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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Heavy inflows into the Godavari forced Polavaram and Dowleswaram barrages to release 9 lakh cusecs, flooding low-lying areas in AP. Authorities issued flood alerts, evacuated villages, and deployed SDRF teams to Kukkunuru and Velerupadu for rescue operations.
- AP CM Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the Ratan Tata Innovation Hub in Mangalagiri to nurture startups and young entrepreneurs, coinciding with AP Innovation Society's Guinness World Record for 1.67 lakh innovations registered in 24 hours.

Delhi

- The govt has completed virtual mapping of Yamuna floodplains and will begin physical demarcation from Sept 1, with DDA installing signages to check encroachments. The step follows NGT orders to curb illegal development in flood-prone zones.
- The govt appointed Dr Vatsala Agarwal, director of Janakpuri Super Speciality Hospital, as the new DGHS. Dr Agarwal will also handle additional responsibilities linked to the Delhi Medical Council.
- The Delhi HC directed the government to assign one agency for managing drains, garbage, roads, and waterlogging, rejecting IDMC as a unified body and asking the chief secretary to file an affidavit naming the responsible authority.

Goa

- A section of NH-66 from O'Coqueiro to Mall De Goa has been closed from 24th August and will remain shut for five months. The closure is expected to disrupt regular traffic flow, with commuters required to take alternate routes during this period.
- The BJP has secured political reservation for Goa's Scheduled Tribes, reserving four constituencies including Sanguem and Priol. Dr Sneha Bhagwat said this ensures better representation and development for Gawda, Kunbi, and Velip communities.

Gujarat

- Shergadh and another Gujarat village have enforced bans not only on alcohol but also tobacco, packaged foods, and kite flying, with violators fined and asked to donate grain for the poor and stray animals.
- Zimbabwe VP Dr. Chiwenga, during his Surat visit, explored collaborations in agriculture, food processing, and education, urging diamond firms to invest and universities to partner with Zimbabwe.

Haryana

- CM Nayab Singh Saini granted ₹1.14 crore to 22 startups in Hisar and announced a new Udyamita Ayog. He unveiled initiatives like startup contests, Swadeshi fairs, skill competitions, and paid internships to boost Haryana as a startup hub.
- Six years after its foundation, the 1,654-acre IMT Khudana project remains stalled due to land acquisition hurdles and lack of direct connectivity, with officials awaiting road link clearances before work can begin.

Himachal Pradesh

- Torrential rains have shut 402 roads, including two National Highways, in Himachal Pradesh, while power and water supply remain disrupted across several districts. An orange alert is issued for Mandi, Kangra, Chamba, and Kullu as heavy rain continues.
- The Gaggal airport expansion in Kangra has left families on government land uncertain, as no compensation policy is defined for them. While private owners are compensated, thousands risk displacement without aid or resettlement.

Karnataka

- A delegation of MPs met Union Agriculture Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan seeking GST cut on arecanut to 2%, curbs on illegal imports, warehouse subsidies, and scientific studies to safeguard farmers against crop diseases and export losses.
- Hasiru Dala launched India's first open-source PPE kit for waste workers in Bengaluru, offering durable, comfortable, and worker-designed safety gears with designs freely available to NGOs and municipal bodies for wider adoption.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Centre approved ₹432 crore for Andhra Pradesh's education reforms, supporting ICT labs, smart classrooms, and DIET upgrades. Additional funds will boost tribal hostels and expand PM SHRI schools, reinforcing AP's model as a national benchmark.
- RINL has invited Expressions of Interest from private players to operate 32 critical units of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, including power plants, casting machines, BOF shops, and key rolling mills, marking a major shift in the plant's operational framework.

Delhi

- The Delhi HC pulled up MCD and PWD for negligence in tree pruning after incidents in Dwarka and a recent fatality in Kalkaji, ordering a survey in 10 days and pruning within four weeks as per the Forest Dept's SOP.
- After the attack on CM Rekha Gupta during a Jan Sunwai, Delhi Police said her Z-plus security may be enhanced with more personnel, while MHA will review lapses and decide upgrades as per protocol.
- The Delhi cabinet approved the launch of the 'Delhi Mitra App', a unified grievance redressal system integrating all city agencies, to be rolled out in two months with cases monitored by senior officials including the CM's office.

