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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- CM N Chandrababu Naidu says over 10 lakh families will receive houses by year-end, with three lakh already handed over. The government aims to ensure every poor family has a home and house site by 2029 while tightening action against past irregularities.
- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu launched a three-month free HPV vaccination drive for 14-year-old girls on Feb 28, targeting 3.45 lakh beneficiaries through 1,645 health centres. The state received 1.9 lakh doses in the first phase, with ₹14.11 crore allocated in total.

Delhi

- CM Rekha Gupta flags off the 63-seater 'Dekho Meri Dilli' double-decker electric tourist bus, marking its return after nearly 40 years. The eco-friendly bus features modern safety systems and a panoramic upper deck to promote sustainable tourism in the capital.
- The Delhi government appoints specialised audit teams to examine private unaided schools over alleged financial irregularities and overcharging, with the Directorate of Education hiring three project management units for detailed inspections.
- CM Rekha Gupta launches a ₹159.75 crore project to shift 52.5 km of overhead power lines underground in Chandni Chowk. She also lays the foundation for a GIS grid substation and four BESS projects to strengthen power infrastructure.

Goa

- Goa Police enhance security and deploy armed personnel, including ATS teams, in areas frequented by Israeli nationals amid rising Israel-Iran tensions, calling the move precautionary and urging public calm.
- Panjim Police register an FIR against 1,200-1,500 protesters for allegedly holding an unlawful TCP Act demonstration and blocking key roads for over eight hours after marching toward the minister's residence without permission.

Gujarat

- The Gujarat government informs the High Court that over 10 lakh applications were received for 13,591 constabulary posts in the second recruitment phase, with physical tests underway across 15 centres. It also states that 9,724 posts from the first phase have been filled, with some verifications pending.

Haryana

- CM Nayab Singh Saini says over 12 lakh BPL ration cards were cancelled after beneficiaries were found ineligible, asserting that jobs and welfare schemes have lifted many families above the poverty line.
- CM Nayab Singh Saini assures safe tap water for every household and faster crop relief, while urging action against single-use plastic and outlining plans to strengthen health and rural infrastructure.

Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu inaugurates a ₹23 crore 3 Tesla MRI at IGMC, aiming to upgrade state-run medical colleges to AIIMS-level standards and strengthen healthcare infrastructure with large-scale investments.
- Around 70 issues related to roads, drinking water, power and other services were discussed at the Kullu grievance redressal meeting, with emphasis on resolving long-pending cases and ensuring timely action by officials.

Karnataka

- Land acquisition remains a major hurdle for the ₹70,000 crore Upper Krishna Project Phase III, which aims to raise the Almatti dam's reservoir level to expand irrigation in north, requiring 1.33 lakh acres and affecting several villages despite higher compensation.
- Karnataka revises its mandatory Computer Literacy Test for Group A, B and C government staff to include artificial intelligence and cyber security, aiming to strengthen digital skills and secure e-governance operations.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh plans to clear ₹2,500 crore pending Aarogyasri dues through a One Time Settlement with network hospitals. The government says it has spent ₹7,500 crore on NTR Vaidya Seva in under two years while addressing legacy liabilities.
- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu says the government will soon release a blueprint to complete pending irrigation projects to ensure water for every acre under Swarnandhra Vision 2047, highlighting major investments and river-linking plans to boost water security.

Delhi

- CM Rekha Gupta says the government will issue 2 lakh new ration cards this after a long gap, benefiting eligible residents under the public distribution system. The move follows a verification drive, with revised eligibility rules to ensure proper targeting of beneficiaries.
- The MCD will restore the pre-independence Mehrauli House Tax Building after a structural assessment, with a consultant overseeing heritage conservation and completion expected next financial year.
- NDMC plans to set up five effluent treatment plants at dhobi ghats in the first phase to reuse treated water for horticulture and improve irrigation efficiency. The plants, with 20-70 KLD capacity, will be installed at selected locations across its jurisdiction.

Goa

- Goa Women's Forum stages a protest in Margao opposing the proposed Deposit Refund Scheme, alleging it imposes extra charges over MRP and lacks consultation, and submits a memorandum demanding it be scrapped.
- The government declares March 11, 2026, a paid holiday for the Corporation of the City of Panaji general election to enable voters to cast their ballots without work constraints. All notified offices and establishments will observe the holiday.

Gujarat

- The Union Cabinet approves ₹1,067 crore to extend the Ahmedabad Metro's North-South corridor from GIFT City to Shahpur, adding 3.33 km with three elevated stations. The project, to be completed in four years, is expected to boost connectivity and generate employment.

Haryana

- The NGT seeks a report from the State Pollution Control Board on alleged environmental norm violations by a cement factory in Panipat's Khukhrana village. The plea cites cement dust affecting nearby residential areas and posing health hazards.
- Rohtak district administration prepares a time-bound roadmap to upgrade infrastructure in its three Industrial Model Townships, with officials directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and improved facilities for industries.

Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announces ₹1,000 crore to upgrade Dr Radhakrishnan Government Medical College, Hamirpur, into a multi-speciality hospital with a cancer centre, nursing and dental colleges, aiming to strengthen healthcare access in the state.
- The second phase of the JICA-supported agriculture project will cover 296 sites across all 12 districts of Himachal Pradesh, aiming to boost farmers' income to ₹2.5 lakh per hectare. The project focuses on strengthening irrigation and promoting sustainable farming systems.

Karnataka

- Karnataka government doctors plan a phased shutdown from March 11 over pending service demands, beginning with OPD closures, while Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao warns of possible legal action against those skipping duty.
- The Karnataka cabinet approves filling 56,432 sanctioned government vacancies, with recruitment to begin within a month under the 50% quota and regional provisions, and the internal SC quota to be incorporated.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- The Madhya Pradesh Staff Selection Board announces direct recruitment for 1,510 posts, including 728 Forest Guards, 757 Jail Guards and 25 Assistant Jail Superintendents. The last date to apply is March 14, with salaries for select posts exceeding ₹1 lakh.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra announces statewide combing operations to trace illegal Bangladeshi nationals, intensifying its crackdown on illegal immigration. The government says over 2,000 have been deported in 2025, including more than 1,000 from Mumbai.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis admits the response to the Mumbai–Pune Expressway tanker accident was inadequate and says a dedicated SOP and airlift options will be explored after a 33-hour disruption left thousands stranded.
- BMC scales down the Malabar Hill reservoir plan, opting for a 52 MLD alternate tank behind the existing structure to reduce tree loss. The revised proposal, vetted by IIT Roorkee, aims to balance infrastructure repair with environmental preservation.

Pune

- PCMC presents a ₹9,322.17 crore budget for 2026-27, with focus on ongoing infrastructure, transport and healthcare projects and no new schemes announced. The civic body projects ₹5,660.73 crore revenue and ₹5,655.73 crore expenditure.
- Pune Municipal Corporation launches a ‘Clean Air Portal’ to monitor real-time pollution levels at construction sites over 5,000 sq m to curb rising air pollution. Officials say the collected data will currently not be available in the public domain.
- The 7th Asia Economic Dialogue 2026 was held in Pune from February 26–28 under the theme “Goeconomics Beyond Globalisation,” focusing on AI, trade, tariffs and strategic economic cooperation.

Punjab

- The National Green Tribunal directs Punjab to halt desilting work at 85 sites without its prior approval. The tribunal also fixes May 14 as the next date of hearing while seeking compliance on the matter.
- Punjab district and municipal chiefs review preparedness for Census 2027 Phase I at a state-level conference in Chandigarh. The meeting assesses administrative readiness, technological integration and coordination for house listing operations.

Rajasthan

- Jhalawar Police announce special surveillance during Holi and Dhulandi, warning of strict action against those creating disturbances. Drones and enhanced monitoring will be deployed to maintain peace amid overlapping festivities and Ramadan observance.

Tamil Nadu

- PM Narendra Modi unveiled projects worth over ₹7,000 crore in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on March 1, including inaugurations and foundation stones across sectors. In Puducherry alone, he launched and laid the foundation for projects worth over ₹2,700 crore.
- A total of 127 Agri Extension Officers were appointed in Coimbatore under the UATT-2.0 scheme to provide a single-window interface for agricultural services, integrating multiple departments at the village level.

Telangana

- CM A. Revanth Reddy launches a 99-day ‘Praja Palana–Pragati Pranalika’ drive from March 6 to June 12, directing officials to ensure welfare schemes and services reach citizens effectively. He warns that progress will be closely reviewed and lapses will not be tolerated.
- TG RERA revives the stalled Jaya Platinum Project in Hyderabad by allowing the flat owners’ association to complete the remaining 34% construction after the promoter’s registration was revoked.

Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath directs preparation of a comprehensive plan to ensure all Anganwadi centres operate from dedicated buildings with child-friendly infrastructure. He also suggests CSR support and prefabricated models to upgrade centres lacking their own facilities.
- Uttar Pradesh signs an MoU with AVW Global to build a world-class motorcycle racing ecosystem and attract premier events such as MotoGP and the Asia Road Racing Championship. The initiative aims to position the state as a global motorsport hub and boost youth development through professional racing infrastructure.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh is set for a hot March with temperatures likely to exceed 40°C in many cities, as per the IMD. While light rain is expected in the first week, intense heat and warmer nights are forecast from the second week onward.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra will meet major Mumbai-region hospitals to boost participation in Ayushman Bharat and other schemes amid low empanelment concerns, stating the integrated programme offers up to ₹10 lakh cover to nearly 2.5 crore families.
- Transporters across Maharashtra announce a strike from March 5 over unresolved e-challan issues, with nearly 1 lakh vehicles expected to gather in Mumbai in protest. Unions warn of an indefinite shutdown if their demands are not addressed.
- Facing ₹12,000 crore in losses, MSRTC initiates competitive bidding for diesel procurement to cut fuel costs as it plans to add 8,000 new buses next year. The move aims to secure higher discounts and reduce its annual fuel expenditure.

