



Public Finance

[India bonds seen rising as Finance Minister affirms borrowing, deficit targets](#)

Indian government bonds are set to rise after the finance minister assured there will be no tweaks to the borrowing plan and that the fiscal deficit goal will be met. The yield on the 10-year benchmark note is expected to open lower by 2-3 basis points, said a trader at a private bank. It closed at 6.4651% on Friday. Bulls expect the 10-year yield to test 6.40%, a key psychological level, as sentiment firmed up after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told local media the government will deliver on its fiscal deficit target and leave the borrowing calendar unchanged. (*The Economic Times*)

[India GST reform to boost consumption but strain govt revenues, Moody's warns](#)

India's planned revamp of its goods and services tax (GST) will boost household consumption and support growth, but weigh on government finances, Moody's Investors Service said Tuesday. Approved at a 3 September GST Council meeting and effective 22 September, the new structure consolidates most rates into two slabs—5% and 18%—with goods from the old 12% and 28% categories moving lower. A new 40% rate will apply to “sin” and luxury items such as premium cars, tobacco, sugary drinks, casinos and online gaming. (*Mint*)

[India's external debt rose at fastest pace in 7 years in FY25: Report](#)

India's external debt increased 10.1 percent in 2024-25 (FY25) to \$736.3 billion, marking the fastest expansion in seven years in dollar terms. In rupee terms, the debt stock climbed to ₹63 trillion, reflecting a 13 percent growth and an addition of ₹7.3 trillion, according to the External Debt Status Report 2024-2025 released by the Union Finance Ministry. The dollar-terms growth significantly outpaced the 6.4 percent uptick recorded in FY24, when external debt had touched \$663.8 billion. The FY25 external debt growth was the highest in seven years in rupee terms as well. (*Business Standard*)

[Govt to retain market borrowing target after tax cuts](#)

India plans to keep its borrowing programme unchanged for the second half of the financial year and absorb any revenue losses from recent consumption tax cuts, according to people familiar with the matter. New Delhi won't cut capital expenditure and remains on track to meet its fiscal deficit target of 4.4 percent of gross domestic product for the year ending March 2026, the people said, asking not to be identified as they aren't authorized to speak publicly. (*BusinessLine*)

Safeguarding federalism vital for nation's unity: Chief Minister

Every vote cast for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will destroy Kerala's unique identity, and society should become aware of this, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said. Inaugurating a seminar titled 'Future of Secularism and Federalism' on the sidelines of the Communist Party of India's (CPI) State conference in Alappuzha on Wednesday, Mr. Vijayan said a broad united front should be built against the politics of the Sangh Parivar and the BJP. The Chief Minister also called for strengthening Left unity. *(The Hindu)*

Capex loans scheme for states to continue in FY27 and beyond

The Centre will likely continue its no-interest-bearing 50-year capital expenditure loans, which were introduced during the Covid pandemic in FY21, to states in the coming years to give the economy a boost, a top government source told FE. Under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Centre has budgeted Rs 1.5 lakh crore for states for various tied and untied projects in FY26, taking the cumulative support to Rs 5.12 lakh crore since FY21. *(Financial Express)*



Taxation

GST council's tax simplification move to make taxation 'transparent': IOB

The GST council's decision to simplify the tax structure would make taxation more 'transparent' and boost consumption over 8-10 percent in rural markets, a top official of public sector Indian Overseas Bank said on Sunday. The Bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said there would be an increased demand across retail, micro, small and medium enterprises and agricultural segments as incomes rise and investments pick up. *(Business Standard)*

Revenue impact of GST cuts to be higher than govt's prediction: Moody's Ratings

Although the lower GST rates will boost consumption, the increase in tax revenue from this is unlikely to offset the hit to tax revenues due to the cuts, Moody's Ratings said. However, it did add that revenue from the higher 40% rate should mitigate some of the impact. Overall, Moody's Ratings also said the revenue foregone is likely to be higher than the ₹48,000 crore the government had predicted. "Although the lower rates will support consumption, we do not expect marginal additions to tax revenue from more robust domestic activity to offset the strain on tax revenue," Moody's Ratings said in its report. *(The Hindu)*