Goa

- BITS Goa has launched a peer-support mental health initiative to build a supportive network and reduce stigma. The program also focuses on early identification of student mental health concerns.
- The government has shortlisted Codar as the fifth possible site for IIT-Goa's permanent campus. This move is part of efforts to secure a long-term location for the institute's growth and infrastructure.

Gujarat

- The Gujarat HC, hearing a suo moto PIL on road safety, criticized the state for lacking clear manpower analysis; the government plans 1,315 new traffic recruits, with 200 for Ahmedabad, and must submit progress by November.
- The Gujarat government has revised the Ahmedabad-Mehsana highway plan to allow future expansion to eight lanes, with six-lane work costing ₹1,800 crore set to begin by late 2025 or early 2026 amid rising traffic concerns.

Haryana

- CM Nayab Singh Saini launched a Swachta Ranking initiative to make the state cleaner and greener, urging officials to small complaints promptly. He also announced 'Swachhata Pakhwada' from Sept 17-Oct 2 to boost public participation in cleanliness drives.
- Ambala Municipal Corporation has begun installing over 24,000 new LED lights, aiming to finish before Diwali to improve safety and illumination. The ₹35 crore project includes 95 new high mast lights, with a central monitoring system for citywide control.

Himachal Pradesh

- The government is raising a ₹1,500 crore loan to meet development needs, leaving just ₹300 crore of its borrowing limit available until December. CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has warned of financial strain due to the Centre's cap but assured timely payment.
- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw confirms a survey to convert the Pathankot-Jogindernagar heritage narrow-gauge line to broad gauge with a DPR underway. The 164-km historic route, vital for locals and tourism, may see extension based on viability.

Karnataka

- The 262-km Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, costing Rs 15,188 crore, will be completed between Dec 2025 and Mar 2026, cutting travel time to 3 hours, decongesting NH-44/48, and boosting trade, despite land issues, wildlife clearances, and financial constraints.
- CM Siddaramaiah announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for families of suicide victims due to microfinance harassment, while also outlining plans for a new ad policy, stronger anti-drug measures, and specialized recruitment to tackle rising cybercrime.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh inaugurated its longest 7 km cable-stayed flyover worth ₹1,053 crore, cutting travel time from 40 to 10 minutes. The event was led by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and CM Mohan Yadav.
- Fuel prices in Madhya Pradesh have surged in five years, with petrol up 16% and diesel 13%, both above national averages. This rise has strained household budgets, making MP among the costliest states for fuel.

Mumbai

- Following HC's directive, govt. notifies new safety rules for construction sites, mandating LSOs and full-time safety teams for high-rises above 120m. Crane operations, night work, and adjacent-area safety will now be under strict professional supervision.
- Maharashtra drafts the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Act, 2025, its first move to regulate pre-primary schools, playschools, and nurseries. The law will mandate registration of all centres within six months, ensuring quality learning and child safety.
- The Bombay High Court criticized BMC for delaying the Bandra East foot overbridge, citing risks and hardships faced by thousands of commuters. The court demanded the civic body clarify its stance before adverse orders are passed.

Pune

- Maharashtra issues SOPs to curb dengue and chikungunya, mandating daily fever surveillance and preventive measures. Health bodies must identify high-risk areas, stock medicines, and ensure fogging and rapid response readiness.
- PMRDA advances land acquisition for the Ring Road and NH60 elevated corridor, completing first-phase measurements in Solu, Vadgaon Shinde, and Nirgudi. Officials plan acquisitions in multiple villages for ramps, bypasses, and congestion relief.

Punjab

- Punjab has raised ITI capacity from 35,000 to 52,000 seats for 2025, introducing 814 new industry-linked trades in partnership with IMCs and industry players, aimed at boosting youth employability and industry readiness.
- Batala police recovered four live grenades in Balpuriyan village, amid 16 grenade attacks in Majha over seven months; separately, a grenade, pistol, and bullets were seized from a man in Amritsar, intensifying security concerns.

