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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CREDAI Andhra Pradesh welcomes the repeal of the NALA Act, calling it a progressive step for real estate. The move eliminates land conversion charges, reducing costs for developers and landowners.
- The Tirupati trust board approved a ₹5,258 crore budget for 2025-26, up by ₹79 crore from last year. Hundi receipts are expected to rise to ₹1,729 crore, with ₹1,310 crore from fixed deposit interest.

#### Delhi

- The Delhi Assembly passes a ₹1 lakh crore budget for 2025-26, with CM Rekha Gupta announcing reforms in mandis and reviving the Trans Yamuna Development Board. She also declared that Delhi will celebrate all state days, starting with Odisha's on April 1.
- Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announces a global investment summit, trader welfare board, and industrial area revamp in Budget 2025-26. A new industrial policy will simplify compliance, and leased industrial properties may be converted to freehold.

#### Goa

- Goa Budget 2025-26 prioritizes tourism, urban development, and a new Mopa city under a central scheme. Key allocations include ₹423 crore for Smart City projects, ₹700 crore for higher education, and ₹1,480 crore for tribal welfare.
- Goa Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho discusses a cab aggregator framework, assuring that fares will not increase. He emphasized ongoing stakeholder talks and ruled out the need for a new cab service app.
- Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy launched India's first auction of Exploration Licences (ELs) for 13 critical mineral blocks. The initiative, unveiled in Goa alongside CM Pramod Sawant, aims to unlock untapped mineral resources.

#### Gujarat

- Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) secures Rs 104.75 crore under the Jal Hi Amrit scheme, with 19 out of 20 STPs receiving a five-star rating. SMC leads India in sewage reuse, repurposing 1,225 MLD for industrial use.
- A gantry at the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train site skidded near Vatva, disrupting overhead electrification and affecting railway operations. Several trains were canceled or rescheduled as restoration work continues.

#### Haryana

- Haryana government reports 1.84 lakh youths sought drug de-addiction treatment in five years, with 50,628 successfully rehabilitated. The state recorded 52,207 new cases from April 2024 to March 2025, highlighting a rising trend in substance abuse.
- Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini confirms land for 10 IMTs will be acquired via land pooling or the e-Bhoomi portal. He urges legislators to ensure fair land rates and aims to reduce the state's revenue deficit below 1% by 2025-26.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhu, at the 'Samridh Himachal 2045' event, emphasized a 20-year roadmap for sustainable economic growth. The government aims to make Himachal a green energy hub and self-reliant through balanced development.
- Himachal's Rural Development Department has withdrawn village pradhans' power to lease panchayat land, forming committees at block, subdivision, and district levels for transparency. The move aims to prevent arbitrary allotments and revenue losses.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka's tiger population in reserves dropped to 393 in 2024 from 408 in 2023. The decline spans Bandipur, Nagarhole, Bhadra, BRT, and Kali reserves, though the overall state count is rising.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Naidu sets a 15% GSDP growth target for 2025-26, aiming for a ₹3-trillion crore economy by 2047. He notes that a 1% growth increase adds ₹15,000 crore in revenue. The GSDP growth rate, which fell to 10.32% (2019-24), has now risen to 12.02% in 2024-25.
- Andhra CM Naidu announces the recruitment of 16,347 teachers starting in April, aiming for completion by June. The process may include SC sub-categorization, with a report sent to the Centre. The move aligns with poll promises and aims to strengthen education.

#### Delhi

- Delhi's first high-security prison (HSP) is being set up at Tikri Khurd, Narela, to house 256 high-risk prisoners by 2026. The ₹100 crore project will feature biometric locks, in-built jammers, and isolated cells to prevent inmate interactions.
- PWD will begin fixing waterlogging at Zakhira and Minto Bridge underpasses before the monsoon. A new ₹4.7 crore RCC drain at Zakhira will improve water flow but will take eight months to complete.

#### Goa

- Green Goa Foundation urges the Directorate of Education to retain the June start for the academic year and opposes amendments to school rules. It warns that increasing instructional days may cause stress for students and teachers.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant stated that central projects under Sagarmala will boost port modernization and hinterland tourism. He highlighted initiatives like jetty strengthening to improve connectivity and daily commutes.

#### Gujarat

- The Dang forest department will set up 153 artificial ponds to tackle summer water scarcity for wildlife, supplementing 88 natural sources. Trap cameras will monitor animal movements, with plans for 50 more ponds soon.

