

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAMVOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves rationalization of royalty rates of Graphite, Caesium, Rubidium and Zirconium minerals critical for Green Energy

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the rationalized royalty rates for four critical minerals—Graphite, Caesium, Rubidium and Zirconium. The new rates include 2% of the Average Sale Price (ASP) for Caesium and Rubidium, 1% of ASP for Zirconium, and an ad valorem structure for Graphite: 2% ASP for grades with 80% or more fixed carbon, and 4% ASP for grades with less than 80% fixed carbon.

This decision is expected to boost the auction of mineral blocks containing these minerals, unlocking not only their potential but also associated critical minerals like Lithium, Tungsten, Rare Earth Elements, and Niobium. The shift to ad valorem royalty for Graphite ensures that royalty reflects price variations across grades. Increased domestic production will help reduce imports, strengthen supply chain security, and generate employment.

Graphite, Caesium, Rubidium and Zirconium are essential for high-tech and green energy applications. Graphite and Zirconium are also part of the 24 critical minerals listed under the MMDR Act. India currently imports about 60% of its Graphite requirement, and while nine mines are operational, multiple blocks have been auctioned or are under exploration. These minerals have diverse uses—Graphite in EV batteries, Zirconium in nuclear and aerospace sectors, Caesium in precision electronics and medical instruments, and Rubidium in specialty glass, fibre optics and night-vision applications.

The upcoming Sixth Tranche of critical mineral auctions (NIT issued on 16 September 2025) includes blocks of Graphite, Rubidium, Caesium and Zirconium. The revised royalty structure will provide bidders greater clarity and support more competitive and rational bidding.

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Cabinet approves Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the introduction of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) to provide 100% credit guarantee coverage through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC). This will enable Member Lending Institutions to extend up to Rs. 20,000 crore in additional, collateral-free credit to eligible exporters, including MSMEs.

The scheme will be implemented by the Department of Financial Services through NCGTC, with a Management Committee headed by the Secretary, DFS, monitoring its progress. The initiative aims to improve exporters' liquidity, support business continuity, and enhance competitiveness in global markets. It will also help Indian exporters diversify into new and emerging markets and contribute to the country's goal of achieving USD 1 trillion in exports, strengthening India's journey towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Exports account for about 21% of India's GDP, employ over 45 million people, and MSMEs contribute nearly 45% of total exports. Given their crucial role, providing enhanced and timely financial assistance is essential for sustaining export growth, supporting market expansion, and maintaining India's macroeconomic stability. The scheme offers targeted liquidity support to ensure that exporters can grow, compete, and broaden their global footprint.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves Export Promotion Mission to strengthen India's export ecosystem with an outlay of Rs.25,060 crore

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), a flagship initiative announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors. With a total outlay of Rs. 25,060 crore for FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31, EPM replaces multiple fragmented schemes with a single, flexible, and digitally driven framework that can respond quickly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs.

The Mission will be implemented collaboratively by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Finance, state governments, Export Promotion Councils, financial institutions, commodity boards, and industry associations. It will function through two integrated sub-schemes: Niryat Protsahan, which provides affordable trade finance through interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees and credit enhancement; and Niryat Disha, which strengthens non-financial export support such as compliance, global branding, logistics assistance, packaging, trade fairs, warehousing, and capacity building.

EPM consolidates key schemes like the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) and aims to address structural export challenges including high cost of finance, expensive compliance, limited branding, and logistical disadvantages faced by exporters, especially those in interior regions. Priority support will be given to sectors affected by recent global tariff increases such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and marine products to protect jobs and sustain export momentum.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will serve as the implementing agency, with all processes managed through a fully digital platform integrated with existing trade systems. The Mission is expected to expand access to affordable finance, improve export compliance readiness, strengthen market visibility, enable exports from non-traditional districts, and generate employment across manufacturing, logistics and related services. EPM represents a modern, technology-enabled, and inclusive approach aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

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Cabinet passes resolution on Explosion near Red Fort in Delhi

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, expressed profound grief over the loss of lives in the terrorist car explosion near the Red Fort in Delhi on 10 November 2025 and observed two minutes' silence in memory of the victims. The Cabinet strongly condemned this heinous and cowardly act, conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. It appreciated the immediate response of medical teams, emergency personnel, security agencies, and citizens who acted with courage and compassion during the incident. The Cabinet also acknowledged the messages of solidarity received from governments across the world.

