





The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

**ASSOCHAM**VOICE



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# Cabinet Decisions

## Cabinet approves Minimum Support Price for Copra for 2026 season

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for copra for the 2026 season. In line with the Union Budget 2018–19 decision to fix MSPs at a minimum of 1.5 times the all-India weighted average cost of production, the MSP has been set at Rs. 12,027 per quintal for Fair Average Quality milling copra and Rs. 12,500 per quintal for ball copra.

The MSP for 2026 represents an increase of Rs. 445 per quintal for milling copra and Rs. 400 per quintal for ball copra over the previous season. Since 2014, MSPs have risen sharply—from Rs. 5,250 to Rs. 12,027 per quintal for milling copra and from Rs. 5,500 to Rs. 12,500 per quintal for ball copra—reflecting growth of 129 percent and 127 percent, respectively.

The higher MSP is expected to ensure better and more remunerative returns for coconut growers while encouraging expansion of copra production to meet rising domestic and global demand for coconut-based products. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) will continue to serve as Central Nodal Agencies for copra procurement under the Price Support Scheme (PSS).

[Read more](#)

## Cabinet approves CoalSETU window

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Policy for Auction of Coal Linkage for Seamless, Efficient and Transparent Utilisation (CoalSETU) by introducing a new “CoalSETU window” under the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) Linkage Policy. This reform will allow coal linkages to be allocated through auctions on a long-term basis for any industrial use and for export, further strengthening ongoing coal sector reforms. Coking coal will not be offered under this window.

Under the new CoalSETU window, any domestic buyer requiring coal for industrial use can participate in the linkage auctions without end-use restrictions, aligning with the broader opening of the coal sector for commercial mining. Traders will not be permitted to participate. This policy builds on the existing NRS Linkage Policy of 2016, under which coal linkages were allocated to specified end-use sectors such as cement, steel, sponge iron and aluminium through auctions.

The existing auction mechanism for specified end-use sub-sectors under NRS will continue, and eligible end-users may also participate in the CoalSETU window. Coal obtained under this window may be used for own consumption, coal washing, or export, but not for domestic resale. Linkage holders will be allowed to export up to 50% of their allocated coal and may flexibly utilise coal across their group companies.

The policy aims to improve ease of doing business, ensure efficient utilisation of domestic coal reserves, reduce dependence on imports, and support growing demand for washed coal. By enabling washery operators and exporters to access coal linkages, the policy is expected to increase availability of washed coal domestically and enhance India's coal exports.

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# Cabinet Decisions

## Cabinet approves scheme of Conduct of Census of India 2027

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the conduct of the Census of India 2027 with a total outlay of Rs. 11,718.24 crore. The Census, the largest administrative and statistical exercise in the world, will be conducted in two phases—Houselisting and Housing Census from April to September 2026, and Population Enumeration in February 2027. For Ladakh and other snow-bound non-synchronous areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, population enumeration will be conducted in September 2026.

About 30 lakh field functionaries will be deployed to carry out this nationwide exercise, visiting every household to collect data. Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital Census, with data collection through mobile applications and real-time monitoring via a dedicated Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal. Citizens will also be given the option of self-enumeration, and strong security features have been built in to safeguard data. Census data will be disseminated in a user-friendly manner, including through Census-as-a-Service (CaaS), enabling ministries to access clean, machine-readable and actionable datasets for policy making.

New technological initiatives include a Houselisting Block (HLB) Creator web map application for field planning and enhanced digital tools for supervision and monitoring. A comprehensive nationwide publicity campaign will ensure awareness, inclusive participation and last-mile engagement. As decided by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs in April 2025, caste enumeration will also be included in Census 2027 and captured digitally during the Population Enumeration phase.

The Census is expected to generate significant employment and capacity building. Around 18,600 technical personnel will be engaged for nearly 550 days, generating about 1.02 crore man-days of employment, while also building digital and data-handling skills at local, district and state levels. Census 2027 will be the 16th Census of India and the 8th since Independence, conducted under the Census Act, 1948 and Census Rules, 1990, and will continue to serve as the most comprehensive source of granular socio-economic and demographic data down to the village and ward level.

