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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu approved 26 major projects worth ₹1.01 lakh crore at the State Investment Promotion Board meeting, expected to generate over 85,000 jobs and boost cluster-based industrial growth across the State.
- AP has scrapped tenders for the Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project DPR and is now considering using Polavaram as the offtake point for the Godavari–Cauvery interlink, a move that may face resistance from Telangana and require NWDA approval.

Delhi

- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced new staggered office timings from November 15 to February 15 to ease traffic and curb pollution, with Delhi government offices to operate from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm and MCD offices from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
- Delhi has unveiled its first Cold Wave Action Plan 2025–26 to tackle an expected harsher winter under La Niña, coordinating health, shelter, and emergency services to protect vulnerable residents from severe cold conditions.
- The MCD has launched a new school web app enabling parents to monitor their children's attendance and progress online, initially rolled out in 15 schools through the civic body's official website.

Goa

- Goa's Art & Culture Department has directed all major cultural centres to play the short version of 'Vande Mataram' before every event till November 2026, aiming to promote national pride and cultural unity across state-supported programmes.
- CM Pramod Sawant inaugurated six new fire brigades across Valpoi, Bicholim, Pernem, Mapusa, Old Goa, and Panjim to boost emergency response, reduce reaction time, and enhance statewide fire safety infrastructure.

Gujarat

- The Amdavad Municipal Corporation received 2,607 citizen suggestions for its 2026-27 budget, with roads, walkways, and drainage emerging as top priorities, followed by water supply, lighting, sanitation, and green spaces.

Haryana

- At the Urban Mobility India Conference in Gurugram, CM Nayab Singh Saini said Haryana had prioritised sustainable and transit-oriented development, expanding metro, RRTS, and e-transport networks to promote greener, connected urban growth.
- Haryana Revenue Minister Vipul Goel said all registry offices were functioning smoothly under the new paperless system launched on November 1, which was operating efficiently to ensure transparent, time-bound property registrations across the state.

Himachal Pradesh

- Delayed fund releases have left roads in Himachal's Arki segment in dangerous condition, with damaged stretches and deep potholes worsening post-monsoon; officials warn repairs may stall further as temperatures drop.
- Himachal Pradesh launched a statewide campaign to combat the rising 'chitta' menace, with CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announcing a massive anti-drug rally on November 15 in Shimla amid growing addiction and overdose cases among the youth

Karnataka

- Belagavi sugarcane farmers ended their nine-day protest after the Karnataka government revised the cane price to Rs 3,300 per tonne, following talks with CM Siddaramaiah, sparking celebrations despite earlier clashes between police and protesters.
- Karnataka has earmarked over 300 acres of land for Japanese companies to establish bases, with officials highlighting Bengaluru's strong IT ecosystem and Tumakuru's Japanese Industrial Township as key enablers for expanding India-Japan business ties.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Premier Energies will invest ₹5,942 crore to build a fully integrated solar manufacturing plant at Naidupeta Industrial Park in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh, showcasing the State's investor-friendly approach and rapid execution under Minister Nara Lokesh's leadership.
- Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu vowed to finish the Veligonda irrigation project by 2026, citing CM Naidu's directives for rapid progress while accusing the previous YSRCP regime of stalling work and neglecting Prakasam's farmers.

Delhi

- NHAI has begun a road widening project at Subroto Park to decongest the Dhauila Kuan–Airport stretch, adding lanes, improving drainage, and building a new foot overbridge to enhance commuter and pedestrian safety.
- Delhi will soon roll out a revamped TOD policy connecting metro stations with high-footfall areas via elevated walkways and subways to improve first- and last-mile connectivity, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced at the UMI 2025.
- The government has set strict timelines and accountability measures for citywide cleaning drives, directing officials to upload before-and-after photos of garbage-vulnerable points, with senior officers monitoring progress to ensure cleanliness benchmarks are met.

Goa

- The South Goa Collector has mandated strict tenant verification and enhanced security at ATMs, hotels, and lodgings, requiring landlords and establishments to submit occupant details to local police and banks to ensure 24x7 surveillance and security compliance.
- Goa has extended the Fire NOC validity from one year to five years, requiring annual self-declarations from building owners while retaining inspection rights to ensure compliance with fire safety norms.

Gujarat

- Gujarat government announced a ₹10,000 crore relief package for farmers hit by unseasonal rains, with CM Bhupendra Patel confirming additional crop purchases worth ₹15,000 crore at MSP from November 9 to aid affected cultivators.

Haryana

- The Ministry of External Affairs will promote the International Gita Mahotsav 2025 globally by organising events in 51 countries, bringing scholars from 16 nations, and setting up international cultural exhibitions in Kurukshetra from November 24 to December 1.
- The Yamunanagar-Jagadhri Municipal Corporation announced ₹1.24 crore worth of development works, including new streets, stormwater lines, and public toilets, with construction to begin soon after tenders are allotted.

