ITM Business School
ITM SKILLS UNIVERSITY

"Wealth is what you save, not what you spend to look rich"
~ Thomas J. Stanley

वित्त वाणी

Your Weekly Window to Key Financial Headlines

Nifty 50	24,366.00	-204.65
Sensex	78009.25	-489.92
Dow Jones	53,732.41	-304.52
Dollar	95.43	+0.23
Gold	1,54,590	+2,605

As on 14/08/2026 on Money Control

Market Lens | Economic Insights | Corporate News | 17/08/2026, MONDAY | Global News | Reader Engagements | Government Updates

Corporate Chronicles

- **Maruti Suzuki sees passenger vehicle market reaching 6.1–6.3 million units by FY31**

Maruti Suzuki chairman R C Bhargava said India's passenger-vehicle market could expand to 6.1–6.3 million units annually by FY31, compared with 4.64 million in FY26. The company expects renewed demand for small cars alongside continued strong SUV sales.

- **Sensex falls 388 points; Nifty slips below 24,500**

Indian benchmark indices ended lower on 11 August as rising oil prices and a weaker rupee affected investor sentiment. The Sensex declined 388 points, while the Nifty moved below 24,500. Investors remained cautious amid global uncertainty and currency-market pressure.

- **Health insurance reforms being considered to control rising medical costs**

India is considering significant health-insurance reforms covering treatment rates, claims and billing practices. The proposals aim to improve transparency, reduce fraudulent claims and address medical inflation. A nationwide claims exchange is also being examined as part of efforts to make insurance more efficient.

- **Kalpataru Projects secures Rs 3,526 crore orders**

Kalpataru Projects International secured fresh orders worth Rs 3,526 crore, taking its FY27 order intake beyond Rs 11,000 crore. The strong order flow provides better revenue visibility and reflects continuing infrastructure demand across transmission, buildings and other engineering and construction projects.

- **Sensex records 8,500% rise since 1991 liberalisation**

The Sensex has risen around 8,500% since India's 1991 economic liberalisation, delivering approximately 14% annualised returns over the period. The long-term performance reflects the growth of Indian companies, capital markets and investor participation despite multiple economic crises and market corrections.

- **India Inc backs government's development vision**

Indian industry leaders welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address and expressed support for the development agenda. India Inc highlighted manufacturing, agriculture and technological innovation as important growth areas, with businesses indicating their readiness to invest in strategic sectors supporting India's long-term development.

- **Global markets remain focused on inflation, interest rates and growth**

Global investors continued monitoring inflation trends, interest-rate expectations and economic growth as markets entered the new week. Changing expectations around monetary policy, currency movements and global yields remained important factors for emerging markets, including India, while investors assessed risks to future earnings.

- **India's public-sector companies enter a new phase**

India's public-sector enterprises are undergoing a major transformation, with the government increasingly moving from direct ownership towards strategic shareholding and stake sales. PSUs continue to play an important role in infrastructure and strategic sectors, while disinvestment is being used to optimise government ownership.

Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme 2026 Takes Effect to Ease Black Money Compliance

The Central Board of Direct Taxes notified the Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme Rules, 2026 this week, coming into force on August 16. Designed to offer targeted relief rather than blanket amnesty, the framework creates two distinct compliance tracks before a December 31, 2026 deadline. The first route covers undisclosed overseas assets and income up to ₹1 crore, requiring a 60% total payment (30% tax plus an equal penalty) to grant full statutory immunity from prosecution. A second route addresses procedural lapses up to ₹5 crore—such as foreign accounts acquired while working as an NRI or omitted from tax schedules—settled via a flat ₹1 lakh fee. Financial advisors urge global tech workers and expatriates to audit overseas ESOPs and accounts to regularize past reporting gaps safely.

