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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu distributes ₹226 crore to Polavaram project oustees as part of the third instalment of the rehabilitation package. He states that the government aims to resettle over 38,000 families by 2027 with ongoing development of rehabilitation colonies.
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry hands over 385 acres of land on a 99-year lease to the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board for development of the Mulapeta port. The move clears key hurdles and is expected to boost regional development and generate employment.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu directs officials to hand over over 1 lakh TIDCO houses and refund ₹174 crore to over 83,000 applicants who were not allotted homes. He also pushes urban reforms including QR-based services and expansion of the Puramitra platform.
- The government announces a 50% interest waiver on property tax arrears for 2025–26, applicable if taxpayers clear full principal and remaining interest in one payment. S. Suresh Kumar urges timely payments to strengthen urban finances and service delivery.

#### Delhi

- New Delhi Municipal Council waives road restoration charges for PNG pipeline installation for three months to speed up connections amid LPG shortages. Permissions for road cutting will also be granted within 24 hours to ensure faster execution.
- Delhi Pollution Control Committee orders an administrative takeover of the Okhla CETP over operational lapses and untreated effluent discharge. It also initiates recovery of ₹1.30 crore in environmental compensation from responsible entities.
- CM Rekha Gupta launches 300 electric buses, increasing the Delhi Transport Corporation fleet to 6,100. She states the government aims to fully electrify the fleet and improve public transport efficiency.

#### Delhi

- Delhi government plans to develop themed forests such as Ritu Van, Nakshatra Van and Panchvati Van to enhance green cover and promote cultural awareness. The initiative aims to create spaces that combine environmental conservation with traditional concepts.
- Delhi government plans to involve private players and vehicle manufacturers to expand EV charging infrastructure under its upcoming policy. The move aims to add around 7,000 new charging stations to support growing EV adoption.
- Delhi Development Authority plans to use treated wastewater for irrigating parks across the city to reduce groundwater dependence. It has invited bids to appoint a consultant for designing a comprehensive supply and management network.

#### Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant informs the Assembly that over 8,100 cases are pending in district courts due to vacancies in District Judge posts. The reduced judicial strength has further worsened the backlog situation.
- State-run oil companies Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited raise premium petrol prices by over ₹2 per litre. The hike reflects rising global crude oil costs amid Middle East tensions.

#### Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant says his health is normal after a routine check-up in Pune and that he will return to Goa soon. He adds that he is fit to resume duties and there is no cause for concern.
- The Bombay High Court (Goa bench) directs the state government to respond within two weeks on a PIL addressing child begging at traffic junctions. The court emphasises urgent enforcement and rehabilitation measures, including rescue teams and stricter monitoring.

#### Gujarat

- The lake interlinking project in Ahmedabad faces delays as over 2,600 encroachments across 16 lakes remain uncleared despite partial possession by authorities. The lack of enforcement action is hindering progress of the plan to ensure year-round water availability.
- Traffic Police in Ahmedabad launch a pilot project using cooling jackets to help personnel cope with extreme heat conditions. The initiative, in collaboration with Mahila Housing Trust, aims to reduce heat stress and improve working conditions.

#### Gujarat

- Authorities in Ahmedabad announce temporary closures of Shahibaug and Mithakhali underpasses due to railway maintenance works. Traffic will be diverted via alternative routes, with phased and night-time restrictions causing short-term disruptions.
- A cricket academy backed by Sachin Tendulkar is set to open in Ahmedabad on April 10 to train young aspirants with advanced facilities. The centre will offer structured coaching programmes with mentorship from former professional cricketers.

#### Haryana

- DGP Ajay Singhal launches the 'Abhedya' app to block suspicious calls, extortion messages, and cyber threats before they reach users. The app monitors unknown numbers and automatically blocks and removes harmful communications.
- CM Nayab Singh Saini oversees the signing of an MoU with the Centre for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 to strengthen rural water infrastructure. He says the initiative will enhance water supply, quality, and long-term sustainability.

#### Haryana

- Anil Yadav, Kosli MLA, states that ₹83.77 lakh has been sanctioned to illuminate the Nahar-Salhawas railway overbridge in Rewari district. He also reviews local issues and directs officials to address residents' grievances.
- Directorate of School Education Haryana directs over 9,200 private schools to submit Form VI by March 31 or face action. Schools failing to comply will not be allowed to revise fees and may face MIS account closure.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presents a ₹54,928-crore Budget for 2026–27 and announces up to 50% salary cuts amid fiscal constraints. He notes the absence of Revenue Deficit Grant from the Centre as a key concern.
- NDRF conducts mobilisation drills in the state with participation of 18 teams to strengthen emergency response. The exercises test coordination, communication systems, and rescue operations across multiple locations.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Amit Sharma, Kinnaur Deputy Commissioner, announces that India-China border trade via Shipki La Pass will resume from June 1. The administration is undertaking infrastructure development and coordination measures to ensure smooth operations.
- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu proposes up to ₹5 per litre fuel cess on petrol and diesel to fund welfare schemes for widows and orphans. The proposal is part of the Himachal Pradesh VAT (Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled in the Assembly.