PwC India launches GenAI Navigate Tax Hub to modernise tax functions

PwC India has launched the Navigate Tax Hub, a generative AI-powered platform aimed at transforming tax and regulatory functions. Part of the firm's Vision 2030 strategy, the platform integrates advanced AI with PwC's tax expertise and secure document management to boost efficiency, accuracy, and value for tax teams. Built on PwC India's domain expertise and supported by content providers such as Taxsutra, Navigate Tax Hub offers a comprehensive solution for tax professionals. *(Business Standard)*

GST irony plays out in Onam market as consumers put off purchase plans

The Onam market of white goods in Kerala, often considered a bellwether of the upcoming festival seasons in the rest of the country by industry majors, witnessed an unexpected irony this year. The announcement of the major revamp in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure, which is expected to push consumption with a considerable cut in prices, has had some sort of a negative impact on the Onam market at a time when sales were supposed to peak, according to a section of traders. *(The Hindu)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

Nominal GDP growth in FY26 may fall short due to benign inflation: CEA

Given the expectation of benign inflation, there may be a shortfall in nominal GDP growth compared to the Budget estimate of 10.1 percent for the current financial year, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said. He expressed optimism about meeting the real GDP growth target of 6.3-6.8 percent for the current fiscal year despite the US imposing a steep 50 percent tariff on Indian shipments. *(Business Standard)*

Over 100 global firms express interest to invest in Uttar Pradesh

The state has been trying to attract investments from Fortune 500 and Fortune India Next 500 companies across sectors such as telecom, energy, retail, insurance, banking and financial services, with an eye on becoming a one trillion-dollar economy by 2030. At the UP Global Investors Summit (GIS) held in Lucknow in February 2023, the government had received more than 27,000 proposals worth nearly ₹40 trillion. *(Business Standard)*

Fitch ups India FY26 GDP forecast to 6.9% from 6.5% on domestic demand

Fitch Ratings has raised India's FY26 economic forecast to 6.9 percent from 6.5 percent earlier, saying domestic demand will drive growth as strong real incomes support consumer spending and financial conditions encourage investments. *(Business Standard)*

Trump tariffs may trim 0.5% from India's FY26 GDP: CEA Nageswaran

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran on Monday said the 50 percent tariff imposed by the US could reduce India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 0.5 percent in FY26. "Depending upon how long it lasts even in this financial year, it may translate into a GDP impact of somewhere between 0.5 percent to 0.6 percent," he told Bloomberg TV. *(Business Standard)*

Rajasthan govt aims to boost investment in auto and defense sectors

For auto and EV sectors, the state is offering a subsidy of up to 50 percent, while for defence and drone sectors, the subsidy being offered is up to 45 percent. The scheme also offers investors to choose between state goods and services tax (SGST) reimbursement, turnover-linked incentives and capital subsidy, which allows companies to maximise incentives based on their business models. With these incentives, Rajasthan

will strengthen its position as a prominent destination for investment and boost employment opportunities in these sectors. *(Business Standard)*

Power puzzles in GDP: Energy consumption falls despite growth numbers

There are some apparent paradoxes visible in the data from the first quarter of 2025-26 (Q1FY26). The GDP delivered a positive surprise with 7.8 percent Y-o-Y growth. But electricity consumption fell 1.5 percent Y-o-Y, a drawdown not seen since the Covid lockdowns. At first glance, the GDP data would seem overstated. Power consumption, which is metered, correlates closely with economic activity and is likely to be more accurate than GDP calculations. But High rainfall meant there were only 12 days with above-normal temperature and humidity, so cooling demand was low. *(Business Standard)*

Consumption funds: Rising volumes, margins may lift thematic offerings

Discretionary categories like auto, consumer durables, footwear, and apparel stand to gain. These are segments where consumers typically defer purchases in a high-cost environment, so a price reduction can trigger elasticity and accelerate volume recovery. The cuts are likely to accelerate a shift from the unorganised sector to organised. Consumption funds are likely to benefit on account of better volume-led growth for companies benefitting from the rate cut, and also due to possibly higher discretionary spends on account of higher disposable incomes. *(Business Standard)*

Gujarat stays top state for bank-backed investments; Maharashtra second

Between FY15 and FY25, Gujarat consistently secured the highest number of projects backed by bank finance. Maharashtra held the second position for the last four years, the RBI bulletin noted. In FY25 alone, banks and financial institutions supported 907 projects worth ₹3.7 trillion, with Gujarat receiving 152 projects, Maharashtra 111, and Uttar Pradesh 78. Together with Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, these five states accounted for nearly 60 percent of total project costs. Regional advantages and strong infrastructure have helped these states stay at the top over the past decade. *(Business Standard)*

