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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CM Naidu announced 100–300-bed multi-specialty hospitals in all 175 Andhra constituencies under PPP mode, with 105 new ones planned. A mega mendicity is also set for Amaravati with central support and global healthcare tie-ups.
- Andhra Pradesh extended the 50% interest waiver on property tax arrears (until FY 2024–25) to April 30, citing public requests and holidays. Tax collection rose 30% year over year; 106 ULBs qualified for 15th Finance Commission grants, up from just 4 last year.

#### Delhi

- Delhi government forms Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) in all 11 districts for 24x7 removal of fallen trees and branches during rains. Teams include officials from MCD, NDMC, the forest dept, and discoms and will be supervised by SDMs under DDMA.
- Delhi govt formally launches Ayushman Bharat scheme; 19 residents receive cards at Vigyan Bhawan event. ₹1,749 crore approved to set up 1,139 Arogya Mandirs and 9 critical care blocks in the Capital.
- The Delhi government began auditing 1,677 private schools to address fee hikes and prevent commercialization. Minister Ashish Sood blamed the AAP government for neglecting audits in previous years.

#### Goa

- Siemens Ltd is investing Rs 330 crore to expand its manufacturing operations in Goa, aiming to collaborate with local MSMEs for its supply chain. The company plans to boost production of smart electrical and automation products, with a focus on gas-insulated switchgear and clean air GIS technologies.
- Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched India's first-ever auction of Exploration Licences (ELs) for 13 blocks of critical minerals in Dona Paula, Goa. The move aims to unlock India's untapped mineral resources.

#### Gujarat

- The government has released the first Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) data, highlighting the progress of over 2.5 lakh gram panchayats across India. Gujarat and Telangana excelled, with 699 panchayats ranking as Front Runners, based on their performance across nine localized SDG themes.

#### Haryana

- Around 500 families in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok-1 face severe water shortages due to crumbling 25-year-old infrastructure. Residents blame illegal water usage at over 100 construction sites and rely heavily on costly private tankers.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh concluded the Nalwar fair in Karsog by laying stones for two road projects worth ₹13.57 crore to improve connectivity and boost rural development. He also announced plans for parking infrastructure, a stadium and emphasized preserving Himachal's cultural heritage.
- Rain lashed many parts of Himachal Pradesh, with light snowfall in Lahaul-Spiti, boosting tourism but causing traffic snarls in Shimla. The MeT issued alerts for thunderstorms, while places like Keylong saw snow, and Dharamshala recorded the heaviest rain.

#### Karnataka

- The Karnataka government has approved renaming Tumkur Railway Station (code: TK) as Dr Shri Shri Shivakumara Swamiji Railway Station. The proposal honors the contributions of Sri Siddaganga Mutt and awaits central approval.
- Karnataka government issues a draft notification revising minimum wages, setting ₹989/day in Zone-1 for unskilled workers and ₹1,316.36/day for highly skilled ones. Wages vary by skill level and zone, with sanitation workers entitled to ₹21,251.30/month.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh will launch the LEAP education model from 2025-26, focusing on play-based learning, AI-driven assessments, and global best practices. The revamp includes a curriculum overhaul, pedagogy training, and infrastructure upgrades.
- Andhra Pradesh aims for ₹65,000 crore gross agricultural income, with a 90,000-hectare summer crop target registered via the e-crop system. The focus is on utilizing borewells and pumpsets for high-value crops amid shifting weather patterns.

#### Delhi

- Delhi government to build ₹183 crore, 680m six-lane flyover between Civil Lines and Signature Bridge to ease congestion. The project aims to improve travel time and decongest the Metcalf House T-Junction and Majnu Ka Tila stretch.
- PWD plans two new underpasses at Peeragarhi Chowk and Andheria Mor to reduce traffic congestion in Delhi. DPRs are being prepared; a ₹3,800 crore budget has been allocated for road and flyover improvements.
- Delhi PWD to revamp 1,400 km of arterial roads in 2 years; ₹3,000 crore allocated for 600 km in 2025.250 km stretch already under repair, to finish by July; contractors liable for 5-year maintenance.

#### Goa

- The Goa Industries Department is amending its incentive schemes to include self-help groups (SHGs) and make them more attractive, particularly for women-driven enterprises. The changes are aimed at addressing shortcomings in the current umbrella scheme and are expected to be implemented soon.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant highlighted Central government projects under Sagarmala, focusing on port modernisation and jetty strengthening to boost hinterland tourism and daily commutes.

#### Gujarat

- Ahmedabad Haat, costing ₹12.69 crore, will feature an art gallery, amphitheater, and various facilities for artisans. It will provide a platform for local craftsmanship, with completion expected in 18 months.
- SHRC has ordered an expert panel to inspect Vishwamitri desilting every 15 days and submit reports amid a tight 100-day deadline.

