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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The Centre has approved a ₹176-crore coastal erosion mitigation project for the Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund. The project will focus on ecological measures to protect erosion-prone coastal stretches.
- Andhra Pradesh has approved the 2,250 MW Gandikota-2 Pumped Storage Project in Kadapa district for Adani Group, aiming to strengthen renewable energy storage and support green hydrogen, EV and data centre infrastructure.

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh will launch one of India's largest energy and water efficiency programmes for MSMEs on May 25 in Vijayawada, aiming to improve sustainable manufacturing, reduce costs and boost green jobs across over 1,000 enterprises.
- DY CM Pawan Kalyan has directed officials in Andhra Pradesh to conduct a transparent village-level survey to identify infrastructure gaps and improve rural development, sanitation and asset management across the state.

Delhi

- The Delhi Government has unveiled Mission 2030, a ₹17,000-crore plan to modernise power infrastructure across all 70 assembly constituencies, anticipating electricity demand could rise to 11,000 MW by 2030 amid growing EV adoption and urban expansion.
- A three-day strike by All India Motor Transport Congress against higher environment compensation cess and proposed curbs on older commercial vehicles began with limited impact across Delhi-NCR, despite transporters claiming large-scale participation.
- The Delhi Government has intensified enforcement ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, directing strict action against illegal slaughter, unauthorised animal trade and animal cruelty, while permitting sacrifices only at designated locations..

Delhi

- The Delhi Government plans to restore rainwater harvesting systems in 75 CM Shri Schools before the monsoon, targeting an annual water harvesting capacity of nearly 500 million litres to boost groundwater recharge and water conservation awareness.
- Municipal Corporation of Delhi has approved a PPP model to launch MRI and CT scan services at three major Delhi hospitals, aiming to improve affordable diagnostic access for economically weaker section patients and reduce treatment delays.
- The Government is upgrading the city's power distribution network under Mission 2030, with ₹17,000 crore investments planned to meet projected electricity demand of over 13,000 MW by 2031 and improve supply reliability amid rising EV adoption and metro expansion

Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant inaugurated Goa Shackathon 2026, a beachside innovation festival aimed at promoting startups, AI, entrepreneurship and collaboration, as Goa looks to strengthen its innovation and startup ecosystem.

Goa

- Minister Vishwajit Rane said around 22,000 government vacancies in Goa are likely to be filled before the next elections, while expressing confidence that the Bharatiya Janata Party will win the 2027 state polls.

Gujarat

- AMC has identified 79 traffic congestion points to improve punctuality of AMTS and BRTS buses, with joint action planned alongside the traffic department to reduce delays, clear illegal parking and strengthen public transport infrastructure.
- Gujarat is witnessing concerns over a possible fuel shortage after authorities tightened diesel purchase rules for farmers and reports emerged of supply restrictions at petrol pumps across regions such as Saurashtra, Kutch and North Gujarat amid Middle East tensions.

Gujarat

- The next edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference will be held in Vadodara in June 2026, focusing on sectors such as semiconductors, biotechnology, automobiles, IT and green energy to promote investment and industrial growth across Central Gujarat.
- Amdavad Municipal Corporation will launch a pilot project using Google Maps' AI-powered Road Management Insights platform for real-time traffic monitoring, congestion detection and smarter urban transport planning in Ahmedabad.

Haryana

- Haryana has set a target of bringing 1 lakh acres under the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' crop diversification scheme, offering farmers ₹8,000 per acre and an additional ₹2,000 bonus for cultivating selected pulses, oilseeds and cotton to reduce water-intensive paddy farming.
- Haryana witnessed slight relief from intense heat as average maximum temperatures dipped by 1.1°C, but the India Meteorological Department has continued an orange heatwave alert across several districts till May 25.

Haryana

- The nearing completion of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway is expected to reduce travel time between Delhi-NCR and Chandigarh to around two hours through a high-speed, signal-free corridor integrated with major expressway networks.
- Indian Medical Association Haryana has warned that private hospitals across Haryana will stop fresh admissions under the Ayushman Bharat scheme from June 5, citing pending dues and unresolved grievances with the state government.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh has sharply reduced power banking supply to Punjab and Haryana after diverting surplus electricity to the open market, potentially forcing neighbouring states to seek alternative power sources during peak demand.
- A sudden blizzard at Rohtang Pass triggered a massive traffic jam on the Manali-Rohtang road, leaving hundreds of tourists stranded for hours amid fresh snowfall and exposing infrastructure and traffic management challenges in the region.

