



Public Finance

States should get compensation for GST revenue loss; eco growth should benefit all: Kerala FM

Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on Sunday stated that the benefits of GST rate rationalisation should be passed on to the common people. However, if there is no compensation for the annual revenue loss, then States will be unable to continue meeting their social responsibilities. For Kerala, the annual revenue loss due to the GST rate rationalisation is estimated at ₹8,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore. (*The Hindu*)

Government releases XV Finance Commission grants for Rural Local Bodies

The Union Government has released XV Finance Commission grants for Rural Local Bodies during FY 2025-26, disbursing the 1st installment of untied grants amounting to Rs.127.586 crores for Tamil Nadu of the financial year 2025-26 (covering 2901 eligible Gram Panchayats, 74 eligible Block Panchayats, and 9 eligible District Panchayats) and Rs.214.542 crores for Assam of the financial year 2024-25 (covering all 2192 eligible Gram Panchayats, 156 eligible Block Panchayats, and all 27 eligible Zilla Parishads). (*Business Standard*)

Fiscal discipline must to promote growth: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra emphasised the need to maintain fiscal discipline while speaking at a conference of state finance secretaries on Thursday. “The Governor emphasised the importance of fiscal discipline for promoting economic growth and prosperity,” the RBI said in a statement. He also stressed the need for states to focus on improving the quality of expenditure and ensuring prudence in off-budget borrowings. (*Business Standard*)

India’s fiscal discipline and move to a debt-to-GDP framework strengthen bond market confidence: Suyash Choudhary

India’s bond market is drawing strength from the government’s consistent commitment to fiscal prudence and its upcoming transition to a debt-to-GDP framework. In an exclusive conversation with ETMarkets, Suyash Choudhary, Head-Fixed Income at Bandhan AMC, said that the finance minister’s reaffirmation of the 4.4% fiscal deficit target, coupled with structural macro stability, has reinforced market confidence. He believes these measures provide long-term visibility and reduce fiscal concerns, creating a constructive backdrop for bond investors. (*The Economic Times*)

GoM on Discom health proposes debt restructuring; suggests recognising debt as State's liability

Flagging the high debt burden of Discoms, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Tuesday suggested restructuring the outstanding debt of State-controlled utilities by floating a new scheme. Besides, the GoM, created to address issues of viability of Discoms and chaired by Power Minister Manohar Lal, also recommended that the debt needs to be recognised as a liability of the State government. For perspective, the RBI's State Finance—A Study of Budgets of 2024-25—puts the total accumulated losses of Discoms at ₹6.5 lakh crore in FY23, which was 2.4 per cent of India's GDP. Their total outstanding debt has swelled to more than ₹7.5 lakh crore by FY24. *(BusinessLine)*

India's external debt rose at fastest pace in 7 years in FY25: Report

India's external debt increased 10.1 per cent 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 per cent 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 per cent 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)*



Taxation

99% of goods in 12% GST bracket moved to 5%, says Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Sunday that the GST regime had benefited both the people and the State governments. Speaking on “Tax reforms for rising Bharat” at a joint conclave of the Trade and Industries Association, she said that in the latest GST reforms, 99% of all the goods in the 12% GST bracket had come under the 5% bracket. “This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. The GST rate cuts in the range of 10-13% will reduce the expenses for people and they can use that extra savings elsewhere,” Ms. Sitharaman said. She expressed confidence that the companies would pass on the benefits to the consumers. *(The Hindu)*

Ministry notifies new Central GST tax rates

The Union Finance Ministry has notified new Central GST (CGST) tax rates for goods, which will be effective from September 22. States will now have to follow suit and notify the State GST (SGST) rates to be levied on goods and services beginning Monday. *(The Hindu)*

GST rate cuts impact Centre and states equally, says FM Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday made it clear that the Centre was not considering any compensation to states for potential revenue loss arising from the latest Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate cuts, stressing that the impact will be shared equally and given the devolution of taxes, while the Centre's share will be even smaller. *(Business Standard)*

GST reforms infused ₹2 trillion in Indian economy: Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms have infused at least ₹2 trillion in the economy, thereby leaving more cash with the citizens. Speaking at the Outreach and Interaction Program on Next Gen GST Reforms in Visakhapatnam, the FM said, "reducing GST rates will save the countrymen ₹2 trillion," adding that the reforms are a "big step for the Indian economy." (*Business Standard*)



