





The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

WEEKLY BULLETIN

ASSOCHAMVOICE



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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves major boost to medical education capacity across India

The Union Cabinet has approved a significant expansion of both postgraduate and undergraduate medical education capacity across the country, marking a major step towards strengthening India's healthcare infrastructure. This initiative aims to address the long-standing shortage of trained medical professionals and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare, particularly in underserved regions. By enhancing the intake capacity of medical colleges, the government seeks to build a larger and more skilled workforce that can cater to the growing healthcare demands of the population. The decision is expected to include the establishment of new medical colleges, expansion of existing institutions, and the creation of additional seats in critical specializations. It will also complement ongoing reforms in medical education focused on quality standards, faculty development, and research. This move not only strengthens the public health system but also creates new opportunities for students aspiring to pursue careers in medicine.

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Cabinet approves DSIR Scheme for Capacity Building and HR Development with ₹2277 Crore outlay

The Union Cabinet has approved the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) Scheme titled "Capacity Building and Human Resource Development" with a financial outlay of Rs. 2277.397 crore. The scheme is aimed at strengthening India's innovation ecosystem by fostering advanced research capabilities, promoting skill development, and creating a strong base of trained human resources in science and technology. It will support initiatives for training young researchers, industry professionals, and academic faculty in cutting-edge technologies, thereby bridging the gap between research and industrial application. The scheme also envisions collaborative programs with industry and academia to nurture innovation-driven entrepreneurship, encourage technology incubation, and facilitate effective transfer of research outcomes to commercial use. By focusing on both capacity building and workforce development, the scheme is expected to create a robust talent pool that can drive India's scientific progress and enhance global competitiveness in emerging sectors.

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Cabinet approves Productivity Linked Bonus for 78 days to railway employees

The Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages to eligible railway employees for the current year. This decision acknowledges the crucial role of railway staff in ensuring efficiency, improved services, and sustained performance of the Indian Railways. The bonus will benefit lakhs of employees, boosting their morale and motivating them to enhance productivity further. It also reflects the government's commitment to rewarding hard work and supporting the railway workforce's welfare.

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Cabinet Decisions

Cabinet approves ₹69,725 crore package to boost Shipbuilding and Maritime sector

The Union Cabinet has approved a comprehensive package worth Rs. 69,725 crore to revitalize India's shipbuilding and maritime sector, underscoring the government's vision of making India a global hub for blue economy activities. The package is aimed at modernising shipyards, enhancing domestic shipbuilding capacity, and promoting indigenous technology development in line with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative. It seeks to strengthen India's strategic presence in global shipping, reduce import dependence, and position the country as a competitive player in international maritime trade. Special focus will be laid on eco-friendly and technologically advanced vessels to meet global sustainability standards. The package is also expected to generate large-scale employment opportunities, stimulate demand for allied industries such as steel and electronics, and boost India's exports of ships and marine equipment. Through this initiative, the government aims to unlock the untapped potential of the maritime sector and contribute significantly to national economic growth.

[Read more](#)

Cabinet Approves ₹3,822 Crore 4-Lane NH-139W Project in Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of the 4-lane Sahebganj-Arera-Bettiah section of National Highway-139W in Bihar under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM), with a total project length of 78.942 km and an investment of Rs. 3,822.31 crore. This important infrastructure initiative is expected to enhance regional connectivity significantly, reduce travel time, and support the movement of goods and people across key districts of Bihar. The project will facilitate better access to agricultural markets, promote industrial growth, and improve socio-economic development in the region. By adopting the HAM model, the project ensures balanced risk sharing between the government and private developers, leading to faster execution and long-term sustainability. Once completed, it will not only provide a modern, safe, and efficient roadway but also boost employment generation during the construction phase, creating direct and indirect economic benefits for local communities. This step further strengthens Bihar's road infrastructure network.

