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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh allocates ₹19,264 crore for the health sector in the 2025-26 budget, a 29% increase from 2023-24. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav says the TDP-led NDA government aims to fix healthcare issues caused by the previous administration.
- Andhra Pradesh becomes the first state to introduce gratuity for Asha workers, with payouts up to ₹1.5 lakh for 30 years of service. The state also offers the highest Asha worker salary in India at ₹10,000 per month and 180 days of paid maternity leave.

#### Delhi

- NBCC has sold 1,953 flats of Amrapali defaulters and received another 1,490 units for sale due to non-registration. The Supreme Court has sought a response from the homebuyers' association before the March 7 hearing.
- Delhi PWD is repairing and restrengthening 54 key roads spanning 120 km, including Vikas Marg, Ring Road, and Noida Link Road, with an estimated cost of ₹350 crore.
- Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena has unveiled a 10-point agenda for the BJP-led government, focusing on governance, women's empowerment, healthcare, education, and infrastructure. He has emphasized cooperative federalism and directed departments to prepare a 100-day action plan.

#### Goa

- The Old Mandovi bridge has reopened for vehicular traffic, while the new bridge will remain closed from March 2 to 10 for repairs. Vehicles up to 12 tons will be diverted to the Old Mandovi bridge, while heavier vehicles must use the Atal Setu to ease congestion.

#### Gujarat

- A massive fire broke out at a four-story textile market in Surat for the second time in 24 hours, damaging over 800 shops. Firefighters are working to control the blaze, with no casualties reported so far.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Jamnagar to attend multiple events, including chairing the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) meeting and visiting the Vantara animal rescue center. He will also offer prayers at Somnath Temple and lead a meeting of the Shree Somnath Trust.

#### Haryana

- The revamp of Galleria Market Road and Vyapar Kendra Road in Gurgaon remains incomplete despite exceeding the 12-month deadline. GMDA has only completed 50% of the project, leaving commuters frustrated with ongoing congestion and dust.
- Polling for municipal elections in Haryana is underway for seven municipal corporations, including Gurugram and Faridabad, with results on March 12. By-elections for mayors in Ambala and Sonapat and elections for municipal councils and committees are also taking place.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh faces major disruptions with 583 roads, including five highways, blocked due to rain and snow. Authorities are working on restoration, but traffic remains affected, with 70 buses stranded. Another wet spell is expected from March 3.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka Minister KJ George assures uninterrupted power supply this summer, despite demand reaching 19,000 MW. He confirms the state is fully equipped to handle the surge without load shedding. He attributes rising consumption to economic recovery.
- Karnataka mandates Kannada labels on all locally manufactured products to integrate the language into business. Authorities will enforce the rule under the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022. The move aims to boost Kannada's presence in industry and consumer markets.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Visakhapatnam experiences a warmer winter with no cold days as multiple weather systems affect temperatures. IMD predicts above-normal heatwaves across Andhra Pradesh from March to May 2025, with coastal areas likely to be severely impacted.
- Andhra Pradesh Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha urged 394 newly inducted SIs, including 97 women, to ensure a crime-free state. She emphasized swift case resolution and prioritizing women's and children's safety.

#### Delhi

- Delhi will receive 1,000 new electric buses by March to replace aging CNG buses, Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The government aims to deploy 11,000 buses, including 8,000 e-buses, by 2026.
- Delhi will ban refueling for end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) from April 1 to curb pollution, Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced. CCTV cameras at fuel stations will enforce this, with full implementation by March 31.
- Delhi will mandate anti-smog guns at high-rises, hotels, and key sites to curb pollution, Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced. Plans include transitioning airport vehicles to green alternatives and expanding greenery.

#### Goa

- The new District and Sessions Court Complex at Mercedes is set to begin operations from March 10, with courts from Altinho being relocated. However, some courts, including the Fast Track Special Court, will continue functioning from their current locations until further orders.

#### Gujarat

- The Gujarat High Court has sought responses from the Centre and state authorities after Porbandar's fisherfolk petitioned against the Deep Sea Discharge project near Jetpur. The court has issued notices and directed replies by March 20, citing environmental and livelihood concerns.

#### Haryana

- Haryana govt plans to build women's hostels in Faridabad and Gurgaon under Sakhi Niwas Yojana, accommodating 200 women each. The ₹65.3 crore project, funded by the Centre, will include daycare facilities for working mothers.
- The Supreme Court directs Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan to compensate construction workers affected by GRAP closures in Delhi-NCR, even without specific court orders. The compensation will be paid using labour cess funds as per previous court directions.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal govt to recruit 2,699 teachers, including 937 TGTs and 1,295 JBTs, on a contract basis. The move aims to enhance education quality, with Rajiv Gandhi day-boarding schools planned in every constituency.
- Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu orders termination of government employees involved in drug trade. Police directed to map drug peddlers and victims at the panchayat level by March 15. He will personally monitor the anti-drug campaign.