Pune

- Maharashtra will mandate police verification for delivery partners and gig workers, directing online platforms to ensure mandatory clearance certificates. The move comes amid rising safety concerns for women, elderly citizens and other vulnerable groups.
- Maha-Metro plans to approach the Jal Shakti Ministry after CWPRS refused to provide 20 hectares of land for a car shed for the 31.64-km Khadakwasla–Swargate–Hadapsar–Kharadi metro corridor. The ₹9,897 crore project is awaiting final central clearance.
- Maharashtra will mandate empanelment of all 479 charitable hospitals under government health schemes after revising package rates, as only 134 are currently onboard. The move aims to ensure benefits reach poor patients and improve fund transparency.

Punjab

- Union Minister Ravneet Bittu announces a ₹5,673 crore annual railway budget, with infrastructure projects worth ₹26,382 crore underway across the state. He says a feasibility study and DPR are being prepared for upgrading Pathankot Cantonment Railway Station.
- Punjab government schools will introduce ‘Khed Pitara’ activity-based learning kits, including puzzles and interactive books, to promote joyful learning. The initiative will benefit around 7.5 lakh students across 12,856 primary schools.

Rajasthan

- Rajasthan witnesses early summer heat with Barmer and Fatehpur recording 35°C amid clear skies across the state. The Jaipur Meteorological Centre warns temperatures may rise by 2–3°C during Holi and Dhulandi, with possible heatwave conditions.

Tamil Nadu

- CM M.K. Stalin launches a ₹1,500 monthly incentive for 6,000 village temple priests and announced 11 welfare measures, including an enhanced family welfare fund. The schemes were unveiled at an HR&CE event to support priests’ social and economic wellbeing.
- Tangedco plans to seal and weld single-pole transformers in remote areas of Madurai’s Melur taluk to prevent repeated copper thefts. Officials say the move follows multiple incidents involving removal of costly copper windings from isolated transformers.

Telangana

- The Draft Telangana Education Policy 2026 proposes allocating 18% of the state Budget to education and restructuring B.Ed. programmes, while linking spending to actual infrastructure and maintenance needs.
- Telangana prepares a blueprint to establish Telangana Public Schools at an average cost of ₹15 crore per school, with rollout planned in two phases. The initiative aims to set up 100 public schools across constituencies from the coming academic year.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh will set up a dedicated task force to strengthen corneal transplant services, Additional Chief Secretary Amit Ghosh announces. The panel will focus on coordination, infrastructure upgrades and expanding patient access across the state.
- CM Yogi Adityanath announces plans to develop a ‘Singapore City’ near Jewar’s Noida International Airport to attract investors with world-class infrastructure and airport connectivity. He highlights the state’s ‘Triple S’ model—Safety, Stability and Speed—as key to its investment push.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- The European Union announces €63 million (\$74.39 million) in humanitarian funding for Somalia to support relief operations. The assistance aims to address ongoing humanitarian needs across the country.
- The UN human rights chief warns that South Sudan is at a “dangerous point” as rising killings threaten its fragile peace deal. At least 16 people were reportedly killed by unruly elements linked to the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces in Jonglei state.

America

- The killing of “El Mencho” is hailed as a major strike against drug trafficking, but his Jalisco New Generation Cartel’s U.S. networks remain largely intact. Officials say the cartel continues laundering money, sourcing weapons and smuggling fuel inside the United States.
- Chile denies permission for a Chinese hospital ship to provide onboard medical services, citing lack of authorization to treat local residents. The decision comes amid growing U.S. pressure linked to a proposed undersea cable project.

Asia Pacific

- The navies of the Philippines, the United States and Japan conduct joint military drills in the South China Sea to strengthen cooperation among allies. Philippine armed forces say the exercises aim to enhance interoperability and regional security.
- South Korean President Lee Jae Myung undertakes state visits to Singapore and the Philippines from March 1 to 4. The agenda includes strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence and nuclear energy.

China

- China says it conducted routine patrols in the South China Sea from February 23 to 26 and accuses the Philippines of disrupting regional peace. Beijing criticises Manila for organising joint patrols with countries outside the region.

