

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAM VOICE



	Cabinet Decisions	2
	Industry Developments	4 - 7
	Regional Developments.....	8 -12
	International Developments	13

Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves scheme on ‘Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31’

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Small Hydro Power SHP Development Scheme for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 with an outlay of Rs.2584.60 crore for installation of Small Hydro Power Projects of an approximate capacity of 1500 MW. The scheme will support small hydro projects between 1-25 MW capacity in different states and will especially benefit hilly and North Eastern states with high potential for such projects. This will help in tapping the small hydro potential in remote and difficult to reach locations and creating significant employment opportunities.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet approves new-age plug-and-play industrial development through Bharat Industrial Development Scheme (Bhavya)

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Bharat Industrial Development Scheme BHAVYA with Rs 33,660 crore allocated for developing 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country. The scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlock manufacturing potential and accelerate India's growth story. The plan will provide a plug-and-play industrial ecosystem enabling industries to move from planning to production with speed and certainty. With pre-approved land, ready-made infrastructure and integrated services, the ambitious plan will significantly lower entry barriers for investors and generate large scale employment, boosting investment and economic growth across all states and union territories.

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Cabinet approves MSP funding of Rs.1,718.56 crore to CCI for cotton seasons 2023-24 for direct support to cotton farmers

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved Minimum Support Price (MSP) funding of Rs.1,718.56 crore to the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for the cotton season 2023–24 to provide direct price support to cotton farmers. MSP operations safeguard farmers' interests, stabilising cotton prices, preventing distress sales and ensuring remunerative returns. Cotton sustains approximately 60 lakh farmers and supports 400–500 lakh people. CCI has infrastructure in all 11 major cotton-growing states through 508 procurement centres in 152 districts, ensuring seamless procurement while promoting inclusivity, transparency and economic security for cotton-growing communities.

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Cabinet approves construction of 4-Lane Access-Controlled National Highway-927 from Barabanki to Bahraich (101.515 km) in Uttar Pradesh on Hybrid Annuity Mode at a cost of Rs.6969.04 crore

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved construction of 4-Lane Access-Controlled National Highway-927 from Barabanki to Bahraich, 101.515 km in Uttar Pradesh on Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) at a cost of Rs.6969.04 crore. The proposed upgradation will address severe geometric deficiencies, sharp curves and congestion, improve road safety, fuel efficiency and vehicle operating costs, and reduce travel time to about one hour. The project will enhance connectivity to economic, social and logistics nodes, facilitate cross-border trade via Rupaidiha Land Port and generate 36.54 lakhs person-days direct and 43.04 lakh person-days indirect employment.

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Industry Developments

Pharmaceuticals

NIPER - Roche MoU to Boost Pharma Innovation

NIPER Raebareli signed an MoU with Roche Pharma India to strengthen pharmaceutical education and research, focusing on regulatory affairs, AI-driven drug development, and innovation. The collaboration aims to bridge academia and industry, support skill development, and advance India's transition toward value-driven biopharmaceutical growth.

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PMBJP Expands Access to Affordable Medicines

The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) operates over 18,000 Kendras offering medicines at 50-80% lower prices, with a target of 25,000 by March 2027. The scheme promotes affordable healthcare, digital access, and inclusive entrepreneurship, while enhancing nationwide availability of quality generic medicines.

[Read more](#)

Pharma stocks surge on Ozempic patent expiry

Pharma stocks rose up to 4% as semaglutide patent expiry boosts prospects for cheaper generics and market expansion. Indian drugmakers are expected to launch affordable versions, increasing competition and accessibility. While growth opportunities rise, long-term success will depend on pricing, quality, distribution strength, and ability to capture market share effectively

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Agri & Food processing

India Wholesale Prices Rise in February

India's wholesale prices rose 2.13% year-on-year in February, accelerating from 1.81% in January, driven mainly by higher food prices. Manufactured products increased, while fuel and power prices declined, with the overall rise slightly exceeding economists' expectations.

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BAU Kisan Mela Highlights Nutrition and Farm Growth

The BAU Kisan Mela in Patna focused on nutrition and sustainable farm growth, bringing together experts, scientists, and farmers. The event emphasized modern practices, soil health, organic farming, and innovative technologies, while encouraging adoption of scientific methods to improve productivity and farmer income.

