

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAMVOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves Pune Metro Rail Project Phase-2: Kharadi–Khadakwasla (Line 4) & Nal Stop–Warje–Manik Baug (Line 4A)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Pune Metro Phase-2 Line 4 (Kharadi–Hadapsar–Swargate–Khadakwasla) and Line 4A (Nal Stop–Warje–Manik Baug), giving a major boost to the city’s public transport network. This is the second major approval under Phase-2, following Line 2A and 2B. Together, the two new corridors span 31.636 km with 28 elevated stations, connecting key IT parks, commercial areas, educational zones, and residential neighbourhoods across East, South, and West Pune. The project will be completed in five years at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,857.85 crore, jointly funded by the Centre, the Maharashtra Government, and external funding agencies.

Both lines are part of Pune’s Comprehensive Mobility Plan and will integrate with existing and sanctioned corridors at Kharadi Bypass, Nal Stop, and Swargate. They will also offer interchange at Hadapsar Railway Station and connect to future extensions towards Loni Kalbhor and Saswad Road, strengthening multimodal connectivity across metro, rail, and bus systems.

The corridors will ease congestion on major routes such as Solapur Road, Magarpatta Road, Sinhagad Road, Karve Road, and the Mumbai–Bengaluru Highway, while offering a safe and green alternative to road travel. Daily ridership on Line 4 and 4A is projected at 4.09 lakh in 2028, rising to 11.7 lakh by 2058, reflecting strong long-term demand.

The project will be implemented by Maha-Metro, with pre-construction activities already in progress. With this approval, Pune Metro’s network will cross the 100 km mark, marking a major step towards a modern, integrated, and sustainable urban transit system for the city.

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Cabinet approves two multitracking projects covering 4 Districts across the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, increasing the existing network of Indian Railways by about 224 Kms

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved two Ministry of Railways projects worth approximately Rs. 2,781 crore. These include the Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)–Kanalus doubling project spanning 141 km and the Badlapur–Karjat 3rd and 4th line covering 32 km. Together, these projects will expand the Indian Railways network by 224 km, improve line capacity, ease congestion, and enhance operational efficiency. The initiatives, planned under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, aim to strengthen multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency through integrated planning.

The projects will benefit 585 villages with a combined population of around 32 lakh, promoting regional development and supporting the vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Kanalus–Okha doubling will improve access to the Dwarkadhish Temple and boost growth in the Saurashtra region, while the additional lines between Badlapur and Karjat—part of the Mumbai suburban corridor—will address rising passenger demand and enhance connectivity to southern India.

These routes are crucial for transporting coal, salt, containers, cement, petroleum products and other commodities. The capacity augmentation is expected to support an additional 18 MTPA of freight traffic. As an environmentally friendly mode of transport, the enhanced rail capacity will help reduce logistics costs, cut oil imports by 3 crore litres, lower CO₂ emissions by 16 crore kg, and generate environmental benefits equal to planting 64 lakh trees.

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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet Approves Rs.7,280 Crore Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMS) with a financial outlay of Rs. 7,280 crore. This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India, reducing dependence on imports and positioning the country as a key global player in this strategic sector. REPMS—critical components for electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, electronics, aerospace, and defence—are among the strongest permanent magnets and essential for the clean energy transition.

Under the scheme, integrated manufacturing facilities will be developed to convert rare earth oxides into metals, alloys, and final REPM products. India's demand for these magnets is expected to double by 2030, and the initiative marks the country's first step toward building a fully indigenous REPM ecosystem, supporting self-reliance, job creation, and the nation's commitment to Net Zero by 2070. The scheme includes Rs. 6,450 crore in sales-linked incentives over five years and Rs. 750 crore in capital subsidy for setting up facilities.

A total capacity of 6,000 MTPA will be allocated to five beneficiaries through global competitive bidding, with each allotted up to 1,200 MTPA. The scheme will run for seven years, including two years for setting up manufacturing units and five years of incentive disbursement. This landmark initiative strengthens India's REPM supply chain for key sectors such as automotive, defence, and aerospace, and advances the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 by building a technologically advanced and globally competitive domestic industry.

