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# **INDIA UPDATE**

# Highlights of this week

# Andhra Pradesh

- The Andhra Cabinet formed a 6-member subcommittee to monitor crop yields and ensure fair prices for farmers amid declining rates for chilli, tobacco, and other produce. CM Naidu assured government support to address farmers' concerns.
- Andhra Pradesh forms a Special Task Force to probe the 2022 Jangareddygudem liquor deaths that claimed 20 lives. The panel includes police, excise, and medical experts, and must submit a report within a month.

#### Delhi

- To decongest overcrowded Tihar Jail, the Delhi government has begun talks with agencies to acquire land for new prisons. Officials will inspect Tihar next week to assess interim solutions. Tihar currently holds over 12,900 inmates against a capacity of 5,200.
- The Delhi Cabinet has approved a ₹30,000 subsidy for rooftop solar panels on homes, adding to the ₹78,000 offered under the Centre's PM Surya Ghar Yojana. This brings the total subsidy to ₹1.08 lakh, The government targets installing 230,000 residential units.
- Municipal Corporation has withdrawn the garbage user charge from property tax for 2025-26 after protests from residents and political parties. Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh also announced a property tax amnesty to help clear past dues.

- Goa drafts strict taxi aggregator rules with fines up to ₹50 lakh and incentives for female drivers and electric vehicles. Licensing requires fees and deposits, with regular inspections planned. The guidelines aim for safer, greener, and more inclusive ride services.
- · Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for the twin observatory towers at Chicalim Hall on May 23. The ₹270 crore project atop the Zuari Bridge awaited key approvals, with construction scheduled to begin after the monsoon.

# Gujarat

- Gujarat currently reports 15 active COVID-19 cases of the JN.1 variant, 13 of which are in Ahmedabad. Health officials confirm the variant, from the Omicron family, is mild and not a cause for concern. All the patients are in home isolation.
- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project has completed 300 km of viaducts, according to NHSRCL. The latest progress near Surat, where a 40-metre full-span box girder was launched, showcases the corridor's rapid development.

# Haryana

- · UHBVN teams worked overnight in Karnal to restore power after a thunderstorm damaged 421 poles and 130 transformers, causing losses of ₹1.25 crore. Most areas, including Gharaunda and Nissing, had supply restored by 22 May, Thursday evening.
- · All 38 PACS in Sirsa are being digitised, with Madhosinghana PACS already online and linked to the Central Cooperative Bank. Four PACS are shortlisted for grain storage godowns under the Grain Storage Plan, pending final agreements.

# **Himachal Pradesh**

- · Himachal Pradesh cabinet approved new rules restricting construction on the valley side of Shimla's national highway, requiring buildings to be at least one metre below road level to preserve the valley's aesthetics. The adjoining forest near Mata Tara Devi Temple will be declared a green zone, banning construction to promote sustainable development.
- Rising water at Pandoh dam in Mandi has led authorities to warn people to stay clear of the River Beas banks as spill gates may open. Thunderstorms caused damage, and floodhit roads remain blocked with weather warnings issued.

# Karnataka

- · Karnataka cabinet approved renaming Ramanagara as Bengaluru South, defying the Centre's earlier rejection. Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar said the Union Govt has no authority over state land matters, so all documents will reflect the new name.
- Banu Mushtaq wins the 2025 International Booker Prize for Heart Lamp, a Kannada short story collection capturing women's lives across Karnataka. Translated by Deepa Bhasthi, it's the first Kannada work and short story collection to win the award.

# **Upcoming News/Events**

### **Andhra Pradesh**

- From June 1, the state will resume ration distribution through Fair Price Shops, ending the MDU system due to inefficiencies and misuse. Doorstep delivery will continue for elderly and disabled beneficiaries.
- CM Naidu to begin surprise inspections post-June 12, aiming for full public satisfaction with government services. He also confirmed 38 firms interested in Drone City at Orvakal and promised upfront LPG subsidies under Deepam 2.

### Delhi

- The Delhi government will inaugurate 33 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs on May 31, with each centre staffed by 10 healthcare workers. This is part of a larger plan to set up 1,139 such centres citywide. Each district will have at least one centre in this first phase.
- The Supreme Court ordered Delhi to fill 204 DPCC vacancies by September 30, 2025, citing its "virtually defunct" status due to 55% of posts being vacant. The government's delayed recruitment plan was criticized as inadequate.
- The MCD will hold elections for 12 zonal ward committees on June 2 and standing committee seats on June 3, ending a two-year delay caused by India-Pak tensions. The polls will fill chairmen, deputy chairmen, and vacant committee seats.