Spurt in consumption to meet fiscal deficit target of 4.4%: Sitharaman

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 percent of the GDP, or ₹15.69 trillion. "So, I think the consumption spurt from September 22 will increase income buoyancy. To a large extent, this ₹48,000 crore amount we will be able to make up this year itself. So I don't see an impact on my fiscal deficit or my fiscal management. I will stick to my numbers (of 4.4 percent of GDP)." Sitharaman told PTI in an interview. *(Business Standard)*

Government to conduct two key economic surveys on household finances from July 2026

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is all set to conduct two key economic surveys—to measure household finances and to gauge the economic situation of India's farmers—between July 2026 and June 2027, the Ministry announced on Thursday (September 11, 2025). *(The Hindu)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

[For banks, gold loans shine as personal credit loses sheen](#)

At a time when overall bank credit growth has been weak, gold loans have seen a surge in demand. RBI data show that outstanding gold loans increased 124% year-on-year (y-o-y) in June. In contrast, credit card loans increased 7% while other personal loans grew 9% over the same period. Gold loan growth had outpaced credit card and personal credit in 2024 as well. An analysis of the asset quality shows that Gross NPAs in gold loans for banks rose marginally from 0.20% of total outstanding in March 2023 to 0.22% in March 2025, while for Upper and Mid-Layer NBFCs, it increased from 1.21% to 2.14%. *(BusinessLine)*

[PSU bank index jumps 21% in 6 months; time to rethink investment strategy?](#)

PSU bank vs private bank stocks: The past six months have handsomely rewarded investors who held bank stocks in their portfolios. The gains were even better – nearly double - for those whose investments were skewed towards public sector banks' index. Ace Equity data shows that the Nifty PSU Bank index surged 20.6 percent over the past six months (till September 10) as against a 9.8 percent rise in the Nifty Private Bank index. *(Business Standard)*

[Car loan rates start at 7.6% this September as banks roll out festive deals](#)

The festival season is a good time to buy a new car as banks offer competitive interest rates to woo customers, and the recent GST cut on small cars of sub 4 meter category and under 1200 cc to 18 percent, compared to their earlier 22 percent levels, makes the deal even sweeter. New rates are as low as 7.60 percent per annum, according to data provided by Paisabazaar.com for terms as of September 10. Public-sector banks have the most affordable rates. UCO Bank leads at 7.60 percent, and it is followed by Canara Bank and Bank of Maharashtra at 7.70 percent. *(Business Standard)*

[Four banks may log in to NBBL's 'interoperable netbanking' in October](#)

At least four banks—HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and AU Small Finance Bank—along with several online payment aggregators are expected to go live next month on a new system for interoperable netbanking transactions. The platform is being developed and piloted by NPCI Bharat BillPay (NBBL). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra is expected to launch the new netbanking switch at the Global Fintech Fest 2025, scheduled for October 7–9. The system, called Netbanking 2.0, aims to standardise and simplify the transaction experience for online merchants accepting netbanking payments. *(Business Standard)*

[Next-gen public-sector banks on agenda as two-day Manthan begins](#)

Public-sector banks (PSBs) will deliberate on strategies to build globally competitive and scaled institutions for Viksit Bharat 2047, which may also involve changes in regulatory stewardship and potential stake dilution in the future, according to a senior banker. These discussions will take place during the two-day PSB Manthan summit, beginning

September 12. “The two-day Manthan will address several issues related to PSBs, including their long-term growth and emerging challenges such as cybersecurity. This is the first such Manthan with PSBs in over two years,” said a source. *(Business Standard)*

Finance firms may keep cornering mkt share from banks: S&P Global Ratings

S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said India's finance companies, especially the upper-layer firms, are likely to continue to corner the market share from banks over the next two years, backed by a higher growth rate and robust financial profile. “We expect rated finance companies to grow their loan books at a 21-22 percent growth rate over the next two years, higher than 11-12 percent for banking-sector loan growth,” Geeta Chugh, Managing Director, S&P Global Ratings, said. They will further strengthen their market position, particularly in the retail lending sector, which remains significantly underpenetrated in India, she added. *(Business Standard)*

