

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAM VOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves ₹8,146 Crore Tato-II Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh

The Union Cabinet has approved an investment proposal for the construction of the 700 MW Tato-II Hydro Electric Project in the Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh, with a total outlay of Rs. 8,146.21 crore. The project, featuring four turbines each generating 175 MW, is expected to be completed within 72 months. It will produce around 2,738 million units of energy, significantly improving power supply in Arunachal Pradesh and aiding in the stabilization of the national grid. This project will also contribute to the region's economic development through job creation, improved infrastructure, and enhanced local facilities. The hydroelectric project aligns with clean energy goals by harnessing renewable water resources in this strategically important region.

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Cabinet approves ₹4,600 Crore Semiconductor Units in Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh to Boost Domestic Manufacturing

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of semiconductor manufacturing units in Odisha, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh with a total investment outlay of Rs. 4,600 crore. These projects are part of the India Semiconductor Mission, aiming to strengthen the domestic semiconductor ecosystem and reduce import dependency. The new units, including the country's first commercial Silicon Carbide (SiC) compound semiconductor fab in Odisha, will cater to growing demands in telecom, automotive, consumer electronics, and defense sectors while creating skilled employment opportunities. This initiative supports India's ambition for self-reliance and global competitiveness in electronics manufacturing.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet approves ₹5,801 Crore Lucknow Metro Phase-1B to Boost Urban Mobility

The Union Cabinet has approved the Lucknow Metro Rail Project Phase-1B, spanning 11.165 km and comprising 12 strategically located metro stations. With a total project outlay of ₹5,801 crore, this phase aims to enhance urban mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and provide a faster, safer, and more eco-friendly mode of transport for commuters. It is expected to boost connectivity within the city, promote economic activity, and support sustainable urban development, making public transport more efficient and accessible.

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Cabinet Approves ₹4,250 Crore Development Packages for Assam and Tripura

The Union Cabinet has approved four new components under the Special Development Packages (SDPs) for Assam and Tripura, with a central outlay of ₹4,250 crore—₹4,000 crore for Assam and ₹250 crore for Tripura. Assam will add ₹3,000 crore, taking total investment to ₹7,250 crore. Spanning five years in Assam and four in Tripura, the projects aim to boost infrastructure, socio-economic welfare, jobs, and tourism, benefiting underserved tribal and ethnic groups to promote peace, stability, and inclusive growth.

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Cabinet Approves ₹4,200 Crore MERITE Scheme to Boost Technical Education and Employability

The Union Cabinet has approved the MERITE Scheme with a ₹4,200 crore budget for 2025-30, including a ₹2,100 crore World Bank loan. Covering 275 technical institutions nationwide, it will improve quality, equity, governance, and employability through multidisciplinary programs, curriculum upgrades, faculty training, and research. Focused on digitalization, gender inclusion, and market alignment, it aims to benefit 7.5 lakh students, foster innovation, and reduce graduate unemployment with support from premier institutions.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet approves Rs 30,000 crore as compensation to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies for losses in Domestic LPG

The Union Cabinet has approved ₹30,000 crore compensation to IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL for losses from selling domestic LPG at regulated prices during 2024-25, amid high global prices. Paid in 12 tranches, the support will help sustain procurement, manage debt, and ensure uninterrupted, affordable LPG supply, benefiting millions of households and supporting schemes like PM Ujjwala Yojana while safeguarding the financial health of OMCs.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet Approves ₹12,000 Crore LPG Subsidy Extension for PM Ujjwala Yojana in 2025-26

The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the targeted LPG subsidy for Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries in 2025-26, with an allocation of ₹12,000 crore. The subsidy will directly benefit over 10 crore low-income households, ensuring affordable access to clean cooking fuel, reducing dependence on traditional fuels, and promoting health, environmental sustainability, and women's empowerment.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet Approves ₹2,157 Crore Four-Lane Marakkanam–Puducherry Highway Project in Tamil Nadu

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of a 46-km four-lane highway on NH-332A between Marakkanam and Puducherry in Tamil Nadu, costing Rs. 2,157 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Mode. This project aims to decongest the existing two-lane road, improve safety, and enhance connectivity to key economic and social nodes. It includes a 34.7 km greenfield Puducherry bypass and is expected to generate significant employment and boost regional economic growth.

