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## **INDIA UPDATE**

## Highlights of this week

# • CM Naidu urged the Finance Commission to provide special aid to rebuild Andhra Pradesh, citing post-bifurcation challenges and ambitious 2047 goals. He proposed key projects in infrastructure, tourism, innovation, and education to boost the state's growth.

• On April 20, Andhra Pradesh released the Mega DSC 2025 notification to recruit 16,437 teachers, fulfilling a key promise by CM Naidu and Lokesh. Online applications start post-release, with exams set from June 6 to July 6.

## Delhi

Andhra Pradesh

- The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre and Delhi govt to simplify medical insurance claims and discharge procedures to prevent patient harassment. It urged coordination with IRDA to streamline bill settlements and reduce delays.
- Delhi govt approves ₹3,140 crore for 27 decentralized sewage treatment plants and related infrastructure to clean Yamuna; CM emphasized plan to stop untreated wastewater flow. Charging stations for e-buses and a high-security prison in Narela also cleared.
- Delhi's first standalone battery energy storage system in Kilokari supports power reliability for 1 lakh consumers; Power Minister Ashish Sood says it integrates renewables and stabilizes the grid using LFP battery technology.

## Goa

- Goa's app-based taxi scheme remains on hold as the government reviews its rollout; the initiative aims to modernize services by onboarding tourism taxi operators onto platforms like Goa Miles and Goa Taxi App.
- Goa govt assures no drinking water shortage this summer despite reservoir levels falling below 40%. Minister Subhash Shirodkar says reserves are enough for 150 days. Public urged to use water judiciously.

## Gujarat

- Gujarat issues evacuation notices to 3 ashrams for 140-acre land acquisition near Motera
  for Ahmedabad's 2036 Olympics bid. The ₹650-acre Olympic Master Plan includes a
  sports enclave, village, and riverfront complex; Asaram Ashram may get no compensation
  over alleged land misuse.
- Gujarat increases dearness allowance by 6% for Sixth Pay Commission employees and 2% for Seventh Pay Commission employees. The decision benefits 4.78 lakh employees and retirees, with ₹235 crore in arrears and ₹946 crore for annual allowances.

## Haryana

- DHBVN schedules 8-hour daily power cuts in rural south Haryana, affecting Delhi and Hisar zones with staggered timings. Delhi zone to get power from 6:30 pm-6 am and 11:15 am-3:45 pm; Hisar zone from 7 pm-6:30 am and 12-4:30 pm. Areas with 24-hour supply remain unaffected.
- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched India's first fully designed AI server in Gurugram, developed by VVDN Technologies with 8 GPUs. He highlighted India's rising global recognition in electronics manufacturing, which has surged to ₹11 lakh crore.

## **Himachal Pradesh**

- Twelve Jal Jeevan Mission water schemes in Kangra and Chamba are stalled due to fund shortage; Himachal received only ₹130 crore of the ₹900 crore sanctioned. The state owes contractors ₹500 crore and is urging the Centre to release pending funds.
- Himachal CM Sukhu directs Finance Department to clear all pending contractor bills of PWD, Jal Shakti, and others by April 30. He also orders release of dues under Himcare and Sahara schemes.

## Karnataka

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- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah blamed the central government for hindering irrigation projects like Mahadayi and Upper Krishna. He urged the Centre to grant necessary clearances for progress, highlighting delays in funding for the Uppar Bhadra project.
- The Federation of State Lorry Owners' and Agents' Association begins an indefinite strike to protest the diesel price hike and toll collection on state highways. Only trucks carrying milk and perishables will be exempted from the strike.

## **Upcoming News/Events**

#### **Andhra Pradesh**

- PM Modi will relaunch Amaravati's capital city project on May 2 at Velagapudi, marking its revival after a 5-year halt under YSRCP rule. Preparations are underway for a major public event with arrangements for 5 lakh people.
- Amaravati aims to be the world's first city fully powered by renewable energy, targeting 2,700 MW from solar, wind, and hydropower. With PM Modi set to lay its foundation, the Rs 65,000 crore project envisions a sustainable, capital spread over 217 sq km..

