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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Ahead of the Monsoon Session, CM Chandrababu Naidu directed TDP MPs to raise key issues like MSP, water disputes, and industrial growth. He urged active coordination with Union Ministers to push state development and secure central funds.
- The SIPB, chaired by CM, has approved ₹5.74 lakh crore worth investments across 109 projects, expected to create 5 lakh jobs. At its latest meeting, ₹39,473 crore in proposals were cleared, with emphasis on infrastructure, tourism, and transparent job tracking.

Delhi

- Delhi PWD Minister Parvesh Verma blamed decades-old pipelines for the ongoing water crisis and promised a complete revamp within a year. He said repair work has begun and a new master plan is underway to ensure clean drinking water across the capital.
- The NH-148A expansion linking DND Flyway to Sohna and Jewar is 93% complete and set for completion by September 2025. The 91km stretch aims to ease Delhi traffic and boost connectivity to Noida Airport and nearby states.
- The Centre has notified new rules mandating NCCSA meetings be held within 15 days of receiving an agenda to ensure timely decisions on Delhi bureaucrats. The move aims to boost administrative efficiency and curb delays seen under the previous AAP government.

Goa

- At the South Goa District Road Safety meet, activist Lorna Fernandes flagged dangers from stray cattle, fake helmets, and roadside vendors, citing weak enforcement and public risk. She criticized officials for ignoring repeated resolutions and failing to act on MoUs.
- CM Pramod Sawant inaugurated a STEM lab in Sankhali under ONGC's CSR to foster innovation and digital skills among youth. Aligned with NEP 2020 and Viksit Bharat @2047, the lab promotes hands-on learning in robotics and science.

Gujarat

- In the Swachh Survekshan 2024–25, Ahmedabad ranked first among cities with over 10 lakh population, and Surat was awarded for top Solid Waste Management. These honors highlight Gujarat's strong efforts in cleanliness and waste management.
- The Tribal Genome Sequencing Project is a government initiative to map the genomes of 2,000 individuals from tribal communities across 17 districts. Gujarat is the first state in India to launch a genome sequencing project dedicated solely to tribal populations.

Haryana

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh as the new Governor of Haryana, replacing Bandaru Dattatreya. Ghosh's appointment comes as part of a larger gubernatorial reshuffle across multiple states.
- Karnal ranked third among cities with populations between 50,000 to 3 lakh in Swachh Survekshan 2024–25, scoring 11,067 out of 12,500. It is the first city in Haryana to receive this honor and also achieved Water+ and 3-star garbage-free certifications.

Himachal Pradesh

- Heavy rains in Kangra killed 19 people and caused ₹130 crore in damages, severely impacting water supply, homes, and crops. Dharamsala city alone faced over ₹36 crore in losses, halting development works.
- A Central team visited Dharampur in Mandi to assess damage from flashfloods, inspecting key affected sites including roads, water schemes, and power infrastructure. Officials stressed the urgent need to support ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts.

Karnataka

- Karnataka has banned transport employee strikes under the ESMA Act from July 1–Dec 31, ahead of an August 5 KSRTC strike. Unions will also begin a hunger protest from July 29 over pay, arrears, and pending demands.
- A major landslide on NH-75 in Dakshina Kannada halted Mangaluru–Bengaluru traffic. Authorities are clearing debris, schools are shut, and alternate routes advised due to heavy rain and rising rivers.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- CM Chandrababu Naidu announced Amaravati will become India's Green Hydrogen hub, backed by ₹10 lakh crore investment and 7.5 lakh job targets. At the Green Hydrogen Summit 2025, he highlighted state's commitment to Net Zero goals.
- Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan announced a ₹323 crore coastal protection project for Uppada to address severe erosion, with NDMA actively considering the proposal. He assured quick action in aiming to safeguard local livelihoods and coastal infrastructure.

Delhi

- CM Rekha Gupta has announced a citywide drive to modernise fruit, vegetable, and flower mandis. She assured funds and resources to improve sanitation, roads, and infrastructure across key markets like Azadpur.
- Delhi CM has ordered a review of state litigation and plans to form a panel of senior lawyers to streamline 4,000–5,000 pending cases, aiming to ease court burden and improve legal efficiency.
- Delhi will receive ₹600 crore from the Centre under the SASCI scheme to boost infrastructure projects. CM Rekha Gupta praised the move as a sign of strong Centre-state cooperation.

