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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- AP has introduced Magic Drains in rural areas as a pilot project to let wastewater seep directly into the ground, reducing stagnation and mosquito breeding. Officials are assessing before expanding the system to improve sanitation and boost groundwater recharge.
- The cabinet has approved the second phase of land pooling, allowing APCRDA to acquire about 16,600 acres across seven Amaravati-region villages, with the move aimed at advancing capital city development after already securing 34,000 acres in phase one.

Delhi

- DDA has launched a ₹1.2-crore, year-long bioremediation project to clean Bhalswa Lake, focusing on daily water treatment, waste removal, and monthly quality tests to improve sanitation near the landfill.
- PWD has launched a structural audit of key South Delhi flyovers on the Outer Ring Road, with six months of analysis to be followed by repair and rehabilitation work to address ageing infrastructure.
- Delhi CM Rekha Gupta pledged ₹2,500 monthly aid for eligible women and subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹500 under the Mahila Samridhi Yojana, while promising continued welfare and housing initiatives for slum residents.

Goa

- Panjim's air quality has worsened, with AQI nearing 200, raising health concerns as residents and advocates call for urgent action against rising pollution and unregulated construction.
- The Electricity Department had directed consumers to shift meters to accessible locations by November 28, 2025, for accurate billing and maintenance, warning of possible disconnections. Most complied, while around 15% are yet to relocate.

Gujarat

- AMC shuts Bhadra area for street vendors and offers two alternative plots, but 844 registered hawkers protest, saying the new locations lack footfall and threaten their livelihood, escalating the standoff.
- COPD cases in Gujarat have risen by 30% amid surging pollution, with winter worsening risks for respiratory patients. Doctors urge early Pulmonary Function Tests to manage the disease and prevent severe lung damage.

Haryana

- Haryana Revenue Department introduces a FIFO system for property registries and direct Jamabandi access, ensuring time-bound processing, real-time land records, and greater transparency for citizens.
- Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goel releases Rs 9.23 crore arrears for sanitation workers, highlighting the state's commitment to their welfare and dignity during Safai Mitra Samman and Constitution Day celebrations.

Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Sukhu reaffirmed Kangra as the state's "tourism capital" and outlined new welfare and infrastructure initiatives, announcing grants, road upgrades and the Rs 460-crore airport expansion to boost connectivity, tourism and local livelihoods.
- MLA Vipin Parmar has urged the government to prioritise the Holi-Uttrala road by adding it to the IDR network, saying it would cut the Manimahesh route from 350 km to 71 km while boosting tourism, connectivity and socio-economic growth for remote tribal regions.

Karnataka

- Karnataka inaugurates its first Doppler Weather Radar in Mangaluru, a dual-polarised C-Band system covering 250 km to improve nowcasting and disaster preparedness across coastal Karnataka and neighbouring regions.
- Karnataka releases an additional ₹1,033.6 crore input subsidy for 14.24 lakh rain-hit farmers, doubling per-hectare support across crop categories while seeking further central assistance for losses in nine affected districts.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh has invited fresh bids to prepare a DPR for the Polavaram–Nallamala Sagar Link Project, aiming to divert 200 tmcft of Godavari floodwater to drought-prone regions, with tenders open until December 17.
- AP Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav announced that BERA testing facilities for hearing-impaired persons will soon be introduced in 63 government hospitals, with ₹15.11 crore allocated to procure the equipment and ease access beyond teaching hospitals.

Delhi

- Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announced mega camps to help residents reclaim unclaimed funds, urging people to recover long-forgotten bank deposits, insurance dues and investments as part of the "Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikaar" drive.
- DDA will start a pilot linking treated wastewater from the Vasant Kunj STP to the dry Rangpuri waterbody under Delhi's new drainage master plan, using pipelines to revive the pond and boost groundwater recharge.
- The Centre has directed NCR states to draft a unified five-year greening strategy, with forest chiefs mapping forests and degraded land to boost plantation efforts and expand green cover in the fight against air pollution.

