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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu chaired an NDA meeting to mobilise support for the Women's Reservation Bill, with Pawan Kalyan and others. A special Amaravati event on April 17 was planned to show unified backing.
- Andhra Pradesh has launched Digital Census 2027 on April 16<sup>th</sup> with a fully digital process including self-enumeration. State Census Director J Nivas said the exercise would be conducted in two phases covering housing and population data.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Minister for Housing and Information and Public Relations Kolusu Parthasarathy directs officials to complete housing projects by Sept, targeting 50% progress by June. He emphasises quality, transparency and faster execution.
- The State Disaster Management Authority warned of intensifying heatwave conditions across Andhra Pradesh, with temperatures reaching up to 45°C. Managing Director Prakhar Jain said multiple districts may see severe heatwave conditions in the coming days.

#### Delhi

- Delhi Jal Board initiated work on Delhi's first integrated water master plan to strengthen supply and infrastructure. The plan will cover short-, medium- and long-term measures, focusing on reducing losses and improving water security.
- Delhi Traffic Police flagged 19 infrastructure and traffic issues across central and south Delhi, urging New Delhi Municipal Council to act. The recommendations focus on minor engineering fixes to reduce congestion and improve road safety.
- CM Rekha Gupta flagged off 200 electric buses, taking Delhi's e-bus fleet to over 4,500, aiming to boost green mobility and reduce pollution while targeting expansion to 14,000 buses by 2028-29.

#### Delhi

- Delhi PWD is proposing an AI-based road monitoring system to improve maintenance and complaint management. The platform will use real-time data and analytics to detect issues and ensure faster resolution.
- Municipal Corporation of Delhi prepares the SWAGAM portal to regularise 1,511 unauthorised colonies in Delhi. The platform will use drone survey data and simplified processes to help residents apply for property regularisation.
- PWD Delhi plans new flyovers and underpasses across key corridors in Delhi to reduce congestion. PWD Minister Parvesh Verma said feasibility studies are underway for major stretches.

#### Goa

- Authorities in South Goa announced temporary closure of key roads near Davorlim Circle, including stretches towards Rawanfond and Old Station Road. Commuters have been advised to use alternate routes as per directions issued by the District Magistrate.
- Citizens for Democracy raised concerns over smart meter installations in Goa and challenged Power Minister Sudin Dhavalikar to a public debate. The group alleged lack of transparency, consent and verification, demanding detailed studies be shared.

#### Goa

- Mormugao Municipal Council to approve temporary transfer of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited land to Kadamba Transport Corporation Limited under a PPP project. The decision faced councillor concerns over traffic impact and lack of transparency.
- Minister Mauvin Godinho said one side of the Dabolim flyover will open by May-end to ease traffic congestion. He also announced plans to develop a garden and dedicate space for Ganesh celebrations beneath the flyover.

#### Gujarat

- A 66-km stretch of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway between Vadodara and Godhra opened for trial traffic. The section is expected to improve connectivity and reduce travel time while easing congestion on existing routes.
- Amdavad Municipal Corporation faces criticism over plans to procure 6.9 lakh plastic bags despite enforcing a plastic ban in Ahmedabad. The move has raised concerns over double standards and lack of adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.

#### Gujarat

- Gujarat may see Lok Sabha seats rise to 39 and Assembly seats to 273 due to delimitation and the Women's Reservation Act. The changes would redraw constituencies and boost women's representation.
- Ahmedabad is on heat alert with temperatures expected to reach 41°C this week. Authorities have activated the heat action plan with water points, ORS distribution and precautionary measures across the city.

#### Haryana

- Haryana government's 35% wage hike has raised concerns among industries over rising operational costs. MSMEs warn total expenses could rise significantly due to added statutory costs. The move may impact business viability and competitiveness.
- Bhakra Beas Management Board faces fresh controversy as the Centre proposes increasing full-time members from 2 to 4. Punjab opposes the move, calling it legally untenable and raising concerns over expanded representation.

#### Haryana

- Election Commissioner Devender Singh Kalyan orders 24-hour vigilance at interstate borders ahead of municipal polls. He directed strict enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct and action against violations. Measures are also emphasised to ensure safe and inclusive voting.
- Haryana Cabinet Minister Anil Vij directed officials to inspect Ambala domestic airport and complete pending works at the earliest. He said the airport at Ambala Cantonment will be inaugurated soon to boost regional connectivity.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu chaired a Cabinet meeting approving recruitment of 1,000 police constables and 500 forest guards in Himachal Pradesh. The move aims to boost employment, with 50% forest guard posts reserved for Van Mitras.
- Himachal Pradesh continues to face landslides on the Manikaran-Barshaini stretch, damaging vehicles and disrupting movement. Residents have warned of protests if authorities fail to secure the road and address safety concerns.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh will conduct mandatory Aadhaar biometric update camps in schools from April 20. The drive aims to update children's details as per UIDAI norms to ensure continued validity of Aadhaar.
- Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri said Shimla will receive 24x7 drinking water from June under the Shakroli scheme. The project aims to boost supply with improved infrastructure and increased water capacity.