#### Haryana

- PM Modi to lay the foundation stone of the thermal plant in Yamunanagar on April 14; event to be held on 170 acres with 3,000 police, 22 checkpoints, and 25 ambulances for security and health support.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh will invest ₹2,400 crore to develop new tourist spots, including 200 hotels and water-based activities like cruises and jet skis at Gobind Sagar Lake. CM Sukhu said the aim is to make the state a tourism hub and generate jobs for locals.
- The Himachal Pradesh High Court has directed the state government to submit full details of unauthorized constructions and related applications by May 31, 2025. Until then, the government cannot offer relief to violators, with no current plans to regularise illegal buildings.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka will set up 33 exclusive police stations, including two in Bengaluru, to handle SC/ST atrocity cases starting April 14. This initiative aims to improve conviction rates and enhance the investigation process under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.
- Karnataka Cabinet sets up SIT to probe 40% commission allegations against the previous BJP govt, based on Justice Nagmohan Das report. The SIT will complete its investigation in two months and submit the findings to the state government.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh has established the Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran Wildlife Sanctuary, spanning 258.64 sq km in the Sagar district. The sanctuary aims to enhance conservation, tourism, and local employment.
- The Pollution Control Board (PCB) has advised a private company on essential works at its Pithampur plant, preparing for the incineration of waste from the defunct Union Carbide factory. The Madhya Pradesh High Court has approved the process.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis approved the widening of Marine Drive from 6 to 12 lanes to prevent future traffic jams due to the upcoming Orange Gate tunnel. The project aims to ensure smooth traffic flow.
- The Maharashtra finance department released ₹120 crore for the pending March salaries of 87,000 MSRTC employees after a meeting between Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik and officials.
- MahaRERA has mandated that developers display project registration details, including registration numbers, QR codes, and the website, prominently in all promotional materials.

## Pune

- Pune Municipal Corporation has started land acquisition for the Mahatma Phule Wada and Savitribai Phule Memorial project, with ₹200 crore approved. The project will affect 91 properties and may face protests over compensation demands.
- PMC earned ₹10.15 crore from auctioning 473 old vehicles and scrap material. The proceeds will help procure new vehicles as part of fleet upgrades, with the auction being part of the two-year process.

## Punjab

- The Centre has asked Punjab to bear a ₹1,638.85 crore loss from the closure of toll plazas by protesters between October 2020 and November 2024. The state government disagrees, stating the protests were against the Centre, not the state.
- The Punjab Cabinet approved the reorganisation of blocks to align them with assembly constituencies for administrative efficiency and synergy, ensuring one MLA oversees each block.

## Rajasthan

- The revival work of Ramgarh Lake near Jaipur began in April 2025, with ₹2.53 crore worth of repairs and beautification planned over 12 months. Water will be sourced from the Parvati-Kali Sindh-Chambal link for drinking purposes.

## Tamil Nadu

- Civil Aviation Ministry grants in-principle approval for the Parandur airport near Chennai on April 10. It will be the city's second airport, aimed at boosting regional connectivity and aviation infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.
- On April 11, CM MK Stalin removed Minister K Ponmudy from the DMK deputy general secretary post over his controversial remarks on Shaivism-Vaishnavism.

## Telangana

- Telangana's Women's Safety Wing has integrated T-SAFE with Uber SOS and Safegaadi.com to provide quicker police assistance.
- Telangana has mandated HSRP installation on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, by September 30, 2025. The government will enforce compliance through transport and police departments, with penalties for violators using imitation plates.

## Uttar Pradesh

- On his 50th visit to Varanasi, PM Modi launched ₹3,880 crore worth of development projects, emphasizing the city's growth as an economic hub while preserving its spiritual heritage.
- As of January 1, 2025, only one IAS and five IPS officers from the Uttar Pradesh cadre failed to file their Immovable Property Returns (IPRs), showing a significant improvement from previous years.
- Prime Minister Modi awarded GI certificates to 21 traditional products, including Banarasi Tabla and Bharwan Mirch, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's leadership with 77 GI-tagged items. The Kashi region alone boasts 32 GI products, solidifying its position as a global hub for such items.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Tarun Rathi, Commissioner of Public Health and Medical Education, inspected the Government Dental College and Hospital in Indore to evaluate the facilities. Renovations are planned to enhance services and provide hi-tech amenities for patients.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that Madhya Pradesh's national highway network will surpass that of the U.S. in two years. He launched 10 projects worth ₹5,800 crore, adding 328 kilometers to the state's highway network.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis announced a creative economy hub on a 240-acre plot in Malad, aiming to make Mumbai a global creative economy center. The hub, along with the Indian Institute of Creative Technology at Film City, will drive this vision.
- Indian Railways will launch a 10-day "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the Glorious Maratha Tour" starting July 16. The Bharat Gaurav tourist train will cover major sites like Pune, Raigarh Fort, and Shivneri Fort, departing from Delhi.
- The BMC will include a citizens' suggestion in its Draft Outdoor Advertisement Policy 2024 to allow hoardings on "dead walls" of buildings and housing societies. This move aims to utilize blank walls for large-scale advertisements and generate revenue.