Reaffirming India's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, the Cabinet directed that the investigation be carried out with utmost urgency and professionalism to ensure that the perpetrators, their collaborators, and sponsors are brought to justice at the earliest. The Government remains fully committed to safeguarding national security and protecting the lives of all citizens.

[Read more](#)

Industry Developments

Overall

Govt panel seeks rollback of 200 QCOs

A high-level government committee led by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba has recommended cancelling, suspending or deferring quality control orders (QCOs) for over 200 products to reduce compliance burdens and strengthen manufacturing competitiveness, reported Business Standard. It has proposed scrapping 27 QCOs on items such as plastics, polymers, base metals, footwear and electronic components, and suspending or deferring orders on more than 100 others.

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India, Peru and Chile make FTA progress on minerals

India has made significant headway in free trade agreement (FTA) talks with Peru and Chile, with critical minerals emerging as a key focus, as per media reports. Indian negotiators held the ninth round of discussions with Peru in Lima from 3-5 November 2025, covering trade in goods and services, rules of origin, customs procedures and critical minerals.

[Read more](#)

CEA calls for global integration of manufacturing

India must complement its manufacturing drive with deeper integration into global value chains to sustain long-term growth and become strategically indispensable, according to chief economic advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran.

[Read more](#)

Agri & Food processing

Codex panel sets maximum permissible limits for lead in spices

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United Nations' international food standards-setting body, has set the maximum permissible limit for lead in spices and culinary herbs, especially cinnamon, in order to reduce toxic effects of the metal in food. It has fixed the maximum limit at 2.5 mg per kg for lead in spices and dried bark.

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Farmers expect bumper turmeric harvest in Maharashtra

Farmers in Maharashtra expect a bumper turmeric harvest, according to media reports. This is in spite of unseasonal rains affecting several crops in the state. Turmeric planting starts soon after the pre-monsoon showers and the crop is harvested within 7-9 months.

[Read more](#)

Rabi sowing underway at slow pace in Rajasthan

Rabi sowing is going on at a slow pace in Rajasthan, reported Business Standard. This is due to prolonged monsoon in the state which disrupted the seeding of winter crops, especially wheat and barley. Sowing for both of these crops has not even reached 50 per cent of the state agriculture department targets, with only 15-20 days left for sowing.

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Aviation

SpiceJet expands its fleet to 35 aircraft by adding 5 Boeing 737s

As part of SpiceJet's ongoing network and capacity expansion for the winter schedule, the low-cost carrier has expanded its operational fleet to 35 aircraft after inducting five additional Boeing 737s. The latest induction brings the total number of aircraft added in just over a month to 15. The move comes as the airline responds to a surge in passenger traffic during the festive and holiday season.

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Fleet size of Air India drops a year after merger with Vistara

The fleet size of Air India declined a year after merger with Vistara - the Tata-Singapore Airlines (SIA) joint venture (JV). At the time of the merger, the airline proudly showcased its combined fleet of 298 aircraft, including those of Air India Express. The Air India-Vistara fleet was at 208 then. A year later, the fleet is down significantly to 187 aircraft, with a few more slated to leave the fleet.

[Read more](#)

IndiGo, China Southern Airlines inks MoU to establish codeshare partnership

On Tuesday, 11 November 2025, IndiGo and China Southern Airlines inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish a codeshare partnership and mutual cooperation agreement. With this, China Southern Airlines will be able to provide better connectivity in India, while IndiGo customers will be able to connect to China Southern Airlines' extensive network beyond Guangzhou.

[Read more](#)

Automobiles and Ancillaries

Tata Motors CV arm officially listed as separate company

Tata Motors' commercial vehicle (CV) division has been officially listed as a separate company, marking a major milestone in the company's multi-year transformation strategy. The restructuring, initiated under chairman N. Chandrasekaran, aimed to create independent and focused passenger and commercial vehicle businesses with distinct operations and leadership teams.

[Read more](#)

Car manufacturers raise concerns over EV scheme rules

Automobile manufacturers in India have raised concerns about the government's new electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing scheme, arguing that its high investment thresholds, strict localisation mandates, and ambitious sales targets are unrealistic given the current state of the domestic EV market.

