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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra CM Naidu launched the P4 'poverty eradication' scheme at the village level in Bapatla, linking affluent individuals with needy families. The program aims to uplift the bottom 20% through mentorship by the top 10% under a Public-Private-People partnership.

Delhi

- DDA told NGT it reclaimed 1,459 acres of Yamuna floodplain land in 2024, but 123 hectares remain encroached. Despite past court orders, NGT criticized DDA for inaction, as major encroachments like jhuggis, temples, and government buildings still exist.
- Delhi government and the Centre signed an MoU today to implement Ayushman Bharat in Delhi, offering ₹5 lakh health cover from each government. CM Rekha Gupta said 123 Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs would also be set up as part of the scheme.
- DMRC has secured ₹4,309.53 crore from JICA for Delhi Metro Phase-4, covering three key corridors. The ₹14,600 crore project is now financially closed, with JICA funding ₹6,252.91 crore and the rest split between the Centre and the Delhi government.

Goa

- Goa CM Pramod Sawant says the Waqf Amendment Bill won't directly affect Goa as the state has no Waqf board or properties. He urges people to maintain peace and supports the bill for national interest and transparency.
- Goa CM announces that only Police Inspectors (PIs) can issue challans during the day and PIs/PSIs at night—both with body cams. Traffic violations will be recorded, and challans sent directly to violators' homes to curb roadside harassment.

Gujarat

- Surat's gem and jewellery exports face a major hit as the US imposes a 10% tariff from April 5 and a 27% tariff from April 9 on cut and polished diamonds, earlier duty-free. Industry leaders await diplomatic progress to avoid severe disruption.
- At least 21 people, mostly workers from Madhya Pradesh, were killed in a firecracker factory explosion in Gujarat's Banaskantha on April 1. The RCC slab collapsed after the blast; CM Bhupendra Patel announced ₹4 lakh in aid to the victims' families.

Haryana

- Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission (HERC) hikes domestic power tariffs by 20 paise per kWh for 2025-26. Rates now range from ₹2.20 to ₹2.95 per unit across different consumption slabs.
- After a 10-year delay, Unitech resumes six stalled projects in Gurgaon's Nirvana Country 2 from April 5. The ₹630 crore revival plan targets delivery in 18-36 months with phased funding from homebuyers and unsold inventory sales.

Himachal Pradesh

- Centre sanctions ₹267 crore for road projects in Himachal Pradesh, including national highways, in the first phase of ₹1,400 crore proposal. Funds cover bridge construction in Chamba & Una and landslide mitigation on key routes.
- The Union Cabinet approves ₹6,839 crore for phase two of the Vibrant Villages Programme. It will develop strategic border villages in 17 states/UTs till FY 2028-29, expanding beyond the China border focus of VVP-I.

Karnataka

- BBMP begins asphaltting 218 roads across Bengaluru under a ₹694 crore project. The focus shifts to outer areas like Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli; work follows the Smart City model ahead of the monsoon.
- Despite new 8am-1:30pm summer hours in Kalyana Karnataka districts, many govt offices saw poor attendance. Only a few departments like the DC Office and Zilla Panchayat in Koppal operated on time.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu has ordered a complete overhaul of TTD services, emphasizing transparency, responsible spending, and respect for devotees' sentiments. He also reviewed major projects like a 25,000-pilgrim base camp at Alipiri and temple expansions in Amaravati.

Delhi

- PWD will build a ₹500 crore, 6km-long elevated road in Sonia Vihar to ease traffic and improve Delhi-UP connectivity. The flyover will run from Nanaksar Gurudwara to Tronica City, separating interstate and local traffic.
- Delhi's new "lifetime smart cards" for free bus rides may require proof of residency, potentially excluding NCR women. Final decision on NCR eligibility is still pending, says Transport Minister.
- Delhi Police to survey over 3,000 small businesses lacking fire safety; violators to be asked to install basic firefighting tools. Move follows fatal March fires, including a recent death in Jafrabad cloth unit.

