

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAM VOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet Approves India's Bid to Host Commonwealth Games 2030

The Union Cabinet has sanctioned India's proposal to formally bid for hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking a significant milestone in the nation's sporting evolution. If successful, the Games will return to India after two decades, the last being the Delhi CWG in 2010. This decision showcases India's aspiration to become a global sporting hub, leveraging its expanding infrastructure, organizational capabilities, and growing influence in international sports. Hosting CWG 2030 promises long-term benefits by enhancing sports infrastructure, tourism, urban development, and job creation. It offers Indian athletes the opportunity to compete on home soil and inspires future generations toward sports and fitness. More than just an event, the bid is aligned with India's 2047 vision, prioritizing sustainability, green technologies, and inclusive growth. Through this initiative, India aims to set new standards for world-class, eco-friendly, and athlete-focused Games, and to strengthen its ties within the Commonwealth community.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet Approves Restructuring and Extension of PM SVANidhi Scheme Beyond December 2024

The Union Cabinet has approved the restructuring and extension of the PM Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme beyond December 31, 2024, further demonstrating the government's commitment to supporting street vendors as key contributors to India's urban informal sector. Originally launched in June 2020 to counter the impact of the pandemic, the scheme provides collateral-free working capital loans, helping vendors revive and expand their businesses while accessing formal financial services. The extension introduces longer repayment periods, simplified procedures, and a broader lending window, ensuring more vendors can benefit from successive, affordable loans. Those with strong repayment records will continue to enjoy subsidized interest rates and digital transaction incentives, encouraging cashless payments and greater financial inclusion. By strengthening the economic foundation of street vendors, the restructured scheme not only boosts urban commerce and inclusive growth but also aligns with the government's vision of mainstreaming informal workers and advancing the goals of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

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Cabinet Approves Multi-Tracking of Rail Projects in Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar & Assam and New Rail Line in Kutch

The Union Cabinet has approved the multi-tracking of three major railway projects spread across Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, and Assam, along with the construction of a new rail line in Kutch, Gujarat, marking another milestone in strengthening India's railway infrastructure. The multi-tracking projects are aimed at enhancing capacity, reducing congestion, and improving operational efficiency on some of the busiest and strategically significant rail corridors in these states. By providing additional lines, the projects will ensure smoother movement of both passenger and freight trains, reducing delays, travel time, and fuel consumption. In addition to these, the Cabinet has cleared a new rail line in the far-flung areas of Kutch, Gujarat, designed to improve accessibility to remote regions and support local industries, agriculture, and tourism. The project is intended not only to strengthen connectivity for communities in isolated areas but also to contribute to border region development and national security preparedness, given Kutch's strategic location. Together, these projects reflect the government's commitment to creating modern, efficient, and inclusive railway infrastructure, promoting balanced regional development, and laying the foundation for faster economic growth across India.

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Industry Developments

Overall

Centre plans Rs.250 bln support for exporters

The central government is considering Rs.250 billion in support for exporters under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) for the period through 2030-31. The plan aims to provide easy and affordable credit to exporters, especially MSMEs, amid global trade uncertainties following the US 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods from 27 August 2025.

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India's GDP growth likely moderated to 6.7% in Q1FY26: Reuters' poll

India's real GDP growth during April-June 2025 likely slowed to 6.7 per cent from 7.4 per cent in January-March 2025, according to a Reuters poll of 70 economists conducted during 18-26 August 2025. Weak private investment and sluggish industrial activity weighed on growth despite a rebound in government spending.

[Read more](#)

India fast-tracks FTA talks with EU amid US tariffs

Commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal will visit Brussels next week to review and accelerate India-European Union free-trade agreement (FTA) talks, ahead of the 13th negotiation round scheduled in New Delhi from 8 September 2025. The push comes amid rising urgency as US tariffs of 50 per cent on Indian exports take effect, and geopolitical uncertainties persist.

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Agri & Food processing

Rice stocks with FCI continue to increase

The government's central-pool rice stocks continue to increase in spite of significant offloading of the grain through open market sales, allocation to states, for ethanol production and the Bharat Rice initiative. The current central pool stock is more than 53 million tonnes (mt), which is four times the buffer of 10.25 mt for 1 October 2025, when the paddy procurement season will begin.