[Read more](#)

Top passenger vehicle manufacturers planning to increase production capacity

Major Indian passenger vehicle manufacturers, including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, and Tata Motors, are planning to increase production capacity by up to 40 per cent in response to rising vehicle demand following recent GST rate cuts. The industry has seen record retail sales, with Maruti Suzuki alone recording strong double-digit growth and a large backlog of pending orders.

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Banking and Financial Services

Cap on large shareholder voting in banks may be retained

The government plans to retain a cap on voting rights for large shareholders in domestic banks, indicating that efforts to liberalise the financial sector and attract foreign investment will remain limited in scope. The Reserve Bank of India has recently taken steps to simplify complex regulations and allow foreign lenders to acquire larger stakes in domestic banks.

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Banks seeing traction in car, 2-wheeler financing

Banks are seeing traction in car and two-wheeler financing, indicating that goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts may have unlocked pent-up consumer demand. Vehicle loan growth halved from 14 per cent to 7.3 per cent year-on-year in September 2025, according to the Reserve Bank of India data.

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Moneyboxx Finance expects its AUM to reach Rs.10 bn by March 2026

Moneyboxx Finance, a non-banking financial company, offering business loans to micro-entrepreneurs, plans to achieve Rs.10 billion in assets under management (AUM) by March 2026, according to media reports. In the September 2025 quarter, its AUM grew by 16 per cent year-on-year to Rs.8.9 billion.

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Energy & Natural Resources

No Russian cargoes booked for December by BPCL, HPCL, MRPL, HREL

Refiners such as Reliance Industries, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals and HPCL Mittal Energy have not booked any Russian oil cargoes for December 2025 delivery. Usually, deals for the upcoming month are finalised by the 10th of the current month.

[Read more](#)

RIL's Saudi oil purchases jump in October

Reliance Industries (RIL) has increased its Saudi oil imports by a significant 87 per cent month-on-month in October 2025, as the company reduced its reliance on Russian crude. This rise in purchases comes after Aramco slashed its official selling price (OSP), which could encourage Reliance and PSU refiners to secure more cargoes.

[Read more](#)

Union cabinet rationalises royalty rates for 4 critical minerals

The union cabinet rationalised royalty rates for four critical minerals such as graphite, caesium, rubidium and zirconium, according to media reports. Royalty for caesium and rubidium has been fixed at two per cent of the average sale price (ASP) of the metal contained in the ore produced. For zirconium, it is one per cent.

[Read more](#)

NTPC in talks with 16 states to acquire land for nuclear projects

NTPC is in discussion with 16 states to acquire land for nuclear projects to achieve its goal of 30 gigawatt (GW) nuclear energy capacity by 2047, according to media reports. The 16 states include Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat.

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Healthcare

Maharashtra CM lays foundation stone for education and medical complex in Gadchiroli

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis laid the foundation stone for an educational and medical complex at Rajeshwarpalli in Gadchiroli district. The project will feature a 350-bedded multispecialty hospital and various professional colleges, aiming to boost healthcare, education & employment in the remote region.

[Read more](#)

West Bengal govt launches 110 mobile medical units

The West Bengal government has launched 110 mobile medical units. The aim is to bring basic healthcare to remote villages and hilly areas of the state. The information was shared by Chief Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee on 11 November 2025.

[Read more](#)

Delhi govt proposes to inaugurate 187 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs by December

The Delhi government will inaugurate 187 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs by December 2025. The information was shared by Chief Minister (CM) Rekha Gupta on 9 November 2025. Currently, 168 such centres are operational across the city.

[Read more](#)

Infrastructure

Centre sanctions Rs.3.5 bln for 97 rural roads and 33 bridges in AP

On 11 November 2025, Union minister for agriculture & rural development Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the sanction of Rs.3.5 billion for the construction of 97 rural roads and 33 bridges across Andhra Pradesh. The project will be taken up under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), reported The Hindu.

[Read more](#)

MMRDA prepares DPR for 70-km tunnel road network across Mumbai

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed 70-kilometre (km) Integrated Tunnel Road Network. This underground network will connect the Mumbai Coastal Road, Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) High-Speed Rail Station and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

[Read more](#)

Railway ministry to set up Mega Coaching Terminals in 20 cities to boost train-handling capacity

In a bid to boost train-handling capacity, the railway ministry is preparing to set up Mega Coaching Terminals in 20 cities across the country. These 'Mega Coaching Terminals' will be developed where the demand for both arriving and departing trains is high.

