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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- ASER-Rural 2024 reports a decline in government school enrolment in Andhra Pradesh, dropping from 70.8% in 2022 to 61.8% in 2024. This suggests a growing shift towards private schools, a trend seen across multiple states.
- Andhra Pradesh govt has revised the market values of buildings and land, raising concerns among real estate developers. While recently relaxed building plan approvals had boosted optimism, developers now fear higher costs and a potential market slump.

#### Delhi

- Delhi-NCR reimposes GRAP Stage 3 curbs as AQI worsens to 365, triggering bans on private construction, restrictions on BS-3 petrol and BS-4 diesel vehicles, and hybrid classes for students up to Class 5. The restrictions are likely to remain until the weekend.
- NGT has criticized CPCB for misusing environmental compensation funds, demanding an audit within eight weeks.

#### Goa

- Goa's corporates have welcomed the Union Budget 2025-26, highlighting benefits for tourism, fisheries, and MSMEs. Shrinivas Dempo praised the budget's focus on growth, long-term expansion, and support for key sectors like agriculture and food processing.
- Goa's fertility rate has sharply declined from 1.73% in 2015-16 to 1.3% in 2024-25, the lowest in India. However, Goa ranks second after Kerala in controlling infant and under-five mortality rates, with significant improvements over the decades.

#### Gujarat

- The Rajkot Municipal Corporation's 2025-26 budget includes a fire tax to overhaul firefighting infrastructure, following the TRP Game Zone fire that killed 27 people. It also proposes hikes in property tax and garbage collection charges to raise an additional Rs 150 crore.
- Since the relaxation of the Gujarat Prohibition Act, 1949, 700 drinking permits have been issued to employees in GIFT City, with eligibility for drinking at 21. This move, allowing wine and dine facilities, came ahead of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in January 2024.

#### Haryana

- NABARD has assessed Haryana's credit potential at ₹3.14 lakh crore for 2025-26, marking a 37.64% increase from the current year. The sectors with the largest share are agriculture (35.60%), MSME (57.12%), and priority areas like education and renewable energy (7.28%).
- Haryana Roadways has launched a direct bus service from Gurgaon to Prayagraj starting February 1, 2025, to assist Maha Kumbh pilgrims. The bus will depart daily at 6 PM and reach Prayagraj by 5 AM, allowing devotees to attend the event and return on the same bus.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhu criticized the Union Budget as "inequitable," highlighting its neglect of rail expansion and inadequate support for agricultural sector needs. He emphasized the lack of measures for fair support prices and modern agricultural infrastructure.

#### Karnataka

- Mysuru MP Yaduveer KC Wadiyar welcomed the UDAN scheme expansion, stating it will boost flight connectivity for Mysuru. He also highlighted MUDRA loans for homestays and the Gyan Bharat mission as key benefits for the region's tourism and cultural heritage.
- Karnataka's tax devolution for FY 2025-26 stands at ₹51,876 crore, up from ₹46,932.72 crore last year. CM Siddaramaiah expressed disappointment, stating the allocation is lower than expected for a state that is the second-highest tax contributor.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh will introduce a 'Demographic Management' policy to address workforce decline, aging population, and changing family dynamics, Governor S Abdul Nazeer announced. The initiative aims to mitigate the effects of a declining Total Fertility Rate through public engagement and policy measures.
- Andhra Pradesh has secured ₹3.92 lakh crore in renewable energy investments under the AP ICE-2024 policy, creating 3.30 lakh jobs. The state aims to attract ₹10 lakh crore in total investments, generating 7.5 lakh jobs while ensuring a 24x7 power supply.

#### Delhi

- Delhi's CEO announces key measures for the February 5 elections, including a paid holiday, a mobile app for crowd updates, and 70 all-women polling stations. Over 100,000 personnel will be deployed across 13,766 polling stations to ensure smooth voting.
- All 700 markets in Delhi will remain closed on February 5 for Assembly elections, with businesses allowed to reopen in the evening. The Delhi government mandates a paid holiday for employees, including those in shops, hotels, and industrial units, with no salary deductions.

#### Goa

- The Goa government plans to propose visa-on-arrival for select countries and a "digital nomad visa" to attract foreign tourists. This move comes after criticism over tourism infrastructure and competition from destinations with easier visa norms.
- The Goa government has decided to start the 2025-26 academic year from April 1 for Classes 6 to 12 in all the schools, including government, aided, and unaided institutions.