Gold Prices Consolidate Around ₹1.52 Lakh as Long-Term CAGR Holds at 13%

Domestic retail bullion witnessed a phase of steady consolidation this week, with 24-carat fine gold trading near ₹1,52,400 per 10 grams across major Indian metros. A long-term wealth analysis in The Economic Times highlights gold's historical role as a defensive hedge, delivering a 13% compound annual growth rate over multi-decade cycles. Despite the high price barrier dampening wedding jewelry volumes, retail investment into sovereign instruments, Gold ETFs, and micro-digital gold remains remarkably resilient. Wealth managers emphasize that gold's sustained price floor reflects structural factors: currency depreciation, persistent inflation, and active central bank accumulation. For retail investors, maintaining a dedicated 5% to 10% allocation continues to provide essential downside protection during periods of global economic and currency friction.

Government Updates

RBI Ends Forex Swap Facility Early After $52.3 Billion FCNR Inflows

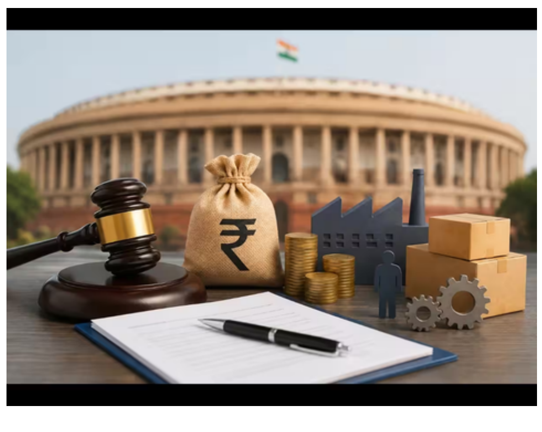
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to close its special forex swap facility for Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR-B) deposits one month earlier than planned, moving the deadline from September 30 to August 31, 2026. The facility was introduced in June to encourage banks to attract foreign-currency deposits from NRIs and strengthen India's balance of payments. It has proved highly successful, with $52.3 billion mobilised through FCNR(B) deposits by August 13. The strong inflows reduced the need to keep the facility open for longer. For financial markets, this strengthens India's foreign-exchange reserves and provides greater dollar liquidity.

India Opens Tax Amnesty Window for Small Taxpayers with Undisclosed Foreign Assets

The government has launched a one-time disclosure scheme allowing eligible small taxpayers to voluntarily declare certain previously undisclosed foreign assets and income. The Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme, 2026 opened on August 16 and will remain available until December 31, 2026. The scheme is intended to encourage taxpayers to regularise overseas holdings and improve tax compliance. It provides eligible taxpayers with relief from certain penalties and prosecution, subject to the scheme's conditions and specified limits. The initiative is part of the government's broader effort to improve transparency regarding offshore wealth and reduce tax evasion.

Parliament Passes MSME Amendment Bill to Tackle Payment Delays and Speed Up Disputes

Parliament has passed the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2026, bringing changes to the MSME framework. The legislation seeks to address one of the biggest problems faced by smaller businesses, delayed payments, which can create serious working-capital pressure. It also aims to make dispute resolution more time-bound and simplify compliance and registration processes. The Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 3 and the Lok Sabha on August 7. For investors and businesses, the reforms are important because better payment discipline can improve MSMEs' cash flows, liquidity and ability to reinvest and grow.



Market Lens

RBI Maintains Cautious Monetary Policy Stance

The Reserve Bank of India kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% earlier in August, maintaining a neutral stance. During 9th–15th August, markets assessed the decision alongside inflation, currency movements, and geopolitical risks, while India's resilient growth outlook supported overall investor confidence.

Indian Rupee Gains Support From Record FCNR(B) Inflows

The Indian rupee remained under pressure from elevated crude prices but received support from strong foreign-currency inflows. RBI's FCNR(B) deposit scheme attracted $52.3 billion, prompting the central bank to close the facility earlier than planned, strengthening India's external liquidity position considerably.

