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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh tops India in micro irrigation coverage for 2025–26, bringing over 1.26 lakh hectares under the scheme and benefiting more than 1.08 lakh farmers. The initiative boosts water efficiency and sustainable agriculture with significant subsidy support.
- The Lok Sabha passes a bill recognising Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, effective June 2, 2026. The move formalises the capital status and prevents future changes to the decision.

#### Delhi

- To improve safety and urban aesthetics, the Delhi Government plans to seek ₹35,000–40,000 crore from the Centre for undergrounding power lines across key areas. The rollout will prioritise high-footfall markets and heritage zones.
- In a bid to streamline infrastructure works, the Delhi Government has formed a 20-member cell to coordinate road-cutting permissions among agencies. The move supports better execution and Yamuna rejuvenation efforts.
- Targeting cleaner air, the Delhi Government has launched the Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan 2026 focusing on major emission sources. Experts, however, stress the need for clear targets and sustained enforcement.

#### Goa

- Goa records a 94% rise in groundwater levels post-2025 monsoon, with most monitored wells showing significant improvement. The gains are attributed to strong rainfall and effective water conservation efforts, boosting long-term water security.
- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant welcomes the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, calling it a key reform to improve ease of living and doing business. He highlights its focus on decriminalising minor offences and promoting trust-based governance.

#### Gujarat

- Gujarat's solar industry faces potential losses of ₹25,000 crore due to disruptions from Israel-Iran tensions, impacting supply chains and raising costs. Delays in key projects and rising raw material prices are slowing production across major hubs.

#### Haryana

- Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini unveils a ₹120 crore development plan for Faridabad covering water supply, healthcare, and infrastructure. The initiative aims to transform the city into a modern, well-connected urban hub with improved public services.
- Haryana notifies a new mixed land use policy allowing flexible use of land for residential, commercial, and institutional purposes without percentage caps. The policy aims to clear pending approvals while restricting expansion of industrial use in such zones.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- MLA Kewal Singh Pathania lays the foundation for a ₹2 crore 500-kW solar power plant in Shahpur to boost clean energy generation. The project is part of a wider plan targeting solar expansion and community welfare funding.
- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu says Gaggal airport expansion may be executed via PPP mode if AAI does not proceed, with land acquisition planned by year-end. The project aims to boost regional connectivity despite ongoing compensation challenges.

#### Karnataka

- Xovian Aerospace develops an AI-based tool to track ships and aircraft even without GPS using radio frequency signals and satellites. The system aims to counter smuggling and “dark shipping,” with plans to launch its own satellite to reduce tracking delays.
- The Electricity Regulatory Commission extends the Discounted Energy Rate Scheme till 2027–28 and expands it to LT consumers across commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors. The move aims to provide cheaper power and widen benefits.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- NTPC Limited's Green Hydrogen Hub in Andhra Pradesh is progressing, using captured CO<sub>2</sub> and renewable hydrogen to produce green fuels like ethanol and sustainable aviation fuel. The project aims to scale production of methanol, urea, and SAF in later phases.
- Andhra Pradesh plans to launch its first quantum computer under the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative, aiming to become a global quantum hub by 2030. The project, backed by partners like IBM and TCS, focuses on building a full quantum ecosystem.

#### Delhi

- The Transport Department plans to reopen 13 district-wise RTOs to improve in-person services while reviving the DL-13 vehicle series and scrapping DL-14. The move aims to balance digital services with better on-ground accessibility for citizens.
- The Government plans a new drone policy focusing on research clusters, testing facilities, and use in governance, traffic management, and disaster response. The policy also aims to regulate drone usage and strengthen digital monitoring systems.
- Government plans a new slum rehabilitation policy offering modern amenities like shopping complexes, parking, and e-rickshaw charging points. The policy also proposes expanding eligibility to include more residents and improve housing access.

#### Goa

- CBSE will introduce Konkani as a Class 9 subject from the 2026–27 session, expanding its list of scheduled languages. The move supports multilingual education, with plans to make a third language compulsory in Class 10 by 2031.

#### Gujarat

- Gujarat local body elections are set to expand in 2026 with 44 new civic bodies, increasing total institutions to 393 and intensifying competition. The larger electoral scale is expected to make polls more challenging with caste and reservation factors playing a key role.
- Gujarat faces criticism as outdated government apps expose gaps in its ‘Digital Gujarat’ initiative, affecting service delivery and user experience. Authorities have been urged to prioritise upgrades and improve digital governance efficiency.

