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Contact Us : Email : [marketing@ansechr.com](mailto:marketing@ansechr.com), Phone : 8698888000, Website : <https://www.ansechr.com/>

Our Head Office : 110/1A & 110/2B, Ansec House, Tank Road, Yerwada, Pune, Maharashtra - 411006

## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh achieves 100% data validation across gram panchayats under PAI 2.0, setting a national benchmark in grassroots governance while most panchayats rank in 'B' grade with several in 'A' category.
- AP notifies five model e-mobility cities—Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Nellore and Tirupati—under its EV policy. The plan mandates dense charging infrastructure and allocates ₹250 crore to develop green mobility ecosystems.

#### Delhi

- Municipal Corporation of Delhi integrates general trade fee with property tax, allowing unified payment and eliminating separate licensing applications. The fee is set at 15% of property tax, simplifying compliance for property owners.
- Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board begins upgrading civic infrastructure in Chandni Chowk's 'katras', starting with a pilot in Ballimaran. The project focuses on sanitation, drainage, lighting and basic services to improve living conditions in dense clusters.
- Delhi tightens its 'no PUC, no fuel' rule, denying fuel to over 15,000 vehicles in four days to curb vehicular pollution. The move reflects stricter enforcement of emission norms amid ongoing air quality concerns.

#### Goa

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant drives a financial literacy campaign across rural Goa, with hundreds of camps and bank-led awareness initiatives. The programme focuses on safe banking, digital usage and improving financial inclusion.

#### Gujarat

- BJP is set to finalise new Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Ahmedabad next week, with shortlisted panels under review. Meanwhile, internal competition intensifies within Indian National Congress for the Leader of Opposition post in the civic body.
- Gandhinagar installs an AI-based traffic signal at a key corridor to ease congestion and improve road safety through real-time traffic management. The system adjusts signal timings dynamically and may be expanded citywide if successful.

#### Haryana

- The railway overbridge project in Samalkha remains incomplete seven years on, sparking protests by villagers over delays despite a 2021 deadline. Residents blame contractor and PWD negligence, demanding urgent completion of the stalled ₹17.39 crore project.
- The Human Rights Commission directs to ensure mandatory hearse services in all districts in the state to uphold dignity of the deceased. The order includes sensitising hospital staff and ensuring availability and awareness of free transport services for poor families.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh launches its 'She Travel Policy 2026' to attract solo women travellers, especially from Delhi-NCR. The initiative focuses on safety, workation infrastructure and boosting tourism among urban professionals.
- Himachal Pradesh Police ranks first nationally in emergency response with an average time of 3 minutes 36 seconds under ERSS. Chandigarh secures fourth place, highlighting strong performance in emergency services.

#### Karnataka

- Deputy CM D. K. Shivakumar launches 'Nanna E-Khata' drive across Bengaluru to resolve property issues every Saturday at 50 centres. The initiative aims for on-the-spot redressal of around 5,000 cases weekly, improving transparency and service delivery.
- Karnataka cabinet approves a ₹600 crore plan to develop minority colonies under a special package across multiple cities. The initiative targets infrastructure upgrades in backward areas, including slums, over the next two financial years.
- Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar unveils multiple projects in Bengaluru, including a proposed 44 km double-decker flyover to ease congestion. He also launches key infrastructure works like a rail-cum-road flyover, skywalk and parking facilities.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- The Centre directs Andhra Pradesh to expedite Polavaram project works, with focus on rehabilitation and resettlement alongside construction progress. Officials review funding, land acquisition and technical support, with further central assistance expected soon.
- Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announces Labour Addas across Andhra Pradesh to support workers, with 15 centres in the first phase. These will function as skill hubs, alongside new ESI hospitals to improve worker welfare and healthcare.

#### Delhi

- Chief Minister Rekha Gupta says Delhi aims to transform from a transit hub into a global tourism destination. The plan focuses on new policies, stakeholder inputs and enhancing diverse tourism experiences.
- Delhi will deploy 13 mobile Jan Aushadhi Kendras to deliver affordable generic medicines in underserved areas through GPS-enabled pharmacy vans. The initiative aims to improve healthcare access, ensure transparency and reduce out-of-pocket expenses.
- Noida International Airport will begin operations from June 15, with IndiGo operating the first flight, followed by other carriers. Officials confirm all arrangements are in place, with final procedures underway before launch.

#### Goa

- Goa declares a paid holiday on May 10 for panchayat by-polls to ensure maximum voter participation. The order applies to government, industrial and commercial workers in notified wards.