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Cabinet Approves ₹2,192 Crore Doubling of Bakhtiyarpur-Rajgir-Tilaiya Railway Line in Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved the doubling of the Bakhtiyarpur-Rajgir-Tilaiya single railway line section in Bihar, covering a total length of 104 km, at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,192 crore. This important project is aimed at enhancing railway infrastructure, improving connectivity, and meeting the increasing demand for passenger and freight movement in the region. Doubling of the line will help in reducing congestion, minimising delays, and ensuring faster, more reliable train operations. It will provide critical support to local industries, agriculture, and tourism by facilitating smoother transport of goods and people. The project is also expected to create new employment opportunities during the construction phase and offer a long-term boost to the regional economy. Once completed, the doubled line will significantly improve operational efficiency and capacity, contributing to the overall growth of Bihar's transport network and strengthening the role of Indian Railways in supporting inclusive development.

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Industry Developments

Overall

Private capex slump threatens 8% GDP growth path: YES Securities

Despite record cash reserves of Rs.10.4 trillion in 2024-25, Indian companies have held back on new investments, casting doubt on the sustainability of India's growth momentum, YES Securities stated in a report. Most surplus liquidity has been returned to shareholders instead of funding fresh projects, as firms remain cautious amid weak demand, global uncertainty and policy unpredictability.

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OECD lifts India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 to 6.7%

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has revised India's real GDP growth forecast for 2025 upwards by 40 basis points to 6.7 per cent, from its earlier estimate of 6.3 per cent in June 2025. The upgrade is attributed to strong domestic demand and the positive impact of GST reforms.

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Flash PMI eases in September

The HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) eased to 61.9 in September 2025, down from August's multi-year peak of 63.2. This signals a modest cooling in private sector growth. The Manufacturing PMI dipped slightly to 58.5 from 59.3, while the Services PMI softened to 61.6 from 62.9.

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Agri & Food processing

Food Ministry signs agreement with FCI for improving management

The Food Ministry has entered into an agreement with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) for financial year 2025-26, to improve the procurement and distribution of foodgrains, with a focus on better management of the food subsidy. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) highlights the government's commitment to using technology and better system-driven approaches to ensure efficient management of food subsidy funds.

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Govt approves procurement of kharif crops at MSP in Gujarat, UP

The Indian government has approved the procurement of tur, urad, moong, groundnut, soyabean and sesame at their minimum support prices (MSP) from farmers in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. In Gujarat, the central government will procure 47,780 tonnes of urad, 4,415 tonnes of moong, 0.11 million tonnes (mt) of soyabean and 1.26 mt of groundnut, according to media reports.

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Centre deploys onion trains to curb festive price spikes

The government has stepped up market interventions to stabilise onion prices ahead of Diwali, dispatching special trains carrying up to 1,700 tonnes each to Guwahati, Kolkata and Chandigarh, reported Mint. Through the Price Stabilisation Fund, it has procured 300,000 tonnes of onions.

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Aviation

Kochi airport registers substantial growth in footfall in 2024-25

The Kochi airport registered a substantial increase in footfall in 2024-25. Nearly 11.2 million passengers used the facility in the aforesaid year. This was up by 6.33 per cent or 666 thousand higher than the previous year. According to the annual report for 2024-25, released by Cochin International Airport (CIAL), 5,926,244 domestic passengers and 5,269,721 international passengers used the facility in 2024-25 as against 40,603 and 29,601, respectively, in the previous financial year or 2023-24.

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Private jet becomes first aircraft to land at Navi Mumbai airport

A private jet has become the first aircraft to officially land at the long-awaited Navi Mumbai airport, according to a media report. The private jet was carrying passengers from Ahmedabad and was operated under a non-scheduled operator permit (charter).

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CISF takes over security of upcoming Noida International Airport

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) took over the security of the upcoming Noida International Airport (NIA) on Monday, 22 September 2025. With this, this new airport became the 70th airport under the agency's cover. In the first phase, 1,047 CISF personnel will be deployed under a chief aerodrome security officer (CASO).

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Automobiles and Ancillaries

JLR extends production cut until October 2025

Tata Motors owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) has extended its production shutdown until 1 October 2025 following a cyberattack earlier in September that severely disrupted its operations. The incident affected three major UK manufacturing plants, halting the daily production of about 1,000 vehicles and forcing many of the company's 33,000 employees to remain at home.