#### Karnataka

- DY CM D. K. Shivakumar and Minister Satish Jarkiholi discussed measures to ease traffic congestion in Bengaluru. The plan includes diverting vehicles via highways and regulating inflow to reduce pressure on city roads.
- Karnataka revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda pulled up tahsildars over delays in land records and survey work in Karnataka. The Minister directed officials to clear pending tasks, including podi surveys, within a week.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka government will start e-auction of 569 excise licences after approval from Karnataka High Court. The process is expected to be completed by June, aiming to generate significant revenue.
- CM Siddaramaiah led a Cabinet decision to form a committee on SC internal quota in Karnataka. The panel will examine implementation and submit its report. A final decision is expected in the April 24 Cabinet meeting.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

**Madhya Pradesh**

- CM Mohan Yadav flagged off heli-tourism services between Bhopal and Orchha–Chanderi to boost tourism. The service offers improved connectivity, with fares set at ₹6,500 for Orchha and ₹5,500 for Chanderi.

**Mumbai**

- Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority introduced three compensation options for landowners under the Mumbai 3.0 project. The move allows flexibility through acquisition, development rights or land pooling models across affected villages.
- Plans for Maharashtra's first automated driving test track at Tardeo RTO face hurdles over relocation of existing facilities. The proposal to shift operations to the BEST Undertaking depot has met resistance due to space constraints.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis directed swift land allocation and priority power supply for data centre projects in Maharashtra. He also instructed agencies to act quickly to attract investments and support infrastructure development.

**Pune**

- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation tightened security at its headquarters following the liquor bottles row. The civic body introduced strict ID checks, controlled access and enhanced surveillance for staff and visitors.
- Pune Regional Transport Office authorised 795 auto stands in Pune, reducing the earlier number to streamline operations. Deputy Regional Transport Officer Swapnil Bhosale said the move aims to adapt to infrastructure changes and ease congestion.
- Work has begun on new platforms at Pune Railway Station, with platforms 11 and 12 expected within two months. The expansion aims to increase capacity and improve passenger handling amid rising demand.

**Punjab**

- CM Bhagwant Mann visited the Netherlands to attract investments and strengthen bilateral ties, focusing on sectors like food processing, logistics, pharma and IT in Punjab while aiming to boost FDI and position the state as a global investment destination.
- Punjab government initiated ward reservation for 33 municipal councils and nagar panchayats ahead of civic polls, categorising wards into general, women, SC and BC segments to ensure representation. Elections are likely to be held in May.

**Rajasthan**

- Rajasthan is witnessing intensifying heatwave conditions, with temperatures crossing 40°C in 18 cities. Jaipur recorded its hottest day of the season as mercury surged. Temperatures are expected to rise further across the state this week.

**Tamil Nadu**

- Chennai's IT corridor growth continues to face civic strain with flooding, traffic and drainage issues impacting residents. Despite rapid development, infrastructure gaps remain a key concern shaping public sentiment in the region.
- Election Commission of India transferred IG Intelligence K.A. Senthilvelan and appointed A. Avinash Kumar as successor in Tamil Nadu. The Commission directed immediate compliance and barred the outgoing officer from election-related duties.

**Telangana**

- CM A. Revanth Reddy urged Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy to set up a greenfield steel plant in Bayyaram, Telangana. He highlighted its role in boosting steel supply, sustainability and industrial growth.
- Andhra Pradesh Police intensified border checks along the AP–TN border ahead of Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections. Officials are conducting round-the-clock inspections to curb illegal transport of cash and liquor and ensure fair polling.

**Uttar Pradesh**

- Government of India sought reports from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana over worker protests on wage hikes. The unrest, driven by rising living costs, has led to monitoring and engagement with stakeholders.
- Authorities in Prayagraj initiated a plan to revive the near-extinct Chhoti river in Uttar Pradesh. The project aims to restore its natural flow as part of a broader river rejuvenation effort in the region.

Upcoming News/Events

**Madhya Pradesh**

- The 17-km Indore Metro stretch is ready with safety clearance, but inauguration is delayed pending final approval despite completion. CM Mohan Yadav had directed timely execution, yet operations await formal launch in Indore.