#### Gujarat

- Ahmedabad plans to complete eight flyovers and railway underbridges by end-2026 to ease traffic and improve connectivity. Key projects like Vadaj flyover and Ellis Bridge are nearing completion, with pedestrian-friendly upgrades planned.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport will shut one runway for six hours on May 6 for pre-monsoon maintenance. Authorities advise passengers to check flight schedules as operations may be affected during the closure.

#### Haryana

- Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini directs officials to ensure adequate drinking water supply across Haryana amid rising temperatures. He stresses maintaining reservoirs, repairing tubewells and using tankers where needed to avoid shortages.
- Transport Minister Anil Vij says the Ambala ring road will ease traffic and improve connectivity to Panjokhra Sahib. Supporting works by NHAI, including underpasses and a service lane, aim to ensure smoother local movement.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh is set to witness intensified rain, snow and hailstorms with IMD issuing a yellow warning for most districts. The state may see significant precipitation till May 8, along with a drop in temperatures.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti approves ₹258 crore for Himachal Pradesh under Jal Jeevan Mission-II to boost rural drinking water supply. The funds aim to improve tap connectivity and prioritise water-scarce and vulnerable regions.

#### Karnataka

- Transport unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation announce an indefinite strike from May 20 over pay hike and arrears issues. The protest in Karnataka could disrupt public transport for lakhs of commuters.
- Karnataka plans sustainable data parks in Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Mysuru with a total capacity of 1,000 MW. The initiative focuses on green energy use, including solar supply, to support growing data infrastructure demand.
- Hotels in Bengaluru may hike food prices after a sharp rise in commercial LPG rates significantly increases operational costs. Industry bodies warn small eateries will be hardest hit, making price revisions largely unavoidable.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- The ₹3,500 crore Ganjal Morand Lift Irrigation Scheme is launched in Harda to supply pipeline water to 201 villages and irrigate 64,000 hectares. The project is expected to benefit farmers with improved irrigation from November.

## Mumbai

- National Green Tribunal flags environmental concerns in the Chena Riverfront project near Mumbai, seeking responses from authorities. The plea alleges violations of eco-sensitive zone norms, including floodplain excavation and tree felling.
- The Mumbai-Pune Expressway “missing link” is now fully operational, improving connectivity and cutting travel time between Mumbai and Pune by up to 30 minutes. The project bypasses the accident-prone ghat section, easing congestion and enhancing safety.
- Maharashtra CEO S. Chokkalingam proposes voter self-mapping to speed up roll revision in urban areas like Mumbai and Pune. The move, pending ECI approval, aims to address slow progress compared to rural districts.

## Pune

- Pune Municipal Corporation connects a 19-km pipeline under its 24x7 water scheme, improving supply in south Pune. The project will benefit around 4 lakh residents and reduce reliance on water tankers.
- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation seals four RMC plants in Pimpri-Chinchwad for violating dust control norms. The crackdown targets rising air pollution, with stricter inspections and compliance enforcement underway.
- Health Minister Prakash Abitkar directs officials to fast-track work on Lohgaon sub-district hospital in Pune for early inauguration. The plan includes expanding capacity and completing pending infrastructure to improve healthcare access.

## Punjab

- The Mohali-Rajpura rail link advances as Ministry of Railways issues fresh land acquisition notice for a 4-km stretch in Fatehgarh Sahib. The project aims to improve connectivity and reduce travel distance between Rajpura and Mohali/Chandigarh.
- Punjab Pollution Control Board rules out industrial waste as the cause of fish deaths in the Sutlej River near Harike. Tests showed water quality within safe limits, with no toxic contamination detected.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan launches online self-enumeration for Census 2027, with Governor Haribhau Bagde urging public participation. The initiative allows residents to submit household data digitally as part of the first phase.

## Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu implements three-tier security for vote counting on May 4, with strict access control at all centres. CEO Archana Patnaik confirms deployment across multiple layers to secure EVMs and counting halls.
- Tamil Nadu leads southern states in solar power evacuation, with Central Electricity Authority data showing strong growth. Increased solar output is helping manage peak demand and improve grid stability.

## Telangana

- Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee clears the northern stretch of the Regional Ring Road in Telangana under the HAM model at ₹23,935 crore. The project aims to ease congestion and define the outer limit of Hyderabad.
- Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy promises to clear ₹6,000 crore in retirement benefits within 100 days and issue health cards by June 1. The move aims to address employee welfare and pending dues in Telangana.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the 594-km Ganga Expressway linking Meerut to Prayagraj, boosting connectivity across Uttar Pradesh. The corridor features a 3.2-km airstrip for emergency IAF landings and aims to accelerate regional growth.
- Sarus crane population rises in Rohilkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, signalling improved ecological conditions. Officials say the growth reflects successful conservation efforts and healthy wetland ecosystems.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Corporation Commissioner and Chief Census Officer Kshitij Singhal issues show-cause notices to 289 officials in Indore for negligence in census work. Authorities warn of strict action, including departmental inquiry and FIR, if responses are not submitted by May 4.