National Accounts and State of the Economy

MSMEs contribute 30% to GDP, set to play crucial role in driving inclusive growth

Ministry of Finance stated in a latest update that MSMEs are the backbone of the Indian and global economy, contributing 30% to India's GDP and over 45% to exports and drive grassroots economic transformation by promoting entrepreneurship, employment, and inclusive growth. India's diverse MSME sector reflects its strong entrepreneurial spirit, spanning from traditional industries to modern tech and will play a crucial role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 by driving inclusive growth, job creation, and innovation. (*Business Standard*)

Increased adoption of AI can add \$500-600 bn to GDP by 2035: NITI report

Accelerated adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across industries can contribute \$500-600 billion to India's GDP by 2035 on the back of increased productivity and efficiency in the workforce, a NITI Aayog report said on Monday. The report titled 'AI for Viksit Bharat: The Opportunity for Accelerated Economic Growth' further said over the next decade, the adoption of AI across sectors is expected to add \$1726 trillion to the global economy. (*Business Standard*)

RBI projects real GDP growth in 2024 at 6.6%

"On the domestic growth situation, growth in real GDP in the second quarter at 5.4% turned out to be much lower than anticipated. This decline in growth was driven mainly by a substantial deceleration in industrial growth from 7.4% in Q1 to 2.1% in Q2 due to subdued performance of manufacturing companies, contraction in mining activity and lower electricity demand," the RBI Governor said. (*The Hindu*)

PFRDA looks to boost investment in booming infrastructure sector

India's pension regulator is open to facilitating more investment in the country's booming infrastructure space after the government launched a credit enhancement program for bonds that finance projects like roads and ports. (*Business Standard*)

GST reforms to enhance purchasing power and contribute to the savings of the common man across the country: Finance Minister

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the new GST reforms will save the public around rupees two lakh crore by reducing taxes. Addressing the Outreach Programme on Next-Gen GST Reforms held in Visakhapatnam, the Union Minister

detailed how the new two-slab tax system of 5% and 18% reduces the burden on people over their daily essentials and aspirational goods. (*Business Standard*)

Exports up 6.7% to \$35.1 billion in August, imports drop by 10%

India's exports rise by 6.7% to \$35.1 billion in August, imports decline by 10.12% to \$61.59 billion India's exports rose by 6.7% to \$35.1 billion in August, while imports declined by 10.12% to \$61.59 billion, according to official data released on Monday (September 15, 2025). (*The Hindu*)

India's exports up around 9% on year in Aug-25, imports slide 7%

Indias total exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for August 2025 are estimated at US\$ 69.16 Billion, registering a growth of 9.34% vis-vis August 2024. Total imports (Merchandise and Services combined) for August 2025 are estimated at US\$ 79.04 Billion, registering a slide of 7% vis-vis August 2024. (*Business Standard*)

India's exports projected to rise 6% in 2025, says Piyush Goyal

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday expressed confidence that India's exports would grow by around 6 percent this year compared to the corresponding period in 2024. Underscoring the country's strong performance in global trade despite challenges, the minister said discussions on free trade agreements (FTAs) were advancing with several countries. (*Business Standard*)

Tea exports rise marginally to 125.01 mn kg in first half of 2025: Board

India's tea exports rose marginally to 125.01 million kg in the first half of 2025 (January to June), compared to 124.57 million kg during the same period last year, the Tea Board of India said on Wednesday. Exports of North Indian tea in the first six months of this year stood at 79.42 million kg, compared to 71.77 million kg in the same period in 2024. (*Business Standard*)

India's exports grew 6.7% in August despite Donald Trump tariffs

Outbound shipments from India grew 6.7 percent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$35.1 billion in August, despite global uncertainties and steep double-digit tariffs imposed by the US on several Indian goods. The growth in merchandise exports was partly due to a low base of \$32.9 billion in August 2024. Sequentially, however, exports contracted 5.7 percent from \$37.24 billion in July. (*Business Standard*)



Banking and Monetary Policy

Improving macros

Neither the government nor the RBI will likely be alarmed by the rise in retail inflation in August 2025, even though it snapped a nine-month streak of declining inflation rates. At 2.1%, it is just marginally within the RBI's comfort band of 2%-6%, with no real macroeconomic risk. The government would be glad to see food inflation remaining subdued at the urban and rural levels. (*The Hindu*)

Nearly 60% of India's outward FDI goes to 'tax havens', reflecting strategic potential of these countries