Indian banks' dividend payouts may fall by 4.2% in FY26, says S&P

Indian banks' dividend pay-outs are expected to decline in FY26 owing to subdued growth in net interest margins (NIMs) and net profits amid a slowdown in credit, according to a report by S&P Global Market Intelligence. The analysis projects that the aggregate dividend of 12 large banks will fall by about 4.2 percent to \$5.98 billion in FY26. This follows total pay-outs of \$6.24 billion by the banks in the financial year ended March 31, 2025, which marked a 15.3 percent rise from the previous year. *(Business Standard)*

Banks, NBFCs may tap overseas market as dollar bond spreads narrow

Financial services companies, especially banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), are expected to capitalise on the recent compression in dollar bond spreads following India's sovereign rating upgrade by tapping the overseas debt capital market over the next two to three quarters. Market insiders said enquiries from Indian corporates have risen sharply, as tighter spreads have made offshore borrowing more attractive across borrower segments. International rating agency Standard & Poor's recently upgraded India's sovereign rating to 'BBB' from 'BBB-', its first upgrade in 18 years. *(Business Standard)*

Gujarat stays top state for bank-backed investments; Maharashtra second

Private companies in India are showing caution in fresh investments, but states in western India, led by Gujarat and Maharashtra, continue to draw the largest share of bank-funded projects, according to a report by The Economic Times. Data from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) staff study highlights how regional advantages and strong infrastructure have helped these states stay at the top over the past decade. Between FY15 and FY25, Gujarat consistently secured the highest number of projects backed by bank finance. Maharashtra held the second position for the last four years, the RBI bulletin noted. In FY25 alone, banks and financial institutions supported 907 projects worth ₹3.7 trillion, with Gujarat receiving 152 projects, Maharashtra 111, and Uttar Pradesh 78. Together with Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, these five states accounted for nearly 60 percent of total project costs. *(Business Standard)*

Banks urge RBI to extend G-Sec issuances into March amid heavy supply

Amid hardening bond yields driven by weaker institutional demand and other factors, commercial banks have requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to extend central government bond issuances into March of the current financial year, rather than concluding them in February. This is expected to ease weekly heavy issuance pressure. The central bank held a series of discussions with bond market participants last week, ahead of finalising the borrowing calendar for the second half of the financial year. They have urged the RBI to conduct all state government securities auctions using the uniform pricing method. *(Business Standard)*

New co-lending norms may reduce bank and NBFC volumes in near term

Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) expect Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) new guidelines on co-lending to reduce volumes in the near term due to operational challenges as one of the stipulated norms calls for transferring a loan within 15 days of its origination. According to market participants, the size of co-lending books is expected to shrink sharply in the short run, particularly for smaller NBFCs. They said that the new rules could increase operational costs for lenders, who will now need to maintain mandatory escrow accounts, comply with stricter know-your-customer (KYC) norms, and invest in upgraded technology integration. *(Business Standard)*



External Sector

Despite 54% surge in exports, India turns net steel importer in August

India's steel trade flows diverged sharply in August, with exports climbing more than 50 percent on a year-on-year basis, while imports tumbled by a similar number, even as the country turned a net importer of the metal. India bucked a two-month trend of being a net exporter, as imports exceeded exports for the five-month period between April and August. Exports of finished steel rose over 54 percent in August year on year to 0.53 million tonnes (mt), while imports at 0.67 mt was down 31 percent. For August, India turned net importer by 0.14 mt, as per provisional data from India's Steel Ministry. *(BusinessLine)*

Amid US tariffs, India seeks to leverage SCO to push development agenda at WTO

In the face of US unilateralism and tariffs, India has pushed for leveraging the strength of the SCO countries, including China, Russia and Pakistan, for a development-centred WTO agenda. The move is aimed at a permanent solution on public stockholding (PSH) for food security, among other measures, for developing countries at the multilateral body. Experts say this positioning could be crucial at this moment as the WTO is preparing for its 14th Ministerial Conference in March 2026 in the midst of countries grappling with the US' unilateral actions. *(BusinessLine)*

After tariffs, Indian paprika exports to face US antidumping, countervailing duties