Goa

- Goa Panchayat Minister Mauvin Godinho says panchayats must remove illegal roadside structures as per HC's March 6 order. He clarified the aim isn't to trouble people but to ensure clear roads and compliance.
- A work order has been issued to stop sewage from leaking into Salpem lake, with a 120-day timeline to complete the sewerage network at SGPDA market in Fatorda. The High Court has recorded this, while the Margao council seeks more time to act against violators.

Gujarat

- Gujarat HC orders the state to pay one increment and arrears to over 32,000 retired govt employees within six months. This follows a February 2025 Supreme Court ruling categorizing eligible beneficiaries.
- Ahmedabad to host AICC's 84th National Convention on April 8-9, first in Gujarat after 64 years. Nearly 3,000 leaders, including top Congress figures to attend.

Haryana

- Ahead of the Saini govt's first anniversary, Haryana raises financial autonomy—secretaries can now spend up to 45% (from 20%) under Capital and Revenue Schemes in Q2. This aims to boost development and departmental efficiency.
- Maruti Suzuki board approves ₹7,410 crore investment for a third plant at Kharkhoda, Haryana. The new plant will add 2.5 lakh units/year, raising the total planned capacity at the site to 7.5 lakh units annually.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal to build its first controlled atmosphere store using geothermal tech in Kinnaur, in collaboration with an Icelandic firm. The pilot project at Tapri aims to revolutionize cold storage and energy use in horticulture.
- Himachal Cabinet may decide on a bus fare hike. Private operators oppose general fare increases but demand raising the minimum fare from ₹5 to ₹15, citing losses and unfair HRTC subsidies.

Karnataka

- CM Siddaramaiah urges the center to expedite the development of Mysuru, Kalaburagi, and Vijaypur airports. Karnataka spent ₹319.14 crore on land for Mysuru runway; seeks AAI support for ₹101.84 crore utility shifting.
- Mysuru outskirts to get relief from water crisis as Kabini II Phase begins in May, adding 30 MLD supply. Project upgrades include new reservoirs, filtration units, and power substations to boost water draw.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav renamed CM Rise Schools to Maharishi Sandipani Schools, calling the English name a colonial legacy. He says the change reflects Indian educational values and links it to Lord Krishna's guru from Ujjain.
- From April 1, Madhya Pradesh will enforce a liquor ban in 19 religious cities, including Ujjain, Omkareshwar, and Maihar. CM Mohan Yadav cites public faith and reverence as reasons behind the move.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra's FY24-25 revenue fell short by ₹20,000 crore, about 6% below the ₹3.67 lakh crore target. Key shortfalls in GST, VAT, and other taxes have strained the state's finances amid rising expenditures.
- The Bombay High Court ordered the demolition of an illegal Ulhasnagar building and urged the state to enact strict laws against unauthorized construction. Justices Gadkari and Khata stressed the need to hold all involved parties accountable.
- The Maharashtra Waqf Board reveals 50% of its 92,247-acre land is encroached, with Marathwada worst affected. Amid political debate, the state begins GIS mapping and backs the Waqf (Amendment) Bill for tighter control and better land management.

Pune

- Water tanker demand in Pune rose from 81,361 (2021-22) to 126,110 (2024-25), mainly from newly merged PMC villages. These areas, now housing 18.11 lakh people, face acute shortages despite PMC's claims of water supply network expansion.
- Following the Bombay High Court's order, PMC begins a survey of properties near defence areas in Lohegaon, Kalas, Dhanori, Kharadi, and Wadgaonsheri. Landowners must submit documents, and a report will be sent to the court.
- Pune Airport records a 10.6% rise in annual footfall, reaching 10.54 million passengers in 2024-25. Growth driven by new international flights to Dubai and Bangkok, and domestic additions like Chennai and Dehradun.

