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INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Andhra Pradesh

- AP's Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) delivered Nipun, the second indigenous Diving Support Vessel, to the Indian Navy, enhancing its underwater operations, submarine rescue capabilities and boosting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat defence manufacturing initiative.
- Andhra Pradesh proposed a 7,872-km Green Energy Corridor Phase-III with five 400 kV substations to integrate 18 GW of renewable energy, though the Centre said the scheme is yet to be approved and no funds have been sanctioned.

Delhi

- The Delhi government approved the Lakshmi Yojana, under which eligible women will receive a ₹2,500 monthly stipend, with restrictions preventing the funds from being spent on liquor, tobacco products, online gaming or gambling.
- The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) concluded its Yamuna Dialogues stakeholder consultations, with the recommendations set to shape the proposed Delhi Yamuna Compact for restoring and managing the Yamuna floodplains.
- The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) approved ₹4,500 crore worth of projects under its Yamuna rejuvenation programme, including 15 new decentralised sewage treatment plants, expanded sewer networks and upgrades to sewage infrastructure.

Goa

- The Bombay High Court at Goa took suo motu cognisance of the stray dog issue following a Supreme Court direction, seeking responses from the Goa government, Directorate of Panchayats and municipal councils on measures to address the problem.

Gujarat

- Heavy rain in South Gujarat forced the closure of 70 roads across Dang and Bharuch districts, disrupting connectivity as authorities deployed emergency teams, activated helplines and advised residents to avoid unnecessary travel.
- Gujarat informed the High Court that it is recruiting 25,600 police personnel, including over 14,000 posts in the next phase, while strengthening cybercrime and narcotics units with specialised experts under DGP supervision.

Haryana

- With the October 1 deadline approaching, none of the 2,780 fuel stations in Haryana's NCR districts have installed mandatory ANPR cameras, raising concerns over enforcement of the "No PUCC, No Fuel" policy.
- Contaminated drinking water remains a major challenge in Haryana villages, with 1,698 of nearly 19,000 samples tested this financial year found unfit for consumption, raising health concerns in several districts.

Himachal Pradesh

- Heavy rainfall disrupted Himachal Pradesh, blocking 122 roads and triggering landslides and flash floods, while the Shimla Meteorological Office issued a yellow alert for heavy rain until August 6.
- Himachal Pradesh introduced a one-time pollution control consent certificate for industries with a validity of 5 to 25 years, becoming the first state to adopt the system to simplify approvals and improve ease of doing business.

Karnataka

- The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) upheld its directive asking Karnataka to release 3,500 cusecs of Cauvery water daily to Tamil Nadu for 15 days, prompting Karnataka to consider legal options against the order.
- More than 4.5 lakh candidates appeared for the Karnataka Police Civil Constable recruitment exam for 3,991 vacancies, with the test conducted across 1,070 centres in the state, highlighting strong competition for government jobs.

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh announced a statewide immunisation drive from August 3–8 to administer DPT and TD booster doses to eligible children and adolescents through special vaccination camps in schools and communities.
- AP is poised to become the "Saudi Arabia of Clean Energy," Minister Nara Lokesh said while laying the foundation for Tata Power's ₹5,750-crore hybrid renewable energy project, highlighting the state's ambitions in green fuels and renewable energy exports.

Delhi

- The Delhi government plans to build two elevated corridors in north and northeast Delhi to ease traffic congestion and improve connectivity, with feasibility studies and detailed project reports now being initiated.
- The Delhi Jal Board has warned 1,125 commercial properties with water bill dues exceeding ₹25 lakh to clear payments by August 15, failing which their properties could be attached and sealed.
- The government said it will complete all pending deregulation and ease of doing business reforms by mid-August, with the Delhi Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 expected to be cleared by the Cabinet within a week.

Goa

- The 61-day annual fishing ban in Goa ended, with trawler owners resuming fishing operations as the new season began, boosting seafood supply while supporting sustainable fishing and marine conservation.

Gujarat

- Ahmedabad proposed an AI-powered Traffic and Road Safety Policy featuring 12,200 surveillance cameras, automatic e-challans, 2,000 new Traffic Brigade recruits and an integrated public transport ticketing system to improve road safety and traffic management.
- The Ahmedabad RTO directed authorised vehicle dealers to ensure proper HSRP installation using the mandated snap-lock fastening system after heavy rains caused several number plates to detach from vehicles.

