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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to complete the Veligonda and Uttarandhra irrigation works this year, while accelerating the Purvodaya scheme to boost horticulture, irrigation and infrastructure across Rayalaseema with ₹40,000 crore central support.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu said strengthening road, rail, water and air connectivity is crucial for Srikakulam's growth, as he flagged off the Brahmapur-Visakhapatnam Express from the new halt at Tilaru.

Delhi

- For the 77th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path, authorities have rolled out metro announcements, QR code-based parking for nearly 8,000 vehicles, and multi-layered security by Delhi Police with paramilitary forces to ensure smooth access, crowd management and safety.
- A Supreme Court-appointed panel has declared the Grand Venice project in Greater Noida unfit for occupancy due to missing basic facilities and statutory clearances, with nearly ₹1,000 crore of investors' money stuck despite most allottees paying around 90% upfront.
- National Capital Region Transport Corporation said restoration and widening of the 9-km Delhi-Meerut Road stretch near Duhai has been completed and handed back to PWD, improving commuter safety and adding nearly 6 km of new drains for permanent sewerage.

Goa

- The cabinet has approved amending the Goa Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, to allow MLAs and Zilla Panchayat members to attend gram sabhas and join discussions, while retaining voting rights only for registered gram sabha members to strengthen grassroots governance.
- Goa Governor Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju announced a first-of-its-kind State-level Happiness Index to measure citizens' well-being beyond GDP, positioning it as a step towards people-centric governance.

Gujarat

- Ahmedabad Metro services have commenced on the extended route up to Mahatma Mandir, with Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation adding seven new stations to improve connectivity between Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar.

Haryana

- Around 75% of footpaths in Gurugram are encroached upon, forcing pedestrians onto roads and contributing to high fatal accident rates, with nearly 80% victims being walkers or cyclists.
- Haryana Energy Minister Anil Vij met Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to strengthen power generation and distribution in the state, focusing on reliable electricity supply and renewable energy initiatives.

Himachal Pradesh

- Dust from uncovered construction sites in Kangra district is emerging as a major public health and environmental hazard, prompting authorities to order strict enforcement of pollution norms and punitive action against violators.
- A special outreach drive in Chamba district identified 257 new beneficiaries under welfare schemes, including 200 under Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojana and 57 under CM Sukh Ashray Yojana, to expand coverage in remote areas.

Karnataka

- At the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, Karnataka Industries Minister M.B. Patil said the state will focus on converting investment intent into real-time implementation through 45+ high-level engagements.
- The Bengaluru Central City Corporation conducted a large-scale cleanliness drive on 15 major roads across six assembly constituencies, removing garbage, debris and dry branches to improve civic hygiene.

Andhra Pradesh

- The government will set up AP FIRST in Tirupati with IIT Tirupati and IISER to drive advanced research in sectors like aerospace, AI, semiconductors and green energy, with CM Chandrababu Naidu stressing future-ready skills for youth.
- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu said Kakinada will emerge as India's Green Hydrogen Valley, with the \$2-billion AM Green plant producing 1.5 MMT of green ammonia annually from 2027, boosting clean energy and sustainability, alongside Dy CM Pawan Kalyan.

Delhi

- Delhi Jal Board has launched a ₹31.31 crore sewer project in Deoli and Ambedkar Nagar, with Water Minister Parvesh Verma saying it will provide sewer connectivity to 11 unauthorised colonies and benefit nearly 3 lakh residents while reducing sewage flow into the Yamuna.
- The Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to allocate ₹35 crore in its upcoming budget for microchipping and vaccinating stray dogs, targeting at least 25,000 animals through MCD and NGO partnerships to improve public safety and animal health.
- The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is streamlining land layout approvals by allowing projects under one hectare to bypass the Standing Committee and be cleared by the Layout Scrutiny Committee, a move expected to significantly speed up project execution.

Goa

- Goa Drinking Water Minister Subhash Faldesai said a ₹443-crore water project, including new pipelines and a dedicated reservoir, will be completed by April to resolve Mormugao's water distribution issues caused by its high-altitude location.
- Sports Minister Ramesh Tawadkar said the state plans to launch Sports Excellence Centres from the next academic year to utilise coaches year-round, including during monsoon months, by deploying them at indoor sports facilities to strengthen athlete development.

Gujarat

- The government is likely to take over Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited from the Amdavad Municipal Corporation ahead of Phase III, restructuring its board and management after ₹2,128 crore has already been spent on the project.

