Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

March 7, 2026 – March 13, 2026

Key Developments

Cabinet approves two multitracking projects covering 5 Districts of West Bengal and Jharkhand, increasing the existing network of Indian Railways by about 192 Kms

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, approved 02 projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 4,474 crore (approx.). These projects include, Sainthia – Pakur 4th line, Santragachi – Kharagpur 4th line. The increased line capacity will significantly enhance mobility, resulting in improved operational efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2237562&reg=3&lang=1

Cabinet approves changes in guidelines on investments from countries sharing land border with India

In order to curb opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Government had amended the extant FDI Policy vide Press Note 3(2020) dated 17.04.2020 (PN3). Pursuant to PN3, an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the Government route. Additionally, any transfer of ownership of any existing or future FDI in an entity in India resulting in the beneficial ownership falling within the aforesaid jurisdiction(s) also require Government approval. Applicability of PN3 restrictions to cases where LBC investors may have only non-strategic, non-controlling interests was seen as adversely affecting investment flows from investors including global funds such as PE/ VC funds.

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2237806&reg=3&lang=1

Railways to lay 5th, 6th lines on busy corridors linking 4 major metros

For next phase of network expansion, the railway ministry has started preparation for laying 5th and 6th lines on the high density network (HDN) corridors connecting the four major metro cities - Delhi, Howrah, Mumbai and Chennai - so that more passenger and freight trains can run on these corridors. This is significant considering that the 11,051km HDN forms the backbone of railways, accounting for 16 per cent of the total network, but handling 41 per cent of total rail traffic. Around 8,400km of this, over 60 per cent of the HDN network operate at 100-150 per cent more than the line capacity.

https://infra.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/railways/railways-to-lay-5th-6th-lines-on-busy-corridors-linking-4-major-metros/128937105

State is bringing new model to promote green development

West Bengal is gradually developing an effective model of green development by combining environmental protection, expansion of non-conventional energy and water conservation. Along with addressing the challenges of climate change, the main objective of various initiatives of the state government is to create employment and livelihood opportunities.

https://eisamay.com/business/business-news/state-is-drafting-new-model-for-green-energy-development-says-amit-mitra/200482863.cms

CM launches traders' welfare board, to be led by CWBTA prez

The Bengal govt has constituted the West Bengal Traders' Welfare Board (WBTWB), with the chairperson set to be the president of the Confederation of West Bengal Traders Association (CWBTA), the state's apex body of traders. This was a long-standing demand of the trading community.

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/cm-launches-traders-welfare-board-to-be-led-by-cwbta-prez/articleshow/129523431.cms