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# Industry Developments

## Overall

### Crisil pegs FY26 GDP growth at 7%

India's real GDP is projected to grow by seven per cent in 2025-26, up from 6.5 per cent in 2024-25, driven mainly by domestic consumption, Crisil Intelligence stated in its report. The agency flagged benign inflation, Goods and Services Tax rationalisation and income tax relief as key supports, even as United States tariffs pose risks to exports and investment.

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### Axis Bank projects India's GDP growth for 2026-27 at 7.5%

Axis Bank, in its Outlook 2026 research report, stated that India remains the fastest-growing large economy, with real GDP growth projected at 7.5 per cent in both 2025-26 and 2026-27. The report points to receding fiscal and monetary headwinds, slower fiscal consolidation and the lagged impact of monetary easing as key drivers of sustained above-trend growth.

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### Engineering exports up 23.7% in Nov 2025

Engineering goods exports rebounded sharply in November 2025, growing by 23.7 per cent year-on-year to about USD 11 billion despite tariff-related headwinds, according to industry body EEPC India. Exports had stood at USD 8.9 billion in the same month last year, following a steep decline in October.

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## Agri & Food processing

### Rice exports remain flat at USD 7.3 bln during Apr-Nov 2025

Rice exports from India have remained flat at around USD 7.3 billion during April-November 2025 compared to USD 7.29 billion in the same period last year. This was due to higher global stocks and robust crop yield across major producing countries. Rice exports from India declined by 30 per cent to USD 0.8 billion in November 2025 from USD 1.1 billion in the year-ago month.

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### Prices of global agri commodities likely to rise in 2026

Prices of global agricultural commodities are likely to rise in 2026 with new markets and uses providing avenues for growth, according to media reports. Grain prices are expected to increase on an annual average basis in 2026.

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### Vegetable oil imports decline by 28% in Nov 2025

Vegetable oil imports to India declined by 28 per cent in November 2025 compared to the same period last year. This was because shipments of refined, bleached and deodorised (RBD) palm oil dropped to 3,500 tonnes, according to data from the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA).

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## Aviation

### IndiGo cancels 113 flights across its network due to bad weather at Delhi airport

IndiGo cancelled 113 flights across its network due to disruptions caused by bad weather at Delhi airport on Tuesday, 16 December 2025. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has announced 10 December 2025 to 10 February 2026 as the official fog window during this winter.

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### Navi Mumbai Intl Airport to receive its first passenger flight on 25 Dec

The Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMI), which is set to receive its first passenger flight on 25 December 2025, according to a media report.

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### DGCA probe panel members visit IndiGo's headquarter

As part of the ongoing probe, the four-member panel, set up by the Director General of Civil Aviation Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, to investigate large-scale operational disruptions at domestic carrier IndiGo earlier this month, visited the airline's headquarters on Monday, 15 December 2025. The four-member panel comprise of Joint DG Sanjay Brahamane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, senior Flight Operations Inspector Kapil Manglik, and FOI Lokesh Rampal.

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## Automobiles and Ancillaries

### Citroen India sees strong sales and export growth in December quarter

Citroen India experienced a significant rebound in the December quarter, with domestic sales rising threefold compared to the previous quarter and exports growing nearly 19 per cent, driven by strong demand from Africa and ASEAN markets. The growth follows the company's 'Citroen 2.0' strategy, which focuses on deepening localisation, expanding dealer networks, enhancing customer experience, and refreshing its model lineup with India-centric offerings.

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### No plan to phase out or retrofit vehicles not compatible with E20 fuel

India's Road Transport and Highways Minister clarified that vehicles not compliant with the new E20 ethanol-blended petrol standard will not be phased out or retrofitted. Studies indicate that normal engine wear from using E20 fuel can be managed through routine maintenance. Vehicle manufacturers are expected to clearly label models for fuel compatibility, helping consumers identify which vehicles can safely use the ethanol blend.

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### Range and charging concerns keep EVs as secondary vehicles in India

Maruti Suzuki said that electric vehicles (EVs) are often considered secondary cars by Indian consumers due to worries about limited driving range, inadequate public charging infrastructure, and uncertainties around resale value and after-sales support.