Himachal Pradesh

- HP has approved ₹1,500 monthly financial assistance for women from families earning below ₹2 lakh annually under the Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh-Samman Nidhi Yojana, along with multiple welfare measures including teacher and healthcare appointments.
- Himachal Pradesh is likely to appoint a new Chief Secretary ahead of incumbent Sanjay Gupta's retirement on May 31, with KK Pant, Anuradha Thakur and Onkar Sharma emerging as leading contenders for the post.

Karnataka

- Karnataka Cabinet has discussed the Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, which proposes welfare benefits, labour cards and a separate grievance redressal committee for domestic workers, though the Bill has currently been deferred.
- Karnataka's K Shore programme has gained momentum after a World Bank team visited Karwar, with the state seeking ₹850 crore assistance to reduce marine pollution, protect coastal ecosystems and boost tourism.

Karnataka

- Greater Bengaluru Authority has directed contractors to deploy additional manpower to complete the Ejipura Flyover by October, while also ordering pothole repairs and drainage measures ahead of the monsoon season.
- Karnataka is set to launch 'Saaramsha', an AI-powered platform for summarising and accessing government documents, enabling faster retrieval of policies, schemes and official records for both citizens and government departments.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh has issued its 2026 transfer policy allowing transfers from June 1-15, with officers and employees failing to meet performance targets liable for early transfer, while women staff and those nearing retirement have been given relief.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra recorded a nearly 20% rise in petrol and diesel sales due to panic buying amid fuel shortage rumours, prompting Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to order strict measures against hoarding and ensure smooth fuel distribution.
- Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation has issued a joint approval to Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea to restore mobile and internet connectivity on the Mumbai Metro Aqua Line after nearly two months of network blackout.
- Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority has reduced the '9 PBR Navi Mumbai' luxury project in Navi Mumbai from 9 to 7 towers after finding parts of the development fell within Coastal Regulation Zone limits near ecologically sensitive coastal areas.

Pune

- Uber has integrated QR-based Pune Metro ticket booking into its app through ONDC, allowing commuters to plan journeys, purchase metro tickets and access last-mile transport services on a single platform.
- Pune Municipal Corporation has sought clarification from the Election Commission of India on carrying out civic works and administrative approvals during the enforcement of the model code of conduct ahead of the upcoming legislative council elections.
- Beed Police has launched 'DeepEye', an AI-powered investigation platform designed to digitise and accelerate criminal investigations through tools such as face recognition, CCTV analytics, FIR analysis and real-time crime monitoring.

Punjab

- Punjab has revised timings for government offices, schools and colleges to 7:30 AM–1:30 PM from May 25 amid severe heatwave conditions, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann saying the move aims to protect public health and reduce peak-hour power consumption.
- Punjab has agreed to regularise outsourced civic workers after 3-5 years of service, ending a 16-day sanitation workers' strike after talks between the government and the Municipal Mulazam Safai Karamchari Union.

Rajasthan

- Jaipur faces a major administrative challenge ahead of local body elections after the High Court-directed July 31 deadline coincided with ongoing Census work, with 25,000 personnel already deployed and another 40,000 likely needed for election duties.

Tamil Nadu

- National Highways Authority of India has again increased the monthly toll pass fee for local residents at 60 toll plazas across Tamil Nadu from ₹340 to ₹350, just 52 days after the previous hike, citing higher inflation-linked WPI revisions.
- Tamil Nadu has ordered a statewide audit of over 2,000 stone quarries after allegations of excess and illegal mining, with Natural Resources Minister T K Prabhu directing officials to inspect operations and act against violations.

Telangana

- Over 1.15 crore voters in Telangana are yet to be mapped ahead of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, with urban districts like Hyderabad recording slower progress compared to rural regions.
- Telangana has increased minimum wages for nearly 1.11 crore workers across four skill categories, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy announcing revised monthly wages ranging from ₹16,000 to ₹20,000 effective June 1.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh is facing severe strain on its power infrastructure amid an intense heatwave, with record electricity demand triggering outages, transformer failures and public protests across districts including Gorakhpur, Prayagraj and Kanpur.
- Nearly 48.76 lakh people in Uttar Pradesh completed self-enumeration for Census 2027 during the first phase, ahead of the statewide door-to-door housing and household survey beginning May 22 as part of India's first fully digital census exercise.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- Bhopal Municipal Corporation will face an additional monthly burden of around ₹2.5 crore after oil companies introduced new bulk fuel pricing rules, increasing diesel costs by nearly ₹49 per litre for large consumers in Bhopal.