Goa

- Margao Municipal Council approved a controversial tax hike despite protests, prompting backlash from opposition councillors and civil society. Chairperson Shirodkar announced reforms including pay-parking, plastic waste units, and major infrastructure upgrades.
- CM Pramod Sawant confirmed that 752 government posts are being filled through a digital, transparent recruitment process via GSSC. Computer-based exams and instant results aim to ensure merit-based hiring and eliminate delays or malpractice.

Gujarat

- The Fee Regulatory Committee will launch an online affidavit system from August for private school fee submissions, affecting over 11,000 schools from the 2026–27 academic year. Schools within the fee cap will file online; others must submit offline proposals.
- SSNNL inspected 2,110 canal bridges across Gujarat; five bridges in Morbi and Surendranagar have been closed due to damage from traffic and monsoon stress. The move aims to ensure public safety.

Haryana

- The Haryana Cabinet will meet under CM Nayab Singh Saini's chairmanship on August 1 at the Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh. Key administrative decisions are expected ahead of upcoming policy deadlines.
- The Regional Science Centre project in Ambala, stalled since reaching 25% completion in 2022, is now set to resume. A fresh ₹11.50 crore tender has been opened and will be awarded within 15 days, giving the contractor 18 months to finish.

Himachal Pradesh

- Anurag Thakur directed officials to finish the 300-bed PGI satellite centre in Una by December, citing delays and urging inclusion of full medical facilities. He also pushed for Una railway station's revamp and timely completion of MPLADS development works.
- Government to recruit specialist robotic surgeons aiming to boost advanced healthcare and train local doctors in robotic techniques. Robotic surgery units will be set up at various locations, alongside hiring 100 doctors, 50 nurses, and other staff.

Karnataka

- KMF will roll out eco-friendly, biodegradable Nandini milk packets in Bengaluru. Made from plant materials, these packs decompose in 90 days and were successfully trialed in Kanakapura villages.
- Karnataka is giving hybrid cows to 10 families near MM Hills under a CSR pilot to prevent forest grazing. Beneficiaries earn via milk sales and must avoid forest grazing or face legal action.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- M.P. has partnered with Spain's Submer Technologies to develop AI-ready, energy-efficient data centres, aiming to cut energy use by 45% and water use by 90%. The project includes local R&D, job creation, and youth training in digital tech.

Mumbai

- The NGT has formed a joint committee to probe pollution in Powai Lake after a resident flagged long-term neglect. The committee must inspect the site and submit a report with remedial steps to the Pune bench within a month.
- Following UNESCO's World Heritage tag for 12 Maratha forts, the Maharashtra government faces a major restoration challenge. Scholars and officials stress the urgent need for preservation, as many forts remain in poor condition due to years of neglect.
- BMC launches an online Crematorium Management System in Mumbai, enabling residents to book cremation and burial slots with SMS alerts. Offline bookings will continue to ensure inclusivity and better slot management.

Pune

- Over 2,000 of Pune's 3,500 CCTV cameras are defunct due to poor coordination, lack of technical standards, and disputes over maintenance between PMC and city police. A technical audit has been launched to assess the damage and restore functionality.
- PCMC Fire Department held a disaster management training with drills in EV fire handling, rope rappelling, CPR, and rescue tools. Firefighters also surveyed hospitals and malls to boost emergency readiness across industrial and residential areas.
- CM Fadnavis and DCM Ajit Pawar have urged immediate land acquisition to kickstart Purandar Airport, aiming to ease Lohegaon congestion. They stressed global-standard infrastructure to boost connectivity, investment, and jobs in the region.

Punjab

- Minister Baljit Kaur distributed loan waiver certificates worth ₹8.72 crore to 505 SC families in Malout. The waiver covers PSCFC loans up to March 31, 2020, with 'No Dues' certificates issued.
- Punjab is cracking down on liquor contractors with ₹340+ crore in tax dues; ₹5 crore has been recovered and more notices issued. Many defaulters cite past losses and political links.