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# Banking and Financial Services

## RBI's dollar-rupee swap to inject USD 5 billion in banking system

The Reserve Bank of India's three-year dollar-rupee swap will absorb USD 5 billion from the market and inject an equivalent amount of rupees into the banking system to support liquidity and improve transmission of rate cuts, according to media reports. The auction is expected to be fully subscribed due to surplus dollar liquidity with banks.

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## Term loans more than half of MSME credit

Term loans constitute more than half of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) credit, according to Crif High Mark. These are especially significant for medium enterprises. In contrast, micro and small businesses rely largely on working capital facilities.

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## PSBs dominate micro segment in MSME credit

Public sector banks dominate lending to the micro segment of the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, according to Crif High Mark. It holds a 36.3 per cent share of the outstanding credit of micro enterprises.

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# Energy & Natural Resources

## Odisha to get 4,900 MW thermal & green energy projects

Odisha is set to get 4,900 megawatt (MW) capacity thermal and green energy projects. The development will be undertaken by the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL) in association with Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)..

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## BSPGCL signs MoUs to set up pumped storage power projects in Bihar

The Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited (BSPGCL) has signed MoUs with two private developers to set up pumped storage power projects in Nawada district. The investment for the same has been pegged at Rs.130 billion. The development will be taken up under the Bihar Pump Storage Project Promotion Policy.

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## NTPC aims to increase coal production to 100 MT

NTPC aims to increase NTPC Mining's coal production to 100 million tonnes, according to Gurdeep Singh, CMD, NTPC. He emphasised the need to increase the target from the current 30 MT to 100 MT during the inauguration of Stratum 2025, a two-day national mining conference organised by NML.

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## ONGC may begin producing in Ashoknagar oil field soon

ONGC is expected to commence production at the Ashoknagar oil field soon. The production sharing contract for exploration block WB-ONN-2005/4 was signed between ONGC and Oil India during New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) Round 7.

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# Healthcare

## Mizoram sign loan deal with ADB to strengthen Health Care Scheme

The Mizoram govt. will soon sign a loan deal amounting to USD 108 million with the Asian Development Bank to implement the Mizoram Universal Health Care Scheme (MUHCS). Around 90 per cent of the loan amount will be repaid by the Centre, while the state government will repay 10 per cent within 15 years.

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## Reliance plans to introduce low-cost genomic testing

Reliance Industries is preparing to enter the genomic testing space with plans to sharply cut test prices to below Rs.1,000, positioning the move as a mass-access healthcare initiative. Through its subsidiary Strand Life Sciences, Reliance aims to scale genetic and cancer-screening diagnostics by lowering sequencing costs and expanding reach across income groups.

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## IHH targets 7,000 beds in India by 2028

IHH Healthcare said it is on course to expand its capacity in India to about 7,000 beds by 2028 after completing the open offer for an additional stake in Fortis Healthcare. Following the transaction, IHH now holds over 31 per cent in Fortis and a majority stake in Malar Hospitals.

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# Infrastructure

## Rajasthan's Jaisalmer railway station redeveloped at cost of Rs.1.4 bln

Rajasthan's Jaisalmer railway station has been redeveloped at an estimated cost of Rs.1.4 billion. The revamped railway station has been designed as a blend of local architectural heritage and modern technology. With passenger convenience in mind, the station has been equipped with lifts & escalators, modern waiting halls, improved lighting and upgraded sanitation facilities.

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## Mizoram CM lays foundation stones for educational infra in Aizawl

On 16 December 2025, Mizoram Chief Minister (CM) Lalduhoma laid foundation stones for a Mara Girls' Hostel, eight new schools and the upgradation of six existing schools at the Mara Boys' Hostel in Aizawl. The facilities, once completed, will benefit around 3,200 Mara students.

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## Mizoram to get 3 inland waterway projects

Mizoram is set to get three inland waterway projects aimed at improving connectivity, trade and tourism in the state. The projects target the Tlawng and Chhimtuipui rivers, involving navigability surveys, feasibility studies & infrastructure development, including terminals and jetties. Stage-I construction is already underway in Lunglei district, with a projected cost of Rs.98.2 million.

