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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Union Water Resources Secretary V L Kantharao says there is no shortage of funds for the Polavaram project, with adequate provisions ensured for completion. He adds that work is being expedited with close monitoring and a target set for June 2027.
- Chairman of Electricity Regulatory Commission P Venkata Ramana Reddy says no power tariff hike is approved for FY 26–27, ensuring transparency and consumer protection, while reducing DISCOMS' proposed revenue gap of ₹15,790 crore after review.

#### Delhi

- The Delhi government's power subsidy bill rises to ₹4,037 crore by FY 2026, more than doubling over a decade amid a ~40% increase in consumers to 73 lakh, with over 80% domestic users benefiting from subsidies.
- The Delhi Public Works Department waives road restoration charges for three months and mandates 24-hour approvals to fast-track PNG rollout by Indraprastha Gas Limited, aiming to expand cleaner fuel access with minimal disruption.
- The Municipal Corporation of Delhi mandates QR codes and display boards for infrastructure projects above ₹10 lakh to enhance transparency by sharing project details, timelines, and accountability on-site, with compliance enforced during inspections.

#### Goa

- CM, Pramod Sawant oversees revocation of the TCP Board's Section 39A zone change decision, with the government withdrawing the Sankhali approval to reinforce planning oversight. The move reverses earlier clearance amid concerns over land use changes.

#### Gujarat

- Health Minister, Gujarat Praful Pansheriya says the Assembly unanimously passes the Clinical Establishments Amendment Bill 2026 to streamline registration, enhance healthcare quality, and curb illegal practices with flexible deadlines.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General report flags Gujarat's fiscal stress with a 43% drop in revenue surplus and rising debt to ₹3.8 lakh crore, increasing reliance on borrowings and constraining fiscal space.

#### Haryana

- The Haryana government transfers 21 IAS and 42 HCS officers, with Commissioner and Secretary, Industries Amit Kumar Agrawal given additional charge as Member Secretary, Kurukshetra Development Board, alongside key administrative reshuffles.
- India Meteorological Department, Chandigarh issues a yellow alert for thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds across Haryana from March 29 due to a western disturbance following recent warm and dry conditions.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Residents in Kangra Valley oppose the proposal to shift the Kangra Valley Railway terminus from Pathankot to Dalhousie Road, citing inconvenience and disruption to connectivity as the historic route's key access point faces relocation.
- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu unveils a plan to raise forest cover to 32% by allocating barren land for plantations and involving industries, women groups, and NGOs with incentives to improve survival rates.

#### Karnataka

- Minister Law and Parliamentary Affairs H K Patil says the Assembly passes the Motor Vehicles Taxation Amendment Bill 2026 to reduce registration tax rates and curb out-of-state vehicle registrations.
- The Karnataka Legislative Assembly passes a Bill to protect and regularise lands used by government educational institutions for over 12 years, addressing legal gaps and preventing disputes over ownership.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Chief Secretary, G Sai Prasad directs APSRTC to prepare a comprehensive plan to utilise the PM-eBus Sewa scheme, focusing on replacing ageing buses and improving urban mobility, with 750 e-buses planned across 11 cities to boost efficiency and reduce pollution.
- Public Health Engineering Executive Engineer RR Vijay says a ₹37-crore waste management plan will tackle West Godavari's garbage crisis through segregation and recycling, covering 370 tonnes of daily waste across six towns.

#### Delhi

- PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh directs an AI-enabled CCTV overhaul with a new command centre to detect crime, potholes, and garbage dumping while replacing obsolete cameras to improve public safety and civic management.
- The New Delhi Municipal Council plans to set up eight decentralised sewage treatment plants under PPP to reuse treated water for horticulture and reduce freshwater dependence, with private operators managing them for 12 years.
- Lieutenant Governor, Delhi Taranjit Singh Sandhu urges MCD to improve garbage management, road repairs, and grievance redressal while addressing inter-agency coordination gaps and adopting global best practices to enhance service delivery.

#### Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant assures Mirabag protesters the bandhara project will be shifted to an alternative site, addressing concerns over flooding and environmental impact. Protest leaders state a decision on ending the 40-day agitation will follow.

#### Gujarat

- AMC Chief Banchhanidhi Pani flags planning gaps in the 1,970 e-bus rollout over lack of charging infrastructure and directs immediate action while also reviewing heatwave, pollution, and civic infrastructure preparedness.
- Traffic DCP, Ahmedabad Naresh Kanjaria is tasked to implement measures to ease congestion at key junctions through diversions, road cut adjustments, and traffic reforms amid rising vehicle pressure.