Haryana

- CM Nayab Singh Saini said the VB-G RAM G scheme will raise guaranteed workdays to 125 and provide workers in the state at least ₹10,000 extra annually, boosting minimum incomes to around ₹50,000.
- Power cables are being undergrounded on three major roads in Karnal, and a ₹14-crore 33-kV substation will be set up in Shiv Colony to ensure uninterrupted power supply, said MLA Jagmohan Anand.

Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the state will invest nearly ₹3,000 crore over three years, including ₹1,300 crore under JICA Phase-II, to make Himachal India's top healthcare state with decentralised powers for health officers.
- A cold wave is set to intensify across HP, with the India Meteorological Department issuing a yellow warning for several districts till January 20 and forecasting heavy snowfall in higher reaches around January 23 due to back-to-back western disturbances.

Karnataka

- The Karnataka government has signed an MoU with Azim Premji Foundation to set up a 1,000-bed super-specialty hospital in Bengaluru, with 75% beds free for the poor, fully funded and operated by the foundation.
- CM Siddaramaiah indicated the 2026-27 budget will be tight, sanctioning ₹6 crore for sports facilities in Tumakuru against a ₹25 crore demand, while reaffirming incentives and quotas for sportspersons.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- The Gwalior Trade Fair has recorded strong vehicle sales with 543 units sold, including 412 cars, and over 8,000 pre-bookings in 25 days, driven by a 50% road tax discount and dealer offers.

Mumbai

- The Bombay High Court ruled that registration of a co-operative housing society for a completed wing cannot be delayed until the entire project is finished, setting aside the cancellation of a CHS in Mulund West.
- The long-delayed funicular railway at Haji Malang near Kalyan has been inaugurated, cutting the arduous 2,500-step climb to a 5–10 minute ride, with a ₹150 round-trip fare and free service for the first two days.
- Mumbai recorded a 52.90% voter turnout in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation elections after a four-year gap, with higher participation in Marathi- and Gujarati-dominated pockets despite fragmented political alliances.

Pune

- National Highways Authority of India has completed three underpasses on the Pune–Solapur highway to reduce accidents, with four more under construction to ensure safer traffic movement at accident-prone locations.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the Pune Grand Tour 2026, calling India's first multi-stage continental cycling race a milestone showcasing world-class infrastructure and UCI-standard sporting ecosystems.
- A next-generation post office was inaugurated at Savitribai Phule Pune University under the Department of Posts initiative, offering faster, digital and citizen-focused postal services to students, staff and nearby residents.

Punjab

- The Punjab government has approved modernisation of interstate bus terminals in Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Sangrur, Patiala and Bathinda under a PPP model to improve passenger amenities, safety and operations, said Transport Minister Laljit Singh Bhullar.
- CM Bhagwant Mann said the Centre has agreed in principle to shift the border fence closer to the International Border, easing access to farmlands for border-area farmers after his meeting with Amit Shah.

Rajasthan

- The India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for thunderstorms and rain in six districts of Rajasthan on January 22, as weather conditions suddenly changed in Jaipur amid a Maawat spell.

Tamil Nadu

- CM M. K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for Chennai's sixth reservoir, Mamallan, along the ECR in Chengalpattu, a ₹342.6-crore project aimed at boosting drinking water supply with up to 2.25 tmcft annual storage.
- Rooftop solar capacity in Tiruchy surged 272% in the domestic segment in 2025, rising to 12,348 kW, driven by subsidies under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and outreach by Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited.

Telangana

- Telangana Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy laid foundation stones for ₹3.17 crore development works in Yellandu, assuring more Indiramma houses and accelerated urban infrastructure upgrades.
- By CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka announced the cancellation of SCCL's Naini coal block tenders and ordered fresh bids on a "benefit of doubt" basis after concerns raised in media reports.

Uttar Pradesh

- As Uttar Pradesh gears up for the high-stakes 2027 Assembly polls, CM Yogi Adityanath flagged concerns over voter deletions, signalling heightened political alertness amid clear caste-based alignments across parties.
- CM Yogi Adityanath transferred ₹2,094.21 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0 to over 2.09 lakh beneficiaries, warning officials against any irregularities in implementation.
- Uttar Pradesh has sought an extension till December 2028 from the National Green Tribunal to tap drains flowing into rivers, after failing to meet the Supreme Court's 2020 deadline.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The upcoming budget under CM Mohan Yadav will focus on youth, farmers and employees, promising 50,000 jobs and ₹3.5 million health insurance, while introducing a three-year rolling budget framework for the first time.

