



Public Finance

India's interest bill nearly tripled in a decade, to hit ₹12.76 trillion in FY26, govt data shows

India's interest payments on outstanding debt have nearly tripled over the past decade and are projected to rise to ₹12.76 trillion in FY26, finance ministry data showed. The surge reflects elevated borrowing costs as the government has continued to service loans contracted at higher rates, especially during the pandemic years, despite a moderation in bond yields since FY24. *(Mint)*

India state debt auction result shows skewed demand-supply dynamics, traders say

Indian states fell short of their fundraising targets on Tuesday, despite paying more than market expectations for their bonds, as demand lagged behind supply, traders said. States raised ₹28,892 crore through sale of four-year to 30-year bonds, around 85% of the targeted ₹34,150 crore. Cutoff yields on the longer-duration papers ranged from 7.25% to 7.82%. *(BusinessLine)*

Uncertainties around tariffs may affect capex decisions this fiscal: Crisil

Ratings agency Crisil on Wednesday said that uncertainties surrounding US tariffs could pose a new challenge to capital expenditure decisions in the current financial year, as reported by news agency PTI. This comes after the additional 25 percent tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump took effect today. The ratings agency added that the Centre has been driving investments so far, with the private corporate capital expenditure remaining muted. Despite the healthy corporate sheets supporting fresh investments, the imposition of the tariffs is likely to hit sentiments, Crisil said. *(Business Standard)*

India bonds dip before state debt sale, 10-year yield at 5-month high

Indian government bonds extended losses on Tuesday, with the benchmark bond yield spiking to a five-month high, as sentiment soured amid a larger-than-planned state debt supply at a time when demand remains tepid. A slew of events has hit demand for government bonds, including the government's tax overhaul and credit-rating firm Fitch maintaining India's sovereign rating, citing high fiscal deficit and debt. The 10-year bond yield was at 6.6112% as of 10:20 a.m. IST, compared with its previous close of 6.5967%. Earlier in the day, the yield hit 6.6212%, its highest since March 26. *(The Economic Times)*



GST authorities uncover Rs 104 cr tax evasion in illicit tobacco trade

GST authorities have detected 61 cases of illicit tobacco products, including cigarettes and pan masala, involving tax amounting to Rs 104.38 crore in the first quarter of the current financial year, as per government data. The Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax Intelligence (DGGI) and other authorities have detected these cases during the April-June period, it said. *(Business Standard)*

Oppn states demand compensation for revenue loss due to GST reform proposal

Opposition-ruled states on Friday said the Centre's proposal for GST rate rejig could result in a revenue loss of about Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 2 trillion and demanded compensation for the losses incurred by them. Finance ministers from eight states -- Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal -- decided to present their proposal to the GST Council at the next meeting on September 3 and 4. *(Business Standard)*

GST reform to offset growth drag from 50% US reciprocal tariff: BMI

The proposed GST reforms, which would lower tax rates on common man items, will boost consumption and could offset the impact of 50 percent US tariffs, BMI, a Fitch Solutions Company, said on Thursday. Since its inception, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has become the second-largest source of fiscal revenue, after income tax, accounting for around 30 percent of total revenue and 2.5 percent of GDP in FY2024-25. *(Business Standard)*

ICEA urges government to reduce GST on ACs and TVs from 28% to 18%

The Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has urged the government to rationalise the Goods and Services Tax on air conditioners and television sets from the current 28 per cent to 18 per cent to stimulate domestic demand, affordability, and global competitiveness. "Air conditioners and televisions are no longer luxury goods. They are essential consumer durables that define the modern quality of life. Keeping them in the highest GST slab alongside sin goods is inconsistent and counterproductive," ICEA chairman Pankaj Mohindroo said. *(Business Standard)*

Pharma industry hopes for relief from GST reforms

The pharma industry is optimistic that its concerns, especially the inverted duty structure, will be addressed by the forthcoming Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms, said Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Chairman Satish Reddy. "For an extended period, the pharmaceutical sector has faced structural challenges, including higher GST rates and an inverted duty structure, which have impacted the cost efficiency of domestic manufacturing and affordability of medicines," Mr. Reddy said. *(The Hindu)*