#### Haryana

- PM Modi to visit Haryana on April 14 to inaugurate Hisar's Maharaja Agrasen Airport and launch air services. He will also lay the foundation stone for an 800 MW thermal power unit in Yamunanagar.
- Nuh's Civil Hospital in Mandikhera is to get a trauma center and expand to 200 beds. The Haryana govt also approved ₹12.87 crore for Chhath Puja Ghat development and plans 46 new de-addiction centers.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal CM Sukhu announces a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, vowing strict action within a month against officials involved in drug smuggling. Two new bills were introduced in the Assembly to combat drug abuse.
- CM Sukhu plans to send all MLAs, including Congress and BJP members, on foreign exposure trips under departmental projects. ₹1.59 crore was spent on student tours and ₹2.13 crore on teachers' training in Singapore.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka electricity bills will rise from April as KERC hikes fixed charges, but Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries remain unaffected. The per-unit rate will be ₹5.80 for two years, dropping to ₹5.75 in 2027-28.
- Karnataka government increases Nandini milk and curd prices by ₹4 per litre from April 1. The decision aims to support dairy farmers by considering production and processing costs.
- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah urges Railway Minister to inaugurate the Gadag-Kustagi rail line in April. He highlights the state government's 50% funding and land acquisition support for the 275-km project. The initiative aims to boost trade, connectivity, and regional development.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh forest department has asked Mandasaur DFO Sanjay Raykhare to explain the deaths of three translocated leopards. The move follows a complaint by an activist alleging the state compromised leopard welfare to improve the prey base for cheetahs.

## Mumbai

- The Bombay High Court has issued a notice to Central Railway on a petition challenging the demolition of slums in Vidya Vihar East. The petitioners argue that eviction without rehabilitation violates Supreme Court guidelines.
- The Bombay HC has set up a medical expert committee to examine infrastructure issues in state-run hospitals in Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. This follows reports of multiple deaths, prompting the court to seek both short- and long-term solutions.
- Illegal structures on reclaimed Coastal Road land in Worli are being demolished amid concerns of land-grab tactics. Activists suspect that developers placed slum-dwellers to claim rehabilitation benefits.

## Pune

- PMC is enforcing water meters on citizens but has installed automatic water refilling systems at only two of the seven stations. This leads to water wastage, road damage, and ongoing shortages in several areas.
- Pune police have mapped 2,576 crime hotspots, mainly in Zones V and III, under the Cop24 initiative. Patrolling occurs five times a day, with data on 30,000 criminals uploaded to the MySafe Crime Module app for tracking.
- MSEDCL has disconnected 25,434 consumers in Pune over ₹88.45 crore in unpaid bills, urging immediate payment to avoid further cuts. Meanwhile, power outages due to tripping issues have affected over 5 lakh consumers.

## Punjab

- Punjab Budget 2025 proposes ₹2.36 lakh crore expenditure, with ₹500 crore for crop residue management. The state will conduct its first "drug census" while GSDP is projected to grow 10% to ₹8.91 lakh crore in FY 2025-26.

## Rajasthan

- The interstate tiger relocation to Rajasthan is postponed to the monsoon due to summer risks. Four tigresses from Madhya Pradesh will be moved from Bandhavgarh and Pench instead of Ratapani, which reported fibroma cases.
- Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma announced ₹137 crore in grants for 30,000 farmers and new agricultural subsidies in Bikaner. Key measures include expanded PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, Mangala Pashu Bima Yojana, and support for organic farming.

## Tamil Nadu

- Only 3.2% of schools in Tamil Nadu offer three languages, among the lowest in India. This reflects the state's resistance to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The language debate remains a key issue, especially in Tamil Nadu and other southern states.
- Para-athlete Arulmoli A won gold in powerlifting at the National Championship and Khelo India, lifting 85kg and 80kg. Despite financial struggles, she has immense potential for international events.

## Telangana

- The Telangana government deposited ₹3.3 crore ex gratia into the accounts of 66 families who lost members in Gulf countries. Each family received ₹5 lakh as financial support. Former MLA Anil Eeravatri confirmed the disbursement on Friday, 28 March.
- Telangana's off-budget borrowings reached ₹1.2 lakh crore by March 31, 2024, with ₹2,545.98 crore added in 2023-24. These loans, raised by SPVs and corporations, are serviced from the state budget. The CAG flagged concerns over undisclosed guarantees, impacting fiscal transparency.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has proposed 250 new ITIs under the Centre's 1000 ITI Upgradation Scheme to boost skill development. State Minister Kapil Dev Aggarwal discussed this with Union MoS Jayant Chaudhary, who assured serious consideration. A request was also made to train 1 lakh youths under PMKVY.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Indore's Holkar Stadium will host the second edition of the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) in June, shifting from Gwalior. The league expands to seven teams, featuring top local talent and IPL players, aiming to boost visibility with better infrastructure and broadcasting.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra will establish a Public Health Infrastructure Corporation to upgrade government hospitals and primary health centers. CM Devendra Fadnavis approved the plan, aiming to ensure quality healthcare access within 5 km for citizens.
- Maharashtra approves a new DCPR provision to boost redevelopment in air funnel zones like Santacruz and Kurla. Owners will get TDR for restricted FSI, enabling full plot utilization. Amendments to the MRTP Act will facilitate the changes.
- Maharashtra plans a new policy to promote iconic buildings in Mumbai to boost tourism and beautification. Deputy CM Eknath Shinde has directed amendments to DCR rules under the MRTP Act.

