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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh signed 35 MoUs worth ₹3.65 lakh crore ahead of the CII Summit, with major investments in energy, industry, and infrastructure. These projects are expected to generate over 1.26 lakh jobs across the state.
- Visakhapatnam hosts the 30th CII Partnership Summit on Nov 14–15 targeting up to ₹10 lakh crore in investments through major global partnerships. CM Chandrababu Naidu will lead high-level meetings to boost AP as a prime destination for industry and innovation.

Delhi

- CM Rekha Gupta flagged off a new DTC-operated electric bus service between Delhi and Sonipat, restoring long-discontinued interstate connectivity. The AC e-buses aim to ease commuter travel, cut congestion, and reduce pollution with improved safety features.
- CM Rekha Gupta approved a new policy to provide long-pending jobs for 1984 riot victims' families, resolving cases stuck since 2007. The norms now allow elderly dependants to nominate an adult family member for employment, ensuring timely and rightful support.
- DNA tests confirm Dr Umar Un Nabi was driving the explosive-laden i20 near Red Fort, his leg found trapped in the wreckage, establishing his role in the terror blast. Police say he panicked after associates were arrested and fled to Delhi with detonators.

Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant flags off eight DMF-funded vehicles—including Scorpions, hearse vans, and mini pickups—for South Goa Police and Disaster Management, while also handing over assistive vehicles to persons with disabilities.
- Margao Railway Station unveils a 200-sqft high-resolution digital video wall to provide real-time train updates and passenger alerts, implemented under a five-year contract as part of Konkan Railway's tech-upgrade drive.

Gujarat

- Gujarat is reporting around 340 new respiratory cases daily as smog, pollution and weather changes trigger a spike in breathing issues. Doctors warn of rising hospitalisations and urge vulnerable groups to use masks and consider flu vaccination for protection.
- Ahmedabad's Makarba, Hebatpur and Sattadhar overbridges are over 70–90% complete and will be ready between February and June 2026. Once operational, they are expected to ease heavy traffic for over 4 lakh daily commuters.

Haryana

- Farmers in Sirsa are urging urgent dredging of the heavily silted Ottu Lake, which now holds water for just 7–10 days, while local leaders demand deepening and widening of the channel to restore year-round irrigation and prevent crop damage.
- Kaithal district's crop residue management was reviewed by the HSPCB Member Secretary, who praised progress but urged continued vigilance, strict action on stubble burning, and intensified farmer awareness as harvesting and sowing continues.

Himachal Pradesh

- Kangra administration sets up 10 check posts on major trekking routes to ensure registration and real-time tracking amid rising missing cases. District Magistrate Hemraj Bairwa says the move enhances monitoring and enables quicker emergency response.
- The Kisan Sabha criticises the government for unfair land acquisition and stalled projects while announcing protests on Nov 26. It also highlights environmental damage, debris dumping and exploitation by construction companies across major highways.

Karnataka

- Karnataka has approved new IT and Space Technology policies to expand emerging tech, boost software exports, and strengthen AI, defence tech and computing capacities across the state. The Space Technology Policy also aims to train 50,000 youth to build a skilled workforce for the growing space sector.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- AP launches its final LRS drive to regularise all illegal layouts by Jan 2026, with 40,000 new applications and 14,500 layouts identified. The move aims to curb haphazard growth and revenue loss through simplified digital procedures and strict planning compliance.
- Visakhapatnam gets a ₹3,800-crore tech boost with Nara Lokesh launching new IT projects that will generate 30,000 jobs. He said global firms like Google and ArcelorMittal are investing due to Andhra Pradesh's strong policies and "Speed of Doing Business."

Delhi

- Delhi govt approved a ₹221-crore, 4.48-km trunk drain in Kirari by channeling 760 cusecs of stormwater along the railway line. The revamped system, paired with a DDA drain, will fully evacuate the basin's 1,193 cusecs, ending years of monsoon waterlogging.
- Delhi MCD has deployed a special seven-member team with police support to enforce pollution-control measures around Anand Vihar ISBT, patrolling in three shifts daily to ensure water sprinkling, construction compliance, and strict adherence to GRAP-3 norms.
- Delhi Airport will trial an advanced IITM–IMD–AAI fog-forecasting system that predicts dense fog 36 hours early to help prevent major winter flight disruptions, and this initiative follows the airport's full CAT-III compliance upgrade for low-visibility operations.