#### Karnataka

- Kannada Okkuta calls for a statewide bandh in Karnataka on March 22 over the assault of a bus conductor in Belagavi. Leader Vattal Nagaraj urges CM Siddaramaiah and associations to support the protest.
- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah announces a world-class film city in Mysuru, with 150 acres allocated. He urges the film industry to promote social harmony and progressive values. He highlights economic disparities and calls for meaningful cinema reflecting human values.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- GIS 2025 secured ₹30.77 lakh crore investments for Madhya Pradesh across various sectors. PM Modi launched 18 new policies to attract domestic and foreign investors. The state declared 2025 as the “Year of Industry” to drive economic growth.
- The trial incineration of 10 MT of Union Carbide waste began in Dhar, MP, under strict monitoring. MP HC ordered the process, with initial reports showing normal air quality. If no adverse effects are found, further trials will be conducted on March 4 and 10.

## Mumbai

- NMMC has started feasibility studies for two new dams, Poshir and Shilar, in the Raigad district to meet Navi Mumbai's projected 1200 mld water demand by 2047. Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd is assessing their technical and economic viability.
- BMC adopts a ‘junction to junction’ approach for road concreting to ease traffic, addressing complaints from 100+ ALMs in H West Ward. Strict deadlines set—no new excavation if work isn't completed by May 31.
- The Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa (BCMG) extends the exemption for advocates from wearing black coats from March 1 to June 30 due to the extreme heat. Previously, this exemption applied only in May and June. The decision was formalized in a circular issued on February 27.

## Pune

- PMC is to continue receiving 21 TMC water from the Khadakwasla dam despite ₹714 crore in dues. The water resources minister confirms PMC will pay ₹200 crore by the end of March, ensuring uninterrupted supply.
- PCMC secures the top spot in Maharashtra's 100 Days Programme mid-term review, surpassing 21 civic bodies. The final evaluation in April will include a third-party audit to assess on-ground implementation.

## Punjab

- Punjab's 2025-26 excise policy increases liquor prices, aiming for ₹11,020 crore in revenue. The number of liquor groups is reduced from 236 to 207, covering 6,374 vends. An extra licence fee now applies at the first sale stage across all liquor categories.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan's BJP government has doubled the budget for the Dang area development programme to ₹100 crore for 2025-26. Minister Otaram Dewasi assured swift approval for infrastructure projects and expansion to more villages after securing NOCs for mines.

## Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi criticized the state's two-language policy, calling it “rigid” and blaming it for job disadvantages in southern districts. The ruling DMK hit back, rejecting his claims and defending the policy.
- Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin rejected the alleged Hindi imposition through NEP, warning of another language war if it was forced. He claimed that many North Indian languages had been erased due to Hindi dominance.

## Telangana

- Telangana government mandates Telugu as a compulsory subject for classes 1-10 across all school boards from 2025-26. The move ensures full implementation of the 2018 Act, which was previously not enforced by the BRS government.
- Telangana has removed EAPCET exam centers from Andhra Pradesh after scrapping the 15% non-local quota. AP students are no longer eligible for admission to Telangana colleges. Telangana students will now get the majority of professional course seats.

## Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi said 10 crore people in U.P. get free health insurance covering ₹5 lakh under government schemes. The state is improving healthcare with new medical colleges and super-specialty blocks. Before 2017, U.P. had 17 government medical colleges; now, each district is getting one.
- AAP launched a statewide sanitation drive in U.P. to clean public places and connect with people. The campaign, starting from Lucknow, will be held monthly to strengthen AAP's grassroots presence. Despite past efforts, AAP has struggled to gain political traction in U.P.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Gautam Adani announced ₹1.10 lakh crore investments in Madhya Pradesh, creating 1.2 lakh jobs by 2030. The Adani Group is also in talks for a ₹1 lakh crore smart city, airport, and coal-gasification project.
- The Madhya Pradesh government plans to set up a deregulation commission to improve the ease of doing business by removing regulatory hurdles. This aligns with PM Modi's National Deregulation Commission announced on Feb 15.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra will restart the ‘Magnetic Maharashtra’ investment event between October and December 2025, following a review by CM Devendra Fadnavis. The event, last held in 2020, aims to attract major investments and may take place at Jio World or Goregaon.
- Mumbai Metro 3 (Aqua Line) will extend to Worli by April 10, adding six new stations from Aarey to Acharya Atre Chowk. This 22-km underground corridor aims to ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity to key business and residential hubs.
- Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik approves a new sub-RTO in Mira-Bhayandar, benefiting his constituency. The office will handle licenses, vehicle fitness, tax collection, and pollution tests. It will be built on government-acquired land in Uttan.