#### Karnataka

- The Karnataka Legislative Council passes bills regulating outdoor advertisements and police transfers, tabled by Byrathi Suresh. Opposition members raise concerns over proposed taxes on advertisements, including those on small transport modes.

#### Karnataka

- Additional Chief Secretary (Energy), Gaurav Gupta, says Karnataka aims to generate 25,000 MW of renewable energy over the next 5 years through policy measures. He highlights the need for investor support and streamlined land processes.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Rashmi Shami, Additional Chief Secretary, meets hotel and restaurant bodies amid a 12-day LPG shortage affecting commercial supply in Madhya Pradesh. A decision on resolving the crisis is expected soon.

## Mumbai

- BMC cancels a ₹150 crore tender for thermoplastic road markings following corruption concerns raised by Ameet Satam. The decision cites issues such as arbitrary fund allocation and potential cartelisation in the contract.
- Manoj Kumar Suryavanshi, Municipal Commissioner, announces a 15% property tax hike and doubling of water tax in VVCMC's ₹4,208 crore budget to address revenue shortfall. He cites rising supply costs and lower-than-expected tax collections as key reasons.
- CM Devendra Fadnavis announces plans to develop 12 AVGC hubs and a major content creator complex to boost the gaming and creator economy. He says the initiative aims to strengthen digital infrastructure and connect creators with industry opportunities.

## Pune

- Pratap Sarnaik, Maharashtra Transport Minister and MSRTC Chairman, says diesel procurement reforms will help MSRTC save around ₹241 crore annually. He highlights the corporation's financial stress and the need for cost control and alternative revenue sources.
- Ravi Landge, Pimpri-Chinchwad Mayor, directs immediate measures to curb air pollution as AQI remains in the moderate range. He calls for stricter monitoring, control of vehicular emissions, and enforcement at construction sites.
- Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education detects over 300 malpractice cases in board exams using CCTV surveillance, leading to suspension of 105 school staff. The move helps identify incidents like copying, mobile use, and impersonation.

## Punjab

- Gurjit Singh Brar, Director of Agriculture, says recent light rainfall in Punjab has not caused major damage to wheat crops and may benefit soil moisture. He advises caution as prolonged rain or strong winds could still pose risks.
- Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University concludes the Pashu Palan Mela with the launch of an AI chatbot 'VetBot' and a livestock-focused mobile app. The initiatives aim to support farmers with advanced digital tools and livestock knowledge.

## Rajasthan

- Authorities in Rajasthan have arrested a government employee for allegedly sharing sensitive Indian Air Force information, including fighter jet locations, with Pakistani handlers. The accused is reported to have been in contact with ISI since 2023.

## Tamil Nadu

- R. Sathiskumar, the founder of the Endangered Wildlife and Environmental Trust (EWET) says activists will distribute 500 clay water bowls to help birds stay hydrated during summer. The initiative aims to prevent dehydration and support urban bird populations.
- Chief Electoral Officer, Archana Patnaik says AI-generated election content must carry clear labels and disclose creator identity to prevent misinformation. She adds that online political ads require prior certification and violations must be removed within three hours.

## Telangana

- BRS President, K. T. Rama Rao announces that BRS will introduce a Private Member's Bill to seek legal backing for the implementation of the six guarantees. He says the party will consult stakeholders and seek support from other political parties.
- CM A. Revanth Reddy allocates funds in Budget 26-27 for new infrastructure and irrigation projects, including ₹1,101.92 crore for the Narayanapet-Kodangal scheme. The budget also includes ₹100 crore for a new Hospital building and other administrative infrastructure.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Western Disturbance brings rain, thunderstorms, and gusty winds across Uttar Pradesh, providing relief from heat. An orange alert has been issued for hailstorms in several districts, with temperatures expected to drop by 5-7°C.
- The Union Cabinet led by PM Narendra Modi approves a ₹6,969-crore four-lane highway connecting Barabanki and Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh. The project aims to improve connectivity and boost cross-border trade with Nepal via the Nepalganj route.
- CM Yogi Adityanath meets Canadian High Commissioner Christopher Cooter to discuss investment and technology collaboration. He highlights UP as an emerging investment destination with strong industrial growth and policy support.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- The Bhopal Municipal Corporation is set to present a ₹3,500 crore budget with no major tax hike expected amid political opposition. Key issues like beef controversy, Lokayukta action, and civic infrastructure are likely to dominate the council meeting.