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Industry Developments

Overall

India's Q2FY26 GDP growth seen at 7.2%: Mint poll

India's real GDP likely grew by 7.2 per cent during July-September 2025, slightly lower than 7.8 per cent in the previous quarter, as per a Mint poll of 15 economists. They expect growth between 7 and 7.7 per cent, supported by improving rural activity, a low base and lower inflation. GDP had grown by 5.6 per cent in the same quarter last year, which raises the comparative growth rate.

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CEA sees India's GDP crossing USD 4 tln in FY26

India's GDP is poised to exceed the USD 4 trillion mark in 2025-26, above the USD 3.9 trillion level recorded at the end of March 2025, according to chief economic adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran. Strong growth, he noted, is vital for prosperity and for maintaining India's global leverage amid geopolitical uncertainty.

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BMI forecasts India's FY26 GDP growth at 6.5%

India's merchandise exports returned to positive territory in November 2025, reversing the 11.8 per cent fall seen in October, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal stated after the Board of Trade meeting. He noted that several sectors are showing growth and that quick estimates indicate an improvement over the same period last year.

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Agri & Food processing

Pepsico launches Red Rock Deli in India

Pepsico expanded its snacking portfolio in India by introducing Red Rock Deli, a gourmet chips brand, in India. The brand has entered the market with globally inspired exotic flavors, now crafted and produced in India to suit Indian tastes, according to the company. Today, urban consumers are seeking premium, chef-inspired snacks that are both refined and approachable.

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SEA welcomes govt's Rs.1 trln RDI scheme

The Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA) welcomed the government's Rs.1 trillion Research Development Innovation (RDI) scheme, as it is expected to create new opportunities for the Indian edible oil industry. The scheme will provide long-term, low-cost funding for advanced research in deep-tech, agri-tech, biotechnology, clean energy and other sunrise sectors.

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Global rice prices likely to decline

Global rice prices are expected to decline. They have increased marginally in the past couple of weeks due to export delays and trade or currency issues, including India's temporary shipment disruption to Senegal. However, this trend is not likely to continue, driven by surplus supplies.

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Aviation

US travel demand takes hit but confident about long-term prospects: Air India CEO

Air India's CEO and managing director (MD) Campbell Wilson said that the airline has taken a hit in travel demand to the United States (US) due to various factors. There are many factors at play, including airspace constraints, additional flying time, and refuelling stock needed at some place, he said.

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DPR to be finalised and land acquisition to begin soon for Ongole greenfield airport: MP

Ongole MP, Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, said that the state government has already called for consultants to prepare techno-economic feasibility study report (TEFR) for the proposed greenfield airport at Ongole in Prakasam district.

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Meghalaya CM urges Rammohan Naidu to include Baljek airport under UDAN

the Meghalaya chief minister (CM) Conrad K Sangma met the Union civil aviation minister K Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi and urged him to include Baljek airport near Tura under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS) Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN).

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

PV sales to grow by double-digits in second half of 2025-26

Sales volumes of passenger vehicles (PVs) are expected to grow by double digits in the second half of 2025-26, according to Shailesh Chandra, the CEO of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles. PV sales in the first half of 2025-26 were around 1.6 per cent below year-ago levels.

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BKT to start commercial production of on-road tyres from 2026

Balkrishna Industries (BKT) plans to start commercial production of on-road tyres from 2026, according to Rajiv Poddar, joint managing director. The company plans to set up manufacturing on-road tyres at its existing plant in Bhuj. Also, BKT plans to invest Rs.35 billion over the next three years across all three verticals, off-road tyres, on-road tyres and carbon black.

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Only 6 EV models qualify for PLI benefits: Reports

Only six out of the 46 electric vehicle (EV) models sold in India are eligible to receive benefits under the PLI scheme, according to media reports. The remaining 40 models were ineligible on account of high imported content, which was mainly sourced from China. Under the PLI scheme, EV's have to achieve at least 50 per cent domestic value addition (DVA), or 40 per cent if excluding battery cells.