Himachal Pradesh

- NHAI proposed a ₹5,621 crore upgrade of the Kullu-Manali left bank road into a four-lane highway with twin-tube tunnels to ensure safer, disaster-resilient connectivity; construction was expected to start next year and finish by 2029.
- Mandi district announced free LPG connections for eligible women under PM Ujjwala Yojana 3.0, aiming to provide clean cooking fuel and improve health outcomes, with strict verification and home inspections to ensure benefits reach genuine households.

Karnataka

- Karnataka approved its Startup Policy 2025-2030 to create 25,000 ventures, including 10,000 outside Bengaluru, with ₹518 crore funding to expand innovation through incubation centres, R&D hubs, and startup support across the state.
- Karnataka Wildlife Board approved NHAI's 100-km Kushalanagar–Mysuru highway project and PWD's Sharavathi road widening, with proposals now sent to the National Wildlife Board for final clearance.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Cold winds sweeping Madhya Pradesh triggered a 2-day cold wave, with temperatures dipping below 10°C in several cities; Rajgarh recorded 7.4°C while Bhopal and Indore saw sharp temperature drops, prompting an alert in nine districts.
- Gwalior Municipal Corporation has implemented a new monthly water billing system, imposing a ₹15 penalty each month regardless of whether the bill is received, as consumers were unaware of the change due to poor publicity.

Mumbai

- The BMC has decided to relocate 36 Dadar fish vendors to the Airoli Toll Plaza in Mulund to ease traffic on Senapati Bapat Marg, but the fisherfolk have vowed to oppose the move, calling it inconvenient and unfair.
- The government ordered a probe into alleged mangrove buffer violations by Rustomjee Group's Majiwada housing project, forming a five-member panel led by Konkan divisional commissioner Vijay Suryawanshi to report within two months.
- The government has formed a committee under MMRDA to explore merging all metro lines in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region under one authority, with a report due in three months after studying global models like London's TfL and Singapore's LTA.

Pune

- MSEDCL has intensified its bill recovery drive in Pune to recover ₹436 crore in dues from over 8 lakh non-agricultural defaulters after a festive slowdown, warning consumers of disconnection if payments are not cleared.
- PMC becomes Maharashtra's first civic body to implant RFID microchips in stray dogs for identification and tracking, launching a pilot phase to tag 600 canines under its Animal Birth Control programme at the Katraj centre.
- PCMC intensified its crackdown on banned plastics by deploying inspection squads across the city to enforce the state's single-use plastic ban, imposing fines on violators and urging citizens to switch to eco-friendly alternatives.

Punjab

- Punjab reported 351 new farm fire incidents, the second-highest this season, bringing the total to 3,284 cases, with 68% occurring in the past nine days, even as CAQM chief Rajesh Verma reviewed stubble management efforts.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan's Teacher Recruitment 2025 faces backlash as only 7,759 posts are announced—an 84% drop from last year—with no vacancies for Level 2 or Special Education despite 10,000 positions lying vacant statewide.

Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan clarified that Governor RN Ravi had approved 81% of Bills, with 95% cleared within three months, while 10 were sent to the President for being contrary to UGC rules, dismissing claims of delay.
- E-bus drivers in Puducherry went on strike demanding higher pay, alleging they received ₹17,000 instead of the promised ₹21,000; services resumed after officials assured to review wages.

Telangana

- Telangana government releases ₹600 crore for fee reimbursement after talks with private college body FATHI, ending their strike. Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the remaining dues will be cleared soon, and a new committee will review the reimbursements.
- The National Green Tribunal ordered an immediate stop to fresh waste dumping at Hyderabad's Jawaharnagar site, permitting only legacy waste processing, as GHMC prepares to appeal while IIT Bombay and CPCB devise a long-term solution.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP leaders are using the Bihar elections to showcase their governance and attack rivals ahead of the 2027 polls, with CM Yogi Adityanath highlighting his government's anti-mafia actions and Ram temple achievements while criticising SP and Congress.
- PM Narendra Modi flags off four new Vande Bharat Express trains connecting Varanasi–Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Ernakulam–Bengaluru, taking the total to over 160 nationwide and boosting regional connectivity and tourism.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- Indore Metro's central section is set for a route redesign, likely extending its underground stretch to 12 km, as work advances rapidly with plans to start operations from Gandhi Nagar to Radisson Square by January 2026.
- In preparation for Simhastha 2028, Ujjain Smart City has begun showcasing modular toilet models at the Kartik Mela, with six national companies installing 36 prototypes to improve the city's sanitation infrastructure.