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## Kerala govt to start work on phase-II of Vizhinjam port from Jan 2026

The Kerala government is planning to start the construction of the second phase of the Vizhinjam International Seaport in the second week of January 2026. The information was shared by state ports minister VN Vasavan. In the upcoming phase, the existing 800-metre berth will be extended by 1,200-metre, making it a 2,000-metre berth. This will allow larger ships to dock simultaneously.

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## IT & ITES

### Persistent partners with DigitalOcean to offer AI to enterprises

Persistent Systems has entered into a partnership with Digital Ocean to offer artificial intelligence (AI) to enterprises and developers worldwide. Under the partnership, Persistent's AI engineering expertise and platform innovation will be combined with DigitalOcean's robust agentic cloud infrastructure and AI platform.

[Read more](#)

### Mid-size IT firms outpace large caps in market share gains

Indian mid-sized IT companies have recorded their fastest market share gains in the first half of the financial year 2025-26, as large-cap firms ceded ground, according to industry analysts. The combined market share of mid- and small-cap companies rose by 22 basis points year-on-year during the first half, while the top six India-based IT services firms collectively lost 40 basis points.

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### AI-driven strategy fuels Capgemini India's growth

AI-driven value is fuelling growth at Capgemini India, according to Ananth Chandramouli, Managing Director of the company's India business. The firm is positioning its core operations, along with the proposed integration of WNS, an acquisition valued at USD 3 billion, at the heart of this strategy, in response to rising demand from GCCs and enterprises. Under its AI-first approach, Capgemini focuses on four key areas: business operations; research and development for product creation; go-to-market activities, including sales and marketing; and IT and software development.

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## Pharmaceuticals

### Odisha govt unveils Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Policy

On 16 December 2025, the Odisha government unveiled Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Policy. The aim is to attract investment of Rs.250 billion and create 100,000 jobs by 2030. In a major boost to the medical sector, 45 MoUs worth Rs.62.6 billion have been signed. These agreements are projected to generate 38,406 direct employment opportunities.

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### Senores Pharma to acquire Apnar Pharma for Rs.910 million

Senores Pharma has signed an agreement to acquire 100 per cent of Apnar Pharma through a two-stage transaction valued at Rs.910 million, after which Apnar will become a wholly owned subsidiary. The deal includes taking over Rs.760 million of debt and liabilities linked to Apnar's Vadodara manufacturing plant, while Rs.150 million will be paid in cash across two tranches.

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### Supriya Lifesciences aims for Rs.16 billion in revenue in next 3 years

Supriya Lifescience said it is targeting revenue of about Rs.16 billion over the next three years for its Lote MIDC and upcoming Ambarnath facilities as expansion projects come on stream. The company expects around 20 per cent growth in 2025-26 and plans to drive this through capacity additions, new product launches and contract manufacturing opportunities.

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# Regional Developments

## Andhra Pradesh

### Minister inaugurates free civil services coaching programme

On 16 December 2025, Andhra Pradesh social welfare minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjaneeya Swamy inaugurated the free civil services coaching programme for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) aspirants in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Tirupati. The programme has been launched with the objective of providing structured, focused and preparation for the civil services examination.

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### Andhra Pradesh govt to establish AAD Education City in Vizianagaram

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to establish the country's first integrated Aviation, Aerospace and Defence (AAD) Education City in Vizianagaram's Bhogapuram. The project aims to address the growing domestic and global demand for skilled aviation professionals.

[Read more](#)

### TUDA plans to prepare DPR on development of Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh's Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) has planned to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) on the comprehensive development of Tirupati. The DPR will be prepared in coordination with the state irrigation department and international agencies like the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (South Asia).

[Read more](#)

## Gujarat

### Gujarat CM lays foundation stones for URDCL projects worth Rs.2.4 bln

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel recently laid foundation stones for various projects of the Urban Ring Development Corporation Limited (URDCL) at an estimated cost of Rs.2.4 billion. He also inaugurated various projects worth Rs.6 billion in Surat. In another development, Surat district in-charge and finance minister has informed that, the state government has allocated a substantial budget of Rs.300 billion for urban development for 2025-26.