#### Delhi

- Delhi will begin distributing Ayushman Bharat cards to citizens aged 70+ from April 28, enabling cashless treatment for 1,961 procedures under PMJAY. Initial beneficiaries will get cards at the launch event, while others will receive them at home in coming weeks.
- Delhi will retain the legal drinking age at 25 in its upcoming excise policy, with no plans to allow home delivery. Officials aim to ensure quality supply, curb illegal sales, and enhance public safety while reviewing best practices from six other states.
- Delhi govt will deploy 1,000 water tankers, install anti-smog guns, and monitor borders with CCTV and LED screens to tackle pollution. The 2025-26 plan aims to reduce PM2.5 levels and prevent entry of old vehicles into the city.

#### Goa

- Kochi Metro team to conduct feasibility study for Goa's water taxi project next month, assessing four proposed routes like Panaji-Old Goa and Vasco-Margao. The project aims to modernise transport and follows the Kochi Water Metro model.
- Mumbai-Goa Highway to be completed by June 2025, reducing travel time from 12–13 hours to 6 hours. It features 14 interchanges and replaces toll booths with satellite-based auto-deduct systems. Gadkari confirms all land disputes are resolved.

## Guiarat

- Gujarat approves ₹1,203 crore for smart urban development, declaring 2025 as 'Urban Development Year'. ₹585.53 crore goes to 8 new municipal corporations, while VUDA and SUDA receive ₹375.38 crore and ₹97.81 crore respectively for infrastructure upgrades.
- AMC to raise ₹1,000 crore via e-auction of 9 plots in Sindhu Bhavan, Motera, and 7 other areas on May 19–20. Two Sindhu Bhavan plots alone expected to fetch ₹333 crore; registration open till May 15.

## Haryana

- Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini to visit Sirsa on April 26 for Cyclothon-2.0, promoting fitness and a drug-free lifestyle. Opposition slams the event as political drama amid local BJP leaders' push for pending development promises.
- Haryana to launch 'Mahila Chaupal' initiative on April 24, covering 754 villages in phase one with ₹18 crore budget. These centres will offer women exclusive recreational spaces and cultural activities.

## **Himachal Pradesh**

- Himachal CM Sukhu to urge Centre to start Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Shipki-La in Kinnaur, calling it a viable route. He also seeks a Himachal Scouts Battalion with quota for locals in border areas.
- Himachal govt may raise minimum service for pension eligibility from 10 to 25 years, citing financial strain under OPS. Cabinet may also discuss raising retirement age to 59 and stopping pension commutation benefits.

## Karnataka

- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah assures enactment of Rohith Vemula Act to address castebased discrimination in education, responding to Rahul Gandhi's April 16 letter. Gandhi urged action citing deaths of Rohith, Payal Tadvi, and Darshan Solanki.
- The seventh round of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive under NADCP will be held from April 26 to June 4 in Udupi. DC Vidya Kumari K has urged for 100% coverage, with cooperation from farmers and support from veterinarians, KMF personnel, and trained Pashu Sakhis.





#### **INDIA UPDATE**

## Highlights of this week

#### Madhya Pradesh

• Madhya Pradesh tops in wheat stubble burning with 15,830 cases from April 1–18. Authorities impose ₹25 lakh in fines and file over 50 FIRs under pollution control laws. Small to large farmers face ₹2,500–₹15,000 fines per incident.

#### Mumbai

- Maharashtra government begins construction of a ₹109.82 crore five-storey building for ministers at Mantralaya, to be completed in 100 days using pre-fab tech. It will house 15 ministers with spacious offices and conference rooms.
- BMC issues ₹2,000 crore tender to clear 20 million tonnes of waste from Deonar landfill for Dharavi rehabilitation. 123 acres will be used to house ineligible slum-dwellers under the Adani-led redevelopment plan.
- Central Railway dismantles the final girder of Sion ROB during a 5-hour block on Sunday, clearing the way for the 5th and 6th railway lines between Kurla and Parel. The 1912-built bridge's removal has intensified traffic on nearby routes.