Goa

- Goa's Zilla Panchayat elections are scheduled for December 20, with 8.68 lakh voters eligible, and the Model Code of Conduct is now in force as nomination and scrutiny dates were announced.
- The High Court has ordered the state government to complete 2025–26 postgraduate medical admissions without altering the existing reservation policy, ensuring continuity and adherence to the current framework.

Gujarat

- Vastrapur Lake in Ahmedabad has been redeveloped at over ₹10 crore and will reopen with a ₹10 entry fee from Jan 1, 2026, while remaining free for visitors between 6 am and 10 am.
- A Swiss expert is assessing Ahmedabad's sports venues, including Gujarat University Sports Complex and TransStadia Stadium, for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, focusing on infrastructure and sustainability. The review will determine upgrades needed and plan for long-term legacy.

Haryana

- The MCYJ launches a drive to catch stray dogs in Yamunanagar–Jagadhri, shifting aggressive animals to shelters while ensuring vaccination and sterilisation. Nodal officers and a helpline are set up to clear public and private spaces efficiently.
- The SC issues notices to the Centre and Haryana on a petition seeking a probe into allegations that women sanitation workers at MDU were asked to prove they were menstruating, with the SC calling it a serious violation and seeking responses by Dec 15.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal is set to see light snowfall on December 4–5 after a dry spell, with the Met Department predicting dry weather until December 3 and a dip of 2°C–5°C in minimum temperatures as higher hills receive snow and rain while plains stay dry.
- HP is raising a Rs 350-crore loan to handle expenses as shrinking grants, monsoon damage and exhausted borrowing limits deepen its fiscal crisis. With debt crossing Rs 1 lakh crore, the state now relies on Central approval and Finance Commission support to manage cash flow.

Karnataka

- CM Siddaramaiah urges PM Modi to intervene as maize and green gram prices crash far below MSP in Karnataka, warning that a 32-lakh-MT maize surplus and falling market rates are pushing lakhs of farmers toward distress sales.
- Karnataka ministers will attend the CAPITALHQ INDIA 2025 launch on December 2 in Bengaluru, bringing together 300+ global investors and leaders. The forum aims to boost cross-border investments and accelerate growth in tech, AI, climate and other key sectors.



INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- NHAI has introduced a unique safety measure in the 12-km danger zone of Nauradehi Sanctuary by adding red markings every 2 km on the Jabalpur–Bhopal highway to reduce wildlife collisions and enhance traveler safety.

Mumbai

- The BMC has implemented GRAP-4 in Mumbai's most-polluted areas, including Mazgaon, Malad, and Deonar, as air quality steadily deteriorates with AQI readings hitting "poor" to "very poor" levels.
- The Maharashtra government has taken over three stalled Byculla redevelopment projects, directing MHADA to complete construction and initiate action against defaulting builders who left tenants unpaid and unresolved for years.
- Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai becomes the first in India to receive JCI's Certificate of Distinction in Healthcare Sustainability, recognized for eco-friendly practices like low-emission anaesthetic gases and low-carbon inhalers.

Pune

- MSRTC is deploying wardens and security guards at key Pune city-exit bus stops to enhance safety for late-night travelers, especially women. This move addresses concerns over poor lighting and isolated, deserted areas at night.
- The Supreme Court-mandated survey of reserve forest land is delayed by municipal elections and frequent leopard sightings, with 60–70% completed. Officials warn further delays but aim to finish within deadlines.
- NHAI has cut black spots on major Pune-region highways from 22 to 18 after engineering upgrades and safety interventions. Key improvements on NH-48, NH-965, and Nashik Phata–Khed include redesigned junctions, crash barriers, and better signages.

Punjab

- Punjab Cabinet approves the Societies Registration (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2025, enforcing RTI coverage, five-year renewal, stricter oversight, and barring unauthorized property transactions while ensuring timely elections for managing committees.
- CM Bhagwant Mann launched the "Easy Registry" initiative, allowing citizens to draft sale deeds online or via Sewa Kendras for Rs 500, simplifying property registration across the state.