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### RBI approves amalgamation of 2 cooperative banks in Gujarat

The RBI has approved the voluntary amalgamation of two cooperative banks in Gujarat. These include the Amod Nagric Cooperative Bank Limited and Bhuj Mercantile Cooperative Bank Limited. Following the amalgamation, all branches of the former bank will operate as branches of the latter.

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### Union minister inaugurates Electrotherm Park in Gujarat

Union home minister Amit Shah recently inaugurated the Electrotherm Park in Gujarat's Ahmedabad. It is a 11,600 square metre public garden developed in South Bopal under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The park has been developed as a modern and eco-friendly urban space, encouraging engagement & outdoor activity.

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# Haryana

## Hansi declared as 23rd district of Haryana

On 16 December 2025, Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini declared Hansi as the 23rd district of the state. The official notification declaring Hansi a district will be issued within a week. With this, Hisar district will have two subdivisions of Hisar and Barwala, while the newly-formed Hansi district will have Hansi & Narnaund subdivisions.

[Read more](#)

## Haryana govt to register 13.8 mln farmers under AgriStack

The Haryana government has decided to register around 13.8 million farmers under the Farmer Registry-AgriStack through a one-time password (OTP)-based Aadhaar authentication process. Deputy commissioners have been asked to launch special campaigns by organising village-level camps in close coordination with the state revenue and agriculture departments to accelerate the implementation.

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## Haryana govt issues new guidelines for issuance and renewal of fire safety certificates

The Haryana government has issued new guidelines for the issuance and renewal of fire safety certificates (FSC). The policy, framed under the Haryana Fire and Emergency Services Act, introduces a technology-driven, transparent and time-bound mechanism. The new system aims to ensure faster service delivery without compromising on safety standards.

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# Karnataka

## Karnataka Assembly passes 12 Bills

The Karnataka Assembly passed 12 key Bills on 16 December 2025. These include the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Second Amendment) Bill to strengthen metropolitan administration. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill aims to rectify long-standing anomalies and ensure legality and standardisation of land records in Kodagu district.

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## Segregation of waste at source improves in Karnataka's Bengaluru

The segregation of waste at source has significantly improved in Karnataka's Bengaluru. The information was shared by the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML). Following this, there has been a rise in the collection of low-value plastic waste. This has come following the extensive Information, Education & Communication (IEC) programmes undertaken to improve public awareness and participation in waste segregation at source.

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## SWR to introduce new amenities at railway stations in Bengaluru

The South Western Railway (SWR) has decided to introduce a range of new amenities at railway stations in Bengaluru. Some of the facilities launched at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Bengaluru railway station AC waiting areas, dedicated booking kiosks for cab & auto aggregators and expanded food & beverage options featuring major catering service providers & popular restaurant chains.

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## Madhya Pradesh

### MP Cabinet gave approval to convert temporary posts in govt depts into permanent ones

On 16 December 2025, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cabinet approved a proposal to convert approved temporary posts in state government departments into permanent ones. The decision also reduces the existing categories of permanent and contractual posts from 10 to five.

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### CM lays foundation for 1,450-bedded hospital building

On 14 December 2025, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone for a new 1,450-bedded hospital building within the Maharaja Yashwantrao (MY) Hospital complex in Indore. The new facility will not only benefit local residents but also patients from border districts in neighbouring states.

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### Madhya Pradesh Cabinet takes several important decisions

The MP Cabinet recently took several important decisions. As part of this, a special package of Rs.17.8 billion has been approved for areas affected by submergence under the Upper Narmada Project, Raghavpur Multipurpose Project and Basania Multipurpose Project. This package will support irrigation projects in Anuppur, Mandla and Dindori districts, with a total project cost of Rs.55.1 billion.

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## Maharashtra

### Uthalpeth becomes Maharashtra's largest fully solar-powered village

Uthalpeth, a village in Mul taluka of Chandrapur district, has become Maharashtra's largest fully solar-powered village. Solar panels have been installed on all 180 households, reported The Times of India. It is also Vidarbha's second village to achieve 100 per cent solar power after Chichghat-Rathi village in Wardha district.