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Banking and Financial Services

IndusInd Bank initiates talk for possible QIP

IndusInd Bank has begun discussions on a potential qualified institutional placement (QIP), according to media reports. If the fundraising moves ahead, the Hinduja Group is expected to participate on a pro-rata basis to maintain its stake, while Life Insurance Company is also likely to invest.

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Durable liquidity to reduce going forward, prompt OMO

Durable liquidity in the banking system is expected to decline in the coming months due to intervention in the foreign exchange market, which may direct the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to conduct open market operation (OMO) purchases, according to media reports.

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RBI to maintain liquidity over 1% of NDTL

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will keep liquidity above one per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) using tools such as variable rate reverse repo auctions, according to media reports. The central bank has assured lenders that it will intervene if the system stays in deficit for a prolonged period.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Global specialty chemicals market estimated at USD 1.2 trillion in 2025

The global specialty chemicals market is projected to reach approximately USD 1.2 trillion by 2025, according to media reports. The industry has gradually moved from North America and the EU to Asia over the last two to three decades, reflecting a parallel shift in manufacturing activities.

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Refiners likely to import 0.65 mbpd of Russian oil in December

Refiners are expected to import around 0.65 million barrels per day (mbpd) of Russian crude in December 2025, according to media reports. Russian crude imports are expected to drop to their lowest level in at least three years in December 2025, down from multi-month highs in November 2025, as refiners shift to alternative supplies to avoid potential violations of Western sanctions.

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DVC wins 3 coal blocks in 13th round of commercial mines auction

Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) emerged as the highest bidder and won three coal blocks in the 13th round of the commercial mines auction. Of the three mines, two non-coking coal mines are in Jharkhand, and one non-coking coal mine is in Odisha.

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Union Cabinet likely to approve Rs.70 bln incentive scheme for REPM

The Union Cabinet is expected to approve a Rs.70 billion incentive scheme for the rare earth permanent magnets (REPM). The scheme plans to secure critical minerals required for electric vehicles, renewable energy applications and defence manufacturing, according to a Bloomberg report dated 2 November 2025.

[Read more](#)

Healthcare

Sterling Hospitals names Santosh Marathe as new MD & CEO

Sterling Hospitals appointed Santosh Marathe as its new managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO). The company is preparing to scale its presence and upgrade its existing facilities.

[Read more](#)

30-bedded govt hospital building inaugurated in Alur, Andhra Pradesh

On 25 November 2025, a 30-bedded government hospital building was inaugurated in Alur, Andhra Pradesh. The new building is expected to enhance infrastructure and improve patient access to essential medical services.

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Delhi CM inaugurates 70 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs

On 25 November 2025, Delhi Chief Minister (CM) Rekha Gupta inaugurated 70 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. With this, the total number of such facilities has reached 238. The government has set a target to open 15 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in each Assembly constituency. She claimed that the government is working round-the-clock to turn the national capital into a medical hub.

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Infrastructure

5 expressway projects in Bihar to be ready by 2027

As many as five expressway projects across Bihar are set to overhaul the state's transport infrastructure by 2027. The high-speed corridors, covering more than 1,626-km, are expected to cost Rs.1.1 trillion. They will reduce travel time between key districts by half and significantly improve freight movement.

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Centre approves Rs.283.5 mln for bridge from Pirdi to Talogi in HP

The central government has approved Rs.283.5 million for the construction of a double-lane bridge from Pirdi to Talogi in Himachal Pradesh (HP). The amount has been sanctioned under the Central Infrastructure and Road Fund (CIRF). The upcoming bridge is poised to significantly improve access to the Bijli Mahadev ropeway base station at Pirdi.

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Maharashtra govt approves DPR of Uttan-Virar Sea Link

The Maharashtra government has approved the detailed project report (DPR) costing Rs.587.5 billion for the Uttan-Virar Sea Link. This will be a major push to the 120-km coastal corridor that aims to connect South Mumbai with Palghar and with the upcoming Vadhavan deep-sea port. The project will now be sent to the Union government for permission to raise foreign loans, which are expected to fund most of the construction.