National Accounts and State of the Economy

U.S. tariff impact: India sees Asia's biggest earnings downgrades

Indian companies have seen the steepest earnings downgrades in Asia, with analysts slashing forecasts as steep U.S. tariffs heighten risks to growth even if proposed domestic tax cuts help cushion the impact. According to LSEG IBES data, forward 12-month earnings estimates for India's large and mid-cap firms have been cut by 1.2% in the past two weeks, the sharpest in Asia. The cuts follow a lackluster season of quarterly earnings reports, extending a bout of weakness among listed firms that began last year and has hurt benchmark equity indexes. *(The Hindu)*

India's GDP growth likely slowed to 6.7% in Q1, set to ease further: Poll

India's economy likely slowed to 6.7 per cent in the April-June quarter, a Reuters poll of economists showed, as weak industrial activity and subdued private investment offset a rebound in government spending. The Indian government has ramped up capital spending during the first quarter of this fiscal year, but weak consumer demand has kept private investment subdued in Asia's third-largest economy. *(Business Standard)*

India's GDP growth in Q1FY26 likely eased after March-quarter high

India's economic growth likely eased sequentially in the April-June quarter (Q1) of FY26 after clocking a four-quarter high in the March quarter of FY25, due to muted industrial output and sluggish urban demand, high-frequency indicators showed. However, growth in Q1FY26 is expected to have drawn support from improved rural activity, healthy government expenditure, and front-loading of exports to the US before the punitive tariffs imposed by the Donald Trump administration kicked in. *(Business Standard)*

Tariff impact: Nomura cuts FY26 GDP forecast to 5.8% in worst-case scenario

Nomura has cut India's GDP (gross domestic product) forecast to 5.8 per cent to fiscal 2025-26 (FY26) from the current 6.2 per cent in the worst-case scenario where the 50 per cent tariffs on India continue for the rest of the year. As a base case, however, the GDP forecast has been lowered to 6 percent if the penalty stays for only three months. *(Business Standard)*

Statsguru: Deflators likely to offset corporate results' impact on GDP

Economic growth is widely expected to be somewhere around the Reserve Bank of India's projection of a four-quarter low of 6.5 per cent in the first quarter (Q1) of 2025-26 (FY26). To set the background, the gross domestic product (GDP) growth in FY25 was not as buoyant as it was in the preceding year. Even then, the economy did recover in Q4 due to a pickup in an otherwise lacklustre secondary sector. *(Business Standard)*



Banking and Monetary Policy

RBI open to help tariff-impacted sectors, says Governor Malhotra

Should the tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump kick in, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as in the past, would step in and provide financial support to worst impacted sectors to tide over the crisis period, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said here on Monday. *(The Hindu)*

India's top lender SBI asks regulator to allow banks to fund acquisitions

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender by assets, has requested the banking sector regulator to allow banks to finance acquisitions, its chairperson said on Monday. "We've been formally requesting the regulator, we'll make a formal request from the IBA (Indian Banks' Association) also, that at least start with some listed companies where the acquisitions are more transparent and are approved by the shareholders," SBI Chairperson Challa Sreenivasulu Setty said at an industry event. *(The Hindu)*

Banks may seek temporary asset classification breather from RBI

Fearing default by exporters in the wake of steep tariffs imposed by the US, banks are likely to seek a temporary respite from the RBI on its stringent asset-classification norm to protect their bottomline from provisioning impact. This is also aimed at ensuring that asset classification of exporters to the US is not downgraded, which, in turn, could choke credit to them. *(BusinessLine)*

Banks need to ramp up funding across sectors: FICCI-IBA report

The bank lending mix has changed significantly over the last 14 years, with the share of corporate advances dropping from 58 percent to 36 percent, and corporate funding shifting away from banks, according to a FICCI-IBA report. The report Charting New Frontiers, put together by Boston Consulting Group (BCG), observed that corporate funding has moved towards capital markets and alternate funding avenues (such as private credit, and external commercial borrowing) or structures (such as Alternative Investment Funds and Real Estate Investment Trusts) that offer long-term capital. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI to hold ₹1.5 lakh crore 6-day VRRR auction today