#### Haryana

- Transport Minister Anil Vij announces a ₹2.5 crore upgrade of the Ambala Cantt Civil Hospital lab to enhance diagnostic facilities in microbiology, pathology, and biochemistry. The move aims to improve healthcare access and service quality for residents.
- Health Secretary Sumita Misra initiates reforms to strengthen healthcare delivery with focus on drug availability, diagnostics, and hospital efficiency. The plan includes expanding free diagnostic services and ensuring 24x7 lab facilities at district hospitals.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Governor Kavinder Gupta announces that Lok Bhawan in Shimla will open to the public twice a week to enhance citizen engagement. The initiative aims to strengthen public connection while promoting cultural unity under “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat”.
- Himachal Pradesh is set to witness continued snow, rain, and hail till April 10, with orange and yellow alerts issued for several districts. A fresh western disturbance is expected to trigger intense showers on April 7–8 across the state.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka drafts a policy to curb excessive digital use among children, focusing on awareness, parental guidance, and responsible usage rather than bans. The plan includes school-based interventions, screen-time limits, and mental health support measures.
- Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh completes self-enumeration for Census 2027 and urges citizens to use the digital platform for online data submission. The initiative aims to modernise the census process with faster, user-friendly participation.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Indore Traffic Police deploy drones for real-time monitoring of congestion at key intersections to improve traffic flow. The system enables quick alerts to ground teams, helping prevent major jams during peak hours.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra declares 324 schools and 412 junior college divisions permanently ineligible for government salary grants after failing to meet eligibility norms. The move is expected to significantly impact institutions, staff, and students across the state.
- The state introduces a double-check screening system to tackle child malnutrition through biannual joint health assessments at anganwadi centres. The initiative uses scientific monitoring tools and ensures treatment for severely malnourished children.
- The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation opens a new flyover link connecting Palm Beach Road to the Sion–Panvel Highway, reducing travel time towards Pune by up to 20 minutes. The ₹18.32 crore project aims to ease congestion and improve traffic flow at a key junction.

## Pune

- The Pune Municipal Corporation forms a revenue committee to address gaps between projected and actual income. The panel will review finances weekly to improve collections and strengthen fiscal management.
- PMC removes the property tax condition for its urban poor health scheme, expanding access to subsidised treatment. The move allows more low-income families to avail benefits while retaining income-based eligibility criteria.
- Unseasonal heavy rainfall hits Pune, causing severe waterlogging, traffic disruption, and incidents like fallen trees and submerged vehicles. The city records its highest April rainfall, with widespread impact on daily life.

## Punjab

- Protests by transporters over Himachal's entry tax blocked the Chandigarh–Manali highway, leaving thousands stranded and disrupting traffic for hours. The unions allege discriminatory policies impacting earnings and warn of further escalation.
- The Centre informs Rajya Sabha that there is no current proposal to set up a nuclear power plant in Punjab. A previously identified site in Patiala was found suitable but never progressed due to lack of state approval.

## Rajasthan

- ACE Virendra Singh Sagar reviews canal construction in Udaipur to boost irrigation and drinking water supply in Mavli. The project aims to provide water access to 17 villages with strict focus on quality and timelines.

## Tamil Nadu

- Diesel prices for bulk buyers in Tamil Nadu surge to ₹141/litre amid Gulf tensions as OMCs withdraw discounts and tighten supply. While retail prices remain stable, industries and transport operators face rising operational costs.
- Over 300 Indian fishermen stranded in Iran arrive safely in Chennai via Armenia through a coordinated evacuation effort. Authorities confirm all returnees are in good health and provided assistance before being sent to their hometowns.

## Telangana

- Hyderabad police issue alert over a WhatsApp impersonation scam targeting CEOs and CFOs, leading to major financial losses. Firms are advised to verify requests, avoid phishing links, and strengthen cybersecurity measures to prevent fraud.
- The Telangana Mineral Development Corporation records a revenue of ₹1,008 crore in 2025–26, marking a 36% increase year-on-year. Enhanced sand supply and improved monitoring helped boost infrastructure support and curb illegal mining.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Over 6,000 workers from Uttar Pradesh in Israel are reported safe amid ongoing tensions, with authorities maintaining continuous coordination with the Indian Embassy. The state government is closely monitoring the situation and ensuring regular updates on their safety.
- Uttar Pradesh leads the country in rooftop solar rollout under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, with over 4.48 lakh installations and 1,524 MW capacity. Strong urban adoption and subsidies drive growth, though execution gaps and delays persist.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Preparations for Simhastha 2028 in Ujjain gather pace as Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Rajoura reviews progress and directs departments to set timelines. Officials are asked to plan based on past experiences and ongoing works.