## Mumbai

- Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation floats a fresh RFP to appoint a new agency for mobile connectivity along Metro Line 3 after terminating the previous contract. The move aims to ensure seamless telecom coverage across stations and the underground corridor.
- BMC proposes reclassifying part of a Malabar Hill plot from green zone to residential use, with the matter set for committee review. The move has drawn opposition over concerns of reducing protected green space.
- The Bombay High Court directs the Maharashtra government to refund ₹8.2 crore royalty to a Metro 3 contractor, stating the state was not entitled to the amount. The court orders repayment within 12 weeks or interest will be applied.

## Pune

- National Centre for Radio Astrophysics repurposes old BSNL antennas to enhance the capabilities of the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope. The upgrade is expected to enable higher-frequency observations and expand research potential.
- Authorities in Pune plan to introduce a new 'AAA' vehicle number series as the existing 'MH-12' combinations near exhaustion. The move aims to accommodate rapid growth in vehicle registrations with a three-letter format.
- Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited plans PPP-based feeder bus services from Ramwadi and other metro stations to improve last-mile connectivity. The move aims to boost ridership by linking residential and commercial areas with metro networks.

## Punjab

- CM Bhagwant Mann announces that the Punjab government will introduce an anti-sacrilege law in a special Assembly session on April 13. He says the law will be drafted in consultation with religious groups and legal experts.
- Punjab government plans to demarcate delisted forest land under the Punjab Land Preservation Act to curb illegal construction. The move aims to improve monitoring and prevent encroachments on previously protected areas.

## Rajasthan

- Authorities in Udaipur warn government departments to clear ₹20 crore in pending electricity dues within a week or face disconnection. Major defaulters include the Municipal Corporation and UDA, which together owe around ₹18 crore.

## Tamil Nadu

- Former Supreme Court Judge Kurian Joseph heads a panel that will submit its report on Centre-State relations in three parts covering emerging issues like digital governance. The committee aims to provide a comprehensive review beyond earlier commissions.
- National Highways Authority of India floats a ₹204-crore tender to build three underpasses and a flyover in Tiruchy to ease traffic congestion. The project targets accident-prone "black spots" along NH-38 and aims to improve road safety.

## Telangana

- CM A. Revanth Reddy's Delhi visit fuels speculation over a possible Cabinet expansion or reshuffle in Telangana. Discussions are underway on new inductions, portfolio changes, and pending MLC nominations.
- Dy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka allocates ₹3,490 crore for the industries sector to boost industrial growth and infrastructure. He outlines plans for industrial parks, export expansion, and support for women-led enterprises.

## Uttar Pradesh

- National Highways Authority of India introduces a barrier-free MLFF toll system on the Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway to enable seamless travel without stopping. The move aims to cut travel time and reduce congestion at toll plazas.
- CM Yogi Adityanath says he has invited PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Noida International Airport on March 28 as it is ready for operations. Final confirmation from the Prime Minister's Office is still awaited.
- The Uttar Pradesh government, led by CM Yogi Adityanath, sends a panel to UPSC for appointing a full-time DGP, with Rajeev Krishna as the frontrunner. The move aims to end prolonged stopgap arrangements in the top police post.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

#### Africa

- Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda agree on steps to de-escalate tensions during U.S.-hosted talks in Washington. The measures include troop disengagement, civilian protection, and efforts to stabilise eastern Congo.
- The U.S. military deploys MQ-9 drones and around 200 troops in Nigeria to provide training and intelligence support against Islamist militants. Officials clarify the drones are used for surveillance only, with no airstrikes being conducted.

#### America

- Cuba says it is prepared for any potential U.S. military action amid rising tensions and an oil blockade. Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernandez de Cossio states the country is ready despite viewing conflict as unlikely.
- Brazil's Finance Minister Fernando Haddad announces he will run for governor of São Paulo and step down from his ministerial role. President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva backs the move, appointing Dario Durigan as replacement.

#### Asia Pacific

- Tropical Cyclone Narelle is forecast to hit Australia's Northern Territory after bringing heavy rain, strong winds, and outages to Queensland. The storm is expected to strengthen with winds up to 185 kmph as it moves west.
- Taiwan says deliveries of delayed F-16V fighter jets from Lockheed Martin will begin this year as production reaches full capacity. The move aims to strengthen Taiwan's defence amid rising tensions with China.