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Top car manufacturers report exceptional sales on first day of Navratri

India's top car manufacturers recorded exceptional sales on the first day of Navratri, driven by the implementation of GST 2.0, which reduced vehicle prices and boosted consumer interest. Maruti Suzuki led the market with over 25,000 retail sales and around 80,000 customer enquiries, while Tata Motors delivered approximately 10,000 vehicles and Hyundai saw its highest single-day performance in five years with about 11,000 dealer billings.

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Domestic two wheeler sales to grow by 6-9%, says Icra

Domestic two-wheeler sales in India are projected to grow by 6-9 per cent in the ongoing financial year, supported by improved affordability from recent GST cuts, steady replacement demand, a recovery in urban markets, and stable rural incomes aided by a normal monsoon. This is as per a report by rating agency Icra.

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Banking and Financial Services

Corporate India tapping non-bank channels for funding

Corporate India is increasingly turning to non-banking sources to meet its funding needs. Nearly 50 per cent of the funds raised by corporates in 2024-25 came from equity markets, bonds and loans provided by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

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Nomura expects 12% credit growth in 2025-26

Credit growth is expected to rise to 12 per cent year-on-year in 2025-26, according to Nomura. The growth will be driven by improving asset quality in unsecured retail loans and microfinance segments.

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NIMs to edge up in December 2025 quarter

Net interest margins (NIMs) are expected to rebound in the December 2025 quarter after witnessing a decline in the June and September 2025 quarters. NIMs dropped to 2.89 per cent in the June 2025 quarter from 3.15 per cent a year earlier.

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Energy & Natural Resources

Removal of cess to support domestic coal output & reduce import reliance: Officials

The removal of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess is expected to support domestic coal production and reduce reliance on imports, according to officials. Earlier, there was a GST compensation cess of Rs.400 per tonne on coal which was removed by the GST council and the GST rate on coal was increased to 18 per cent from earlier five per cent.

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Govt to compensate ONGC, OIL for stratigraphic drilling

The government has approved compensation for Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India (OIL) to cover the Rs.32 billion cost of a stratigraphic drilling campaign. BP, a global energy leader, will provide technical expertise in site identification and drilling operations.

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Ministry to secure critical minerals from South American nations

The ministry of mines is looking to secure stable supplies of critical minerals from South American nations such as Peru, Chile and Argentina. The ministry of mines will be visiting Peru to explore opportunities for lithium, copper and rare earth imports. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations are underway with Chile, aiming to enhance economic ties and secure essential resources.

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Conventional electricity generation falls 3.3% during April-August 2025

The conventional electricity generation fell by 3.3 per cent y-o-y to 665,885.4 million kwh during April-August 2025. Electricity generation from the thermal power plants went down by 5.9 per cent to 552,913.4 million kwh during the period under review.

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Healthcare

Telangana govt to set up dialysis centres every 20 to 25-km

The Telangana government has decided to set up dialysis centres every 20 to 25-km in the state. The information was shared by state health minister C Damodar Raja Narasimha. It will ensure that patients no longer have to travel long distances or endure prolonged waiting hours for life-saving treatment.

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Tamil Nadu minister lays foundation for new surgical theatre building in Boothapandi

Tamil Nadu dairy development minister T Mano Thangaraj has laid the foundation for a new surgical theatre building at the government taluka headquarters hospital in Boothapandi. The cost of the same has been pegged at Rs.35 million. Furthermore, a surgical theatre building is being constructed for the convenience of pregnant women under the state health & family welfare fund, reported The Hindu.

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Star Health cashless claim services to resume at AHPI hospitals by 10 Oct

Cashless claim settlements for Star Health Insurance will be reinstated across all 15,000+ hospitals under the Association of Healthcare Providers India (AHPI) by 10 October 2025. AHPI has withdrawn its earlier advisory to halt cashless services from 22 September 2025.