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Govt to address banana farmers issues

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan assured banana farmers and exporters that government will address issues related to pricing, exports and infrastructure. A ₹200-crore banana cluster project was announced, focusing on cold storage, processing and quality planting. Measures include tackling diseases, regulating intermediaries and ensuring fair prices and timely subsidies

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Industry Developments

Aviation

Airlines Raise Fares Amid Fuel Surge

Global airlines are raising fares and cutting routes as jet fuel prices surge due to the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. Delta cited \$400 million in March costs, while disruptions, airspace closures, and supply constraints continue to impact operations worldwide.

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India Introduces Passenger-Friendly Air Travel Rules

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation has mandated that at least 60% seats on flights be offered without selection charges, while ensuring passengers on the same PNR are seated together. The move aims to enhance transparency, affordability, and overall passenger convenience. This initiative reflects a broader focus on consumer-friendly aviation reforms. Implementation is likely to be monitored to ensure compliance across carriers.

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DGCA warns airlines over Middle East airspaces

DGCA asked airlines to avoid 9 airspaces across UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and other Gulf regions amid rising Middle East tensions. Carriers were told to ensure contingency planning and safety measures. The advisory may lead to longer routes, delays and higher fares, reflecting growing risks to aviation operations in conflict-affected zones.

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

Auto Retail Sales See Strong February Growth

India's automobile retail sales rose 26% in February, reaching 19.1 lakh units, driven by sustained consumer demand, according to FADA data. The growth reflects strong performance across segments, highlighting improving sentiment, robust market momentum, and continued recovery in the domestic automotive sector.

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Government Eases EV Rules Under PM E-Drive

The government has extended the PM E-Drive deadline by six months and eased motor import rules for e-bus makers, allowing traction motor imports amid supply constraints. The move supports manufacturers facing component shortages while maintaining momentum in electric mobility and addressing localisation challenges.

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Diesel transport at risk from urea shortage

Auto industry warned that disruption in Technical Grade Urea supply, essential for Diesel Exhaust Fluid, could affect diesel vehicles and logistics. West Asia tensions may impact imports, risking transport operations. Shortages could immobilise trucks, disrupt supply chains and goods movement, prompting industry to seek urgent government action to ensure stable availability.

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Industry Developments

Banking and Financial Services

RBI Cash Infusion Sees Muted Demand

India's RBI saw muted demand for its cash infusion, with banks taking 480 billion rupees of the 1.50 trillion rupees offered. Analysts said preference for flexible funding highlights the need for adaptable operations, as liquidity conditions tighten and longer-duration repos remain less attractive.

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RBI Injects ₹48,014 Crore to Ease Liquidity

The RBI injected Rs 48,014 crore through a 7-day VRR auction to address tightening liquidity conditions caused by advance tax outflows. The move aims to support banking system stability, ensuring smoother operations, while highlighting the central bank's continued efforts to manage short-term liquidity pressures effectively.

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GIFT City emerges as key capital hub

GIFT City now routes 70% of India's external commercial borrowings, highlighting its growing role in global capital flows. Bond listings drove initial growth, while equity listings are expected to be the next trigger. New regulations, global participation and fund activity are strengthening its position as an international financial centre.

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Energy and Natural Resources

India Reports Power Demand and Supply Gap

India reported trends in power generation and demand-supply gap, highlighting ongoing efforts to meet rising electricity needs. The government continues to strengthen capacity and infrastructure to ensure reliable supply, while addressing regional imbalances and improving efficiency across the power sector.

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India's Power Sector Shows Strong Progress

India's installed power capacity reached 520.51 GW, with shortages declining from 4.2% in FY14 to 0.03%. Investments of ₹1.85 lakh crore enabled electrification of 18,374 villages and 2.86 crore households, while reforms improved DISCOM finances and strengthened reliability.

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Govt tags energy data as security matter

Government classified energy data as a national security matter, directing oil and gas companies to share detailed operational information with authorities. The move aims to monitor supply disruptions amid Middle East tensions, strengthen oversight and ensure energy security, overriding confidentiality norms and increasing compliance requirements across the entire energy value chain.

