



1. Basvaraj Bommai takes oath as 26th Karnataka CM in a 3-minute ceremony

In a ceremony that lasted just a little over three minutes, Basavaraj Bommai was sworn in as Chief Minister on July 28.

Supporters and party workers from Haveri, Bommai's home district, arrived in large numbers at Raj Bhavan to witness the first person from their district become the chief minister.

The sloganeering in support of the new chief minister reached its peak as he took oath in the name of God. Present at the Glass House in Raj Bhavan during the ceremony were his beaming family members, senior BJP leaders and legislators of the party.

Full story: <https://www.deccanherald.com/state/top-karnataka-stories/basvaraj-bommai-takes-oath-as-26th-karnataka-cm-in-a-3-minute-ceremony-1013732.html>

2. Karnataka: Cabinet expansion delay amid Covid, floods prompts concerns

Indications that cabinet expansion plans will take a week or two to materialise have raised concerns that Covid-19 management may slow down in the absence of dedicated ministers.

Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai, who took charge on July 28, is currently handling the challenges of the pandemic and floods with the help of senior government officials.

He told reporters on July 29 that inducting cabinet members would take around a week. On July 30, he flew to Delhi to meet the BJP brass.

Full story: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/karnataka-cabinet-delay-amid-covid-floods-prompts-concerns/articleshow/84918497.cms>

3. Shettar opts out of ministerial race

The former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar, who held Industries and Commerce portfolio under B.S. Yediyurappa till July 26, opted out of the ministerial race on July 28 by announcing that he would not like to be a member of the Cabinet led by Basavaraj Bommai.

Full story: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/shettar-opts-out-of-ministerial-race/article35597714.ece>

4. Depositors to get up to Rs 5 lakh within 90 days if bank under moratorium

The Union Cabinet has cleared the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) Bill, 2021, which will allow depositors to withdraw up to Rs 5 lakh in 90 days.

The announcement will cover 98.3 per cent of all deposit accounts and 50.9 per cent of the deposit value, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on July 28. This compares with the global deposit insurance coverage of 80 per cent of all accounts and 20-30 per cent of the deposit value.

"Even if there is a moratorium on a bank...this measure will set in," Sitharaman said.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/depositors-to-get-up-to-rs-5-lakh-within-90-days-if-bank-under-moratorium-121072801218_1.html

5. Centre extends Covid guidelines till Aug 31, calls for strictest measures in high positivity districts

The Union Home Ministry has extended the validity of Covid-19 guidelines till August 31 and has asked states to ensure "strictest possible measures" in districts that have a high positivity rate.

Positivity rate is the percentage of samples that test positive for a disease out of the total number of samples tested. A high positivity rate indicates greater spread of a disease in a given population.

Full story: <https://www.indiatoday.in/coronavirus-outbreak/story/centre-extends-covid-guidelines-till-aug-31-strictest-measures-in-high-positivity-districts-1833746-2021-07-28>

6. IMF cuts India's FY22 GDP forecast to 9.5% from 12.5%

The International Monetary Fund, on July 27, cut India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 9.5 percent for fiscal year 2021-22, from the previous forecast of 12.5 percent, citing the hit on economic activity and demand due to the deadly 'second wave' of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March–May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback," the multilateral institution said in its latest World Economic Outlook report.

Full story: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/imf-cuts-indias-fy22-gdp-forecast-to-9-5-from-12-5-7234481.html>

7. Average retail prices of edible oils rise up to 52% in July: Govt

Average prices of edible oils in retail markets have increased by up to 52 per cent in July compared to the year-ago period, according to official data.

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha on July 30, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs Ashwini Kumar Choubey said the government has taken several measures with respect to essential

food items like pulses and edible oil to curb the increase in prices in the wake of the COVID pandemic.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/average-retail-prices-of-edible-oils-rise-up-to-52-in-july-govt-121073001127_1.html

8. Eight core sectors' output up 8.9% in June

The output of eight core sectors grew 8.9 per cent in June, mainly due to a low base effect and uptick in production of natural gas, steel, coal and electricity, official data showed on Friday. The eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity had contracted by 12.4 per cent in June 2020 due to the lockdown restrictions imposed to control the spread of coronavirus infections.

In May this year, these key sectors had recorded a growth of 16.3 per cent, while it was 60.9 per cent in April.

Full story: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/indias-june-infrastructure-output-grows-8-9-y/articleshow/84891327.cms?from=mdr>

9. GST kitty up by Rs 1.2 lakh crore as economic activity picks up

Goods and services tax (GST) collections rose to Rs 1.16 lakh crore in July as economic activity picked up after lockdown across several states due to the second wave of the pandemic.

Full story: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/gst-kitty-up-by-rs-1-2-lakh-crore-as-economic-activity-picks-up/articleshow/84960924.cms>

10. India's fuel demand picks up in July, petrol consumption at pre-Covid level

India's fuel demand picked up in July as easing of pandemic-related restrictions accelerated economic activity, helping petrol consumption reach pre-Covid levels, preliminary sales data showed on August 1.

State-owned fuel retailers sold 2.37 million tonnes of petrol in July, up 17 per cent from the year earlier period. It was 3.56 per cent higher than pre-Covid petrol sales of 2.39 million tonnes in July 2019.

Sales of diesel - the most used fuel in the country - rose 12.36 per cent to 5.45 million tonnes over the previous year, but was down 10.9 per cent from July 2019.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-s-fuel-demand-picks-up-in-july-petrol-consumption-at-pre-covid-level-121080100434_1.html

11. RBI's new rules on interchange fee, 24/7 bulk clearing facility functional

The Reserve Bank of India's new directions on raising interchange fee and making available the facility of bulk clearing round the clock have become effective from Sunday onwards.

The RBI in June raised the interchange fee for financial transactions from Rs 15 to Rs 17, while for non-financial transactions the increase was done from Rs 5 to Rs 6.

These new rates have become applicable from August 1, 2021, as per the RBI's direction.

An interchange fee is a fee charged by banks to the merchant who processes a credit card or debit card payment.

Full story: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-s-new-rules-on-interchange-fee-24-7-bulk-clearing-facility-functional-121080100573_1.html

12. US economy surpasses pre-pandemic size with 6.5% Q2 growth

Fuelled by vaccinations and government aid, the U.S. economy grew at a solid 6.5% annual rate last quarter in another sign that the nation has achieved a sustained recovery from the pandemic recession. The total size of the economy has now surpassed its pre-pandemic level.

July 29's report from the Commerce Department estimated that the nation's gross domestic product — its total output of goods and services — accelerated in the April-June quarter from an already robust 6.3% annual growth rate in the first quarter of the year.

Full story: <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-economy-d4156ba20953bd62d157e3e664921e54>

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