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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Minister Nara Lokesh inaugurated AI, STEM, and Robotics labs in 50 government schools in Visakhapatnam, a ₹8 crore initiative with Cyient Foundation to equip students for future technological and economic shifts.
- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu unveiled a plan to attract ₹30,000 crore investments and create three lakh jobs in the food processing sector, highlighting the state's strong production base, seafood exports, and integrated food parks.

Delhi

- The Delhi High Court upheld a wife's right to seek her husband's call records and location details to prove adultery, ruling these as objective evidence. The order came after the husband and his alleged partner challenged a family court directive allowing such access.
- Delhi govt has unveiled a ₹170-cr initiative to transform 15 ITIs into advanced tech hubs with AI, EV, robotics, and green energy training. The move, led by Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, aims to equip youth with 21st-century skills.
- The DPCC has rolled out a new SOP to standardize environmental compensation for construction and demolition violations, requiring developers to submit verified evidence and senior officials' inspection reports for fair penalty assessment.

Goa

- WRD has initiated a coastal protection plan to tackle erosion across its 105-km coastline. The project will focus on critical beaches with measures like shoreline stabilization, dune rehabilitation, and beach nourishment to safeguard tourism and livelihoods.
- Goa's inflation surged to 6.34% in July 2025, the second-highest in India at 8.89%, far above the national average. Rising essential costs are straining households and businesses, with experts warning it may dampen festival season and weigh on the state's economy.

Gujarat

- India has officially submitted its bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad, with Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi leading the delegation in London, presenting the centenary edition as a symbol of unity, inclusivity, and India's global sporting vision.

Haryana

- CM Nayab Singh Saini has cleared construction of 61 km of paver block roads in 19 villages of Morni and Kalka, directing prompt execution post-Forest Dept. clearance with strict adherence to timelines and quality standards.
- The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the state's decision to terminate over 13-year-serving consultants under the Jal Jeevan Mission, noting the Centre had already announced the scheme's continuation till December 2028.

Himachal Pradesh

- Torrential rains have blocked 635 roads, including two National Highways causing major disruption. Kullu (167 roads) and Mandi (24) are worst affected, while Kangra, Sirmour, Solan, Una, Lahaul-Spiti and others also face severe traffic blockages.
- HP has suffered over ₹2,623 crore in rain losses with 310 deaths and 38 missing, while major damage to roads, bridges, power, and water supply. Rescue teams have evacuated thousands of stranded pilgrims and restored connectivity in the worst-hit districts.

Karnataka

- Royal Challengers Bengaluru has announced ₹25 lakh compensation each for families of the 11 victims of the June 4 Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede, extending support under its new initiative 'RCB Cares', after earlier providing ₹10 lakh as a gesture of solidarity.
- CM Siddaramaiah announced that despite NABARD cutting concessional loan limits by 42%, the state achieved 96% disbursement last year, with ₹25,939 crore reaching nearly 30 lakh farmers, and has now set a target of ₹28,000 crore for 37 lakh farmers this fiscal.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Minister Nara Lokesh announced a 3% sports quota and a structured 10-year plan to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's sports ecosystem, addressing infrastructure gaps, social barriers, and grassroots support, with a special focus on women athletes.
- The AP government has banned single-use plastics at the State Secretariat from August 15, 2025, as part of its mission to achieve a plastic-free state by June 5, 2026, beginning with RO plants, steel bottle distribution, and strict anti-plastic measures.

Delhi

- CM Rekha Gupta announced that Delhi will open 100 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs every month, aiming for 1,139 centres to boost primary healthcare access and ease hospital load, with services spanning maternity to mental health care.
- Delhi Transport Corporation is set to conduct pilot runs of electric double-decker buses, marking a possible revival of the iconic service after over three decades. Officials are assessing route feasibility, safety, and infrastructure readiness before wider rollout.
- PWD plans to redevelop seven sites in Delhi, including Probyn Road, Timarpur, and Gulabi Bagh, into mixed-use complexes featuring government housing, offices, and commercial spaces, with NBCC preparing the proposals.