Rajasthan

- Jaipur's Municipal Corporations—JMC-G and JMC-H—have ranked 16th and 20th in Swachh Survekshan 2024-25. The jump highlights improved waste segregation, door-to-door collection, and cleanliness efforts.
- Rajasthan now ranks among the top 10 states with over 600 IGBC-rated green buildings covering 185 million sq ft. These buildings save up to 50% energy and 35% water, with extra costs recovered within 18 months.

Tamil Nadu

- The Madras High Court ruled that no Hindu, including SCs, can be denied temple entry. It called such acts illegal under the 1947 Act and asked Ariyalur officials to ensure access at Puthukudi Ayyanar Temple.

Telangana

- The death toll in the Sigachi Industries blast in Telangana's Sangareddy district has reached 46, with eight still hospitalized and eight missing. Authorities have submitted a report to the state for further action.
- Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh took oath as Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court on July 19, 2025, replacing Justice Sujoy Paul. He earlier led the Tripura High Court and was acting Chief Justice in Jharkhand.

Uttar Pradesh

- The state signed an MoA with UNDP to boost disaster management, aiming to build scientific, world-class response systems. CM Yogi Adityanath said the partnership will enhance risk reduction strategies and infrastructure protection.
- CM Yogi Adityanath directed officials to closely monitor rain-affected areas, clear waterlogging, and ensure prompt emergency actions. He emphasized flood preparedness, infrastructure repairs, and immediate relief for damaged crops, livestock, and property.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- To address vacant seats in UG, PG, and teacher education courses, MP's Higher Education Department will hold college-level counselling from July 16–31, 2025. Students can apply directly at colleges, with daily merit lists and 24-hour admission confirmations.

Mumbai

- To ease train overcrowding, Maharashtra has formed a 12-member committee led by Chief Secretary Rajesh Kumar Meena to explore staggered work timings. The move follows a June 9 accident that killed five commuters; the panel will report in three months.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis assured that all small-scale industries and eligible slum dwellers will be rehabilitated within Dharavi, preserving its economic ecosystem. He also announced a five-year tax holiday to support their transition into the organised sector.
- Navayuga Engineering Company won the ₹2,540 crore BMC contract to clear 18.5 million tonnes of legacy waste at Mumbai's Deonar dumping ground. The reclaimed 110 hectares will be used to build houses under the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.

Pune

- Land acquisition for PMRDA's 83-km Ring Road project is progressing, with surveys completed in 10 of 12 villages under Phase 1. Pending surveys face local opposition, but officials plan dialogue and compensation based on market rates.
- Pune railway division begins installing AI-powered CCTV cameras in electric locomotives for 360° monitoring. Ten out of 77 engines now have the system, aiding accident probes and real-time pilot oversight, with each setup costing ₹10 lakh.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis has directed officials to expedite Shirdi Airport's expansion ahead of the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela. He stressed timely completion of ATC, terminal, and cargo upgrades to manage rising passenger traffic.

Punjab

- PM Modi will virtually inaugurate Halwara Airport on July 27; however, flight operations may not begin immediately due to pending clearances and runway work. Businesses and locals eagerly await further updates.
- Under the One Time Settlement Policy-2025, Punjab set July 31 as the last date to pay pending property tax without penalty, with special camps in Phagwara. A 50% waiver will apply from August 1 to October 31, urging early payment to avoid extra charges.

Rajasthan

- CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has approved ₹95 crore as the first installment for dams under the Yamuna Basin Project. The initiative will help divert Yamuna water to drought-prone Shekhawati, with Rajasthan contributing ₹216 crore to the ₹11,320 crore project.

Tamil Nadu

- The Chennai Institute of Journalism will launch a PG Diploma in Journalism from 2025-26, with a ₹7.75 crore budget. N Ravi will chair the institute and A.S. Panneerselvam will serve as director general.
- As per a Madras HC order, state will transfer 1.40 crore tonnes of seized beach sand minerals to IREL India Ltd, which will pay approx. ₹400 crore. Despite some mining firms securing a status quo from the SC, TN has begun handing over stocks.