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Industry Developments

Healthcare

India Strengthens Immunisation Coverage

India has significantly strengthened its immunisation programme, with coverage rising from 62% in 2015 to 98.4% in January 2026, while zero-dose children declined to 0.06%. The Universal Immunisation Programme reaches 2.9 crore pregnant women and 2.54 crore newborns annually, supporting improved public health outcomes.

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One Health Approach Strengthens Pandemic Preparedness

A national workshop in Nagpur emphasised the One Health approach as key to pandemic preparedness and national health security. Experts highlighted integrated surveillance, inter-sectoral coordination, and strengthened response systems to address zoonotic diseases, biothreats, and emerging health risks through collaborative policy and scientific frameworks.

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Govt targets universal health coverage by 2033

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said universal health coverage by 2033 is part of government roadmap, with health insurance a key priority. Expansion of insurance penetration, regulatory support and sector growth are driving progress. Government aims to ensure affordable, accessible healthcare for all citizens through public and private participation.

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Infrastructure

Infrastructure Financing Gains Momentum in India

India's public capital expenditure increased from ₹2 lakh crore in FY2014–15 to ₹12.2 lakh crore in 2026–27, reflecting strong infrastructure focus. Measures like the Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund, asset monetisation of ₹1.5 lakh crore, and institutional financing aim to enhance investment, growth, and long-term economic development.

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PM Gati Shakti: Transforming India's Infrastructure and Connectivity

The National Logistics Policy aims to reduce logistics costs, improve efficiency, and enhance India's Logistics Performance Index ranking to the top 25 by 2030. It promotes integrated planning, digital systems, and state-level coordination, strengthening supply chains and supporting economic growth through streamlined, cost-effective logistics infrastructure.

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MUTP gets ₹4,535 crore boost in FY27

MUTP projects received ₹4,535 crore allocation in FY27, up nearly 20% from ₹3,554 crore last year, with Centre and Maharashtra sharing costs. Funds will support rail expansion, station upgrades and congestion relief. Key focus includes Panvel-Karjat corridor nearing completion and procurement of 238 air-conditioned suburban trains.

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Industry Developments

IT and ITES

IT Stocks Rally as AI Concerns Ease

Indian IT stocks witnessed a relief rally as concerns over AI-led disruption eased following reassuring brokerage commentary. The Nifty IT index rose 2.78% after a prior decline, reflecting improved investor sentiment and reduced fears of pricing pressure and deflation in the IT services sector.

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Empowering Governance through Digital Infrastructure

India's digital infrastructure initiatives are enhancing governance through improved service delivery, transparency, and accessibility. The focus on digital platforms, connectivity, and data-driven systems supports efficient public administration, promotes inclusion, and strengthens citizen engagement, contributing to overall socio-economic development and improved government outreach.

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Mysuru GTC to boost digital economy

Karnataka plans Global Technology Centre in Mysuru to expand digital economy beyond Bengaluru. The ₹30 crore project on 10 acres aims to create 10,000 jobs and 1.7 lakh indirect jobs. Affordable workspaces, incubation centres and industry interest are expected to strengthen IT, startups and innovation ecosystem.

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Other Sectors

Indian Railways Makes Major Strides in Track Modernisation and Safety

Indian Railways renewed 6,851 km of track in 2024-25, with over 7,500 km underway and 7,900 km planned. High-speed-capable track increased from 31,445 km in 2014 to 84,244 km, while mechanisation, fencing, and turnout upgrades continue enhancing safety, efficiency, and reliability nationwide.

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India Pushes Indigenous Drone Manufacturing

Raksha Mantri emphasised making India a global drone hub, highlighting 676 start-ups, 58 prototypes worth Rs 3,853 crore, and 45 contracts worth Rs 2,326 crore under iDEX. Over 200 problem statements were unveiled, reinforcing MSME participation, innovation, and defence self-reliance amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

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Delhi's e-waste crisis worsens with replacements

Delhi's e-waste crisis is rising as consumers prefer replacing devices over repairing them due to high costs, lack of spare parts and low trust in repair services. A study highlighted weak repair ecosystem, unskilled technicians and poor infrastructure, urging policy support like right to repair to promote sustainability and reduce waste.