Goa

- Goa has launched a scheme offering farmers up to 90% subsidy on biogas units, composting setups, and soil inputs to promote green farming. Officials say the move will cut costs, enhance soil health, and turn farm waste into renewable energy.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant confirmed waterfalls remain open to visitors but urged caution, stressing adherence to IMD advisories and safety guidelines due to risks from sudden rainfall and slippery terrain.

Gujarat

- The IMD has forecast widespread heavy rainfall across Gujarat through the first week of September, with orange alerts issued for districts like Chhota Udepur, Narmada, Dang, and Tapi, while several others remain under yellow alert as monsoon rains continue to intensify.

Haryana

- Haryana Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi has set an October-end deadline to complete the ₹600-crore Shaheed Smarak in Ambala Cantonment, built to honor 1857 heroes, with a possible November inauguration by PM Modi.
- Haryana's Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department will install CCTV cameras at ration depots, including over 650 in Karnal, to curb irregularities and ensure transparency in distribution to beneficiaries.

Himachal Pradesh

- The assembly has urged the Centre to declare the monsoon devastation as a national disaster, with both ruling and opposition members stressing urgent relief, faster restoration, and deployment of AIF helicopters for rescue in cut-off areas.
- Himachal Pradesh will set up India's first state-supported biochar plant at Neri, Hamirpur within six months under a tripartite MoA, with CM Sukhu stating it will curb forest fires, create jobs, and earn carbon credits through sustainable biomass use.

Karnataka

- Karnataka may divert SCSP/TSP funds to cover salaries for 2.76 lakh new recruits, raising concerns of subsidy cuts or delayed disbursals for SC/STs, while BJP protests alleging misuse of welfare money.
- Karnataka is exploring private participation to revive Mysore Paper Mills in Bhadravathi, with iDeCK appointed as transaction advisor; Minister M B Patil confirmed leasing plans with exemptions and relief measures under consideration.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- BJP has formed executive committees in Dewas, Harda, Sagar Rural, and Mauganj districts of Madhya Pradesh. Committees for the remaining districts will be announced shortly.

Mumbai

- Mumbai remained gridlocked for the second day as over 25,000 Maratha protesters, led by activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on hunger strike, brought traffic, railways, and offices to a standstill, with police extending permission for the agitation.
- Heavy rains have killed eight people and forced thousands to evacuate as floods, lightning strikes, and crop losses hit Marathwada, Vidarbha, and other regions. SDRF teams continue rescue operations, moving residents to shelters and providing emergency support.
- Mumbai Police are stretched thin handling Ganeshotsav, Amit Shah's visit, and the Maratha quota rally, while also preparing for upcoming festivals. Commissioner Deven Bharti admits the force is overworked but focused on minimising public inconvenience.

Pune

- A central team reviewed Pune's upcoming Metropolitan Surveillance Unit (MSU), approved under PM-ABHIM, which will study urban disease patterns and detect outbreaks, with PMC finalising space, staffing, and ₹8.28 crore funding for the project.
- DRDO's HEMRL has developed an indigenous signal star naval flare for Kalvari-class submarines, handed to the Navy. The flare aids underwater communication, emergency signalling, and fleet operations, boosting readiness under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The govt has halted first-year admissions at pharmacy colleges after inspections revealed major PCI norm violations, including fake documents, poor infrastructure, and safety lapses; showcase notices have been issued, and admissions remain suspended.

Punjab

- The Centre has constituted inter-ministerial teams to assess flood damages in Punjab, with officials set to visit affected districts next week as the state continues to battle worsening flood conditions.
- The Punjab High Court ruled that while it has concurrent jurisdiction with Sessions Courts for granting regular bail, accused persons must ordinarily approach the Sessions Court first, unless exceptional circumstances justify a direct plea before the High Court.

Rajasthan

- Oil companies have reduced the price of commercial LPG cylinders in Rajasthan by ₹51, making them available at ₹1,608.50 from today. However, the prices of domestic LPG cylinders remain unchanged, providing relief only to commercial users.

