing such postponements in recent years. 24 out of 34 states and Union Territories do not empower their State Election Commissions to conduct delimitation and reservation. *(Business Standard)*

Oil marketing companies to get ₹30,000 crore for subsidised LPG

The Cabinet also approved a targeted subsidy of ₹300 per 14.2 kg gas cylinder for up to nine refills per year to the poor households who are beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). The scheme will get an additional ₹12,000 crore from the Centre during the current financial year 2025-26. "Average Per Capita Consumption (PCC) of PMUY consumers, which was only about 3 refills in 2019-20 and 3.68 refills in 2022-23, has improved to about 4.47 during 2024-25," the government said. *(The Hindu)*

Cabinet gives approval for four semiconductor plants

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved four projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). Two of the projects will be in Bhubaneswar in Odisha, and one each will be in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh. The cumulative value of the projects is ₹4,594 crore. This brings the number of projects under the ₹76,000-crore mission, which provides financial support to semiconductor units, to 10. *(The Hindu)*

PSU Funds: Govt spending could aid recovery, suited for high-risk takers

Public sector undertaking (PSU) funds, a top-performing theme in 2024 calendar year (CY24), have witnessed a sharp reversal. In the past year, they have lost an average of 11.3 per cent, the steepest drop among equity fund categories. This includes a 4.7 percent fall in the past month. *(Business Standard)*

India's Petroleum and Other Liquid Fuels Consumption seen up 5.13% on year in 2025

EIA estimates India's petroleum and other liquid fuels consumption at 5.65 million barrels per day (mbpd) in 2025, up 3.30% compared to previous year. The consumption is seen rising to 5.94 mbpd in 2026, up by 5.13% compared to 2025. India's Petroleum and Other Liquid Fuels production is also seen gaining 4.12% on year to 1.01 mbpd in 2026. *(Business Standard)*



Indian Overseas Bank joins hands with Mumbai Metro One for ticketing solutions

Indian Overseas Bank on Thursday announced signing a partnership with Mumbai Metro One for ticketing solutions. Under an initial pact signed between the Indian Overseas Bank and Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd on Thursday, the public sector lender will facilitate the issuance of smart cards for regular commuters, along with paper ticket and QR-based ticketing solutions, a statement said. *(The Economic Times)*

NPCI to stop UPI P2P 'collect requests' from October 1 to combat fraud

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has asked banks and payment apps to stop all peer-to-peer (P2P) 'collect requests' on UPI from October 1 in a bid to combat financial fraud. It is hereby informed that by October 1, 2025 UPI P2P collect shall not be allowed to be process in UPI, NPCI said in a circular dated July 29. "All member banks, Payment Service Providers (PSPs) and UPI aPPs are hereby directed to implement the necessary changes in their systems and operational processes to ensure that no P2P collect transaction is initiated, routed, or processed on UPI beyond October 1, 2025," it said. *(The Economic Times)*

AI mistakes can be tolerated, RBI panel on AI in finance recommends leniency for first-time errors

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel examining the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the financial sector has recommended that regulators adopt a "tolerant supervisory stance" towards first-time mistakes made by AI systems. The panel said allowing institutions some leeway, provided they have strong safety measures, could encourage innovation without compromising oversight, a TOI report stated. *(The Economic Times)*

Banks roll over ₹1.82 trn at RBI's 8-day VRRR auction to absorb liquidity

The RBI received bids worth Rs 1.82 trillion against the notified amount of Rs 2 trillion at its eight-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction on Thursday, as banks rolled over maturing amounts from earlier VRRR operations conducted on 8 and 11 August. The central bank accepted the amount at a cut-off rate of 5.49 per cent. On 8 August, in the auction of six-day tenure, the RBI had received bids worth Rs 1.46 trillion, which matured on Thursday. In the second auction, of a three-day tenure on Monday, the central bank had received bids worth Rs 44,790 crore. *(Business Standard)*

