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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved ₹524.7 crore for completing a residential complex for officials in Amaravati. It also cleared the formation of AQCC to promote quantum tech and boost job creation.
- The state has received its full 16.76 LMT fertiliser quota for the Kharif season, with 8.73 LMT currently in stock. Officials dismissed social media claims of supply cuts and urged farmers not to panic.

#### Delhi

- The MCD has eased licensing rules by allowing industrial units with MSME registration to be treated as having a deemed factory licence. The move, passed amid AAP protests, eliminates the need for a separate MCD factory licence.
- The government has ended direct hospital purchases, routing all procurement through the Central Procurement Agency (CPA) to ensure transparency and uniformity. Hospitals must now submit all supply requests to CPA, which will handle bidding and procurement.
- Delhi's forest department told the NGT that Centre's clearance is needed for Bijwasan rail work as it involves a 3.58-hectare "deemed" forest. Locals, citing illegal deforestation, seek to halt the project via a fresh plea.

#### Goa

- Goa's Ambedkar Bhavan project is stalled due to a legal dispute, with ST associations claiming the land was originally meant for a Tribal Bhavan. The government is seeking a resolution that balances all stakeholders' interests before construction can proceed.
- The Goa government has launched AI-powered dashcams in all official vehicles under the GOVA System to curb traffic violations. The system detects infractions in real-time, uploads footage, and auto-generates challans via integrated platforms.

#### Gujarat

- Following the Vadodara bridge collapse that killed 15, Ahmedabad Municipal Commissioner Banchhanidhi Pani has ordered inspections of all 89 city bridges. A structural safety report is due in a week, with immediate repairs mandated where needed.
- A ₹16 crore midday meal contract in Chhotaudepur was awarded to a Catering without tender. The firm, previously linked to a food poisoning case, continues operations despite political influence allegations and past contract suspensions.

#### Haryana

- Health Minister Aarti Singh Rao inaugurated the administrative block at Maharaja Agrasen Medical College. She also announced the launch of the Ujjwal Drishti Abhiyan, aimed at providing free eyeglasses to students and vision correction for those above 45.
- In Sirsa, trade unions observed a partial strike on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> against outsourcing and privatisation policies. While 370 buses and multiple departments were affected, some services continued, reflecting a mixed response.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- To reduce landslide threats on the Parwanoo-Waknaghat NH-5, NHAI has installed wire netting and other slope protection measures. These efforts have notably improved highway safety this monsoon, with fewer disruptions despite recent heavy rainfall.
- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced plans to seek Centre's approval to rehabilitate disaster-hit families on forestland under a one-time settlement policy. He assured affected Seraj villages of support and announced a ₹7 crore relief package.

#### Karnataka

- In Mangaluru, Home Minister Dr. G Parameshwara announced that a bill to curb fake news and strengthen hate speech laws will be tabled in the upcoming assembly session. He emphasized the need to end vigilantism and assured that all parties will be consulted.
- To curb child trafficking and trace missing children, Karnataka has formed district-level task forces led by police chiefs, with monthly reviews and mandatory reporting. The move follows legislative concerns over rising child abduction cases.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Guntur Municipal Corporation approved ₹34.15 crore for 101 development works, focusing on roads, drains, and suburban upgrades. Under "Mission Green," saplings will be distributed to households to boost urban greenery.
- Andhra Chief Secretary K Vijayanand ordered 24x7 quality power supply, directing swift repairs, mandal-level teams, and improved complaint response. He also pushed for faster solar project implementation under PM-KUSUM and PM-Surya Ghar schemes.

#### Delhi

- Delhi plans a ₹3,000 crore, 20-km elevated road over the Munak Canal to ease Outer Ring Road traffic. The project awaits Haryana's clearance and is expected to take three years once work begins.
- The Centre plans to extend Delhi's Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) eastward to ease traffic, connecting Alipur to Noida via Ghaziabad. The six-lane corridor aims to divert long-distance traffic and reduce congestion on major city roads.
- A parliamentary panel flagged a four-year delay in approving the Regional Plan 2041 for NCR, warning it is stalling key infrastructure projects. The panel urged the Centre to act proactively and expand NCRTC's mandate to other urban regions.