## Mumbai

- Maharashtra plans to introduce deposit insurance for cooperative credit society account holders to protect savings against fraud and collapse risks. The move aims to secure deposits across nearly 20,000 societies holding over ₹90,500 crore.
- BMC is upgrading century-old storm water drains using trenchless geopolymer lining technology to prevent flooding and improve drainage. The project aims to extend drain lifespan by 50 years with minimal disruption, with Phase 1 targeted for completion by 2027.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis seeks a balanced solution on MSRTC's diesel procurement plan, which could save ₹82 crore but cause ₹304 crore loss to the state. The decision involves weighing cost savings against potential tax revenue loss.

## Pune

- Maharashtra plans to begin vice-chancellor appointments six months in advance to ensure smooth leadership transitions in universities. The move aims to reduce administrative disruptions and strengthen governance in higher education institutions.
- The Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation sets a January 2027 deadline for the Bhama Ashked water project to meet rising demand and enable daily water supply. The project aims to supply 167 MLD despite ongoing concerns over water quality.
- The PMPL is planning to intensify inspections and monitoring to improve bus service reliability and passenger experience. A board meeting on April 13 will decide further measures and the future roadmap for operations.

## Punjab

- Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann orders transfer of entire police post staff in Bathinda over alleged negligence in tackling the drug menace. The action follows complaints from locals, with departmental inquiry also initiated against the SHO.
- Farmers in Punjab stall the Bharatmala highway project in Barnala, demanding higher compensation for acquired land. The protest has halted work across multiple villages, with farmers seeking parity with rates in neighbouring districts.

## Rajasthan

- Chittorgarh will host its first Under-20 state football tournament with around 500 players from 27 teams participating. The event will also serve as a platform to select top talent for state and national teams.

## Tamil Nadu

- Farmers in Tiruppur plan to field 400 candidates in Tiruppur South to protest garbage dumping and environmental damage. The move aims to pressure authorities to declare affected areas as contaminated zones.
- The PNG mandate is unlikely to impact Chennai households soon due to slow infrastructure rollout and limited connections. Despite a target of 33 lakh connections by 2030, current coverage remains minimal, restricting consumer transition.

## Telangana

- Telangana plans to expand Health ATMs in high-footfall hospitals after successful pilots showed faster diagnostics and reduced waiting times. The machines enable multiple tests with digital integration, improving efficiency in patient care.
- CM A Revanth Reddy aims to position Telangana as South Asia's textile hub by 2047 through investment, infrastructure, and green textile clusters. The plan focuses on sustainability, skilled workforce, and building a global value chain ecosystem.

## Uttar Pradesh

- From April 15, Uttar Pradesh will deny PUC certificates to vehicles without HSRP, enforcing stricter compliance through portal integration. The move may face challenges, especially in rural areas with low adoption and awareness gaps.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Singapore High Commissioner Simon Wong discuss enhancing cooperation in investment, infrastructure, and skill development. The talks highlight growing global interest in Uttar Pradesh as an emerging investment destination.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

**Africa**

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo agrees to receive third-country deportees from the United States under a new deal, with facilities prepared near Kinshasa. The arrangement will be funded by the U.S., amid broader geopolitical and migration policy efforts.
- Nigeria parliament approves a 68.3 trillion naira (\$49.4 billion) budget for 2026, higher than initially proposed by President Bola Tinubu. The increase aims to fund pending projects and support ongoing economic reforms.

**America**

- Cuba announces the release of over 2,000 prisoners as a “humanitarian gesture,” amid ongoing tensions and dialogue with the U.S. The move follows internal review criteria, though authorities deny acting under external pressure.

**Asia Pacific**

- Bangladesh launches an emergency measles vaccination drive targeting over one million children amid rising infections and deaths. The campaign focuses on high-risk districts with support from global health organisations.
- South Korea and France agree to deepen defence and energy cooperation amid global instability linked to the Middle East conflict. The partnership aims to address economic challenges and strengthen strategic ties.