**Mumbai**

- Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority plans to extend the south Mumbai tunnel to Girgaum Chowpatty. The revision aims to ease congestion and significantly cut east-west travel time across the city.
- Maharashtra plans to expand the 'Super 100' scheme statewide to support underprivileged students preparing for IIT and NEET exams. The initiative will receive ₹1.25 crore per district annually to boost access to competitive education.
- Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority plans to bid out nearly 480 acres for redevelopment across key suburbs in Mumbai. The initiative aims to upgrade ageing housing clusters through multiple large-scale projects.

**Pune**

- Pune Municipal Corporation will appoint an agency to survey illegal hoardings after data gaps were flagged. Standing Committee Chairman Shreenath Bhimale criticised the lack of accurate records and slow enforcement action.
- Energy Minister Meghna Bordikar directed power agencies to plan for rising electricity demand in Pune and nearby areas. She asked utilities to coordinate with civic bodies and expand substations and networks for future needs.
- The state will transfer 1,878 hectares of land to Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority free of cost to boost infrastructure development. District Collector Jitendra Dudi said 174 land parcels have been identified for the move.

**Punjab**

- Union Government of India relaxed wheat procurement norms, providing relief to farmers in Punjab amid weather-related crop damage. The move allows higher tolerance for damaged grains, easing procurement issues after protests.
- CM Bhagwant Mann launches ₹150 crore infrastructure projects in the Kandi region of Punjab. The projects focus on roads, connectivity and healthcare, with the CM emphasising education as key to reducing poverty.

**Rajasthan**

- PM Narendra Modi will visit Rajasthan on April 21 to inaugurate a BS-6 standard HPCL refinery at Pachpadra. The project marks a major industrial development in the region. Preparations include large cutouts and arrangements at the venue for the event.

**Tamil Nadu**

- Tamil Nadu plans an air freight village near Parandur to support its upcoming airport project. The facility will include warehousing, logistics and cargo operations to boost air freight capacity.
- Southern Railway announced summer special trains from Chennai to Santragachi and Mumbai from April 20. The services will operate on select dates to manage increased passenger demand. Advance reservation booking has been opened for travellers.

**Telangana**

- Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said Telangana will soon hike property market values as part of a new revenue policy. He also directed officials to prepare an airport development plan for Adilabad and review aviation projects.
- Plans for an airport in Adilabad have been reworked to cover 1,500 acres, aiming to develop a joint civil-defence aviation hub. Officials from Airports Authority of India and the Indian Air Force conducted surveys to assess feasibility and infrastructure needs.

**Uttar Pradesh**

- The Electricity Regulatory Commission is likely to keep power tariffs unchanged in Uttar Pradesh for the seventh consecutive year. The move is driven by regulatory surplus and pre-election considerations, benefiting millions of consumers.
- Uttar Pradesh is bracing for a heatwave with temperatures nearing 45°C in coming days. India Meteorological Department warned of extreme heat conditions driven by dry weather and westerly winds.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- Algeria has launched its 2026 oil and gas licensing round offering seven exploration blocks. The initiative aims to boost energy output and attract foreign investment. The move reflects efforts to strengthen its position as a key OPEC member.
- Representatives of Democratic Republic of the Congo and rebel coalition Alliance Fleuve Congo made progress on humanitarian access and ceasefire oversight. Talks in Switzerland led to commitments to protect civilians and allow aid movement.

## America

- Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum met Spanish President Pedro Sánchez in Barcelona, signalling improved ties between Mexico and Spain. The meeting marks a diplomatic reset after years of strained relations over colonial legacy issues.
- German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva called for stronger cooperation between Brazil and the European Union. Both leaders welcomed the EU–Mercosur trade deal and emphasized closer economic ties and reduced tariffs.

## Asia Pacific

- Australia and Japan signed contracts to launch a \$7 billion warship deal. The agreement marks a major step in defence cooperation between the two nations. It is also Japan's most significant military export since lifting its export ban in 2014.
- North Korea fired ballistic missiles into the sea, marking its fourth launch this month amid rising regional tensions. Experts say the move signals military strength and aims to gain leverage ahead of potential talks with the United States and South Korea.

## China

- China offered to deepen rail infrastructure cooperation with Vietnam through loans, technology and training. The move aims to strengthen strategic ties and boost transport connectivity. Leaders from both sides highlighted rail projects as a key priority.
- China said it is willing to advance negotiations to upgrade its free trade agreement with Switzerland. The proposed upgrade aims to enhance trade, investment and innovation cooperation between the two countries.