Home loan rates stable in August: Public banks at 7.35%, private at 7.70%

The RBI has left the repo rate unchanged at 5.5 percent in its latest policy review, which means that borrowing costs are unlikely to change in the near term, but borrowers should still compare rates to secure the best deal. -Union Bank of India, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India: Starting at 7.35 per cent and going up to 10.10 percent or more, depending on the borrower's credit profile. *(Business Standard)*

US tariff hike could pressure India's economy and banks, says CreditSights

Tariffs imposed by United States (US) President Donald Trump could weaken India's economic outlook, with pressure on key export industries likely to spill over into the banking sector, according to Fitch-owned research firm CreditSights, as reported by The Economic Times. Last week, the Trump administration announced an additional 25 percent duty on Indian exports involving the import of Russian oil, effective August 27. This follows a prior 25 percent tariff on Indian imports, raising the total duty to 50 percent. Brazil is the only other country facing a similar tariff under the new US measures. *(Business Standard)*

MF inflows surge 80% in July to ₹5.65 lakh cr; IT, PSU Banks lead buying

Equity mutual funds in India posted a sharp recovery in July 2025, with inflows (excluding arbitrage schemes) rising 80% month-on-month (MoM) to ₹56,500 crore (\$6.5 billion). This follows a 30% MoM rise in June inflows, according to JM Financial's India MF Monthly Flow Tracker. *(Business Standard)*

Banks to clear cheques within few hours from October 4, says RBI

The RBI will introduce a new mechanism from October 4 for clearance of cheques within hours of being presented to banks, reducing the current time period of up to two working days. Cheques will be scanned, presented, and passed in a few hours and on a continuous basis during business hours. The clearing cycle will be reduced from the present T+1 days to a few hours. Cheque Truncation System (CTS) currently processes cheques with a clearing cycle of up to two working days. *(Business Standard)*

Banks free to decide on minimum balance for savings accounts: RBI Guv

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Monday said banks are free to decide the minimum balance for savings accounts and that it does not fall under the regulatory domain of the RBI. He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function on 'Financial Inclusion Saturation Drive' organized at Gozaria village panchayat in Gujarat's Mehsana district. Asked about a private bank increasing the minimum balance required for savings accounts, Malhotra said, "The RBI has left it to individual banks to decide on what minimum balance they want to set. Some banks have kept it at ₹ 10,000, some have kept ₹2,000 and some have exempted (customers). It is not in the regulatory domain (of RBI)." *(Business Standard)*

SBI launches special ₹4 lakh collateral-free loan scheme for Agniveers

State Bank of India has launched a special personal loan scheme for Agniveers - young men and women serving in the armed forces under the Government's short-term Agnipath recruitment programme. Under this loan scheme, launched to mark India's 79th Independence Day, Agniveers with a salary account at SBI can avail of loans of up to ₹4 lakh without any collateral and with a complete waiver of processing fees, the bank stated. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI may open room for further easing in upcoming policy if GDP prints come lower: Report

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) could consider reducing policy rates further if upcoming GDP data comes in lower than expectations and the US

Federal Reserve begins aggressive rate cuts due to a weaker labour market, according to a report by HSBC Mutual Fund. For FY26, the RBI-MPC, in its latest policy meeting has kept the GDP growth projection at 6.5 per cent. Quarterly GDP growth is projected at 6.5 per cent in Q1, 6.7 per cent in Q2, 6.6 per cent in Q3, and 6.3 per cent in Q4. The central bank had also decided to leave the repo rate unchanged at 5.50 per cent and maintained its neutral stance. The decision comes after frontloaded cuts of 100 basis points in earlier policies. *(BusinessLine)*

PM says 50% of total real time transactions done through UPI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday highlighted the success of home-grown Unified Payments Interface (UPI), stating that UPI alone accounts for 50 percent of real-time transactions in the world. "Our UPI platform feels like a wonder to the world today...we have the capability (to become self-reliant)," he said in his address to the nation on the 79th Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort. *(BusinessLine)*

