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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- CM N Chandrababu Naidu directs focus on farmer incomes, horticulture expansion, certification-based marketing, and climate-resilient cropping; announces Cocoa City, AP Mushroom Mission, and tech-driven Farmer App use to boost productivity.
- CESL sanctions 300 electric buses for Tirupati under PM e-Bus Sewa, with Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation issuing awards and agreements for deployment; part of a wider national push to expand clean public transport and reduce emissions.

#### Delhi

- Municipal Corporation of Delhi launches the SWAGAM portal to regularise 1,521 unauthorised colonies, enabling online applications with help desks and professional support, while integrating approvals under the PM UDAY scheme.
- PWD Delhi begins repairs and trial runs of the defunct inclined lift at Signature Bridge to assess safety and feasibility, aiming to restore public access to the viewing gallery pending technical evaluation.
- CM Rekha Gupta reviews Heat Wave Action Plan, directing water access, cool rooms, ORS availability, and hospital preparedness; she also emphasizes awareness campaigns, school safety measures, and coordinated implementation to mitigate heatwave risks.

#### Goa

- Over 100 unsafe buildings across Goa remain operational despite demolition orders, exposing serious collapse risks amid structural deterioration and past incidents. Authorities face enforcement delays due to legal disputes, raising ongoing public safety concerns.
- CM Pramod Sawant launches Kushavati and Salaulim ferries on the Panaji–Betim route in Goa, enhancing river transport capacity and efficiency. The high-speed vessels aim to reduce road congestion while improving connectivity for daily commuters and tourists.

#### Gujarat

- Gujarat High Court dismisses petitions against rejected nominations for local body polls, ruling courts cannot interfere once the electoral process begins under Article 226, covering candidates rejected on eligibility and technical grounds.

#### Haryana

- Rohtak Municipal Corporation intensifies action on bulk waste generators ahead of Swachh Survekshan, mandating scientific disposal compliance and imposing penalties up to ₹50,000 for violations.
- Authorities in Nuh launch a joint survey and crackdown with police and mining department to dismantle over 50 illegal roads in the Aravalli Hills aiding mining operations, with heightened monitoring and village alerts.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh sets a 4,000-hectare plantation target under Rajiv Gandhi Van Samvardhan Yojana, engaging women and youth groups for afforestation and employment, with ₹55 crore allocation and incentives linked to survival rates.
- Traffic on NH-154A in Chamba–Bharmour stretch is regulated in staggered intervals till May 31 for landslide mitigation work, with controlled movement to ensure safety while maintaining access for emergency services.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka upgrades 585 schools under the PM Shri scheme despite officially rejecting NEP, highlighting a policy contradiction amid ongoing central-state funding support. The move raises questions over implementation intent, funding alignment, and education policy.
- Karnataka Health Department strengthens government hospitals for orthopaedic surgeries by expanding facilities, increasing empanelled centres, and reducing reliance on private sector through training and infrastructure upgrades.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- The Pollution Control Board accelerates industrial approvals under 'Speed of Doing Business', setting strict timelines for CFE/CFO clearances and streamlining application scrutiny. Help desks are introduced to address documentation gaps and improve efficiency.
- Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu plans a special Assembly session to target the INDIA bloc over the stalled Women's Reservation Bill, directing coordinated statewide protests and outreach to highlight NDA's pro-women stance.

#### Delhi

- Delhi's peak power demand is expected to cross 9,000 MW this summer, with discoms relying on purchases while executing a ₹17,000 crore infrastructure plan to strengthen supply by 2029, says Power Minister Ashish Sood.
- Delhi Traffic Police and New Delhi Municipal Council plans engineering fixes in Lutyens' Delhi, including central verges and dedicated bus bays, to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow and safety.
- Delhi International Airport Limited will begin international operations at Pier C of Indira Gandhi International Airport T3 from early May, increasing capacity by ~50% to handle 10 million additional passengers annually with upgraded infrastructure.

#### Goa

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant urges citizens in Goa to stop dumping garbage in plastic bags, stressing responsible waste practices and public participation alongside Clean Goa infrastructure investments.
- Goa Human Rights Commission directs Dabolim Airport to allocate additional space for its police station, citing inadequate infrastructure and rising security demands, with compliance report sought by June 2026.

#### Gujarat

- Traffic diversion on SG Highway in Ahmedabad is extended till May 31 due to flyover construction, with motorists advised to follow revised routes via YMCA Club and plan travel in advance to avoid delays.

