

1. Rajasthan leads the way in kharif sowing

Lakh hectare

Crop	Area sown in 2017-18	Area sown in 2016-17
Rice	280.03	266.93
Pulses	121.28	116.95
Coarse Cereals	156.95	156.81
Oilseeds	148.88	165.49
Sugarcane	49.71	45.64
Jute & Mesta	7.04	7.55
Cotton	114.34	96.48
Total	878.23	855.85

Kharif Crop Sowing Crosses 878 Lakh Hectare Area

Unprecedented farming activity in Rajasthan, which received more-than-normal rainfall during the ongoing monsoon season, has taken the total area going under cultivation in the country this week to a high of 878.23 lakh hectares (ha).

The total acreage covered in the corresponding week last year was 855.85 lakh ha.

The area under pulses in Rajasthan has gone up to a record 32.5 lakh ha, surpassing both Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, known to be leaders in pulses cultivation.

There is an unprecedented increase in the area under coarse cereals in Rajasthan, which has gone up to 47.47 lakh ha. The acreage under coarse pulses in the corresponding period last year in the States was 34.58 lakh ha.

Source : Ministry of Agriculture, 04 August 2017

2. Money Market : Reference date : 04 August 2017

Bank rate	6.25	Base rate	9.00-9.55
Repo Rate	6.00	S L R	20.00
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75	Term Deposit Rate	6.25 -6.90 >1 Yr
C R R	4.00	Call Money (wtd.Avg)	5.83
Marginal Standing Facility	6.25	CBLO (Wtd.Avg)	5.87

Source : Reserve Bank of India

Source: global-rates.com On US \$ (%)	Date>	04 August	1-Week	1-month	6-Month	1-Year
	LIBOR>	1.18	1.20	1.23	1.45	1.73

3. Foreign Exchange Rate (Rs) :

Category	31 July	01 Aug	02 Aug	03 Aug	04 Aug	% Ch.
US \$	64.08	64.07	64.07	63.63	63.71	-0.57
Euro	75.22	75.54	75.75	75.39	75.66	0.58

Source : RBI

4. Stock Exchange Indices :

Category	31 July	01 Aug	02 Aug	03 Aug	04 Aug	% Change
BSE	32515	32575	32477	32238	32325	-0.58
Nifty	10077	10115	10082	10014	10066	-0.11

Source : BSE, NSE

5. Gold & Silver Prices (Rs) :

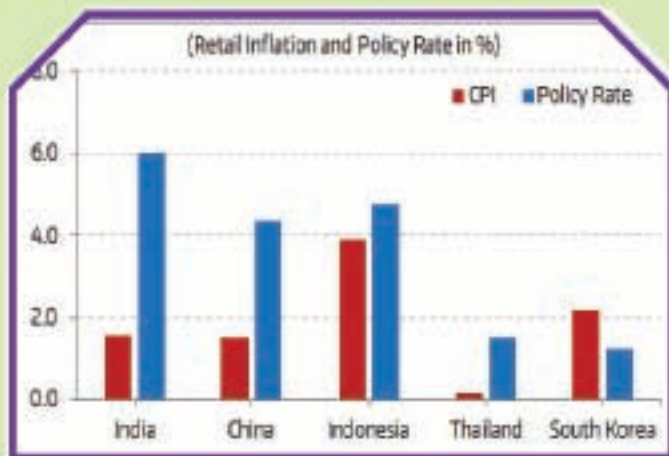
Kolkata Prices	31 July	01 Aug	02 Aug	03 Aug	04 Aug	% Change
Gold 24 Carrots /10 gms	30238	30217	30153	30174	29950	-0.95
Silver / kg	41000	41500	41700	40600	40800	-0.49

6. Crude Oil Price: US\$/Barrel :

Date>	28 July	31 July	01 Aug	02 Aug	03 Aug	Weekly average 04 August
Price>	49.46	49.97	49.59	49.73	50.24	49.88

Source: OPEC

7. India's Policy Rates Compared to Asian Economies



- ❖ With both core and retail inflation easing to new lows, a rate cut in key interest rates was widely expected. The RBI did not disappoint and announced a quarter of a percentage point cut.
- ❖ The decision is in line with the RBI's neutral monetary policy stance, tracking the rate of inflation.
- ❖ The chart shows how India's inflation and policy rates stand in comparison with other Asian economies.
- ❖ However, the central bank in its monetary policy statement expects inflation to rebound soon.

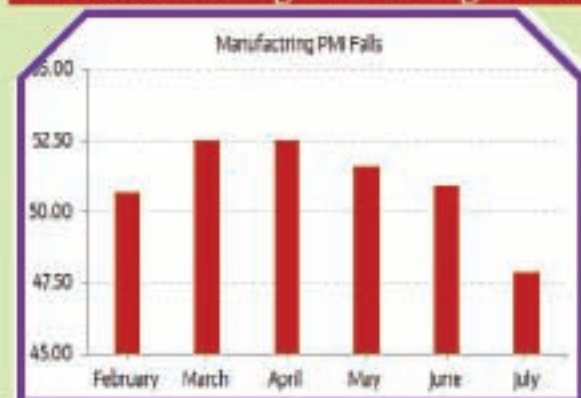
8. Govt looking to sell up to 25% stake in 4 defence PSUs via IPO

The government is considering selling up to 25 per cent of its stake in four state-owned companies under the control of the department of defence through an initial public offering, a public notice showed on Friday.

The government has invited proposals for the IPO by 3 p.m. (0930 GMT) on August 18. The government is looking to sell stakes in Mazagon Dock Ltd, Bharat Dynamics Ltd, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has been divesting its stake in several public and private companies to meet its Rs. 72,500 crore (\$11.38 billion) divestment target during the year to March 2018

9. Manufacturing PMI at Eight-Year Low



- GST also hurt India's manufacturing sector as the new tax regime caused a marked disruption in the country's manufacturing sector. This brought the Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) down to 47.9 in July, its lowest since February 2009.
- PMI is a monthly measure of the country's manufacturing sector output. A reading above fifty indicates expansion, while any score below the mark denotes contraction.
- PMI data indicated a slowdown in new orders and manufacturing activity, with firms scaling back production in July on account of GST.

10. The output of eight core industries slowed down in June

The output of eight core industries slowed down in June as the total output moved up marginally by 0.4% as against an increase of 4.1% in May 2017. The slowdown is on the back of a decline in output of coal, refinery products, fertilizer and cement. The previous low was recorded in November 2015, when the sectors' output had declined by 1.3%.