**China**

- China proposes new rules to regulate digital humans, mandating clear labelling and banning addictive or misleading services for children. The draft also restricts misuse of personal data and limits content that could bypass identity checks or threaten security.
- European Union lawmakers press China over unsafe products, limited market access, and regulatory concerns during a rare visit to Beijing. The move comes amid tighter EU rules targeting Chinese e-commerce platforms and product safety.

**Europe**

- Ukraine and Turkey agree to expand security cooperation following talks between Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The discussions also cover energy collaboration and continued support for peace efforts.
- Italy Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni visits Gulf nations to strengthen ties and secure energy supplies amid regional tensions. The trip signals support for partners and aims to protect Italy from rising fuel costs.

**Middle East**

- Syria agrees to enhance security cooperation with Ukraine following high-level talks in Damascus. Discussions also cover regional stability, defence collaboration, and energy cooperation amid ongoing tensions.

**Pakistan**

- Pakistan sharply hikes fuel prices, raising diesel by over 50% and petrol by around 43% amid rising global oil costs linked to the Middle East conflict. The move is expected to fuel inflation and impact consumers significantly.

**United Kingdom**

- United Kingdom finalises a pharmaceutical trade deal with the United States, securing tariff-free access for UK medicines to the U.S. market. In return, Britain agrees to pay higher prices for new medicines under the agreement.
- United Kingdom deploys its Rapid Sentry air defence system to Kuwait following a drone attack on an oil facility. The system is designed to counter drones and low-flying threats. The move aims to protect assets while avoiding wider regional escalation.

**United States**

- United States proposes a \$5.6 billion cut to NASA’s 2027 budget, including a major reduction in its science division. The proposed cuts come as the agency prepares new missions under its flagship moon programme. The move raises concerns over potential impacts on research and future space exploration.

## Upcoming News/Events

**Africa**

- Ethiopia is set to join the World Trade Organization this year after over two decades of negotiations, aiming to boost economic integration and attract investment. The move follows reforms but comes amid global trade uncertainty and rising protectionism.
- Africa could face a sharper economic slowdown if the Middle East conflict persists, disrupting trade, energy, and fertiliser supplies. Prolonged instability may significantly impact growth across multiple African economies.

**America**

- Germany plans talks with Chile over reports of halting a memorial project at a former cult-linked settlement tied to abuse. The project is reportedly paused due to financial concerns, prompting diplomatic discussions.

**Asia Pacific**

- South Korea seeks assurances from Gulf nations to secure energy supplies and protect its vessels amid disruptions near the Strait of Hormuz. The move comes as the ongoing conflict threatens global shipping and raises energy security concerns.
- Taiwan plans to strengthen defences around the Pratas Islands as China increases activity nearby. The islands are strategically located but lightly defended, raising security concerns. The move reflects growing tensions and ongoing “grey zone” pressure in the region.

**China**

- China signals readiness to work with Russia at the UN to ease Middle East tensions and support maritime security. The focus remains on achieving a ceasefire and promoting dialogue to stabilise the situation.
- China urges a ceasefire in the Middle East during talks with the European Union and Germany. Beijing emphasises safe navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and calls for coordinated diplomatic efforts to end the conflict.

**Europe**

- Five European Union countries propose a windfall tax on energy companies to address rising fuel costs linked to the Iran conflict. The move aims to fund consumer relief and ease inflation without burdening public finances.
- Serbia President Aleksandar Vučić initiates talks to address a prolonged political crisis amid ongoing anti-government protests. Critics question the move, while protesters continue to demand early elections.

**Middle East**

- Israel is preparing potential strikes on Iranian energy facilities, awaiting a green light from the United States. The development follows a 48-hour ultimatum issued by Donald Trump. The situation signals escalating tensions and risk of further conflict in the region.

**Pakistan**

- Afghanistan and Pakistan launch fresh talks in China to ease tensions after recent deadly clashes. Beijing is mediating discussions focused on ceasefire and border reopening, with both sides engaging despite ongoing disputes.

**United Kingdom**

- United Kingdom will host talks with 35 countries to explore reopening the Strait of Hormuz amid ongoing disruptions. The effort aims to build a coalition after the US President Donald Trump signalled others should take responsibility for securing the route.

**United States**

- President Donald Trump is considering a broader cabinet reshuffle amid political fallout from the Iran war. The move aims to reset the administration as rising fuel prices and declining approval ratings add pressure ahead of midterms.
- President Donald Trump proposes a major 2027 budget with a \$500 billion boost in defence spending and a 10% cut in non-defence programs. The plan reflects wartime priorities but will require congressional approval amid economic concerns.

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