

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAM VOICE



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Industry Developments

Overall

India services PMI growth slows

India's services sector continued to expand in February, but growth moderated slightly compared with January. The HSBC India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 58.1 in February from January's 58.5, well above the 50 mark that signals expansion. New business orders climbed but at the weakest pace in over a year. Order growth reached a 13-month low.

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BMI projects India's FY27 GDP growth at 7%

BMI has projected India's real GDP growth for 2026-27 at seven per cent. However, it cautioned that escalating tensions in West Asia could dampen investment and offset gains from trade deals with the European Union and the United States. Uncertainty may rise sharply, and a full closure of the Strait of Hormuz could shave up to 0.5 percentage points off growth due to higher energy costs.

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India's current account deficit widens to \$13.2 billion in Q3 FY26

India's current account deficit (CAD) widened to \$13.2 billion, or 1.3% of GDP, in the October–December quarter of 2025-26, up from \$11.3 billion (1.1% of GDP) a year earlier, according to preliminary data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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Agri & Food processing

Centre approves projects worth Rs.835 bln under AIF

The Centre has approved projects worth Rs.835.3 billion under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) since its launch in May 2020 to strengthen farm gate storage and logistics, reported Financial Express. More than 165,000 projects have been sanctioned, mobilising investments exceeding Rs.1 trillion including private sector participation.

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Basmati rice prices decline by 5-6 % in domestic market

Basmati rice prices have declined by 5-6 per cent in the domestic market due to the disruption in exports to the Middle East, which holds a share of 50 per cent in India's total rice exports. A continued slowdown in basmati rice exports could increase availability in domestic market and exert additional downward pressure on prices.

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DDKY aims to boost agri & allied sectors across 100 districts

The Centre has stepped up efforts to boost farm output in 100 low-productivity districts under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM DDKY) with an annual outlay of Rs.240 billion for six years, reported Financial Express. The programme promotes oilseeds, pulses, vegetables, fisheries and bee-keeping while linking farmers producer organisations to the NCDEX commodity exchange for better price discovery.

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Aviation

Air India to operate additional international flights to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris

On 4 March 2026, Air India said that it will operate additional international flights to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris in response to strong travel demand as the conflict in West Asia continues for a fifth day, disrupting aviation and travel. The airline will run three additional services between Delhi and Toronto from 5 March 2026 to 11 March 2026.

[Read more](#)

Air India to commence its scheduled operations to & from Jeddah to Delhi and Mumbai from today

Air India said that it plans to commence its scheduled operations to and from Jeddah to Delhi and Mumbai from today, 5 March 2026. As part of this, the airline will operate two flights to Mumbai and one to Delhi from Jeddah.

[Read more](#)

Kempegowda airport ranked 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally' at 2025 ASQ Awards

Officials said that the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked the 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally' at the 2025 ASQ Awards by Airports Council International. This marks its fourth consecutive win. The airport operator Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) said that the recognition reflects the airport's continued focus on delivering a seamless and efficient arrivals experience.

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

Indian auto sales grow 25.6% in February 2026

India's retail vehicle sales rose by 25.6 per cent in February, reaching around 2.41 million units compared with the same month last year. Growth was broad-based, with strong performance across two wheelers, passenger vehicles, and other segments, supported by robust demand in both urban and rural markets.

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Axis Bank partners with Tesla for EV financing

Axis Bank has become the preferred financing partner for Tesla in India, providing customised auto-loan solutions for buyers of Tesla electric vehicles. The bank's offerings include flexible repayment plans, loan tenures of up to 10 years, and a fully digital application and approval process, making it easier for customers to purchase Tesla EVs.

[Read more](#)

MRF to set up new tyre manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu

MRF Ltd plans to invest about Rs.53 billion to establish a new tyre manufacturing facility in the Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu, marking a major expansion of its production capacity. The project will be developed over roughly 12 years and is expected to generate around 1,000 direct jobs while also supporting additional indirect employment through associated industries and suppliers.