[Read more](#)

IT & ITES

HCLTech leads in RPE among top-tier firms

HCL Technologies has led the pack among the top-tier companies on revenue per employee (RPE) in the September 2025 quarter, as per a report by market intelligence firm UnearthInsight Research. The company's RPE grew by two per cent to Rs.14.2 trillion. This growth was led by artificial intelligence (AI)-led productivity gains, better workforce productivity and project execution efficiency.

[Read more](#)

AP govt clears incentives worth nearly Rs.600 mln for IT

The Andhra Pradesh (AP) government has cleared incentives worth nearly Rs.600 million for IT firms. The clearance covers about 50 per cent of the pending incentive claims that had earlier been uploaded to the Comprehensive Financial Management System (CFMS).

[Read more](#)

Tech Mahindra, AT&T partner to boost global telecom reliability

Tech Mahindra has entered into a partnership with AT&T to boost global telecom reliability. Under the partnership, Tech Mahindra will leverage AT&T's Automated Network Testing (ANT) and Open Tool platforms to transform network testing and certification for Long Term Evolution (LTE) and 5G networks globally.

[Read more](#)

Pharmaceuticals

Biocon considers merger with its biosimilars subsidiary Biocon Biologics

Biocon is reportedly considering merging its biosimilars subsidiary, Biocon Biologics, with itself in a deal that could value the unit at around USD 4.5 billion. Biocon had earlier explored listing the biologics business. It is now in advanced discussions with minority investors for a potential share swap while also evaluating a mix of cash and equity options.

[Read more](#)

Eli Lilly ends partnership with CVS Health's pharmacy benefit unit

Eli Lilly has decided to end its partnership with CVS Health's pharmacy benefit unit and will shift employee drug coverage to Rightway from 1 January 2026, following CVS' decision to exclude Lilly's weight-loss drug Zepbound from its preferred formulary in favour of Novo Nordisk's Wegovy.

[Read more](#)

LMS inaugurates oncology manufacturing block at its Vizag plant

Lupin's subsidiary, Lupin Manufacturing Solutions (LMS), has inaugurated a new oncology manufacturing block at its Vizag plant in Andhra Pradesh to strengthen its contract development and manufacturing (CDMO) capabilities.

[Read more](#)

Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh CM inaugurates MSME Park at Pedairlapadu

On 11 November 2025, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated a micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME) Park at Pedairlapadu of Pedacherlo Palke mandal. He has assured the people of the district that the Veligonda project would be completed by 2026.

[Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh CM lays foundation for biogas plants at 2 locations

On 11 November 2025, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) N Chandrababu Naidu laid foundation stones for the construction of biogas plants at Vangara mandal in Vizianagaram district and Santhavuriti village in Srikakulam district. These areas would witness rapid industrial growth with the initiatives taken up by the state government.

[Read more](#)

YSRCP launches protests in Andhra Pradesh against privatisation of medical colleges

The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) launched state-wide protests in Andhra Pradesh today. The protest aims to oppose the state government's alleged move to privatise state-run medical colleges. Rallies were held across all 175 Assembly constituencies, with people participating in the 10 million signature campaign, demanding the withdrawal of the decision to allegedly privatise medical colleges.

[Read more](#)

Gujarat

Adani Group to enter BESS in Gujarat

Adani Group plans to start manufacturing battery energy storage systems (BESS) with a capacity of 3,530 megawatt-hour (MWh) of power. The project is likely to supply 1,126 MW for about three hours at Khavda, Gujarat. The project will have more than 700 BESS containers and will use lithium-ion batteries. Adani Group is likely to invest around Rs.100 billion in setting up the 3530 MWh capacity of BESS.

[Read more](#)

State-wide procurement of kharif crops begins in Gujarat

On 9 November 2025, Gujarat agriculture minister Jitu Vaghani inaugurated the state-wide procurement of kharif crops at the minimum support price (MSP) from Dehgam in Gandhinagar district. The initiative marks the beginning of large-scale government procurement aimed at ensuring fair returns to farmers.

[Read more](#)

Gujarat CM launches new website for Census 2027

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel launched the new website of Census Gujarat today. The website provides user-friendly access with modern features, a simple navigation menu and multilingual functionality.