Indian companies are increasingly leveraging low-tax jurisdictions abroad to channel their foreign investments in a bid to increase their global presence, according to data as well as tax and investment experts. *(The Hindu)*

Government aims to push 2 PSBs among top 20 global banks

In sync with the target of getting 'Developed Nation' status by 2047, the government hopes to ensure that at least two public sector banks figure in the list of the world's top 20 banks. As on date, State Bank of India is the only bank in the list of top 50 banks in terms of asset size. *(BusinessLine)*

GST 2.0 reforms sparks rally in consumer-sensitive sectors

Ever since the GST 2.0 reforms were announced in the Prime Minister's 79th Independence Day address, Indian equity markets have witnessed a notable rise in consumer-sensitive sectors. Market sentiment turned positive on expectations of higher consumption, improved margins and a simpler taxation regime. *(BusinessLine)*

Digitisation has transformed India

Over the past decade, India has undergone a digital revolution that is nothing short of extraordinary. What began as a series of targeted technological interventions has now evolved into a sweeping transformation, touching nearly every aspect of Indian life — economy, governance, education, healthcare, commerce, and even the lives of farmers and small entrepreneurs in the remotest corners of the country. *(BusinessLine)*

Rupee snaps four-day rally; bond yields rise

The rupee snapped a four-day winning streak on Thursday, closing about 31 paise weaker, as the dollar strengthened after the US Fed resumed its rate cut cycle with a 25 basis points cut. The Indian currency (INR) ended the trading session at 88.1275 per US dollar (USD) against the previous close of 87.8150. *(BusinessLine)*

SEBI mulls allowing FPIs, banks in commodity derivatives trade

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working on expanding participation in the commodity derivatives market to include foreign investors, banks, insurers and pension funds. Industry participants have also urged the regulator to allow new contracts to start with cash settlement until they scale up as this would draw investors, build liquidity and ease operations. *(BusinessLine)*

SBI completes ₹8,889-crore divestment of 13.19% stake in Yes Bank to SMBC

The State Bank of India (SBI) said on Wednesday it has received ₹8,889 crore from the divestment of 413.44 crore equity shares of Yes Bank Ltd (YBL), being equivalent to 13.19 percent (approximately) of the latter's shares to Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), at ₹21.50 per equity share. *(BusinessLine)*

Banks bid ₹45,783 crore at RBI overnight VRR auction as liquidity dips

Banks on Thursday bid Rs 45,783 crore against the notified amount of Rs 25,000 crore at the overnight variable rate repo (VRR) auction, as the net surplus liquidity in the banking system fell to Rs 63,745 crore from Rs 1.89 trillion at the start of the week. *(Business Standard)*

Banks' earnings downgrades intensify amid muted FY26: Motilal Oswal

Earnings downgrades in the Indian financial stocks are picking up pace, analysts at Motilal Oswal said, citing margin pressure and asset quality stress in unsecured segments. However, they do note that "turnaround appears within reach" in the third quarter of the current financial year (Q3FY26). *(Business Standard)*

Reserve Bank of India announces the auction of Government of India Treasury Bills

The Reserve Bank of India announces the auction of Government of India Treasury Bills of 91-Day for a notified amount of Rs 10,000, 182-Day for a notified amount of Rs 6,000 and 364-Day for a notified amount of Rs 5,000. The auction will be Price based using multiple price methods and payment by successful bidders will have to be made on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, RBI stated. *(Business Standard)*

Banks park ₹1.5 trillion at RBI's three-day VRRR liquidity auction

Banks parked Rs 1.5 trillion at the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) three-day Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction. The RBI's VRRR operations are intended to absorb surplus liquidity from the financial system and anchor short-term money market rates closer to the policy repo rate. *(Business Standard)*

Silent Hedge: Should you buy gold as central banks can't stop hoarding?

