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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- CM Chandrababu Naidu directed to set up food processing units and launched the 'Rytanna Mee Kosam' drive to promote improved farming practices. He urged officials to educate farmers on efficient water use, natural farming and technology for better yields.
- Plastic use continues unchecked in Vijayawada as enforcement weakens, with banned carry bags and packaging widely available. Activists say officials target small vendors instead of wholesalers and manufacturers, undermining the ban's effectiveness.

Delhi

- Delhi has introduced a seven-colour bedsheet system in all government hospitals to ensure daily linen changes and boost hygiene accountability, giving patients clear visual assurance of cleanliness each day.
- Delhi approved major housing and rehabilitation projects for EWS communities, speeding up slum-dweller relocation, renovating 2,416 flats in Sawda Ghevra, and upgrading amenities across Dusib colonies under CM Rekha Gupta's directive.
- Delhi government halts all outdoor activities and sports for November–December as AQI stays in the "very poor" range, with some areas turning "severe," prompting CAQM-backed postponements across schools and sports bodies.

Goa

- South Goa election officials reviewed proposals to rationalise polling station layouts to improve accessibility and voter distribution, with further updates expected after the assessment is completed.
- CM Pramod Sawant urged better coordination between departments and music teachers to improve student outcomes, stressing accountability and collaboration to ensure Goa's investment in music education delivers measurable results.

Gujarat

- Only 37 of the 99 promised cement roads in Ahmedabad have been completed in four years, with the old city largely neglected and Khadia ward getting just one road, despite a ₹418-crore plan approved in the 2021–22 budget.

Haryana

- Yamunanagar civic officials were ordered to finish mapping all city roads and upload the data to the 'Mhari Sadak' digital portal, with updated details from all 22 wards due this weekend.
- CM Nayab Singh Saini inspected the Jyotisar Anubhav Kendra and reviewed arrangements for PM's Nov 25 visit, which includes events marking Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th martyrdom anniversary and participation in the International Gita Mahotsav.

Himachal Pradesh

- The Centre has approved ₹137.4 crore to rebuild the monsoon-damaged Mandi–Janjehli road and an additional ₹38.5 crore for a new Beas river bridge in Kullu, aimed at restoring connectivity and supporting recovery in disaster-hit areas.
- The government has cleared 12 rural roads for Nirmand under PMGSY Phase-III as part of a ₹306-crore plan for the Anni region, with the PWD Minister reaffirming continued development while inaugurating the Buddhi Diwali Fair.

Karnataka

- Karnataka announced procurement of 10 lakh tonnes of maize after farmer protests, with the CM urging the Centre to halt imports as excess supply and low MSP enforcement depress prices; officials will also engage distilleries and address green gram issues.
- CM Siddaramaiah dismissed rumours of a leadership change, asserting he will present the next budget and complete his tenure, adding that any cabinet reshuffle will be decided by the party high command. He also rejected superstitions linked to Chamarajanagar and said Congress will retain power in 2028.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The new PPP-model medical colleges will stay under government supervision, with tenders sped up and 50-acre campuses allocated. CM Naidu also pushed rapid rollout of the Sanjeevani project and universal health insurance with strict adherence to state norms.
- CM Chandrababu Naidu set a target of building 17 lakh houses in three years and ordered five lakh house-warmings by Ugadi, directing officials to speed up construction and ensure transparent, beneficiary-focused allotments.

Delhi

- The Delhi government has identified 62 major traffic choke points that significantly add to pollution, with short- and long-term decongestion measures underway across key hotspots citywide.
- Delhi approved ₹201 crore to maintain 210,000 CCTVs, ensuring 24/7 uptime, streamlined data sharing, and a possible shift of some camera control to police as PWD expands the network toward 250,000 units.
- Delhi will launch an annual citywide industry survey covering all organised units to map sectoral changes, with data—collected Sept 2025 to Feb 2026—driving licensing, planning, infrastructure and labour welfare policies.