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### Maharashtra's Nashik to get National Onion Bhavan

The Maharashtra State Onion Producer Farmers' Organisation has announced plans to set up a National Onion Bhavan in Nashik. The aim is to check price regulation, market monitoring and supporting farmers from cultivation to marketing. All key decisions related to the production, storage, marketing and price regulation of Indian onions will now be brought directly into the hands of farmers.

[Read more](#)

### Maharashtra's PMRDA floats Rs.6.7 bln tenders to construct STPs along Indrayani river

Maharashtra's Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) has floated Rs.6.7 billion tenders to construct sewage treatment plants (STPs) along the Indrayani river. The 105-km-long Indrayani, originating near Kurwande village in Maval and joining the Bhima river at Tulapur in Haveli taluka, flows through culturally significant towns such as Alandi & Dehu.

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# Tamil Nadu

## Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi gets 4 more village panchayats

Tamil Nadu's Tiruchi administration has created four more village panchayats. As part of the move, Puthanatham in Manapparai panchayat union has been bifurcated into Puthanatham & Edayapatti panchayats, whereas Krishnasamudram in Tiruverumbur panchayat union is divided into Krishnasamudram & Semmangulam panchayats.

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## Tamil Nadu minister launches Athlete Management System

On 16 December 2025, Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin launched the Sports Tamil Nadu Athlete Management System. It is a digital platform that will serve as an insightful performance tracker for the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) athletes.

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## Tamil Nadu leads among southern states in key people-facing parameters

Tamil Nadu is leading southern states in key people-facing parameters that influence the livelihood and quality of life, such as factories, jobs and tourist footfall, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) statistics. The state's manufacturing-powered growth, evident in its strong export figures and GSDP growth, is outpacing Karnataka's tech-centric economy.

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# Telangana

## Telangana CM seeks central aid to strengthen education sector

Telangana Chief Minister (CM) A Revanth Reddy has urged Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman to extend the Centre's support to the state to strengthen the education sector. The aim is to provide quality education to students of marginalised communities such as Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Classes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and minority communities.

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## Telangana govt to consider selling small parcels of land measuring less than 100 square yards

The Telangana government will consider selling small parcels of land, measuring less than 100 square yards, located adjacent to previously allotted Housing Board houses. The information was shared by state revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. The decision was discussed during a review meeting with Housing Board officials on 15 December 2025.

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## Hyderabad's office market set to expand with cloud and tech investments

Hyderabad's office real estate market is experiencing strong growth driven by investments from global technology companies in cloud, AI, and data centre infrastructure. This surge in demand is expected to increase office space absorption and reinforce the city's standing as a major technology and commercial hub. The influx of capital and corporate activity is also likely to stimulate further development, making Hyderabad one of the fastest-growing office markets in the country.

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## Uttar Pradesh

### Uttar Pradesh's Noida Authority rolls out action plan to curb pollution

Uttar Pradesh's Noida Authority has rolled out a comprehensive action plan with an aim to curb pollution. Measures that will be taken include fleet modernisation, restrictions on daily activities and push for hybrid work models. The administration has committed to a major overhaul of its own vehicle fleet to reduce tailpipe emission.

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### Uttar Pradesh govt to construct 35 new cow protection centres

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to construct 35 new cow protection centres across 16 districts in the state. These include Shahjahanpur, Ayodhya, Amethi, Barabanki, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Hapur and Hardoi, among others. A sum of Rs.560.4 million has been released for the project.

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### 57-km-long green corridor to come up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

The Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) in Uttar Pradesh is constructing a 57-km-long green corridor between IIM Road and Kisan Path. Over 500,000 people will be able to commute easily along the banks of the Gomti river, boosting the regional connectivity. A 250-metre-long bridge will be built over the Gomti River as part of the project.

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## Union Territories

### Centre approves computerisation of 10 PACS in Ladakh

Ladakh has made significant progress in strengthening the cooperative landscape. With this, the Centre has approved computerisation of 10 primary agricultural credit societies (PACS) in the union territory (UT) in the first phase. The information was shared by state cooperation minister Amit Shah on 16 December 2025.