Tamil Nadu

- Rameswaram fishers seek financial aid to reclaim boats released by the Sri Lankan court, with many still damaged or pending release. They urge the Centre to expedite procedures and provide support for repair costs.
- Tamil Nadu could lose Rs 34,642 crore in 2025-26 due to the 50% US import tariff, with textiles hit hardest and 30 lakh jobs at risk. CM MK Stalin urged the union government for urgent measures, noting temporary relief is insufficient.

Telangana

- Telangana Assembly passes Panchayat Raj and Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bills to provide 42% BC reservations in local body elections. CM Revanth Reddy stresses commitment, while opposition seeks Ninth Schedule inclusion for legal protection.
- The State has diverted 40 tmcft from the Telugu Ganga Project to outside basins without tribunal approval. The state highlighted that such unapproved diversions impact Krishna basin return flows and exceed AP's allocated share.

Uttar Pradesh

- At least 11 people from UP died in the Vaishno Devi landslide, with seven others injured, as the disaster claimed 34 lives in total. CM Yogi Adityanath announced ₹4 lakh compensation for the kin of the deceased and ordered arrangements to send bodies home.
- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath announces minimum wage guarantee for all employed youth, ensuring fair pay and job security at Rozgar Mahakumbh 2025. The initiative aims to provide dignified employment and curb out-migration for work.
- CM Yogi Adityanath hails judiciary as guardian of good governance and announces ₹50 crore fund for the Judicial Service Association, boosting resources for judicial excellence. He emphasizes a smooth, accessible legal system as key to a developed Uttar Pradesh.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The world's first Vikramaditya Vedic clock has been installed at the CM House in Bhopal, set to be inaugurated on 1 September along with a new entrance gate. An app linked to the clock will provide Panchang details in 189 languages.

Mumbai

- Four days after the Virar building collapse killed 17, the Thane Municipal Corporation has ordered immediate evacuation of 37 highly dangerous buildings still housing 191 families, stressing urgent action to prevent further tragedy.
- MTDC has launched a new data collection system at Kolhapur's Mahalaxmi Temple to track tourist inflow, stay duration with plans to expand it to major temples like Trimbakeshwar and Shirdi, aiming to modernize religious tourism management.
- From October, Maharashtra's Fee Regulatory Authority (FRA) will conduct surprise inspections of over 4,000 professional colleges to curb fee surcharges and false claims in proposals, after repeated complaints from parents and students.

Pune

- State will launch a special MR vaccination drive from September 15–30 in Ashram schools, targeting children aged 5–15 with an additional dose to boost immunity, aiming to cover six lakh students following recent outbreaks in Jalgaon, Nashik, and Dhule.
- The govt has formed a committee led by BJP leader Pasha Patel to draft policies for onion and tomato farming, aiming to address farmer demands, market volatility, and economic concerns; the panel will submit its recommendations after deliberations.
- PMC has urged builders to implement dust control measures at construction sites, following Maharashtra Pollution Control Board guidelines and installation of sensor-based air quality systems, with regular inspections to ensure compliance.

Punjab

- In view of the worsening flood situation, the Punjab Government has extended school holidays till September 3, urging parents and students to prioritise safety and follow administrative instructions.
- CM Bhagwant Mann has written to PM Modi seeking release of ₹60,000 crore allegedly stuck with the Centre and urged revision of SDRF norms to provide ₹50,000 per acre compensation to farmers hit by the devastating floods.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan CM Bhajanlal Sharma, ahead of the assembly session beginning Monday September 1st, directed ministers in a BJP Legislature Party meeting at CMR to come fully prepared and respond effectively to questions in the House.

Tamil Nadu

- The Vadipatti-Thamaraipatti four-lane road, part of Madurai's NH-744A ring road, is nearly complete and set for November inauguration, reducing travel time. The 29.96-km stretch, costing Rs 854 crore, includes three flyovers and an animal overpass.
- BJP chief Nainar Nagenthiran assured that the Centre will support Tiruppur knitwear exporters amid the US tariff hike, providing measures to prevent job losses. She urged state leaders to cooperate with the central government rather than politicise the issue.