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Banking and Financial Services

Sharp 42% rise in secured lending: Experian

Secured lending has recorded a 42 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) rise in the December 2025 quarter from 20 per cent growth in the previous year, according to Experian. Gold loans portfolio reported a 48 per cent y-o-y increase to Rs.10.6 trillion. The demand was supported by small-ticket loans. Meanwhile, home loan portfolios expanded by 11 per cent y-o-y to Rs.41 trillion.

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Banks moving to fixed-price ATM contracts

Banks are increasingly shifting to fixed-price contracts for ATM management, replacing the earlier transaction-based outsourcing model. Of the 17,350 ATM contracts currently in the request-for-proposal stage, around 7,800 are structured under fixed-payment models.

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IRDAI proposes mandatory Ind AS adoption for insurers from 1 April 2026

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has issued a consultation paper proposing that all insurers adopt Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) from 1 April 2026. The proposal aims to bring life, general, health insurers and reinsurers under a globally aligned reporting framework converged with International Financial Reporting Standards.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Japan plans to jointly explore rare earth deposits in Rajasthan

Japan plans to jointly explore rare earth deposits with India. It is in talks with India for rare earth extraction in Rajasthan. Tokyo wants to reduce reliance on China for supplies critical on magnet manufacturing. Reportedly, the Japanese government would be looking to provide technology for extraction as well as for funding in exchange for a stable offtake of rare earths to be taken to Japan.

[Read more](#)

Deadline for feedback on Draft Electricity Policy 2026 extended

The power ministry has extended the deadline for stakeholders to make a remark on the Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 to 19 March 2026 from 19 February 2026. The extension follows requests from stakeholders seeking more time to review the provisions of the draft.

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BERC determines generic levelised tariffs for biomass, cogeneration, gasifier, MSW

The Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission (BERC) has determined the generic levelised tariffs for biomass, cogeneration, gasifier, municipal solid waste (MSW) and refuse-derived fuel (RDF)-based renewable energy projects for the financial year (FY) 2025-26.

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Telangana meets highest-ever electricity demand of 18,139 MW

Telangana successfully met its highest-ever electricity demand of 18,139 MW, without interruption. This milestone reflects the state's economic growth, operational efficiency and excellent coordination.

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Healthcare

Bihar's PMCH adds 90 new beds in women's ward

Bihar's Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) has added 90 new beds in the women's ward. This expansion is part of the state government's ongoing initiative to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and provide world-class medical services within the state.

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India has second-highest number of obese children globally

India has the second-highest number of children living with obesity globally, according to the World Obesity Atlas 2026 released by the World Obesity Federation, raising concerns about a growing public health challenge.

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About 73 million urban Indians overweight, obese: Kantar India

Around 73 million people in urban India are estimated to be overweight or obese, highlighting a growing metabolic health crisis, according to a report by Kantar India. The report also noted that awareness of GLP-1 weight-loss medicines remains very low, with only 4.99 per cent of urban Indians currently aware of these therapies in spite of their rising global use for diabetes management and weight reduction.

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Infrastructure

Bihar govt to fast-track four major road infrastructure projects

The Bihar government has decided to fast-track four major road infrastructure projects. The largest among these projects is the 82.4-km-long Mokama-Munger Greenfield Expressway. It will pass through the Lakhisarai and Sheikhpura districts. Another key projects are the Siwan-Mashrakh road, Bakarpur-Manikpur road and Maheshkhunt-Saharsa-Purnia road.

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Private sector to invest Rs.1 trillion in highways in FY27

Private investors are expected to commit nearly Rs.1 trillion to highway construction in the financial year 2026-27, potentially marking the largest annual private sector investment in India's roads sector. Projects worth Rs.350 billion under the build-operate-transfer (BOT) toll model are set for bidding in the first quarter, with detailed project reports for a further Rs.500-600 billion in projects being finalised for the third and fourth quarters. Most upcoming awards are expected to comprise six-lane access-controlled corridors.