[Read more](#)

Kharif sowing up 3.4% as of 22 August 2025

Area sown under kharif crops was reported at 107.4 million hectares as of 22 August 2025. This is 3.4 per cent higher than the area covered during the corresponding period last year. Acreage under rice increased by 7.6 per cent to 42 million hectares and that under coarse cereals also increased by 6.4 per cent to 18.7 million hectares.

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Pulses on 400,000 hectares affected in Karnataka due to rain

Pulses grown on nearly 400,000 hectares in Karnataka are under threat of damage. Following early rains in mid-May 2025, farmers in Dharwad, Belagavi, Haveri, Gadag and Bagalkot districts had taken up early sowing. With the crop now ready for harvest, untimely heavy showers have dealt a severe blow.

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Aviation

Akasa Air to operate Mumbai-Kozhikode daily direct flights

On 23 August 2025, Akasa Air announced that it will operate daily direct flights between Mumbai and Kozhikode starting 1 October 2025. With this, the airline has added Kozhikode (Calicut) as the 30th destination to its network, expanding its presence across Kerala, said the co-founder of the airline Praveen Iyer.

[Read more](#)

Civil aviation minister announces new airport projects in Odisha

The Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu announced new infrastructure projects in Odisha, including a new terminal building of the Bhubaneswar airport and an 'in-principle approval' for an airport in Puri.

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Central govt aims to build 350 airports across India by 2047: Aviation minister

While speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Eastern Region Ministers' Conference on Civil Aviation on 25 August 2025, the Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu said that the central government aims to build 350 airports across the country by the year 2047, as part of its long-term vision for a 'Viksit Bharat'.

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

Auto dealerships may face subdued sales in festive season as customers await clarity on GST

Auto dealers are facing a slow festival season as many buyers are postponing their purchases, waiting for possible GST rate cuts on vehicles. The GST Council is scheduled to review tax slabs soon, with expectations that GST on several car models could drop from 28 per cent to 18 per cent, although some cess may still apply.

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Two wheeler sales to grow by 6-9% in 2025-26, says Icra

India's two-wheeler market is projected to grow by 6-9 per cent in 2025-26, driven by factors such as replacement demand, recovering urban consumption, and stable rural incomes supported by a normal monsoon. While wholesale volumes saw a boost in July as manufacturers prepared for the festive season, retail sales dipped due to subdued urban demand and weather disruptions.

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Renault India confirms that its E10 vehicles are compatible with E20 fuel

Renault India has confirmed that its vehicles, including those designed for E10 fuel, are compatible with E20 fuel, which contains 20 per cent ethanol. This assurance follows extensive durability tests conducted with industry bodies.

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Banking and Financial Services

Capital SFB targets new branches in UP, Haryana, Rajasthan

Capital Small Finance Bank (SFB) plans to enter Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2025-26 with a few initial branches, while also expanding its presence in Haryana, Rajasthan and Punjab, according to Sarvjit Singh Samra its managing director & chief executive officer.

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Federal Bank gets approval to handle Maharashtra GRAS receipts

The Reserve Bank of India has permitted Federal Bank to handle government receipts for Maharashtra through GRAS portal. After the integration, Federal Bank customers will be able to make payments for stamp duty, registration charges and various departmental taxes directly through the GRAS platform.

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Muthoot Finance injects Rs.2 million into housing arm

Muthoot Finance has infused Rs.2 million into its wholly-owned subsidiary, Muthoot Homefin (MHIL), to support expansion into over 250 cities across India, according to media reports. MHIL plans to grow its assets under management (AUM) more than fourfold in the next five years.

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Energy & Natural Resources

OCPL wins Tangardihi North coal block in auction

The Odisha Coal and Power (OCPL) has won the Tangardihi North coal block in Sundargarh during the 12th tranche of the commercial coal block auctions, according to media reports. The Tangardihi mine is a partially explored coal block with approximately 1,100 million tonnes of G-13 grade reserves, including 400 million tonnes of high-quality coal.

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Hindustan Zinc explores opportunities to invest in rare earth elements

Hindustan Zinc is exploring to invest in rare earth elements and seeking global partners for AI and drone-based exploration of critical minerals, according to the Chairperson of the company, Priya Agarwal Hebbar. The government conducted its fifth-tranche auction, which, for the first time, included blocks of potash, tungsten, and rare earth elements.