## Pune

- Railway work on the Raigarh-Jharsuguda section from April 11-23 will affect Pune-Howrah trains. Azad Hind Express (12129/12130) is canceled April 11-24; Duronto Express (12221/12222) and Santragachi- Pune Express (20821/20822) on select dates.
- Pune district collector has asked MIDC to deposit funds for land measurement for the Purandar airport project. The process, covering seven villages, is set to begin in April, with officials considering drone surveys for transparency.
- PMPML will deploy 25% of CNG buses at e-depots due to aging e-buses and charging issues. The transition starts at Bhekraingar, followed by Baner and Nigdi, ensuring smoother operations.

## Punjab

- Punjab DGP orders top cops to map drug suppliers in their districts within seven days. Under 'Yudh Nashian Virudh,' 3,957 smugglers were arrested, 2,248 FIRs filed, and 137.7 kg heroin seized. Authorities claim street-level drug availability has reduced.

## Rajasthan

- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary's 1-km Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) proposal, submitted in 2020, awaits final approval. The notification is crucial for regulating land use, protecting wildlife, and enabling its potential declaration as a tiger reserve.
- Jaipur will now have a single mayor as the state government merges Jaipur Greater and Heritage Municipal Corporations. The city's municipal boundaries expand after 30 years, adding 78 villages and restructuring 150 wards.

## Tamil Nadu

- AIADMK chief Edappadi K. Palaniswami says alliance with BJP will be decided closer to the 2026 Tamil Nadu elections. After meeting Amit Shah, he insists the discussion focused on people's issues, not political ties.
- The State Planning Commission and Trichy district administration held a regional conclave on the Focus Blocks Development Programme (FBDP) to boost infrastructure in 10 districts. Officials were urged to document needs and leverage government and CSR funds for growth.

## Telangana

- Telangana CM Revanth Reddy will launch the fine rice distribution scheme, benefiting 3.1 crore people with six kg of free rice per person. Civil supplies minister Uttam Kumar Reddy called it India's largest food security initiative.

## Uttar Pradesh

- UP council schools will remain open during summer vacations for summer camps from May 20 to June 15. Camps will focus on studies, extracurricular activities, and nutrition, with ₹200 crore allocated for the initiative.
- UP Energy Minister Arvind Kumar Sharma warned that officers will be held accountable for power disruptions. He highlighted that 3,300 officials have been suspended in the past three years for negligence. He assured uninterrupted power supply in designated areas and strict action against lapses.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- To strengthen military ties, Somalia offered the U.S. exclusive control of key air bases and ports, including Berbera and Bosaso. Somaliland opposes the move, asserting the U.S. should deal with them directly instead.
- Qatar hosted a second round of talks between Congo and Rwanda and met M23 rebel representatives separately. The meetings follow last week's talks between Presidents Tshisekedi and Kagame in Doha.

#### America

- CK Hutchison will not sign a deal next week to sell its Panama port operations to a BlackRock-led group. Sources say mounting pressure from Beijing influenced the decision. The sale involved two strategic ports near the Panama Canal.
- Mexican President Sheinbaum met U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Noem, calling it a "fruitful meeting." Both countries discussed migration and security cooperation while emphasizing sovereignty and mutual coordination.

#### Asia Pacific

- South Korea and China discussed bilateral trade cooperation amid global trade shifts and expected U.S. tariffs. They focused on responses to trade challenges, with South Korea concerned about duties on semiconductors and autos.
- A 7.7 magnitude earthquake in Myanmar killed over 140 people, mainly in Mandalay, collapsing buildings and bridges. The military junta seeks international aid, while the U.S. pledges assistance despite cuts to USAID operations.

#### China

- China conducted a patrol in the South China Sea as U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth reaffirmed support for Manila. The PLA accused the Philippines of destabilizing the region. Meanwhile, the U.S., Japan, and the Philippines held naval drills.
- Chinese Commerce Minister Wang Wentao and EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic discussed trade fairness, emphasizing a "level playing field." Both sides seek common ground amid ongoing disputes and U.S. trade policies under Trump.

#### Europe

- Italy tightened its citizenship laws, now allowing only those with a parent or grandparent born in Italy to claim nationality. The move aims to curb abuses, especially in South America, where citizenship applications surged.

#### Middle East

- Israel carried out an airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs, targeting a Hezbollah drone storage facility. This follows rising tensions after a March 22 rocket attack from Lebanon, which Hezbollah denies involvement in.