Haryana

- Haryana unveiled a planned housing scheme for 66 municipal towns to curb unauthorised colonies, allowing developers to undertake plotted housing projects on 5 acres or more under regulated norms.
- HSIIDC's Global City project in Gurugram will get multi-highway connectivity through the Dwarka Expressway, NH-48, Pataudi Road and KMP Expressway, strengthening access to the 1,000-acre mixed-use township and supporting future growth.

Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh approved a policy to purchase private vacant plots in Shimla's proposed no-construction zones, offering compensation to landowners while protecting the city's fragile ecosystem and green cover.
- The Centre proposed a cashless settlement of BBMB power arrears by compensating Himachal Pradesh through electricity instead of cash, while the Supreme Court urged Punjab to respond to the proposal.

Karnataka

- Rahul Gandhi cleared the way for Karnataka's Cabinet expansion, with the swearing-in likely on Monday, August 3rd and 18 of 20 ministerial vacancies expected to be filled after consultations with the Congress leadership.
- Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced plans to interact directly with government employees across the state through taluk- and hobli-level sessions to improve coordination, accountability and implementation of welfare schemes.

INDIA UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh athletes Yamini and Ajay Babu won silver medals in judo and weightlifting respectively at the Commonwealth Games, with the state announcing ₹25 lakh each and government jobs in recognition of their achievements.
- Madhya Pradesh introduced the NHM's "You Quote, We Pay" policy to attract specialist doctors to rural and tribal hospitals by offering negotiable salaries, along with PG admission incentives and allowances to address the shortage of doctors in underserved areas.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra's Freedom of Religion Act came into force, criminalising religious conversions through force, fraud, inducement, allurement or marriage, with violations attracting up to seven years' imprisonment under the new law.
- The BMC launched a citywide cleanliness drive with plans to install CCTV cameras at garbage hotspots, strengthen ward-level monitoring and enforce stricter penalties to curb littering and improve waste management across Mumbai.
- Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) began the next phase of India's first offshore airport by inviting bids for a detailed feasibility study and bid management for the proposed greenfield airport at Kore in Palghar district.

Pune

- The PMC earmarked ₹114.89 crore for road and electrical infrastructure upgrades along the 84-km route ahead of the Pune Grand Challenge Tour 2027, while ordering quality audits of previous road repair works.
- The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) approved ₹14 crore for procuring bitumen and other road repair materials to keep its Yerawada hot mix plant operational and accelerate pothole repairs during the monsoon.
- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) deployed an AI-enabled CCTV surveillance system at Pune railway station that can identify known criminals within 90 seconds, enhancing passenger safety and real-time security monitoring.

Punjab

- The Punjab government transferred financial assistance to 35.5 lakh women under the Maavan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna, with Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann describing the three-month instalment as a "Rakhi Shagun" for beneficiaries.
- Punjab Local Bodies Minister Harjot Singh Bains held talks with striking sanitation workers in Ludhiana to resolve their demands and end the strike, which has disrupted garbage collection across the city.

Rajasthan

- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma held a night chaupal in Udaipur to hear villagers' grievances, approved a Saras Dairy Centre and a sports ground, and was scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects across the district.

Tamil Nadu

- The Tamil Nadu government sanctioned ₹340 crore to strengthen drinking water supply and drought mitigation measures in districts affected by a weak southwest monsoon, while directing officials to complete key works and monitor implementation closely.
- CM C. Joseph Vijay awarded police and public safety medals to 630 personnel and flagged off 138 coastal security vehicles worth ₹8.27 crore to strengthen patrolling, surveillance and anti-smuggling operations along the state's coastline.

Telangana

- The Telangana Assembly Select Committee reviewed the proposed hate speech Bill and said it aims to submit its report during the ongoing monsoon session, after considering inputs from members, political parties and civil society.
- According to the RBI's Handbook of Statistics, Telangana recorded the highest per capita income among Indian states at ₹4.19 lakh in 2025-26, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attributing the growth to policy-driven governance, investments and job creation.

Uttar Pradesh

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said UPITS-2026 is a key step towards Uttar Pradesh's \$1-trillion economy goal, with the September 25–29 trade show targeting 2,400+ exhibitors, 550+ international buyers from 85 countries and major investment and business deals.
- The Supreme Court directed Uttar Pradesh to grant legal protection to forest staff in the National Chambal Gharial Sanctuary within two weeks, saying it would strengthen action against illegal sand mining, poaching and other unlawful activities.