## Mumbai

- Santacruz-Chembur Link Road nears completion, with the BKC-Vakola arm set to open soon, improving east-west connectivity in Mumbai. The project will ease congestion and enable faster travel between key highways and business hubs.
- Mumbai Monorail reopening is delayed to May-end due to pending safety inspections and final preparations. Services between Jacob Circle and Chembur will resume only after certification is completed.
- Navi Mumbai will host India's first 'Educity' near NMIA, with CIDCO identifying a 100-hectare site in Karanjade. The project aims to attract global universities, boost education infrastructure and create job opportunities.

## Pune

- Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education plans a gradual shift to digital exams for Classes 10 and 12 to reduce paper usage. The move will be phased, alongside reforms like CCTV monitoring and secure digital logistics.
- India Meteorological Department forecasts more heatwave days in central Maharashtra this May, along with warmer nights. The state is also likely to receive above-normal rainfall, leading to humid conditions.
- Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation plans a major revamp of Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital to add super-speciality services and upgrade infrastructure. The move aims to improve patient care, expand facilities and enhance healthcare access.

## Punjab

- Minister of Jails Ravjot Singh introduces a new prisons bill to enhance transparency, security and efficiency in jail administration. The legislation proposes high-security zones, AI surveillance and reforms to curb gangster networks operating from prisons.
- Punjab Chemists Association announces a statewide strike in Punjab on May 20 against e-pharmacies over regulatory concerns. Chemists will stage protests from May 15-19, with shops shutting for 24 hours.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan signs an MoU with English and Foreign Languages University to boost foreign language skills among youth. The initiative aims to enhance global opportunities, tourism and employability through improved communication skills.

## Tamil Nadu

- Southern Railway approves a platform revamp at Chennai Beach railway station to improve MRTS integration. The redesign aims to streamline passenger flow and support coordination with metro services.
- Tamil Nadu plans to make 4.3 lakh adults literate under the New India Literacy Programme through surveys and volunteer support. The initiative targets basic reading, writing and numeracy skills to achieve full literacy.

## Telangana

- DGP C. V. Anand announces plans to set up a Traffic Management and Road Safety Bureau in Telangana to curb accidents. The move aims to improve enforcement and address rising fatalities, with around 7,500 deaths reported annually.
- Hyderabad plans seven new roads to connect the Outer Ring Road with the Musi corridor, easing congestion in key growth areas. The project aims to improve urban connectivity and support future development with upgraded arterial roads.

## Uttar Pradesh

- CM Yogi Adityanath announces a mega plantation drive in Uttar Pradesh to plant 350 crore saplings in a single day. The campaign aims to boost afforestation through mass public participation and targeted initiatives.
- Uttar Pradesh prepares for Census 2027 with 3.89 lakh house listing blocks and digital self-enumeration starting May 7. The exercise will include mobile-based data collection and a comprehensive caste census.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Africa

- Taiwan President Lai Ching-te arrives in Eswatini on a surprise visit to strengthen diplomatic ties with one of its few allies. The trip follows earlier travel disruptions blamed on China, highlighting ongoing geopolitical tensions.
- Heavy rains in Kenya trigger floods and landslides, killing 18 people across multiple counties. The disaster has damaged infrastructure and displaced residents, with authorities warning of ongoing risks as the rainy season peaks.

## America

- Trade between Colombia and Ecuador is declining sharply as both sides impose steep retaliatory tariffs. The dispute escalates tensions, disrupting cross-border commerce and impacting industries on both sides.
- Mexico maintains its 2026 growth forecast despite a slight economic contraction in Q1, signalling cautious optimism. However, it raises its inflation outlook, reflecting ongoing price pressures in the economy.

## Asia Pacific

- Finance leaders from ASEAN+3 say they are ready to act against excessive financial market volatility and global liquidity risks. They reaffirm commitment to stability, open trade and a rules-based system led by the World Trade Organization.
- Philippines and United States deploy an anti-ship missile system in Batanes near Taiwan during joint war games. The move highlights strategic positioning along a key corridor amid rising tensions with China, with the system used for training and operational readiness.