Punjab

- The Waqf Board owns 1,400 properties in Amritsar, valued in hundreds of crores, including prime land near the Golden Temple. Rent supports imams and maintenance, but many assets face legal disputes and strict rent limits under board norms.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan ranks first in India's farmer registry with over 73 lakh farmers registered, covering 81% of PM-Kisan beneficiaries. The registry aims to ease access to government schemes and improve the digital tracking of farmer welfare.
- RMSCL issued a ₹343 crore tender for biomedical equipment repair without government approval or budget provision. Ministers and officials remain silent on the Health Department's unilateral action.

Tamil Nadu

- PM Modi inaugurated India's first vertical lift sea bridge — the 2.07 km New Pamban Bridge connecting Rameswaram to mainland India. It features a 72.5m span that can rise 17m for ship passage and is built with modern materials for durability.
- Over 10,000 women in Tiruchi benefited from the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Scheme in 2024-25, receiving ₹18,000 in cash and health kits. The scheme aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality through financial and nutritional support.

Telangana

- Telangana's move to make Telugu compulsory in CBSE schools from 2025-26 has left many non-native students in a bind, especially in classes 7-9. Some schools dropped Hindi and Urdu, sparking a parental campaign urging the government to reconsider.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated 107 projects worth ₹1,640 crore in Gorakhpur, including roads, parks, and housing. He emphasized UP's rise as a growth engine, free from caste and mafia influence.
- Advocates in Uttar Pradesh reject the Centre's plan to restart evening courts, calling late hours unfeasible and impractical. Bar associations urge the government to expand regular courts and improve judicial infrastructure instead.
- Uttar Pradesh has launched a statewide ration card drive for the transgender community to ensure access to benefits under the Food Security Act. The move follows concerns raised by the Transgender Welfare Board about exclusion.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- MP govt plans "Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Sewa" for affordable rural, urban, and intercity transport. A state holding company and 7 regional subsidiaries will oversee operations with 3-tier monitoring.
- A heatwave alert was issued in MP districts bordering Rajasthan from April 7 for 3 days. Light rain is likely in Singrauli, Anuppur, Dindori, Mandla, and Balaghat on April 9 due to the Western Disturbance.

Mumbai

- MMRDA plans to boost Mumbai Metro's multi-modal connectivity by widening footpaths and building FOBs for safer access. Discussions with a pedestrian advocacy group focused on improving walkability around metro stations.
- Maharashtra plans a mangrove park in Airoli to boost ecotourism and attract flamingo watchers, with feasibility reports underway. The state also eyes leopard safaris in Junnar, Karad, and Sangamner to mirror Rajasthan's Jawai model.
- Deputy CM Eknath Shinde directed officials to form a panel to identify land and set terms for giving ownership of homes to Bandra govt colony residents. Of the 125-acre colony, 35 acres are encroached, and 90 acres house around 5,000 staff quarters.

Pune

- CM Fadnavis announces major revenue department reforms by August 15, including legal changes, procedural updates, and a crackdown on land acquisition irregularities. Study groups under divisional commissioners will guide the overhaul.
- PMRDA sets an April 8 deadline for hoarding owners to submit regularization proposals; unauthorized hoardings to be removed and strict action to follow. Dangerous hoardings near traffic zones must be taken down within two days.
- MNS urges the Sambhajinagar collector to stop government funding for Aurangzeb's tomb. They also demanded signage denouncing Aurangzeb and the installation of CCTV cameras at the site.

Punjab

- Punjab to revamp 1,000 km of rural roads under first phase in 4 districts—Faridkot, SBS Nagar, Pathankot, and Barnala. Contractors now face 5-year maintenance liability with third-party audits to ensure quality.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Housing Board to launch housing schemes in 10 districts, including Jaipur, offering independent houses and flats for various income groups. Allotments will be via online lottery; homes will include greenery and water harvesting features.
- Rajasthan Teachers' Association (Shekhawat) announces statewide protest against transfers, promotions, and NEP 2020. The group also demands the reinstatement of suspended teachers. Decision made in permanent committee meeting.

