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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- APSSDC has partnered with Germany's DEKRA to recruit nurses and later expand into engineering and other sectors. The initiative aims to equip Andhra youth with global-standard skills and create overseas job opportunities.
- Andhra Pradesh unveiled its \$2.4 trillion growth vision at the Davos SME Summit, showcasing ports, airports, and industrial hubs. Minister Srinivas Kondapalli urged global investors, aiming for 15% annual growth and 2 million jobs in five years.

Delhi

- The Yamuna crossed 207.3 metres, well above the 205.33-metre danger mark, submerging low-lying Delhi areas and causing damages worth ₹10 crore. Thousands were displaced as homes, markets, and businesses were inundated despite slight receding later in the day.
- CM Rekha Gupta launched NDMC's "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi" initiative, introducing a new curriculum on heritage, yoga, and environmental learning. She also felicitated 15 teachers, highlighting the focus on blending cultural values with modern education.
- The Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC) has rejected NDMC's proposal to demolish and reconstruct Bihar Niwas, calling the design a generic modern structure, and directed that the façade be redesigned to reflect Bihar's cultural heritage and identity.

Goa

- Goa's hospitality sector welcomed GST 2.0 cuts on mid-range hotel rooms but called for a flat 5% rate across tourism, while industrial and automobile sectors praised the reforms for simplifying taxes and boosting consumer demand.
- Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant announced that no school would operate with a single teacher from the academic year, and the government promised to provide additional staff to improve teaching resources statewide.

Gujarat

- The Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat neared full capacity with a water level of 136.20 metres, 91% full, prompting the opening of 23 gates to release 3.80 lakh cusecs following heavy upstream rainfall.
- Gujarat Police planned a major reshuffle, introducing a Gandhinagar Commissionerate, a Zone-8 DCP office in Ahmedabad, and new ranges for Mehsana and Kutch-Morbi, increasing IGPs from nine to ten.

Haryana

- The Haryana State Pollution Control Board ordered the closure of 21 ready-mix concrete plants near Dadlana and Karnal for operating without valid consent to establish or operate, following NGT directives.
- The Ghaggar river in Sirsa breached embankments between Jhorarnali and Kelania villages, submerging 1,200 acres of farmland and damaging crops, while authorities launched flood-response measures.

Himachal Pradesh

- The Kiratpur-Manali highway reopened after four days of rain-induced landslides, bringing relief to commuters as NHAI cleared debris and restored traffic between Mandi and Kullu.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Sukh Aashray Yojana, ₹69 lakh was disbursed in Hamirpur to 50 beneficiaries for marriage and housing aid, while 31 new cases and 24 foster care extensions were also approved.

Karnataka

- A delegation of Karnataka seers met Union Home Minister Amit Shah demanding a new law, similar to the SC/ST Act, to protect temples and Jain saints, citing attacks on Dharmasthala and defamation of seers.
- Karnataka attracts ₹12 lakh crore investment in 5 years, with ₹1.4 lakh crore projects completed, ₹36,078 crore revived, and ₹9.49 lakh crore under implementation; state leads in innovation, software and aerospace exports, MSME growth, and startup ecosystem.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- CM Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to set up an International Arbitration Centre in Visakhapatnam, aiming to build a world-class ADR ecosystem. He stressed technology-driven arbitration as vital for swift and accessible justice while easing court burdens.
- The Cabinet approved a universal health insurance scheme covering 5 crore people, alongside setting up a control room for faster approvals. It also cleared the establishment of 10 new medical colleges in PPP mode, with admissions starting from 2027-28.

Delhi

- DDA has invited bids for a 200-room five-star hotel project on a 2.524-acre plot in Dwarka Sector 23, leased for 55 years. The selected bidder will design, build, and operate the hotel within four years, meeting tourism ministry standards.
- Delhi Airport will launch India's first luxury "airport-city" buses to Noida and Greater Noida at ₹199 per trip. The service offers real-time tracking, CCTV, USB ports, and plush seating, covering key stops like Sector 16, Botanical Garden, and Pari Chowk.
- The MCD has asked the Delhi government for ₹900 crore annually or a 1% hike in property transfer duty to offset losses if toll booths at city borders are removed, following Union minister Nitin Gadkari's push to ease traffic congestion.