Goa

- The Goa government confirms the Mhaje Ghar Yojana will remain open only for six months, with applications accepted until April 2, 2026, marking a "first and last chance" for eligible beneficiaries.
- Goa's Babu Gaonkar and Uddesh Majik will represent India at the 2025 UIPM World Championships in South Africa, competing in Laser Run and Triathlon respectively, marking a proud moment for the state's rising sports talent.

Gujarat

- Despite spending ₹548 crore, Ahmedabad's AQI remains around 200 as the opposition alleges funds are diverted to road works and AMC itself uses few EVs. They say poor EV adoption, non-electric waste fleets and slow action show pollution control is not a priority.

Haryana

- A ₹13-crore bridge over the Ghaggar river is 75% complete and expected to be finished in three months, bringing major relief to nearby villages. It will cut the Mussakhera–Mundliyan travel distance from 15 km to just 2.5 km, significantly improving daily connectivity.
- Haryana has over 800 industries polluting water bodies, prompting the NGT to order the pollution board to enforce installation of online effluent monitoring systems in all major violators, with smaller units required to add flow meters and cameras at discharge points.

Himachal Pradesh

- Bilaspur is being developed as a tourism hub, with the Jal Tarang Mahotsav launched near Gobind Sagar Lake and ₹100 crore projects planned in Auhar, along with expanded adventure sports and homestay facilities to boost tourist inflow.
- Shimla Jal Prabhandhan Nigam has approved using ozone technology for the new Sutlej water supply project, aiming to provide cleaner drinking water and reduce the carcinogenic effects of chlorination in the capital.

Karnataka

- Karnataka will host its first international job fair in Bengaluru in January 2026 to place nurses, caretakers, plumbers and other skilled workers abroad, supported by one-year language training, German labs and ethical migration processes modeled on Kerala's system.
- The state will roll out an AI-powered advisory platform by Kharif 2026 to give over one crore farmers region-specific updates and alerts in Kannada, developed with ISRO, KSRSAC and BEL and linked to FRUBIS data.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- CM Mohan Yadav announced in Sagar that wheat will be procured at an MSP of ₹2,600 per quintal from this year and also approved a river project in Banda during his first visit there as Chief Minister.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra, facing a financial crunch partly due to the Ladki Bahin Yojana, has ordered departments to clear or regularise encroachments and lease government land to raise revenue. Urban bodies must apply relevant land-use policies accordingly.
- MahaRERA's new SOP allows sending defaulting builders to jail for up to three months if they fail to pay compensation to homebuyers. The move follows persistent non-payment issues and a Bombay HC directive for time-bound compliance.
- CM Fadnavis commemorated 26/11, honoured NIA chief Sadanand Date and others, and said India must show strength against terrorism, noting past attacks and the nation's tougher stance post-Pahalgam.

Pune

- Pune's Forest Department has installed AI-enabled cameras with sirens and halogen lights in Manjri Wadi to instantly alert villagers when a leopard is detected, aiming to reduce rising leopard-human conflict through faster, automated warnings.
- PMC has launched a citywide survey of 1,942 bulk waste generators mainly housing societies—failing to treat wet waste at source, warning strict action as BWGs are required to process over 20 tonnes daily through onsite methods like composting or biomethanation.
- Pune district admin has announced major traffic diversions from Nov 20–Dec 2 across the Pune-Baramati belt and temporary closures at Sinhagad Fort on select dates to ensure safe roadwork and smooth preparation for the Pune Grand Challenge 2026 cycling event.

Punjab

- With the Punjab Government scrapping the mandatory NOC, residents of unapproved colonies are rushing to PSPCL offices, doubling applications for power connections and enabling thousands, like Parkash Kumar of Sular village, to finally access electricity.
- PSPCL board halts power purchase and sale deals with two private solar firms over high tariffs, questioning 25-year commitments of ₹12,500 crore. Technocrats defend prior approvals, saying signing PSAs before board ratification is standard to secure power.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan has created 85 new Panchayat Samitis across 33 districts, taking the number of Pradhan posts to 450, while eight districts saw no new Samitis and two districts witnessed one Samiti being abolished. The state has also completed reorganization in 40 districts with official notifications issued.