Rajasthan

- The Election Commission has extended key deadlines for the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls, pushing counting to December 11. The final voter list will now be published on February 14, 2026, giving citizens and officials extra time to complete updates.
- Jhalawar district has started the process to allot 11 new ration shops across five tehsils, inviting applications from eligible candidates until December 12. Officials said RSCIT qualification is mandatory for applicants as part of the selection criteria.

Tamil Nadu

- Following Cyclone Ditwah warnings, CM MK Stalin has deployed 16 SDRF and 12 NDRF teams across 14 districts, with additional forces on standby and public urged to follow safety advisories.
- Tiruchy airport runway expansion clears BCAS approval for a 9.6 km, Rs 25 crore boundary wall, with AAI set to float the tender soon; 96% of the 512.5-acre land has been acquired, and a culvert will allow water passage.

Telangana

- The Forum for Good Governance has urged CM Revanth Reddy to fill 1,302 vacant posts in 25 newly built TVVP hospitals in Telangana, warning that only 111 staff are in place against the 1,413 required, leaving facilities idle and deteriorating.
- Telangana High Court allows Panchayat elections to proceed, refusing to stay BC reservation provisions, and adjourns the challenge to GO.Ms.No.46 for eight weeks for government response.

Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to hike land acquisition rates in Noida and Greater Noida, potentially raising them to ₹9,000 and ₹7,000 per sqm respectively, addressing farmer protests over outdated compensation.
- UP authorities in Sambhal have begun excavating a well where Ramsharan Rastogi's body was allegedly thrown during the 1978 riots, following appeals from his family and inspections by the DM and SP.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The ₹2,000 crore Indore–Ujjain Greenfield Corridor from Pitri Parvat to Chintaman Ganesh Temple is set to cut travel time to 30 minutes, with Ludhiana-based Seagull Infra Projects emerging as the lowest bidder.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra's municipal elections proceed on December 2, while 32 district councils and 336 panchayat samitis may be delayed due to reservation-limit breaches, with SEC likely scheduling them in a later phase.
- Mumbai's BMC revamps its road widening policy, introducing system-generated NOCs, GIS tracking, and stricter accountability to curb past misuse and ensure timely demolition of encroachments.
- The BMC has rolled out a new policy to regulate outdoor advertising, banning larger hoardings and enforcing strict rules on placement, size, illumination, and format. This aims to prevent accidents like the 2024 Ghatkopar billboard collapse and enhance city safety.

Pune

- Teachers across Maharashtra will strike on Dec 5, shutting schools and marching to district collector offices to demand TET withdrawal, reinstatement of staff norms, and regular pay grades. The protest aims to press long-pending grievances of the staff members.
- PCMC has issued a ₹443.51 crore tender to rejuvenate a 20.6-km stretch of the Indrayani River, covering pollution control, flood management, and riverbank beautification. Bidding is open until December 18, involving areas under PMRDA across multiple villages.
- PMRDA has directed all agencies to complete pothole repairs in Hinjewadi by December 5, with Metro Line 3 roads also set for resurfacing. The review addressed traffic, accident-prone spots, and ongoing bypass construction involving multiple authorities.

Punjab

- Punjab will construct 44,920 km of roads with an outlay of Rs 16,209 crs, covering PWD, Mandi Board, and urban roads. CM Bhagwant Mann emphasized quality construction, five-year maintenance by contractors, and village approval before fund release.
- The Centre will invest Rs 4,500 crore over three years to modernise Mohali's Semi-Conductor Laboratory, keeping it government-run, and has requested 25 acres from Punjab for expansion.

Rajasthan

- With the Western Disturbance clearing, Rajasthan will see sharper cold from December 1, with minimum temperatures likely to fall 2–4°C. Shekhawati and Bikaner divisions are expected to be the most affected.
- Marking two years of the Rajasthan government, Jaipur will host top global health experts from institutes like Sarin, Tata, Manchester and Florida. A special session will outline future health-development goals and shape the state's long-term healthcare roadmap.

Tamil Nadu

- CM MK Stalin announces a training school in Thiruparankundram, Madurai, to promote traditional folk arts, alongside a new PG Fine Arts programme and increased university funding.
- Tamil Nadu will modernise land records using 30cm-resolution satellite images covering the entire state, enhancing transparency, reducing disputes, and improving services, with updated maps added to TNGIS for planning and approvals.