## Pune

- Maval MP Shrirang Barne urges PCMC to find alternatives to tree felling for the riverfront development (RFD) project. Environmentalists demand a detailed tree survey and biodiversity impact assessment. PCMC has proposed removing 439 trees and transplanting 681 along the Wakad-Sangvi stretch. PMC approves ₹2 crore for beautifying Katraj, Pashan, Peshwa, and Model Colony lakes under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The project includes tree plantations, pathways, jogging tracks, and garbage disposal. PMC also plans to implement pollution control measures and improve water quality.

## Punjab

- Villagers in Akhara and Bhundri oppose a biogas plant and plan peaceful protests from March 8 to 10. The Akhara committee will protest on March 9-10, fearing project commencement. Bhundri villagers will hold a three-day protest starting March 8.

## Rajasthan

- India will host the 12th Regional Circular Economy Conference in Jaipur from March 3-5. The event will focus on "Realizing Circular Societies Towards Achieving SDGs and Carbon Neutrality in Asia-Pacific," announced Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- Rajasthan's UDH Minister Jhabar Singh Kharrar stated that vacant posts in Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) are under review. A proposal for recruiting over 480 positions, including Junior Engineer and Assistant, has been sent to the Finance Department.

## Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin has called an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss delimitation, which could reduce southern states' Lok Sabha seats. He argues it unfairly penalizes them for successfully controlling population growth.

## Telangana

- Union Minister Rammohan Naidu confirmed that Mamnoon Airport work would start soon and be completed in 2.5 years by AAI. He urged the Telangana government to expedite land acquisition for the 280-acre requirement.
- Telangana CM Revanth Reddy reaffirmed a commitment to completing the SLBC tunnel project despite the recent collapse. He blamed the previous BRS regime for slow progress and assured continued rescue efforts using advanced machinery if needed.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh will send skilled laborers to Croatia, Germany, and Japan, in addition to Israel. So far, 5,600 laborers have been sent to Israel without complaints, and another 5,000 will follow. The state government is coordinating with the Centre to expand overseas job opportunities.
- U.P. excise department will use high-tech X-ray scanners and data analytics to curb liquor smuggling. New scanners, costing ₹20 crore each, will enhance vehicle checks at state borders. The state has already reduced smuggling significantly in the past three years.



## GLOBAL UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- South Africa's Koeberg nuclear plant Unit 2 shut down due to an unplanned, non-technical trip. Eskom said it occurred during work on Unit 1, which is already offline. Restart procedures for Unit 2 are in progress.
- Ethiopian PM Abiy Ahmed visits Mogadishu for talks with Somali President Mohamud, signaling improved ties. Relations soured after Ethiopia's Somaliland port deal, but both sides now seek commercial solutions. A mortar attack hit Mogadishu airport before Abiy's arrival.

#### America

- Canada has extended its 15% mineral exploration tax credit for two years to support junior mining firms and reduce reliance on Chinese capital. The move, expected to provide C\$110M, aligns with Canada's push to secure alternative investment sources.
- Nicaragua withdraws from the UN Human Rights Council after a UN report accuses Ortega's government of crimes against humanity. The move follows similar exits by Israel and the U.S., with some nations calling it an attempt to evade accountability.

#### China

- China accuses Britain of political manipulation after UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy criticized Thailand's repatriation of 40 Uyghurs to China. The Chinese embassy in London dismissed the remarks as baseless hype.
- COP30 President-Designate Andre Aranha Correa do Lago emphasized China's key role in climate action, praising its solar panel production and urging stronger collaboration. He noted China's leadership is crucial as the U.S. retreats from climate commitments under Trump.

#### Europe

- UK PM Keir Starmer announces a £1.6B (\$2B) deal for Ukraine to buy 5,000 air-defense missiles. Thales will manufacture them with a 6 km range. The move aims to protect Ukraine's critical infrastructure.
- Mass protests erupted across Greece on the second anniversary of a deadly train crash, with clashes in Athens. A general strike halted services as demonstrators accused the government of neglecting railway safety.

#### Middle East

- Israel has blocked aid trucks from entering Gaza amid a standoff over the ceasefire, with Hamas urging Egyptian and Qatari mediation. Netanyahu's office proposed a truce extension, but Hamas insists on the original ceasefire terms.
- Iran's parliament removed Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati over economic mismanagement and currency depreciation. Critics blamed him for rising prices, while supporters warned his removal could worsen instability.

