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## INDIA UPDATE

### Highlights of this week

### Upcoming News/Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh High Court has introduced the Andhra Pradesh Electronic Processes Rules, 2025, enabling courts to serve summons, warrants and notices via WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram and email to accelerate judicial proceedings and reduce delays.
- APSDCL has installed over 78,250 rooftop solar systems generating nearly 201 MWp under the PM Surya Ghar scheme, while Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's native village Naravaripalle has achieved 100% household solar coverage.

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Kalam Institute of Health Technology in Visakhapatnam has received Central government approval to operate as a Clinical Research Organisation, enabling it to conduct clinical studies for drugs and medical devices and further strengthen India's healthcare innovation.
- NTR district collector G Lakshmisha said the government plans to develop industrial parks under a joint venture model with private landowners, aiming to boost investment, MSME growth and entrepreneurship under the "One Family-One Entrepreneur" initiative.

#### Delhi

- India's first SkyCast weather monitoring system is launched at Indira Gandhi International Airport to provide real-time weather alerts, improve flight safety and reduce weather-related delays and disruptions.
- Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa reviewed the AI-powered Dust Portal 2.0, which will enable real-time monitoring of construction sites and automatic action against dust pollution violations across the capital.
- NGT has issued notices to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Jal Board and Delhi Development Authority over alleged encroachment on a 13-acre village pond in Sannoth, seeking explanations within four weeks for construction activities on the water body.

#### Delhi

- The Delhi Government plans to replace nearly 93,000 streetlights with smart LEDs, a move expected to cut electricity consumption by 3.5 crore units annually and save around ₹25 crore in power costs each year.
- Delhi Power Minister Ashish Sood said overhead electricity and communication wires on two pilot roads in Chandni Chowk will be shifted underground by June-end as part of a ₹170-crore project to modernise utility infrastructure and reduce road disruptions.
- The Delhi Government plans to electrify 50 bus depots by the end of 2026 to support a growing fleet of over 5,000 electric buses, with infrastructure upgrades already underway at multiple locations.

#### Goa

- Authorities in Goa covered casino hoardings and advertisements along the route from Goa University to Dona Paula ahead of the Vice President's visit for the Statehood Day celebrations, alongside enhanced security and traffic arrangements.

#### Goa

- The Travel and Tourism Association of Goa has urged Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to avoid holding Assembly elections during the Christmas-New Year tourism season, warning of traffic disruptions, business losses and adverse impacts on Goa's tourism industry.

#### Gujarat

- Despite being one of India's busiest rail hubs, Ahmedabad Railway Station still lacks direct train connectivity to several North-Eastern states, forcing passengers to rely on multiple train changes and road travel to reach their destinations.
- Amdavad Municipal Corporation has closed sections of the Sabarmati Riverfront near Subhash Bridge for bridge reconstruction, with alternate traffic routes in place and restrictions remaining until the project is completed.

#### Gujarat

- Amdavad Municipal Corporation has ordered an electrical safety audit ahead of the monsoon, directing inspections of streetlights, wiring and junction boxes, along with the installation of safety mechanisms to prevent electrocution incidents in waterlogged areas.
- The Gujarat government has approved a first-of-its-kind integrated institute at Gujarat University combining hospitality, heritage management, archaeology and museology, with an initial grant of ₹10.86 crore for the ₹36.21-crore project.

#### Haryana

- The Energy Minister Anil Vij announced a new electricity subdivision at Ambala Cantonment's Machhonda area and said an electricity complaint centre in the Industrial Area will soon become operational to improve consumer services and grievance redressal.
- Haryana has become the first state to implement a mechanism for recovering RTI penalties directly from errant public information officers' salaries, following a six-year legal effort by RTI activist P P Kapoor and directions from the Lokayukta.