Goa

- Goa Industrial Development Corporation proposed selling 2 lakh sq m of SEZ land in Sancoale to Goa Shipyard for ₹81 crore, with conditions on local jobs, MSME procurement, and a CSR training institute to safeguard local interests.
- Goa hosted the International Coastal Cleanup Awareness Camp 2025 on September 20, focusing on marine life protection under UN SDG 14.1, with volunteers from citizens, NGOs, schools, and corporates participating across 20 beaches.

Gujarat

- The Dahod district panchayat initiated a project to set up modern libraries in 100 villages, seeking land details from taluka development officers and planning construction on 2,000 sq ft of government village land with ₹25 crore allocated under the Tribal Sub-Plan.
- Construction of a new ₹166 crore bridge next to the collapsed Gambhira Bridge in Vadodara commenced, with completion aimed by September 2026, following the tragic collapse that claimed 20 lives.

Haryana

- The Haryana government approved a Rs 315 crore plan to remodel 54 irrigation projects, strengthening canals and water channels to ensure timely water supply and reduce farmers' reliance on underground sources.
- Sirsa residents in approved colonies can now obtain No Dues Certificates online via the property portal, offering free applications, data correction within 10 days, and expedited service for urgent cases.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the Centre has not sanctioned a relief package for rain disaster rehabilitation, while the state relies on limited resources and has sought ₹3,000 crore aid from the World Bank.
- Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil announced that 34 health institutions will get new CT scan machines within three months to provide reliable diagnostic services closer to people's homes.

Karnataka

- CM Siddaramaiah inaugurated the ₹446 crore KC Valley Phase-2 project to fill 30 lakes in Kolar taluk, aiming to boost groundwater in Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Bengaluru Rural, with completion expected by December enabling the filling of 272 lakes.
- The Union Environment Ministry asked forest department to re-examine the NH-169A widening proposal after conservationists opposed it for cutting through Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, alleging NHAI began work without mandatory forest and environment clearances.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Around 1,000 acres of farmland across 16 villages in Bhopal district were submerged under 2–3 feet of water from the Halali Dam, leaving crops half damaged and forcing farmers to wade into flooded fields.

Mumbai

- Mumbai Police went on high alert after Lashkar-e-Jihadi claimed to have planted 34 “human bombs” with 400 kg of RDX across the city, prompting heightened security during Ganesh Chaturthi immersions.
- Deputy CM Eknath Shinde and CM Devendra Fadnavis praised BMC and Mumbai Police for smooth Anant Chaturthi immersions, with over 7,400 idols immersed and no incidents reported, marking a safe, eco-friendly and vibrant farewell to Lord Ganesha.
- BMC received 488 objections to its draft ward plan and scheduled hearings for September 10–12 at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre, urging citizens to attend or contact officials if not formally notified.

Pune

- PMC is setting up designated feeding spots for stray dogs, collecting volunteer data to streamline sterilisation, vaccination, and hygiene, aiming to balance animal welfare with resident safety as per AWBI directives.
- SPPU has doubled funding for Avishkar 2025 to ₹1 crore, aiming to boost student research and innovation through workshops, incubation support, and increased grants for colleges and departments.
- The Maharashtra government has extended MSRTC’s PPP land lease period to 98 years, a move aimed at boosting revenue, utilizing idle land, and ensuring the corporation’s long-term financial stability.

Punjab

- Education Department released ₹24.52 crore for a deep cleansing and sanitation drive in schools, jointly with Rural Development and Panchayats, to ensure safe reopening post-floods, with local bodies tasked to restore hygiene and safety before classes resume.
- Punjab government had granted ownership rights to tillers in 2007, but the Supreme Court later overturned the order, leaving farmers who had cultivated the land for years without legal recognition or compensation for crop damage.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan Assembly passes amended Coaching Centres Bill amid Congress protests, with reduced penalties and limited coverage, drawing criticism of favouring coaching institutes over students.

Tamil Nadu

- Coimbatore’s Avinashi Road elevated flyover project nears completion, with main carriageway and most entry-exit ramps ready, and inauguration expected in October. Final touches like road markings, streetlights, and traffic signage are underway.
- CM MK Stalin sought stronger ties with the UK in education, green energy, and trade, highlighting TN as a hub for renewable energy and manufacturing. He also proposed joint climate initiatives, aligning the state with the UK’s climate diplomacy goals.