Generative AI set to improve banking operations in India by 46%: RBI Report

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to improve banking operations in India by up to 46 percent, according to a report by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The central bank noted that AI can help financial institutions better understand customer behaviour, improve efficiency, and offer more personalised services at scale. It stated, "GenAI is poised to improve banking operations in India by up to 46 percent." The report said AI is increasingly being adopted across the financial services sector. This adoption is being driven by multiple needs, including enhancing customer experience, improving employee productivity, increasing revenue, reducing operational costs, ensuring regulatory compliance, and enabling the creation of new and innovative products. *(BusinessLine)*

Credit-to-Deposit ratio in banks remain below 80% as demand in credit slows down: Report

The credit-to-deposit ratio in Indian banks has stayed below 80 percent as credit offtake in the country continues to lag, according to a report by CareEdge Ratings. The report highlighted that while both credit offtake and deposit growth have increased sequentially, they remain significantly lower than the levels seen last year. Deposits continued to outpace credit offtake in the current fortnight, leading to a narrowing of the credit-deposit gap. It stated "Credit to Deposit Ratio Remains Below 80 Percent as Credit Offtake Lags". *(BusinessLine)*



External Sector

'Doubled U.S. tariffs to raise risks to India's growth, inflation'

The 50% tariff imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to raise risk to India's growth and inflation, rating agency Moody's said on Friday. "Should India continue to procure Russian oil at the expense of the headline 50% tariff rate on goods it

ships to the U.S., which is now its largest export destination, we project real GDP growth may slow by around 0.3 percentage points compared with our current forecast of 6.3% growth for fiscal 2025-26,” Moody’s said. On the other hand, a decision to curtail Russian oil imports to avoid the imposition of the penalty tariff could pose difficulties in procuring alternative sources of crude petroleum in sufficient amounts and timely fashion, proving disruptive to economic growth if the overarching supply of oil to the economy is interrupted. *(The Hindu)*

India, Oman FTA likely to be announced soon: Official

The conclusion and signing of the proposed free trade agreement between India and Oman is expected to be announced soon, an official has said. The trade pact text is being translated into Arabic in Oman. After that, cabinets of both countries will approve the pact. “Both countries have, in principle, decided to announce the conclusion and signing together,” the official added. Talks for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement began in Nov. 2023. *(The Hindu)*

India-U.K. FTA offers mutual growth: Trade Commissioner Harjinder Kang

The U.K.-India Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) would mutually benefit both countries, promote mobility, innovation, inclusivity, support jobs, boost exports, and strengthen cross-border trade and economic growth, according to Harjinder Kang, Trade Commissioner, South Asia and British Deputy High Commissioner, Western India. Mr. Kang was speaking at an event organised by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce (BCIC) here on Tuesday. “The vision also aligns with the U.K.’s modern industrial strategy, which will help businesses overcome barriers to investment across sectors including advanced manufacturing, creative industries, clean energy, financial services, digital and technology, defence, life sciences, creative industries and professional and business services,” he said, addressing the BCIC members. *(The Hindu)*

India’s trade deficit shrank in April-July’

India’s overall trade deficit in the current financial year 2025-26 as of July shrank 3.7% to \$31.3 billion as compared with the same period in the previous year, official data showed. This was due to a faster growth in exports than in imports over this period. Data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed that India’s overall exports — including both merchandise and services — stood at \$277.6 billion in the April-July 2025 period, up 5.2% as compared to the exports in April-July 2024. Total imports grew at a relatively slower 4.2% over this period to \$308.9 billion. “Despite an uncertain global policy environment, India’s goods and services exports in July as well as in the April-July period have grown substantially and far faster than the global growth level,” Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said at a press briefing to release the data. *(The Hindu)*