Upcoming News/Events

Madhya Pradesh

- The IMD forecast another spell of heavy rainfall across Madhya Pradesh from August 4–5, while light rain was expected in 55 districts, including Bhopal and Indore, due to two active weather systems.
- MP proposed amendments to the Legal Metrology Rules, 2011, introducing fines of up to ₹1 lakh for underweight deliveries, incorrect measurements and operating without registration, while inviting public feedback within 30 days before final implementation.

Mumbai

- Maharashtra proposed a new ambulance policy to introduce uniform pricing, real-time tracking, digital receipts and improved accountability, aiming to make emergency ambulance services more transparent and reliable across the state.
- Maharashtra told the Bombay High Court it would promote eco-friendly clay Ganesh idols in line with the Prime Minister's appeal, while opposing an immediate ban on Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols for this year's Ganesh festival.
- The Maharashtra government will convert the Air India building at Nariman Point into government offices, with the 22nd floor hosting Cabinet meetings, while replacing the airline's logo with the state emblem or Ashok Stambha.

Pune

- The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) approved a plan to restore and expand the fire hydrant network in congested and high-risk areas, along with GIS mapping and regular maintenance, to improve emergency firefighting response.
- Maharashtra directed all app-based transport aggregators to complete registration by September 1, 2026, warning that companies operating without authorisation after the deadline will face strict legal action.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the Pune district collector and Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to build an integrated digital groundwater monitoring and regulation system within six months and submit a compliance report thereafter.

Punjab

- The Punjab government will table a Bill capping annual private school fee hikes at 5%, aiming to benefit over 32 lakh students in 7,800 schools by curbing arbitrary fee increases and strengthening regulation.
- The North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) urges the Centre to reconsider the indefinite closure of the Kartarpur Corridor, calling for enhanced security measures to facilitate the safe resumption of Sikh pilgrimages.

Rajasthan

- The Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) planned to declare OMR-based exam results with fewer than 1 lakh candidates within 20 days and all recruitment results within 90 days, while taking legal measures to prevent large recruitment drives from being delayed.

Tamil Nadu

- Karnataka released 12,000 cusecs of Cauvery water from the Kabini reservoir after heavy rainfall, with the flow expected to reach Tamil Nadu by Monday, August 3, offering relief amid the ongoing water-sharing dispute.
- The Tamil Nadu government will constitute a special industrial cell under the DTCP to fast-track approvals for industrial building applications, aiming to reduce clearance time from 30–45 days to 15 days and boost the state's investment climate.

Telangana

- The Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TGSLPRB) announced that online applications for 7,437 vacancies in the police, SPF, Fire Services and Prisons departments will be accepted from August 19 to September 9 through its official website.
- The IMD forecast that Telangana may receive normal to below-normal rainfall during August and September, with western and southern districts likely to be drier than usual and above-normal temperatures expected across the state.

Uttar Pradesh

- The Centre directed Uttar Pradesh to complete all Yamuna sewage treatment and pollution-control projects by January 2028, with a time-bound action plan focusing on polluted drains in Ghaziabad and Loni that contribute significantly to the river's contamination.
- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath urged families to observe a weekly smartphone-free day and reduce children's screen time, warning that excessive smartphone use was harming eyesight, mental health and cognitive development.



