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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Andhra Pradesh

- CM N. Chandrababu Naidu said Andhra Pradesh will be made free of land disputes by scrapping the Land Titling Act and issuing 72.7 lakh error-free pattadar passbooks across 9,833 villages by March 2027, alongside reforms to strengthen land ownership records.
- Tirupati has received in-principle approval for a ₹750-crore climate-resilient water management project to restore its lakes and tanks, aiming to reduce urban flooding, improve groundwater recharge and strengthen the city's drainage infrastructure.

Delhi

- Delhi Transport Corporation has made the Pink Saheli smart card mandatory for women to avail free bus travel from August 1, with the existing paper-based pink ticket system set to be phased out by the end of July.
- Delhi has withdrawn the work-from-home policy for most government departments as the geopolitical situation normalised, while restoring regular office attendance with revised timings of 10 am to 6:30 pm.
- The CJP protest at Jantar Mantar has entered its 21st day, with the indefinite hunger strike reaching its 15th day, as protesters continue demanding accountability over alleged exam irregularities and have announced a Parliament march on July 20 if talks are not initiated.

Goa

- CM Pramod Sawant said that Goa is preparing to issue identity cards to local fishermen and fish vendors who have been in the trade for over 15 years. He also said that the move aims to protect traditional livelihoods and strengthen Goans' presence in the fishing sector.

Gujarat

- Gujarat High Court has installed two reverse vending machines on its premises as part of a plastic waste management PIL, while directing the state government to expand the initiative to more public locations and strengthen waste collection infrastructure across Gujarat.
- Gujarat has unveiled a new data centre policy targeting 7.5 GW of capacity, offering incentives to attract hyperscale and AI investments while positioning Dholera Special Investment Region as its primary digital infrastructure hub.

Haryana

- Authorities in Gurugram said illegal construction and the rapid rise of unauthorised PG accommodations have worsened waterlogging at 20 major hotspots, as increasing population density has overwhelmed the city's drainage infrastructure.
- Haryana and Bihar have signed an agreement to launch regular AC bus services connecting key cities in both states, aiming to improve affordable, reliable travel and strengthen economic and social connectivity.

Himachal Pradesh

- Heavy rainfall triggered landslides, road closures and rising river levels across Himachal Pradesh, with authorities issuing rain alerts and monitoring vulnerable areas as disruptions affected several districts, including Shimla, Kullu and Sirmaur.
- Sirmaur district recorded exports worth over ₹3,200 crore in 2024-25 and has unveiled a roadmap to expand global trade by boosting manufacturing, improving export infrastructure and promoting GI-tagged products and horticultural produce.

Karnataka

- Karnataka has ruled out releasing Cauvery River water for irrigation, saying current reservoir levels are sufficient only for drinking needs, while indicating that irrigation releases could be reviewed if rainfall improves over the next two weeks.
- CM D. K. Shivakumar announced a ₹1 crore relief grant for every rural Assembly constituency to address drinking water shortages, while directing districts to prioritise water supply works and ensure no village is left without safe drinking water.

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- The first phase of Kakinada Gateway Port Limited in Kakinada is on track for completion by December 2026, with the ₹11,000-crore project set to become one of India's deepest ports and strengthen cargo, liquid, gas and offshore logistics connectivity.
- The new terminal at Vijayawada International Airport is expected to become operational by October-November 2026, with authorities also pushing for new international flights to Sri Lanka and Dubai, alongside expanded domestic connectivity.

Delhi

- Delhi is drafting a new borewell policy that will make water meters mandatory on all domestic and commercial borewells, with users charged based on groundwater extraction while also providing a mechanism to regularise unauthorised borewells.
- Delhi plans to launch a government-backed digital portal to boost medical tourism by offering end-to-end patient services, including hospital matching, treatment packages, multilingual support and grievance redressal through a single-window platform.
- Delhi is expected to witness a mostly dry week, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting little to no rainfall through Thursday as the monsoon trough shifts towards the Himalayan foothills, pushing temperatures up to 39°C.

Goa

- Goa will appoint a consultant to prepare a master plan for the redevelopment of Gandhi Market, aiming to modernise infrastructure and address long-standing issues such as flooding, drainage and public access.

Gujarat

- The Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway will be extended to Bhavnagar, with construction expected to begin within three months, reducing travel time from Ahmedabad to about two hours while strengthening regional connectivity.
- Ahead of the 149th Jagannath Rath Yatra on July 16, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation identified over 270 unsafe buildings along the route and deployed extensive safety measures, including barricading, road repairs, CCTV surveillance and emergency response teams.

