

# Business News Update

16 July 2025

**‘Welcome Each Day With A Warm Smile And Thank God For Bringing You New Thoughts And Strengths’.**

## **All eyes on upcoming GST Meeting: Nomura hints 12% slab may go – Price drop for ACs, tractors & insurance?**

Recent reports in the media and the buzz in the market indicate that the GST Council meeting is likely in the next two weeks. Rate rationalisation is one of the key agendas. Despite multiple rounds of discussions, from the 45th GST Council meeting in 2021 to the recent 55th meeting in December 2024, a consensus on it has remained elusive. GST rates across categories are likely to be reviewed with a focus on reducing taxes on some of them. As per available reports, the council may consider. Removing the 12% slab and shifting some items to the 5% or 18% slabs. Govt may consider proposal to abolish current 18% GST on pure term insurance plans. That apart, the compensation cess, levied to offset state revenue losses after GST implementation, is set to expire in March next year. There is a buzz that the cess might be replaced with two new levies – a Health Cess and a Clean Energy Cess.

Source: [Financial Express, July 15, 2025](#)

## **AWL Agri Q1 Results: Profit slips 24.51%, revenue up on strong edible oil performance**

AWL Agri Business Ltd on Tuesday released its fiscal first quarter earnings report with profit at Rs 236.43 crore. This was 24.51 per cent lower than Rs 236.43 crore recorded during the corresponding quarter of previous financial year. It posted revenue from operations at Rs 17,058.65 crore, up 20.52 per cent as against Rs 14,153.85 crore recorded during the first quarter of FY25, driven by higher realizations in edible oil. On an LTM basis, the company delivered operating EBITDA of Rs 2,384 crore. In Q1FY26, operating EBITDA stood at Rs 519 crore. The FMCG major experienced a challenging quarter due to a convergence of headwinds – muted consumer demand, strategic consolidation of regional rice operations, one-off G2G rice business in the base year, and fluctuations in edible oil prices. These dynamics, it added, led to a 5 per cent on-year decline in overall volumes in Q1 with the rice category.

Source: [Financial Express, July 15, 2025](#)

## **Japan's SMFG said to eye \$1.1 billion additional deal for Yes Bank**

Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group Inc. is considering making an additional \$1.1 billion investment in Indian lender Yes Bank Ltd., people familiar with the matter said, following a previous investment made by Japan's second-biggest bank two months ago. SMFG is seeking to acquire about 5% of Yes Bank shares from US investment fund Carlyle Group Inc. and other minority shareholders, the people said, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are private. SMFG may also buy about \$680 million in convertible bonds issued by Yes Bank to help boost growth, the people said. The fresh investment would bring the total amount to \$2.7 billion, giving SMFG a roughly 25% stake in Yes Bank, the people said. Considerations are ongoing and no final decisions have been made, they said. Representatives for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., the banking unit of SMFG, Carlyle and Yes

Source: [Livemint, July 15, 2025](#)

## **HCLTech slides 4% after disappointing FY26 guidance but brokerages sees 23% upside. Here's why**

HCL Technologies might have started the day on a sour note with its shares price slipping over 4% post Q1FY26 results, but leading brokerages are not ready to hit the panic button. Despite missing margin expectations, brokerage firms like Motilal Oswal, Nomura, and Jefferies remain bullish, offering price targets that suggest up to 23% upside from current levels. Let's break down what is driving this optimism even amid short-term pressure. HCL Tech reported a 10% YoY decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 3,843 crore for Q1FY26, missing Street estimates pegged at Rs 4,224 crore. Revenue and EBIT showed modest growth at 8.2% and 3%, respectively. The stock reacted to this in today's trade, dropping more than over 4%. at the time of writing it was down 4.20%,

Source: [Financial Express, July 15, 2025](#)

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## **US inflation expected to rise in June with tariff-driven price hikes**

U.S. consumer prices likely picked up in June, potentially marking the start of a long-anticipated, tariff-induced increase in inflation that has left the Federal Reserve cautious about resuming its interest rate cuts. The Consumer Price Index report from the Labor Department on Tuesday is expected to show a rebound in gasoline prices and higher costs for some tariff-sensitive goods last month. Inflation readings from February through May were on the soft side, leading to demands by President Donald Trump for the U.S. central bank to lower borrowing costs. But with retailers like Walmart (WMT.N), opens new tab warning of price increases, most economists expect price pressures to begin building up beginning this summer and stretching through the end of the year. They said inflation has been slow to respond to Trump's sweeping import duties because businesses were still selling stock accumulated before the tariffs came into effect. Business surveys have pointed to inflation rising this summer. Trump last week announced higher tariffs would come into effect on August 1 on imports from a range of

Source: [Reuters, July 15, 2025](#)

## **BlackRock's assets hit record \$12.53 trillion on second-quarter market rally**

BlackRock's (BLK.N), opens new tab assets under management hit a new high in the second quarter as global markets rallied on the prospect of trade deals and interest-rate cuts from the U.S. Federal Reserve, brushing aside earlier tariff-related jitters. Shares of the company rose 1.1% in premarket trading. A robust labor market, a healthy consumer and hopes that President Donald Trump would ease some of his harsher trade measures pushed major U.S. indices to all-time highs through the end of June. That marked a sharp reversal from early April, when tumult in U.S. trade and geopolitical policy battered confidence and fueled recession fears, concerns that BlackRock CEO Larry Fink echoed at the time. The benchmark S&P 500 (.SPX), opens new tab index rose 10.57% in the second quarter of 2025 after escaping bear market territory. BlackRock's assets under management rose to \$12.53 trillion in the quarter ended June 30, from \$10.65 trillion last year. However, long-term net inflows fell to \$46 billion in .

Source: [Reuters, July 15, 2025](#)

## **Chinese carmaker Geely to pay \$2.4 billion to take full control of Zeekr**

Chinese automaker Geely Automobile (0175.HK), opens new tab will acquire the chunk of electric-vehicle maker Zeekr (ZK.N), opens new tab that it does not already own for \$2.40 billion, the companies said in separate statements on Tuesday. Geely is offering \$2.687 for every share for the 892.7 million units it does not already own in Zeekr. The company currently holds around 62.8% stake in Zeekr, according to a filing with the exchange. The per American depositary share offer values Zeekr at \$6.83 billion. The deal comes months after Geely tried to privatise the electric vehicle maker, saying it wanted to consolidate its business to counter intensifying competition.

Source: [Reuters, July 15, 2025](#)

## **China's economy slows as consumers tighten belts, US tariff risks mount**

China's economy slowed less than expected in the second quarter in a show of resilience against U.S. tariffs, though analysts warn that weak demand at home and rising global trade risks will ramp up pressure on Beijing to roll out more stimulus. The world's No. 2 economy has so far avoided a sharp slowdown in part due to policy support and as factories took advantage of a U.S.-China trade truce to front-load shipments, but investors are bracing for a weaker second half as exports lose momentum, prices continue to fall, and consumer confidence remains low. Policymakers face a daunting task in achieving the annual growth target of around 5% - a goal many analysts view as ambitious given entrenched deflation and weak demand at home. Data on Tuesday showed China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.2% in the April-June quarter from a year earlier, slowing from 5.4% in the first quarter, but just ahead of analysts' expectations in a Reuters poll for a rise of 5.1%. "Despite a strong H1, the outlook is set to sour in H2 as export frontloading fades and the impact of U.S. tariffs becomes more visible," Wei Yao, an economist at Societe Generale, said. "Renewed weakness in house prices and the fading

Source: [Reuters, July 15, 2025](#)