Mumbai

- Central Railway plans to shift select long-distance trains from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus and Dadar to LTT and Panvel, potentially freeing capacity for about 15 additional local services and accommodating 40,000–50,000 more peak-hour commuters.
- The cabinet has approved a ₹20,000-crore Mumbai Police Housing Township Project to build 40,000–45,000 homes for police personnel across the city and suburbs, with funding shared between the state and the State Infrastructure Development Corporation.
- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation announced a 44-hour water supply disruption from January 20–22 across five Mumbai wards due to pipeline diversion works for Metro Line 7A, urging residents to store water and use it judiciously.

Pune

- The Maharashtra government is setting up two new film cities for Marathi cinema, with work underway on a 70-acre facility near Ramtek in Nagpur and initial procedures begun for another in Nashik, to strengthen the state's film ecosystem.
- The forest department has initiated groundwork to set up a grassland safari in Beed district, identifying about 3,000 hectares in Ambejogai tehsil, which would be Marathwada's first and Maharashtra's fourth such safari if approved.
- After setbacks in Pune and PCMC, the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party led by Ajit Pawar and Sharad Pawar have decided to jointly contest the next phase of Maharashtra's local body elections to counter voter base fragmentation.

Punjab

- Punjab has notified the Punjab Private Digital Open Universities Policy to allow private players to offer online degree courses from home, making Punjab—along with Kerala—one of the few states opening digital higher education to private participation.
- The government assured the Punjab and Haryana High Court that the Moga mayoral election will be held by January 31, following the vacancy created by the resignation of the former mayor.

Rajasthan

- The Isarda–Dausa drinking water project under the Jal Jeevan Mission is set to ease Rajasthan's water crisis by supplying clean drinking water to 3.5 million people across 1,256 villages in Dausa and Sawai Madhopur districts.

Tamil Nadu

- AI-enabled surveillance cameras will soon be installed on the GD Naidu Flyover in Coimbatore, with the State Highways Department deploying 45 cameras and LED boards to curb illegal racing and improve road safety.
- CM M. K. Stalin announced national-level 'Semmozhi Literary Awards' for outstanding works in seven Indian languages, each carrying ₹5 lakh, following the cancellation of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025.

Telangana

- The formulation of the Telangana Education Policy is moving slowly, with stakeholders like private schools and teachers flagging inadequate consultation, despite offers of support from the Telangana Recognised School Management Association.
- The Telangana Cabinet, led by A. Revanth Reddy, approved urban local body elections for 2,096 wards across 116 municipalities and seven corporations, with polls likely to be completed by mid-February.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh plans to position itself as a green hydrogen technology leader by setting up two centres of excellence and supporting startups under its Green Hydrogen Policy, focusing on research, innovation and indigenous solutions.
- Weather forecasting in UP is set for a major upgrade with five advanced Doppler radars and a block-level network of 2,450 weather stations and 2,000 rain gauges being installed by the India Meteorological Department.
- After West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh plans to introduce context-based speed limits, including lower caps near schools and high-pedestrian zones, to tackle rising road accident fatalities caused by overspeeding.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Severe flooding from heavy rains has affected over 620,000 people in Mozambique, submerging 72,000 homes and forcing thousands to flee. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies warned the situation could worsen as more rain is forecast and dams are at full capacity.
- Congolese forces and allied militias have re-entered Uvira after Rwanda-backed M23 rebels withdrew, a month after the town fell. The move revives fragile peace efforts in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

America

- The European Union and Mercosur signed a landmark free trade agreement in Paraguay after 25 years of talks, paving the way for the EU's largest-ever trade deal pending ratification by member legislatures.
- Colombia has launched a \$1.68-billion anti-drone shield project to counter attacks by armed groups, after hundreds of explosive drone strikes linked to National Liberation Army and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Defence Minister Pedro Sanchez said.

Asia Pacific

- South Korean President Jae-myung and Italian PM Giorgia Meloni agreed for cooperation in AI, semiconductors, aerospace and critical minerals during summit talks. The two sides also signed an MoU on chip industry collaboration and pledged stronger supply-chain resilience and joint research.
- Thailand has ordered a 15-day halt on several major construction projects after fatal crane accidents, with the Transport Ministry of Thailand suspending 14 contracts linked to Italian-Thai Development PCL pending safety inspections.

China

- China's military said it monitored the transit of the US destroyer USS Finn and survey ship USNS Mary Sears through the Taiwan Strait, stressing it remains on high alert. The People's Liberation Army said the move was part of efforts to safeguard national sovereignty and security.
- China has halted imports of electricity from Russia amid high prices, Russian media reported. Moscow said it prioritises domestic demand but is open to resuming exports if Beijing requests and mutually beneficial terms are reached.