#### Pune

- PMPML has withdrawn 123 new CNG buses from service due to frequent mechanical breakdowns and limited seating capacity. The buses will return to service once technical issues are resolved.
- The Maharashtra government cleared ₹1,299 crore in dues to hospitals under MJPJAY and PMJAY schemes from March 1 to April 17, 2025. The payment delay was due to a transition from insurance to assurance mode in 2024.
- The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has warned citizens against fake messages regarding water tax payments and disconnections. Citizens are advised to verify payment details via the official website or WhatsApp chatbot.

#### Punjab

 Local PWD and Mandi Board authorities have proposed repairing over 300 km of link roads in Ludhiana, which have not been maintained since 2018-19. The proposal, backed by AI-based survey data, estimates repair costs at ₹59.58 crore and maintenance at ₹9.74 crore for five years.

## Rajasthan

- In Rajasthan, the Bhajanlal government has issued 30 transfer lists in its 1.25-year tenure, with discussions surrounding another release soon. A report highlights that SDMs have had an average posting duration of just 4 months, with many top officers transferred.
- The Rajasthan government has launched a scheme allowing people to adopt wildlife, including lions, tigers, leopards, and elephants. Adopters will cover maintenance and food costs for the animals at zoos and biological parks

## Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin formed a committee to protect state rights. The panel will also examine transferring subjects from the concurrent list back to the state list.
- Tamil Nadu's Waqf Board has asked 60 families in Vellore to pay rent for living on land it claims ownership of since 1955. The residents, who have been living there for generations, have approached the government for assistance.

## Telangana

 Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy urged people to contribute to the state's development during his Japan tour, focusing on investment, industrial growth, and job creation. He emphasized key projects like the Musi River rejuvenation and infrastructure development to help Telangana compete globally.

## **Uttar Pradesh**

- Uttar Pradesh has launched a Social Audit Training programme to ensure transparency in education schemes and guarantee quality education. The training is currently underway in 14 districts and will extend statewide after completion.
- Uttar Pradesh has signed 138 MoUs worth ₹39,582.39 crore with the excise department, aiming to generate substantial investments and employment. Forty-five projects, valued at ₹7,538.73 crore, are set for groundbreaking.
- Prayagraj Municipal Corporation uses AI to enhance garbage collection and cleanliness efforts, monitoring over 1,200 vehicles in real-time. AI tracks waste types, bin fill levels, and illegal dumping, optimizing collection routes and promoting sustainability.

## **Upcoming News/Events**

#### Madhya Pradesh

 Madhya Pradesh cabinet approves Kisan Kalyan Mission to unify all farm-related schemes under one umbrella. Headed by CM Mohan Yadav, it aims to boost income, sustainability, and fair pricing for farmers.

#### Mumbai

- Mumbai to get its first official vehicle scrapping centres in Panvel and Karjat by July under the Vehicle Scrappage Policy. Owners scrapping old vehicles will get market value plus up to 15% tax concession on new purchases.
- The Wildlife Institute of India has proposed designating Navi Mumbai's NRI and DPS
  Flamingo Lakes as conservation reserves for flamingos. This move is seen as a major win
  for environmentalists under the Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary ecosystem.
- Union Minister Piyush Goyal announces rejuvenation of 11 lakes in Malad, including Lotus Talao and Sumlai Talao, over the next two years. The project will be executed in two phases with community involvement to ensure long-term upkeep.

#### Pune

- PMC will spend ₹15 crore on preventive road maintenance using micro-surfacing across 50 km of roads before the monsoon. The project aims to improve road conditions and reduce post-monsoon complaints.
- PMPML plans to set up EV charging stations at 7 locations to boost revenue amid declining bus ridership. A private company will manage the stations, with PMPML receiving 32% of the revenue.
- Due to fraud allegations, PMC will now purchase asphalt directly from manufacturers, bypassing contractors. The road department will oversee the procurement, with an annual requirement of 3000 tonnes.