#### Haryana

- The Haryana Education Department directs schools and officials to furnish detailed bank account and FD information following fraud cases, ensuring strict compliance with finance guidelines to prevent fund mismanagement.
- Additional Chief Secretary, Haryana Health Dr Sumita Misra says a second HIV viral load testing lab will be set up at Panchkula Civil Hospital with NACO funding of ₹1.65 crore annually, handling around 15,000 tests.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu signals a review of the proposed entry tax to ease burden on industrial workers and daily commuters from neighbouring states. He says the Cabinet will reconsider provisions amid criticism while maintaining the hike aligns with inflation.
- Sangarsh Committee President Paramjit Singh Pamma says Ropar residents and taxi unions will block all roads to Himachal Pradesh on April 1 if the entry tax hike is not withdrawn, escalating protest action at border points.

#### Karnataka

- Minister Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar says LKG and UKG classes will be launched in 10,000 anganwadis from June to strengthen early education. She assures phased resolution of workers' demands and coordination for smooth implementation.
- NHAI is set to increase toll rates on highways from April 1, with marginal hikes for commercial and multi-axle vehicles while car fares remain largely unchanged. The revision will impact key routes including Bengaluru–Mysuru and airport toll roads.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Officials says fuel sales have risen by about 25% amid panic buying in cities like Bhopal, Indore, and Ujjain despite adequate petrol and diesel stocks. Authorities assure normal supply while monitoring distribution as queues grow at pumps and deliveries face delays.

## Mumbai

- The government allocated over ₹1 crore in 2018 to develop facilities around Ishaneshwar temple in Nashik under a broader tourism scheme, now under scrutiny due to allegations against trust head Ashok Kharat.
- The Maharashtra legislature passes a Bill allowing BMC to collect pending property tax arrears retrospectively from 2010, impacting over 10 lakh properties after years of litigation and partial payments.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis says the Assembly passes a Bill to criminalise disclosure of acid attack victims' identities and include online sexual harassment under sexual offences, pending Centre's approval.

## Pune

- The Pune Municipal Corporation tightens monitoring of free tanker water supply and imposes a ₹5,000 penalty for violations to curb illegal charges and ensure accountability amid rising summer demand.
- Director-General, India Meteorological Department Mrutyunjay Mohapatra inaugurates an indigenous real-time weather monitoring system in Pune to enhance forecasting accuracy and reduce reliance on imported technology.
- Standing Committee Chairman, Pune Municipal Corporation Shrinath Bhimale presents a ₹15,669 crore budget for 2026-27 with over 100 schemes focused on infrastructure expansion and healthcare improvements.

## Punjab

- The Punjab government withdraws the ₹80 fee for FIR copies from the Saanjh portal amid protests and legal challenges, restoring free access to documents to ensure transparency and public access to justice.
- The National Highways Authority of India awarded ₹3,342 crore Zirakpur bypass and spur projects to ease traffic congestion in the Tricity region. Work is expected to commence soon after finalising the lowest bidders.

## Rajasthan

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma says the state has sufficient gas and oil stocks and assures citizens amid the crisis after convening an all-party meeting. He clarifies the situation is not caused by any government or political party.

## Tamil Nadu

- CM M.K Stalin supports the 33% women's reservation proposal while urging that delimitation should not affect states' representation. He calls for a special Parliament session to enact amendments and ensure fair implementation.
- Director, Area Cyclone Warning Centre V R Durai says temperatures in Tamil Nadu rises 2-4°C above normal with largely dry conditions. Light rain is expected only in isolated Western Ghat districts while most regions remain dry.

## Telangana

- Managing Director, TGSRTC Y Nagi Reddy announces a 30% fare cut on Metro AC and Deluxe buses in Hyderabad to ease fuel demand and promote public transport. The move aims to reduce congestion, save fuel, and encourage eco-friendly commuting.
- CM A Revanth Reddy approves a Bill to deduct up to 15% salary from employees neglecting elderly parents, extending provisions to private sector workers. The Cabinet also clears measures on hate speech and worker welfare.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase I of Noida International Airport with a 3,900-metre runway and 12 million annual passenger capacity to ease Delhi-NCR congestion, marking a major aviation infrastructure boost.
- Officials say a KYC drive in Uttar Pradesh is helping identify genuine LPG users, with inactive connections flagged and reactivated only after verification to ensure efficient distribution and avoid supply disruptions.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Indore Development Authority installs the first 400-tonne "bow string" span for the ₹175 crore six-lane Level-2 flyover at Lavkush Chauraha, marking major construction progress. The overnight work ensures minimal traffic disruption while advancing the project.