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ADB approves USD 400 mln to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 400 million results-based lending (RBL) programme to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra. The loan will be used to improve road connectivity in 34 districts, particularly in the climate-vulnerable and economically lagging Marathwada & Vidarbha regions.

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IT & ITES

HCLTech expands partnership with SAP to develop Physical AI solutions

HCL Technologies has expanded its partnership with European enterprise software giant SAP to build physical artificial intelligence (AI) solutions, which will integrate AI into real-world industrial and business operations. Under the partnership, the companies will boost productivity, simplify operations, and support smarter decision-making in manufacturing, supply chain and logistics.

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Wipro, IISc partner to drive research, innovation in frontier technologies

Wipro has entered into a partnership with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) to drive research and innovation in frontier technologies.

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Xoriant acquires TestDevLab to strengthen presence in Europe

Xoriant has acquired software quality engineering company TestDevLab to strengthen its presence in the European region. This acquisition is expected to bring on board capabilities such as audio/video user experience (A/V UX) testing, network simulation, and energy-efficiency analysis, along with proprietary tools like Loadero and the artificial intelligence (AI)-driven Barko agent.

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Pharmaceuticals

Novo's Wegovy price cut forces generic drugmakers to revise their semaglutide launch

Indian generic drugmakers are revising the launch plans for semaglutide after Novo Nordisk sharply reduced Wegovy prices, prompting expectations of further competitive pressure once Ozempic enters the market in December 2025 at a comparable or slightly cheaper price. The pricing shift is pushing domestic manufacturers to move from their earlier Rs.7,000 to Rs.8,000 monthly estimates to a much lower Rs.3,000 to Rs.5,000 band in order to stay competitive in the GLP-1 segment.

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Zydus signs exclusive US deal for new oncology supportive injectable

Zydus Lifesciences has signed an exclusive pact with United States (US)-based RK Pharma to license and commercialise a new sterile injectable used in oncology supportive care for the US market. RK Pharma will produce the drug and Zydus will handle the US regulatory filing and launch. Zydus plans to submit the application in 2026.

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PHARMEXCIL urges shift toward innovation in pharma industry

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) said the domestic pharma industry must shift towards innovation-led products, such as complex generics, peptides, biosimilars and biologics, to stay competitive.

[Read more](#)

Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh CM approves establishment of AP-LInC

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu has approved the establishment of the Andhra Pradesh Logistics Infrastructure Corporation (AP-LInC), a new nodal agency aimed at strengthening logistics across the state.

[Read more](#)

Number of districts in Andhra Pradesh to go up to 29

The number of districts in Andhra Pradesh is set to go up to 29 from the existing 26. Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu has approved the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) in this regard. As part of the move, Polavaram, Markapuram and Madanapalle districts will be carved out soon.

[Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh govt announces Rs.665.2 bln urban infrastructure acceleration programme

On 24 November 2025, the Andhra Pradesh government announced a Rs.665.2 billion urban infrastructure acceleration programme under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. The Municipal Administration & Urban Development (MA&UD) Department has projected this quantum of investment by 2029 across 12 priority sectors.

[Read more](#)

Gujarat

Gujarat CM inaugurates bus port in Navsari

On 25 November 2025, Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the state's 13th iconic bus port in Navsari. The facility has been built under the public-private partnership (PPP) model by Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) at a cost of over Rs.820 million.

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GMB to roll out suite of 6 maritime policies & regulatory frameworks

The Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has decided to roll out a comprehensive suite of six maritime policies and regulatory frameworks after receiving final approval from the state government. The new measures have been designed to modernise port operations, streamline land governance & strengthen vessel safety across the state's extensive coastline.

[Read more](#)

State govt. constitutes High Speed Rail Station Area Planning Authority

The authority will steer integrated and holistic development around the eight stations of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) corridor. These include Sabarmati, Ahmedabad, Nadiad, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Bilimora and Vapi.

[Read more](#)

Haryana

Union minister inaugurates Biomass Pellet Plant in Haryana's Rewari

On 24 November 2025, Union new & renewable energy minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurated the Biomass Pellet Plant in Haryana's Rewari. The state-of-the-art 240 tonnes per day (TPD) capacity plant will use agricultural residues such as paddy straw, mustard straw and cotton stalks to manufacture biomass pellets for thermal power co-firing.