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Industry Developments

Overall

India, Oman FTA to be signed soon

The signing of the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is expected shortly, as per a government official. Formal talks for the agreement began in November 2023. Oman is India's third-largest export market in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), with bilateral trade exceeding USD 10 billion in 2024-25.

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FTAs can give India tariff parity, trade edge: BCG

India's proposed free trade agreement with the European Union (EU) could unlock access to a USD 875 billion market and bring tariff parity with ASEAN countries, according to Boston Consulting Group India head Rahul Jain. The UK-India FTA, signed last month, is set to boost bilateral trade by USD 34 billion and offer duty-free access for 99 per cent of Indian exports.

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US tariffs may hit India's self-reliance goals: Moody's

Moody's Ratings has warned that the United States decision to raise tariffs on Indian imports to 50 per cent could undermine India's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission, reported Economic Times. The move, linked to India's continued oil trade with Russia, may hurt manufacturing competitiveness, especially in electronics, textiles and capital-intensive sectors.

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Agri & Food processing

Reliance Consumer Products launches Campa in Sri Lanka

Reliance Consumer Products (RCPL) has launched its Campa Beverages brand in Sri Lanka in partnership with Ceylon Cold Stores, a subsidiary of the John Keells Group known for the Elephant House brand. The launch in Sri Lanka is part of RCPL's broader international expansion strategy, following previous entries into markets such as the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Nepal.

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Kharif sowing up 4% as of 8 August 2025

Area sown under kharif crops was reported at 99.6 million hectares as of 8 August 2025. This is four per cent higher than the area covered during the corresponding period last year. Acreage under rice increased by 12.1 per cent to 36.5 million hectares and that under coarse cereals also increased by 4.5 per cent to 17.9 million hectares.

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Telangana's rice export industry faces decline

Telangana's rice export industry is facing a decline. Millers are claiming to have slashed shipments by around 20-30 per cent in 2025 due to inflated procurement costs. The crisis threatens the state government's ambitious target of exporting five to six tonnes annually to emerging markets like Indonesia and Africa.

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Aviation

Air India to suspend non-stop Delhi-Washington flights from Sept.

Air India will halt its non-stop services between Delhi and Washington, D.C. from 1 September 2025. The decision was taken to ensure the reliability and integrity of Air India's overall route network as it began retrofitting 26 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners last month, the airline said.

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Air India speeds retrofits programme of narrowbody fleet

Air India has sped up the retrofits programme of narrowbody fleet, according to a media report. The airline's legacy A320neo fleet of 27 aircraft is undergoing retrofit in phases under its narrowbody retrofit programme. This programme, which commenced in last September, is scheduled for completion in September this year.

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Guwahati airport's cargo terminal handles record 952 MT of cargo in July

The Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LGBIA) domestic cargo terminal achieved a new milestone by handling a record 952 metric tonnes (MT) of cargo in a single month. This performance of July 2025 month surpassed the previous all-time high of 841 MT, reflecting a 13.2 percent overall increase in cargo throughput.

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

Stellantis to expand India operations

Stellantis is planning to expand its operations in India by launching new petrol and electric models under its Citroen and Jeep brands. The company intends to leverage the potential India-EU Free Trade Agreement to import and test global models before considering local production. However, Stellantis has chosen not to participate in the Indian government's revised electric vehicle incentive programme for local manufacturing.

[Read more](#)

Apollo Tyres to set up outdoor testing facility in Finland

Apollo Tyres is setting up a new outdoor tyre testing facility in Ivalo, Finland, expected to be operational by December 2025. The facility, developed in partnership with global testing group UTAC, will specialise in evaluating winter and all-season tyres under real-world cold weather conditions.

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Auto component manufacturers have export opportunities in Brazil, Columbia, Poland and Africa

Indian auto component manufacturers have significant opportunities to expand exports in emerging and mature markets such as Brazil, Colombia, Poland, and various regions across Africa. The global independent aftermarket segment presents a growing demand, with Brazil and Poland having notably large aftermarket sizes, while North and South Africa, along with East and West Africa, show promising potential for growth.

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Banking and Financial Services

Margins to moderate as banks provide for loan losses

Banks' profitability is expected to soften in 2025-26 as lenders make higher provisions for potential loan losses and face narrowing net interest margins due to rate cuts, according to India Ratings and Research.