- The Union Power Ministry urges Goa to fast-track its ₹467-crore Smart Metering Project, delayed since 2021 despite Cabinet approval. The project aims to improve billing and power monitoring but faces delays, risking further setbacks beyond 2025 monsoon.
- Goa launches awareness camps in all panchayats to promote the PM Surya Ghar and Muft Bijli Yojanas, aiming for wide solar adoption. CM Sawant urges local coordination to ensure maximum household participation and energy savings.

- A low-pressure system over the Arabian Sea is set to intensify into a depression, triggering heavy rain and strong winds in parts of coastal Saurashtra and South Gujarat. IMD has issued a yellow alert for several districts.
- The Sabarmati-Veraval Vande Bharat train is set to launch on May 26, operating six days a week except Thursday. Covering 438 km in around seven hours, it will connect key stations like Rajkot and Junagadh, offering a faster, electrified rail option.

# Haryana

- · Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the state's first Modern Jail Training Academy in Karnal, calling it a major step toward prison reform and professional training. He announced recruitment for 1,300 warder posts and promised to fill all vacancies at the academy and in the jail medical staff soon.
- Farmers in Ambala and Kurukshetra await delayed incentives for last season's DSR cultivation. Over 1,060 farmers in Ambala and 7,830 acres in Kurukshetra adopted DSR, but payments are still pending.

# **Himachal Pradesh**

- HPBOSE will re-evaluate Class 12 English paper marks after a "human error" led to wrong answer keys being used, causing lower scores. The board launched an inquiry following student complaints and is now correcting the marks.
- Himachal's Sanyukt Kisan Manch has urged a ban on Turkish apple imports, citing Turkey's support for Pakistan and its impact on local growers. Turkey exports 1.29 lakh tonnes annually to India, earning around ₹1,000 crore, hurting Himachal's apple farmers.

# Karnataka

- Karnataka bans mechanised fishing along its coast from June 1 to July 31 to protect marine biodiversity and fish breeding. Boats with engines over 10 HP must return by May 31 or face legal action and diesel subsidy suspension.
- The Indian Open of Surfing (IOS) returns for its 6th edition from May 30 to June 1 at Sasihithlu Beach, Mangaluru, featuring India's top surfers across four categories. Organized by the Surfing Federation of India and Surfing Swami Foundation, it's the second stop in the National Championship Series.





## **INDIA UPDATE**

## Highlights of this week

#### Madhya Pradesh

• Frequent storms in Indore cause power outages, affecting industries with tripping, voltage drops, and production losses. Discom held meetings with industrialists, who urged upgrades in infrastructure and a master plan for reliable power in industrial areas.

#### Mumbai

- Amid monsoon fears and a recent Kalyan collapse, Navi Mumbai and Panvel civic bodies have ordered an evacuation of 146 C1-category buildings. Residents face water and power cuts if they fail to vacate; 66 buildings are under NMMC, 80 under PMC.
- Maharashtra has approved the merger of Konkan Railway with Indian Railways to boost efficiency and resolve financial issues. The name 'Konkan Railway' will be retained, and Indian Railways will reimburse ₹394 crore for its earlier stake.
- Maharashtra ordered a probe into protocol lapses during CJI Gavai's Mumbai visit, citing the absence of top officials. CJI, later made a permanent state guest, urged that the matter be put to rest.

# Pune

- PCMC chief Shekhar Singh reviews monsoon preparedness, orders identification of flood-prone areas, backup power for hospitals, and removal of illegal hoardings in 2 days. Schools are to be ready as flood shelters.
- The PMC has approved a 1.5 MLD additional water supply to the Serum Institute of India at ₹27.47 per 1,000 litres, with a 10% annual hike. The institute, employing around 10,000 people, is directed to treat and reuse the water.
- PMRDA has identified 967 illegal hoardings, with only 90 removed so far in five months. Commissioner Yogesh Mhase warned of criminal charges against those obstructing the drive, especially if public harm occurs. A stricter crackdown begins May 26.