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Infrastructure

Telangana CM directs to fast-track land acquisition for key highway projects

Telangana chief minister (CM) A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to accelerate land acquisition and ensure timely compensation payments to farmers for major highway projects in the state. He ordered that the entire land acquisition and compensation process be finalised by the end of October 2025.

[Read more](#)

Govt clears 25.2-km elevated road between Thane and Navi Mumbai Airport

The government has cleared a 25.2-km elevated road between Thane and Navi Mumbai Airport at a cost of Rs.63.63 billion. This elevated road will be built on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) model. Designed to provide a signal-free and time-saving connection, the route will require toll payments.

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Dahisar-Bhayander highway to be constructed in Maharashtra

The upcoming Dahisar-Bhayander highway in Maharashtra will enable travel from Nariman Point to Mira-Bhayander in just 30 minutes using the coastal road network. The long-stalled project has overcome a significant obstacle with the transfer of 21.5 hectares of salt land from the Union salt commissioner to the state government.

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IT & ITES

Maharashtra govt to strengthen its IT department

The Maharashtra government has decided to strengthen its information technology (IT) department soon. The information was shared by state Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis on 22 September 2025. The aim is to enhance the delivery of citizen services. Empowering the IT department is key to realising the vision of digital Maharashtra, the CM added.

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Accenture to set up new campus in Andhra Pradesh

Accenture is planning to set up a new campus in the port city of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with the aim of adding nearly 12,000 jobs to its workforce in India. This move came after the Andhra Pradesh government introduced a new state policy offering leased land at Rs.0.99 per acre to large firms willing to generate employment. The company has asked for 10 acres of land.

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Infosys extends partnership with Swiss telco Sunrise

Infosys has extended its strategic long-term partnership with Switzerland's telecom firm Sunrise. The company will strengthen IT transformation and harness the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in business operations of Sunrise. Under the deal, Infosys will leverage its AI platform, Infosys Topaz, to support Sunrise in creating new business propositions by increasing operational speed, efficiency and quality through data-driven insights and intelligent automation.

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Pharmaceuticals

US tariff threat puts Indian contraceptives at risk

The United States (US) president's warning of tariffs of up to 250 per cent on pharmaceutical imports has raised concerns about the supply of low-cost medicines from India, with birth control pills seen as especially vulnerable.

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Tata seeks USD 200 million funding for 1mg

Tata Group is in talks with global investors, including Novo Holdings, CPPIB, Permira and Chrys Capital, to raise up to USD 200 million for its online pharmacy arm, 1mg. The valuation differences remain a hurdle as investors seek a lower post-money value than the USD 1.25 billion set in 2022.

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Pfizer set to acquire Metsera in USD 7.3 billion deal

Pfizer is reportedly nearing a USD 7.3 billion acquisition of Metsera. Metsera is a New York-based developer of weight-loss drugs. The potential buyout would value Metsera shares at USD 47.5 each in cash, with an additional USD 22.5 tied to performance milestones, representing a significant premium over its recent market valuation.

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Regional Developments

Andhra Pradesh

AP attracted investment projects worth Rs.4.4 trillion in 2024-25

Andhra Pradesh has attracted investment projects worth Rs.4.4 trillion in 2024-25 across agriculture, industry, services and information technology (IT). The information was released in a study, titled 'Investment, Development & Growth between 2021-22 to 2024-25 in Progressive Andhra Pradesh' by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Export Promotion Council (MSME EPC).

[Read more](#)

AP govt initiates works worth Rs.55 bln across 68 locations

The Andhra Pradesh government has initiated development works worth Rs.55 billion across 68 locations under the Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO). The development has come with an aim to meet the rising power requirements of households, industries and agriculture.

[Read more](#)

Andhra Pradesh Assembly approves SC Classification Bill

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly has approved the Scheduled Caste (SC) Classification Bill on 24 September 2025. It seeks to promote fairness and equitable access to opportunities for all SCs in the state. Currently, they are entitled to a 15 per cent reservation in public sector jobs and educational institutions.

