

Top Story 1

India, EAEU ink pact to launch FTA talks

India has signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to begin negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a major regional economic bloc. This development comes at a time when India is facing steep tariff barriers on its exports, creating challenges for businesses and trade flows. The move signals India's intent to diversify its trade partnerships and reduce dependency on a limited number of markets. By launching FTA discussions, India aims to secure greater access to new markets, strengthen economic resilience, and provide a competitive edge to its exporters, including small and medium enterprises. This agreement could open opportunities across various sectors, enhance trade volumes, and boost investment ties. Despite global trade pressures, India's proactive approach demonstrates its commitment to building stronger alliances and safeguarding long-term economic growth. The step also highlights India's strategy of balancing external challenges while expanding its global trade footprint.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eaeu-ink-pact-to-launch-fta-talks/articleshow/123416176.cms?from=mdr>

Top Story 2

India's Core Industries Recorded 2% Growth In July

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) registered a growth of 2.0 per cent on a year-on-year basis, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This rise reflects continued momentum in the country's industrial and economic activities, supported by higher output in key sectors that drive infrastructure and development. Positive contributions from multiple areas have helped balance the overall index, despite certain challenges observed in other segments. The latest data highlights that while some industries continue to face headwinds, others are showing resilience and contributing to growth. This performance underlines the sustained efforts toward strengthening the nation's economic fundamentals and enhancing its industrial output capacity. Such trends are crucial in building confidence across markets and signaling steady progress in line with India's long-term development goals.

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Economy

India's economy has enough dynamics to take on 50% US tariffs

India's economy has demonstrated resilience through multiple challenges, showing an ability to recover swiftly from global disruptions. Policy measures, including timely interventions in inflation control and financial stability, have ensured that growth momentum remains intact. Structural reforms such as tax unification, faster resolution of distressed assets, and the expansion of digital infrastructure have strengthened the foundation of the economy. Alongside, a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem is driving innovation across sectors, reflecting the confidence of a new generation of business leaders. While external pressures like tariffs may affect certain exporters, India's strong domestic demand and capacity to diversify trade relationships provide a buffer. Lower levels of external debt also offer greater flexibility for macroeconomic stabilization during global shocks. Rather than weakening progress, such challenges can accelerate shifts toward new markets, stronger regional value chains, and higher-value manufacturing. This adaptability underlines India's true strength—emerging stronger with each challenge.

<https://www.qatar-tribune.com/article/190501/business/indias-economy-has-enough-dynamics-to-take-on-50-us-tariffs>

Market

RBI Hints At More Rate Cuts As India Eyes Growth

The central bank's latest meeting minutes signal a softer stance on interest rates, raising expectations of additional support for stronger economic growth. While the policy rate was recently held steady after a major cut earlier this year, cooling inflation continues to provide room for further easing. Growth is projected to remain resilient, with potential to expand even more if supportive measures are sustained. Updated forecasts show inflation trending lower, giving monetary authorities space to consider another rate cut in the near term. Investors expect bond yields to stay stable as the outlook for monetary support strengthens. However, major structural reforms, particularly changes in the taxation framework, could test fiscal discipline. With global trade conditions still uncertain, the growth path hinges on a balance between central bank support and prudent government spending. If monetary easing continues alongside disciplined reforms, the economy is positioned to gain stronger momentum ahead.

<https://finimize.com/content/rbi-hints-at-more-rate-cuts-as-india-eyes-growth>

Taxation

India panel proposes exempting taxes on health, life insurance

A panel of ministers has proposed exempting health and life insurance premiums for individuals from the goods and services tax (GST). This move is aimed at providing relief to citizens and boosting economic activity at a time when India is navigating external trade pressures. Currently, these premiums are taxed at 18%, and removing this burden is expected to make essential financial protection more affordable for families. The proposal will be reviewed and decided by the GST council, which comprises the federal finance minister and representatives from all states. While the exemption could result in a revenue loss, policymakers view it as a reform that strengthens India’s social safety net and enhances competitiveness. The upcoming GST council meeting is also expected to discuss broader reforms, marking one of the most significant restructurings of the tax regime since its introduction. The exemption, if approved, could be implemented before the major festive season.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40378814/india-panel-proposes-exempting-taxes-on-health-life-insurance>

Digitalization

India’s DC fast chargers are projected to rise sharply from around 14,000 at present to nearly 1.1 million by 2040, driven by strong policy support and rapid adoption of electric vehicles. This expansion reflects the country’s growing focus on sustainable mobility and the need to build robust infrastructure to support future demand. Globally, the number of EV charging ports is expected to grow steadily, with the residential charging segment continuing to dominate. By 2040, residential charging is likely to account for the majority of installations, reflecting its convenience, performance, and cost efficiency for EV owners. Annual global spending on charging infrastructure is also set to rise significantly, creating opportunities for investment and innovation. As utilization of public charging networks improves and efficiency increases, the ratio of EVs to public chargers is expected to rise, highlighting the shift toward scalable and reliable charging ecosystems for mass adoption.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/power/indias-ev-fast-chargers-to-rise-from-14000-to-1-1-million-by-2040-report/123421902>

Metric	19-Aug-2025 Value	20-Aug-2025 Value	Change	Metric	19-Aug-2025 Value	20-Aug-2025 Value	Change
USDINR	₹86.96 (mid)	₹87.06 (close)	+₹0.10 (rupee weakened) Reuters+1Ventura Securities+5Reuters+5Trading Economics+5	NIFTY 50	24,980.65	25,050.55	+69.90 pts (≈+0.28%) Investing.comVentura Securities
EURINR	—	—	—	BSE Sensex	81,644.39	81,857.58	+213.46 pts (≈+0.26%) Ventura SecuritiesMarketWatch
GBPINR	—	—	—				
JPYINR	—	—	—				