The RBI conducts VRRR operations to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system and to keep short-term rates aligned with the policy repo rate. As of Wednesday, the net liquidity surplus in the banking system was ₹1.83-lakh crore, according to the RBI's latest data. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI to expand bank credit to productive sectors

The Reserve Bank of India is examining measures to expand bank credit towards productive sectors and reduce cost of intermediation even as it intends to implement Basel III guidelines for banks for market, credit and operational risk from April 1, 2027, according to the Governor Sanjay Malhotra. *(BusinessLine)*

RBI should stick with headline inflation, but tweak target, say economists

The Reserve Bank of India should continue monitoring headline inflation as it is the best guide for the conduct of Monetary Policy, six out of seven economists polled by

BusinessLine said. The inflation target, however, can be tweaked to 4.5-5 percent from 4 percent currently, they say. *(BusinessLine)*

A reasonable request: RBI should allow Indian banks to finance M&As

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the regulator of the banking sector, has historically set some fairly constraining limits on banks participation in sensitive, volatile sectors. These limits were usually introduced for good reasons and have served a valuable purpose; the 1992 securities scam, in which bank funds were diverted towards speculative activities in the stock market, led to a strengthening of the regime. *(Business Standard)*

RBI won't be found wanting if 50% US tariff hurts growth: Governor

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) could step in with policy measures if the 50 percent US tariff due to take effect from Wednesday affects domestic economic growth, Governor Sanjay Malhotra signalled on Monday. He also said the RBI intends to implement Basel-III norms for commercial banks market, credit, and operational risks from April 2027. *(Business Standard)*

Sponsor banks boost MF flows as SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank add heft

Net flows into regular schemes of large mutual fund (MF) houses went up sharply in 2024-25 (FY25) with net inflows coming through sponsor banks rising up sharply. The largest fund house, SBI MF, received net inflows of ₹38,429 crore in FY25, up from ₹17,857 crore in the previous year. The 115 percent jump was driven by a nearly threefold increase in inflows through its parent, State Bank of India (SBI). The bank, which is a sponsor of SBI MF, contributed 68 percent of the total net inflows garnered by the fund house. *(Business Standard)*

RBI gets bids of ₹ 31K cr in VRR auction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received bids worth ₹ 31,025 crore at the overnight variable rate repo (VRR) auction on Thursday against the notified amount of ₹ 50,000 crore, which the experts said was on expected lines. Market participants said that the RBIs decision to conduct VRR auction was to avoid liquidity tightness amid tax payments. The net liquidity in the banking system was in a surplus of ₹ 2.65 trillion on Wednesday, according to the latest data by the RBI. *(Business Standard)*



External Sector

With 50% tariffs in place, U.S. trade deal not 'practical': official

The removal of additional 25% tariff on India is not a prerequisite for trade negotiations to resume between India and the U.S., but a trade deal would not “be practical” if these tariffs were to remain, according to a highly placed source in the Commerce Ministry. They added that while negotiators from both sides are in contact, formal negotiations have not yet resumed and the date for the next round has not been decided. The government is also working to address the liquidity-related near-term concerns of exporters, they added. *(The Hindu)*

Cotton imports to be duty free till Dec. 31

The Indian textile industry will have access to duty-free imported cotton till the end of December this year, the Finance Ministry said on Thursday. The government had announced on August 18 that the 11% import duty would be suspended till September 30 when the current cotton marketing season ends. The Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday that in a move to support textile exporters, it had been decided to extend the duty-free import till December 31, 2025. India is expected to close the current cotton season — October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025 — with nearly 40 lakh bales of imports. New crop arrivals for the next season — October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 — are likely to pick up after Deepavali. *(The Hindu)*