Haryana

- The 34-km Ambala-Kala Amb Expressway is set to strengthen logistics and industrial connectivity between Haryana and Himachal Pradesh by cutting travel time by up to 45 minutes and improving freight movement to the NCR manufacturing network.
- Maharshi Dayanand University will establish a research centre and an AI-driven Economic Observatory to develop data-based solutions for environmental, urban and socio-economic challenges across the NCR region.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh will develop ₹3,500 crore worth of disaster-resilient infrastructure to strengthen preparedness against natural disasters, with Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu citing climate change as a key factor behind the rise in cloudburst incidents.
- Himachal Pradesh is in the final stages of notifying a new industrial policy aimed at attracting investment and creating jobs, while accelerating key projects including the ₹2,071-crore bulk drug park in Una and the Unity Mall in Dharamshala.

Karnataka

- CM D. K. Shivakumar said Bengaluru's street vendors displaced by the footpath clearance drive will be rehabilitated through designated vending zones, identity cards and support measures, while the government continues removing encroachments.
- Karnataka has approached the Supreme Court of India seeking to postpone Bengaluru's local body elections until December 31, arguing that polls should be held only after completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh transferred over ₹1,835 crore to more than 1.25 crore beneficiaries under the Ladli Behna Yojana, while CM Mohan Yadav said the state plans to implement the Uniform Civil Code this month.
- Sehore has imposed restrictions at waterfalls, dams and other water tourism sites under Section 163 of the BNSS during the monsoon, with enforcement teams deployed and tourists being turned away to prevent rain-related accidents.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra's outstanding government loan guarantees rose to ₹1.81 lakh crore in FY2025-26 after fresh guarantees of ₹51,700 crore, even as the CAG flagged the state's growing reliance on off-budget borrowings and transparency concerns.
- Maharashtra has released ₹17,958 crore for pending Jal Jeevan Mission projects, with the state directing works over 75% complete to be finished by December 2028 under a ₹74,548-crore master plan.
- MMOPL has secured major debt relief through a ₹2,771.32-crore restructuring deal with NARCL, enabling the withdrawal of insolvency proceedings and paving the way for improved operations and higher train frequency on Mumbai's Metro Line 1.

Pune

- MSRTC has increased Pune–Mumbai bus services to nearly 130 daily after train cancellations caused by landslides in the Lonavla–Karjat section, deploying additional electric and conventional buses to meet surging passenger demand.
- Pune recorded 264.8 mm of rainfall in the first six days of July, exceeding its monthly average by nearly 40%, as heavy monsoon showers caused widespread disruption and prompted rain alerts across the district.
- Maharashtra has directed government and local body schools to inspect buildings, strengthen monsoon safety measures and immediately stop using unsafe classrooms, while mandating precautions around open wells, electrical systems and other potential hazards.

Punjab

- Traffic on the Ludhiana–Jalandhar National Highway was disrupted for nearly five hours after Sikh organisations staged a protest at the Ladhawal Toll Plaza over alleged hurt to religious sentiments, before the agitation ended following talks with police.
- Punjab has received over 30 lakh enumeration forms during two days of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) camps, taking the total to more than 1.3 crore submissions as officials continue door-to-door electoral roll verification ahead of the draft rolls.

Rajasthan

- University of Kota has completed its ₹10-crore Chambal water supply project, but around 1,500 students continue to rely on saline borewell water as the fully tested system awaits formal inauguration.

Tamil Nadu

- Authorities have revised the Coimbatore International Airport approach road plan to retain 10.5-metre service roads for local access, but protesting farmers are demanding a written government order before allowing construction to resume.
- The Madras High Court cleared legal hurdles for the ₹856-crore Tindivanam–Nagari broad gauge railway project by dismissing a petition challenging the contract award, allowing the long-pending rail project to move forward.

Telangana

- Telangana has cleared the launch of the country's first agriculture-focused power distribution company, with the new Rythu Discom set to ensure uninterrupted electricity for farming, lift irrigation and drinking water projects while continuing free power.
- Telangana State Road Transport Corporation has received approval to recruit 1,500 permanent conductors for the first time since Telangana's formation, with appointments expected through direct recruitment based on SSC merit and reservation norms.