#### Goa

- The Cabinet has approved a bill to ban the import, sale, and breeding of aggressive dog breeds, set for introduction in the July 21 Assembly session. Existing owners must follow strict norms, while the bill also proposes victim compensation and penalties for violations.
- Cabinet has approved a dedicated Department of Inland Waterways to manage and develop the state's river transport network. The new department aims to modernise ferry services, promote eco-friendly transport, and reduce road congestion.

#### Gujarat

- Surat will redevelop two key roads from the Airport Gate to Kuvada Junction and Y Junction to Sosyo Circle. The project includes beautification, cycling and pedestrian tracks, and public spaces. It aims to enhance traffic flow and the city's urban appeal.
- Ahmedabad Police is developing a mobile app linked to its Pinac criminal tracking system to aid real-time identification during patrols. Tested with facial recognition during Rath Yatra, the app will provide officers access to criminal data, even in low-network areas.

#### Haryana

- Karnal DC Uttam Singh has directed officials to upgrade 10 key infrastructure facilities in six Mahagrams—villages with over 10,000 population—as part of a rural transformation push. He stressed timely execution and long-term maintenance of projects.
- The Human Rights Commission has sought a report on the rejection of a DAYALU scheme claim due to a clerical error in age records. Authorities must explain the non-review and outline corrective steps before the August 21 hearing.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu will visit Delhi to seek a special relief package from the Centre for cloudburst-hit areas. He directed officials to restore connectivity, provide temporary shelter, and expedite rehabilitation with inter-departmental coordination.
- The Kinnaur Kailash Yatra will be held from July 15 to August 30, with registration, a medical certificate, and a ₹200 green fee made mandatory. Pilgrims must start from Tangling village, with safety and coordination measures in place across departments.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar urged the Centre to expedite MoEFCC clearances for the stalled Kalsa-Bhandura and Yettinahole projects. He also sought central support for the Upper Bhadra Project to address water needs in drought-prone regions.
- In Chikkanayakanahalli, Upa Lokayukta Justice B Veerappa will launch a drive to plant 80,000 saplings on 300 acres of reclaimed forest land, restoring an area encroached for decades. The initiative aims to safeguard nature and prevent future encroachments.



## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Rs 1543.16 crore has been transferred to bank accounts of 1.27 crore Ladli sisters as the 26th installment. CM Mohan Yadav also announced an additional Rs 250 will be credited before Rakhi on August 9.
- After nationwide criticism of Bhopal's 90-degree railway overbridge, MP's PWD will now conduct exams for engineers, linking field postings to scores. This move follows widespread irregularities in infrastructure projects across the state.

## Mumbai

- The Maharashtra Assembly has unanimously passed the Special Public Security Act to curb 'urban naxalism', targeting Maoist-linked organisations. Despite criticism from civil society, the revised bill gained bipartisan support after select committee amendments.
- Maharashtra's prisons house 39,527 inmates—12,343 more than their capacity of 27,184—prompting the state to plan new jails and additional barracks. The home department aims to expand capacity by 17,110 to tackle overcrowding.
- ONGC has received approval to conduct a 3D seismic survey across 15,212.8 hectares of forest land in Dhule and Nandurbar districts, north Maharashtra. The exploration involves drilling 4,754 holes to detect petrol and natural gas deposits.

## Pune

- Maharashtra has approved the merger of six cantonment boards—including Pune and Khadki—with nearby municipal bodies, expanding PMC's area by 1.65 sq km. Dehu Road Cantonment will remain independent due to strategic concerns.
- PMC has issued detailed guidelines to 108 private hospitals to tackle monsoon-related vector-borne diseases, capping dengue test rates and mandating daily patient reporting. Hospitals must also educate patients on personal protection and preventive measures.
- PMC's estimates committee has approved a ₹29 crore, 60-ft statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Chandni Chowk. This marks a shift, as it's the first statue project in Pune funded by public money instead of private donations.