India's exports to US rise 20%, imports up 13.78% in July

India's goods exports to the US rose 19.94 per cent to USD 8.01 billion in July while imports increased 13.78 per cent to about USD 4.55 billion during the month, according to the commerce ministry data. During April-July, the country's exports to the US increased 21.64 per cent to USD 33.53 billion, while imports rose 12.33 per cent to USD 17.41 billion, the data showed. The US was the largest trading partner of India in the April-July period (USD 12.56 billion bilateral trade) 2025-26. China, another major

trading partner of India, saw a 27.39 per cent jump in exports from India to USD 1.34 billion in July and a 19.97 per cent growth in April-July to USD 5.75 billion. (*The Economic Times*)

India requests UK to fast-track process to operationalise trade pact: Commerce Secretary

India has requested the UK to fast-track the approval process of the free trade agreement so that it can be implemented as early as possible, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Thursday. The India-UK comprehensive economic and trade agreement (CETA) was signed on July 24. It needs approval from UK Parliament for implementation. He said if in the next six months, the India-UK trade agreement gets operationalised, it will immediately provide zero duty access to Indian exports in Britain, so any disadvantage from tariff differential that the Indian exports may face in the US would get covered in the UK. (*The Economic Times*)

India's trade deficit widens to \$27.35 billion in July from \$18.78 billion in June

India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to \$27.35 billion in July, up from \$18.78 billion in June, provisional data from the commerce ministry showed on Thursday. Exports in July rose to \$37.24 billion from \$35.14 billion in June, while imports climbed to \$64.59 billion from \$53.92 billion in the previous month. Year-on-year, inbound shipments in July were 8.6% higher than in July 2024, reaching \$64.59 billion, and outbound shipments rose 7.3% over the same period to \$37.24 billion. The widening gap comes as Indian exporters face renewed pressure from the United States, with President Donald Trump's proposed 25% additional tariff on Indian goods set to take effect on August 27 unless a deal is reached during the ongoing 21-day negotiation window. (*The Economic Times*)

Indian state refiners eye Russian oil as discounts rise ahead of Trump-Putin talks, sources say

Indian state refiners have started making enquiries with trading firms about purchases of Russia's Urals crude oil as discounts widen, three people with knowledge of the matter said on Thursday, ahead of a high-profile meeting of U.S. and Russian leaders on Friday. Indian state refiners - Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd—paused Russian oil purchases last month as discounts narrowed. The state refiners, which account for more than 60% of India's 5.2 million barrels per day of refining capacity, buy Russian oil on a delivered basis. (*The Economic Times*)



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Global rice output likely at a record high next season

Global rice production in 2025-26 is projected at a record 541 mt with trade at 62.04 mt, driven by Burma and the US, while stocks decline in some nations; favourable crop conditions persist, though upcoming months will be crucial, and Iraq's imports are set to

hit a record amid rising demand, limited domestic output, and strong purchases from India and Thailand, with prices at multi-year lows below \$400/tonne after India lifted curbs, and global wheat output is forecast at 806.9 mt. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

Centre allows transfer of ₹3,900 cr crop insurance claims

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan approved the transfer of about ₹3,900 crore to nearly 35 lakh farmers as crop insurance claims under PMFBY, saying payouts are now given even if a single farmer's crop is damaged. He digitally transferred the amount from Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, and said the State would soon get water from the Yamuna, Chambal, and Indus rivers. In 2023-24, ₹19,663 crore was paid out of ₹21,005 crore claims, while in 2024-25, ₹6,224 crore was paid out of ₹9,500 crore provisional claims. Since PMFBY's launch in 2016, ₹2.12 lakh crore has been paid against ₹2.57 lakh crore premiums, and under PM-Kisan, ₹3.75 lakh crore has been transferred to farmers. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

Odisha exports dragon fruits to Dubai

Odisha's Balangir district exported 330 kg of Patnagarh-cultivated dragon fruit to Dubai at ₹300 a kg, up 20% from last year's ₹250, marking the second consecutive year of global sales. The price rise reflects growing demand, better quality, and higher farmer incomes from high-value crops. Farmers are now venturing into exotic crops like dragon fruit and kiwi. Director of Horticulture Subrat Kumar Panda said the success shows Odisha's readiness for competitive global markets. The milestone was achieved under the PSFPO project, led by the State Agriculture Department, implemented by Palladium. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