Tamil Nadu

- CM MK Stalin urges PM Modi to review the rejection of Coimbatore and Madurai metro projects, disputing MoHUA's reasons. He cites population criteria inconsistencies, noting Coimbatore crossed 2 million in 2011 and Madurai likely meets it now.
- Tamil Nadu has appointed two RCHS workers in Cheyyar as multi-purpose workers, a day after a TNIE report highlighted over two years' delay. Their salary rises from ₹1,500 to around ₹13,000 per month.

Telangana

- The first phase of the Telangana–North East Connect fest ended with MoUs to boost collaboration in sports, human development, women's empowerment and cinema. Leaders said the festival strengthened cultural ties and reinforced vision of unity the and growth.
- Telangana has issued new rules capping reservations at 50% for sarpanch and ward seats, using the 2024 SEEEPC survey for BC and ward allocations. Women remain a separate category, with reservations rotated to avoid repeating women-reserved panchayats.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP has begun a phased ban on auto-rickshaws in NCR districts, with diesel autos already barred in Noida, Ghaziabad and full phase-outs planned across five more districts by next year. The state will prioritise road-dust control and monitoring through a new project unit.
- CM Yogi ordered a statewide crackdown on illegal immigrants and directed all districts to set up temporary detention centres for verification and deportation. He said law and order and national security are top priorities, and no unlawful presence will be allowed in UP.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- MP will see relief from the cold wave for the next five days, though dense morning fog will persist, prompting a safety advisory for commuters. The Meteorological Department has also issued health and crop-related precautions amid the continued fog conditions.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra's CET Cell announced that 2026–27 entrance exams will begin on March 24, with a second round of CETs introduced for engineering, pharmacy, and MBA courses for the first time.
- Central Railway will operate six mega blocks across Main, Harbour and Trans-Harbour lines for infrastructure upgrades, causing delays, cancellations and diversions of suburban and long-distance trains.
- MBMC has asked the state to denotify 14 hectares of encroached mangrove land to build amenities for 50,000 slum-dwellers, a move drawing controversy as it comes just before municipal elections.

Pune

- PMC is considering stopping building permissions given on water affidavits as many developers have failed to honour their commitments, a move discussed in a high-level meeting where residents highlighted severe water shortages and reliance on private tankers.
- PMC has issued tenders for a long-delayed pay-and-park system on six major roads, aiming to organize parking for 6,962 vehicles and generate around ₹12 crore while easing traffic congestion.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has directed NHAI to implement urgent safety measures on the accident-prone Navale bridge after a recent crash claimed eight lives, following a report by Pune MP Murlidhar Mohol.

Punjab

- The Centre's 131st Constitution Amendment Bill-2025 may let the President appoint a Lieutenant Governor to directly administer Chandigarh, sparking opposition from Punjab leaders who fear it undermines the state's claim.
- Government launches FastTrack Portal to grant green-category industrial unit approvals in five days, and brownfield expansions within 18 days. The move includes a single digital gateway, fiscal incentives, and strict timelines for officials to ensure timely clearances.

Rajasthan

- Jhunjhunu will launch a 30-day "Consumer's Voice Nyayotsav," where one lakh consumers will take an online oath as part of a major drive to raise awareness about consumer rights. The campaign, led by the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, begins Monday with multiple awareness programmes.

Tamil Nadu

- CM MK Stalin will inaugurate the world-class Semmozhi Poonga in Coimbatore on November 25, fulfilling former CM M Karunanidhi's 2010 promise. The park, built at a cost of ₹208.5 crore, features advanced facilities for Tamil language and cultural promotion.
- Chennai inches closer to its bullet train as the Hyderabad-Chennai high-speed rail DPR is finalised, with stations at Chennai Central, Minjur, and Tirupati. The project also seeks 50 acres per station for transit-oriented commercial and mobility hubs.