Telangana

- Over 3,000 global leaders will attend the Telangana Rising Summit on December 8–9 in Hyderabad, where CM Revanth Reddy will unveil the Telangana Rising-2047 Vision Document, highlighting the state's innovation drive and investment roadmap.
- Telangana's Social Welfare schools and colleges will pilot a facial recognition system next month to record attendance of 1.7 lakh students, replacing manual registers with automated classroom photo scans.

Uttar Pradesh

- The fourth Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 4.0) will be held in two phases—Dec 2–15 in Varanasi and Dec 16–30 in Tamil Nadu—enabling around 1,500 UP students to learn Tamil and promoting cultural links.
- CM Yogi Adityanath has urged officials to fast-track work at Noida International Airport in Jewar, aiming to start operations before December 15, with final approvals and security clearances expected by early December.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- Kenya has partnered with China's CRBC, Shandong and its NSSF to launch a \$1.5 billion highway expansion using a balanced debt-equity model. The project signals Kenya's renewed push for major infrastructure growth while reducing reliance on heavy foreign loans.
- AfDB and EIB sign a \$275 mn EU-backed deal to modernise Mauritania's key Zouerate-Nouadhibou railway, enabling SNIM to upgrade existing lines, add 42 km of new track, and procure new locomotives and equipment.

America

- Trump's sudden declaration that Venezuelan airspace is "closed in its entirety" sparks confusion in Washington, with U.S. officials unaware of any enforcement plans, while Maduro's government condemns the move as a hostile and unlawful threat to its sovereignty.
- Cuba plans to ease investment rules by allowing foreign firms to operate in dollars, hire directly, buy real estate, and import fuel, aiming to cut red tape and attract capital amid a deep economic crisis.

Asia Pacific

- Sri Lanka's Cyclone Ditwah death toll rises to 212 with 218 missing as record floods displace nearly a million people and overwhelm rescue efforts, with authorities evacuating thousands while key services face days of disruption.
- A rare tropical storm has killed over 600 people across Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, impacting more than 4 million residents as floods and landslides devastate towns and force mass evacuations while rescue teams struggle to reach isolated areas.

China

- China has launched a nationwide high-rise fire-safety inspection after the Hong Kong blaze killed 128 people, ordering strict checks on flammable materials and renovation sites as Beijing moves to reassure public safety and prevent any similar mainland disaster.
- China conducted military and coast guard patrols around Scarborough Shoal on Saturday, Nov 30 to assert its sovereignty and maritime claims, while the Philippine embassy in Beijing has yet to comment.

Europe

- Hungary's Viktor Orban met Vladimir Putin in Moscow seeking assurances on vital Russian oil and gas supplies, as Putin welcomed the rare EU-NATO visit while both sides aligned with Trump-backed efforts to push new ceasefire proposals for the Ukraine war.
- Airbus ordered urgent repairs for 6,000 A320-family jets due to a flight-control software issue linked to solar flares, forcing brief groundings and potential global disruptions as airlines from the U.S. to India rush to complete the quick software rollback during peak holiday travel.

Middle East

- Lebanon and Cyprus signed a maritime deal on Wednesday, Nov 26 paving the way for offshore gas exploration and energy cooperation. The agreement also aims to attract investors and address Lebanon's energy shortages.

Pakistan

- Pakistan's fuel oil exports hit a record high in 2025, surpassing 1.4 million metric tons, driven by higher domestic taxes and a shift to cleaner energy, adding to Asia's already oversupplied market and weighing on regional prices.
- At least seven blasts shook Pakistan's Balochistan province in 24 hours, targeting Quetta and Dera Murad Jamali; no deaths were reported, but two security guards were injured, sparking widespread fear. Insurgents used grenades and IEDs, hitting police and construction sites

United Kingdom

- British Finance Minister Rachel Reeves denied misleading the public over pre-budget forecasts, insisting she was honest about the need for a larger fiscal buffer, while critics demanded her resignation.