Goa

- Goa's Education Department orders all institutions to fence campuses, appoint nodal officers, and file compliance reports by November 17 following a Supreme Court directive, aiming to curb stray dog incidents while ensuring humane awareness and safety.
- Goa will launch a public grievance mobile app on December 19 and an AI-based call centre on January 26 to enable GPS-based issue reporting, multilingual complaint filing, and a unified 1095 helpline, aiming to streamline redressal and improve citizen access.

Gujarat

- Ahmedabad will develop an 18-storey multimodal transport hub at Akhbarnagar to integrate AMTS, BRTS and GSRTC services under a PPP model. The facility will include retail spaces, modern commuter amenities, and a footbridge linking to the metro station.
- Devmogra Dham in Narmada's Satpura range will host 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' on November 15 with PM Modi attending, marking Birsa Munda's 150th anniversary and celebrating tribal heritage.

Haryana

- Farmers' unions under SKM will hold a major state-level protest in Hisar on November 26 to mark five years of the Delhi movement, with leaders urging lakhs of farmers and workers to participate over unfulfilled promises.
- Financial Commissioner Revenue said the five-day revert time for applications under the paperless registration system will be reduced, alongside new measures like 72-hour auto-saving of documents, help desks at all tehsils, and a state helpline for real-time support.

Himachal Pradesh

- The State EC issues the final voter list for panchayat and ULB polls, but DCs have not published the mandatory notices, raising doubts over timely elections. Government directions on connectivity and possible panchayat reorganisation add further uncertainty.
- Chamba's Haripur panchayat is set to get a major solar boost with a ₹1-crore project under the Surya Ghar scheme, including a 200-kW plant, rooftop units and streetlights. Officials are securing land and completing formalities, with expected annual revenue of ₹10–11 lakh.

Karnataka

- Karnataka's large-scale exploration across 19 sites has begun striking gold in multiple districts while assessing other key minerals to map future mining potential. Officials say new deposits could enhance revenue and create local jobs once surveys clarify the extent of reserves.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Passing the CPCT exam is now mandatory for Panchayat Secretary posts in MP, with draft rules issued making it a district-level cadre; employment assistants will get priority in recruitment.

Mumbai

- Prominent Mumbai citizens urge the government to halt plans to monetise nearly 18% of public land, calling it a “privatisation of the city’s future.” They warn this move will shrink open spaces, displace communities, and irreversibly hand public assets to private interests.
- Maharashtra has formed a committee to draft monitoring rules for direct-selling firms as complaints rise and no existing framework tracks their online operations. The guidelines will help regulate companies and individual sellers functioning through different platforms.
- SEC has extended the draft voter list deadline by a week following opposition complaints, delaying municipal elections by at least seven days. Final rolls will now be published on December 5 as cities need more time to verify voters after ward boundary changes.

Pune

- CM Devendra Fadnavis announced over ₹20,000 crore in projects for the 2026–28 Nashik–Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh, promising transparent execution and long-lasting infrastructure. He said the works will transform the region into a global pilgrimage hub.
- Pune district authorities have sent the Purandar airport land report to the state, paving the way for finalising farmer compensation by month-end. Of the 1,285 hectares required, most has been measured, with only about 50 hectares pending.
- Pune led Maharashtra in October with over 80,000 new vehicle registrations—driven by festive demand and GST cuts—recording 44,699 at RTO and 29,453 at Pimpri-Chinchwad. Statewide registrations hit 4.45 lakh, with Pune far ahead of Thane, Mumbai and Nashik.