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Haryana minister releases arrears worth Rs.92.3 mln for sanitation workers in Panchkula

On 26 November 2025, Haryana urban local bodies minister Vipul Goel released arrears worth Rs.92.3 million for sanitation workers from 2017 to 2023 in Panchkula. The Panchkula Municipal Corporation released enhanced wage benefits worth Rs.78.7 million to 840 sanitation workers, alongside nearly Rs.10 million for families of deceased, retired and former workers.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka

Karnataka govt urged to declare MSP of Rs.250 per kg for natural rubber

The rubber growers in Karnataka have urged the state government to declare a minimum support price (MSP) of Rs.250 per kg for natural rubber under the market intervention scheme and declare natural rubber as an agricultural commodity.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka govt releases draft Rights of PwDs in Employment & Education Bill

The Karnataka government has released the draft Karnataka Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Employment and Education Bill. The Bill proposes a five per cent reservation for persons with disabilities (PwD) in all private establishments with 20 or more employees. The job quota will be implemented in phases, with annual compliance reports mandatory.

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Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh CM lays foundation stone for Rs.1.5 bln sewage system project in Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav laid the foundation stone for a Rs.1.5 billion sewage system project to be developed in two major areas of Bhopal, today. These areas include Kolar and Bairagarh.

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MP Cabinet introduces Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance

On 25 November 2025, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cabinet approved the introduction of the Madhya Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Ordinance in the upcoming winter session of the state Assembly. The Ordinance facilitates direct election for the posts of chairpersons of municipalities and town councils by voters.

[Read more](#)

Madhya Pradesh becomes India's farm stubble burning hotspot

Madhya Pradesh has emerged as India's farm stubble burning hotspot for the second year. A total of 28,529 crop residue burning incidents have been reported so far this year across Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan. Nearly half of these events were recorded in Madhya Pradesh.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra

Maharashtra govt approves Rs.25,000 each for 1,800 bhajani mandals

The Maharashtra government has approved a grant of Rs.25,000 each for 1,800 bhajani mandals. Approval has been given to provide a subsidy for the purchase of musical instruments like harmonium, mridangam, pakhawaj, veena, tambura and other ancillary materials to bhajani mandals.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt to set up Life Sciences Innovation and Incubation Centre

The Maharashtra government has decided to establish a state-of-the-art Life Sciences Innovation and Incubation Centre. The move is aimed at accelerating research and development in the pharmaceutical sector. The proposed centre will support cutting-edge work in pharma, biotech, medical devices, diagnostics & digital health, providing startups with access to modern laboratories, technical expertise and funding.

[Read more](#)

ADB approves USD 400 mln RBL programme to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 400 million results-based lending (RBL) programme to improve road connectivity in Maharashtra. The loan will be used to improve road connectivity in 34 districts, particularly in the climate-vulnerable and economically lagging Marathwada & Vidarbha regions.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu govt signs 158 MoUs entailing investment of Rs.438.4 bln

On 25 November 2025, the Tamil Nadu government signed as many as 158 MoUs with an investment of Rs.438.4 billion at the 'TN Rising' Investors Conclave held in Coimbatore. The MoUs, spanning various sectors, would create jobs for around 100,709 people.

[Read more](#)

State minister inaugurates 377 development works worth Rs.3.3 bln

On 24 November 2025, Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin inaugurated 377 development works in Tiruvallur district. The cost of these projects has been pegged at Rs.3.3 billion, as per The New Indian Express. Furthermore, foundation stones were laid for 211 new projects worth Rs.1.3 billion.

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Tamil Nadu govt's first village startup community launched in Coimbatore

The Tamil Nadu government's first village startup community was launched at Pillaiappampalayam in Coimbatore on 26 November 2025. The village startup community is a state-wide rural entrepreneurship initiative under StartupTN's Gramam Thorum Puthozhil Scheme. This initiative aims to nurture 100 innovative startups in as many villages in the state. Under the scheme, StartupTN's 10 regional hubs will develop rural startup ecosystems in as many villages, offering incubation support, market validation and legal & branding assistance.