Uttar Pradesh

- UP launched the Maha Vriksharopan 2026 campaign to plant 35 crore saplings across the state under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative, with CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurating the drive in Gorakhpur and promoting large-scale public participation in afforestation.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- Indore is set to get a modern 300-bed district hospital, with the facility scheduled to be inaugurated on July 17 and maternal, obstetric and child health services to be launched in the first phase.
- Madhya Pradesh has made e-KYC and bank account verification mandatory for over 74,000 PM POSHAN cooks and helpers after an audit found account mismatches, with honorarium payments to resume only after verification.

Mumbai

- Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation will conduct a scientific citywide tree audit and introduce preventive measures, including tree health monitoring and de-concretisation, after 268 trees collapsed during the monsoon in Navi Mumbai.
- Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority has amended its Act to enable the redevelopment of over 13,000 dilapidated buildings in Mumbai, empowering the agency and tenants to proceed with reconstruction where landlords fail to act.
- Maharashtra has announced a ₹13,000-crore flood-control plan for Mumbai to upgrade drainage infrastructure and eliminate waterlogging at 370 flood-prone hotspots, with a target of clearing inundation within 30 minutes.

Pune

- Maharashtra will set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe suspected fraud in the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana after around 16,000 suspicious treatment claims were flagged, with AI-based audits and stricter monitoring also planned.
- Maharashtra will appoint an independent third-party agency to oversee repair work at the Temghar Dam, with a ₹37.5 lakh tender floated to ensure quality control and address persistent seepage over the next 24 months.
- Pune Municipal Corporation will conduct a fresh survey of old wadas and ageing buildings across Pune after recent rain-related collapses, with unsafe structures to face demolition or other safety measures.

Punjab

- Missing revenue records of 14 villages in Nangal have delayed land acquisition for the proposed four-laning of the NH-503, with authorities exploring partial notification of the project while efforts continue to resolve the issue.
- Punjab will add 1,279 government buses in its biggest public transport expansion in over two decades, with the new fleet featuring CCTV, GPS, dashcams and UPI-based ticketing to improve commuter safety and connectivity.

Rajasthan

- Chambal Garden and Kishorepura Muktidham will be redeveloped with a ₹100-crore investment, with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla saying the project aims to transform Kota into a major hub for sports and tourism alongside its coaching industry.

Tamil Nadu

- Vikram Solar will invest ₹15,037 crore to set up a battery energy storage systems (BESS) manufacturing plant in Tirunelveli district, creating 2,670 jobs and marking one of Tamil Nadu's largest recent industrial investments.
- Over 50 farmers in Madurai district are still awaiting nearly ₹1 crore in pending payments for paddy sold months ago, with officials attributing the delay to bank account issues and assuring that dues will be cleared by next week.

Telangana

- Kawal Tiger Reserve has completed the voluntary rehabilitation of 142 tribal families, with most receiving permanent houses, agricultural land and government support, enabling them to begin cultivation and rebuild their livelihoods.
- Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society will provide AI, digital safety and cyber awareness training to around 80,000 students from August 15 under a three-year CSR-supported programme aimed at improving future-ready digital skills.

Uttar Pradesh

- An SIT is investigating alleged theft and financial irregularities in donations at the Ram Mandir, with the probe triggering a political confrontation between the BJP, Congress and Samajwadi Party.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Africa - Namibia secured new cooperation agreements with China covering infrastructure, mining, energy, agriculture and minerals during President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's state visit to Beijing, as both countries agreed to deepen economic and development ties. - WHO has warned that Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ebola outbreak is spreading largely undetected, with four in five new cases having no known link to existing patients, suggesting the true outbreak could be two to four times larger than officially reported.
America - Cuba suffered its second nationwide power grid collapse in a week and fourth this year, plunging the country into darkness as fuel shortages linked to the U.S. oil blockade continue to strain its ageing electricity system. - Venezuela said the June 24 earthquakes have killed 4,333 people, injured 16,740 and left about 17,000 homeless, as authorities continue search operations and prepare to begin housing rehabilitation for affected families next week.
Asia Pacific - North Korea condemned the NATO summit, accusing the U.S. and its allies of escalating military blocs and arms buildups, while arguing that denuclearisation efforts should begin with U.S. allies rather than Pyongyang. - At least 44 people have died and over one million people have been stranded after monsoon floods and landslides hit southeastern Bangladesh, disrupting transport, power and communications. Authorities and the military are delivering emergency aid as damaged infrastructure hampers relief efforts.
China - China successfully tested a sea-based rocket booster recovery system using a net mounted on an offshore platform, aiming to advance reusable rocket technology. The breakthrough supports Beijing's push to cut launch costs and narrow the gap with U.S. leaders in reusable space launch systems. - Typhoon Bavi made landfall in eastern China after nearly 2 million people were evacuated, with authorities warning that its vast rain bands could still trigger severe flooding and landslides despite the storm weakening.
Europe - Ukraine has created a new long-range military command to intensify deep strikes on Russia's energy and logistics infrastructure, as Kyiv says the campaign is aimed at weakening Moscow's ability to sustain the war. - Greenlanders rejected President Donald Trump's renewed call for U.S. control of the Arctic island, insisting that Greenland's future should be decided by its own people and reaffirming their right to self-determination.
Middle East Iran expanded missile and drone attacks on U.S. facilities across Gulf states after U.S. strikes on hundreds of Iranian targets, while announcing the renewed closure of the Strait of Hormuz, escalating regional tensions and disrupting vital global shipping.
Pakistan Cybersecurity researchers at SentinelOne said hacking groups linked to China and India separately targeted multiple Pakistani law enforcement agencies, highlighting ongoing cyber espionage activity in the region.
United Kingdom Britain has designated Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Oracle as critical cloud service providers to the financial sector, bringing them under direct regulatory oversight to strengthen financial stability and resilience.
United States - Four U.S. senators said they reached an agreement with the Trump administration to advance a new Russia sanctions bill, which would target countries buying Russian energy and increase pressure on Moscow to negotiate peace with Ukraine. - Acting U.S. Director of National Intelligence Bill Pulte announced a third round of staff reductions as the Trump administration continues efforts to shrink the intelligence agency. The move comes ahead of the July 15 confirmation hearing for DNI nominee Jay Clayton.