Exports across sectors to suffer a blow if US tariffs double to 50%

India's exports to the US across sectors such as garments, gems & jewellery, handicrafts, seafood and leather products will suffer a debilitating blow if Washington goes ahead with its decision to double tariffs on the country to 50 per cent from August 27. "The Commerce Department has carried out extensive consultations with various sectors to find out the extent to which exports will take a beating. Exporters across sectors fear that if the additional 25 percent tariffs are imposed, they may lose some of their US buyers for good. The government is trying to expedite a relief package, which may be part of the export promotion mission to be implemented shortly. *(BusinessLine)*

Gem, jewellery exporters eyeing alternative markets

The gem and jewellery industry plans to tap alternative markets in West Asia, the UK and Europe more aggressively, with the US imposing unsustainable 50 per cent duty on imports from India. The industry, which has already been reeling under global economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions, has sought the government support to conduct additional exhibitions in select countries to display their products and attract fresh orders, said industry sources. *(BusinessLine)*

Govt finalising package to ease US tariff blow on exporters

The government is considering support measures for exporters including speedy roll out of the long-promised export promotion mission and a restoration of popular old schemes. This is expected to help them address liquidity constraints, as the latest assertions by US officials suggest no immediate solution to the tariff crisis, with the levies doubled to 50 percent, sources said. In an interview on Wednesday, White House Advisor Peter Navarro stated that the additional 25 percent duty (imposed in addition to the 25 percent reciprocal tariff) can be reversed if India ceases to purchase oil from Russia, a suggestion that New Delhi has consistently rejected. *(BusinessLine)*

Steel trade deficit narrows to ₹1,195 cr in July; exports pip imports after 14 months

India's steel trade gap narrowed sharply, witnessing a 28 per cent contraction in just one month. The deficit came down from ₹4,240 crore in April-June (Q1FY26) to ₹3,045 crore for April-July (4MFY26), implying a ₹1,195-crore turnaround in July alone, data accessed by businessline from the Steel Ministry showed. The change was driven primarily by a jump in exports in July and continuous decline in imports since April, driven by safeguard and quality control orders. *(BusinessLine)*

India may seek WTO talks on US copper duties

India is considering seeking consultations with the US at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over Washington's tariffs on copper imports. This would mark the third case of

India seeking such consultations with the US-after steel and aluminium, and automobiles and auto components-under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. *(The Economic Times)*

Govt extends export obligation period under advance authorisation for chemicals to 18 months

The government has extended the export obligation period from six to 18 months for products under the advance authorization scheme, particularly those subject to mandatory quality control orders by the chemicals ministry. This decision comes as the US has imposed significant tariffs on Indian goods, potentially impacting the chemicals sector. *(The Economic Times)*

US tariff shock to hit West Bengal's labour-intensive leather, marine, engineering exports

US President Donald Trump's 25% tariff hike on Indian goods, taking total levies to 50%, is set to hit West Bengal's export-driven economy. Marine, leather and engineering sectors face severe losses, risking over Rs 45,000 crore in exports and thousands of jobs. Exporters warn shipments are stalled, with Bengal among the hardest-hit states. *(The Economic Times)*

Gems and jewellery sector seeks RBI relief as 50% US tariffs hit exports

The gems and jewellery sector, which is staring at a significant hit on its exports as the 50 per cent tariff imposed by the Donald Trump administration comes into effect from Wednesday, met senior Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials virtually on Monday to seek relief on bank loans. We have said there will be disruption in receiving payments as new goods will not be supplied, and there could be delays in payments," said Kirit Bhansali, Chairman, Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). "In that case, banks should give us some relief on repayments of loans. *(Business Standard)*

Crude oil imports from Russia set to dip in Sep, Oct before rising again

India's import of crude oil from Russia is set to dip in September and October, with the drop varying from 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 500,000, as the impact of muted cargo booking in the later half of July and the first half of August becomes visible. This is against an average 1.7 million bpd last year. The discounts offered on Russian oil had narrowed then amid looming tariffs of the United States (US). *(Business Standard)*

India's coal imports rise 1.5% to 76.4 MT in Q1FY26 despite domestic push

The country's coal import rose 1.5 per cent to 76.40 million tonnes in the April-June period of the current fiscal, compared to 75.26 MT in the year-ago period, even as the government pushes to ramp up domestic production of the fossil fuel. The country's coal import in June also increased to 23.91 million tonnes (MT) over 22.97 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, according to mjunction Services Ltd, a B2B e-commerce platform and a joint venture between Tata Steel and SAIL. *(Business Standard)*