#### Haryana

- Pandit BD Sharma University of Health Sciences outlines plans to boost academics and healthcare infrastructure, with Vice Chancellor Dr HK Aggarwal highlighting research, innovation, and facility upgrades during a meeting with Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh.
- Haryana plans 23 new air quality monitoring stations in NCR to strengthen pollution tracking, alongside EV push, diesel auto phase-out, and an upcoming aggregator policy to regulate transport emissions, while targeting dust-free roads and stricter enforcement to cut pollution by 30–35%.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- NGT flags avalanche risks from unstable glaciers in the Himalayas, seeking responses from agencies over environmental compliance concerns. The case highlights rising risks due to glacial instability and expanding human activity, with hearing scheduled for August 8.
- Authorities in Kangra identify Jalsu and Toral passes in the Dhauladhar Range for heli-skiing development, aiming to boost high-end adventure tourism with promising trial results and planned infrastructure.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka Health Department directs government hospitals to prepare for heatwave emergencies with dedicated heat stroke units and ORS corners, ensuring early detection, treatment, and monitoring of heat-related illnesses across the state.
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says Karnataka will issue recruitment notification for 56,000 vacancies after implementing 15% internal SC quota, with hiring to be carried out in phases while adhering to reservation limits.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- Ujjain Development Authority gets a new team ahead of Simhastha 2028, with Ravindra Solanki appointed chairman to fast-track pending projects and master plan execution. The move aims to accelerate infrastructure and planning for the upcoming festival.

## Mumbai

- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis stresses balancing heritage with development, drawing inspiration from Ahilyabai Holkar for water conservation and rural transformation, highlighting her governance model for sustainable growth.
- Maharashtra State Election Commission reports low electoral mapping in Mumbai Suburban at 36.31% versus state average 64.77%, while Gadchiroli leads with 90.2%, highlighting urban-rural participation gap.
- Maharashtra plans to mandate Marathi proficiency for taxi and auto drivers through rule amendments, triggering political tensions and protests among unions and parties over implementation and enforcement.

## Pune

- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology installs a Doppler radar in Mahabaleshwar to enhance nowcasting and real-time weather tracking for Pune and surrounding regions, improving early warnings for floods, landslides, and extreme weather events.
- Pune Municipal Corporation mandates QR codes on all authorised hoardings to enable public access to licence and approval details via mobile scanning. Non-compliant hoardings will face action from May 27, ensuring transparency and regulatory control.
- Maharashtra forms a committee to review electricity duty on rooftop solar users amid rising adoption and sector concerns, examining applicability on evolving consumption patterns and grid-related charges.

## Punjab

- Punjab launches Mukh Mantri Tirth Yatra Scheme 2026 offering free pilgrimage travel for citizens aged 50+, with strict monitoring of transport services and a ₹40 crore outlay to ensure quality, safety, and nationwide religious connectivity.
- Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann directs officials in Punjab to complete flood protection works on time, focusing on drain cleaning and strengthening embankments to prevent monsoon-related risks.

## Rajasthan

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announces 750 new Senior Village Development Officer posts in Rajasthan, highlighting their key role in driving rural development and expanding promotion opportunities.

## Tamil Nadu

- Election Commission of India revises final voter turnout in Tamil Nadu Assembly polls to 85.10%, with postal ballots expected to have minimal impact and no re-poll recommended across all polling stations.
- Tamil Nadu launches the third synchronised Nilgiri Tahr survey under Project Nilgiri Tahr, covering 3,100 km across the Western Ghats with real-time data tracking to improve population estimation and conservation efforts.

## Telangana

- Telangana records extreme heat with temperatures crossing 44°C in eight districts, led by Mendora at 44.4°C, indicating widespread heatwave conditions. Several other regions report 42–44°C highs, with Hyderabad also experiencing above-normal temperatures.
- Telangana promotes solar power projects under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme, enabling women SHGs in Khammam and Kothagudem to operate 1 MW plants and generate steady income through renewable energy initiatives.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh leads rooftop solar adoption with over 52,000 installations in a month under PM Surya Ghar scheme, with total capacity crossing 1,500 MW and 4.48 lakh systems, boosting clean energy growth and reducing land use.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveils 497 projects worth ₹1,055 crore in Gorakhpur, boosting infrastructure, healthcare, and urban development, including an eco park and road projects to enhance city transformation.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- CM Mohan Yadav plans to raise ₹2,800 crore in fresh loans in two tranches, taking total borrowing to ₹4,600 crore in the first month of the year. The loans will have varying tenures of 8 and 22 years, reflecting continued reliance on market borrowing for fiscal needs.