[Read more](#)

Haryana

Haryana govt relaxes upper age limit for ex-Agniveers

The Haryana government has relaxed the upper age limit for ex-Agniveers, who are domiciles of the state, during direct recruitment after completing their military service. A letter to this effect was issued by state chief secretary Anurag Rastogi today. As per the decision, ex-Agniveers will be entitled to a relaxation of three years in the prescribed upper age limit for direct recruitment to Group B and C posts.

[Read more](#)

Haryana Assembly launches capacity-building plan for its officers, employees

On 10 November 2025, the Haryana Assembly launched a comprehensive capacity-building plan for its officers and employees. The initiative seeks to enhance administrative efficiency, transparency and technological competence among officers & staff, as per The Times of India.

[Read more](#)

Haryana SHPPC approves key rate contracts to strengthen healthcare services

The Haryana Special High-Powered Purchase Committee approved several key rate contracts aimed at strengthening healthcare services and infrastructure across the state. The committee finalised rate contracts for 87 defibrillators for all civil hospitals worth Rs.46.4 million, 40 mobile X-ray machines costing Rs.10.1 million, 11 video bronchoscopes worth Rs.40 million and advanced gastrointestinal video endoscopy systems worth Rs.72 million.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka

Karnataka minister lays foundation stone for drinking water supply project in Kalaburagi

On 11 November 2025, Karnataka medical education minister Sharan Prakash Patil laid the foundation stone for a new drinking water supply project in Kalaburagi. The project aims to draw water from the Khachur Barrage for Sedam town.

[Read more](#)

Karnataka govt upgrades its portals to Content Management System 4.0

The Karnataka government has upgraded its portals to the Content Management System (CMS) 4.0. Following this, the state government portals have become safer and less prone to hackers. Upgrading of over 1,200 existing government portals has been taken up by the Centre for e-Governance Department.

[Read more](#)

BIAL in Karnataka to construct elevated walkway connecting ATMS & KIA

The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) in Karnataka has invited expressions of interest (EOI) for the design and construction of an elevated walkway connecting the upcoming Airport Terminal Metro Station (ATMS) with terminal-I at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

[Read more](#)

Kerala

Kerala govt to introduce scheme to subsidise 4% interest on loans provided by KSWDC

The Kerala government has decided to introduce a scheme to subsidise four per cent interest on loans provided by the Kerala State Women Development Corporation (KSWDC) to women-led enterprises registered with the Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society (KRTMS).

[Read more](#)

AgriNext to be launched in Kerala

The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has decided to launch a new project called AgriNext. It is aimed at bringing the state's farming community into the startup ecosystem. The initiative will benefit farmers, startups and farmer producer organisations (FPOs). They can identify key problems in the agriculture sector and share them with startups.

[Read more](#)

Centre sanctions Rs.1.1 bln for underpass at Chinthareddypalem flyover in Kerala

The Centre has sanctioned Rs.1.1 billion for the construction of an underpass at the Chinthareddypalem flyover on the national highway (NH)-16 in Kerala. This will provide the much-needed relief for the residents of Nellore.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra

Maharashtra govt approves Rs.8.2 bln for district central cooperative banks

The Maharashtra government has approved Rs.8.2 billion as share capital for the district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) of Nashik, Nagpur and Dharashiv. The decision has been taken to strengthen the financial position of banks and ensure smooth credit flow to farmers.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra CM lays foundation stone for education and medical complex in Gadchiroli

Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis laid the foundation stone for an educational and medical complex at Rajeshwaripalli in Gadchiroli district. The project will feature a 350-bedded multispecialty hospital and various professional colleges, aiming to boost healthcare, education & employment in the remote region.

[Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt approves State Zoo Authority

The Maharashtra government has approved the formation of the Maharashtra State Zoo Authority under the revenue and forest department. The creation of the authority aims to streamline zoo management and strengthen wildlife conservation efforts. A sum of Rs.5.3 million has been sanctioned for the same.

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu minister lays foundation for restoration of Wellington lake

Tamil Nadu labour & skill development minister CV Ganesan laid the foundation stone for the restoration of the canals at the Wellington lake in Cuddalore. The cost of the project has been pegged at Rs.1.3 billion. Concrete walls would be constructed on both sides of the main canals of the lake.