With 90% of area covered, kharif crops sowing up 4%

Helped by surplus monsoon rains since mid-June, farmers have sown over 90% of the normal kharif area (1,097 lh), with total coverage at 995.63 lh as of August 8—4% higher than last year. Paddy acreage rose 12.1% to 364.8 lh, pulses saw a marginal rise to 106.68 lh with urad up 1.2% and arhar down 4.7%, while coarse cereals grew 4.5% to 178.73 lh, led by a 10.5% jump in maize. Oilseeds acreage fell 3.7% to 175.61 lh, with soyabean and groundnut down. Cotton dropped 3.2% to 106.96 lh. Sugarcane and jute planting are nearly complete. Overall rainfall from June 1–August 11 was 1% above normal, with surpluses in Central and North-West India but deficits in the East and North-East. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

HADP drives farming transformation in J&K with 3 lakh registrations since January

Jammu & Kashmir's Holistic Agriculture Development Programme has seen registrations rise 35% since January to over 3 lakh, with major approvals in farm mechanisation, fodder development and vegetable promotion. Covering 29 projects, the scheme has trained nearly 2 lakh farmers and is credited with boosting yields, incomes and modern farming practices. [\(BusinessLine\)](#)

Significant cut in fertiliser use under PM Pranam: Govt

Under PM Pranam, 14 states cut fertilizer use by 1.51 MT in 2023-24, saving subsidies and promoting balanced nutrient use. The scheme incentivises states, encourages organic farming, and aims to improve soil health while reducing reliance on costly, highly subsidised chemical fertilisers. Fourteen states have reported a reduction of 1.51 million tonne (MT) in their combined fertiliser consumption in 2023-24 over the average in the previous three years. This has been achieved under the central scheme PM Pranam, which aims at cutting subsidies and incentivising states for balanced use of chemical social nutrients, the government stated in Parliament on Wednesday. (*Financial Express*)



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Cabinet gives green signal to four semicon projects worth ₹4,600 cr

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday has approved four more semiconductor projects under India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), with a total investment of around ₹4,600 crore. The government hopes that it would generate a cumulative employment for 2,034 skilled professionals, which would catalyse the electronic manufacturing ecosystem resulting in creation of many indirect jobs. (*BusinessLine*)

CII pitches for land reforms to boost manufacturing

In order to boost manufacturing in India, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has advocated for comprehensive land reforms. This will help capitalise on emerging opportunities and march towards the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047, it said. Manufacturing leads the secondary sector, which also has electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services, and construction as constituents. This sector has a share of over 25 percent in the GDP; manufacturing alone has a share of around 17 percent. (*BusinessLine*)

Compliance maze: Healthcare seeks a simple prescription

A healthcare organisation with a footprint across the country would require about 29,000 compliances annually, while a single-State entity would need over 6,000 compliances. And, 25-30 per cent of compliances need to be renewed every year. Healthcare is among the most regulated segments in the country, and members of Nathealth, an apex body representing private healthcare providers, are seeking a simplification of this compliance maze. (*BusinessLine*)

India proposes to incentivise steelmakers for cutting carbon emissions

India is preparing a policy roadmap that will offer financial incentives to steelmakers that can prove they have cut carbon emissions. This initiative aims to safeguard the nation's \$25 billion steel export market against new carbon tariffs from the European Union. Unlike traditional subsidies, this framework will only reward companies showing improvements in emission intensity year over year. The initial plans show that for every

0.1 tonne reduction in CO₂ per tonne of iron or steel produced, mills will earn ₹100, with an annual cap of ₹1,000 per tonne. ([BusinessLine](#))