Close on the heels of the US tariffs hitting Indian exports, the \$45 million oleoresin paprika exports from the country could be at stake if the authorities fail to respond

appropriately in resolving issues connected with the anti-dumping and countervailing duties. The All India Spices Exporters Forum, with the help of the Spices Board, held a meeting with the Director-General of Trade Remedies to apprise it of the situation and seek strategic guidance. The total export value of oleoresins from India last year was around \$650 million, of which 25-30 percent is paprika oleoresin. (*BusinessLine*)

Mauritius to set up special economic zone for Indian companies

Mauritius will create a special economic zone dedicated to Indian companies, Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam said here on Wednesday. Ramgoolam, who is on a week-long visit to India, made the announcement at a business conclave hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). (*BusinessLine*)

US questions India at WTO over rice MSP hike despite record harvest, exports

In a submission at the WTO, the US and Paraguay have questioned India's decision to raise the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for rice in 2025 despite "record harvests, exports, stocks and offloading of stocks for ethanol production". India, on its part, has always argued that its MSP scheme not only supports small and marginal farmers and feeds the poor but also keeps global prices in check, ensuring food security for the least developed and vulnerable countries. (*BusinessLine*)

Stung by U.S. tariffs, Indian diamond, jewellery exporters look to West Asia

Stung by the U.S. tariffs on Indian diamond and jewellery exports, the country's exporters are now looking to set their foot in the untapped West Asia market. As a first step, a dedicated B2B jewellery show, the first of its kind, is to be held at Jeddah Superdome from September 11-13. More than 100 exhibitors are set to participate across 200 booths. The Saudi Arabia Jewellery Exposition (SAJEX) 2025 will see over 2,000 buyers from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Hong Kong and Lebanon. (*The Hindu*)

India, Qatar likely to finalise terms of reference for FTA in early-October

India is likely to finalise terms of reference for a free trade agreement (FTA) with Qatar in the first week of October, a government source said on Monday. The source added that Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal may visit the Gulf country to finalise the same on October 6. The possibility of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with Doha was first announced in February during the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani's visit to India. The two sides sought to double their bilateral trade by 2030. (*The Hindu*)

India to engage with Mexico to increase trade relations: Piyush Goyal

Union Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized India's commitment to strengthening trade and investment relations with Mexico, citing significant potential for enhanced cooperation. Discussions with Francisco Cervantes centered on expanding bilateral ties across various sectors. Both nations share similar values and a vision for inclusive, sustainable growth, paving the way for a stronger partnership and mutual growth. (*The Economic Times*)

Indian shrimp export industry to witness 12% revenue decline in FY26: Report

Indian shrimp exporters face a projected 12% revenue decline in FY26 due to steep US tariffs, impacting their competitiveness against rivals like Ecuador. This tariff, effective August 27, significantly erodes India's cost advantage, compressing margins by 150 bps

and increasing working capital stress. Diversification efforts into other markets offer limited price realization, necessitating strategic adaptations for financial stability. (*The Economic Times*)

EU oks 102 more marine product units from India

European Union has approved 102 more marine product units from India. This will help India increase seafood exports to the EU by 20%. The total number of listed Indian marine units now stands at 604. This development occurs as India diversifies its shrimp exports. Shrimp exports have been affected by high tariffs imposed by the US. (*The Economic Times*)

Exporters seek loan relief, favorable rupee rate in meeting with RBI

Indian exporters, hurt by punitive tariffs imposed by the U.S., have sought a moratorium on loan repayments and a favorable exchange rate from the country's central bank in a closed-door meeting with top officials, two sources familiar with the matter said on Thursday. U.S. President Donald Trump imposed punitive tariffs as high as 50% on Indian exports last month, hitting a wide range of industries and prompting the government to come up with a rescue plan to soften the blow. (*Business Standard*)



Agriculture and Rural Economy

Lower tax on farm inputs to boost incomes, crop yield

The abolition or reduction of GST on range of items including fertilisers, agro-chemicals, farm machinery, food processing equipments, drip irrigation systems, sprinklers, specified bio-pesticides and micro nutrients will ease farm input costs, boost mechanisation, reduce prices and accelerate adoption of sustainable practices, experts say. (*Financial Express*)

Fertiliser business faces ITC pile-up despite revision

Fertiliser companies face a GST input tax credit accumulation issue. This is due to the subsidy-related price inversion. The output value is lower than the input value. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry has requested Nirmala Sitharaman for clarification on refund eligibility. Companies warn of working capital pressures. (*The Economic Times*)