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NTPC to begin work on nuclear power plant in Rajasthan

NTPC is expected to begin work on its first nuclear power plant, according to Gurdeep Singh, chairman and managing director of the company. It is expected to lay the foundation stone for the plant in Banswara, Rajasthan, in September 2025. The 2,800 megawatt (MW) nuclear plant will consist of four pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MW capacity each.

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TNPGCL to take up development of ETPS expansion project in TN

The Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd (TNPGCL) is set to take up the development of the stranded 660 MW Ennore Thermal Power Station (ETPS) expansion project under public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

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Healthcare

IHH to set up 2,000 new beds by 2028

IHH Healthcare announced plans to expand its India operations by adding about 2,000 hospital beds by 2028. The multinational group currently runs 35 hospitals with more than 5,000 beds across 11 states through Fortis Healthcare and Gleneagles Healthcare.

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Tripura govt to improve healthcare services at AGMC

The Tripura government has announced a new initiative to improve healthcare services at the Agartala Government Medical College (AGMC). The aim is to provide high-quality medical care for residents of the state, reported The Times of India. As part of this, new counters will be established for underprivileged patients, wherein they will be offered free diagnostic services under various schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Chief Minister Jan Arogya Yojana, etc.

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Kerala govt invokes Public Health Act amid amoebic meningoencephalitis outbreak

The Kerala health department has invoked the Kerala Public Health Act. This has come in view of launching preventive and control measures against amoebic meningoencephalitis, which is emerging as a new public health concern for the state, reported The Hindu.

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Infrastructure

Union minister inaugurates Madhya Pradesh's longest flyover in Jabalpur

Union road transport & highways minister Nitin Gadkari and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav inaugurated the state's longest flyover in Jabalpur today. The seven-km-long flyover will cut the travel time between Madan Mahal and Damoh Naka from 40-45 minutes to just six to seven minutes.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt sets new deadline of March 2026 to complete 434-km Mumbai-Goa highway

The Maharashtra government has set a new deadline of 31 March 2026 to complete the 434-km Mumbai-Goa highway. According to the state public works department (PWD), the highway is 95 per cent complete. An 84-km stretch between Panvel and Indapur has been significantly delayed due to various reasons, including the realignment of flyovers & bypasses.

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J&K and Ladakh invest Rs.280 bln for NH projects in last 4 years

Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh have together received nearly Rs.280 billion for national highway (NH) construction and upgradation over the past four years. This underscores the Centre's continued focus on improving connectivity in the Himalayan belt. J&K accounted for the lion's share of this investment, with 43 projects cleared between 2021-22 and 2024-25.

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IT & ITES

IT firms diversify revenue streams to reduce dependence on US

Indian IT firms are diversifying their revenue streams to geographies such as Australia, the Middle East, the Nordic region and even India through new centres and acquisitions to reduce their reliance on the US market. The companies are also increasing their cybersecurity and consulting offerings to cater to the growing demand from these newer regions.

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Protean eGov Tech secures order worth Rs.11.6 billion from UIDAI

Protean eGov Technologies has secured an order worth Rs.11.6 billion from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to establish and run district-level Aadhar Seva Kendra in 188 districts across India. The order spans a period of six years. The company will offer appointment/walk-in-based Aadhaar Enrolment, updates and other miscellaneous Aadhaar Services at the Aadhar Seva Kendra.

[Read more](#)

Capgemini signs agreement to acquire Cloud4C

Capgemini has signed an agreement to acquire Cloud4C, an Indian-origin, Singapore-based managed cloud services provider. Cloud4C was founded in 2014 and is owned by CtrlS. Additionally, Capgemini aims to expand its footprint in the cloud-managing services market.

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Pharmaceuticals

Pharmexcil seeks uniformity in GST rates for APIs and medicines

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) urged the government to bring uniformity in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates for both active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and finished formulations to avoid the problem of inverted duty structure. At present, APIs attract 18 per cent GST, while formulations are taxed at 12 per cent, creating compliance hurdles and locking up working capital.

