

## **Top Story 1**

### **India, UK likely to sign FTA next week**

India is set to finalize a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with another key global partner, aiming to significantly boost bilateral trade volumes. The legal text of the agreement has been prepared, and both sides are ready for the formal signing. The FTA targets a doubling of trade by the end of the decade and includes major tariff reductions across a broad range of goods. Under the agreement, tariffs on exports of labour-intensive goods such as footwear, clothing, and leather will be eliminated or reduced, offering a competitive edge to domestic producers. In return, duties on items such as vehicles and alcoholic beverages will also be eased. The deal includes provisions to enhance professional mobility and deepen service sector collaboration. While the agreement will be signed shortly, its implementation could take up to a year, pending ratification processes. The FTA marks a significant step toward India's vision of becoming a major global trading hub.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/india-uk-likely-to-sign-fta-next-week/3918240/>

## **Top Story 2**

### **India likely to settle for 10-15% tariff in interim trade deal with US**

India is likely to agree to tariffs of up to 15% on its exports under an interim trade agreement currently being negotiated. While initial expectations aimed for lower rates, the discussions indicate that a base tariff of 10% will still apply, limiting the relief India had hoped for. Despite this, the proposed terms place India in a more favorable position compared to other developing economies that have accepted higher tariff rates in similar agreements. This strategic negotiation could enhance India's global trade competitiveness by securing better access to key foreign markets. The agreement is expected to cover a wide range of goods and could serve as a stepping stone toward a comprehensive long-term trade partnership. The final terms are still being shaped, but the ongoing talks underscore India's intent to strengthen its global trade presence and ensure more advantageous conditions for its exporters in a rapidly evolving economic environment.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-likely-to-settle-for-10-15-tariff-in-interim-trade-deal-with-us-125071701309\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-likely-to-settle-for-10-15-tariff-in-interim-trade-deal-with-us-125071701309_1.html)

## **Economy**

### **Right reforms to spur investment, credit and GDP growth in India: Report**

At a time when global supply chains are getting rejigged, if India can do the right reforms, it could become a meaningful producer and exporter of goods, which could spur investment, credit and GDP growth, an HSBC report said on Friday. "The reforms include lowering tariff rates, signing trade deals, welcoming FDI inflows, and improving ease of doing business. A start has been made. But for impact, reforms need to run deep," it added. The report said that market memory can be short. Same time last year, we were fretting about weak deposit growth. Today, we are fretting about weak credit growth. We believe one thing is common across both episodes. That while all eyes are on the RBI to resolve the situation, the central bank can only partly address the problem using the monetary policy levers at its disposal," it further stated. Instead, the root of the problem, and the real solution, in both instances, lies elsewhere - the real economy and the composition of GDP growth.

<https://www.zeebiz.com/economy-infra/news-right-reforms-to-spur-investment-credit-and-gdp-growth-in-india-report-373903>

## **Market**

### **RBI may go for another 25 bps rate cut in August, repo rate to come down at 5.25%: Report**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the central bank may consider another 25 basis points policy rate cut in the upcoming policy review, potentially bringing the rate down to 5.25 per cent. The decision is expected in light of the current economic indicators and a subdued inflation environment. While urban demand appears to be under pressure, rural demand remains relatively strong. Exports to certain regions are improving, although overall outbound trade performance is mixed. These contrasting trends, along with a favourable inflation outlook, are creating room for further monetary easing. Analysts believe that the timing is appropriate for a rate cut, which could support domestic consumption and economic momentum. A reduction in the policy rate would also make borrowing more affordable, potentially boosting investment and spending. The anticipated move reflects the central bank's continued focus on supporting growth while maintaining inflation within manageable levels. The next meeting is likely to be closely watched for this outcome.

<https://www.malaysiasun.com/news/278451752/rbi-may-go-for-another-25-bps-rate-cut-in-august-repo-rate-to-come-down-at-525-report>

Investment

India needs to invest \$1.5 trillion by 2030 for climate action at scale

A recent report highlights that approximately \$1.5 trillion in investment is required by 2030 across key sectors such as renewable energy, biofuels, decarbonization, and sustainable infrastructure to effectively address climate challenges and support the energy transition. The investment aims to significantly reduce emissions, create jobs, strengthen energy security, and safeguard vulnerable communities from climate-related risks. It emphasizes the need for innovative financial instruments like green bonds, climate funds, and blended finance to mobilise capital for sustainability-focused initiatives. A major portion of this funding—around \$200–250 billion—is needed specifically to add 300 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, helping bridge the gap between the current installed base and the target of 500 GW. The report underscores that timely and scaled investments across sectors are vital for meeting long-term climate goals and accelerating the transition to a low-carbon economy. Strategic financing and policy alignment will be essential to unlock this opportunity.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/industry/india-needs-to-invest-1-5-trillion-by-2030-for-climate-action-at-scale-deloitte/3918312/>

Digitalization

India poised to lead global creative economy through AI-powered innovation

India is emerging as a frontrunner in the global creative economy through strategic use of artificial intelligence. At a recent innovation-focused gathering, AI and ML startups were encouraged to participate in challenges designed to develop scalable, culturally inclusive digital solutions that support communication across all Indian languages. These initiatives, under the government-backed WaveX Startup Accelerator Platform, offer startups mentorship, national-level exposure, pilot collaborations with public media, and full incubation support. The aim is to foster innovation in media, entertainment, and language technology, aligning with India’s vision of inclusive digital development. Industry leaders highlighted how AI is revolutionizing operations—enhancing personalization, efficiency, sustainability, and real-time decision-making. As India celebrates the transformative power of AI, it reaffirms its commitment to using technology responsibly to empower youth, accelerate innovation, and shape a more inclusive and sustainable digital future.

<https://www.thehansindia.com/technology/tech-news/ai-appreciation-day-2025-heres-what-industry-leaders-are-saying-988537>

Metric	17th July 2025	18th July 2025	Change	Metric	17th July 2025	18th July 2025	Change
USDINR	87.25	87.32	0.07	NIFTY 50	26830	26910	80
EURINR	101.62	101.85	0.23	BSE Sensex	87040.8	87260.9	220.1
GBPINR	121.05	121.3	0.25				
JPYINR	60.75	60.82	0.07				