GLOBAL UPDATE

Highlights of this week

Upcoming News/Events

Africa • The Democratic Republic of Congo's Ebola outbreak became the second-largest on record, with government data showing the virus continued to spread rapidly, outpacing efforts to contain the epidemic. • Nigeria destroyed 2,819 seized illicit, obsolete and decommissioned firearms to curb insecurity, with authorities saying over 21,000 illegal weapons have been seized and more than 19,000 destroyed since the arms control agency was established in 2021.
America • Cuba announced new measures to expand private sector participation, including easing land-use rules and allowing businesses to import fuel and medicines, while reaffirming that key sectors such as healthcare and education will remain state-run despite US pressure. • Brazil withheld formal approval for US President Donald Trump's ambassador nominee, delaying the appointment and further straining diplomatic ties between the two countries amid growing bilateral tensions.
Asia Pacific • North Korea accused NATO of preparing for war through its planned expansion of military fuel infrastructure across Europe, while NATO maintained the project is intended to strengthen defence and deterrence following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. • The Philippines defended plans to place China-linked academic and cultural exchange programmes under tighter scrutiny, citing concerns over the influence of foreign state-backed institutions on the country's education system.
China • China conducted joint naval, air and coast guard patrols around the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea, saying the drills were aimed at defending its territorial claims and strengthening maritime law enforcement. • Chinese military researchers have been using advanced US AI models to help train defence-related AI systems, highlighting how security-linked institutions are leveraging American technology to accelerate domestic military AI development.
Europe • Spain said most of the over 50,000 migrants who entered Ceuta had voluntarily returned after a deadly border rush that left at least 57 dead, while the crisis prompted tighter border controls and fresh tensions within the EU over migration. • Hungary shut down the Paks nuclear power plant after record-low Danube River water levels reduced its cooling capacity, affecting a facility that generates nearly half of the country's electricity. The drought also disrupted shipping and tourism along the Danube.
Middle East • Egypt said it secured alternative energy supplies after a drone attack damaged a gas vessel at Damietta port, with the government citing multiple FSRUs and adequate fuel reserves to meet peak electricity demand while the incident remains under investigation.
Pakistan • Regional elections in Pakistan-administered Kashmir were marred by deadly clashes, with reports of more than 30 deaths around one town, while the ruling PML-N won nine of the 13 seats contested amid protests and a boycott by Imran Khan's PTI.
United Kingdom • Prime Minister Andy Burnham described the mass migrant crossings into Spain's Ceuta enclave as "concerning" and said Britain had contacted Spain to offer support and assess the implications of the situation.
United States • Wildfires scorched more than 250,000 acres in Washington state, triggering widespread evacuations and power outages in the Spokane area. Authorities continued emergency response efforts as the fires spread rapidly. • .President Donald Trump convened a Cabinet meeting at Camp David to discuss the ongoing Iran conflict and rising gasoline prices, with foreign policy expected to dominate the agenda. The meeting came as the prolonged war continued to weigh on public support and fuel costs.

Africa • The EU agreed to establish a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Benghazi, eastern Libya, to strengthen search-and-rescue operations and curb rising migrant departures along one of Europe's busiest migration routes. • South African Army Chief Lt Gen Lawrence Mbatha visited Moscow and agreed with Russian counterparts to strengthen military cooperation, including joint projects to enhance combat readiness, while South Africa maintained its non-aligned stance on the Ukraine conflict.
America • US-backed talks between Venezuela's interim government and an opposition faction were set to begin without prominent opposition leader María Corina Machado, with discussions focused on political reforms and preparations for future elections. • Peru's new Foreign Minister Carlos Espá said the Fujimori government will strengthen ties with the US, seek a review of new US tariffs and work to restore diplomatic relations with Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela.
Asia Pacific • Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said he is willing to visit North Korea at South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's request to help open dialogue, with Seoul saying countries like Indonesia could play a constructive role in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula. • New Zealand announced plans to procure long-range one-way strike drones, with a preference for local suppliers, as part of its defence modernisation strategy to strengthen military capability and support domestic manufacturers.
China • Chinese President Xi Jinping urged senior Communist Party leaders to intensify the anti-corruption campaign in the military while accelerating national defence modernisation to strengthen the armed forces. • Northwest China issued emergency alerts and closed dozens of tourist sites as heavy rain increased the risk of floods and landslides in Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, prompting authorities to strengthen precautionary measures.
Europe • The European Union unveiled a €10 billion plan to build seven AI gigafactories across the bloc, aiming to strengthen its artificial intelligence capabilities and narrow the technology gap with the US and China.
Middle East • Iran is expected to receive its first shipment of up to 400 Chinese-made shoulder-fired air defence missile systems within weeks as it seeks to strengthen its short-range defences. China denied the report, while Pakistan also denied involvement in the transfers. • Saudi Arabia unveiled plans for a multinational maritime defence coalition to safeguard international shipping and energy routes in the Red Sea after Houthi attacks. Representatives from 43 countries and the European Union attended discussions on the proposed alliance.
Pakistan • Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) began three-phase legislative assembly elections amid heightened security following weeks of deadly clashes and political unrest. Polling for the 45 directly elected seats will continue until August 10.
United Kingdom • UK Finance Minister John Healey announced that he would present his first budget on October 28. He also pledged to adhere to the government's existing borrowing rules inherited from his predecessor, Rachel Reeves. • Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced plans to give mayors in England a share of income tax revenue for the first time, as part of his government's push to devolve powers from London and strengthen regional governance.
United States • The US government proposed significant cuts to Colorado River water supplies for Arizona, California and Nevada during dry years under a new drought management plan. The proposal aims to protect the river system amid worsening water shortages.

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