### Punjab

- Under NALSA's initiative, over 4.81 lakh cases were settled, and Rs 617 crore was awarded in a single-day Lok Adalat across Punjab. 442 benches were formed, with major participation from banks, government departments, and litigants.
- BBMB has planned a micro-hydro project via private investment, including 1.79 MW at Nangal dam and 1 MW floating turbines in the Bhakra canal. Punjab govt, led by AAP's Sanjeev Gautam, opposes outsourcing.

# Rajasthan

 PM Modi inaugurates 103 Amrit Bharat railway stations from Rajasthan's Bikaner on May 22, highlighting Rajasthan's role in boosting tourism and youth employment. A new Bikaner–Mumbai train was also flagged off during the event.

# Tamil Nadu

- At the Niti Aayog meeting, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin demanded a 50% share of central taxes for states, highlighting that Tamil Nadu currently receives only 33.16%. He also called for a dedicated urban transformation mission in the state.
- Heavy rains have caused severe disruption in South India, with five deaths in Karnataka and three in Tamil Nadu, while Kerala faces a red alert from the IMD. Bengaluru is under an orange alert, expecting heavy rainfall intensifying flood risks in the region.

# Telangana

 Telangana's groundwater crisis deepens, with 500 villages facing severe depletion and average levels at 10.17 meters below ground. Farmers struggle as borewells run dry, threatening livelihoods and forcing land sales.

# **Uttar Pradesh**

- PM Modi virtually inaugurated 19 revamped railway stations in Uttar Pradesh, including key ones like Govindpuri (Kanpur) and Bareilly City. CM Yogi highlighted these Amrit Stations as symbols of heritage, development, and pride in New India.
- UP CM Yogi Adityanath urged vigilance and sensitivity in institutions for the differentlyabled, emphasizing student safety. He calls for Divyang Rehabilitation Centres in all 18 divisional HQs and mandates strict background checks on external aid organizations.
- Uttar Pradesh is training 465 village women near tourist spots in crafts and tourism services to boost rural tourism and self-reliance. The program, led by the UP tourism department, focuses on ODOP products and skills like homestay management and guiding in villages around Prayagraj.

# **Upcoming News/Events**

### Madhya Pradesh

 MP govt approves law to develop Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Jabalpur & Gwalior as metropolitan areas. Two metropolitan development authorities to be formed in the first phase for integrated regional planning.

### Mumbai

- Mumbai's 7.5-km Coastal Road promenade from Breach Candy to Worli will open on June 15. It spans 17 hectares, including a 12-hectare promenade and a 5-hectare median. The promenade forms part of a 70-hectare open space plan.
- The Maharashtra government has reached out to 5,000 private organisations for PPP in revamping ITIs, requiring ₹10–20 crore investments for 10–20 year commitments. Minister Lodha says this will modernise ITIs and provide skilled manpower to industries.
- BMC has warned contractors to finish all major road concretisation work by May 31 or
  face replacement and double penalties. Final stages, including mastic asphalt application,
  are done by May 25, ahead of the monsoon.

#### Pune

- Pune's ₹200 crore flood control project halted as state funds remain unreleased, forcing the PMC to cancel tenders. Safety concerns grow after a housing society wall collapses amid the rains
- SEAP to launch ESG forum to streamline CSR efforts and accelerate impactful projects in Pune. Zensar partners with ManageEngine to enhance enterprise IT management and reduce operational costs.
- The state health department has directed PMC and PCMC to intensify dengue and chikungunya prevention efforts, as these diseases are no longer just seasonal threats. Officials must enforce strict measures, track cases, and ensure diagnostic kits are available.

## Punjab

- Ludhiana West bypoll to be held on June 19 following AAP MLA Gurpreet Gogi's demise; counting on June 23. AAP fields Sanjeev Arora, Congress picks Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and SAD names Parupkar Singh Ghuman.
- Civil Defence issues a heat alert for May 29–June 2, advising residents to avoid going out from 10 am to 3 pm. Temperatures may rise to 55°C; people are urged to stay hydrated, avoid sun exposure, and take safety precautions for vehicles and electrical appliances.

# Rajasthan

Rajasthan's Deeg district will see ₹30 crore invested to repair and construct 51 roads across
its three assembly constituencies. The 110 km of improved roads will better connect villages
and ensure smoother vehicle movement.

