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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra CM Chandrababu Naidu launched the 'Matsyakara Sevalo' scheme, providing ₹20,000 aid to 1.29 lakh fishing families during the 61-day fishing ban. The scheme, fulfilling an NDA promise, was launched at Budagatlapalem village in Srikakulam district.

Delhi

- The Delhi government restricted leaves for PWD, DJB, and I&FC officials till September 15 to boost monsoon preparedness. Minister Parvesh Verma stressed urgent desilting and repairs to prevent waterlogging and flooding.
- Delhi CM Rekha Gupta unveiled a ₹504 crore plan to revamp the Delhi Fire Services, aiming for a world-class upgrade. The plan includes 100 new fire posts, modern equipment, and enhanced firefighter training.
- The Delhi government has finalized 70 locations to set up Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) by May 31, aiming to provide basic healthcare across the city. A total of 1,139 such centers will be established in the next year.

Goa

- India's first auction for Exploration Licences (ELs) for 13 critical mineral blocks was launched by Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, marking a key reform to tap into untapped mineral resources. The launch event took place in Dona Paula, Goa.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant addressed the National Sagarmala Apex Committee Meeting in New Delhi and highlighted central government projects under Sagarmala aimed at port modernization and strengthening jetties to boost hinterland tourism and daily commutes.

Gujarat

- The Gujarat government has relaxed liquor consumption rules in GIFT City, allowing employees to directly apply for temporary or group permits. Real estate developers see this as a move to boost investments and attract professional talent.
- Over 1,000 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were detained in a crackdown by Gujarat Police on April 26, 2025. The operation saw 890 detentions in Ahmedabad and 134 in Surat, marking the largest such operation in the state.

Haryana

- Following the Pahalgam terror attack, Haryana's Chief Secretary directed intensified monitoring of anti-social elements, while the DGP called for reviving peace committees to maintain harmony across the state.
- Haryana and Punjab High Courts direct both states to frame an SOP to dismantle gangster networks, emphasizing strict legal action to counter extortion rackets and protect citizens' safety.

Himachal Pradesh

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed the Home Department to establish a dog squad with the SDRF to boost rescue efforts during natural disasters. He also announced the recruitment of 700 Home Guard jawans and praised the SDRF for winning first place in national-level rescue competitions.
- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has allocated Rs 2,000 crore to strengthen the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Himachal Pradesh this year. The focus includes infrastructure development, natural farming, and boosting the dairy sector.

Karnataka

- Hyderabad-based Megha Engineering & Infrastructure Ltd (MEIL) has secured a Rs 12,800 crore order from Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) to build two 700 MW nuclear reactors in Karnataka. This marks MEIL's first major step into the nuclear energy sector.
- Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) reported its highest-ever crude throughput of 18.044 MMT in FY 2024-25, surpassing its previous record. The company also achieved operational milestones, including increased ATF production and improved energy efficiency.

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu invited PM Narendra Modi to relaunch Amaravati's capital city works on May 2, with foundation stones for ₹65,000 crore projects. Naidu also expressed solidarity with the Centre over the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack.

Delhi

- The ₹31 crore multilevel parking at Punjabi Bagh, with a five-storey structure accommodating 225 cars, is 97% complete and expected to open in May. Officials said the facility will help decongest a key intersection and mainly serve visitors.
- Flight operations at Delhi's IGI Airport may be disrupted from April 26 to May 4 due to a shift to easterly winds, which will affect runways and schedules. Passengers are advised to check with airlines for potential delays or diversions.
- Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has directed the immediate installation of ANPR cameras at border points to identify end-of-life vehicles. The initiative aims to curb pollution by tracking overage vehicles entering the city.

Goa

- Goa's Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 aims to achieve garbage-free cities by 2026, with a State High-Powered Committee overseeing projects. Focus areas include sustainable waste management, citizen engagement, and aligning with SDG 2030 targets.
- Goa's electricity bills may rise nearly 6% this year under a proposed multi-year tariff hike for 2025-28. The increase will affect all consumer categories if approved by the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Gujarat

- The Supreme Court will hear appeals in the 2002 Godhra train burning case on May 6-7, including the Gujarat Government's plea for the death penalty. The Court has asked for revised submissions from one of the convicts' advocates by May 3.
- The Gujarat education department is considering scrapping weekly unit tests for Classes 3-12 after a review meeting with a subcommittee. A new 360-degree evaluation system aligned with NEP 2020 is likely to be introduced from the next academic session.