#### Gujarat

- The GSRTC has ended ties with 27 highway hotels for their unhygienic conditions and inflated prices. The government is considering setting up canteens along highways with the Gujarat Tourism Department.
- A help desk will be set up for Gujarati devotees at Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, offering guidance and assistance. The 'Gujarat Pavilion' will operate 24/7, showcasing Gujarat's culture and providing facilities like food stalls, handicrafts, and clean restrooms.

#### Haryana

- CISF will establish its first women's reserve battalion in Haryana's Nuh district, creating 1,025 posts to boost women's representation. The battalion will address growing demands for women personnel in high-security areas, including airports and government buildings.
- Karnal Municipal Corporation will upgrade a 4.6-km outer road with smart features, starting in mid-February 2025. The ₹11.5 crore project aims to improve traffic flow and safety with footpaths, cycle tracks, and modern amenities.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- The Dharamsala football stadium, developed under the Smart City project, will be expanded to meet international standards. However, concerns remain over its location near the flood-prone Charan rivulet and limited seating capacity.
- Residents of Bir-Billing's four panchayats have demanded the scrapping of SADA and the establishment of a Municipal Council, citing its failure to address local issues. They accuse SADA of mismanaging funds and neglecting essential services like garbage disposal and drainage.

#### Karnataka

- The Karnataka government will soon implement an ordinance to curb harassment by microfinance institutions (MFIs). Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi emphasized that borrowers should not face undue pressure for loan repayment.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- The Union Budget announces nationwide district-level cancer day care centers, benefiting MP's cancer patients. Bhopal's ICMR registry reports a Crude Rate (CR) of 90.4 for females and 83.3 for males per 100,000 population, highlighting the need for continuous treatment services.
- Four workers were killed and 15 injured when a slab collapsed at JK Cement's under-construction plant in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, on January 30, 2025. Three deceased workers were from Bihar's Purnia district and one from Panna.

## Mumbai

- The Bombay High Court expressed dissatisfaction over the delay in providing basic facilities like parking and toilets on the Samruddhi Expressway. MSRDC was given three months to set up temporary facilities, with full infrastructure expected by 2027.
- A 20-foot concrete structure from Mumbai's ongoing Metro Line 4 construction collapsed onto Suman Nagar Society in Chembur, causing panic. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and MMRDA has initiated an inquiry into the incident.
- Maharashtra faces a ₹4,000 crore recovery challenge as 3 million ineligible women and 1.2 million farmers received benefits from Ladki Bahin and PM Kisan schemes. The government is recalibrating beneficiary lists and working on recovering the funds.

## Pune

- The Union Budget 2025 has allocated ₹699 crore for Pune Metro expansion and ₹230 crore for the Mula-Mutha river rejuvenation project. Metro funds will support extensions to Nigdi, Katraj, and Chandni Chowk.
- The 24-km six-lane elevated road from Ravet to Narhe on the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway faces delays due to pending central approval. Meanwhile, NHAI has approved service road widening from Ravet to Khed Shivapur.

## Punjab

- Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann criticizes the Union Budget, calling it an "election budget" focused on Bihar while ignoring Punjab. He highlights the lack of MSP for farmers and no industrial package for the state.

## Rajasthan

- Jaipur's mines department introduces a web-based system to assist LOI holders and expedite mine excavation. The initiative ensures faster operationalisation of auctioned mineral blocks through direct monitoring and communication.
- Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma says the Union Budget has approved state proposals, including extending the Jal Jeevan Mission and offering interest-free loans for capital investments. Opposition criticizes the neglect of other state needs.

## Tamil Nadu

- School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi donates chairs and tables worth ₹32 lakh to eight government schools in Thiruverumbur under the "Nammaku Naame" scheme, benefiting various schools in the region.

## Telangana

- Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy laid the foundation stone for a new Osmania General Hospital complex in Hyderabad, costing ₹2,700 crore. The project, set to be completed in two years, faced protests from local residents.
- Telangana BC leaders demand 42% reservation in local body elections, warning of major protests if the issue is not addressed. They urged the government to navigate legal challenges to the Supreme Court's 50% reservation cap.

## Uttar Pradesh

- U.P. has issued show-cause notices to 24 private medical colleges for failing to meet faculty and infrastructure standards. Inspections revealed staff absenteeism and deficiencies in key areas, with potential impacts on fees and student intake.
- A massive fire broke out in a truck loaded with 100 gas cylinders in Ghaziabad's Bhopura area, causing powerful explosions that damaged two houses and three cars. Firefighters took 1.5 hours to control the blaze, with one personnel injured during operations.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- IndiGo introduces special flights between Indore and Prayagraj from Feb 5 for Maha Kumbh Mela, excluding Feb 9, 11, and 12. The service, offering quicker travel, will run daily until Feb 14, addressing previous overbooking issues.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav's visit to Japan aims to strengthen bilateral ties and attract investments for the upcoming Global Investors Summit in Bhopal. He engaged with industrialists to showcase the state's potential for growth.