[Read more](#)

Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh govt approves Rs.5.5 bln to modernise religious sites

The Himachal Pradesh government has approved Rs.5.5 billion to conserve the state's heritage by modernising religious sites and improving facilities for devotees. Nearly Rs.500 million has been set aside for the restoration of ancient temples, forts and archaeological sites.

[Read more](#)

Himachal Pradesh govt amends Aero Sports Rules

The Himachal Pradesh government has amended the Himachal Pradesh Aero Sports Rules. The aim is to make norms for adventure sports more stringent and safe, especially for those who take a joy ride with a professionally-trained pilot. As per the amendment, the pilots undertaking tandem flights will have to complete a simulation during the paragliding safety course.

[Read more](#)

State govt to recruit 2,602 workers to bolster operations of HPSEBL

The Himachal Pradesh government has launched a large-scale recruitment drive to fill critical staff shortages in the state electricity board by hiring over 2,600 new workers. As part of this, around 1,602 Bijli Upbhogta Mitras and 1,000 T-Mates will be recruited to bolster the operations of the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited (HPSEBL).

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Haryana

Haryana CM inaugurates paddy procurement process

On 22 September 2025, Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the paddy procurement process for the kharif season from the grain market in Kurukshetra's Ladwa. The state government is committed to ensuring that every grain of paddy produced by farmers is procured at the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs.2,369 per quintal.

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Haryana CM launches regional road upgradation project

On 21 September 2025, Haryana Chief Minister (CM) Nayab Singh Saini launched the regional road upgradation project. The aim is to strengthen the state's road infrastructure. Under this initiative, 4,227 roads covering 9,410-km will be repaired and upgraded in the current financial year at a cost of Rs.48.7 million.

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Haryana govt to link multiple digital records to Family IDs through AI

The Haryana government has prepared plans to launch phase-II of the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) scheme to link multiple digital records to Family IDs through artificial intelligence (AI). As part of this, land ownership records & data from the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), including details of income tax returns, bank accounts, tax deducted at source (TDS) and other financial transactions, will be integrated into the existing Family ID database.

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Karnataka

Karnataka govt includes 46 villages to Local Planning Area of HDUDA

The Karnataka department of urban development included 46 villages to the Local Planning Area of Hubballi Dharwad Urban Development Authority (HDUDA). The information was shared by chairman of HDUDA Shakir Sanadi. As many as 13 villages of Hubballi taluka, six villages of Kalghatgi taluka and 27 villages of Dharwad taluka have been added to the Local Planning Area of Hubballi Dharwad.

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Karnataka govt launches Local Economy Accelerator Programme

The Karnataka government has unveiled the Local Economy Accelerator Programme (LEAP). It is a Rs.1 billion initiative aimed at transforming the state's innovation landscape beyond Bengaluru. The LEAP will be implemented over five years, aiming to generate 500,000 jobs and build startup ecosystems in tier-II & -III cities of the state.

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Karnataka govt constitutes Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee

The Karnataka government has constituted a Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee (PTFRC) to independently recommend revisions of bus fares in the state's road transport corporations. The move aims to ensure the financial sustainability of transport corporations and depoliticise fare hikes.

[Read more](#)

Madhya Pradesh

MP govt approves helicopter services for tourist spots, religious places

On 23 September 2025, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government approved helicopter services within the state on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode. The initiative aims to connect major cities, religious places, national parks and key tourist destinations through air at affordable prices.

[Read more](#)

MP govt launches skilling initiative to equip students for emerging technology roles

The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government has launched a new skilling initiative to equip students for emerging technology roles and align academic programmes with industry requirements. This has been done in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi Proudhyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (RGPV) and L&T EduTech.

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12 AYUSH hospitals to come up in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh would soon get 12 ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy (AYUSH) hospitals. The information was shared by state Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav on 23 September 2025. As part of this, as many as two hospitals with 50-bed capacity are being opened in Ujjain and Khajuraho.

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Maharashtra

Maharashtra govt announces relief package of Rs.13.3 bln for rain-affected farmers

On 23 September 2025, the Maharashtra government announced a relief package of Rs.13.3 billion for farmers whose crops were damaged by heavy rains between June and August 2025. The assistance is based on damage assessments carried out during this period. The relief package will benefit 1.9 million farmers across 1.5 million hectares.

