



# The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)

(Statutory body under an Act of Parliament)

H.Q: CMA Bhawan, 3, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003

Kolkata Office: CMA Bhawan, 12 Sudder Street, Kolkata – 700 016

## **DAILY NEWS DIGEST BY BFSI BOARD**

19 August 2025



### **ECONOMY**

#### **PM Modi chairs high-level meeting on economic reforms; GST simplification key agenda:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level meeting at his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence to discuss next-generation economic reforms. The meeting sees participation from the CCEA, Economic Advisory Council and NITI Aayog, with the agenda covering reforms in infrastructure, manufacturing, investments, and regulatory ease. Prime Minister is also expected to seek suggestions on taxation and GST simplification. He declared that Next-Generation GST reforms would be rolled out by Diwali, aimed at easing the tax burden on everyday essentials. "The government will introduce Next Generation GST reforms that will reduce the tax load on the common man.

**(Moneycontrol)**

**India's unemployment dips to 5.2% in July, rural India drives jobs growth: Govt survey:** The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Quarterly Bulletin for April–June 2025 and the Monthly Bulletin for July 2025, highlighting key employment trends across rural and urban India. According to the Quarterly Bulletin, the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 55% during April–June 2025. Rural LFPR was higher at 57.1%, compared to 50.6% in urban areas. The Unemployment Rate (UR) was reported at 5.4% during the April–June quarter, with rural areas showing a lower rate (4.8%) than urban centres (6.8%).

**(Business Today)**

**Govt mulling further FDI regime easing, more tax benefits for startups:** The commerce and industry ministry is working on a 100-day reforms agenda which may include proposals such as further liberalising FDI regime, easing investments from neighbouring countries, and more tax benefits for startups, an official said. The proposals may also include easing certain environmental norms for the leather and footwear industry, liberalised rules to promote exports through e-commerce hubs, and integrating lab testing and certification requirements for various sectors, the official said.



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The government is embarking on the next 100-day agenda of transformation to take India on a fast track to developed nation.

**(Business Standard)**

## BANKING & FINANCE



**Over 23% Jan Dhan accounts inoperative, FinMin data show:** As the much-celebrated Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completes 11 years this month, new government data show a worrying trend: more than one in every five Jan Dhan accounts is lying inoperative. According to data presented by the Finance Ministry in the Lok Sabha on Monday, as of August 6, over 13 crore Jan Dhan accounts - 23 per cent of the total 56.04 crore opened till July 31, 2025 - are inoperative. The amount parked in these accounts stands at over ₹2.64 lakh crore.

**(Business Line)**

**Education loan provider Credila in talks to raise \$600m via ECB:** Credila, which the erstwhile HDFC sold to quicken its merger with HDFC Bank, is looking to raise up to \$600 million in loans from foreign lenders after its initial share sale, people familiar with the fundraising at the education loan provider told ET. DBS, MUFG and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp (SMBC) are among the banks in discussions to participate in the syndicate, they said.

**(Economic Times)**

**LIC launches special campaign to revive lapsed policies:** Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday announced the launch of a month-long campaign for revival of individual lapsed policies. This special drive, to be carried out from August 18 to October 17, 2025, is extended to all non-linked policies with very attractive concession in late fee. Concession is being offered in late fee for all Non-Linked Insurance Plans up to 30 per cent of late fee up to a maximum amount of Rs 5,000 if eligible for revival under the scheme, LIC said in a statement.

**(Economic Times)**

**Low savings account interest rates fuel a rush to liquid mutual funds:** With savings bank interest rates at historic lows, individual investor interest is picking up in liquid mutual funds (MFs), which delivered a consistent returns of 5-7 per cent annually. Such funds invest in highly liquid debt instruments having a maturity period of fewer than 91 days. These funds added more than 220,000 accounts in 2025 (till July 31) as against just 64,300 net additions in 2024 and 4,345 in 2023. In July, net addition was at a multi-year high of 108,500.

**(Business Standard)**



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## INDUSTRY OUTLOOK



**Govt may ease defence tenders norms to attract private players:** The government is looking at easing the nomination-based system of awarding defence contracts in some key segments by moving to open tendering to encourage greater participation from private sector, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which would boost competition, a senior official has said. The government is also reviewing offset policy to make procurement rules more industry-friendly, competitive and flexible as India looks to step up defence modernisation, the official said.

**(Moneycontrol)**

**Amazon India adds 1,50,000 workers for festive season rush:** Ahead of the festive season, e-commerce player Amazon India has created more than 150,000 seasonal work opportunities across its network to prepare for the season. The positions span fulfillment centers, sort centers, and last-mile delivery stations in over 400 cities across India. This represents a significant increase from last year, when the e-commerce giant announced the creation of over 110,000 seasonal job opportunities.