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Telangana

CM inaugurates & lays foundation stones for projects worth Rs.1 bln

On 24 November 2025, Telangana Chief Minister (CM) A Revanth Reddy inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects worth Rs.1 billion in Kodangal constituency. He unveiled a wide range of civic, educational & infrastructure projects, as per The Hindu.

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Telangana Cabinet takes slew of decisions

On 25 November 2025, the Telangana Cabinet approved the expansion of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits to upgrade urban infrastructure. It has cleared the merger of 27 urban local bodies (ULB) located within and around the Outer Ring Road (ORR)

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Telangana minister inaugurates 1 Bio at Genome Valley

Telangana IT & industries minister D Sridhar Babu inaugurated 1 Bio at Genome Valley. It is the country's first single-use bioprocess design and scale-up facility. The move is aimed at improving access to affordable and predictable scale-up infrastructure for biologics and next-generation therapeutics.

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Telangana govt to set up sports school in Mulugu

The Telangana government has decided to allot 16.1 hectares of land for setting up a sports school at Jagganapeta village in Mulugu district. This will be in addition to the existing sports schools in Hakimpet, Adilabad and Karimnagar.

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Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh digitises 41 million SIR enumeration forms

Uttar Pradesh has digitised 41 million enumeration forms since the launch of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls on 4 November 2025. It needs to do the same to another 110 million enumeration forms in the 10 days that remain for their distribution and collection by booth-level officers (BLOs).

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Uttar Pradesh govt to widen, strengthen roads in Hastinapur

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to widen and strengthen roads to five religious sites in the Hastinapur constituency in its 2025-26 action plan. Under the Dharmarth Yojana, these roads will be constructed for Rs.10.2 million.

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113 mills in Uttar Pradesh crush 103.5 million quintals of sugarcane

As many as 113 mills in Uttar Pradesh crushed 103.5 million quintals of sugarcane as of 25 November 2025. The active mills include 52 in the central region, 34 in the western region and 27 in the eastern region. Several sugar mills have already initiated payments to farmers, with many following a weekly disbursement cycle to ensure timely settlement.

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Union Territories

J&K CM lays foundation stone for ATS in Jammu

On 25 November 2025, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister (CM) Omar Abdullah laid the foundation stone for an automated vehicle testing station (ATS) in Jammu. The state-of-the-art facility would introduce a more transparent, efficient and technology-driven vehicle fitness assessment system.

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GPS mandated in all vehicles involved in mineral extraction in J&K

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) geology & mining department has mandated the installation of the global positioning system (GPS) in all vehicles involved in mineral extraction and transportation across the union territory (UT).

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Delhi to revamp circle rates

The Delhi govt plans to revamp circle rates across the union territory, according to media reports. The changes to circle rates will help realign property valuations with real market prices. The administration plans to rework farmhouse pricing, location-based pricing and introduce a new A-plus category for the ultra-premium Lutyens area and review system to keep rates in sync with market fluctuations.

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CAQM revokes Stage-III restrictions under GRAP in Delhi-NCR

On 26 November 2025, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked Stage-III restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR). The development has come considering the improving air quality.

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International Developments

Prime Minister attends the G20 Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, marking the fourth consecutive Summit hosted in the Global South. He presented India's views across all three sessions, which focused on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, global resilience through climate action and disaster risk reduction, and shaping a fair future centered on critical minerals, decent work, and Artificial Intelligence. On the sidelines, Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with several leaders and joined the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Leaders' Meeting hosted by South Africa.

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Union Minister of Commerce & Industry visits Israel to improve momentum in India-Israel Economic Partnership

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, concluded a productive visit to Israel, during which he held a series of high-level engagements aimed at strengthening the India-Israel strategic and economic partnership.

The visit included bilateral meetings with Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry, Mr. Nir Barkat; Minister of Finance, Mr. Bezalel Smotrich; Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Avi Dichter and calls on President of the State of Israel, H.E. Mr. Isaac Herzog and the Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu.