Mumbai

- Manoj Jarange-Patil has announced an indefinite hunger strike from May 30 over pending Maratha reservation demands, while the Maharashtra government has assured clarity on implementation steps by May 28.
- Election Commission of India has clarified that voters in Maharashtra will need to prove nationality during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, with eligibility verified through specified documents as part of the voter verification exercise.
- Panvel will face 24-hour weekly water cuts from Monday, May 25 after the Dehrang reservoir entered dead storage conditions, with authorities introducing ward-wise rationing to manage dwindling summer water supplies.

Pune

- The second carriageway of the Mutha River Bridge on the Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway is expected to open by early June, with National Highways Authority of India officials expecting major relief from traffic congestion between Vadgaon and Warje.
- Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority has proposed four new link roads around Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park to ease rising traffic congestion and improve connectivity across the Hinjewadi-Maan-Marunji-Wakad corridor.
- Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation is pushing housing societies to adopt piped natural gas in a bid to make the city India's first 'LPG-free city', promoting cleaner and safer energy alternatives to LPG cylinders.

Punjab

- India Meteorological Department has forecast more rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds in parts of Punjab and Haryana, even as severe heatwave conditions are expected to persist across the region till May 28.
- Punjab will get its first digital university in Patiala after Physics Wallah received approval for a three-acre campus, marking a major push towards private participation in online and technology-enabled higher education.

Rajasthan

- Farmers in western Rajasthan, including Bikaner, will start receiving irrigation water from the Indira Gandhi Canal from May 25 as authorities begin canal re-regulation ahead of the Kharif crop season.

Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu will establish an Olympic Bhavan and allow state athletes to travel by air for competitions across India, with Sports Development Minister Aadhav Arjuna announcing plans to strengthen Olympic-focused talent identification and training.
- The Rajya Sabha bypoll for one seat from Tamil Nadu will be held on June 18 following the resignation of C Ve Shanmugam, with the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam-led alliance expected to secure the seat.

Telangana

- Telangana is likely to discuss a new Bill to regulate private school fees, proposing a cap of 8% fee hikes once every two years and penalties of up to ₹10 lakh for violations amid complaints of steep annual increases.
- CM A Revanth Reddy has urged the Union government to convene a special Parliament session to pass the women's reservation Bill for 33% quota in legislative bodies, stating that the INDIA bloc is ready to support the legislation.

Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh is positioning itself as a major manufacturing and industrial hub, with author and politician Mrityunjay Sharma highlighting rapid economic growth, rising factory registrations and expanding infrastructure as key drivers of the state's transformation.
- Uttar Pradesh is under heightened security scrutiny after agencies uncovered alleged Pakistan-linked digital radicalisation and sleeper-cell recruitment networks targeting youths through social media platforms.

GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Africa

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies volunteers are conducting door-to-door campaigns in Democratic Republic of the Congo to counter Ebola misinformation and promote safe burial and protection measures amid the deadly Bundibugyo strain outbreak.
- India and the African Union have postponed the India-Africa Forum Summit scheduled in New Delhi next week due to the evolving public health situation linked to the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

America

- Mexico and the European Union signed a long-delayed free trade agreement expanding cooperation into services, agriculture and digital trade, as both sides seek to reduce dependence on the United States amid ongoing tariff tensions.
- The United States military conducted an evacuation drill over Caracas involving Osprey aircraft and naval assets, marking its first exercise in Venezuela since the January operation that led to the capture of former President Nicolas Maduro

Asia Pacific

- Japan's trade minister Ryosei Akazawa held brief informal talks with Wang Wentao during the APEC meeting in Suzhou, marking the highest-level contact between Japan and China since diplomatic tensions escalated over Taiwan-related remarks.
- New Zealand has allocated NZ\$1.58 billion in new defence funding focused on maritime security, including drone systems, fleet renewal and maintenance of its ageing naval vessels as part of efforts to strengthen defence capabilities.

China

- Taiwan has not yet confirmed any direct talks between President Lai Ching-te and U.S. President Donald Trump despite Trump's remarks, as China warned that such engagement could negatively impact Beijing-Washington relations.
- At least 90 miners were killed in a gas explosion at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi, marking China's deadliest mining disaster in over 16 years. President Xi Jinping ordered full-scale rescue operations and a probe into the accident.