Global Stock Markets Reach Record Highs

Global equity markets remained strong during the week, with the S&P 500 reaching a record closing high as inflation concerns eased and expectations of immediate monetary tightening declined. Technology stocks provided significant support, while investors continued monitoring oil prices and geopolitical developments closely.

Crude Oil Prices Rise Amid US-Iran Tensions

Oil prices increased sharply during the week as uncertainty surrounding negotiations between the United States and Iran raised concerns about reopening the Strait of Hormuz. Brent crude approached $88 per barrel, increasing inflation risks for importing economies and creating challenges for global policymakers.

US Inflation And Federal Reserve Policy Remain Key Market Drivers

Investors closely monitored U.S. inflation and Federal Reserve policy expectations during the week. Markets remained divided over future interest-rate decisions as energy costs and persistent inflation created uncertainty. The debate influenced global bond yields, currencies, equities, and expectations surrounding monetary policy.

Artificial Intelligence Continues Supporting Technology Stocks

Artificial intelligence remained a major investment theme as technology companies expanded spending on data centres, semiconductors, and AI infrastructure. Strong technology performance helped global equity markets reach new highs, although investors increasingly questioned whether rapidly rising AI investment and valuations could remain sustainable.

India Celebrates Independence Day With Focus On Economic Growth

India celebrated its 80th Independence Day on 15th August, with the government highlighting long-term economic development, manufacturing, infrastructure, youth participation, and technological progress. The broader policy message emphasized transforming India into a developed economy while strengthening domestic capabilities and global competitiveness.

GLOBAL SNAPSHOTS

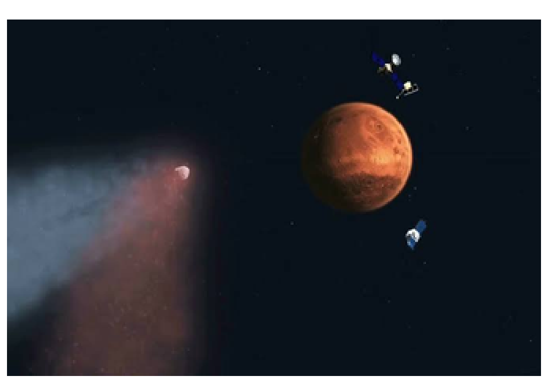
Europe Faces Record-Low Rhine River Levels

The Rhine River has reached record-low levels as a severe heatwave continues across Europe. The river is a major trade route, carrying goods and raw materials across several European countries. Low water levels are forcing cargo ships to reduce the amount of goods they can transport. Some businesses are turning to roads & railways to move their supplies instead. This could lead to higher transportation costs & further pressure on businesses. The low water levels are mainly linked to prolonged hot & dry weather. The situation highlights the growing economic impact of extreme weather across Europe.

Russian Missile Attack Hits Kyiv

Russia launched a missile attack on Kyiv early Sunday, according to Ukrainian officials. The attack caused fires in several parts of the Ukrainian capital & injured at least one person. Falling debris damaged cars & other structures in the city. Residents were forced to take shelter as air raid alerts sounded during the attack. The strike comes as Russia continues to carry out aerial attacks on Ukrainian cities. Kyiv has remained a frequent target during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The latest attack adds to concerns over continued fighting & rising tensions in the region.

Japan Prepares Mission to Mars' Moon to Unlock Secrets of the Solar System



Japanese scientists are preparing for a major mission to explore Phobos, one of Mars' two moons. The Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) spacecraft is expected to launch from Japan in the coming months. The mission will collect at least 10 grams of material from Phobos & bring the samples back to Earth. A French rover named IDEFIX will travel across the moon's surface & carry out detailed observations. MMX will also study Deimos, Mars' other moon, without landing on it. The spacecraft is expected to return the samples to Earth around 2031, with the capsule landing in Australia. Scientists hope the mission will reveal more about the origins of Mars, the Solar System & possibly life on Earth.