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Andhra Pradesh govt unveils comprehensive plan to position itself as national logistics hub

The Andhra Pradesh government has unveiled a comprehensive plan to position itself as a national logistics hub. The aim is to achieve the lowest logistics costs in India and match global standards, as per The New Indian Express. The roadmap details massive investments in highways, railways, ports and airports, supported by technology-driven reforms & fiscal allocations in the state Budget. The state government will develop 3,358-km of national highways (NH) over three years at a cost of Rs.760 billion, while 12 state highways covering 709-km are set for upgradation.

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IT & ITES

Wipro set to lose multi-million deal to Accenture

Wipro is anticipated to lose its USD 500 million contract with cosmetics company Estee Lauder Companies to Accenture. The five-year agreement, signed under Wipro's former Chief Executive Thierry Delaporte, covered application development and maintenance. According to media reports, nearly 90 per cent of the project is expected to be transferred to Accenture.

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Anthropic's AI plugins raise automation concerns for Indian IT sector

The long-term viability of Indian IT firms has come under scrutiny following the release of artificial intelligence (AI) software plugins by Anthropic. These plugins enable companies to automate a range of tasks, including functions in finance, research and human resources. According to brokerages, such developments could weigh on revenue growth and lead to earnings downgrades across the sector.

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Infosys expands partnership with Intel to boost enterprise adoption of AI

Infosys has expanded its partnership with Intel to accelerate adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) among enterprises. Under the partnership, Infosys Topaz Fabric will be integrated with Intel's high-performance compute platforms, including Intel Xeon processors, Intel Gaudi AI accelerators and Intel AI PCs.

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Pharmaceuticals

Glenmark's subsidiary receives USFDA approval for Fluticasone Propionate inhaler

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said its subsidiary Glenmark Specialty SA received final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for Fluticasone Propionate inhalation aerosol. The drug is a generic version of Flovent HFA inhalation aerosol. The inhaler will be distributed in the US by Glenmark Pharmaceuticals starting March 2026.

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Natco launches generic Pomalidomide in US

Natco Pharma launched generic Pomalidomide capsules in the US in partnership with Breckenridge Pharmaceutical for the treatment of certain blood cancers, including multiple myeloma. The drug is a generic version of Pomalyst and is available in strengths of one mg, two mg, three mg and four mg.

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Zydus shelved early oral GLP-1 drug years before obesity drug boom

Zydus LifeSciences had developed an oral GLP-1 agonist candidate, coded ZYOG1, as early as 2010, years before obesity drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro transformed the market. It shelved the drug's clinical development due to high global trial costs and limited commercial interest in obesity at the time.

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Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh Assembly passes DMA (Amendments) Bill

On 4 March 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed the Disaster Management Act (DMA) (Amendments) Bill. The Bill seeks to strengthen fire safety norms and streamline building approvals. The amendments make No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from fire services department mandatory for commercial, industrial and residential buildings.

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AP govt rolls out action plan to balance paddy cultivation

The Andhra Pradesh government has rolled out a clear action plan to balance paddy cultivation while shifting farmers towards cultivating more remunerative alternative crops. The state government, however, is not asking farmers to abandon paddy but to adopt high-quality, export-friendly varieties.

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State approves formation of NSHIP-AP Ltd as Special Purpose Vehicle

The AP government has approved the formation of National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park Andhra Pradesh (NSHIP-AP) Limited as a Special Purpose Vehicle. It will spearhead the development of a Rs.29.2 billion greenfield port and National Mega Shipbuilding Cluster at Dugarajapatnam in Tirupati district. The proposed entity will be incorporated under the Companies Act as a 50:50 joint venture between the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (APMB) and Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA).

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Gujarat

Union minister allocates Rs.173.6 bln for railway infrastructure in Guj.

The Union railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced a record allocation of Rs.173.6 billion for railway infrastructure in Gujarat in the 2026-27 fiscal. This underscores a significant increase compared to allocations during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) period. The previous allocation between 2009 & 2014 amount to Rs.5.8 billion.

