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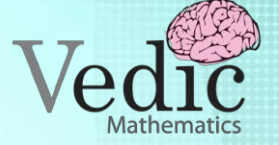
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Economic & Business

Economic & Business News: August 21, 2025

Global Economic Outlook

The global economy is currently facing headwinds due to increasing trade tensions and persistent policy uncertainty. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a global growth of 3.0% for 2025, which is a slight upward revision from its previous forecast. However, the World Bank's outlook is more cautious, with a forecast of just 2.3% growth for 2025, the weakest outside of a recession in 17 years. This is largely driven by a sharp rise in trade barriers and heightened policy uncertainty.

The World Bank also noted that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to emerging and developing economies have been steadily declining over the last decade, primarily due to these global tensions.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's annual Jackson Hole symposium, which starts today, is a key focus for investors. They're looking for any signals from Fed Chairman Jerome Powell regarding the central bank's stance on monetary policy.

U.S. stock markets closed mixed on August 20, with the Nasdaq seeing heavy selling pressure and closing down due to weakness in tech stocks like Intel and Nvidia.

Indian Stock Market & Corporate Highlights IN

The Indian stock market showed resilience, with the Nifty50 and BSE Sensex opening in the green, defying the mixed global cues.

Analysts credit this performance to bold reform initiatives and sustained investment flows.

India Cements is in the news as UltraTech Cement is set to sell its 6.49% stake in the company via an offer-for-sale (OFS), with the sale opening for non-retail investors today.

Infosys has awarded an average of 80% performance bonus to its employees for Q1 FY26, a higher payout compared to the previous quarter.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has raised objections to Vedanta's demerger plan, creating a roadblock for the company.

RailTel secured new orders worth over ₹50 crore from the Kerala State Information Technology Mission and the Higher Education Department of the Government of Odisha.

Exide Industries has invested another ₹100 crore in its subsidiary Exide Energy Solutions via a rights issue, bringing its total investment to over ₹3,800 crore.

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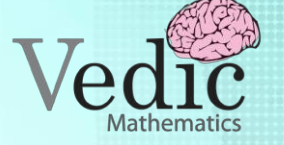
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MCQS

1. What is the primary reason for the World Bank's cautious global growth forecast of 2.3% for 2025?

- A) An increase in consumer spending and business investment.
- B) A sharp rise in trade barriers and heightened policy uncertainty.
- C) A decline in global interest rates.
- D) Stronger economic performance in emerging markets.

Answer: B) A sharp rise in trade barriers and heightened policy uncertainty.

The news highlights that the World Bank's conservative forecast, the weakest in 17 years outside of a recession, is largely due to

increasing global trade barriers and policy uncertainty.

2. Why are investors paying close attention to the U.S. Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole symposium?

- A) To get an update on the latest technological innovations.
- B) To find out the results of the presidential election.
- C) To get signals about the central bank's future monetary policy.
- D) To learn about new investment opportunities in emerging markets.

Answer: C) To get signals about the central bank's future monetary policy.

The Jackson Hole symposium is a significant event for financial markets as it's often used by the Fed Chair to provide guidance on the future direction of monetary policy.

3. What action has UltraTech Cement taken regarding its stake in India Cements?

- A) It has announced a plan to acquire a majority stake in India Cements.
- B) It is set to sell its 6.49% stake via an offer-for-sale (OFS).
- C) It has increased its investment in India Cements.
- D) It has filed a legal case against India Cements.

Answer: B) It is set to sell its 6.49% stake via an offer-for-sale (OFS).

The news states that UltraTech Cement will be divesting its entire 6.49% stake in India Cements through an Offer for Sale, which is a mechanism used to sell shares.

4. What caused the roadblock for Vedanta's demerger plan?

- A) A lack of shareholder approval.





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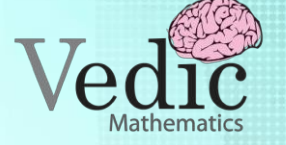
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- B) Objections raised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
C) A legal challenge from a rival company.
D) Weak financial performance in the last quarter.

Answer: B) Objections raised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

According to the news, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has raised objections to Vedanta's demerger plan, which has created a significant hurdle for the company.

5. Which company has recently invested an additional ₹100 crore in its subsidiary via a rights issue?

- A) RailTel
B) Infosys
C) India Cements
D) Exide Industries

Answer: D) Exide Industries

The news mentions that Exide Industries has invested an additional ₹100 crore in its subsidiary, Exide Energy Solutions, through a rights issue, bringing its total investment to over ₹3,800 crore.

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