#### Haryana

- Private bus operators in Haryana have sought a fare hike from Re 1 to Rs 2 per kilometre, citing rising diesel prices and operating costs, and have urged the state government to introduce an annual fare revision mechanism linked to fuel prices and inflation.
- The Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority plans to connect Surajkund Road with the new Badkhal elevated corridor, a ₹848-crore project expected to cut Faridabad-Delhi travel time by up to 30 minutes and ease congestion at Ankhir Chowk.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the Himachal Pradesh government is offering higher education loans of up to ₹20 lakh at 1% interest under the Dr YS Parmar Vidyarthi Rhin Yojna, alongside reforms to improve access to quality education.
- Himachal Pradesh has recorded 286 forest fire incidents this season, exceeding last year's total, with heatwave conditions, dry vegetation and strong winds driving a three-fold increase in fires over the past two weeks.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Deputy Commissioner Apoorv Devgan has directed officials in Mandi to launch coordinated drives with NHAI and police to remove highway encroachments, aiming to improve road safety and comply with Supreme Court-monitored directives.
- Himachal Pradesh is expected to witness rain, hailstorms and thunderstorms with orange and yellow alerts issued for several districts as temperatures are likely to drop, providing relief from recent heatwave conditions.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation opens online applications for 2026-27 student bus passes from May 29 through the Seva Sindhu portal, with passes available for students from primary school to PhD level and distribution beginning on June 1.
- D. K. Shivakumar met Governor Thawarchand Gehlot ahead of the CLP meeting, with the Congress expected to formally elect him as Karnataka's next Chief Minister and hold the swearing-in ceremony on June 3.

#### Karnataka

- Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission convenes an urgent meeting to submit its social, educational and economic survey report to the state government, a move that draws criticism over alleged procedural and legal concerns.
- Karnataka government is advancing AI-integrated governance, using artificial intelligence for services such as grievance redressal, attendance management and multilingual tools while promoting responsible adoption across departments.

## INDIA UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Madhya Pradesh

- In Gwalior, authorities agreed to a 15-day trial under pressure from bus operators, allowing Morena-Bhind buses to continue operating from the railway station bus stand while using ISBT only as a 10-minute stoppage from June 15, delaying full-scale ISBT operations.
- In Bhopal, STF seized 23,125 cough syrup vials from Mubarakpur, taking total recoveries linked to the Gandhi Nagar drug racket to 73,045 bottles worth over ₹1.5 crore, exposing a year-old organised storage and distribution network.

## Mumbai

- BMC has approved the felling and transplantation of over 2,200 trees for the Versova-Dahisar Coastal Road project, clearing a key hurdle for the corridor aimed at improving connectivity and reducing congestion in Mumbai's western suburbs.
- BMC has launched an AI-powered system to scrutinise building proposals, reducing approval processing time from about a month to five days while automating compliance checks and document verification.
- Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority has seen demand for its housing lottery fall sharply, with applications per flat dropping to 28.5 this year from 56 in 2024 despite offering 2,640 flats across Mumbai.

## Pune

- The Maharashtra School Education Department has mandated stricter quality audits and inspections for free school uniforms from 2026-27 to ensure better quality, accountability and timely distribution to students.
- Maharashtra has constituted a high-level task force led by former SPPU Vice-Chancellor Nitin Karmalkar to review and streamline the implementation of NEP 2020 across higher education institutions.
- The Hinjewadi-Shivajinagar Metro launch has been delayed again, with Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority now targeting a July rollout after CMRS safety inspections and regulatory approvals are completed.

## Punjab

- CM Bhagwant Mann said Punjab's rise above Kerala in national education rankings validates the state's Sikhya Kranti initiative, highlighting improved government school outcomes and student performance.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan's Service Bond Policy is facing scrutiny as 216 specialist doctors trained in government medical colleges allegedly neither completed the mandatory two-year service nor paid bond penalties amounting to nearly ₹50 crore.

## Tamil Nadu

- The Deputy Mayor T. Nagarajan has urged the Tamil Nadu government to desilt 13 major drainage canals before the monsoon and address concerns over sewage treatment and waste management in Madurai.
- Tamil Nadu will continue its free bus pass scheme for school and college students in 2026-27, with students allowed to travel free using uniforms or institutional ID cards until passes are issued.

## Telangana

- Telangana Rythu Power Distribution Company Limited CMD Mohammed Musharraf Ali Faruqi clarified that no individual agricultural power meters will be installed, stating the new Discom aims to improve service quality and efficiency for farmers.
- Telangana has approved the construction of one lakh affordable LIG and MIG flats in CURE areas and municipal corporations, with a 12,000-unit pilot project and ₹5 lakh subsidy per LIG unit.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Prayagraj Police have launched a review of over 42,000 arms licences, focusing on holders with criminal records or alleged weapon misuse, following concerns over rising gun culture in the state.
- The UPSC has sent a shortlist of senior IPS officers to the Uttar Pradesh government for appointment of a full-time DGP, with a final decision expected after completion of vigilance and approval

## Upcoming News/Events

## Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh is likely to receive the southwest monsoon between June 20-22, while thunderstorms, rain and hail are expected over the next four days, with red alerts issued for Dhar and Khargone.
- Madhya Pradesh will start its annual transfer exercise from June 1, with departments allowed to issue transfer orders until June 15, while police transfers from constable to SI rank are being expedited following PHQ directives.