Punjab

- Punjab creates a separate cadre for BBMB to restore its influence as 1,784 of 3,043 Punjab-quota posts stay vacant. The move follows the Centre adding members from other states and transferring Bhakra–Nangal dam security from Punjab Police to CISF.
- PSPCL faces a severe cash crunch and is taking loans to manage salaries and operations as state departments owe ₹2,582 crore in unpaid power bills. Four major departments alone account for ₹2,376 crore, making up 92% of the total outstanding dues.

Rajasthan

- 142 Rajasthan Police ASPs have been transferred in a major reshuffle, with three officers additionally assigned to the new women’s battalion as part of the latest Home Department order.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court challenging the President’s refusal to assent to its NEET-exemption bill, calling the decision unconstitutional. The state seeks a direction to treat the bill as deemed approved under Article 254(2).
- A low-pressure area is forming over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and is moving west-northwest, bringing widespread rain to TN from Nov 16–18. This unusually active spell is occurring even though the Madden–Julian Oscillation is staying unfavourable.

Telangana

- Telangana accelerates preparations for the 2025 Global Summit as Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao says the state is targeting a \$1 trillion economy by 2035 and \$3 trillion by 2047, urging all departments to align efforts while the CM prepares to unveil the Vision.
- Telangana is hiking fees for fancy vehicle numbers under amended Rule 81, raising the top ‘9999’ plate from ₹50,000 to ₹1.5 lakh with other premium combos placed in new price slabs. All applications shift fully online, with costs now ranging from ₹20,000–₹1.5 lakh.

Uttar Pradesh

- Public sector oil firms in UP have sought 1,060 power connections for EV charging, with 662 sites already energised, as the state accelerates its plan to expand charging grids across cities and highways to meet rapidly rising EV numbers.
- Three people are confirmed dead and nearly nine are feared trapped after a stone mine collapsed in Sonbhadra, UP, with NDRF, SDRF and district teams carrying out intensified rescue operations.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- MP may see a cabinet reshuffle as CM Mohan Yadav’s performance review of ministers reaches the central leadership, with Bhargava and Malini likely to be inducted while some senior ministers may be moved to organisational roles.

Mumbai

- Western Railway is likely to approve demolition of the Elphinstone Bridge next week after site inspections, ending delays caused by its dispute with MRIDC. The work was stalled as WR demanded ₹59.14 crore in way-leave charges—far higher than CR’s ₹10 crore.
- MMRDA will build a ₹430-crore, six-lane bridge between Thane’s Kolshet and Bhiwandi’s Kalher, cutting travel time from 45 minutes to 5–7 minutes. The project aims to ease traffic, support Bhiwandi’s industrial growth, and is expected to be completed within three years.
- Maharashtra plans a new interest subvention scheme covering 4% interest on livestock loans, giving many farmers an additional interest-free loan of up to ₹3 lakh. The move aims to benefit about eight million cattle rearers at an annual cost of ₹50 crore.

Pune

- Maharashtra will launch a leprosy detection drive from November 17 to December 2, deploying 65,832 teams to screen 8.66 crore people across the state. The campaign aims for early detection, breaking transmission, and moving toward zero leprosy by 2027.
- PMC has directed speedy completion of 19 PPP road projects by fast-tracking land acquisition and clearing procedural delays. The push aims to accelerate major connectivity corridors across Pune, including Shivane–Kharadi and Baner–Hinjewadi links.
- The Centre has approved 1,000 new e-buses under the PM e-Drive scheme, boosting PMPML’s fleet and strengthening public transport. The move aims to ease congestion and cut pollution as the city currently needs at least 3,000 buses to meet rising demand.

Punjab

- Britain’s new Isambard-AI supercomputer begins its first full monsoon-modelling cycle to improve forecasts after Punjab’s recent floods. The system boosts India-UK climate collaboration by enabling sharper, faster simulations and extreme-weather risks.
- Punjab plans a farmhouse policy for the eco-fragile Kandi area, allowing farmhouses on nearly one acre of land removed from PLPA limits. The move benefits influential landowners but raises concerns over forest, wildlife and Supreme Court guideline violations.