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### J&K minister inaugurates Rs.30 mln Indoor Stadium at Khour

Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) minister for youth services and sports Satish Sharma recently inaugurated the Rs.30 million indoor stadium with multi-sports facility at Khour, Jammu. This marks a significant milestone in strengthening the sports infrastructure in the border areas of the union territory (UT).

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### Delhi govt issues measures to combat air pollution

The Union communications ministry has announced an enhancement in telecom connectivity across Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh. It has confirmed that the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has installed 2,080 new 4G towers under its ongoing revival programme.

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### Puducherry LG inaugurates building of Lawspet police station

On 14 December 2025, Puducherry Lieutenant Governor (LG) K Kailashnathan inaugurated the building of the Lawspet police station on East Coast Road. The new building, constructed at a cost of Rs.27.4 million, has been equipped with all facilities, reported The Hindu.

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# International Developments

## Prime Minister's state visit to Jordan

The visit resulted in the signing and renewal of several bilateral instruments aimed at strengthening cooperation across priority sectors. These include memoranda of understanding on technical collaboration in new and renewable energy, as well as on water resources management and development. A twinning agreement was concluded between Petra and Ellora to promote cultural linkages. The cultural exchange programme was renewed for the 2025-2029 period. In addition, a letter of intent was signed to cooperate on sharing population-scale digital solutions for digital transformation.

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## Prime Minister's state visit to Ethiopia

The visit marked the elevation of bilateral relations to the level of a Strategic Partnership. Key outcomes included agreements on cooperation and mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, and the establishment of a data centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. An implementing arrangement was concluded for cooperation in United Nations peacekeeping operations training. An MoU on debt restructuring under the G20 Common Framework was signed. Educational cooperation was strengthened through expanded scholarships, specialised short-term courses in artificial intelligence, and support to enhance maternal and neonatal healthcare capacity at a hospital in Addis Ababa.

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## Prime Minister's state visit to Oman

The visit led to the conclusion of multiple agreements to deepen bilateral cooperation. A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was signed to strengthen economic integration, expand trade, and boost investment across key sectors. Memoranda of understanding were concluded in maritime heritage and museums, agriculture and allied sectors, and higher education to promote collaboration, research, and capacity building. An executive programme was adopted to advance cooperation in millet cultivation and agri-food innovation. In addition, a joint vision document on maritime cooperation was adopted, focusing on regional maritime security, the blue economy, and sustainable ocean resource use.

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## India-Oman sign Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India and Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, marking a significant step in bilateral economic engagement. The agreement provides near-complete duty-free market access for Indian exports, benefiting labour-intensive sectors and supporting employment generation. It includes ambitious services commitments, enhanced mobility for professionals, and provisions for full foreign investment in key services. Cooperation was expanded to traditional medicine, pharmaceuticals, standards, and certification, including faster regulatory approvals and mutual recognition mechanisms. The agreement also allows for future negotiations on social security coverage for workers.

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# International Developments

## India and Argentina conclude ICAR-INTA work plan for 2025-27

India and Argentina signed a work plan for 2025-27 to strengthen cooperation in agricultural research, technology exchange, and capacity building. The framework focuses on sustainable agronomy, digital agriculture, biotechnology, and natural resource management. Priority areas include micro-irrigation, livestock improvement, crop biotechnology, and mechanisation. The work plan provides for germplasm exchange, expert interactions, joint research, and training in advanced agricultural technologies. Cooperation will also be deepened in oilseeds, pulses, and plant and animal health to support productivity and resilience in both countries.

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## India signs development loans exceeding \$2.2 billion with multilateral lender

India signed loan agreements worth over \$2.2 billion with the Asian Development Bank to support a range of development initiatives across states and sectors. The projects include upgrading industrial training institutes to strengthen skilling and employability, expanding affordable and inclusive rooftop solar systems, and augmenting tertiary healthcare capacity in Assam. Financing was also extended for the Chennai Metro Rail project and for integrated ecotourism and sustainable agri-based livelihood development in Meghalaya, aimed at improving connectivity, clean energy access, healthcare infrastructure, and income generation.

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