

**IN BRIEF**  
**India, Bhutan to boost power cooperation**

NEW DELHI: India and Bhutan will strengthen cooperation in the power sector, an official statement said on Tuesday. A delegation from the neighbouring nation met Union Power Minister Manohar Lal in the national capital, the statement said. Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Bhutan Lyonpo Gem Tshering met Lal to strengthen cooperation in the power sector, the power ministry said. "During discussions, both sides deliberated on the commercial optimisation of power output from the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1020 MW)," it said. Emphasis was also placed on the early commissioning of the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project (1200 MW), the ministry said.

**Natco gets US nod for cancer drug**

NEW DELHI: Drug firm Natco Pharma on Tuesday said it has received approval from the US health regulator for a generic cancer medication. The company has received tentative approval for Erdafitinib in strengths of 3 mg, 4mg, and 5 mg, the drug firm said in a regulatory filing. The company's product is a generic version of Janssen Biotech Inc's Balversa. Natco said Erdafitinib is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic urothelial carcinoma harbouring susceptible FGFR3 genetic alterations.

**Century Plyboards to ramp up exports**

KOLKATA: Century Plyboards India Ltd is set to aggressively expand its export footprint in the United States, riding on Indo-US trade developments and a favourable tariff environment, Managing Director Sanjay Agarwal said on Tuesday. The company, which has so far been exporting limited volumes of laminates, cubicles and exterior laminates to the US, has decided to significantly scale up its overseas push after remaining cautious in the past. "We have been exporting laminates, cubicles and exterior laminates to the US, though in limited volumes, and we had been going slow," Agarwal said.

**KEC bags ₹1,020 cr worth orders**

NEW DELHI: KEC International has secured new work orders worth over Rs 1,000 crore across various business verticals in domestic and international markets. With these wins, the company's year-to-date order intake has crossed over Rs 20,000 crore. In a statement, KEC International, an RPG Group Company, announced securing new orders of Rs 1,020 crore across various businesses - civil, transportation, Transmission and Distribution (T&D) and cables and conductors.

**Maha govt's pact with Godrej Agrovet**

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the government has entered into a partnership with Godrej Agrovet Ltd, as part of which more than 5,000 women farmers from cotton-producing districts in the state will receive training in sustainable and modern farming practices. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Godrej Agrovet Ltd and the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM-Umed) under the guidance of the CM to empower women farmers in the state, a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

**SAIL posts highest-ever 16% growth in FY26 so far**



NEW DELHI

STEEL Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of the country's largest steel-making companies and a Maharatna public sector enterprise, on Tuesday announced it has achieved its highest-ever cumulative sales during the April to January period of the current financial year.

The company recorded total sales of 16.6 million tonnes during this period in FY 2025-26, showing a strong growth of 16 per cent compared to 14.3 million tonnes in the same period last financial year, according to the official statement.

This marks the best sales performance in SAIL's history for these months. SAIL also delivered its best-ever sales figures for the month of January.

"The company achieved record dispatches from plants, expanded door delivery volumes and enhanced warehouse sales, underscoring its strong focus on customer-centricity and logistics efficiency while deepening market penetration," it added.

In January 2026, the company sold 1.84 million tonnes of steel, which is more than 10 per cent higher than the 1.68 million tonnes sold in January last financial year.

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The strong sales performance helped the company reduce its inventory by around 0.25 million tonnes.

It also led to a significant reduction in borrowings, improving the company's financial position.

According to the company, the record achievements were seen across several areas such as sales, dispatches, cash collections and customer deliveries.

SAIL increased the volume of steel delivered directly to customers' locations, expanded warehouse-based sales and improved dispatches from its plants.

These improvements reflect the company's focus on better logistics and customer service. The marketing team played a key role in driving these results by strengthening market reach and meeting business targets.

**Streax Shampoo ropes in Bumrah**



BIZZ BUZZ BUREAU  
HYDERABAD

STREAX, one of India's leading hair colour and hair care brands from Hygienic Research Institute (HRI), has unveiled Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as the brand ambassador for Streax Shampoo Hair Colour, marking the association with a high-impact campaign titled "Main Fast, Streax Super-Fast."