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RBI approves AU SFB's transition to universal bank

The Reserve Bank of India has given 'in-principle' approval to AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) to transition into a Universal Bank, according to media reports. AU SFB applied for the conversion in September 2024, meeting the RBI's eligibility norms, which include the minimum paid-up capital/net worth requirement for Universal Banks and a proven track record of over five years.

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RBI to drop redundant regulations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has created a 30-member Regulatory Review Cell (RRC) to cut down outdated and overlapping rules in the financial sector. Of the RBI's roughly 8,000 active regulations, circulars, master directions and notifications, internal estimates suggest about 5,000 may be outdated.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Govt planning higher ethanol blends, SAF

The government is planning to move towards higher ethanol blends and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) through a phased approach. It has already reached 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol, accomplishing this milestone five years ahead of the revised 2025 target.

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IOCL, HPCL pick up 22 mn barrels of non-Russian crude

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) have secured around 22 million barrels of non-Russian crude oil for delivery in September and October 2025, according to media reports. IOC secured 2 million barrels of US Mars crude, 2 million barrels of Brazilian crude and 1 million barrels of Libyan crude, all on a delivered basis.

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Govt allows freedom to refineries about Russian oil: HPCL

The government has not instructed its oil companies to either stop or continue buying Russian oil, instead granting them the freedom to make procurement decisions, according to Vikas Kaushal, chairman of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL). Russian crude accounted for just 13.2 per cent of the total 6.7 million tonnes of crude processed by HPCL in the April-June 2025 quarter.

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Centre to amend mining laws to allow state funding for overseas assets

The Central government plans to amend mining laws to allow state governments to fund acquisition of overseas critical mineral assets, according to media reports. The amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act proposes that acquisition of overseas critical mineral assets may be funded through collections accrued in the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

[Read more](#)

Healthcare

VRSI launches Mission Vision to combat threat of Diabetic Retinopathy

The Vitreo Retinal Society of India (VRSI) and the Times of India, with support from Roche, have launched Mission Vision. The mission is a nationwide initiative aimed at combating the growing threat of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) in India.

[Read more](#)

Super-speciality block to be inaugurated at Kerala's Kannur district hospital

The new super-speciality block at Kerala's Kannur district hospital will soon be inaugurated by Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan. It has been built under the 'Aardram' Mission and funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). The five-storey facility is likely to bring advanced medical services under one roof, with outpatient departments for cardiology, nephrology and oncology.

[Read more](#)

Chandigarh admin inaugurates emergency & trauma block at GMCH

On 8 August 2025, Chandigarh administrator Gulab Chand Kataria inaugurated the newly-built emergency & trauma block at the Government Medical College & Hospital (GMCH), Sector 32. The facility comprises two basements & three upper storeys, housing a state-of-the-art triage area, fully equipped operation theatres, intensive care units and dedicated surgical & medical wards.

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Infrastructure

AP's road network set for significant upgrade under CRIF

The road network in Andhra Pradesh (AP) is set for a significant upgrade as the Union road minister Nitin Gadkari announced impressive progress and fresh approvals under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). The minister, while replying to a question in the Lok Sabha, revealed that over the past three years, including the current financial year, the state witnessed completion of 20 state road projects, spanning 691 km at a cost of Rs.5.35 billion.

[Read more](#)

CCEA approves Marakkanam to Puducherry stretch of East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the construction of the four-lane wide, 46-km-long Marakkanam to Puducherry stretch of the East Coast Road in Tamil Nadu. It would be a greenfield, access-controlled road.

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Aizawl to be connected to IR network for first time

With the completion of the Bairabi-Sairang New Railway Line Project in Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), Aizawl - the capital city of Mizoram - is set to be connected to the Indian Railways' (IR's) network for the first time. This project was undertaken as part of the capital connectivity projects.

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IT & ITES

Infosys launches nCino platform for ABN AMRO Bank

Infosys has launched the next phase of the nCino platform for ABN AMRO Bank. This platform provides ABN AMRO with a centralised solution for managing assets and collateral while mitigating data quality issues. Under the project, Infosys will transform ABN AMRO's loan origination and collateral management process, improve operational efficiency and help ensure regulatory compliance.

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Hexaware Tech opens office in South Africa

Hexaware Technologies has opened its office in Johannesburg, South Africa, to offer artificial intelligence (AI)-led, human intelligence-perfected solutions to businesses across the African continent. The company already does business in Mauritius and is now planning to expand its business to Nigeria in West Africa and Kenya in East Africa, but the focus is on South Africa.