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Regional Developments

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh Signed Reform-Linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

Uttar Pradesh signed a Reform-Linked MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, focusing on accountable and sustainable rural drinking water services. The initiative includes 11 reform areas, promotes community participation, digital governance, and aims to ensure universal household tap water access with long-term sustainability and improved service delivery.

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UP Plans U-Hubs to Boost Startup Ecosystem

Uttar Pradesh plans to establish U-Hubs in Lucknow and Gautam Buddh Nagar with ₹100 crore allocation under the 2026–27 budget. The centres will support startups through incubation, mentorship, research, and investment access, focusing on technology-driven sectors and strengthening the state's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

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UP to launch Nivesh Mitra 3.0

Uttar Pradesh will launch Nivesh Mitra 3.0 to improve ease of doing business with faster approvals and reduced compliance. The platform will offer fewer than 200 services across over 40 departments, AI chatbots, real-time tracking, GIS land bank and integration with National Single Window System, boosting transparency and investor experience.

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Maharashtra

WR Upgrades 16 Locals to 15-Car Trains

Western Railway will upgrade 16 suburban trains from 12-car to 15-car from March 19, increasing total 15-car services from 211 to 227. The move enhances capacity by nearly 20% on the Churchgate–Virar–Dahanu corridor, easing overcrowding while maintaining 1,414 daily services.

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Maharashtra Leads in FDI and Investment Growth

Maharashtra retained top position in attracting FDI, securing MoUs worth over Rs 31 lakh crore at 2026 World Economic Forum. With 75 per cent to 80 per cent conversion rate since 2022, investments span multiple departments, supporting industrial growth, infrastructure development, and balanced regional progress.

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Maharashtra targets 65% renewable energy by 2035-36

Maharashtra approved policy targeting 65% electricity from renewable sources by 2035-36, with 10% energy storage mandate and 85% sourced from renewables. State plans about 100 GW capacity and major storage expansion. Incentives, green zones, open access and infrastructure upgrades aim to attract investment and meet rising power demand sustainably.

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Regional Developments

Gujarat

Ahmedabad Gets Dedicated NIA Court

The Ministry of Home Affairs designated a special NIA court in Ahmedabad to fast-track terror cases, with statewide jurisdiction under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008. The move follows Supreme Court directions and aims to reduce delays, improve efficiency, and strengthen judicial handling of national security cases.

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Gujarat Expands Bus Connectivity with 182 New GSRTC Buses

Gujarat launched 182 new GSRTC buses, one for each Assembly constituency, enhancing last-mile connectivity and public transport coverage. The Rs 62 crore initiative supports underserved areas, with GSRTC operating over 8,000 buses daily, covering 33 lakh kilometres and serving more than 27 lakh passengers.

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Gujarat set to become predominantly urban

Gujarat is set to become predominantly urban with 50.7% population living in cities by next year, driven by industrialisation and policy push. Urban population is projected at 7.48 crore, with municipal corporations rising to 17 and ₹33,500 crore budget allocated for infrastructure, transit and satellite townships development.

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Odisha

Ayush Services Strengthen Rural Healthcare in Odisha

Ayush services in Odisha have expanded with 584 Ayurvedic, 525 Homoeopathic and 2 Unani Medical Officers deployed. Under NAM, 422 Ayushman Arogya Mandir provide services, while camps, training, and tele-consultation via e-Sanjeevani involving 50 centres enhance awareness, accessibility, and holistic healthcare delivery across rural and tribal areas.

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Odisha Unveils Blue Economy Growth Roadmap

Odisha unveiled a roadmap to accelerate its blue economy, focusing on fisheries, marine biotechnology, tourism, and port development. Leveraging its 480 km coastline, the plan aims to boost economic growth, generate employment, strengthen infrastructure, and promote sustainable use of marine resources while improving livelihoods of coastal communities.

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Odisha developers seek land conversion reforms

Real estate developers in Odisha urged government to reform land conversion framework, citing delays, high costs and multiple approvals. They proposed integrating conversion with building plan approvals and adopting digital, transparent systems. Reforms could speed projects, reduce bureaucracy, attract investment and improve ease of doing business in the state.