Rajasthan

- The Swami Vivekanand Scholarship now reserves only 150 of 500 seats for overseas study, with mandatory service in Rajasthan post-return. Students must also submit regular progress reports and assignments.
- The Cabinet has cleared a greenfield airport in the Kota-Bundi region to improve connectivity and infrastructure. The project is expected to boost tourism and drive long-term regional economic growth.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu launched a WhatsApp chatbot giving residents access to 50 government services through a single number, marking a step forward in digital governance and public service delivery.
- At a district-level TNSRLM job fair, 2,100+ seekers participated and 640 secured jobs on the spot. Backed by 80+ firms and training centers, it highlights Tamil Nadu's rural skill and employment push.

Telangana

- Telangana processed ₹1.26 lakh crore in UPI transactions in July 2025, accounting for 5.8% of India's total, ranking fourth nationally and reflecting its rapidly growing digital economy.
- Telangana introduced facial recognition attendance in 430 junior colleges, covering 63,500 students, enabling real-time updates and automated parent alerts, boosting digital education governance.

Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath lauds the judiciary as a guardian of good governance and announces a ₹50 crore corpus for the Judicial Service Association. He emphasizes that a smooth, efficient judicial system is key to a developed Uttar Pradesh.
- UP rivers, including Ganga and Yamuna, flood 2,505 villages across 43 districts, affecting over 9.2 lakh people. Relief efforts include 1,376 shelters, 91,105 people shifted, and 3,273 boats deployed.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh Mining Conclave 2.0 in Katni saw 1,500 investors, with CM Mohan Yadav announcing investment proposals worth ₹56,414 crore. The event highlighted the state's push for industrial growth.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and CM Mohan Yadav launched ₹4,250 crore road projects in Jabalpur and unveiled ₹60,000 crore plans for MP. Key highlights include greenfield corridors, expressways, a ₹5,500 crore tiger corridor, and a six-lane Mandla expansion.

Mumbai

- Mumbai Metro Lines 2A and 7 will run late till midnight with 12 extra services daily from Aug 27–Sept 6 for Ganeshotsav, easing travel for devotees. Ridership already hit a record 3.34 lakh, with 67% tickets sold digitally via WhatsApp and QR codes.
- BMC has released its draft ward formation plan for the 2025 civic polls, keeping the total at 227 wards. Citizens can submit feedback by September 4, ensuring transparency and public participation in finalising electoral boundaries.
- Maharashtra has set a fresh deadline of March 2026 to complete the Mumbai-Goa highway, with 95% work done but the 84-km Panvel-Indapur stretch still pending. The ₹11,000 crore project, launched in 2011, is expected to halve travel time from once finished.

Pune

- Suburbs and merged villages will elect 85 corporators against 80 from central Pune in the draft ward plan, giving them greater representation. BJP retains its old city stronghold, while NCP and Congress allege the delimitation weakens their chances.
- Maharashtra plans to empanel private agencies for land measurement before sale deed registration to reduce delays. Surveyors will submit data to authorities, while official approval and record updates remain with the government.

Punjab

- Punjab renewed its MoU with Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital, Sangrur, with Tata Memorial Centre managing operations and state funding upgrades. From October 2, families will get up to ₹10 lakh cover under the new CM Health Insurance Scheme.
- 107 villages across six border districts in Punjab are included in Vibrant Village Programme II, with ₹6,839 crore till 2028–29, focused on improving infrastructure, healthcare, livelihoods, and skill development to uplift rural communities.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan Housing Board will construct 667 houses across five residential schemes, targeting low- and middle-income groups. Prices start at ₹7.8 lakh, and applications remain open until September 19.
- Rajasthan will host its inaugural Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas on December 10, alongside the 'Rising Rajasthan' partnership conclave. Ahead of the event, investor roadshows will be held in major cities across India and abroad to attract participation.

Tamil Nadu

- On August 26, CM MK Stalin will extend the breakfast scheme to 2,430 urban aided schools, benefiting 3 lakh students. With this, all primary schools in Tamil Nadu—23 lakh children—are covered, boosting attendance and learning.
- ICAR–NRCB in Tiruchirappalli launched an AI-driven smart farming project using sensor-based systems to predict weather shifts and crop threats, aiming to improve yields and protect farmers' livelihoods.