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Eris gets ANVISA approval for Ahmedabad unit

Eris Lifesciences received regulatory clearance from Brazil's health authority ANVISA for its manufacturing facility in Ahmedabad. This marks Eris' entry into Brazil, the largest pharmaceutical market in South America.

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GSK launches cancer therapies in India

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Pharmaceuticals marked its entry into the oncology space in India with the launch of two advanced therapies for gynaecological cancers. The therapies include Jemperli, an immunotherapy for advanced endometrial cancer, and Zejula, a maintenance therapy for ovarian cancer.

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Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh govt allocates Rs.250 mln to provide free electricity to Ganesh marquees

The Andhra Pradesh government has allocated Rs.250 million to provide free electricity to 15,000 Ganesh marquees across the state. The information was shared by state energy minister G Ravi Kumar on 25 August 2025. He claimed that measures are being taken to ensure spiritual programmes proceed without inconvenience during the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations state-wide..

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Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurates BRAIN programme

On 25 August 2025, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the Bharat Biodesign Research and Innovation (BRAIN) programme. The initiative would focus on developing affordable artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled healthcare technologies and training the workforce in Amaravati's Ratan Tata Innovation Hub.

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Andhra Pradesh's Kuppam to get 2 new industrial parks

The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the construction of two new industrial parks in the Kuppam Assembly constituency. These are expected to generate around 8,000 jobs, giving a significant boost to the rural economy.

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Gujarat

PM inaugurates, lays foundation stones for development projects worth Rs.54.7 bln in Gujarat

On 25 August 2025, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a slew of development projects worth Rs.54.7 billion in Gujarat. A major highlight is the inauguration of railway projects worth more than Rs.14 billion.

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CM approves Rs.4.8 bln for construction of new gram panchayat houses

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel has approved a grant of over Rs.4.8 billion for the construction of 2,055 new gram panchayat houses across the state. The development has come under the Gram Panchayat Ghar cum Talati-Mantri Awas Yojana.

[Read more](#)

PM Modi launches ₹5,400-crore development projects in Gujarat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday dedicated and laid the foundation stone for a series of development projects worth over ₹5,400 crore in Gujarat. The initiatives span railways, roads, power, housing, and urban infrastructure.

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Haryana

Haryana Assembly passes several Bills

The Haryana Assembly passed the Haryana Management of Civic Amenities and Infrastructure Deficient Areas outside Municipal Area (Special provision) (Amendment) Bill on 25 August 2025. It paves the way for regularisation of unauthorised industrial establishments in the state. The state Assembly also passed the Haryana Vidhan Sabha (Members' Salaries, Allowances and Pension) (Amendment) Bill and Haryana Backward Classes Commission (Amendment) Bill.

[Read more](#)

Haryana govt to make Kurukshetra cleanest city in India

The Haryana government has decided to make Kurukshetra the cleanest and most beautiful city in the country. The information was shared by Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini. He said that to make this sacred land clean, an 11-week 'Swachh Kurukshetra-Mera Kurukshetra, Mera Abhimaan' mission has been launched.

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Haryana govt opens Kshatipurti portal to compensate farmers

The Haryana government has opened the Kshatipurti portal to compensate farmers for losses to kharif crops caused by heavy rainfall or waterlogging during the ongoing monsoon. The affected farmers of various villages of Chhachhrauli tehsil, Vyaspur tehsil, Jagadhri tehsil and Sadhaura sub-tehsil can get themselves registered on the portal till 5 September 2025.

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Karnataka

Karnataka govt forms 75-member Greater Bengaluru Authority

On 26 August 2025, the Karnataka government constituted a 75-member Greater Bengaluru Authority to oversee the coordination of the five newly-formed corporations. These include the Bengaluru West City Corporation, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Bengaluru East City Corporation and Bengaluru Central City Corporation. The authority will be headed by state Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah as its ex-officio chairman.

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Karnataka govt issues order for implementation of internal reservation for SCs

On 25 August 2025, the Karnataka government issued an order for the implementation of the internal reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SC) by sharing the 17 per cent quota to three groups among 101 castes. Karnataka will become the second state after Telangana to implement the internal quota, reported The New Indian Express.