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Regional Developments

Haryana

Haryana Reviews Panipat Green Hydrogen Project Progress

Haryana reviewed progress of the Panipat Green Hydrogen project with 10,000 tonnes annual capacity, targeted for December 2026 commissioning. The initiative supports clean energy goals, industrial decarbonisation, and policy development, with focus on power supply, investments, and positioning the state as a hub for green hydrogen and low-carbon industries.

[Read more](#)

India, World Bank Partner for Haryana Clean Air

India and the World Bank signed a \$300 million agreement to support Haryana's clean air plan through multi-sectoral interventions. The initiative focuses on policy reforms, investments, and institutional strengthening to reduce pollution, improve air quality, and generate employment, benefiting both the state and the wider NCR region.

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Haryana metro ridership up 13.5%

Haryana metro recorded 13.5% rise in ridership in 2025-26, reaching 1.74 crore passengers from 1.53 crore last year. Fare revenue increased 12.64% while non-fare revenue surged 108%, leading to operating surplus. Expansion plans include new corridors, depot development and improved regional connectivity across key urban routes.

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Karnataka

Karnataka Clears ₹4,824 Crore Investment Proposals

Karnataka approved investment proposals worth Rs 4,824 crore across 13 districts, expected to generate 14,525 jobs. The projects include 37 new industries and 2 additional proposals, with Bagmane's Rs 494 crore IT infrastructure project leading, supporting industrial growth across diverse sectors.

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Karnataka HC Seeks Response on LPG Shortage

The Karnataka High Court sought responses from Centre and State on a plea regarding commercial LPG shortage affecting hotels. The issue has disrupted operations of nearly 40,000 eateries and impacted around 6 lakh workers, prompting concerns over supply allocation, availability, and the need for uninterrupted cylinder distribution.

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TTD to build four temples across states

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams approved construction of four major temples in Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to expand its national presence. Land allocations include 10 acres in Assam and Bihar, 19 acres in Tamil Nadu and 7 acres in Karnataka, promoting Sanathana Dharma and improving religious infrastructure nationwide.

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Regional Developments

Kerela

Kerala Hotels to Shut Over LPG Shortage

Hotels and restaurants across Kerala will shut on March 23 due to severe commercial LPG shortage disrupting operations. The Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association announced the move to press for improved supply, highlighting growing difficulties faced by establishments dependent on cooking gas amid ongoing constraints.

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Kochi Water Metro Model to Expand Nationwide

A feasibility study proposes replicating the Kochi Water Metro model in 18 locations across India, covering 11 states and 2 Union Territories. Conducted by KMRL, the initiative aims to promote sustainable urban transport, leveraging waterways to enhance connectivity, reduce congestion, and support eco-friendly mobility solutions.

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Kerala HC Seeks Progress Report on NH-544 Works

The Kerala High Court directed the interim traffic management committee to submit a report on ongoing works along NH-544, including widening, underpasses, and blackspot rectification. The order follows concerns over congestion and toll collection. The court emphasized timely completion before monsoon and scheduled further hearing while monitoring progress closely.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu Leads India in Textile Exports

Tamil Nadu emerged as India's top textile exporter with \$7,997.17 million in 2024-25, contributing 21.84% of \$36,610 million exports. The state recorded nearly 29% growth from \$6,193.39 million in 2020-21, surpassing Gujarat and Maharashtra, reflecting strong policy support and sustained sectoral growth.

[Read more](#)

TFPC Introduces Rules Prioritising Films

The Tamil Film Producers Council introduced new rules prioritising films over web series, restricting actors and technicians from digital projects during film commitments. The measures aim to instil discipline, streamline production processes, and support long-term growth and stability of the Tamil film industry.

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TN pushes circular economy policy

Tamil Nadu launched Circular Economy Investment Policy 2026 to promote recycling, resource efficiency and sustainable industrial growth. The policy aims to attract green investments, create jobs and help achieve \$1 trillion economy target by 2030, encouraging industries to extract value from waste and align with global sustainability standards.

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Regional Developments

Telangana

Telangana Plans White Paper on Investments

Telangana government is ready to present a white paper on investments and MoUs signed at Davos, highlighting ongoing projects and transparency. The initiative also focuses on developing Pharma City and related infrastructure, while addressing concerns over data accuracy, investment progress, and economic performance.