## Pune

- Maharashtra Highway State Patrol, in collaboration with SaveLIFE Foundation, has created a traffic plan for the Pune-Solapur highway to reduce congestion and improve safety, targeting accident-prone areas.
- Key bridge and road projects in Pune, including the Kharadi-Keshav Nagar bridge, are stalled due to crematoriums blocking the way. The bridge, proposed in 2019, is 20% incomplete, causing residents to take long detours.

## Punjab

- Punjab and Haryana HC has set a May 5 deadline for Punjab to hand over land for NHAI projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. This follows delays in land acquisition, as reported by NHAI in its August 2024 plea.
- Punjab Police will install over 2,100 advanced CCTV cameras in border villages to enhance surveillance and prevent smuggling and anti-national activities. DGP Gaurav Yadav announced the plan during a night operation in Amritsar.

## Rajasthan

- Youth can apply for the second phase of PM Internship Yojana 2025 till April 15 at pminternship.mca.gov.in. One lakh candidates will be selected; applications are free.
- BCM Properties launches residential schemes in Pali, Jalore, Shivganj, and nearby areas, offering plots, flats, and guaranteed rent in easy installments. S

## Tamil Nadu

- Supreme Court sets a 3-month deadline for the President to decide on bills sent by Governors, stressing delays without valid reasons may block state machinery. The April 8 ruling came while clearing 10 stalled Tamil Nadu bills.

## Telangana

- The Telangana government will launch the Bhu Bharathi portal on April 14, with a pilot project in three mandals. CM Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to conduct awareness programs across all mandals in the state.
- Telangana plans to resume unused land allotted to central PSUs, with 12,253 acres initially allocated. Only 3,600 acres are in use, and the land will be repurposed for various projects, including offices.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Yeida has started constructing two ramps on the Yamuna Expressway for seamless connectivity to the upcoming International Film City in Sector 21. The ramps, costing ₹3.5 crore, will be completed within a year, facilitating direct access to the site.
- Uttar Pradesh aims to generate 22,000 MW of solar power by 2027, expanding through large-scale solar parks, rooftop installations, and agricultural solarisation. The state currently produces around 2,000 MW and has completed over one lakh rooftop installations.
- The Namami Gange project, with IIT Roorkee's help, aims to revive the Gomti river by addressing flow issues, pollution, and siltation. A recent inspection highlighted the need for hydrogeological studies on artesian wells feeding Phulhar Lake.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Africa

- Gabon's transitional leader, Brice Oligui Nguema, won the presidency with 90.35% of the vote 19 months after overthrowing the Bongo dynasty. His election solidified control in the oil-rich nation of 2.5 million.
- Kenya terminates €1.3 billion highway deal with France's Vinci, citing unfavorable terms; project likely to be awarded to an unnamed Chinese firm. Officials recently visited Beijing, signaling a deeper China-Kenya infrastructure pivot.

## America

- The IMF has approved a \$20 billion, 48-month loan for Argentina, releasing \$12 billion immediately to help boost reserves and ease currency controls. This is Argentina's 23rd IMF program, underscoring its ongoing economic struggles.
- Venezuela's National Assembly declared a state of economic emergency due to U.S. sanctions and tariffs. The decree allows Maduro to implement measures to boost growth and address inflation despite a 30% drop in oil prices.

## Asia Pacific

- Taiwan held its first direct tariff talks with U.S. officials, aiming to address reciprocal tariffs and other economic issues. Taiwan proposed a zero-tariff regime, focusing on greater U.S. investments and purchases. Both sides expressed interest in further discussions to strengthen economic relations.

## China

- Chinese President Xi Jinping embarks on a Southeast Asia tour to strengthen ties with Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia amid rising U.S. trade tensions. The visit focuses on deepening cooperation and signing agreements, including on infrastructure and defense.
- China has pledged 1 billion yuan (\$137 million) in emergency aid to Myanmar following a devastating earthquake. The funds will provide food, medicines, shelter, and support for medical teams and disaster assessment efforts.

## Europe

- Greenland appointed its first Arctic ambassador, focusing on sustainable development and green energy transitions. This comes as it prepares to chair the Arctic Council amid increasing geopolitical interest in the region.
- Thousands gathered in Belgrade to support President Vucic amid ongoing anti-corruption protests challenging his 12-year rule. The rally also aimed to promote a new movement led by Vucic's ruling SNS party.