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu PWD to set up eco parks at 3 spots in Ranipet

Tamil Nadu public works department has commenced setting up eco parks at three identified spots near key intersections in Ranipet. The new parks have been designed to provide much-needed leisure space for children & senior citizens, offering amenities specifically designed for these segments of society.

[Read more](#)

Tamil Nadu govt to redesign, rationalise school curriculum under SEP

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to redesign and rationalise the school curriculum under the State Education Policy (SEP). It has constituted two committees, including a high-level expert committee and curriculum design committee. The first meeting of the high-level expert committee will be held on 24 November 2025. Following this, the whole process of revamping the curriculum will begin.

[Read more](#)

Telangana

Telangana govt releases Rs.130 mln for Cyclone Montha-affected people

The Telangana government has released Rs.130 million as immediate relief to families whose houses were damaged in the heavy rains and floods triggered by Cyclone Montha. A sum of Rs.15,000 each would be provided to the owners for taking up repair works.

[Read more](#)

Agriculture experts caution Telangana's growing reliance on paddy

The agriculture experts in Telangana have cautioned that the state's growing reliance on paddy, an irrigation-intensive crop, could push it towards a monocrop crisis. Preliminary reports indicate a 10-15 per cent rise in rabi paddy acreage for the 2025-26 season compared to last year.

[Read more](#)

Telangana tops in construction of water conservation projects

Telangana has emerged as the top performer among states and union territories (UTs) in the construction of water conservation projects. The state has 520,000 water conservation projects under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 1.0 initiative. It is followed by Chhattisgarh with 405,000 and Rajasthan with 364,000 water conservation projects.

[Read more](#)

Telangana govt increases per-acre maize procurement limit

The Telangana government has raised the per-acre maize procurement limit from 18 quintals to 25 quintals. The total area under maize cultivation is higher by 0.2 million hectares (mha) to around 0.26 mha. The state plans to procure 0.8 million tonnes (mt) through 125 centers, anticipating a total output of 1.15 mt.

[Read more](#)

Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh govt to provide various financial incentives to exporters

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to provide various financial incentives to exporters under the Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Policy 2025-30. The incentives include subsidised shipping, insurance and event participation, along with financial assistance for units that achieve a Rs.50 million export benchmark.

[Read more](#)

CM announces projects worth Rs.17.3 bln for Barabanki's Kursi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath announced projects worth Rs.17.3 billion for Barabanki's Kursi Assembly constituency today. He emphasised the state government's commitment to inclusive growth and cultural resurgence.

[Read more](#)

UP govt to distribute free pulses and oilseeds to 1 mln farmers

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to distribute free pulses and oilseeds to nearly a million farmers for the current rabi season. It is expected to boost the sowing of these major cash crops and provide remunerative prices to the farm community.

[Read more](#)

Union Territories

546,000 unorganised workers identified in J&K

On 11 November 2025, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) chief secretary (CS) Atal Dulloo reviewed the union territory (UT) finance department's progress on financial inclusion and social security schemes. It has been revealed that nearly 546,000 unorganised workers have been identified for enrolment under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM) scheme.

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Ladakh LG inaugurates phase-I of Sodh Lift Irrigation Scheme

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor (LG) Kavinder Gupta inaugurated phase-I of the Sodh Lift Irrigation Scheme. It has been developed under the Special Development Package at an estimated cost of Rs.99.7 million.

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Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana impacts air quality in Delhi

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana has led to the worsening of air quality levels in NCR. It is being alleged that the Supreme Court's (SC) orders are being flouted with impunity.

[Read more](#)

Chandigarh civic body to establish 17 more sites for dumping C&D waste in various wards

The Chandigarh Municipal Corporation has decided to establish 17 additional dedicated sites for dumping construction and demolition (C&D) waste in various wards. The decision has been taken in the wake of the increasing C&D waste generation across the city.

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International Developments

State visit of the President of India to Angola

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, began her State Visit to Angola, the first visit by an Indian President to the country. In talks with President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, both sides reviewed bilateral relations and reaffirmed their partnership based on mutual trust and shared development goals. They discussed expanding cooperation beyond the strong energy partnership into technology, agriculture, health, defence, infrastructure and people-to-people exchanges. MoUs on cooperation in fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources, and on cooperation in consular matters were exchanged, and Angola confirmed its decision to join the IBCA and GBA.