Haryana

- Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said Gurugram will get 670 MLD water supply after May 31, with ₹3,034.82 crore approved for infrastructure. He also announced 400 new electric buses and action against delayed rainwater harvesting projects.
- Gurugram Metro Phase-1 work, initially set for May 1, is delayed due to tender process issues and will likely begin by late May or early June; the 15.2 km elevated line with 14 stations aims for mid-2027 completion.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal to ban PET water bottles up to 500 ml from June 1, 2025, in government events, HPTDC, and private hotels. Car dustbins will become mandatory from April 29 to promote sustainable practices. Existing PET stocks must be cleared before the deadline.
- Primary teachers protesting against the merger of education directorates in Himachal may face suspension, transfer, or compulsory retirement. Teachers who participated in the April 26 protest at Chaura Maidan will also lose one day's salary.

Karnataka

- Belagavi organizations have urged Karnataka to expedite discussions with Maharashtra for a water-swap treaty to address water scarcity. The proposed agreement aims to share Krishna River waters for long-term solutions.
- Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has instructed officials to enforce a High Court ruling halting bike taxi services in six weeks. The court's order affects aggregators like Uber, Rapido, and Ola due to the absence of official regulations.
- Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot has approved the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024. The Bill aims to decentralize governance, improve administrative efficiency, and enhance community participation.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- A forensic lab was inaugurated in Ratlam, enabling local police to conduct investigations without sending samples to other districts. The lab, benefiting Ratlam, Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Jhabua, will expedite tests like viscera and narcotics analysis.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Dr. Mohan Yadav announced a 5% increase in dearness allowance (DA) for 7.3 lakh state employees, raising it to 55%. The move will add an extra Rs 175 crore to the government's expenditure.

Mumbai

- The Maharashtra government has approved the redevelopment of 52 MHADA buildings in Bandra and 58 in Worli, with an FSI of 4. The project aims to improve living conditions, with developers needing 51% resident consent for execution.
- The Bombay High Court cleared the Palm Beach service road project, allowing NMMC to begin work soon. The 610-meter road will not harm mangroves and is critical for easing traffic near Navi Mumbai airport.
- Maharashtra appoints 12 officers to recover ₹689.56 crore in fines from builders, mainly in Pune and Mumbai. MahaRERA has imposed ₹912.11 crore in penalties, with ₹222 crore recovered so far.

Pune

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis approved the construction of two helipads and eight parking bays at Shirdi Airport, along with its expansion. This is in preparation for the upcoming Kumbh Mela, aimed at improving air traffic management.
- PCMC issued notices to 31 illegal religious structures in Chikhali, Kudalwadi, and Jadhavwadi, citing obstruction to roads and public spaces. They must be removed within two weeks to avoid demolition.
- Pune district identified 222 Pakistani nationals, with 111 residing in Pune city and another 111 in Pimpri-Chinchwad. Authorities are verifying their details and ensuring compliance with government guidelines.

Punjab

- Punjab has heightened security after the Pahalgam terror attack, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann emphasizing law and order. A high-level meeting was held to ensure strict vigilance across the state.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court issued a notice to Punjab over a petition challenging the state's ban on the sale of hybrid seed varieties. Petitioners argued that regulating hybrid seeds falls under the Centre's domain under the Seeds Act.

Rajasthan

- The Rs 262 crore Amrit-2 project in Bikaner is facing delays due to poor coordination. The Noida firm handling the work lacks its own machinery and has subcontracted it to smaller contractors, who are not being paid on time.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi presided over a vice-chancellors' conference in Ooty on April 25-26, with Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar as chief guest, amid tensions with the state government over university governance. The conference focused on academic collaborations, AI in education, financial management, and IP creation.

Telangana

- The Telangana government transferred 21 IAS officers to various posts, with RV Karnan appointed as the new GHMC commissioner. Key transfers included Ilambarithi K to HMDA and Dr. Shashank Goel to the Centre for Good Governance.
- On April 27, 2025, Hyderabad police debunked rumors circulating on social media about Telangana being declared a "high alert zone" following a terror attack in Kashmir. They urged citizens to ignore the false claims and rely on official sources.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh is setting up the Uttar Pradesh Outsource Service Corporation (UPCOS) to safeguard outsourced workers' rights, ensuring fair pay and compliance with regulations. This initiative follows CM Yogi Adityanath's directives.
- Uttar Pradesh leads in Atal Pension Yojana enrolment with 1.20 crore registrations, marking a significant boost for workers in the unorganised sector. Top districts include Prayagraj, Lucknow, and Bareilly.
- U.P. announces the Uttar Pradesh Outsource Service Corporation (UPCOS) to protect outsourced workers' rights, ensuring fair pay and benefits. The initiative addresses issues like salary delays and workplace harassment.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav announced that farmers booked for stubble burning will lose ₹6,000 assistance and won't be able to sell crops at MSP. The decision, effective from May 1, targets reducing crop residue burning environmental impact.
- Madhya Pradesh police have started identifying Pakistani nationals with revoked visas, following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The exercise aims to deport individuals with invalid short-term visas, excluding those with diplomatic, official, or long-term visas.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra is planning a water metro for Mumbai, with Kochi Water Metro aiding in the DPR, due by month-end. The eco-friendly ferries will ease transport and boost tourism, with a 50:50 state-Union partnership.
- Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation plans to lease out 73,000 sq ft across Metro Lines 2A and 7 stations, including pillars, to boost revenue. This includes retail, advertising, and production shoot rentals.
- Maharashtra CM approves the establishment of the Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (UMTA) to streamline public transport. It will integrate services, standardize fares, and improve last-mile connectivity.