#### China

- China reaches record oil production but is nearing limits as offshore growth slows and unconventional extraction becomes costly. Output is expected to plateau around 4 million bpd, keeping the country reliant on imports despite rising domestic supply.
- China calls for an end to the Middle East conflict, warning of disruptions to global energy, shipping, and trade. The ongoing war continues to escalate with no signs of slowing. Beijing highlights potential economic risks and urges de-escalation.

#### Europe

- Tens of thousands protest in Czech Republic against policies of PM Andrej Babiš, marking the largest anti-government rally since 2019. Demonstrators raise concerns over defence spending cuts and potential threats to media freedom.
- Switzerland suspends weapons export licences to the U.S. citing neutrality amid the Iran conflict. The decision follows restrictions on supplying countries involved in hostilities. Authorities say no new licences will be issued during the conflict.

#### Middle East

- Saudi Aramco Chief Executive Amin Nasser cancels his appearance at CERAWEEK to remain in Saudi Arabia amid the Iran conflict. The move highlights escalating tensions impacting global energy leadership and markets.

#### Pakistan

- Pakistan engages with Iran, Turkey, and Egypt as Tehran calls for regional coordination amid escalating tensions. Pakistan is part of diplomatic consultations following strikes on energy infrastructure and rising conflict in the region.

#### United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom authorises the U.S. to use British bases for strikes on Iranian missile sites targeting ships in the Strait of Hormuz. The move is framed as collective self-defence amid escalating regional tensions.

#### United States

- The United States is deploying thousands of additional Marines and sailors to the Middle East to strengthen its operational readiness amid the Iran conflict. Officials say the move boosts regional capacity, though no decision has been made to deploy troops into Iran.
- The Pentagon designates Palantir Technologies's Maven AI system as a core military program of record. The move secures long-term funding and expands its use for battlefield intelligence and targeting operations.

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Africa

- Chad plans to deploy 800 police and gendarmes to Haiti as part of an international force to tackle gang violence. The personnel are expected to be deployed by June following training with international partners.
- United Kingdom and Nigeria agree on a £746 million (\$990 million) export finance deal to refurbish major Nigerian ports. The project aims to upgrade Lagos and TinCan Island ports while boosting trade and supporting UK firms.

#### America

- Foreign ministers of the G7 Countries are ready to take measures to support global energy supplies and safeguard key routes like the Strait of Hormuz. They also condemn Iran's attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure while backing regional partners.
- Panama Canal Authority says ships will continue to pass uninterrupted during maintenance from March to September 2026. The work will involve temporary closure of individual lanes while others remain operational.

#### Asia Pacific

- The Pentagon says the U.S. and allies plan to expand missile, drone, and ammunition production closer to Asia's flashpoints. The initiative includes cooperation with Japan and potential manufacturing projects in the Philippines.
- Indonesia plans to save around \$5 billion in its budget to cope with the economic impact of the Iran conflict. The move focuses on improving fiscal efficiency and managing external pressures amid rising global uncertainties.

#### China

- Chinese Premier Li Qiang says China will further open its economy to foreign firms and promote more balanced global trade. He adds that China will increase imports and reassure investors amid rising trade tensions and declining FDI.
- Ministry of Commerce China plans to expand visa-free entry and improve transit policies to boost foreign tourist spending. The measures also promote discounted flights and more events to attract international visitors.

#### Europe

- Ukraine expects the first tranche of a €90 billion EU loan next month despite Hungary's veto. The funding aims to support the economy amid the ongoing war. Kyiv remains optimistic about securing continued financial backing.

#### Middle East

- Egypt plans to clear \$1.3 billion in arrears to international oil companies by June, accelerating its repayment timeline. The move aims to boost investment, increase local production, and reduce energy imports.
- Iran warns it will target energy and water infrastructure in Gulf states if Donald Trump proceeds with threats against its power grid. The escalation raises risks to civilians and global markets amid the ongoing conflict.

#### Pakistan

- Pakistan Cricket Board says PSL matches will be held behind closed doors in Lahore and Karachi due to a fuel crisis. Chairman Mohsin Naqvi cites Middle East conflict impacts, with the opening ceremony also cancelled.

#### United Kingdom

- Prime Minister Keir Starmer says the UK's Akrotiri airbase in Cyprus will not be used for U.S. defensive operations in the region. The UK has instead authorised use of other bases for strikes linked to Strait of Hormuz security.
- PM Keir Starmer calls an emergency meeting with top ministers and the Bank of England to assess the economic impact of the Iran war. The talks will focus on rising energy costs, inflation risks, and support measures for households.

#### United States

- President Donald Trump's Board of Peace presents Hamas with a written proposal to lay down its weapons as part of a Gaza plan. Hamas has so far refused to disarm despite ongoing talks in Cairo. Disarmament remains a key condition for reconstruction and Israeli withdrawal.

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