**(Business Line)**

**US tariff impact: MSME NPA classification period likely to be doubled:** The Union government is mulling extending non-performing asset (NPA) classification period on loans to the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) from the current 90 days to 180 days, a move which will provide breather to cash-strapped firms against the backdrop of steep US tariffs, a senior government official said requesting anonymity. "The proposal to extend the loan default period for MSMEs from 90 days to 180 days is likely to be taken up by the Cabinet soon," the official said.

**(Business Line)**



## REGULATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Sebi maintains retail quota in IPOs at 35%, drops plan for cut:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has withdrawn its proposal to reduce the retail quota in IPOs from 35 percent to 25 percent for issues exceeding Rs 5,000 crore. The proposal had been made considering the challenges faced by issuers in executing large offerings. Sebi said it has been constantly monitoring stakeholder feedback on the matter. Now the retail quota will remain as it is. In its consultation paper,



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Sebi said that the challenges of lower retail subscription in large issues would be addressed through the current proposal of allowing lower stake dilution for such companies.

**(Moneycontrol)**

## **Sebi proposes less stake dilution, more timeline for public shareholding compliance for large**

**IPOs:** Sebi has proposed lesser stake dilution and more time for compliance with minimum public shareholding norms. Sebi, in its consultation paper, proposed that for IPOs with a post-issue market cap above Rs 50,000 crore but not more than Rs 1,00,000 crore, the minimum issue size will be Rs 1,000 crore plus at least 8 percent of the post-issue share capital. Currently, it is 10 percent of the issue size. For such issues, the minimum public shareholding (MPS) of 25 percent is to be achieved within 5 years from the date of listing instead of 3 years at present. For issues of Rs 1,00,000 crore but not more than Rs 5,00,000 crore, the minimum issue size will be Rs 6,250 crore plus at least 2.75 percent of the post-issue share capital.

**(Moneycontrol)**

**Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana portal launched:** The Centre on Monday launched an online portal for the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY), an employment-linked incentive scheme aimed at generating over 3.5 crore jobs across the country over two years. Approved by the Union Cabinet on July 1, the PMVBRY is a central sector scheme, aimed at boosting job creation between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. The scheme will provide an incentive of up to ₹15,000 in two instalments to newly employed youth and up to ₹3,000 per month for each new employee to employers for the creation of new job opportunities.

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## FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY

### RING FENCE

- ❖ The term ring-fence refers to the creation of a virtual barrier that segregates a portion of a company's financial assets from the rest. This may be done to reserve money for a specific purpose, to reduce taxes on the individual or company, or to protect the assets from losses incurred by riskier operations. Moving a portion of assets offshore to reduce an investor's net worth or lower the taxes due on income is one example of ring-fencing.
- ❖ Ring-fencing may involve transferring a portion of assets from one high-tax jurisdiction to another with lower or no taxes or less onerous regulations. In other cases, it may be used to keep the money in reserve for a specific purpose. It also may be done to make the money unavailable for another purpose.





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## RBI KEY RATES

Repo Rate: 5.50%

SDF: 5.25%

MSF & Bank Rate: 5.75%

CRR: 4.00%

SLR: 18.00%

Fixed Reverse Repo: 3.35%

## FOREX (FBIL 1.30 PM)

INR / 1 USD : 87.4137

INR / 1 GBP : 118.4106

INR / 1 EUR : 102.2653

INR /100 JPY: 59.2900

## EQUITY MARKET

Sensex: 81273.75 (+676.09)

NIFTY: 24876.95 (+245.65)

Bank NIFTY: 55734.90 (+393.05)

## Courses conducted by BFSI Board

- ❖ Certificate Course on Concurrent Audit of Banks
- ❖ Certificate Course on Credit Management of Banks
- ❖ Certificate Course on Treasury and International Banking
- ❖ Certificate Course on Investment Management
- ❖ Certificate Course on General Insurance.
- ❖ Advance Certificate Course on FinTech

For details please visit  
BFSIB portal of the ICMAI

## Publications by BFSI Board

- ❖ Aide Memoire on Infrastructure Financing.
- ❖ Aide Memoire on lending to MSME Sector (including restructuring of MSME Credit).
- ❖ Guidance Note on the Internal Audit of General Insurance Companies.
- ❖ BFSI Chronicle (quarterly issue of BFSIB)
- ❖ Handbook on Stock & Book Debts Audit (Revised and Enlarged 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

## TEAM BFSIB

**Banking, Financial Services & Insurance Board**  
**The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)**

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