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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh has launched a pilot road project in Nandyal using Danish Asphalt Fibre Reinforcement Technology to enhance road durability. Minister BC Janardhan Reddy laid the foundation, with Danish firm representatives confident of positive results.
- State has launched its first CDSCO-approved auditing body, KIHT Certification Services for medical device manufacturing. Based in Visakhapatnam's AMTZ, KCS is the only operational notified body in AP-Telangana, aiding MSMEs with local regulatory audits.

#### Delhi

- Enforcement of the no-fuel rule for end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) in Delhi has quietly stopped, but the CAQM has yet to issue a formal rollback. A final decision is expected after the weekend, following high-level meetings on stubble burning.
- CM Rekha Gupta inaugurated the Mukhyamantri Jan Seva Sadan at her camp office on Raj Niwas Marg to address public grievances. A bungalow and cabin were converted into meeting spaces, with dedicated rooms for the CM, staff, and public interactions.
- To prevent a repeat of the 2023 floods, Delhi has upgraded six key flood regulators ahead of the monsoon peak. Major reinforcements include redesigning the failed ITO regulator and strengthening gates and embankments at other vulnerable points.

#### Goa

- The Goa government has permitted women to work night shifts (7 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in commercial establishments with strict safety norms. Employers must ensure written consent, safe transport, CCTV surveillance, and a secure, harassment-free workplace.
- The ECI has moved to deregister four unrecognised political parties, including the Goa Nationalist Party and Goa Praja Party, for non-compliance and inactivity since 2019. This is part of a nationwide review to ensure transparency and accountability among RUPPs.

#### Gujarat

- AMC has proposed increasing its payment for sterilising stray dogs from ₹976 to ₹1,650 per dog, aligning with the Animal Welfare Board's ABC Rules-2023. The scheme for two years, will involve private agencies handling capture and sterilisation efforts.
- The Gujarat government has amended factory laws to allow 12-hour shifts with worker consent, while retaining the 48-hour weekly cap. The ordinance also permits night shifts for women, aiming to enhance industrial flexibility and attract investments.

#### Haryana

- Ahead of the 2024 polls, Haryana slashed its BPL count from 2 crore to 1.82 crore via verification, drawing criticism. A steep hike in mustard oil prices under PDS—from ₹40 to ₹100—has sparked backlash over rising burdens on poor families.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has refused to grant an interim stay on tree felling for a DLF project in Gurugram, citing prima facie legitimacy of permissions. However, the court directed DLF to submit its development licence for review next week.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- A key bridge over the Dhabota river on the Himachal-Punjab border remains incomplete two years after being damaged. Despite funds released, slow construction and lack of signage pose risks, with locals demanding urgent action after a recent near-fatal incident.
- HP has become the first state to launch Aadhaar-based face authentication for PDS ration supply. The FaceAuth system, using mobile cameras at fair price shops, aims to resolve OTP failures and biometric mismatches, ensuring smoother access for beneficiaries.

#### Karnataka

- Upa Lokayukta Justice KN Phaneendra visited several polluted and encroached lakes in Channapatna and directed authorities to act immediately. A committee led by the DC will monitor compliance, while a detailed report is being prepared to secure state funding for sewage treatment.
- Karnataka cabinet cleared ₹3,400 crore in projects, mainly for Bengaluru division.
- Key approvals include district renaming, health upgrades, and ₹8,000 crore sought for Yettinahole project.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- The Central Water Commission has asked the state to submit detailed data on all water projects, including project status, and dependability. It also directed the State to compute water diversion dependability as per Planning Commission norms and GWDT allocations.
- Chandrababu Naidu plans to distribute house site pattas to all eligible families in Andhra Pradesh within two years and complete housing construction in four years. He also stressed faster caste certificate issuance and resolving public issues to improve governance.