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Karnataka Assembly passes various Bills

On 21 August 2025, the Karnataka Assembly passed the Karnataka Appointment of Recovery Commissioner for Seizure and Attachment of Property of Illegal Mining & Proceeds of Crime Bill. The Bill seeks to appoint an additional chief secretary-level officer as 'recovery commissioner' for seizure, attachment and forfeiture of properties derived from illegal mining activities in the state.

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Kerala

Kerala govt moves towards paperless governance

The Kerala government is moving towards paperless governance. The objective is to provide citizens with application-free services, secure storage of essential documents and promote digital transactions through fully online systems, all supported by artificial intelligence (AI). Following the development, e-governance will also extend to citizen services, besides government file processing.

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Kerala Cabinet announces rules for Land Assignment (Amendment) Act

On 27 August 2025, the Kerala Cabinet announced rules for the Kerala Land Assignment (Amendment) Act, bringing in major relief to thousands living in the highranges. Under the new rules, all the changes that were made to the 'pattah' land and the uses to which it had been put, in contravention of the 1960 Act will be made legal.

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Kerala CM approves 'Digital Kerala-Our Kerala' project

Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has approved the 'Digital Kerala-Our Kerala' project. It will be led by the Information Technology (IT) Mission under the state IT department. The aim is to ensure the comprehensive digital development of the state and make the governance system more transparent & efficient.

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Maharashtra

Maharashtra to make all citizen services available on WhatsApp

On 25 August 2025, Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis directed the concerned officials to make all government-to-citizen services available on WhatsApp. Each taluka has been advised to initially form a cluster of 10 to 12 villages where services can be provided as per local needs. Dedicated teams will manage these clusters to ensure timely deliver.

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Maharashtra govt exempts all eligible EVs from toll charges on 3 crucial state routes

The Maharashtra government has exempted all eligible electric vehicles (EV) from toll charges on three crucial state routes. These include the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Expressway and Atal Setu, also known as the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link.

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MSAPL invites bids to procure 16 GW of solar projects under MSKVY 2.0

The Maharashtra State Electricity Board Solar Agro Power (MSAPL) has invited bids to procure 16 GW of decentralised ground-mounted solar projects under the Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana (MSKVY) 2.0. The last date for submission of bids is 28 August 2025. The scope of work includes the financing, ownership, design, construction and operation of the solar projects at the feeder level across the state.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates mini stadium worth Rs.75 mln in Kolathur

On 25 August 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin inaugurated a mini stadium constructed at a cost of Rs.75 million at the Kolathur Assembly constituency in Chennai. It features two badminton courts, a swimming pool, a fitness area, changing rooms and spectator facilities. He also inaugurated over 162 housing units worth Rs.270 million built by the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board.

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Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates various college buildings across Tamil Nadu

On 25 August 2025, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin inaugurated the Institute of Journalism and Media Studies at MGR film institute and various college buildings across the state. The buildings have been constructed for educational institutions under the state higher education department at a total cost of Rs.510 million.

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Tamil Nadu govt to reopen recently closed schools

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to take steps to reopen schools that were recently closed owing to poor enrollment. The reasons for these closures are being studied. Efforts are underway to bring back children above the age of five years into the school system through e-register tracking.

[Read more](#)

Telangana

Telangana govt to allocate Rs.10 bln for developing Osmania University

The Telangana government has decided to allocate Rs.10 billion for developing the Osmania University to match Stanford and Oxford. The information was shared by Chief Minister (CM) A Revanth Reddy on 25 August 2025. The CM also inaugurated hostel buildings and laid the foundation stone for a library at the university.

[Read more](#)

Telangana govt to provide capacity building training to women entrepreneurs from SHGs

The Telangana government has decided to provide training in capacity building, focusing on financial & digital literacy, sales, marketing and retail management to over 1,000 women entrepreneurs from self-help groups (SHGs).

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Widespread damage reported in Telangana due to heavy rainfall

Telangana's Kamareddy and Medak districts experienced unprecedented rainfall on 26-27 August 2025. Widespread damage has been reported in these districts. A total of 12 State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and four National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams have been deployed in these districts for rescue operations.