Agriculture and Rural Economy

India holds significant potential to help other countries boost their food security: WFP official

India can help other nations improve food security. The World Food Programme (WFP) aims to collaborate more closely with India to combat food insecurity. Carl Skau of WFP met with Devesh Chaturvedi from the Ministry of Agriculture. They discussed how India's methods could benefit other countries. India's agriculture innovations were also discussed. *(The Economic Times)*

A tribute to M.S. Swaminathan, 'the man who fed India'

The Viksit Bharat aspiration, which has gained considerable momentum, will require a significant development of scientific capability, and some of this, especially in the new digital economy, will have to be *aatmanirbhar*. There is much to learn in this context from the most successful experiment in *atmanirbharata* in the past, which was the achievement of food self-sufficiency in the 1960s. M.S. Swaminathan was the man who did it and he was a living hero to all of us. *(The Hindu)*

Trade tariffs: India will never compromise on interests of farmers, says Union minister Chouhan

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that India resisted US demands to import agricultural goods. This decision protects Indian farmers from unfair competition. Chouhan highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to buy indigenous products. He emphasized India's confidence and talent. Relations between India and the US are strained due to increased tariffs. *(The Economic Times)*

MSP on all crops demand of farmers across India: SKM leader Dallewal at Jantar Mantar

Samyukt Kisan Morcha leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Monday said legal guarantee on minimum support price for all crops is a demand of farmers from across the country and not just those from Haryana and Punjab. He made the remarks at the 'Kisan Mahapanchayat' being held at the Jantar Mantar here, with farmers from different parts of the country in attendance. *(The Economic Times)*

All-India consumer price inflation for agricultural labourers eases to 0.77% in Jul-25

The Ministry of Labour & Employment has released Consumer Price Index Numbers for Agricultural Labourers and Rural Labourers (CPI AL & RL) with the base year 2019=100 for the month of July 2025. These indices are based on data collected from a set of 787 sample villages across 34 States/UTs. For the month of July 2025, the All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (Base: 2019=100) increased by 1.23 points to 135.31, while the index for Rural Labourers increased by 1.30 points, reaching 135.66. The Food Index increased by 1.94 points for Agricultural Labourers (AL) and 2.16 points for Rural Labourers (RL) in July 2025. *(Business Standard)*

Kerala agriculture growth doubles national average, says CM Vijayan

Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, stated on Sunday that the state's agricultural sector is on a path of growth, having achieved more than double the national average growth. He was speaking during the inauguration of an online state-level celebration of Farmers' Day and the distribution of state-level farmer awards. *(ThePrint)*



Industry, Manufacturing, Services and Technology

Amid challenges, aluminium extrusion sector seeks govt support

Amid US tariffs and other challenges, the aluminium extrusion sector has sought stronger policy support from the government to remain globally competitive and viable. The demand for aluminium extrusions is growing due to infrastructure development, urbanisation and industrialisation. The construction of new airports, railways, highways, smart cities, and other infrastructure projects has led to a greater use of aluminium due to its advantages such as being lightweight, durable and corrosion-resistant. *(BusinessLine)*

Cement run gets GST boost

Following the announcement of plans for GST revision, which is targeted to be implemented before Diwali, the top five cement stocks (UltraTech, Ambuja, Shree Cements, JK Cements and Dalmia Bharat) have gained an average of 3.1 per cent in the week. Cement is currently taxed at 28 per cent slab. The widely held expectation is that with a simplified structure, cement will be taxed at a lower 18 percent rate. Assuming ₹350 for a 50 kg bag (the current price at the retail level), this could imply a lower cost of ₹315 or savings of around ₹35 per bag. Due to the commoditized nature of the industry and intense competition, it could pass on a large part of the savings. In return, higher volumes and operational leverage should benefit cement stocks. *(BusinessLine)*