Discussions with Israel's Minister of Economy and Industry, Mr. Nir Barkat covered discussions on FTA. A key highlight was the signing of the Terms of Reference for the India-Israel Free Trade Agreement, marking an important step toward structured negotiations for a balanced and mutually beneficial outcome. Discussions with Israel's Minister of Finance, Mr. Bezalel Smotrich covered the opportunities for Indian companies in the fields of infrastructure, mining and the opportunities for the Indian workers in Israel. Discussions with Israel's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Avi Dichter, covered Israel's long-term food-security strategy, seed-improvement technologies, and leadership in agricultural water-reuse.

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Visit of Minister of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan to India

The Minister of Industry and Commerce of Afghanistan visited India with a trade delegation. During the visit, Minister Azizi met the External Affairs Minister of India Dr. S. Jaishankar. Both Ministers discussed bilateral ties, connectivity and people to people exchanges.

Minister Azizi held delegation level talks with the Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal. They discussed a broad range of issues, including trade facilitation, market access, connectivity, and capacity-building. They announced the initiation of the Air Freight Corridor on the Kabul-Delhi and Kabul-Amritsar sectors. Both Ministers welcomed the reactivation of the Joint Working Group on Trade, Commerce and Investment and agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration in mining and other high-value sectors. India and Afghanistan will depute Commercial Representatives at their respective Embassies and will institutionalize a Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Minister Azizi also met Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Shri Jitin Prasada.

The visit reflects the strong commitment of both sides for deepening bilateral engagement and cooperation in trade, economy and investments. India remains committed to working closely with Afghanistan to advance this economic partnership in a manner that brings sustainable benefits to the people of both countries.

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International Developments

India-UAE CEPA review signals strong trade growth and expanded cooperation

India and the UAE successfully convened the third meeting of the Joint Committee under the India-UAE CEPA in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Shri Ajay Bhadoo and Assistant Undersecretary for International Trade Affairs, UAE, H.E Juma Al Kait. Both sides welcomed the strong growth in bilateral trade, which crossed USD 100.06 billion in FY 2024–25, reflecting a robust increase of 19.6% and reaffirming the UAE's position as one of India's key trading partners. The India-UAE Joint Commission serves as the primary institutional mechanism to review progress, address challenges, and implement the CEPA.

The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of progress under CEPA and detailed discussions were held on market access issues, data sharing, allocation of Gold TRQ, anti-dumping matters, services, Rules of Origin, BIS licensing etc. The India side also briefed the UAE on its recent decision to allocate Gold TRQ through a transparent competitive bidding process.

Both sides reviewed recent high-level engagements, including meetings between Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Dr. Thani in Mumbai and Dubai. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to expanding non-oil/ non precious metal trade towards the USD 100 billion target by 2030. Discussions also covered regulatory cooperation in pharmaceuticals, resolution of issues related to Certificates of Origin, BIS coordination, and early signing of the MoU on Food Safety and Technical Requirements between Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), India and Ministry of Climate Change & Environment (MoCCA), UAE.

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India-Slovenia JCTEC advances trade, investment and sectoral cooperation

The 10th Session of the India-Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) took place in New Delhi, co-chaired by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Shri Saket Kumar, and Director General for Economic, Cultural and Scientific Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovenia, Mr. Peter Japelj.

The session provided a platform to review the current state of bilateral economic engagement, strengthen cooperation across key sectors, and chart a forward-looking roadmap for trade and investment between the two nations.

Bilateral trade between India and Slovenia has shown a consistent upward trajectory over the past several years, reflecting the growing depth and resilience of the partnership.

Slovenia's strategic location at the crossroads of Central Europe, coupled with India's expanding engagement with Europe, presents a unique opportunity to bring the regions closer together. This convergence of geographies and interests provides a strong foundation for deepening cooperation in trade, technology, innovation, and connectivity.

The discussions included a comprehensive review of the global and domestic economic landscape, as well as an assessment of bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries. Sectoral cooperation was explored across agriculture, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, health, transport, energy, tourism, MSMEs, and Ayurveda and traditional systems of medicine, as well as other trade and business-related matters. Both sides expressed optimism for the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

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