Telangana

- Telangana is preparing for the Rising Global Summit on Dec 8–9, with CM Revanth Reddy directing officials to create a grand venue showcasing two years of governance. The event will also unveil the Telangana Rising 2047 Vision Document and key investment plans.
- Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has revised estimates for key projects, directing officials to prioritise works based on expedite clearances. He also assessed updates on Sammakka-Sarakka and pending Union approvals for major irrigation schemes.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP will launch a special polio drive from December 14 across 33 districts, focusing on children of migrant labourers and other sensitive groups. Training, task force meetings and awareness activities are scheduled through November–December to ensure effectiveness.
- UP plans to amend the Stamp Act to bring corporate mergers and demergers under the stamp duty net, a move expected to generate about ₹2,000 crore annually. A Cabinet note is ready, and the bill is likely to be introduced in the upcoming winter assembly session.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- Zambia welcomes S&P's upgrade that lifts the country out of default status, signalling economic recovery after years of debt restructuring. The government says the rating boost reflects restored credibility and commits to fiscal discipline and expanded energy access.
- Barrick Mining and Mali have reached a verbal agreement in principle to resolve their dispute over the Loulo-Gounkoto gold complex, with talks covering licence renewal, employee releases, and dropped arbitration, though no deal is signed yet.

America

- Brazil's Embrapa has received Anvisa's approval to research cannabis, including building a seed bank and improving plant genetics. The move signals progress toward eventual authorised cannabis cultivation in the country.
- Cuba's crude and fuel imports have dropped by over a third this year as Venezuela and Mexico cut supplies, worsening the island's ability to reduce daily power outages. The shortfalls are keeping widespread power cuts in place.

Asia Pacific

- Floods and landslides in central Vietnam have killed 55 people and left 13 missing after rainfall topped 1,900 mm, causing major damage to homes and crops. Economic losses are estimated at 8.98 trillion dong (\$341 million).
- Australia and Turkey have finalised a deal for Turkey to host COP31 in 2026, with Australia leading negotiations and representing Pacific interests. The compromise resolves a long standoff and includes a Pacific pre-COP meeting highlighting climate threats to island nations.

China

- The U.S. and China held "frank and constructive" maritime security talks in Hawaii, focusing on air and naval safety as military communications slowly resume. China criticised U.S. freedom-of-navigation operations, while both sides reviewed encounters to improve safe interactions.

Europe

- The COP30 summit in Brazil remains deadlocked after the EU rejected a draft deal, arguing it falls short of advancing global efforts to cut greenhouse-gas emissions. The impasse leaves the final outcome uncertain.
- U.S., Ukrainian and European officials meet in Geneva to discuss a U.S.-backed peace plan that asks Ukraine to cede territory, limit its military and drop NATO ambitions, with European leaders seeking a more acceptable deal before Trump's Thursday deadline.

Middle East

- The UAE launched its "AI for Development" initiative at the G20 summit to expand AI use in key sectors while promoting responsible innovation. With rising investments in Africa and major data-centre plans, it positions AI as a driver of global economic growth.
- A Hamas delegation met in Cairo with mediators to discuss Israel's alleged ceasefire violations in Gaza, amid ongoing tensions and recent Israeli airstrikes. Egypt, Qatar, and the U.S. continue efforts to maintain the ceasefire agreed last month.

Pakistan

- Pakistan approved a new offshore consortium with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company to operate Block-C, while PPL keeps a 35% stake. The move aims to enhance drilling capacity, technical expertise, and attract foreign investment.

United Kingdom

- Britain unveiled a critical minerals strategy to source 10% domestically and 20% from recycling by 2035, backed by £50 million funding. The plan aims to reduce reliance on single-country supplies and boost production of lithium, nickel, tungsten, and rare earths.