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Maharashtra's Samruddhi Expressway to become solar-powered

The Hindu Hridayasamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Mahamarg in Maharashtra is set to become solar-powered. Also known as the Samruddhi Expressway, the 701-km expressway connects Nagpur and Mumbai. The equipment has been installed at Karjalad in Buldhana and Mehkar Interchange in Washim district of the expressway. According to the plans, a total of 204 megawatt (MW) of renewable energy will be generated.

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Maharashtra's Sindhudurg becomes first district in India to adopt AI

Maharashtra's Sindhudurg has become the first district in India to implement artificial intelligence (AI) in administration and public safety. Since 1 May 2025, eight key departments in the district have been operating through AI systems.

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Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu CM lays foundation for projects worth Rs.220 mln in Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (CM) MK Stalin laid the foundation for multiple projects to be implemented in Chennai at a total cost of Rs.220 million today. He also inaugurated new projects completed at a cost of Rs.86 million in the city. The Murasoli Maran Park in Perambur is set to be renovated by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) at a cost of Rs.8.20 crore.

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TNPDCL invites bids to set up 98 33/11 kv substations in Tamil Nadu

On 23 September 2025, the Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPDCL) invited bids to set up 98 new step-down substations of 33/11 kilovolt (kv) capacity in its 12 regions. The development will take place under the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

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Tamil Nadu farmers demand increases MSP for tapioca

The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association has demanded that the state government fix Rs.15,000 as the minimum support price (MSP) for tapioca per tonne. Farmers cultivating tapioca have claimed that the price of one tonne has dropped to Rs.3,000. This has severely impacting their livelihoods. They have also sought MSP be fixed for the sago and starch derived from tapioca.

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Telangana

Telangana's total revenue receipts at August-end stand at Rs.966.5 bln

Poor run of Telangana's finances continued for the fifth month in a row in the current financial year 2025-26. The state's total revenue receipts at August 2025-end stood at Rs.966.5 billion, just 33.9 per cent of the Rs.2.8 trillion projected in the budget estimates. Total receipts include revenue receipts and capital receipts.

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Telangana govt approves investments worth Rs.37.4 billion

The Telangana State Industrial Promotion Cabinet Sub-Committee has approved investments worth Rs.37.4 billion from three multinational companies. Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited will establish a large-scale plant in Siddipet district. The plant is expected to significantly boost the demand for mangoes and oranges, bringing direct benefits to local fruit farmers.

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Telangana's Nagarkurnool to get 50 digital libraries

Telangana's Nagarkurnool district is set to get 50 digital libraries in order to promote knowledge and awareness among rural students and communities. The cost of the project has been pegged at Rs.12 million. The facilities will be set up constituency-wise, with Kalwakurthy getting eight libraries, Kollapur seven, Nagarkurnool seven and Achampet seven.

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Uttar Pradesh

DGP issues orders to establish Mission Shakti centres in police station

On 23 September 2025, Uttar Pradesh's director general of police (DGP) Rajeev Krishna issued orders to establish Mission Shakti centres in every police station across the state. The move follows Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath's recent launch of Mission Shakti 5.0. The centres have been designed to provide women with a dedicated, sensitive & coordinated response to complaints and to strengthen prevention, counselling & rehabilitation services.

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UPETDB invites bids for maintenance of 11 eco-tourism destinations

The Uttar Pradesh Eco Tourism Development Board (UPETDB) has invited bids from private investors for the operations and maintenance of 11 world-class eco-tourism destinations developed across the state. These include Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Ballia, Barabanki, Lalitpur, Banda, Jalaun, Kushinagar, Sitapur, Maharajganj and Milkipur in Ayodhya district.

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Uttar Pradesh tops CAG's report on state finances

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has released a report on state finances. The report stated that 16 states recorded a revenue surplus, while 12 reported a revenue deficit in 2022-23. Uttar Pradesh posted the highest revenue surplus of Rs.370 billion, followed by Gujarat with Rs.198.6 billion.