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CM launches 5th edition of herSTART programme

CM Bhupendra Patel launched the fifth edition of the herSTART programme for women entrepreneurs today. The programme provides incubation, mentorship and market access support to women-led startups. The state government aims to strengthen women's participation in innovation and entrepreneurship through this initiative.

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Gujarat govt approves projects worth Rs.286.8 mln

The State has approved development projects worth over Rs.286.8 million. These projects are aimed at modernising pilgrim facilities while preserving the state's historical legacy. Of the total allocation, Rs.200.9 million has been set aside for the holistic development of the famous Harshad Mata Temple.

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Haryana

State govt finalises rabi crop procurement schedule for RMS 2026-27

On 3 March 2026, the Haryana government finalised the rabi crop procurement schedule for the rabi marketing season (RMS) 2026-27. As per the schedule, lentils are to be procured from 20 March to 30 April, mustard from 28 March to 1 May, gram from 1 April to 10 May, summer moong from 15 May to 20 June and sunflower from 1 to 30 June 2026.

[Read more](#)

Haryana ULB, TCP depts get combined allocation of Rs.67.9 bln in 2026-27 Budget

The Haryana urban local bodies (ULB) and town & country planning (TCP) departments have received a 24.8 per cent increase in allocation in the 2026-27 state Budget. The combined outlay for the two departments has been raised to Rs.67.9 billion from Rs.54.4 billion in the previous fiscal year.

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Karnataka

5,340 students register for Yuva Nidhi Plus in Karnataka

Around 5,340 students have registered for the Yuva Nidhi Plus in Karnataka so far. The scheme focuses on skilling college graduates. A government work order has been issued to train 5,340 students for various job roles. Students will be trained under two branches, including the Industry-Linkage Cell (ILC) and Private Vocational Training Programme (VTP).

[Read more](#)

Karnataka govt to set up exclusive AI cell to strengthen policy-making, scheme delivery

The Karnataka government has decided to set up an exclusive artificial intelligence (AI) cell under the state personnel & administrative reforms department's e-governance wing. The objective is to strengthen policy-making, improve the delivery of schemes and leverage the growing impact of AI across sectors.

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KIADB bars non-farming activity on land near Jangamakote in Karnataka

The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has barred non-agricultural activity on land parcels near Jangamakote in Chikkaballapur district, which were recently dropped from being acquired by the state government. This decision is expected to apply to future acquisitions, as per The Times of India. In June 2024, the board had identified 1,142.4 hectares of land across 13 villages near Jangamakote.

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Kerala

Kerala govt sanctions DA, DR arrears of its employees, pensioners

On 4 March 2025, the Kerala government sanctioned the arrears of dearness allowance (DA) of its employees & teachers and dearness relief (DR) arrears for pensioners with retrospective effect. Teachers covered under the University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Medical Education scheme will also be eligible for the arrears.

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Kerala to get Integrated High-Tech Vegetable Agro-Park in Alappuzha

Kerala is set to get its first Integrated High-Tech Vegetable Agro-Park in Alappuzha district. The project is one of five vegetable agro-parks planned across the state. It is aimed at reducing wastage of quality produce while improving farmers' incomes. The move is expected to benefit vegetable growers in Alappuzha as well as Ernakulam, Kottayam and Idukki districts. Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCO) will construct and operate the facility.

[Read more](#)

Kerala CM inaugurates CBG plant at Brahmapuram in Kochi

CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a compressed biogas (CBG) plant at Brahmapuram in Kochi. The plant, constructed by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), can process 150 tonnes of source-segregated biodegradable municipal solid waste (MSW) per day. With this, Kochi becomes the first city in the state to commission a CBG plant to treat biodegradable waste.

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Maharashtra

Budget 2026: State eyes \$5 Trillion Economy By 2047

CM Devendra Fadnavis outlined an ambitious economic vision for Maharashtra during the 2026 Budget Session at Vidhan Bhavan, stating that the state aims to build a \$5 trillion economy by 2047. Speaking in the Assembly while presenting the government's roadmap, Fadnavis highlighted economic growth, infrastructure development, agricultural reforms and welfare initiatives planned for the coming year.