Tamil Nadu

- Centre rejects Tamil Nadu's anti-NEET Bill, prompting CM Stalin to term it a blow to federalism and call an all-party meet on April 9. Stalin vows legal action, saying the Centre ignored repeated state appeals.
- Tiruvallur Collector has directed all shops to display Tamil prominently on nameboards by May 1, with English as the second language. A third language may be added if needed, ensuring Tamil remains primary.

Telangana

- Telangana will approach the Supreme Court against Andhra's Godavari-Banakacherla and Rayalaseema Lift Irrigation projects. Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said they violate the GWDT Award and AP Reorganisation Act; legal consultations are underway.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh will deploy AI cameras at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve to track tigers straying from core zones and reduce human-animal conflict. This follows a sharp rise in tiger numbers and a recent 91-day wandering case in Lucknow.
- UP to establish Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Schools in 10 districts with a budget of ₹11.54 crore to boost quality education and skill development. ₹6.92 crore has been released as the first installment. In Prayagraj, Shivgarh-1 school will be upgraded with ₹1.29 crore.
- Top BJP-RSS leaders, including CM Yogi and BL Santhosh, to meet in Ghaziabad to discuss new UP BJP chief and cabinet expansion. A leader from a reserved caste with electoral influence is likely to be appointed as the new state president.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- Severe weekend rains triggered floods in Kinshasa, DRC, killing around 30 and damaging key roads, homes, and power lines. Authorities blame illegal housing and vow action as water supply remains disrupted.
- Congo's government and M23 rebels held secret talks in Qatar last week—the first since major rebel offensives this year killed thousands and displaced many. Talks will continue on April 9 in Doha, with M23 withdrawing from Walikale as a goodwill gesture.

America

- Brazil cancels its June 27 power capacity auction after court challenges and a judge's order for new public consultation. Major firms like Petrobras and Eneva had shown interest in the auction.
- Canada imposes 25% tariffs on non-USMCA-compliant U.S. vehicles, calling Trump's tariff policy a "tragedy" for global trade. PM Carney says auto parts and Mexican content are exempt.

Asia Pacific

- Australian PM Albanese pledges A\$2.3 billion to help homeowners install solar batteries, potentially saving them A\$4,000. Critics argue it won't benefit renters or pensioners. The opposition plans to cut bills by diverting more LNG exports to the domestic market.
- UN urges global support for quake-hit Myanmar as death toll reaches 3,354; over 4,800 injured. Aid chief calls damage "staggering," while US response slows amid USAID layoffs. China, India, and ASEAN nations sent relief to affected areas.

China

- China imposes export restrictions on rare earths in retaliation to U.S. tariffs, affecting global supply chains. The move targets key minerals vital to U.S. defense and tech sectors, escalating trade tensions. Major U.S. firms like Lockheed, Tesla, and Apple could face disruptions.

Europe

- French foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot says France and Algeria agree to renew cooperation across all sectors after months of tensions. Talks mark a return to normalcy, with President Tebboune stating, "The curtain is lifted."
- Hundreds of thousands protested in 40 Spanish cities over soaring rents and a housing shortage worsened by tourism and low construction rates. Despite strong economic growth, average rents have doubled in a decade, outpacing salaries.

Middle East

- Saudi Arabia cuts May oil prices for Asia to a 4-month low after OPEC+ unexpectedly decided to increase output by 411,000 bpd. Aramco slashed Arab Light's premium by \$2.30, reacting to falling benchmark prices and rising Russian supply.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Hungary despite an ICC arrest warrant, applauding Hungary's decision to exit the court. PM Viktor Orban called the ICC politically biased and announced Hungary's full withdrawal during Netanyahu's visit.

Pakistan

- Pakistan witnessed 84 militant attacks during Ramzan 2025—the highest in a decade—compared to 26 last year, per the Pak Institute for Peace Studies. The surge followed the TTP's ceasefire exit and increased BLA activity.
- PM Shehbaz Sharif reaffirms commitment to universal health access on World Health Day, highlighting maternal and child health, digital tools, and tackling health inequalities. He urges a multi-sectoral, tech-driven approach for quality care across Pakistan.