## Europe

- Belarusian PM Alexander Lukashenko said he is open to meeting U.S. President Donald Trump once a mutually beneficial deal is prepared. He emphasized the need for agreements reflecting both Belarus and United States interests.

## Middle East

- Egypt is coordinating with Pakistan and regional partners to frame a peace effort between the United States and Iran. The initiative focuses on preventing escalation and ensuring stability in energy, supply chains and regional security.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that Iran will not relinquish its nuclear rights amid tensions with the United States. He criticised Donald Trump for questioning Iran's nuclear position. The remarks highlight ongoing disagreements between the two countries over nuclear policy.

## Pakistan

- PM Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Iran's PM Masoud Pezeshkian on the Gulf conflict. He shared insights from talks with regional leaders and emphasized dialogue. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to peace and regional stability.

## United Kingdom

- PM Keir Starmer is facing calls to resign over appointing Peter Mandelson as ambassador to the United States despite security vetting concerns. The controversy has intensified political pressure on his leadership.
- United Kingdom and Australia agreed to boost pension fund investments into UK infrastructure, housing and energy projects. The partnership aims to channel Australian funds into long-term development. It is expected to strengthen economic cooperation and growth.

## United States

- U.S. House of Representatives voted to extend temporary protections for Haitian migrants, defying Donald Trump's immigration stance. The move, backed by bipartisan support, aims to safeguard around 350,000 Haitians in the United States.

## Africa

- Angola is seeking a \$165 million budget support loan from the African Development Bank amid economic pressures from global conflicts. The government is also exploring additional external financing while leveraging oil revenues to offset fiscal strain.
- Nigeria has introduced a green tax surcharge on vehicles under its 2026 fiscal policy effective July 1. The levy targets larger engine cars while exempting smaller engines, EVs and public transport. The move aims to support environmental goals and reform taxation.

## America

- Brazil, Mexico and Spain pledged to step up coordinated aid to Cuba. The countries cited humanitarian concerns and called for dialogue under international norms. The move aims to ease the crisis and support Cuba's stability.
- Haiti and Dominican Republic agreed to reopen airspace from May after over two years of suspension. The move is expected to facilitate travel and strengthen economic ties. It also signals improving diplomatic relations between the two nations.

## Asia Pacific

- New Zealand's capital Wellington began clean-up after flash floods caused by heavy rain. Authorities reported damage, evacuations and a state of emergency in affected areas. More severe weather is expected across the North Island.
- Philippines along with U.S. will build a 4,000-acre industrial hub to strengthen AI and semiconductor supply chains. The project under Pax Silica aims to boost manufacturing and reduce strategic dependencies in the Luzon corridor.

## China

- China is intensifying diplomatic efforts to end the Iran war while balancing ties with both the United States and Iran. President Xi Jinping's upcoming summit with Donald Trump is shaping Beijing's cautious strategy.
- Beijing plans to complete its Satellite Town hub by late 2026 to boost the aerospace sector. The project aims to support satellite manufacturing, innovation and industry clustering. It reflects China's push to expand its growing commercial space market.

## Europe

- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Europe to develop its own ballistic missile defence system amid ongoing war challenges. Ukraine is in talks with multiple countries to advance the initiative. The move aims to counter missile threats and strengthen regional security.
- Germany is set to acquire an integrated combat system worth \$11.9 billion following approval from the United States. The deal includes advanced equipment and support services. It aims to strengthen Germany's defence capabilities and military readiness.

## Middle East

- European Union plans to restore relations with Syria by resuming formal political contacts. The move aims to enhance trade, economic and security cooperation. It reflects a broader policy shift after years of strained ties.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan is running furnace oil-based power plants at full capacity and delaying nuclear maintenance to manage electricity shortages. LNG supply disruptions linked to the Iran conflict have reduced generation and triggered load-shedding. Lower hydropower output has worsened the power deficit.

## United Kingdom

- United Kingdom will scrap its carbon tax on electricity generation from April 2028 to ease rising costs. The move aims to reduce power bills for households and businesses. It comes amid growing pressure over energy affordability.

## United States

- President Donald Trump is set to ease restrictions on a psychedelic drug used to treat PTSD in the United States. The move involves reviewing federal rules on its medical use. It aims to expand treatment options for mental health conditions.
- U.S. President is attempting an economic reset amid rising gas prices driven by the Iran conflict, which is impacting voter sentiment. His outreach in battleground states aims to highlight economic policies despite inflation concerns. Republican leaders fear high fuel costs could hurt electoral prospects.

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