Telangana

- The 4,000 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Plant is nearing completion, with commissioning slated for January 15, 2026; new infrastructure and CSR initiatives are set to benefit local communities.
- Under "Telangana Rising 2047," the state plans Musi River restoration, Old City redevelopment with housing, elevated corridors, night economy, Godavari water diversion, and 11 new registration offices.

Uttar Pradesh

- Government school students in classes 9–12 will undergo 210-hour skill training under 'Project Praveen,' covering core skills, soft skills, and industrial visits. Courses will align with student interests providing practical, employment-oriented education.
- CM Yogi Adityanath announced six new forensic labs and urged the police to adopt modern technology for a safer, tech-enabled society. Mobile forensic units and cyber help desks have been deployed statewide, with forensic evidence now mandatory.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- Nigeria LNG signs 20-year contracts with NNPC and partners to secure 1.29 bcf/day for its Train-7 expansion on Bonny Island. The deals aim to address gas shortfalls, diversify supply, and boost Nigeria's energy transition and industrialisation.
- Thousands of Tunisians protested in Tunis demanding protection of union rights and civic freedoms amid tensions between UGTT and President Kais Saied. Demonstrators criticized rising poverty and called for the release of political prisoners, while Saied has ruled by decree since 2021.

America

- Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney visited Kyiv on Ukrainian Independence Day, pledging increased support for Ukraine's peace efforts. President Zelenskiy's chief of staff welcomed the visit, emphasizing Canada's consistent backing.
- The navies of the Philippines, Australia, and Canada conducted a joint sail in the South China Sea as part of the ALON exercises to enhance military cooperation. The drills, involving 3,600 troops, aim to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific while deterring regional tensions.

Asia Pacific

- Vietnam is evacuating over 586,000 people and banning boats from leaving shore as Typhoon Kajiki intensifies, while China's Sanya city shuts businesses and public transport. Winds are forecast up to 180 kph, with heavy rainfall expected across Hainan and nearby regions.
- U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio met South Korea's foreign minister Cho Hyun to discuss burden sharing and fair trade ahead of the Lee-Trump summit. They focused on strengthening the alliance, enhancing Indo-Pacific deterrence, and promoting trade reciprocity.

China

- Taiwan's referendum to reopen the Maanshan nuclear plant failed to meet the legal voter threshold, though President Lai said nuclear energy could be considered in the future if safety improves. Safety concerns remain due to earthquakes, and a separate recall of seven KMT lawmakers also failed.
- China has proposed draft rules to regulate internet platform pricing, aiming to boost transparency and fairness amid merchant and consumer complaints. The public can comment on the guidelines, which require clear pricing, standardized contracts, and timely disclosure of fee changes.

Europe

- U.S. and European military chiefs presented security options for Ukraine, with Europe expected to provide most forces. Trump left open the possibility of U.S. air support but ruled out troop deployments.
- Greece's travel sector posted a €6 billion surplus in H1 2025, up 9.1% from last year, driven by higher travel receipts and spending per overnight stay. EU and non-EU visitors, especially from Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and the U.S., contributed to the growth.

Middle East

- Turkey has started building a 224-km railway linking Kars to Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan, part of the U.S.-backed Southern Caucasus transit corridor. The line will carry 5.5 million passengers and 15 million tons of cargo annually, boosting regional trade and cooperation.
- Turkey is informally requiring shipping agents to certify that vessels are not linked to Israel or carrying military/hazardous cargo, following last year's trade cutoff. Ships from or to Israel, including Turkish-flagged vessels, are now effectively barred from Turkish ports.

Pakistan

- A mudslide in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan has blocked the Ghizer River, creating a 7-km lake that threatens "catastrophic" floods in four downstream districts. Authorities have evacuated residents and warned communities to remain on high alert as water begins discharging.
- A fireworks warehouse explosion in Karachi killed 4 people and injured over 30, sparking fires in nearby shops and forcing residents to flee. The blast, which shattered windows and caused panic, came a day after heavy monsoon rains flooded the city.