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US tariffs to delay demand recovery in Indian IT sector

US tariffs may delay demand recovery for the Indian IT sector due to a weakening global macroeconomic environment. The tariffs are not levied on the IT sector directly, but an indirect impact is there. The US clients are expected to face cost pressure due to tariffs. The large deals, which were showing some traction, will also get impacted by tariffs.

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Pharmaceuticals

Roche receives approval for cancer drug Tecentriq

Roche received approval for the launch of cancer drug Atezolizumab (Tecentriq) in India. The technical committee under the Director General of Health Services granted the approval for the drug. The drug is administered through the subcutaneous (SC) route-under-the-skin injection.

[Read more](#)

AIOCD urges ban on sale of prescription drugs by e-pharmacies

The All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD) urged the Union home minister Amit Shah to ban the unregulated online sale and rapid delivery of prescription drugs by e-pharmacies and quick commerce platforms. The body warned that these practices, which bypass mandatory prescription verification, are enabling easy access to controlled medicines.

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Pfizer rolls out single-dose PCV20 vaccine for adults

Pfizer introduced its 20-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV20) in India for adult use. The vaccine offers protection against 20 strains linked to most invasive and non-invasive pneumococcal diseases. It is designed to provide broad and timely protection, particularly for individuals with chronic health conditions.

[Read more](#)

Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh govt modifies industrial laws

The Andhra Pradesh government has announced extensive changes to industrial laws, including lowering parking requirements and loosening land-use standards. The aim is to make conducting business easier and draw in new investment.

[Read more](#)

NABARD and Andhra Pradesh's APGB sign MoU with Aqua Exchange Agritech Private Ltd

On 11 August 2025, the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and Andhra Pradesh Grameen Bank (APGB) signed an MoU with the Aqua Exchange Agritech Private Limited. The agreement introduces a pioneering loan model for shrimp farmers, integrating the internet of things (IoT) as part of a pilot project.

[Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh govt to set up logistics corporation

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to set up a logistics corporation to take full advantage of the ports and airports under construction in the state. On 11 August 2025, Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials of the industries and infrastructure department to prepare a blueprint for the corporation, which will play a pivotal role in the transportation of goods from ports, airports, inland waterways & railways.

[Read more](#)

Gujarat

Gujarat govt announces 9,000 job openings for women under ICDS

The Gujarat government has announced more than 9,000 openings for women to work as anganwadi workers and helpers under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The aim is to tackle malnutrition, improve child health and generate local employment for women.

[Read more](#)

Gujarat CM announces development projects worth Rs.1.8 bln

CM Bhupendra Patel and Union forest minister Bhupender Yadav have announced development projects worth Rs.1.8 billion to boost conservation and tourism. The focus will be on habitat management, wildlife health, conflict mitigation, tourism, research and community participation.

[Read more](#)

Monsoon session of Gujarat Assembly to be held from 8 September

Monsoon session of the 15th Gujarat Assembly will be held from 8 to 10 September 2025. The session has been called by Governor Acharya Devvrat. During the session, the state government will bring two Bills to replace the two Ordinances related to Goods & Services Tax and Factories Act promulgated by it.

[Read more](#)

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh govt approves new milk processing plants

The Himachal Pradesh government has approved the establishment of new milk processing plants at Nahan, Nalagarh, Mohal and Rohru. Besides this, a milk chilling centre will come up at Jalari in Hamirpur district and a bulk milk cooler at Jhalera in Una district. The move is aimed at modernising dairy infrastructure, enhancing milk collection and ensuring better returns for farmers.

[Read more](#)

Himachal Pradesh govt expands e-Office system

The Himachal Pradesh government has expanded the e-Office system. With this, 325 government offices have gone paperless. The initiative aims to improve efficiency, transparency and service delivery across the state. It has significantly reduced paperwork, streamlined administrative processes and made decision-making faster.

[Read more](#)

HPTDC signs MoU with Central University of Himachal Pradesh

The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) signed an MoU with the Central University of Himachal Pradesh (CUHP). The pact is aimed at jointly organising training programs aimed at enhancing the skills of tourism sector employees. The MoU will also allow the CUHP's Master of Business Administration (MBA) (Tourism) students to intern in the HPTDC hotels, gaining practical exposure to hospitality operations and marketing.