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Maharashtra govt introduces offline system for e-crop registration

The Maharashtra government has introduced a new system to help farmers complete e-crop sowing registration even in areas with poor internet connectivity and technical issues. Farmers can now take photos of their standing crops offline using their mobile phones. The images will automatically upload to the system once the network becomes available.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt announces total abolition of non-agricultural tax for housing societies

The Maharashtra government has announced the total abolition of the non-agricultural (NA) tax for housing societies. The information was shared by state revenue minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule on 4 March 2026. Following this, all past, present and future NA tax levies, including outstanding arrears, have been waived.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates 229 completed projects worth Rs.27.3 billion

On 4 March 2026, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin inaugurated 229 completed projects worth Rs.27.3 billion. He also laid foundation stones for 19 new projects worth Rs.6.5 billion in the state municipal administration and water supply department. The CM inaugurated projects across the following departments in the state water supply and drainage board, six projects completed at a cost of Rs.14 billion.

[Read more](#)

CM inaugurates home for senior citizens at Kolathur in Chennai

CM MK Stalin inaugurated a home for senior citizens at Kolathur in Chennai. It has been established by the Arulmigu Devi Balamman and Ilankalamman Temple at a cost of Rs.118.8 million. The home is spread over 25,500 square feet and could accommodate 75 elderly citizens.

[Read more](#)

CM orders disbursement of specialised relief package to 3.7 mln people

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin has ordered the immediate disbursement of a specialised financial relief package to over 3.7 million beneficiaries across the state. The package would cover the elderly, differently abled and agrarian communities, as per The Economic Times.

[Read more](#)

Telangana

Rabi paddy production in Telangana expected to be 14.6 mt

The rabi paddy production in Telangana is expected to be 14.6 million tonnes (mt). With this, the total annual paddy production will be 29.6 mt. As the season comes to a close, the state government is preparing to procure at least two-thirds of the produce, spending over Rs.200 billion. Farmers grew paddy on about 2.2 million hectares in the rabi season, as against the season's normal of two million hectares, showing a 10 per cent increase.

[Read more](#)

Telangana govt to prepare comprehensive health profiles of 4.6 million women

The Telangana health department has decided to prepare comprehensive health profiles of 4.6 million women belonging to self-help groups (SHGs) across the state. Each woman will undergo 30 types of medical tests through Telangana Diagnostics as part of the initiative. The plan will be implemented in four phases.

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Telangana govt to install solar panels on rooftops of all poor families

The Telangana government has decided to install solar panels on the rooftops of all poor families in the state. In the first phase, a target has been set for installing panels on two million houses by the end of December 2026 at a cost of Rs.240 billion. All houses of the poor families are expected to be covered in two years.

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Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh govt signs MoUs worth Rs.30.3 bln

The Uttar Pradesh government signed MoUs worth Rs.30.3 billion recently. The investments are expected to generate employment for nearly 230,000 people, reinforcing the state's push toward large-scale industrial expansion. In the education and skills ecosystem, Advait Learning Private Limited, in collaboration with upGrad, signed an MoU focused on commerce and space education upskilling initiatives.

[Read more](#)

UP Skill Development Mission allocates sector-wise training targets

Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission (UPSDM) has allocated sector-wise training targets to Industrial Training Providers (ITP) under the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) scheme. The objective is to implement skill development programmes in mission mode to provide industry-oriented, employment-focused training to the youth.

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Uttar Pradesh govt approves widening of four key roads in Barabanki

The Uttar Pradesh government has approved the widening of four key roads in Barabanki. These include the Gazipur-Dariyabad to Pandeypurwa road, Purbalavant to Mau-Devgunj Subeha road, Bandha Road via Subedar Ka Purwa to Kothari Gorla road and Purezoga to Gobre Ka Purwa Road. The move is expected to enhance transportation and accelerate rural development in the region.