United Kingdom

- UK PM Keir Starmer eases electric vehicle production targets to reduce pressure on automakers amid U.S. trade tariffs. The move aims to balance environmental goals with economic challenges from Trump's tariff policies.

United States

- The Trump administration approved a \$24 million sale of over 20,000 U.S.-made rifles to Israel, previously delayed by Biden due to concerns they could be used by extremist settlers. The weapons are designated for the Israeli National Police.
- U.S. Senate Republicans advance Trump's tax cut plan with a 52-48 vote, despite concerns over rising debt. The proposal could add \$5.8 trillion to the deficit; House Republicans remain skeptical over limited spending cuts.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- South Africa urges a new trade deal with the U.S. after President Trump imposes 30% tariffs, adding to a 25% levy on vehicles and parts. Pretoria warns the punitive measures threaten \$2B in auto exports and long-term trade certainty.
- The World Bank approves \$1.08 billion for Nigeria to support education, nutrition, and economic resilience amid post-reform challenges. \$500M targets stimulus, \$500M education, and the rest nutrition programs.

America

- Colombia needs an additional \$11.1 billion adjustment in its 2025 budget to meet the fiscal rule, amid weak tax collection and rising debt. The revised gap exceeds the earlier estimate of \$10 billion, according to fiscal committee CARF.

Asia Pacific

- South Korea's cabinet is set to finalize June 3 as the presidential election date after President Yoon Suk Yeol was removed for declaring martial law. The move aims to restore political stability swiftly, Yonhap reported on April 7.
- India, UAE, and Sri Lanka signed a pact to develop an energy hub in Trincomalee during PM Modi's visit. The move counters China's influence, as Sinopec builds a \$3.2B refinery in Hambantota. The hub will include pipelines and WWII-era storage tanks, with business talks to define UAE's role.

China

- China and the EU will restart talks on minimum price commitments for Chinese EVs after a recent high-level meeting. They also agreed to hold regular ministerial communication and strengthen economic exchanges.

Europe

- EU nations plan joint countermeasures against U.S. tariffs, targeting up to \$28 billion in American imports. The move aligns with China and Canada, raising fears of a global trade war impacting consumers and economies.
- A Ukrainian delegation will soon visit the U.S. to discuss a revised minerals deal proposed by the Trump administration. Kyiv is reviewing the draft to ensure mutual benefit and alignment with its EU aspirations.

Middle East

- Iran rejects U.S. demands for direct nuclear talks but is open to indirect talks via Oman. It warns Gulf neighbors hosting U.S. bases that aiding an attack would provoke retaliation amid rising regional tensions.
- Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa will visit the UAE and Turkey next week as part of efforts to build regional support after his Sunni Islamist group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, ousted Bashar al-Assad in December. His administration is also urging full sanction relief to revive Syria's collapsed economy.

Pakistan

- Pakistan will cut electricity tariffs by Rs 7.41/kWh for households and Rs 7.59/kWh for industries, signaling economic stabilization under IMF-backed reforms. PM Shehbaz Sharif cited lower oil prices and sector reforms as key enablers of the move.
- Pakistan's Hajj 2025 flights will begin on April 29, with 90,000 pilgrims traveling under the government scheme, says Minister Yousuf. Umrah visas for Pakistan and 13 other countries are suspended until mid-June.

United Kingdom

- UK PM Keir Starmer pledges state support for industries hit by Trump's tariffs, hinting at intervention, tax breaks, and red tape cuts. He stresses efforts to secure a U.S. trade deal but keeps all retaliatory options open.

United States

- U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth will visit Panama next week for a Central American security conference to boost regional partnerships. Talks will focus on promoting a secure Western Hemisphere.
- The U.S. Energy Department may cut billions in funding for carbon capture and battery storage projects, risking progress on clean energy. Affected companies warn this could derail innovation and emissions goals.

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