## Mumbai

- BMC to launch a pilot project using AI and LiDAR technology to digitally map and assess tree health in Mumbai's H-West ward, creating detailed inventories and risk assessments to support urban forestry management.
- Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation plans ₹20.71 crore repair works in six municipal schools, but parents have raised concerns that construction during the academic year could disrupt studies and affect student safety.
- The proposed ₹12,200-crore Thane Integrated Ring Metro project is facing growing opposition from residents and environmental groups, who have raised concerns over traffic congestion, environmental impact, and the accuracy of ridership and viability projections.

## Pune

- Maharashtra is set to operationalise a Health Emergency Operations Centre by July, strengthening the state's preparedness and response capabilities for pandemics, disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.
- Maharashtra has intensified monsoon preparedness by directing health officials to strengthen disease surveillance, stock essential medicines and deploy rapid response teams to prevent outbreaks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.
- Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited is introducing data-driven revenue monitoring and scientific spare-parts management to curb leakages, reduce wastage and improve operational efficiency across its bus network.

## Punjab

- Protesters opposing Himachal Pradesh's proposed entry tax will block traffic at 56 Punjab-Himachal border points from 11 am to 3 pm on June 1, potentially causing major disruptions for commuters, traders and tourists.

## Rajasthan

- Rajasthan is considering reducing VAT on diesel by up to ₹7 per litre to offset recent fuel price hikes and curb inflation, after diesel prices increased by ₹7.57 per litre through four revisions since May 15.

## Tamil Nadu

- Prohibition & Excise Minister K. Vignesh said the government will introduce a new system by June under which Tasmac employees will no longer need to collect empty liquor bottles, while reforms are also planned to curb irregularities in the deposit mechanism.
- Greater Chennai Corporation has set a 27-day deadline for processing building permit applications, mandating fully online approvals and stricter monitoring to improve transparency and reduce delays.

## Telangana

- Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said he and CM A. Revanth Reddy will review major irrigation projects in Mahbubnagar on June 4-5 to expedite pending works, land acquisition and funding for faster completion.
- Telangana is planning major road upgrades, tourism infrastructure and public amenities around Bhadrachalam ahead of the 2027-28 Godavari Pushkaralu, with nearly ₹1,000 crore proposed for pilgrim facilities and connectivity projects.

## Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission clarified that consumers can choose either prepaid or postpaid smart electricity meters, stating that prepaid mode is not mandatory under existing rules.
- Ghaziabad PWD has proposed two permanent helipads at Bhojpur and Loni, with a ₹1 crore-plus proposal sent for state approval. Once cleared, construction is expected to be completed within 15-30 days, reducing reliance on temporary helipads for VIP visits.

## GLOBAL UPDATE

## Highlights of this week

## Africa

- Kenya's Energy Minister Opiyo Wandayi defended Kenya's fuel supply agreements with Gulf producers, saying the G2G framework has stabilised fuel availability and cushioned the country from global energy market disruptions despite rising domestic fuel prices.
- Ghana's parliament has approved the Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2025, which criminalises the promotion, funding and sponsorship of LGBTQ activities, with the legislation now awaiting assent from President John Dramani Mahama

## America

- Canada has seen a sharp rise in citizenship-by-descent approvals after expanding eligibility rules, with nearly half of new approvals going to Americans seeking Canadian citizenship under the broader framework.
- Mexico's Senate has approved a constitutional amendment allowing elections to be annulled over foreign interference, including illicit financing, disinformation campaigns, digital manipulation and intervention by foreign governments or agencies.

## Asia Pacific

- South Korea and Japan have discussed a possible military logistics support pact aimed at strengthening defence cooperation, though Seoul has stressed it is proceeding cautiously given the agreement's political sensitivity.
- Japan's Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi rejected allegations of Japanese "new militarism" and accused China of rapidly expanding its military with limited transparency, highlighting growing regional security tensions at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

## China

- China has condemned a visit to Taiwan by Czech Senate President Milos Vystreil, accusing him of violating the One-China principle and interfering in its internal affairs, amid growing ties between Taiwan and the Czech Republic.
- The defence minister of Philippines said the country continues to face a "severe threat" from China despite a recent easing of tensions between Washington and Beijing following talks between Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping.