Pune

- A state-appointed committee will conduct a drone survey to assess encroachments on 976 hectares of land reserved for Pune's Biodiversity Park. Illegal constructions have already encroached on nearly 10% of the land.
- Around 1.75 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs will soon receive NQAS accreditation, with 30,000 already meeting the standards. Health Minister JP Nadda made this announcement during his visit to Pune.
- PCMC will revise its riverfront development plan to prioritize tree conservation after objections from citizens and environmentalists. The new proposal will ensure the protection of heritage trees and consider tree felling only when justified.

Punjab

- The Centre will establish the Sardar Parkash Singh Badal Skill India Centre in Badal village to honor the late former CM. The centre aims to train over 2,000 youth annually in various sectors, with plans for future upgrades to university status.
- The Punjab government is launching a recruitment drive to hire 1,000 medical officers, addressing the shortage in government healthcare facilities. The application process begins on April 25 and will run until May 15.

Rajasthan

- An Integrated Monitoring System in Rajasthan will provide real-time data on 74 health indicators across 41 districts, including vaccination, TB, AIDS, and more. It will also include data on PCTS, e-tools, e-medicine, and food safety.

Tamil Nadu

- Chennai Metro Rail will begin trial runs on the 9.1-km elevated stretch from Poonamallee to Porur on April 28, aiming for passenger operations with driverless trains later this year. This marks the first segment of the ₹63,246-crore Phase II project to be inaugurated.

Telangana

- On May 5, 2025, Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and G Kishan Reddy will inaugurate national highway projects worth Rs 6,280 crores in Telangana. The event will include the formal opening of key Hyderabad projects, such as the Amberpet Bridge and six-lane road expansions.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh is projected to be power-surplus in 2025-26, with a 13% surplus in peak demand and a 14.7% surplus in energy. This ensures a stable supply, especially during summer, with significant surpluses in June and July.
- Uttar Pradesh will pilot fortified wheat flour distribution through PDS to combat anaemia, expanding on rice fortification efforts. The initiative targets micronutrient deficiencies, benefiting millions across the state.
- Uttar Pradesh CM directs officers to ensure regular potable water supply to rural households during summer. The government is utilizing the 'Har Ghar Nal' scheme and making alternative arrangements where infrastructure work is pending.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- Somalia's Prime Minister appointed Ahmed Moallim Fiqi Ahmed as the new Defence Minister, replacing Jibril Abdirashid. The reason for the change was not disclosed.
- Uganda declared the end of its latest Ebola outbreak, which started in January 2025, after 42 days without new cases. The outbreak, caused by the Sudan strain, resulted in at least ten cases and two deaths.
- Tanzania has banned agricultural imports from Malawi and South Africa in retaliation for similar trade restrictions. The country also plans to block the transit of goods to Malawi and halt fertilizer exports.

America

- Mexico is expanding the Port of Manzanillo to become Latin America's busiest, aiming to handle 10 million containers. The multibillion-dollar project is a key part of President Sheinbaum's infrastructure push to counter economic downturns amid U.S. trade tariffs.

Asia Pacific

- North Korea unveiled a 5,000-tonne warship, equipped with powerful weapons, marking a new phase in its naval expansion. Kim Jong Un stated the ship would enter service next year, emphasizing strategic deterrence amid tensions with the U.S.
- The Philippine Navy reported that a Chinese aircraft carrier group, led by the Shandong, passed near its northern maritime boundaries ahead of the Balikatan drills with the U.S. and Japan. The exercises focus on maritime security and regional tensions with China.

China

- China's cabinet approved the phase 3 project of the Sanmen nuclear power plant in Zhejiang province and passed a draft law on medical security to improve the country's medical supply system.
- China, Russia, and Iran met with the IAEA to discuss Iran's nuclear program. China expressed support for Iran's dialogue with all parties, including the U.S.