The campaign positions Streax Shampoo Hair Colour as a quick, performance-driven grooming solution tailored for today's fast-paced, on-the-go consumers. Drawing inspiration from Bumrah's trademark speed and precision, the campaign reinforces the product's core promise of delivering effective hair colour results in just five minutes.

Commenting on the association, Priyancka Puri, Senior Vice President - Marketing, Hygienic Research Institute, said Jasprit Bumrah perfectly represents the brand's values.

"Bumrah embodies precision, performance, and passion—qualities that define Streax. 'Main Fast, Streax Super-Fast' reflects our belief in innovation that is quick, reliable, and effective. South India is a strategic market for us, and with a Rs10 price point, we are making this breakthrough format even more accessible to households across the region," she said.

**India's housing prices up 9.6%, outperforming peers: Report**

**Strong domestic demand and a stable macroeconomic environment aiding growth, says report**

**STEADY GROWTH**

- Housing sales in top eight cities remained steady at 3.48L units last year
- Sales in H2 2025 was the highest since 2013
- Price growth in Delhi saw a 19% increase
- It was followed by Hyderabad (13%), Bengaluru (12%) and Mumbai (7%)

NEW DELHI



INDIA ranked among the top ten global markets with residential prices up 9.6 per cent year on year, significantly outperforming the global average supported by firm domestic demand, improving affordability and a stable macroeconomic environment, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from real estate services firm Knight Frank said that residential sales across the top eight cities remained steady in 2025 at over 3.48 lakh units, with H2 2025 volumes the highest since 2013.

"Market health indicators remained balanced, with the quarters-to-sell ratio holding at 5.8 quarters, despite a rise in unsold inventory driven largely by higher-value project launches," the firm said.

The report highlighted that price growth was broad based, led by the National Capital Region

at 19 per cent, followed by Hyderabad at 13 per cent, Bengaluru at 12 per cent and Mumbai at 7 per cent.

The price growth reflected traction in premium and mid to premium housing supported by cumulative interest rate cuts, benign inflation and rising household incomes, the report highlighted.

A structural shift continued with homes priced above Rs 1 crore accounting for around 50 per cent of total residential sales, and developers moderating launches while prioritising execution and using financing incentives rather than price cuts to maintain absorption momentum, the report said.

"India's housing market continues to stand apart in a global environment that remains uneven.

The combination of

strong economic growth, easing financial conditions and a decisive shift towards end user led demand created a more mature and resilient residential cycle," said Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

"As we move into 2026, we expect the market to be defined by stable absorption, selective price appreciation and disciplined supply, rather than speculative excess," he added.

Across global housing markets, price growth strengthened modestly in Q3 2025 as easing monetary conditions began to feed through to demand.

According to Anarock Capital, Foreign private equity (PE) investments in Indian real estate reached approximately \$ 3.1 billion in FY25, marking a significant

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nificant increase from \$ 2.6 billion in FY24.

Institutional investments surged, especially in Q2 2025, with a 122% QoQ rise to \$ 1.8 billion, primarily targeting commercial assets.

Major foreign investors from the US, Japan, and Hong Kong accounted for about 89% of foreign inflows, indicating growing global confidence despite some YoY moderation.

**Adani Ports' profit rises 21% to ₹3,043 cr**

MUMBAI

ADANI Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Tuesday reported strong financial performance for the December quarter (Q3 FY26), with consolidated net profit rising 21 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 3,043 crore.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 2,518 crore in the same quarter last financial year (Q3 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing. Revenue for the quarter also saw a sharp increase of 22 per cent, reaching Rs 9,705 crore compared to Rs 7,964 crore in Q3 FY25, the company added in its filing.

India's largest integrated transport utility benefited from solid growth across its core businesses, including ports, logistics, marine services and international operations.

"As India's largest and the world's fastest-growing integrated transport utility, APSEZ has once again de-



livered a strong and resilient performance," said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-time Director and CEO.

"Sustained momentum across our four business pillars, combined with the consolidation of NQXT, has enabled us to raise the upper end of our FY26 EBITDA guidance by a robust Rs 800 crore," Gupta added.

In the domestic market, the company maintained a strong position with an all-India container market share of 45.8 per cent. Revenue from domestic ports rose 15 per cent, while EBITDA

touched a lifetime high of Rs 4,877 crore.

Asset-light services played a major role in boosting logistics revenue, which surged 62 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,121 crore. The company's international freight network services also witnessed a sharp improvement in profitability.