The global economy is once again at a dangerous inflection point. According to the DSP Netra Report (September 2025), US tariffs have surged from a modest 2–3% in 2024 to the high teens in 2025—the highest effective tariff rate the U.S. has seen in over a century. *(Business Standard)*

Banks may turn to domestic bond market in H2FY26 for Tier-II bonds

Banks, which tapped the domestic debt capital market aggressively last year (FY25) through infrastructure bonds as deposit growth was running behind loan growth, have had a lacklustre first six months in FY26, raising just over Rs 1,700 crore — mostly through Tier-II bonds. In the same period last year, banks, including state-owned and private sector banks had raised over Rs 87,000 crore. *(Business Standard)*



External Sector

U.S. chief negotiator, Indian counterpart to talk trade today

As a "continuation" of trade talks between India and the U.S., India will host the U.S. chief negotiator Brendan Lynch for a one-day meeting with India's chief negotiator Rajesh Agrawal, Mr. Agrawal said on Monday. This follows developments earlier this month, when U.S. President Donald Trump spoke about the "special relationship" the U.S. shares with India, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "fully reciprocated" the sentiment. These friendly overtures came at a time when the U.S. has imposed a total tariff of 50% on imports from India, which derailed the negotiations on a Bilateral Trade Agreement between the two countries. The latest round of negotiations was to take place during the

last week of August, but was indefinitely postponed following the levy of the two-part tariffs on India. *(The Hindu)*

India's Aug. palm oil imports hit 1-year high on festive need

India's palm oil imports jumped in August to their highest level in more than a year, as competitive pricing relative to soyoil prompted refiners to step up purchases ahead of the festive season, a leading trade body said. Higher palm oil imports by India, the world's largest buyer of vegetable oils, are expected to aid top producers Indonesia and Malaysia cut inventories and support benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures. India's palm oil imports in August rose 15.76% to 9,90,528 metric tonne, reaching their highest point since July 2024, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) said. Imports of soyoil decreased 25.27% to 3,67,917 tonne, the lowest level in four months and sunflower oil imports rose 28.53% to a seven-month high of 2,57,080 tonne, the industry trade body said. *(The Hindu)*

India to start pilot projects in Venezuela

India will start pilot projects in Venezuela in "priority areas" such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals and digital public infrastructure, officials here conveyed to Raul Hernandez, Vice-Minister for the Development of Information and Communication Technologies of Venezuela, who paid a four-day visit to India. "Both sides agreed to carry out pilot projects in the priority areas of Venezuela. Training and capacity building in the AI and related areas were also discussed, with Venezuela showing keenness to send its technical personnel for courses in India. Discussions were also held on other bilateral issues of mutual interests such as space, pharmaceuticals and tourism among others," said an official source about Mr. Hernandez's visit which coincided with rising tension between the U.S. and Venezuela after President Donald Trump accused Caracas of sending narcotics into the U.S. *(The Hindu)*

EU unveils new agenda for India, but energy ties with Russia cast shadow

The European Union on Wednesday unveiled a new strategic agenda to ramp up its engagement with New Delhi in several key sectors such as defence, trade and technology even as the 27-nation bloc's foreign and security policy chief Kaja Kallas said India's military exercises and its purchase of Russian oil "stand in the way of closer ties". The EU said its closer partnership with India is increasingly becoming vital in the wake of shifting geopolitical realities and that it is imperative for the two sides to strengthen economic growth and security. *(Business Standard)*

Steel secretary warns EU carbon border rules could hit India's exports to Europe

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impact Indian exports to the region, and the industry has to take measures to address this "concern", Steel Secretary Sandeep Poundrik said on Wednesday. The CBAM is designed to impose a carbon price on imports from countries with lower environmental regulations, initially covering iron and steel, aluminium, cement, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen. This is expected to be fully in place in 2026. The tariff is pegged to the carbon price in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU-ETS), which in 2026 is assumed at Rs 5,200 per tonne of CO2 equivalent, with a five per cent annual rise as free allowances in the EU are phased out. *(Business Standard)*

India's exports grew 6.7% in August despite Donald Trump tariffs

Outbound shipments from India grew 6.7 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$35.1 billion in August, despite global uncertainties and steep double-digit tariffs imposed by the US on several Indian goods. The growth in merchandise exports was partly due to a low base of \$32.9 billion in August 2024. Sequentially, however, exports contracted 5.7 per cent from \$37.24 billion in July. According to data released by the Department of Commerce on Monday, exports to India's largest market — the US — rose 7.15 per cent Y-o-Y to \$6.86 billion, despite the imposition of a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff from August 7. However, exports to the US plummeted to a nine-month low in August. *(Business Standard)*