India can lead in pharma

As India marks its 78th year of Independence, the nation stands at a defining crossroads, not just as a manufacturing powerhouse but as a rising epicentre of global innovation. From life sciences and digital technology to space exploration and clean energy, India is rapidly evolving into a hub for value-driven, cutting-edge solutions. At 78, India is no longer merely contributing to global supply chains. It is shaping the future of innovation itself. ([BusinessLine](#))

First 'Made in India' chips to hit market this year: PM Modi

The First 'Made in India' semiconductor chip will be launched soon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his Independence Day speech on Friday. He also stressed that India will have its own artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem. This is the era of information technology, he said, adding "we want to have our own AI ecosystem". ([BusinessLine](#))

Industry eyes legal road ahead as Xaults gets approval for fractional shares test

SEBI's approval for Xaults to trial fractional share investing in its innovation sandbox has drawn a cautious welcome from market participants, who see it as a long-overdue test of a model that could make high-value shares accessible to smaller investors. However, experts call for matching changes to the Companies Act and SEBI's own regulations to turn it into a market-wide rollout. ([BusinessLine](#))

Securing personal data in iron-clad technology

Two areas outside of finance that witness significant fraud in India are organ donation and electoral voter authentication. Plenome Technologies, a start-up incubated by IIT-Madras that recently raised funds, has patented a framework based on blockchain technology to authenticate organ donors. The technology is also useful in authenticating voters. ([BusinessLine](#))



News on Kerala

Kerala CM warns US tariff hike will hit state economy hard

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday said the United States' recent tariff hike would severely impact the state's economy, and the government would conduct a detailed assessment of the situation. Speaking at a government event, Vijayan described the US tariff increase as a significant setback for India's economy overall and Kerala in particular. ([onmanorama](#))

Child-secure Kerala action plan unveiled

The Women and Child Development (WCD) department unveiled the Balasurakshita Keralam (Child-secure Kerala) action plan at a stakeholder workshop organised in association with UNICEF. The plan itself was drawn up from suggestions on how to achieve the goal of a child-secure Kerala. The broad objectives of the plan are to bring down violence, particularly sexual assaults, against children and ultimately eliminate it. *(The Hindu)*

Kannur declared extreme-poverty free district

Kerala has lifted 52,635 families out of extreme poverty in the past five years, Local Self-Government Minister M.B. Rajesh has said. Speaking at an event declaring Kannur district free of extreme poverty, at the district panchayat auditorium on Thursday (August 14, 2025), the Minister said the State government's first decision after assuming office in 2021 was to eradicate extreme poverty. A survey had identified 64,006 families, and special microplans were prepared for each to enable their transition. As a result, 94.47% of those identified have overcome extreme poverty. *(The Hindu)*

Book highlights 'disparities' in Kerala's education sector

This is among the observations in the book, *Malabar: An educational colony of Trivandrum*, written by K.K.N. Kurup, historian, and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut, and academic P.V. Muhammed Kutty. The book says that of the 150 uneconomic higher secondary batches in the State, which have less than 25 students, 106 are in the southern districts. The authors claim that the similar disparities stretch across arts and science colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnic colleges, industrial training institutes, teachers' training colleges, and nursing institutions as well. *(The Hindu)*

Draft policy for the elderly proposes 'Kerala model of ageing'

The Kerala government is keen on setting another model in the area of elderly welfare and protection. The draft Kerala State Policy for Elder Persons, 2025 proposes development of the 'Kerala model of ageing' through active participation of local self-governments in planning, resource mobilisation, and service delivery. It envisages a pivotal role for local self-governments in fostering community-driven care models that emphasise collective responsibility. *(The Hindu)*

School children to get 'grace marks' for reading in Kerala

Kerala's state-run schools will award grace marks to students for cultivating reading habits, starting next academic year. A dedicated reading period will be implemented, with activities tailored for different grade levels, including newspaper reading for older students. Teachers will receive training, and the Education Department considers adding a reading segment to the annual school arts festival. *(The Economic Times)*

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