QUICKLY.

Amgen to set up R&D centre in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Amgen plans to open a Science and Innovation Centre at Genome Valley in Hyderabad, as part of its global R&D network of seven laboratories. "The new centre in Genome Valley expands the way we integrate experimental science with data and technology across our global research capabilities and complements our strong US-based Research and Development footprint," Jay Bradner, MD, Executive Vice President of R&D, AI and Data at Amgen, said. OUR BUREAU

TN House seeks scrapping of NEET; BJP walks out

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Assembly adopted a resolution urging the Union government to scrap NEET and facilitate admission to UG medical courses based on Class 12 marks. The resolution, moved by Health Minister KG Arunraj, said that the State government had consistently emphasised that NEET is against social justice and equality and also against the rights of the States insofar as medical education is concerned. BJP MLA Bhojarajan opposed the resolution and staged a walkout. PTI

Government to promote access to GI products

New Delhi: The MSME Ministry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade have signed an agreement to boost commercialisation and market access of Indian GI products, the government said . The agreement is expected to enhance the livelihoods of indigenous artisans, weavers, and producers, while also strengthening the One District One Product ecosystem in the country. PTI

FCRA Bill: Centre considering JPC route amid opposition in Parliament

REJECTED. Opposition parties have allied against the Bill, demanding withdrawal in its present form

Our Bureau
New Delhi

UNDER THE LENS. The FCRA Bill seeks strict government oversight on NGOs and foreign funding SANSAD TV

With two days left for Parliament's Monsoon Session to get over, the government is unlikely to initiate a discussion on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026, on Wednesday. It may refer the legislation to a Joint Parliamentary Committee as the opposition parties, especially Congress, DMK, TMC and Samajwadi Party, have hardened their stand and want the Bill to be withdrawn or scrapped in the present format.

Government sources said sending the Bill to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) is one of the two options being considered. It is being weighed as the NDA does not want to pass the legislation without proper discussion, given the international interest in the proposed amendments sought to the FCRA Act.

Key among the changes, which are being opposed by religious bodies and the Opposition, is that the Bill seeks to make amendments applicable retrospectively and that a government entity would take over the possession of an institution if its FCRA registration is over or it fails to get it renewed. However, the organisation will get ownership back on the renewal of the registration.

The other option is to make attempts in the next session of Parliament to initiate a debate on the Bill, said sources. Introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25 seeking government oversight on non-governmental organisations' (NGOs) functioning and foreign funding, the Bill was to come up for discussion on Wednesday in Parliament, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma had told reporters after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah on August 7.

The CM, however, said Shah had assured that the Bill would not have retrospective effect.

Though it was not on the agenda, Opposition parties, including the Congress and the TMC, raised the issue during the Rajya Sabha's Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, asking when the FCRA Bill would be taken up for discussion.

To that, the government replied that a decision would be made in due course. Others like the BJD have openly expressed their stand that the Bill could be sent to a JPC for further scrutiny.

During the meeting, the BAC allotted two hours for The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026; two hours for The Tribunals Reforms Bill, 2026; three hours for The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026; and 1.5 hours for The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026.

The National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026, were passed by the LS on Tuesday.

'OPPOSITION STALLING'

Later, Deputy Chairman Harivansh announced the decisions of the BAC in the House.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress and other Opposition parties on Tuesday of stalling Parliament to avoid a debate on the student protests, asserting that the government is ready for a full discussion and a response from Home Minister Amit Shah.

"Yesterday, we made an offer that the government is ready for a complete and detailed discussion over everything which happened around the students' protest. We had the reply ready and Home Minister Amit Shah was ready too. But they (the Opposition) are not letting a discussion happen," Rijiju said.

The logjam in Parliament continued, with NDA MPs holding a protest outside Parliament to counter the Opposition on the students' protest issue. Rijiju said the Opposition continued to prevent the House from functioning despite the government's readiness to hold the discussion.

Medical devices industry seeks regulatory authority, governance structure

PT Jyothi Datta
Mumbai

Close to a dozen medical device and civil society organisations, among others, have sought a National Medical Devices Regulatory Authority, with the autonomy of telecom body TRAI or the insurance sector's IRDAI and the regulatory oversight of food authority FSSAI.

In their letter to Union Health Minister JP Nadda, they said medical devices continue to be seen as "an adjunct to pharmaceuticals," despite scientific, engineering and regulatory distinctions between the two.

PRESENT APPROACH

Calling for a re-examination of the draft Drugs, Medical Devices & Cosmetics Bill, 2026, the letter said the present approach undermined India's ambition to become a global medical device manufacturing hub, reduce import dependency and achieve exports exceeding ₹1 lakh crore in the next 5–7 years.