[Read more](#)

State visit of the President of India to Botswana

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu visited Gaborone, on the final leg of her State Visit to Angola and Botswana - the first-ever Presidential visit from India to Botswana. In talks with President Duma Gideon Boko, both sides agreed to expand cooperation in trade, agriculture, renewable energy, health, education, skill development, defence and digital technology. The leaders marked the upcoming 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties and discussed India-Africa partnership. Botswana agreed to provide cheetahs for the next phase of Project Cheetah, and both sides signed an agreement on pharmacopoeia alongside India's decision to supply essential ARV medicines.

[Read more](#)

State visit of the Prime Minister of India to Bhutan

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi paid a two-day State Visit to Bhutan from 11-12 November 2025 at the invitation of King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. He met Bhutan's leadership and held discussions covering development cooperation, connectivity, energy partnership and regional issues. India reaffirmed support for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan, the Gelephu Mindfulness City and key connectivity projects. The two sides inaugurated the 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II hydropower project, advanced work on Punatsangchhu-I, expanded cooperation in STEM, fintech and space, and signed MoUs including on renewable energy and health.

[Read more](#)

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry holds CECA review talks in Melbourne

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, visited Melbourne for bilateral meetings with Australia's Minister for Trade and Tourism Don Farrell and Minister for Skills Andrew Giles. The Ministers reviewed progress in the India-Australia CECA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement) negotiations and discussed strengthening cooperation in goods, services, investment and emerging areas. Bilateral merchandise trade reached USD 24.1 billion in 2024-25. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to an early, balanced CECA building on ECTA (Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement). Shri Goyal also interacted with Indian-origin business representatives to explore deeper commercial linkages.

[Read more](#)

International Developments

Fourth round of India-New Zealand FTA talks makes strong progress

The fourth round of negotiations on the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded today in Auckland and Rotorua, following five days of constructive and forward-looking discussions between the two sides. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, and New Zealand Minister for Trade, Mr. Todd McClay, acknowledged the steady progress made during this round and reaffirmed their commitment to work towards a modern, comprehensive, and future-ready FTA. Both delegations held detailed engagements across key tracks including trade in goods, trade in services, economic and trade cooperation, and rules of origin. The discussions reflected the shared ambition to strengthen economic ties and build a mutually beneficial partnership that supports resilient, inclusive, and sustainable growth. Guided by the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India remains committed to forging deeper economic partnerships that contribute to global prosperity and secure supply chains. The Ministers noted that the proposed FTA is expected to significantly enhance trade flows, deepen investment linkages, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and provide greater predictability and market access for businesses in both countries. The ongoing discussions reflect the shared resolve of both nations to expedite the process and work towards an early, balanced, and mutually advantageous conclusion of the agreement. India's bilateral merchandise trade with New Zealand stood at USD 1.3 billion in FY 2024–25, marking a year-on-year growth of nearly 49 percent. The proposed FTA is expected to unlock further potential in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, education, and services, creating new opportunities for businesses and consumers alike.

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India-EU FTA negotiations advance in New Delhi

A senior team of negotiators from the European Union (EU) visited New Delhi from 3 to 7 November 2025 for negotiations with Indian counterparts on the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The week-long discussions were part of ongoing efforts to advance negotiations towards a comprehensive, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade agreement. The deliberations covered a wide range of chapters, including goods, services, investment, trade, sustainable development, rules of origin, and technical trade barriers. As part of the negotiations, Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal held detailed meetings with Director-General for Trade, European Commission Ms. Sabine Weyand, to take stock of the progress achieved across negotiating tracks. The two-day stocktake meetings, held on 5–6 November 2025 in New Delhi, reviewed key outstanding issues in the India–EU FTA negotiations. Both sides agreed to further accelerate efforts towards achieving a balanced trade agreement. The Commerce Secretary reaffirmed India's commitment to achieving an outcome that promotes economic growth and development while ensuring a fair and balanced distribution of benefits. He also emphasized the need for clarity and predictability in the implementation of emerging EU regulatory measures, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the proposed new steel regulation. Both sides noted with satisfaction the substantive progress made across several negotiating areas and agreed to sustain the positive momentum. The discussions helped narrow divergences, and common understanding was reached on many issues. The importance of continued technical-level engagement in the coming weeks was underscored to bridge remaining gaps and work towards the shared objective of concluding the India–EU FTA negotiations at the earliest.

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