United States

- Following a deadly attack by an Afghan immigrant, President Trump halted Afghan immigration, ordered a review of recent asylum approvals, and signaled broader vetting under a 19-country travel ban. Critics warn the move unfairly targets immigrants and could face legal challenges.
- During U.S.-Switzerland trade talks, the U.S. Commerce Department reportedly sought control over Swiss investments, but officials refused, maintaining their own discretion. The framework deal still cut U.S. tariffs on Swiss goods and pledged \$200 billion in Swiss investment by 2028.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Congo and Rwanda's presidents will visit Washington on Dec 4 to sign a peace deal and meet President Trump, as Washington pushes to stabilise war-hit eastern Congo and draw Western mining investment, though little progress has been seen on the ground despite earlier agreements.
- Trump says South Africa won't be invited to the 2026 G20 summit after the U.S. boycotted Johannesburg's meeting, a move Pretoria calls punitive. Washington accuses South Africa of "weaponising" its G20 presidency by forcing through a declaration against U.S. objections.

America

- Peru will declare a state of emergency along its Chilean border to curb unauthorized migrant crossings after Chilean candidate Kast vowed to expel undocumented migrants, with at least 100, mostly Venezuelans, currently at the border.
- Brazil will seek U.S. cooperation against fuel-sector organised crime after police flagged Delaware-based firms in money laundering, with Finance Minister Haddad also raising concerns over illegal U.S. weapons shipments as both countries pursue a broader trade agenda.

Asia Pacific

- Micron will invest \$9.6 billion to build a high-bandwidth AI memory chip plant in Hiroshima, with construction starting in May 2026 and Japan offering major subsidies as it works to revive its semiconductor sector and attract global chipmakers.
- Australia's Port of Newcastle will resume operations on Monday, Dec 1 after climate protesters in kayaks blocked the shipping lane for a second day, leading to over 100 reported arrests and disrupting cargo movements at one of the country's major coal export hubs.

China

- China's central bank warned of rising crypto speculation and vowed a tougher crackdown, saying virtual currency activities are illegal and flagging stablecoins as high-risk for money laundering and fraud.
- China urges the UK to uphold the "one-China" principle amid heightened tensions with Japan over Taiwan, with FM Wang Yi telling UK NSA Jonathan Powell that Beijing seeks stronger strategic communication and coordination, including on Ukraine.

Europe

- Zelenskiy will meet Macron in Paris on Monday, Dec 1 to discuss conditions for a "just and durable peace" as Ukraine faces its toughest political and military moment since 2022, following recent Geneva talks and the U.S. peace plan.

Middle East

- Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu has formally requested a presidential pardon in his corruption case, saying the trial hampers governance, while opposition leaders reject the move and President Herzog calls the extraordinary request one requiring careful review.
- Saudi Arabia is set to cut January crude prices for Asian buyers to the lowest level in five years, reflecting ample supply and slowing demand. Other OPEC+ members, having raised output by 2.9 million barrels per day in 2025, are expected to maintain a pause on further hikes in early 2026.

Pakistan

- Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf demanded access to jailed ex-PM Imran Khan over health concerns, as he has been barred from family and lawyer visits for weeks, sparking protests and social media outcry. Prison officials said Khan is in good health and denied plans for a transfer.
- Pakistan's parliament approved a constitutional amendment expanding Army Chief Asim Munir's powers and limiting the Supreme Court, granting him lifetime rank and legal immunity. Critics say the move undermines the country's democracy.

United Kingdom

- Britain said talks to join the EU's €150 billion SAFE defence fund have broken down, citing national interest and value-for-money concerns, though UK firms can still participate at limited levels. The setback challenges Starmer's post-Brexit reset of UK-EU defence relations.
- Britain plans a criminal justice overhaul to tackle nearly 80,000 delayed cases, aiming to prioritise victims and modernise courts. Proposed reforms include new divisions for mid-level offences, limited jury trials for minor cases, and judge-only trials for complex fraud.

United States

- The Trump administration agreed to restore nearly \$800 million in federal funds to Northwestern University and close related government investigations, resolving disputes over admissions, transgender policies, and antisemitism issues.

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