Rajasthan

- Jodhpur Municipal Corporation has deployed 2,000 sanitation workers across 100 wards after the merger, with ward-wise allocation of cleaning staff now issued. This move aims to streamline responsibilities and improve overall cleanliness across the unified city.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu will extend the free one-meal-a-day scheme for 31,000+ sanitary workers to all civic bodies by December 6, with CM Stalin also announcing 300 sq ft resting rooms with toilets in each GCC ward.
- TNPDC is floating tenders worth ₹7.5 crore for new substations at O Krishnapuram and Valasiramani and for upgrading the Melakothampatty unit to boost power supply in Tiruchy’s rural belts.

Telangana

- The Telangana Cabinet is meeting on November 17 to decide on local body polls amid legal issues over GO 9 reservations, while also likely approving the Gig Workers Welfare Bill and Rythu Bharosa disbursements.
- VinGroup’s Asia CEO meets CM Revanth Reddy and expresses interest in setting up an EV manufacturing unit, battery storage facilities, and exploring renewable energy projects in Telangana, with the company also invited to the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025.

Uttar Pradesh

- Lucknow is preparing to host over 33,000 participants for the 19th Bharat Scouts and Guides Jamboree from November 23–29, transforming the venue into a “mini India” with cultural, scientific, security, and health facilities at full scale.
- UP is set to sharply cut stamp duty and registration fees on rent agreements while launching an Aadhaar-based online system for easy digital registration, reducing visits to offices. The proposal is ready and expected to get cabinet approval soon.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- The DR Congo government and M23 rebels sign a Qatar-brokered framework pact to end deadly eastern conflict, but U.S. officials say most protocols still need implementation and progress on prisoner exchange and ceasefire monitoring remains slow.
- Ghana scraps the 15% VAT on mineral exploration to revive investor confidence, boost greenfield mining projects, and strengthen competitiveness against regional rivals. The move aims to stimulate new gold discoveries and ensure long-term growth in the country's mining sector.

America

- Sweden's Saab signs a €3.1 bn deal to supply Colombia with 17 Gripen fighter jets over five years, as Bogotá chooses the cost-effective multi-role aircraft over Rafale and F-16 options to modernise its air force.
- The IMF has approved a new two-year \$24 billion flexible credit line for Mexico as a safeguard against external risks, noting that Mexico has steadily reduced its dependence on such precautionary financing in recent years.

Asia Pacific

- Australia pushes its bid to host next year's COP summit, with Energy Minister Chris Bowen heading to Brazil to lobby amid a deadlock with Turkey. Canberra claims broad global support and plans to showcase its clean-energy leadership alongside Pacific partners.
- North Korea rejected the G7's call for its "complete denuclearisation," with Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui denouncing the joint statement issued after the Canada meeting and opposing pressure on its nuclear programme.

China

- With the U.S. skipping COP30 for the first time in 30 years, China is taking center stage with a dominant pavilion, major clean-energy firms showcasing their technology, and diplomats actively shaping climate discussions. Beijing's strong presence positions it as the leading voice in global climate efforts at the summit.

Europe

- The United States and Switzerland announced a framework trade agreement cutting U.S. tariffs on Swiss imports from 39% to 15% and securing a \$200 billion investment pledge from Swiss companies in the U.S. by 2028, aiming to boost bilateral trade and manufacturing.
- Poland reopened two border crossings with Belarus on November 17, which had been closed in September after Russia-led military exercises and drone incursions. The reopening had been delayed earlier to show NATO solidarity with Lithuania amid security concerns.

Middle East

- Lebanon filed a complaint to the U.N. Security Council against Israel over a concrete wall built beyond the Blue Line, making over 4,000 sq meters of Lebanese territory inaccessible, the presidency said.
- The Israeli parliament advanced a bill mandating the death penalty for Palestinian militants convicted of killing Israeli citizens, passing the first vote 39-16. The measure, backed by Far-right Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, aims to deter future attacks and influence prisoner-release deals.

Pakistan

- Pakistan deployed army and paramilitary forces to safeguard Sri Lanka's cricket team following a deadly suicide bombing in Islamabad, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said. The move addressed players' security concerns, with the Sri Lankan president personally urging the team to continue their tour.