#### Pakistan

- IMF staff reached a deal with Pakistan for a \$1.3 billion climate resilience loan and approved a \$1 billion disbursement under its ongoing \$7 billion bailout. The funds aim to stabilize Pakistan's economy, which has shown recovery signs.
- Pakistan's inflation stays at 1-1.5% in March but may rise to 2-3% in April. The \$7 billion IMF bailout has stabilized the economy, with exports and remittances supporting finances. A \$1 billion IMF disbursement is awaited before June's budget.

#### United Kingdom

- The UK government advised its citizens to leave South Sudan due to escalating tensions and the risk of renewed civil war. Western countries, including the U.S. and Germany, have reduced embassy operations.
- Rachel Reeves trimmed UK spending plans amid a weak economy, reassuring investors but warning of tax hikes if trade risks escalate. The budget watchdog halved the 2025 growth forecast and raised public borrowing estimates.

#### United States

- U.S. Vice President JD Vance accused Denmark of failing to protect Greenland from Russian and Chinese influence, suggesting the U.S. could ensure better security. This follows Trump's past interest in acquiring the territory.
- Trump's 25% auto tariffs bypass 2018 USMCA protections, subjecting Canadian and Mexican vehicles to immediate duties. The agreement had granted a grace period and duty-free quotas, but the White House has not honored them.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Africa

- The World Court will hear Sudan's case against the UAE for allegedly arming the RSF, violating the Genocide Convention. The UAE denies the charge, calling it a political stunt while reaffirming its humanitarian aid to Sudan.
- The IMF urged Senegal to cut tax exemptions and subsidies after an audit revealed misreported economic data. Debt reached 99.67% of GDP, leading to a suspension of the \$1.8 billion credit facility.

#### America

- Lula said Vietnam may buy up to 50 Embraer planes, and a Brazilian company may invest \$100 million in a meat-processing plant. He confirmed Vietnam Airlines is assessing Embraer's jets. Lula also expressed willingness to negotiate U.S. tariffs on Brazilian exports.
- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro urged the UN to support the release of Venezuelan migrants deported by the U.S. to an El Salvador prison. The deportations face a legal battle, with Trump's administration citing a 1798 law.

#### Asia Pacific

- Australian PM Anthony Albanese called a national election for May 3, focusing on cost-of-living issues. Polls show a tight race between Labor and the opposition. He emphasized resilience and economic recovery while seeking voter support.
- Australia's missile development faces delays due to European defense demand amid the Ukraine war. Despite a \$47B investment, global shortages and supplier constraints will slow local production, with Kongsberg's first guided missiles expected by 2027.

#### China

- Chinese President Xi Jinping urges global CEOs to protect industry and supply chains amid concerns over new U.S. tariffs under Trump. Around 40 executives, including from AstraZeneca, FedEx, and Toyota, attended, with Xi pledging government action on business challenges.
- China and France will hold three high-level dialogues on strategic, economic, financial, and cultural issues in 2025. Foreign Ministers Wang Yi and Jean-Noel Barrot emphasized multilateralism and deeper coordination amid U.S. trade tensions.

#### Europe

- Danish PM Mette Frederiksen will visit Greenland on April 2-4 for talks with its new government amid U.S. interest in the island. She rejected U.S. VP JD Vance's claim that Denmark is failing to protect Greenland.

#### Middle East

- Iraq has extended its fuel supply deal with Lebanon for six more months to help ease the country's power crisis. Lebanon swaps the heavy fuel oil for gas oil to keep its power stations running amid ongoing financial struggles.
- Egypt reports positive signals from Israel on a new Gaza ceasefire proposal involving phased hostage releases. A security delegation has traveled to Qatar for further negotiations, including aid increases.

#### Pakistan

- Pakistan and China are in talks to enhance security for Chinese nationals amid militant threats in Balochistan. Beijing seeks to deploy its own security personnel, but Pakistan insists on handling protection. Discussions are ongoing with a focus on cooperation.

#### United Kingdom

- Moody's warns the UK faces a tough fiscal outlook despite efforts to restore budget headroom. Further spending cuts or tax hikes may be needed by October. The UK's high public debt remains a concern.
- Britain is working to secure an exemption from U.S. auto tariffs before the April 3 deadline. Finance Minister Rachel Reeves hinted at reviewing Tesla subsidies to support UK carmakers. She emphasized ongoing negotiations to protect brands like Jaguar Land Rover and Rolls Royce.

#### United States

- U.S. President Donald Trump will meet Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa in Florida ahead of Ecuador's April 13 runoff election. Noboa, elected in 2023, seeks U.S. support in combating drug gangs. Ecuador is also interested in hosting a U.S. military base.
- U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. plans to cut 10,000 jobs and centralize FDA, CDC, and NIH functions. The HHS workforce will shrink from 82,000 to 62,000, citing efficiency. Trump and Musk are pushing broader federal agency cuts.

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