#### Delhi

- Delhi University is likely to begin ECA quota trials for the 2025–26 session around July 14–15, with 1,347 seats across 14 categories. Admissions will be based on 75% ECA performance and 25% CUET score.
- The Delhi government will build a ₹77.35 crore integrated correctional complex for juvenile boys in Alipur, featuring a children's home and Juvenile Justice Board. Designed to house 200–250 boys, the facility will be completed in 21 months to ease overcrowding.
- The ₹99-crore Chandni Chowk road revamp lies in disrepair, with the pedestrian zone now overtaken by illegal parking, poor sanitation, and encroachments. Locals have urged the BJP government to intervene as the area faces rising safety and mobility concerns.

#### Goa

- The Goa Power Department has warned of criminal action and power disconnection for unsafe use of generators or inverters without approvals. This follows safety violations and a fatal 2024 incident caused by backfed electricity from an improperly installed inverter.
- The Goa government will soon launch a 50% bus fare concession for working women, starting with state-run KTCL buses. The move aims to support women's empowerment and reduce commuting costs.

#### Gujarat

- Ahmedabad's Hatkeshwar bridge, shut for over 1,500 days due to structural faults, will be demolished by Mumbai-based Shree Ganesh Corporation. Built in 2017 for ₹40 crore, the bridge faced recurring issues soon after opening, with only a one-year defect liability.
- Gujarat plans to fully digitalise all 224 APMCs as part of the 'International Year of Cooperatives' initiative. Zone-wise reviews covered eNAM, AGMARK data, digital transactions, and development of the e-APMC portal to boost transparency and efficiency.

#### Haryana

- Haryana will soon launch a new cooperative policy to boost PM Modi's cooperative movement, announced Minister Dr Arvind Sharma. It aims to expand cooperative roles beyond loans and fertilizers, promoting youth self-reliance through 25 diverse services.
- The state has formed a high-level committee to monitor water quality of 11 major drains monthly. Triggered by concerns from the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, the HSPCB has drafted an action plan highlighting worsening conditions since 2022.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Education Minister Rohit Thakur directed officials to ensure smooth arrangements for the upcoming apple season in Shimla's Kotkhai area. He highlighted road repairs, water schemes, and infrastructure projects to support orchardists and improve rural connectivity.
- The CPM has demanded ₹2,000 crore in emergency relief from the Centre for rain-hit areas and urged scientific research and a national policy on climate-related disasters. It also called for an all-party meeting and a state-level task force to coordinate relief efforts.

#### Karnataka

- CM Siddaramaiah will chair the newly formed AICC OBC Advisory Council, with its first meeting scheduled in Bengaluru on July 15. The council aims to address challenges faced by OBCs nationwide and suggest development strategies.
- Karnataka's Bhu Suraksha project aims to digitise 100 crore land records by December 2025. The initiative will ease access, reduce document loss, and prevent irregularities for farmers.



## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- To promote employment and industries in M.P, CM Dr. Mohan Yadav is holding a roadshow in Ludhiana. He is engaging with investors across sectors including textiles, manufacturing, food processing, and IT in one of the country's major industrial hubs.

## Mumbai

- Uddhav and Raj Thackeray shared a stage after 20 years, uniting to oppose the Mahayuti's Hindi language policy. Uddhav hinted at a political alliance between UBT and MNS for upcoming elections, signaling a potential shift in political landscape.
- The Maharashtra government has formed a committee to explore relief options for 218 unauthorized private schools in Mumbai, prioritizing student welfare under the RTE Act. The move follows appeals to consider slum-based schools on compassionate grounds.
- The Maharashtra cabinet sub-committee, led by CM Fadnavis, has approved 17 major projects worth ₹1.35 lakh crore, expected to create around 1 lakh jobs. Key sectors include gas-to-chemicals, semiconductors, EV components, green steel, and defense equipment.

## Pune

- The Maharashtra government has denied any plan to split PMC, despite demands for a separate body for eastern Pune. Instead, it assured more funds and improved civic services for the merged villages under the existing PMC structure.
- PMC has resumed its citywide deep cleaning drive across all 15 wards, removing illegal encroachments, abandoned vehicles, and banners. Over 1,600 staff participated, with plans to conduct the drive regularly under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Pune police have started installing an advanced surveillance system at ARAI-Vetal Hills with 121 devices to boost public safety. This is part of a citywide plan covering 22 hills, with 609 cameras to deter crime and protect the environment.