Punjab, Rajasthan staring at major crop losses after heavy rains: Crisil

Crisil warns Punjab and Rajasthan face major crop losses as heavy rains damage paddy, cotton, and pulses. With floods submerging 70,000 hectares in Punjab, food inflation risks rise. September rainfall will be critical for paddy, maize, soybean and onion yields across key states. (*Financial Express*)

NCEL, APEDA ink pact to boost cooperative-led agricultural exports

NCEL and APEDA have partnered to boost India's cooperative-led agricultural exports. The MoU, signed in the presence of government officials, aims to enhance value realization for farmers and strengthen India's global market position. This collaboration

will focus on capacity building, quality compliance, infrastructure support, and market intelligence to drive export readiness across the cooperative sector. (*The Economic Times*)

Buyers investing in agricultural land must adhere to state-specific rules

Some states allow only agriculturists to buy, while others require outsiders to secure approval prior to purchase. A leading actor's daughter is facing legal trouble over her purchase of agricultural land outside Mumbai, according to media reports. The plot was originally earmarked for agricultural use and could not be transferred without obtaining the requisite permissions and completing paperwork, which was not done. Investors planning to invest in agricultural land outside major cities to benefit from their expansion must tread with caution. (*Business Standard*)

NITI Aayog recommends multiple strategies to enhance pulses production

Focusing on the nutritional security and the role of pulses in it in the country, the NITI Aayog has recommended tailored agricultural strategies to address the specific constraints faced by each State and its districts to ensure balanced and sustainable growth in national pulses production. In a report, "Strategies and Pathways for Accelerating Growth in Pulses towards the Goal of Atmanirbharta," released here on Thursday (September 4, 2025), the policy think tank laid out a detailed road map for expanding pulses cultivation in the country. (*The Hindu*)

Food, farms, and the future: Why transforming agri-food systems is key to Viksit Bharat 2047

A successful agri-food systems transformation can position India as a global leader in sustainable food production while ensuring nutritional security for all citizens. As India embarks on its transformative journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, no challenge is more fundamental than reimagining how we produce, process, trade, and consume food. (*The Economic Times*)

House panel members raise questions on non-tariff barriers for Indian agricultural exports to EU

Opposition members raised a host of questions on the non-tariff barriers for Indian agricultural exports to European countries, including the U.K., at a meeting of the standing committee on External Affairs headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on September 10. (*The Hindu*)



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Altmin becomes India's first project listed under Mineral Security Partnership

Altmin Pvt Ltd said it has become the first project from India to be listed with the US-led Mineral Security Partnership (MSP), which endeavours to create diverse, secure, and sustainable supply chains for critical minerals, countering China's dominance. The development comes after the Mines Ministry, in 2023, proposed Altmin's project to

refine lithium as India's first project under the US-led 14-nation alliance. The project was officially listed in August 2025. *(BusinessLine)*

Army's drone roadmap to unlock biz opportunities for domestic industry

India's indigenous drone manufacturing sector is poised for a significant boost, with the Army on the verge of finalising a detailed roadmap to enhance its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capabilities. The move will create substantial short- and medium-term business opportunities over the next two months. *(BusinessLine)*

Auto industry in a bind on compensation cess as GST 2.0 kicks in from Sept 22

The automobile industry is in a bind on the compensation cess issue and is hoping for a reprieve from the Centre. The industry has already approached Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over the last few days, seeking ways to recover an estimated ₹2,500 crore for the dealers. *(BusinessLine)*

Premium, 'no nasties' products fly with rise in conscious parenting

Indian parents are willing to shell out big bucks when it comes to their babies, going out of their way to shop for products with no harmful substances or "no nasties" as it is called. According to the latest data released by Worldpanel by Numerator (formerly known as Kantar), parents in the country are on an average spending ₹6,800 annually on baby care products in urban regions. There has been a 12 percent rise in spends in the category over the last year, despite inflationary pressures. *(BusinessLine)*

Centre to incentivise domestic manufacturing of solar ingots & wafers

Emphasising self-reliance, the Centre is aiming to incentivise domestic manufacturing of solar photovoltaic (PV) ingots and wafers. It is also working on including both the products under the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM). Currently, India does not have a domestic manufacturing ecosystem for large scale production of polysilicon, ingots and wafers. *(BusinessLine)*