## Europe

- Thousands of residents in Austria temporarily shut down the Brenner motorway, a key transport corridor linking Germany and Italy, to protest chronic traffic congestion and pollution caused by heavy truck and tourist flows through the Alpine region.
- At the Shangri-La Dialogue, Pete Hegseth urged NATO allies to increase defence spending, while European officials insisted the alliance remains resilient despite planned U.S. troop reductions in Germany and ongoing burden-sharing disputes within NATO.

## Middle East

- Syrian PM Ahmed al-Sharaa held talks with Donald Trump on supporting Syria's economy and regional developments, while urging Washington to lift remaining sanctions to help attract investment and accelerate the country's recovery.

## Pakistan

- The Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar visited Washington for talks with Marco Rubio, with discussions expected to focus on efforts to end the Iran conflict, regional stability and shipping access through the Strait of Hormuz.

## United Kingdom

- The United Kingdom government has pledged 300,000 new work experience and training placements for young people after a review warned that the country risks creating a "lost generation" excluded from employment and skills opportunities.

## United States

- The United States and Mexico have concluded the first round of bilateral talks to revise the USMCA trade agreement, focusing on automotive rules of origin, steel and aluminium trade, and economic security cooperation.
- The AUKUS partners—United States, United Kingdom and Australia—are jointly developing unmanned undersea vehicles, with the first deliveries expected in 2027, according to Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

## Upcoming News/Events

## Africa

- WHO Chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus visited the Ebola epicentre in Democratic Republic of the Congo, urging residents to seek early treatment and follow safe burial practices as authorities race to contain the rapidly spreading outbreak.
- ZCCM Investments Holdings has partnered with Wonderful Group to revive a nearly century-old lime and cement production facility in Zambia's Copperbelt region, aiming to boost industrial output and support the mining sector.

## America

- Brazil's Finance Minister Dario Durigan warned that a potential U.S. designation of Brazil's two largest drug gangs as terrorist organisations could negatively affect Brazil's economy, including risks to foreign investment and broader business confidence.
- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Canada could surpass its goal of increasing exports to China by 50% by 2030, signalling scope for stronger bilateral trade during talks with Foreign Minister Anita Anand.

## Asia Pacific

- Workers at Kakao Corp, South Korea will stage a four-hour strike on June 10, demanding job security and reforms to what they describe as an executive-focused compensation system after wage negotiations with management collapsed.
- Countries across the Indo-Pacific are accelerating defence spending, weapons procurement and military cooperation as they seek to balance the growing military influence of China and uncertainty over long-term security commitments from the United States.

## China

- China is expanding infrastructure around its Hami nuclear missile silo field, including launch pads, bunkers and communication facilities, in a move analysts say is intended to strengthen its nuclear deterrent and ensure a credible retaliatory strike capability against any potential first attack.
- Vietnam's top minister To Lam said stronger ties between Vietnam and China could help promote regional peace and security, despite ongoing territorial disputes, while stressing that relations with the United States also remain an important pillar of Vietnam's foreign policy.

## Europe

- Hungarian Peter Magyar said he expects to reach a political agreement with Ursula von der Leyen on the release of frozen European Union funds during talks aimed at resolving long-running financial disputes.

## Middle East

- Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered a deeper military incursion into Lebanon targeting Hezbollah, as fighting linked to the wider Iran conflict continues to displace more than one million Lebanese and intensify regional tensions despite ceasefire efforts.
- US President Donald Trump said he will soon decide on extending the ceasefire with Iran, while insisting Tehran must permanently forgo nuclear weapons and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, conditions that Iranian officials have not fully accepted.

## Pakistan

- Pakistan is planning to establish strategic petroleum reserves and expand oil storage infrastructure to strengthen energy security, reduce vulnerability to supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, and enhance domestic fuel resilience.

## United Kingdom

- Foreign Minister Yvette Cooper is set to visit China on Monday and later travel to India for high-level discussions on global security and health challenges, including the Strait of Hormuz, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the ongoing Ebola outbreak.
- The United Kingdom plans tougher penalties, including prison terms, for reckless damage to subsea internet cables as it seeks to strengthen protection of critical infrastructure amid concerns over potential sabotage by hostile states, including Russia.

## United States

- The administration of Donald Trump is seeking stricter USMCA auto rules, proposing that vehicles contain 82% North American content—with at least 50% produced in the United States—to qualify for preferential trade benefits.

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