Telangana

- Telangana to hold local body elections in September with 42% BC reservations, lifting the previous 50% ceiling. The Cabinet also re-nominates Kodandaram and appoints Azharuddin to the Legislative Council under the Governor's quota.
- Telangana plans to set up over 10 Automated Testing Stations (ATS) statewide, replacing manual vehicle fitness tests at RTOs. These technologically advanced centers aim to ensure transparent, accurate, and corruption-free vehicle inspections.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh has started preparations for the 2026 three-tier panchayat elections, ending the tenure of 2021 gram panchayats. Out of 58,195 panchayats, 512 were abolished due to urban boundary changes.
- UP Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa has asked the Samajwadi Party to submit the original copies of 18,000 voter affidavits to expedite investigation. He directed that receipts be obtained as proof of submission to track the number and date of affidavits received.
- Uttar Pradesh, along with four other states, will drive over 70% of India's e-truck charging demand by 2030. The state will need significant infrastructure, supporting 1.3 lakh electric trucks with 9 GW of charging capacity.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- At least 70 people died and 30 more are missing after a migrant boat capsized off West Africa's coast, mostly carrying Gambian and Senegalese nationals. Gambia's foreign ministry urged citizens to avoid the perilous Atlantic route to Europe, one of the world's deadliest migration paths.
- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa launched a G20 taskforce, led by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz, to tackle global wealth inequality and its impact on growth and poverty. The six-member panel will present policy recommendations at the G20 summit in Johannesburg this November.

America

- Canada and India have appointed new high commissioners to each other's countries, marking a step to mend ties after the 2023 Nijjar killing dispute, following agreements between PMs Carney and Modi to restore senior diplomatic relations.
- Canada is exploring partnerships with allies to fund critical mineral projects, targeting resources restricted by China, similar to the U.S. MP Materials deal, aiming to diversify supply chains and share output among allied nations.

Asia Pacific

- Thousands of Australians joined anti-immigration "March for Australia" rallies, condemned by the Labor government as spreading hate and linked to neo-Nazis. The protests, held across major cities, focused on immigration, culture, and community concerns.
- North Korea's economy grew 3.7% in 2024, its fastest pace in eight years, driven by manufacturing, construction, mining, and expanded economic ties with Russia. The heavy chemical sector surged 10.7%, fueled by production of metal products for Russian exports.

China

- Russian President Vladimir Putin is visiting China from August 31 to September 3 for SCO talks, bilateral meetings, and attends Xi Jinping's military parade as the "main guest," highlighting Russia-China ties and World War Two commemorations.
- China's military and coast guard conducted patrols around the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, asserting territorial sovereignty. The naval and air forces carried out "combat readiness" operations amid rising tensions with neighboring claimants.

Europe

- Poland raised its 2025 deficit forecast to 6.9% of GDP, expecting only a modest drop to 6.5% in 2026 due to high defence, welfare, and debt costs. Despite the fiscal strain, the government projects solid economic growth of 3.4% this year and 3.5% next year, with rising wages and stable inflation.

Middle East

- Israeli forces struck Gaza City suburbs, killing at least 30 people as residents fled, while Netanyahu's security cabinet prepared to plan a full-scale offensive. The military also targeted and reportedly killed Hamas spokesperson Abu Ubaida amid escalating operations.

Pakistan

- Pakistani authorities have evacuated over a million people in Punjab as the worst floods in 39 years submerge 1,400 villages and damage vital crops. Torrential rains and India's release of dam water worsened the crisis, with the national death toll since June reaching 819.
- Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme is under scrutiny as 324 officials embezzled over Rs 37 million, revealing systemic corruption. Previous audits had exposed irregularities worth Rs 141 billion, highlighting misuse of funds meant for the poor.