Africa - Sudan's army said it would accept the U.S.-backed peace proposal only if the RSF fully withdraws from all cities it has occupied, rejecting the plan's limited withdrawal provisions and creating another hurdle to efforts to end the country's civil war. - Russia is ready to assist Mozambique in combating the Islamist insurgency in its north if requested, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reaffirming Moscow's commitment as Russia expands its security presence in Africa through the Africa Corps.
America - The U.S. and Canada reached a toll-sharing agreement allowing the \$4.7-billion Gordie Howe International Bridge to open on July 27, ending a dispute after President Donald Trump secured revised revenue-sharing and toll governance terms. - Meta Platforms will invest C\$13 billion to build its first Canadian data centre in Alberta, significantly expanding its AI computing capacity and boosting the province's position as a major hub for digital infrastructure and artificial intelligence.
Asia Pacific - Philippine Airlines is set to place an order for 15 Boeing 787-10s and nine Airbus A350-1000 aircraft, marking its first Boeing purchase in nearly 20 years. The fleet expansion will strengthen the airline's long-haul capacity and support its international growth strategy. - ASEAN foreign ministers will hold a special meeting with Myanmar to discuss the country's civil war and re-engagement with the regional bloc, marking renewed diplomatic efforts after five years of limited engagement.
China - Xi Jinping urged China and North Korea to maintain "strategic resolve" amid global uncertainty and accelerate implementation of agreements reached with Kim Jong Un last month, signalling deeper bilateral cooperation. - Chinese authorities are considering restricting overseas access to the country's most advanced AI models and have held discussions with leading tech firms on tighter controls, signalling a push to safeguard strategic AI technologies and strengthen national security.
Europe Germany will fund the purchase of 50,000 attack drones for Ukraine in one of the largest known Western drone orders for Kyiv, significantly boosting its battlefield capabilities as allies expand military support amid the ongoing war.
Middle East - Israel will hold a national election on October 27, according to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition, marking the country's first vote since the 2023 Hamas attack and the subsequent conflicts in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran. - Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani will visit Washington on Monday, July 13 to strengthen strategic ties with the U.S., with expected oil and gas agreements alongside broader cooperation in trade, investment and economic development.
Pakistan Pakistan urged all parties to honour their commitments under the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming the agreement as a foundation for regional stability after U.S. President Donald Trump declared the interim U.S.-Iran deal was "over."
United Kingdom - Andy Burnham is on the verge of becoming Britain's next prime minister after securing backing from 322 of Labour's 403 MPs, leaving him just one nomination short of becoming the sole candidate to succeed Keir Starmer. - Britain will invest £190 million (\$254 million) in the Precision Strike Missile (PrSM) programme to strengthen the Army's long-range strike capability, acquiring missiles capable of hitting targets up to 500 km away.
United States President Donald Trump said he will not sign the bipartisan housing affordability bill, calling it "a big yawn," though it is expected to become law automatically without his signature. The legislation aims to boost housing construction and curb large Wall Street ownership of single-family homes.

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