United Kingdom

- Anti-migrant protests persist across the UK as the government unveils new asylum reforms, with demonstrators targeting hotels housing asylum seekers. Authorities link the unrest to rising public safety concerns.

United States

- The Texas Senate passes a Republican-backed redistricting bill aimed at flipping five Democratic House seats, sending it to Governor Abbott for swift approval. A Democratic filibuster attempt was cut short by a rare procedural motion, clearing the path for the vote.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Japan will provide Kenya \$169 million in Samurai financing to boost vehicle assembly and energy sectors, signed at TICAD 9. The NEXI-backed loan aims to reduce funding costs and support Kenya's industrial growth amid global market volatility.
- Uganda is negotiating debt financing for 85% of its \$3.15 billion railway project, with the government covering the remaining 15%. The 272-km line from Kampala to the Kenya border aims to form the first phase of a 1,700 km electric rail network.

America

- Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe will visit China to urge Beijing to lift new 75.8% tariffs on Canadian canola, amid a year-long trade dispute. Federal Agriculture Minister Heath MacDonald pledged support for the \$43 billion industry, which employs 200,000 people.
- El Salvador may extend detention without trial for suspected gang members under a state of emergency until August 2027, as a congressional committee advances changes to organized crime laws. Critics warn this risks violating detainees' rights to due process and presumption of innocence.

Asia Pacific

- Japanese PM Shigeru Ishiba and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung agree to strengthen security, economic, and AI cooperation, emphasizing trilateral ties with the U.S. against North Korea. They also plan to resume shuttle diplomacy and expand cultural exchanges.
- The Philippines and Australia plan a new defence agreement next year to boost joint military drills and strengthen regional deterrence. The pact also includes developing defence infrastructure in the Philippines amid rising South China Sea tensions.

China

- President Xi Jinping is expected to skip the ASEAN leaders' summit in October, with Premier Li Qiang likely to represent China, dimming hopes of an in-person Xi-Trump meeting. Malaysian PM Anwar had earlier anticipated both leaders' attendance amid ongoing trade discussions.
- President Xi Jinping will host Russia's Vladimir Putin, UN chief Antonio Guterres, and over 20 other leaders at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tianjin from August 31 to September 1. The summit aims to deepen regional ties and will conclude with the Tianjin Declaration.

Europe

- Norway will provide Ukraine with air defence systems worth about \$696 million, including contributions to Patriot missile systems, radar from Hensoldt, and air defence systems from Kongsberg, in coordination with Germany.
- Estonia will contribute up to one company of troops to a Ukrainian peacekeeping operation, Prime Minister Kristen Michal said. NATO leaders, including Macron, Starmer, and Merz, support such deployments to ensure robust security guarantees for Ukraine.

Middle East

- Syria will delay its September parliamentary vote in Sweida, Hasaka, and Raqqa due to security concerns, leaving seats in these provinces vacant. Druze, Sunni, and Kurdish authorities criticized the move, calling it undemocratic and exclusionary.
- Iran and European powers (France, Britain, Germany) agreed to resume nuclear and sanctions talks next week, amid threats of reimposed UN sanctions. Iran disputed the "snapback" mechanism while discussions aim to curb its uranium enrichment program.

Pakistan

- The Asian Development Bank will lead a \$2 billion upgrade of Pakistan's Karachi-Rohri railway after Chinese financing delays, crucial for transporting copper from the Reko Diq mine. The project is expected to involve an international contractor and be announced later this month.
- Pakistan hails China's pledge to boost cooperation in agriculture, industry, and mining, reaffirming its strategic partnership. Islamabad also assures full security for Chinese projects and workers under Belt and Road investments.

United Kingdom

- Nigel Farage plans "mass deportations" of small-boat migrants if Reform UK wins power, aiming to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. He proposes holding facilities for 24,000 migrants and multiple daily deportation flights.

United States

- US officials confirm National Guard troops in Washington will begin carrying M17 pistols or M4 rifles, though the exact number of armed personnel remains unspecified. The move reflects heightened security measures in the capital.

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