Europe

- Russia launched a large drone attack on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, cutting power to five regions despite most of the 145 drones being intercepted. The strikes damaged facilities in areas including Odesa and Kharkiv, worsening blackouts amid freezing temperatures and high demand.

Middle East

- Israel's Finance Ministry has submitted the 2026 budget to parliament ahead of a preliminary vote, but approval remains uncertain due to internal rifts within the ruling coalition in Israel. Political fractures have strained government unity, putting the budget's passage at risk.
- India and the United Arab Emirates signed a \$3 billion LNG deal, making India the UAE's largest gas buyer. The pact was finalised during high-level talks aimed at strengthening trade, energy cooperation and defence ties.

Pakistan

- A magnitude-6 earthquake hit northwestern Pakistan's Kashmir region, killing one person and damaging homes, the European Mediterranean Seismological Center said. Several mud houses collapsed in Gilgit-Baltistan, with landslides blocking roads and authorities starting clearance work.

United Kingdom

- Britain has rolled out new capital-raising rules under the Financial Conduct Authority, easing prospectus requirements to make fundraising cheaper and more flexible. The reforms aim to revive listings and strengthen the London Stock Exchange.

United States

- The Trump administration has appealed a federal judge's order limiting immigration agents' tactics against peaceful protesters in Minneapolis. The ruling barred arrests and tear gas use following protests triggered by the fatal shooting of a civilian by an ICE agent.
- The Trump administration has dropped plans to merge the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives into the Drug Enforcement Administration after backlash from both gun-rights and gun-control groups.

Africa

- Ghana's mining industry body warned that plans to scrap stability agreements and sharply raise royalties could deter investment and slow output in Ghana, affecting miners like Newmont, AngloGold Ashanti and Gold Fields.
- Kenya has launched an IPO to sell a 65% stake in its state oil pipeline firm, aiming to raise \$825 million in East Africa's largest local-currency offering. The move is part of President William Ruto's push to divest state assets amid high public debt and funding pressures.

America

- Canada is considering sending a small troop contingent to Greenland to participate in NATO military exercises, according to sources. The move is still under consideration and no final decision has been taken until now.
- Brazil's Finance Minister Fernando Haddad proposed expanding the Banco Central do Brasil's mandate to oversee investment funds, citing issues highlighted in the Banco Master case, while stressing no systemic risk to the financial system.

Asia Pacific

- Japan's PM Sanae Takaichi will call a snap national election on Feb 8, seeking voter backing for higher spending, tax cuts and a new security strategy to accelerate defence build-up. She plans to dissolve parliament ahead of the vote, her first electoral test since becoming Japan's first female premier.
- Indonesia may seize mining operations across nearly 190,000 hectares of illegally cleared forest as part of an unprecedented crackdown on unlawful extraction, Deputy Forestry Minister Rohmat Marzuki said.

China

- China urged the European Union not to undermine investment confidence, warning that moves to phase out Chinese suppliers from key infrastructure amount to "naked protectionism." Beijing criticised proposed restrictions calling for a fair and non-discriminatory business environment.

Europe

- Denmark and Greenland have discussed the possibility of a NATO mission in Greenland and the Arctic, Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen said. The proposal was discussed with NATO chief Mark Rutte amid rising geopolitical tensions over Greenland.
- France's PM Sébastien Lecornu said the government will invoke Article 49.3 to force the 2026 budget through parliament without a vote after securing enough backing to survive a no-confidence motion. The move is aimed at ending months of budget deadlock, with Socialist support proving crucial.

Middle East

- The United Nations warned that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen will worsen in 2026 as funding cuts reverse gains in health and nutrition. Aid needs have risen to 21 million people, with higher risks of malnutrition and disease amid disrupted services.
- A deal bringing the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces under Syrian government control could revive Turkey's stalled push to end its long conflict with the Kurdistan Workers Party, officials said. The SDF's withdrawal from key areas is seen as removing a major obstacle to progress.

Pakistan

- Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif has received an invitation from US President Donald Trump to join the Board of Peace on Gaza, the foreign ministry said. Pakistan said it will continue engaging in international efforts for peace in Gaza in line with UN resolutions.

United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom is set to announce a new regulator for England's water sector, aimed at strengthening oversight, preventing sewage spills and reducing supply outages amid mounting industry challenges.
- Britain's Competition and Markets Authority said it will review historic antitrust remedies to remove those no longer needed and ease compliance burdens on businesses. CMA chief Sarah Cardell said the move supports growth and investment in the United Kingdom.

United States

- US Vice President JD Vance will lead the American delegation to the opening ceremony of the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, President Donald Trump announced. The Games begin on February 6 in Milan and northern Italy.

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