Mumbai

- The BMC will appoint a consultant to expedite land acquisition for the 27km north Coastal Road project and its connecting bridges, aiming to complete the process within three months as it awaits Bombay High Court's environmental clearance on November 19.
- Terminal 1A of Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, shut since 2016, will soon be demolished after receiving MMRDA's nod. The move aims to repurpose the cleared space for airport expansion and infrastructure upgrades.
- The BMC announced that the reservation lottery for the 2025 civic elections will be held on November 11, with the draft list released on November 14 for public feedback until November 20 before issuing the final notification.

Pune

- PMC will revise pay scales for NUHM doctors and staff to address a shortage of 131 posts, aiming to offer competitive salaries and improve retention, with proposals to raise medical officers' current ₹60,000 monthly pay under review.
- Pune Metro decided to appoint a consultant to prepare a feeder bus enhancement plan aimed at improving last-mile connectivity, as only 30% of passengers currently use PMPML feeder buses operating on various metro routes across the city.
- MSRDC sought planning control of 74 additional villages along the Pune Ring Road to ensure integrated development, after already being designated as the planning authority for 117 villages where the development plan work is underway.

Punjab

- Punjab's Rural and Panchayat Department directed officials to clear the pending honorarium of over 3,000 sarpanches, due since 2013, by November 12 following a High Court directive, with payments to come from panchayat or district funds.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan amends its 2012 Urban Areas Rules, now mandating that permissions for converting agricultural land to non-agricultural use in 21 cities be granted within 30 days to attract and ease investment processes.

Tamil Nadu

- TNPDC floated ₹7.5 crore tenders to build new substations in Musiri and Thuraiyur and upgrade the Melakothampatty unit to boost voltage stability and meet rising rural power demand.
- TNPDC signed 11 power purchase deals to procure 1,580MW of electricity, with Vedanta securing the largest 500MW share under a five-year agreement at ₹5.38 per unit starting February 2026.

Telangana

- Telangana Agriculture Minister Thummala Nageswara Rao has urged the Centre and both Telugu state CMs to merge five Andhra villages near Bhadrachalam into Telangana, citing administrative ease, tribal welfare, and temple management issues.
- AP cancels tenders for the Polavaram–Banakacherla Link Project DPR and plans to divert Godavari waters from Polavaram for the Godavari–Cauvery interlink, proposing a new reservoir at Gollapalli while awaiting Telangana's response and NWDA's approval.

Uttar Pradesh

- RLD will hold its national convention in Mathura on November 16 with over 2,000 delegates to elect a president and discuss strategies on farmers' welfare, youth engagement, and upcoming elections, marking a key step in strengthening the party's base.
- Agra will soon get a ₹39.62 crore science park and planetarium near Kothi Meena Bazar, to be completed in 18 months, enhancing science education and tourism with advanced exhibits on AI, robotics, and India's scientific heritage.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- The Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda have signed an economic pact in Washington to support U.S. President Donald Trump's peace initiative and attract Western investment, with technical teams finalizing the Regional Economic Integration Framework.
- Afreximbank has approved a \$1.3 billion loan to fund a \$2 billion ammonia and urea fertiliser plant in Angola's Soyo region, a joint venture between Sonagas and OPAIA Group, expected to be completed by 2027 and produce 4,000 tons daily.

America

- Brazilian authorities are probing a threat to the COP30 host city's power substation, possibly linked to the gang targeted in last week's deadly Rio raid, heightening security concerns before the UN climate summit.
- Venezuelan bonds surge over 80% this year, driven by U.S. pressure on President Maduro and hopes of regime change, though investors remain cautious about the rally's sustainability amid ongoing political uncertainty.

Asia Pacific

- A wildfire in New Zealand's Tongariro National Park has burned 1,100 hectares, prompting deployment of helicopters, planes, and ground crews, while hikers were airlifted to safety. Authorities continue firefighting operations with aerial reconnaissance to assess the blaze.
- South Korea condemned North Korea's missile launch into the sea off its east coast, urging Pyongyang to halt actions that escalate inter-Korean tensions. The launch coincided with U.S.-South Korea joint drills, which North Korea criticized.

China

- China commissioned its third aircraft carrier, Fujian, with advanced catapults and heavier jet capacity, boosting naval power. Analysts note full operational readiness will take time as integration with support ships and submarines continues.

Europe

- France's Foreign Ministry urged its nationals to leave Mali immediately via commercial flights, warning against land travel as major routes have come under terrorist attacks, reiterating its advisory against all travel to the country.
- France, Britain, Norway, Germany, and Belgium have pledged \$2.5 billion to a new conservation plan to protect the Congo rainforest, unveiled at the U.N. climate summit in Brazil, aligning with global efforts to curb deforestation ahead of COP30.