United Kingdom

- British Finance Minister Rachel Reeves has decided not to raise income tax in her upcoming November 26 budget, citing an improved fiscal outlook. She had previously considered increasing the rate but has now scrapped those plans, maintaining Labour's pre-election promise.

United States

- Since President Trump took office, the U.S. government hired 50,000 employees, mainly in national security roles, while cutting staff in other federal departments. This reshaping reflects the administration's focus on priority areas and downsizing the broader federal workforce.
- The routine reappointments of the Federal Reserve's 12 regional bank presidents are being closely watched as Trump seeks greater influence over interest rates, potentially challenging the Fed's independence.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- CARICOM's reparations commission will hold talks in the UK from Nov 17-20 to push for action on slavery's enduring impacts, seeking apologies, debt cancellation and compensation, even as European reluctance persists.
- South Africa says it will symbolically hand over the G20 presidency to an "empty chair" after Trump bars US officials from attending over debunked claims of abuses against whites, as Ramaphosa stresses repairing trade ties with Washington.

America

- Canadian pipeline operator Enbridge has approved \$1.4 billion for Mainline and Flanagan South expansions, adding 250,000 bpd of capacity to the U.S. by 2027. The company sees the U.S. Midwest and Gulf Coast as the most logical destinations for Canadian crude exports.
- The U.S. will remove tariffs on certain imports from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, and El Salvador, improving market access and lowering prices for goods like coffee and bananas. The framework agreements are expected to be finalized within two weeks, with more possible by year-end.

Asia Pacific

- Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev proposes a "Community of Central Asia" to boost economic, security, and environmental cooperation among five post-Soviet republics and Azerbaijan. The initiative aims to formalise regional integration amid growing Western and Chinese interest.
- Turkey proposes jointly hosting next year's COP31 climate summit with Australia, but no agreement has been reached yet, leaving the hosting impasse unresolved. Both countries maintain their bids, with negotiations continuing at COP30 in Belem, Brazil.

China

- Taiwan is sending civil defence handbooks to over 9.8 million households, instructing citizens on emergency preparedness and responses to potential Chinese attacks. The initiative highlights the island's determination to strengthen civilian readiness amid rising tensions with Beijing.

Europe

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is visiting France to secure deals on air-defence systems, warplanes, and missiles, aiming to strengthen Ukraine's long-term military capabilities. These agreements are expected to enhance the country's defense readiness amid ongoing Russian aggression.
- Ukraine will import U.S. LNG from Greece via the Balkan pipeline from December to March 2026 to secure winter energy needs after Russian attacks. The deal was signed during President Zelenskiy's visit to Athens.

Middle East

- EU foreign ministers planned to discuss leading the training of 3,000 Palestinian police officers in Gaza, while the full implementation remained uncertain. The proposal also included expanding EU missions supporting Palestinian policing, justice reforms, and border monitoring.
- Saudi Aramco planned to sign U.S. LNG supply deals with Woodside Energy and Commonwealth LNG during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Washington visit. The deals aim to secure up to 4 mtpa of LNG and expand Aramco's U.S. presence in the growing LNG market.

Pakistan

- Pakistan's parliament approved a constitutional amendment expanding the army chief's powers and limiting the Supreme Court's remit, drawing criticism for undermining democracy. The amendment elevates Asim Munir to Chief of Defence Forces with lifetime immunity, while opposition lawmakers protested the swift passage.

United Kingdom

- Britain will reform human rights laws to ease deportations of illegal migrants and make refugee status temporary, with longer waits for permanent settlement. The move, announced by Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood, marks a major asylum policy overhaul.
- Britain's finance minister Rachel Reeves is set to introduce a new levy on high-value homes in her November 26 budget, affecting around 300,000 properties. This move follows her decision not to raise income tax, aiming to meet fiscal targets amid improved forecasts.

United States

- The FAA will end mandated reductions in domestic flights at 40 major U.S. airports, easing limits imposed during the federal shutdown. This move restores normal air traffic operations across the affected airports.

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