## Middle East

- Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa met UAE leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi, aiming to strengthen ties amid regional concerns. This marks Sharaa's second Gulf visit since taking power after Assad's fall.
- Iran and the U.S. held indirect talks in Oman on Saturday, described as "positive" and "constructive," with both sides agreeing to reconvene next week. The dialogue aims to address Iran's nuclear program amid Trump's military threats if no deal is reached.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) reported its first annual profit in over 20 years, with a net profit of PKR 26.2 billion. This comes ahead of the government's second attempt to privatize the airline, following previous setbacks.
- Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed trade tariffs, critical minerals, and immigration, emphasizing the importance of building a fair trade relationship.

## United Kingdom

- UK bars China from its steel sector after Chinese-owned British Steel rejected £500M aid, forcing emergency state intervention. Minister Reynolds cites national security concerns, calling steel a "sensitive area" unsuited for Chinese investment.
- UK job market weakened in March, with jobseekers rising at the fastest rate since 2020, as permanent hires fall and redundancies rise. REC notes a slight easing in the decline but warns that US tariffs and higher payroll taxes could cloud the short-term outlook.

## United States

- U.S. and Ukrainian officials held tense talks on a U.S. proposal for access to Ukraine's mineral wealth, but progress remains uncertain. The draft deal would provide the U.S. privileged access to resources but lacks security guarantees for Ukraine, straining the negotiations.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- Zambia will resume the \$320 million Zambia-Tanzania power interconnector project this month, aiming for completion by 2028. Funded by the World Bank, EU, and UK, it will help integrate East and Southern African power markets and boost energy trade.
- Nigeria's pension regulator plans to diversify its \$14.58 billion fund, shifting focus from government debt to infrastructure and private equity. PenCom aims for higher real returns and targets commercially viable projects to address the \$878 billion infrastructure gap by 2040.

## America

- Mexico will immediately deliver water to Texas farmers to ease tensions over a water-sharing treaty, President Sheinbaum announced. The move follows U.S. tariff threats as Mexico had provided under 30% of its required water quota.
- The IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Honduras for a potential \$155 million disbursement, contingent on board approval in June. This follows a review of the country's Extended Credit Facility and Extended Fund Facility agreements.

## Asia Pacific

- The AUKUS nuclear submarine deal with Australia faces challenges due to U.S. tariffs and concerns about its impact on deterrence against China. Australia's reluctance to commit submarines to a potential Taiwan conflict raises doubts about the deal's effectiveness.

## China

- Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to deepen the strategic partnership with Indonesia in a call with President Prabowo Subianto. The leaders celebrated 75 years of diplomatic ties and discussed global implications amid rising trade tensions with the U.S.
- EU leaders are planning a trip to Beijing for a summit with President Xi Jinping in late July. The summit will focus on strengthening relations between the EU and China. This marks a key diplomatic event for both sides.

## Europe

- EU finance ministers are interested in a joint defense fund for buying military gear, but some suggest exploring existing options first. The fund would help address debt concerns while strengthening security against potential threats.
- Italy's new high-speed rail line, funded partly by the EU, aims to connect Naples and Bari in just two hours, boosting the southern economy. Set to cost 6 billion euros, it's a key part of Italy's 60 billion euro rail investment plan, aiming to reverse depopulation and economic stagnation.

## Middle East

- Syria's finance, foreign ministers and central bank chief plan to attend IMF-World Bank meetings in Washington, marking the first high-level U.S. visit since Assad's ouster. However, uncertainty remains over visa approvals and lingering U.S. sanctions.
- Iran warns it may expel IAEA inspectors and halt cooperation if military threats persist, amid renewed U.S. pressure. Talks with the U.S. in Oman are set to begin Saturday to address Iran's nuclear program.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan to seek fresh bids for PIA by end-April after resolving legacy debt and tax issues; aims to privatise airline by year-end. JLL hired to explore sale or joint venture options for PIA's Roosevelt Hotel in New York.
- Pakistan plans to use surplus electricity for Bitcoin mining and AI data centers, aiming to drive tech growth and address power oversupply. Binance founder Zhao joins as adviser to support blockchain infrastructure and digital initiatives.

## United Kingdom

- Britain will expand its export finance support by £20 billion (\$26 billion) to aid businesses impacted by U.S. tariffs. The funding aims to provide stability amid global trade uncertainty. The increase raises the UK Export Finance's capacity to £80 billion, supporting both large and small businesses.
- British finance minister Rachel Reeves will urge EU counterparts to cooperate more on defence spending, highlighting the UK's increased annual defence budget. Reeves aims to strengthen UK-EU ties on defence, with a focus on innovation and new technology.

## United States

- Trump signals upcoming tariffs on smartphones, computers, and semiconductors under a national security probe. Current exclusions are seen as temporary; new duties are expected within 1-2 months amid rising US-China trade tensions.

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