Doctors forum and healthcare establishments urge insurance regulator to examine 'abuse of dominance by private insurers'

A forum of doctors and healthcare establishments has opened a new flank in the ongoing stand-off with health insurance companies. In a submission to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the Delhi Medical Association Nursing Home Forum (DMA NHF) alleged "anti-competitive practices by health insurers acting collectively through the General Insurance Council (GIC)." *(BusinessLine)*

Empowering the energy efficiency watchdog

The Power Ministry has released the draft Energy Conservation (Compliance Enforcement) Rules, 2025, which will facilitate active enforcement under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. Proposed in the Rules are more powers to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). *(BusinessLine)*

Exports across sectors to suffer a blow if US tariffs double to 50%

India's exports to the US across sectors such as garments, gems & jewellery, handicrafts, seafood and leather products will suffer a debilitating blow if Washington goes ahead with its decision to double tariffs on the country to 50 per cent from August 27. "The Commerce Department has carried out extensive consultations with various sectors to

find out the extent to which exports will take a beating. Exporters across sectors fear that if the additional 25 per cent tariffs are imposed, they may lose some of their US buyers for good. *(BusinessLine)*

Gems, jewellery exporters look to alternative markets to mitigate US tariff impact

The gem and jewellery industry plans to tap alternative markets in West Asia, the UK and Europe more aggressively with the US giving effect to the unsustainable 50 per cent import duty on imports from India. The industry, which has already been reeling from global economic slowdown and geopolitical tensions, has also sought government support to intensify promotions in select countries, displaying their products and attracting new orders, according to industry sources. *(BusinessLine)*

India successfully tests maiden flight of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System

India has successfully conducted the maiden flight tests of its indigenously developed Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha, in a significant boost to the country's military preparedness and technological self-reliance. *(BusinessLine)*

July industrial output up 3.5% led by manufacturing

With strong growth in manufacturing, factory output based in Index of Industrial production grew at 3.5 per cent in July against 1.5 per cent in June, the government reported on Thursday. It is a four-month high but lower than 5 per cent of July 2024. The latest data from National Statistical Office showed that the manufacturing sector's output growth rose to 5.4 per cent in July 2025 from 4.7 per cent in the year-ago month. Mining production contracted 7.2 per cent against a growth of 3.8 per cent recorded a year ago. Power production rose a meagre 0.6 per cent (7.9 per cent). *(BusinessLine)*

Why Indian shrimp sector must invest in Ecuador

The steep tariff is a significant setback for the Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA), which has targetted seafood export turnover of \$18 billion by 2030. The domestic market is not currently equipped to absorb the large volume of high-value shrimp previously destined for the US, which is the country's largest seafood export market. While foreign direct investment (FDI) was fully opened up in 2016, there has not been a substantial influx of investment from abroad. This lack of inbound investment necessitates a new strategy: offshore FDI. *(BusinessLine)*

India's 1st pilot chip assembly line operational

India's first pilot line that will handle end-to-end chip assembly, packaging, testing and post-test services, became operational at a newly built Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Testing (OSAT) facility of CG Semi Private Ltd at Sanand in Gujarat on Thursday. The micro-controllers produced here will be used in cars, fridges and drones. The first Made-in-India semiconductor chip will now roll out from this facility, said Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, while inaugurating the pilot line along with Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. *(BusinessLine)*



Chendamangalam handlooms stuck in a time warp

With Onam round the corner, customers insistent on authentic ethnic wear have started flocking to the idyllic Chendamangalam village in North Paravur taluk in Ernakulam district, known for its famed handloom products. While the demand for Chendamangalam handloom remains intact, the traditional industry — caught in a time warp — is staring at a crisis, primarily due to a steep decline in the number of weavers. From a peak of around 5,000 weavers and people in allied services in the taluk until the 1980s, the number has progressively declined to around 500 now, across five handloom cooperative societies. *(The Hindu)*