## Mumbai

- The Mumbai–Pune Expressway missing link will open May 1, bypassing Bhor Ghat to improve safety and reduce travel time. The ₹6,700-crore project will cut distance and congestion, with inauguration likely by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- BMC plans to involve 700–800 labour cooperatives in civic works, with Mayor Ritu Tawde pushing a policy to allocate smaller projects and improve competition. The move aims to enhance efficiency and quality of civic works.
- Maharashtra plans a Wildlife Crime Control Cell to tackle organised wildlife offences through intelligence-led enforcement and coordination, with a specialised unit to track offenders and support investigations across regions.

## Pune

- National Green Tribunal seeks detailed GRAP implementation data and fresh affidavits from Pune Municipal Corporation and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board on rising air pollution, demanding source analysis and stronger mitigation measures.
- PMC plans to remove the BRTS corridor on Vishrantwadi–Alandi Road to ease congestion, improve speed, and reduce accidents. Officials say widening effective road space will enhance traffic flow and commuter efficiency pending final approval.
- Pune Municipal Corporation plans weekly Mula-Mutha river clean-up drives under the River Festival, with Mayor Manjusha Nagpure urging a complete plastic ban and stronger citizen participation for long-term environmental impact.

## Punjab

- MP Satnam Singh Sandhu plans Dera Bassi and Lalru as women empowerment hubs with a skill training centre and SHE Mart to boost SHG entrepreneurship, improving market access and income opportunities for rural women.
- Municipal Corporation Ludhiana plans biogas plants at STPs under the Urban Challenge Fund to convert sewage sludge into energy, aiming to cut power costs, improve waste management, and move towards energy neutrality with added environmental benefits.

## Rajasthan

- Alliance Air will begin summer flights between Jaipur and Jaisalmer from May 3, marking the first such seasonal service. Local businesses will support operations by purchasing bulk tickets to ensure flight viability and connectivity.

## Tamil Nadu

- Advanced CCTV system on GD Naidu Flyover is set to become operational in weeks, with calibration underway to enable automated detection of traffic violations and integration with police and RTO systems.
- National Human Rights Commission seeks a report from Tamil Nadu authorities on the Virudhunagar cracker unit explosion that killed 25 people, directing details on investigation, victims' health, and compensation within two weeks.

## Telangana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Telangana on May 10 to launch MMTS works, lay foundation stones for key projects, and inaugurate AIIMS Bibinagar, alongside a major public outreach event.
- CM Reddy aims to position Telangana as a global aerospace hub by 2047, flagging off Vikram-1 hardware and highlighting strong export growth. The state is focusing on skilling, industry partnerships, and infrastructure to drive aerospace and defence sector expansion.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh faces severe heatwave conditions across multiple districts with high temperatures and warm nights, while rainfall with thunderstorms and gusty winds is expected from April 28, bringing likely relief.
- The state will conduct GPS-based sugarcane crop surveys from May 1–30 to improve transparency and accuracy, with real-time data upload and farmer notifications under directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Africa

- Nigeria's President Bola Tinubu grants 30% debt relief to airlines in Nigeria and orders urgent talks with stakeholders to fix fair jet fuel prices amid rising costs. The move aims to stabilise the aviation sector as airlines warn of potential fare hikes and operational strain.
- Taiwan's President Lin Chia-lung visits Eswatini after Taiwan accuses China of pressuring African states to block its president's travel, marking heightened geopolitical tensions. The move underscores Taiwan's push to sustain diplomatic ties despite efforts to limit its international engagement.

## America

- Brazil has blocked prediction market platforms and tightened derivatives rules, with Finance Minister Dario Durigan stating such "bet-like" products violate betting regulations. The move bans contracts linked to events like sports and politics, restricting derivatives to financial benchmarks.
- Colombian President Gustavo Petro and his Venezuelan counterpart Delcy Rodríguez agree on intelligence-sharing to combat border crime, while boosting trade and energy cooperation including electricity supply.

## Asia Pacific

- Japan deploys 1,400 firefighters and Self-Defense Force personnel to battle wildfires raging for five days in the north, threatening homes in Otsuchi. Authorities are working to contain the spread as the blazes intensify near residential areas.
- Myanmar's President Min Aung Hlaing imposes martial law in 60 townships across Myanmar for 90 days, transferring executive and judicial powers to the military to tighten control. The move targets conflict-hit regions as the junta seeks to restore order and suppress armed resistance.

## China

- China bans export of dual-use items to seven European entities over arms links with Taiwan, escalating tensions with Europe. The move targets firms including Czech and German companies, signalling Beijing's strong response to Taiwan-related defence cooperation.
- China expands economic pressure tools against the US despite earlier positive talks between Donald Trump and Xi Jinping, tightening export controls and regulatory measures. The move signals a strategic shift to strengthen leverage ahead of future negotiations amid global tensions.