India's exports to US dip as Trump tariffs erode competitiveness: GTRI

India's exports to the US are falling as high tariffs imposed by the Trump administration have started eroding the price competitiveness of domestic goods in Washington, think tank GTRI said on Wednesday. August shipments to the US plunged to \$6.7 billion, down 16.3 percent from July - the steepest monthly fall of 2025 -- as US duties doubled to 50 percent by month's end, it said. In July, exports dipped 3.6 percent to \$8 billion over June. The month of June had also seen a decline of 5.7 percent to \$8.3 billion over May. *(Business Standard)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

India needs to invest more in accelerating diversification of food production: FAO Chief Economist

About 40.4% of India's population (~60 crore) cannot afford a healthy diet, down from 74.1% in 2021 due to improved FAO methodology. Dr. Cullen stressed that India should diversify food production to include pulses, fruits, and vegetables, crucial for SDG zero hunger by 2030. Tariffs create inefficiencies and uncertainty affecting farmers, but food insecurity impact is currently limited. India must accelerate agricultural transformation to improve access to healthy diets. *(The Hindu)*

Foodgrain, fruit, and vegetable yield rose this year: Agriculture Minister

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said India's foodgrain, fruit, and vegetable production has risen significantly this year. Total foodgrain output reached 353.96 million tonnes in 2024-25, exceeding the previous year by 6.5% and surpassing the target by 12.41 million tonnes, with record harvests in rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, and soybean. At the National Conference on Agriculture – Rabi Campaign, topics like climate resilience, quality inputs, horticulture, natural farming, pulses, oilseeds, and integrated farming were discussed. The Centre and States will continue coordinated efforts for agricultural growth and farmers' welfare, including supporting flood-affected regions and ensuring timely insurance benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. *(The Hindu)*

Centre sets Rabi foodgrains production target at 171 million tonnes

At the annual Rabi Conference, fertilizer availability was the main focus, as States stressed its importance for the winter sowing season starting in October. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that seed availability (25 mt) exceeds the requirement (22.9 mt), but did not disclose fertilizer demand and supply, citing ongoing discussions with States. The Centre has set rabi season targets of 171.14 mt of foodgrains, including 119 mt of wheat, 11.8 mt of chana, and 14 mt of mustard, while the overall 2025-26 foodgrain target is 362.5 mt. The Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan will run from October 3, with 2,150 teams expected to reach 1–1.3 crore farmers across 725 districts. (*BusinessLine*)

AP's incentive for reduced urea usage catches attention

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a first-of-its-kind incentive of ₹800 for farmers who skip buying a ₹260 urea bag (50 kg), aiming to reduce excessive urea usage amid a fertilizer shortage. The scheme leverages the PM-PRANAM program, which provides 50% of saved fertilizer subsidies as grants to States, promoting sustainable agriculture and balanced fertilizer use. Experts welcomed the move, noting it could cut CO₂ emissions, one urea bag generates ~0.5 tonne CO₂ equivalent, and potentially earn carbon credits. Some economists suggested the scheme would have been more effective if announced at the start of the season to allow better planning by farmers. (*BusinessLine*)

UN's FAO to help India draft action plan for small-scale fisheries

The FAO, in partnership with the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO), will assist Bay of Bengal countries, including India, in preparing a National Plan of Action for Small-Scale Fisheries (NPOA-SSF) to protect traditional fisherfolk. A three-day regional meeting in Chennai from September 17 will upskill national task forces from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives to develop country-specific roadmaps. The plans will address fisher rights, fair working conditions, safety at sea, women's participation, and sustainable marine resource management, aligning with SDG 14. FAO highlighted that small-scale fisheries are vital for food security and livelihoods, but face challenges from climate change and resource competition. (*BusinessLine*)

Kharif Outlook. Cotton output likely to be higher despite drop in area, excess rain

India's cotton production for 2025-26 (from October) is expected to improve over last year, despite a decline in acreage in Maharashtra and Gujarat and excessive August rains affecting some crops. Overall, cotton area is down 2.53% to 109.64 lakh hectares, with Gujarat (20.82 lh) and Maharashtra (38.44 lh) seeing reductions, while Telangana (18.51 lh) and Karnataka (8.08 lh) recorded increases. Timely rains and low pest incidence are likely to boost yields, with the total crop estimated at 325–340 lakh bales, up from 312 lakh bales last season. South India's crop (105 lakh bales) may offset declines elsewhere. Localized heavy rains in Maharashtra, Telangana, Punjab, and Haryana caused some waterlogging and pest issues, but experts expect overall crop conditions to remain good, with minor delays in harvesting. (*BusinessLine*)