The 11 associations that jointly submitted the letter represent manufacturers, traders, healthcare providers, hospitals, clinicians and patient advisory groups. The "drug-centric framework" of the draft is one of the key concerns they raised, with the Bill retaining pharma-style terminology such as "adulterated" and "spurious," applying criminalisation to engineering deviations.

TECHNICAL LAPSES

Criminalisation of technical lapses, the letter pointed out, includes imprisonment of one to seven years for labelling errors, documentation lapses and licensing issues, contrary to global norms where administrative enforcement is the standard, the letter said.

It also pointed to expanded police-style powers, arrest and cessation powers for inspectors, creating "a climate of regulatory fear that deters investment.

"Despite repeated recommendations, the Bill fails to establish a dedicated National Medical Devices Regulatory Authority," it said, despite the industry's ask being echoed by government panels and agencies.

The reference was to the Parliamentary Standing Committee Reports 138 & 146 that recommended a separate law and department for medical devices; NITI Aayog's Draft Medical Devices Bill (2019), which proposed a modern, engineering-aligned framework; and the World Health Organization's global principles, emphasising risk-management, lifecycle safety and shared responsibility.

The draft omits engineering concepts and standards, such as biocompatibility (ISO 10993), usability engineering (IEC 62366) and software lifecycle safety (IEC 62304).

PUNITIVE FRAMEWORK

"The Bill applies the same punitive framework across low-risk and high-risk devices, ignoring risk-proportionate regulation," it added.

"India's medical devices sector cannot be shackled by a pharma-centric law. Eleven national associations... urge the government to enact a standalone Medical Devices Act. Without this, India risks discouraging investment, innovation and patient safety — undermining Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat," said Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, Association of the Indian Medical Device Industry.

Withdraw FCRA Amendment Bill, TN Assembly urges Centre

Our Bureau
Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution urging the Union government to withdraw the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, in its present form.

DEEP CONCERN

Rajmohan, Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity, moved the Bill, stating that the House expressed its deep concern over the provisions in the Bill in its present form.

The concern was related to the transfer, management, disposal and sale of the assets of charitable organisations to the government on various grounds, such as expiry of FCRA registration, non-renewal, refusal of renewal, cancellation of registration or surrender of registration.

Rajmohan, TN Minister for School Education, Tamil Development, Information and Publicity

Provisions may adversely affect the autonomy of charitable organisations educational and social welfare institutions.

These provisions may adversely affect the autonomy of charitable organisations and, in particular, the functioning of educational and social welfare institutions run by minorities, it felt. Any amendment must ensure the principles of natural justice, proportionality, protection of property rights, legitimate expectation and federalism.

While ensuring transparency and accountability, it must also protect the rights of lawfully functioning charitable, educational, medical, religious, cultural and social welfare organisations, urged the State government in the resolution.

SC asks govt to consider plea for emergency response to online, deepfake crimes

What is the value of a legal remedy if it arrives only after the damage has become irreversible, a petitioner asked

Krishnadas Rajagopal
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to consider a petition seeking a time-bound emergency mechanism against online threats of rape, murder or physical violence, non-consensual intimate or AI-generated material and harmful deepfake impersonations.

A Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said the issues raised by petitioner-advocate NK Goswami raised serious concerns, including that digital harm travels at technological speed, causing instant and often irreparable damage to ordinary persons, while conventional legal remedies moved at a slow and institutional pace, and were frequently ineffective.

The court asked the Ministries of Home, Law, Information and Technology, National Commissions for Women and Protection of Child Rights to examine the plea to frame a mechanism for emergency response to online threats, doxxing, child exposure and deepfake impersonation.

JUSTICE DELAYED...

"What is the value of a legal remedy if it arrives only after the damage has become irreversible?" Goswami asked the court.

The court recorded the plea for the setting up of a "narrow, time-bound, URL-specific and judicially or legally supervised emergency mechanism against some of the gravest forms of online harm — specific threats of rape, murder or physical violence; dangerous doxxing; disclosure of children's school, location and other private particulars; non-consensual intimate or AI-generated material; and harmful deepfake impersonation."

'Digital harm travels at tech speed, causing instant and often irreparable damage to ordinary persons'

The plea said that "an online threat could be posted in seconds. A residential address can be circulated in minutes. A child's school details can be copied across platforms. A fabricated video can be downloaded, mirrored, archived and redistributed thousands of times before the victim even discovers it."

