Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers
January 17, 2026 – January 30, 2026
Key Developments

Bengal IT sector poised for major expansion with Rs 30,000cr investment lined up

Software exports from Bengal grew from Rs 8,000 crore to over Rs 40,000 crore over the last 15 years. The state's IT sector was poised for a major expansion, with investments of around Rs 30,000 crore lined up in the 250-acre Bengal Silicon Valley. Bengal's IT footprint has expanded from Kolkata to towns like Siliguri and Durgapur. The state-run Siliguri Data Centre has high infrastructure, and the government wants private players to use it for AI training and model building. The government is open to collaborations with private firms for the growth of this segment. Bengal now ranks sixth in India in terms of data centre capacity, with 11 private data centres already operational.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/bengal-it-sector-poised-for-major-expansion-with-rs-30000cr-investment-lined-up/articleshow/126590636.cms?utm_source=chatgpt.com

India-EU FTA: What is 'mother of all deals' – 13 outcomes explained

India and the European Union have concluded the "mother of all deals", finalising a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement that is expected to significantly boost India's manufacturing and services sectors, deepen market access and strengthen investor confidence. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement, is among the largest bilateral trade deals globally in terms of economic size, regulatory scope and population covered. The pact stands out as the EU is a customs union, giving India preferential access to all 27 member states under a single framework. Outcome 1: Towards 2030 Joint India-EU Comprehensive Strategic Agenda, Outcome 2: Conclusion of India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations. Outcome 3: Security and Defence Partnership, Outcome 4: Comprehensive Framework on Cooperation on Mobility, Outcome 5: Disaster risk management and emergency response cooperation, Outcome 6: Cooperation between RBI and European Securities and Markets Authority, Outcome 7: Arrangement on advanced electronic signatures and seals, Outcome 8: Renewal of India-EU scientific and technological cooperation agreement, Outcome 9: Constitution of a Green Hydrogen Task Force, Outcome 10: Launch of negotiations on India-EU Security of Information Agreement, Outcome 11: Exploratory talks on India's association with Horizon Europe, Outcome 12: Joint implementation of projects under India-EU Trilateral Partnership and Outcome 13: EU pilot Legal Gateway Office in India.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-eu-fta-what-is-mother-of-all-deals-13-outcomes-explained/articleshow/127616032.cms

Tredence opens Calcutta office, targets 1000 hirings to scale AI operations

US-based data science and artificial intelligence solutions firm Tredence has opened a new office in Calcutta and plans to scale up its headcount in the city to 1,000 by 2027, as part of its broader India expansion strategy. The company, which already has operations in major IT hubs such as Bangalore, Pune, Chennai, and Gurgaon, is now looking to tap the talent pool in eastern India. The Calcutta center is expected to support Tredence's ambition to scale its business to around $1 billion in revenue by the end of the decade.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/tredence-opens-calcutta-office-plans-1000-hires-to-drive-india-ai-expansion-prnt/cid/2143950

India-EU FTA expected to double jewellery trade to $10 billion in three years: GJEPC

The India-EU free trade agreement (FTA), finalised on Tuesday, is expected to give a major boost to India's gems and jewellery sector, which has been struggling under the weight of 50% US tariffs, reduced discretionary spending, and rising precious metal prices. For Indian jewellery retailers, the trade deal presents an opportunity to expand across Europe and strengthen their global footprints. The India-EU FTA will supercharge market diversification for the gem and jewellery industry. This transformative pact aims to double bilateral trade to $10 billion (Rs 91,000 crore) within three years. Zero-duty access to the world's largest consumer market empowers export hubs in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and West Bengal to ramp up shipments of precious jewellery (plain and studded), silver, and imitation jewellery, capitalising on India's renowned design prowess. Especially with exports to the US down by 44%, this timely pact will help Indian exporters salvage lost ground.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/india-eu-fta-expected-to-double-jewellery-trade-to-10-billion-in-three-years-gjepc/articleshow/127792697.cms?from=mdr

Final location surveys sanctioned for three new rail lines in Bengal

The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned Final Location Surveys for three new railway line projects in West Bengal, covering a total length of 178 km, marking the first formal step towards expanding rail connectivity to enhance throughput and socio-economic development in the region. According to Eastern Railway, the approved surveys are for the 73-km Siuri–Nala line via Rajnagar and Bakreshwar Dham, the 27-km Arambagh–Khanakul line, and the 78-km Rasulpur–Jangalpara line. The proposed Siuri–Nala line is aimed at providing direct rail connectivity between Birbhum district in West Bengal and Jamtara in Jharkhand. The alignment includes areas such as Rajnagar and Bakreshwar Dham, which at present rely largely on road transport.

https://www.millenniumpost.in/bengal/final-location-surveys-sanctioned-for-three-new-rail-lines-in-bengal-646010