Digitisation has transformed India

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GST waiver on life, health cover: A catalyst for a new phase of growth

Will the recent waiver of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on individual life and health cover be a catalyst for a new phase of growth in the insurance industry and benefit commoners? This has been a hot topic for discussion among diverse stakeholders in the life and non-life sectors since the GST Council's decision to rationalise rates. Though it is a decade-old demand, the GST Council announced its decision during its 56th meeting during September 3-4, 2025. Though it has been on the cards for the last two years at least, the removal of 18 per cent GST on insurance is a bold move by the government, given that it would trim its revenues. *(BusinessLine)*

Industry 5.0 – A glossy label for a bleaker reality

The recent portrayal of Industry 5.0 as a human-centred, sustainable, and resilient evolution of manufacturing (as described in Hélène Kyriakakis's Forbes article, Oct 29, 2024) would be compelling — if only it matched the reality on the ground. We are in the midst of unprecedented churn. Across industries and continents, artificial intelligence is accelerating layoffs, displacing skilled and semi-skilled workers, and making “decent work” an elusive dream — even in the organised sector. *(BusinessLine)*

Chip talent crunch looms: India's semicon workforce may fall short despite rapid growth

India is fast emerging as a key semiconductor talent hub, but industry leaders warn that a widening skill gap could undermine the country's ambitions even as government and private sector investments accelerate. According to Qness Corp, India has the second-largest semiconductor talent pools globally, after the US, with over 2,50,000 professionals across design, verification, embedded systems, electronic design automation (EDA) tools and ATMP (assembly, testing, marking, and packaging). The sector recorded 43,000 new job postings in 2024–25 alone. By 2030, the country's semiconductor workforce is projected to expand by over 120 percent to nearly 4,00,000 professionals. *(BusinessLine)*

Industry players back draft data centre policy, but flag land, power, and clearances as critical gaps

India's draft National Data Centre Policy 2025 is being hailed by industry leaders as a game changer, promising a 20-year tax holiday, GST credits, and renewable power incentives that could make the country the world's most cost-efficient and sustainable hub for digital infrastructure. *(BusinessLine)*



Potential for EU tie-ups with Kerala in multiple sectors: EU Ambassador to India

European Union Ambassador to India Hervé Delphin expressed confidence that the EU can tie up with Kerala in multiple sectors, including shipping, logistics, fisheries, education, renewable energy, and culture, in which the State has shown immense potential. He was speaking during a discussion between representatives of various departments of the State government and representatives of European countries on the first day of the Kerala-EU Blue Economy Conclave on the potential of Kerala's coastal and fisheries sector. *(The Hindu)*

'Orders cancelled, stocks piling' – Kerala warns US tariff threaten Rs 2,500–4,500 crore hit to exports

Kerala estimates its export sector to see a Rs 2,500-4,500 crore hit annually due to US tariffs on Indian imports. Marine exports, particularly shrimp, are among the first to feel the impact. Finance Minister K N Balagopal, in the state Assembly on Tuesday, said the new tariff regime has created deep concerns across marine products, spices, cashews, coir, tea, and rubber sectors that form the backbone of Kerala's economy. The marine exports are among the first casualties, with shrimp being the biggest earner. *(Financial Express)*

States should get compensation for GST revenue loss; eco growth should benefit all: Kerala FM Balagopal

Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal voiced concerns over potential revenue losses for states due to GST rate rationalization, estimating a significant annual loss for Kerala. He emphasized that the benefits of rationalization should reach common consumers and cautioned that without compensation, states may struggle to maintain social welfare programs. *(The Economic Times)*

Government committed to providing title deeds to all: Kerala Revenue Minister

The State government is committed to providing title deeds to all landless families, Revenue Minister K. Rajan told the state legislature assembly. He said that over the last four years, 2,23,945 land titles have been distributed. The government was able to distribute so many title deeds due to the steps it has taken to clear technical hurdles related to the land. *(The Hindu)*

Impact of U.S. tariffs, GST slab rejig: Kerala seeks supplementary grants, 'extra borrowing limit' of 0.5%

In a supplementary memorandum submitted to the 16th Finance Commission last week, Kerala has sought supplementary grants and eligibility for an extra borrowing limit of 0.5% of the GSDP in the medium term to help it absorb the consequences of the US tariffs. This, according to the State, will be used for developing export-related infrastructure such as ports and cold chains and exploring new markets for exports from the State. *(The Hindu)*

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