# Tamil Nadu

• The ASI has asked K Amarnath Ramakrishna to revise his detailed report on Tamil Nadu's Keeladi excavations, disputing the dating of key findings. This challenges the state government's claim of a 5,000-year-old Tamil civilisation, fueling political controversy.

# Telangana

- Telangana is set to receive early monsoon rains as the Southwest Monsoon arrived in Kerala on May 24, ahead of schedule. IMD-Hyderabad has issued a heavy rainfall warning for multiple districts until May 30, with temperatures expected to drop by 5 to 7°C.
- Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy presented "Telangana Rising 2047" at the NITI Aayog meeting, outlining the state's plan to contribute to India's \$30 trillion economy by 2047. He emphasized Telangana's goal to be among the first states to achieve a \$1 trillion economy.

# **Uttar Pradesh**

- U.P. Energy Minister AK Sharma urged swift power restoration in storm-hit areas, stressing consumer priority and banning repeated feeder shutdowns. He ordered 24-hour control rooms and removed Jhansi's chief engineer for negligence.
- Uttar Pradesh aims to attract \$120 million in investment in its footwear industry from Chinese companies amid the US-China tariff war. The state plans a new policy with incentives, potentially creating jobs for one million people.
- Lucknow hospitals are preparing for potential COVID emergencies after cases emerged in Ghaziabad, with government medical colleges directed to ready emergency wings. Civil Hospital has already reserved a 10-bed COVID ward equipped with ventilators and oxygen support, while other hospitals await official orders to reserve beds.







## ANSEC - HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES LTD.

#### **GLOBAL UPDATE**

# Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- · Chad has secured a \$630 million, four-year IMF support deal under the Extended Credit Facility to implement its "Chad Connection 2030" plan amid falling oil prices, regional instability, and reduced aid. The IMF calls it a turning point as budget pressures mount.
- The UN rights chief warns South Sudan's warring sides to de-escalate as intensified fighting since May 3 has killed 75 civilians, injured 78, and displaced thousands. Civilian areas, including an MSF-run facility, were hit, threatening the fragile peace process.

- · Haitian ministers urged urgent security help at the OAS as gangs tighten their grip on the country, displacing over a million. The U.S. signaled it will reduce aid, urging the OAS to take a larger role amid the slow deployment of a Kenyan-led force.
- Canada's finance minister Champagne met U.S. Treasury Secretary Bessent at the G7 summit, calling it a productive discussion with strong progress. Talks focused on deepening trade ties, amid broader efforts to reshape Canada-U.S. relations.

#### Asia Pacific

- Floods in New South Wales, Australia, have killed five and isolated around 32,000 residents, prompting helicopter drops of animal feed to stranded farmers. Recovery efforts are underway as floodwaters slowly recede, with significant damage to at least 10,000 properties.
- The Taliban government is in advanced talks with Russia to settle trade transactions worth hundreds of millions in local currencies, reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar amid sanctions and aid cuts. Similar discussions with China are also underway to support Afghanistan's economy.

#### China

- · China urged the Philippines to stop provocations in the South China Sea after a collision between their vessels, warning of a "resolute response." The US condemned China's actions as aggressive, while China accused the US of stirring regional tensions.
- French President Macron and China's Xi Jinping agreed to quickly resolve the cognac tariff dispute, emphasizing fair investment conditions. Xi also stressed stronger China-France cooperation to uphold international trade rules and genuine multilateralism amid global challenges.

Europe

• Russia launched its largest aerial attack of the war, firing 367 drones and missiles at Ukraine, killing at least 12, including 3 children. Zelenskiy urged the U.S. to break its silence, warning that inaction emboldens Putin.

# Middle East

- · President Erdogan met Syrian President Sharaa in Istanbul, welcoming the U.S. and EU decisions to lift sanctions on Syria. Erdogan emphasized Turkey's support for post-war integration efforts, including Kurdish forces inclusion into Syria's military.
- The Trump administration lifted key Syria sanctions via Treasury's GL25 license and a Caesar Act waiver, enabling investment and aid. Trump urged Syria to expel foreign militants and support regional stability in return.

- Pakistan allocates 2,000 MW of surplus electricity for bitcoin mining and AI data centres in phase one of a national digital strategy. The move aims to attract investment, create tech jobs, and monetize excess power.
- India and Pakistan extend mutual airspace bans until June 23-24 amid ongoing tensions after April's Kashmir attack and brief military clash. The restrictions affect all civilian and military aircraft operated, owned, or leased by the other side.