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Uttar Pradesh

Agricultural economy of UP increases over threefold to Rs.7 trillion in FY 2024-25

The agricultural economy of Uttar Pradesh (UP) has increased more than threefold in the last eight years. The state's agricultural sector's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) increased from Rs.2 trillion in the financial year (FY) 2016-17 to Rs.7 trillion in FY 2024-25. The foodgrain contributed more than 40 per cent to the state's farm sector, followed by horticulture crops at 22.5 per cent and sugarcane at 19.5 per cent.

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Uttar Pradesh govt to develop 234 villages as tourism hubs

The Uttar Pradesh government is planning to develop 234 villages as tourism hubs and support over 750 farm stays and homestays. This comes in a bid to position the state as India's leading rural tourism destination.

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UP govt to hold 'No Helmet, No Fuel' road safety campaign from 1 Sept

The Uttar Pradesh transport department has decided to conduct a month-long 'No Helmet, No Fuel' road safety campaign from 1 September 2025. The campaign will be led by the district magistrate and coordinated through the district road safety committee (DRSC).

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Union Territories

Delhi govt releases Draft Startup Policy

The Delhi government has released the draft of the Delhi Startup Policy in the public domain for feedback from stakeholders. The incentive-based draft startup policy aims to facilitate the setting up of 5,000 startups and make the city a global innovation hub by 2035. Under the policy, the government will establish a Rs.2 billion corpus for the Delhi Startup Venture Capital Fund to provide financial access to these businesses.

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Ladakh LG intends to promote Siachen & Galwan Valley as tourist destinations

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor (LG) Kavinder Gupta said that he intends to promote Siachen and Galwan Valley as tourist destinations. Apart from this, he aims to promote adventure, spiritual and religious tourism in the cold desert of India. The LG said that India's newest union territory (UT) would position its tourism policy as a complete package that blends thrill, tranquillity and faith.

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Chandigarh admin launches QR code-enabled journey planning at inter-state bus terminals

The Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) has launched QR code-enabled journey planning at inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs) and bus queue shelters across the city. By scanning the QR codes installed at designated bus queue shelters, passengers will be directed to a dedicated web page where they can enter their destination and access details such as expected bus arrival times, routes and schedules.

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International Developments

State visit of the Prime Minister of Fiji to India

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka, paid an official visit to the Republic of India. Extensive talks took place covering a wide range of bilateral concerns, along with regional and global developments. The major outcomes of the visit included an MoU for Design, Construction, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of a Super-Specialty Hospital in Fiji, an agreement between M/s. HLL Lifecare Limited and Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji on supply of medicines under Janaushadhi Scheme, an MoU between NIELIT (India) and Pacific POLYTECH (Fiji) between M/s. HLL Lifecare Limited and Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji on supply of medicines under Janaushadhi Scheme, among others.

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11th round of India-Australia CECA negotiations concluded

The 11th Round of negotiations on the India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Ind-Aus CECA) was held with the aim of advancing the shared goal of deepening bilateral trade and economic ties. The discussions spanned multiple areas, including Goods, Services and Mobility, Digital Trade, Rules of Origin, Legal and Institutional Provisions, as well as Environment, Labour, and Gender, leading to greater clarity and convergence on the outstanding issues. Both India and Australia reaffirmed their strong commitment to the early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

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India partners with World Food Programme to fight global hunger

The Government of India and the World Food Programme (WFP) have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to strengthen cooperation in tackling the global hunger challenge. As part of this initiative, the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) will enable WFP to source fortified rice from India, helping meet the food and nutritional needs of vulnerable communities in crisis-affected regions worldwide. Discussions also covered ongoing joint efforts, including Supply Chain Optimization (distribution and procurement), the Fortified Rice Rollout, Annapurta Devices (grain ATMs), Jan Poshan Kendra, Smart Warehousing technologies, and Flospans (mobile storage units), along with exploring new areas for future collaboration.

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The Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) convenes a Symposium-cum-Roundtable during the Singapore Convention Week 2025

The Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) hosted a Symposium-cum-Roundtable on “Bridging Markets, Resolving Disputes via ADR in the India–Singapore Corridor” as part of Singapore Convention Week 2025. The discussions underscored the shared pro-arbitration outlook of India and Singapore, while also highlighting the increasing role of Singapore-based FPIs in India and the corresponding demand for legal expertise amid strengthening diplomatic and economic ties.

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