Digital Kerala project for efficient governance, service delivery

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday approved the Digital Kerala-Our Kerala project led by the IT Mission under the IT department, with an aim of comprehensive digital development of the State and making the governance system more transparent and efficient. The government will focus on bringing about extensive changes in areas such as governance, service delivery, use of innovative technology, citizen participation, cybersecurity and skill development. The Chief Minister has directed the IT department to implement the project in a time-bound manner, ensuring that Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications are used wherever necessary. He clarified that while AI will be used as a tool to provide guidance, analysis, and timely suggestions, the final decision-making authority will always remain with the government. *(The Hindu)*

Efforts to make CIAL a transit hub must be accelerated: experts

Efforts to transform the Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) into a transit hub must be accelerated, considering the rapidly growing domestic tourism market and logistics sector, experts in aviation and related fields opined here on Sunday. Speakers of a panel discussion, held on the second and final day of the maiden Kerala Aviation Summit 2025, stressed the need to leverage CIAL's immense potential to become a destination hub. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala CM to lay foundation for Adani Logistics Park

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will lay the foundation stone for Adani Logistics Park at Kalamassery on August 23. The Adani Group plans to invest approximately ₹600 crore in the first phase for the development of the park on a 70-acre site. Industries Minister P. Rajeeve stated that the project would generate numerous jobs. The facility would include integrated logistics services. The park's design incorporates modern technology and systems for sustainable development. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala to be free of waste heaps within a year, says Minister M.B. Rajesh

Local Self-Governments (LSG) Minister M.B. Rajesh has said that Kerala will become the only State in India without waste heaps within a year. He was inaugurating a renovated waste treatment plant at Adat grama panchayat under the Malinyamuktha Navakeralam (Waste-Free New Kerala) campaign on Saturday. Presiding over the event, MLA Xavier Chittilappilly noted that the initiative marked a major step in the State's scientific waste management efforts. *(The Hindu)*

Kuttiyadi coconut in line for Geographical Indication tag

Kuttiyadi coconut may be the next agricultural crop from Kerala to receive the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) and the Kavilumpara gram panchayat in Kozhikode have taken the initiative to get this unique coconut variety its due recognition. The Kuttiyadi coconut, cultivated primarily in the Kuttiyadi region, is recognized as a high-yielding variety that begins yielding within five years of planting. Besides, the trunk of the tree is too strong compared to other varieties and resists most pests and draught. The tree has a life expectancy of more than 100 years. The fruit is larger and heavier while the kernel is thicker than other varieties and hence produces more oil. *(The Hindu)*

State anticipates ₹9,000-cr. revenue dip due to GST reforms: Balagopal

Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal on Friday underscored the need to protect States against any revenue loss that the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) revamp entails. The Minister said he anticipated a dip of ₹8,000 crore to ₹9,000 crore in Kerala's GST revenues. He was inaugurating a round table organised by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) and the Kerala State Planning Board on 'The impact of U.S. penal tariff with a special focus on Kerala.' At the national level, India's GST revenues for the 2024-25 fiscal was pegged at ₹22.08 lakh crore. Mr. Balagopal said that, in his opinion, this revenue could dip by at least ₹4 lakh crore. *(The Hindu)*

Kerala clears land act amendment to resolve disputes in hilly areas

The Kerala cabinet on Wednesday approved an amendment to the decades-old Land Assignment Act, meeting a long-pending demand of people living in the state's high ranges to resolve various land-related issues. Announcing the decision at a press conference here, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said land disputes had been a serious concern in hilly regions and resolving them was one of the prime objectives of the LDF government. He recalled that since the government assumed office in 2016, a series of interventions had been made to address the issue, paving the way for the landmark amendment. *(Business Standard)*

Kerala govt approves fresh DA, DR hike for state employees, pensioners

The Kerala government on Saturday approved another instalment of dearness allowance (DA) for state employees and teachers, and dearness relief (DR) for pensioners, Finance Minister K N Balagopal said on Saturday. The revised payments will take effect from salaries and pensions due on September 1. Staff covered under the University Grants Commission (UGC), the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and medical services will also benefit, he said in a statement here. The move is expected to add about Rs 2000 crore to the state's annual spending. "This reflects the government's commitment to employees and pensioners," Balagopal said, noting that this was the second instalment cleared this year. *(Business Standard)*

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