#### Punjab

 The Punjab and Haryana High Court has set a deadline of May 5 for Punjab to hand over land for NHAI projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway. The court's direction follows a petition filed by NHAI in August 2024, highlighting delays in land acquisition.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan will soon install smart meters for over 1 crore consumers, allowing them to track
  electricity costs via mobile. This will enable prepaid electricity at a reduced rate of 15 paise
  cheaper, benefiting homes, offices, and factories.
- The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) will implement the UPSC interview pattern for RAS-2023. The interview board will include retired Chief Secretaries and administrative officers, with over 10 members interviewing each candidate.

## Tamil Nadu

 Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin affirmed that the state would never fall under Delhi's control, rejecting Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments about NDA's potential rise in Tamil Nadu. Stalin challenged Shah on key issues like NEET exemption, Hindi imposition, special funds, and delimitation.

## Telangana

 Telangana has mandated high-security registration plates (HSRP) on vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, by September 30. Non-compliance will result in penalties under the Motor Vehicles Act, and insurance will require HSRP for renewal.

## **Uttar Pradesh**

- Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh will soon host water sports like kayaking and sailing at seven sites, including dams and reservoirs, to promote tourism and boost the local economy. The initiative aims to create jobs through infrastructure development in districts like Chitrakoot and Jhansi.
- Uttar Pradesh aims to reduce road accident deaths by 50% in 20 districts, collaborating
  with IIT Kharagpur for data analysis. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed
  targeted safety measures in these high-risk areas.
- Uttar Pradesh plans to establish Regional Driving Training Centres in 15 districts to improve road safety and driver training. These centres will focus on advanced training for commercial drivers to reduce accidents.





#### **GLOBAL UPDATE**

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## Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- At least 148 people died in the Democratic Republic of Congo after a boat carrying 500 passengers
  capsized and caught fire in the Congo River. Boating accidents are frequent in the region due to
  overcrowded, old wooden vessels.
- The IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Tanzania for \$441 million in financing. This includes
  a fifth review under the Extended Credit Facility and a second review under the Resilience and
  Sustainability Facility.

#### America

- The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily halted the deportation of Venezuelan migrants accused of gang ties under wartime law. The Trump administration seeks to lift the block, defending its actions as lawful.
- The Colombian government has suspended its ceasefire with the FARC-EP faction after the
  previous agreement expired, though peace talks are still ongoing. The suspension does not signal an
  end to the negotiations.

#### Asia Pacific

- Myanmar's junta and opposition agreed to extend a ceasefire for humanitarian aid after the March earthquake. ASEAN's chair, Anwar Ibrahim, emphasized the need for cooperation to prevent further conflict and ensure aid reaches affected areas.
- North Korea criticized Trump's decision to ease U.S. weapons exports, calling it "war escalation
  measures." The U.S. is urged to act as a mediator while simultaneously supplying weapons,
  according to North Korea's KCNA.

#### China

- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned against "unilateral bullying," highlighting its negative impact on global rules and cooperation. This comes amid ongoing tensions with the U.S. over punitive trade tariffs.
- China's central bank introduced guidelines to enhance cross-border data flows between Chinese and
  foreign financial institutions, outlining permitted data types and conditions for outflows. This move
  aims to standardize and improve efficiency in data exchange.

### Europe

- French President Emmanuel Macron announced the creation of a joint Franco-Haitian commission to examine the shared past, notably France's role in Haiti's independence debt. However, he did not address calls for reparations, which Haitian activists have long demanded.
- Ukraine imposed sanctions on three Chinese firms accused of aiding Russia in producing Iskander
  missiles, following Zelenskiy's claim of Chinese weapon supplies to Russia. China denied the
  allegations, maintaining neutrality in the conflict.

## Middle East

- Egypt's central bank cut interest rates by 225 basis points, marking its first reduction in over five
  years. This decision follows declining inflation, with more cuts anticipated as economic growth
  picks up.
- Qatar and Russia signed a €2 billion investment deal, with Qatar contributing €1 billion. The agreement aims to boost investments in technology, healthcare, minerals, and other sectors of mutual interest.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan expels over 80,000 undocumented Afghan nationals since late March under its repatriation plan, ahead of the April 30 deadline. Only Afghans with valid visas can stay, as Islamabad prepares for talks in Kabul on bilateral ties and security.
- Pakistan considers importing U.S. crude oil to reduce its \$3 billion trade surplus and lower the 29% tariff imposed by the U.S. The proposal awaits the prime minister's approval, with talks planned during a U.S. visit.