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Union Territories

Centre revises project cost of Nubra and Zaskar transmission lines in Ladakh

The Centre has approved a revised project cost of Rs.19.2 billion under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) for the Nubra and Zaskar transmission lines & grid stations in Ladakh. With this sanction, the project is now expected to be completed by October 2026.

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Delhi govt to establish 53 new FTSCs

The Delhi government has decided to ensure the swift disposal of cases relating to crimes against women and children. The information was shared by Chief Minister (CM) Rekha Gupta on 23 September 2025. As part of it, a total of 53 new fast-track special courts (FTSCs) would be established across the national capital.

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91-km road connecting Hanle & Chumar opened in Ladakh

The 91-km road connecting Hanle to the border village of Chumar in Ladakh has been opened for the public. The route traverses extreme high altitudes from 14,500 to 17,200 feet, including the high Salsa La Pass. The road, while providing strategic connectivity for the armed forces along the borders, will also facilitate local connectivity and tourism in the region.

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International Developments

Visit of Minister of Commerce and Industry to UAE for investment dialogue

Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal visited the UAE for meetings aimed at boosting bilateral trade, strengthening investments, and expanding cooperation. He co-chaired the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) Roundtable with UAE's Minister of Foreign Trade, Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, engaging with leading CEOs from both countries. UAE investors provided valuable inputs on improving the investment climate, particularly regarding market access, regulatory frameworks, and dispute resolution, highlighting mutual commitment to deepening India-UAE economic and trade relations.

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3rd round of India-New Zealand FTA negotiations concluded

The third round of India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks concluded successfully, reaffirming both countries' commitment to deepen economic ties and achieve an early, balanced, and mutually beneficial deal. Bilateral merchandise trade reached USD 1.3 billion in FY 2024-25, marking nearly 49% growth from the previous year. The FTA is expected to enhance trade flows, encourage investment linkages, improve supply chain resilience, and provide a stable, predictable framework for businesses across both nations.

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Brazil-India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech (Maitri 2.0) launched

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched the second edition of the Brazil-India Cross-Incubation Programme in Agritech, known as Maitri 2.0. This initiative serves as a collaborative platform for mutual learning and co-creation between innovators from India and Brazil. Maitri 2.0 seeks to enhance incubator partnerships, share best practices, foster co-incubation, and create fresh opportunities in areas such as sustainable agriculture, digital technologies, value-chain development, and bilateral cooperation. The programme underscores a joint commitment to advancing a more resilient, innovative, and inclusive agri-food ecosystem that contributes to global food security.

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India and Morocco sign an MoU for defence cooperation

India and Morocco have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation, establishing a strong institutional framework to further strengthen their partnership. The agreement sets the stage for collaboration in the defence industry, joint military exercises, training, and capacity building. A new Defence Wing will be set up at the Embassy of India in Rabat. Both countries have also agreed to deepen defence industry ties and outlined a comprehensive roadmap that includes cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime security, cyber defence, peacekeeping, military medicine, and expert-level exchanges.

[Read more](#)

India and ADB sign \$125 million loan to upgrade urban services in Assam

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$125 million loan agreement to improve urban livability and enhance climate resilience in six district headquarters and Guwahati, Assam. The project is expected to benefit around 360,000 residents by ensuring continuous metered water supply and upgrading stormwater management systems. It also aims to strengthen urban governance through institutional reforms and capacity-building initiatives. Key components include the development of water treatment plants, installation of distribution pipelines, improved stormwater management, establishment of the Assam State Institute for Urban Development in partnership with IIT Guwahati, and measures for social development.

[Read more](#)

India and Australia sign Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Organic Products

India and Australia have signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for organic products, furthering their collaboration under the India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA). The arrangement reflects their shared commitment to sustainable trade and strategic partnership. Covering organic products grown and processed in both countries, the MRA simplifies certification and regulatory compliance, reducing duplication and costs. It creates fresh opportunities for farmers to expand market access and enables exporters to compete more effectively, boosting bilateral trade in organic goods.

[Read more](#)



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