Europe

- Tens of thousands of protesters marched in Madrid demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez over corruption allegations, with clashes near his residence leaving at least seven police officers injured and three people arrested.
- Russia launched one of the war's largest attacks on Kyiv using hundreds of drones, missiles and an Oreshnik hypersonic missile, killing at least 4 people and injuring more than 80. Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Zelenskiy called for stronger international action after widespread damage.

Middle East

- Amid the Iran conflict and global energy disruption, 27 countries are seeking rapid support through existing World Bank funding mechanisms, with Kenya and Iraq among nations hit by fuel shocks and revenue losses.

Pakistan

- A bomb blast targeting a shuttle train carrying security personnel in Balochistan killed at least 24 people and injured around 70, with the separatist Baloch Liberation Army claiming responsibility for the suicide attack near Quetta.

United Kingdom

- UK has secured a trade deal with the GCC worth around \$5 billion annually, aimed at boosting trade and economic ties amid regional instability linked to the Iran conflict. The agreement will reduce tariffs across sectors including automobiles, food, aerospace and services.
- United Kingdom reportedly proposed a single market arrangement for goods with the European Union to improve post-Brexit trade ties. However, media reports said Brussels rejected the proposal during ongoing discussions on resetting relations.

United States

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed trade, energy and Indo-Pacific cooperation with Narendra Modi during his India visit, while also promoting U.S. energy exports and conveying an invitation from President Donald Trump for Modi to visit the White House.

Upcoming News/Events

Africa

- Senegal Finance Minister Cheikh Diba warned that the country's fuel subsidy costs could exceed budget allocations by \$2 billion if oil prices rise to \$115 per barrel, while Dakar prepares to resume talks with the International Monetary Fund in June over a new financing programme.
- United Kingdom has allocated up to \$26.87 million in new aid funding to help contain the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of the Congo, with support aimed at strengthening surveillance, frontline healthcare protection and infection-control measures

America

- Argentina will gradually eliminate export taxes on key industrial sectors including automotive, petrochemicals, chemicals and machinery over the next 12 months, as Economy Minister Luis Caputo pushes measures to boost exports and industrial growth.
- Brazil is expected to expand spending restrictions across ministries to remain within this year's fiscal cap, with Finance Minister Dario Durigan saying the government will deepen expenditure controls while avoiding a formal spending freeze.

Asia Pacific

- The foreign ministers of the Quad countries — India, United States, Japan and Australia — will meet in New Delhi on May 26 for talks on regional security and strategic cooperation. Japan's Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio are expected to attend.
- United States and Philippines are expected to finalise a long-term economic security zone agreement soon under the expanding "Pax Silica" technology supply chain alliance, aimed at strengthening cooperation in critical minerals, manufacturing and digital infrastructure.

China

- The Foreign Minister Wang Yi will visit New York on May 26 to chair a high-level United Nations Security Council meeting and hold talks with Antonio Guterres before travelling to Canada later this month.
- China will launch the Shenzhou-23 mission carrying three astronauts to the Tiangong space station, with one crew member set for the country's first year-long space stay as Beijing pushes toward a crewed moon landing by 2030.

Europe

- Spain plans to introduce a job-matching system for migrants granted legal status under its mass regularisation programme, aiming to integrate undocumented workers into key industries and support long-term economic growth amid an ageing population.

Middle East

- Egypt is aiming to become a global grain trading and storage hub, with Supply Minister Sherif Farouk saying Cairo plans to expand modern storage, transport and processing infrastructure while deepening grain trade cooperation with Russia.
- Iran told Pakistan's army chief during talks in Tehran that it would not compromise on its national rights in negotiations with the United States, while warning of a stronger response if conflict resumes despite ongoing mediation efforts.

Pakistan

- The International Monetary Fund concluded talks with Pakistan on economic reforms and the 2027 budget, with Islamabad committing to a 2% primary surplus target under its \$7 billion IMF programme amid regional economic pressures.

United Kingdom

- United Kingdom has announced a temporary summer VAT cut from 20% to 5% for tourist attractions, cinemas, theatres and children's meals, as Chancellor Rachel Reeves unveiled measures to ease living costs and support the hospitality sector amid economic pressures linked to the Iran conflict.

United States

- United States and Mexico will begin formal talks next week to update the USMCA trade pact, with U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer saying discussions will focus on stricter regional content and economic security rules to boost American manufacturing.
- A United States House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee panel approved new rail safety measures tied to a \$580 billion highway bill, aiming to strengthen hazardous material transport rules after the 2023 East Palestine Train Derailment disaster.

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