## Punjab

- The ₹342-crore Patiala surface water project, launched in October 2020 to reduce reliance on groundwater, is delayed again. Aimed at serving five lakh people, it's now unlikely to start before year-end despite missing earlier deadlines.

## Rajasthan

- Jaipur Metro services were disrupted due to a technical glitch that caused trains to stop mid-route, leaving passengers stranded and delaying 25 trips. The metro staff managed to bring the halted trains back to stations, and operations were restored after one and a half hours.

## Tamil Nadu

- State's revised electricity tariffs for EV charging stations, have increased both energy and fixed charges, raising operational costs by 20%. With utilisation rates still below 15%, operators warn the hike threatens the financial viability of public charging infrastructure.
- Tamil Nadu Police clarify that women cops are not barred from bandobast duties but prioritised for sensitive case investigations like POCSO. The move follows criticism calling the earlier directive discriminatory.

## Telangana

- Telangana issues norms for registering 65,000 green autos within Hyderabad's ORR, requiring a valid local licence and address proof. Each applicant can register one auto on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka distributes ₹1.05 crore to 151 women's groups running rental buses under TGSRTC. He emphasizes empowering women through profit-making ventures, interest-free loans, and solar power projects, aiming to make one crore women financially self-reliant.

## Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath has launched 27 logistics and manufacturing clusters across 26 districts, covering 13,240 acres along five expressways. The initiative aims to attract global investment and create jobs at competitive rates with multi-modal connectivity.
- Uttar Pradesh has revised its plantation target to 37 crore saplings for Van Mahotsav (July 1-7), up from 35 crore. The forest department has readied 52.33 crore saplings, with major contributions from forest, horticulture, silk departments, and private entities.
- The UP Cabinet has approved the formation of the Rozgar Mission to boost youth employment. The state aims to place 25,000-30,000 youth abroad and employ 1 lakh in India's private sector annually, bypassing third-party recruitment agencies.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Bhopal Central Jail is soon going to be more hi-tech than before. Till now there were only 11 video conferencing rooms here. Through which it was possible for the jail administration to present only terrorists and high profile prisoners.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra will deploy "support persons" to assist child sexual abuse victims with emotional, legal, and medical aid. This follows a school abuse case and aligns with NCPCR guidelines for structured victim support.
- The government has ordered the BMC to act against illegal kabootar khana in Mumbai due to rising health concerns. Officials cited respiratory risks and public space encroachments, with 51 spots currently identified for crackdown.
- Mumbai's BKC bullet train station will be linked to Metro Line-3 via a 1.1 km underground tunnel with a travelator and to Metro Line-2B through a foot overbridge. This integration aims to boost connectivity under the multi-modal transport plan.

## Pune

- PMC has launched a citywide anti-rabies vaccination drive for stray dogs across all 15 wards. The campaign supports India's goal to eliminate rabies by 2030, with Pune's stray dog population down to 179,940 from 315,000 in 2018.
- To ease Hinjewadi traffic woes, PMRDA plans to open a 13-km stretch of Metro Line 3 from Megapolis Circle to Balewadi Phata by September 2025. Full project completion is expected by March 2026 under a PPP model with Tata and Siemens.
- Facing a financial crisis, Pune's forest department has urged PMC to renew a joint management deal for 10 Nagar Van sites. With no funds since March 2024, basic operations and monsoon plantation drives are severely affected.

## Punjab

- The Government will introduce a law ensuring strict punishment for sacrilege during the special Assembly session on July 10-11. The move follows a recent announcement by CM Bhagwant Mann.

## Rajasthan

- Minister Jogaram Patel laid the foundation stone for road development projects worth ₹24.82 crore in Luni, Jodhpur. Speaking at the event in Rohicha Khurd, he stated that Rajasthan will become self-sufficient in energy by 2027. The program, held under the Jodhpur Development Authority, saw participation from several local leaders.

