Synopsis of the main developments reported in leading newspapers

May 16, 2026 – May 22, 2026

Key Developments

India great partner, ready to expand energy cooperation: Rubio

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the U.S. was in talks with India to expand energy cooperation, an issue that would feature in his discussions during a visit to New Delhi, Kolkata, Agra, and Jaipur. Mr. Rubio described India as a "great partner" and said his visit was important as it would also allow him to meet with ministers from the Quad nations. Mr. Rubio said the acting President of Venezuela, Delcy Rodriguez, was also scheduled to visit India next week, and there will be many opportunities to work with New Delhi.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-great-partner-ready-to-expand-energy-cooperation-rubio/article71007794.ece

Bengal BJP chief bats for new land policy for industry, vows to rid investors of fear

Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Tuesday pitched for a new land policy to attract heavy industries, assuring investors that businesses could operate in the state without fear or political interference, emphasizing on potentially scrapping the Urban Land Ceiling Act and introducing contract farming, a major demand from industries and corporate houses. He said the state had "no future" without large industries and argued that political interference and land-related obstacles had long deterred investment in Bengal. Problems related to land ceiling are a major obstacle, as 85 per cent of land here (in the state) is fragmented. By advocating for the removal of land ceiling restrictions and the introduction of contract farming, Bhattacharya has signalled a distinct departure from the policy framework that has long defined the state's political and industrial discourse.

https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/bengal-bjp-chief-samik-bhattacharya-advocates-land-policy-reform-to-boost-large-scale-industrialisation/cid/2160211

Centre tapping Big Tech companies for data centres, R&D in West Bengal

The central government has approached global technology majors such as Google, Amazon and Microsoft, along with Indian conglomerates like Reliance Industries and the Adani Group, to push investments in data centres, hyperscalers, and research and development (R&D) hubs in West Bengal. Talks are also underway to attract semiconductor companies to set up operations in the state, while efforts are being made to bring more global capability centres (GCCs) to West Bengal. Some of these investments are expected to be finalised and announced in June. Reviving industrial and economic growth in West Bengal was a key plank of the BJP's election campaign.

https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/centre-tapping-big-tech-companies-for-data-centres-r-d-in-west-bengal-126051700420_1.html

Work on Siliguri-Varanasi bullet train corridor starts in July

The high-speed rail line connecting Siliguri and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh will be the first bullet train project in East India, connecting West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh. The journey from Siliguri to Varanasi via Patna in Bihar will take just 2 hours and 55 minutes. The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited has formed a survey team for the project. According to officials, both aerial and ground surveys are set to begin in July 2026. These surveys will help finalize the exact route and technical details of the corridor. The Detailed Project Report (DPR), which is crucial before construction begins, is targeted to be completed by March 2027. Once the DPR is ready and approved, the construction phase will start.

https://x.com/TheBengalIndex/status/2056366863551217708

Environment Ministry's expert panel clears Varanasi to Kolkata expressway

An expert panel of the Environment Ministry has recommended the grant of environment clearance (EC) to a 235-km greenfield expressway connecting Varanasi and Kolkata, which requires the diversion of more than 103 hectares of reserved and protected forest land in West Bengal. A part of the proposed National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) project, which involves the construction of a four-to-six lane expressway and costs ₹9,250 crore, will also pass through a tiger landscape. The details of the project were discussed at the 444th meeting of the expert panel, known as the expert appraisal committee (EAC), which took place between April 23 and April 24.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/environment-ministrys-expert-panel-clears-varanasi-to-kolkata-expressway/article70950757.ece

Shyam Metalics awaits new Bengal policy to deploy fresh 10,000 crore

Shyam Metalics, which has proposed a total investment layout of Rs 20,000 crore for Bengal, is keenly watching the new govt's industry, land and incentive policies to deploy its next phase of capital. While the steel and metal manufacturer has already committed Rs 10,000 crore across ongoing projects, it needs to acquire land for new ventures in the metal, energy, power, infrastructure and mining sectors. They are looking for new investment opportunities in Bengal while waiting for the new land, industry and incentive policies to be unveiled by the government to set a roadmap of our business for the next four or five years in this state. The company's total planned investment in the state is pegged at Rs 20,000 crore, half of which is already being spent on two ongoing projects. With an investment of Rs 4,000 crore, they are setting up a specialty steel and wagon manufacturing plant at Kharagpur likely to be commissioned this year. They are investing another Rs 6,000 crore to come up with a hot-rolled (HR) coil facility at Jamuria in the next two years, detailing the initial Rs 10,000 crore outlay. The remaining Rs 10,000 crore will be deployed depending on the upcoming policy framework.
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/shyam-metalics-awaits-new-bengal-policy-to-deploy-fresh-10000-crore/articleshow/131210740.cms

Steel giant Jindal India completes Rs 1,500 cr expansion in West Bengal

Jindal (India) Ltd on Tuesday announced the completion of its Rs 1,500-crore capital expenditure programme in West Bengal with the commissioning of a new high-speed continuous colour coating line at its manufacturing complex in Howrah district. The commissioning comes months after the company operationalised a galvanising coating line, cold rolling mill and pickling facility in February, as part of its expansion project in the state. The company, part of the BC Jindal Group, said the newly commissioned facility at Ranihati is expected to produce 2,75,000 tonnes annually and would significantly enhance its downstream steel manufacturing capacity. Its production capacity is projected to rise to 60,000 tonnes per month, which could help revenue grow by 75 per cent in FY'27. The company said coated flat steel products account for around 70 per cent of its total production. The new colour coating line is equipped to manufacture a wide range of coated steel products using polyester, epoxy, PVC and Teflon paint coatings.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/steel/steel-giant-jindal-india-completes-rs-1500-cr-expansion-in-bengal/articleshow/131202861.cms?from=mdr

Texmaco Rail surges 10% after securing Rs 4,045-crore African rail order

Shares of Texmaco Rail & Engineering jumped as much as 10% to Rs 117 on Wednesday after the Kolkata-based rolling stock manufacturer announced a landmark international order worth USD 430.57 million (approximately Rs 4,045 crores) — one of the largest export contracts.
The Letter of Award, received on 12th May 2026, comes from Tsiko Africa Logistics and Barberry Holdings, and covers the supply of rolling stock freight wagons, diesel locomotives, and components, alongside a long-term maintenance commitment. Under the contract, Texmaco Rail will deliver more than 2,235 freight wagons and 30 diesel locomotives, with execution scheduled across 2027 and 2028.
https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/news/texmaco-rail-surges-10-after-securing-rs-4-045-crore-african-rail-order/ar-AA2344cp?ocid=BingNewsVerp&ref=card&nid=cmp45tcr500xinv0juuyk8dw8