#### Pakistan

- Pakistan's inflation remains stable in February, with a projected increase to 3.0-4.0% by March, the finance ministry reports. Foreign remittances are rising, reaching \$20.8 billion in the July- Jan FY2025, up 31.7% from last year.

#### United Kingdom

- Jamaica moves to remove King Charles as head of state, with a bill presented by PM Andrew Holness. Critics, including the opposition PNP, argue the change should go further in cutting colonial ties. A referendum will be required if the bill passes.
- British minister Anneliese Dodds resigned after PM Keir Starmer cut the foreign aid budget from 0.5% to 0.3% of GDP to boost defense spending. She warned the cuts would harm the UK's global reputation and aid efforts. Starmer called the decision "painful" but necessary for national security.

#### United States

- Trump orders a Section 232 probe into U.S. lumber imports, potentially adding tariffs on top of existing 14.5% duties on Canadian softwood lumber. The move aims to boost domestic supply but raises concerns over rising home construction costs.
- HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is eliminating public input on policy decisions, contradicting his transparency pledge. The proposal is affecting major agencies like the FDA and CDC, reversing a policy in place since 1971.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Africa

- Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embalo has threatened to expel the ECOWAS political mission from the country. ECOWAS confirmed the development on Sunday but did not provide further details on the dispute.
- Sudan's RSF is setting up a parallel government to gain diplomatic legitimacy and access to advanced weaponry. The move could prolong the war and deepen the country's division. The RSF-backed government plans to form within weeks, challenging the army-led administration.

#### America

- Mexico proposes matching U.S. tariffs on China, with the U.S. Treasury urging Canada to do the same before Trump's March 4 tariff deadline. China condemns the move as a WTO violation, urging the U.S. to return to negotiations.
- The U.S. Treasury urges Canada to match Mexico in imposing tariffs on China to avoid Trump's 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports. China condemns the move as a WTO violation, warning of economic consequences.

#### China

- Xi Jinping tells Russia's Security Council chief Shoigu that China and Russia must strengthen coordination in global and regional affairs. Both sides reject NATO's expansion into Asia and plan new strategic security consultations.
- China's industry ministry mandates regulatory approvals for autonomous driving-related OTA software upgrades to prevent automakers from concealing defects. Automakers must halt production and sales of defective vehicles until fixes are licensed.

#### Europe

- Emmanuel Macron urges vigilance as Cyclone Garance approaches Reunion, placing the island on red alert. Residents are advised to stay indoors as winds may reach 155 kph. The island was recently used as a base for Cyclone Chido relief efforts in Mayotte.
- UK and France will draft a Ukraine peace deal and present it to Trump. Starmer says a European coalition must back Kyiv, but US support is crucial. He discussed the plan with Macron and Trump after hosting Zelensky.

#### Middle East

- Egypt's Gaza reconstruction plan, ensuring Palestinians remain in their land, is ready and will be presented at the Arab summit in Cairo on Tuesday. Egypt seeks international backing and funding, emphasizing Europe's role. Meanwhile, Israel blocked aid entry into Gaza as ceasefire tensions escalated.
- Turkey and the UK will discuss Syria's future in Ankara, focusing on security, sanctions, and economic development. Turkey seeks unconditional sanction relief, while the UK aims to maintain restrictions on former Assad officials.

#### Pakistan

- An IMF mission is arriving in Pakistan next week for the first review of the \$7 billion bailout, Finance Minister Aurangzeb confirms. A separate IMF team is discussing \$1 billion in climate financing under the Resilience and Sustainability Trust.

#### United Kingdom

- UK Energy Secretary Ed Miliband will visit China on March 17-19 to revive energy cooperation talks, focusing on clean energy but excluding nuclear projects. He will also meet Chinese investors to discuss UK opportunities.
- Britain will launch an innovation hub to accelerate military technology development, aligning with its plan to raise defense spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2027. The Labour government sees defense as key to economic growth and job creation.

#### United States

- Donald Trump signals support for the UK-Mauritius deal on the Chagos Islands during talks with Keir Starmer. The agreement allows Britain to cede sovereignty while retaining a 99-year lease on Diego Garcia. The deal faces scrutiny over China's influence and Mauritius' new leadership concerns.
- U.S. Senate Republicans plan to make Trump's 2017 tax cuts permanent, ignoring deficit concerns. Fiscal hawks warn this could trigger a "debt spiral" and harm economic growth.

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