## Tamil Nadu

- Southern Railway is installing an AI-enabled optical fibre system along a 120km stretch to detect elephant movement near tracks. Alerts will be sent to loco pilots to slow down trains and prevent collisions in forest zones.
- Farmers and activists plan an indefinite protest and hunger strike on July 13 in Mangalam, demanding revival of the polluted Noyyal River. The contamination threatens groundwater and farming across Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and Erode.

## Telangana

- Telangana may reduce stamp duty for women to boost property ownership, pending CM Revanth Reddy's approval. The proposal also includes separate rates for old and new properties under a broader stamp duty overhaul.
- The Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) told the Centre that Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have not yet handed over their irrigation projects. GRMB officials added that financial constraints and lack of project control are hindering operations, with both states deferring responsibility.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Noida International Airport will begin domestic and cargo operations by September 15, 2025, with full opening in November. Phase 1 will serve 12 million passengers annually and includes one runway and terminal.
- Uttar Pradesh will develop Atal, Ekta, Eklavya, and Shaurya Vans in every district as part of its 2030 forest cover target. These theme-based forests aim to boost green cover, inspire civic responsibility, and honor leaders, soldiers, and educators.
- The Police has outlined 10 key priorities, including zero tolerance for crime, women's safety, AI use, and grievance redressal, to modernize policing and improve public trust. The goal is to build a responsive and people-friendly law enforcement system.





## GLOBAL UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- Ethiopia has received approval from China to export soymeal, marking a significant step in expanding its exports. This move positions them among key global suppliers like Argentina, Brazil, and Russia, boosting trade ties and opening new market opportunities in Asia's largest economy.
- Ethiopia signs a \$1 billion deal with the World Bank to support economic reforms, including trade competitiveness and financial stability. The package includes a \$650 million grant and a \$350 million loan, with \$5 billion more expected over three years.

#### America

- President Trump warns of a 10% tariff on countries aligning with BRICS, calling their stance "Anti-American." The move follows a BRICS summit in Brazil where leaders criticized rising tariffs and promoted multilateralism.
- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights urged Latin American states to unite on climate action, regulate corporate emissions, and avoid greenwashing. Though non-binding, the advisory is expected to influence national courts and future climate litigation across the region.

#### Asia Pacific

- Typhoon Danas struck southern Taiwan with record winds and heavy rain, killing 2 and injuring over 500, while damaging infrastructure and cutting power to nearly 700,000 homes. The storm, now weakened, is expected to hit eastern China next, prompting emergency measures.
- Thailand submits a revised trade proposal to the U.S., offering zero tariffs on many American goods to avoid a potential 36% tariff on its exports. The move aims to balance trade within 10 years and includes increased U.S. imports and energy deals.

#### China

- China opens a third extension (W121) of the M503 flight route near Taiwan Strait's median line, drawing protests from Taipei over unilateral moves altering the status quo. The move comes days before Taiwan's Han Kuang military drills simulating a Chinese invasion.
- Hong Kong proposes tighter prison visit rules allowing authorities to restrict access to lawyers and doctors on national security grounds. Rights groups say the move targets political activists and undermines prisoner rights.

#### Europe

- At the BRICS summit, Russia's Lavrov renewed Moscow's offer to mediate Iran's nuclear dispute and condemned U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iranian facilities. He emphasized resolving the issue diplomatically and reiterated support for Iran's peaceful nuclear program.
- Russia becomes the first country to officially recognise the Taliban government by accepting its ambassador, signaling deeper cooperation in security, trade, and infrastructure. The move marks a diplomatic milestone for the Taliban amid global isolation since 2021.

#### Middle East

- Saudi FM Prince Faisal says the kingdom's top priority is achieving a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, not normalising ties with Israel. He calls Israel's actions in Gaza "completely unacceptable" during his visit to Moscow.
- Major Gulf stock markets rose as steady non-oil sector growth and optimism over U.S.-Vietnam tariff deals boosted investor confidence. Saudi and UAE indices hit multi-month highs, led by gains in banking, energy, and tech stocks.

#### Pakistan

- A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck central Pakistan, with its epicenter located 149 km west of Multan and a shallow depth of 10 km, according to the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ). No major damage or casualties were reported immediately following the tremor.