United Kingdom

- Britain has barred Israeli officials from its largest defence trade show over Gaza escalation, while Israeli defence firms can still attend. The move reflects Starmer's push for a ceasefire and increased humanitarian aid amid rising tensions.
- The UK hails its security ties with Japan as "unprecedented," highlighting the Royal Navy aircraft carrier's first-ever port call in Tokyo. London emphasizes expanding its Indo-Pacific role and advancing the Global Combat Air Programme with Japan and Italy.

United States

- The U.S. has expanded visa restrictions to nearly all Palestinians, affecting travel for medical, educational, and business purposes, extending previous limits on visitors from Gaza. The State Department is conducting a review amid criticism from pro-Palestine groups.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Ethiopia has partnered with Nigeria's Dangote Group to build a \$2.5 billion fertiliser plant in Gode, producing 3 million tons annually, with Ethiopia holding 40% and Dangote 60% stake. The project aims to reduce Africa's fertiliser imports and boost food security across the continent.
- Libya's NOC will host a Libyan-U.S. energy forum to boost investment in the country's oil and gas sector, following a recent MoU with ExxonMobil. The event will bring together U.S. energy firms and Libyan investors, aiming to revive production after years of disruptions and instability.

America

- The UN plans to expand Haiti's anti-gang mission into a Gang Suppression Force led by contributing nations, but experts warn the proposal lacks clear funding, duplicates existing structures, and risks undermining local coordination and Haiti's sovereignty.
- Brazil will roll out the "Redata" tax incentive program in September to attract foreign tech firms for renewable-powered data centers, offering federal tax exemptions. The initiative aims to boost investment and ease trade tensions with the U.S.

Asia Pacific

- The U.S. International Trade Commission will investigate whether solar panels from India, Laos, and Indonesia hurt domestic manufacturing, potentially leading to tariffs. The decision supports U.S. producers who allege these imports benefit from unfair subsidies and undercut local factories.
- South Korea plans to raise its 2026 budget by 8.1% to 728 trillion won, focusing on AI investment, social welfare, and industrial support. The expansionary policy aims to boost growth despite higher U.S. tariffs, with the fiscal deficit projected to reach 4% of GDP.

China

- China expressed readiness to strengthen coordination with Brazil and BRICS nations to resist unilateralism, deepen strategic trust, and expand practical cooperation across various sectors, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Europe

- Norway chose Britain as its strategic partner to acquire new frigates in a \$13.5 billion deal, boosting maritime defence and monitoring Russian submarines. The agreement will support joint operations, industrial cooperation, and thousands of UK jobs, including over 2,000 in Scotland.
- The EU will explore using €210 billion in frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's defence and reconstruction, but immediate seizure is politically and legally unfeasible. Officials agreed Russia must compensate Ukraine, while profits from the assets continue aiding Kyiv.

Middle East

- Egypt has signed a \$220 million deal with investors from the UAE, Bahrain, and China to build a solar cell, panel, and energy storage complex in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, producing 2 GW each of solar cells and panels. The project aims to strengthen the renewable energy capacity.

Pakistan

- The Faizan Global Relief Foundation in Birmingham is raising funds and sending aid to support communities hit by August floods that killed over 900 people. The charity is providing food, water, medical support, and plans to rebuild homes, mosques, schools, and community centers in Jhelum.
- Pakistan unveiled a new Army Rocket Force at the Marka-e-Haq event, highlighting military strength and strategic ambitions. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif emphasized national unity and thanked international allies while reaffirming positions on Kashmir and Palestine.

United Kingdom

- The British government will take control of Liberty Steel after it was placed into liquidation, aiming to cover costs while seeking a buyer. The move affects 1,450 employees and marks the UK's second intervention in the steel sector this year.

United States

- The U.S. Trade Representative says the Trump administration continues negotiations with trading partners despite a court ruling deeming most tariffs illegal. Talks are moving forward as the White House explores options to maintain its trade agenda.
- U.S. President Donald Trump announced he will issue an executive order requiring voter ID for every vote, limiting mail-in ballots to the very ill and distant military. He continues to challenge the electoral system, pushing for paper ballots and hand counts despite state-controlled election rules.

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