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Karnataka

Karnataka govt to implement 2-language policy in all Kannada & English-medium schools

The Karnataka government has decided to implement the two-language policy in all government, aided & private Kannada and English-medium schools in the state. The policy has been proposed by the State Education Policy (SEP) Commission.

[Read more](#)

BMTC to extend metro feeder bus services to stations along new corridor

Karnataka's Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has announced the extension of its metro feeder bus services to stations along the new corridor. This has come in view of the Yellow Line of Namma Metro beginning operations on 11 August 2025, as per The Hindu.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka Cabinet approves 18 Bills

The Karnataka Cabinet approved as many as 18 Bills. These include the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief & Rehabilitation) Bill and Greater Bengaluru (Amendment) Bill. The aim is to strengthen the fight against the century-old Devadasi system and replace the older Karnataka Devadasi (Prohibition and Dedication) Act.

[Read more](#)

Kerala

Kerala minister seeks Centre's permission to borrow Rs.60 bln

On 11 August 2025, Kerala finance minister KN Balagopal held a meeting with Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. He sought the Centre's permission to borrow an additional Rs.60 billion this financial year and restore the amounts that were deducted on various counts. The development has come in a bid to reduce the strain on the fiscal health of the state and to meet expenditures related to the Onam season.

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Kerala govt to launch housing scheme for transgender persons

The Kerala government has decided to launch the first-of-its-kind housing scheme for transgender persons. The aim is to offer them a chance to live with dignity and security. The scheme to be introduced by the state social justice department will provide financial assistance to transgender persons for both purchase of land and construction of house.

[Read more](#)

Super-speciality block to be inaugurated at Kerala's Kannur district hospital

The new super-speciality block at Kerala's Kannur district hospital will soon be inaugurated by Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan. It has been built under the 'Aardram' Mission and funded by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).

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Maharashtra

Amazon announces groundwater recharge project for Vaitarna basin in Maharashtra

Amazon recently announced a groundwater recharge project for the Vaitarna basin in Maharashtra. It will replenish over 1.3 billion litres of water every year once operational in 2027. A sum of Rs.370 million would be invested for the same. The project has been designed in partnership with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt to introduce social security framework for gig workers

The Maharashtra government has decided to introduce a social security framework for gig workers in the state. The state labour department has prepared a draft Bill which proposes a cess on companies, based on their tax and GST payments, to create a welfare fund. The fund will support health insurance, life cover, fixed income and educational benefits for workers & their families.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt to complete new cable-stayed Belasis flyover by Dec

The Maharashtra government is set to complete the new cable-stayed Belasis flyover by 31 December 2025. The project will connect Tardeo, Nagpada and Mumbai Central station. The old Bellasis Bridge, built in 1893, was dismantled by the Indian Railways in June 2024 after being deemed unfit following a structural audit.

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu CM launches Thayumanavar Scheme

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin launched the 'Chief Minister's Thayumanavar Scheme' today. The scheme aims to deliver ration items at the doorsteps of over 2.1 million beneficiaries. It would majorly benefit senior citizens aged over 70 years and differently-abled persons. The CM flagged off vehicles meant for this purpose. He also visited the homes of some of the beneficiaries and handed over the essential commodities to them.

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Area under kuruvai paddy cultivation increases to 233,163 hectares in 5 delta districts of TN

The area under kuruvai paddy cultivation has increased to nearly 233,163 hectares in five delta districts of Tamil Nadu (TN) this year. This is an increase of 56 per cent compared to last year's figure of 149,184 hectares. The five districts include Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai and Tiruchy.

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu govt to set up butter production centre in Uthukuli

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to set up a butter production centre at Uthukuli in Tiruppur district. The information was shared by state Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin on 11 August 2025. The centre will be established at a cost of Rs.65 million. The CM also announced various upcoming development projects for the district.

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Telangana

Telangana govt to set up more palm oil factories

The Telangana government has decided to set up more palm oil factories across the state. The one planned in Mulugu will significantly boost the region's agricultural economy. Besides this, the state government is working to increase the price of palm oil fruit from Rs.18,052 per tonne to Rs.25,000 to ensure farmers receive a fair price.