## Europe

- Russia's defence minister Andrei Belousov visits North Korea for talks with leadership and to attend commemorative events. The visit highlights deepening military and strategic ties between Moscow and Pyongyang amid the Ukraine conflict.
- US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic signs an MoU to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals. The move aims to secure supply chains and reduce Western reliance on China in key manufacturing sectors.

## Middle East

- Saudi Arabia hosts Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman advances talks on security, energy and food cooperation. The engagement focuses on strengthening defence ties and leveraging Ukraine's battle-tested technologies amid regional tensions.

## Pakistan

- Islamabad remains under tight security lockdown for a second week amid expected US-Iran talks, despite no confirmation of meetings. Authorities keep key areas sealed, disrupting transport and supplies while staying prepared for any high-level arrivals.

## United Kingdom

- UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and US President Donald Trump discuss urgent steps to restore shipping in the Strait of Hormuz amid global economic concerns. The talks also highlight coordination efforts with allies to ensure freedom of navigation and stabilise supply chains.
- UK based company Ofcom bans leasing of "Global Titles" to close a telecom loophole that allowed rogue actors to track mobile users and intercept communications globally. The move targets misuse of signalling systems amid rising concerns over surveillance vulnerabilities in telecom infrastructure.

## United States

- A shooting near the White House Correspondents' dinner prompts US authorities to reassess security arrangements for events attended by Donald Trump. Officials highlight potential gaps in the security perimeter despite the gunman being stopped before reaching the venue.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- The administration of Donald Trump is considering expanding refugee admissions to prioritise white South African Afrikaners, potentially increasing the cap by 10,000 amid claims of persecution disputed by South Africa.
- Africa Finance Corporation plans fundraising in Q3 for a Zambia rail project under the Lobito Corridor, targeting financial closure by 2027 and completion by 2030. The project aims to link mines in Zambia and DR Congo to Angola's port, countering China's regional influence.

## America

- Canada under Prime Minister Mark Carney approves a C\$4 billion Enbridge pipeline expansion in British Columbia, aiming to boost gas supply and LNG capacity. The project marks a faster approval process and reflects efforts to strengthen energy infrastructure and global competitiveness.
- Brazil plans critical minerals rules without new tax breaks, focusing on domestic processing and sovereignty while leveraging strong global demand. Finance Minister Dario Durigan says the Eco Invest program will prioritise the sector to attract foreign investment.

## Asia Pacific

- Australia's foreign minister Penny Wong will visit Japan, China and South Korea to discuss energy security amid Middle East disruptions. The talks aim to coordinate responses to fuel supply challenges and strengthen regional cooperation.
- North Korea and Russia plan to open a road bridge across the Tumen River soon to boost trade, tourism and connectivity. The project, agreed during Vladimir Putin's 2024 visit, is expected to be completed by June 19.

## China

- China plans to restrict US investment in tech firms, requiring government approval for funding to AI startups and other key sectors. The move signals tighter control over foreign capital amid rising strategic competition with the US.
- China hints at a possible fourth, nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in a navy anniversary video, signalling plans to boost maritime strength and territorial capabilities. The move underscores Beijing's focus on expanding naval power and reinforcing island infrastructure.

## Europe

- Norway plans to introduce a law banning social media use for children under 16, placing responsibility on tech firms for age verification. Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre says the move aims to protect children's digital wellbeing and limit screen influence.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin may attend the G20 summit in Miami after an invitation from US President Donald Trump. The potential visit signals renewed diplomatic engagement and discussions on global issues.

## Middle East

- Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan says Turkey may join demining operations in the Strait of Hormuz after a potential Iran-US peace deal. He adds participation would be part of a multinational technical effort and viewed as a humanitarian contribution.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan LNG Limited to issue its first spot LNG tender since 2023 to address supply shortages amid rising demand and disruptions linked to the Iran conflict. Energy Minister Awais Leghari says the move aims to reduce reliance on costlier fuels and stabilise power supply.

## United Kingdom

- King Charles III's state visit to the US will proceed as planned despite a recent shooting incident at the White House. The decision follows discussions with Donald Trump's administration, indicating no change to the schedule.

## United States

- The administration of President Donald Trump is considering using the Defense Production Act to support Spirit Airlines, aiming to ensure its continued operations. The move would allow government investment to stabilise the airline under national interest provisions.
- President Donald Trump plans to again terminate legal status of migrants who used a Biden-era app, after a court blocked an earlier move. The decision could impact hundreds of thousands granted temporary stay under previous policies.

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