[Read more](#)

Union Territories

Centre releases Rs.640 mln for establishment of PM Ekta Mall in Puducherry

The central government has released a sum of Rs.640 million under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for the establishment of PM Ekta Mall in Puducherry. The mall will provide a marketplace for products of local artisans. It will have thematic retail zones dedicated to One District One Product, GI-tagged goods and crafts from across the union territory.

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PM inaugurates RCC building at JIPMER in Puducherry

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated the newly-constructed Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) building at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry. The facility has been built at a cost of Rs.946.4 million.

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Delhi govt extends existing excise policy till 31 March

The Delhi government has extended the existing excise policy till 31 March 2027. The policy was set to expire on 31 March 2026. The aim is to ensure continuity of the policy and prevent disruption in liquor supply in the national capital. This is the longest extension of the old excise policy, as per The Times of India.

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International Developments

State visit of the Prime Minister of Canada to India

During the visit of the Prime Minister of Canada to India, several agreements and initiatives were announced to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The Terms of Reference for negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement were finalised to guide discussions on trade and related policy areas. Both sides also advanced collaboration in technology, innovation, renewable energy, critical minerals, and culture. Agreements were signed on nuclear fuel supply, research internships, and a pulse protein centre of excellence. Additional announcements included academic partnerships, defence dialogue, CEO forum reconstitution, Canada's participation in multilateral initiatives, and cooperation in talent, innovation, and cultural engagement.

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State visit of the President of Finland to India

During the visit of the President of Finland to India, both sides concluded agreements and announced initiatives to deepen bilateral cooperation. An MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership aims to facilitate the movement of skilled professionals, particularly in technology and innovation sectors. The existing environmental cooperation agreement was renewed, covering areas such as bioenergy, renewable energy systems, and green hydrogen. Another MoU focuses on collaboration and exchange of best practices in official statistics. The two countries also elevated relations to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability, alongside initiatives in digital technologies, startup collaboration, research cooperation, circular economy, trade expansion, and consular dialogue.

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India and Canada launch negotiations for Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India and Canada launched negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in New Delhi following the signing of the Terms of Reference by the Minister of Commerce and Industry, India and the Minister of International Trade of Canada. The agreement aims to guide negotiations on trade in goods, services, and other policy areas through a structured framework. Both sides intend to conclude a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement that strengthens economic engagement and supports the target of reaching USD 50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, while expanding cooperation across key sectors and services.

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India-Japan CEPA joint committee reviews progress and discusses trade cooperation

The 7th Joint Committee Meeting under the India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was held in Tokyo on 2 March 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, and the Senior Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Both sides reviewed the implementation of CEPA and explored ways to strengthen bilateral economic engagement. Discussions also covered trade and investment, business environment improvements, and upcoming multilateral engagements. The Secretary highlighted opportunities to expand Indian exports, promote balanced trade, and deepen cooperation in technology, manufacturing, and global value chains.

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International Developments

India presents vision for affordable and future-ready connectivity at Mobile World Congress 2026

The Union Minister of Communications led India's engagements at Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona, Spain, participating in key ministerial sessions and a main stage keynote. Addressing discussions on "Breaking the Cost Barrier," the Minister highlighted India's vision for affordable, inclusive, and intelligent digital connectivity. During the visit, the Minister inaugurated the Bharat Pavilion and unveiled the curtain raiser for IMC 2026. The engagements also included bilateral meetings, interactions with global industry leaders, and visits to technology booths, aimed at strengthening collaboration and promoting India's digital innovation and telecommunications ecosystem.

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NITI Aayog and UNICEF India sign statement of intent to strengthen nutrition interventions

NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent to support strategic interventions aimed at improving maternal and child nutrition outcomes in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks. The agreement was signed by the Additional Secretary and Mission Director of the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme, NITI Aayog, and the Deputy Representative of UNICEF India. The collaboration will focus on strengthening implementation systems, promoting multi-stakeholder engagement, and supporting nutrition and health initiatives at the block level. It will also facilitate CSR partnerships, enhance Anganwadi infrastructure, improve nutrition awareness, and build the capacity of frontline workers.

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