Marine services revenue nearly doubled to Rs 773 crore during the quarter, supported by ongoing vessel acquisitions.

The strong performance was also supported by improvements in credit ratings.

**Nadda hails India's robust drug policy**

NEW DELHI

UNION Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister J P Nadda on Tuesday said the government is working to make essential medicines available at affordable rates while ensuring the growth of the pharma industry.

Replying to supplementaries during Question Hour in Rajya Sabha, the minister asserted the need to create a balance between industry growth and the pricing policy of essential drugs.

"Our drug policy and pricing policy are robust and constant," Nadda said.

On the regulation of prices, the minister said it is a continuous process. "Our aim through the pricing policy is to ensure that medicines are accessible and affordable. Secondly, there should be growth of the industry. There should be innovation and scope for employment creation," he said.

"There is a balance which we have to undertake," the minister said, adding that the



government strives to create that balance.

Nadda said the consultations on policy issues are an ongoing and transparent activity which is undertaken by the Department to assess the relevance, impact and efficiency of the existing policy reform required, if any, keeping in view the interest of all stakeholders.

In 2024, he said the Department and the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) held consultations with various stakeholders on matters concerning the National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Policy, 2012 (NPPP, 2012) and Drug (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO, 2013).

Feedback was received from stakeholders on the operation of the existing policy framework.

**Area sown under rabi rises to 676.84L hectares**

**HIGHER PRODUCTION TO HELP KEEP FOOD INFLATION IN CHECK, SAY OFFICIALS**

**RABI EXPECTATIONS SOAR**

- Area sown under wheat increased to 334.17L hectares
- This was against sown in 328.04L hectares last year
- Area under pulses increased to 139.55L hectares from 134.52L hectares
- Better monsoon rains led to sowing in unirrigated areas
- CCEA gave nod for increase in MSP for all rabi crops

NEW DELHI



day showed. The increase in sown area is expected to lead to higher production, which, in turn, would increase the incomes of farmers and also help to keep food inflation in check.

The official figures show that the area under wheat has risen by 6.13 lakh hectares to 334.17 lakh hectares from 328.04 lakh hectares during the same period last year.

The area under pulses such as urad, lentils (masur), gram, and moong has gone up by 5.03 lakh hectares to 139.55 lakh hectares from 134.52 lakh hectares during the same period last year.

The area covered under

coarse cereals or millets such as jowar, bajra, and ragi has increased by 0.94 lakh hectares to 60.93 lakh hectares during the current season so far, compared to 59.99 lakh hectares in the same period of the previous year.

The area under oilseeds such as rapeseed and mustard has increased by 3.52 lakh hectares to 97.19 lakh hectares from 93.67 lakh hectares in the same period last year.

The sown area has gone up in the current season as better monsoon rains have facilitated the sowing in unirrigated areas, which account for close to 50 per cent of the country's

farmland.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), on October 1 last year, approved an increase in the minimum support prices (MSP) for all mandated rabi crops for the 2026-27 marketing season to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce.

The minimum support prices are announced well ahead of the sowing season, as farmers can accordingly draw up their cropping plans to maximise their earnings.

The highest increase in MSP has been announced for safflower at Rs 600 per quintal, followed by lentil (masur) at Rs 300 per quintal. For rapeseed & mustard, gram, barley, and wheat, there is an increase of Rs 250 per quintal, Rs 225 per quintal, Rs 170 per quintal and Rs 160 per quintal, respectively.

The increase in MSP for mandated Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2026-27 is in line with the Union Budget 2018-19 announcement of

fixing the MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times of the All-India weighted average cost of Production. The expected margin over All-India weighted average cost of production is 109 per cent for wheat, followed by 93 per cent for rapeseed & mustard; 89 per cent for lentil; 59 per cent for gram; 58 per cent for barley; and 50 per cent for safflower. This increased MSP of rabi crops will ensure remunerative prices to the farmers and incentivise crop diversification.

The cost of production for these crops includes all paid out costs such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour, rent paid for leased in land, expenses incurred on use of material inputs like seeds, fertilizers, manures, irrigation charges, depreciation on implements and farm buildings, interest on working capital, diesel/electricity for operation of pump sets etc., miscellaneous expenses and imputed value of family labour, the official statement explained.