SPEED GAP

"By the time an FIR is registered, a civil injunction is sought, a platform grievance is processed or a criminal prosecution begins, the original injury may already have multiplied beyond recall," Goswami submitted.

The petition described the mismatch as a "speed gap" between digital harm and legal remedy.

Construction equipment vehicle sales up 46% in July

T E Raja Simhan
Chennai

The construction equipment (wheeled) retail sales recorded a sharp recovery in July 2026, rising 46 per cent year-on-year to 5,501 units from 3,766 units in the same month last year. Industry trackers attribute the growth to the lower base last year, the implementation of the BS-V emission norms and a pick up in infrastructure activity.

STRONG GROWTH

The last time the sector reported growth was in June 2025.

Growth spurt

Tractor OEM	July 2025 sales (units)	Market share (%)	July 2026 sales (units)	Market share (%)
JCB India	1,839	49	2,561	47
Action Construction Equipment	415	11	652	12
Escorts Kubota (CE)	213	6	462	8
Ajax Engineering	199	5	363	7
Bull Machines	112	3	182	3

Source: FADA

The growth was broad-based among the leading manufacturers, with the top five OEMs registering double-digit growth, according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), the apex national body of the automobile retail industry. JCB India retained its dominant position and Action Construction Equipment the second place. The strongest growth among the top five was reported by Escorts Kubota in third place, with its sales more than doubling, followed by Ajax Engineering and Bull Machines, according to the data.

JCB India retained its dominant position and Action Construction Equipment the second place

The 46 per cent y-o-y growth in wheeled construction equipment retail sales in July should be viewed in the context of a favourable base, said Poonam Upadhyay, Director, Crisil Ratings.

An early and extended monsoon last year curtailed construction activity, while delayed and uneven rainfall this year enabled projects to continue across several regions. As a result, the annual growth appears strong even though month-on-month gains were more measured, she said. Escorts Kubota, in its July business update, said that the construction equipment industry maintained its growth momentum in July 2026, supported by a lower base in the corresponding period last year.

This is following the implementation of the BS-V emission norms, along with the sustained infrastructure activity and continued government capex, robust project pipeline and increasing export opportunities continuing to support the industry's near-term outlook, the company said.

However, the ongoing geopolitical developments remain an area of watch that could impact ground sentiment, commodity costs and overall business conditions, it added.

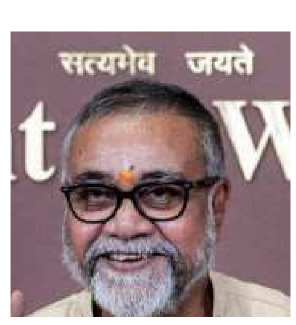
Industry hails West Bengal's approach to new industrial policy

Mithun Dasgupta
Kolkata

Industry stakeholders on Tuesday hailed the West Bengal government's proposed sectoral approach to boost industrial development as the consultative meeting to finalise a new industrial policy.

During the industrial policy consultative meeting attended by a group of ministers, including Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta and Industry Minister Tapas Roy, and senior officers of the government, industry bodies submitted their recommendations on incentives, speedy and predictable approvals for new projects, reforms in industrial land allotment and reliable power supply, among others.

"We have listened to views, suggestions and recommendations of different chambers of commerce in the consultative meeting. We have noted them down and will incorporate the important ones in the new industrial policy. Our government is working on a war footing to unveil the policy. A new land policy for the State will be announced separately," Industry Minister Tapas Roy told *businessline*.



West Bengal Commerce and Industry Minister Tapas Roy PTI

CII West Bengal State Council chairman Rupak Barua said, "It was a very pragmatic and encouraging meeting. We shared a lot of inputs and the government has considered our requests. We believe that one of the pivotal steps is to create and sustain Brand Bengal."

"ENTERPRISE POLICY"

Prithish Chowdhary, vice chairman, CII West Bengal State Council, said during the meet Dasgupta had said it will not be just an industrial policy but an "enterprise policy."

"This is a very positive statement and a motivation not only to large companies but to small and micro industries which are the backbone of our State's economy," Chowdhary said, adding the Finance Minister also mentioned seven-eight different sectoral policies will give the much needed boost to the industry.

Bharat Chamber of Commerce president Naresh Pachisia, welcomed the government's proposed "sectoral approach" to industrial policy.

On the occasion, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, Chief Secretary, suggested chambers of commerce to appoint a person who will be authorised as a facilitator on behalf of the West Bengal government to fast-track approvals across departments.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said "BCC&I has underlined that unlocking unused PSU land can catalyse investments and industrial growth."