## Punjab

- The Punjab Assembly unanimously passes a resolution opposing CISF deployment at BBMB projects, citing concerns over Centre's interference. The move follows recent tensions with Haryana over river water sharing.
- To boost industrial investment, Punjab issued notifications easing plot conversions and amending its Conversion Policy. However, industry bodies raised concern over steep hike in leasehold-to-freehold conversion charges, urging rationalisation.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan has distributed ₹42,131 crore in interest-free loans to 75.52 lakh farmers under cooperative schemes. A major cooperative conference will be held on July 17 with Amit Shah's participation.

## Tamil Nadu

- Puthur Corporation Middle School in Tiruchy, which grew from 20 to 300 students in 4 years, won 3 TN education awards for innovation and performance. The school credits its success to strong leadership, smart classrooms, and focus on reading and spoken English.
- Due to delayed central PMS funds, several SC/ST students at TNNLU paid fees themselves to access results, despite a state directive barring such action. Results were later released for all after backlash.

## Telangana

- CM Revanth Reddy, at US Independence Day celebrations, sought American support to achieve Telangana's \$3 trillion economy target by 2047. He highlighted that 200 US firms already operate in Hyderabad and stressed deeper ties in trade, defence, and space research.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Between 2021–2024, Uttar Pradesh recorded an 86.67% sapling survival rate, with annual rates improving to 96.06% by 2024–25. Since 2017, over 240 crore saplings were planted, adding nearly 5 lakh acres to the state's green cover.
- Agra Police has inaugurated a revamped Recruit Training Centre (RTC) with a capacity of 600 trainees and modern smart classrooms. The training will focus on cybercrime, crimes against women, and adapting recruits to evolving crime trends.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- The Transport Department in Madhya Pradesh will soon issue guidelines requiring full ID and record details for buying or selling second-hand vehicles. Non-compliance will invite penalties.
- Taxi and auto services in Bhopal will be suspended on July 14 as drivers protest against alleged illegal recovery. The demonstration will be held at Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti Park from 11 am to 5 pm.

## Mumbai

- The Bombay High Court has ordered BMC to form a three-member team to identify and remove footpath encroachments citywide, following complaints by Powai residents. The court criticized the civic body for years of inaction and selective enforcement.
- Maharashtra will enact a law within six months to curb religious conversions and demolish illegal churches, especially in tribal districts. Revenue Minister Bawankule made the announcement following BJP MLAs' claims of conversions backed by foreign funds.
- Work on the ₹499.20-crore Andheri-Goregaon bridge is set to begin in August after a 3-year delay, with slum clearance now underway. The bridge aims to ease traffic by linking Millat Nagar to Goregaon West, bypassing the congested New Link Road.

## Pune

- To ease overcrowding complaints, MSRTC will add new pick-up points on Pune's outskirts, aiming to help mid-route passengers get seats. A recent survey revealed many shift to private transport due to full buses.
- Balbharati's Pune office will soon be rebuilt as the current structure was declared unsafe after an audit, Minister Pankaj Bhoyar told the legislative council. He also announced a scheme to recycle old notebooks into affordable learning material.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis has directed agencies to draft a joint master plan to fix Hinjewadi's civic issues and announced a single-point authority to coordinate efforts across PMC, PCMC, PMRDA, and MIDC.

## Punjab

- Punjab government is likely to table the Anti-Sacrilege Bill early next week, aiming for stricter punishment including up to 10 years' imprisonment. The draft is being finalized to avoid legal loopholes and will be approved by the Cabinet before presentation.
- CM Bhagwant Mann approves the "Mukh Mantri Sehat Yojna," offering ₹10 lakh cashless medical coverage per family, launching statewide on October 2. This makes Punjab the first state in India with such universal health entitlement.

## Rajasthan

- RPSC is set to recruit 1,000 Sub-Inspectors and 1,100 Veterinary Officers, marking the first major hiring drive under new chairman UR Sahu. This is the first SI recruitment in Rajasthan after four years.