Europe

- Germany’s parliament votes to expand military powers to intercept or shoot down drones amid a surge in sightings since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The move aims to strengthen national security and counter potential aerial threats.
- Kyiv says Russia signalled at Geneva talks that it would accept U.S.-proposed post-war security guarantees for Ukraine, though no breakthrough was reached. Ukraine continues to seek firm guarantees from the U.S. and Europe, while Moscow has not agreed to a Zelenskiy–Putin summit.

Middle East

- Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in a U.S.–Israeli attack, prompting scenes of both mass mourning in Tehran and public celebrations in other cities. The reactions highlight deep divisions within Iran as the country grapples with the sudden loss of its long-time leader.
- Most Gulf stock markets fall and Boursa Kuwait suspends trading after U.S.–Israeli strikes on Iran trigger retaliatory attacks across Gulf cities. Airport closures in Dubai and Doha heighten fears of prolonged regional instability, while Saudi Aramco gains on rising oil price expectations.

Pakistan

- Clashes between Pakistan and Afghanistan’s Taliban forces entered a third day after Pakistani strikes hit targets in Kabul and Kandahar. Diplomatic efforts intensify amid heavy losses, with Islamabad accusing the Taliban of sheltering TTP militants, a charge they deny.

United Kingdom

- The UK says its forces and aircraft are taking part in coordinated regional defensive operations to protect British interests and allies amid the US–Israel military strikes on Iran, but did not participate in the offensive attacks.
- Britain says it has not paused ratification of the Chagos Archipelago sovereignty deal, clarifying earlier remarks about a delay. The government states discussions with the U.S. are ongoing and it will not proceed without Washington’s support.

United States

- President Donald Trump hails the U.S.–Israeli airstrikes that killed Iran’s Supreme Leader and says further attacks could follow if Iran continues its nuclear and missile programs. The operation, named “Epic Fury,” targeted Iranian missile assets and naval capabilities.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- A U.S. document shows plans to process up to 4,500 refugee applications per month from white South Africans, exceeding the stated cap, with temporary facilities set up at the Pretoria embassy to support the effort.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States agree to a \$1.2 billion strategic health partnership. The deal aims to strengthen healthcare systems and expand medical cooperation between the two countries.

America

- Canada’s AI minister will meet OpenAI CEO Sam Altman next week to discuss strengthening safety measures after a recent school shooting in British Columbia. The talks will focus on how the ChatGPT maker plans to enhance its safety protocols.
- Colombia’s commerce minister Diana Marcela Morales proposes increasing tariffs on certain Ecuadorean goods from 30% to 50%. The move comes amid escalating trade tensions between the two neighbouring countries.

Asia Pacific

- South Korea will soon have a fully functioning Google Maps after the government approved the export of high-precision map data to overseas servers. The decision reverses a two-decade policy driven by security concerns.
- Russia says it will assist Myanmar in selecting and training its first cosmonaut, marking closer bilateral ties. The agreement was signed during a visit by Roscosmos chief Dmitry Bakanov, who also met Myanmar’s military leader Min Aung Hlaing.

China

- The U.S. International Trade Commission says it will investigate the economic impact of revoking China’s permanent normal trade status over six years. The move could lead to higher tariffs on Chinese imports.

Europe

- The European Commission says it will provisionally apply the EU–Mercosur free trade agreement to secure a first-mover advantage, despite opposition from France. The deal could remove €4 billion in duties on EU exports, though legal challenges may delay full implementation.
- French President Emmanuel Macron calls for an urgent UN Security Council meeting, warning that conflict involving the U.S., Israel and Iran has serious consequences for global peace. He also holds talks with leaders from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Jordan and the Kurdistan region.

Middle East

- The United States has urged Syria to move away from Chinese telecommunications technology, citing concerns over national security and alignment with U.S. interests. The warning underscores growing pressure on Damascus over its tech partnerships.
- OPEC+ has agreed in principle to raise oil output modestly, even as U.S.–Israeli strikes on Iran and resulting shipment disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz spark concerns about global supply. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have already boosted exports, though spare capacity is limited.

Pakistan

- Warmer winters are threatening a long-standing ice skating festival in Pakistan’s Hunza Valley, where rising temperatures have left natural ice rinks increasingly fragile. Residents say climate change is disrupting a decades-old tradition set against the backdrop of the Himalayas and Altit Fort.

United Kingdom

- Britain is set to award a contract worth up to £1 billion to Leonardo to build 23 military helicopters, helping safeguard around 3,000 jobs at its Yeovil factory. The deal averts the potential closure of the UK’s last military helicopter manufacturing site.

United States

- The U.S. Treasury says it will authorize companies to apply for licenses to resell Venezuelan oil to Cuba’s private sector. The decision aims to ease the island’s acute fuel shortages while maintaining regulatory oversight.
- U.S. and Canadian trade officials speak and plan to meet in the coming weeks to advance negotiations, according to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer. He says the administration is open to proposals on reaching an agreement.

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