## China

- China and Philippines trade accusations over activities near the South China Sea. Beijing alleges illegal landing by Philippine personnel, while Manila claims Chinese vessels are conducting unlawful research. Tensions escalate as the Philippines plans to deploy ships and aircraft to assert its position.
- China issues an injunction to block sanctions imposed by the United States on its refiners over Iranian oil purchases. Beijing calls the measures a violation of international norms, escalating tensions over energy trade and sanctions enforcement.

## Europe

- Poland says it has received no signals of delays in Patriot system deliveries from the United States. Defence Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz affirms confidence in timely military support, indicating continuity in defence cooperation and readiness planning.

## Middle East

- Israel approves a multi-billion dollar deal to acquire F-35 and F-15IA fighter jets from Lockheed Martin and Boeing. The purchase aims to strengthen air capabilities and maintain military superiority amid regional security challenges.
- United Arab Emirates exits the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries, signalling a shift towards prioritising its own oil output strategy. The move follows earlier decisions to distance from broader producer group alignments, highlighting a more independent energy policy direction.

## Pakistan

- Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of mortar and rocket attacks that killed four and injured 70, including civilians. Islamabad denies the claims, as escalating clashes threaten fragile peace talks between the two neighbours.

## United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom raises its terror threat level to “severe” after antisemitic stabbings in London, signalling a high likelihood of an attack. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood announces increased security for Jewish communities amid rising extremist threats.

## United States

- The United States embassy warns its citizens in the United Kingdom to stay alert after Britain raises its terrorism threat level. Advisory urges vigilance in public places and reviewing personal security amid heightened risk concerns.
- The United States approves over \$8.6 billion in military sales to Israel, Qatar, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates, bypassing congressional review. The move, justified as an emergency by Secretary Marco Rubio, comes amid ongoing regional tensions involving Iran.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- Gabon signs a \$150 million deal with the World Bank, raising total support to \$600 million. The country will audit public debt to address fiscal concerns and improve financial transparency with International Monetary Fund support.
- South Africa will hold municipal elections on November 4, announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The polls come amid declining support for the African National Congress in recent local and national elections.

## America

- Canada plans to host a new multilateral defence bank aimed at funding rearmament in nations facing rising geopolitical risks. The proposed institution could raise up to \$135 billion, though it may take time to be fully established.
- Brazil will announce new measures to tackle rising household debt, said President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The plan will build on the 2023 programme to ease financial stress and improve credit conditions for citizens.

## Asia Pacific

- Asian Development Bank announces a \$70 billion programme to boost energy and digital infrastructure across Asia-Pacific by 2035. The plan includes cross-border power grids and broadband expansion to improve connectivity, cut emissions and support long-term growth.
- Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi pledges deeper ties with Vietnam, focusing on energy, critical minerals and advanced technologies. Both sides aim to strengthen supply chains and economic security amid global geopolitical risks.

## China

- China approves large exports of a key rare earth mineral to the United States, easing supply concerns. The move signals potential relaxation of controls that had caused shortages and price spikes in aerospace and chipmaking sectors.
- China warns of countermeasures if the European Union does not revise its proposed industry and cybersecurity rules. Beijing says the measures could harm Chinese firms and escalate trade tensions, signalling possible retaliatory action.

## Europe

- Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico will attend Russia's Victory Day parade in Moscow, signalling continued ties with Russia. His presence highlights divisions within the European Union over relations with Moscow amid the Ukraine conflict.
- Ukraine announces army reforms to tackle troop shortages and rotate long-serving soldiers amid stalled peace talks with Russia. The move aims to strengthen military capacity as the prolonged conflict continues.

## Middle East

- Israel urges residents of southern Lebanon to evacuate amid operations against Hezbollah following ceasefire violations. The escalation raises risks for civilians as cross-border strikes and attacks continue between both sides.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan Navy will acquire advanced submarines from China to strengthen maritime security. The move reflects deepening defence cooperation between the two countries amid evolving regional dynamics.

## United Kingdom

- United Kingdom plans talks to join the European Union €78 billion loan initiative to support Ukraine. Prime Minister Keir Starmer aims to deepen defence cooperation and boost military support amid ongoing conflict with Russia.
- Prime Minister Keir Starmer says the United Kingdom may ban some pro-Palestinian marches over security concerns. The move follows rising tensions and incidents, with the government balancing free speech and public safety.

## United States

- The United States plans to withdraw 5,000 troops from Germany amid tensions over the Iran conflict. The move reflects strained ties with Europe under President Donald Trump, with withdrawal expected over the next 6–12 months.

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