## Tamil Nadu

- The forest department will train 400 tribal students and 50 adults under a biodiversity project to enhance education and livelihood. Women are receiving embroidery training, while men are learning driving, alongside awareness on the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
- Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru stated that Tamil Nadu is ready to fund water projects using its own resources if the Centre delays Jal Jeevan Mission assistance. He added that Chennai receives 1,100 MLD of drinking water, benefiting over one crore residents.

## Telangana

- Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that every revenue village will soon have a GPO and each mandal will get 4–6 licensed surveyors. Exams for surveyors will be held July 27–29, with results on August 12.

## Uttar Pradesh

- The State Election Commission has announced the voter survey will begin on August 14, with the final voter list to be published on January 15, 2026. New voters turning 18 by January 1, 2025, will be included.
- Uttar Pradesh's new Building By-laws 2025 aim to modernize urban planning by easing rules and empowering small builders, especially in smaller towns. The reforms encourage formal development, reduce red tape, and foster inclusive, citizen-friendly urban growth.





GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

<b>Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kenya's President Ruto has appointed a new chairperson and six commissioners to the electoral body after a year-long vacancy. The appointments come amid public unrest over economic issues ahead of the 2027 elections.</li><li>Nigeria has secured a \$747 million syndicated loan led by Deutsche Bank to fund the first 47.47 km of its 700-km coastal highway project. The full project, linking Lagos to Calabar, is estimated to cost \$11 billion over eight years.</li></ul>	<b>Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cameroon will hold its presidential election on October 12, 2025, to elect a leader for the next seven years. President Paul Biya, in power since 1982 and now 92 years old, has not announced if he will run again. Candidates must apply within 10 days of the electoral college being convened.</li><li>Botswana will allow its pula currency to depreciate by 2.76% over the next year to boost competitiveness amid a global diamond market slump. The move comes as GDP contracted 3% last year and foreign reserves dropped to 5.2 months of import cover.</li></ul>
<b>America</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Canada added 83,100 jobs in June, marking its first employment gain since January and pushing the jobless rate down to 6.9%. Analysts say the strong report reduces the likelihood of a Bank of Canada rate cut in July.</li><li>Brazil has secured \$1.8 billion in revenue from its first round of tax debt renegotiations with major companies. The government aims to reduce the fiscal deficit to zero by 2025 and plans three more rounds of such agreements.</li></ul>	<b>America</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Canada is working swiftly to finalize a free trade agreement with ASEAN to reduce reliance on the U.S. and tap into Indo-Pacific growth. Foreign Minister Anita Anand emphasized broader cooperation in energy, food security, AI, and the digital economy.</li><li>Brazil aims to triple trade with India from \$12 billion annually, President Lula said after meeting PM Modi in Brasília. He also highlighted Embraer's interest in expanding partnerships in India and proposed expanding the Mercosur-India trade pact.</li></ul>
<b>Asia Pacific</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Australian PM Albanese departs for a six-day visit to China to deepen economic ties and address regional security concerns. He will meet President Xi and attend business events amid rising tensions over Chinese military activities and critical minerals scrutiny.</li><li>South Korea, Japan, and the U.S. conducted a joint air drill over international waters involving a U.S. B-52H bomber, aimed at deterring North Korea's threats. Defence chiefs met in Seoul, while diplomatic talks in Malaysia reinforced trilateral cooperation on security, and critical supply chains.</li></ul>	<b>Asia Pacific</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Vietnam plans stricter penalties and inspections on Chinese imports to curb trade fraud and illegal transshipments, following a tariff-cut deal with the U.S. Trump's administration agreed to lower tariffs on Vietnamese goods to 20%, but transshipped items face a 40% levy.</li><li>Indonesia and the U.S. held positive talks in Washington over upcoming tariffs, with both sides aiming to deepen cooperation in critical minerals. Indonesia proposed near-zero duties on U.S. goods and \$34 billion in trade and investment opportunities.</li></ul>
