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NEWSFLASH

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MMRDA SIGNS MOUS WORTH ₹9 TRILLION ON DAY TWO OF WEF 2026



On the second day of the World Economic Forum (WEF) 2026 in Davos, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) signed 12 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) worth approximately ₹9.52 trillion, boosting total investment commitments at the forum to ₹18.25 trillion. These agreements span sectors including fintech, digital infrastructure, logistics, healthcare, AI, and climate resilience, and are expected to create around 9.5 lakh jobs in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Maharashtra's Chief Minister said the partnerships reflect strong global confidence in the state's growth potential.

NET FDI NEGATIVE FOR FOURTH MONTH IN A ROW IN NOVEMBER 2025.

India's net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained negative for the fourth consecutive month in November 2025, with outflows exceeding inflows by about \$446 million, according to Reserve Bank of India data. Despite a rise in gross FDI inflows led by Japan, Singapore and the US repatriations and disinvestments kept the net FDI in the negative. The trend reflects continued investor caution amid global uncertainties, including concerns over trade and currency movements.



ASSAM SECURES ₹1 TRILLION INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS IN FIRST YEAR AT WEF



Assam secured investment commitments worth about ₹1 lakh crore during its first-ever participation at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, marking a major milestone for the state's global economic outreach. He described the experience as enlightening and the Northeast as emerging investment destination. Citing strong growth and policy engagement, Sarma highlighted foundational projects like a urea factory and chemical complex as signals of future industrial expansion.

EU TRADE DEAL CAN SOFTEN BLOW FOR 84% OF INDIA'S EXPORTS HIT BY US TARIFFS

A proposed India-EU trade deal could ease the impact of steep US tariffs on Indian exports by allowing 84% (nearly \$40 billion of \$47 billion) of goods hit with 50% duties to enter the European Union with better access, a Moneycontrol analysis shows. Sectors like gems, jewellery, seafood, and textiles could benefit significantly, though some goods such as carpets and spices face limitations. While not a full offset, the pact would cushion tariff shocks.



PLAN TO INTENSIFY MINERAL EXPLORATION IN NEXT 5 YEARS: MINES SECRETARY



The Ministry of Mines plans to significantly intensify mineral exploration over the next five years (2026–31), with a strong focus on critical and strategic minerals, Mines Secretary Piyush Goyal said. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has been instructed to expand exploration projects nationwide, emphasizing advanced technologies and faster approvals to boost discoveries. This initiative aims to strengthen India's mineral security, support emerging industries, reduce import dependence, and foster economic growth through enhanced domestic resource mapping and development.

FERTILISER IMPORTS SET FOR RECORD \$18 BILLION THIS FISCAL YEAR: OFFICIALS

India's fertiliser imports are set to reach a record \$18 billion in the current 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a 76% increase from last year, government and industry officials said. In the first nine months, imports surged to about \$13.98 billion, driven by strong demand after favourable monsoon rains encouraged farmers to expand crop acreage. Large shipments of urea and DAP arriving in the March quarter are expected to lift the full-year total.



INDIA, UAE SET \$200 BILLION TRADE TARGET, DEEPEN NUCLEAR AND INFRA TIES



India and the United Arab Emirates set a target to double bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032, marking deeper economic and strategic cooperation during UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to New Delhi. The two countries agreed to expand nuclear cooperation, including large reactors and small modular reactors, and invite UAE investment in India's infrastructure projects. Talks also covered energy, finance, and broader strategic ties, reinforcing the strong India-UAE partnership.

IMF UPGRADES INDIA'S FY27 GDP GROWTH TO 6.4% DESPITE TRADE RISKS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast to 7.3%, up 0.7 percentage points from its October estimate, citing a better-than-expected third-quarter performance and strong momentum into the fourth quarter. The upward revision reflects solid economic activity and improved macro indicators. However, the IMF expects growth to moderate in the following years as temporary factors ease. This outlook reinforces India's position as a resilient, fast-growing major economy amid global uncertainties.



WEST BENGAL REINS IN REVENUE SPENDING GROWTH IN FY'26 SO FAR; CAPEX CONTRACTS: REPORT



West Bengal has kept its revenue spending growth low, with revenue expenditure rising only 3.8% in the first eight months of FY 2026 compared with a much higher 16.1% last year, showing fiscal discipline according to a CareEdge Ratings report. The state accounted for about 6.2% of aggregate revenue expenditure, avoiding a stressed fiscal trajectory. However, capital expenditure contracted sharply by 35.1%, weakening overall capex performance among states.

TENSE FED IS SET TO LEAD GLOBAL PEERS WITH INTEREST-RATE HOLD

The U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to hold interest rates steady at its upcoming meeting, likely leading global central banks in resisting further rate cuts amidst ongoing economic uncertainty. Despite political pressure, including calls from US leadership to lower borrowing costs, policymakers are prioritizing stability. Other major central banks in Brazil, Canada and Sweden are also expected to maintain current rates, reflecting a cautious global monetary stance in a tense economic environment.



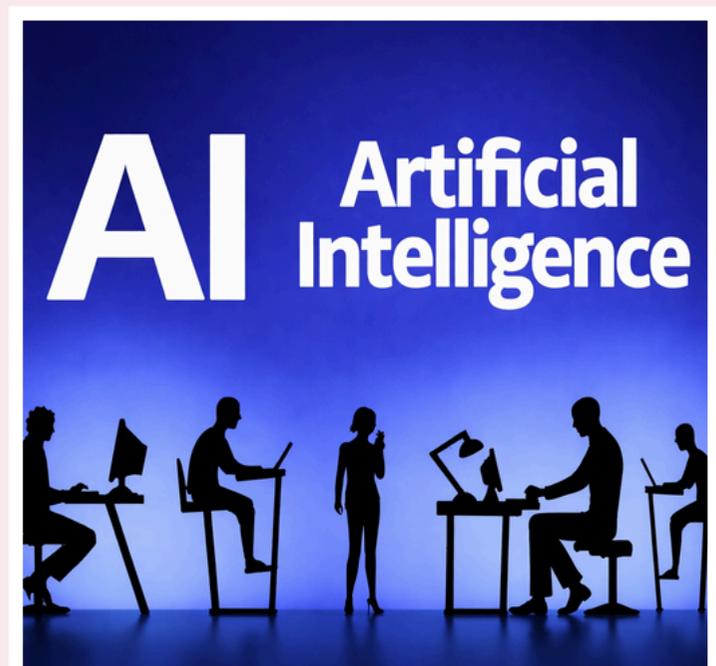
NHAI PLANS TO PARE DEBT TO BELOW RS 2 LAKH CRORE BY MARCH 2026



The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) plans to cut its debt below ₹2 lakh crore by March 2026, a senior government official said, as part of a strategic fiscal push. As of December 31, 2025, its liability stood at about ₹2.36 lakh crore. NHAI has not borrowed since 2023 and has already reduced debt by about 32%, including pre-repaying ₹86,000 crore, lowering its interest burden and improving financial stability.

AI COULD RESHAPE JOBS GLOBALLY BY 2030, ASSERTS WEF WHITE PAPER

A World Economic Forum (WEF) white paper warns that artificial intelligence could significantly reshape the global labour market by 2030, affecting jobs across industries. While AI may automate and displace certain tasks, it is also expected to create new roles and demand for different skills. The report highlights the need for reskilling and upskilling workforces, urging governments, businesses, and educators to prepare employees for future job transitions and evolving workplace dynamics.



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