Moulding India's semiconductor ecosystem

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Vikram-32 at Semicon India last week, it signalled something foundational: the emergence of an Indian semiconductor innovation ecosystem in a world where chips are no longer just technology — they are geopolitics. Designed by ISRO and fabricated at SCL Mohali, the 32-bit microprocessor is India's first indigenously developed chip. While it is built on 180nm technology — far from 3nm chips that are powering the global AI race — this milestone highlights India laying the groundwork for a future where chips are not just imported, but designed and built locally. *(BusinessLine)*

IT under fire

So far, US' trade offensive against India had been limited to merchandise trade. Indian IT service players, who derive a significant portion of their revenues from the US, had been sanguine that they would not be impacted by the tariff offensive. Their confidence stemmed from the fact that members of the World Trade Organisation, in 1998, agreed not to impose levies on digital services through an 'e-commerce moratorium'. This has been 'renewed' over the years. *(BusinessLine)*



[Lottery GST: Minister holds talks with stakeholders](#)

With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council deciding to hike the GST on paper lottery to 40%, Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on Wednesday met trade unions representing lottery vendors and agents for their feedback. The GST hike would affect ticket sales and impact the livelihood of nearly 2 lakh people dependent on lottery sales, according to the State government. State Lotteries director Mithun Premraj was present. Kerala had strongly opposed the move to hike the tax on lottery tickets to 40%. The State had urged the GST Council to drop the uniform tax rate for paper lotteries and make it State-specific as sales were confined within States. *(The Hindu)*

[How much is spent on children's education in India?](#)

Despite a recent drop in the World Economic Forum's gender gap rankings, partly due to the education category, India has made steady progress in recent years in terms of enrolling more girls in school, with government data showing that girls now make up 48% of the school population. In higher education, in fact, the gross enrolment ratio for women is slightly higher than that of men. However, data collected as part of the National Sample Survey earlier this summer show a more insidious gender gap that remains in education — the differing amounts of money that families spend on their sons as opposed to their daughters for their education. *(The Hindu)*

[Kerala's maternal mortality ratio rises steeply from 18 to 30](#)

Kerala's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has "risen" steeply from 18 to 30 per one lakh live births, shows the latest Sample Registration System special bulletin of 2021-2023. The report shows that Kerala and Andhra Pradesh share the first spot among the States with the lowest MMR. While acknowledging that the rise is probably accounted for by the 97 maternal deaths that the State reported in 2021 due to COVID-19, Health Department officials believe that Kerala's steadily declining rate of live births is now beginning to be reflected in the State's MMR figure. The ratio is calculated by dividing the number of maternal deaths by the number of live births and multiplying the result by one lakh. *(The Hindu)*

[KSEB needs 7 years to liquidate revenue gap](#)

The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC) has informed the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL) that seven years are needed for liquidating the unbridged revenue gap of the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB), amounting to ₹6,645.3 crore, without causing tariff shock to consumers. On August 29, the APTEL had directed all State electricity regulatory commissions to file affidavits containing details of regulatory assets and revenue gaps of power distribution companies (DISCOM) along with roadmaps for the liquidation of regulatory assets and revenue gaps latest by March 31, 2028. *(The Hindu)*

State's infant mortality rate falls to all-time low of five

Kerala's infant mortality rate (IMR) has hit an all-time low of 5 (per 1,000 live births) which is five times lower than the national average of 25. This is as per the latest Sample Registration Survey (SRS) report, the reference year being 2023. An IMR of 5 is an incredible achievement for Kerala's health system, as it is even lower than the current infant mortality rate of 5.6 in the United States. Kerala is also the only State in the country with a single digit IMR, with zero urban-rural divide. Kerala first achieved the single digit IMR of 7 in 2018 and this was maintained by the State, touching the figure of 6 in 2019. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala State Financial Enterprises Wins Coveted National Award

The Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), a public sector enterprise owned by the Government of Kerala, has been honored with the prestigious Swadesh Samman Award at the 6th edition of the Swadesh Conclave, held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This recognition acknowledges KSFE's exceptional performance and leadership in fostering growth among public sector non-banking institutions, thereby establishing a commendable standard for the entire sector. The prestigious Swadesh Samman Award was presented to Sri Varadarajan, Chairman, and Dr. S. K. Sanil, Managing Director of KSFE, by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Sri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. *(Business Standard)*

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