<b>China</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For the first time, China has set renewable energy mandates for steel, cement, polysilicon, and some data centres. Provinces must meet specific renewable use targets, with new data centres in national hubs required to use at least 80% green power.</li><li>China announced new job support measures including subsidies, loans, and youth employment aid to counter trade war impacts. Local governments will expand training access and raise unemployment refund rates for firms.</li></ul>	<b>China</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>China has urged Cambodia and Thailand to resolve their border dispute peacefully through dialogue, offering to mediate impartially. Foreign Minister Wang Yi reiterated China's neutral stance and stressed regional harmony and cooperation during ASEAN talks.</li><li>China has offered to mediate between Thailand and Cambodia over their border dispute, urging peaceful dialogue and reaffirming its neutral stance. The offer comes amid rising tensions after a Cambodian soldier was killed in a border clash in May.</li></ul>
<b>Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Germany denies plans to buy more F-35 jets, sticking to the 35 already ordered to replace ageing Tornados. A military source noted earlier talks of 15 more jets, but NATO's new targets may alter future needs.</li><li>Germany denies plans to expand its F-35 fleet beyond the 35 jets already ordered, countering a Politico report. The decision comes amid tensions with France over the FCAS fighter jet project and evolving NATO requirements.</li></ul>	<b>Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Slovakia seeks EU guarantees to avoid harm from ending Russian gas imports before backing the bloc's 18th sanctions package. PM Fico says a deal could be reached by Tuesday if energy security concerns are addressed.</li><li>Kyiv will allocate \$6.2 million for a drone interceptor program to defend against intensified Russian drone attacks. The city also plans to set up training centers and mobile units to enhance aerial defence capacity.</li></ul>
<b>Middle East</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Over 500 opposition figures from Turkey's CHP party have been detained in nine months under a sweeping corruption probe critics call politically motivated. President Erdogan denies this, but diplomats see it as a tightening of his grip on power ahead of future elections.</li></ul>	<b>Middle East</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Iran says it will continue cooperating with the IAEA, but inspections will now require top security approval due to safety concerns after recent bombings. FM Araqchi stressed that uranium enrichment remains non-negotiable and talks will exclude missile programs.</li></ul>
<b>Pakistan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pakistan and Turkey held talks in Islamabad to boost collaboration in defence, aviation, and energy, with expressing interest in joint projects on drones and oil exploration. The discussions reflect Islamabad's focus on strengthening strategic ties with Ankara amid regional challenges.</li><li>Court has suspended an order to block YouTube channels of over two dozen government critics, including Imran Khan and journalists. The suspension came after defence lawyers argued the original ban lacked legal basis and was issued without a fair hearing; the next hearing is on July 21.</li></ul>	<b>Pakistan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pakistan plans to redevelop New York's Roosevelt Hotel via a joint venture, targeting a \$1 billion+ valuation while retaining ownership. JLL will manage partner selection, with completion expected in 6-9 months.</li><li>Pakistan's central bank will soon launch a pilot for a digital currency, Governor Jameel Ahmad announced, adding that the government has also approved the "Virtual Assets Act, 2025" to license and regulate the crypto sector.</li></ul>
<b>United Kingdom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Foreign Minister David Lammy met China's Wang Yi at the ASEAN summit, discussing bilateral ties and raising concerns over jailed Hong Kong activist Jimmy Lai. The meeting highlighted ongoing points of disagreement.</li><li>PM Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron have agreed on a "one in, one out" migrant returns scheme. It allows the UK to deport undocumented migrants to France while accepting legitimate asylum seekers with British family ties.</li></ul>	<b>United Kingdom</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Britain will sign a deal to supply Ukraine with over 5,000 Thales-made air defence missiles during the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome. The UK also reaffirmed £283 million in aid for Ukraine over the next year.</li></ul>
<b>United States</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>During a visit to flood-hit Texas, President Trump praised the federal and state response, despite criticism over delayed warnings. He defended officials and dismissed questions on accountability as "evil," amid scrutiny of disaster preparedness.</li></ul>	<b>United States</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Donald Trump has threatened 30% tariffs on EU and Mexican imports from August 1 after trade talks failed. Both trading partners called the move unfair but expressed willingness to continue negotiations.</li><li>The U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee has approved \$500 million in Ukraine security aid under the FY2026 NDAA, extending support through 2028. The bill also blocks plans to retire A-10 aircraft, emphasizing defense readiness and technology.</li></ul>

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