## Mumbai

- Western Railway plans to introduce suburban services between Mumbai and Surat using Namo Bharat and upgraded MEMU trains, with new platforms proposed at Surat to support expanded regional connectivity.
- IT Minister Ashish Shelar says the government will frame a policy to regulate social media use by minors based on a task force study, including guidelines on screen time, age-based usage, and digital safety awareness.
- The Japan International Cooperation Agency will lend ₹5,500 crore for Mumbai Metro 11 connecting Gateway of India to Bandra Terminus, supporting urban mobility and pollution reduction with completion targeted by 2032.

## Pune

- Revenue Minister Chandrashekhhar Bawankule flags 424 land order irregularities in Pune, directing strict action against officials including possible suspensions and initiating a statewide review of similar cases.
- The Maharashtra government plans to monitor pregnant women with existing daughters to curb sex determination and female foeticide, strengthening enforcement beyond current PCPNDT measures.
- CMD, PMPML Mahesh Awhad initiates route rationalisation focusing on feeder services to metro corridors, reducing overlaps and improving efficiency, safety, and reliability of Pune's public transport system.

## Punjab

- The Punjab government urges the Food Corporation of India to lift old grain stocks urgently to create space for new wheat procurement, warning of mandi congestion and potential law and order issues if delays persist.
- Punjab will host the Asian Champions Trophy hockey for the first time in Mohali and Jalandhar. CM unveils plans for annual Four-Nation hockey events and revival of major sports tournaments to boost infrastructure and participation.

## Rajasthan

- Energy Minister, Rajasthan says four units of Kota Thermal Power Station may be phased out by 2030 as proposed in a board meeting. The decision remains subject to environmental clearance and final approval by the state government.

## Tamil Nadu

- Authorities plan to construct a subway at Arivoli Nagar junction on Coimbatore's Western Bypass after a fatal accident highlighted safety risks. The move follows protests by residents over repeated neglect of demands for improved road safety measures.
- The state plans to merge four units into a single Construction and Maintenance structure from April 1 to speed up road projects and reduce delays. The reorganisation into four zonal units aims to improve project monitoring and administrative efficiency.

## Telangana

- Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy says 12,000 unoccupied 2BHK units will be reallocated to eligible beneficiaries if original allottees fail to take possession. He adds the government will complete all pending housing units and conduct district-level reviews.
- Dy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka says the state plans Solar Model Villages to expand green energy with pilot projects across 81 villages. He adds rooftop solar support and agricultural solarisation will boost clean power generation across rural and urban areas.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath says sports colleges will be set up in every division as centres of excellence to nurture talent. The move aims to prepare athletes for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and strengthen India's performance in global events.
- UP aims to become a leader in world-class urban transport by ensuring efficient, transparent metro project execution. CM Yogi Adityanath directs timely completion, inter-department coordination, and new revenue models to strengthen financial viability.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Africa

- The United Nations General Assembly adopts a Ghana-led resolution recognising transatlantic slavery as the gravest crime against humanity and calling for reparations despite opposition from the US and abstentions by European nations.
- Air Algerie orders 10 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft as part of its fleet modernisation strategy. The move aims to expand its route network and improve passenger service quality. Deliveries are scheduled in phases across 2026–27 to strengthen market competitiveness.

## America

- Mexico's Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard announces support measures for the motor transport industry with tax incentives and investment to boost domestic production, while President Claudia Sheinbaum says it will cut emissions and improve freight efficiency.
- Brazil unveils its first domestically assembled supersonic Gripen fighter jet under a technology transfer deal with Saab, marking a major milestone in military aviation. The move positions Brazil among nations capable of producing advanced fighter aircraft and boosts its defence manufacturing.

## Asia Pacific

- Myanmar signals a military leadership reshuffle following Armed Forces Day ahead of a presidential selection process, indicating a potential transition within the Tatmadaw. The move comes as parliament prepares to convene to choose a new president.
- Governments across the Asia-Pacific region are taking measures to stabilise markets and boost liquidity as the US-Israel conflict with Iran heightens volatility and pressures currencies. The moves aim to reassure investors and contain economic fallout from escalating geopolitical tensions.

## China

- China Ministry of Education announces measures to ease academic pressure by limiting homework, exams, and protecting student break time to improve mental and physical health. The policy aims to reduce stress and shift focus away from excessive academic burden.
- Zhang Chengzhong is appointed party chief of China's Ministry of Emergency Management after the removal of former minister Wang Xiangxi amid a disciplinary probe. The move follows action over alleged serious violations of discipline and law.