Middle East

- Saudi Arabia is expanding mid- and upper-mid-range tourism and boosting hotel access for religious pilgrimages, moving beyond its earlier focus on luxury resorts, Tourism Minister AIKhateeb said.
- The US and Britain lifted sanctions on Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, following the UN Security Council's move, ahead of his upcoming meeting with President Trump, with the EU expected to follow suit.

Pakistan

- Peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan collapsed as Islamabad demanded Afghanistan take responsibility for Pakistan's internal security, a move Kabul deemed beyond its capacity. Despite this, a ceasefire remains in effect along their shared border.

United Kingdom

- London's police chief Mark Rowley called for cultural reforms after a report exposed systemic racism in the Met, affecting Black staff and the public. The review highlighted biased practices in leadership and systems, urging urgent change for fairness and justice.

United States

- President Trump emphasized critical minerals as a U.S. priority while hosting Central Asian leaders, aiming to expand supply chains and reduce reliance on Russia and China. Uzbekistan also pledged over \$100 billion in investments in U.S. sectors, including minerals, automotive, and aviation.
- U.S. flights face severe cuts ahead of Thanksgiving due to a 40-day federal shutdown causing air traffic controller shortages, with daily reductions set to rise from 4% to 10%. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned millions of travelers may struggle to fly if the shutdown persists.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Sudan's Rapid Support Forces agreed to a U.S.- and Arab-backed proposal for a humanitarian ceasefire and expressed readiness for talks on ending hostilities, days after seizing al-Fashir in Darfur, while the Sudanese army has yet to respond to the offer.
- The IMF says talks with Senegal will continue in the coming weeks to finalise a new lending programme after the previous one was frozen when hidden debts exceeding \$11 billion were uncovered by the new government.

America

- Switzerland is negotiating a trade deal with the U.S. to lower tariffs and attract American investment in sectors like pharmaceuticals, aircraft, and precious metals, while also monitoring talks with Mexico and Central America to strengthen its trade footprint in the Western Hemisphere.
- A group of countries is pushing the WTO to extend the moratorium on customs duties for digital goods, aiming to maintain free cross-border e-commerce. The move seeks to support global digital trade growth and prevent new tariffs on online transmissions.

Asia Pacific

- Turkey's top foreign, defence, and intelligence officials will visit Pakistan this week to advance stalled talks with Afghanistan, aiming to secure a lasting ceasefire, President Erdogan said. The trip seeks to formalize peace and stability in the South Asian region.
- North Korea's defence minister threatened "more offensive action" following a ballistic missile test, condemning U.S.-South Korea security talks and a U.S. aircraft carrier visit. South Korea and the U.S. criticized the launch, citing its destabilizing impact on the region.

China

- China's Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang urged removing trade barriers to boost the global energy transition and promote green technology, calling for multilateral cooperation. He stressed that developed countries must lead emission reductions and fulfill funding commitments.
- China is designing a new rare earth licensing system to streamline exports, but industry insiders say it won't fully lift restrictions as Washington hoped. The move follows a pause on October curbs, though broader controls from April remain in place.

Europe

- Denmark will ban social media use for children under 15, though parents can allow access for those aged 13-14. The move aims to protect youth mental health, following PM Frederiksen's call for stricter restrictions.

Middle East

- Egypt and Qatar have signed a deal to develop a \$29.7 billion luxury real estate and tourism project on the Mediterranean coast, with Qatar investing \$3.5 billion in December and Egypt set to receive \$1.8 billion in housing units and 15% of the project's profits.
- Abu Dhabi's ADNOC trading unit aims to expand globally, planning to increase its oil trading volume by two-thirds over the next few years. This move is part of the company's strategy to strengthen its international presence.

Pakistan

- Pakistan's defence minister stated that peace talks with Afghanistan in Istanbul have failed, but Islamabad remains committed to maintaining the ceasefire, provided Afghan territory is not used for attacks, emphasizing Pakistan's stance on border security and stability in the region.

United Kingdom

- The UK is sending defence experts and equipment to Belgium to tackle disruptive drone sightings that have temporarily closed airports, aiming to enhance airspace security. This deployment underscores rising European concerns over drone threats to critical infrastructure.
- UK Finance Minister Rachel Reeves plans to raise personal taxes as part of her November 26 budget to meet fiscal targets, potentially generating tens of billions of pounds. The move aims to reassure bond investors and maintain the country's fiscal discipline.

United States

- The U.S. Army plans to acquire over a million drones in the next 2-3 years, treating them as expendable ammunition. This expansion aims to boost domestic production of critical components like motors, sensors, and batteries for future conflicts.

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