Telangana

- Heavy rains in Telangana’s tri-cities caused drain overflows, waterlogging, and stranded a TSRTC bus at Shivanagar underbridge. Inthezargunj police rescued 30 passengers safely with no injuries reported.
- Denmark’s Ambassador met Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, highlighting Danish firms’ interest to invest in the state across sectors like green energy, education, and climate sustainability. The CM welcomed the partnership and discussed avenues for collaboration.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP recorded the highest number of road fatalities in 2023, with 23,652 deaths, making its national and state highways the deadliest in India. Experts cite overspeeding, mixed traffic, poor lighting, and delayed trauma care as key factors behind the high death toll.
- UP CM Yogi Adityanath launched new transport services and six PPP bus stations, noting road accidents claim more lives annually than COVID in three years. The state also signed an MoU with IIT-Kharagpur for tech-based road safety solutions.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh government announced the upcoming launch of the AI-based Suman Sakhi chatbot to guide women on pregnancy care, risks, and government schemes, starting with maternal health services.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra’s transport department announced a crackdown on unregistered low-speed e-bikes used mainly by gig workers, with minister Pratap Sarnaik calling them illegal and unsafe, while clarifying that action will target riders and not delivery companies.
- Maharashtra announced a special drive to provide 9,658 compassionate jobs this September, with 5,228 in state government, 725 in local bodies, and 3,705 in zilla parishads, marking the first such initiative after seven years.
- MRVC has invited global bids worth ₹21,000 crore for AC ‘Vande Metro’ trains with modern features like cushioned seats and charging ports. The first prototype will arrive in 2.5 years, with full rollout over seven years.

Pune

- Pune RTO warned BH series vehicle owners to pay road tax on time or face a ₹100 daily fine, urging timely compliance as thousands near renewal deadlines under the two-year installment system.
- RPO Pune will run a mobile van for passport services in Narayangaon, Junnar from Sept 10–12 and host an open house in Baner on Sept 10 for applicants to address queries and grievances.
- PMC will restrict advertisements to designated sites on flyovers and bridges, aiming to curb illegal flex boards, improve city aesthetics, and generate ₹5–6 crore revenue in the initial phase.

Punjab

- PM Modi will visit Punjab on September 9 to conduct an aerial survey of flood-hit areas and assess the situation firsthand. The Centre has already sent teams for damage assessment, assuring full support for relief and recovery.
- Government plans to amend its mining policy to let farmers in flood-affected areas extract and sell sand deposited in their fields, aiming to offset crop losses and ease financial distress, with cabinet approval expected once CM Bhagwant Mann recovers.

Rajasthan

- Jaipur will start accepting applications for 7rations from September 8, with forms available until September 30 and submissions allowed till October 10. This includes 11 shops in Jaipur I and 59 in Jaipur II, aiming to expand fair price distribution across the region.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu will train about 90,000 teachers on the Pocolo Act to ensure awareness of child abuse reporting, announced Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi. The state-wide programme, inaugurated in Krishnagiri, will cost Rs 5 lakh.
- Puducherry Assembly will reconvene on September 18 for the budget session, where the Ease of Doing Business Service Delivery Bill and GST (Second Amendment) Bill will be tabled. Departments must meet approval timelines, or officials will face spot fines.

Telangana

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will preside over Telangana Liberation Day celebrations on September 17 in Secunderabad and unveil a statue of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The event will also see other Union ministers and freedom fighters.
- Telangana High Court ruled that BHEL must regularise 29 paramedical staff who worked ad-hoc for over a decade, citing unfair labour practices. The court rejected BHEL’s arguments, directing permanent appointments in line with Supreme Court guidelines.

Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath urged officials to ensure all eligible citizens receive welfare benefits, including medical and housing support. He addressed grievances during Janata Darshan, promising timely action and strict measures against obstructions.
- UP forms Outsource Service Corporation to improve conditions for 3.7 lakh outsourced employees, ensuring fair pay, reservations, and benefits. The move aims to boost transparency, accountability, and skill development.