# **United Kingdom**

- · Britain has signed a deal to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius while retaining control of the Diego Garcia base under a 99-year lease. A UK court lifted a last-minute injunction, clearing the way despite opposition concerns over cost and China's influence.
- UK signs \$2.01 billion, five-year contract extension with OinetiO for testing and evaluation of military gear. Deal covers missile firings and test pilot training, reinforcing defence capabilities.

# **United States**

· U.S. and Iranian delegations concluded their fifth round of nuclear talks in Rome with cautious optimism. Both sides cited progress, crediting Oman's mediation, though key issues like uranium enrichment remain unresolved.

# **Upcoming News/Events**

#### Africa

- South Africa has proposed policy changes allowing alternatives to the 30% Black ownership rule for telecom firms, aiming to attract players like Starlink. The move draws criticism from opposition parties, citing concerns over weakening transformative laws.
- US will impose sanctions on Sudan from June 6, accusing its government of using chemical weapons in 2024 during its conflict with the RSF, a claim Sudan denies. Sanctions include restrictions on US exports and credit lines.

### America

- EU Council chief Antonio Costa will visit Brazil from May 27-29 to deepen investment ties and meet President Lula. His trip aims to reinforce EU-Brazil cooperation and support the pending EU-Mercosur trade deal.
- Brazil will cut 31.3 billion reais (\$5.58B) in its 2025 budget to meet fiscal rules, including a spending block of 10.6B and a 20.7B freeze. The move aims to hit the zero primary deficit target amid new tax hikes and fiscal reforms.

#### Asia Pacific

- Indonesia plans to announce economic stimulus on June 5 to boost consumption and push growth to around 5% this quarter. Measures include electricity bill discounts, food handouts, cash transfers for low-income workers, and travel discounts during the school holiday.
- Thailand plans to push for greater international engagement with Myanmar at the upcoming Southeast Asia leaders summit to support diplomatic efforts ending the ongoing civil war. Despite some dialogue attempts, fighting continues, and Thailand urges constructive talks.

#### China

- · China's Premier Li Qiang arrived in Jakarta to promote "true multilateralism" and strengthen ties with Indonesia amid ongoing global trade tensions. Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto emphasized the importance of China as a key partner for regional stability and development.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz stressed strengthening China-Germany ties to tackle trade uncertainties from U.S. tariffs. They committed to boosting cooperation and fair competition amid global economic challenges.

## Europe

· North Macedonia wants to hold talks with Bulgaria at next month's NATO summit to resolve EU membership roadblocks and hopes EU and NATO leaders will join. PM Mickoski is open to mediation but seeks a dignified, lasting solution amid stalled negotiations over minority recognition.

# Middle East

- · Syrian Kurdish parties plan talks with Damascus seeking autonomy under a federal Syria. Their demands face resistance from President Sharaa and Turkey, which opposes Kurdish self-rule due to
- Israel's PM Netanyahu announces Major General David Zini will lead Shin Bet from June, replacing Ronen Bar after a court-overturned dismissal. The move follows political tensions over the October 7 attack and the ongoing "Qatargate" probe.

# Pakistan

- The IMF expects Pakistan's next funding review in the second half of 2025 and is in talks over the 2026 budget. Pakistan aims for a primary surplus of 1.6% of GDP while targeting inflation within 5-
- Pakistan plans to offer U.S. companies concessions to invest in its mining sector, especially in Balochistan, to ease tariff negotiations. The government aims to boost imports from the U.S. and gradually lower tariffs in the upcoming budget.

# **United Kingdom**

· Ofgem cuts UK energy price cap by 7% from July due to falling wholesale prices, offering some relief to households. However, bills remain 50% higher than pre-Ukraine war levels, prompting calls for more support for low-income families.

# **United States**

- The U.S. EPA is drafting a rule to eliminate limits on greenhouse gas emissions from fossil-fuel power plants. The move aligns with Trump's push to scrap climate regulations and green subsidies under Biden's Inflation Reduction Act.
- Southern California Edison will pay \$82.5 million to settle U.S. claims over the 2020 Bobcat Fire. The settlement, the largest wildfire recovery in California's Central District.

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