#### United Kingdom

- UK Finance Minister Rachel Reeves announces a £28.6 million National Wealth Fund investment in a carbon capture project, creating jobs in central and northern England. The initiative supports a pipeline to store emissions under the Irish Sea, aligning with the UK's 2050 net-zero target.
- The UK reestablishes diplomatic ties with Syria as Foreign Minister David Lammy visits Damascus, pledging £94.5 million in aid. Lammy calls it a step toward stability and backs Syria's political transition after years of conflict.

#### United States

- On July 4, President Trump signed a sweeping tax and spending cut bill into law during a rally-style White House ceremony. The legislation makes his 2017 tax cuts permanent, funds immigration enforcement, and includes major budget cuts.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Africa

- Rwanda's President Kagame expresses doubt over the U.S.-brokered peace deal with Congo, warning of retaliation if Congo fails to act against FDLR militias. He affirms Rwanda's commitment but says trust depends on Congo's actions.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa says the national dialogue will proceed without coalition partner DA, which withdrew after a ministerial firing. Tensions persist, but analysts believe the coalition will likely endure for now.

#### America

- Canadian PM Mark Carney says a new oil pipeline to British Columbia is highly likely to be listed as a national interest project. He also backs a C\$16.5 billion carbon capture system, emphasizing private sector proposals over government mandates.
- Brazilian President Lula accepts an invitation to visit Paraguay, with both countries agreeing to resume talks on the Itaipu hydroelectric treaty. The visit follows discussions on unresolved intelligence concerns and reflects renewed diplomatic dialogue.

#### Asia Pacific

- Indonesia offers to slash tariffs on key U.S. imports to near zero and buy \$500 million worth of U.S. wheat to ease trade tensions and avoid a 32% tariff. The deal includes Garuda's plan to buy more Boeing aircraft as part of a \$34 billion agreement.
- Japan plans to export six used Abukuma-class destroyers to the Philippines to bolster maritime deterrence against China. The move deepens Tokyo-Manila defense ties amid rising regional tensions in the South and East China Seas.

#### China

- China signals intent to invest in Brazil's Tropical Forests Forever Facility, marking a shift in climate finance by encouraging emerging economies to contribute. This move contrasts with developed nations' retreat from ambitious climate funding commitments.
- Hong Kong proposes tighter prison visit rules allowing authorities to restrict access to lawyers and doctors on national security grounds. Rights groups say the move targets political activists and undermines prisoner rights.

#### Europe

- The EU plans to stockpile critical minerals to guard against supply disruptions amid rising geopolitical tensions, cyber threats, and climate risks. A draft EU document highlights the need for crisis preparedness and better understanding of essential goods.
- Germany's Mosel River shipping remains halted after a vessel damaged a lock; authorities aim to test limited reopening this weekend. About 50 freight ships are stranded, and full repairs may take time, disrupting grain and rapeseed transit between Germany and France.

#### Middle East

- Israel's military will issue 54,000 call-up notices to ultra-Orthodox seminary students following a Supreme Court ruling ending their exemption. The army promises conditions respecting their religious lifestyle amid pressure from reservist shortages.
- UN expert Francesca Albanese urges countries to impose an arms embargo and cut trade ties with Israel, calling its actions in Gaza a "genocidal campaign." Israel dismisses her report as defamatory and legally groundless.

#### Pakistan

- Pakistan faces \$378 million in potential losses as declining gas demand, driven by a shift to solar power, creates an LNG surplus. Authorities are exploring offshore storage and resale options, but QatarEnergy's contract clauses may limit flexibility.

#### United Kingdom

- A record number of migrants are crossing the Channel to the UK, prompting criticism of PM Keir Starmer and upcoming Franco-British plans to allow French police to intercept boats nearer shore. Critics doubt the plan's feasibility and warn it may worsen migrant safety.
- Rachel Reeves will announce a major pension system review on July 15, focusing on auto-enrolment, the state pension, and self-employed savings. A new commission will examine pension adequacy and retirement readiness.

#### United States

- At least 78 people, including 28 children, have died in Texas floods, with 41 still missing. President Trump plans to visit the disaster area on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>, as rescue efforts continue amid fears of more flooding.

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