## **United Kingdom**

 UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Donald Trump discussed trade, Ukraine, and Iran. Starmer emphasized the importance of free trade while protecting national interests amid existing US tariffs on British goods.

## **United States**

• A U.S. judge halts the Trump administration's plan to rapidly deport migrants to third countries without giving them a chance to seek legal relief. The injunction remains in place until the litigation is resolved, and the administration plans to appeal.

## **Upcoming News/Events**

#### Africa

- The Ugandan government plans to reintroduce military tribunals for civilians, despite a Supreme Court ban. Critics allege the government uses this system for politically motivated prosecutions, which it denies.
- Rwanda has agreed to allow Southern African troops evacuating from Goma, Congo, to pass through its territory to Tanzania. This follows the Southern African Development Community's decision to withdraw its SAMIDRC force from Congo.

#### America

- Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum sent a diplomatic memo to the U.S. regarding security collaboration at their shared border. This follows the U.S. transferring nearly 110,000 acres of land to the Army to curb illegal immigration.
- The Mexican government is hopeful about renewing a bilateral agreement with the U.S. on tomato
  exports, despite the U.S. intending to withdraw. Mexico's Agriculture Minister emphasized that the
  agreement is crucial for fair competition and consumer prices in the U.S.

#### Asia Pacific

- South Korea and the U.S. are set to hold trade talks this week in Washington, focusing on issues like the 25% "reciprocal" tariff. The talks will involve key ministers from both countries during the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank.
- Indonesia plans to increase U.S. imports by \$19 billion, including energy and agricultural products, to eliminate its trade surplus and avoid U.S. tariffs. The move aims to shift imports from other countries, like Australia and Ukraine, to the U.S.

#### China

- China and Cambodia have agreed to enhance supply chain stability and strengthen transportation
  infrastructure cooperation. They signed a deal on the Funan Techo Integrated Water Conservancy
  Project, though its cost and scale have been reduced.
- China and Malaysia pledged to peacefully resolve South China Sea disputes and support the UN, aiming to conclude a code of conduct next year. They emphasized multilateralism, rejected unilateral trade measures, and reaffirmed economic cooperation.

#### Europe

- Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban expects to sign a business deal with the U.S. within six
  months to offset the impact of U.S. tariffs, particularly on Hungary's car industry. Orban discussed
  ongoing negotiations aimed at mitigating the tariffs' negative effects.
- Kyiv and Washington plan to finalize technical discussions on a minerals deal by April 26, following
  the Ukrainian prime minister's visit to the U.S. next week, as outlined in a memorandum of intent
  released by Ukraine.

## Middle East

- Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq al-Said is scheduled to visit Moscow on 21 April, following the start of U.S.-Iran nuclear talks, and will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on 22 April to discuss regional and global cooperation, as well as trade and economic ties.
- The UN Development Programme plans \$1.3 billion in aid for Syria over three years, targeting infrastructure, AI, and social protection. It seeks funding from the World Bank, IMF, and regional partners like Saudi Arabia.

## Pakistan

Pakistan to seek fresh bids next week for selling 51-100% stake in PIA after its first annual profit in
over 20 years. Past issues flagged by bidders have been resolved, with legacy debt shifted to
government books.

## **United Kingdom**

• Britain will expand financing support for exporters by £20 billion, raising UK Export Finance's capacity to £80 billion. The move aims to help businesses affected by U.S. tariffs, with special provisions for small and medium-sized companies.

## **United States**

- The U.S. will impose visa restrictions on over 250 Nicaraguan officials due to human rights abuses.
   This brings the total number of officials affected by U.S. restrictions to over 2,000 under Ortega's repressive regime.
- U.S. President Trump agreed to visit Rome and may meet European Union representatives, as Italy's Prime Minister Meloni aims to ease U.S.-EU tariff tensions. The visit comes after Trump paused most duties for 90 days.

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