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Telangana Targets \$3 Trillion Economy by 2047

Telangana's per capita income reached Rs 4.18 lakh, with GSDP estimated at Rs 17.82 lakh crore growing 10.7%. Under Vision 2047, the state targets a \$3 trillion economy, driven by infrastructure, industrial expansion, and balanced development, reinforcing its role in India's economic growth.

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Strategic Initiative to Establish a Major Industrial Cluster in Adilabad

The Telangana government plans a 10,000-acre industrial cluster in Adilabad to promote regional development and attract investment. Strategically located near key infrastructure, the project prioritises non-arable land and careful planning. It aims to generate employment, boost industrial growth beyond Hyderabad, and ensure balanced economic development while addressing land acquisition sensitivities.

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Rajasthan

Six-Laning of Jaipur–Kishangarh NH-48 Progress

NHAI has received nine bids for upgradation to six lanes of around 90 km long Jaipur–Kishangarh section of NH-48 in Rajasthan, approved in February 2026. Implemented on EPC mode, the project aims to enhance traffic flow, safety, and efficiency, reducing travel time from two hours to one hour, while strengthening regional connectivity and economic growth.

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Development Push and Forest Rights Initiative in Tribal Districts

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 326 development projects worth ₹1,902 crore in tribal districts, including Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, Salumber, and Sirohi. He announced a campaign to grant individual and community forest rights, while promoting tribal welfare, cultural preservation, tourism development, and livelihood opportunities for communities.

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Textile Export Centre Boosts SME Growth in Jaipur

A Textile Export Facilitation Centre has been launched in Jaipur to support SMEs in accessing global markets. It offers market intelligence, faster certification, training, and guidance on trade agreements. The initiative aims to bridge gaps between production and exports, enhance competitiveness, and help exporters explore new international markets effectively.

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International

Markets Respond to Iraq-Turkey Oil Export Agreement

Oil prices fell and stock markets rose after Iraq signed a deal to resume exports via Turkey, easing supply concerns amid Middle East tensions. The development supported investor sentiment, while ongoing conflict continued to raise inflation risks and keep central bankers cautious, reflecting persistent uncertainty in global energy markets and economic outlook.

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China's Economic Position Strengthens Amid Global Focus on Trump

China's economy has shown unexpected strength in early 2026, with improvements in industrial production, retail sales, and investment, despite earlier challenges. Strong trade with Europe and Asia and oil imports rising nearly 16% support resilience. While global attention remains on Donald Trump, China's strategic position has quietly strengthened amid ongoing geopolitical and economic uncertainties.

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Modest Rise in U.S. Manufacturing Output

U.S. manufacturing output rose 0.2% in February after an upwardly revised 0.8% gain in January, supported by motor vehicle and high-tech equipment production. However, weakness in machinery and ongoing tariff-related cost pressures persisted. Factory output increased 1.3% year-over-year, reflecting modest resilience amid global uncertainty, supply chain challenges, and subdued capacity utilization levels.

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U.S.-China Talks in Paris Ahead of Leaders' Summit

Senior U.S. and Chinese economic officials met in Paris to address trade issues and advance commitments under a prior truce, aiming to clear the path for a summit between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping. Discussions focused on tariffs, export controls, and market access, reflecting cautious efforts to stabilise relations amid persistent geopolitical and economic tensions.

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Iran-Israel Conflict Triggers Global Energy Shock

Iran intensified attacks on Gulf oil and gas infrastructure following Israel's strike on a key Iranian gas field, marking a major escalation in the ongoing conflict. The retaliation has disrupted critical energy supplies, raising global concerns over oil and gas availability. Markets have reacted with volatility, and fears of prolonged instability are growing. The situation highlights the vulnerability of global energy systems and its widespread economic impact.

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UK Bond Markets React to Inflation Risks Amid War

UK government bond markets declined sharply after the Bank of England warned that rising energy prices, driven by the Middle East conflict, could increase inflationary pressures. While interest rates were held at 3.75%, policymakers signaled possible future tightening. Bond yields surged and market volatility increased, reflecting investor concerns. Updated forecasts indicate inflation may rise above target levels, highlighting the challenge of balancing economic stability with persistent global energy-driven inflation risks.

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