## Mumbai

- Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will officially open on April 17, 2025, with commercial operations starting in May. Located in Ulwe, Raigad, the airport will begin in phases, starting with Terminal 1 and one runway, with increased flights expected by October.
- Mumbai's Terminal 1 at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will be demolished starting November 2025. The revamped terminal, designed for sustainability and enhanced infrastructure, is set to complete by 2028-29.
- Mira Bhayandar aims to reduce emissions by 36%, save 60% energy in homes, and expand green cover by 41% under its Climate Action Plan. The city targets net-zero emissions by 2047 through renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings, and urban greening.

## Pune

- A new railway line from Rajewadi station to Purandar Airport is proposed under Pune's ₹1.26 lakh crore mobility plan. It includes metro expansion, BRT corridors, and a railway bypass linking Talegaon and Daund.
- PCMC urges residents to test borewell and well water amid Guillain-Barré Syndrome concerns, with 15 suspected cases reported. Water quality checks, boiling, and filtration are advised, and chlorine levels are monitored.

## Punjab

- CCTV cameras in Punjab's tehsil offices are misaligned, capturing doors and fans instead of public dealings. Authorities direct officials to fix the issue after inspections reveal non-functional or poorly positioned cameras.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan HC directs the state government to establish district-level authorities for live-in relationship registrations until appropriate legislation is enacted. The court emphasizes the need for laws to protect women and children in such relationships.

## Tamil Nadu

- CMRL allocates Rs 154 crore for land acquisition in the first phase of the metro rail project on the Coimbatore-Sathyamangalam road at Ganapathy. The city corporation will conduct a land survey with CMRL's assistance, and the revenue department will handle the acquisition.
- Madurai Corporation plans to install 3,800 LED streetlights across the city at ₹7.5 crore to improve road safety. The initiative will address poor visibility in key areas and be implemented in phases across five zones.

## Telangana

- Telangana expressed interest in Himachal Pradesh's SELI HEP (400 MW) and MIYAR HEP (120 MW) power projects to strengthen its electricity supply. Telangana has requested a draft MOU to move forward with these hydroelectric ventures.
- The Telangana government's focus on new airports, tourism, and upskilling aligns with the Union Budget 2025-26's initiatives, including a modified UDAN scheme to boost regional connectivity and religious tourism.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has introduced new rules for demolishing unauthorized constructions, requiring a show cause notice and a 15-day waiting period before action. The rules ensure compliance with Supreme Court directives and mandate personal hearings before final decisions.
- Kanpur Metro is progressing with expanding passenger services from Motijheel to Kanpur Central under Corridor-1, with 40 ticket vending machines installed. This follows the successful setup of automatic fare collection gates at five underground stations.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni rejects the Supreme Court's ruling banning civilian trials in military courts, calling it wrong. He insists such prosecutions will continue, citing their role in maintaining security, especially in Karamoja.
- Uganda confirms an Ebola outbreak in Kampala after a male nurse dies from the virus. The health ministry is tracing 44 contacts, including 30 health workers, amid concerns over the city's high population and regional connectivity.

#### America

- Trump invokes the 1977 IEEPA to impose 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports and 10% on Chinese goods, citing fentanyl and immigration concerns. Legal experts expect swift court challenges.
- Chile's Congress approved a reform to its private pension system, increasing employer contributions and raising the guaranteed minimum pension. This reform, a key promise by President Boric, aims to address criticisms of the current system's low payouts.

#### China

- China and India have agreed to restart direct air services and work on resolving trade and economic issues. Both sides aim to promote mutual support and long-term policy transparency, moving beyond past suspicions.

#### Europe

- Thousands protested in Berlin against immigration limits backed by opposition conservatives and the far-right AfD. Around 160,000 demonstrators opposed cooperation with AfD, criticizing Friedrich Merz's bill.
- A Ukrainian drone attack set fire to an oil refinery in Russia's Volgograd region, though the blaze was quickly extinguished. One worker was injured, while air defenses intercepted several other drones targeting nearby facilities.