United States

- The U.S. says Trump's designation of a cartel linked to Venezuela's Maduro as a foreign terrorist group gives the Pentagon expanded options to target it. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth says the move broadens military tools available for future operations.
- A U.S. appeals court blocked the Trump administration from expanding fast-track deportations nationwide, citing due process risks for migrants. The ruling largely upholds a lower-court decision while part of the order on assessing credible fear remains stayed.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- South Africa's trade minister says talks with the U.S. are expected to continue despite G20-related tensions and Washington's objections at the summit. The negotiations remain strained by Trump's tariff hike and political accusations, which threaten jobs in an already weak economy.
- U.S. is preparing a plan including sanctions and Pentagon counterterrorism support to pressure Nigeria to better protect Christian communities and uphold religious freedom. This follows Trump's renewed scrutiny of Nigeria, adding it to a violations list and threatening rapid military action.

America

- U.S. is preparing a new phase of operations against Venezuela, likely starting with covert actions, as Trump seeks to escalate pressure on President Maduro. Officials say options include attempts to overthrow Maduro, amid military deployments and rising tensions.
- Canada's PM Mark Carney plans to speak with Ukraine's President Zelenskiy as Western security advisers review the U.S. 28-point peace plan. Carney says leaders see it as a workable basis and will relay consolidated feedback to Washington.

Asia Pacific

- Niigata's governor has approved a partial restart of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant, clearing the final hurdle for TEPCO to revive its two largest reactors. The move marks a major step for Japan's energy security as it seeks to cut costly fossil fuel imports and expand nuclear capacity.
- India says air cargo links with Afghanistan will start soon as both sides move to boost trade, with Kabul reopening freight corridors to Delhi and Amritsar amid Pakistan's airspace closure. New Delhi has completed its formalities and now awaits Afghan paperwork to begin flights.

China

- China says it is ready to work with South Africa to protect the multilateral trading system and push for zero-tariff access for South African goods. Premier Li Qiang conveyed this during his meeting with President Ramaphosa at the G20 summit in Johannesburg.
- China will expand imports of Tajik agricultural goods and encourage investment in the country, reaffirming strong bilateral ties. Wang Yi also thanked Tajikistan for backing China's core interests and warned against foreign interference in Taiwan.

Europe

- Ukraine will hold high-level talks with the U.S. in Switzerland to discuss possible parameters for a future peace agreement with Russia. President Zelenskiy emphasized that any deal must safeguard Ukraine's security, dignity, and freedom.

Middle East

- Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich will present PM Netanyahu with the 2026 state budget and proposed reforms, aiming to boost growth and address living costs. Approval faces hurdles, with a cabinet vote set for Dec. 4 and parliament required to pass it by March to avoid new elections.
- The UAE will invest up to \$50 billion in Canada across AI, energy, and mining projects, supported by its XRG investment arm and tech firm G42. The framework was signed during Canadian PM Mark Carney's visit to Abu Dhabi.

Pakistan

- Pakistan's rooftop solar output is set to surpass grid demand in major industrial hubs next year, lowering emissions and power bills. This surge challenges utilities' finances and pushes the country to reform tariffs and LNG contracts to balance supply and costs.

United Kingdom

- Finance minister Rachel Reeves will freeze rail fares in Wednesday's budget, offering relief to commuters as taxes are expected to rise. The first freeze in 30 years aims to curb inflation and cut travel costs across season tickets and major routes.
- Britain plans a £1.5 billion EV push — including £1.3 billion for purchase grants and £200 million for charging points — to meet its 2030 fuel-car phase-out goal, though Conservatives criticise it as costly and tone-deaf.

United States

- The Trump administration plans to target New Orleans next in its city-to-city immigration crackdown, with Border Patrol agents expected soon. This follows similar operations in major U.S. cities, drawing criticism for aggressive tactics.

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