Telangana

- India's largest tunnel aquarium will be built at Hyderabad's Nehru Zoological Park under the Mir Alam Development Programme, with an estimated cost of ₹1,200 crore. The walkthrough aquarium, planned on 3 acres is expected to be completed by late 2026.
- Telangana Labour Minister Vivek Venkatswamy announced plans to raise minimum wages, noting no hike in the past 12 years. A Cabinet Sub-Committee is reviewing the issue, with decisions expected soon following a report.

Uttar Pradesh

- The government aims to make every village a 'Green Village' and increase green cover to 15% by 2030 through community-driven Green Chaupals. These monthly chaupals will oversee plantation drives, sapling protection, and awareness campaigns.
- UP aims for NAAC accreditation for 25% of its colleges by 2025–26 to enhance education quality and national rankings. A new policy will mandate timely, accountable evaluations, with 1,000 colleges shortlisted and six universities already achieving A++ grades.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

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| Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ghana's central bank held an emergency meeting to assess market conditions but did not discuss policy rates, which will be addressed in a full MPC meeting in 10 days. The previous rate was held at 28% amid easing inflation and stable exchange rates.South Africa's rand, bonds, and stocks rose as the country hosted a G20 finance meeting that produced its first joint communique since Oct 2024. The event boosted investor sentiment, with mining stocks driving the Johannesburg market to near-record highs. | Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none">The DRC and M23 rebels, after months of Qatari mediation, pledged to sign a peace deal by August 18. The U.S. is pushing for a lasting agreement to boost Western investment in Congo's rich mineral sector.Egypt expects the delayed IMF review to conclude by September or October, potentially unlocking \$2.5 billion. The government also plans 3-4 privatisations this fiscal year to meet IMF goals and attract investment from the Middle East and Europe. |
| America <ul style="list-style-type: none">The IMF approved a \$1 billion increase to Ecuador's loan program, allowing immediate access to \$600 million. It praised the government's fiscal efforts, with Ecuador's foreign debt also gaining on the news.Canada will impose a 50% tariff on steel imports exceeding 2024 volumes from FTA countries and a 25% tariff on steel containing Chinese materials. PM Carney also announced a C\$1 billion support fund and procurement prioritization to shield domestic producers from global trade diversion. | America <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brazil's Treasury now expects gross public debt to rise to 82.3% of GDP by 2026 up 10.6 points since Lula took office citing higher interest, inflation, and currency assumptions. This marks one of the sharpest debt deteriorations under any presidential term.Colombia plans a tax reform to raise 26 trillion pesos (\$6.48 billion) for its 2026 budget, mainly through tax hikes, amid rising fiscal deficits and weakened revenues. Credit downgrades and a suspended fiscal rule underline growing economic pressures. |
| Asia Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none">Heavy rains in South Korea triggered landslides and floods in Gapyeong, killing 2 and leaving 5 missing, raising the nationwide death toll to 17. Over 13,000 people have been evacuated since the rains began on Wednesday, July 16.Satellite images show North Korea has completed a new pier at its Sohae rocket site, enabling transport of larger rocket parts that could support longer-range launches. The upgrade aligns with Kim Jong Un's push for advanced satellite and missile capabilities, possibly aided by Russia. | Asia Pacific <ul style="list-style-type: none">Tasmania is likely heading for a minority government after the election, with the ruling Liberal Party projected to win more seats than Labor but fall short of a majority. Premier Jeremy Rockliff called it a voter endorsement despite Labor's historically poor result.Philippine President Marcos will visit the U.S. next week to discuss trade and security with President Trump, aiming to address rising tariffs on exports and strengthen economic and defense ties amid tensions with China. |
| China <ul style="list-style-type: none">China has begun building the world's largest hydropower dam on the Yarlung Zangbo River in Tibet, a \$170 billion project aimed at boosting clean energy. Despite China's assurances, India, Bangladesh, and NGOs warn of severe environmental and downstream impacts.China has issued stern representations to the Philippines over recent actions related to Taiwan and maritime security, expressing strong dissatisfaction during a meeting with the Philippine ambassador in Beijing. | China <ul style="list-style-type: none">Paraguay will host Taiwan President Lai Ching-te next month, likely prompting U.S. transit stops that could anger China. The visit underscores Taiwan's limited but strategic diplomatic ties in Latin America, with Paraguay being its sole South American ally.U.S. President Donald Trump may meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping ahead of or during the APEC summit in South Korea this October, as both nations seek to resolve ongoing trade tensions and avoid a full-blown tariff war. |
| Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">Germany, Netherlands, and Sweden oppose new EU joint borrowing, calling the proposed €2 trillion budget too large and unnecessary. They argue past joint debt for COVID-19 was a one-time measure and should not be repeated.Russian President Vladimir Putin remains open to a peace settlement in Ukraine, but the Kremlin emphasizes that achieving Russia's strategic goals is paramount. Meanwhile, U.S. President Trump has pledged new military aid to Ukraine and issued a 50-day ceasefire ultimatum to Russia. | Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ukraine and the U.S. are finalizing a deal involving American investment in Ukraine's drone production, with the U.S. also set to purchase Ukrainian drones. The agreement, backed by Presidents Zelenskiy and Trump, aims to deepen defense cooperation.Spain will intensify probes into far-right hate crimes after violent clashes with African migrants in Murcia. Authorities detained 11 people and expanded monitoring of online spaces for incitement and racial violence. |
| Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none">Israel and Syria have agreed to a ceasefire in the Druze-dominated Sweida region after clashes killed over 300. Israel launched strikes to protect Druze civilians, while Syria will deploy forces for 48 hours to stabilize the area, with support from Turkey and Jordan.The EU has eased Schengen visa rules for Turks, allowing faster access to long-term multiple-entry visas, while urging a revival of talks for full visa-free travel and broader EU-Turkey cooperation, including customs union modernization. | Middle East <ul style="list-style-type: none">Iran will hold nuclear talks with Britain, France, and Germany in Istanbul on Friday, July 25, at the deputy foreign minister level. The talks follow European warnings of reinstating U.N. sanctions if negotiations don't resume or yield results.Saudi Arabia will launch a new low-cost airline by 2030 with 45 planes, operated by a consortium including Air Arabia. Based in Dammam, it aims to serve 81 destinations and carry 10 million passengers annually. |
| Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pakistan held productive trade talks with the U.S. in Washington, focusing on easing tariffs and boosting bilateral trade; both sides expressed optimism, with Pakistan offering concessions in mining and energy sectors to balance its \$3B trade surplus.Heavy monsoon rains in Punjab have killed at least 63 people in 24 hours, pushing Pakistan's nationwide death toll to 159 since late June, with widespread flooding, home collapses, and rising risk from the River Jhelum prompting fresh alerts. | Pakistan <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pakistan has announced the creation of a national paramilitary force, the Federal Constabulary, ahead of planned PTI protests, raising concerns among opposition and rights groups that it may be used to suppress dissent without parliamentary oversight. |
| United Kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none">UK and Germany signed the historic Kensington Treaty to deepen cooperation in defence, migration, and transport, with 17 joint projects planned. Leaders also pledged more military aid for Ukraine and closer economic and security ties amid rising global threats. | United Kingdom <ul style="list-style-type: none">UK will create a water ombudsman with legal powers ahead of a major review expected to overhaul the sector's regulation. The move follows public outrage over sewage spills and Thames Water's financial troubles.UK will launch an inquiry into the 1984 "Battle of Orgreave," where over 5,000 miners clashed violently with police amid a major industrial dispute; campaigners seek full access to official records after decades of calls for justice. |
| United States <ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. President Donald Trump has planned to reopen Alcatraz as a maximum-security prison, with estimated costs nearing \$2 billion, though final figures remain unconfirmed. The move revives the historic San Francisco Bay facility, closed in 1963 due to high operating expenses. | United States <ul style="list-style-type: none">U.S. ICE aims to expand migrant detention capacity to 100,000 beds by year-end using \$45 billion in funding, prioritizing tent camps at military bases like Fort Bliss, with a preference for Republican-run centers over private prisons. |

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