#### Middle East

- Egypt's President Sisi and U.S. President Trump discussed the Gaza ceasefire and the importance of humanitarian aid, but the Palestinian transfer issue was not addressed. They expressed mutual support for implementing the ceasefire phases.
- Britain, France, and Germany expressed concern over Israel's law prohibiting contact with UNRWA, urging cooperation with international partners for continued operations. Israel defends the law, directing aid through other agencies.

#### Pakistan

- In Pakistan's Balochistan province, separatist militants launched overnight attacks in Mangochar town, killing 18 soldiers and injuring five, including two civilians. The militants had attempted to set up roadblocks in the area. Following the assault, the military's sanitization operations killed 23 terrorists.
- Amnesty International condemned Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act 2025, urging its repeal to protect freedom of expression. The amendment, aimed at criminalizing 'fake news', was criticized for its vague provisions that threaten free speech.

#### United Kingdom

- UK PM Keir Starmer stresses the need for "strong protections" for the Diego Garcia military base in talks with Mauritius PM Navin Ramgoolam. The Chagos sovereignty deal remains unratified as Ramgoolam questions his predecessor's agreement.

#### United States

- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio begins his first foreign visit to Panama, discussing Chinese influence and migration issues. The trip aims to strengthen U.S. diplomacy in Latin America and counter China's growing presence.
- President Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 31 to limit regulations, aiming to eliminate 10 policies for every new rule. The order seeks to ease regulatory burdens, fostering economic growth and reducing taxpayer costs. Certain sectors, like national security, are exempt from this rule.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Africa

- The Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia are securing deals to trade copper amid rising demand from AI and green energy sectors. Congo's Gecamines is nearly finalizing a deal with Glencore for 51,000 metric tons from Kamoto Copper Company.
- Nigeria's tax overhaul aims to curb inflation by exempting essentials from VAT while nearly doubling it to 12.5% by 2026. Presidential adviser Taiwo Oyedele says the reform will lower costs for most households despite concerns about economic hardship.

#### America

- Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum orders retaliatory tariffs after the U.S. imposes 25% duties on Mexican goods. Mexico plans 5-20% tariffs on U.S. pork, cheese, and steel but exempts the auto industry.
- Peru aims to become a major agricultural exporter, targeting \$40 billion by 2040, with beef and pork exports to China starting this year. Large-scale irrigation projects and tax breaks are expected to boost the sector, potentially overtaking mining by 2050.

#### China

- China has signaled its willingness to repatriate confirmed Chinese nationals from the U.S. after verification, though U.S. officials have expressed frustration over Beijing's reluctance to issue travel documents. The U.S. has warned of escalating sanctions if China refuses to accept deportees.

#### Europe

- France is set to propose a UN Security Council resolution urging Rwanda to withdraw troops from eastern DR Congo. The draft aims to increase diplomatic pressure without immediate sanctions while supporting mediation efforts under the Luanda process.
- Sweden will fast-track legislation to allow police to use electronic surveillance on minors due to a surge in gang-related bombings in Stockholm. With over 30 bombings this month, authorities aim to curb gang crime and prevent minors from being recruited for violent tasks.

#### Middle East

- Qatar's prime minister called for immediate talks between Israel and Hamas for phase two of the Gaza ceasefire, with no clear timeline set. The agreement requires negotiations to start by Monday, the 16th day of phase one.
- Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu prepares to meet U.S. President Trump, aiming to strengthen ties after tensions over Gaza. Despite an arrest warrant, Netanyahu seeks further collaboration to reshape the Middle East.

#### Pakistan

- Donald Trump has suspended U.S. foreign assistance, including aid to Pakistan, for re-evaluation, affecting critical development projects. Key sectors like energy, economic growth, agriculture, and education will face disruptions due to the suspension.
- The IMF downgraded Pakistan's 2025 GDP growth forecast to 3%, down from 3.2%, citing ongoing economic challenges. The country's GDP growth is expected to remain at 4% in 2026 despite the revision.

#### United Kingdom

- The UK will maintain a ban on asylum seekers claiming modern slavery protections, despite previous criticisms. The new bill empowers police to seize phones to track smugglers and detain child asylum seekers.

#### United States

- Trump announced that Venezuela will accept all illegal Venezuelan migrants captured in the U.S., including gang members, and provide transportation. The agreement follows a visit by U.S. envoy Richard Grenell to Venezuela.
- President Trump urges Ukraine to hold new elections by the end of 2025, as per his special envoy, Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg. Ukraine's President Zelenskyy is currently ineligible for re-election due to martial law. Regular elections were delayed last year under these conditions.

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