## Europe

- Officials from France denies excluding South Africa from the G7 summit due to US pressure, stating Kenya was invited instead ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's visit, with global tensions likely to influence discussions.
- President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Ukraine and Saudi Arabia sign a defence cooperation agreement to boost joint capabilities and future investments. The deal aims to strengthen military ties as Ukraine seeks broader support amid ongoing conflict pressures.

## Middle East

- President Donald Trump extends the deadline to April 7 for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, delaying potential strikes on energy facilities. The move comes amid ongoing conflict and rising global economic pressures from escalating tensions.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan resumes military operations against Afghanistan after a temporary ceasefire, escalating tensions following recent heavy casualties on both sides. The move dims prospects of a lasting truce despite earlier pause during Eid.

## United Kingdom

- Prime Minister Keir Starmer authorises the military to board and detain Russian "shadow fleet" tankers in British waters to curb oil exports funding Moscow's war. The move aligns with broader European efforts to tighten sanctions enforcement amid rising oil prices.

## United States

- A senior US diplomat reaffirms Washington's "rock solid" support for Taiwan in defence and energy security during the Iran conflict. He highlights continued arms support and deterrence efforts under the Taiwan Relations Act to maintain regional stability.
- President Donald Trump signs an executive order directing federal contractors to eliminate DEI practices, mandating compliance clauses and potential penalties for violations. The move expands efforts to roll back diversity initiatives across public and private sectors.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- Spain and Algeria are in advanced talks to increase natural gas supply via the Medgaz pipeline by up to 10%. The move aims to utilise spare capacity and strengthen energy cooperation, with a preliminary agreement likely soon.
- Guinea is set to reach an agreement with Emirates Global Aluminium to avert arbitration over its seized bauxite unit. The deal includes settlement plans through future supply arrangements and upfront payments following the takeover of GAC assets.

## America

- Canada and Mercosur are advancing towards a free-trade agreement, with talks progressing rapidly and a deal likely to be signed later in 2026. Negotiations are expected to conclude soon as both sides push for trade diversification and stronger economic ties.
- President Claudia Sheinbaum says Mexico will continue its agreement with Cuba to host Cuban doctors despite US pressure and regional withdrawals. The programme remains vital for healthcare delivery in underserved areas.

## Asia Pacific

- Philippines and France sign a visiting forces agreement allowing joint military training to strengthen defence ties amid South China Sea tensions. The pact enhances cooperation and legal framework for joint operations while supporting regional security.
- President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. says the ASEAN summit will proceed in May with a shortened "bare-bones" programme amid Middle East tensions. The agenda will focus on key issues such as fuel supply, food prices, and migrant workers.

## China

- Minister, China Commerce Wang Wentao says China is willing to actively expand imports from the European Union while urging relaxation of high-tech export controls and avoiding politicisation of trade. He calls for balanced handling of differences to strengthen bilateral economic ties.
- China is willing to resolve trade issues with Netherlands through dialogue, including discussions on semiconductor cooperation and Nexperia. He calls for easing tensions and strengthening bilateral economic ties.

## Europe

- The Austria government plans to ban social media use for children under 14 to protect them from harmful and addictive content, with legislation expected soon. Authorities are yet to finalise implementation details of the proposed measure.
- Germany unveils an €8 billion climate plan to cut emissions and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. The plan focuses on expanding wind power capacity and boosting EV adoption to meet 2030 climate targets.

## Middle East

- United Arab Emirates signals willingness to join a multinational force to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and protect shipping from Iranian threats. The initiative aims to build a "Hormuz Security Force" amid ongoing regional tensions and disruptions.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan is emerging as a potential host for talks to end the Iran war, leveraging ties with both United States and Iran. The role builds on its neutral positioning and diplomatic outreach. This could significantly boost its global standing and strategic influence amid the conflict.

## United Kingdom

- The British Medical Association announces a six-day strike by resident doctors in England from April 7–13 after rejecting a government pay offer, escalating the ongoing NHS dispute over wages and staffing pressures.
- President Nikos Christodoulides says Cyprus has opened discussions with the UK over British bases following security concerns after a drone strike. The move reflects growing unease about risks linked to regional conflicts and military presence.

## United States

- President Donald Trump will visit Beijing on May 14–15 for talks with Xi Jinping after delays due to the Iran conflict. The visit aims to manage tensions and strengthen engagement between the two economies amid geopolitical challenges.

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