Europe

- Russia's central bank kept its key interest rate at 21%, citing global economic instability and lower oil prices as risks. While inflation is declining, the economy faces challenges from U.S. trade tariffs and reduced oil export revenues.
- Ukraine reaffirmed its position in London talks, rejecting Russian-occupied territories and foreign vetoes on alliances. It emphasized NATO membership and opposition to Russia's demilitarization demands.

Middle East

- A chemical explosion at Iran's Bandar Abbas port killed five and injured over 700. The blast, likely caused by improper chemical storage, occurred during nuclear talks with the U.S. in Oman, though no link was found between the events.

Pakistan

- Pakistan is in a state of panic as India vows to cut off water supplies from the Indus River in response to the Kashmir militant attack. India has suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, which has historically provided water to 80% of Pakistan's farms, and plans to divert water for its use.
- Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian airlines and rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty after a deadly militant attack in Kashmir. Relations between the nuclear-armed neighbors have plunged to their lowest level in years.

United Kingdom

- UK Finance Minister Rachel Reeves met U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to discuss a trade deal, emphasizing the importance of the UK-EU business ties. The talks covered economic prosperity, fair trade, taxation, and tech partnerships.

United States

- Trump and Zelenskyy met in the Vatican Basilica to discuss peace efforts in Ukraine, calling the meeting "productive." Their first encounter since a heated February discussion comes at a crucial time in ceasefire negotiations.
- The U.S. Justice Department is terminating \$811 million in grants, affecting trauma centers, crisis hotlines, and police training. Some victim service grants were restored after backlash, but the cuts align with the Trump administration's broader rollback of diversity and inclusion programs.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Congo and Rwanda agreed to draft a peace deal by May 2, aiming to end violence in eastern Congo and curb military support for armed groups. The deal, signed in Washington, is expected to bring U.S. investment to the region's mineral-rich economy.
- Burkina Faso granted an industrial mining licence to Russian firm Nordgold for a gold project in the Plateau-Central region. The project is expected to contribute \$89 million to the state budget.
- Morocco's King Mohammed VI approved a \$10.3 billion rail expansion, including a high-speed line to Marrakesh by 2030. The project aims to enhance the rail industry and support Morocco's World Cup preparations.

America

- Brazil is urging tougher emissions targets from China, Europe, and other nations ahead of the climate summit. The country aims to secure new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by September to meet global climate goals.

Asia Pacific

- South Korea's Industry Minister Ahn Duk-geun stated that Seoul will approach trade talks with the U.S. cautiously, monitoring developments with other countries. Working-level talks are set to begin next week, focusing on securing tariff exemptions.
- Malaysia is open to negotiating with the U.S. on reducing its trade deficit and non-tariff barriers, exploring a potential bilateral trade agreement. The country aims to address U.S. concerns and avoid a 24% tariff on its exports by July.

China

- China called for the removal of all U.S. unilateral tariffs, emphasizing that no trade talks had taken place. The Trump administration is contemplating reducing tariffs on Chinese imports, possibly between 50% and 65%. China urges the U.S. to heed international and domestic calls for tariff removal.

Europe

- Greenland and Denmark agreed to bolster their relationship after U.S. interest in Greenland's acquisition. Greenland's Prime Minister stressed that only its people can determine the island's future.
- Germany may seek an EU exemption to boost defense spending without violating borrowing limits. The European Commission supports increased defense investments by 1.5% of GDP annually for four years.

Middle East

- Saudi Arabia and Qatar will settle Syria's \$15 million arrears to the World Bank, unlocking financial support for reconstruction and the public sector. This move could mark the beginning of Gulf Arab support for Syria after years of uncertainty due to U.S. sanctions.

Pakistan

- Pakistan has requested an additional 10 billion yuan (\$1.4 billion) from China to increase its swap line, aiming for 40 billion yuan. Finance Minister Aurangzeb also confirmed progress on issuing a Panda bond by year-end.
- A Pakistani astronaut will become the first foreign national to enter China's Tiangong space station, marking a milestone in China-Pakistan space cooperation. The astronaut will be selected this year and trained in China, with the mission expected by October 2026.

United Kingdom

- UK Prime Minister Starmer is nearing a defense pact with the EU to strengthen post-Brexit relations, focusing on security and trade. The deal aims to enhance cooperation amid shifting global alliances, with a summit set for next month.
- Britain's energy price cap is expected to fall by 9% in July due to lower wholesale gas prices, influenced by warmer weather and concerns over economic growth. The cap forecast may change before Ofgem finalizes it in May.

United States

- The cost of operating and modernizing U.S. nuclear forces through 2034 is projected at \$946 billion, 25% higher than the 2023 estimate. Rising costs, including an 81% overrun on the Sentinel ICBM project, could complicate Trump's \$1 trillion defense budget pledge.

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