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Economic & Business

1. Stock and Commodity Markets Closed for Independence Day:

Indian equity and commodity markets, including the BSE, NSE, MCX, and NCDEX, are closed today, August 15, in observance of the 79th Independence Day.

This is a scheduled holiday, and trading in all segments—equities, derivatives, and commodities—is suspended for the day.

Markets will resume regular trading on Monday, August 18, after the long weekend.

2. PM Modi's Economic Announcements in His Independence Day Speech:

"Made in India" Semiconductor Chip: Prime Minister Modi announced a renewed focus on semiconductor manufacturing, revealing that a "Made in India" chip will be available in the market by the end of this year. He also mentioned that four out of six new semiconductor units have already been approved.

Next-Generation GST Reforms: PM Modi promised to introduce "next-generation GST reforms" by Diwali. He stated that these reforms would aim to reduce the tax burden on common household items and provide relief to small and medium enterprises.

Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana: This new scheme was announced to provide a financial incentive of ₹15,000 to youths who secure their first job in the private sector.

Warning on Indus Waters Treaty: In his speech, PM Modi made a direct reference to the "unjust" Indus Waters Treaty, stating that "blood and water will not flow together," and reiterated a firm stance against cross-border terrorism.

3. Economic Indicators and Market Performance (Pre-Holiday):

On the last trading day before the holiday, Indian markets showed a positive trend. Both the Sensex and Nifty closed higher, driven by strong performance in the healthcare, metal, and auto sectors.

The positive market sentiment was buoyed by recent data showing a drop in India's retail inflation (CPI) to an eight-year low of 1.55% in July, falling within the RBI's target range.

However, there was a recent report of a significant weekly decline in India's foreign exchange reserves, the sharpest of 2025, as the RBI likely intervened to curb the rupee's slide against the dollar amid rising trade tensions with the US.

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- B) \$15,000 to all unemployed youth
C) ₹15,000 to first-time private sector employees
D) ₹15,000 to all government employees

Answer: C) ₹15,000 to first-time private sector employees

The news states that this new scheme will provide a financial incentive of ₹15,000 to youths who secure their first job in the private sector.

3. What is the target date for the introduction of "next-generation GST reforms" as announced by PM Modi?

- A) Republic Day 2026
B) Diwali 2025
C) The end of 2025
D) The beginning of 2026

Answer: B) Diwali 2025

The news states that PM Modi promised to bring in "next-generation GST reforms" by Diwali.

4. What was the reason for the recent decline in India's foreign exchange reserves?

- A) High government spending
B) Increased imports
C) RBI's intervention to curb the rupee's slide against the dollar
D) A global economic downturn

Answer: C) RBI's intervention to curb the rupee's slide against the dollar

The news indicates that the RBI likely intensified efforts to curb the rupee's slide against the dollar, which led to a significant weekly decline in India's foreign exchange reserves.

5. What major manufacturing announcement did PM Modi make in his Independence Day speech?

MCQS

1. Which of the following Indian markets are closed on August 15, 2025?

- A) BSE and NSE
B) MCX and NCDEX
C) Both A and B
D) None of the above

Answer: C) Both A and B

The news states that all Indian equity and commodity markets, including the BSE, NSE, MCX, and NCDEX, are closed on August 15, 2025, for Independence Day.

2. What is the financial incentive provided under the "Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana"?

- A) \$15,000 to first-time private sector employees





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- A) The launch of a new car brand
B) The establishment of a new textile hub
C) The release of a "Made in India" semiconductor chip by the year-end
D) A new scheme for steel production

Answer: C) The release of a "Made in India" semiconductor chip by the year-end
The news states that PM Modi announced that a "Made in India" semiconductor chip, built by the people of India, will arrive in the market by the end of this year.

6. What was the primary driver for the positive trend in the Indian stock market before the holiday?

- A) A decrease in interest rates
B) A drop in India's retail inflation (CPI) to an eight-year low
C) A new trade agreement
D) Increased foreign investment

Answer: B) A drop in India's retail inflation (CPI) to an eight-year low
The news states that the positive market sentiment was buoyed by recent data showing a drop in India's retail inflation (CPI) to an eight-year low of 1.55% in July.



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