[Read more](#)

Telangana deputy chief minister lays foundation stones for substations in Chevella

Telangana deputy chief minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu has emphasised the state's robust green energy initiatives as a cornerstone of the state's sustainable development strategy. He also laid the foundation stones for substations and distributed ration cards & transformers to farmers in Chevella.

[Read more](#)

Telangana minister lays foundation for Jawahar Lift Irrigation Scheme

On 10 August 2025, Telangana deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka laid the foundation stone for the Jawahar Lift Irrigation Scheme. The cost of the project has been pegged at Rs.6 billion at Vangaveedu village in Madhira mandal of Khammam district.

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Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh govt allocates Rs.60 bln for greenfield township projects

The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated over Rs.60 billion for greenfield township projects across the state. Around 18 township projects are set to launch in tier II and III cities, including Agra, Aligarh, Ayodhya, Banda, Bulandshahr, Rampur, Meerut, Kanpur, Jhansi, Moradabad, Mathura, Firozabad and Saharanpur.

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Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approves establishment of 3 private universities

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the establishment of three private universities in the state. These include Vedanta University in Muzaffarnagar, Bodhisattva University in Barabanki and KD University in Mathura. The state Cabinet has also approved a new international scholarship scheme in collaboration with the United Kingdom.

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UP govt to provide subsidised agricultural equipment to farmers

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to provide subsidised agricultural equipment to farmers through an e-lottery system. Bookings for agricultural equipment have already been made via the agricultural department portal under various schemes, including Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-situ Management of Crop Residue and Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation.

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Union Territories

J&K admin aims to secure Rs.20 bln under SASCI scheme

The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) administration is aiming to secure around Rs.20 billion under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme. It is an interest-free loan facility provided to states and union territories (UT) over & above their normal borrowing limits. The scheme is capable of strengthening infrastructure and governance.

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Ladakh admin to unveil sports policy for rewarding deserving sportspersons

The Ladakh administration has been drafting a sports policy to reward deserving sportspersons in the union territory (UT). The information was shared by UT Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on 11 August 2025. As part of the policy, the UT administration will recognise and reward players who bring laurels to the region by winning medals in international & national-level tournaments.

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Delhi govt to roll out policy to position city as international shooting destination

The Delhi government has decided to roll out a new policy to position the national capital as an international shooting destination. The information was shared by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. The policy will introduce a single-window clearance system for approving film and other shoot applications.

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International Developments

India-Nigeria Bilateral Defence Talks Held

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth held a bilateral meeting with Dr Bello Mohammed Matawalle, Nigeria's Minister of State for Defence, in New Delhi on August 12, 2025. The two leaders engaged in in-depth discussions to enhance and diversify the growing defence partnership between India and Nigeria. Key areas of cooperation included counter-terrorism training, joint research and development, maritime safety—specifically hydrography and anti-piracy—and collaboration in the defence industry. Shri Seth showcased India's technological capabilities, highlighting platforms such as the Light Combat Aircraft, Light Combat Helicopter, and Offshore Patrol Vessels, and assured full support to Nigeria's defence modernization efforts. Both sides agreed to strengthen joint initiatives, with India inviting a Nigerian defence R&D delegation and Nigeria proposing reciprocal visits to explore investment opportunities. The meeting reaffirmed the longstanding, strategic ties between India and Nigeria, built on shared democratic values and commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation.

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Seafood Exporters Meet 2025

Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh chaired the Seafood Exporters Meet 2025 in New Delhi, bringing together government officials, industry leaders, and progressive farmers to strengthen India's seafood export landscape. The meeting focused on strategies to expand global market reach amid challenges like high US tariffs. Singh emphasized increasing value addition in seafood products—from just 10% currently to up to 60%—and improving packaging, infrastructure, and certification standards to boost competitiveness. The government urged exporters to explore alternative markets such as the EU, Japan, South Korea, UK, Russia, Australia, West Asia, and Southeast Asia, reducing dependency on a single major market. Agencies like MPEDA were tasked to map state-specific export opportunities and facilitate infrastructure upgrades using funding support like the Fishery Infrastructure Development Fund. Stakeholders highlighted the need for streamlined certification, improved cold chain logistics, and incentives for value-added exports. The minister also reiterated the importance of developing domestic seafood markets for resilience and income generation, ensuring the government's commitment to addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and safeguarding the interests of exporters and fishers. This collaborative approach aims to drive sustainable growth, diversification, and innovation in India's seafood exports.

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